



## INSIDE

MDG volunteers needed, Page A2

RPA myths and facts, Page A3

Put Your Hands Together, Page A4

### NEW! The Robins Rev-Up now has two sections



# ROBINS REV-UP

'Team Robins - Performing to Our Potential'

'Making Tomorrow Better than Today'

May 29, 2015 Vol. 60 No. 21

## 'It's gotta be right'

### Team Robins' role in ensuring aircraft operability is vital

BY JENNY GORDON

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Two F-15 fighter jets were scrambled over the Atlantic Ocean during the long Memorial Day holiday weekend in response to phone threats targeting multiple commercial flights.

North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD, deployed the aircraft, responding to initial threats reported by Maryland police, which led to the escort of Air France Flight 22 to New York's John F. Kennedy Airport.

According to news reports, once the aircraft landed, a search was conducted and nothing was found. The FBI, which was leading the investigation into the threats, also searched United Flight 63 from Madrid to New Jersey. Nothing was found on that flight, and it was later cleared.

Among other flights affected by the threats, there was a Delta flight from London to New Jersey, and a Delta flight from Paris to Boston, but no threats were found.

Although the incidents over the holiday weekend resulted in passengers and crews returning home safely, the quick response by F-15s speaks to the importance of Robins maintaining these aircraft when our nation calls for help.



An F-15 is towed to a hangar upon its return from a test flight. During these flights, aircraft are put through extensive testing and engine run-up to find any possible performance problems.

U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

### Rev it up!

On the Robins flight line, there's a dedicated area where an F-15 Eagle is departing from one of several bays as it readies for a functional test flight.

From the moment its engines rev up,

to taxiing onto the runway and taking off, a single persistent thought crosses the minds of those watching – the work day isn't a success until that test pilot returns safely.

On average, an aircraft can spend 16 days in functional testing. Jets don't sit

very long – fix 'em then fly 'em quickly so they can do what they were made to do.

There's no room for error here. Sure, the word safety is bounced back and

▶ see VITAL, A5

## ROBINS PREPPING FOR EXERCISES

ROBINS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The base will conduct a number of readiness exercises June 8 through 12.

The exercises will evaluate, among other things, how the workforce and first responders react to active-shooter and hazardous-material scenarios.

The active-shooter scenario will include the use of a new active-shooter alarm broadcast on the base's Giant Voice message system. The active-shooter alarm is a 15-second attack warning signal followed by the words "Lockdown, lockdown, lockdown."

Both will be repeated every five minutes until the all clear is issued.

The attack warning signal is a continuous wavering tone and should not be confused with the disaster warning signal – for things such as a tornado – which is a three- to five-minute steady tone.

The hazardous-material scenario will impact a limited number of personnel. However, all base organizations should review their shelter-in-place



### WHAT TO KNOW:

**The installation command post will test its active-shooter alarm in advance of the actual exercise. It will test the alarm Wednesday at noon, as part of its weekly test of the base's giant voice message system. The active-shooter alarm is a 15-second attack warning signal followed by the words "Lockdown, lockdown, lockdown."**

locations and procedures in preparation for the event, as well as for situational awareness should the need to shelter-in-place ever occur for real.

As with all installation exercises, drivers may experience a temporary delay entering and exiting the base on at least one occasion during the week.

Additionally, personnel may encounter restricted access and reduced services at some on-base facilities.

## Air Force releases Strategic Master Plan

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The Air Force officially released the Strategic Master Plan May 21, which is the latest in a series of strategic documents designed to guide the organizing, training and equipping of the force over the coming decades.

The SMP builds on the strategic imperatives and vectors described in the capstone document, *America's Air Force: A Call to the Future*, released last summer. From this guidance, the SMP articulates 12 strategic goals for the institution, with supporting objectives and tasks laid out for each goal.

Primarily written for Air Force planners, this document bridges the gap between broader ideas and activities required to realize the strategic vision. The Air Force chief of staff lauded the document as the first of its kind in its comprehensiveness and relevance.

