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# ROBINS REV-UP

'Team Robins - Performing to Our Potential'

'Making Tomorrow Better than Today'

Feb. 6, 2015 Vol. 60 No. 5

## Safety Alliance – a continuous journey

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

Since the formation of the Robins Air Force Base Alliance last fall, the shared commitment of maintaining a safe and healthy work environment across the base has gained momentum.

This joint effort involves the base, the OSHA Atlanta-East Area Office, the American Federal of Government Employees Local 987 and the

International Association of Firefighters Local F-107.

"We're looking forward this year to this alliance bringing more traction to get the workforce together for a safer environment," said Bryant Aaron, Voluntary Protection Program representative with AFGE Local 987.

In support of the Alliance, the installation and ALC safety offices, along with VPP professionals meet twice a month with union safety and VPP partners to

work on communication efforts and ongoing training for supervisors and employees on occupational health and safety, as well as outreach.

It's critical to know how to recognize workplace hazards and report them so safety issues can be immediately identified and resolved.

When employees see a hazard at work, they can inform their supervisors and use the online Hazard Reporting Tool.

The HRT is an employee-friendly

site, accessible via an icon on their desktop.

Employees can log on any time and submit a report with their name or anonymously. The Installation Safety Office reviews each concern and an investigator is assigned. Employees can check the tool to get real-time status updates of each issue as they're processed through the system.

► see SAFETY, 7

## It's CLEAR!

Working together saves lives

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

It started out like any other day. Ed Hall, an aircraft mechanic with the 560th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, had been looking forward to getting off work the afternoon of Dec. 9. He had an important appointment to keep.

His son was getting married in January and he was going to be his best man. A tuxedo fitting was in the works.

He had been outside for a moment with a work truck, getting ready to come back inside Bldg. 2390 before he left for the day. He rounded one side of the building, and then it happened – he passed out.

It was almost time for the shift change. The first person who saw Hall lying on the ground was William McBride, who immediately assessed Hall and discovered he wasn't breathing.

Not hesitating, he went back inside to get coworkers to call 911.

### Chain of survival

It's at this point that critical communication must be relayed in order for the chain of survival to begin, according to Steven Brown, American Heart Association program director at Robins.

In the case of Hall, every person who played a role - from the time he

collapsed until his trip to the hospital - contributed to saving his life.

It began with the first person who arrived on scene who found Hall. Immediate action was taken once the victim was assessed and found to not be breathing.

"From what I've read, everyone did what they were supposed to do. They worked together using a coordinated response," said Brown, who receives a report on every instance an AED is used at Robins.

It's crucial for word to quickly move along the chain to establish the link for emergency assistance, the call to 911. As that call was being made and help was on the way, other things can be happening at the same time to increase the chances of survival.

Several aircraft mechanics who

See Related Story

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► see CLEAR, 7



U.S. Air Force photos by TOMMIE HORTON

Steven Brown, Robins CPR program director, prepares his classroom for Hands-Only CPR training. The classes are available to military and civilian members of Team Robins. Left, Automatic External Defibrillators are portable electronic devices – strategically placed in buildings around base – which can be life savers in the event of an emergency.

## AFMC promotes awareness of heart attack warning signs

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND  
Wellness Support Center

The National Institutes of Health reports that more than one million people in the United States have a heart attack each year.

Of the people who die from heart attacks, about half die within an hour of their first symptoms and before they reach the hospital. It's important to learn the warning signs and symptoms of a heart attack and know the single most important thing you can do to save a life – call 911 immediately.

According to the American Heart Association, warning signs of a heart attack may include:

- ◆ Chest discomfort that feels like pressure, fullness or a squeezing pain in the center of the chest;
- ◆ Upper body discomfort that extends beyond the chest to one or both arms, back, shoulders, neck and jaw;
- ◆ Unexplained shortness of breath, with or without chest discomfort;
- ◆ Other symptoms include feeling of extreme fatigue, cold sweats, light-headedness or sudden dizziness, nausea and vomiting.

Chest pain and discomfort are the most common heart attack symptoms for both men and women. But women may experience other symptoms, including shortness of breath, nausea or vomiting, and back or jaw pain.

If you or someone you're with experiences chest discomfort or other heart attack symptoms, call 911 immediately. Do not wait more than five minutes to make the call.

Contacting Emergency Medical Services as soon as possible will allow for the administration of clot-busting and artery-opening medications that can help stop a heart attack.

