

## Maintainers complete C-17 mods

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# ROBINS REV-UP

'Team Robins - Performing to Our Potential'

'Making Tomorrow Better than Today'

March 6, 2015 Vol. 60 No. 9

## Safe Haven

### It's OK to come forward, ask for help

BY JENNY GORDON

jenny.snider.ctr@us.af.mil

**M**ethamphetamine and alcohol were her drugs of choice.

The scars, no longer visible on the outside, took its toll on the inside. The addiction that gradually began to take hold of \*E.C. began with diet pills as a way to lose weight, but slowly progressed with the use of meth and alcohol.

"It pretty much took control of my life," said E.C., a long-time Robins employee. "I had to have it to get up in the morning, when I took a shower, just to get through the day. When I was using - it was

all or nothing."

When drug inspections were conducted on the flight line in early December, talk began to circulate at the office. Rumors. Gossip. Good old-fashioned, mean-spirited, back-and-forth banter.

Words that reached her ears didn't just hurt - they exploded.

If a person never had a substance abuse problem - be it alcohol, marijuana or amphetamines - how could they possibly empathize? And if they couldn't empathize how could anyone ever understand and accept?

▶ see HELP, 6



*"Sometimes it takes someone to hit rock bottom as a wake-up call in order to realize something has got to change."*

## HELPING HANDS

### Event brings base, local clergy together

BY JENNY GORDON

Robins Public Affairs

It's about building a collaborative and ongoing relationship between Robins and local clergy members and faith-based organizations in the community, and providing spiritual care to civilian Airmen who work and live among us.

That was the intent of the Feb. 26 Robins Air Force Base Clergy Day Summit, which drew a total of 90 local clergy members, military and community representatives.

"Too many people are without hope, too many people are struggling with significant stressors that have led to destructive life choices, and worse," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jonathan Wade, installation chaplain, to the audience at the Museum of Aviation.

He shared the Air Force's mandated Comprehensive Airmen Fitness program, which includes spiritual, mental, physical and social pillars, each of which is essential to the resiliency of Airmen.

"The Air Force culture is centered on the idea that a wingman will always safeguard his or her lead, and it adheres to the belief that a lead never lets his or her wingman stray into danger," he said. "All Airmen are encouraged to be good wing-



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON  
**Chaplain (Col.) Jimmy Browning, Air Force Materiel Command chaplain, provided an abbreviated definition of spiritual fitness, relating it to those civilian Airmen who work on military aircraft.**

men, which means taking care of fellow Airmen and taking action when signs of trouble are observed."

Last week's gathering centered on the spiritual piece of CAF, which due to statu-

▶ see CLERGY, 5

## Team effort ensures workforce safety

BY JENNY GORDON

jenny.snider.ctr@us.af.mil

Water is an essential part of our daily lives.

When it comes to the diverse backshops located in the 402nd Commodities Maintenance Group's facilities, it's also an important element to maintaining safety for the workforce.

During the morning of Feb. 26, water was disrupted to Bldg. 140, and Advanced Metal Finishing Facility operations in Bldgs. 142 and 20128.

It was found that an automatic shutoff valve in the newest building, Bldg. 20128, had sensed too much water flow, and caused water to shut off to all three buildings for several hours.

Management was immediately notified, and work began to identify operations that required the use of running water to make sure they were secured, according to Mark Johnson, 402nd CMXG's deputy director.

While water can be accommodated in other ways when it comes to personal consumption, in this case it became a constraint for the safety of

about 300 employees.

In cases of emergency, there must be a water source available in order to activate the numerous eye wash stations which are conveniently located throughout employee work areas in the buildings.

Temporary portable wash bottles, which served as eye wash stations, were brought in from the 562nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron during the affected time period so these could be readily accessible for employees as needed.

"It was just an amazing team effort," said Johnson. "It went off flawlessly, showing the Team Robins spirit because everyone pulled together. It was almost a non-event it was so smooth."

Vincent Blasingame, the 402nd CMXG's group representative for American Federation of Government Employees Local 987, said management's response was quick, especially when it came to making sure employee safety came first.

"Management really stepped up," he said. "They jumped on the issue, and made sure employees were safe and hydration was there. They took the initiative to handle the situation."

## FRIDAY FLYBY: Robins announces Earth Day photography contest, Page 2

### Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday

The return to Daylight Savings Time will occur Sunday at 2 a.m. Clocks will be set forward one hour. Employees working when time "springs forward" to daylight savings time will be credited with the actual number of hours worked. Any time worked in excess of eight hours will be paid at the appropriate overtime rate or as compensatory time. For more information, contact Employee Relations at (478) 926-5802 or 926-0677.



### ON ALERT: Base to conduct weather exercise

Team Robins will be exercising its ability to respond to severe weather incidents March 9 through 13.

Employees should be prepared to respond to alarms and take appropriate actions which would be followed in a real-world scenario.



Weekend Weather

Friday 51/31



Saturday 62/37



Sunday 62/44



*"Be Resilient - Withstand, Recover, Grow."*

## SECOND FRONT

## OUT OF THE BLOCKS

## Maintainers complete C-17 avionics, weather radar mods

BY JENNY GORDON

jenny.snider.ctr@us.af.mil

When one door closes at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex regarding aviation modernization, that same door swings open for another opportunity.

In the 562nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, maintainers have completed a complex avionics and weather radar modernization package, referred to as BLOCK 16, with the final C-17 Globemaster set to fly home this month.

