



U.S. AIR FORCE

ROBINS RevUp

INTEGRITY FIRST, SERVICE BEFORE SELF, EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO



Celebrating the holidays
Pages A-4, A-5

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Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Bush signs Defense bill

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — President Bush signed the fiscal 2003 National Defense Authorization Act into law Dec. 2 at the Pentagon.

The NDAA authorizes the Department of Defense to spend \$375 billion to continue the transformation of the military to face future challenges and to fight the global war on terrorism. More than one-fourth of that amount, \$94 billion, will go to support personnel programs and quality-of-life initiatives.

"It sets priorities for our Defense Department in a critical, critical period for our country," Bush said.

According to the president, the NDAA rewards the service and sacrifice of the nation's military members and their families with higher pay, improved facilities and better housing.

It also ensures service members have the best equipment, the most advanced weapons, supports operations and maintenance, and continues investments in missile defense and new technologies to give America's military every advantage on the battlefields of the future.

"America's military is strong, and that's the way it should be," Bush said.

"Our nation and world are safer that way. Now and in the future, we will maintain a military that is second to none."

As part of this year's overall defense budget, the Air Force was authorized \$28.3 billion for the procurement of aircraft, missiles and ammunition; \$33.7 billion in operation and maintenance funds for the active-duty force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard; \$389 million for environmental restoration; \$1.3 billion in military construction; and \$684 million in family housing construction.

The highlights of the bill include:

- Fully funding an across-the-board 4.1 percent military pay raise with targeted increases of up to 6.5 percent for mid-grade and senior noncommissioned officers.
- Reducing the out-of-pocket housing expenses from the current 11.3 percent to 7.5 percent in fiscal 2003, eventually eliminating the out-of-pocket costs by fiscal 2005.
- Expanding TRICARE Prime Remote benefits to family members who remain at a remote location when they cannot accompany the military member on a new assignment or duty. It also extended these benefits to family members of remotely located air reserve component members when they are ordered to active duty for more than 30 days.
- Extending several special

See BILL ... Page A-8

Through the emotions

Families share what going through a deployment is like

By Holly J. Logan
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Three-year-old Braeden Adair sat in the bay window of his house with his black Labrador-Great Dane, Logan, every day waiting for daddy to come home from work, but daddy was 2,000 miles away defending our country's freedom.

Deployment not only has a profound effect on the military member serving our country, but it also touches the emotions of their family and friends, no matter their age.

Capt. James Franz, chief of psychological services at the Life Skills Center, said it's common for the deployment of a service member to cause distress in the lives of loved ones and co-workers, but how one handles the stress makes the difference between a difficult adjustment and a smooth transition.

"All of the people in the military member's immediate environment are going to face an increase in stress," he said. "The level of increase will depend on how close they are or work with the individual. How the increase in stress will impact each person also depends on the level of that person's coping skills and social support."

Franz said while the deployed

military member and others are affected by the change, they may experience the stress in different ways.

"The service members will be more stressed because their day-to-day lives will be fundamentally changed," he said. "They will be leaving behind friends, family, and the community with which they are familiar. The unit will be under stress because that deployed member's job is now distributed to those left behind; individuals that already had a full workload. Families of deployed members face a two-fold increase in stress: first, they must absorb all of the household responsibilities and duties, and second, they must face these stressors without one of their main social supports."

According to Franz, the best time to prepare loved ones and co-workers for a member's pending deployment is right away.

"The best method of preparing yourself for deployment is as early as possible," he said. "If a family knows that the active duty member is likely to deploy, start arranging for the non-deploying family members to be aware of and capable of handling the responsibilities the deploying

See EMOTIONS ... Page B-1



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Logan and Braeden Adair spent many hours looking out the window, waiting for dad to return from his long deployment.

Robins one step closer to \$1M

By Chris Zdrakas
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Robins Air Force Base is a step closer to winning \$1 million and the right to be called the best Air Force base in the world.

Air Force Materiel Command chose Robins as its nominee for the 2003 Commander-in-Chief's Installation Excellence Award given for innovative programs that help create and sustain excellent base operations. If Robins wins, every organization on Robins AFB shares in the honor. The award takes in all units on the base, including hosted organizations.

Robins will go on to compete at the Air Force level against installations nominated by other major commands.

From the major command nominees, Air Force officials will choose three installation finalists. An installation excellence committee visits finalist bases and selects the winner.

Gen. Lester L. Lyles, AFMC commander, complimented Robins in a letter to Maj. Gen. Donald J. Wetekam, commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center. "We are extremely proud of what your installation has accomplished under your leadership," Lyles said. "The hard work and dedication has made Robins AFB one of the best in the Air Force."

Robins won the Air Force-level award in 1995. This year marks the first time since then that AFMC has chosen Robins

See ROBINS ... Page A-2

CE commander praises partnering

By Lanorris Askew
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Partnering is the wave of the future, and Col. Lin Torchia, 78th Civil Engineering Group commander, sees smooth sailing ahead.

Coming from what he calls a very interesting job in post 9-11 Air Intelligence at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Torchia said an emphasis on partnering here at Robins is ensuring a bright future for CE.

Torchia said the general's priority of partnering is applicable to everyone on base, and CE is no different.

"Basically nobody does his or her job on their own," he said. "We get a lot of very good support."

According to Torchia this support ranges from the corps of engineers to key customers in the services squadron and others in the support group. Partnering is also done with construction and utility contractors.

"One of our best examples of partnership is with the local power company," he said.

Torchia said in cooperation with the Georgia Power cooperation, a combustion turbine peaking power plant was built here on base. During peak hours of consumption, power is switched over from the main power plant.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Col. Lin Torchia, 78th Civil Engineering Group commander, supports partnering as a way to ensure a bright future for CE.

"This partnership provides the benefit that in case of a power outage, Robins will have first rights," he said. "It could also

See TORCHIA ... Page A-3

AFMC wrestles with authorization reductions

By Gen. Lester L. Lyles
Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

I'm sure most of you have been reading in your local newspapers or heard on your television or radio stations about personnel cuts coming to Air Force Materiel Command in the coming year. It's unfortunate that some of you had to learn about them prematurely from unofficial sources. Much of what you may have read or heard may lead to speculative conclusions before decisions are made.

First, and most importantly, if you've read or heard numbers associated with a reduction, those numbers are anything but final. There are still decisions to be made that could impact the total reductions levied on the major commands and eventually how they will be taken across AFMC.

As you probably know, authorization cuts do not automatically translate into employee separations. It may be possible to achieve the needed reductions by eliminating jobs that are currently vacant or that become vacant over the coming year. We don't yet know what the final figures will be for these proposed cuts, because the process of determining that is still under way. We are committed to keeping the number of employees adversely impacted by this action as low as possible within our ability to do so without jeopardizing the mission.

The second question that comes to mind is why? Why, when we're conducting a war on terrorism, preparing for possible conflict, and increasing the defense budget, do we need to reduce authorizations? The answer is complex and involves several factors that make up the proposals now being considered.

The reductions AFMC may have to take are the result of multiple factors. Air Force end-strength was reduced in anticipation of savings from future strategic sourcing or contracting out studies. In addition, Air Force was required to reduce manpower as a result of having more civilians assigned than authorized. Another of the many fiscal pressures driving these reductions is the need to pay for health care accrual costs.

Also, the volatile events of 9/11 created dynamic real world changes that generated additional manpower requirements for high priority missions. Air Force expected that our additional need for end-strength would be satisfied through manpower growth...unfortunately, that didn't



Lyles

See LYLES ... Page A-2

Robins

Continued from A-1

to compete at the Air Force level. The winning year and every year since, the awards program has been a project of the 78th Air Base Wing Administrative and Compliance Office.

In addition to the installation nomination, the excellence awards program rewards individ-

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“The hard work and dedication has made Robins AFB one of the best in the Air Force.”

Gen. Lester Lyles
AFMC commander

AFRC to present holiday concert

By Staff Sgt. Charles Anderson
Headquarters AFRC

The Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, under the direction of Maj. Alan Clark, will present a holiday concert at the Warner Robins Civic Center Thursday at 7 p.m.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are not required and the concert is free and open to the public.

This year's program is sponsored by the Middle Georgia Newspaper Group and the City of Warner Robins, and features music from our annual holiday Radio Show, "Holiday Notes from Home." The holiday fanfare will include a mixture of traditional holiday carols and novelty segments, including a presentation by the pipers of Southern Aire.

"We combine traditional Celtic instru-

ments with bass guitar, keyboards, and drum set, performing in the Celtic Rock style," said Master Sgt. Scott Gunn, leader of Southern Aire. "I think we've found something pretty exciting, and the audience response has been tremendous." Southern Aire debuted in Danville, Ky., at the Great American Brass Band Festival in June. This is their first public performance in Warner Robins.

Members of the Jazz Ensemble, fresh from a trip entertaining the troops overseas, will join the Concert Band in a musical celebration. The ensemble features Tech Sgt. Ken Trimmings, Staff Sgts. Janis Thrift and Steve Collins, and Senior Airman Rebecca Collins. Dixie Express, the Woodwind and Brass Quintets, and a special appearance by TubaChristmas! will add to the holiday cheer.

Lyles

Continued from A-1

happen. Without the ability to increase manpower the Air Force was left with a workforce skills imbalance. We now must balance our books and realign resources from lower priority to our highest priority missions such as special operations, security and intelligence.

The proposed reductions have been referred to as "arbitrary" cuts. I want to assure you that any cuts that are eventually taken are not going to be arbitrary in the Webster's dictionary sense of that word.

These cuts won't be random. They won't be made without seriously studying the impact both on our people and on our mission.