"One of the most important things the Strategic Master Plan accomplishes is tightening the alignment

▶ see PLAN, A5

## FRIDAY FLYBY: Engraving shop helps preserve memories, highlight careers, Page B1

### Independence Day celebration



Darius Rucker will perform at the 33rd annual Warner Robins Independence Day Celebration at the Museum of Aviation on July 3.

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 for part of the day July 3 near the museum. The concert will start at 7:30 p.m.

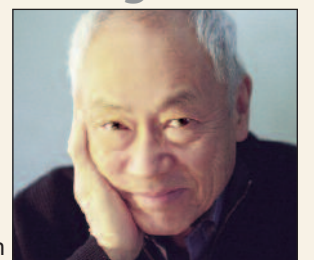
The night will conclude with a fireworks display.

### Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month is an annual celebration of achievements by Asian Americans and the central role they have played in U.S. history.

Gyo Obato is an American architect. In 1955, he co-founded global architectural firm HOK – formerly Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum.

He has designed several notable buildings, including the McDonnell Planetarium at the Saint Louis Science Center, the Independence Temple of the Community of Christ Church and the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.



Obato

Weekend Weather

Friday 87/65



Saturday 88/67



Sunday 89/67



"Be careful – Safety has no quitting time."

## SECOND FRONT

**Team Robins fallen honored during ceremony**

BY ANGELA WOOLEN

angela.woolen.ctr.@us.af.mil

A bell rang 76 times for the men and women who were memorialized during the 39th annual Camellia Gardens Memorial Service here May 21.

During the service, Capt. Kayley Squire and 1st Lt. Cassandra Estrada read off the names of the deceased for families, community members and base officials.

First Lt. Desiree Colbert and Staff Sgt. Jason Gebo sounded a bell for each of the names read.

The garden, dedicated in 1976, was built in a partnership between the base, the former Warner Robins Chamber of Commerce and the Middle Georgia Camellia Society.

Each year a new plaque is put in the garden with the names of those who were honored. The service recognizes the impact of those who have worked at Robins, both military and civilian.

"Their work has impacted the base, their community and the entire state of Georgia," said Warner Robins Mayor Randy Toms, who was the guest speaker for the event. He told the audience that his father worked at Robins for 30 years.

Toms and Lt. Col. Jonathan Wade, 78th Air Base Wing chaplain, placed a wreath in the center of the courtyard as bagpipe player Morris Blumenthal played Amazing Grace.

During the ceremony, the Robins Air Force Base



U.S. Air Force photo by MISUZU ALLEN

**Team Robins paid tribute to its deceased members at the 39th Annual Camellia Gardens Memorial Service May 21.**

Honor Guard fired a 21-gun salute during the playing of Taps.

"This is one of the most special moments of my life," Wade said of the solemn ceremony.

Concluding the ceremony, Chaplain (Maj.)

Gabriel Rios, base chaplain, read the benediction.

"In the blue sky and warm summer, we remember them ... At the beginning of the year and the end, we remember them," Rios said. "They are now a part of us."

**DASH for Trash**

Dash For Trash continues through June 5. Is your work area cluttered with obsolete or unneeded stuff? If so, now is 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 below:

**Refuse and Wood Pallets:** Contact James Phillips at 497-3170 or james.phillips.11@us.af.mil.

**Recyclables:** Contact Darryl Mercer at 497-3976 or darryl.mercer@us.af.mil. You can bring recyclables from your workplace or home to the collection center located at Bldg. 987.

**Hazardous Waste:** Contact John Gullock at 468-1176 or john.gullock@us.af.mil.

**Government Equipment:** Wednesday is open turn-in for scrap items at DLA Disposition Services. Call to determine if items are scrap or reusable. Reusable items need an appointment. Call David Smith at 468-3568 or Robert Omogbai at 497-5860.



A demolition project on Bldgs. 2082 and 2088 is underway. During the project, 25 parking spaces adjacent to Bldg. 2082 and 24 parking spaces adjacent to Bldg. 2088 will be unavailable.

Estimated completion date is Aug. 31. Demolition dates will be advertised via the Splash page, and through signage adjacent to the demolition sites.

Inclement weather could delay the project. POC is Ed Mitchell at 497-2938.

