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ROBINS REV-UP

'Team Robins - Performing to Our Potential'

'Making Tomorrow Better than Today'

August 21, 2015 Vol. 60 No. 33

'This is depot work - this is what this base was meant to do'



Dennis Pickett, 561st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural repair technician, installs fasteners into the newly replaced 626 bulkhead of an F-15C. During programmed depot maintenance, a crack was discovered in the original bulkhead leaving the organization with the option to replace the part or scrap the entire aircraft.

U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

BY JENNY GORDON

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Heavy structural repairs occur every single day at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex, yet one in particular has received some extra attention over the last few months.

As an F-15C was moving early on through programmed depot maintenance in the 561st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, a vertical crack measuring about seven inches was discovered along one section of the fighter jet's bulkhead.

This particular aircraft had been previously inspected in the field using an ultrasonic testing technique (nondestructive inspection); however, when the aircraft arrived on station the crack that was detected earlier this summer was larger than anticipated. Lab testing will continue to further investigate.

After consultations with system program office engineers, the options were to either replace this particular bulkhead or scrap the entire plane.

► see DEPOT, A6

Robins F-15 work ensures success at home, downrange

Coalition forces continue to attack Islamic State terrorists using airstrikes, which include F-15s as part of Operation Inherent Resolve. The U.S.-led coalition in Iraq and Syria carried out 2,829 airstrikes in July, the most in any month since August 2014.

With the help of an F-15 in March, the U.S. dropped tens of thousands of leaflets as part of psychological operations against ISIS in Syria.

F-15s were scrambled over the Memorial Day weekend in response to anonymous threats phoned in regarding several airline flights. Additionally, two U.S. F-15s intercepted Russian bombers as they flew within 40 miles of the U.S. mainland, off the coast of California during the July 4 holiday.

This month marks the 25th anniversary of Operation Desert Shield, which involved the deployment of U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia to combat Saddam Hussein's advances beyond Kuwait. The Air Force was one of the first on the scene deploying F-15 aircraft.

DOD seeks 78th Medical Group's best practices

BY 78TH MEDICAL GROUP

A Department of Defense team visited the 78th Medical Group July 29 after the Air Force nominated it as a "best practice facility."

The DOD team, represented by the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Defense Health Agency, chose 15 Military Treatment Facilities - five of which are Air Force - for their visits.

They plan to identify leading practices and implement them across the Defense Department.

During the visit, the group's promotion and usage of secure messaging received high praise. DOD medical facilities execute secure messaging via the MiCare system.

The web-based system allows patients to commu-

nicate directly with their healthcare team. It also allows patients to receive lab results and request medication renewals from personal computers.

That means patients no longer need to call to receive information from their provider. They simply send a message or pull the information themselves.

Robins leads Air Force Materiel Command medical clinics by patient enrollment in the system and tops the Air Force in timeliness of response to patients.

Other areas receiving accolades from the DOD team included the group's patient-centered operations, the use of F-15 production line processes to increase efficiencies in healthcare and their unique approach to appointment management in the Pediatrics Clinic.



courtesy photo

Regina Julian, Defense Health Agency Primary Care chief, and Col. Francis Holland, Air Force Primary Care chief, commend Col. Shari Silverman, 78th Medical Group commander, and the 78th MDG executive staff, on the Group's best practices after a full day of analysis.

Air Force Birthday celebration slated for Sept. 19

BY ANGELA WOOLEN

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The 68th Anniversary Air Force Ball will take place Sept. 19 at the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight hangar.

This year's theme is "A Reflection of Honor" for the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

The guest speaker will be retired Brig. Gen. James Sehorn.

Sehorn spent 31 years in the Air Force and was a prisoner of war for five years and three months in Hanoi, Vietnam after being shot down in his F-105 "Thud" fighter jet.

In 2008, Sehorn was the guest speaker for the POW/MIA Memorial at the museum.

Dress for officers and senior noncommissioned officers is mess dress while junior enlisted is semi-formal. Civilian dress is black tie or semi-formal.

The cost for the event is \$10 for airman basic to senior airman or GS-01 to GS-04; \$20 for staff sergeant to tech sergeant, GS-05 or second and first lieutenants; and \$30 for master sergeants and above, GS-06 and above, and captains and above.

Editor's note: For more information, contact Capt. Julia Mafnas at 201-3606, julia.mafnas@us.af.mil or Staff Sgt. Sarah Weede at 201-2078 or sarah.r.weede.mil@mail.mil.



FRIDAY FLYBY: Congrats new Robins staff sergeants! See the list at www.robins.af.mil.

MLK Jr. Boulevard to close completely Thursday

Both sides of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard will be closed at the end of the business day Thursday through Aug. 30. As the construction project enters its final stages, this closure is for final paving and striping of the roadway.

The road will completely reopen with normal traffic patterns on or before 6 a.m. Aug. 31.

Beautification work along the roads

will continue as it opens to traffic.

Also, to prepare for the final stage of work, Monday through Aug. 27, traffic may change from its current pattern. Work could also be delayed in case of inclement weather.

Construction began in February to renew the asphalt road, curb and gutter, sidewalk with crosswalks and will correct existing drainage issues along the road.



Smoke Test begins Aug. 31

A smoke test survey will begin Aug. 31 to assist inspection crews involved in an infiltration and inflow study to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system. Smoke seen coming from the vent stacks on houses, buildings or holes in the ground will be non-toxic, non-staining, odorless, white to gray in color and creates no fire hazard. Testing is expected to be done by Oct. 9.

In case of inclement weather, work may be delayed. For more information, call Wilson Jones at 478-327-7443

Weekend Weather

Friday
93/71



Saturday
95/70



Sunday
97/70



"Be resilient - don't be afraid to ask for help."