### FRIDAY FLYBY: SE&TM awards breakfast planned; marriage workshop, Page 2

#### Volunteer Excellence Awards

The Volunteer Excellence Awards will be hosted at the Team Robins Annual Award Ceremony at 6 p.m., March 5, at the Museum of Aviation.

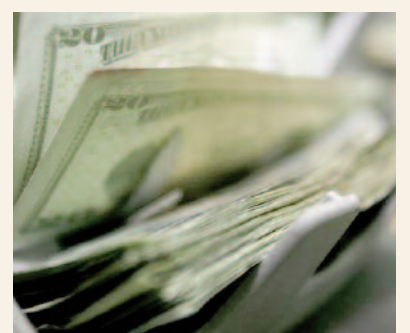
The ceremony will recognize those who provided volunteer service and made contributions to Robins and the military community from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2014. This year's theme is "Celebrate Service." Certificates and pins will be awarded to four VEA winners. For nomination package details, contact Sylvia Lucas at the Airman & Family Readiness Center at 497-7660.

#### Military Saves Week

The annual Military Saves Week campaign, part of the Department of Defense Financial Readiness Campaign, will run Feb. 23 through 28, and will give service members and their families opportunities to assess their own saving status and take financial action.

This year's theme is "Set a Goal. Make a Plan. Save Automatically." The Airman & Family Readiness Center will offer classes and briefings.

For more information, call (478) 926-1256.



Weekend Weather

Friday 50/29



Saturday 60/41



Sunday 64/43



"Be Resilient – Balance your Thinking."

## SECOND FRONT

# Contracting made simple at PEO R&O

ROBINS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 2015 Program Executive Officer Review and Outlook is slated to be conducted March 26, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Museum of Aviation.

This is a one-day event designed to inform the private sector on portfolio focus areas and acquisition forecasts at Robins necessary to accomplish its mission.

The PEO R&O will bring interested parties together for a series of presentations by Air Force Life Cycle Management Center and Air Force Sustainment Center leaders along with those of other base organizations.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the capabilities of the base and requirements that may have to be satisfied by contracts solicited to large and small businesses.

Attendance is open to all interested parties. All event materials and discussions will be unclassified.

Invited speakers include Lt. General Bruce Litchfield, Air Force Sustainment Center commander and Lt. General John Thompson, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center commanders. Air Force program executive officers will also be speaking on agile combat support, mobility, combat mission support, battle management and other topics.

Cost for private sector attendees is \$75 until Feb. 15 when the registration price increases to \$90. Lunch is included in the price. Current government employees will be admitted free and may purchase lunch for \$15.

Additional information on the event agenda and confirmed speakers is located at the PEO R&O registration site:

<http://warnerrobinsgacoc.weblinkconnect.com/events/AIC-Program-Executive-Officer-Review-and-Outlook-800-am-5210/details>.



## Got 15 minutes to improve your marriage?

After your children are in bed, sit down with your spouse and talk. Fifteen minutes later, you're done.

That's it.

Sounds easy, right?

It can be tough to stop what we're doing to tune into each other. But, try it. Let the dirty dishes wait. Step away from the computer for a while.

The time limit is important for couples who might be intimidated by the thought of having to talk.

For more ways to improve the heart health of your marriage, and lower personal stress, check out the Family Advocacy Program's marital work-

shop, "Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work."

The workshop will be conducted from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for six consecutive Fridays, beginning Feb. 13, at the Airman & Family Readiness Center.

To register call (478) 327-8398 or email [Robins.fap@us.af.mil](mailto:Robins.fap@us.af.mil).

## SE&TM Awards

The 2014 Robins Air Force Base Science, Engineering and Technical Management awards will be presented at a breakfast Feb. 18, from 8:15 to 11 a.m. in the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar.

Dr. Donald J. Leo, Ph.D., Dean of Engineering, University of Georgia, will be the guest speaker.

SE&TM awards are presented annually to recognize the outstanding contributions of scientists, engineers and technical teams to the installation missions and to aerospace power.

Air Force Materiel Command winners will be announced and recognized in the spring.

Cost for those who wish to enjoy the breakfast reception is \$2 per person.

# Celebrating Diversity

DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

uted to one man:

Carter G. Woodson.

In 1915, he established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

Woodson wanted to change the world's perception of African Americans and recognize their contribution to American society and culture.