**Volunteers needed for MDG**

BY ANGELA WOOLEN

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Are you interested in helping the base pharmacy reduce long lines? Volunteers are needed at the 78th Medical Group but the pharmacy could use your help most.

The Robins pharmacy fills an average of 1,200 prescriptions per day which averages out to 133 per hour. That's three times as many as some local pharmacies.

To help process those orders in less time, volunteers can make a difference.

Jean Martin has been volunteering at the pharmacy since 1996. During her nearly 20 years of service, she has helped count pills, alphabetize and store refills on the shelves, and performed call outs for orders after medication orders are completed.

"They needed somebody so I just thought I'd be of help," Martin said.

She moved here with her husband retired Chief Master Sgt. Bob Martin and thought volunteering would be a good way to meet new people here at Robins.

Martin works every Friday for four hours and has enjoyed the time she has spent volunteering. Knowing she can make a difference and being appreciated by the staff keeps her motivated to keep coming back, she said.

Unfortunately for the pharmacy, the Martins will be moving soon to be closer to their children. Their leaving will leave room for others to volunteer.

The volunteer program for the pharmacy or the clinic is open to anyone age 18 or older with base access. Training is needed by the American Red Cross and the 78th Medical Group.

"There are roughly 20 volunteers in the clinic, mostly in the pharmacy," said Capt. Christine Ainsworth, 78th MDG American Red Cross liaison. There are also people who volunteer in Medical Records, Optometry and the Health and Wellness Center.

What the pharmacy needs most is consistency and dependability. Volunteers should be able to work in a fast-paced



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

**Jean Martin, 78th Medical Group volunteer, bags prescription drugs at the pharmacy.**

environment and be dependable, said Maj. Bridget Moore, 78th MDG Diagnostics and Therapeutics commander.

"The volunteers make up for shortages in manning. Our workload is still the same whether we have staff here or not," Moore said.

The pharmacy employs 22 military, civilian and contractors but Moore estimated with some of the gaps created, she needs more volunteers to keep the center running smoothly. Those volunteers would step in when someone may be sick or cannot come in to work. We only ask our volunteers to work a few hours, so we need more to contribute.

About six new volunteers would be ideal for the pharmacy, said certified pharmacy technician and volunteer coordinator Janie Sharpston, who works at the pharmacy. If those volunteers could put in four hours of work a week, it would help out.

"We can have 500 people at the window a day. When patients are sick, they don't feel like waiting," Moore said.

To get started, visit [www.redcross.org/ga/volunteer/volunteer](http://www.redcross.org/ga/volunteer/volunteer) or the Airman and Family Readiness Center or call Ainsworth at DSN 497-8135 or (478) 327-8135.

See something wrong?  
Do something right.

**CLASSIFIED**

**AFOSI**

24/7 anonymous tip submission  
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Insider threat, fraud, theft, drugs,  
CI indicators, murder, burglary,  
rape, environmental crimes,  
domestic violence, espionage...

See something? Say something!

# AROUND THE AIR FORCE

## DISPELLING REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT MYTHS

BY SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Public interest in remotely piloted aircraft continues to grow thanks to their increasing sources of non-military uses and their portrayal in popular culture.

For the Air Force, remotely piloted aircraft are and will continue to be a vital asset delivering airpower to combatant commanders all over the world.

While demands placed on the airmen who work with RPAs are becoming more commonly known, there are still myths strongly associated with the mission. Here's some fact and fiction about the very in-demand world of RPA operations.

**Myth:** Because they're unmanned, RPAs are less safe than manned aircraft.

**Fact:** For every RPA, there's a pilot and crew in continuous control of the aircraft, ensuring operational precision and complete ground and flying safety.

Air Force RPAs have safety rates comparable to Air Force manned aircraft. RPA systems have been getting safer as aircraft and communication technology and the institutional experience of operators mature.

Historically, even during periods when there was an immediate requirement for extensive RPA operations in demanding operational environments, the mishap rate decreased over the long term.

