



Seams sew simple
See Page B-1

Tax tips for military
See Page A-3

VFW Post 6605 to host Military Family Day
See Page A-3

Support when you need it: AFAS offers free oil change for spouses of deployed members
See Page B-2

NEWS

YOU CAN USE

See "Stalag 17" on base for free Monday night

The Theatre Macon cast will perform "Stalag 17," a comedic play for the whole family, at the Base Theater from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday. The play is based upon the diary of Ben Philber, an American prisoner of war during World War II.

Admission is free, and tickets are available at the Family Support Center in Building 794 on 9th Street, and the Information, Travel and Ticket Office in the Smith Community Center, Building 767.

For more information, contact ITT at 926-2945, or the Family Support Center at 926-1256.

Message to the TROOPS



"As a terminal operator, I am out there when troops are boarding the planes. There are no bad attitudes displayed, and they are pumped up and ready to go. We are praying for them and hope they go over and do their job safely and come back home soon."

Tech. Sgt. Glenn Carter
NCOIC of Air terminal operations



"I feel great about the troops I have seen come through. They are motivated. My motivation is to make sure I get them off as safely as possible so they can get their jobs done and return home to their families and loved ones."

Master Sgt. Derrick Scott
load team chief

GUARDIAN ANGELS



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Maj. Michael Mras, sensor management officer, monitors activity while sitting at an operator workstation in Building 2039. Mras is one of the many 116th Air Control Wing service members who performs a very important role in detecting enemy ground movement and relays that information to both forces on the ground and other airborne assets.

Eyes in the sky

116th ACW train for battle

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

As military action continues in Iraq, coalition ground troops are in many ways counting on their guardian angels to guide the way.

And, those guardians, crewmembers from the 116th Air Control Wing, are always ready.

Tech Sgt. Jim Anderson, airborne intelligence instructor, said whether or not members of the 116th ACW deploy, they always train as if deployment was moments away.

Dozens of 116th ACW members sit poised and ready at operator workstations where they train on mission simulators to sharpen their skills. They also monitor ground movement to keep coalition troops one-step ahead of the game.

"JSTARS, as we speak, is performing a very important role in detecting enemy ground movement and then passing that information on to both forces on the ground and our other airborne assets so forces on the ground can be forewarned of possible surprise attacks," said Lt. Col. George Riebling 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron commander. "They can be given real-time information on enemy ground movements and support possible attacks."



Foreground, Capt. "Scrudge," an airborne intelligence officer with the 116th, and Tech. Sgt. Jim Anderson, an airborne intelligence technician, train for possible deployment to the Middle East.

Helping to make this possible is a crew of many. Airman 1st Class Will Highsmith, a communications systems technician, said he can help support the war fighter from thousands of miles away.

"I can alter radio frequencies and change parameters for data link systems," he said. "I can pretty much do my entire job from right here."

Unlike other crewmembers, Highsmith said it's seldom he looks at the radar screen.

"What I do is monitor radios," he said. "I provide a service for the people who use the tactical employment of the weapon system. If someone in the back of the plane needs to talk to someone in another aircraft, I can change the radio frequency to allow that connection."

Highsmith also monitors emergency calls from aircraft in distress.

See ACW ... Page A-3

'A tag-team event'

■ Middle Georgia Military Affairs Committee partners with base, community to support families

By Geoff Janes
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The Middle Georgia Military Affairs Committee, along with the base Family Support Center staff, is taking care of the troops by taking care of their families.

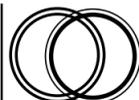
Mike Dyer, chairman of the Middle Georgia Military Affairs Committee, and Chip Cherry, Macon Chamber of Commerce president, joined base officials during a Monday press conference in the Family Support Center to kick off a campaign to ease the worries of deployed members by easing the stresses on their loved ones.

"It's an honor to be here to help kick off this program," Cherry said. "We have recognized for a long time that it's very difficult for those (spouses) that are left behind to maintain a household, to raise a family. I know that, having two children. If it weren't for my wife, then I'd be crazy ... it takes two people to do it. It's kind of a tag-team event."

The new campaign, called "Supporting the Troops by Supporting the Families," is designed to offer families of deployed service members free services and activities to help them get through the difficulties of keeping the family going while coping with the uncertainties of their deployed spouse's absence.

Brig. Gen. Darryl Scott, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center vice commander, lauded the community in its efforts to support the troops.

"When I arrived here about five



Support when you need it



Wilcox

Taking care of our own

Robins leave program offers way to help peers

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

Only three weeks after ringing in the New Year, Scott and April Whitaker received news that would ultimately change life as they knew it.

Scott, a vibrant 33-year-old aircraft sheet metal mechanic in the F-15 division, was diagnosed with astrocytoma - a tumor located on the left side of his brain.

The couple learned chemotherapy and radiation were not options for the tumor, which has grown to

What to know:

Prizes for the raffle set for May 9, include DVDs, food, savings bonds, haircuts, trips and more.

For more information or to buy raffle tickets, contact Steve Rodgers at 218-0440, 464-7715 or by e-mail at steve.rodgers@robins.af.mil

the size of a tangerine. And while facing many months of medical treatment and time away from work, they fretted over how they would make it.

Just when they thought they had no options, members of the F-15 division

provided a little light in the darkness.

Donations of food, time and money started coming in from employees who had once worked with Scott, a co-op student at Georgia Aviation Technical College.

Cory Harrelson, a friend and fellow co-op student, said when he heard about Scott's diagnosis, he couldn't believe it.

"I don't know why bad things happen to good people," he said.

Knowing he had to do something to help his friend, Harrelson went to management and asked how they could help more.

With the help of Steve Rodgers, an F-15 hydraulic mechanic, soon the ball was rolling to help the fam-



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Scott and April Whitaker consider themselves fortunate that they are able to take advantage of the Leave Donor Program at Robins.

ily. Rodgers helped coordinate a raffle, which will raise money for the Whitakers.

"Leaders are working with employees to help out our own," said Buck

Whelchel, F-15 supervisor. "We consider each other family we are not just a group who show up at the

See CARE ... Page A-4

STEPin' up



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Maj. Gen. Donald J. Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, promotes Andre Riggins to the rank of master sergeant in the 78th Air Base Wing conference room April 2. Riggins, an instructor at the Airman Leadership School, was recognized under the 'Stripes for Exceptional Performers' program.

AFA luncheon



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

The Carl Vinson Chapter 296 from Robins completed its annual membership drive with 194 new members. Top, Jack Steed, left, chairman of the AFA National Membership Committee, presents a certificate to Maj. Tim Nesley, Robins Membership Drive Chairman. Left, Brig. Gen. Darryl Scott, WR-ALC vice commander, was the guest speaker at the April 4 luncheon.

EVENT

Continued from A-1

weeks ago, they told me that 'Every Day In Middle Georgia Is Air Force Appreciation Day,' and this community just proves it day after day after day," he said. "This is just one more example of how the Middle Georgia community has reached out to support our troops that are deployed overseas."

And as the troops continue to deploy, Scott said their biggest concerns aren't what some might expect.

"Right now we've got over 1,400 troops deployed from the Robins community with more going all the time," he said. "In many cases, when they go overseas the biggest anxiety is not what's going to happen to them while they're in theater - they're trained for that - it's what's going to happen with the families that are left behind."

And according to Stacie Wilcox, whose husband is currently deployed, even though times are trying, she has found comfort in the community's efforts with the new campaign.

"The base has always been very supportive of the spouses," she said. "But to know that you can go out into the community, and they're thinking of you and the families is just an added boost. After you've sat and watched the war on television all day, it's nice to get out and have something else to think about."