This steady program at Robins speaks to the highly-skilled maintainers who have worked on this particular upgrade package since about 2007.

When the aircraft is returned to its crew at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio they will basically be getting a brand new transport aircraft, complete with state-of-the-art communications capabilities, navigation upgrades, and weather radar with new color palettes and improved display.

During the last several months, more than 3,000 wires were removed during the upgrade, with more than 7,000 new wires installed – a complex undertaking involving scores of video cables, data transmission cables, power lines, and the like.

“It will be sad to see them go because we’ve gotten so good at working on them,” said Eric Bickett, 562nd AMXS first-line supervisor. “Our maintainers have proven themselves, taking an aircraft that Boeing and the Air Force have sent us, and completely changing what it’s capable of. It truly looks factory (made) when we’re done with it.”

Working on the communications portion was perhaps the most time consuming, according to maintainers, as this involved removing old analog wiring, and installing new digital control boxes, headset receptacles, etc.

Satellite communications capabilities

through the addition of ports will also allow any of the military services who board the aircraft to set up their own equipment.

“The overall goal is to get all these C-17s to be one specific aircraft so any aircrew can jump from one to the other and everything will be exactly the same,” said Frank Kipa, 562nd AMXS aircraft electrician.

“While these particular upgrades are now completed, we still have much work to do with maintenance. With the quality of work we do here, we look forward to any future mods coming our way,” he said.

As this was the last completed BLOCK 16 modification for WR-ALC in a fleet of more than 220 aircraft (several aircraft will be modified at a later date by Boeing’s San Antonio facility), work is ongoing to hit another milestone on BLOCK 17 upgrades, which installs combat lighting inside and outside the aircraft.

“Combat lighting gives the aircrew flexibility in how they illuminate the aircraft whether it’s inside or outside,” said Bickett. “For example, when troops are being medically treated inside, we’re able to provide capabilities that can block light from escaping to the outside. We

can also illuminate the exterior using different covert lighting.”

“You can illuminate the flight deck, the cargo bay and outside completely different after this combat lighting upgrade. There’s a lot of flexibility, giving an aircrew plenty of options,” he said.

The final aircraft to receive this upgrade is scheduled to arrive in December, and will return to its customer a year from now in 2016.

The C-17, despite its size, is able to take off and land on short runways, and is constantly carrying out missions all over the world.

The Air Force received its final C-17



U.S. Air Force photos by TOMMIE HORTON

Rob Haymons, 562nd Aircraft Maintenance Group aircraft electrician, performs operational checks of C-17 interior light panels.

from production at Boeing in the fall of 2013, a move that had been expected for some time.

Robins not only maintains the C-17, which first flew in 1991, but is also responsible for sustainment of the aircraft through the C-17 System Program Office, which also plays a crucial role in the modification, maintenance and overall service of the entire fleet.

Bickett said he likes to ask what happens to aircraft once they leave Robins. He recalled looking online last August and recognized a photo of a C-17 that had passed through the complex.

The aircraft had conducted a humanitarian assistance operation to aid Iraqi citizens. At that time, thousands of Yazidis were attempting to escape the advance of Islamic State fighters and had become trapped on Mount Sinjar. An Air Force C-



Susan Floyd, 402nd Electronics Maintenance Group electronics mechanic, installs a C-17 forward loadmaster light panel.

17 had been tasked to provide food and supplies.

“That’s what we do,” he said. “As much as these aircraft are flown with the different missions they do, the wear and tear, the hard landings – they hit the ground like it’s moving. We help keep these flying and in their current state.”

## Robins announces Earth Day photo contest

In honor of the 45th Anniversary of Earth Day, Environmental Management invites you to participate in the inaugural Robins Air Force Base Earth Day Photo Contest.

We’re looking for photographs displaying our natural inhabitants while highlighting our interactions with the local flora and fauna here on base. With so much diversity at your fingertips right here on the installation, get outside and explore Robins’ fascinating and natural canvas. Consider visiting the parks, hiking trails and lakes to capture the winning photos for this year’s contest.



## HOW TO ENTER

## Who is eligible to participate?

Everyone! Photo entry age groups are available for children, teens, and adults with accessibility to the base.

- Children (12 years old and younger)
- Teen (13 through 17 years old)
- Adult (18 years and older)

## What are the photo categories?

There are three photo entry categories. Remember all photographs must be taken on base. Each person may submit one photo per category.

- Flora (plants, trees, flowers, landscapes)
- Fauna (wildlife, animals, insects, rodents, reptiles)
- People enjoying nature

## How many winners?

■ There will be a total of nine winners, one winner for each age group per category.

When will the photo contest take place? Submit your photos by March 31. Winners will be announced April 22, Earth Day, on the official Robins Air Force Base Facebook page!

- Now through March 31: Submit photos for entry
- April 1 through 15: Voting on the Team Robins Earth Day Photo Contest Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/robinsearthdayphotocontest>
- April 22: Winners announced

## How do I submit my photos?

Photographs can be submitted until March 31 by emailing one digital photograph (5x7 inches, 300 ppi, jpg) accompanied by an entry form to Kimberly Mullins ([kimberly.mullins.2@us.af.mil](mailto:kimberly.mullins.2@us.af.mil)) or Casey Lucas ([casey.lucas.2@us.af.mil](mailto:casey.lucas.2@us.af.mil)). Photographs received after 6 p.m. March 31 will not be entered into the contest. Submit a separate form for each photograph. See Rules, Terms and Conditions for limitations on photo editing.

