



ROBINS RevUp



One year after crash
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Friday, March 8, 2002

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

116th Bomb Wing Outstanding

116th Bomb Wing nets 11th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

116th Bomb Wing

Last month the 116th Bomb Wing was awarded an unprecedented 11th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award – a great ending to a long career of outstanding teamwork and service. As of Oct. 1, the 116th Bomb Wing will transition to the 116th Air Control Wing.

“This (award) is a direct result of the outstanding effort, attitude and sacrifice of every member of the 116th Bomb Wing family,” said Col. Tom Lynn, commander of the Georgia Air National Guard Unit.

A unit must show evidence of excellence in all that is involved in its mission to be presented this award. Specific accomplishments of the 116th Bomb Wing include “outstanding” and “excellent” ratings during their operational readiness inspection. The wing was also awarded the Air Combat Command Flying Safety Award for 1999-2000. Successful mission completion of numerous Global Power deployments and proven readiness in Air Expeditionary Force participation also contributed to winning the award, as well as the wing’s mission capable rates being at 10 percent above Air Force average.

“This honor, unequalled by any other unit, belongs to the women and men of the 116th Bomb Wing,” said Col. Bob Doehling, 116th BW vice commander. “They have excelled from the moment the unit stood up on April 1, 1996. No challenge has been too great nor task too small for them to run with and produce outstanding results.”

Chief of staff pays a visit to Robins

Jumper talks of challenges, Air Force role

By Lanorris Askew
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

Gen. John P. Jumper, chief of staff of the Air Force, bolstered morale at Robins Air Force Base with encouraging words during a troop call on Monday. Jumper told the troops that whether they are stationed at home or deployed somewhere in the world, they should remember they are making a difference daily in the lives of countless people.

“America is challenged right now,” said Jumper. “There are 14,000 Air Force members deployed overseas and 11,000 patrolling over the skies of America. None of them could do the job without the people here today.”

Chief encourages troops to ‘be proud’

Jumper came to Robins, along with Rep. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., and Sen. Max Cleland, D-Ga., to assure the troops that they are not forgotten in America’s new war. It was also his first chance to tour base facilities since becoming chief of staff.

“Be proud of what you do and of who you are,” Jumper said. “You are the proud symbols of America.”

Remembering Sept. 11

Jumper described his first day at the Pentagon (Sept. 11) as a short-lived honeymoon. He described the scenes of devastation

he witnessed in Washington and New York.

“The scene was like something from a science fiction movie,” he said. “It makes you angry and it makes you wonder, who are these people who hate us because we vote, tolerate diversity, and visit each other’s places of worship. We are of one mind, and one clear path. We won’t let these people dictate our lives.”

Jumper said a lot goes on in the Air Force, and none of it was possible without the men and women standing before him.

Chambliss and Cleland also offered uplifting words.

“When I am looking at you, I am looking at America’s finest,” said Chambliss.

“It’s always an honor to see the dedication and commitment in your faces,” said Cleland. “I wish that America could see what I see.”

As a memento, Cleland presented Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, with a flag from Washington, D.C.



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp
Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper speaks to those attending the troop call on Monday. Jumper told the audience that “America is challenged right now.” He encouraged all attending to be proud of their role. Following the troop call, the general took questions from the audience and shook hands. His visit Monday included a tour of Robins.

Jumper answered questions from the audience and shook hands with as many as possible before departing.

Inside

And the winner is...

Winners of the Robins Air Force Base annual awards were named and honored at an awards banquet on March 1. Find out who won in today’s story. See A-5

Long-term care insurance available

Military and civilian federal employees will soon have the opportunity to purchase long-term care insurance. See A-3

We can learn much through diversity

Gen. Lester Lyles, Air Force Materiel Command commander, encourages people throughout the command to learn and grow through the diversity of the people. “It only makes sense to take advantage of the mixture of resources at our disposal to meet the challenges we face daily,” he writes. See A-7



Careful handling of mail practiced

At the Robins Air Force Base mail room, safety is taken seriously and precautions are taken when handling the 35,000 pounds of mail handled there each month. See A-3

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Robins’ goal for AFAF campaign is \$71,319

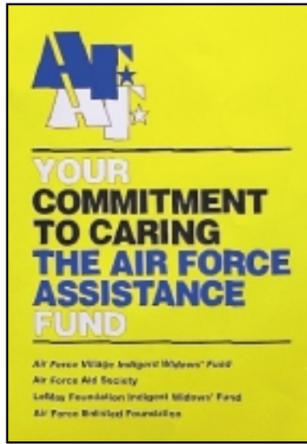
Campaign continues through March 29

AFAF installation Project Officer

Robins Air Force Base is participating in the 29th annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign which runs through March 29. The base’s goal for this year’s campaign is \$71,319.

The AFAF campaign raises money for four charities which benefit active duty, Guard, Reserve, and retired Air Force people and their families, including surviving spouses and their families. The charitable organizations include the Air Force Aide Society, the Air Force Enlisted Foundation, the Air Force Village Indigent Widow’s Fund and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. Lemay Foundation. For more on these individual organizations, visit the following Web sites:

- <http://www.afas.org>
- <http://www.airforcevillages.com>
- <http://www.afenlistedwidows.org>
- <http://www.afvw.com/lemay.html>



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78th Air Base Wing under new leadership



U.S. Air Force photo by Ray Crayton

Col. Bonnie C. Cirrincione (center) became commander of the 78th Air Base Wing on March 1, in a patriotic ceremony set against the historic backdrop of the Museum of Aviation’s Century of Flight Hangar. Hundreds of people — personnel from the wing, from the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center and community dignitaries — witnessed the passing of the wing leadership from Col. Jay E. Seward II (right), wing commander since February 2000, to Cirrincione. Cirrincione came to Robins from Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., where she was chief of the Aerial Port Operations Division. The presiding officer was Maj. Gen. Donald J. Wetekam (left), commander of the Warner Robins ALC, who praised Seward’s “passionate devotion to duty,” and who referred to Cirrincione as a “very capable commander with an unblemished record of superior performance throughout her career.”

8 American soldiers dead in Gardez fighting

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Eight American soldiers have been killed in fighting around Gardez in eastern Afghanistan, U.S. Central Command officials said.

Previous reports said nine soldiers had been killed.

Central Command said one soldier, Chief Warrant Officer Stanley L. Harriman of the 3rd Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, N.C., died during the early hours of Operation Anaconda on Saturday.

Seven other soldiers died in two helicopter incidents Monday. In the first, an MH-47 Chinook helicopter was inserting an observation team when a rocket-propelled grenade hit the aircraft. It did not explode, but the pilot lost control of the craft for a short time.

In the maneuvers to get out of the area, a soldier fell from the craft.

“The helicopter repositioned under its own power, and the helicopter landed and immediately recognized that one crew member had been left behind,” said Army Gen. Tommy Franks, U.S. Central Command chief, during a Monday briefing in Tampa, Fla.

Immediately after the first incident, a second force went to insert soldiers into roughly the same area. “When one of the two helicopters of that force first came in ... it also came under fire,” he said. The chopper, also an MH-47, landed, and the soldiers aboard the helicopter got off and engaged the enemy.

The second chopper made a hard landing, Franks said, and was not flyable. The U.S. troops took casualties, including six dead, in

See DOD ... Page A-2



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Justin D. Pyle
A C-17 Globemaster III from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., arrives at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Tuesday carrying the remains of seven of the servicemen killed in action during Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan.

Farewell retreat

Members of the 78th Air Base Wing Civil Engineer Group, below, conduct a formal retreat ceremony in front of Bldg. 215 in honor of Col. Jay E. Seward II. At right, Seward holds the American flag presented to him during the retreat ceremony, which was conducted on Feb. 28. The next day, Seward relinquished command of the 78th ABW to Col. Bonnie C. Cirrincione.



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Military, civilians can buy new long-term care insurance

By Sgt. 1st Class
Kathleen T. Rhem
USA American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON — A new program starting later this month will offer long-term care insurance to military and civilian federal employees and their families.

The federal Office of Personnel Management has contracted with John Hancock and MetLife insurance companies to provide this additional benefit for all federal employees and retirees.

Insurance can be for self, family

The insurance program is designed to cover expenses associated with long-term medical care in a nursing home or in the patient's home. Federal employees will be able

to purchase the insurance for themselves or their families, including parents. Federal retirees are entitled to enroll only themselves and their spouses in the program, according to information on the program's Internet home page, www.opm.gov/insure/ltc.

Enrollment period March 25 to May 15

An early enrollment period is scheduled from March 25 to May 15, followed by an open-enrollment season beginning on July 1. Applicants may be required to answer health-related questions, provide medical records or be interviewed personally to be eligible for the insurance.