Woodson wanted to change the world's perception of African Americans and recognize their contribution to American society and culture.

Woodson said, "We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race-hate and religious prejudice."

It was his efforts and those of other

See Related  
Commentary

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**PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.** – Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role they have played in American history.

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States.

Few could have imagined African Americans' future contributions to music, art, and literature that would be recognized by the global community.

Credit for the evolving awareness of the true place of African Americans in history can, in large part, be attrib-



champions who broke down daunting barriers, finally allowing African Americans to participate as American citizens and have their stories told.

Subsequently, innumerable African Americans have seized previously unavailable opportunities to contribute to American culture and heroically

defend their country during wartime.

A century later, the valuable contributions of African Americans cannot be denied.

Their profound impact on America continues in a myriad of areas, including history, education, entertainment, literature, science, sports, politics, culture and the military.

# SNCO backbone of depot flight safety

BY CAPT. CHRISTINE MINER

Robins Public Affairs

On Jan. 15, Senior Master Sgt. Dana Capaldi was notified she'd been selected as the Air Force's top senior noncommissioned officer of the year in the Air Reserve Component Aircrew Flight Equipment annual awards.

Capaldi, shying away from the fact that this is her second time earning this recognition, admits it's a prestigious award for such a small career field.

After serving more than 24 years in the Aircrew Flight Equipment career field – formally known as Life Support – she finds her current assignment as the 413th Flight Test Group Aircrew Flight superintendent the most rewarding of her career thus far.

"I love the challenges that come with supporting two major commands, five geographically separated units and 12 different weapons systems," said Capaldi. When asked what she likes least about the job, she gave the exact same response.

"Depends on the day I guess," she said with a laugh.

Capaldi's primary duty is ensuring the pilots who clear every aircraft coming out of the Air Force depot process at all three Air Force Logistics Complexes are equipped with the lifesaving equipment necessary for flight, and that it works properly in an emergency situation.

"We're meticulous with our work," said Capaldi. "From parachutes to helmets and antigravity suits, if our equipment fails, our pilots' lives will



Senior Master Sgt. Dana Capaldi inspects flight equipment at the 339th Flight Test Squadron.

U.S. Air Force photo by CAPT. CHRISTINE MINER

be endangered."

That meticulous work resulted in 465 aircraft safely returned to the warfighter last year.

Every weapon system in Capaldi's portfolio has its own set of requirements for safe flight operations. One of the actions lauded in the award package was her work with the emerging F-35 work-

load. The aircraft began undergoing modifications at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, early last year.

The 514th Flight Test Squadron has since turned out multiple aircraft thanks to her efforts. She was the first in the AFE career field to attend the F-35 training at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

When asked what she would tell an

Airman new to the career field, she spoke without hesitation.

"Recognize the importance of the job and the critical role you play in Air Force readiness," she said. "We have an incredible career field filled with tremendous talent and dedication. It's important to remember that no airplane goes back to the flight without AFE."

## Go Red today – It's all about a woman's heart

BY HOLLY LOGAN-ARRINGTON

holly.logan-arrington@us.af.mil

Some people wear red in February to mark the month of romance.

However, wearing red on the first Friday in February takes on a more significant meaning, as it's a way to support the Go Red for Women campaign, a national effort to show support for women's heart health.

As part of February's National Healthy Heart Observance, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the American Heart Association, has declared the first Friday of every February as National Wear Red Day in support of

the campaign.

Stuart Bapties, Health and Wellness Center Flight commander, said February is an ideal time to spotlight this important issue.

"February is National Healthy Heart Observance Month and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the American Heart Association, has declared the first Friday of every February as National Wear Red Day in support of the "Go Red for Women" Campaign," he said.

"The base Health Promotions Team has partnered with the Pizza Depot to observe the day by providing a heart healthy meal for reduced cost and a free Heart Health Fair with professionals from the base Health Promotions

team, as well as, health professionals in cardiac health from the civilian community.

Bapties said the meal special options were planned by the base dietician and free menu cards will be provided, along with the meal.

Heart disease has traditionally been associated with Men but heart disease kills more women than all forms of cancer combined so "Go Red" that day to highlight support for the mothers, sisters, daughters, and wives in our lives and call their attention to women's heart health. This observance promotes the Red Dress symbol and provides an opportunity for everyone to unite and show support by putting on a favorite red dress, red shirt, red tie, or Red Dress Pin.