## Where do I vote?

You can vote for your favorite photos by liking them on the Team Robins Earth Day Photo Contest Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/robinsearthdayphotocontest>. Voting will end at 6 p.m. April 15 and photos will be removed from the contest page. Winning photos will be posted on the official Robins Facebook page April 22.

## What do I win?

■ Winners will receive their winning photograph in an 8x11 beautiful frame from Robins Arts and Crafts Center.

Where do I pick-up my winning photo framed by Robins Arts and Crafts Center?

Winners will be contacted directly with details of where and when to take home their winning photographs.

– For full rules and an entry form visit [www.robins.af.mil](http://www.robins.af.mil).

## IT Forum and Expo

The Information Technology Forum and Expo offers IT professionals an opportunity to hear from industry leaders in security and see the newest products and services.

The forum will be in the Museum of Aviation’s Scott Auditorium and Hangar One Tuesday. Vendors will be set up in the Century of Flight building.

Training is designed for military and civilian IT professionals. It can also be used as part of the military-required 50 hours of continuing education training for the 8570 certification for those who work in IT at Robins, said Glen Christopher, Information Assurance Workforce Improvement Program manager for Camber Defense Security & Systems Solutions Inc. at Robins. This event gives attendees five credit hours.

One of the speakers for the event will be Westley McDuffie of IBM whose topic will focus on the best practices for security in the IT world.

Other speakers include Col. David Shillings of the AFRC/A6, Timothy Nelson, 78th Communications Directorate, and several others from various firms.

In addition to the seminars, vendors will be demonstrating their latest products and services during a full day Technology Expo featuring innovative solutions in the areas of Risk Management, Network Architecture and Design, Certification and Accreditation and many more.

For a full list of vendors or for IT professionals to register, visit [www.ncsi.com/csf/2015/index.php](http://www.ncsi.com/csf/2015/index.php).

## Team Robins Senior Master Sgt. promotion release celebration

The Air Force released its newest list of senior master sergeants selectees Thursday.

In honor of the new selectees, a promotion release celebration is today at

3:30 p.m. in the Heritage Club Ballroom. For more details, call Senior Master Sgt. Jeremy Lindner at DSN 241-5462 or email [jeremy.lindner@us.af.mil](mailto:jeremy.lindner@us.af.mil).



## 78th ABW

Theodore Lee  
Lerona Sandiford  
Kyle Shipp

## 461st ACW

Fabian Hollis  
Anthony Powell

## AFRC

Ryan Sterling

## 373rd TS

Shawn Davis

## 5th CCG

Christopher Craig  
Michael Haywood  
Robert McCoy  
Alexander Rodriguez  
Charles Starnes

## AFLCMC

Khristian Kirchofer

## 16th ACCS

Gregory Mills



## MLK construction continues

Construction is now underway on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to renew the asphalt road, curb and gutter, sidewalk with crosswalks, and handicap-accessible curb ramps. It widens the ramps at the intersection of Robins Parkway. The intersection at MLK Jr. Boulevard and Page Road are inaccessible to all traffic for the first couple of weeks; Gate 4 (Commercial Gate) on Peacekeeper Way will be open for outbound traffic, right turn only, during that time. Estimated project completion is August 2015.

## Legal Notice

Anyone having claims against the estate of Senior Airman Melvin Dallas III should immediately contact 2nd Lt. Joseph Flescher at 497-3927 or (478) 327-3927

## AROUND THE AIR FORCE

**Air Force senior leaders caution against sequestration**

BY STAFF SGT. TORRI INGALSBIE  
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The Air Force’s top two leaders justified their service’s funding proposal in the fiscal 2016 President’s Budget request to members of the Senate Appropriations Committee during an Air Force posture hearing Feb. 25, in Washington, D.C.

“Rather than living with sequestration levels, we are coming in with a budget figure for fiscal 2016 which is substantially closer to what we need to run the Air Force,” said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. “It represents the difference between the Air Force our combatant commanders need to get their jobs done around the world, and the one our nation expects, vice the type of an Air Force we will be forced to live with under sequestration – which means we cannot meet the (Defense Strategic Guidance).”

Even with this higher figure, the Air Force faces some tough choices, the secretary explained. Those choices include base realignments and closures, retiring old aircraft and slowing compensation growth.

“We realize none of that is popular, and it’s all hard,” James said. “But with sequestration the choices will be all the more dire. Sequestration threatens every-

thing, and I’m sure that we can do better.”

With the savings seen in these areas, the Air Force can focus on recapitalizing and modernizing its force, procuring new platforms to ensure the safety of America into the future; investing in critical mission infrastructure to get units back to 100 percent combat readiness; and focusing on programs to improve the quality of life and service for Airmen and their families – all while meeting the most important needs of the combatant commanders.

“Today, more than ever, we need a fully capable, fully ready force,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III. “We just can’t continue to cut force structure in order to pay the cost of readiness and modernization, or we will risk becoming too small to succeed.”

He explained the purposeful underfunding of infrastructure that produces combat capability is no longer a viable option for the Air Force moving forward. The training ranges, exercises and simulators must be improved and invested in to maintain combat readiness for the future.

“Air Forces that fall behind the technology curve fail,” he said. “Joint forces without the full breadth of air, space and cyber capabilities that modern airpower brings will lose.”

Recapitalizing and modernizing



U.S. Air Force photo by JIM VARHEGYI

**Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III answers a question about the fiscal 2016 President’s Budget request during a hearing of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense Feb. 25 on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.**

today’s Air Force is something both James and Welsh believe cannot be done under sequestration funding.