Program managers have not announced premiums yet, but rates will vary based on amount of coverage, type of inflation protection chosen

and current age of the person being covered. Officials plan to include a rate calculator on the Web site by the time the early enrollment period starts.

Other insurances are not geared to long-term

Service members and federal civilian workers initially might think they needn't worry about long-term care insurance, but perhaps they should, officials said. Medicare, TRICARE and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program are not designed to cover long-term care, they noted.

The usual practice in similar civilian programs is the younger and healthier the beneficiary at enrollment, the lower the premiums. That should also be true in the federal version, said Frank Titus, OPM assistant director for

long-term care.

Federal officials emphasized the government pays no part of the premiums or benefits.

Those officials recommended individuals who want more information on issues surrounding long-term care and on the federal program to sign up for an e-mail newsletter, "Get Smart About Your Future," at https://ltcfeds.com/pre_reg.htm, or to visit www.ltcfeds.com.

Local contacts for campaign posted

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For local campaigning, contact **2nd Lt. Tammy Foster**, installation project officer, 327-7364; **2nd Lt. Jeffery McGowan**, unit project officer for Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, 926-2922; **2nd Lt. Pam Montelepre**, unit project officer for the 93rd Air Control Wing, 327-3413; **2nd Lt. Reuben Samaroo**, unit project officer for the 5th Combat Communications Group, 926-3897; **1st Lt. Derek Salmi**, unit project officer for the 19th

Air Refueling Group, 327-3095; **Capt. Timothy Sites**, unit project officer for Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, 327-0342; **Master Sgt. Pamela Wardlaw**, unit project officer for the 78th Air Base Wing, 326-4759; **Master Sgt. Michael Forgue**, unit project officer for the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, 926-6729; **Tech. Sgt. Louis Rigney**, unit project officer for the 339th Flight Test Squadron, 926-9912; and **Staff Sgt. Deitra Mathis**, unit project officer for the 367th Recruiting Group, 926-6330.

DOD identifies 7 killed in Operation Anaconda

Continued from Page A-1

the fighting. Later, a combat search and rescue team went into the area and evacuated all the soldiers including the seven dead.

Operation Anaconda is aimed at eliminating a pocket of Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters south of Gardez. More than 2,000 U.S., Afghan and coalition troops are involved. Fighting in the area continues.

The Department of Defense Tuesday announced the identities of those killed in action in eastern Afghanistan during Operation Anaconda Monday. They are:

Air Force:

Tech. Sgt. John A. Chapman, 36, Waco,

Texas.

Senior Airman Jason D. Cunningham, 26, Camarillo, Calif.

Army:

Sgt. Bradley S. Crose, 22, Orange Park, Fla.

Sgt. Philip J. Svitak, 31, Joplin, Mo.

Spc. Marc A. Anderson, 30, Brandon, Fla.

Pfc. Matthew A. Commons, 21, Boulder City, Nev.

Navy:

Aviation Boatswain's Mate-Handling **Petty Officer 1st Class Neil C. Roberts**, 32, Woodland, Calif.

'60 Years of Enduring Freedom' theme for Tattoo

Tattoo Ceremony Committee

"Robins Air Force Base: Sixty Years of Enduring Freedom" is the theme of this year's Tattoo ceremony which will take place at 7 p.m. on March 20. The event will be conducted at the Museum of Aviation amphitheater and will recognize the contributions and sacrifices of the armed services during the last 60 years, according to Tattoo Ceremony Committee members.

General Robins' daughter to be guest of honor

This year's guest of honor for Tattoo will be Dorothy Robins Cook, daughter of the late Brig. Gen. Augustine Warner Robins, for whom the base was named. Cook accompanied her father around the country for many of his assignments. The general served in the Army from 1907 until his death in 1940. According to committee members, the latter part of his career saw the early days of the Army Air Corps, where he distinguished himself to be recognized as the "Father of Modern Air Force Logistics."

The Tattoo ceremony tradition comes from Great Britain. The ceremony originated as a nightly drummer's march to tell the local inns and pubs to turn off the taps and for the soldiers to end their evening activities. Over the years, the ceremony has gathered much fanfare and has been adopted by U.S. military services as well.

The show will be open to the Robins community to include civilian

employees, retirees, military and all family members. As the

show will begin at 7 p.m., guests are requested to be in place by 6:50 p.m. Shuttle service will be available at Bldg. 905, 6:15-6:45p.m., leaving as loaded. Buses will be available again following the 70-minute show. In the event of inclement weather, a decision to move into the Century of Flight Hangar will be made 24 hours in advance. Due to security, those attending should remember to bring identification. Backpacks and coolers will not be allowed.

More information can be obtained from the Tattoo Web page at: <http://www.robins.af.mil/tattoo/>.



Courtesy photo

The Band of the Welsh Guard will perform during the Tattoo ceremony on March 20.

ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

Bootstrap Program has been replaced

The Air Force Bootstrap Program has been replaced by the Air Force Educational Leave of Absence. The AFELA program is intended for career Air Force military personnel and only when:

- An individual has completed as much as possible of a program through the off-duty education program;
- it is evident that completion of the program is not possible during current assignment or with an educational deferment; or
- it is necessary to accelerate academic requirements of application to an AFIT degree or Air Force commissioning program.

The new program involves two principal changes. AFELA participants have two months of additional obligated service for each month of the leave of absence. This new commitment is in addition to any other period of obligated service or active duty commitment to which the service member is already committed.

Also, a member in AFELA is in educational leave status, which has its own specific code, and is entitled to basic pay only.

For more information, contact the base education and training office, 327-7304. A counselor will assist those with questions and advise on the new changes to the Educational Leave of Absence Policy.

Parking lot closure

The parking lot on Perry Street, across the street from Bldg. 231, will be closed to traffic on March 15 due to motorcycle testing.

Parking on grass not permitted on base

With the spring season fast approaching, the grounds maintenance crews will begin mowing soon. It's important that everyone comply with the base parking plan, RAFBI 31-205, to protect personal safety and vehicles from machinery, flying debris, etc.

This is a reminder that vehicles parked on the grass are subject to ticketing. Your help is important in ensuring vehicles are kept off the grass and parked within designated, marked spaces in accordance with the parking plan. This measure must be enforced to ensure a proper growing season of the grounds.

Security Forces, parking monitors and civil engineer grounds inspectors are authorized to issue tickets for parking on the grass.

Pass and ID office closed on March 25

The 78th Air Base Wing Pass and ID office will be closed on March 25 for the mass issue of new Department of Defense civilian employees.

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

78th OSS earns two more awards

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

The 78th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight has won two Air Force Materiel Command awards, bringing to six the total command awards the squadron has won this year.

Senior Airman Kristy M. Morris won the command's Dodson Award for outstanding airman and Michael R. Mauro Jr. won the Jenner Award for outstanding civilian. Two weeks ago the squadron's Airfield Flight earned four command awards, including Airfield Operations Flight Complex of the Year.

Capt. Mike Lewis, Weather Flight commander, said Morris and Mauro are two of the flight's finest, "team members who exemplify personal excellence in all they do."

"They are proven extra-milers, always going above and beyond the call of duty," he said. "These top achievers have made significant contributions to the weather mission at Robins Air Force Base, often doing the behind-the-scenes work that escapes notice. I'm very proud of them and am happy that they have been recognized with two of the command's top honors."



Morris



Mauro

Morris

Morris, a weather forecaster, prepared and presented mission execution forecasts that helped the 19th Air Refueling Group achieve 100-percent mission success on alert supporting Operation Noble Eagle. Described as "calm under pressure," she was credited with enhancing the group's ability to depart rapidly for refueling operations across the United States. In addition, she volunteered to review technical orders and test the Air Force Weather Agency's new tactical satellite system, adding realism to the testing process. Her efforts earned her an Air Force Weather coin.

Mauro

Mauro, a meteorological technician, had another recent honor to his credit — winner of the Air Force Association Technician of the Year Award. A 21-year veteran of the weather flight, he has earned four other command awards. Mauro is responsible for maintaining the Next Generation Weather Radar, Advanced Meteorological Information System and Windows NT systems, a job Lewis said Mauro performs to perfection. The man behind the installation of AMIS patches and network systems, Mauro has been at the forefront in developing a leaner, more agile transmission system for weather products that relieved system bottlenecks. Under his direction, the AFMC standardization and evaluation team rated the NEXRAD training program as "excellent." He also is the Operations Support Squadron Web master and maintains the weather pages.

Mail handlers exercise caution in processing

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

The Sept. 11 terrorist attack, and the anthrax scares that followed, generated a new level of precaution in the Robins Air Force Base mailroom and the beginning of an awareness campaign designed to keep people safe at work and at home.

