

ROBINS RevUp



Practicing good mannersPage B-1

Vol. 47 No. 6

Friday, February 15, 2002

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Reminder

Your chance to speak out

The 2002 Air Force Chief of Staff Climate Survey will continue until March 2. People may participate in the survey online by going to www.csafsurvey.com from a non-government computer or csafsurvey.af.mil from a government computer. The theme of this year's survey is "Speak Today, Shape Tomorrow." The focus of the survey is on issues such as leadership and supervision, job characteristics, resources, values, communication, training, teamwork and recognition. It gives people a chance to speak to the entire chain of command, from the unit commander to the Air Force Chief of Staff.

It is available to all Air Force officers, enlisted and appropriated fund civilians to take.

Inside

Promotion list is out

The list of those selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel has been released and 23 majors from Robins are on it. See A-2

Squadron stand up

The 55th Combat Communications Squadron stands up at Robins Air Force Base on March 2. See A-2

Keeping hearts healthy

An emergency medical technician at Robins has first-hand experience with a heart attack - his own. Find out what changes Michael Redman has made in his lifestyle. See A-3

Super Bowl security

Master Sgt. Omer Trudeau had a great view at the Super Bowl - he was on the field. He headed up and coordinated 29 multi-service military working dog teams at the event to help with security. See A-3



Macon Whoopee

The Macon Whoopee conducted Military Appreciation Night at the Macon Centreplex on Feb. 9. See B-1

Family night with chef

"Chef Pasquali Presents ... Deployed Families' Night Out." Find out the details on the planner today. See B-4

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Center takes time to focus on safety

WR-ALC Safety Office

Records indicate that the Air Force has experienced a spike in the mishap rate for the first quarter of fiscal year 2002. Although Warner Robins Air Logistics Center has not experienced an increase in the mishap rate, now is the time to focus attention on mishap prevention, said J. Darin Pierce of the safety office.

Today several senior members of WR-ALC management will be conducting safety briefings throughout the installation. This is a very demanding time for WR-

ALC, and everyone has been tasked, in some way, to support the war on terrorism. These tasking include working longer hours and delivering products ahead of schedule, two of the primary factors that may start the chain reaction of a mishap in motion, Pierce said.

The mishap chain reaction

begins long before the mishap actually occurs.

"In my experience in investigating mishaps, I have noticed that nearly 100 percent of the time there were numerous opportunities to break the mishap chain. If someone would have taken the initiative to identify the problem, i.e. not following tech

"In my experience in investigating mishaps, I have noticed that nearly 100 percent of the time there were numerous opportunities to break the mishap chain."

J. Darin Pierce
WR-ALC Safety Office

data, or failure to use personal protective equipment, the mishap could have been prevented," said Pierce.

The mishap chain reaction is, many times, placed in motion by a change occurring in the workplace. A new worker unfamiliar with the operation, new equipment or a need to increase production can be the beginning of the mishap chain.

Proper training and supervision will lessen the mishap potential of new workers and equipment; but increased emphasis on production presents many avenues for a mishap to occur. Overtime,

worker fatigue and cutting corners are all factors that come into play with a production increase, said Pierce.

Safety and production compliment each other and should go hand-in-hand whenever there is a need to increase production.

"If safety is neglected in this relationship, a mishap will eventually occur," said Pierce. Whenever a mishap occurs, it will directly affect the overall production of the organization. Maybe one of the most productive workers for the organization is the one

See LEARN ... Page A-4

Tenant units at Robins brush up on safety

By Lanorris Askew
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Tenant units at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center are taking part in mandated safety down days. The purpose of these activities, according to the safety office, is to focus on safety in light of a recent increase in Air Force mishap rates.

During the down days, units are directed to take a close look at safety procedures and further review guidelines for risk management, as directed by Gen. John P. Jumper, chief of staff of the Air Force.

"We're at a point where it's appropriate to step back, assess our processes from a safety perspective and then carry on with the work our nation is counting on us to complete," said Jumper.

The 93rd Air Control Wing and the 5th Combat Communications Group conducted their down days on Feb. 6.

According to the 93rd Safety Office, the unit focused mainly on risk assessment items. Lt. Col. Charlie Woodrow, 93rd ACW chief of safety, said the group dedicated the entire day to safety issues.

"The day began with initial briefings, and was followed up by large and small group sessions where inputs were welcomed about any safety concerns the group members may have had," he said.

Tech. Sgt. Andrew Gates, 5th Combat Communications Group chief of public affairs, said all mission and support squadrons gathered separately to discuss group safety issues and potential problems. The groups then discussed possible solutions to these prob-

See TACKLING ... Page A-4

Deployment delayed Modern System now scheduled for April 15

Civilian Personnel Office

The Robins Civilian Personnel Office has been advised that deployment of the Modern System will be delayed for the interim personnel centers.

The delay will enable contractors to concentrate on the deployment of the rest of the Air Force bases and time to perfect the system in order to meet the needs of the air logistics bases. A 60-day delay has been initiated for Robins, Tinker and Wright Patterson Air Force bases. The tentative new date of deployment will be April 15.

What does this mean for Robins Air Force Base employees? Business will continue as normal under the present merit promotion plan. Mike O'Hara, civilian personnel officer, wants the civilian personnel office to work aggressively to set effective dates on all prospective actions under our present data system known as "Legacy."

Personnel is working to ensure that Robins has the best system available at the time of conversion. For more information or with questions, contact your functional personnel.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Command Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Mast sits in her new office in Bldg. 215. Mast began her new duties on Monday.

Mast named command chief

Plans to focus on forging relationship with enlisted force

By Lanorris Askew
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Standing only 4 feet 10 and one-half inches tall, newly appointed Command Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Mast has high hopes for her tenure as the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center's top enlisted person.

One of her main goals, she said, is to forge a relationship between herself and the enlisted force through the support of any programs that affect them.

Also, as a part of her duties, she wants to make sure the enlisted personnel are aware and educated about all the programs that affect them. One of these programs

"This job is kind of like being a mom ... I have to get out there, I can't stop. I can't just visit them once and not go back for two years."

Command Chief
Master Sgt. Kathy Mast

is the awards program.

"The awards program effects all of the organizations," said Mast. "They are all competitive for it, and I want to make sure that it is a consistent, fair process."

Mast said she wants to look at a process where everyone can compete equitably, even those who are on temporary duty assignment.

Mast sees many challenges ahead. One of these,

she says, is letting the troops know she cares about them.

"This job is kind of like being a mom - you always think you know what your kids want and you stop listening," she said. "I have to get out there, I can't stop. I can't just visit them once and not go back for two years."

She said she has to listen to what the troops are saying and elevate those concerns that are really pertinent to Maj. Gen. Donald C. Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander so he can elevate them to the command.

"Robins is challenging in that it has a lot of major organizations, and all of these groups are doing so many important missions to support the Air Force," she said. "It will be challenging letting them know that, even though

See MAST ... Page A-4

Air Force is committed to normal AEF rotation cycles

By Tech. Sgt. Tim Dougherty
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON - The combination of America's war on terrorism and steady state commitments worldwide has put increased strain on the Air Force's aerospace expeditionary forces.

However, except for a few stressed career fields, officials at the Pentagon say normal rotations should be back soon.

"Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper is committed to the AEF construct - a three-month deployment with a 12-month period at home," said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey B. Kohler, director of operational plans, deputy chief of staff for air and space operations.

"Given the war on terrorism, we had to go

through a momentary blip in our rotation schedule," he said.

"However, it looks like we're going to be on time in bringing home about 90 percent of the people who are currently deployed.

"We will rotate the forces deployed for operations Enduring Freedom, Northern Watch and Southern Watch so that those who deployed first will be allowed to rotate home first to the maximum extent possible," Kohler said.

There are some exceptions, Kohler said. While Air Force leaders are working hard to come up with a solution, a very small number of career fields may not be able to rotate as



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Cuomo

An Air Force B-1B Lancer crew from the 28th Air Expeditionary Wing discuss the maintenance log before leaving on an Operation Enduring Freedom combat mission.

See SOME ... Page A-2

55th Combat Communications Squadron to stand up on March 2

5th Combat Communications Group

The 55th Combat Communications Squadron stands up at Robins Air Force Base on March 2.

The 55th, an Air Force Reserve unit associated with the 5th Combat Communications Group, will maintain and operate various key pieces of the Tri-Services Tactical Communications, or TRI-TAC, equipment. They will provide an important bridging mission to ensure the Air Force can interoperate with other services, said Col. David Schreck, 5th CCG commander.

"As the 5th CCG continues to transfer to the theater deployment communications package, our association with the 55th will be extremely important," he said. "Since they will initially maintain competency on the older equipment, they will provide the information and knowledge to be able to connect legacy systems and newer networks."

The association adds 130 traditional reservists and 13 air reserve technicians into the 5th CCG's complement of combat communicators, encompassing jobs from power and air conditioning specialists to computer network technicians.

"We are extremely excited about the opportunity to work with these dedicated communicators," said Schreck. "This is a win-win situation for both the active duty and the Reserves."

The association adds 130 traditional reservists and 13 air reserve technicians into the 5th CCG's complement of combat communicators...

Some stressed career fields might have to stay longer

Continued from Page A-1

scheduled, he said.

"We know that there are some stressed career fields, such as security forces, combat communications and firefighters, that might have to stay a little longer," Kohler said. "But that's not to say that absolutely everyone in those career fields will be staying longer."

The deployment picture will start to come into focus by the middle of February when the Air Force begins scheduling for the rotation in March, he said.

"It might work out that only one or two unit type codes out of an entire civil engineering squadron might be the stressed career field," Kohler said. "We just don't know yet because we haven't gotten down to that level of fidelity."

The tremendous performance of the AEF in Operation Enduring Freedom is what caused the stress on certain career fields in the first place, Kohler said.

"The Air Force is sort of a victim of its own success," Kohler said. "The reason we are stressed is simple — we do such a great job. We went out and set up these bases and started generating sorties as soon as we were asked. I think the results speak for themselves in the war on terrorism in Afghanistan. The (U.S.) Central Command commander in chief could not have done what he did without the superb work of all the airmen who went out and set it up."

To ease the problems the Air Force has in stressed career fields under current requirements, about 10 percent of the people will stay deployed a little longer — some up to 135 days; others, up to 179 days, Kohler said. To cover the overlap, the

second part of the solution will be to reach into the next AEF and bring replacement unit type codes forward about 45 days. Any reduction in current requirements may get the AEF cycle on track a little bit quicker, he said.

Another way to relieve some of the burden on deployed people is to find airmen who normally do not deploy and place them in an AEF library.

"This crisis has caused us to look a little bit deeper," Kohler said. "We'd like to be able to find people who we haven't originally had in an AEF library who can deploy but normally don't deploy. For example, Air Education and Training Command has instructors who have special skill sets, and the AETC leadership has said that there may be periods in the year when they can rotate. This is just one example and we're looking at all options."

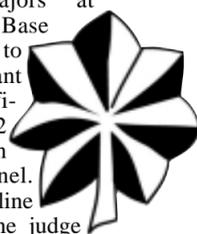
Other fixes for stressed career fields are going to take some time and may only be resolved with increased manpower. Although the Air Force has asked for an end-strength increase of about 22,000 with 7,000 requested for this year, because of training requirements, this is more of a long-term solution, Kohler said.

"This is an extraordinary time for the Air Force and our country," Jumper recently told commanders. "The nation is grateful for the sacrifices our airmen continue to make in meeting our commitments to fight the war on terrorism and defend the American homeland. The secretary and I are proud of the job you are doing and we are personally committed to maintaining the AEF rotation schedule to the greatest possible extent."

23 at Robins selected for lieutenant colonel

Office of Public Affairs

Twenty-three majors at Robins Air Force Base have been selected to become lieutenant colonels. Board officials selected 1,712 officers for promotion to lieutenant colonel. Those selected are line officers, and from the judge advocate general, chaplain, nurse corps and biomedical sciences corps career fields.



Those from Robins include **Majs. Stacy M. Boudreaux, Glenn C. Fyfe, Francis J. Geiser III, Frank K. Sharp and Kurt D. Wilson**, all with the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center.

Also **Majs. Timothy J. Arch and David H. Maharrey Jr.** of the 78th Air Base Wing.

Selected for promotion from the 93rd Air Control Wing were **Majs. Christopher L. Canada, Stan Cornelius, Brian J. Hanley, John D. Henson, Jeffrey A. Herd, Anthony C. Higuera, Peter H. Miyares, Joseph A. Richardson and George W. Zaniewski**.

Those selected for promotion from Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command were **Majs. Kenneth C. Brenneman, Thomas J. Helget and Julie M. Robel**.

Other Robins selectees include **Maj. Robert M. Koehler**, with the 19th Air Refueling Group; **Majs. Jerry R. Coats and Daniel J. Hausauer**, with the 5th Combat Communications Group; and **Maj. Edwin I. Burkhart** with the Air Force Element of the U.S. Joint Forces Command.

The promotion boards convened at Randolph AFB, Texas, in November, and board members considered 8,965 majors for promotion.

The officer promotion board included people retained in the Air Force under Stop-Loss. By policy, those held under Stop-Loss compete with all other officers who are eligible for promotion.

The overall effect of Stop Loss on this board was to increase the total number of people the board could select for promotion by two. The maximum number any board can select for promotion is decided by applying a predetermined percentage to the total number eligible in the primary promotion zone for a given board.