“It won’t be easy and it will require accepting prudent risks in some operational mission areas for some period of time to get this done,” Welsh said. “We need your help to win today’s fight and still be able to win in 2025. I think our Airmen deserve it, our joint team needs it and our nation still expects it.”

Congress posed several questions to James and Welsh ranging from base closures to energy options, and from space

capabilities to close-air support. The bottom line from the AF was simple – the Air Force will maintain its commitments to combatant commanders, while realizing savings and more efficient ways of doing the mission.

“Close air support isn’t a plane, it’s a mission,” James said. “It’s a sacred mission, and we got it – I just want to assure you of that. Every aircraft eventually gives way to the next generation. In terms of the mission of close air support and our support of troops on the ground, we got it.”



U.S. Air Force photo by DANNY WEBB

**Pole Position**

364th Training Squadron Electrical Systems Course students practice climbing power poles as part of a familiarization and trust exercise using their safety equipment at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. They spent an extended period suspended to simulate a lengthy installation or repair as part of the training.

**Air Force places 18 A-10s into backup status**

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The Air Force, with congressional authorization, will convert 18 primary combat-coded A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft from active units and place them into Backup-Aircraft Inventory status with the possibility to convert another 18 at a later date in fiscal 2015.

The secretary of Defense has authorized the Air Force to place up to a total of 36 A-10 aircraft into BAI status. Although Congress has authorized 36 of the A-10 aircraft to be put into BAI status, the Air Force has elected for the time being to place fewer in BAI status.

“At this time the Air Force is moving into BAI status only 18 A-10s of the 36 authorized in the fiscal 2015 National Defense Authorization Act,” said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah James. “While we are authorized by Congress to put 36 aircraft into BAI status, doing that now would require taking down an entire

**In Other News**

squadron. Out of respect for the intent of Congress, we’re placing 18 aircraft in BAI status.”

The Air Force will assess whether this action adequately balances ongoing requirements and the need to modernize.

**2015 Total Force Climate Survey**  
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - RANDOLPH (AFNS) – Total Force Airmen will have an opportunity to express their opinions to Air Force leadership during the 2015 Total Force Climate Survey slated for March 13 through April 27.

The purpose of the survey is to assess the opinions and perceptions of Air Force active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and civilian personnel on a wide range of issues including job satisfaction, available resources and unit performance, said Brenda Gainey, acting Air Force Survey Office chief.

“As with past surveys, unit leaders will have access to their units’ results

to enable them to improve their organization and the organization’s ability to accomplish the mission. The survey office will send individual email invitations in stages beginning March 13.

**Air Force seeks 2015 NAACP Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award nominees**

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) – The Air Force is seeking nominations for the 2015 NAACP Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award.

The award honors military members and Defense Department civilian employees who have supported the DOD mission or overseas contingency operations, or whose attributes epitomize the qualities and core values of their respective military service.

Each major command, field operating agency and direct reporting unit may submit one military and one civilian nomination. The period of performance for this award is from July 1, 2013 to March 31, 2015. Packages are due April 2.

**PERSPECTIVE****CHIEFchat: TA rumors, slowing the growth of pay, benefits**

During his latest CHIEFchat, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James Cody put to rest rumors of changes to tuition assistance. He also discussed military pay and benefits, the growing cyber domain, and master sergeant evaluation boards.

Despite what Airmen could potentially be reading or hearing, Cody said, “There are no specific discussions going on right now about anything to do with tuition assistance or our educational benefits from within the department.”

Cody said he, along with senior leadership, understands the importance of education; it is, for many service members, one of the top three reasons why they joined the military. The Air Force will continue to ensure technical training and professional military education programs are accredited.

“Our Airmen have seen some modifications over the last couple of years on how we’re going to make that a sustainable program,” Cody said of tuition assistance. “There’s no lack of commitment by the Air Force to continue to press forward and make sure there is fund-



Cody

ing available.”

**Slowing the growth of pay and benefits**

Aside from TA, pay and benefits has been another area where Airmen have seen some recent changes.

Cody stressed that the Air Force has not cut anything from military basic pay, basic allowance for housing or basic allowance for subsistence, but the service needs to slow the growth in those areas.

“I think it’s important that we understand, between 2001 and 2012 our pay and benefits increased 40 percent,” Cody said. “I think everybody can appreciate we can’t sustain that kind of growth.”

He added that the slowing in growth in no way implies that Airmen and their families are not entitled to what they earn today.

“They have earned it,” Cody said.

**Cyber domain**

The next topic Cody discussed is an area within the Air Force that he said is growing and will continue to grow – the cyber career field.

“The cyber domain is constantly evolving, and trying to get on the front side of that curve is extremely challenging,” he said.

While it is challenging, Cody said he feels the Air Force is prepared, ready to respond, and able to defeat any threats that exist. To identify and beat those threats, Cody said the 1B4X1, Cyber Warfare Operations career field will grow from 200 Airmen to nearly 800 Airmen during the next two years.

**Master sergeant board**

For technical sergeants who will be meeting the master sergeant evaluation board, Cody stressed there’s nothing they should worry about, as expectations have remained the same.

“(We) haven’t added anything into what was required before – nothing,” Cody said. “We expect our Airmen to be working hard, doing their very best and we’re going to acknowledge that by looking at their records.”

Cody said the promotion boards came about because the Air Force wants to ensure it is promoting Airmen in the right order, not because it has been promoting the wrong Airmen.