## AROUND THE AIR FORCE

# Air Force presents fiscal 2016 budget request

BY JUSTIN OAKES

66th Air Base Group Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The Air Force presented its fiscal 2016 President's Budget request Monday, following the Defense Department and sister services budget briefings.

The Air Force fiscal 2016 budget request supports the defense strategy and combatant commander requirements.

It continues readiness recovery, reduces the short-term capacity risk assumed in the fiscal 2015 budget while placing significant investments in the nuclear enterprise, space, cyber, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and command and control capabilities.

This budget strengthens the nation's defense strategy and Air Force unique capabilities that are in high demand by our combatant commanders, said Maj. Gen. Jim Martin, Air Force director of budget, who presented the service's budget request.

"The FY 16 President's Budget is rooted in necessity, what we need today to begin the recovery from three years of reduced budgets, and is based on long-term strategy," Martin said.

The Air Force requested a topline



Artist rendering courtesy of THE BOEING COMPANY

**The Air Force requested a topline budget of \$122.2 billion that continues to protect the KC-46A Pegasus, F-35A Lightning II and the Long Range Strike Bomber.**

budget of \$122.2 billion in Air Force controlled funding that continues to protect the KC-46A Pegasus, F-35A Lightning II and the Long Range Strike Bomber, the Air Force's top modernization priorities, and supports a total force end strength of 492,000 personnel.

The service made adjustments from the fiscal 2015 Presidential Budget request to respond to global changes, adding back the highest priority combatant command requirements.

These adjustments include re-phasing the U-2S divestiture and restoring the

Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System to add more command and control and ISR, and reduce risk to capacity.

The Air Force is resubmitting its request to phase out the A-10 Thunderbolt II fleet by 2019, to shift limited funding and manpower to higher priority combatant commander needs, such as ISR and C2, as well as advanced multi-role platforms ready for the high end fight.

Planned F-15C Eagle divestitures were changed to increase near-term capacity and support the European Reassurance Initiative.

While the fiscal 2016 budget request exceeds funding levels laid out in the Budget Control Act by almost \$10 billion, Martin said it is a necessity to recover readiness.

"We are grateful for the modest, short-term budget relief that Congress provided for fiscal years 2014 and 2015," Martin said. "It was a start to the long process of readiness recovery, but a return to Budget Control Act funding levels will risk our readiness today and our readiness 10 years from now."

"We need support of our FY 16 budget request to continue readiness recovery and invest in capabilities we will need in the future," he added.

## In Other News

### Lead-in training increases Afghan capabilities

#### FORWARD OPERATING BASE OQAB, Afghanistan

(AFNS) – Train, Advise, Assist Command – Air maintainers are providing lead-in training to Afghan airmen at the Kabul Air Wing in an effort to ensure they excel at the C-130 Hercules maintenance courses they'll attend in the U.S.

Though some Afghans have already begun training in the U.S., learning a new language and aircraft maintenance at the same time can be difficult. This lead-in training gives the Afghan maintainers a head start.

Having the ability to maintain C-130s is another step toward the Afghans taking the lead in all aspects of operating the Afghan air force.

To accomplish that, many Afghans will attend training in the U.S. and bring what they've learned back to Afghanistan.

To make them more successful in the classes, the Afghan airmen currently split their days between English language training and now lead-in maintenance training.

### AFRL announces winners of student satellite competition

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – Students representing 10 universities competed in Albuquerque, N.M., this week for the chance to send a satellite they designed and built into space.

The competition was held through the Air Force Research Laboratory's Space Vehicles Directorate University Nanosat Program.

**The winners:**  
**1st place** - Missouri University of Science and Technology  
**2nd place** - University of Colorado at Boulder  
**3rd place** - Georgia Institute of Technology  
**4th place** - Taylor University Boston University and State

University of New York at Buffalo tied for 5th place. Judges will break the tie during upcoming visits to both universities where they will conduct a deep dive into their respective programs.

Each winning school will receive \$110,000 from the Air Force Office of Science and Technology, and mission support from AFRL/Space Vehicles to finish preparing their satellites for launch. Now in its eighth cycle, this is the first time multiple winners were selected.

The University Nanosat Program was established in 1999 by AFRL and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research as a way to inspire and train the next generation of space professionals.

It is a rigorous two-year competition, and the only program in the country that gives university students the opportunity to actually participate in U.S. spacecraft development.