Ron Hoyt, installation official mail manager, said the vast majority of the 35,000 pounds of mail handled at the base facility monthly is not of a suspicious nature. Mail handlers use an X-ray machine to inspect packages that are suspect. If an X-ray view confirms or deepens suspicions, the handlers can call the addressee or call 911, which generates an emergency response to the mail-handling center.

Hoyt said only five or six X-ray scans are needed a month. Since Sept. 11, the mailroom has called for emergency response teams twice. To put that number in perspective, before Sept. 11, the postal employees called in emergency responders just three times since 1993.

"Caution is always the best policy when handling mail at work or at home," Hoyt said. "If a letter or package appears suspicious, stay away from it. Our Web site features a mail bomb and anthrax awareness section that can be accessed from the Robins home page. It contains the latest information available about protection."

Georgia's Fort McPherson, home of the U.S. Army

The deadline for submissions to the Rev-Up is 4:30 p.m. Monday.

The following is advice for people who think they have received mail containing a biological agent:

- Do not handle the mail piece or package suspected of contamination.
- Notify your supervisor, who will immediately contact the inspection service, local police, safety office or designated person.
- Make sure the damaged or suspicious packages are isolated and the immediate area cordoned off.
- Ensure that all people who touched the mail piece wash their hands with soap and water.
- List people who have touched the letter and/or envelope. Include contact information
- Provide list to the inspection service.
- Place all items worn when in contact with the suspected mail piece in plastic bags and keep them; as soon as practical, shower with soap and water. If prescribed medication by medical personnel, take it until otherwise instructed or until it runs out.

The Inspection Service will assess the threat and coordinate with the FBI. In addition, officials will notify local, county and state health departments and the state emergency manager.

Reserve Command headquarters, was the site of the latest anthrax scare. A white powdery substance in a package found there in February tested negative for anthrax. An initial field

See SPOTTING ... Page A-4

Reserve needs volunteers to support operations

Air Force Reserve Command News Service

With the call-up of 37 reservists in late February, Air Force Reserve Command is deploying nonvolunteers from support specialties for the first time as part of an aerospace expeditionary force.

The reservists, mostly from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., will be deployed overseas for 120 days and could be extended on active duty after that to support other critical missions. The AFRC commander said that, in spite of these call-ups, volunteerism is still the norm for Reserve integration into operational missions.

“We have moved into new territory with these call-ups, but it doesn’t change our commitment to remaining the volunteer force AFRC has always been,” said Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, commander of AFRC and chief of Air Force Reserve. “Only after no one volunteered to fill some critical mission support positions did we activate these people. And then, we only called up the minimum that were needed.”

The command began calling up aircrews and maintenance people in October 2001 for duties in ongoing operations such as operations Northern Watch, Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom. Reservists have given their voluntary participation to the AEF construct since its inception, with typical rotations limited to 15 days plus travel time. That will not change for the bulk of reservists.

In a move designed to meet increased AEF manning requirements and keep call-ups to a minimum, command officials have moved from a three-cycle to a two-cycle system.

While this will mean reservists will be asked to volunteer more often, it should reduce the need to resort to involuntary call-ups, officials said.

Command officials anticipated the increased manning requirement and recently suspended its three-cycle system of 15 months on call and 30 months off, implementing a 15-month-on, 15-month-off schedule for AEF rotations.

5th CCG members visit veterans

Hospital staff appreciates time

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Gates
andrew.gates@robins.af.mil

The 5th Combat Communications Group demonstrated the true meaning of Valentine’s Day on Feb. 14 when they visited some people who rarely have guests.

Six members of the group visited hospitalized veterans at the Carl Vinson Veterans Administration Medical Center in Dublin, spending time with them and distributing Valentine cards from local school children.

“This was truly a touching outreach,” said Dana Doles, the medical center’s public affairs officer. “These veterans’ faces always light up when they see someone in a military uniform, especially if it’s a uniform from their service branch.”

She explains that these veterans, many of whom are wheelchair-bound or bedridden, often don’t have family in the area, or even any remaining living family. “It means so much to

them to have someone come and visit.”

“Our veterans are a big part of our heritage,” said Staff Sgt. Danielle Casey, a logistics planner for the group. She spearheaded the visit to Dublin. “They helped make this country what it is today – I feel we need to show them that we appreciate that.” During their visit, the visitors handed out cards and presented commemorative pins to a number of Korean War veterans.

This group was one of three who visited the hospital as part of National Salute to Veteran’s Week, said Doles. Besides mem-

bers of the 5th, students from the Noncommissioned Officers Academy at Robins, and Marines from the Marine Corps Logistics Squadron in Albany came to visit the veterans during the week.

People don’t have to wait for a special week to express their appreciation to veterans, said Kelly Carp, acting

medical center director. “We always welcome visitors. When someone comes in to visit and a veteran’s entire face lights up, it really touches your heart.”

Casey agrees. “Just seeing the happiness on veterans’ faces when they see they have visitors is a wonderful sensation.”

“Just seeing the happiness on veterans’ faces ... is a wonderful sensation.”

Staff Sgt. Danielle Casey
logistics planner, 5th CCG

Spotting suspicious packages takes keen eye

Continued from A-3

test was positive for the dangerous organism.

“It’s extremely unlikely that anyone would receive a harmful biological or chemical substance in the mail, and the Postal Service delivers about 208 billion pieces of mail per year,” Hoyt said.

Despite the slim chance of mail being contaminated, Hoyt said a review of precautions is always a good idea.

Characteristics that constitute suspicious letters or parcels:

- Have any powdery substance on the outside.
- Are unexpected or from someone unfamiliar to you.
- Are addressed to someone no longer with your organization or are otherwise outdated.
- Have no return address or have one that can’t be verified as legitimate.
- Are of unusual weight, given their size, or are lopsided or oddly shaped.
- Have an unusual amount of tape on them.
- Are marked with restrictive endorsements, such as “Personal” or “Confidential.”
- Have strange odors or stains.
- Show a city or state in the postmark that doesn’t match the return address.

Annual awardees cover the base

Winners give credit to teamwork, leadership

By Lanorris Askew
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

The winners of the Robins Air Force Base annual awards were honored during an awards banquet on March 1 at the Museum of Aviation.

According to their nomination packets, these men and women were recognized for displaying outstanding leadership qualities and high performance in their primary duty, significant self-improvement and leadership in community activities.

The following information was obtained from the winners' nomination packages.

Senior Airman Anthony Disarli, 5th Combat Communications Group, Airman of the Year

As information manager, Disarli was an integral part of the successful transition of Eksan Air Base, Saudi Arabia's operating functions from the Air Force to the Army.

He voluntarily assumed the duties as automated data processing Equipment custodian and ensured situational awareness of 125 site personnel during an Air Combat Command Operational Readiness Inspection. He was also the key

planner for a squadron golf tournament that raised \$2,000 for the unit's booster club.

"I attribute winning this award to my leadership in the 53rd Combat Communication Squadron and the mentorship from my supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. John P. Moffo," said Disarli.

"I thank him for the advice and direction he has provided me. Also, deploying to Saudi Arabia and supporting Operations Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom, gave me the opportunity to put what I have learned as a work group manager and as a member of the 5th Mob to use in a deployed environment."

Tech Sgt. Gregory Porter, 19th Maintenance Squadron, NCO of the year

As C-5 production superintendent, Porter led 74 maintainers to complete isochronal inspections on C-5 aircraft undergoing programmed depot maintenance and has helped increase fleet availability by two aircraft this year.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in professional aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He also helped the pastor of Nazarene Church of God pre-



Disarli



Parry



Gray



Porter



Salefske

pare the site for construction of a new church.

"I consider this a team award," said Porter. "Although one name goes on the award trophy; it is truly a 19th MXS team effort. Everyone has to do their job successfully in order for anyone to win such an award. The commanders and supervisors provide the vision and direction; the airmen and junior NCOs are making the vision a reality."

Senior Master Sgt. Randolph Salefske, 5th Combat Communications Group, First Sergeant of the Year

As a first sergeant, Salefske provided oversight for transition of the Airmen's Relief Fund from the base chapel.

He chaired the working group to plan transition and drafted a new Airmen's Relief Fund constitution. He also worked with local charities to establish a solid financial base for this new fund and achieved a \$14,000 balance. A key member of the base Enlisted Heritage

Committee, he researched, procured and created enlisted heritage display and was awarded an Air Force Achievement Medal.

"I couldn't have been selected as the number one shirt at Robins without the assistance of many people," he said. "There is no way I could have accomplished this without a team of talented and motivated people working with me."

Senior Master Sgt. Kathleen Gray, 78th Dental Squadron, Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

As superintendent of the dental squadron, Gray's management skills have provided outstanding support to eight active duty and two contract dentists through planning and scheduling of duty assignments for 30 enlisted and civilian personnel. She oversaw top-to-bottom overhaul of the Geographically Separated Unit dental tracking program.