Editor's Note: Information from Air Force Print News is included in this article.

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Deadline for submissions is 4:30 p.m. Monday

ROBINS BRIEFS

Hail and farewell set

Maj. Gen. Donald J. Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, will conduct a hail and farewell today at 4:30 p.m. in the Georgia Room of the officers' club. Spouses are invited to attend the event and social that follows. For more information, contact Capt. James T. Rich at 926-3681 or e-mail james.rich@robins.af.mil.

Tanzi to take command of 10th Air Force

Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi, director of plans and programs at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, will replace Maj. Gen. John A. Bradley as commander of the Reserve numbered air force. Bradley will become deputy commander of Joint Task Force-Computer Network Operations, Arlington, Va., effective March 4.

Compensation rules have been revised

People who accept, or want to accept, com-

penensation for speaking, teaching and writing from sources other than the government should be advised of rule changes. The Office of Government Ethics has substantially revised the rules on accepting compensation for teaching, speaking and writing. For more information on this topic and other rules of government ethics, call the base legal office at 926-3961 and speak with Mike Shutter, at ext. 122; Becky Moody, at ext. 163; or Debby Stone.

Volunteers needed for Tattoo ceremony

For personnel interested in assisting with this year's Robins Air Force Base Tattoo Ceremony the week of March 20, there will be an information meeting held today at 2 p.m. in Bldg. 905, room 248. Volunteers are needed to fill positions as actors, spotlight operators, stagehands and other logistical positions. More details about the meeting or the ceremony can be found by visiting the Tattoo Information Web site at <http://www.robins.af.mil/tattoo/> or by contacting Capt. John Payne at 926-6368 or Capt. Beth

Grabowitz at 926-2152.

78th MPF schedule briefings today

Military personnel have questions, and the military personnel flight has answers, all packaged in briefings that will be presented today.

The Base of Preference Program, retraining opportunities, the latest information about the full enlistment program and the latest on the Stop Loss will be covered.

The 78th Military Personnel Flight invited commanders, first sergeants, supervisors and anyone else who wants to know more about these programs to attend one of two briefings where base program managers will provide the latest information and answer questions on these hot topics.

The briefings will be at Coats Hall, Bldg. 2051, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. and from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Question-and-answer sessions will follow both sessions. For more information, contact Master Sgt. David Lee, superintendent of personnel relocations and employment at 327-7348.

Tickets on sale now for Wednesday's prayer breakfast

By **Chris Zdrakas**
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Tickets are on sale for Robins Air Force Base's 2002 National Prayer Breakfast. The breakfast will be on Feb. 20 at 7:30 a.m. at the enlisted club.

Father Brett A. Brannen, director of vocations for the Catholic Diocese of Savannah since 1997 and pastor of

St. Peter Claver Church, Macon, since 1999 will speak on "Prayer, Spirituality and Patriotism."

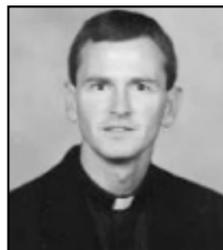
The cost for the breakfast is \$5 per person, and tickets are available at the base chapel office.

Brannen, son of a Catholic mother and Baptist father, a native of Shreveport, La., was graduated from Bulloch Academy in Statesboro in 1980 and in 1984 from the University

of Georgia, where he was a psychology major.

He received his master's of divinity in theology and a master's of arts in sacred scripture from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

Ordained a priest on June 1, 1991, he served St. Teresa's Church, Albany; St. Joseph's Church, Macon; and Holy Spirit Church, Macon.



Father Brett Brannen

From the heart

Base employee relates story, hopes to educate

By Geoff Janes
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Meet Michael Redman. A retired Air Force aerospace medical technician, who once thought he was invincible. But like so many others, he found out the hard way that he's not.

Redman, an emergency medical technician assigned to flight medicine here, has always been the athletic type. He was born in Trinidad 46 years ago. A loving husband and proud father of a 14-year-old daughter, he has always loved soccer.

But he loved nicotine as well, and smoked for 20 years. Now he'll tell you it was a horrible mistake.

Redman woke early one morning last year feeling a little out of it. He had played soccer for two hours the night before and wasn't thinking a whole lot about it. But the pain in his chest was intensifying with every breath.

"It felt like someone was standing on my chest," he said. "I was concerned, but I was in classic denial. I thought, 'no way, this can't be happening to me, it's not a heart attack.' All I could think was, 'please make this pain go away so I can have a cigarette.'"

But the pain didn't go away, and when his wife saw him, the pain was worse and he was sweating profusely. She was worried and told him he didn't look well.

"In her infinite wisdom, she gave me an aspirin," Redman said. "But I was still in denial. I was in good shape, I had less than 5-percent body fat, my cholesterol was less than 200 ... I couldn't be having a heart attack. Then, when my daughter came in and told me I didn't look good I really started to worry. After about 15 minutes the aspirin wasn't working and we decided to go to the hospital."

And for the next two hours, in the cold and sterile environment that Redman built his career in, he suffered a heart attack that would change his life forever.

As for changing his life, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Laura Torres-Reyes, commander of the 78th Aerospace Medicine

The symptoms of a heart attack

If someone you're with experiences a heart attack, call 911 or your local access number for emergency medical service immediately.

The usual warning signs are:

- Pain in the chest that lasts at least two minutes. Some people describe it as an uncomfortable pressure, fullness or squeezing.
- Generalized pain radiating throughout the shoulders, neck, jaw, arms or back.
- Dizziness, fainting, sweating, nausea and shortness of breath.

Squadron, said Redman was lucky he got the chance to do so.

"Heart disease is the leading cause of death for all Americans over the age of 35," she said. "Cardiovascular disease, that includes heart disease and stroke, is the No. 1 killer in every city and county in the state."

But the significant risk factors are all preventable, according to Torres-Reyes.

High cholesterol, high blood pressure and smoking are factors, as well as diabetes and being overweight.

"We know that people who have healthy behaviors of eating a low-fat diet, giving up cigarettes and exercising daily can lower their risk of heart disease," she said.

Redman stressed that before that long, three-day visit to the hospital, he had a false sense of security because of his fitness level. He said he was sure it couldn't happen to him.

He was wrong.

"I should have known better," he said. "I should have been paving the way. The cardiologist told me if I wasn't a smoker I wouldn't have had a heart attack. If there's one thing I can tell people it's to put them down."

"Since that day I haven't touched a cigarette," he added. "I quit cold turkey. But it's always there ... I have to live with the fact that I had a heart attack. Life offers no guarantees, so you need to heed the warnings."

Nine ways to protect your heart

- Eat less fat
- Maintain a healthful weight
- Don't smoke
- Exercise regularly
- Reduce your sodium intake
- Drink alcohol only in moderation
- Control high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes
- Manage your stress
- Reduce and defuse your anger



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Michael Redman, emergency medical technician checks a patient's blood pressure at the medicine flight. Redman has had a change of heart since his own gave out on him and he survived.

For more information on how you can get on the road to a healthier lifestyle, contact the Health and Wellness Center at 327-8480.

Many people know that heart disease is the No. 1 killer of Americans, but with February being African-American Heritage Month; there are some statistics of particular interest to African-Americans.

"In Georgia, for cardiovascular disease (heart disease and stroke), death rates for blacks are 30-percent higher than for whites," Torres-Reyes said.

"The difference occurs in both males and females. Also, there is more premature death from cardiovascular disease especially for black males."

Research shows that 44 percent of black males who died from cardiovascular disease last year were younger than 65 years of age, she added.

"We're not sure (what causes the difference)," Torres-Reyes said, "but it may be because blacks have

a higher percentage of high blood pressure, or it could be related to economic issues of poor diet and decreased access to health care."

Whatever the reasons may be, Redman said he thinks the answers to reducing risks hinge on education.

"You have to be educated," he said.

"Our society isn't educated, and I say that very guardedly because we hear it all around us."

"But it's not about waiting for someone to educate you," he said. "You have to get the education if you value your life and your family."

Redman admits that his change was reactive rather than proactive, but said others should learn from his experience and make changes while they still have a choice.

"You have to want to change – if

you don't want to change, you can't," Redman said. "The health and wellness center offers a wealth of information, if people will take advantage of it. Even little changes to lifestyle can have a positive effect, but it's not going to happen overnight."

Even so, Torres-Reyes said the trade-off is well worth it.

"The benefits are dramatic, and truly the secret to adding almost a decade to your lifespan," she said. "Studies have suggested that those at low risk for heart disease live as much as 9.5 years longer than those at higher risk."

"A 1999 study at the Harvard School of Public Health suggested that women can reduce their risk of heart disease by 82 percent by following risk-reducing behavior over a lifetime."

She also said the best advice she could give to someone who is at high risk is to look at the results.

"Most of the risk factors are preventable, which means that people can take control of their lives to really make a difference," she said. "They should work with their health provider to keep their cholesterol levels under 200, get their blood pressure below 120/80 and quit smoking."

Quitting smoking is so important because it kills two birds with one stone by also helping with high blood pressure and the risk of stroke – the second leading cause of death in America.

"The best legacy we can leave our children," Torres-Reyes added, "is to encourage healthy lifestyles of a proper diet, moderate exercise and not smoking. Moderate exercise has huge bangs for the buck because it helps lower cholesterol, high blood pressure and decreases your risk for diabetes."

As for Redman, he has resumed a normal life. He works, watches his diet, exercises and spends time with his family – and he's smoke free.

But still, he worries about his health.

"It's always right there, you know," he said. "My chances of dying from another heart attack are a lot more than those of someone who hasn't had one. It's right there, in the back of my mind and I have to live with it everyday."

Robins kennelmaster heads up canine team at Super Bowl

By Chris Zdrakas
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Millions of people sat breathless looking straight ahead, eyes glued to their TV screens as the underdog New England Patriots made what would be the deciding play in the Feb. 3 Super bowl. But Master Sgt. Omer Trudeau looked up. He was on the field, watching the ball sail through the goal post.



Trudeau

"It was electric," said Trudeau, who at the time was 78th Security Forces Squadron kennel master. He was at the Super bowl, at the request of Air Force Materiel Command, to head up and coordinate 29 multi-service military working dog teams at the event. Trudeau had experience working the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. This was his first Super bowl game. Effective Monday, Trudeau became the squadron's noncommissioned officer-in-charge of operations support.

In New Orleans, as they are at many high-profile

events, the dog teams were a key component in the complex security plan that kept tens of thousands of people, including two former presidents and one former vice president, safe.

For 11 days, and running on little sleep, Trudeau applied his training and experience to ensure that the massive superdome and other

areas were clear of explosives. He established schedules and search patterns for perimeter areas, the superdome and arena, establishing round-the-clock coverage for dogs and handlers.

The working dog teams also searched team buses, limousines and motorcades at a VIP gate, and made a side trip to the D-day Museum

former President Gerald Ford visited.

The Secret Service was in charge of overall security for the game that brought local, state and federal agencies together. The dog teams were from all four branches of the military; one was from the CIA. The game's designation as a "National Special Security Event" allowed the

federal government to take control of security.

Trudeau said he's not even a football fan — "my life is too hectic to follow a sport" — but since he is a native of Rhode Island, he was rooting for the Patriots. The team practices at Bryant College, four miles from Trudeau's Rhode Island home.

"I know it wasn't profes-

sional, but I clapped after the winning play," Trudeau said.

He told the dog handlers when he briefed them on the bus that he was "glad they came down to see the Patriots win," a comment that earned him more than his share of teasing before the game. After the game, he said, he

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Exercise caution

Drivers asked to watch for flashing light

By Lanorris Askew
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The 19th Air Refueling Group will participate in a higher headquarters inspection during the week of Feb. 22-27. According to officials, this inspection will test one of the group's wartime capabilities, as well as aircrew quick response, and command and control procedures.

Maj. Greg Scheer, 19th ARG assistant operations officer, said the inspection will be virtually transparent to most of the base population and the airplanes are not scheduled to fly as a part of this test.

"The inspection scenarios will have aircrews driving alert vehicles which are six-passenger blue pickup

trucks equipped with sirens and amber light bars attached to the roof in response to an alert notification," he said.

Scheer said to ensure safety during these quick-response, alert notifications, and adherence to the rules is very important.

"If you see one of these vehicles coming toward you with siren blaring and overhead lights flashing, either from in front or behind, yield to it by slowing down and, if able, moving to the side of the road," he said.

Scheer said this means the alert crew is responding to an alert advisory and needs to proceed to its aircraft as quickly as possible.

"Additionally, amber-colored alert

response lights will be positioned at key locations throughout the northern half of Robins Air Force Base," said Scheer.

These locations will include the intersection of Seventh Street and Warner Robins Street (near the old base gym), slightly down the hill from the intersection of Seventh Street and Hannah Road, the intersection of Golf Course Drive (now closed to through traffic) and Hannah Road, and the intersection of Creek Court and Beale Drive.

"If you see one of these fixed-position amber lights flashing, you must yield to responding alert vehicles," said Scheer. For more information regarding the exercise, please call Scheer at 327-3099.

Tackling safety mishaps is focus of safety day

Continued from Page A-1

lems. Any problems they could not solve were then sent up the chain of command.