CHIEFchat is a recurring initiative, designed to give Airmen around the world a direct connection to the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. The chief received questions via video message, social media outlets and from members of a studio audience.

**ROBINS REV-UP**

COMMANDER  
Col. Christopher Hill

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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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U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

Chaplain (Col.) Jimmy Browning, Air Force Materiel Command chaplain, told the audience, “Being physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually strong is an important element of who we are – a profession of arms.”

## CLERGY

Continued from 1

tory limitations and manpower in Air Force Materiel Command, was found lacking within the civilian Airmen population. Civilians make up about 70 percent of AFMC’s work force.

The Robins event, a pilot program, was used as a test bed for creating and furthering relationships between the base and local clergy and faith-based organizations, so that when civilians are in need of referrals, those needs are met within the community.

“We want to have a healthy civilian population that is every bit as involved in the mission,” said Wade. “This is the beginning of a long-term

relationship ... to build a robust network with off-base clergy from all faiths.

We want to ensure our leaders off base become more aware of the spiritual needs of our civilians.”

Chaplain (Col.) Jimmy Browning, Air Force Materiel Command chaplain, provided an abbreviated definition of spiritual fitness, relating it to those civilian Airmen who work on military aircraft.

Do they have the spiritual bounce in their lives that is essential to their well-being when life gets difficult? Can they persevere?

“Being physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually strong is an important element of who we are – a profession of arms,” he said. “When you understand that, you know what this profession of

wearing the uniform is ... that there are stressors and strains.”

“Spiritual fitness is important, not only to the individual, but to the mission,” he said.

### WINGMEN WANTED

EAP – 327-7683;

926-9516

AIRMAN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING –

335-5218;

335-5236; 335-5238

## HELP

Continued from 1

### *It could've been me, she thought.*

E.C. hid her addiction well. You would never imagine today the painful memories hidden beneath her eyes, shifting with hesitation as she opens up about her past. Years and years of dread. Insanity. Hopelessness. Depression. Thoughts of suicide. Paranoia. Desperation...

She'd usually spend \$300 every two weeks on meth. Money that went inside her body, down the drain. Then there was cash for alcohol.

Last May she held in her hands some \$600 worth of drugs she had just bought. She had been given a letter of reprimand at work for being late, and she'd been online that night looking at pictures of her family – the ones who had always supported her.

"I decided something had to change. There were men and women giving their lives for this country, and I couldn't even get to work on time," she recalled.

So she flushed several hundred dollars' worth of meth down the toilet.

She braced herself for the fall, gathered the courage to speak up, and came forward to her leadership.

"I confessed (to being late). I was guilty on all counts with an explanation," she said. "I had a drug and alcohol problem."

E.C. knows how lucky she is today. No one is more grateful for her ongoing recovery, for her family, for her career than she is. But oh how easily things could've gone the other way.

"I simply couldn't do it to my family or myself again," she said, carefully choosing her words. "You get to where you feel dead inside."

"It came to a point where I knew I had to do something. I just dug in even deeper," she said.

E.C. explained that she'd heard about a program on base that essentially protects the jobs of workers who come forward about a drug use problem. She didn't know what it was called.

At Robins, there is a program available for employees who need assistance, not only to get clean, but to protect their careers.

## Safe Haven

In 1986 President Ronald Reagan enacted Executive Order 12564 that illicit drug use in the federal workplace will not be tolerated. At the same time, the federal government sought to achieve drug-free workplaces with programs designed to

offer users assistance.

Standards and procedures were established by agencies, including creating drug testing programs for organizations.

The Safe Haven provision, part of Air Force Instruction 44-107, states that "disciplinary action for illicit drug use will not be initiated for any employee who meets all of four conditions," one of which includes "voluntarily identifying himself/herself as a user of illicit drugs prior to being notified of the requirement to provide a specimen for testing or being identified through other means," such as investigations.

It's important to note that a civilian employee must come forward to a supervisor *before* they're discovered as a drug user, and before they're directed to report for drug testing – especially those employees employed in Testing Designated Positions.

TDPs are subject to random drug testing if their job functions have a direct and immediate impact on public health and safety, the protection of life and property, law enforcement or U.S. national security.

Random selection under the Drug Demand Reduction Program is made using Air Force Drug Testing Program software. Once the random selection process is complete, employees are notified and have two hours to comply at a facility on base and provide a urine sample.

The DDRP's goals are to enhance mission readiness and foster a drug-free environment through education, prevention, deterrence and community outreach.

Among the six types of drug testing required under the DDRP are the random drug testing of employees who occupy a TDP – as well as the follow-up testing – where all employees referred for rehab for illicit drug use will be subject to the unannounced drug testing for at least one year. A supervisor may also ask any civilian employee to consent to provide a urine specimen for drug testing at any time under consent testing, which must be knowing and voluntary.

"If you get a letter one morning that says you must report for a sample, and come to us after the fact and explain you have been using illegal drugs, you don't meet Safe Haven requirements," said Kimberly Mlinaz, labor law attorney with the Judge Advocate's Office at Robins. "You have to tell before a management official has any reason to believe that you could have a drug problem."

An important distinction to make at this juncture is reasonable suspicion. For instance, if a supervisor suspects that an employee appears to be under the influence at work – to include such behaviors

and symptoms as bloodshot eyes, smell of marijuana, slurred, slow speech, or erratic behavior – the employee can't claim Safe Haven at this point because suspicion has already been established.