**Myth:** There is no demand from combatant commanders for RPA capability.

**Fact:** Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance missions continue to be the number one most requested capability of combatant commanders throughout the world. RPAs are in demand. Air Force RPAs operate 24 hours daily, 365 days per year. Through December 2014,



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

**The Command & Control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Division at Robins provides support to all weapons systems in its portfolio like the MQ-9 Reaper above. ISR functions are principal elements of U.S. defense capabilities and includes a wide variety of systems for collecting, processing and disseminating intelligence needed by national security decision makers and military commanders.**

the Air Force flew Predators and Reapers more than 2,208,985 hours.

**Myth:** RPAs don't have to comply with FAA requirements.

**Fact:** RPA training flights in America are conducted under federal authorities which are granted to the service to train pilots and crew members preparing for real world missions.

That includes all Air Force pilots being trained to FAA instrument rating requirements. These missions are flown in accordance with federal law, executive orders, and

Department of Defense and Air Force instructions that balance the need for operational readiness with protection of personal privacy.

Unmanned aircraft that operate within the national airspace system are held to the same level of procedures and compliance than manned aircraft.

**Myth:** To achieve the RPA mission it only requires a crew of two – a pilot and a sensor operator.

**Fact:** For every remotely piloted aircraft combat air patrol there are nearly 200 people supporting the mission in various capacities. That includes mission intelligence personnel; aircraft and communications maintainers; launch and recovery element personnel; and intelligence personnel conducting production, exploitation and dissemination operations.

**Myth:** RPAs only conduct ISR.

**Fact:** MQ-1/9s are multi-role aircraft capable of conducting several missions. They perform tasks including support to Combat Search and Rescue, Dynamic Targeting, Close Air Support, Air Interdiction and Strike Coordination and Reconnaissance. The Predator and Reaper also provide precision-strike missions, minimizing risk of collateral damage.

**Myth:** Conducting an RPA mission is like playing a video game.

**Fact:** New RPA pilots go through a very intense training program before they fly operational missions, making it the furthest thing from picking up a controller and playing a video game. This training curriculum lasts about a year, and many current Air Force RPA pilots and trainers have already completed undergraduate pilot training in manned aircraft as well.

### ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER  
Col. Christopher Hill

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### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions must be received by 4 p.m. Wednesday, the week prior to the requested Friday publication.

They should be e-mailed to [lanorris.askew.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:lanorris.askew.ctr@us.af.mil) and [vance.janes@us.af.mil](mailto:vance.janes@us.af.mil)

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

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## VITAL

Continued from 1

forth among colleagues in meetings – its undeniable message is proudly on display.

### Step into their world

Step into the world of the F-15 Functional Test Flight, and you realize you're part of a significant movement.

The floors inside each bay where an F-15 is parked is spotless. Not because it's easier to find things when every piece of equipment has its place, but because it's a simple matter of safety.

"It's a big deal out here with live aircraft," said Joseph Pope, F-15 mechanic. "The main thing everyone looks out for is the next person. You may not see something someone else does, especially when you have different parts of a plane moving."

Foreign object damage, or FOD, has no business anywhere near this place. Take for example an unassuming drill bit. Forget that it's nearby, and it could get sucked into an F-15 intake. That's enough to create a multi-million dollar headache.

For the flight, the work is out in the open; everyone's accountable, and if someone gets sloppy, things can go downhill fast. Lives are on the line.

### It's a Family

The functional test team has 120 members who take ownership of their work environment. Ask them, and they'll all tell you it's like a family, and when you're family, you take care of one another. You trust each other, and you know what the other side is doing.

By the time an F-15 reaches functional test, some 18,000 hours' worth of maintenance has already

been done to the aircraft. Basically, a lot of hands and tools have touched nearly every inch of that metal.

Chuck Hodges, an F-15 mechanic, explained that crews must depend on each other. It can be deadly when you don't watch what you're doing.

"We're very safety conscious from the time we get here until we leave," said Hodges, a former police officer. "We've got constantly moving flight controls. While I may be doing engine runs or ops checks up front, I can't see what others are doing, so I've got to depend on their knowledge, their training and communication. There's a lot of trust involved."

"Bottom line, when a pilot gets in that seat and takes off, he's our responsibility until his feet touch the ground," he continued. "Our goal is to come to work, work on this plane and fly it, and go home to our families."

