



What's it take to be one of the elite

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ROBINS REV-UP

'Team Robins - Performing to Our Potential'

'Making Tomorrow Better than Today'

April 17, 2015 Vol. 60 No. 15



A Heartfelt 'Thank You'

Photos by JASON VORHEES/THE TELEGRAPH

Above, Col. Dawn Lancaster, 78th Air Base Wing vice commander, addresses students at Huntington Middle School during a pep rally honoring the children of military service members. Below, Renee Daughtry, Robins school liaison officer, hands out dog tags inscribed with "Team Robins families serve 2, thank you 4 your service. Robins AFB, GA."

Huntington Middle School honors children during 'Month of the Military Child'

BY ANGELA WOOLEN
angela.woolen.ctr@us.af.mil

Huntington Middle School has the second highest middle school military population in Houston County. To honor that, the school held a pep rally to recognize those children.

It was an emotional day April 10 for both Tammy Love, business and computer science teacher at HMS, as well as Col. Dawn Lancaster, 78th Air Base Wing vice commander.

During the pledge of allegiance at the flagpole, Love spoke of the sacrifices military personnel make not only in



terms of their service, but their families make as well. "On average, a military child will go to six to nine schools in their life," said Lancaster to the assembly of sixth-

▶ see HEARTFELT, 7



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

Left, Robbie Tidwell, American Federation of Government Employees, Local 987 president and Col. Chris Hill, Installation commander, discuss the local supplement agreement prior to signing.

Common Ground

Union, management sign local supplement agreement

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

An update to a Local Supplement Agreement to the Master Labor Agreement has been signed between Robins Air Force Base and the American Federation of Government Employees Local 987.

The document, last updated in 1982, was signed in late March, and was a culmination of nearly three years of negotiations from management and labor teams from across Robins. The LSA will become effective in May.

"This gives us a chance from both union and management at Robins to realize that we have more in common than we have things that divide us - we have a common interest," said Steve Stant, AFGE Local 987 vice president of maintenance and 561st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron mechanic.

The LSA affects bargaining unit employees at Robins covered by Council 214 and the Air Force Materiel Command Master Labor Agreement, which became effective in April 2012.

AFGE Local 987 has about 3,600 members, representing union interests from not only the Air Force, but the Defense Logistics Agency and Non-Appropriated Fund employees.

It was agreed that during negotiations on updating the LSA, labor and management teams would use an interest-based bargaining approach, with help from a mediator from the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service.

This vision of looking at the common interests shared by both sides would be better achieved by everyone working together, said Stant.

"Ultimately we want our jobs to be here at Robins Air Force Base, and we want to do a good job so we can keep them here, and bring more here," he said. "It's much easier for that to happen with us all working together toward that goal."

Labor and management also agreed that when writing the LSA, two primary goals were to be accomplished.

▶ see COMMON, 7

Camellia Gardens Memorial Service scheduled May 21

BY ROBINS PUBLIC AFFAIRS



U.S. Air Force file photo by ED ASPERA

The Robins Air Force Base Honor Guard fire a salute during the Camellia Gardens Memorial Ceremony May 22, 2014.

It's a ceremony steeped in tradition. It offers Team Robins an opportunity to celebrate the lives and contributions of friends and family members who offered their service and dedication to the base mission freely.

The annual Camellia Gardens Memorial Service is scheduled May 21 at 9 a.m. in the tranquil garden across from Horizons Event Center. A reception will follow.

At the garden's entrance, a brick wall displays plaques with the names of more than 1,600 deceased military and civilian members from Robins honored in past ceremonies.

To submit a family member, friend or coworker to be recognized at this year's ceremony, contact Master Sgt. Stacey Hazewood at DSN 497-3772 or (478) 327-3772 by May 4. Military dress is uniform of the day; business attire for civilian.

FRIDAY FLYBY: Darius Rucker to headline Independence Day concert, Page 2

The Dash for Trash is on!

Now through June 5, Team Robins can really make a difference by getting involved.

Is your work area cluttered with obsolete or unneeded stuff? If so, now's the time to dash into action.

Inspect your workplace and surrounding areas and dispose of unnecessary items. For disposal assistance or more information, contact the appropriate points of contact listed on the flyer on the SharePoint site.

For more information, contact Darryl Mercer, 497-3976.

Air Force Ball logo contest announced

The Air Force's 68th Anniversary is approaching and preparation for the Team Robins Air Force Ball - scheduled Sept. 19 at the Museum of Aviation - has begun. This year's ball honors the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

The committee is seeking assistance in creating a logo. The winning selection will be used in all advertising. Entries must meet the following requirements:

The logo must include the theme "A Reflection of Honor," Team Robins and 68th Anniversary Air Force Ball. It must incorporate a graphic depiction of Vietnam veteran remembrance. Submit entries to: tracy.duplantis@us.af.mil by close of business April 28. The winner will receive two tickets to the ball and a \$25 iTunes gift card. For details, call Senior Master Sgt. Tracy Duplantis at DSN 497-5117.