U.S. Air Force photo by SENIOR AIRMAN CHRISTOPHER REEL

## Welcome Home, Dad!

Capt. Lee Place greets his overjoyed children as he exits the aircraft Jan. 20, 2015, at Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minn. Members of the 934th Airlift Wing, friends, and family welcomed home their Airmen as they returned back from an overseas deployment.

## PERSPECTIVE

# Remember to not make the same mistakes

BY FAYE BANKS-ANDERSON

Robins Public Affairs

A friend once asked me why we celebrate Black History Month.

Living in a world now where we live at a lightning pace – where we don't often stop to appreciate the past or learn from it – it's interesting that the question is still relevant.

For some of us we act as if the past isn't really that big of a deal. We've come a long way we say.

That was then; this is now.

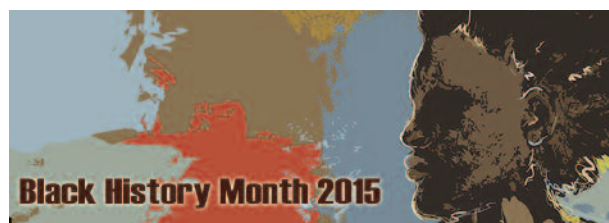
But I believe it's important to remember your past – partly because it keeps us from repeating the same mistakes and because it helps us to move forward.

Black history month recognizes the vast contributions made by African Americans in building this country and serving as a reminder to all people that although we – as a nation – have made great strides in race relations, we still have a long way to go to truly become a colorblind society.

Today there are more than 39 million blacks in the U.S. fostering a past that is not always well known.

How many of us know some of the outstanding contributions to our nation by black men and women?

Most people know about Martin Luther King Jr., Jackie Robinson, Booker T. Washington, the Tuskegee Airmen, Frederick Douglass, Malcolm X and Rosa Parks.



But without asking Siri, doing a Google search or checking out YouTube, have you heard of these great black Americans and their accomplishments?

► Hiram Rhodes Revels was the first black U.S. senator. Mississippi voters elected him Feb. 25, 1870.

► Jockey Issac Murphy won the Kentucky Derby three times – 1884, 1890 and 1891. He was the first rider, of any race, to win three derbies.

► Dr. Charles Drew invented the blood plasma process, pioneered methods of storing blood plasma for transfusion and organized the first large-scale blood bank in the U.S.

► Mary McLeod Bethune was the first black woman to receive an honorary degree from a southern white college. She received a Doctor of Humanities degree from Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla., Feb. 21, 1949.

► Gwendolyn Brooks was the first black winner of the Pulitzer Prize. She won for her collection of poems, "Annie Allen," in 1950.

► Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performed the first successful heart surgery.

► Marian Anderson was the first black woman to win an Oscar. She won for her performance in *Gone with the Wind*.

► Emmett Littleton Ashford was the first black umpire in organized baseball. He represented the Class C Southwestern International League.

► Garrett Morgan Sr., inventions including a protective respiratory hood or gas mask, a traffic signal and a hair straightening chemical.

### Some military firsts include:

► Benjamin O. Davis, the first black Army brigadier general

► Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the first black Air Force lieutenant general

► Chappie James, the first black Air Force four-star general

► Frank E. Peterson Jr., the first black Marine general

These people represent only a few of the many contributions blacks have made to society – paving the way for all of us including electing the first black president, President Barack Obama.

And that's why we celebrate Black History Month.

## 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](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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# A BETTER YOU



U.S. Air Force photo illustration by **MISUZU ALLEN**

The flu has hit Team Robins as well as the surrounding community particularly hard this year.

Following are some educational tips from base public health officials to help protect you and your loves.

## WASH YOUR HANDS

The most effective way to prevent the spread of flu is with hand washing and by staying home if you are sick.

## GET IMMUNIZED

Many people may be discouraged to get the vaccine this year due to media coverage stating that this year's vaccine is ineffective; however, there are still many protective measures associated with immunizations. Per the CDC:

- ◆ Flu vaccination can keep you from getting sick from flu. Protecting yourself from flu also protects people around you who are more vulnerable to flu illness.

- ◆ Flu vaccination also may make your illness milder if you do get sick.

- ◆ Flu vaccination can reduce the risk of more serious flu outcomes, like hospitalizations and deaths.

## CLEAN YOUR AREA

Flu virus can live on surfaces up to 24 hours. Recommend common areas be cleaned often, to include phones and countertops. Surfaces should be cleaned with an EPA-registered disinfectant that states the product is approved for effec-

tiveness against influenza A virus. Another option is to mix 1 tablespoon of bleach with 1 quart of water.