She was elected by her peers as president of the Robins Air Force Base Top 3 and briefed 1,200 local

school children on the importance of dental hygiene and the hazards of tobacco use.

"This award would no have been possible without the direction and mentorship of my commander and the support of the 78th Dental Squadron," she said. "It's truly thrilling when hard work is recognized by peers and leadership."

Capt. Christopher Parry, C-17 System Management Directorate, Company Grade Officer of the Year

As chief C-17 aircraft battle damage repair engineer, Parry led joint contractor and an Air Force Tiger Team to reduce C-17 scheduled maintenance down time, improve mission capability rates and streamline processes for continuous improvements to rates.

His involvement with crew chiefs and engineers resulted in scrubbing 948 maintenance tasks and reducing scheduled downtime by 11 percent.

He was also awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for community involvement. "I attribute this award to an excellent team with superb supervision which was a critical key," said Parry.

"I was certainly surprised when I was announced as the winner. I knew that the other officers were outstanding, and I was just happy to be at the banquet."

Pentagon honors responders for valor

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON — Pentagon officials honored 39 people Tuesday for the valor on Sept. 11, when terrorists flew a hijacked jet into the Defense Department headquarters, killing 189 people and injuring hundreds.

David O. Cooke, director of administration and management, presented Medal of Valor awards to the 39, all employees of the Pentagon's Real Estate and Facilities Directorate. Of the 39, one is employed in the Leased Facilities Division, 17 in the Defense Protective Service and 22 in the Federal Facilities Division.

"In a very real sense, the war on terrorism began at the World Trade Center, in the skies over Pennsylvania and here at the Pentagon," Cooke told honorees, family members and friends assembled in the Pentagon auditorium. "It was a day when innocent Americans suffered and died."

He said the defense employees were ordinary Americans who did extraordinary things that day. "They laid their lives on the line for others," he said.

The Pentagon's first responders "clearly showed their courage. They went back into the building. Some stood knee-deep in water, turning off electrical circuits at the risk of electrocution," Cooke said. "They moved into this environment with falling debris. They held back fires with fire extinguishers while other people got out."

"The attack was designed to intimidate, and the targets were symbols of our American way of life," he noted. The heroism displayed in the wake of the attack, however, made it clear "the terrorists were not going to prevail."

Paul K. Haselbush, head of the Real Estate and Facilities Directorate, praised the Pentagon's protective service officers for being "vigilant and active when the chips were down."



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

1st Lt. Bryan Reed congratulates Ronald Kohler for correctly answering questions about alert response.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Chris McCan receives a mug and a congratulatory handshake for correctly answering safety alert questions.

'Knight' patrol awards contest winners

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

Fourteen people around Robins were rewarded for their knowledge of alert response Feb. 25 through March 1. Winners were **Ray Vanderbok, Basil Demarest, Ronald Kohler, Chris Macan, George Davies, Ron Burwell, 1st Lt. Eric Quedding, 1st Lt. Beck Sewell, Capt. Beth Graboritz, Capt. Michelle Hamerla, Master Sgt. John Gilkey, Airmen 1st Class Tiara Smith, Airmen 1st Class Lydia Garcia and Staff Sgt. Steven Beach.**

The winners received various prizes for correctly answering questions on their role in supporting aircrews on alert status for Operation Noble Eagle. This was done as an "alert" contest Knight Patrol, sponsored by the 19th Air Refueling Group, conducted to increase awareness of what actions are necessary for base employees during an alert response.

The questions included: What to do if a blue pick-up or pole with amber lights flashing is in sight? When does the 19th ARG respond to requests for tanker gas



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

1st Lt. Bryan Reed congratulates Ray Vanderbok for correctly answering questions about alert response.

and why does it matter to me?

Those who answered all questions correctly received a coffee mug from

the Museum of Aviation.

Other prizes were awarded to those who knew some of the correct answers.

Personnel officials offer civilians online newsletter

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — By subscribing online to the Benefits and Entitlements Service Team Newsletter, Air Force appropriated-fund civilian employees can receive information related to their benefits by e-mail.

The online subscription not only provides people with up-to-date legislative changes and system updates, but also saves the Air Force \$240,000 annually by going paperless, said an official at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

"We changed to the newsletter subscription service last May to reduce printing and mailing expenses," said Janet Thomas, a human resources specialist from the directorate of civilian personnel operations here. "The electronic publication also allows us to publish the newsletter every two months instead of quarterly, providing our customers more timely information concerning their benefits."

"The response to our newsletter subscription service has been good to this point," Thomas said. "One in

five of our civilian employees are now receiving the newsletter electronically and we would like to see the rest of our employees benefit from this excellent source of information."

People can subscribe by going to the BEST home page at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/men u.htm> and clicking on "Newsletter Subscription Service." This will automatically launch an e-mail with the required subscription information already entered. After sending the e-mail, people will receive a confirmation notice on their e-mail

How to subscribe

- Go to <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm>.
- Click on "Newsletter Subscription Service."
- Automated e-mail launches. Send this.
- Confirmation will be sent.
- For any problems, click on the help-page link for instructions on how to manually subscribe.

system. The automated e-mail function may not work with some older browsers or

e-mail programs.

For any problems, click on the help-page link for instructions on how to manually subscribe.

Employees who do not have computers with Internet access can still obtain the newsletter via fax by calling 800-997-2378 (527-2378 in the San Antonio area). After the initial identification requirement, listen to the main menu and select the "fax back" options.

The next issue of the BEST newsletter will be published in March. (Article courtesy of AFPC News Service.)

AAFES can now recover shoplifting losses

Air Force Print News

DALLAS — Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Department of Defense officials asked for and received legislation that will grant federal retail stores the right to create civil recovery programs.

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2002 amended the Federal Claims Collection Act by redefining a "debt" as it relates to nonappropriated funds. The amendment allows federal retailers like AAFES to recover losses and administrative costs directly relating to shoplifting, theft detection and theft prevention from shoplifters through existing federal debt collection methods.

AAFES implemented its Civil Recovery Program on March 1 and will now pursue the actual loss of the merchandise taken and charge a flat rate administrative cost on every shoplifting incident.

If shoplifted merchandise is not returned to the store, or is returned but cannot be sold, AAFES will demand the full retail value of the merchandise. If it is recovered in damaged condition but still salable, AAFES will demand the difference between the full retail value and the reduced sale value. The administrative cost will be \$200.

Under the Civil Recovery Program, military sponsors are responsible for their family members. A parent, guardian or other person having legal custody of a minor who commits the shoplifting offense will be liable to AAFES for the specified damages and costs.

The store manager of the AAFES facility where the shoplifting incident occurred will be required to send two demand letters for money damages. If the debt remains unpaid for 30 days, the store manager will then be required to notify the unit commander of the debt. The military sponsor's check-cashing and Military Star card privileges will also be suspended until the debt is either paid or waived.

The Civil Recovery Program is separate from any criminal prosecution or disciplinary action which can be taken.

Shoplifting in the military exchanges annually costs service members millions of dollars, AAFES officials said.

AAFES personnel catch an average of 11,211 shoplifters each year. The expenses related to shoplifting, theft prevention and detection reduce the dividends available for the AAFES mission — to give back 100 percent of its earnings to exchange customers through quality-of-life programs and modern and convenient facilities to shop.

Diversity will be our asymmetric advantage

By Gen. Lester Lyles
Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — One of the greatest strengths of any organization is found in the diversity of its people. Men, women, people of all ethnic backgrounds, young and old, the physically disabled, each bring a variety of experiences and insight to our work place. It's the combination of all of these life experiences and amassed wisdom that forge our greatest strength.

Every member of our Air Force team, from the youngest airman to the grizzled senior NCO, the newest lieutenant, Department of Defense civilian or contractor, has a valuable contribution to make to the defense of our country no matter what their upbringing or experience.

Our Air Force is the greatest in the world,

largely because of our incredible diversity. It's the single greatest strength we possess, a unique and powerful asymmetric advantage unknown to any other military in the world. More than any other segment of society, we leverage the experiences and insights of men and women from all walks of

life. More than any other segment of society, we understand and respect each other's differences and benefit from a multitude of views.

Diversity is particularly important within Air Force Materiel Command, where we are in the "creative" business of developing, producing, providing and sustaining war fighting capability for our nation. The need



"It only makes sense to take advantage of the mixture of resources at our disposal to meet the challenges we face daily."

to be creative and imaginative calls for dynamic thinking and not a static and solitary viewpoint. Every process we're a part of relies on a wide variety of insights and experiences that are ultimately turned into capabilities in the hands of war fighters.