The Air Force uses the word arbitrary when referring to reductions that aren't tied to specific programs. I hope you can

I expect we'll soon have final decisions on these issues and will be able to tell you the outcome and how we are handling it.

understand the difference and know that we would never arbitrarily eliminate someone's job or compromise our ability to provide the support the Air Force expects and receives from us every day.

I expect we'll soon have final decisions on these issues and will be able to tell you the outcome and how we are handling it. Again, it's my intention to minimize the impact of these cuts on our workforce. Thank you for your understanding of this very complicated situation and your dedicated work that keeps our Air Force and our nation strong.

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Robins team 'TAPs' Labor Dept. award

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao recently presented the Robins Air Force Base Transition Assistance Program team with the Veterans Service Provider Award for their outstanding efforts in providing employment and training services to service members, veterans and their families. TAP, in the family support center, provided 33 workshops to 1,410 attendees.

Addressing the Labor Department's 22nd annual "Salute to Veterans," held Nov. 13, in Washington, D.C., Chao said veterans are a key component of the national strategy for building the work force of the 21st Century.

Pictured right are United States Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao, Robins Transition Assistance Program Manager Bill Heaberg, Robins Chief of Programs Kaye Mullis, Robins Family Support Center director Christine Parker, workshop facilitator Jack Tooley, and U.S. Department of Labor's Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training Frederico Juarbe Jr.



Courtesy photo

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Torchia

Continued from A-1

provide power to the entire base in case of a major emergency.”

In addition the base has generators at the old Perimeter Acquisition Vehicle Entry Phased Array Weapon System or PAVE-PAWS facility.

“These generators feed power into the Georgia Power electrical grid, and they pay us about \$700,000 a year for that power,” said Torchia. “We use that money to keep our electrical system in good condition.”

Other partnerships include one with Environmental Management.

“A lot of what we do may affect the environment so they identify better ways to do that and even provide funding for us and the we go and develop and execute the contract,” he said. “What they do is very integral to our business, so we try to stay in sync with them.”

Because of a slowdown in funding for infrastructure, that money is particularly important.

A partnership with the Hunt Corporation in the privatized housing area is another example of how CE partners.

“They have been extremely supportive of anything we need in that area,” he said.

Torchia said he believes in working together for the best end product.

“I believe that teamwork is essential for all of us getting our job done,” he said. “That’s the way I like doing business. Having a vice wing commander with a civil engineering background helps also.”

Those who work under him are also praising Torchia’s leadership.

“He likes to get personally involved in the issues and has already focused in on some key areas. We are fortunate to have him as our base civil engineer. He has the right background and temperament to lead civil engineering as we face the challenges before us,” said Robert Farrell, 78th Civil Engineering deputy director. “Col. Torchia is a great leader.”

Torchia said his first few months here at Robins have been great.

“Robins is a very nice base and has a great surrounding community. It’s awesome.”

Torchia, who began his duties as CE commander in August, said his goals for the group closely mirror the overall goals of the Air Force.

“My goals, as those of the Air Force, are to always continue to improve so we can get better at our jobs,” he said. “My goals are to become more efficient and maintain high quality. I believe this group and this base do a very good job

at this, but you can always improve.”

Torchia said, his job is to try to make the quality of the living, working and play areas better through repair and construction.

“It has been rewarding lately that mission DMAG (depot maintenance activity group) funding has been increased to help us to do those things,” he said. “We were also successful as in the past with receiving some military construction inserts that will enable the building of a new main gate and some paint and de-paint facilities.”

An exciting vision for the future, the new main gate is in the works.

“The new gate has been funded for fiscal year ’03, and is currently under design,” he said. “It usually takes six months to complete design and 12 months to complete construction, so we are looking at 18 months to two years having a completed new gate.”

Torchia said the new gate will both improve access and force protection.

The 78th Civil Engineer Group is responsible for all civil engineering activities on Robins including real estate management, utility provisioning, maintenance and repair of facilities, real property installed equipment, fire protection, readiness, and Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force.

Torchia is a graduate of the Air Force Academy with a bachelor of science in Civil Engineering and a 1982 graduate of the Air Force Institute of Technology with a master of science in Engineering Management.

ROBINS BRIEFS

Health care meeting

Col. George P. Johnson, 78th Medical Group commander, will host the quarterly 78th Medical Group Health Care Consumer’s Advisory Council meeting Jan. 16 at 2 p.m. at the Smith Community Center ballroom.

Everyone is invited to attend this open forum that will provide first-hand information about current medical processes and future endeavors. Commanders, first sergeants, command champions, enlisted, officers, civilians and all others with medical group concerns or positive feedback are highly encouraged to come be a part of this meeting.

For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Lottie Moon at 327-8027.

Heart Link program moved to February

The new Heart Link Program, originally scheduled for Dec. 13 has been re-scheduled. The new date is 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 28 in the base chapel annex. Childcare is available.

Spouses should register to attend this program by calling the Robins Family Support Center at 926-1256.



Hanukkah: A festival of lights and more

Editor's Note: With the different religious symbols that arise during the holiday season, it's not uncommon for one, who is not a practicing theologian, to become confused about the meaning of all that surrounds the holiday celebrations.

Over the next couple of weeks, the Robins Rev-Up will bring you articles intended to broaden your knowledge of the different holiday celebrations and customs of the various religions that exist today.

By Holly J. Logan
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Hanukkah is known as "the festival of lights" for people of Jewish faith, but for Master Sgt. Jeff Kay, it's also a time to discover new insights into his Jewish faith.

The word "Hanukkah" can be spelled many ways, but Kay, an information security and unit security manager for the 78th Security Forces Squadron, said the meaning remains constant – dedication to God and the Jewish religion.

"Hanukkah, to me, is a celebration of freedom, the right to practice and pursue my Jewish religion, traditions and customs without fear of prejudice or oppression," he said. "I also see it as an important time to spend these days with my parents, brothers and sisters celebrating life."

Hanukkah, which began sundown Nov. 29 and ends sundown Dec. 7, is celebrated over the eight-day period

with the lighting of the menorah, a special candelabra with eight equal-height candles and one taller candle. Gifts are given during this time and candles lit, with one the first day, two the second day, continuing until all eight candles are lit by the 8th day.

This tradition spans over two millennia and continues today.

The observance of the Jewish holiday includes not only the lighting of the menorah, but also includes the spinning of the dreidel, a top with Hebrew letters on the sides, eating foods like potato latkes (pancakes) and sufganiyot and giving Hanukkah gelt (coins) to the children.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Daniel H. Nigolian, with the 78th Air Base Wing Chapel, said while Robins does not currently have worship facilities for individuals of Jewish faith, it may be a possibility in the future.

"We don't have a Jewish congregation worshipping on

our facility at this time," he said. "If the need were to surface, we will find a way for them to worship, whether that means here or helping them find a place for worship in the community."

Kay, a member of the 78th ABW multi-faith advisory council and the lay leader at Robins, said he works closely with the base chaplains to help ensure the freedom of worship for military members.

"The base chaplains have done a superb job providing an open and comfortable environment to all officially recognized religions to practice their faith," he said.

While there will not be official services on the base for Hanukkah, a menorah will be placed outside of the 78th ABW chapel at 655 9th

St. to recognize the holiday. The base chapel encourages people of Jewish faith to join community celebrations of the holiday, such as the one held at Congregation Shaatry Israel at 611 1st St. in Macon Dec. 1-28.

Nigolian said he serves as a facilitator for freedom of religion of all kind.

"Military chaplains are constituted under the First Amendment to the Constitution to facilitate the free exercise of religion – not just Christianity," he said.

For more information on Hanukkah services at the Congregation Shaatry Israel Synagogue in Macon or other services in the surrounding community, call the synagogue at 745-4571 or contact the chapel at 926-2821.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Evan Head lights the eighth candle on his family's menorah. Saturday is the final day of Hanukkah.

The menorah:

Symbol of a past miracle and victorious future

By Holly J. Logan
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For people of the Jewish faith, the menorah is more than a mere candelabrum with eight candles — it's the symbol of bringing light into the darkness.

Hanukkah marks the miraculous victory of the Jews, led by the Maccabees, against Greek persecution and religious oppression. In addition to their victory in war, another miracle occurred — the lighting of the Menorah from a minuscule amount of oil. The oil was expected to last only one day, but the small flask lasted eight full days. To commemorate this miracle, Jews light the menorah to mark the eight days of Hanukkah.

The candle lighting holds a threefold meaning for the Jewish faith. First, lighting the candles, and increasing the intensity of the light by lighting an additional light each day of the eight total days, symbolizes the bringing of light into a darkened world.

This is related to the idea of bringing goodness into the world as we chase the darkness away.

Second, the candle lighting illustrates strength in unity when compared with the light of a single candle. This symbolizes the great strength people have when they stand together for a common purpose.

The final reason behind lighting the eight candles of the Menorah is that it is in comparison to people's daily lives.

The lighting of all the candles stands to remind people not to take life's small miracles for granted.



Ramadan:

A time of dedication to God

By Holly J. Logan
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While society may view Ramadan as an Islamic holiday, Rashad Abdul-Azeem and others of the Islamic faith view it as a time of spiritual renewal and devotion to their religion.

Abdul-Azeem said Ramadan is not merely a holiday, but a time to contemplate one's devotion to the Islamic faith.

"The fact that Ramadan lasts 30 days is one thing that sets it apart from other holidays," he said. "It's a time to contemplate spiritual issues and recreate oneself."

Ramadan, which is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and is the third pillar among the five pillars of Islam, is a time of fasting and prayer for individuals of the Islamic faith.

"At the heart of Ramadan lies a spiritual renewal and a re-dedication to my commitment to the religious principles of Islam," said Abdul-Azeem, electronics engineer for the maintenance directorate and Islamic lay leader at Robins Air Force Base. "Ramadan is a month of heightened God consciousness and piety."