Terri Ann Wood, whose

husband is also deployed, said the new campaign provides peace of mind to the deployed troops, as well.

"I do feel it makes a big difference with the men and women who are over there," she said. "As far as my husband, he has been really happy to hear that I've been getting involved in all of this, and it does make him feel better."

Q:

Can I organize donations to this project in my work area?

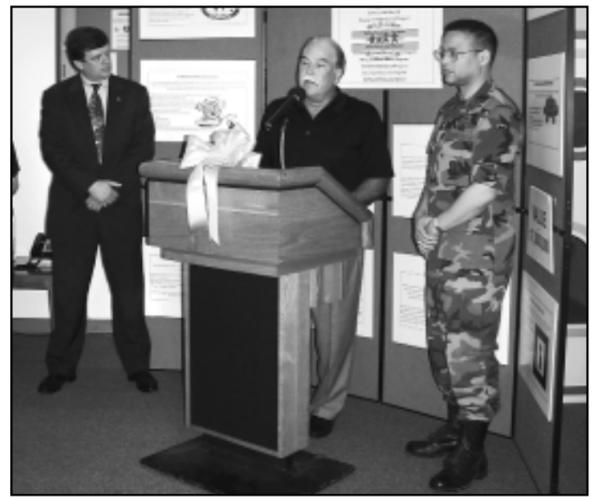
Yes. However, before you start, identify yourself as a key worker to the Public Affairs Office by calling Judith Smith at 926-2137 for instructions. Only approved fund raisers are allowed on base. For more information on fund raising policy at Robins, see page A-4.

A:

for a number of things," he said. "One is if they have any free entertainment opportunities they can make available - free movie tickets, tickets to a play, gift certificates for groceries - any of those kinds of things, child care assistance and support."

Dyer added that the Middle Georgia Military Affairs Committee is asking members to donate funds.

Those funds go to the committee's morale and welfare fund and are then given to the Family Support Center to offer to families, with particular emphasis on relieving stress with entertainment options, defraying additional expenses (such as postage for



U.S. Air Force photo by Angela Trunzo

From left, Chip Cherry, Macon Chamber of Commerce president, Mike Dyer, chairman of the Middle Georgia Military Affairs Committee, and Brig. Gen. Darryl Scott, Center vice commander, conduct a press conference at the Family Support Center Monday.

What to know:

Donations may be dropped off at the Warner Robins and Macon Chambers of Commerce, the Museum of Aviation Gift Shop, and Robins Federal Credit Union offices on Watson Boulevard, South Houston Lake Road, North Houston Road in Warner Robins, Hartley Bridge Road in Macon, and both Robins Air Force Base locations.

Checks should be made out to the MGMAC Morale and Welfare Fund.



care packages), and freeing some of their overbooked time.

Contributions can be made directly to the Macon and the Warner Robins Chambers of Commerce, the Museum of Aviation gift shop, as well as the Robins Federal Credit Union offices on Watson Boulevard, South Houston Lake Road, North Houston Road in Warner Robins,

Hartley Bridge Road in Macon, and both Robins Air Force Base locations.

Cherry asked that those wishing to make donations write the checks out to the MGMAC Morale and Welfare Fund.

"There are boxes available right now," Dyer said, "and (the campaign) is ongoing for as long as we need to support our troops."

Sportstowne
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Atlanta bread
57036301

ACW

Continued from A-1

According to Highsmith, without communications, receiving information from the jet is impossible.

"You have voice communications and data communications," he said. "As far as data communications, it is very important to have data links systems up so we can get this information out to our combat commanders in the region and other aircraft so they know where the threats and targets are."

Maj. Michael Mras, sensor management officer, keeps his eyes on the radar.

"I monitor jobs that come in, and juggle the different requirements and requests as they come in so the radar is not over-tasked at any one time," he said. "We want to make sure that everyone who has a requirement to see the ground picture gets what they need to do their job, both on and off the jet."

While flying in friendly airspace, JSTARS can look deep behind hostile borders to detect and track ground movements in both forward and rear areas. It has a range of more than 150 miles (250 km). Those capabilities make Joint STARS effective for dealing with any contingency — whether actual or impending military aggression, international treaty verification, or border violation.

1st Lt. Mark Valdez also makes sure the troops get what they need. His job is to talk to the aircraft, aid in aircraft check-in and information from other members on the aircraft and give it to the pilots.

"I relay information to the pilots who then go in and look at targets or destroy them," he said.

He also assists in the surveillance aspect of missions. In that aspect, if there are no fighters in the air, he looks for

tracks of movements to identify potential threats.

"There are a lot of things that we all do as a team to make the mission happen," he said.

There is no punch-in clock set to achieve the mission.

"Whatever needs to be done at any given time even it means working 24-hours a day, 7-days-a-week, we make sure it gets done correctly and safely."

Valdez said his job saves lives.

"It lets the people on the ground know what is coming," he said. "What we do is very critical to the war fighter because of the things we can see and the information we can provide to help commanders make those big decisions," he said. "I love it, I wouldn't trade the feeling I get from knowing I've saved lives for anything in the world."

Feedback from the field has been very favorable according to Riebling.

"When you hear comments like 'Thank God for JSTARS,' it makes you feel good to know our brothers in arms from the 116th ACW are doing their jobs, and doing it well."

Riebling said crewmembers left behind are going through initial qualification training. The wing will continue to train to the best of its ability so when troops deploy, they will be ready. Those deployed to theater are combat mission ready, and crewmembers have been through extensive training."

Capt. "Scrudge," of the 116th ACW said those in the field are doing a 'bang up job.'

"They are working some long hours but they are having results," he said. "There are a lot of people who are very glad they are there, and I wish I were there with them. Everyone here does, but we are doing our best to support them from this end as well. JSTARS is integral to the war effort."

Johnson is Robins Youth of Year

Yasmin Johnson was recently selected as the Robins Air Force Base 2002 Youth of the Year. The Youth of the Year program, sponsored by the Reader's Digest Foundation and administered by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, recognizes teens for their exemplary character, leadership skills, academic achievement and outstanding service to the Club and their community.

Johnson has been a mem-

ber of the Robins Air Force Base Youth and Teen Center for the past six years. She competed against other Boys & Girls Club youth for the state Youth of the Year title April 4 at St. Simons Island but did not advance in the competition.

Johnson, the daughter of Master Sgt. Phil and Joyce Johnson, is a freshman at Houston County High School.

"Yasmin is very talented and worked hard to earn the honor to compete at the state competition," said Marvin Hawkins, Teen Director of the Teen Center.

For more information about the Teen Center, call Hawkins at 926-5601.



Johnson

Portable workstation makes it easier to Lean

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

What was once scrap metal lying around building 91 is now a testimony for Lean thinking.

Gary Hawk, C-130 aircraft logistics specialist, saw a problem and went to work to solve it.

The problem: no space for documentation and books when working on the aircraft.

His solution: a portable workstation.

"Our books were being put on work stands, flight decks and on the floor," said Hawk. "This was causing them to

be damaged."

The Lean team came up with the idea to centralize the location of the books so everyone would be able to find them and to keep them out of the weather. Hawk came up with the blueprint.

Joseph Giles, an aircraft mechanic, and Mickey Miller, a sheet metal mechanic, helped bring Hawk's idea to life. Using scrap metal, they put together the prototype.

"We all improved upon the design until it was the way we wanted it," said Hawk.

He said the shelf takes two minutes to install, two minutes to take down



U.S. Air Force image by Ed Aspera

Gary Hawk demonstrates the portable folding shelf used to hold manuals for work inside the C-130. To see this story in streaming video, go to http://www.robins.af.mil/pa/stream/C-130_shelf.wmv

and can be installed and transported by one person using litter studs.