SECOND FRONT

Thousands still need sexual assault prevention training as deadline nears

BY HOLLY LOGAN-ARRINGTON

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Robins Air Force Base's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator team is working hard to get all base employees trained on sexual assault prevention.

As of July 31, about 11,000 workers have received the Respect the Red Line training, leaving roughly 12,000 untrained, as the base's Sept. 30 deadline approaches.

Lisa Matney, a Robins SARC, said while there's no official notification sent from those in the SARC program, some supervisors are asking their organizations' training managers to notify workers who've yet to complete training.

"That information would have to come from each area's leadership," she said. "People are aware if they attended the training. They can also go into the Advanced Distributed Learning Service and look at their transcript as well."

Some "Respect the Red Line" training sessions have been cancelled due to lack of training facility availability.

Matney said in those instances, cancellation notifications were sent to base organizations' workflow boxes and a cancellation notice was posted on the base theater's door.

If a person's training has been cancelled, Matney said the individual needs to notify his or her training manager or the supervisor and reschedule.

Robins diversity panel explores difficult topics

ANGELA WOOLEN

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In order to promote diversity at Robins, a six-person panel was held Aug. 14 at the Heritage Club Ballroom.

Pre-selected questions were given to audience members to encourage discussion around topics such as Hispanic heritage challenges, changes in the Air Force regarding same sex marriages and women in the military.

Panelists included: Capt. Kenneth Canty, 78th Security Forces Squadron, for LGBT issues; Joseph Sepulveda, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, for Hispanic Heritage; Patricia Williams, chairwoman for the National American Indian Heritage Committee; Tech. Sgt. Crystal Harris, 402nd Software Maintenance Group, for Women's History; Kenneth Hubbard, 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron, for Black History; and Maj. Maria Gronning, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command A6, for Asian Pacific Islander Heritage.

In response to a question about how the Air Force has changed since the ruling came out about same sex marriage, Canty said the changes were made in the Air Force before

the ruling.

During the Aug. 14 Diversity Panel, Kenneth Hubbard, 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron program management specialist and Black History Month representative, tells the audience, "Diversity brings flavor; everyone brings something to the table." The council's question and answer session allowed attendees an opportunity to get a better understanding of the differences in cultures.

the ruling.

"We've done a really good job in the Air Force of adapting to that. We've already put all of the problems to bed," he said.

He also added that it was OK to talk about LGBT topics.

"You don't have to walk on eggshells. There is nothing to be ashamed of," Canty said.

Both Sepulveda and Harris talked about how having women in the military has contributed to the Air Force's success.

"We're extremely lucky to have this pool of talent," Sepulveda said.

Gronning got emotional when talking about her Filipino heritage.

"We're a great people," she said explaining that they are a giving race as well as a touchy-feely society.

Although the prospect of



U.S. Air Force photo by MISUZU ALLEN

more computer-based training was shot down, most of the audience and panelists were in agreement that the Air Force has done well in promoting a diverse culture.

"Diversity brings flavor; everyone brings something to the table," Hubbard said.

Hubbard and Gronning expressed hope that those who see discrimination happening would do something about it, not that it was always easy to do the right thing.

"This boils down to dignity and respect for all. We come from different walks of life to serve the greatest country in the world," said Chief Master Sgt. Steven Trotter, who made the closing remarks at the panel.



Feds Feed Families

The 7th Annual Robins Feds Feeds Families Food Drive is now underway.

The program allows Team Robins members to donate non-perishable food items at various places on base through Sept. 31.

Collection points include the Commissary, the Base Library and Bldg. 306.

The campaign offers an opportunity to help out the communities that have shown continuous support for Robins, as local food pantries usually struggle to maintain food supplies.

Now, at two months into the drive, more than 4,800 pounds of food have been donated. The commissary has pre-packaged bags customers can purchase and donate.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Daniel Brown at DSN 468-7199/3493.

Put Your Hands Together for ...

The next "Put your hands together for ..." will run in the Aug. 28 edition of the Rev-Up. Deadline for submissions is today at 4:30 p.m.

To have an award included in the feature, submit a brief write up of the award and the people who have earned it. Photos may be submitted, but space is limited. Submissions should be sent as a word document; photos should be .jpegs.

For more information, contact Lanorris Askew at lanorris.askew.ctr@us.af.mil or Geoff Janes at vance.janes@us.af.mil. Either can be reached by phone at 468-6386.

Get it together

A&FRC advises people to prevent financial problems before they arise, impact security clearance

BY HOLLY LOGAN-ARRINGTON

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Staying financially healthy isn't just good for your wallet; it's also good for your career.

The Airman & Family Readiness Center has recently seen an increase in financially related security clearance problems, many of which could've been prevented if the issues had been addressed earlier.

Anthony Pope, a certified personal financial readiness program manager at the A&FRC, said he's concerned about the possible financial impact the 2013 furlough may have had on some Robins employees and the negative consequences it could have on security clearances.

Pope said financial problems need to be resolved immediately, and plans should be put into place to prevent future problems.

It all starts with a budget, Pope said.

"To create a budget, you need to establish broad categories such as housing, transportation, food, personal spending, savings, debts, and then review bank statements to identify funds spent in those areas," he said. "Your savings must be included as part of your budget. In developing a savings plan include regular, emergency, and goal-getter inputs."

Setting financial goals for large purchases like car tires, Christmas or vacation, and putting away small amounts each payday will help you reach goals and will help prevent running up credit card (or store) debts, Pope said.

"At least \$1,000 should also be built up for emergency savings and only used for real emergencies," he said. "Your investments also need to be part of your spending plan. Setting up an allotment for your savings is an excellent idea."

Pope said tracking cash flow can help a person identify where to cut back on spending, prioritize bills and increase savings.

Once a budget is set, Pope said people should track their expenses – a step he said many people neglect.