Weekend Weather

Friday 72/59



Saturday 79/64



Sunday 77/63



"Be Resilient - today and every day."

SECOND FRONT



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

Col. Chris Hill, Installation commander, speaks during the Robins State of the Base event.

Commanders give community overall view at State of the Base event

BY ANGELA WOOLEN

angela.woolen.ctr@us.af.mil

Robins Air Force Base leadership took to the stage April 8 as part of a Robins State of the Base event.

The Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Robins Regional Military Affairs Committee decided the best way to get the message out about what Robins is doing is through a public forum where community members could ask questions of the top base leaders.

“Today’s Air Force is the smallest, oldest and busiest it’s ever been,” said Col. Chris Hill, Installation commander.

There are 22,259 people who work at Robins whose salaries total \$1.3 billion, he said. The number of retirees and dependents who live in Middle Georgia is 40,815.

Most of the talk centered on how the base is improving both in relations with the union but also by reducing pollution and partnering with Georgia schools for science, technology, engineering and math programs.

Hill discussed the improved relationship between management and union officials, pointing out that in less than 13 months grievances decreased by 80 percent.

“We now work together to solve problems before they become grievances,” said Hill. Additionally, for the first time in more than 30 years, a Local Supplement Agreement to the Master Labor Agreement was signed.

Introducing his fellow panelists, Hill called the commanders “the magnificent seven.”

They included Brig Gen. Merle Hart, Air Force Reserve Command;

Brig. Gen. Walter Lindsley, Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex; Col. Henry Cyr, 461st Air Control Wing; Col. Kevin Clotfelter, 116th Air Control Wing; Lt. Col. Philip Eilertson, Marine Aircraft Group 49 Detachment A and Lt. Col. Brian Schmanski, 138th Military Intelligence Company.

Lindsley talked about some of the improvements in his own area which services the C-5, C-130, C-17, F-15 and the communications and electronics on almost every aircraft in the Air Force.

Last year, the operational revenue was in the triple digits of millions behind in the budget, while this year, the complex is \$17 million on the right side of the budget. In production hours, it has gone from 5 percent behind to 10.5 percent ahead.

“We’re going to be the best air logistics complex on the planet,” Lindsley said. “There isn’t a problem we can’t solve.”

For the first time in 22 months, the group will have an on-time delivery of an F-15.

Mueller – whose unit celebrated its 50th anniversary last year – said the mission of his group is to let commanders have the ability to command and control personnel overseas as well as stateside with the use of tactical communication systems.

All the commanders thanked the community for its support of the base and its personnel.

“It’s not just a bumper sticker or an acronym in the bushes; it’s a heartfelt sentiment,” Hill said of the saying, “Every Day in Middle Georgia is Armed Forces Appreciation Day.”

Rucker to perform at Independence Day Celebration

BY ANGELA WOOLEN

angela.woolen.ctr@us.af.mil

Darius Rucker will be the headlining performer for the Warner Robins Independence Day Celebration on July 3.

Col. Chris Nick, Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service commander, announced his performance Monday during a press conference at the Museum of Aviation.

Formerly the lead singer for Hootie and the Blowfish, Rucker has transitioned to a successful country music career. His album “Southern Style” is No. 1 on the Billboard Top Country Album chart. With Hootie and the Blowfish, Rucker had 16 singles on various Billboard charts and won a Grammy award in 1996 for Best New Artist.

“Most importantly he’s a true patriot,” said Nick.

Rucker has performed many concerts for members of the military, including a Tour for the Troops, which he will be a part of again in 2015. He has also toured in the Middle East and Europe as part of Hootie and the Blowfish.

A new venue for the annual event was also announced. The concert will be held at the Museum of Aviation instead of McConnell Talbert Stadium. The change is due to the turf being replaced on the field, said City of



Warner Robins Mayor Randy Toms.

“We’re pleased to be a part of the historic partnership between the base and the community,” Toms said.

The gates will open at 6 p.m. for the free event. Parking will be available at Anchor Glass and Ga. Highway 247 will be blocked off near the museum for part of the day July 3. The concert will start at 7:30 p.m. with opening acts still being finalized, according to Chrissy Miner, 21st Century Partnership chief operating officer. The night will conclude with a fireworks display.

Toms said keeping Rucker’s plans to come to Warner Robins a secret has been hard for him to keep.

“I think it’s a perfect fit,” said Toms.



ASBP Blood Drive

The Armed Services Blood Program will conduct a blood drive April 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fitness Center Annex in Bldg. 301.

The ASBP plays a key role in providing quality blood products for service members and their families in both peace and war.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. Joseph Flescher at 497-3927 or Erin Longacre at (706) 787-1014.

PMxCP Open Season

The Spring Professional Maintenance Certificate Program open season begins April 27, and the local Office of Primary Responsibility will accept applications until June 30.

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.