### Gold Standard

The flight is so safety conscious that it recently got recognition for achieving the Voluntary Protection Program's Gold designation. It's a pretty big deal when you know you've come this far, yet many are merely humbled by the honor and silently wave it off. It's been well over 600 days since the last safety incident.

Bryant Aaron, VPP representative with American Federation of Government Employees Local 987, was part of the team that visited the flight during its Gold assessment.

"This team believes in word and action, not just what's on paper," he said. "A happy employee is a productive employee, and they take care of each other. People here enjoy coming to work because management is involved and concerned for their employees. It's a high point in this area."

Installation VPP manager Sean Johnson agreed. Safety is not just a way of life, it's the mandate

everyone understands and appreciates.

"When this shop gets an aircraft, this is the last checkpoint prior to its delivery to a customer," he said. "This is a success story."

No need for the spotlight though. Workers here admit they're just doing what they do every day: work, take care of business, and do it again the next day.

### 'I wouldn't get in if I didn't feel safe'

During one recent sun-drenched morning, Lt. Col. Dante Badia, 339th Flight Test Squadron commander, was getting ready to take up a 1978 D model for its first test.

After leaving the flight line, the F-15 shot straight up into the airspace, the familiar sounds of freedom trailing behind.

Pilots follow a standard checklist, running through the performance of flight controls, shutting down motors and restarting them, flying at supersonic speeds, and more.

When asked how he felt about flying F-15s repaired by mechanics on the ground, the veteran pilot quickly pointed out, "I wouldn't get in it if I didn't feel safe."

Call it respect for the pilots and their families; that same regard holds true for workers turning wrenches on the ground.

John Kieweg, F-15 Functional Test Flight chief, isn't one to mince words when it comes to the urgency of tasks his team faces every day. He confessed that every maintainer under his watch recognizes and embraces a great responsibility.

"Our motto is we own that guy's life from the time his butt hits the seat until his foot hits the ladder," he said of test pilots. "The guys (maintainers) probably hear that from me too often. Every time we have a wingman day or I'm in front of them, I remind them – when we put a pilot in that hunk of metal and send them straight up in the air – it's gotta be right."

## PLAN

Continued from 1

of our planning activities across the Air Force toward a common set of goals," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III. "The outcome of this integrated planning activity will be options for concepts, capabilities and policies that will deliver the force we need for the fast-paced future within a resource-constrained plan. If we can't afford it, it doesn't go in the plan."

In addition to the core document, there are four annexes that provide more in-depth and specific planning guidance – Human Capital, Strategic Posture, Capabilities and Science & Technology annexes.

The Human Capital Annex addresses

recruiting, retaining and developing Airmen. It continues the emphasis on integrating all elements of the Air Force total force in an effective manner.

The secretary of the Air Force said she appreciates the use of such a document, and sees an opportunity to affect real change for the future.

"The Human Capital Annex captures our efforts to think strategically about our Airmen and posture them for success in a dynamic, uncertain future," said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James.

The Strategic Posture Annex describes how the Air Force will enhance its ability to present forces, project power, increase resiliency in its installations and strengthen international partnerships.

The classified Capabilities Annex identifies the enterprise-wide capability gaps, prioritized and sequenced over time, that

drive Air Force-wide planning activities.

The annex reinvigorates development planning – a process by which concepts that span several functional areas can be explored and tested; and robust experimentation, modeling and simulation, rapid prototyping and demonstrations will deliver evidence-based, fully vetted capability options for senior leaders to consider for investment.

That process is currently underway, with an Enterprise Capability Collaboration Team investigating air superiority options for 2030 and beyond.

The S&T Annex is also classified, and describes the major efforts underway, as well as their linkage to capability gaps and potential "game-changing" concepts.

The release of the SMP is the culmination of nine months of development

and collaboration across the Air Force.

The plan will be updated every two years to reflect appropriate changes and progress toward Air Force strategic goals.

"This first version of the Strategic Master Plan is by no means perfect, but it provides the foundation upon which we can build a powerful process," said Maj. Gen. David Allvin, the director of strategy, concepts and assessments. "We'll learn as we go, and every revision will be better than the previous one."