"Remember, the furlough of 2013 was 20 percent less of your regular pay, and no overtime was allowed, so it's vital to stay well below your income level," he said. "To do that, you must track your expenses every day and three or four times a week and compare it to your spending plan to ensure you're on track. Watch the food and personal spending areas as those are the most flexible and can easily cause overspending."

Pope suggested that people determine whether each purchase is a need or a want, and buy only items that are truly needed.

"Changing spending habits isn't easy but it's critical to preventing long-term financial issues," he said.

Financial problems won't go away if left unresolved; and they often hurt not only your personal life, but your professional career as well.

"First, if there are possible issues, don't avoid them," he said. "You must address each negative item on the credit report to prevent issues with your clearance. Don't wait; fix any and all problems now as it may be too



U.S. Air Force illustration by ED ASPERA

Anthony Pope, Airman and Family Readiness Center certified personal financial readiness advisor, provides financial counseling at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

WHAT TO KNOW

The Personal Financial Management Program provides education, information and individual counseling on a wide variety of financial matters. We provide one-on-one spending plan analysis and financial management counseling to identify financial concerns and assist in developing immediate and long range financial plans. Many workshops are presented on financial topics of interest to the Robins' community.

late to address them when your clearance comes under review."

Getting financial management counseling begins with contacting the A&FRC at 478-926-1256.

"We can assist with all financial management issues, to include budget analysis, credit repair, debt reduction

and, best of all, all our services are free," Pope said. "Establishing good financial habits such as budgeting, saving and tracking expenses, combined with monitoring your credit and taking action quickly, will help secure your financial future and prevent monetary issues in the future."

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE ON FACEBOOK

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

AROUND THE AIR FORCE

RPAs prove vital in fight against ISIL

BY TECH. SGT. NADINE BARCLAY

432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

CREECH AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. – From August 2014 to August 2015, the 432nd Wing has directly supported Operation Inherent Resolve, a U.S. Central Command and partner nation's campaign to conduct targeted airstrikes in Iraq and Syria as part of the comprehensive strategy to degrade and defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

“OIR has highlighted the strengths of remotely piloted aircraft operations, namely a single-weapon system that can (find, fix, track, target, engage and assess) with flexibility, endurance and precision,” said Lt. Col. Erik, the 15th Reconnaissance Squadron commander. “In addition, we have the communications necessary to reach back to multiple supporting agencies, and disseminate our intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance feed real-time to multiple end users. This builds situational awareness of the area of responsibility, which is especially important due to the dynamic nature of OIR combat operations.”

While the RPA mission in Iraq and Syria initially focused on information gathering and battlespace awareness, the 432nd WG's involvement quickly escalated as the demand for ISR grew to accurately capture real-time operations.



U.S. Air Force photo by SENIOR MASTER SGT. CECILIO RICARDO
An MQ-9 Reaper performs touch-and-go flight patterns at Creech Air Force Base, Nev. The Reaper is an armed, multi-mission, medium-altitude, long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft that is employed primarily as an intelligence-collection asset and secondarily against dynamic execution targets.

“Things progressed very quickly, we were playing a reactive part, now we are much more established and proactive,” said Senior Airman Jeffery, a MQ-1B Predator intelligence instructor. “The nature of the mission is much more clear and precise then it was at the beginning which has allowed us to be as effective as possible.”

In OIR, the 432nd WG/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing has contributed about 4,300 sorties, employed 1,000 weapons and conducted 400 ‘buddy lase.’ A

buddy lase is when aircrew from one aircraft uses a combat laser to guide weapons released by another aircraft to a target. A majority of the sorties and strikes were performed by the 432nd WG. The strikes are an experience Capt. Ryan, a 15th RS Predator pilot, knows all too well.

“I had the first RPA strike of OIR,” Ryan recalled. “It was exciting to know what the threat was and to protect the guys on the ground was exhilarating. I felt like I was able to directly contribute.”

Although many sorties were flown by RPAs, joint efforts capitalized on the capabilities of the joint warfighter thus integrating manned and unmanned assets to assist friendly ground forces.

“This has been one of the biggest improvements to RPA operations in recent years,” Erik said. “One of the strengths of RPA cockpits is the ability to use multiple means of communication – computer, phone and airborne radio – to integrate with other assets.”

“The challenge facing our crews is how to leverage the strengths and weaknesses of these various communication means, and we have made great strides in OIR to optimize this.”

Editor's note: Last names have not been used in this article due to security and force protection.

In Other News

Next generation biocontainment system unveiled at Dobbins

DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE, GA. (AFNS) – The next generation in biocontainment systems was unveiled during a ceremony Aug. 11.

The State Department chose the 94th Airlift Wing as the host unit for the Containerized Biocontainment Systems because of the installation's proximity to world-class hospitals able to treat patients infected with highly contagious pathogens, said Patrick Kennedy, the State Department's under secretary of state for management.

“Dobbins is a natural choice to host the CBCS,” said Dr. Will Walters, the director of operational medicine at the State Department.

A year ago, two Ebola victims arrived from Liberia and the State Department chose Dobbins ARB as the embarkation location in the U.S. The 94th AW provided logistics support and security for the patients' arrival ensuring safe transport to life-saving care.

“Along with our strategic location to the Centers for Disease Control

This week in Air Force History



On Aug. 21, 1967 Maj. William Knight flew the X-15 at 3,409 MPH (Mach 6.5) above Edwards Air Force Base. It was the X-15's first flight with an ablative coating to resist heat.

and Prevention and Emory Hospital, we're also able to provide the logistics and security for delivery of incoming patients,” said Col. Brent Merritt, 94th AW commander. “Cobb County and the metro Atlanta area have a tremendous amount of resources. Our location is important

and our airmen are second to none. We will enthusiastically execute any mission we're assigned. We look forward to that future challenge.”