Although 116th Bomb Wing safety officials said they will not participate in the ALC safety down day marked for today, Senior Master Sgt. Randall Money, safety manager, said the unit has scheduled a down day for March 17. This date will coincide with the unit's drill weekend.

"By having the down day on a drill weekend we will be able to include both active duty and reservists," he said.

Money said the day will consist of grass roots-level activities where each supervisor will sit

down with their group and discuss safety and other concerns.

The 19th Air Refueling Group conducted its safety day on Feb. 14. The schedule of events ran the entire safety gamut including discussions of driving under the influence trends, risk management, flying safety, explosive safety, and on- and off-duty mishap trends. The day ended with a lessons-learned briefing.

According to the WR-ALC Safety Office, though mishap rates continue to improve, supervisors and personnel at every level must continue to be vigilant and involved in order to continue this positive trend.

Editor's Note: Information from Air Force Print News was used in this article.

Mast learned from her husband's stint as chief

Continued from Page A-1

I am the ALC command chief, I care about all of them no matter which command they belong to."

The 26-year veteran has served her country at 14 different duty locations in the United States and overseas, Mast was selected by Wetekam last week and began her duties on Monday. She credits her broad background in the military with being chosen for this assignment and her experience as the wife of a command chief for being able to take it on.

Mast said her husband served as a command chief for seven years and she was able to watch him in that role. During that time she learned what to do and what not to do.

"I think I have come in with a little bit of experience just from being the spouse of a command chief," she said. "I am going to enjoy every minute of this; and I plan to make the best of it."

Mast said she sees this as probably her last job in the Air Force, having only four years left to serve.

Making sure that all of those under her command are taken care of, — including family members of those deployed — is one of Mast's priorities.

"I know that we have good programs, and I want to make sure they reach out and touch

those who need them," she said. "This will be a challenge, and one that I look forward to."

"My primary job is getting out there and finding out what it is airmen, noncommissioned officers and senior NCOs want and need,

and seeing if I can make that happen within funding constraints and the resources available," said Mast. "So the first thing I have to do is get out to the units and talk to the people."

Mast said she is very happy about her new position and it is one she plans to enjoy.

"This is something I have wanted to do for a long time, and it's awesome," she said.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Command Chief Master Sgt.
Kathy Mast

Learn how to break a mishap chain

Continued from A-1

injured during the mishap, or the equipment damaged during the mishap is vital to the organization's overall operation. In either case, production will suffer. However, prior to any mishap occurring there are several opportunities to break the mishap chain, said Pierce.

Factors for breaking the mishap chain

- Management plays a key role in breaking the mishap chain. Safety must always be one of the primary concerns for management in any organization. When management in an organization is focused on safety, it will be evident in the workers of the organization. If management provides effective leadership and guidance in relation to safety and mishap prevention, the workers of the organization will follow. Management plays a primary role in ensuring that the mishap chain is broken.

- The workers of the organization play a key role in

breaking the mishap chain. Just as management and supervision have a responsibility to provide a safe workplace, the workers of the organization have a responsibility to themselves, their co-workers and the organization to ensure compliance with safety directives.

If a co-worker is not playing by the rules, you have a responsibility to correct them. They may not only be endangering themselves, but innocent bystanders as well. When co-workers correct each other, in the area of safety, everyone benefits. Mishap investigations reveal that, many times, the root cause that is identified is "Worker failed to ..." You can fill in the blank. What are you, as a worker, going to do to prevent the next mishap from occurring?

- Operational Risk Management plays a key part in breaking the mishap chain. Whether you are a manager, supervisor or worker, there is a very effective tool for mishap prevention. Operational Risk Manage-

ment, or ORM, is a six-step process for identifying hazards and determining how to eliminate or reduce those hazards.

There are many ORM success stories here at WR-ALC. ORM, when applied properly, will identify hazards and work to reduce the associated risk. The trick is to not begin the process with preconceived notions as to what the outcome should be. Let the ORM process do its job.

In any ORM assessment, ensure that the team has the proper members. Members that have knowledge of and can provide insight into the problem must be involved. It is also a good idea to have team members that do not have any knowledge of the problem. Sometimes these team members are the ones that will think "out of the box" and come up with a totally new idea to solve an old problem.

The bottom line is, before a mishap occurs there have been numerous opportunities to prevent it. The mishap chain reaction begins long before the mishap actually occurs, said Pierce.

Finch: Strength depends upon quality of life

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Improving the quality of life of service members is critical to mission success of America's armed forces.

That message, delivered on Feb. 6 by Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch to a House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction was the central theme of a day of testimony by the senior enlisted people from each of the armed forces.

Finch joined enlisted people from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps to testify before a group that included Democratic Congressmen Dave Hobson of Ohio and John Olver of Massachusetts.

"Continued strength of America's Air Force will depend upon the ability to recruit and retain quality people," Finch testified.

Though recruiting goals were surpassed both last fiscal year and in the first quarter of fiscal 2002, Finch said he is concerned about keeping experienced people in the service.

"We're still struggling with retention in some areas," he said.

"Prior to implementing Stop-Loss, our first-term retention rates had stabilized, but we continued to fall short on our second-term and career airmen retention goals," he said. "These people represent our experience base — the skilled technicians, trainers and deployers who are vital to meeting mission requirements. While Stop-Loss has temporarily helped us meet current mission requirements, retention is still a major concern and it's essential we continue to improve the standard of living for our airmen and their families."

About 234,000 active-duty airmen, roughly 84 percent of the enlisted force, will make a re-enlistment decision in the next five years, Finch said.

"The potential exists that many of these people will migrate to the civilian sector for a more stable environment," he said.

Finch testified about several quality-of-life issues vital to retention, including base infrastructure maintenance, housing

and childcare.

"The Air Force is committed to ensuring our members and families have a high-quality living and working environment," he said. "The quality of our infrastructure sends a direct signal to our men and women regarding the value we place on their service."

"Unfortunately, in the past we've had to defer investment in our infrastructure to pay for near-term readiness priorities," he said. "The result has been a deterioration of facilities."

"I believe there's a direct correlation between safe, affordable housing and being able to recruit, motivate and retain a top-quality professional force," he said.

"We continue to strive to meet our family housing master plan," he said. "With the increased funding requested for fiscal 2003, the Air Force is on track to meet its 2010 goal (to revitalize inadequate housing units)."

The Air Force is pursuing a balance of traditional military construction funds and privatization initiatives to meet housing requirements, Finch said. The service anticipates awarding privatization projects at eight locations in the next year.

"I've visited privatization projects, and the feedback I've received has been positive," he said.

Service members like the modern kitchens, garages, community centers and swimming pools, Finch said.

Finch then turned his attention to the housing needs of single junior airmen.

"The Air Force dormitory master plan outlines how we will meet the goal of providing single airmen (E-1 through E-4) a private room on base and replace the worst dorms by 2009," he said.

"Dormitories are more than just a place to house single airmen," Finch said to the subcommittee members. "Dormitory life helps transition our most junior members from a very structured environment of basic training and technical school to life in the operational Air Force."

Regarding transitory airmen and their families, Finch addressed the quality of facilities supporting people on temporary duty and permanent-change-of-station status.

"Not only will better quarters improve our members' qual-



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch testified Feb. 6 before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, stressing how the Air Force's strength depends upon quality-of-life issues.

ity of life, but they provide significant savings and improve force protection," he said.

The service's new visiting quarters will provide a "one-size-fits-all" room for all grades of transient personnel. Temporary lodging facilities have significantly increased the living space for families, Finch said.

"Affordable childcare is also a significant concern among Air Force families," he said. "We meet less than 65 percent of our childcare needs. This has placed a difficult strain on our single parents and dual-career families."

"While we are increasing the number of childcare spaces by affiliating off-base family childcare homes and opening new child development centers, we still require 15,000 more spaces to meet the (Department of Defense) goal," he said.

"Air Force members and their families continue to work hard and dedicate themselves to the service of America," Finch said. "Therefore, we believe those serving... deserve a standard of living at least equal to the Americans they support and defend."

AFAS education grant deadline approaching in March

By Staff Sgt. Amy Parr
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Going to college is something that not everyone can afford on their own. Realizing this, Air Force Aid Society officials established an education grant program to help Air Force families fulfill their education goals.

But to qualify, interested students must first apply. And, with the March 15 deadline fast approaching for eligible children and stateside spouses, time is running out, officials said.

The Gen. Henry H. Arnold

Education Grant Program is open to children of active duty, Title 10 Active Guard Reserves, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty and retirees from both active duty and the reserves. It is also open to children of deceased members.

Spouses of active duty and Title 10 AGR, and surviving spouses of Air Force people who died while on active duty or in a retired status, are also eligible candidates. To qualify, spouses must reside and attend college in the continental United States. Spouses residing overseas, including Alaska and Hawaii, have access to a separate AFAS grant

program, the Gen. George S. Brown Spouse Tuition Assistance Program, and should contact their local AFAS or education center for information.

Applicants for the \$1,500 Arnold grants must attend a post-secondary institution approved by the U.S. Department of Education for participation in financial aid programs and maintain a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

"The application process consists of two phases," said Dory Larkin, AFAS education assistance department manager. "First, the student and sponsoring member must com-

plete and submit a preliminary application to AFAS headquarters for screening and certification of basic eligibility."

This must be received by AFAS by March 15.

"The second phase involves completing and submitting a family financial data form and GPA verification to the society's contracted, independent grant administrator, (ACT Recognition Program Services, Iowa City, Iowa)," she said. "The financial information is used to establish an applicant's need, which is heavily based on the cost of attendance cost at their cho-

sen school."

Once this information is received, applicants are ranked by ACT according to their need level. Larkin said children of active duty only compete against other children of active duty, and spouses of active duty only against other active duty spouses and so on.

Financial and GPA information must be received by ACT by April 15. With the high selection rates, it is well worth someone's time to apply, Larkin said. Nearly 9,000 applications are accepted each year, with a selection rate that has been better than 50 percent.

Tempo up for dog units

Continued from A-3

was happy to pick up congratulations from the naysayers.

Trudeau said the Super Bowl was an excellent experience, particularly considering the challenge of coordination on "a grand scale with many different agencies and components of the Department of Defense."

"We were prepared for anything, with all kinds of contingency plans," Trudeau said. "We didn't have to use them, thank God. It was the most eventful duty I've ever had. Now I am going to wait for them to announce we will support the Daytona 500."

The operations tempo for military working dog units has stepped up since the Sept. 11 terror attacks, he said. While Trudeau was in New Orleans, Robins dispatched a dog team to support a visit to West Virginia of Vice President Dick Cheney. Another went to New York City to support the world economic summit, and at the end of this month, two teams will leave for duty in Southwest Asia.

Trudeau has been assigned to Robins for six years, and for all of his 20-year Air Force career has been working with dog units.

Assistance fund campaign starts Feb. 25

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFP) — "Commitment to Caring" is the theme of the 29th annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign running Feb. 25 through March 29.

The AFAF campaign raises money for four charities benefiting active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired Air Force people and their families, including surviving spouses and their families.

In 2001, Air Force people contributed more than \$4.5 million to the AFAF. The Secretary of the Air Force and Air Force Chief of Staff will soon announce a goal for the 2002 campaign.

The organizations are:

- The Air Force Aid Society, which is the official charitable organization of the Air Force. It provides airmen and their families with worldwide emergency financial assistance, education assistance and an array of base level community-enhancement programs.

- The Air Force Enlisted Foundation in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., near Eglin Air Force Base, providing rent subsidy and other support to indigent widows and widowers of retired enlisted people 55 and older.

- The Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund in San Antonio, a life-

care community for retired officers, spouses, widows or widowers and family members; includes indigent widows fund for widows and widowers of Air Force officers.

- The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation. Since not all indigent widows or widowers want, or are able to move to one of the retirement homes, the LeMay foundation provides rent and financial assistance to indigent officer and enlisted widows or widowers in their own homes and communities.

Donations to the AFAF can be made through cash, check or payroll deduction.

AEF rotation policy remains unchanged

WASHINGTON - Air Force policy for aerospace expeditionary force rotations remains unchanged. Most airmen will be vulnerable for a three-month rotation followed by a 12-month period before the next rotation. However, the combination of multiple crisis operations and our ongoing steady state commitments has placed extraordinary stress on the Expeditionary Air Force and our resources.

everything we know about current and future requirements to support our nation's fight against terrorism, I have determined the best option is to rotate the majority of AEF 9 and 10 units as scheduled. It appears that our current operations will continue for a long period of time; therefore, we need to rotate our expeditionary forces when and where feasible. We will rotate forces deployed for operations Enduring Freedom, Northern

Watch and Southern Watch so those deployed the longest will be allowed to rotate home first to the maximum extent possible. In some stressed functional areas, requirements exceed the available AEF 1 and 2 forces. We are committed to finding solutions, which will relieve the stress on these career fields. We have the full support of OSD in this effort. However, at this time, we cannot rotate all of our people in these

stressed career fields and fill all current requirements. We are forced to extend the rotation to 135 days, or in some cases, to 179 days, for this small number of individuals. The number of people affected appears to be less than 10 percent of our deployed forces. This is an extraordinary time for the Air Force and our country. The nation is grateful for the sacrifices our airmen continue to make in meeting our commitments to

It appears that our current operations will continue for a long period of time...