During Ramadan, Muslims are required to refrain from eating, drinking, and having sexual relations with their spouses during the daylight hours.

The very young, the elderly, those with chronic health conditions, the traveler and pregnant and nursing mothers are exempt from fasting, but are expected to make up for the time at a later date. Also, Muslims who perform hard or strenuous labor are allowed to exempt fasting as well. According to Abdul-Azeem, Muslims are encouraged to take a pre-dawn meal in order to sustain the rigors of hunger and thirst throughout the day.

"It's the lack of food and water that we often take for granted that brings us closer to God," he said.

"Fasting helps us to gain a better awareness of those people in need in the world."

Ramadan is also a time of charitable giving to the hungry and the less fortunate in society, said Abdul-Azeem.

"It's a month to initiate improvement of one's character," he said. "The fast also makes Muslims more aware of the hardships of the poor. The Koran says, 'fasting has been ordained to guard against wrongdoing.' Therefore, fasting in Islam does not simply mean abstaining from food and drink. More importantly, it means abstaining from any kind of wrongdoing, in thought or deed."

Fasting also establishes a unique and singular uniformity among all the Muslims from all around the world.

While charitable giving is a part of the Muslim faith, it is an especially important time for Muslims to visit the sick and hungry.

According to Abdul-Azeem, it was one of the odd nights during the last 10 nights of Ramadan that the first verse of the Koran was revealed to the Prophet Mohammed through the Angel Gabriel.

More than 15 people in the Robins population are practicing Muslims, according to Abdul-Azeem. Although there are no official services held at Robins to recognize Ramadan, there will be services at area Mosques to observe this period of Islamic spiritual devotion.

Ramadan concludes with a special early morning prayer called the Eid Prayer. Eid, which means "recurring happiness," lasts for three days, during which Muslims give gifts, attend feasts, and enjoy recreational activities.

If you are interested in attending services to observe the month of Ramadan, contact Khalil Abdullah or Dawan Abdul-Malik at the Macon Islamic Center at 478-750-4334 or 744-4331. You may also contact Brother Yusuf at the Islamic Center of Middle Georgia at 478-746-5476.

Rashad Abdul-Azeem contributed to this story.

AMC vice praises Robins

By Lanorris Askew
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Lt. Gen. John Baker, Vice Commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., praised the work done by Robins to keep systems like the C-5 operational during a trip to Robins Air Force Base Nov. 21-22.

"What you do for us to keep those airplanes flying is much appreciated," said Baker.

"The C-5 is a unique platform that gives us a capability that we just don't have other wise and depending upon what the future holds, and no one knows what's going to happen in the next six months to a year, that plane is going to be critical to anything we do."

Baker also expressed his thoughts on programs supporting the people in AMC.

"As far as people programs we are very focused on them," he said.

"As we all know these are particularly sensitive times for families with all of the activity that is going on and we don't see times getting any less busy."

"It is important for us to make sure the programs that exist are maintained and we have the right people focused on taking care of families, particularly children and spouses who are left behind."

Due to the continuation of long deployments, Baker said they are working to make them easier.

"We are getting better at it," he said. "The ability to forecast deployments is not perfect yet but it's a lot better than it was a year ago."

Baker went on to discuss the status of the modernization programs.

One program in the works



U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Greg Scheer

Lt. Gen. John Baker, Air Mobility Command vice commander, fields questions at the Team Robins Airlift/Tanker Association luncheon Nov. 21. To his left is Brig. Gen. Larry Stevenson, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center vice commander.

is that of a proposed C-130J lease with Lockheed Martin.

"We are working really

hard with Lockheed Martin

See LEADER ... Page A-8

Bill

Continued from A-1

pays and bonuses through December 2003, including enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses. It also permits the service secretaries to award an incentive pay of up to \$1,500 per month to military members serving in assignments involving difficult working conditions or undesirable overseas locations.

- Doubling the regular

basic allowance for subsistence for single enlisted airmen stationed in remote locations without adequate availability of meals from a government messing facility.

- Creating a new payment for all military retirees who were wounded in combat and received the Purple Heart and those who were severely disabled in combat-related incidents. Monthly payments would range from \$103 to \$2,100 each month, depending on the level of disability,

and would represent a partial to full offset of the reduction in retired pay required by the current law on concurrent receipt.

- Continuing the existing DOD payment of a special stipend for severely disabled military retirees with a disability rating of 60 percent or higher.

- Allowing service secretaries to grant a one-time leave of absence of up to 14 days to service members with qualifying emergencies to

prevent them from entering into unearned or excessive leave status.

- Reducing the minimum years of service required by reservists before they are eligible to qualify for retirement pay from eight years to six years.

- Extending the number of years members of the selected reserve may use Montgomery GI Bill benefits from 10 to 14 years.

- Authorizing commissary privileges to National

Guardsmen who are participating in federally declared national emergencies.

- Providing \$4.6 billion for procurement of 23 F/A-22 Raptor production aircraft and continued Raptor development.

- Increasing the service's unmanned aerial fleet with the procurement of three Global Hawk and 29 Predator unmanned aerial vehicles.

“The men and women of our military bring credit to our flag and security to our

country,” Bush said. “On behalf of the American people, I thank you for all you’ve done (and) for all you will do in the cause of freedom and the cause of peace.”

The annual defense budget comprises two parts — the appropriations bill, which the president signed on Oct. 23, and the authorization bill. The appropriations bill allocates funds to operate the Defense Department. The authorization bill permits DOD to spend the allocated funds.

Leader

Continued from A-6

on the C-130 J to try to get some of the modernization efforts there, some training programs and training equipment solidified,” he said. “We are in the process of negotiating a multi-year contract for the C-130 J and we are focused right now on making sure that as we complete various tests that any discrepancies are taken care of quickly.”

When asked what the biggest challenges facing AMC are, Baker said the bigger one is balancing how modernization is handled.

“When you look at all of the major programs that we are trying to bring into the AMC, balancing the budget amongst those various programs so that it stays on an even keel and is predictable so that we know how to adjust training programs and PCS moves and so forth becomes very critical to us,” he said. “If there are any major changes in the procurement of any of those weapon systems that obviously puts a wave through all of our other programs.”

“Another challenge is people,” said Baker. “That goes back to taking care of the families which will always be a challenge and a focus area for AMC as well as all across the Air Force. The last is training in general because we are moving forward to create a mobility culture that is capable of flying in all types of conditions. As we bring these new aircraft into the inventory we are training more and more people to fly at night and in interesting condition so training programs for the active duty personnel will be another challenge for us.”

All forms of service benefit the cause

Editor's note: The following story was written by a B-52 pilot from the 2nd Operations Support Squadron identified by the call sign "Fess Parker."

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. (ACCNS) — More than 20 years ago, I raised my hand and promised to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic. Since then, our nation has won the Cold War with the Soviet Union and fought major battles in Grenada in 1983, Panama in 1989, Iraq in 1991, Bosnia in 1995, Kosovo in 1999 and Afghanistan in 2001.

As each conflict came and went, I wondered if I would ever be called upon to make a difference. Each time I was in a job where my unit wasn't called.

Finally, in 2001, I was a B-52 pilot in a front-line unit, but again my unit wasn't called. I watched as our sister squadron deployed last September to take the battle to Al Qaeda and the Taliban. I felt pride that the old B-52 "Buff" still instills fear in the enemies of the United States. But I wondered if my efforts over the last 20 years had made any difference. Though serving in a calling, I had never been called.

In January 2002, my turn came. I deployed to a lovely island location. Our task? Maintain a presence over Afghanistan to respond if needed.

A typical mission, 26 hours from get up to go to bed, went like this: take off, fly a few hours north and take on 20,000 gallons from a

tanker. Fly another couple of hours to Afghanistan. Bore holes in the sky for several hours waiting for a tasking. Turn south and carry all the weapons back to the island. Hours flown: around 17. Distance covered: about 8,000 miles. Weapons dropped: 0. Difference made: unknown.

Our long flights seemed to result in little more than bone-tired crews and hours of maintenance work for our crew chiefs. This went on for six weeks.

At the end of February, we got the first indication that we were indeed making a difference. We received an e-mail message from a group of British special forces soldiers.

They had encountered a force of Taliban and began to negotiate the enemy's surrender. Soon both sides realized the Brits were outnumbered and outgunned. The negotiations began to go badly. Then one of the Brits noticed the contrail of a B-52 overhead. He reminded the Taliban negotiator of the Buff's presence. The negotiations then proceeded smoothly and the Taliban surrendered.

In early March, we supported Operation Anaconda, the most intense fighting encountered so far by American troops in Afghanistan. Al Qaeda fighters had holed up on a ridgeline near the town of Gardez. The Soviets had spent years trying to dislodge the Afghanis from this area with no

I realized my efforts as a civil engineer, instructor pilot and staff officer mattered. It wasn't dropping bombs over Afghanistan that made my life count. It was simply showing up, doing my job well, day after day, year after year. Persistence, self-sacrifice, diligence — that's what made my efforts significant.

success. We planned to do it in a few days.

During the early hours of the fight, my crew was tasked to destroy an Al Qaeda mortar position. The ground controller spoke in excited tones and urgently requested we strike this mortar. If we took too long, he would likely not be around, he said.

After getting the location, double-checking the coordinates against the positions of friendly forces and clearing the airspace below, we released on the target. In a few moments the ground controller, in a calm and collected voice, said, "Thanks, that did it."

As we returned to base with empty bomb racks, I considered all the effort it took to give me the opportunity to hear, "Thanks, that did it." Thinking about the critical people who put a single B-52 over Afghanistan humbled me.