Response has been favorable and eight more of the workstations are currently being made.

Tax guidelines for military personnel

By Eric Erickson
IRS Media Relations/ North Georgia

Georgia has sent thousands of soldiers to the Middle East, with their families back home to take care of financial matters.

As the April 15 tax deadline approaches, many of these military families have questions about how the events in Iraq could affect taxes.

The IRS does allow certain extensions and exclusions for military personnel and their spouses:

- Members of the US Armed Forces who serve in a combat zone as an enlisted person can exclude certain pay from their income.
- All active duty military serving in a

combat zone, or qualified hazardous duty area will automatically be given a 180 day extension on all tax matters relating to the IRS. This includes filing tax returns, paying taxes, filing claims for refunds, and during this period all collection activities will cease.

- The deadline extension provisions also apply to individuals serving in the combat zone in support of the U.S. Armed Forces, such as Red Cross personnel, Merchant Marine personnel, accredited correspondents, and civilian personnel acting under the direction of the U.S. Armed Forces in support of those forces.
- The deadline extension provisions apply not only to members serving in the U.S. Armed Forces (or individuals serv-

ing in support thereof) in the combat zone, but to their spouses as well - whether joint or separate returns are filed.

To make this information easily accessible, the IRS created a new section on its Web site containing important information for those affected. Details are available on the front page of IRS.gov by clicking on "Armed Forces Tax Benefits."

For more information about exclusions and extensions for military personnel, check out IRS Publication 3 at:

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf>

Our Web site also has a wealth of information on this topic:

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=97273,00.html>

VFW Post 6605 to host 'Military Family Day'

VFW Memorial Post 6605 is planning a Military Family Appreciation Day April 19 from noon to 4 p.m. for all active, guard, reserve and retired military families. Spouses and families of those deployed are encouraged to attend.

This event is to show our support for the military and their families. Maximum showing of the flag and patriotic logos is permissible and encouraged during this event. In case of rain the event will be held in our hall.

The Post will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, soft drinks and any items donated for this worthwhile event. We

are planning on a full range of events for the families; especially for the kids. Canteen will be open for adult beverages. We anticipate an egg toss, cake walk, wheelbarrow race and a three-legged race just to name a few of the activities. We anticipate prizes for all who participate.

Sandy Solari of Power Pole Productions (P3) and the Ladies Aux. of the VFW will provide karaoke during the event. Al Trice, the founder of "Shagdaddy's Dance Club" (held at the VFW the first and third Friday night of each month) will also provide entertainment for your dancing/listening pleasure. Come

and relax for the day and let your VFW show how much you are appreciated.

Organizations or merchants that desire to donate

items or time to this effort can call the Post Home at 922-2154 and leave your name and phone number for Merle to contact you.

Bank of gray
56974901

Gold's gym
57036701

Century 21
57009201

M&T builders
57010701

Goodwill
57033801

Jimmy Benson
57042401

Countdown to MSEP continues at Robins

■ Maintenance Directorate says it's ready to pass the test

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

With the Maintenance Standardization Evaluation program inspection less than a month away, Laura Davis and others in the Maintenance Directorate said they are ready to pass the test.

The 2003 MSEP inspection, to be held May 5 through 9, is the fourth round of its type for the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, said Davis, MSEP focal point for the Maintenance Directorate.

"I believe we're ready for the inspection," she said. "Each and every one of us must remain diligent in our efforts to focus on good maintenance shop practices, strict compliance to prescribed technical data, and established processes and procedures.... This will ensure that Robins produces products and services that meet technical requirements and maintains a safe work environment for our personnel..."

Col. William Saunders, WR-ALC inspector general, agreed with Davis and said his IG team is doing its best to make certain the inspection goes according to plan.

"It's my job to make sure Robins Air Force Base, in conjunction with its leadership, is ready to pass this evaluation, and I'm confident it will pass with flying colors," he said. "We earned the highest marks in the last inspection, only 10 months ago. It's our goal to show we are still the best and can do our job."

While inspections for the past three years focused primarily on the mechanic and work level aspects, as well as production management and support processes, this year's inspection will primarily focus on assessing the technician's compliance with directives and the effectiveness of the Quality Assurance organizations, Davis said.

"Due to a more in-depth focus on the support processes, the MSEP inspection team will increase in size from 30-35 to 40-45, broken into four teams," she said. "One team will

What to know:

For questions on MSEP or Rules of Engagement, contact Rebecca Davis at 926-2522.

strictly perform Task Evaluations and Quality Inspection Verifications throughout all three maintenance divisions."

Davis said the three remaining teams will assess the aircraft, avionics, industrial, and industrial services divisions jointly in the four critical areas of maintenance management, reviewing general shop maintenance and safety practices; technical data and processes, evaluating work control documents, technical orders, and other areas; Tools and Equipment; and Qualification and Training, reviewing production acceptance certification, special skills qualification and other on the job and formal training.

Action plans and corrective and preventive plans were undertaken throughout the Center to tackle and correct processes and programs in the area of non-compliance in past inspections, said Davis.

Frank Trzaski, management program analyst for the WR-ALC Inspection General Exercise Office, is coordinating the logistics of the IG inspection team visit.

"We are as ready as we ever will be," he said. "All the spaces are filled and the transition of things is going smoothly [for the upcoming inspection]."

Editor's Note: Rebecca Davis contributed to this article.

Hands Across Robins: Fingerprinting children for safety's sake

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

The Family Advocacy Office and the 78th Security Forces Squadron is partnering with the Robins Elementary School for its Hands Across Robins child identification program Tuesday.

The program will take place from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Robins Elementary School, and special guest "McGruff" the crime dog will meet and greet children and parents.

Veronica Griffin, FAO outreach and prevention program manager, said the child identification day is a way to provide parents with the necessary resource tool to help police locate a missing child.

"With April being Child Abuse Prevention Month, we thought it would be a

fitting time to have our child identification day, and give parents the opportunity to have their kids fingerprinted," she said.

Betsy Steed, Robins Elementary School secretary, said a lot of the children have been fingerprinted, and she expects more to participate in the program.

"It's a great thing to do," she said. "It's a great tool to help us if anything were to happen, or if one of the children were to get lost. We already have fingerprints of most

What to know:

For more information on how to get your child fingerprinted through the Hands Across Robins program, contact Veronica Griffin at 327-8427, or stop by Robins Elementary School in Building 990 on 11th Street.

of our children." Staff Sgt. Stephanie McCleskey, with the 78th SFS, said cards would include the child's fingerprints, dental chart, hair strand for DNA purposes, as well as other vital information regarding the

with their children.

Cards issued during the Hands Across Robins event are funded through the 78th SFS.

McCleskey said the program, which is part of 'Operation Save A Child,' is a viable way of controlling child abduction, and enhances security and welfare at Robins Air Force Base.

"This is a great way for us to increase our policing efforts," she said. "The cards will have personal and medical information on the child so that if anything were to happen to the child, the parent would have the card on hand."

McCleskey said the 78th SFS encourages all parents and children from the community to come to Robins Elementary School to participate in Hands Across Robins.

child's identity.

Steed said letters regarding the free fingerprinting program were sent to parents this week, along with permission slips to accompany children who will be fingerprinted without the parent being present.

For parents that are unable to accompany their children, the cards will be sent home

CARE

Continued from A-1

same time and work eight to 10 hours together."

Fortunately, for employees in need of leave due to medical emergencies, like Scott, the Voluntary Leave Sharing Program is available to assist them in obtaining donated leave to help prevent a substantial loss of income.

Tina Miller, employee relations specialist, said the leave sharing program is a great option for employees who have depleted or foresee depletion of their leave due to a medical emergency.