Gen. John P. Jumper
Air Force chief of staff



fight the war on terrorism and defend the American homeland. The secretary and I are proud of the job you are

doing and we are personally committed to maintaining the AEF rotation schedule to the greatest extent possible.

I did not know that

By Brig. Gen. Chip Utterback
Former 366th Air Expeditionary Wing commander

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM - I saw an e-mail that one of our warriors sent to his family and friends recently. I didn't spy on the guy; I simply read the private e-mail to his family in a nationally syndicated newspaper column.

From that e-mail and some Web sites several of our folks have established to keep family members updated — to find them, just search for the base's name — I learned a lot that the bad guys can learn, too.

In 20 minutes I learned how many people are here, exactly where our base is located, what time we eat and how many people are in what tent at a given time. I learned what kind of airplanes we have, much about our mission, and a lot about our security — I can go on and on.

We have rules on communications for a reason. Your innocent letter, e-mail or Web site can end up on the front page. You might make us an easy target and our families won't appreciate it. Our friends and family don't understand operational security and communications security the way we do — or should.

We are at war, we have been attacked — people want to hurt us. Let's not give the bad guys a how-to manual. (Commentary courtesy Air Combat Command News Service.)

ONLINE NEWS Letters to the editor

The U.S. Air Force news staff publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week. Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force news staff by completing the online form. Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and e-mail address will be considered. Online forms are available on the Web at www.afmil/letters/.

It's Core Values, not uniform

Throughout the Air Force history we have relied on our core values and professionalism. Whatever Air Force uniform we wear, it's important to represent our Air Force with great dignity and pride. Our core values have always distinguished us from other services; not the uniform.

Senior Airman Chi Yi
Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

BDUs are fine, but class 'A' needs some work

The current BDUs are fine, leave them alone. However, I believe we should redesign our class "A" service dress uniform. I was thinking something along the lines of the Marine Corp's black high-collar uniform, but in Air Force blue and silver, perhaps with white pants.

Staff Sgt. Greg Volkman
USAF Academy, Colo.

Woodland, desert battle dress uniforms suit him just fine

Blue or gray camouflage? Blue berets? What is going on here? There are many more important issues at hand right now than the color of the uniform.

Why not purple and pink BDUs? Woodland and

Desert camouflage BDU patterns exist for a reason. During our next war, if you can guarantee the enemy will be color blind, I have no problem wearing a uniform that looks like it suffered an explosion in a paint factory. Until then, leave the uniform alone! Unless, of course, you would also like to change the name of our branch of service to "U.S. Costume Party."

Tech. Sgt. Martin R. Van Zandt
Altus Air Force Base, Okla.

We already have a blue beret

You've got to be kidding me! A blue beret with blue cammies? First of all, we already have a specialty that wears a blue beret — Security Forces.

Secondly, I am sick of hearing everyone complain about the uniform.

If you want to wear some off-the-wall uniform then get out of the Air Force and get a job at Hot Dog on a Stick.

Staff Sgt. Thomas Garrity
Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

Blue berets, blue camouflage

How about blue berets with the blue camo battle dress utilities for everybody? That would definitely distinguish us as Air Force.

2nd Lt. Kenric Phillips
Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

No trees on the flight line

To distinguish ourselves from the other branches of the military, why not consider a blue utility uniform similar to what is worn by the mechanics for the Thunderbirds? I've only been in the Air Force for six years, but I have

never seen a tree on the flightline. Until a change is made we can distinguish ourselves through our attitude rather than appearance.

Staff Sgt. John Hickey
Jacksonville, N.C.

Likes the grey camouflage idea

I kind of like the idea of a grey camouflage. The grey would go great with the Air Force. Just the thought of all the people I have seen in grey have looked very sharp. We should still keep the dress blue, but have a choice between grey camo and green camo.

Col. Donald Schafer
Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

How about gray or blue camouflage?

In response to the suggestion for a distinctive work uniform, how about the gray or blue camo? It's out there, so it shouldn't have to be developed much. It would look military, but be distinctively Air Force.

Master Sgt. James LaChute
Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

Be proud, look sharp

In my opinion the confidence and pride each of us project while wearing our uniform is far more important than the aesthetic look of it. When you wear one of the uniforms, wear it with pride. Don't settle for looking sloppy — nothing less than impeccable wear should do. People will know you not by your uniform but your positive attitude. And if that's not enough, don't be afraid to let them know you are a member of the world's greatest Air Force.

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Mosier
Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

Commanders' Action Line



Col. Jay Seward
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 email to one of the following addresses: If sending from a military email system select, WRALC/CCX Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial email account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil. Please include you 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.

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



Snack machine request

Q: Through necessity many of us have to work in relatively isolated areas. In our situation, there are approximately 150 employees housed at PAVE PAWS. We will be here for another three years or more, as we await completion of the renovation of our new headquarters.

In such situations, people learn to adjust to whatever they must without complaint. The complaints come only when there are problems that should be easily solved, but for some reason aren't. Is there a reason that Army and Air Force Exchange Service is holding up the process of the return of the only snack and food machine within a radius of several miles?

If there is, please tell us and we will gladly do what we do so well, adjust.

A: Col. Seward responds: Thanks for bringing this to our attention. The PAVE PAWS building (Bldg. 1400) had a small vending machine that did not adequately meet the needs of the people working in this location. Five Star Vending was advised to remove this machine and replace it with a much larger machine that would provide more products with better selection and variety.

Apparently, they did in fact remove the old machine, but failed to replace it with the larger one as directed. This has been corrected. The new machine is now in place. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patronage of our vending machines. Direct any question to Margie Northcutt, services business manager, AAFES, at 926-6092.

More gym hours sought

Q: I was wondering if it was possible to get Robins Fitness Center to be open 24 hours, or to set up a schedule for persons who work odd hours? I know that security forces personnel used to get a key to the old gym, and we would use the facilities after hours. I work from 5 a.m. to about 6 p.m. three days on and three days off and would like to utilize the gym before 5 a.m.

A: Col. Seward responds: Thank you for your inquiry and for the chance to explain how the fitness center's hours of operation were established. AFI 34-266, Air Force Fitness and Sports Program, paragraph 1.2, instructs fitness centers to be open a minimum of 112 hours a week.

Currently our fitness center leads AFMC by offering 116 hours (highest in AFMC) to

our patrons, and specific hours of operations were established to meet the demands of the majority of the base population and these hours are periodically reviewed to ensure appropriate adjustments are made. As an example, last year we determined there was a need to adjust the weekday opening from 5:30 a.m. to 5 a.m.

This recent adjustment to the hours of operation, while stretching our limited staffing in the fitness center, seemed to satisfy the vast majority of those desiring early morning use of the facility. However, we recognize there are varying duty hours at Robins and we invite you to call Roger Braner at 926-2129 and allow him to work with you in establishing an exercise schedule to coincide with your work schedule.



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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. News copy, photographs and art work should be sent to the Office of Public Affairs, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. 31098-1662, phone (478) 926-2137, no later than 4 p.m. four days before the publication date for that week. All news copy must be submitted on a diskette in a Microsoft Word format. The Rev-Up is published on Fridays, except when a holiday occurs during the middle or latter portions of the week. For advertising information, write: P.O. Box 6129, Warner Robins, Ga. 31095-6129, or phone the advertising department at (478) 923-6432.

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MC-130P crashes in Afghanistan

Air Force Print News

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — A U.S. Air Force MC-130P Combat Shadow, deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, crashed Tuesday in a remote region in Afghanistan.

Eight crewmembers were onboard at the time of the crash. All survived and injuries are not life-threatening. They were taken to a medical facility in the Afghanistan area.

The cause of the crash is not



U.S. Air Force Print News photo

A U.S. Air Force MC-130P Combat Shadow, like this one, crashed in Afghanistan Tuesday.

known at this time, although officials believe it does not appear to be the result of hostile fire.

The names of the crewmembers are being withheld pending the notification of next of kin.

Environmental releases: Notification procedures for base personnel

Editor's note: Environmental managers here at Robins wish to remind us that protecting the earth from spills is everyone's job. If you see a spill, no matter how small it may seem, please report it so proper assessment can be done. Mother Nature is counting on us!

Robins AFB procedures require that all personnel living or working on base comply with the following procedures in order to maintain compliance with environmental regulations.

Wastewater Spill

1. If an individual discov-

ers a wastewater (sew-age) spill he/she should immediately notify his/her supervisor and then call CE service desk at 926-5657. Examples include overflowing manhole cover, broken pipes, or other visible leaks.

Hazardous/Unknown Chemical or Petroleum Spill

2. In the event of a release/spill of any hazardous/unknown chemical or petroleum the individual that discovers the spill should immediately notify his/her supervisor. Notification should be made to 911 if the

substance is greater than two feet in diameter, is entering a storm drain, ditch/culvert, or if there is a threat to life, property or the environment.

3. The Environmental Management Directorate (WR-ALC/EM) will determine if the spill is reportable and will perform reporting to off-base agencies as applicable. The EM POC is Russ Adams and he can be reached at 926-1197 ext. 150.

4. For public health questions concerning a spill or release, call 78 AMDS/SGPM 327-7613.

Chief's group to honor new inductees

The Robins Air Force Base Chief's Group will honor its newly promoted chief master sergeants at an induction ceremony to be conducted on March 2 at 6 p.m. in the Museum of Aviation, Century of Flight Hangar. Cost of the event is \$27. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Mast at 926-0792 today. All chief master sergeants, active duty, guard, reserve and retired are encouraged to attend.

Deadline for

submissions to the

Rev-Up is 4:30 p.m.

Monday

Office is located in Bldg.

215, Suite 106

Robins students learn table etiquette

Taking an interest in the social education of the children at Robins Elementary School, the fifth-grade students were able to enjoy a lunch and learn table manners at the Robins Enlisted Club Tuesday.

"We taught them that good manners are kindness made public," said Jane Boyd-Hamilton, school counselor.

Each table had a host or hostess. The children knew not to begin eating until their host or hostess began. When any of the children needed a reminder of what they should be doing, such as which utensil to use, they could follow the host or hostess.

The lessons and the luncheon were organized and arranged by Joy King, Dora Waite, Mike Osborne, Nancy Hardin and Jane Boyd-Hamilton.



Rebecca Paskett demonstrates placing her napkin across her lap. When asked what she learned during the lunch she said, "That the knife and spoons go over there and the forks over there." At the same time she pointed out the correct placement of the utensils.



Jane Boyd-Hamilton helps a student cut her meat according to proper table etiquette. Hamilton, along with other teachers and staff from Robins Elementary School, arranged a luncheon and lessons for the fifth-graders to learn some social graces.



Dylan House shows how to butter bread. Asked if he could tell what his classmates had learned in class by their performance at the luncheon, he said, "We're all using our utensils correctly."



Jerome Gamboa demonstrates the polite way to pass the bread basket. Asked what he thought was the hardest thing to learn, he said, "Where all the silverware goes."

U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Tooth decay starts with food

Capt. Justine Tompkins
78th Dental Squadron

Many different types of foods can cause tooth decay, not just candy.

Foods high in carbohydrates, such as fruits, peanut butter, crackers or potato chips are culprits. Even fruit juices and high-sugar bedtime medicines have been known to promote tooth decay.

Monitoring a child's eating habits can help them with cavity prevention.

Tooth decay occurs when solid or liquid food particles remain in the mouth and cling to the tooth surfaces or gums for long periods of time. Bacteria in the mouth then feed on the food that contains sugars and carbohydrates and the bacteria use these sugars to produce acid that can attack the enamel of the tooth. These acids soften the tooth and erode the enamel, which leads to cavity formation.

Decay in infants' teeth is really quite prevalent. As soon as a baby's first tooth erupts into the mouth, it is susceptible to tooth decay. This kind of decay, resulting from long-term exposure to sugary liquids, usually occurs in the upper front teeth, but can also affect other teeth. The decay can even enter the underlying bone and soft tissues and hamper development of permanent teeth.

Studies show there is a strong correlation between the use of sweetened drinks during infancy and consumption of sugar-containing snacks later in life. Dental habits start forming at about 4 months of age – about the time when a baby is switched from breast milk or formula to other foods – so it is extremely important a baby develop good eating habits. If an infant gets used to sugar, it is all the more easier to get hooked on high-sugar snacks as an adult.

Decay is also increasingly prevalent in

school-age children who consume large amounts of soda. Soda vending machines lining the halls in middle schools and high schools are not uncommon these days. Students tend to grab a drink for thirst or merely for a caffeine kick between classes. This soda, unbeknownst to the student, then begins to cause enamel erosion while the teen sits through history class. Soft drinks contain sticky sugars that the bacteria in the mouth use for energy and then break down into those harmful acids that adhere to and attack the tooth surface.

Not only are children who consume too much soda susceptible to increased cavities, they also may be more prone to nutritional deficiencies, diabetes, and osteoporosis. Water should be the only beverage sipped continually throughout the day.

Bear in mind, frequency and time are just as important as what is consumed. Encourage children to have a healthy snack and, if they indulge in sweets, take into account the frequency in which the foods are eaten and the time they remain as particles in the mouth. Remember, it's not necessarily what people eat and drink, but to what degree.

After drinking soda or eating foods high in sugar or carbohydrate, kids should rinse their mouths with water to wash away food particles and excess sugar bacteria can use to cause tooth destruction. Kids should drink soda through a straw to minimize the sugar contact with their teeth. Encourage kids to drink soda from a can so that it is finished in one sitting, rather than a bottle with a replaceable cap. This will deter sipping throughout the day.