Under the DDRP, reasonable suspicion testing is based on a specific belief that an employee has engaged in illicit drug use, and that evidence of illicit drug use is presently in the employee's body, and drawn from specific and particular facts, and reasonable inferences from those facts.

Another example, if one day you are told to report to the DDRP on base for testing, you cannot claim Safe Haven because it will be too late since you have already received notification.

Bottom line, the employee must approach a management official first.

"We are looking for people who are seeking out help and are ready to disclose that they're doing something that could harm themselves or others," said Mlinaz.

When an employee does make a disclosure, several things will happen. Once the employee self-identifies they have a drug problem, they will be referred for counseling, assessment and referral for treatment.

For example, they will be referred for an initial screen meeting at the Mental Health Clinic's Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment, or ADAPT, facility. Then the individual will move forward with plans for rehab off site, and they agree to be randomly tested for a period of one year.

In addition to self-identifying, conditions of Safe Haven include obtaining and cooperating with appropriate counseling or rehabilitation; agreeing to and signing a last chance or statement of agreement; and refraining from illicit drug use.

When the employee meets all the requirements of the agreement and finishes a rehab program, they will not lose their job.

Safe Haven offers a way for every civilian employee to get the help they need since safety of the workforce and quality of work supporting the warfighter is paramount at Robins.

## One day at a time

With a strong faith guiding E.C., the old fear has slowly subsided. There is reason to hope again, and dream, the things all of us are called to do.

She has longtime friends at Robins who are intimately familiar with her story. And then there are a few she hopes will still share the same regard for her.

She's still the same person. Flawed, yes. Perfect, no.

## WHAT TO KNOW:

*Safe Haven is a provision under AFI 44-107 that states that disciplinary action for illicit drug use will not be initiated for any employee who meets all four of the following conditions: voluntarily identifies himself/herself as a user of illicit drugs prior to being notified of the requirement to provide a specimen for testing or being identified through other means – drug testing, investigation; obtains and cooperates with appropriate counseling or rehabilitation; agrees to, signs a last chance or statement of agreement (Firm Choice); and thereafter refrains from illicit drug use. This does not preclude disciplinary action for other misconduct, such as possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia. \*Employees who are using illicit drugs and wish to take advantage of the Safe Haven provision of the drug program should self-identify to their first-line supervisor or a management official in their chain of command.*

## THE PHOTO

*To best represent the struggles that go along with substance abuse problems, Public Affairs photographer Tommie Horton asked Angela Woolen, Rev-Up reporter, to model for the photo illustration used on the front page. Although prescription drugs were used for the illustration, all substance abuse problems are serious, and help is available.*



## ABOUT E.C.

*E.C. is a real person who agreed to be interviewed for this article on the condition of anonymity. E.C. are not her real initials.*

She's the same, but better, always striving to take what she has learned and help others who are living in the dark.

Words are hard to come by, but she is pushing ahead with a 12-step program, doing what she knows needs to be done. For E.C. admitting she had a problem and asking for help was the first step on the road to recovery. It not only saved her life, but her job. It's a lifetime commitment. You don't have to do it alone. There is help. If her story gives one person a glimmer of hope, it will all be worth it, she said.

"Sometimes it takes a little pressure for someone to understand that you can't get away with what you've been doing, that your behavior is unacceptable," she said. "And sometimes it takes someone to hit rock bottom as a wake-up call in order to realize something has got to change."

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## AIRMAN CHEF COMPETITION: SERVING UP ARTISTRY

BY ANGELA WOOLEN  
Robins Public Affairs

**F**our teams, one winner. The scene in the kitchen at the base restaurant was a shot right out of a television cooking competition.

The Robins Airman Chef Competition Friday evening was a test to see which team could produce the best four courses during the course of the evening. More than 50 people were in attendance and served as judges for the dishes.

In the end, Walter Stump McDowell and his gold team triumphed with an entrée of pork tenderloin and a potato side.

McDowell is no stranger to cooking contests as he has been on BBQ Pitmasters along with his wife, Tab McDowell better known as Mama Stump.

“Just have fun,” McDowell told his team before the competition.

The gold team’s selections also included an appetizer of bacon-wrapped swai with mango and goat cheese, a soup course of asparagus and onion, and a dessert of cream puff pastry with piped Chantilly cream and pine apple compote.

More than 900 dishes would be served by the end of the night, according to Jon King, Base Restaurant manager.

“We were able to mesh individuals from many backgrounds and cooking abilities to provide a masterful delivery of food art and delectable tastes not seen at Robins,” said King following the event.

Each team had one master chef from the local area. Two teams were stationed in the downstairs cooking area while the other two were upstairs.

Zac Marfell brought his two children, Parker, age 11, and Rylee, age 7, to support their mother, Rebecca Marfell, who was on the brown team. They had their own competition going on at the table as well. The child who was the best behaved received a reward.

“We regularly watch ‘Iron Chef’ and ‘Chopped,’” said Zac Marfell who works in the Foreign Military Sales F-15 program office.

Coworkers Vanessa Capra, Grace Wingfield and Tammy Tobler – all from the C-17 FMS office – didn’t know what to expect of the competition. They all agreed they weren’t expecting a live three-piece band along with their meals.

“The ambiance is awesome,” said Wingfield.