"The result – if we stick with it – will be a plan that evolves with the strategic environment into a logical, defensible, consistent path to develop an agile, inclusive force to deliver Global Vigilance-Global Reach-Global Power – now and well into the future."



## Thought for the Day

"Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort."

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt



## What's inside

Base preps for hurricane season, B2

World No Tobacco Day, B3

Tops in Blue, B4

# Lighter Fare

THE ROBINS REV-UP ■ MAY 29, 2015

THE PLACE TO LIVE, LEARN, WORK AND PLAY

# Making a Mark



## Robins engraving shop helps 'Celebrate life's victories'

BY ANGELA WOOLEN

angela.woolen.ctr.@us.af.mil

Going away gifts, sports awards, name tags or beer mugs are just a few of the items Tracey Davis has engraved during her eight years in the engraving department at the Art and Crafts Center.

Davis, the head engraver, uses a computer program to line up artwork for the laser etching machine. Once the design is checked and checked again, Davis hits the start button and the machine starts working.

For large jobs, it usually takes 10 to 15 minutes. A smaller item can take two minutes. One of the strangest jobs she's ever had was a figure of Marvel's Hulk which she had to mount to a stand.

"We had to make a stand in the back and glue his feet to the base," Davis said.

She's also mounted a dog bone and even had a request to mount fake teeth.

The shop sells everything from wooden wall plaques to spinning glass globes. Each price includes one engraving.

"I think we have the biggest selection of eagles to choose from in the Middle Georgia area," said Davis.

The engraving department also does sublimation which takes an image and heat transfers it into another surface.

She's done name tags, car tags, coasters and mugs with the process which can be black and white or color.

Anyone with base access can use the shop. The turnaround time to get an item engraved is a week.

Robins Expressions, the name of the engraving department, came up with a motto for the work it does.

"Celebrating Life's Victories" is printed on pink business cards.



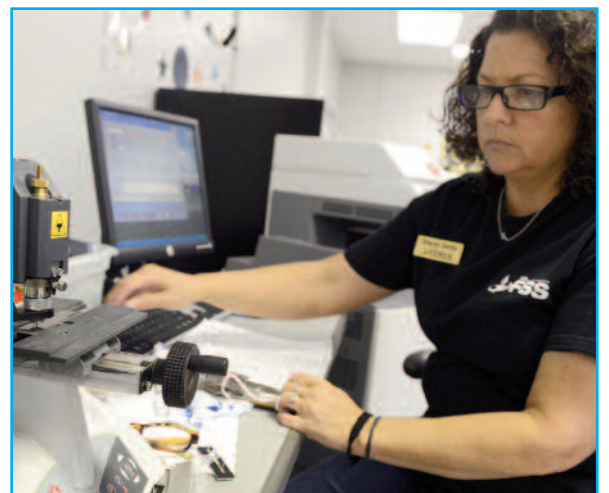
U.S. Air Force photos by TOMMIE HORTON

Above, Tracey Davis, 78th Force Support Squadron Engraving Shop, packages freshly finished plaques.

Below, Creating a special memento is easy and if you are short on creativity, there are plenty of samples to choose from.

## What to know

Robins Expressions, which specializes in unique personalized gifts and services, is located in Bldg. 984 on Tenth Street. For more information, contact Tracey Davis at (478) 926-5282 or by email at [robinsexpressions@live.com](mailto:robinsexpressions@live.com).



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Air Force photo illustration by CLAUDE LAZZARA

**UNIT:** Automatic Test Systems Division

**JOB TITLE:** Logistics management specialist

**TIME IN SERVICE:** 9 years

**HOMETOWN:** LaGrange, Ga.

**What does your work involve at Robins?** I work with Automatic Test Systems for the A-10 aircraft. I, and many other members of a team, are responsible for acquisition, sustainment, funding and configuration management of Automatic Test Systems that are used to check the operational conditions of avionics and armament systems.