Employees who don’t work in maintenance may be eligible if they meet the program requirements for a specific level and can provide the proper documentation to substantiate their eligibility. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements identified in the PMxCP framework and outlined 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 for the most up to date requirements and templates.

For more information on requirements

and submission guidelines, contact Michelle Aldana, michelle.aldana@us.af.mil; Peggy Harrell, peggy.harrell@us.af.mil or Gregory Gates, gregory.gates.1@us.af.mil.

SKYWARN training

The 78th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight, in collaboration with the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Peachtree City, will sponsor two SKYWARN storm spotter certification training sessions April 30.

Training sessions will be from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. in the Bldg. 799 auditorium. Interested individuals are asked to choose a session as space is limited to 70 per session.

SKYWARN storm spotters are volunteers who report severe weather, winter weather and weather damage to the NWS. Those reports provide forecasters with essential information regarding what’s going on at ground level. Spotters will receive training in weather safety, storm structure and reportable criteria.

For details, contact Roddy Nixon, at Roddy.Nixon@us.af.mil or Staff Sgt. Erik White, at Erik.White.1@us.af.mil, DSN 468-3573 or commercial (478) 926-3573 by April 24.

Scholarship program applications available

The Robins Chiefs Group is accepting applications for its academic scholarship program.

Applicants must be an enlisted military member, active duty, reserve, National Guard or retired, or the dependent of an enlisted military member – active duty, reserve, National Guard, retired, or deceased – assigned to or retired from Robins. Any enlisted rank or branch of service is eligible.

For more info or to download an application, visit www.robinschiefsgroup.org.

All applications must be postmarked no later than May 1.

Operation Diaper Donation

U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

Airman’s Attic volunteer Diane Ross unloads a truckload of donated diapers with the help of several other volunteers. One package of diapers was available to each family in need. The Airman’s Attic is a volunteer-run facility that provides E-1 to E-5 and O-1 to O-2 Airmen and their families with free items donated by the community, such as clothing, furniture, small appliances and electronics.



'Welcome to Robins'



U.S. Air Force photo illustrations by TOMMIE HORTON
From left, Airman 1st Class Bradley Taylor, Airman 1st Class Maria Valencia-Ruiz and Senior Airman Derrick Thomas are three of the 22 security forces Airmen serving in the Elite Gate Guard section at Robins. Members must apply for their positions and are chosen based on overall professional customer service and courtesy.

Security Forces Elite Guard puts its best foot forward

BY ANGELA WOOLEN
angela.woolen.ctr@us.af.mil

In the heat, rain, snow or sleet, the guards stand watch. Sitting in a temperature-controlled vehicle, one might not stop to think about the protectors who control traffic coming onto Robins Air Force Base every day, but they're the first faces 20,000-plus workers see coming into the base each day.

Twenty-two members of the 78th Security Forces Squadron are a part of the Elite Gate Guard section, who were hand-picked through a multi-step process.

"We wanted to put our best foot forward," said Staff Sgt. John Duffin, 78th SFS Elite Gate Guard section NCOIC.

The Elite Gate Guards had to go through a multi-level process to be selected. Interested applicants submitted a resume and were then tested on physical training.

After an initial culling, the cream-of-the-crop applicants were selected for an interview process with Duffin and Senior Master Sgt. Vincent Dewberry, 78th SFS operations superintendent. The members were chosen based on overall professional customer service and courtesy as well as how they wore their uniform.

A "sunshiny demeanor" was also a special consideration to Duffin as he wanted people coming into the gate to be left with a good feeling before work.

Senior Airman Nicholas Brown has one of those personalities.

"I'm a people person," Brown said.

Originally from Miami, Florida, Brown said he applied for the Elite Gate Guard as a way to stand out from the rest. He is trying to complete his degree from the Community College of the Air Force as well as complete his commercial license to be a pilot.

"I'm a people person ... I was reminded why I fell in love with the Air Force in the first place and bring that professionalism and sharpness to the gate."

Senior Airman Nicholas Brown



"I like the interaction with people in the morning. I feel like my purpose is to cheer them up. There's a lot more to it than wearing all this gear. We're here to protect them."

Airman First Class Nikki Young



"I was reminded why I fell in love with the Air Force in the first place and bring that professionalism and sharpness to the gate," said Brown.

The gate guards selected wear a blue patch signifying their membership in the elite group. The group will rotate every six months, with those who are interested in being a member applying or reapplying.

Airman First Class Nikki Young was assigned to gate duty right out of training but she liked it so much, she decided to apply for the Elite Gate Guard program.

"I like the interaction with people in the morning. I feel like my purpose is to cheer them up," Young said.

She hopes people coming into the gate realize she isn't there just to harass them about wearing their seatbelts, talking on the phone while driving or not having proper car registration.

"There's a lot more to it than wearing all this gear," Young said. "We're here to protect them."

Young joined the Air Force to become more financially stable but she has found a greater purpose for leaving her home in Indiana.