On our island we had bus drivers, wrench turners, cooks, personnel specialists, security forces, civil engineers and a few aircrew members. Back home we had thousands whose job it was to keep the

airplanes healthy and flying over here. We call my part the pointy end of the spear. My crew's effort that day was a tiny point on a massive spear, the spear of support of the American people, of the American way of life. One part of that spear was a bus driver. On the day Operation Anaconda began, my

crew headed for our mission briefing. But the usual bus was missing. We waited a bit, then started making phone calls. As the time for our mission brief approached, the phone calls got more heated.

Finally, a bus showed up 15 minutes late. The driver got an earful about the importance of being on time. His name was taken. His supervisor would be informed. This bus driver would have to shape-up. Didn't he know there were lives on the line?

A little investigation showed the bus driver was in the 14th hour of a 12-hour shift. While turning in his bus, he got the call about my crew's lack of transportation. He volunteered to extend his shift by about 30 minutes. His effort got our crew to the briefing on time on the day we took out a mortar position. The missing bus turned out to be our duty officer's fault.

The driver showed diligence and self-sacrifice and seemed to reap only grief. Did the airman make a difference that day? You bet. Did he get an "atta boy?" He should have, but we failed to tell him the

importance of his efforts to a ground controller thousands of miles away in Afghanistan.

The driver helped me realize my life had made a difference before that day. I realized my efforts as a civil engineer, instructor pilot and staff officer mattered. It wasn't dropping bombs over Afghanistan that made my life count. It was simply showing up, doing my job well, day after day, year after year. Persistence, self-sacrifice, diligence — that's what made my efforts significant.

How about you? Are you making a difference? Or are you frustrated with your job, your boss, your co-workers, your spouse or your kids?

The lesson from Afghanistan is the same one Paul wrote about in the Bible almost 2,000 years ago when he spoke on the principle of sowing and reaping. Some people faithfully sow in their jobs, in their family, in their church, and in their community, but somehow they feel they always miss out on the reaping part. They look at their lives and can't tell whether their contributions have made any difference. Paul gave us a simple piece of advice: "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

Are you ready to quit? Hang in there. Are you tired? Keep at it. One day you will reap — if you don't quit.

To the bus driver who picked up my crew that day in March, I offer these simple words from a ground controller in Afghanistan: "Thanks, that did it."

Commanders' Action Line



Col. Bonnie Cirrincione
Commander 78th Air Base Wing

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live. Please remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage on the World Wide Web at <https://wwwmil.robins.af.mil/action-line.htm>.

Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response. Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Rev-Up. Anonymous Action Lines will not be processed.



Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam
Commander Warner Robins Air Logistics Center

Firearms policy in full effect

Q: Ma'am, with the continued warning of terrorists in the news and base security warnings, I continue to feel un-safe while in transit to and from work each day. I know that it is against base policy to allow firearms on base and it is not a fear on base, but going to and from is what bothers me. I drive from Byron each day and, even though I have a Georgia firearms permit, I cannot carry my firearm. Many times when I leave work in the afternoon, I am not going directly home.

This leaves me unprotected until I reach home. Can any provision be made that would allow me to check my firearm or leave it in my vehicle while at work?

A: Col. Cirrincione responds: As you know, no person shall bring onto this installation, or while on this installation have in their possession, any firearm or other dangerous weapon.

While I share your concern for safety from terrorists, I do not plan to make an exception in your case or for similar desires;

continue to obey this policy. Our policy also does not allow privately owned firearms, ammunition, reloading supplies and other dangerous weapons to be stored in motor vehicles.

For safety purposes, firearms and ammunition should never be left unattended in privately owned vehicles or at other locations not specifically designated for storage of weapons. In regards to your request to check-in firearms on a daily basis, we do not have the resources for this activity.

Your force protection concerns are valid. The Department of Defense has recognized those concerns and has created a Self-Help Handbook for Combating Terrorism, Joint Service Guide 5260. This handbook is available on the 78th Security Forces Squadron Web page at <https://wwwmil.robins.af.mil/SFS/force.htm>. The guide provides protective measures for home and the work place, as well as your travel to and from those places.

We encourage you and family members to read this guide. You can also contact your unit anti-terrorism monitor or the security forces force protection branch at 926-2186

for assistance in planning your individual protective measures. My point of contact on this is Master Sgt. Ed Glover, 78th Security Forces Squadron.

Improving Internet performance

Q: I am concerned about the terrible Internet performance that we encounter daily at Robins. Web pages can take 30 to 60 seconds to appear, or they may even time out.

Internet access these days has become a vital part of our work-related activities such as looking up part information, researching chip data or other items. The Internet seems even slower since the active directory has been implemented, but it was not very fast even before then. Are there any plans to do some serious study on the problem and improve the Internet and network infrastructure?

A: Col. Cirrincione responds: I'm very sorry to hear of your problem with slow response to your Web queries. A program is in place, the Combat Information Transport

System, to upgrade the network and improve the network infrastructure on Robins Air Force Base. CITS Phase II began in March 2002 and will install 67 miles of conduit and fiber-optic cabling. It will replace or upgrade networking equipment in 226 buildings. When this is all completed, the network at Robins will be running at gigabyte speeds, or approximately 10 times faster than it is now.

This upgrade is scheduled for completion in October 2003. In addition, when you access Web sites outside Robins, other factors beyond the capability of the Robins infrastructure may affect that access once your data leaves the base boundary. Due to many factors that must be evaluated with regard to your specific concern, a call to the Help Desk may be in order. Open a trouble ticket at 926-HELP (926-4357) so we may address the specifics of your problem.

If you have been through the Help Desk process and did not have your problem resolved, then please call Mr. Ken Chestnut, Network Control Center chief, at 926-7774. We would appreciate the opportunity to work with you.



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Emotions

Continued from A-1

member will no longer be able to perform, such as managing finances, children's medical and school appointments, and other family obligations. Families that are prepared tend to experience less stress."

Change of any kind can be difficult, but the extended absence of a military parent being deployed often brings a slew of emotions for the child at home.

Waiting for daddy's return

When Senior Airman Joel Adair deployed in 2001 for Operation Enduring Freedom, his son was left wondering when his daddy would ever come home.

"I didn't have much time to explain it to my family," he said. "I was gone within 36 hours of the news that I was deploying. I think my son took it the hardest. I told him that daddy has to go to work somewhere else for a while. He said okay, but he was very sad. My wife said he kept waiting for me to come home, but I didn't get to for four months."

Adair's wife, Tracy, said her son's adjustment was difficult in the beginning, but with time came a new routine.

"The first three weeks were the hardest," she said. "He didn't want to sleep alone. He would come get in bed with me. Joel was usually the one to pick up Braeden from daycare. It took him about six weeks to fully adjust to Joel being gone."

Routines are not the only thing affected when military members deploy – special occasions don't always seem as special with a loved one away.

"Joel had to miss Braeden's second birthday," she said. "It was hard on Joel and Braeden both. Nothing seemed to be working out that day. His birthday was in October. Since it was so close to Sept. 11, we had trouble getting people on base for his party. It was hard, but we made it a special day for him anyway."

Caring for the emotional and physical needs of a young child while the military parent is deployed is challenging enough. When you combine that responsibility with a spouse's own concerns about the deployment and added family roles, you have the recipe for stress.

"It was really hard at first," she said. "I had to clean the house, do the laundry, cook, take care of Braeden, pay the bills....I had to do everything while Joel was gone," she said. "It's really hard shopping with a 2-year-old."

Adair was stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Wash., when Joel deployed. Fortunately,

"The hardest part of deployment for me was being away from my daughter. I missed all the little things she was doing. I would call my wife and find out that she was learning how to write her name and I was not there to witness it. Every day, children change and somehow come up with something that will surprise you. Not being able to be home when those changes happened was difficult. She would say something or do something new every day and I was not there to see it. That was the hardest thing to deal with."



Staff Sgt. Daniel Peifer
Operation Enduring Freedom

she was not all alone in coping with Joel's absence.

"I probably would've gone insane if I didn't have my family helping me with Braeden and all," she said. "It's hard taking care of a 2-year-old when your husband's away. They were a huge help."

For some enduring the impact of deployment, one of the biggest challenges is transferring roles of family responsibilities. Joel and Tracy Adair prepared for these potential changes from day one of their marriage.

"We decided from the beginning that I would be the one to handle our finances since Joel would be deploying throughout his military career," she said. "I keep him updated on our finances, but I'm the one who handles the books. That wasn't an adjustment we had to make. The biggest adjustment for us came when Joel came home. For all that time, I've been the one handling everything myself. Now, suddenly, there's a shift in authority again. It was difficult for a while."

The most welcomed transition in the deployment experience for military members and their families is homecoming.

It was a cold 22 degrees when Joel Adair returned home from his mission. Tracy left their young son at daycare

while she welcomed her husband home.

"Joel was happy to see me, but he kept asking where Braeden was," she said. "I told him that I left him at daycare because it was so cold. He couldn't wait to go pick him up. He left right away to meet Braeden at daycare and we came back later to get his bags."

When Joel entered his son's daycare, he was still wearing his desert battle dress uniform. Adair's uniform coupled with a darkened tan from long hours in the Middle Eastern sun, brought a confused expression upon Braeden's face.

"It took him a few minutes," Adair said. "He stood across the room just staring at Joel. Then, it was like a light went on in his mind. He ran across the room toward Joel and screamed, 'DADDY!' The Adairs' deploy-

ment experience, with its challenges and roller coaster of emotions, is not unique unto themselves.

Making adjustments

When Gary "Leo" Compton was deployed for three months at the beginning of 2002, his wife, Chasity, was left to care for their 18-month-old daughter, Kirstin, and make some emotional adjustments, herself.

"Going to bed at night was hard," she said. "I'd pack up pillows around me, but it wasn't the same as having him here with me," she said. "I'd go without washing pillow cases sometimes, because they'd have his smell on them. It was a way I could be close to him when he wasn't there."