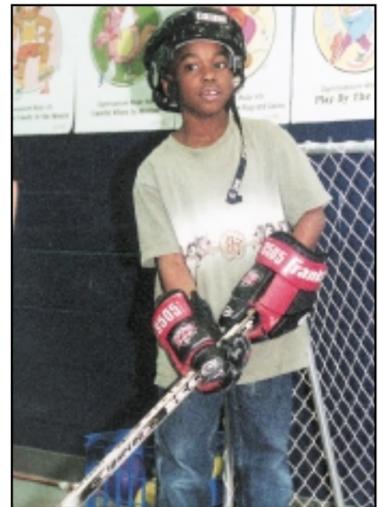
Encourage kids to brush and floss after consuming sugary substances, and after meals. Also, make regular dental check-ups and fluoride treatments part of a child's healthcare routine.

Whoopee, Robins perfect together

U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp



Paul GIBLIN, Macon Whoopee player, taps on Harley Simpson's leg with a hockey stick to demonstrate how the shin pads protect. GIBLIN visited Robins Elementary on Feb. 6 to talk with students about hockey.



Jared Johnson takes his turn at trying on hockey equipment during a visit from one of the Macon Whoopee.



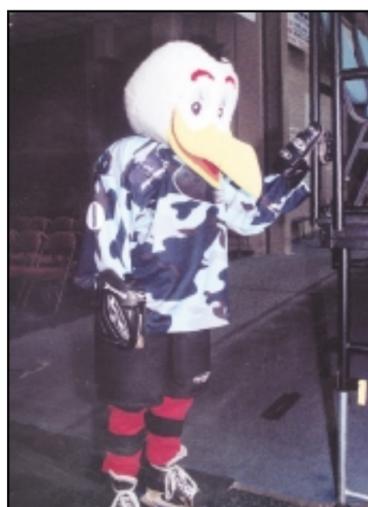
ABOVE: Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, gets some help as he prepares to slingshot himself during a human bowling game at Military Appreciation Night with the Macon Whoopee on Feb. 9.

LEFT: Brig. Gen. Larry Stevenson, WR-ALC vice commander, gives a good-game hand shake to Chris Young, general manager of Boeing and team captain for the Boeing group that went up against a group of senior staff members from Robins Air Force Base in a shoot-out. The Robins team won.



ABOVE: The Macon Whoopee went head-to-head with the Columbus Cottonmouths at Military Appreciation Night. The Whoopee, dressed in blue camouflage as a way to show appreciation, gave the Columbus team cotton mouth by whooping them 8-5.

LEFT: The Macon Whoopee mascot, Willie Whoopee, takes a breather off the ice.



SPORTS BRIEFS

Sipp gets hole-in-one

Anderson Sipp, from the F-15 System Program Office, scored his first hole-in-one Sunday at Pine Oaks Golf Course. Sipp hit a 7-iron to the 162-yard No. 10 hole.

Playing with his usual foursome, Sipp hit a "perfect little draw right at the hole," said longtime playing partner Dwight McGhee. "The ball took one hop right under the flag and disappeared," McGhee added. Other witnesses to the event were John Gaskin and Willie Nelson.

Women's Varsity Softball

Women's Varsity Softball tryouts will be Feb. 19 and 20 at 5:30 p.m. on field 1, across from the base gym.

Contact Andre Carr at 927-4642 for more information.

Pine Oaks Golf Course 926-4103

A two-person dogfight is slated for Saturday with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$25 for annual green fee members and \$30 for non-members. It includes golf cart, green fee, lunch and prizes. Call or sign up at the golf course.

Fitness Center

926-2128

Men's varsity volleyball tryouts will be held 8-8:30 p.m. Thursday and Feb. 22 at the health and wellness center gym. All active duty military assigned to Robins Air Force Base and reservists on active duty status for 30 days during the Air Force Materiel Command tournament are encouraged to try out. For information, call Tech. Sgt. Paul Spalding at 327-2581 or the fitness center at 926-2128.

Men's varsity softball tryouts will be held Tuesday through Feb. 22 and Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. at softball field two. Active duty, reservists on active duty status for 30 days during the AFMC tournament and 116th Bomb Wing members may tryout. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Brain Maxwell at 327-1783.

Pick-up soccer games and varsity soccer tryouts are being held at the football field across from the fitness center 5:30-7 p.m. every Thursday through March 7. For more information, call Maj. Michael Gaspar at 327-5353.

Chipping out of trouble



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Ron Turk knocks one close to the hole as part of the Black Heritage Golf Tournament at Pine Oaks Golf Course Feb. 8.

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

Intramural games this week

Date	Time	Home	Visitor
Feb. 19	6 p.m.	93 ACW	78 CS
Feb. 19	7 p.m.	19 CEG	78 SFS OUTLAWS
Feb. 19	8 p.m.	WR-ALC	78 SFS
Feb. 19	9 p.m.	653 CLSS	J-STARS
Feb. 21	6 p.m.	116 MXS	19 ARG
Feb. 21	7 p.m.	5 CCG	93 MXS
Feb. 21	8 p.m.	78 MSS	78 SFS
Feb. 21	9 p.m.	78 CS	OUTLAWS

Over 30 games this week

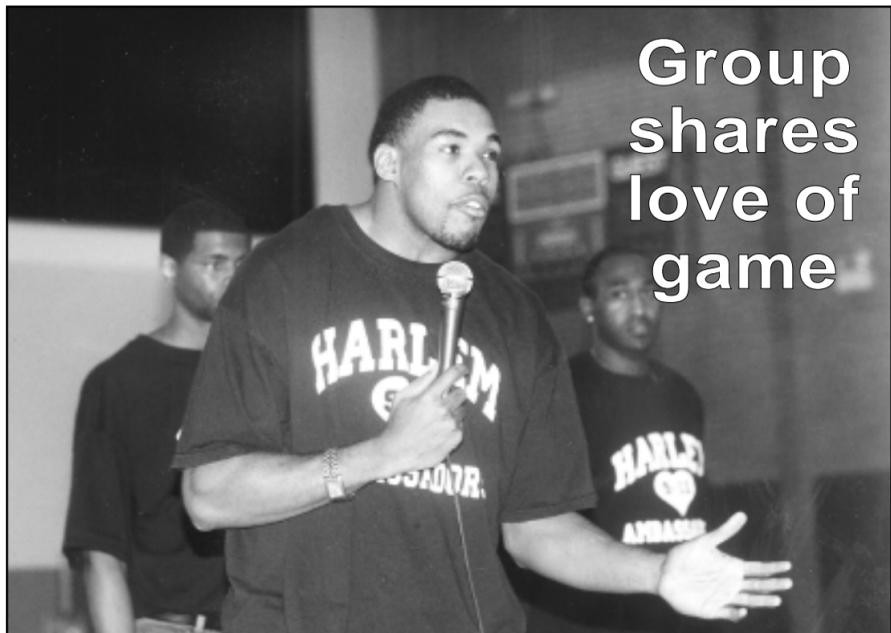
Date	Time	Home	Visitor
Feb. 20	6 p.m.	78 MSS	78 CS
Feb. 20	7 p.m.	RNCOA	78 OSS
Feb. 20	8 p.m.	19 ARG	5TH MOBB
Feb. 20	9 p.m.	HQ AFRC	653 CLSS
Feb. 25	6 p.m.	653 CLSS	5TH MOBB
Feb. 25	7 p.m.	78 OSS	78 MDG
Feb. 25	8 p.m.	78 LG	78 MSS
Feb. 25	9 p.m.	78 SFS	HQ AFRC

Intramural basketball league standings

As of Feb. 12	Team	Wins	Loss	Tie	PCT	GB	Gave up	Points
	5 CCG	5	0	0	1.000	—	218	256
	78 SFS	6	1	0	.857	—	288	372
	J-STARS	5	1	0	.833	0.5	269	304
	78 MSS	4	1	0	.800	1	174	193
	OUTLAWS	5	2	0	.714	1	287	375
	653 CLSS	3	2	0	.600	2	221	229
	WR-ALC	3	3	0	.500	2.5	273	249
	78 CEG	2	3	0	.400	3	225	234
	93 ACW	2	4	0	.333	3.5	217	228
	116 MXS	1	5	0	.167	4.5	303	193
	93 MXS	0	5	0	.000	5	241	141
	19 ARG	0	5	0	.000	5	272	196
	78 CS	0	6	0	.000	5.5	296	253

Over 30 basketball league standings

As of Feb. 12	Team	Wins	Loss	Tie	PCT	GB	Gave up	Points
	78 MSS	6	0	0	1.000	—	294	462
	5TH MOBB	4	1	0	.800	1	189	239
	78 CEG	3	1	0	.750	2	175	205
	78 SFS	3	2	0	.600	2.5	200	214
	78 OSS	3	2	0	.600	2.5	173	123
	653 CLSS	3	3	0	.600	3	249	236
	HQ AFRC	3	3	0	.500	3	307	289
	RNCOA	2	3	0	.400	3.5	134	132
	78 LG	2	3	0	.400	3.5	245	224
	19 ARG	1	4	0	.200	4.5	261	182
	78 CS	1	4	0	.200	4.5	163	122
	78 MDG	0	5	0	.000	5.5	252	214



Group shares love of game

U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Torrance Oxendine, a member of the Harlem Ambassadors, talks to the audience about the importance of staying in school and staying off drugs.

By Lareine Danforth
lareine.danforth@robins.af.mil

The Harlem Ambassadors had Robins kids and kids-at-heart jumping during a game against the Robins men's varsity all-stars last Monday. This show basketball team thrilled the audience and the Robins team with comedy routines, sensational ball handling and high-flying dunks.

Funny gags and dazzling tricks had the audience members on the edges of their seats throughout the game.

"The slam dunks were awesome," said Matt Towe, age 9. In the end, the Ambassadors came out on top 108-100 score.

"I had never been to a basketball game before," said Amber Hudson, age 9. "They made it really fun."

The Harlem Ambassadors tour the world over, visiting military installations, colleges and youth organizations. These talented athletes not only display their dexterity on the court but also spread the importance of staying in school and staying off drugs.

The five team members had inspiring words for the 5- to 9-year-olds of the youth

center at a rally the afternoon of the game. "I knew drugs were bad, but now I know you can play sports better if you don't do drugs," said Towe.

"My peers tried to stop me from going to school when I was younger," Terrill Binion told the kids as he warned them of the dangers of peer pressure. "But when they tried to stop me from playing basketball and doing something I loved, that's when I had to become a leader instead of a follower."

"For the rest of your lives, you have to learn something new every day because when you stop learning, you stop living," Ambassador Torrence Oxendine said to the kids. The team also expressed compassion for the nation with 9-11 printed on their T-shirts. Part of the team's proceeds goes to the relief efforts of the September terrorist attacks.

The Harlem Ambassadors is a unique show basketball group with its strong message of education first, drugs never and tolerance always. Each team member is drug-free and college educated.

"We want kids to know that there are professional athletes out there that are on the right path," said Oxendine.

Press Box makes its debut

By Linda Hinkle
linda.hinkle@robins.af.mil

The Robins Enlisted Club introduces the newest edition, the Press Box Restaurant. The Press Box debut will be held on March 8 at 5 p.m. with a ribbon-cutting celebration.

More than two years ago the 78th Services Division answered the enlisted club membership's call to update the club with a major renovation to include J.R. Rockers, which was a fast favorite with scores of members.

The Press Box was recently drafted to offer a new dimension to the club dining experience. The Press Box ambiance is reminiscent of a day gone by when sports were broadcast play-by-play from open-air press boxes. The announcements would travel the airwaves and crackle through radio speakers in homes, barracks and farms across the nation. Despite the raw technology of the day, announcers' vivid details carried the faraway spectators' imaginations to the thresholds of the stadiums.

"The Press Box theme was chosen because in many ways it represents Air Force club tradition. The clubs are a time-honored institution steeped in tradition," said Jerry Cardinal, 78th Services Division chief.

"We found that club members reminisce of good food, good times, and meeting with friends to laugh and share stories. These customs are what give clubs the glue that draws so many satisfied members," said John Filler, business operations flight chief. "Although the members loved the excitement of J.R. Rockers, they wanted a space within the club that was slightly set away to enjoy dinners and intimate conversation with family and friends."

The Press Box will feature a menu with new entrees as well as J.R. Rocker old-time favorites. The new menu will be ushered in with the assistance of a team of chefs from the Air Force Agency who will be onsite to train the resident food service professionals.

The Press Box will be open for dining on Fridays and Saturdays, 5-8 p.m., beginning today and for lunch Tuesday.

Lunch options will be the J.R. Rockers Café sandwich menu or the Press Box express lunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Tables and over-sized booths will furnish the room while a selection of vintage sports photos and memorabilia will deck out the walls of the Press Box.

"We are framing an expansive collection of sports photos, that were preserved some years ago from the enlisted club, with a motif

Robins Enlisted Club everyday benefits

- \$8 a month in coupons
- Monthly membership night
- Family Night Spaghetti Dinner on Mondays
- Social hour with complimentary snacks five nights a week
- Taco Tuesdays with free tacos and games
- Way Out Wednesdays M.U.G. Night
- Super Social Fridays
- Complimentary coffee and tea
- Convenient barber shop services
- Elite catering services
- Reciprocal membership privileges world-wide
- Low-interest MasterCard accepted world-wide
- Preferred Plus! 10 percent discount in many Services facilities
- Football Frenzy

border," said Janice Harless, skills development center framer. "This motif, which reflects a nostalgic look of the past will be a continuing theme to the décor." The interior design will appeal to sports enthusiasts, history buffs and collectors alike.