It only makes sense to take advantage of the mixture of resources at our

disposal to meet the challenges we face daily. I encourage you to seek different opinions on solutions, responses and even the very nature of any problems. You'll be surprised at how creative people will be when you ask for their input.

In the Air Force, our vibrant and diverse work force is drawn together by common goals

and values. Instead of dwelling on our differences, we focus on what's important — defending democracy and freedom with the greatest military capability in the history of the world. It's our common goals and values that allow us to harness our differences to an incredible advantage. Our war on terrorism is a war against those who would destroy the diversity that means so much to our success as individuals, as an organization and as a nation. We are, and must be, the exact opposite of everything we are fighting in our war on terrorism.

Let me encourage you to create and foster a culture in your organizations that promotes and values diversity. Diversity should not be treated as an end in and of itself. Diversity for diversity's sake means nothing. It's not a number crunching exercise that plugs people into a statistical model. Diversity is a means for us to be a stronger, more innovative and understanding team.

AFMC, Air Force future depends on diversity

By Senior Master Sgt. Debbie Maurer
AFMC Military Equal Opportunity Office

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — Air Force Materiel Command's ability to continually anticipate and develop weapons for tomorrow's Air Force depends on diversity. Diversity promotes innovation by recognizing and utilizing the unique knowledge and abilities available in each individual.

AFMC must be able to cultivate new ideas and innovations, and our diverse work force arms us with the capability to see all potential aspects of emerging technology and unique solutions to development problems. Each person within AFMC brings a unique background, life experience and thought process with them when they join our team; it's out of these differing charac-

teristics we find our best ideas and implementation strategies for the future.

AFMC leading the way

Overall, AFMC, as a command, is doing better or as well as the Air Force in attracting and using minority populations. African-American, Asian-Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Native American, disabled and women are the primary groups Air Force officials monitor.

Our AFMC military representation is higher than the Air Force for both officers and enlisted members. Officer representation in the command is 17.4 percent compared to 15.3 percent Air Force-wide. Our enlisted force is also well represented coming in at 30.1 percent against the Air Force's 28.8 percent overall.

AFMC's 21.5 percent civilian minority representation is only slightly below the Air

Force's 22.8 representation and a National Civilian Labor Force 22.1 percent standard.

These are positive statistics; however, we must press forward to do better. Our mission — discovering, developing and perfecting the weapons for the Air Force of tomorrow — depends on our continued emphasis on and commitment to diversity.

Often when we think of diversity, the primary focus is on hiring and recruiting a diverse work force. But diversity should be our focus throughout the entire work life of our work force.

Making sure we have a diverse work force is essential not only when we attract workers, but also when we cultivate them. We must make sure our training, mentoring, recognition and promotion programs also emphasize diversity.

It does us no good to attract a diverse work

force unless we also focus our energies on training and mentoring everyone within that work force. We should begin with a diverse group initially, then continue to provide recognition and promotion opportunity for that entire group. A strong commitment to diversity and equal utilization of our total work force is essential to retaining our excellent minority candidates into the upper ranks. Therefore, it's imperative, especially in AFMC where we function on the cutting edge of technology, that we focus our efforts on every step, from hiring to retirement, in order to foster a culture of innovation through work force diversity — from the newest hires or recruits to our top management teams.

As warriors supporting warriors, our future and the future of the Air Force war fighter depend on our efforts of today in cultivating work force diversity.

Commanders' Action Line



Col. Bonnie Cirrincione
Commander
78th Air Base Wing

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

To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response. Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Rev-Up. Anonymous Action Lines will not be processed.



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

Robins Pharmacy

Q: Each visit I make to the base pharmacy amazes me. The employees that work there, both civilian and military, are so well organized, efficient and courteous. It is a pleasure to go there. The service is so fast compared to having to get prescriptions filled at other pharmacies.

If only the stores downtown would do a benchmarking on how the process is being performed at Robins Pharmacy, they could really give the public better service. I say thanks so much to all the employees and keep up the good work. Sometimes we take for granted the fast services we receive, only remembering the times we might have had to wait a little while for our prescriptions to be filled.

So, I wanted to take time to say thanks so very much to all the employees at the pharmacy for your service.

A: Col. Cirrincione responds: Let me thank you for taking the time to express some well-deserved appreciation for our medical staff. We definitely like to learn from our customers when we are considered the benchmark in any business practice.

Sonic booms

Q: I want to ask Maj. Gen. Wetekam how long is this sonic boom business going to go on? At least twice a day our windows rattle. I noticed every driveway up and down the

street has cracks.

I don't know for sure, but I question if the sonic booms are not causing some structural damage to our houses in this area; especially in a four-mile radius of the base. I was just wondering if this will continue for an extended period, forever, or what?

A: Maj. Gen. Wetekam responds: The sonic booms created by F-15s during test flights following periodic maintenance are not new. The first F-15 arrived at Robins May 30, 1975 and flight testing began shortly thereafter on an approved test route designated as Macon Echo. The supersonic test flight path is on an approximate line from east of Columbus, to northeast of Eastman.

In the 1990s a second route was approved, allowing F-15 supersonic testing to be done off the coast of Savannah and relieving Middle Georgia of the constant "sonic booms." This route was designated as Foxtrot. Shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, the North American Air Defense Command issued a directive that test flights of F-15s off the coast would cease until further notice due to safety and defense concerns.

The F-15s will continue to test flight on the Macon Echo route until NORAD allows us to resume testing off the coast. The flights themselves are performed above 39,000 feet to reduce the impact on the area. Over the years, we have received calls reporting that

sonic booms have caused structural damage to property.

The Robins Public Affairs Office takes the particulars from anyone wishing to make a damage claim and turns it over to the Robins Judge Advocate General Claims Office. The claims officer and engineers from the 78th Civil Engineering Group visit the property and make an assessment. The pressure of the sonic booms is not enough to cause structural damage, according to the engineers, who add that the percussive force would have to be great enough to move the foundation of a structure.

Windows are sometimes broken, but in most cases cracking or breaking of the seal between the panes to allow leaking and fogging up is not caused by the sonic booms, but by manufacture error or deterioration of the sealant. A window broken by a sonic boom displays very distinctive evidence in its damage pattern, and more than one window in an area would be affected. You can find out more about the test flights and damage claims by calling the public affairs office at 926-2137.

New car problems

Q: There is an information disconnect in regards to coming on base in a new vehicle. I purchased a new vehicle one month ago, and since; I have had a variety of directions from gate guards as to what I need to do to

come on the base. Most of the time, as long as I have identification I am waved through with no questions.

A few times I was told that all I needed was my vehicle purchase paperwork, which I provided and was waved through. Twice I was told that I needed to get a temporary pass for my vehicle at Gate No.5, then when I tried to go and get a temporary pass, at Gate No. 2 I was told that I did not need one.

With all the new car purchases I am sure I am not the only one who has had this problem. I understand that a temporary pass is needed for new vehicles; however, this needs to be made clear to those manning the gates, especially those at Gate No.2.

A: Col. Cirrincione responds: Thanks for giving us the opportunity to explain the process to you. Please proceed to Robins Pass and Registration with your purchase paperwork, insurance and drivers license and get a pass for a period of 30 days. Once your permanent registration is received, you need to return to pass and registration and permanently register the vehicle.

If you enter the installation and pass and registration is closed, Robins Visitor Control Center at Gate No. 2 will issue a pass for a period not to exceed 72 hours. I regret that you were given false information from the gate sentry; this information will be passed on. My point of contact is Staff Sgt. Daniel Whidby at 926-2118.



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Editorial staff

Warner Robins Air Logistics Center
Office of Public Affairs

Commander Maj. Gen. Donald J. Wetekam
PA director Lt. Col. Deb Bertrand
Chief, Internal Information Phil Rhodes
Editor Lisa Mathews
Associate Editor Rebecca Yull
Photographer Sue Sapp
Staff writer Lanorris Askew
Staff writer 1st Lt. Bryan Reed
Contributing writer Chris Zdrakas

MOVIES SCHEDULE

**All shows
begin at
7:30 p.m.**

Today – **Black Hawk Down (R)**

Starring Josh Hartnett and Ewan McGregor.

In 1993, the U.S. sent special forces into Somalia to destabilize the government and bring food and humanitarian aid to the starving population. Using Black Hawk helicopters to lower the soldiers on to the ground an unexpected attack by Somali forces brings two of the helicopters down immediately. From there, the U.S. soldiers must struggle to regain their balance while enduring heavy gunfire. (intense, realistic, graphic war violence and language)

No one younger than 17 admitted without a parent.

Saturday – **A Beautiful Mind (PG-13)**

Starring Russell Crowe and Ed Harris.