Undergrad flying training applications due in November

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, TEXAS (AFNS) – The 2016 Air Force Undergraduate Flying Training selection board will convene Jan. 25-28 to select applicants for 2016-2017 pilot, remotely piloted aircraft, combat systems officer and air battle manager training opportunities.

Eligible active duty officers must apply by Nov. 20 and selection results will be released in February 2016.

To be eligible, applicants must have a Jan. 25, 1986, or later, date of birth and a total active federal commissioned service date after Jan. 25, 2011.

Additional eligibility requirements and application instructions are available on the myPers website. Select “Any” from the search dropdown menu and enter “2016 Air Force Undergraduate Flying Training” in the search window.



U.S. Air Force photo by TECH. SGT. JOSEPH SWAFFORD

Downrange ceremony

An Airman with the Bagram Airfield Honor Guard participates in the 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group change of command ceremony at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The 455th MSG is comprised of five squadrons responsible for communications, civil engineer operations, force support, logistics readiness and security forces.

PERSPECTIVE

Suicide prevention – What you can do

BY CAPT. RELINDA HATCHER

31st Medical Operations Squadron

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy (AFNS) – September 8th through the 14th is National Suicide Prevention Week. However, many people are hesitant to get involved in the discussion on the topic of suicide prevention.

That's concerning because the ability to get involved and intervene is critical to saving lives.

Not only that, but suicide and suicidal behavior affect all people, regardless of gender, race, sexual or religious orientation. Suicide is a problem of epidemic proportions that spans across the globe.

There are roughly 39,000 suicides annually in the United States and the number increases to 1 million worldwide.

It's the third leading cause of death amongst individuals aged 15 to 24 in America.

Many individuals who have contemplated and completed suicide erroneously believe their death will not impact others; but the truth is suicide impacts entire communities.

In fact, it's estimated that for every suicide there are at least six survivors. Not only does suicide impact others, it very often shatters and devastates the lives of family and friends for years to come.

Another common misconception about suicide is if

people want to kill themselves, there's nothing anyone can do about it.

That's not true.

Experts believe that most suicidal individuals don't want to die. They just want to end the pain they're experiencing. Experts also know that crisis tends to be brief. When suicidal intent or risk is detected early, lives can be saved.

Major depression is the psychiatric diagnosis most commonly associated with suicide. Leading mental health psychologists emphasize the strongest risk factor for suicide is depression, but the good news is that depression is treatable, and 80 percent of people who seek help for depression are treated successfully.

Other risks factors include relationship problems, other mental illness, substance abuse, previous suicide attempts, hopelessness, access to lethal means, recent loss of loved ones and unemployment to name a few.

By promoting positive self-esteem, connectedness, resiliency and recognizing individual achievement, family members, co-workers, friends and wingmen can play a vital role in preventing suicides.

If someone mentions they're thinking about committing suicide, never keep that information a secret because physicians, mental health providers, chaplains, first sergeants and commanders can expedite resources to assist individuals who are exhibiting severe depression or

suicidal behaviors.

With that in mind, it's also important to understand that people won't get in trouble for seeking help, and since suicidal behaviors are considered medical emergencies, those individuals should see a doctor or mental health professional without delay.

If a suicidal person has a plan, or is in the process of carrying out a plan, to commit suicide, contact emergency assistance immediately. On base you would contact security forces or the command post. For emergencies that occur off base, dial 911.

As Airmen, we live and breathe the wingman concept. As such, it's imperative we look out for one another at all times, no matter the circumstance. How can we do that? We can do it through situational awareness, talking and listening to one another, getting to know co-workers, celebrating each other's accomplishments, and by caring and encouraging one another.

Awareness, education and treatment are the keys to suicide prevention.

If someone mentions they're having thoughts about suicide, always take thoughts or plans seriously. If you are in a position to help, don't assume your presence is unwanted or intrusive. Your wingman needs your help, so stay vigilant ask, care and escort.

For other resources, visit <http://www.airforcemedicine.af.mil/suicideprevention/>