"I joined something that was bigger than myself," she said.

The purpose of the new group was to cut down on the number of complaints received by Security Forces and the long wait times at the gates to get into the base.

Along with the elite guards, more inbound and outbound lanes were opened to help with the flow of traffic. Overall, complaints have dwindled to very few.

Duffin said he used to receive calls and emails every day, all day long about the gate. Now, he maybe fields a handful.

When a guard looks at a base access card and greets them politely, Duffin said that many people feel more secure knowing that someone has actually looked at a card and know who is on base.

"These guys at the gate take a lot of pride in this," Duffin said.

ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER
Col. Christopher Hill

HOW TO CONTACT US

Robins Public Affairs
620 Ninth Street,
Bldg. 905
Robins AFB, GA 31098
468-2137
Fax 468-9597

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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They should be e-mailed to lanorris.askew.ctr@us.af.mil and vance.janes@us.af.mil

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

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INTERNAL INFORMATION
CHIEF
Geoff Janes

EDITOR
Lanorris Askew

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Ray Crayton
Tommie Horton
Misuzu Allen

STAFF WRITERS
Jenny Gordon
Angela Woolen
Holly Logan-Arrington

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Robins celebrates Earth Day

National Earth Day is Wednesday. Robins will host events throughout April and May for the observance themed, "Conserve Today, Secure Tomorrow."

Other Earth Day events:

► **E-Cycling:** Today from 8 a.m. to noon at Bldg. 987. Bring your old computers and other approved electronics to be recycled. For a full list of accepted items, visit the Earth Day SharePoint site. Non-government items only. Points of contact are Casey Lucas, 497-9283 and Darryl Mercer, 497-3976.

► **The Arbor Day ceremony:** Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Robins Parade Fields. POC is Bob Sargent, 497-3974.

► **Grocery Bag Environmental Art Project:** Wednesday. Groceries at the commissary will be bagged with Youth Center artwork to spread a positive environmental message. POC is Krista Mott, 497-4189.

► **Georgia Power Energy Conservation Table:** Tuesday and Wednesday. An exhibit table manned by Georgia Power will be set up at the Base Restaurant from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. POC is Allan Quattlebaum, 468-2848.

► **Waterways Clean-up:** April 24 at 1 p.m. Participants will meet at Scout Lake. Clean-up will focus on Scout Lake, Luna Lake, and Weir 14. Wear comfortable shoes, long pants, and a hat. POCs are Jim Rieker, 497-9270, Joe Bossi, 256-9216.

► **Energy Awareness Competition:** Tell us how your organization (wing, group, squadron, or flight) has promoted energy conservation and awareness. Submissions due April 30. Information and rules on Earth Day SharePoint site. POC is Allan Quattlebaum, 468-2848.



► **Bird Watching:** April 25 from 7:45 a.m. to noon. Participants will meet at Bldg. 359. RSVP required as spots are limited. POC is Bob Sargent, 497-3974.

► **Kayak the Ocmulgee with Dr. Bob:** May 2. Meet at Knowles' Landing on Hwy. 96 at 8:30 a.m.

Bring four bottles of water, snacks, a bag lunch, a hat, and sunscreen. Kayaks or canoes available to rent at Outdoor Recreation, 468-4001. POC is Bob Sargent, 497-3974. RSVP required.

Editor's Note: For more details on events, visit <https://org.eis.afmc.af.mil/sites/78abw/78ceg/cei/CEIE/EarthDay/default.aspx>.



Robins Air Force Base on Facebook

Check out Robins on Facebook.

Visit www.robins.af.mil and click on the Facebook link.

ALL IN

A DAY'S WORK

Staff Sgt. Travis Ware

UNIT: 52nd Combat Communications Squadron

JOB TITLE: Cyber transport systems supervisor

TIME IN SERVICE: 9 years

HOMETOWN: Ocala, Fla.



What does your work involve at Robins? I maintain 20 communications unit type codes valued at \$16 million. We deploy, operate and defend expeditionary communications for dominant combat and contingency operations. We provide scalable and flexible communications support in minimal time to any customer, anywhere.

How does your work contribute to the Robins mission? By deploying worldwide supporting Air Expeditionary Force commitments. The 5th MOB has a strong presence at Robins, and we take pride in what we do.

What do you enjoy most about your work? I enjoy setting up our equipment in any type of environment, and adapting our capabilities to our customers' or environmental needs and seeing the final result.

What prompted your interest in your current career field? I enjoy setting up communications equipment and the challenges that come with it. Our career field is constantly evolving to keep pace with technology.

What is an accomplishment you are proud of? One of the accomplishments I'm most proud of is a recent deployment. We, as a squadron, set up and maintained a large network supporting four service branches. Everyone in our unit had to operate above his or her level of technical ability and adapt quickly to meet the customer's needs. Everyone worked flawlessly and demonstrated our ability to deliver communication superiority. It was a really enjoyable deployment that challenged and strengthened my abilities.