In 1947, mathematician John Forbes Nash Jr. made an astonishing discovery early in life and stood on the brink of international acclaim. But his ascent into the intellectual stratosphere drastically changed course when Nash's intuitive brilliance was undermined by schizophrenia. Facing challenges that have destroyed many others, Nash fought back, with the help of his devoted wife, Alicia. After decades of hardship, he triumphed over tragedy, and received the Nobel Prize in 1994. A living legend, Nash continues to pursue his work today. (intense thematic elements, sexual content and a scene of violence)



AFMC chief visits Robins

Chief Master Sgt. David Mimms, command chief master sergeant of Air Force Materiel Command, visited Robins Air Force Base Feb. 28 through March 2.

He was on base for the annual awards ceremony. While he was here, Mimms talked with students at the Robins AFB Airman Leadership School; toured the dormitories; met with members of the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron; and met with members of the 78th Security Forces Squadron.

U.S Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Mimms talks to members of the 653rd CLSS during his visit to Robins AFB.

WASP pilot chronicles women's aviation contributions

By Airman 1st Class Susan McQueary
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — Deanie Bishop Parrish first learned how to fly so she could “show all those good-looking male cadet instructors that girls could fly just as good as the boys.”

Parrish is now trying to show the world the contributions that women pilots like her made more than 50 years ago.

Parrish and her daughter, Nancy Parrish, in conjunction with Baylor University in Waco, Texas, are documenting the history of Women Airforce Service Pilots and publishing it on the Internet to educate and inspire children.

“We want kids to know they can do anything they set their mind to,” Parrish said. “I believe the WASP history is important to preserve.”

Parrish and Nancy travel around the country to record the stories of the remaining 600 WASPs.

The WASPs' journey began more than 50 years ago when 1,830 women traveled from all over the country to Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas, to learn to fly airplanes “the Army way.”

Once the women completed training, 1,074 of them were given their wings and became the first women in history to fly American military aircraft. They were

known as WASPs.

The WASPs were assigned to 120 air bases throughout the continental United States. The female pilots ferried aircraft and replaced male pilots so the men could fly in combat.

The WASPs flew every type of mission and every aircraft flown by Air Force male pilots except combat aircraft.

Thirty-eight WASPs lost their lives while serving their country as military pilots.

“No one knew about the WASP. After we disbanded in 1944, the records were sealed and were marked classified,” Parrish said. “The records were filed away in a government archive, so historians didn't even know the WASPs existed. We were called the ‘best-kept secret of WWII.’”

Parrish's story began in 1941.

At the time, WASP trainees, at a minimum, had to have a private pilot's license before they could apply for training, Parrish said. To qualify, Parrish found an instructor in her hometown to give her lessons.

“I asked my instructor if he thought I'd make a good pilot. He told me that one day something would happen and I would know that I would,” she said.

For more about Parrish and other WASPs, go to <http://www.wasp-wwii.org/wasp/home.htm>.

(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)



Courtesy photo

Deanie Parrish (top) and other Women Airforce Service Pilots stand next to a B-26 Marauder at Greenville Army Air Base, Miss., during World War II.



U.S. Air Force photo by Ray Crayton

This monument pays tribute to the 21 military members who lost their life March 3, 2001, in an aircraft crash in Unadilla.

Robins remembers those lost in 2001 crash

Spouses honor Robins

Brig. Gen. Lawrence Stevenson
WR-ALC vice commander

One year has passed since the tragic loss of 21 soldiers and airmen, killed in the line of duty when a C-23 Sherpa crashed near Unadilla. Saturday was a day of reflection, a day of sorrow, as a monument dedicated to these patriots was unveiled. Grey skies brought forth cold wind and drenching rain — not unlike the conditions one year ago.

I thought of the Gettysburg Address, and how President Lincoln charged that those fallen soldiers had not done so in vain: "That this nation, under God, shall be free — and that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

More than 148 years have passed since President Lincoln gave his memorable address. This nation still stands free because of the sacrifices of airmen and soldiers such as those 21 we lost one year ago. The piercing sound of "Taps" at our gathering was a reminder to all — freedom in our world can exact an immeasurable price.

Many times throughout our nation's history, freedom has been paid for by the souls of patriots.

When we lose these patriots, on foreign or domestic soil, in wartime or peace, it's up to teams of professionals such as the one from Robins Air Force Base to recover our fallen countrymen in a manner as dignified as their service was to our great nation.



Stevenson

I accepted a plaque on behalf of all Robins Air Force Base personnel, presented by a widow who lost her husband in the crash. In all her grief, all her sorrow, she and the other wives were so moved by the actions of Robins' recovery team that they had the strength to offer thanks.

I can think of no more fitting conclusion here than to end with the plaque's inscription:

"To all those service personnel of Robins Air Force Base, Georgia who so respectfully cared for our loved ones from the 203rd RED HORSE unit Virginia Beach, Virginia. Thank you for all you have done to honor our men. The Wives, Children, Fathers, Mothers, Brothers and Sisters wish to say, GOD BLESS YOU."



U.S. Air Force photo courtesy of photo lab

Robins Honor Guard members placed the remains of the 21 fallen service members aboard a C-17 March 6, 2001, for the flight to Dover Air Force Base, Del. The Transfer of Remains service was a solemn last salute by Team Robins to the Air Force and Army National Guardsmen who died in the March 3, 2001, aircraft crash in Unadilla.

Robins dedicates permanent memorial to C-23 crash victims

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

A cold rain, reminiscent of the day a year ago on which 21 men died in a military aircraft accident, pelted the monument Robins Air Force Base dedicated in their honor Saturday, creating a somber setting for a solemn ceremony of shared grief and honor.

The official dedication of Robins' tribute to the men who died in the crash of a military C-23 Sherpa was the day before the first anniversary of the crash, March 3, 2001. The

monument stands in the Unadilla field where the plane went down.

Families of the victims huddled beneath tents and umbrellas as Robins Chaplain (Capt.) Shannon Philio read the roll call of the dead — 18 members of the Virginia-based 203d "Red Horse" Unit, Air Force National Guard and the crew, three members of the 171st Aviation Battalion, Florida Army National Guard.

Military leaders from Robins, and the Virginia and Florida units assembled at the site, which two of the speakers referred to as "hallowed ground."

Lt. Col. Tom Turlip commander of the 203rd "Red Horse" Unit, said the families were grateful for the sensitivity with which the Robins team treated the victims.

"We are forever grateful to the many recovery workers, residents of Unadilla, those from Robins AFB and the Georgia Air National Guard for all you did that tragic day taking great care to send our men home to their final rest," he said.

"The great care and compassion you gave these men during the recovery efforts were strongly felt by all of us, and I thank you for what

you did. We will never forget."

Ellen Summerell, wife of Tech. Sgt. Richard Summerell, one of the crash victims, presented a plaque to Brig. Gen. Lawrence Stevenson, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center vice commander, expressing thanks to the men and women of Robins AFB. She was representing the 203rd Red Horse Wives' Club from Virginia.

Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett, adjutant general of the Florida National Guard Bureau, said the guard received hundreds of letters of support from across the country following the crash.

Looking back

March 3, 2001

■ Approximately 10 a.m., an Army C-23 Sherpa, assigned to the 171st Aviation Battalion of the Florida Army National Guard based in Lakeland, Fla., crashed in a remote farm area near Unadilla, approximately 45 miles south of Robins Air Force Base.

■ The C-23 was carrying 18 members of the 203rd Red Horse Flight unit, Virginia Air National Guard, back from a training mission in Florida. Also on board were three members of the 171st Aviation Battalion, Florida Army National Guard. All on board died in the crash.

■ Robins Security Forces Squadron Law Enforcement desk was notified by Dooly County Sheriff's Office. Disaster Control Group was recalled/activated.

■ Robins Command Post notified Air Force Operations Center.

Initial response included fire department, medical, security forces, Mobile Command Post and public affairs to site, with Houston County Sheriff escorts.

■ Dooly County Sheriff provided initial area security; later, 78th Security Forces Squadron and local law enforcement agencies provided entry control, cordon and site security.

■ Command and Control were established at accident scene.

■ Emergency Operations Center and communications were established.

■ Air Force took control of site.

■ No-fly zone restriction was issued.

March 4, 2001

■ Site was cleared for access by search and recovery team.

■ Black boxes were recovered.

March 5, 2001

■ All victims were transported to Robins, escorted by Georgia State Patrol.

■ Flags on base were lowered to half staff.

■ Plans were made for honors transfer.

Aircraft wreckage removal recovery began.

March 6, 2001

■ Robins held military honors transfer. C-17 carrying victims and escort departed.

■ Representatives from 203d RED HORSE Flight accompanied remains to Dover AFB, Del.

■ Aircraft recovery began.

March 7, 2001

■ Site Cleanup/Close Down; convoy with Robins assets departs.

■ Barrels of contaminated soil left site.

■ Site restoration began.