With Compton being a native of middle Georgia, she was fortunate to have her family nearby for support and she said she relied upon them a lot to help with the adjustment of her husband's absence.

"I know it's safe here, but I didn't always feel safe with Leo being gone," she said. "My brother came to stay with me one night. It was nice having a man in the house. I felt a lot safer. Sometimes, I'd go to my grandmama's house so she could watch Kirstin while I slept. I'm really close to my grandmama. She helped me through Leo being gone."

Chasity said one of the biggest changes she had to make while

Gary was deployed was in her cooking.

"I love to cook," she said. "I'm used to cooking big meals for us. After he left, I'd really have to think about what I was doing. I'd catch myself making dinner

for both of us and have to remember that I was cooking only for me. There were a lot of nights I'd eat Ramen Noodles or something like that."

Chasity said she wanted to ensure her husband wouldn't miss a single special moment while he was deployed.

"I kept the video camera going almost non-stop in case Kirstin did something new," she said. "I sent him scanned photos of Kirstin through my aunt's computer. Kirstin never would wear a hat before Leo left. While he was gone, I got a picture of her wearing one. He was so surprised."

Gary's wife sent care packages and other ways to let him know he was in her thoughts, but she had a hard time getting past the idea that he was gone.

"I'm used to him leaving for work about 6:30 and coming home in the evenings about 4 or 5," she said. "Some days, I'd think he should be home by now, but then I'd remember when I'd see the car in the driveway. Sometimes, I thought I heard him on the steps, but then I'd realize he wasn't there. I finally got used to him being gone about two to three weeks before he came home."

Chasity said she passed some of the time doing one of her favorite hobbies, cross-stitch.

"I had a couple of cross-stitch projects going when he left," she said. "I finished a couple of them, but I left one undone because Leo always liked to see it as I was working on it. He always thought it was so neat. I finished that one when he came home."

While Chasity's emotions were expressed through sleepless nights and watching the news for any word on her husband's war-time environment, Kirstin was acting out in another way.

"She got really sick right before Leo came back," Chasity said. "She had a high fever and was throwing up. I was really worried

about her, but when Leo came home, she was all better. It was amazing."

Chasity said she was excited to welcome her husband home, but sharing her husband's time with her young daughter brought mixed emotions.

"I was happy he was home," she said. "I knew he wanted to spend time with Kirstin, but I wanted time alone with him too. I felt bad about being jealous of my daughter. He spent a lot of time with her. When she'd go to sleep, we had time together though."

Compton received a warm homecoming from his family and friends. Chasity hosted a large party to welcome her soldier back home.

"One of the best things about Leo being home was that I got to cook again," she said. "I cooked a roast, potatoes, carrots, broccoli, and banana pudding. He was so stuffed! We had leftovers for days."

Someone to lean on

Having the support of family and friends is helpful when a military member deploys; but when one doesn't have the support of family nearby, the family support center can help.

Krystal Shiver, former work life consultant with the Family Support Center, said the center offers an array of services and aides that assist the military member and family members to cope with deployment.

"We are a safe place for family members to get assistance in regards to their needs and feelings," she said. "The Hearts Apart program we offer includes free childcare assistance, free car maintenance assistance, free phone cards and video and telephonic morale calls, as well as other services such as support groups. We try to help the family members through this sometimes difficult change."

Along with these services, the Family Support Center also provides materials for spouses of deployed members to help their children understand the change and better cope in a fun format.

"One booklet we have for young children when their military parent deploys is called, 'My book about when my military parent has to go away,'" she said. "Inside, there is a picture of a little boy and his mother in service dress for them to color. The pictures in the book have captions like 'You are special. Your parent is in the military. Your parent helps keep our country safe. You may be sad. Your parent misses you.' The books are age appropriate and we usually have maybe five or six variations. We also give out a letter writing kit with stationary, stickers, cards, envelopes, etc. We give these to military members to send to their kids so they can stay in touch."

The Robins Support Center also offers a wide range of services for the military spouse cop-

"The most difficult part of my deployment was not the deployment itself, but rather preparing for it. Flying is already inherently dangerous, but the fact that someone may not come home was most difficult. I had a supervisor who often said, 'Train like you'll fight, or die like you train.'"



Maj. Gregory Scheer
Operation Enduring Freedom

ing with the deployment as well.

"We have a unit spouse volunteer program to help military spouses while the member is away," Shiver said. "Each squadron commander or first sergeant has the opportunity to choose a spouse to be a representative POC for other spouses to contact. The unit spouse volunteer calls the spouses to make sure they are doing okay and may develop a newsletter to inform others of

what is going on in the squadron and around the base."

Shiver said the center also hosts special events such as "Deployed Families' Night Out" dinners and "Children's Day," which

give spouses an opportunity to get out and meet others in the same situation.

These and other services are designed to help military families turn a seemingly negative experience into a more positive one.

Developing healthy coping skills and utilizing the wide range of services offered for military families at Robins Air Force Base are tools to help ease the discomforts associated with deployment, but when sleepless nights and negative emotions persist, the professionals at the Life Skills Center offer support.

"It is typical to see difficulties in sleep, appetite, energy level, concentration, and the ability to enjoy oneself when a major stressor has occurred in people's lives," Franz said.

"If these problems continue for long periods of time, people may need to come see us."

Franz said the clinic does not counsel anyone under age 18.

These individuals are referred through Choice Behavioral, which provides referrals for individuals in

this category to see civilian providers in the surrounding community.

There are sources of support for individuals facing painful adjustments to the deployment of a loved one.

"Take care of yourself!" Franz said. "Only by ensuring that you monitor your own well-being will you be able to handle the situations you may face as efficiently and effectively as you otherwise might. Know that there are community resources that can help if your personal reaction is more painful or disruptive than it has to be."

"The hardest part of my deployment was leaving my family behind."



Senior Airman Gary Compton
Operation Enduring Freedom

"The hardest part of deployment for me was being away from my husband and family."



Staff Sgt. Chanda Kearney
Operation Enduring Freedom

"Being away from my family was the hardest part of my deployment."



Senior Airman Reymund Domingo
Operation Enduring Freedom

"The hardest part of deployment for me was being away from my family."



Staff Sgt. Glennis Hamilton
Operation Enduring Freedom

"Separation from family and facing the unknown are the hardest parts of deployment for me."

Staff Sgt. Stephen Dubas
Operation Southern Watch/Operation Enduring Freedom



"Being separated from my family and not knowing when I'll get to come home were the hardest parts of deployment for me."

Senior Airman Joel Adair
Operation Enduring Freedom



TV SCHEDULE

Note the new show times on Sundays.

These shows will air on Cox Cable channel 15 and Watson Cable channel 15.



Friday

Robins Report: 8 p.m. – News from around base.

Around Robins: 8:30 p.m. – On this week's Around Robins, get the latest information about a martial arts program on base that teaches Aiki Jitsu. Gene Kirkland, base financial manager, talks about what computer programs can help with personal finance, on Money Matters. There will also be a feature on the nature center and a nutrition tip.

Inside Robins: 9 p.m. – Inside Robins features an interview with Al Fatkin, C-5 System Program Office deputy director.

Sunday

1:30 p.m. - Robins Report
2 p.m. - Around Robins
2:30 p.m. - Inside Robins

Monday

Noon - Robins Report
12:30 p.m. - Around Robins
1 p.m. - Inside Robins



MOVIE SCHEDULE

All shows begin at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$3 for 12 and older, \$2 for ages 5-11. Visit the movie schedule online at <http://www.robins.af.mil/services/Events/TheaterSched.htm>.

Special preview: The Wild Thornberrys Movie (PG)
The base theater will be showing a special free preview of The Wild Thornberrys Movie at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14 and 2 p.m. Dec. 15. Tickets will be available at all Army Air Force Exchange Services facilities Dec. 12 and 13.

Now, 12-year old Eliza is in Africa where she meets a mysterious shaman who grants her the power to talk to animals. But there's a catch, if she reveals her gift she will lose it forever. One day Eliza discovers that poachers plan to kill an elephant herd with an electrified fence, and she and Darwin, her pet chimp, must stop them.



Dec. 6 — The Transporter (PG-13)
Starring Jason Statham and Shu Qi.

Frank hires himself out as a mercenary transporter who moves goods, human or otherwise, from one place to another. No questions asked. His new transport leads to shocking secrets and deadly complications. (violent sequences and some sensuality)

Dec. 7 — Brown Sugar (PG-13)
Starring Taye Diggs and Sanaa Lathan.

Dre and Sidney attribute their friendship to a single childhood moment. Now some 15 years later, hip hop isn't the only thing that keeps them coming back to memories of that moment on the corner. (sexual content and language)



LEAVE/TRANSFER

The following people have been approved as participants in the leave transfer program.

• **Carl L. Long**, Maintenance Directorate. Point of contact is Bernard Ward, 926-2303.

Employee-relations specialists at 926-5307 or 926-5802 have information and instructions concerning requests to receive or donate annual leave. To have an approved leave recipient printed in the Rev-Up, directorates should send information to Rebecca Yull via fax at 926-9597, or e-mail at rebecca.yull@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks.

This week in history

On this day in 1974, the Robins Rev-Up shifted its publication date to Friday from its current Thursday distribution date.



On Dec. 1, 1963, the Continental Air Command, located at Robins Air Force Base, observed its 15th anniversary.

On Dec. 2, 1955, the federal government acquired land located in Houston County for completion of a new runway extension.

SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aero Club 926-4867

During December the aero club will conduct Christmas Light Flights. Qualified commercial pilots will escort families on flights to see area Christmas lights from the sky. Cost is \$60 for up to three people. Reservations are required. For more information, call 926-4867.