Press boxes of today are positioned to optimally view the game above the din. They are exclusive, often elaborate and enclosed areas with high-tech instruments. Plays, including instant replays, are transported via satellite around the world to enthusiastic fans. Despite the progress of the day, the magnetism and tradition of the game still endures.

"The enlisted club has undergone many phases of renovation in recent years, but the traditions that were established by our fine membership will always continue," said Cardinal.

"During February and March nonmembers are invited to visit the Press Box and J.R. Rockers and attend the grand opening on Friday, March 8," said Al Uroliia, enlisted club manager. Uroliia a newcomer from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., will be offering special prizes and discounts to the membership during the open house. "So be ready to proudly show your club card if your number is drawn," said Uroliia.

With more than 30 years of club management experience, Uroliia deftly uses his creativity and skill to enhance membership benefits. "For optimal use of this newly designed area, the Press Box, with a capacity of 80 customers, will be added to the list of available rooms in the club for catered events."

HONOR ROLLS

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center announces its annual award winners.

Capt. Christopher W. Parry was named Company Grade Officer of the Year. Parry, aircraft battle damage repair engineer chief, led the joint contractor/ Air Force Tiger Team to reduce C-17 scheduled maintenance down time, improve mission capability rates and streamline processes for continuous improvements to rates. He also facilitates accurate and timely repairs under high pressure situations as when he led a C-17 aircraft battle damage repair team to score excellent on an operational exercise. Parry sees issues and solves them.

Master Sgt. Bobby L. Gregory was named Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year. On Sept. 11 he ensured his unit was ready to deploy and continues to do so now. Gregory, 78th Security Forces Squadron first sergeant, directed security support operations for the 2001 Robins Air Force Base Air Show and Open House, which included ensuring all security forces and Augmentees were prepared and rested. He also spearheaded a 78th Security Forces Squadron newsletter as a way to better communicate to shift duty personnel.



The following Robins Air Force Base personnel were honored with awards for the fourth quarter of 2001.

Airman 1st Class Juan M. Wilder was named Outstanding Airman of the Quarter. Wilder, a medical services apprentice, relayed clear, accurate and in-depth descriptions of all patient problems for more than 190 telephone consultations and 210 walk-in procedures for four primary care man-

agers and three triage nurses. He developed a tracking tool for lead poisoning in newborns. Wilder's unparalleled screening process emphasized preventive healthcare with Air Force's prevention model, including focused care for 18,000 patients.

Staff Sgt. Eric L. Lynn was named Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter. Lynn, an instructor for the Airman Leadership School, seized every opportunity as faculty advisor to 56 students to provide comprehensive counseling. He professionally coordinated two formal graduation ceremonies, training all the participants as to what and how they were to perform. Lynn also assured total operability of 36 networked computer workstations and printers for staff and student use.

Senior Master Sgt. Kathleen P. Gray was named Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter. As superintendent of the 78th Dental Squadron, Gray provided support to eight active duty and two contract dentists. She managed numerous patient complaints at the lowest possible level, improving the clinic customer satisfaction rating. Gray also accepted many tasks regardless of scope, which included completing the monthly controlled narcotics and precious metals audit.

Capt. Richard N. Sherrow was named Company Grade Officer of the Quarter. Sherrow base systems flight commander, supported more than 1,800 users in 135 organizations across Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base area of responsibility. He led four work centers crucial to flying operations, keeping data network uptime at more than 99.9. Sherrow is also the point man for Enduring Freedom communication requirements.

CIVILIAN RETIREES

These are the civilians who retired between Jan. 2 and Feb. 2.

Delmar Axton, TINMMD
Gayle M. Bridges, LES
Isaac L. Brooks, LYPEFS
Edward B. Brown, LFLV
Sylvia Deluna, FMH
Dale Edge, TINMMA
John B. Fielder, LCWAP
William A. Hayes, QLYA
Leslie C. Hight, LYGN
Ray Hunnicutt, LCPCA
James T. Jones, FM

June S. Rice, JAM
Rufus Jones, LYPFH
Charles R. Lenoir, LFPB
Evelyn G. Marshall, LGMH
Albert B. McClure, 78 AMDS/SGOMHF
John P. Moore, AFRC/ALG
Russell H. Nelson, LBI
Jerome E. Stahl, LYPEFD
Karen R. Swetman, LEG
Kathryn Thompson, AFRC/DPZ
Larry Tyus, LJPPA
James A. Wagner, TIEDD
Charlie J. Worley, TINRC

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 Publix
 53219001

'Chef Pasquali' pitches in to cook for spouses of deployed

By Chris Zdrakas
chris.zdrakas@robins.af.mil

The Robins Air Force Base Family Support Center is rolling out the red carpet for families of deployed military personnel in the form of a free, fun night out — including dinner.

Robins spouses and families of deployed military members are invited to the free evening on March 1 at 6 p.m. at the base chapel annex for an event billed as "Chef Pasquali Presents ... Deployed Families' Night Out."

"Chef Pasquali," a pseudonym Bill Walker's family gave him because of his talent in the kitchen, will cook baked ziti, accompanied by fresh Cuban bread, salad fixings and ripe strawberries from Florida for the occasion. The chef is a retired Southern Baptist minister whose daughter, Krystal Shiver, and Tech. Sgt. Caroline Newell form the Robins' Family Readiness Team.

Shiver said her father is a "big-time patriot likely to be the first to shed a tear" when he hears patriotic music. He and his wife, Karen, also present a "Chef Pasquali" skit that is a favorite with children. The Walkers live in Brandon, Fla.

Walker cooks from scratch and has had years of experience with large groups of people. Shiver said he cooks for the family of 20 to 25 when they gather for holidays.

"We are trying to reach out to as many families as possible with word of this event," Shiver said. "After the meal — after the strawberry shortcake — we will talk about the kinds of programs and services we have available to military families."

She said the family support center believes there is a large segment of eligible spouses and their families who are not familiar with the center's services. They are those whose military member was deployed while stationed at another base and who will be assigned to Robins on return.

Reservations aren't necessary, but would be helpful, Shiver said. Those interested in attending should call Shiver or Newell at 926-1256 by Feb. 27.

TV SCHEDULE

These shows will air on Cox Cable channel 15.

Friday
Robins Report: 8 p.m. — News from around base.

Around Robins: 8:30 p.m. — This week's Around Robins features an interview with Tech Sgt. Caroline Newell explaining how the Robins Family Support Center is using technology to keep deployed service members and their families in touch. On Wellness Discovery Lt. Col (Dr.) Laura Torres-Reyes visits a smoking cessation class. There is also an interview with the base restaurant manager showing how you can get a free lunch, and highlighting the upcoming food show.

Inside Robins: 9 p.m.

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

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

MOVIE SCHEDULE

All shows begin at 7:30 p.m.

Today — Ali (R)

No one under the age of 17 admitted without an accompanying parent.

Starring Will Smith and Jamie Fox.

With wit and athletic genius, with defiant rage and inner grace, Muhammad Ali forever changed the American landscape. Fighting all corners Ali took on the law, conventions, the status quo and the war — as well as the fists in front of him. Ali both ignited and mirrored the conflicts of his time and ours to become one of the most admired figures in the world. (some language and brief violence)

Saturday — Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Starring Elijah Wood and Bill Boyd.

Frodo battles against the Dark Lord of Sauron to save Middle Earth from the grip of Evil. Frodo and the Fellowship embark on a desperate journey to rid the earth of the source of Sauron's greatest strength, the One Ring, a ring of such power that it cannot be destroyed. His extraordinary adventures across the treacherous landscape of Middle Earth reveal how the power of friendship and courage can hold the forces of darkness at bay. (epic battle sequences and some scary images)

Submit planner information, honor rolls, features and bulletin board items to Rebecca Yull, Rev-Up associate editor, Bldg. 215, Room 106. Or e-mail to rebecca.yull@robins.af.mil.



SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENTS

Air Force Customer Feedback Survey

The annual customer feedback survey will be delivered randomly to individuals across the base. This survey is used to measure customer satisfaction, value for price paid, quality of services, facilities, equipment, materials and programs. This survey is easy to complete, has a self-addressed envelope and requires no postage. Customer feedback enables managers to enhance programs, improve service and make optimal use of their resources to benefit services customers. For more information on the survey, call services marketing at 926-5492.

Youth Center 926-2110

Summer camp registration forms will be accepted March 19 and 20. Participation will be decided based on a lottery format this year. Registration forms are available at the youth center and online at www.robins.af.mil/services. A registration drawing will take place March 21. Call the youth center for more information and requirements.

Base Restaurant

926-6972

Attend the annual food show Feb. 22 at 11 a.m. to sample international cuisine from different vendors and a chance to win many prizes, including \$1,000 cash.

All base restaurant customers will have a chance to win with Thank Your Lucky Stars through March 1. Look at receipts for a red star indicating that meal is free, plus half off the next purchase with a \$3 limit. Those who do not receive instant wins can write their name and phone number on the back of a receipt for another chance to win prizes worth \$100 in weekly drawings from Expressions; the base restaurant; Pizza Depot; Information, Tickets and Travel; a massage at the fitness center; or a romantic dinner for two at the officers' club.

Smith Community Center

926-2105

Pick up an application form for the 2002 Air Force Worldwide Talent Contest at the community center. Entertainment, technical and staff applications will be accepted from active duty military. Visit the center

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, please call 926-1256.

Center closed

In observance of President's Day the center and Family Services Loan Closet and Airman's Attic will be closed Monday.

Normal services will resume Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at the FSC and 10 a.m. for Family Services.

Smooth Move

The next Smooth Move workshop is Wednesday, 8-11 a.m., in Bldg. 905, Room 123.

This program is designed for Air Force members on the move. It is three hours of information on how to get from here to there with the least amount of hassle, frustration and stress.

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 on Feb. 22, 1-4 p.m., Bldg. 905, Room 127.

This workshop is open to all Team Robins Plus members. Call 926-1256 for a reservation.

Pre-TAP briefing

A Pre-TAP briefing will be conducted on Feb. 26 1-3 p.m., Bldg. 905, Room 250.

The Transition Assistance Program is offering a briefing for personnel and their spouses who are within one to three years of separation or retirement. To register, call the Center at 926-1256.

Bundles for babies

The Air Force Aid Society will conduct a Bundles For Babies class on Feb. 27, 10 a.m. to noon, Bldg. 700, Room 180. The class is specifically designed to assist new parents.

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.

Deployed families' night out

The center's Family Readiness Program is hosting a Deployed Families' Night Out on March 1, 6 p.m., base chapel annex.

Deployed Families' Night Out is a good opportunity for families to come together and learn about Family Readiness Programs. To make a reservation, call Krystal Shiver or Tech. Sgt. Caroline Newell at 926-1256.

Education grant program

A \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded to spouses, sons and daughters of Air Force active duty, retired and deceased members, who are pursuing an undergraduate degree. Awards for the 2002-



from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Completed forms must arrive at the Air Force Agency prior to Feb. 22. For questions on eligibility and other details, call the community center.

A renovation of the Smith Community Center restrooms is now under way. Portable restrooms will be available in front of the center. Smith Community Center staff apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

Family Child Care

926-6741

Extended-duty childcare has extended its waiver of co-payment through April 1. This program is to be used when parents have to work beyond regularly scheduled hours or have emergency childcare needs. The program may also be used by Guard and Reserve military called to active duty and in training status. For the latter, extended-duty care may be used for a few days until permanent arrangements can be made. For more information, call Vera Keadley at family childcare.

Officers' Club 926-2670

The officers' club will host a Valentine's dinner and dance today. A buffet dinner will be served 6-8:30 p.m. and entertainment is slated for 7-11 p.m. No reservations are needed.

Kids' Night with a buffet, movies and prizes will be held 6-8:30 p.m. Feb. 25. This event is free for children 10 years old and younger.

Enlisted Club 926-4515

The club will offer brunch Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This meal is complimentary to primary members and costs \$8.95 for guests and \$11.95 for nonmembers. Brunch is served at the enlisted club the first and third Sunday of each month.

A Preferred Plus! membership dinner will be held Wednesday, 6-8:30 p.m. This dinner is complimentary for members and costs \$5 for guests.

Aero Club 926-4867

Take a romantic flight during February. The aero club will offer scenic flights for \$50 per couple during February. Call the club to make a reservation or for more information.

Outdoor Recreation

926-4001

Hog-hunting season is open through Feb. 28. A state hunter's license is required and on-base hunting requires a \$10 permit. Outdoor recreation offers base hunting orientation classes as needed.

During the month of February, reserve any camper from outdoor recreation from Thursday to Monday and get five days of rental for the price of a day and a half. Call for a reservation.

Information, Tickets and Travel 926-2945

Special free offers are available for active duty military and their family members from Walt Disney World, Disneyland, Universal Hollywood and Universal Orlando. For complete details and offer restrictions, visit ITT. Ask about discounted tickets available for other Disney attractions and shows like Disney Quest and Sleuth.