March 12, 2001

■ Memorial Service held at Robins Chapel for base and community personnel.

Col. Michael Norrie, commander of the 78th Civil Engineer Group, one of two on-scene commanders who spearheaded the search and recovery operation, was the keynote speaker. He said the dedication served to celebrate the lives of those who died and that the memorial would record the event "so that none forget the contributions of these heroes."

The 78th Support Group, commanded by Lt. Col. Emerson Bascomb, spearheaded the monument's conception, site choice and the ceremony.

Museum of Aviation Foundation offers members coupon book

Museum of Aviation

People who join the Museum of Aviation Society of Eagles membership program this month can receive an "American Pride" Community Coupon Book worth more than \$2,300. For \$50, new and renewing members get a museum family annual membership and the coupon book, which includes 80 discount offers good from April 1 - Dec. 31. Warner Robins, Macon and Byron restaurants, golf courses, auto service centers and merchants, through the book, are offering valuable discounts of up to 30 percent off or savings of \$100 or more.

An annual museum family membership now includes a free round of golf (with cart) at Houston Lake Country Club and Waterford Golf Course. Membership benefits also include Delta Air Line SkyMiles, Air & Space Magazine, a 15 percent discount in the museum gift shop and other gifts and special offerings. No Federal endorsement of sponsors intended. The cost of membership is also tax deductible as a charitable donation. Proceeds from the sale of the books support development and education programs at the Museum of Aviation, now the fourth largest aviation museum in the United States.

People may purchase a book directly from the Museum of Aviation Foundation by calling 923-6600 or at the following locations: the Byron Welcome Center; Century 21 Williams Realty on Watson Boulevard next to Warner Robins City Hall; Forget Me Not Florist on Hospital Drive; Houston County Deputy Sheriff's Office; Houston County Commissioners Office; and Thompson, Davis and Associates at Corporate Point. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

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 hosts Dr. Kevin Baggett as he discusses cholesterol screenings. On Wellness Discovery, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Laura Torres-Reyes discusses the importance of attending health fairs and invites everyone to the next one coming up in May. Tammy Nolan, Information, Tickets and Travel director, talks about how base employees and family members can win a free cruise. And Health and Wellness Center Director Bridget Zimmerman talks about the importance of self-exams and breast cancer.

Inside Robins: 9 p.m.

Sunday

12:30 p.m. - **Robins Report**

1 p.m. - **Around Robins**

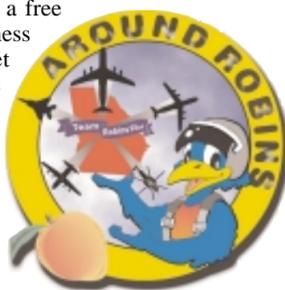
1:30 p.m. - **Inside Robins**

Monday

Noon - **Robins Report**

12:30 p.m. - **Around Robins**

1 p.m. - **Inside Robins**



CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic Masses are celebrated at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., and on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and 5 p.m. and Monday through Friday at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Saturday from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Catholic CCD classes for ages 4 through adult meet every Sunday from 11 a.m. until noon - from September through May - at Robins Elementary School.

Protestant services take place every Sunday at: 8 a.m. inspirational; and 11 a.m. traditional.

Protestant religious education classes for people of all ages meet every Sunday - from September through May - from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Bldg. 905.

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

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

Community fellowship and Bible study is held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays for the following groups: adult mixed, adult singles, adult women, youth and elementary school children. Free dinner is served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Bible study follows.

The chapel helps with any spiritual needs that arise. For further information, call the chapel at 926-2821.

Submit planner information, honor rolls, features and bulletin board items to Rebecca Yull, Rev-Up associate editor, Bldg. 215, Room 106. Also fax submissions at 926-9597 or e-mail to rebecca.yull@robins.af.mil.



ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

AFA extends membership drive

The Carl Vinson Memorial Chapter 296 of the Air Force Association membership drive has been extended to March 15. AFA Chapter 296 President Art Bosshart has set a goal of a 6 percent increase or 110 members during the 2002 membership drive. Membership information and applications are available through each unit's point of contact, or obtained by calling Maj. Susan Morgan at 327-8230.

Commissary news

The commissary will be holding a case lot sale today and Saturday. It will be closed on March 31 in observance of Easter.

Thrift shop in business

Visit the Robins Air Force Base Thrift Shop on Page Road, Bldg. 288. Hours of operation are Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for sales and 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for consignments. The store is also open the first

Saturday of each month. Call 923-1686 for more information.

OSC offers scholastic awards

Robins Officers' Spouses Club announces its annual scholastic achievement awards. Scholarships are available to high school seniors entering college in the fall and to OSC members who are pursuing a degree. Applications are available at the Robins AFB Thrift Shop, Family Support Center, Robins AFB Education Center and at the counselor's officer of area high schools. For more information, contact Nancy Pinaud, scholarship chairperson, at 923-6526. Applications must be post-marked by March 15.

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 opportuni-

ties are available as well as special function opportunities. For additional information, contact museum Director of Protocol and Volunteers Judge Blackburn, or Angelina Banks, volunteer and education administrative assistant, at 926-4242 for additional information.

ALS positions available soon

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, and personal data to the ALS. For further information, call 926-6515.

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. For more information on the survey, call services marketing at 926-5492.

Customer Comments

The Services Division would like to remind its customers that their comments and suggestions are important. Customers may fill out comment cards located in each services facility and leave comments and suggestions online at www.robins.af.mil/services. The 10th customer to submit a comment online will receive a free Robby the Robin stuffed toy. Monthly drawings for \$10 in division dollars will be conducted from the comment cards received. Some exclusions apply.

Enlisted Club 926-4515

The new Press Box Restaurant in the enlisted club will host a grand opening today and Saturday. Members will enjoy prizes and all customers can try the new menu and atmosphere of this separate dining room. A ribbon cutting is slated for 5 p.m. today and dinner will be served 5-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The club hosts big-screen showings of



the 2002 NASCAR series with food and beverage specials Sundays at noon.

Visit the club 4 p.m. to close Sundays for smooth jazz featuring DJ John Marcus.

Celebrate St. Patty's Day with green beverage specials and live entertainment by alternative-rock band Dyscontent at the St. Patty's Day party at the enlisted club on March 16. This event is sponsored in part by Clear Channel station WQBZ-Q106 that will broadcast a live remote from the club 7-9 p.m. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended.

Officers' Club 926-2670

The officers' club barber shop is now open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays for walk-ins only; weekend hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., closed 1:30-2:30 p.m., for appointments and walk-ins when available. Call 918-0775 for an appointment.

Mongolian barbecue will be offered 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday. Cost is \$9.95 for adults and \$4.95 for children.

Youth Center 926-2110

Summer camp registration forms will be accepted on 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 on March 21. Call the youth center for more information and requirements.

Outdoor Recreation 926-4001

An outdoorsman's swap meet and yard sale is slated for 8-11 a.m. Saturday at the equipment rental center, Bldg. 986. Tables can be rented for \$5 each and should be reserved by today.

Sign up for a trip to Savannah for St. Patrick's Day on March 17. Cost of \$15 per person includes transportation. Register by March 13 at outdoor recreation.

Smith Community Center 926-2105

"Give the World a Hand" clean-up day is slated for 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on March 21. Base and community organizations will pick up trash, clean bleachers and benches and plant flowers around the base in an effort to make Robins Air Force Base a cleaner community. All community members may take part in this event. Individual volunteers and organizations can call the community center for more details.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

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

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

Base and community tour

The center is sponsoring a base and community tour for all Team Robins Plus members and their eligible family members, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., starting at the center.

Participants will have an opportunity to visit and tour the center, skills development center, and the physical fitness center. The tour includes a "windshield" of Macon's downtown and residential historic district with commentary on the history of Macon and its people, past and present. Lunch will be at a restaurant in Macon. People will pay for their own lunch. To make reservations, call 926-1256.

Single parents group

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

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

Smooth move

The next Smooth Move workshop is Thursday, 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.

Pre-TAP briefing

A pre-TAP briefing will be conducted on March 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. This session is designed to help individuals get a head start on long-range retirement and separation planning, benefits and other information. To register, call the center at 926-1256.

Frequently asked questions

Is there an active Spouse Club on base?

The Officers' Spouses' Club (OSC) is an active organization on Robins AFB. Individual units also have active spouses' clubs that come together for community and emotional support. For more information, go to <http://www.robins.af.mil/fsc/Family%20Activities/guide.htm#spouse%20clubs>.



Resume, cover letter workshop

Reservations are being accepted for a resume and cover letter workshop Thursday, 9-11 a.m., Bldg. 905. This class is designed to help the beginner get started and provide the more advanced participant the opportunity to improve their product.