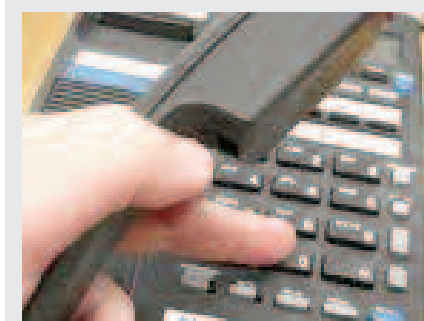
**What do you enjoy most about your work?** I like knowing that what I do has a positive effect on the A-10 and ATS communities.

**How does your work contribute to the Robins mission?** Working both acquisition and sustainment programs, I have learned and implemented the best practices needed to make Robins known for its help to the warfighter.

**What prompted your interest in your current career field?** My prior service as an enlisted airman pushed me back to working for the DOD. I was able to leave the military, work for private industry, and felt that my experience would be used best if I could get back into the logistics field as a civil servant.

**Who has been the biggest influence in your life?** My father. He continues to set an example of honest hard work for me.

**What is an accomplishment of which you are most proud?** Completing a half Ironman.



## STRAIGHT TALK HOT LINE

Up-to-date information about base emergencies  
(478) 222-0815

## Base preps for hurricane season

Though we've already had one named storm this year, the official Atlantic hurricane season begins Monday and continues through Nov. 30.

An average year will consist of 12 named storms, six of which will become hurricanes, with three of those becoming major storms.

This year is anticipated to be a below average year with nine named storms, three of which are forecast to become hurricanes, and one major storm.

Even though predictions show a below average year, the men and women of the 78th Operations Support Squadron's weather flight are busily preparing to ensure Team Robins is aware of the threats posed by land-falling tropical features.

"Preparedness and situational awareness will always be crucial aspects to focus on during the tropical season," said senior lead forecaster Roddy



### KNOW THE LINGO

#### HURRICANE WATCH

Issued for interior counties when sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or greater associated with a hurricane are possible within 48 hours.

#### HURRICANE WARNING

Issued for interior counties when sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or greater associated with a hurricane are expected within 36 hours.

Nixon, Jr. "Always remember that Central Georgia's most costly natural disaster was the result

of a stationary tropical storm."

Nixon said the risk of winds, isolated tornadoes, heavy rains and flooding are the key concerns to the greater Team Robins community.

"The weather flight will be ready to provide comprehensive meteorological support and services to provide senior Robins leadership and key decision makers with the information needed to ensure safety, resource protection and response readiness," he said.

It's highly suggested that all Robins-affiliated personnel and their families take time to review the information below.

This information is a provided via a collaborative effort between the Robins Weather Flight, the National Weather Service, the National Hurricane Center and the American Red Cross.

— Submitted by the 78th Operations Support Squadron.

### ROBINS HURRICANE CONDITIONS (HURRCONS)

#### CONDITION FOUR:

Sustained winds 58 mph or greater are forecast to occur within 72 hours.

#### CONDITION THREE:

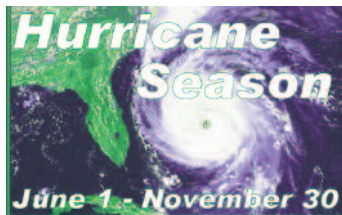
Sustained winds 58 mph or greater are forecast to occur within 48 hours.

#### CONDITION TWO:

Sustained winds 58 mph or greater are forecast to occur within 24 hours.

#### CONDITION ONE:

Sustained winds 58 mph or greater are forecast to occur within 12 hours.



### ROBINS FORECAST AND WEATHER LINKS

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Severe Weather Awareness information is located on the right hand side of page.

# A BETTER YOU

## COMMIT TO QUIT

### HAWC challenges people to give up tobacco Sunday

BY HOLLY LOGAN-ARRINGTON

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Robins Air Force Base's Health and Wellness Center is challenging tobacco users to ditch the habit.

Every year, on Sunday, the World Health Organization and partners across the globe observe World No Tobacco Day, highlighting the health risks associated with tobacco use and advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco exposure.

The campaign was designed to encourage people to abandon the habit for one day, and consider setting a "commit to quit" date.

Stuart Bapties, Robins HAWC flight chief, said tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of disease, disability and death in the U.S.

"Every year, roughly 400,000 Americans die prematurely and another 8.6 million have a serious illness related to tobacco use," he said. "Those numbers don't just include smokers."