ROBINS REV-UP

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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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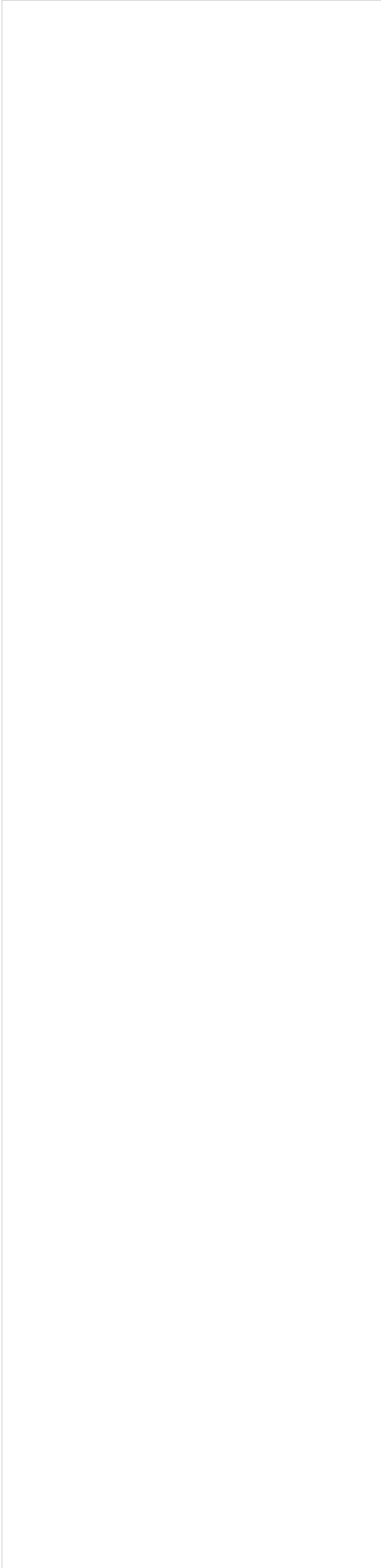
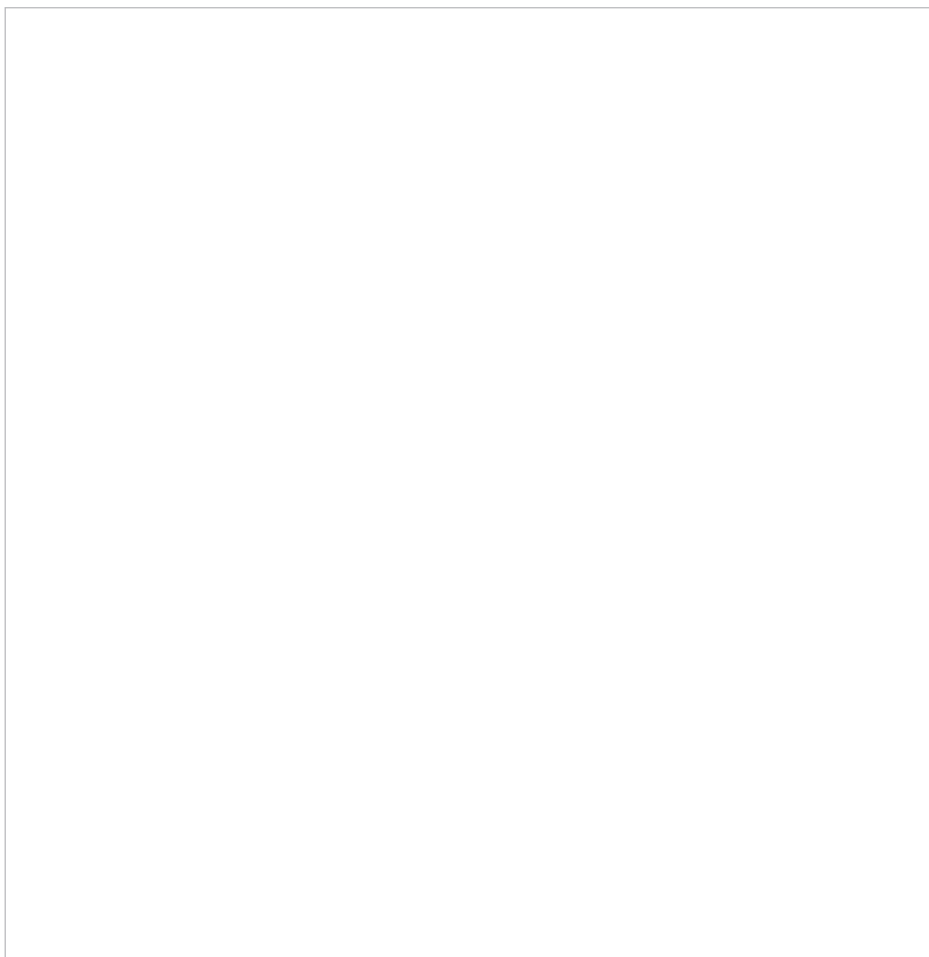
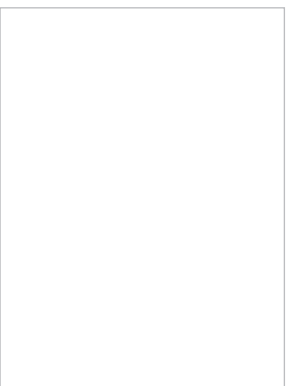
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ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

THINK OPSEC! PRACTICE IT AT WORK, HOME, EVERYWHERE.



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON
Greg Vickers, 560th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft mechanic, conducts maintenance inside the confined space of a C-130 fuel tank as part of programmed depot maintenance at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex.



DEPOT

Continued from 1

“You can’t use an airplane if that crack gets too big,” said Dave Currie, an F-15 aerospace engineer.

Remove and Replace

An expensive part to purchase and replace, the decision was made to replace the 626 bulkhead through the Defense Logistics Agency supply chain. The 626 bulkhead sits near the rear of the aircraft and center fuselage. It’s a significant structural component that takes a lot of wear and tear during flight, and connects several critical pieces of the aircraft, including the wings and engines.

Planning began and procedures were set in motion to figure out how to accomplish this first-ever repair process. It was pulled out of regular maintenance into an unscheduled depot level maintenance gate for additional work. Once the work’s completed, it will continue through PDM.

With the replacement bulkhead originating from an E model, there would be a learning curve when it came time to separate the aircraft’s existing cracked bulkhead, and install a new one.

But in order to remove the bulkhead, the aircraft had to be split in half.

“The most challenging part involved removing the fasteners that were inside the center fuselage,” said Dennis Pickett, 561st AMXS aircraft structural repair mechanic. “They were hard to get to and knock out. You get pretty scratched up doing it.”

The entire process from disassembly of the aircraft to installing the new bulkhead took seven weeks which was on schedule. Special tooling was required to drill the wing lugs which delayed the project five weeks.

However, work resumed early this month and was completed Aug. 8.

The aircraft now moves into the reassembly phase with estimated completion Monday.

Pickett estimates that once it came time to reinstall the bulkhead, 500 to 600 fasteners were tediously and carefully re-attached to marry the two sections. Everything had to be perfectly in place during assembly; no single hole alignment can be off.

“What we tried to do once it was taken off is put it back in the same position it was in, if not better,” he said. “It’ll be a better plane going out than coming in.

“This is very tedious work that needs to be done right,” Pickett added. “This bulkhead is carrying a lot of stress and a lot of weight – there’s no room for error. You make one error, and you don’t get another bulkhead.”