TAP workshop

The next three-day Department of Labor-sponsored Transition Assistance Program workshop is on March 18, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day, Smith Community Center ballroom. Personnel leaving the military within the next six months need to sign up as soon as possible. Spouses may attend. To make a reservation for this workshop, call 926-1256.

Junior smooth move

The center's Relocation Assistance Program has a workshop for kids of military and Department of Defense civilians on the move. Children ages 6-12 will learn about their new assignment location through the use of games, maps and activities appropriate for their age. The workshop will be held at the center on March 20, 5:30-7 p.m. Space is limited so early registration is required.

Bundles for babies

The Air Force Aid Society will conduct a Bundles For Babies class on March 27, 10 a.m. to noon, Bldg. 700, Room 180. This 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.



Photo courtesy Keith Wright
Rashaan Powell (head band) lofts a shot over a Tinker AFB defender while teammates Tyree Anderson (No. 33), Neal Hatcher (No. 44) and Fabian Benson position for a rebound.

Robins wins

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

The Robins Air Force Base Varsity Basketball Team won the 2002 Air Force Masteriel Command Men's Intramural All-Star Basketball Championship with an 81-75 win over Tinker AFB, Okla., on Feb. 25 at Kirtland AFB, N.M.

The field, which consisted of teams from Brooks AFB, Texas; Edwards AFB, Calif.; Eglin AFB, Fla.; Hill AFB, Utah; Kirtland AFB, N.M.; Tinker AFB, Okla; and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; proved no match for the Robins team which compiled an 8-2 record in the tournament.

"A few days prior to leaving I e-mailed the players on what they could do for the team to compete for a championship. The goal was a 'New England Patriot' style one team motivation. Hard work was the key as we took the floor every game," said coach Eric Williams.

Winners of special events and awards on the Robins team included: Brad Brooke and Jason Ramos, winners of the two-ball challenge; James Armstrong, runner-up in the three-point shootout for coaches and all tournament team; Jason Seelhorst, runner-up of the three-point shootout for players; and Fabian Benson and Neal Hatcher, all tournament team.

"Anthony White and Neal Hatcher controlled the boards and inside scoring throughout the tournament. Team captains Tyree Anderson and Sherrod Brown really have remained steady for the last two seasons. We have played undersized and under manned at times. Through all the ups and downs these guys have stayed focused and supported the team," said Williams.

Winning the AFMC championship wouldn't have happened without the hard work and dedication of everyone on the team. "If I had to give a nickname to this team it would be 'Team Hard-work'," said Williams

The tournament's most outstanding player was Robins' Fabian Benson, who averaged more than 20 points per game.

"It feels great to be champions," said Benson.

Skeet team holds training camp

San Antonio Services Division

SAN ANTONIO – The Air Force international skeet team will hold a training camp and team selection matches March 18-23 at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

After four days of training, participants will compete in a two-day match to decide who makes the team, which is part of the Air Force's shooting program.

"Anyone who is interested with any kind of competition experience is welcome to come out and give it a shot," said Tech. Sgt. Dale Brunel.

"We will be shooting international skeet which is very exciting and anyone and everyone is welcome to come out and watch the two-day match (March 22 and 23)," he said.

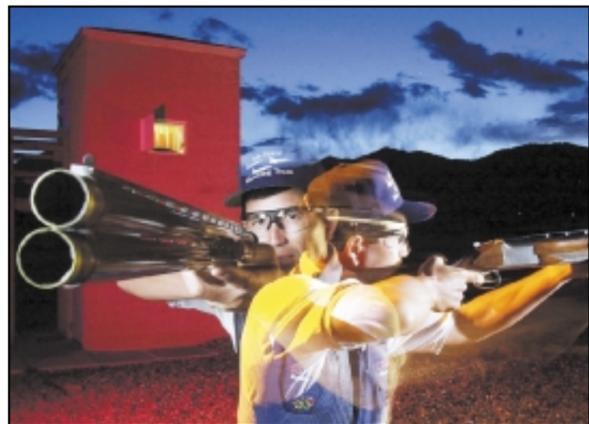
All participants must fax an Air Force Form 303 to Staff Sgt. Guillermo Salazar, Air Force shooting program manager, at DSN 487-4739 or 210-652-4739.

Base fitness centers have the forms, or they can be downloaded from <http://afpubs.hq.af.mil/formfiles/af/af030300/af030300.frl>.

The six-day camp is a permissive temporary deployment for perspective team members, who must pay all travel and lodging costs themselves.

Billeting is available at Robins' Pine Oaks Lodging by calling 926-2100.

For more information, phone or e-mail Capt. Kevin Schiller at DSN 779-4032, kevin.schiller@scott.af.mil; or Tech. Sgt. Dale Brunel at 927-4684, dale.brunel



U.S. Air Force photo

The Air Force international skeet team is looking for competitive shooters, such as former member Bill Roy, who participated in the 1996 Summer Olympics and also set three world records at the 1991 Pan American Games. A skeet team training camp will be held March 18-23 at Robins Air Force Base.

@robins.af.mil.

tributed to this article.

1st Lt. Bryan Reed con-

INTRAMURAL GAMES

Intramural games this week

Date	Time	Home	Visitor
March 12	6 p.m.	19 ARG	78 CS
March 12	7 p.m.	78 SFS	93 MXS
March 12	8 p.m.	78 CEG	5 CCG
March 12	9 p.m.	78 MSS	116 MXS
March 14	6 p.m.	WR-ALC	93 ACW
March 14	7 p.m.	OUTLAWS	653 CLSS
March 14	8 p.m.	J-STARS	93 MXS
March 14	9 p.m.	5 CCG	78 CS

Over 30 games this week

Date	Time	Home	Visitor
March 11	6 p.m.	653 CLSS	78 LG
March 11	7 p.m.	78 SFS	78 CS
March 11	8 p.m.	HQ AFRC	5TH MOBB
March 11	9 p.m.	78 OSS	78 CEG
March 13	6 p.m.	653 CLSS	19 ARG
March 13	7 p.m.	RNCOA	78 CS
March 13	8 p.m.	78 LG	78 MDG
March 13	9 p.m.	78 SFS	78 MSS

Intramural league standings

As of March 4	Team	Wins	Loss	Tie	PCT	GB	Gave up	Points
	5 CCG	7	1	0	.875	—	251	310
	653 CLSS	6	2	0	.750	1	348	402
	78 MSS	5	2	0	.714	1.5	218	244
	J-STARS	7	3	0	.700	1	433	497
	78 SFS	7	3	0	.700	1	383	442
	OUTLAWS	7	3	0	.700	1	416	541
	78 CEG	7	3	0	.700	1	380	472
	WR-ALC	5	5	0	.500	3	462	431
	93 ACW	3	5	0	.375	4	290	300
	116 MXS	2	6	0	.250	5	351	241
	93 MXS	1	8	0	.111	6.5	437	284
	19 ARG	1	9	0	.100	7	540	418
	78 CS	0	8	0	.000	7	414	341

Over 30 league standings

As of March 4	Team	Wins	Loss	Tie	PCT	GB	Gave up	Points
	78 MSS	8	0	0	1.000	—	399	600
	5th MOBB	6	2	0	.750	2	278	338
	RNCOA	3	3	0	.500	3.5	183	242
	78 CEG	3	2	0	.600	3.5	240	257
	HQ AFRC	5	4	0	.556	3.5	421	402
	653 CLSS	4	4	0	.500	4	345	345
	78 OSS	3	5	0	.375	5	285	172
	19 ARG	2	4	0	.333	5	261	182
	78 LG	2	4	0	.333	5	306	269
	78 SFS	2	5	0	.286	5.5	316	305
	78 MDG	1	5	0	.167	6	252	215
	78 CS	1	5	0	.167	6	240	182

SPORTS BRIEFS

Racquetball clinic for women

A free women's racquetball clinic will be offered at Robins Fitness Center Wednesday, 9-10:30 a.m. The class will be taught by Barbara Faulkenberry and Sue Patterson.

The class is geared toward beginners and will go over the basic rules and fundamentals of racquetball. For more information, contact Roger Braner at 926-2129.

Women's varsity softball

Ongoing try-outs for the women's varsity softball team will be held Monday through Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. on field No. 1 next to the fitness center. For more

information, contact Tech. Sgt. Andre' Carr at 327-4642.

Youth Center

926-2110

Volunteer youth baseball, softball and tee-ball coaches as well as swim coaches are still needed. No experience is necessary; training will be provided. Apply in person or call Ron Hayes at the youth center.

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Registration for Operation Night Hoops, a five-on-five basketball league for ages 13-18, will be held Saturday through March 16; 3-6 p.m. Monday through Friday; and 1-7 p.m. Saturday. The cost is \$10 per person. For details, contact Ron Hayes at the youth center.