Skills Development Center 926-5282

The skills development center is temporarily located in Bldg. 983, 790 10th Street. All services are still available and orders are still being taken for engraving, framing, awards and screen printing. The center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Expressions gift shop is holding an inventory reduction sale. Various arts and crafts supplies will be on sale, including below-cost closeout prices on acrylic paints.

Call 926-0304 for details. The shop is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Frequently asked questions

Can family members catch space-available hops out of Robins?

It depends on the destination of the individual. According to Department of Defense regulations, family members are not authorized space-available travel within the Continental United States. However, space-available travel to an overseas destination by family members is authorized. Family members MUST be accompanied by the active duty member. For more information, go to <http://www.robins.af.mil/fsc/Family%20Activities/guide.htm#TRANSPORTATION:%20926-2133>.



2003 academic year will be announced in June, with payment sent to the school by Sept. 1 of the academic year.

Applications can be picked up at the FSC, Bldg. 794, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For additional information, stop by the center.

Volunteer excellence award

For federal civilians, military retirees, federal civilian retirees, and family members to be eligible, an individual's service must be performed either in the local civilian community, or the military family community, and be of a sustained and direct nature. The volunteer service must be significant in character, produce tangible results and reflect favorably on the United States Air Force. To be awarded a VEA, eligible persons must be nominated by their supervisor or by the voluntary agency for which they donated their service, in the form of a memorandum.

Nominations will be one page, front only. Nominators should be specific when giving the time frame of the accomplishments. Questions may be directed to Diane Thielemann at 926-1256. Active duty military members are not eligible to be nominated for this award

Employment assistance program

The Employment Assistance Program provides ways for military spouses, military family members and displaced Department of Defense civilian personnel to identify skills and interest, plan careers, improve job search skills, and increase opportunities for employment or a career change.

For more information about this program or to schedule an appointment, call Doug Jones, career focus manager, at the center, at 926-1256.

Employment assistance

There is a Georgia Department of Labor Veterans Service specialist in the center to assist veterans or personnel within 180 days of leaving the military with their job search. To schedule an appointment, call Jack Tooley at 929-6801.

Register early

Register early for FSC classes since many are subject to cancellation if advance registration is insufficient.

Earned income credit

Important changes alter eligibility

Legal Office

Earned income credit is more for 2001. The amount one can earn and still qualify for the credit has increased. The amount one earns must be less than:

- \$28,121 with one qualifying child,
- \$32,121 with more than one qualifying child, or
- \$10,710 without a qualifying child.

When computing the amount one earns for purposes of this credit in 2001 one must include nontaxable income such as housing allowances and lodging provided by the employer as well as meal allowances.

The credit has a new definition of earned income. For tax years after 2001, earned income will no longer include employee compensation that is nontaxable. This means that military members who have not previously qualified for the earned income credit because their nontaxable income bumped

them out of the range of people, who are eligible for the credit, may become eligible.

Those who qualify for the earned income credit in 2002, can receive part of it each paycheck throughout the year. Receiving this money throughout the year will not affect eligibility for food stamps, low income housing temporary assistance to needy families or Social Security benefits.

For more information about the earned income credit, contact the base tax center at 926-2635 or call the base legal office at 926-3961. The IRS Web site is online at www.irs.gov and there people can pull up and print or read Publication 596, Earned Income Credit.

Those who do not have access to the Internet can call 800-829-1040, which is the IRS's toll-free number for assistance. For more information on budgeting and financial matters, call the Robins Air Force Base Family Support Center at 926-1256.

ROBINS CLUBS

National Contract Management Association – meets once a month in the officers' club. For information, call Misty Holtz at 926-7121, or Maj. David Hincks at 926-3666.

Officers' Christian Fellowship – meets each Monday at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Jeff or Nancy Smith at 953-7834 or Chris or Deb Holinger at 218-4598.

Officers' Spouses Club – If you are new to Robins Air Force Base and your spouse is eligible for officers' club membership, the Officers' Spouses Club would like to extend a warm southern welcome to you. Please call Beth Arch at 218-7797 to receive your welcome packet.

Procurement Toastmasters Club – meets the first and third Thursday of each month at noon in the Contracting Directorate's conference room, north end of Bldg. 300. For information, call Marian Hartley, 926-0886; or Bob Valdez, 926-9332.

Ravens Toastmasters Club – meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the Special Operations Forces Management Directorate's conference room No. 1, Bldg. 300, East Wing, door 6A. For information, call Eddie Sanford, 926-9867.

Reserve Officer's Association – meets the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the officers club. For information, call Lt. Col. Barry Taylor, 327-1191.

Robins Top 3 Association – meets the third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. in the enlisted club. For information, call Senior Master Sgt.

Kerry Goolsby, 468-9946, or Master Sgt. John Hudson, Ext. 926-4330.

Robins' Voices International Training in Communication Club – meets the first Thursday of each month at 11:45 a.m. in the special functions room of the base restaurant. For information, call Evelyn Fountain, 926-7429.

The Retired Enlisted Association Warner Robins Eagle Chapter 94 – meets

the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Warner Robins American Legion Post 172 on Watson Boulevard. For more information, call Dan Toma at 757-2525 or Jack Tooley at 929-6801.

Editor's Note: Information provided by club members. If your club or group's information changes, notify the Rev-Up staff so that the club listings may be updated.

ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

Robins school board meets

Robins Air Force Base School Board will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday at Robins Elementary School, Bldg. 988. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

Comptrollers meet

The Middle Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers will meet on Feb. 20 in the Georgia Room at the Robins Air Force Base Officers' Club, at 11:30 a.m., for the monthly ASMC meeting. This will be the Local ASMC Awards Luncheon. Tickets are \$8 for members and \$9 for nonmembers and are available from Kathy Piper at 327-1410, Mariela Schnable at 926-6718, Capt. Dwayne LaHaye at 327-2954 and Betty Enge at 926-5485. Purchase tickets by today.

Museum needs volunteers

The Museum of Aviation Flight and Technology Center is seeking volunteers to meet and greet visitors daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Sunday. Tour guide opportunities are available as well as special function opportunities. For additional information, contact museum Director of Protocol and Volunteers Judy Blackburn, or Angelina Banks, volunteer and education administrative assistant at 926-4242 for additional information.

ASMC to host MINI PDI

The Middle Georgia and Montgomery Alabama chapters of American Society of Military Comptrollers announce the ASMC Regional Mini PDI, "Paving The Road To Professionalism," on March 12 and 13, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Macon. The reg-

istration fee is \$75 for ASMC members, and \$85 for non-members. On line registration closes Feb. 28. Those interested may also call Tom Hudgins at 327-1401 for information on how to register on line. For other registration information, contact Chief Master Sgt. Tim Cochran at 926-0363.

ALS instructor positions available

The Robins Airman Leadership School is seeking qualified staff sergeants looking for dynamic career-broadening experience and a change of pace. One flight instructor position is available for immediate hire, with two additional positions becoming available within the next 12 months. All qualified applicants will possess a minimum of an associate's degree and not be on any physical profile waivers. All interested staff sergeants should submit a resume' with cover letter, transcripts, letters of recommendation, last 5 EPRs, and personal data rip to the ALS. For further information, call 926-6515.

White House looking for a few good airmen

The White House Communications Agency is looking for highly dedicated and professional airmen to provide optimum communications support to the President of the United States. Those interested must be able to travel, work with little supervision and be extremely responsible. People of interest are in communications, audio-visual, administrative and support fields. The WHCA Nomination Team will be visiting Robins from Feb. 28 to March 1. There will be an orientation on Feb. 28 at 9 a.m., in Coates Hall (Bldg 2051). For additional information, contact Sgt. Lillard, at 202-757-5150 or DSN 284-2000 ext. 75150.

19th ARG sacrifices to meet tempo challenge

By 1st Lt. Tisha Wright
tisha.wright@robins.af.mil

The Black Knights of the 19th Air Refueling Group are facing the hardest military challenge of post Sept. 11 – effectively sustaining the current operations tempo in support of Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Now verses then

“We’re working 12-hour days and we’re always on-call 24-7,” said Capt. Dave Mazzara, aircraft commander and current chief of flight scheduling for the 19th ARG. “I’m covering for the real chief of flight scheduling because we’re down 50 percent in our manning due to deployments.”

The weekend is no exception, according to Mazzara.

“I work at least three to four hours each day of the weekend because our ‘taskings’ come down on a day-by-day basis,” he said.

“We’ve had to make a lot of personnel adjustments to keep up,” said Brad Preston, navigator and now a flight scheduler for the 19th ARG.

Preston stated he hasn’t flown in two months because he is so essential as a scheduler.

“I used to fly one training mission per week,” said 1st Lt. Jason Work, co-pilot for the 19th ARG, “and now I fly operational missions at least three times per week plus at least one training mission.”

Work is currently in the process

of upgrading from co-pilot to aircraft commander.

“Upgrading is extremely difficult,” he said. “I am flying operational missions in the middle of the night while trying to accomplish all the prerequisites for upgrade on the same flight.”

In the past four months, the 19th ARG has flown 70 percent of the flying hours of fiscal year 2001, according to Mazzara.

Col. Barbara Faulkenberry, commander of the 19th ARG, explains just how busy the group has been since Sept. 11.

“We’re coming up to five months of greatly increased demands on our people,” she said. “In the first 33 percent of this fiscal year, we’ve flown 85 percent of our yearly allocated flying hours.”

Some changes have been made to compensate for the long hours and tough work load.

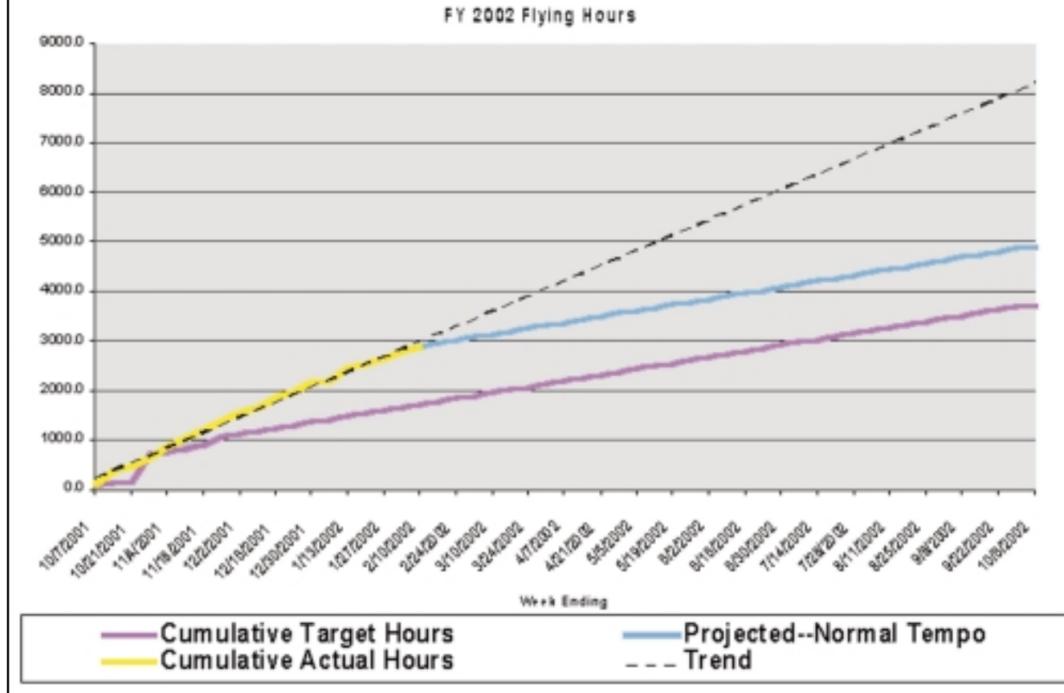
“We fly with hard crews now,” said Mazzara, “and we know our schedule about two months in advance.”

The term “hard crew” is used to indicate that the same aircrew flies together for each mission.

“When you are flying with different people all the time, there is a learning curve involved with each flight,” said Preston. “Now, you always fly with the same crew and you know what to expect.”

“With the more advanced schedules you know better how to make the most of your free time,” said Mazzara. However, free time is

KC-135R Allocated Flying Hours As of Feb. 10



minimal for the folks of the 19th ARG.

“Our aviators are on track to spend about 150 days deployed a year if we were to continue to sustain our current deployment schedule,” said Faulkenberry.

“Since I returned from my

deployment in December, I have had three days off and never any consecutive days,” said Work.

Training

Operational flying isn’t the only consideration for the members of the 19th ARG. On top of opera-

tional mission requirements, they must contend with continual training requirements.

“Since Sept. 11, we have been working pretty hard and no one is complaining about flying and

See TRAINING ... Page 2

Just in time for Valentine's



U.S. Air Force photo by Eric Palmer

1st Lt. Devin Pietrzak and his wife, Harper, engage in a homecoming kiss. Pietrzak returned from a deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He and other members of the 19th Air Refueling Group returned to Robins Air Force Base Feb. 8.

Change is natural for Air Force

Recently, I celebrated a career milestone that few can claim. In January, I celebrated my 33rd anniversary as a proud member of this U.S. Air Force. My commander and her helpers jumped at the opportunity to post that news on the 19th Air Refueling Group marquee as a means of notifying the Outback community. Next, she encouraged me to reflect on the changes I’ve seen during my three-plus decades of service. So, here goes.