Staff Sgt. Glynn McDaniel, 402nd Expeditionary Maintenance aircraft battle damage repair technician, spends a lot of time travelling to locations to repair aircraft. He said this opportunity afforded him good training, learning different techniques along the way.

“The most stressful thing about taking it apart was accounting for every single small piece you took off,” he said. “You keep everything because you never know what you can’t have, can’t find or can’t order later on.”

McDaniel said the work was educational.

“There’s so much to learn,” he said. “As far as structural repair, this is it right here. It doesn’t get any heavier than this.”

More than just a job

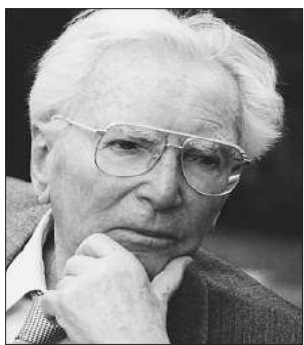
The core team is quick to point out that success of the bulkhead replacement didn’t involve just a single shop. Everyone from DLA to NDI to the 402nd Commodities Maintenance Group and 402nd EDMX played an essential part.

“I think the next time this happens we’ll be ready,” said Rick Weeks, 561st AMXS flight chief. “We know the tooling we need, how things should flow and all the players we need.”

Pickett, who has been at Robins for 30 years said it takes more than just showing up to do this kind of work.

“I tell everyone that it’s all about experience, knowledge and dedication. If you don’t have dedication to this job, you’ll never get it done. This is a reflection on you. Work together, and we’ll get the job done,” he said.

“F-15s, C-130s have their heavy load, C-5s and C-17s – all have certain jobs that they can only do at Robins Air Force Base,” he said. “This is depot work – this is what this base was meant to do.”



Thought for the Day

"When we are no longer able to change a situation - we are challenged to change ourselves."

— Viktor E. Frankl



What's inside

Fire safety: Missing ceiling tiles, B2

Robins in-service recruiter, B3

A&FRC August classes, B5

Lighter Fare

THE ROBINS REV-UP ■ AUGUST 21, 2015

THE PLACE TO LIVE, LEARN, WORK AND PLAY



U.S. Air Force photos by TOMMIE HORTON

Above, Ernest Cooling packs his boat after a morning of fishing at Scout Lake. The 22-acre site offers beautiful scenery and a play to relax and try your hand at fishing. Below left, Eddie Graham casts a his line while at right Bryan Lowrey takes a look at the one that didn't get away at Luna Lake.

Base lakes offer relaxing outdoor entertainment

BY JENNY GORDON

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Summer's winding down, but fishing at one of Robins' lakes always offers a relaxing option to indoor activities.

This article introduces you to Scout and Luna lakes.

Scout Lake is Robins' largest. It offers beautiful views from Turner Housing, which parallels its western shore, and has ample space for fishing enthusiasts.

Pull up a lawn chair, and cast a line and hook from the wide, grassy embankment along the water's edge. Or if you want to be a bit more adventurous, cast your line from a Jon boat across the lake's calm waters.

Always remember to bring a life jacket. And don't use gas-powered motors, or cast gill or seine nets. Let's all do our part to keep the lakes clean and give fish a sporting chance.

LOOKING BACK

At just over 22 acres, the lake dates back to the mid-1950s, when its basin was excavated to provide fill dirt for base development.

Among the many interesting management projects at Scout Lake, visitors may first notice a small island near its center. Built with sediment from the lake bottom, during its initial years there was no greenery growing on it. It was basically an ugly mound of clay.

In the mid-'90s, the site was improved as a habitat for wildlife. You can find birds, snakes, turtles and ducks resting and feeding on any given day.

"It looks like a natural island in the middle of the lake," said Bob Sargent, natural resources manager and wildlife biologist. "We literally irrigated the new sod we placed there by running a PVC pipe to sprinkler heads on the island. Here we are almost 20 years later, and it's a beautiful, young, forested island."

Over the years Scout Lake's fishery has gotten out of balance, meaning the numbers of some fish species far exceeded what was appropriate for the lake.

Following a series of sampling efforts in the late '90s and early 2000s, it was discovered that bluegill, red-ear sunfish and crappie were far more abundant than bass populations.

"We like to see a 1-to-5 or 1-to-10 ratio with respect to predators versus prey. Instead we were seeing a 1-to-45



ratio out here. As a result, bream were so over-abundant that their growth was stunted, he said. "They were eating all of the food that young bass need. Whatever bass reproduction we had going on at the time, they weren't growing up to be adults. The crappie population was making matters worse because that species preys on young bass."

Sargent tried stocking large bass, over a foot in length, for three years, with a catch-and-release rule, in order to reduce bream numbers and balance the fishery. But it didn't make a substantial difference. With the lake still out of balance, another measure needed to be taken.

Working with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, in 2010 over 200,000 fish (about 95 percent were bream less than four inches long) were removed from the lake.

During the next year, dramatic improvements were made, starting with stocking specific ratios of bass and prey fish, such as red-ear sunfish, bluegill and catfish. Sterile grass carp were also stocked in an effort to help control aquatic weed problems.

It's now a healthy, well-stocked fishery for anglers to enjoy.

Catch-and-release rules continue. Anglers can now catch and keep up to two bass per day, provided the fish are at least 14 inches long. A permit can be bought for a small fee at Outdoor Recreation; and you must possess a state license to fish on base.

Other interesting events to note are the annual yellow pollen rings that form around the margins of the lake. Sargent receives many phone calls about this each spring. We know how thick pollen gets in the springtime, so when you see this phenomenon, don't worry. It's not a



pollutant, just pollen.

A SHALLOW LAKE

A fairly shallow lake, the average depth is less than four feet, with large parts only two feet. However, there's a hole near its south end that is nine feet deep.

The shallow margins provide ideal growing conditions for nuisance plants, such as alligator weed, originally from South America.