"More than 126 million nonsmoking Americans are regularly exposed to secondhand smoke," he added. "It's been proven that even brief exposure can be dangerous because nonsmokers inhale the same carcinogens and toxins in cigarette smoke as smokers."

Secondhand smoke exposure causes serious disease and death, including heart disease and lung cancer in nonsmoking adults and sudden infant death syndrome, acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more frequent and severe asthma attacks, Bapties said.

Tobacco use not only hurts your physical health, but it also harms your financial well-being.

"At an average cost of around \$6 a pack on military installations, a pack-a-day smoker spends more than \$2,000 a year just for cigarettes," Bapties said. "Plus, there's the cost of lighters, gas to make emergency runs to the store,

#### Tobacco Facts

► Tobacco kills nearly 6 million people each year. More than 5 million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use while more than 600,000 are the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke. Unless the current tide is reversed, the annual death toll is projected to rise to more than eight million by 2030.

► In adults, second-hand smoke causes serious cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, including coronary heart disease and lung cancer. In infants, it causes sudden death. In pregnant women it causes low birth weight.

and extra cleaning and repair bills for their home, car, clothing and teeth."

Smokeless tobacco products put a similar dent in tobacco user's wallets, Bapties said.

"Figure out how much you are spending on tobacco, and it can be a great motivator and positive incentive for setting a quit date and doing something else with that money," he said.

There's help for people who want to quit.

Employees and dependents at Robins Air Force Base, using either Tri-Care or any of the existing Federal Employee Health Benefits Plans are 100 percent covered for tobacco cessation programs to include use of medications at no cost, Bapties said.

"Evidence shows those using medications in their quit attempts are 44 percent more likely to be successful when they combine it with tobacco cessation counseling," Bapties said. "It's free of charge to everyone with access to the base and available at the HAWC every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon or by simply calling our QUITLINE at 1-877-695-7848," he said.

**For more information, call (478) 327-8480.**



**GIVE TOBACCO THE BOOT!**





U.S. Air Force file photo by TOMMIE HORTON

Tops in Blue dancers perform a high-energy routine during the last show here in 2013.

## Tops in Blue slated for June 14

BY HOLLY  
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Freedom isn't free. However, enjoying the Tops in Blue's 2015 tour, "Freedom's Song," a celebration of the freedom we enjoy as Americans, is priceless ... literally.

Tops in Blue, the premier Air Force entertainment showcase, will take to the Homer J. Walker Civic Center stage – at 702 Watson Blvd. – for a free performance June 14 at 6 p.m.

Doors open at 5:15 p.m., with seating available on a first-come, first-served basis. No food or drinks are allowed in the civic center.

Mick Szymanski, 78th Force Support Squadron director, said Tops in Blue gives the local community a glimpse of the enormous talent in the Air Force.

"Tops in Blue is one of

the best family entertainment venues you could attend," he said. "Over the years, they've performed with legends such as Ed Sullivan and Bob Hope.

"They've performed at Super Bowls, NASCAR and for world leaders," he added. "It reminds me how fortunate we are to have Airmen like these who have volunteered in a time of war not only to defend us, but also to boost morale for their fellow Airmen."

The 2015 tour features the sounds of Taylor Swift, Ed Sheeran, Sam Smith, Megan Trainor and others.

It also showcases country music artists like Carrie Underwood, Andy Grammer, Randy Howser and the Eli Young Band.

No Tops in Blue show would be complete without the patriotic music that honors our nation and its heroes.

Add the high energy

precision choreography and dazzling visual impact Tops in Blue is known for and every member of the audience will be singing along and dancing in their seats.

Szymanski said he's sure everyone will enjoy the show.

"Bring the whole family," he said. "Who knows? You may be sitting with a future star of the show."

This year's tour will take Tops in Blue across the United States and to more than 20 countries, with close to 75 performances during a seven-month period, including shows for deployed military members in Southwest Asia.

Tops in Blue teams have been performing worldwide for more than 60 years.

Tops in Blue last performed in Warner Robins in January 2013.

**For more information, call (478) 926-6559.**



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