Civilian Recreation 922-4415

Help make someone's holiday a little happier by donating to the civilian recreation canned food drive through Dec. 18. Each year donations are used to create holiday food baskets to distribute to deserving families of Robins Air Force Base. This program benefits both military and civilian employees and their families. Collection boxes will be placed throughout services facilities and will be emptied each Friday. Collection boxes for areas other than services facilities can be placed upon request. If you know a family that would benefit from receiving a holiday food basket, confidential applications will be accepted at the civilian recreation office, Bldg. 767. Baskets will be delivered Dec. 19-22. Volunteers are needed to help put baskets together and make deliveries. For more information, contact Lynne Brackett, civilian recreation manager, at 922-4415.

The last night of Bingo in 2002 at the base restaurant will be held Dec. 22. Participants will enjoy an evening of special payouts, door prizes and a customer appreciation buffet for \$1. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and games will begin at 7 p.m.

Customer Feedback Survey 926-5492

The annual Air Force Customer Feedback Survey will be delivered soon to Robins and given randomly to individuals throughout the base. The survey is used to measure customer satisfaction, quality of service, quality of facilities, quality of equipment and materials, value for price paid, and an overall assessment of at least 20 of the division's major programs. This



survey is easy to complete, has a self-addressed envelope and requires no postage. Customers who take the time to answer the survey provide input that will have a major impact on future services programs. The survey data is presented in a software program and by using it, managers are able to enhance programs, improve service and make optimal use of their resources to benefit services customers. Customers wanting more information on the survey, may call services marketing at 926-5492.

Breathe Easy

All 78th Services Division facilities are smoke free to be in compliance with Executive order 13058, mandated throughout Air Force. Outdoor break areas are available at the enlisted club and officers' club for patrons who wish to smoke. An outdoor break area will be available at the bowling center in January.

Library 327-7379

Santa will visit Dec. 9 at 10 a.m. for story time at the base library, located in Bldg. 905. Santa will read, hand out treat bags and listen to children's wish lists. For more information, call 327-7379.

Nature Center 926-4500

Spalding Nature Center will be showing National Geographic films today 3-4:30 p.m. Bring the family for free.

Enlisted Club 926-4515

The Press Box is open for express lunch Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and for dinner 6-9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Specials include two-for-one prime rib for \$16.95 every week, fried

Around the Air Force

To ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages to military and international addresses, the U.S. Postal Service recommends first-class mail, letters, cards and priority mail should be sent by Wednesday to make it there by Christmas.

Parcel airlift mail should have been sent this week.

- These mailing tips can help move the delivery:
- Write, type or print the complete address neatly;
- Always use a return address; use four-digit add-on zip code in addressing, be sure to hyphenate;
- Use customs forms for all international mail.

catfish for \$8.95 today and Saturday, and two-for-one rib-eye steaks for \$15.95 Dec. 13 and 14. Reservations are welcome, but not required. For holiday closures, read upcoming Rev-Up issues or go the services Web site at www.robins.af.mil/services.

Information, Tickets and Travel 926-2945

ITT hours will be from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 16-20 to accommodate UPS customers wishing to send holiday packages.

Officers' Club 926-2670

New Year's Eve tickets are on sale for \$30 per person. Featured entertainers will be Tommy West and the Sensations from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Total Sound Productions in the main lounge from 8 p.m. to midnight. For patrons' convenience, 20 rooms will be available at lodging. Reservations for these rooms can be made through the officers' club cashier.

A Mongolian barbecue is slated for Tuesday at cost of \$11 for adults.

Outdoor Adventure 926-6527 or 926-4001

Register by Tuesday to see the Atlanta Thrashers versus the Philadelphia Flyers Jan. 5 at 5 p.m. at Atlanta's Philips Arena. Cost is \$40 for admission and transportation. Transportation will depart at 2 p.m. and will return after the game.

A Cherokee Casino adventure trip has been scheduled for Feb. 7-9. Cost is \$195 and includes transportation and two nights' accommodations. Transportation will leave at 4 p.m. Register by Jan. 6. Participants must be 21 years of age or older. For more information, call Michelle North at 926-6527.

Register by Jan. 9 for a North Carolina ski adventure with outdoor adventure slated for Jan. 31 through Feb. 2. Cost is \$325 double occupancy and includes transportation, ski lift tickets and two nights' accommodations. Transportation leaves Jan. 31 at 3 p.m. For more information and additional pricing, call Michelle North at 926-6527.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

Robins Air Force Base Family Support Center-sponsored classes, workshops and seminars are open to all Team Robins Plus personnel and their eligible family members. Absences from duty sections to attend FSC offerings are the responsibility of the employee to coordinate with his/her supervisor. Because room assignments are subject to change, specific room numbers will be confirmed at the time of registration.

The FSC is located on Ninth Street in Bldg. 794, across the street just before the Robins Enlisted Club. Hours are 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For additional information, or to make a reservation, call 926-1256.

UNISERV TSP briefing

The personal financial management program is offering a briefing on UNISERV Thrift Savings Plan today, 1-2:30 p.m., Bldg. 905, Room 127. All base employees are encouraged to investigate this investment opportunity. To educate individuals, the booklet "Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for the Uniformed Services" is being distributed through the units.

TAP workshop

The next three-day Department of Labor-sponsored Transition Assistance Program workshop is Monday through Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day at the Smith Community Center ballroom. Personnel leaving the military within the next six months need to sign up as soon as possible. Spouses may attend.

Reservations are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis within the appropriate separation or retirement dates. To make a reservation for this workshop, call 926-1256.

Sponsorship training

The center's Relocation Assistance Program will offer training for both beginner and experienced sponsors Tuesday, 9-11 a.m., in Bldg. 945, Robins Family Support Center annex.

The training provides information on what types of information to send to the member making a permanent change of station and where to obtain it; different ways to communicate with the inbound member; and information regarding responsibilities to the newly assigned member and their family.

Advance registration is required.

Community tour

The center is sponsoring a community tour for all Team Robins Plus members and their eligible family members, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to noon starting at the center.

The tour includes a "windshield" of Macon's downtown and

residential historic district with commentary on the history of Macon and its people, past and present.

To make reservations, call 926-1256.

Single parents group

The monthly Single Parents Networking Group meeting will be Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., base chapel annex.

This monthly lunch meeting is an opportunity for military single parents to network and form a support base. Advanced reservations are not required. Lunch is provided.

Financial workshop

The Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Middle Georgia, a non-profit organization funded by the United Way, will conduct a free money and credit management workshop Dec. 13, 1-4 p.m., Bldg. 905, Room 127. A comprehensive workbook is provided to all attendees. Information on credit management, debt reduction and consumer rights will be presented at this workshop. Assistance will be provided in the development of budgets and savings plans so that financial goals may be realized. This workshop is open to all Team Robins Plus members.

Call 926-1256 for a reservation.

Bundles for babies

The Air Force Aid Society will conduct a Bundles For Babies class Dec. 18, 10 a.m. to noon, Bldg. 700, Room 180. This class is specifically designed to assist new parents. It consists of an educational session by the Family Advocacy Educational Development Intervention specialist, who covers topics such as baby's brain development and how to stimulate that growth; personal financial program manager on financial matters concerning a newborn; as well as an overall briefing on all the program opportunities the Air Force Aid Society offers. At the end of the session, a bundle is presented, compliments of the Air Force Aid Society. This program is open to all active duty Air Force members and their spouses, who are expecting a child, regardless of rank or number of children in the family.

To register, call the center at 926-1256.

Resume research, writing

A workshop on resume research and writing will be conducted Dec. 18, 9a.m. to noon, Bldg. 905, Room 138.

Many people launch into resume writing before preparing, including researching the employment market or their skills. This class is designed to cover resume writing beyond the basic mechanics by dissecting the various parts of a resume.



The Rev-up has searched high and low to find a handful of football nuts, worthy of calling themselves football experts. Each week during the football season these so-called "experts" will use their knowledge to take a shot at picking the winner in five featured professional football games and one college game. Throughout the football season, the Rev-up will keep a running total of the wins and losses for each expert.

Who's on top?

Player	W	L	T
Kurtz	40	31	1
Fidler	39	32	1
Haines	36	35	1
Smith	34	37	1



Airman 1st Class Tiara Smith



Tim Kurtz



Capt. Paul Fidler



Senior Airman Mark Haines

This week's games

Colts vs. Titans
 Bills vs. Patriots
 Falcons vs. Buccaneers
 Saints vs. Ravens
 Raiders vs. Chargers
 Washington State vs. UCLA

My picks:

Titans
 Bills
 Falcons
 Saints
 Raiders
 UCLA

My picks:

Colts
 Patriots
 Falcons
 Saints
 Chargers
 UCLA

My picks:

Colts
 Patriots
 Buccaneers
 Saints
 Raiders
 Washington State

My picks:

Titans
 Bills
 Buccaneers
 Saints
 Chargers
 Washington State

Last week's results

This must be a roller coaster for these guys. One week up the next week down. I guess they just post the choices and throw darts to see who they'll pick. They might do better if they just flipped a coin for each game. Smith was back down at 2-4. Kurtz and Haines came back up with 4-2 While Fidler enjoyed bragging rights with 5-1.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Golf tourney

The Society of American Military Engineers Robins Air Force Base post sponsored its annual benefit golf tournament at the Landings Golf Club Nov. 22 to raise money for its scholarship fund. Each year college scholarships are given to Houston County high school seniors interested in entering a college engineering program. Proceeds from the tournament exceeded \$8,000. Twenty-eight teams, 32 corporate sponsors, and 33 local businesses participated or contributed to the event.

and Sundays, 1-4 p.m., for family swimming. The pool is closed the first and third

Sundays of each month. Fitness center eligibility requirements must be met.

Fitness Center

926-2128

Weight lifters can strive to "Bench the Bomber" through Dec. 31. Individuals bench in any variety — military, decline or incline to reach 185,000 pounds. Participants accumulate pounds lifted for the entire month by either using FitLinxx or a spreadsheet. For more information, call the fitness center.