Because it's shallow, the lake can quickly heat up. It puts fish under stress because dissolved oxygen drops as water temperature rises. When temperatures reach into the 90s, be aware that this can sometimes result in dying fish.

Unlike Robins' Duck Lake, Scout Lake doesn't have natural streams feeding into it. A concrete drainage ditch near the southwestern corner feeds storm water into the lake only after heavy rainfall.

Its water is more clear and blue than Duck Lake because it has fewer suspended nutrients and less plankton. It's much more accessible than Duck Lake due to its open, grassy perimeter, and has a popular pier for visitors to fish from.

Cinder blocks, tires and old Christmas trees can be found under its surface to attract fish, especially near the pier, which can improve the chances of those wishing to catch a few.

LUNA LAKE

Head 30 seconds east and you'll come to Luna Lake, the smallest of the base lakes.

It's likened to an artesian swimming pool and resembles a big rectangle. It was established in 1968 when its basin was excavated so its dirt could be used to

cover a nearby landfill.

At nearly eight acres, one side borders the FamCamp recreational area, the other features a pier and the Lodge – a popular facility for social events.

Luna Lake has no inflow of water, and is routinely refilled with well water due to leaks in its basin.

The deepest spots in the lake are nearly seven feet, with most at four feet or less. Just like Scout Lake, because of a lack of nutrients, you can see the sky's reflection in the water.

"If you don't have plenty of nutrients in a lake, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, you won't have an abundance of plankton. You'll have a lake that reflects the color of the sky," said Sargent. "When you don't have plankton, you don't have a huge, healthy population of bream."

If you want a nice, healthy fishery in lakes you fish in across the state, anglers know to look for a green tint in the water.

REFILLED AND THRIVING

In November of 2005, an outflow pipe and part of a berm near the former nature center collapsed, and lake water rushed out.

In about three days, the lake was nearly empty, with a couple of one-foot deep puddles. For several months it was a big mud pool. Repair recommendations included installing a lining that wouldn't leak, but that was too expensive.

The lake was ultimately refilled, and continues to rely on input from a well.

Today, catfish can be caught here. About 500 to 800 catfish are stocked in the lake each fall. A few large bass can be seen, along with bluegill and red-ear sunfish.

For those catching fish, up to six catfish can be kept per day, but they must be at least eight inches in length; up to 25 bream of any size daily are allowed.

Folklore handed down from Sargent's predecessor suggested that while Luna Lake was being excavated, someone said you had to be a 'lunatic' to create a fishing pond in that sandy upland location.

Scout Lake's name resulted from a scout hut located onsite; and Duck Lake, well, ducks like to hang out due to its natural beauty and water inflow.

Remember, if you'd like to catch a few bites, take heed of a few suggestions. Read the signs posted nearby, have your base permit and fishing license, bring your patience, and relax while enjoying some of Robins' best natural treasures.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



U.S. Air Force photo illustration by CLAUDE LAZZARA

UNIT: 402nd Commodities Maintenance Group, Engineering Flight

JOB TITLE: Mechanical Engineer

TIME IN SERVICE: 5 years

HOMETOWN: Morris, Ala.

What does your work involve at Robins? "Writing specifications for new equipment; managing new equipment installations; origin and destination acceptance testing of new equipment; designing, developing, and managing equipment and facility modification projects; working with civil engineering and plant services to resolve facility and equipment deficiencies; writing new process orders; continuous process improvement; managing and designing shop layout and capacity drawings; and soliciting for funding."

What do you enjoy most about your work? "I enjoy working with our foreign partners. I also enjoy learning the differences and similarities between air forces."

How does your work contribute to the Robins mission? "My work provides the equipment, facilities and processes necessary to support the manufacturing and repair shops. That allows the shops to provide quality parts and repair the aircraft in a timely manner to meet Robins' mission."

What prompted your interest in your current career field? "My interest in engineering was prompted as a kid. I wanted to know how everything worked, and to find out, I would take things apart and attempt to put them back together."

Who has been the biggest influence in your life? "My father has been the biggest influence in my life. He would always drive me to better myself and to help others. He wanted me to have a better life than himself and would guide me away from making a lot of the same choices that he did to give me that opportunity."

What is an accomplishment of which you are most proud? "I designed a prototype to repair a weapon system deficiency that was costing the government millions of dollars per year."

What is something people would be surprised to know about you? "I was a volunteer firefighter for eight years before starting my engineering career."

Missing ceiling tiles more important than you think

78th CIVIL ENGINEER GROUP FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

Missing a few ceiling tiles in your office? So, what's the big deal?

Well, properly installed ceiling systems allow smoke detectors, heat detectors and fire sprinklers to operate correctly in the event of a fire.

They also provide a barrier to the spread of smoke and fire. Breaking, displacing or removing ceiling tiles enables hot gases and smoke to rise and accumulate above detectors and sprinklers.

Doing so delays their activation, enabling fires to rapidly grow larger before an alarm and response occur.

Ceiling tile breakage, displacement or removal often occurs as a result of mechanical system repair or maintenance.

Because fires are unpredictable, intact tiles must be returned to their intended positions as soon as possible following such repairs.

Office occupants often move or remove ceiling tiles, typically to improve personal comfort by altering air currents.

The danger that it creates impacts not only the person who moves the tile, but also endangers all the people in the building. Older ceiling tiles sometimes have years of accumulated dust, dirt and insulation lying on them.

Disturbing them could cause individuals with sensitivities or allergies who work in the immediate area, to experience health related issues.

The smoke and hot gases from a fire decrease in concentration as height and horizontal distance from the center of the fire increase. Once the smoke and hot gases reach the ceiling, they travel horizontally, creating a ceiling jet. A ceiling jet is what typically triggers smoke alarms, heat detectors and sprinkler systems.