First, the Air Force is always a strong organization. In 1969, the Air Force I joined was much larger than the Air Force of today. Then, we were engaged in the Cold War and we met our adversary on many fronts. The demands for air power were numerous and the men and women of the Air Force stood strong to make those missions a complete success.

People enlisted in the military for various reasons, similar to today. However, the big difference back then was the draft. Young men had to register at age 18, and, except for the few who received deferments, were inducted into the service on their 19th birthday.

Today, we are a volunteer service. Young men and women seek us out for much the

The single most noticeable constant in the Air Force is the motivation that exists among airmen of all ranks.



same reason that I joined in 1969 – the opportunity to become part of a team and receive training.

Thirty years ago this year, the all-volunteer force was introduced, eliminating, for the most part, the draft. Along with this concept came the total force – a much tighter integration of Guard and Reserve forces into our total capability. These changes have made us even stronger than when I joined in 1969.

Training is another constant that transcends the decades. The on-the-job training program has its roots back in the infancy of the Air Force. My trainers back then boasted the quality of the training programs they conducted. We took academics and then

See DISCIPLINE ... Page 2

Kansas kids support refuelers

By 1st Lt. Tisha Wright
tisha.wright@robins.af.mil

When a Kansas school counselor began a project to send care packages to deployed U.S. Air Force troops, she never thought the children would get the response they did.

Connie Horton, school counselor for Medicine Lodge Primary and Middle schools in Medicine Lodge, Kan., initiated the project one month after the attacks of Sept. 11.

Horton said they spent several months collecting small items, like decks of cards or bubble gum, to put in packages for our deployed troops.

The children of the schools collected more than 10,000 items and the eighth-grade honor students spent three hours packing 350 individual care packages.

Deployed members of the 19th Air Refueling Group here were some of the recipients of the children’s gifts.

In a letter from Maj. Brian

McLaughlin, aircraft commander for the 19th Air Refueling Group, to Horton in response to the children’s care packages, he wrote:

“I understand the concern of children all across the nation caused by the terrorist act on September 11. The fear in some kids comes out in their letters, but what we’ve enjoyed the most is that they trust we will do what is right and return freedom all across our nation and hopefully back to the world. Please tell them not to worry – we will WIN!”

Horton said after the attacks she felt it was her responsibility as a teacher and a counselor to educate the children on the military’s role in our country.

“Many of the children did not understand what people give up who are in the military,” said Horton.

“Often times they give up their families and live in desolate places to support us.”

The children wrote letters of support and drew pictures to accompa-

ny the care packages, according to Horton.

“The kids wanted to show their support and appreciation by giving back something to the troops,” she said.

“The kids enjoyed contributing and were glad for the ability to make the military personnel feel our support,” Linda Hartley, a teacher at Medicine Lodge Primary School.

Some of the students of the Medicine Lodge Primary and Middle schools offered their own opinions about their efforts.

“I think military guys are awesome. When I grow up I will probably want to be one of them,” said Ty, a second grader at Medicine Lodge.

“It was fun to do it and it was really fun to get back stuff that told us who they were and what they did,” said Josh, a fourth grader at the school.

“We proudly display the cards and most of the colored flags and other drawings they sent are on the walls to remind us why we are



Courtesy photo

These student from Medicine Lodge Primary and Middle Schools in Medicine Lodge, Kan., supported Operation Enduring Freedom by making care packages for deployed troops.

here,” said McLaughlin in the same letter to Horton.

“Freedom is not free, and the fight to enjoy it never ending. We will continue to make America the land of the Free.”

In special recognition of their efforts the members, deployed with McLaughlin, flew the children’s classroom flags over the combat zone during Operation Enduring Freedom missions.



Welcome home

Members of the 19th Air Refueling Group family eagerly await the return of those who have been deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

From Russia with love for the USA

By 1st Lt. Bryan Reed
bryan.reed@robins.af.mil

Like many who decide to serve their country, 2nd Lt. Dimitri Kalinin, joined the Air Force looking for opportunity and the chance to give back to the country he loves. The thing that makes Kalinin's case special, is that he has only been an American citizen for three years.

Born and raised in Moscow, Russia, Kalinin studied English in Moscow for a few months with a private teacher before immigrating to New York City in 1994. He arrived on the streets of the Big Apple with only \$600 in his pocket.

"At first when I arrived in America it was a big culture shock. To go from the other side of the planet, and then land in New York City in the middle of winter... It was definitely a shock, so many different nationalities living together just like one big melting pot," said Kalinin.

Arriving in America seven months before his wife and daughter, Kalinin worked odd jobs in construction and drove a cab to save money for his family's arrival.

An aerospace engineering graduate, with a major in propulsion from the Moscow State Aviation University, Kalinin longed to again work with aircraft. In 1996 he decided to enlist in the U.S. Air Force and went to basic training.

Kalinin credits television and radio for helping him to improve his English, but at times still found it difficult to understand. "I went to basic training and

was caught in a couple of interesting situations there because I just didn't know what they (drill instructors) were saying," he said.

After graduating from basic training, he was stationed at Minot Air Force Base, N. D., as a maintenance scheduler with the 23rd Bomb Squadron. While stationed at Minot, Kalinin earned his master's degree in aeronautical science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and, in November 1999, became an American citizen.

After becoming a citizen, Kalinin's thoughts wandered to the possibility of earning his commission and becoming an officer in the Air Force. On Nov. 16, 2000, Kalinin graduated from officer training school at Maxwell AFB, Ala., and was assigned to Robins AFB to the 19th Maintenance Squadron as a C-5 maintenance officer.

While Kalinin said there have been many differences to living in the United States, the biggest was getting used to the food. "I love the seafood here," he said. And after graduating from college in Moscow and not being able to find work, he said he appreciates the opportunities that this country has available to its people.

"It was definitely tough at first, but I

knew what I was working for, and I saw the opportunity I had here versus that of Russia," he said.

Kalinin is quick to speak of his wife and daughter and to praise them for the support they have given him. "My daughter came here when she was 5 years old and is completely bilingual. I still have the accent, but she can go straight from Russian to English with no accent," he said.

Kalinin will get his own opportunity to go straight from the Russian to English languages, as he will be deploying soon to work as a liaison officer and translator between Russian and U.S. air forces.

"Dimitri is a great officer and has done a great job here for us. This is a special opportunity for him to go and work with his former countryman, assisting both countries to achieve a common goal. This just shows how valuable he is to both our squadron and the Air Force," said Lt. Col. Bob Lewit, 19th Maintenance Squadron commander. While Kalinin looks forward to working with his former countrymen, he says he will be glad to return to his family and friends here when his 90-day rotation ends. He remembers the struggles of living in Russia and is grateful to the country that has given him a chance to realize his dreams.

"There is opportunity for everyone here. If you set a goal and try to achieve it, there is always opportunity to excel and do better," he said.



Kalinin

Discipline core element that remains today

Continued from Page 1

proceeded to work and receive task qualification training as the opportunities arose.

Only after certification, could you achieve appointment to coveted positions of responsibility (in my case, crew chief). Today, we accelerate our young trainees through their academics and place them in an extended task-qualification training program.

Upon graduation from their training, they're ready to exercise their skills and assume coveted positions of responsibility. Sometimes, it seems the responsibility gets assigned to younger and younger members of our force - and they are capable of handling the responsibility.

Education has vastly improved since 1969. Back then, there was not a Community College of the Air Force. College courses were available on base, but, there was less emphasis placed on the value of education.

The enlisted force had many members with less than a high school diploma and the goal was to achieve a GED. High school graduates were targets for the recruiting force.

The all-volunteer force changed that. The high school diploma became the standard required for entry. As the post-Vietnam draw-down ended in the late 70s, so did the GED work shops on base.

By then, we had the Community College of the Air Force and our people had better education credentials. The officer corps began emphasizing the need for master's degree education to prepare young officers for the leadership roles.

Today, our enlisted force boasts the highest education levels in Air Force history and the competition for promotion to senior and chief master sergeants often is determined by the degree of education the candidates have.

Discipline

In the early days of my career, life was heavily regulated. Everything one did was covered by some written directive somewhere.

At times, those directives were contradicting and confusing. But, the trainers of that day did a great job of teaching us the ropes - by the book.

Commander-metted discipline seemed to be less back then (or, I was so young I didn't realize what the commander did for a living). The discipline I grew up with was "NCO discipline."

Some ruled by fear and intimidation, some by the carrot-and-stick approach. The constant for all of us was

we behaved as a disciplined force and kept the Air Force mission going. Today, my perspective has changed, since I now understand the commander's responsibilities.

However, I still see the very effective NCO discipline in our force.

I see much less "fear and intimidation" and much more mentoring, because our people know they must always be training their replacement.

Motivation

The single most noticeable constant in the Air Force is the motivation that exists among airmen of all ranks. In 33 years, I've yet to meet an individual who drove to work bent on doing poorly at work. To the contrary, I've encountered the individuals who exceed every expectation and thrive on challenges in new territory.

Pride

Our Air Force is a proud institution and we are proud people to serve that institution. Back in 1969, people took pride in wearing the Air Force blue (although we had tan 1505s back then). On graduation day from basic training, I was among those proud members sporting my dress blues on the parade field at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

We can each remember how proud we were that day, and we can each remember vividly who we were with. Nothing that has happened through those years has changed my pride in wearing the Air Force blue. Throughout these decades, I find people still "behave differently" when they put their blue uniform on.

We are today as proud as we were in 1969.

Esprit-de-corps

This is our common bond. As we transit the world conducting our business, we can relate to the 350,000-plus members who share our common interest. We live in a large family, and we can expect professional assistance from the other members of our proud institution.

On mission execution day, we can be dispatched to a remote location and join up with other members we've never met. And, we will succeed.

This was true in 1969 and has been demonstrated time and again up to this day.

Those are the key aspects of life that I have found as I reflected back on the years of my service to this great Air Force.

I am very thankful that I have the opportunity to continue serving today.

Should any members have any interest in discussing how they might achieve anniversaries beyond the 30-year point, give me a call.

19th ARG BRIEFS

19th ARG flies high with safety award

The 19th Air Refueling Group was chosen for Air Mobility Command's Distinguished Flying Unit Safety Award for the 2001 fiscal year.

The award recognizes the best flying unit in the command for flying safety.

"I can think of no more treasured award than the AMC Distinguished Flying Safety Award because it means Black Knights are accomplishing the mission safely, day in and day out, despite large demands put on them," said Col. Barbara Faulkenberry, commander of the 19th ARG.

mander of the 19th ARG.

The 19th ARG flew more than 4,200 mishap-free flying hours for the year, with their last major flight mishap occurring more than 25 years ago.

The 19th ARG was chosen for the award from 12 flying units in the command who were previously awarded the Flight Safety Plaque for achievement in the area of flight safety.

Annual Black Knight winners

Congratulations to the 19th Air Refueling Group's annual award winners:

1st. Lt. Brian Smith was the company grade officer of the year, Senior Master Sgt. Michael Rovinsky was the noncommissioned officer of the year, Tech. Sgt. Greg Porter was the senior noncommissioned officer of the year, and Senior Airman Amy McNeal was the airman of the year.

Correction

The January edition of the Knightly News incorrectly named the 99th Air Refueling Squadron's airman of the year. Senior Airmen Jason Bremer is the airman of the year for the squadron.

Training time can cause a dilemma

Continued from Page 1

defending our country - that is what we do," said Work. "However, ground training requirements and other annual requirements for classes and training have not decreased."

Master Sgt. Douglas McCrum is the superintendent of ground scheduling for the 19th ARG and is responsible for ensuring that members of the group meet all their training requirements.

Training requirements include: chemical warfare training, computer-based training on aircraft systems, hanging harness training, egress training, water and combat survival training, M-9 pistol training, flight physicals, altitude chamber training, simulator training, and flight safety training.

"Now, with half the squadron deployed or sitting alert," said McCrum, "getting them scheduled is a major challenge."

"Adding to the dilemma are increased training requirements due to Operation Enduring Freedom," said McCrum.

"We're trying to account for the volume of flying by being more sensitive to the tough aircrew schedules," said McCrum, "but the fact is, training has to get done or flying stops."

Pilots and navigators aren't the only members of the group that are working long hours.

McCrum and his scheduling team

created a late-shift rotation to ensure that all training requirements are met.

"After Sept. 11, my folks have really stepped up to the plate," said McCrum. "Not only are they doing their job, but augmenting flight management who is missing people due to deployment."

The same operations tempo challenges exist for the group's maintainers as well. "Since Sept. 11, we've been working 12-hour shifts with constant manning 24 hours per day," said Tech. Sgt. David Knapp, the flight line expediter for the 19th ARG.

Knapp coordinates all the maintenance for the group's aircrafts.

"With the high-operations tempo, we don't get the time to work on the little things," he said.

"We get all the safety things done, but cleaning, painting and cosmetic things don't happen."

Despite the long hours and the quick tempo, the maintainers' morale is high, according to Knapp.

"You can see the pride in them," he said, "because they know how important they are to the mission and they know what the mission means - protection for them and their family."

Knapp admits that sometimes the stress level goes up a little, but said his folks are doing a great job.

The 19th ARG leadership agrees with Knapp, according to Lt. Col. Joseph Rohret, the deputy group commander.