The center will be holding a Club Robins Mini-Aerobathon Dec. 15, 3-5 p.m. Activities will include free workouts, door prizes and refreshments.

Robins Lanes

926-2112

Enjoy the long lunch special Dec. 23. Bowl three games for \$3 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tired of just watching football? Get into the action Jan. 2. Roll three games with football rules, 1-5 p.m. The highest score will win a bowling pass valued at \$35.

Robins AFB basketball

Robins Air Force Base will be playing basketball Dec. 7 and 8. The games are 3 and 5 p.m. Dec. 7 and 10 a.m. and noon Dec. 8. The men will be playing Tyndall AFB and the women will be playing Maxwell AFB.

Outdoor Adventure

926-6527 or 926-4001

The indoor fitness center pool will be open Saturdays

All in a day's work

- Staff Sgt.
Deidra Brown
- Weather
forecaster
- 78th Operations
Support Squadron

Brown checks the temperature on the flightline in front of Base Ops.

"My job is to forecast and observe the weather to protect the base and the aircraft and also for climatology. That's to keep a record of weather for past and future trends.

"I feel like it's extremely important to the mission, in keeping our pilots safe. Weather forecasting is not an exact science so it's always exciting and always a challenge. And everybody's interested in the weather. By the way, it's 54 degrees outside now."



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

CHAPEL SERVICES

Ecumenical holiday programs

Dec. 11, Christmas caroling. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Protestant holiday programs

Dec. 8, combined worship, children's Sunday school, Christmas program at 11 a.m.

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, candle lighting, communion service at 7 p.m.

Catholic holiday programs

Dec. 12, Advent Parish Penance Service at 7 p.m.

Dec. 14, Advent/Christmas Retreat at 10 a.m.

Dec. 24, children's Christmas mass at 5 p.m.

Dec. 24, baby Jesus birthday party at 6 p.m.

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve mass at midnight

Dec. 25, Christmas Day mass at 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 31, New Year's Eve mass at 5 p.m.

Jan. 1, New Year's Day mass at 9:30 a.m.

Jewish service time is each Friday at 6:15 p.m. at the synagogue in Macon.

Islamic Friday Prayer (Jumuah) is each Friday at 1:30 p.m. in the chapel annex Rooms 1 and 2.

The chapel helps with any spiritual needs that arise.

For further information, call the chapel at 926-2821.

ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

Recycle Christmas tree

Recycle your Christmas tree during “The Great Christmas Tree Round-Up” Jan. 4 on Maple Street. The event, sponsored by Flint Energies and Asplundh Tree Expert Co., and hosted by Keep Warner Robins Beautiful, will run from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Free tree seedlings will be given in exchange for Christmas trees.

No federal endorsement of sponsors intended. The Robins point of contact is Linda Larson, Solid Waste/Toxics Program Manager, 926-1197 ext. 137.

Program helps area children

The Coats for Kids program is a program that helps children of all ages keep warm with the help of the community.

There will be a bin located in the Robins Air Force Base Exchange for all to drop off any coats they would like to donate.

All sizes and colors of any sort of coat is needed and appreciated. Direct questions to Senior Airman Cristea Parrish at 327-5312 or Staff Sgt. Alicia Preston at 327-8056.

Christmas luncheon

The annual American Society of Military Comptrollers Christmas Luncheon will be held Dec. 16 at the Smith Community Center ballroom from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For those who wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a \$10 non-gender specific gift already wrapped. Along with the gift exchange, there will be entertainment, fun and games, and door prizes.

Tickets are \$8. Reply by Dec. 13. Contact Cindy Branham at 327-1417.

Chapel hosts symposium

Robins Air Force Base chapel and the local chapter of the Officer’s Christian Fellowship hosted a Leadership Symposium Nov. 16. Retired Lt. Gen. Bruce L. Fister, OCF executive director, set the tone for “Integrating Your Faith and Profession” by discussing faith, profession and the servant leader attitude.

In addition to Fister, Reed Walters and Whitney Troutman, both from the Wesley Foundation of the University of Georgia in Athens, discussed leadership from a non-military perspective.

Col. Roger Greber, commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, and Lt. Col. Timothy Wiseman, commander of the 126th Finance Battalion at Fort Bragg, N.C., were joined by Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Chief Master Sgt. Lawrence Knox, 93rd Air Control Wing Chief Master Sgts. Linda Bynum and Charlie Costello, 16th Air Combat Control Squadron Chief Master Sgt. Craig Deatherage, Chief-select Fermon Reid and several retired chiefs during two

breakout sessions.

The breakout sessions focused on different aspects of Biblical leadership characters and personalities. Panel members brought their personal perspectives and anecdotes to the discussions. Retired chiefs who participated included retired Chief Master Sgts. Clyde Cunningham, Ezra Foster, Gary Witter and Robert McGraw.



Bears bring holiday joy

For the 15th year, the Contracting Directorate, PK, participated in its annual Salvation Army Christmas project.

Volunteers from PK stuffed 160 stockings and dressed 125 bears for a total of 285 gifts for children and senior citizens in the local community this Christmas.

The stockings and bears were accepted by Capt. Barry Corbitt of the Salvation Army Tuesday, November 26. At the presentation, the directorate celebrated the charitable work with a festive gathering to recognize volunteers for the best decorated gifts. Judges this year were Sheri Wetekam, Mary Lou Stevenson, and Wayne Reeves.

U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Winners

Stockings

Boy's choice – Rosemary Foskey
 Girl's choice – Melanie Moreland
 Adult's choice – Christine Clark
 Judge's choice – Larinda Tate
 Honorable mention – Dee Young

Bears

Best Dressed Boy – Mary Hornbaker
 Best Dressed Girl – Mildred Baker
 Cutest Lady – Roe Reich
 Cutest Man – Dina Inhulsen
 Judge's Choice – Pat Nixon
 Honorable mention – Crystal Hollifield



Knighly News Briefs

Operation Enduring Freedom medals

The 99th Air Refueling Squadron awards and decorations office is working hard to ensure all who have earned medals in support of Operation Enduring Freedom receive them. First Lt. Aaron Chatraw has begun compiling data on the deployment dates, crews, and status of air medals. Chatraw is requesting that those who earned medals provide the following information by e-mail: Arrival and departure dates for the area of responsibility for each tour (including staff tours); The number of additional sorties, beyond the 10 required for an air medal, that were used for justification of a different medal, and if those additional sorties were saved to be used for an oak leaf cluster in the future.

Many have inquired about the status of air medals. Chatraw can provide that information, and it is available online at <https://wwwmil.acc.af.mil/dp/DPP/awards/OE.F.htm> Look under approved or pending decorations for your name. Most of the awards packages have been submitted and are awaiting final approval.

You can reach Chatraw by e-mail at: Aaron.Chatraw@robins.af.mil

Replace lost or damaged Flight line driver cards

Flight line drivers with lost, torn, or illegible flight line driver competency cards (AF Form 483) should visit their squadron vehicle monitor for a replacement. If the vehicle monitor is unavailable, visit the 19AMXS mobility office, for a new competency card. Those needing a new card should call prior to coming to the mobility office. The Following is a list of vehicle monitors for each squadron: 99th ARS - Senior Airman Boren, 19th OSS - Master Sgt. Parker, 19th MXS - Staff Sgt. Wilke, 19th AMXS - Tech Sgt. Strickland

Submission guidelines

Anyone interested in submitting news briefs to the Knightly News can contact Geoff Janes at 926-2137 or by e-mail at geoff.janes@robins.af.mil.

Since space is limited, briefs will be printed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Story ideas can be submitted to Geoff Janes or Holly Logan at 926-2137.

Black Knights fueling the front

■ 19th ARG keeps coalition members in the air

By 2nd Lt. Heather Newcomb
376th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

High above the ground, members of the Ganci coalition go to work in their 137-foot, 322,500-pound gas station.

They aren't like regular gas stations you find in the states these are KC-135 refuelers. The aircrew and maintenance members are deployed from the 19th Air Refueling Group, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., and they are responsible for keeping coalition aircraft in the air.

It takes a whole team to make the KC-135 refueling mission a success and the teamwork begins on the ground.

"A refueling mission for us at Ganci involves a flight of about six to eight hours, but the duty day is much longer," said Lt. Col. David Sprague, 376th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron commander. "From the crews standpoint, the day starts with pre-mission study, which begins about four hours prior to takeoff.

"During that study time, the crew gets an in-depth intelligence briefing, learns who they will refuel, and what the weather forecast is," he said. "After a quick stop at life support, the crew heads out to the aircraft where each crew member conducts individual preflight inspections to make sure all systems are ready for flight."

The pre-mission inspections don't just occur with the flight crew.

"From the maintenance perspective, the day is equally challenging. Maintenance folks normally arrive at the aircraft six hours prior to takeoff to get the many systems serviced before



Photos by: Tech. Sgt. James Hart Jr.

Capt. Derck Mullin, KC-135 aircraft commander, left, and 1st Lt. Jeff Webb, KC-135 co-pilot, discuss the flight path while flying a mission over Afghanistan.

the aircrew arrives. Many times this happens in the late hours and in the harshest conditions," Sprague said. "Their goal of course is to have the jet fixed and ready before the next scheduled sortie. Usually their workday is not over until the job is complete. They make it happen for us."

Those involved with the ground work of the aircraft are as dedicated to the mission as the air crew members.

"All of the aircraft specialists do whatever it takes to get the job done; they are dedicated and truly masters of their respective craft," said 2nd Lt.

Dennis Knight, 376th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron maintenance supervisor. "Many of the people here are learning duties outside of their normal specialty. They know it enhances their skills and gives us one more tool to get the job done."