Removing ceiling tiles can enable smoke and hot gases to rise above the remaining ceiling system, circumventing the fire protection systems located at or slightly below the level of the ceiling.



Employees should report any unnecessary ceiling openings to their facility manager. For more information, call the Fire Prevention Office at extension DSN 468-2145 or 478-926-2145.

If a fire starts in a room with a missing ceiling tile, the ceiling jet can travel to the hole created by the missing tile, and will rise into the space above the drop ceiling, which typically lacks monitoring devices.

That may delay smoke detectors from receiving the smoke concentration needed to actuate them and to send an alarm signal.

Most of the heat may also rise into the space above the ceiling, bypassing heat detectors and sprinklers completely.

This renders them ineffective until the smoke and heat fill the space above, greatly lengthening the time it takes for them to work.

Because fires can double in size each minute, the delay enables a fire to grow much larger and become more difficult to extinguish.

Missing ceiling tiles are not just a risk to those in the area where the tiles were removed.

Spaces above drop ceiling systems often provide routes for air to be drawn back to HVAC system ductwork and fans that recirculate the air.

Because of that feature, smoke which enters the space is often spread to other areas in the building, exposing other occupants to smoke and toxic gases.

Minimizing the number of unnecessary ceiling openings will make a building safer for all occupants.

Always remember to prevent fires before they start. Good housekeeping and cleanliness are essential factors in preventing work place and home fires.



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

Master Sgt. Karl Perron, in-service recruiter for the Air Force Reserve, meets with a prospective recruit.

In-service recruiting at Robins

BY ANGELA WOOLEN

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When an airman is separating from the Air Force, one of the required stops is to the Air Force Reserve recruiter.

At Robins, that post is manned by Master Sgt. Karl Perron, in-service recruiter for the Air Force Reserve, who transferred from Beale Air Force Base, Calif., in January.

Perron, who is originally from Riverside, Calif., said a lot of people are reenlisting instead of going reserve.

“The rates of reenlistment are very high all throughout the country,” he said.

The people who aren’t reenlisting are usually doing so because of job cuts or manning changes in their field of expertise. Instead of the Air Force losing that knowledge, Perron said, the Reserve gains a qualified person with that skill set when they ‘Go Reserve.’

“We’re reallocating them – a fully trained asset in their field,” he said.

Benefits to transferring to the Air Force Reserve are that the person would continue to earn military retirement and the low cost health insurance via TRI-CARE Reserve Select.

Perron has spent all of his 16 years in the Air Force Reserve. His best memories are of those recruits who are in a tough situation and decide to get into the military.

“You get to see what they were before and what they’ve become,” he

Go Reserve

If you’re separating in the near future and considering the Air Force Reserve or looking for details and requirements of the Palace Chase program to separate active duty early to pursue a civilian job, education or for other opportunities, contact Master Sgt. Karl Perron at 497-7367 or karl.perron@us.af.mil.

said. The cycle went full circle when he eventually replaced his own recruiter at March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

Palace Chase

The Air Force offers the Palace Chase Program which allows a person to leave active duty before their contract is up to join the Reserve if they’ve completed half their initial enlistment.

“It’s a very popular program,” he said.

So far this year Perron has signed six people to the Reserve through this program in his first six months at Robins.

Last year, he was the No. 1 palace chase recruiter with 44 approved applications.

Perron will be moving up the ladder and into a different position in late September. He hopes this change springboards him into bigger and better things in the future.

“I never imagined a part-time job could turn into a full-time career. It was the best choice I ever made,” he said.



STRAIGHT TALK HOT LINE

Up-to-date information about base emergencies
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HAPPENINGS/SERVICES

FRI SAT SUN MON TUE WED THUR
21 22 23 24 25 26 27

**ON TAP
Boss and Buddy**
 Today
 5 p.m.
 Heritage Club Lounge
 For details,
 call DSN 472-7899.

**Couples Movie Night
'American Sniper'**
 Today
 7 p.m.
 Base Theater
 Cost is \$2 and includes
 popcorn and drink.
 For details,
 call DSN 468-2001.

**Thunder Alley
Family Night**
 Today

9 to 11 p.m.
 Bowling Center
 12 years and under \$5
 13 years and older \$10
 Includes shoes and two
 hours of bowling.

Tips from the Pro
 Tuesday
 5 to 6 p.m.
 Pine Oaks Golf Course
 All the balls you can hit for \$5
 For details,
 call DSN 468-4103.

**Mug Night
at the Heritage**
 Thursday
 3:30 to 8 p.m.
 Heritage Lounge
 Bring your own mug and

enjoy \$2 draft beer.
 For details,
 call 472-7899.

**Karaoke on
Thursdays**
 7 p.m. to closing
 Heritage Club Lounge
 For details,
 call DSN 472-7899.

**UPCOMING
Teen Field Trip to
Atlanta History Center**
 Aug. 29
 \$20 includes ticket
 and transportation
 Youth Center
 Limited space (12)
 For details,
 call DSN 497-6834.

Airman & Family Readiness Center Classes, workshops & seminars

► **Heart Link** - Today from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

► **Group Pre-Separation Briefings* (retirees)** - Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

► **VA Benefits Briefing*** - Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

► **Writing a Federal Resume** - Thursday from 8 to 10 a.m.

► **Educational Track* - Thursday and Aug. 28** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 497-3410 to register.

► **DAV Medical Records Review** - Appointments only. Call 478-222-1256.

► **Department of Labor** - Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 478-929-6801.

► **Military and Family Life Counseling** - Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call 478-538-1732.

► **PreDeployment Briefings*** - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m.

► **Survivor's Benefit Plan*** - Appointments only from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

***Editor's Note:** All classes require pre-registration. For more information, call DSN 468-1256, commercial 478-926-1256, or visit Bldg. 794 Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. * Denotes military (spouses welcome.)*