### IN THE KITCHEN

The participants in this year’s event were, **Green team:** Christopher Bryant, chef at The Landings Golf Course; Master Sgt. Julie Boekers, Earl Lancaster, Doreen Mercado and Amber Megginson; **Red team:** Janice Joddsas, 78th FSS Base Restaurant Catering; Tina Reagen, Diane Lindsley, Corey Gibbs and Shelia Thurman; **Brown team:** Quinn Speck of Helms College, adjunct culinary instructor; Ashley Gutermuth, Ginger Haddad, Bryant Callahan and Shelia Ashmore; and winning team members from the **Gold team:** Stump and Momma Stump McDowell, Amanda Bukowski, Kipsy Gould, Tech Sgt. Ronald Megginson and Lisa Page.

U.S. Air Force photos by RAY CRAYTON  
Above, Walter Stump McDowell seasons bacon-wrapped swai for the appetizer course during the Airman Chef Competition. Below right, Green Team members are busy at work putting together a colorful appetizer dish. Below left, skillful knife work was a common trait among all competing teams.



 **Robins Air Force Base on Facebook**   
Check out Robins on Facebook.  
Visit [www.robins.af.mil](http://www.robins.af.mil) and click on the Facebook link.

## Educators meet at MOA

Bill Maddox, retired colonel and Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education communications director, speaks to attendees at the Georgia Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission State Council meeting Feb. 24 at the Museum of Aviation.

The annual meeting is attended by state council members, state military leaders, Georgia Department of Education leaders, school liaison officers from Georgia and school system administrators from districts that surround military installations.

The meeting included updates from Richard Woods, state school superintendent, who shared his priorities and how he wants to assist military students. Georgia Teacher of the Year Amanda Milner, from Miller Elementary School in Houston County, provided a look at common core and testing from a teacher's perspective.



## Your Robins tax resources for filing

### CAPT. LAUREN BUGG

78th Air Base Wing Legal Office

It's tax time, and the Robins Tax Service is helping service members, retirees, and eligible family members file 2014 returns.

The Base Tax Center is open Mondays through Thursdays from 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. through April 15.

The center is located in Bldg. 995 in a trailer located next to the old Robins Elementary School.

Reserve and National Guard members must be on Title 10 or Title 32 Orders in order to receive tax assistance from the Base Tax Center, and applies to eligible dependents as well. Services are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Military members may also utilize the free tax return service offered through Military OneSource, which provides an easy way to file taxes and provides year-round access to tax consultants. All active duty and Guard/Reserve members and their dependents can call 1-800-342-9647 or visit [www.MilitaryOneSource.mil](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.mil) for details.

To utilize the tax center, you should arrive no later than 8 a.m. to attend a requirements briefing. Taxpayers who have all required documents on hand will be assigned an appointment for that day; those who don't will be given an appointment for a later time. You should arrive at least 15 minutes prior



to the appointed time to complete a client questionnaire.

The center will also offer a drop-off service for the 2014 filing season. Those who have all required documents to prepare their taxes may drop off paperwork at the tax center, and notification will be sent when the return has been completed.

If a taxpayer is deployed to a combat zone - Persian Gulf, hazardous duty area of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Albania, the Adriatic Sea and the Ionian Sea north of 39th parallel, or Afghanistan, they have 180 days from the last day they were in the combat zone, or the last day of continuous qualified hospitalization for injury from the combat zone, to file a return.

Tax preparers are not permitted to prepare returns for taxpayers who received a 1099 Miscellaneous Business Income or Royalties, had Health Savings Account Deductions, or whose tax returns will include Schedule C (Profit or Loss from

Business), Complicated & Advanced Schedule D (Capital Gains & Losses), Schedule E (Supplemental Income and Loss from Rental Real Estate) or Schedule F (Farm Income or Loss).

For those eligible for assistance, bring the following documents and information:

- Military IDs and Social Security cards of taxpayer, spouse and dependent children
- W-2s
- 1099s
- 1098s
- Legal documents
- Divorce decree or Form 8332 that states entitlement to claim a dependent
- Power of attorney if someone will be signing the return for you or your spouse
- Death certificate if you are filing on behalf of a deceased person
- Voided check for verification of your bank account and routing numbers.
- Child care provider's name, address, tax identification (or Social Security) number, and the amount paid
- Last year's tax return or any other useful documentation

**For more information, call the tax center at 478-926-1831.**

ALL IN

## A DAY'S WORK

### Squadron Leader Maj. Melanie Buswell



**UNIT:** Air Lift Systems Program Office, Royal Australian Air Force

**JOB TITLE:** C-130 Technical Liaison Officer

**TIME IN SERVICE:** 17 years

**HOMETOWN:** Malacoota, Victoria, Australia

**What does your work involve at Robins?** As a technical liaison officer it's my responsibility to liaise between the Royal Australian Air Force and the U.S. Air Force on technical issues related to the operation and maintenance of the C-130J.

**How does your work contribute to the Robins mission?** The Royal Australian Air Force works closely with the C-130 Program Office here at Robins on a variety of modifications, engineering and technical issues. We hope that our C-130J experience can contribute to U.S. Air Force aircraft serviceability.

**What do you enjoy most about your work?** I really enjoy working with a variety of different personnel and units. This job also provides a rare opportunity to work with a number of other foreign liaison officers.

**What prompted your interest in your current career field?** My father was in the Air Force and encouraged me to visit the Australian Defence Force Academy to see if I wanted a career in the forces. That was almost 20 years ago, and I haven't looked back. Being an engineer in the air force has given me opportunities to work with many different people and travel around Australia and the world. A job in engineering can mean solving a different problem every day.

**What is an accomplishment of which you are most proud?** Being selected for this posting was a big achievement. I'm really enjoying living here and experiencing the south with my family.