What is something people would be surprised to know about you? Despite working in a communications career field, I don't like video games. I enjoy fishing, hunting and the outdoors.



**CLICK IT
OR
TICKET**

A BETTER YOU

CHIKUNGUNYA: It has nothing to do with chickens

BY 78TH MEDICAL GROUP

It's that time of year again. The sun's shining, the grass is growing, summer vacations are in sight, and the bugs are coming out.

Understanding the risks associated with international travel could make all the difference in your post-vacation recovery.

Many associate the warm, humid months with an increase in mosquitoes; however, mosquitoes are more than just a nuisance.

They have the ability to transmit a large variety of diseases such as the commonly known Malaria and Dengue Fever, to newly emerging diseases like Chikungunya.

You read that right ... newly emerging diseases.

Chikungunya has been on the Public Health radar in recent years. Most outbreaks occur in Africa, Asia, the Indian subcontinent, Central America and South America.

In 2014, thousands of travel-related Chikungunya cases were reported in the United States. Additionally, local transmission has moved as close to home as Florida. Local transmission means mosquitoes in the area have been infected with the virus and are spreading it to people.

Chikungunya is a viral disease that causes fever, severe joint pain, headache, nausea, extreme fatigue and rash.

Those symptoms usually begin three to seven days after exposure. Unfortunately, while symptoms can be alleviated with rest, fluids and prescriptions to relieve fever and pain, there's no known cure for Chikungunya. Although the illness is rarely fatal, it's debilitating and can cause long-term damage in severe cases.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are several measures to stop exposure to Chikungunya and other mosquito-borne



diseases:

►The mosquitoes that transmit the Chikungunya virus bite mostly during the daytime. Use air conditioning or window and door screens to keep them outside.

►Help reduce the number of mosquitoes outside your home or hotel room by emptying standing water from flowerpots and buckets.

►When weather permits, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

►Use insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, and oil of lemon eucalyptus and para-menthane-diol products provide long-lasting protection.

►If you use both sunscreen and insect repellent, apply the sunscreen first.

►Don't spray repellent on the skin under your clothing.

►Treat clothing with permethrin or purchase permethrin-treated clothing.

►Always follow the label instructions when using insect repellent or sunscreen.

Any time you're traveling outside the U.S., come by Public Health, or call (478) 327-8019, for information on protecting your health while traveling.

- Did you know? *The 78th Medical Group Facebook page is open to the public, and you don't have to be a TRICARE beneficiary or be eligible to use the base clinic to benefit from the wide array of content including information and tips on nutrition, tobacco cessation, physical fitness, and monthly health awareness topics. Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/78MDG.*

Air Force's updated policy promotes tobacco-free environments

BY AIR FORCE SURGEON GENERAL
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force has led the military in advancing innovative tobacco control policies, such as the tobacco-free medical campus and prohibiting tobacco use outside designated tobacco areas.

Now, an updated Air Force instruction seeks to further reduce health impacts of smoking, the nation's leading cause of death.

"The Air Force is committed to promoting Comprehensive Airman Fitness, and tobacco free living is a critical component of CAF," said Col. (Dr.) John Oh, Air Force Medical Support Agency health promotion chief.

The updated AFI 40-102, "Tobacco Free Living," further clarifies tobacco-free environments by prohibiting tobacco use in "installation recreation facilities, including but not limited to athletic fields, running tracks, basketball courts, golf courses, beaches, marinas and parks."

It prohibits smoking in vehicles with children, and reinforces that medical campuses are 100 percent tobacco free. The instruction also prohibits special events in services' facilities that promote tobacco use, like "Cigar Night," which is counter to CAF and an Air Force culture of health.

Oh cited recent progress in reducing smoking in the Air Force, with credit being shared among Airmen, supervisors, senior leaders and medical staff.

"Since 2008, our Web Health Assessment data has shown smoking has declined 39 percent among active-duty Airmen," he said. "Our smoking prevalence among active-duty Airmen is actually lower than the Healthy People 2020 national objective of 12 percent."

Smokeless tobacco use, however, remains a significant problem in the Air Force, impacting 7.4 percent of Airmen.



"If the Air Force was a state, we would have the second lowest smoking prevalence in the nation – that's the good news. But we would also have the fourth highest smokeless tobacco use," Oh said.

Oh clarified that electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, fall under the same restrictions as conventional cigarettes.

"We define e-cigarettes as a tobacco product because that is how they're defined under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act," he said.

While acknowledging that some contend that e-cigarettes are not as harmful, Oh said the long-term safety of e-cigarettes is currently unknown.

"AFI 40-102 treats e-cigarettes like any other tobacco product. We'll consider changes to this policy based on scientific evidence and in consultation with subject matter experts in DOD, Food and Drug Administration, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," he said.

Tobacco users ready to quit are encouraged to visit DOD's Quit Tobacco website and consult with their healthcare provider or installation health promotion program.