"It provides for employees, who are approved to be donated leave recipients, to have annual leave transferred or donated to them from co-workers and other employees, even employees from another base," she said. "Robins Air Force Base is full of big-hearted people who gladly donate leave to others in need."

Sue Trussell, employee relations specialist, said the program is a great way for employees to provide financial and emotional support to co-workers experiencing medical emergencies.



How you can help:

A bank account has been set up at SunMark Bank in Warner Robins for Whitaker. Donations may be made at any SunMark branch in Warner Robins, Hawkinsville or Fort Valley. Donations may be mailed to SunMark Bank, c/o Scott Whitaker Fund, P.O. Box 7689, 250 South Houston Lake Rd., Warner Robins, Ga. 31088.

"We are all subject to unexpected medical emergencies, which may deplete our leave very quickly," she said.

"The Voluntary Leave Sharing Program, as well as other available leave programs, is available

How the leave donor program works

The following basic requirements must be met before an employee can become eligible to be a donated annual leave recipient.

1. The employee must have been adversely affected by a medical or family medical emergency that would result in a substantial loss in income and is likely to require an employee's absence from duty without pay for at least three workdays.

2. The employee must have exhausted all accrued annual and sick leave (if sick leave is applicable) before annual leave can be transferred. Advanced leave may not be considered when determining whether a medical emergency is likely to result in a substantial loss of income.

Application to become a leave recipient
An employee must submit Optional Form 630, Leave Recipient Application Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program, to the immediate supervisor to become a leave recipient. An employee who wishes to become a leave recipient after the medical emergency has terminated must submit OF 630 within 30 days of the termination of the medical emergency. A doctor's certificate must be attached to the OF 630 and must support the entire absence as a leave recipient. A personal represen-

to assist employees in these situations."

Scott and April may still have mountains to climb but some of

the burden won't have to be borne alone, thanks to people who care.

tative may make a written application on behalf of the employee if the employee is not capable of making an application due to a physical or mental impairment.

Leave donor procedures

1. An employee must submit Optional Form 630A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient (within agency) or OF 630B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient (outside agency) to the supervisor for approval. A copy must be provided to the servicing Customer Service Representative and to WR-ALC/FMFAPC to donate annual leave to an approved leave recipient. The decision to donate leave becomes irrevocable when the annual leave is transferred to the recipient's account.

2. A leave donor must have already earned the number of hours being donated. Donating leave earned in future pay periods is prohibited.

3. A leave donor may not donate annual leave to his or her immediate supervisor.

4. The approval/disapproval authority for leave donor requests is normally the first-level supervisor.

For additional information concerning the Voluntary Leave Sharing Program or other leave programs, you may contact your servicing Employee Relations Specialist in the Civilian Personnel Office at 926-5802 or 926-0677.

Fund-raising: let there be no misunderstanding

The 78th Mission Support Group, Services Division and the Base Legal Office are providing this simplified Q & A to ensure everyone understands the rules for fund raising on Robins Air Force Base. If individuals have further questions, they should contact the base legal office at 926-3961 and speak with Becky Moody at ext 163 or Mike Shutter at ext 122.

Q: Our office would like to raise money to buy flowers, plaques and other similar items. Can we have a bake sale or a car wash on base to raise this money?

A: Yes, if you first obtain permission from the 78th Mission Support Group commander.

Q: How do I "request permission?"

A: Contact 78th MSG/SVF at 926-2655 or 926-5717, for the format. Write the request

in enough detail to explain who will be participating, when it will be conducted, why it's being conducted and what will occur.

Q: Our office decided that the best way for us to raise money is to sell drinks and snacks on a regular basis within our own office. Can we do that if we establish a private organization or unofficial activity (coffee/flower funds)?

A: Yes, if the sales don't compete with AAFES or Services Division activities.

Q: How do I know if it competes?

A: 78th MSG/SVF (Services Division) will make the determination.

Q: What criterion does 78th MSG/SVF use to decide?

A: 78th MSG/SVF follows guidance in AFI 34-223, Private Organization (PO)

Program, 29 August 2001, and may consider any factor that may affect whether the proposed sales would compete with AAFES or Services Division activity's sales. For example, if Services Division operates a snack bar in a particular building, you may or may not be able to sell snacks and sodas depending on the proximity to that snack bar. And, any approval would be limited to sales within your organization.

Q: Do you mean we wouldn't be allowed to sell to people who may be visiting our organization or passing through our area or to other offices in the area?

A: That is correct. If given approval, the approval does not extend to selling to those who may be passing through your area. In addition, all sales must be on the "honor system." No one is authorized

to act as a cashier during duty hours. Your stock of items must be re-stocked during off-duty time also.

Q: So how do people have a bake sale or boiled peanut sale close to a snack bar or in a common area?

A: Occasional fund-raising sales are not the same as continuous sales of sodas and snacks. As mentioned earlier, the 78th MSG commander approves occasional fund-raiser sales/events.

Q: What would happen if we just didn't ask permission? After all, sometimes forgiveness is easier to obtain than permission.

A: You may be subject to disciplinary action with penalties ranging from a reprimand to removal for civilians and ranging from a reprimand to general court-martial for military members.

Q: Are we required to

establish a private organization or unofficial activity (coffee/flower fund) to maintain funds from regular ongoing sales even if it's limited to just our office?

A: Yes.

Q: Can't we just sell the items at a slight mark-up price without having to go through all that paperwork and approval process?

A: No, based upon current AFIs.

Q: OK, so how do we know which one to establish-unofficial activity or private organization?

A: If the funds do not exceed a monthly average of \$1,000 over a three-month period, you can create an unofficial activity to maintain the funds. If the funds exceed this amount, you need to establish a private organization.

Q: So how do we become

qualified as an unofficial activity or private organization?

A: Follow AFI 34-223, Private Organization (PO) Program, Aug. 29, 2001, and contact the private organization monitor for the base; call 78th MSG/SVF, at 926-2655 or 926-5717, and ask the private organization monitor for assistance on procedures/formats and for approval.

Q: Can we qualify as an unofficial activity or sell sodas or snacks without approval?

A: No. AFI 34-223, Private Organization (PO) Program, Aug. 29, 2001, paragraph 7, requires that 78 MSG/SVF monitor private organizations and unofficial activities.

Q: And we can't have a one-time fundraiser such as a hotdog sale without the 78th Mission Support Group Commander's approval?

A: That is correct.

SSI payments due for post-1956 military earnings

By 78th Mission Support Group/DPCEB Employee Relations

Q: What is post-56 military earning?

A: This term refers to earnings by military members for military service after 1956. Wages earned prior to 1956 were not subject to Social Security. Earnings after 1956 they were subject to Social Security.

Q: Do CSRS employees need to pay this money back?

A: If you were first employed under CSRS before Oct. 1, 1982, your military service after Dec. 31, 1956, can't be used in computing your civilian service annuity after age 62 if you are eligible for (or would be upon application) Social Security old-age benefits, unless a deposit has been made for the military service. Under current law, the deposit is 7 percent of your basic military pay. Individuals who have, or expect to have, enough credits to qualify for Social Security have the option of making the deposit and thereby avoiding a reduction in annuity at age 62. However, if you are already 62, or older, at the time of retirement and eligible for (or would be upon application) Social Security, your military service will not be included in the computation of your annuity unless the deposit has been paid. Your payment must cover a full period of military service. Partial deposits that don't cover a deposit for a full period of military service are refunded. If you won't be eligible for Social Security benefits you will continue to receive free credit for your military service for retirement purposes. If you were first employed under CSRS after Sept. 30, 1982, no credit is allowed for post-56 military service unless you make a deposit for the service.

Q: Do FERS employees

need to pay this money back?