# HAPPENINGS/SERVICES

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

Charles Arnold, Georgia Department of Corrections, talks with a technical sergeant about potential opportunities available at the State Board of Pardons and Paroles during last year's Military Job Fair.



U.S. Air Force file photo by MISUZU ALLEN

## Looking for a job? Here's help

BY ANGELA WOOLEN  
Robins Public Affairs

For those in need of a job, the task can seem daunting. For those in the military who move around, the task can be a little more difficult. That's where the Employment Assistance office comes into play at the Airman & Family Readiness Center.

Individuals can work on acquiring career skills, learn how to write a resume and find out about employment opportunities just by making an appointment with Royce Herring-Williams, community readiness consultant, or other employees at A&FRC.

Herring-Williams is also in charge of the job fair, which is scheduled Thursday 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Heritage Club. She expects about 30 vendors.

"Come dressed and prepared for an interview," she said.

Part of the employment assistance program is to offer tools for individuals to figure out what kind of career in which they might excel. Several online programs such as mySECO.militaryonesource.mil are helpful for those who may have been out of the workforce for several years. SECO, Spouse Education and Career Opportunities, is designed to help military spouses find employment opportunities.

The website offers personality quizzes and skills assessments as well as the ability to apply for scholarships.

"We have to figure out what they want," said Herring-Williams.

Sometimes, customers come in looking for a job to make some money and

### MILITARY JOB FAIR

A military career fair will be Thursday at the Horizon Event Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is open to base-access personnel only and is being sponsored by the Georgia Department of Corrections and the Georgia Air National Guard. Hundreds of jobs will be available and on the spot hiring will be done by the Ga. Dept. of Corrections.

For more information on participating agencies visit the Department of Corrections on Facebook and Twitter.

are not searching for a career, said Dell Steplight, the program manager and community readiness specialist.

Herring-Williams stresses that she does not find people jobs, nor does she write resumes. She helps customers learn how to update their resumes with key words and gives them tools to search for employment.

Starting this spring, 10 spouses of active duty Air Force members will be eligible to participate in a Certified Nursing Assistant program as part of a grant. The program will be first come, first served once it opens.

Job seekers can also go into the discovery center at A&FRC and get a listing of employers hiring in the area. Herring-Williams receives about 20 to 30 emails a day from clients looking for workers from such companies as Verizon, Geico, True Blue, Hertz and MAX Outreach.

"These are just some of the resources we have," Herring-Williams said.

**For more information, or to schedule a one-on-one appointment, call (478) 926-1256.**

### ON TAP First Friday

Today  
5 to 6 pm  
Heritage Lounge  
Food, fun, entertainment and prizes  
For details, call DSN 472-7899.

### Tips from the Pro

Tuesday  
4 to 5 p.m.  
Pine Oaks Golf Course  
All the balls you can hit for \$5  
For details, call DSN 468-4103.

### UPCOMING & ONGOING

#### Family Movie Night Night at the Museum 3

March 13  
6:30 p.m.  
Base Theater  
Cost is \$2 and includes popcorn and drink.  
For details, call DSN 468-2001.

#### St. Paddy's "No Joke" (Comedy Night)

March 13  
Doors open at 7 p.m.  
Show starts at 8 p.m.

Heritage Club Ballroom  
For details, call DSN 472-7899.

#### Membership "St. Patrick's Day" Dinner

March 17  
5:30 p.m.  
Heritage Club  
For details, call DSN 472-7899.

#### Right Start

March 18  
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
A&FRC, Bldg. 794  
Mandatory briefing to welcome new military members and their families to Robins.  
For details, call DSN 468-1256.

#### Bundles for Babies

March 18  
8 a.m. to noon  
Base Chapel  
For details, call DSN 497-8398.

#### Travel & Recreation Trade Show

March 19  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Heritage Club Ballroom  
For details, call DSN 468-2945.

#### Boss n Buddy

March 20  
5 to 6 p.m.  
Heritage Club Lounge  
Grab your boss and coworkers and unwind with fun, food, entertainment and prizes.  
For details, call DSN 472-7899.

#### Spring Fling Day Big Bingo

March 22  
6:15 p.m.  
Heritage Club  
For details, call DSN 468-4515.

#### In the Spot Light

March 27  
7 p.m.  
Heritage Club  
Showcase your singing, poetry reading, comedy, music talents  
For details, call DSN 472-7899.

#### Afterburner March Special

Mondays through Fridays  
5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Base Restaurant, Bldg. 166  
Hawaiian Latte  
For details, call DSN 472-7827.

## Robins Chapel Protestant and Catholic Easter Worship Schedules

### Catholic Worship Services

Monday, Thursday and Friday – Mass, noon

Thursdays - Stations of the Cross, 6 p.m.

March 17 - Penance Service Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church

March 29 - Palm Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

April 2 - Holy Thursday Mass, 7 p.m.  
Adoration one hour; no noon mass

April 3 - Good Friday Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Designated Offering for Peter's Pence; no noon mass

April 4 - Holy Saturday Mass, 8 p.m.  
Reception to follow in the annex

April 5 - Easter Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m.

### Protestant Worship Services

Sunday through March 22 - Lent Sunday  
Worship Services at 8 and 11 a.m.

March 29 - Palm Sunday Worship Services  
at 8 and 11 a.m.

April 3 - Good Friday Service, noon

April 5 - Easter Sunrise Service, 6:45 a.m.  
Chapel lawn.  
Easter Celebration Worship Service, 11 a.m.

April 12 - Easter Cantata Worship Service,  
11 a.m.