Oh said tobacco users should not be too discouraged if they relapse after quitting, since it may take multiple attempts to quit before success.

"The average smoker loses 10 years of life compared with nonsmokers, but you can gain back all, or nearly all of these 10 years, if you quit now. We want all our wingmen to live long, healthy, productive lives, and tobacco-free living is the cornerstone," he said.

E-prescribing now at Robins pharmacy

The Military Health System's deployment of electronic prescribing to military pharmacies across the United States has arrived at Robins.

It enables civilian providers who use e-prescribing to send prescriptions for TRICARE eligible beneficiaries electronically to the 78th Medical Group Pharmacy.

Providers send prescriptions using a private, secure, and closed network, not over the Internet or as an email. E-pre-

scribing eliminates the need to drop-off a paper prescription, reduces the possibility of transcription/read errors and is expected to reduce pharmacy wait times.

Tips for switching

- Ask your provider to send your prescription electronically to the Robins pharmacy.
- When you arrive at the pharmacy, inform them the prescription was sent electronically
- Prescriptions for controlled substances are not accepted

electronically and will still require a paper prescription.

Ask your provider to send your prescriptions to:

►Department of Defense Electronic Prescribing Pharmacy name: DOD_ROBINS_EPHCY

►Pharmacy phone number : (478) 327-8150

►Pharmacy NCPDP/NPI Number:

116549/1417363482

►Military Pharmacy Formulary Location:

www.robins.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=8025.



U.S. Air Force file photo by TOMMIE HORTON

Christopher Crosby, 573rd Commodities Maintenance Group machinist, operates a universal milling machine to produce critically needed aircraft parts. The local agreement affects bargaining unit employees at Robins covered by Council 214 and the Air Force Materiel Command Master Labor Agreement, which became effective in April 2012.

COMMON

Continued from 1

The first goal was reducing conflict between parties. The second was improving productivity, reducing cost and increasing efficiency across the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex.

“Throughout the negotiations, I was encouraged because we kept staying true to these primary goals,” said Mark Johnson, management team lead and 402nd Commodities Maintenance Group deputy director. “A lot of people came together to help us put together a document that I think will serve us well.”

In the end, 14 articles to the LSA were finalized, which include annual and sick leave call-in procedures; hours of work and tours of duty; alternate supervisors; and holiday staffing.

New articles introduced include VERA/VSIP and reductions in force, and also the presence of union facilities at Robins. Those will include satellite AFGE offices in Bldgs. 140 and 125.

The most significant new article involves overtime. It was found that many grievances through the years resulted from different interpretations of overtime procedures. That shouldn’t happen going forward, as overtime will be processed through a computer program – the Overtime Automated Tracking System – which will offer an equitable distribution of overtime.

“This . . . will provide a level of integrity to this process, and will create a level of standardization that can be used across the base,” said David Tucker, AFGE Local 987 trustee.

Going line by line through the old LSA, as well as reviewing several hundred memorandums of understanding and memorandums of agreements that had been introduced over the years, took months to complete. There was also the issue of documenting MOUs/MOAs and other standalone documents which weren’t attached to the former LSA.

One notable change is that now a control mechanism exists so that all future MOAs/MOUs must be signed by the proper authorities, in this case the 78th Air Base Wing commander and AFGE president, or their designated representatives. A sunset clause was also included so that documents are automatically cancelled if not renewed.

Collaborative training has begun between union stewards and management on ways to implement changes addressed in the LSA.

“This LSA is so different and so new that there will definitely be challenges. I’m sure there will be growing pains,” said Tucker. “(But) We will train on it – so we can all move forward together.”

HEARTFELT

Continued from 1

seventh- and eighth-grade students.

She was choked up when she thanked the military children for the sacrifices made in order to keep the military up and running.

Kayleigh Richardson, 14, said she has had to move around many times.

“It is kind of hard, knowing your family all has to move and knowing your dad or mom is fighting for you and making you safe,” the eighth-grader said.

At the end of the pep rally, which also included motivational dances and a

Watch the video on Robins official Facebook page



speech for the upcoming tests, the 100 military children were given dog tags, provided by the Georgia 4H Operation Military Kid.

More than 2,500 students in Houston County are children of active duty military members. About 7,000 students who are in Houston County have parents who work on the base, according to Renee

Daughtry, school liaison officer.

Daughtry handed out the tags, which read, “Team Robins families serve 2, thank you 4 your service. Robins AFB, GA.”

“We really appreciate all you do to let your parents keep the rest of us safe,” Daughtry told the military children.

Please recycle this newspaper

AROUND THE AIR FORCE

Sexual Assault Prevention Summit challenges Airmen to lead to prevent sexual assault

BY 2ND LT. ESTHER WILLETT

Air Force District of Washington Public Affairs

Visiting speakers discussed leaders' roles in preventing sexual assault at a Sexual Assault Prevention Summit earlier this year at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

Lt. Col. Kevin Basik and Dr. Heather McCauley spoke to 150 Airmen of varying ranks about how leaders can promote a professional culture which deters sexual violence and assault. Basik and McCauley represented a number of scheduled speakers who presented to participants during the course of the five-day summit designed to stimulate discussion about sexual assault in the Air Force.