A: Yes. The main retirement benefit for FERS employees is Social Security. FERS employees who have military service after 1956 have already received Social Security credits for the period of military service. In order to receive FERS retirement credit for this same period of military service, a deposit of 3 percent of the base pay for the period of military service must be paid into the FERS retirement system.

Q: How can I determine how much that I owe?

A: Contact the Employee Relations, 78th Mission Support Group/DPCEB, Bldg. 255, 926-5307, for the form to fill out to request the amount of your military earnings. Be sure to attach a copy of your DD 214 and either fax or mail the form to the appropriate branch of service. You will receive a statement in the mail showing the total amount you earned while in the military. Once you

receive the information back, you'll need to make an appointment with Delores Stephens in Employee Relations, who will calculate the amount of your military deposit and will also provide instructions of how to pay this back.

Q: What do I need to do in order to pay this money back?

A: You have two options: (1) pay the amount calculated in full or (2) set up payroll deduction which requires a

minimum amount of \$25 per pay period. If you elect to pay the deposit, it must be paid in full prior to retirement. Interest accrues after the interest-free period.

Q: Do I need to pay this money if I'm retired military?

A: Only if you intend to combine your military service with your civilian service in order to receive a CSRS or FERS benefit based on the combination of your military

and civilian service.

Q: Do I need to pay the money if I don't plan on applying for Social Security?

A: The key here is whether you will be eligible for Social Security benefits. If you owe the post-56 deposit and don't pay it, your retirement benefits will be reduced if you are eligible to receive Social Security benefits at age 62, even if you elect to delay receiving the Social Security benefit until a later age.

Rex audio
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Fickling
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Ga theater
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Each of us has chance to affect vision

By **W. Michael Hatcher**
Deputy Director, F15 System Program Office

I've often heard aircraft described as "thousands of parts flying in very close formation." In the case of the F-15, it's more than 100,000 parts ranging from common rivets and bolts costing pennies, to complex electronic devices that can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Individually, those items are simply hardware or oddly formed metal, composites or other materials with little or no obvious purpose or value when viewed alone. Assembled in any other way, the parts wouldn't have given the F-15 its aerodynamic performance, operational abilities or great success.

It takes the genius and creativity of its designers, coupled with the skill and expertise of those who manufacture, assemble and integrate those parts, to create what ultimately becomes the premier fighter and all-weather attack aircraft of the last 30 years.

That outcome didn't happen by accident. The F-15 didn't begin as a collection of parts, components and subsystems that designers and engineers fitted together to meet design requirements as best they could.

Such an approach probably wouldn't have been very successful. It reminds me of an old joke about the camel being the result of an attempt to design a horse using a committee.

My point is that there must be a clear, shared goal or objective to achieve truly remarkable results - a vision of what could be done with the available technology. It

requires a vision of how to integrate and fit pieces in such a way as to achieve something much greater than the sum or its parts. For the F-15, it began with the war fighter's need for air superiority for the foreseeable future. It also began with a vision of building the best fighter in the world for years to come.

The design, development and production activities for a superior weapon system like the F-15 are only the beginning. In some important ways, it's much like the birth of a child. The outcome is something of a miracle to behold - complex, fresh, new, and with seemingly unlimited possibilities. But, it must also be maintained, nurtured and guided in its growth.

In the weapon system world, we typically find the initial development and acquisition accounts for only 30 percent of the overall expense while the remaining 70 percent is spent to support, maintain and operate it during the remainder of its life. Depending on the life span of the weapon system, the resource commitment can easily be more skewed toward the latter. In many ways those latter costs are predetermined by the original design. But, as in the example of a child I posed above, the long-term costs can be significantly influenced by the actions taken throughout the remaining life of the system. The challenge is to ensure the vision and capability is retained and

enhanced throughout the life cycle - not just for the initial implementation.

Sustaining and extending that vision is what the F-15 System Program Office, and many others, are all about. It is a highly complex business operation requiring great skill and consuming billions of dollars. Much like the analogy of nurturing a child through maturity, we don't do this alone. The task of fielding, supporting and updating a complex system like the F-15 is shared with fellow workers at this logistics center, the

other two logistics centers, hundreds of commercial companies and the aeronautical product center at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, as well as the maintenance, transportation and supply personnel in and out of uniform all over the world.

At Robins alone there are thousands of "moving parts" - organizations and individuals who make important contributions. Some of them may never actually see the final result of their individual labors.

There are machinists in back shops forming, stamping, machining or repairing some seemingly nondescript component which will very soon put one more F-15C or E in the sky over New York, off the coast of North Korea, or over the Marines, Army or other coalition troops on the ground in Iraq.

An equipment specialist or item manager may have just spent an extra half hour of

their own time to help a crew chief or mechanic in the field or may have thought of a new way to get one or two more heads-up displays to a unit which needs them.

An engineer, working with the depot mechanics, develops and implements an innovative repair to an F-15E in a remote location, which allows it to continue to fight with what would normally be a grounding situation.

A program or logistics manager, along with the contracting officer, has just worked an agreement with the contractor that gets 10 more installs of an updated subsystem needed by the war fighter.

The examples go on and on, each appearing to be routine or perhaps even inconsequential. The key is that they each are supporting and maintaining that original vision.

The challenge for us is to recognize the opportunity that we have every day to affect that vision. We're not often given direct feedback or recognition as to the importance of what we do. Many times we fall into the trap of thinking what we do each day is just a job - a routine we go through in order to make a living.

Today, more than ever, there are very real and striking examples of the significance of our labors. There are young men and women on the front lines who trust their lives and futures to the weapon systems and support provided. It is as individuals that we need to examine how well we are measuring up to that trust, but it is together that we make a difference. In other words, just "flying in close formation" isn't enough - we must add the ingredient which makes the whole greater than the sum of its parts - a vision of excellence.

Today, more than ever, there are very real and striking examples of the significance of our labors. There are young men and women on the front lines who trust their lives and futures to the weapon systems and support provided.

Fear, anxiety sometimes come in little packages

By **Nancy Jo Doubrava-Dull**
92nd Air Refueling Wing Family Support Center

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash — "Mommy, why is there war?"

"Daddy, why are there terrorists?" Tough questions, yes. Impossible questions, not necessarily.

Our children are growing up in a different world than we did. Messages of terror can travel the Internet around the world in seconds. Rogue nations with weapons of mass destruction are the norm rather than the exception.

What is a parent to do when little ones start asking those kinds of questions?

First, don't panic. Second, tailor your answers to a child's developmental stage and age.

For example, my daughter was just shy of 4-years-old when her father was called back to active duty for Desert Shield and Storm. She asked me the same tough questions children are asking now.

I told her gently that sometimes adults act like bullies and take things that don't belong to them, so soldiers, airmen and sailors like daddy have to go and make those bullies behave and give back what they took.

The next question wasn't nearly as clear-cut: "Mommy, didn't that Saddam's mommy teach him not to take things that don't

belong to him?"

My answer was, "Yes, baby, but sometimes adults forget or don't follow lessons they learned as children."

Yes, out of the mouths of babes. Children don't have the ability to understand war in the same way adults do. Because their experience set is smaller, they can only conceive war as something that will happen in their neighborhood, to their family and at their school and play areas.

Parents should reassure them there are many people working to protect us and that generally, we are safe in our homes, schools and at play.

Children tend to look for sim-

ple answers. When explaining war, people might want to make a distinction between dropping a few bombs and a long-term war.

If children avoid talking about war, it does not necessarily mean they aren't thinking about it. But parents shouldn't give them too much information, or they risk information overload.

Limit media exposure, especially for younger children. Older children and teens might watch the news with their parents and discuss what they are seeing.