From the ground up, each member of the KC-135 team understands the importance of their mission.

"The best thing we do is the mission. Knowing we are getting gas to the people who need it in support of OEF is extremely satisfying," said Capt. Derck Mullin, KC-135 aircraft commander. "If we, the tankers, aren't there, the missions won't go. It's as simple as that."

Each member of the team works to make the mission happen, plus they simply enjoy what they do.

"There are lots of great things about our jobs. One is working as a team to accomplish a single goal and realizing your job is important, without you the fighters don't get their gas and can't accomplish the mis-

sion," said 1st Lt. Jeff Webb, KC-135 co-pilot. "The job can be exciting, rewarding, challenging and I really just enjoy flying."

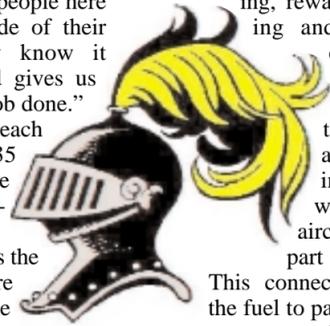
Operating the boom, which is the part of the aircraft connecting the KC-135 with the receiving aircraft, is a crucial part of the mission.

This connection allows for the fuel to pass from the KC-135 to the aircraft.

Being the boom operator is a challenging, yet rewarding job.

"My job includes being the weight and balance monitor, this ensures that fuel and cargo are properly loaded on the jet.

I am also responsible for loading and unloading cargo as well as conducting the air refueling to make sure it is safe and successful," said Staff Sgt. Dave Coleman, KC-135 boom operator.



"All of the aircraft specialists do whatever it takes to get the job done; they are dedicated and truly masters of their respective craft,"

2nd Lt. Dennis Knight
376th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron
maintenance supervisor



Airman 1st Class Davis Nguyen, 376th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron puts oil into one of the KC-135 engines during routine maintenance.

Three squadrons to be affected by upcoming inspection

Air Mobility Command's Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Team is scheduled to visit Robins Air Force Base Monday and stay until Dec. 13 to inspect the 19th Air Refueling Group's key logistics processes.

According to Master Sgt. Anthony Wallace, 19th AMXS Production Superintendent and the group's Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Program project manager, the LSEP has an 18-month timeline, and affects three of the four 19th ARG squadrons - the 19th OSS, 19th MXS and 19th AMXS.

During the course of the 18 months, units conduct three self-evaluations, with an outside inspection by the group's Quality Assurance Flight at the 12-month mark. Every 18 months, the AMC LSET visits each base in the command to achieve technical compliance. The inspection of the 19th ARG will be AMC's 13th of 27 scheduled inspections.

"This is the very beginning of the program," Wallace said.

"Our maintenance instruction went from a very general 90-page book to a 505-page book of specific requirements followed by a 114-page supplement from AMC. The LSET checklists have thousands of line items."

"Our maintenance instruction went from a very general 90-page book to a 505-page book of specific requirements followed by a 114-page supplement from AMC. The LSET checklists have thousands of line items."

Master Sgt. Anthony Wallace
19th AMXS Production
Superintendent

According to Wallace, the purpose of LSEP is to ensure logistics processes within the command are operating in a standardized, repeatable, technically compliant manner; to establish an integrated self-inspection program to assess and enhance technical compliance within AMC logistics units; and to create a logistics culture of personal accountability for technical compliance.

"AMC has highlighted six very important focus areas," Wallace continued. Those six technical compliance areas are accurate written guidance, proper tools and equipment, qualified and proficient workforce, organi-

See INSPECTION
continued on Page 2

AMC commander visits 19th Air Refueling Group

By: Holly J. Logan
holly.logan@robins.af.mil

Gen. John W. Handy, commander of the U.S. Transportation Command and commander of Air Mobility Command, visited the 19th Air Refueling Group recently to speak to his number one priority, the troops.

According to Lt. Col. Joe Rohret, deputy commander of the 19th ARG, this was Handy's first visit to the 19th ARG at Robins Air Force Base as the commander of AMC.

"People and their families are Gen. Handy's number one priority," he said. "His visit will be a great opportunity for the 19th to hear straight from leadership on issues dealing with Air Mobility Command."

Maj. Shawn Teagan, assistant director of operations for the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, said the visit allowed troops to show Handy the great job they're doing at Robins.



Gen. John Handy

"This visit gave the 19th ARG the opportunity to show our commander how we are successfully contributing to the nation's defense in the war on terrorism," he said.

During his visit, Handy addressed the group in a commander's call, followed by a brief question and answer session that allowed the general an opportunity to hear from his airmen.

Handy also toured the 19th and talked with Robins' senior leadership while at the base.

Rohret said he believes the four-star general's visit will serve as a great morale boost

See COMMANDER
continued on Page 2

INSPECTION

continued from front

zational alignment, technical and process compliant execution, and effective management oversight system.

Local preparations for the LSET visit began in April, and LSEP checklists were published April 19. Unit members from every affected office throughout the three squadrons had the daunting task of dissection and then completing up to 250 pages of checklists, finding write-ups and determining where change was needed.

"We picked key people from each office of responsibility and held weekly meetings to first find out what write-ups we had, and then to discuss what we had to do to fix them. After that first month of meetings, we found we had over 200 write-ups to fix. Currently, we are down to only 20," Wallace said.

For the most part, each squadron has approached preparations the same way.

"Once we got rolling with the checklist and fixing the write-ups we had found, we

had a large group inspection to prepare for December." That inspection provided us with a fantastic picture as to just how ready we really were.

The 19th AMXS Maintenance Supervisor, Lt Dmitri Kalinin explained, "We've put in numerous extra hours to come into compliance by the date of the inspection and without the cooperation of everyone in the squadron our outstanding progress would have never been possible. We're excited to have the team come out, so we can showcase our maintenance professionals."

Editor's note: The 18-person team is made up of inspectors from various AMC bases. Col. James Lemons, AMC/HQ, will be heading up a team. Ten inspectors are from maintenance, one from supply, one from training, and one from logistics plans. They will be evaluating the 19th Air Refueling Group's ability to perform logistics operations while meeting technical compliance.

COMMANDER

continued from front

to "pump up our people" and provide them the connection with leadership that opens communication lines.

"We're very appreciative that he took time out of his busy schedule to make personal contact with our troops," he said. "It was business as usual. The mission goes on, but we took the necessary preparatory actions for a four-star general's visit. It has been a total team Robins effort that

made for a successful visit."

Senior Airman Melissa Magyari, with the 19th ARG command section, said she was excited about Gen. Handy's visit and the opportunity to hear answers straight from leadership.

"It's not everyday you get to meet a four-star general," she said.

"I think by our being able to get feedback from Gen. Handy, we'll have a better way of measuring our suc-

cess in serving the mission of the 19th."

Editor's Note: Gen. John W. Handy was commissioned in 1967 and received his pilot wings in 1968. He has 5,000 flight hours as a command pilot, principally in airlift aircraft. Prior to assuming his current position, the general was Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, Washington D.C.



Photo by: Tech. Sgt. James Hart Jr.
A European Participating Air Force F-16 receives fuel from the KC-135 during a mission over Afghanistan.

COALITION

continued from front

"The best part about doing my job is knowing that I just provided not only my receiver with fuel to stay airborne, but also provided ground troops with air support."

Each member of the team may be responsible for a different part of the mission, and each may miss their families, but they all know that what they are doing is important in the fight against terrorism.

"No matter what our position, I think we would all agree that the most difficult part of our job is being away from family and loved ones," said 1st Lt. Lewis DeMaso, KC-135 navigator. "The best part of what we do is giving a

"No matter what our position, I think we would all agree that the most difficult part of our job is being away from family and loved ones,"

1st Lt. Lewis DeMaso
KC-135 navigator

fighter, bomber, airlift or cargo jet the ability to project U.S. Air Force presence around the world!"

The mission here is to support Ganci's European Participating Air Forces fighter aircraft.

"I've been impressed how well the coalition effort has worked. Our receivers are coalition fighters and are great sticks," Sprague said. "They are always on time and very stable on the boom, all business in the air, and that means good discipline, safe practices and effective

sorties."

From the ground up it takes the entire team to accomplish the mission.

"I'd like to recognize all Ganci team members for the outstanding support we've received since being assigned here. Because of such a great team effort, we've been able to setup and launch effective sorties in minimal time," Sprague said. "Any little bit folks contribute makes a big difference and they should feel proud. Being part of the coalition force makes it an extra special experience."



Recognizing civil service

Lt. Col. Tim Rose, 19th Air Refueling Group director of staff awards Sandy Mathis a certificate for 20 years of government service Nov. 25 in the group conference room.

Mathis is the secretary for the 19th ARG commander.

U.S. Air Force photo by
Maj. Greg Scheer

From the round table



Staff Sgt. Eric Williams

Williams serves with the 19th Maintenance Squadron as an aerospace maintenance journeyman. He has been in the Air Force since 1999, and his goal is to own his own home. He and his wife have two children.



Senior Airman Ebony Dial

Dial is assigned to the 19th Operational Support Squadron as a crew communications journeyman. She has been in the Air Force since 1999. Her goal is to earn her Bachelor's in nursing. Her favorite quote is, "Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God."



Staff Sgt. David Keller

Keller is an evaluator boom operator with the 99th Air Refueling Squadron. He has been in the Air Force since April, 1989 and his goal is to be a good husband, a good boom operator and to finish his Bachelor's degree. His favorite quote is, "Sir, would you please move the gigantic cotton candy? Wouldn't be prudent."



Senior Airman Marion Stephens

Stephens is assigned to the 19th AMXS as a maintenance data systems analyst. She entered military service in 1999. Her goal is to retire from the Air Force. Her favorite personal quote is, "Leaders are people who do the right thing. Managers are people who do things right."