"We're talking about shifting and shaping culture," said Basik, the senior Air Force advisor for professionalism. "We've got to get clear about what a professional is, and then develop a culture around it – a culture of dignity and respect. This is the journey all of us are on. We want to move the culture; we want to move individuals to focus on the right thing."

According to McCauley, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Medicine, leaders create cultural norms by determining outcome expectation, what ramifications will ensue if an individual demonstrates negative behavior. They also set the cultural standard by role modeling positive behavior. If the leader doesn't feel comfortable doing it, it's likely that others won't either.

"Influential leaders are critical to shifting social norms," McCauley said. "We want to shift social norms including the idea that violence is acceptable and that we can't do anything about it, because we can."

Leaders must develop the confidence, competence, and judgment to be able to make the right call when it comes to sexual assault, Basik said. The absence of any one of those factors could hijack prevention efforts. A leader can have his heart in the right place, know what he is doing and still make the wrong call.

In many instances people know what the right decision is, but pressures show up at the gap between deciding and acting, which keep people



from doing what they know is right, he said. Some of those pressures include concerns about time and expertise.

Leaders may feel like the necessary conversations remain outside the scope of their job. They may worry about being intrusive, or that they don't know what to say, McCauley said.

"There are a number of barriers that cross sectors," she said. "These are all very real, and it's important that they are said so we can create strategies to address them."

Consistently crossing the gap between deciding and acting requires leaders to clarify what they are committed to, and step into the person they aspire to be, Basik said. Leadership extends way beyond compliance with Air Force standards to demonstrating a true commitment to leading and developing others.

"We're back to identities," he said. "It's got to start with ownership. You don't develop other people; you support them in developing themselves."

Airmen took their notes and insights back to their respective working groups designed to create tools to help the Air Force prevent sexual assault. They were charged to lean into the conversation because everybody has a role in the developmental process.

According to Basik, it starts with thoughts and habits of action.

"You have the ability to shift and change the

course of many young men and young women's lives," McCauley said.

Free local Sexual Assault Awareness Month events:

►Today: 5K Color Run-A-Mile in Their Shoes. Run or walk a mile to raise awareness and support those affected by sexual violence. Check-in at Bldg. 826 HAWC parking lot at 8 a.m. The run begins at 8:25 a.m.

►Now through April 30: Traveling Line of Courage is a silent exhibit of self-expression of the violence which plagues our community. The T-shirts, created by survivors and others affected by sexual assault, will be displayed on a clothesline as testament to the problem of violence.

►Teal Tuesdays: Wear teal to support survivors and promote awareness.

►Monday: from 1 to 3 p.m. Survivor Jar Painting – Take the Lid off "iT" – Bldg. 301 Fitness Center Annex; April 15 and 22 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Bldg. 707, SARC Office.

►Wednesday: Survivor T-Shirt Painting, Bldg. 707, 4 to 6:30 p.m. Sign up by calling (478) 327-7272. An outlet for anyone affected by sexual violence.

►April 24: Courage Walk. The Courage Walk is a time to honor the strength and courage of survivors of sexual violence. The walk will begin in between the parking lots of Bldgs. 300 and 301.

The SARC office is located in Bldg. 707. The SARC or a SAPR Victim Advocate may be reached 24/7 at DSN 497-7272 or commercial (478) 327-7272.



Survivors

As part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, The Air Force will feature narratives from survivors of sexual assault. To read this week's story visit www.robins.af.mil



U.S. Air Force photo by STAFF SGT. MARCUS MORRIS

Special delivery

Twelve Air Force KC-135 Stratotankers, from the 909th Air Refueling Squadron, taxi onto the runway during Exercise Forceful Tiger on Kadena Air Base, Japan, April 1. During the aerial exercise, the Stratotankers delivered 800,000 pounds of fuel to about 50 aircraft.

In Other News

Expanded use-or-lose leave law set to expire soon

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – With the expiration of a law that allowed service members to carry up to 75 days of leave from one fiscal year to the next, troops should plan to carry no more than 60 days of leave into fiscal 2016, defense officials have announced.

Service members will automatically lose any accumulated ordinary leave in excess of 60 days on Oct. 1, officials said.

Troops covered by special leave accrual rules may still carry up to 120 days from one fiscal year to the next.

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2013 extended the authority to carry over an additional 15 days of leave – total of 75 days – to Sept. 30.

Military couples can serve concurrent short tours at Kunsan Air Base

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, TEXAS (AFNS) – A recent policy

change will enable active-duty military couples to serve concurrently at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, Air Force officials said March 25.

Join spouse assignments to dependent-restricted overseas locations – where accompanied housing is not available such as Kunsan – are not currently authorized.