If children have trouble coping, parents should seek professional help for them. There are school counselors, counselors at Life Skills and skilled providers

at Family Advocacy who can assist parents in helping their children cope with this brave new world.

In order for parents to take care of their children, they must take care of themselves.

War can be a tremendous stressor. Talk with friends and take advantage of every opportunity to network with others whose loved ones are deployed. Beyond "misery loves company," sharing fears and challenges with others going through the same thing helps normalize feelings.

For an easy way to network with others, consult with the staff of your local Family Support Center.

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



Col. Tom Smoot, Jr.
Commander,
78th Air Base Wing

Commanders' Action Line

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



Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage at <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response. Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will not be processed.

Thank you for deployed spouses meeting

I wanted to thank Maj. Gen. Wetekam for holding the deployed spouses meeting March 27. It was a wonderful source of information. All of the questions asked by the spouses were well addressed by the proper organizations. I think it went a long way toward relieving some of the burdens and confusion on certain issues that the spouses feel. Thank you all very much, for taking the time to address the concerns of those left at home.

Gen. Wetekam replies: We sincerely thank you for your kind words about the deployed spouses' meeting. I believe we need to provide families an update about our military troops whenever possible and to let family members know that the community, the base, and I are here to support them

during these challenging times. We plan to hold another meeting in a few weeks. The scheduled time and place will be published in the Rev-Up as soon as finalized.

Thank you and other spouses for being a tower of strength in the support for our troops. The families are my heroes because they proudly take care of business on the home front, without complaint.

If you need additional information, or have information to share with others, I encourage you to contact the professional and caring staff at the Family Support Center. They are located in Bldg. 794 on Ninth Street, and can be reached at 926-1256 or by e-mail at family@robins.af.mil.

Postulka's commentary hits mark

Col. Postulka should be congratulated for his outstanding

commentary "Mentoring ... Yeah, sure!" (March 14, 2003). His well written article articulates that the time is now to "walk the talk" of mentoring. In order for our team Robins employees to be all they can be they need bosses to "confirm strengths; give candid advice on areas to improve; and help build a career path." He also, rightfully so, advises "workers" to "take Responsibility for your own career." A true teaming environment is required so that, as Col. Postulka indicates, we can "let the people take care of the mission. Leaders take care of people." I just hope that our "bosses" and especially senior leaders implement an aggressive mentoring program in their product directorates so that any and all of our employees can grow into positions where their full capabilities can be utilized to improve our ability to get the job done, better, faster and cheaper. It could very well be the only way we'll be able to survive in the future and complete our mission.



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U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Tech. Sgt. Anthony Boswell surveys a collage in the newly decorated NCO Academy room. Special Agent Hollis Lindley said the room's decor pays tribute to academy's agents as well as the spirit and dedication of the corps.

NCO Academy room gets a makeover

By Lanorris Askew

lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

A small portion of the Robins Air Force Base Noncommissioned Officers Academy has recently gotten a face lift.

Thanks to funding from the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and hard work and dedication by the academy's enlisted agents, one of the rooms is now decorated around the OSI theme. The room was dedicated April 2.

AFOSI, as a command, agreed in August 2002 to sponsor a classroom at the academy, according to Special Agent Hollis Lindley, deputy director, AFOSI Support to Air Force Reserve Command.

"(Our) purpose was to pay tribute not only to the OSI enlisted agents who pass through the academy, but to the spirit and dedication of the entire enlisted corps and professional military education," he said. "The framework was to select a classroom and decorate it in an OSI theme that outlined (our) mission and people."

The actual work on the project began in October 2002, and all OSI personnel who have attended the academy since then took part in the room's transformation. The

tribute to OSI is now complete with posters, collages and other memorabilia dedicated to the job of the OSI agent.

The ceremonial ribbon cutting was attended by NCOA leadership, Robins officials and OSI command officials.

Brig. Gen. Darryl Scott, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center vice commander, thanked OSI for sponsoring the room.

"This is a very impressive array and very appropriate to the theme," he said.

Chief Master Sgt. Lynne Shell, OSI Command Chief, said because her organization is small, the work was quite a feat.

"We didn't have a team to send down to accomplish this," she said. "We are very proud of the students who put this together."

Special Agent Anthony Lener, whose class graduated last week, said the room lets the rest of the Air Force know what OSI does and that they are a part of the team.

Tech. Sgt. Michelle Robins, prior flight chief, agreed.

"This room truly is a testimony to the teamwork and professionalism of each OSI student who has come to through the academy," she said. "It also sets the example for all students to come."

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Left to right, Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Damrow, Special Agent Lindley Hollis and Command Chief Master Sgt. Lynne Shell admire the room's makeover.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Hi-energy
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Seams sew simple

Fabric workers from the Life Support Fabric Shop have been working overtime since Operation Iraqi Freedom began



The fabric workers in Building 181 maintain and support fabric articles, such as survival rafts and kits, sew parachute retrieval straps patches, and name tags for military members.

Alice Bemby sews a patch on a military member's uniform.

Fabric worker supervisor Cora Ridley sorts through uniforms awaiting patches. "The employees put forth great effort to get the work done and out on time," she said.

Diane Tidwell checks the pressure in adult/child life preservers that will go on a KC-135.

Ronald Kelly packs an F-15 pilot recovery chute, a process that takes 12 hours to complete.

Bemby inspects a C-5 heat blanket.



U.S. Air Force photos by
Sue Sapp



To see this story in streaming video, go to <http://www.robins.af.mil/pa/stream/index.htm>

'Car Care Because We Care'

■ AFAS offers free oil change for spouses of deployed members

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

Theresa Weaver said the 'Car Care Because We Care' program has been a lifesaver for her and other spouses of deployed military members, by helping with things that are out of some spouses' hands.

Weaver, whose husband is with the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, said the program, which aids with car maintenance needs when loved ones deploy, helps spouses maintain their independence.

"I know nothing about cars," she said. "My car was hurting. They changed my oil, and checked my tires. They took care of things that I'm not used to taking care of."

The Air Force Aid Society has offered the car care program for five years, and Janice Barnes, Air Force Aid officer at the Family Support Center, said benefits are twofold.

"This is a great way the Air Force Aid Society is trying to take care of people, by helping them take care of themselves," she said. "If the spouses don't know about cars, they can have confidence that their cars are



Support when you need it

What to know:

For more information on the 'Car Care Because We Care' program, contact Janice Barnes at 926-1256, or come by the Family Support Center in Building 794 on 9th Street.

DEPLOYED SPOUSES' RESOURCES



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

David Peterson, an auto mechanic at the base service station, checks under the hood of a customer's car. Spouses can access the Car Care Because We Care program through the Family Support Center.

sound. It's also a way to ease the deployed military member's mind that everything is taken care of back home."

Spouses in need of car repairs can bring their military spouse's deployment or remote assignment orders to the Family Support Center's front desk for a voucher for the program.

"They can have one free oil change and overall checkup with each voucher," she said. "Spouses are allowed one visit per deployment, and two visits per remote assignment."

Barnes said the program has been useful so far, and she expects many more will benefit from its services.

AFAS has spent \$1,000 this year to fund the program that offers free car maintenance through the base service station, said Barnes.

"They've done a great job helping the spouses," she said. "People have told me that they have avoided a lot of major problems as a result of the program."

'Car Care Because We Care' is one of many AFAS programs offered at family support centers throughout the U.S. Air Force, said Barnes.

While some spouses may not know a lot about caring for their vehicles, Barnes said they can drive safer with the 'Car Care Because We Care' program.

Care packages: Guidelines for sending

Be sure to mark your care package as "gift." All packages need a customs form. Your post office will help you determine which form to use based on package contents and weight.