It's also recommended to use fist pumps instead of handshakes and liberal use of hand sanitizer to reduce the risk of common contact infections.

## INCUBATION

The typical incubation period for influenza is one to four days. Adults shed influenza virus from the day before symptoms begin through five to seven days after illness onset.

This means that individuals with flu-like symptoms are contagious up to one to two days prior to symptoms and up to seven days after symptoms resolve.

## SYMPTOMS

The following symptoms usually do not require medical appointment, and over-the-counter medications can assist to relieve the symptoms:

- ◆ fever
- ◆ cough
- ◆ sore throat
- ◆ runny or stuffy nose
- ◆ body aches
- ◆ headache
- ◆ chills
- ◆ fatigue

**Editor's note: For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or call Public Health at 497-7623.**

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Air Force photos by MISUZU ALLEN

Karen Hamilton, Robins Arts & Crafts Center framer, assembles a custom frame. She fills the wood at the corner joints to make frames join perfectly together.

## Arts & Crafts

BY HOLLY LOGAN-ARRINGTON

holly.logan-arrington@us.af.mil

When an occasion calls for something special, Robins Air Force Base's Arts & Crafts Center has a variety of creative ways people can express themselves.

For more than 30 years, the Arts & Crafts Center, located in Bldg. 984 on Tenth Street, has helped the base community mark occasions and capture memories through its custom framing and shadow boxes, retirement mementos, and other artistic services.

Bill Gurr, Arts & Crafts Center director, who also oversees the 78th Force Support Squadron's Outdoor Recreation Center, and Information, Tickets, & Travel office, said Greg Harless, former Robins' Wood Shop manager turned recreation specialist, has boundless talent.

"Greg, our woodworker, has done custom furniture repair such



as custom dining tables with in-laid military retirement medals and coins," he said. "If it's made of wood, he can duplicate it or design a new one. He makes rank specific boxes for retirement, and has folks from other bases calling in orders because they can't find them anywhere else like it ... not of the same quality."

Gurr said Arts & Crafts is a one-stop shop for customers' engraving, framing, and other quality arts and crafts services and products.

"We customize picture frames and engrave your quarterly awards plaques and eagles," he said. "We do just about everything inside and outside the gate."

For people who want to develop or sharpen their art and crafts skills, Gurr said the center offers classes as well.

**For more information, call Arts & Crafts at (478) 926-5282.**

## ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

**Staff Sgt. Levi Higdon**

**UNIT:** 461st Operations Support Squadron

**JOB TITLE:** Chemical Warfare Defense NCOIC

**TIME IN SERVICE:** 6 YEARS

**HOMETOWN:** Urbana, Ohio



**What does your work involve at Robins?** I supervise, train and equip 26 branch personnel and 877 aircrew for chemical defense. I also oversee the inspections processes and maintenance for all aircrew flight equipment for the E-8C and its crew members.

**How does your work contribute to the Robins mission?** I help ensure the deployment readiness of every aircrew member in two wings, also ensuring mission accomplishment in combatant commands across the globe.

**Who has been the biggest influence in your life?** The person who has made the biggest influence on my life would have to be my mom, Sara Higdon. Growing up she was always the rock of the family. She taught me about work ethic and how to do the right thing at all times. If it wasn't for her I wouldn't be who I am today.

**What do you enjoy most about your work?** I enjoy coming to work with highly-trained professionals who are working together to ensure the safety and the return of our fellow Airmen.

**What is something people would be surprised to know about you?** People would probably be surprised to know that I play table tennis and video games in my spare time.

**What is an accomplishment you are most proud of?** My greatest accomplishment in regards to working in the Air Force is winning Aircrew Flight Equipment Airmen of the Year for my squadron three consecutive years. In life, my greatest accomplishment is landing the best wife a man could ask for in Rachel Higdon, who has given me a beautiful daughter, Natalie

**What's your favorite food?** My favorite food is a toss-up between General Tso's Chicken and a good pizza.

## SAFETY

Continued from 1

Installation and ALC safety office members and installation VPP, along with union and VPP partners, are also regularly visiting work sites as part of the Quest for Zero Surge – an effort designed to continually build rapport with employees and supervisors while looking for and eliminating workplace hazards.