However, the policy change approving joint spouse assignments at Kunsan, allows members to serve 12-month unaccompanied tours simultaneously with their military spouses.

"About 50 Wolf Pack Airmen each year spend significant portions of their tours travelling between Kunsan and Osan to be with their military spouses," said Col. Ken Ekman, 8th Fighter Wing commander. "Our military couples make significant sacrifices to serve our Air Force."

"Separation during their assignments to Korea should not be one of them," he added. "This policy change represents

an important step toward caring for the 8th Fighter Wing's most precious resource, our Wolf Pack Airmen."

Eligible Airmen may choose retirement plan at 14.5 years

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, TEXAS (AFNS) – The Air Force Personnel Center has developed an automatic notification process that sends a message directly to active-duty Air Force and headquarters Active Guard Reserve members when they reach 14.5 years of active service.

The new process will help ensure eligible military members are aware of their options in choosing a retirement plan with ample time to make an educated decision.

Prior to implementation of the new process, only about 52 percent of Airmen acknowledged the notification message.

During the new process preliminary testing, 95 percent of Airmen responded to the message.

HAPPENINGS/SERVICES

Pine Oaks Golf Course has something for everyone



U.S. Air Force photos by MISUZU ALLEN

Above, Golfers practice their shots at the Pine Oaks Golf Course driving range Monday.



At right, Jerry Vail, Pine Oaks Golf Course pro shop clerk, checks his merchandise. The Pro Shop is open Monday through Sunday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

BY JENNY GORDON

jenny.snider.ctr@us.af.mil

There's golf going on at the Pine Oaks Golf Course, but there's a little more to whet your appetite as well.

Tons of programs are offered, including a beginners' Nine-Hole Golf League, an April special promotion on Sunday afternoons, and Month of the Military Child specials.

Be on the lookout this summer for Link Up to Golf and Learn to Play, a program which will be offered again in June. All base personnel are invited to learn to play for \$195. That includes lessons, one walking round of golf, a punch card and practice range tokens.

You've seen the signs around base about Fairways Grille, a new breakfast option for those looking to grab a tasty treat before work.

Specials include breakfast burritos, breakfast bowls and traditional breakfast plates, as well as a selection of sandwiches. Choose egg, cheese and bacon, chicken, cheese and bacon or egg and cheese. Prices on the menu

range from 75 cents a la carte for hash browns, to \$4.50 for a breakfast bowl. You can also make your meal a combo for an additional \$2.

Other notable news

► A familiar face has returned, new superintendent Rusty Singleton, who joins Pine Oaks from the Brickyard Golf Club of Macon.

► A 20-by-20-foot back porch on the property has been screened in, offering guests more opportunities for events on site.

Retirement parties, weddings, promotional parties, Wingman events and more can be accommodated for up to 150 guests, standing-room only, at Pine Oaks.

With a new breakfast menu, a new hire, and the summer season around the corner, there's much to be celebrated at Pine Oaks, according to Mike Baker, golf course manager.

"We're starting to pick up. Play is getting better and the golf course itself is getting better. It's definitely starting to look at trending in the right direction," he said.

To learn more about the programs and events, visit <http://robinsfss.com/golf.html>.

Counselor Connection – discrimination investigations

BY ROBINS OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

If you are a current federal employee, former employee, or applicant for employment, the law protects you from discrimination because of your race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age – 40 or older, mental or physical disability or genetic information.

The law also protects you from retaliation for opposing discrimination, filing a discrimination complaint or participating in the complaint process.

If you're a current or former federal employee or applicant, and you believe you've been discriminated against, you have a right to file a complaint.

The first step when is to contact the Equal Opportunity office.

You must contact the office within 45 calendar days from the date the discrimination occurred or

45 calendar days from the effective date of a personnel action.

If you elect to file an informal complaint, you'll be given the option of having your EEO complaint processed through traditional EEO counseling or through mediation.

If your complaint isn't resolved informally, you'll be given the right to file a formal discrimination complaint against the agency. You must file within 15 calendar days from the date you receive your right to file a formal complaint.

If your formal complaint is accepted for investigation, the EO office will request the Investigation and Resolutions Division assign an investigator.

The agency has 180 days from the date you filed your formal complaint to complete the investigation.

You'll be issued a Report of Investigation with rights to either request a hearing before an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Administrative Judge or request the agency to issue a Final Agency Decision as to whether the discrimination occurred.

As a reminder, the objective of the EO program is to enhance mission effectiveness by ensuring an environment of dignity and respect.

The commander's policy on EO is simple, treat everyone with dignity and respect regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, reprisal, and genetic information.

Robins Air Force Base has zero tolerance for any form of unlawful discrimination, harassment, reprisal or retaliation.

**78th ABW/EO
706 Ninth Street
Bldg. 936
Robins AFB GA. 31098
Commercial- 926-2131
DSN: 468-2131**

Practice OPSEC every day, everywhere.