Do send

- Disposable razors
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Tissues
- Travel size shampoo/conditioner
- Shower gel
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm
- Hand lotion
- Cotton swabs
- Disposable cameras
- Pre-paid global calling cards
- Stationary/journals
- Batteries (original packaging only)

Don't send

- Mail addressed to "Any Service Member" or similar wording as "Any Airman"
- Firearms
- Express Mail Military Service
- Alcoholic beverages
- Fresh fruits (however dried and other fruit products are allowed)
- Pork or pork by-products (beef jerky must be labeled as Grade-A USDA BEEF)
- Hand sanitizer
- Shaving gel (in aerosol form)

— Courtesy of the United States Postal Service

Finance:

Deployed spouses' Q&A

Q: What are the additional pay entitlements my spouse will receive while deployed?

A: All pay entitlements are based on the deployed location. The most common are: Combat Zone Tax Exclusion

The earnings received while in the combat zone are excluded from federal income taxes. This exclusion is unlimited for enlisted members and is limited to \$5,882.70 per month in 2003, for officers and warrant officers. If you spend a single qualifying day in the combat zone, your pay for the entire month is excluded from taxable income.

Hardship Duty Pay for Location

HDP-L is additional compensation paid to military personnel assigned to locations where living conditions are substantially below those conditions encountered in the contiguous United States. The pay varies from \$50 to \$150 a month and members must be in the location for at least 30 days to get the pay.

Family Separation Allowance

This entitlement is not based on the deployed location and all military members who are TDY for more than 30 days will receive FSA at a rate of \$100 per month.

Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger Pay

When a member is under orders on official duty in one of the designated HFP/IDP areas. This pay is in addition to all other pays or allowances and is payable at a rate of \$150 for each month, during any part of which, a member qualifies.

Q: How can I be sure my spouse's Government Travel Card is being paid during their deployment?

A: Members can set up an accrual voucher with the base finance office before they deploy to ensure payment is made to the GTC every 30 days. By marking split disbursement and indicating the amount we can ensure that payment is disbursed to the GTC every 30 days thus preventing any delinquencies.

Q: What's the best way to manage our military pay entitlements?

A: It is highly recommended the members take control of their finances by establishing a myPay account. MyPay allows you to manage your pay information, leave and earning statements, W-2s and more. You must first ensure that the address on your pay statements is correct. Then go to: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>. To establish your pin. Once requested, a pin will be mailed to you within two weeks.

Another extremely useful Web site for all financial matters can be found at <http://www.saffm.hq.af.mil/affsc/index/index.cfm>

For any additional questions, call 926-3777 or send an e-mail to: wralc.fmfcmilpay@robins.af.mil

FULL STREAM AHEAD*

To view streaming video, go to <http://www.robins.af.mil/pa/stream/index.htm>

- Robins military working dogs protect the installation from terrorism
- Transportation operates 24-7 moving cargo and people to support the war effort
- C-130 maintainers use LEAN to develop an innovative portable shelf system

*Videos are best viewed with the latest version of Windows Media Player (version 9).

MOVIE SCHEDULE



Today
7:30 p.m. – **Cradle to the Grave – DMX, Jet Li**
When an international criminal kidnaps the daughter of a gang leader as part of a diamond heist, it causes a city's police to engage in an intensive search aided by the gangster's father.
Rated R (violence, language and some sexual content)
100 minutes

Saturday
7:30 p.m. – **The Life of David Gale – Kevin Spacey, Laura Linney**

Dr. David Gale, a Texas professor and advocate for the elimination of the death penalty, is falsely accused and convicted of the rape and murder of another activist, Constance Harroway and ends up on the state's notorious death row himself.

Rated R (violent images, nudity, language and sexuality) 130 minutes



FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

Family Support Center sponsored classes, workshops, and seminars are open to all Team Robins personnel and their eligible family members. Because room assignments are subject to change, specific room numbers will be confirmed at the time of registration. For more information, or to make a reservation, call 926-1256.

TAP workshop

The next three-day Department of Labor sponsored Transition Assistance Program Workshop is Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Smith Community Center Ballroom.

Sponsorship training

The Relocation Assistance Program will offer training for both beginner and experienced sponsors Wednesday, 9-10:30 a.m., in Bldg. 945, Family Support Center Annex. Advance registration is required.

Resume construction workshop

The Transition Assistance program is offering a workshop on Resume Construction, April 18, 9 a.m. - noon, Bldg. 945, Family Support Center annex. To attend this workshop, participants MUST have attended the resume research and writing class.

Interviewing strategies

The Transition Assistance program is offering a class on Interviewing Strategies, April 23, 9 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 905, Room 137.

Financial workshop

The Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Middle Georgia will conduct a free "Money and Credit Management" workshop April

25, 1 - 4 p.m., Bldg. 905, Room 127. This workshop is open to all Team Robins Plus members.

Bundles for babies & infant care

The Air Force Aid Society will conduct a Bundles For Babies & Infant Care class April 30, 8 a.m. - noon, Bldg. 827, (old base gym) HAWC classroom. 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.

Spouse Appreciation Essay Contest

FSC wants spouses to put their appreciation into words with the Spouse Appreciation Essay Contest. The deadline for the contest is April 30. Special prize packages will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners based on the following criteria:

- All military members, Department of Defense civilians and contractors assigned to Robins Air Force Base may submit nominations.

- Nominations should include a cover letter, listing the nominee's name and address, and the nominator's name, rank, title, unit/organization and duty phone. The spouse's name should only be printed on the typed, one-page essay, in order to maintain anonymity for judging.

- The FSC requests that spouses concentrate the essay's contents around contributions made within the last 12 months.

Send your Spouse Appreciation Contest essays to Cindy Graver via e-mail at cindy.graver@robins.af.mil, or bring them by the FSC, Bldg. 794, 9th Street.

ROBINS REPORT

News from around base

Friday – 8 p.m.

Sunday – 1:30 p.m.

Monday – Noon

SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENTS

Civilian Recreation 922-4415

Tax Relief Bingo: To play, participants collect free bingo cards to be played Wednesday for a chance to win a Sylvania 19-inch color television. Each time participants play Civilian Recreation bingo through Wednesday; they will receive a free bingo card. Bingo is held Sunday, Wednesday and Fridays with the doors opening at 5 p.m. and games beginning at 7 p.m. at the base restaurant, Bldg. 166.

Enlisted Club 926-4515

•The enlisted club will air WWE Backlash on pay-for-view at 8 p.m. Sunday. Members are free and nonmembers' cost is \$5.

•Preferred Plus! Members may enjoy a complimentary Membership Dinner Wednesday from 5 - 7 p.m. along with Double-Up Bingo. Dinner for guests of members is \$5 and non-members are \$10.

Information, Tickets and Travel 926-2945

Monthly yard sales are being held at the Smith Community Center, Bldg. 767 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the following dates: May 3, June 7, July 12, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4 and Nov. 1. Cost of tables are \$7 each and should be paid for prior to Saturday. Tables can be set up beginning at 7 a.m. To make reservations, visit the ITT office, Bldg. 767.

Spalding Nature Center 926-4500

Register by Thursday for the craft program to be held April 19. The project is suitable for the entire family and cost is \$5 per person.

Youth Center 926-2110

There will be a dance tonight for kids eligible for membership at the center from 6 - 9 p.m. Member cost is \$3 and nonmember cost is \$5.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Failure to perform Adequate Drinking Water System Monitoring
Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

As a result of an internal audit conducted March 11-15, 2002, Robins Air Force Base notified the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) of the following findings concerning violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300f to 300j-26; and National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, 40 CFR Part 141.32.