“It’s important that we be seen in the workplace working together and eliminating hazards,” said Scott Eck, Installation chief of safety. “In order for the Alliance to be successful and grow, there has to be continued involvement which shows a concerted team effort at all levels. We must embrace our successes and failures, learn from them, implement changes as needed and then look for another opportunity to improve workplace safety and health.”

The Alliance is about coming together and working toward a common goal.

“This Alliance will also give safety and union partners the opportunity to highlight what has been accomplished,” said Sean Johnson, Installation VPP manager.

On communication, safety reps agreed that it’s not enough to just address a safety concern. It must be constantly communicated so that supervisors and employees are engaged throughout the process.

James Hogan, ALC chief of safety, said its yearlong campaign with enhanced supervisor safety training will benefit the workforce when it comes to identifying hazards in their respective areas. There are also efforts to standardize roll calls so employees can receive real-time information on safety incidents.

“We want to incorporate safety, VPP workforces and leadership to identify hazards prior to them becoming an incident. We’re also trying to include what we do safety-wise in order to help mechanics in the complex achieve the ‘Art of the Possible,’ said Hogan, referring to the Air Force Sustainment Center’s standardized systems approach.

With open communication established between management, VPP and union partners, the time has come to move forward.

“It’s time to make a change for the future,” said Aaron. “Robins has everything we need. It’s a city in itself – we can solve our own problems if everyone at the table takes it seriously.”



## Don't Forget to Wear Your Belt

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

## CLEAR

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were there that afternoon included Gregory Kimble-Wilder who grabbed an AED and brought it to the scene. David Hattan attached the AED to Hall, and supported him to ensure a proper airway.

As employees performed CPR, Roger Bunn applied the machine’s pads to Hall’s chest. Eric Barnett, a sheet metal mechanic, found Hall didn’t have a pulse and directed the delivery of the AED, continuing life-saving measures until the ambulance arrived.

“I’m glad it worked out the way it did, and I’m just glad I was there,” said Barnett. “It’s a miracle – nothing short of that.”

Hall survived. He had suffered a heart attack that sent him into cardiac arrest. It took four shocks to get his heart to come back up, said Hall’s wife, Teresa, who works in Bldg. 301.

She remembers coming out of the building that very afternoon. She’d heard the sirens, not knowing her husband of 30 years was on the way to the hospital.

### How the AED works

The AED is a lightweight, portable device which delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart.

Everything on the AED is clearly labeled, from the on switch to the photos that accompany the adhesive electrodes clarifying where to place them.

Its built-in computer includes a voice prompt that lets you know step-by-step what to do and when to do it. It assesses whether defibrillation is needed and if a rescuer needs to press the shock button.

“The AED will tell you what to do,” said Brown, a former Air Force medic and EMT. “They’re made so a layperson can use them.”

First, make sure the scene is safe and secure. Then expose the victim’s chest area and turn on the

### WHAT TO KNOW

To take an AED class, call Capt. Christine Ainsworth at 497-8135. Military members should go through their unit training monitor.

The Feb. 12 episode of Dani’s Delicious Dish on the Robins Facebook page will feature Steven Brown giving an overview of the AED and hands-only CPR.

machine.

The machine advises when to place the pads on the chest; when to plug in a connector; when it will analyze the heart’s rhythm; when bystanders should stand clear of the area; when a shock will be administered; and when to begin another cycle of CPR – whether it’s through chest compressions or mouth-to-mouth.

“It’s so important for medical personnel to arrive. Once on scene, they can push the medication that’s needed for more definitive care,” he said.

### Truly blessed

As several of the men gathered Jan. 26 in Bldg. 2390 to receive the Command Civilian Award for Valor, Ed Hall was able to share conversation

and laughter.

His wife looked on, realizing how things could’ve gone the other way.

In January, he attended his son’s wedding as best man. And, he celebrated another milestone – he turned 55.

“Just to see him talking to the men who responded so quickly... they don’t realize how that affects our family,” said Teresa. “To step up and not think about anything else? We feel truly blessed.”

Hall said his doctor told him he only had a few precious minutes. If his co-workers hadn’t been there on time ...

“I really don’t know what I can say,” he said. “They kept me alive long enough to go to the hospital. How grateful can I be to someone for something like this? I can’t put it into words.”

**WINGMEN  
WANTED**

**AIRMEN AGAINST  
DRUNK DRIVING**

335-5218  
335-5236  
335-5238