1. Regulatory Requirement: 40 CFR 141.24(f)(4) requires water systems to take four consecutive quarterly samples for volatile organic compounds and synthetic organic compounds.

Inspection violation: Records show that Robins AFB failed to collect four quarterly samples consecutively for volatile organic compounds from Well No. 5, and failed to collect four quarterly samples consecutively for synthetic organic compounds from Wells No. 16 and 18.

2. Regulatory Requirement: 40 CFR 132(b) requires water systems which fail to perform monitoring to notify persons served by the system within three months of violation and every three months thereafter as long as the violation exists

Inspection violation: Robins AFB did not notify persons served by the system for each of the above violations within three months and every three months thereafter as long as the violations existed.

Impact on Water Consumers:

40 CFR 141.32(d), General Content of Public Notice, outlines what type of information must be provided in a public notice to consumers of a system's water. In particular, the notice must provide a clear and readily understandable explanation of the noted violations, note any potential adverse health effects arising from the violations, and explain what steps are being taken to correct the noted violations.

Corrective measures:

Quarterly samples were taken in 2001, however they were not consecutive in accordance with GA EPD requirements, therefore, samples were collected from Well No. 5 on Aug. 6, 2001; Nov. 7, 2001; Feb. 12, 2002; and April 30, 2002. No exceedences of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations were found. Samples were collected from Well No. 16 on Aug. 27, 2001; Nov. 6, 2001; Feb. 19, 2002; and April 16, 2002. No exceedences of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations were found. Samples were collected from Well No. 18 on Aug. 27, 2001; Nov. 6, 2001; Feb. 19, 2002; and April 16, 2002. No exceedences of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations were found. Robins AFB will ensure future required samples are collected and analyzed in accordance with compliance schedules established by GA EPD.

Robins AFB understands that timely monitoring is an important component of any safe drinking water program. Timely monitoring ensures that drinking water is safe for consumption at any given time. However, these sampling violations did not result in any adverse health effects and does not pose a threat to the quality of drinking water supplied at Robins AFB. Water consumers at Robins AFB should not be alarmed and do not need to seek alternative water supplies. The drinking water at Robins AFB meets or exceeds all Federal and State drinking water quality standards. Where needed, additional sampling has already been scheduled. Please direct questions about the information in this notice to Bioenvironmental Engineering (78th AMDS/SGPB), (478) 327-7555.

Beds&bedding
56979301

Fickling
57040401

Jewelry
56800701

Sun retail
57037401

Huntington villa
57039901

Choral
57018501

Ocmulgee
56975402

SPORTS BRIEFS

Civilian Recreation 922-4415

Register for spring tennis at civilian recreation, Bldg. 767, for \$10 per person. Single or doubles will be offered. League play begins Monday.

Fitness Center 926-2128

Letters of Intent for intramural softball can be picked up at the Fitness Center. The deadline to submit letters is April 25. Questions can be referred to Grady Martin or SSgt. Bryant at the Fitness Center.

The Fitness Center will host a Family Fun Easter Egg Hunt 5K Run and Walk on April 19 at 9 a.m. Participants will collect Easter eggs filled with goodies during the event.

Golf Course 926-4103

During April golfers will save money if they pay their annual green fees in advance. Yearly rates are as follows: E1 - E4, \$225; E5 - O3, \$348; O4 - up and DoD civilians, \$432.

Morning and evening Link Up 2 Golf classes will be held throughout April and May for \$99 per person. The Link Up 2 Golf curriculum, designed and sponsored by PGA of America, is the most comprehensive lesson series ever created. For more information and class hours, call 926-4103. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended.

Robins Lanes 926-2112

Celebrate National Turn Off Your TV Week April 20 - 26 at Robins Lanes. The entire family can play for \$5 per person that includes three games of bowling and shoes during open play. Participants can enter a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to purchase books.

Every Wednesday in April, immediate family members of deployed troops

SCORE BOARD

I.M volleyball standings as of March 27

Team (win/lose)
116th CSS 5/1
116th MXS 5/1
78th SFS #1 4/1
78th MDG 3/3
78th CEG 3/3
78th SFS #2 2/5
653rd CLSS 1/5
78th MSG forfeit elimination

Intramural basketball standing as of March 23

78th SFS #1 8/0
JSTARS #2 7/2
78th CE 7/2
JSTARS #1 7/3
78th MSS 7/3
78th SFS #2 5/3
78th CS 5/3
78th CLSS 5/4
5th MOBB 3/3
19th ARG #1 3/5
19th ARG #2 3/6
116th MXS 3/6
116th AGS 3/7
53rd CBCS 3/8
116th CSS 2/8
78th MDG 1/9



Shooting for the team

U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Kurt Raffetto eyes a clay pigeon during tryouts for the Air Force Skeet Team. Kevin Inskeep and Vincent Miller, of Robins, also participated in the week-long camp. Kevin Shielder, team captain from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., said team members have the potential to advance to the inter-service and U.S. championship competitions.



Ratchet
57018601

Rev Up

Submit sports information to Angela Trunzo in the WR-ALC Public Affairs office, Bldg. 215, Room 106. Submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday for consideration for Friday's paper. Submit stories and stats in person or by e-mail at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil. For more information, call 926-2137.

can bowl for \$1 a game during open play.

Youth Center 926-2110

Micro T-Ball registration for children 3 - 4 years of age

will be held Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Volunteer coaches are also needed for Micro T-Ball and T-Ball. Apply in person at the Youth Center, Bldg. 1021, or call Ron Hayes at 926-2110.

Let's talk
57036801

Hamant
57036601

Starcadia
56921801

Warm springs
57044701

National vision
57018901

NHC friends
57037101

Lenn
56994501

Lockheed Martin delivers first Sniper XR to Air Force

By Russell Bone
Precision Attack SPO Director,
and Marvin Powell, Logistics
Manager. WR-ALC/LYT

Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control officially delivered its first Sniper XR Advanced Targeting Pod to the U.S. Air Force during ceremony held at the Orlando, Fla. facility.

Among the distinguished guests accepting the delivery on behalf of the Air Force were: Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander; Russell Bone, Robins Precision Attack Systems Program Director; Frank

Tuck, Air Combat System Program Director, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio and Shirley Morrison, ATP Program Manager, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

In accepting the Sniper XR pod, Wetekam expressed his delight in receiving the advanced pod, and said he is anxious to get it into the hands of the war fighter.

With Sniper XR, the Air Force is poised to take the next step in precision engagement capability that is critical in meeting mission requirements.

Wetekam said Sniper will equip Air Force Wild Weasel

F-16CJ aircraft with the most potent targeting pod capability and will fill the Air National Guard's F-16 target pod shortfalls.

Sniper's true two-level maintenance and high reliability will reduce maintenance personnel workload, already stretched for time to keep aircraft mission ready.

The Air Force selected Lockheed Martin in August 2001 to develop and build the Sniper XR pod. The contract provides for up to 522 pods and associated equipment, spares, and support of the F-16/F-15 aircraft for both Air Force and Air National Guard.

HONOR ROLL

Logistics Management Specialist wins public administration and service award

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

Holly Green's initiative and integrity have always been a part of her personality, but recently those characteristics earned the F-15 System

Program office logistics management specialist the Air Force Materiel Command William A. Jump Memorial Foundation Award.

Green said she attributes winning the award to being extremely motivated, dedicated and enthusiastic about her job and career.

"I am a very hard worker," she said. "I always take pride in my work and I strive to do the very best I possibly can with every task I encounter."

As a logistics manager in the F-15 System Program Office, Green holds a diverse range of responsibilities.

She is the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center's team lead, comprised of 24 program and logistics managers, for the Source of Repair Assignment Process or SORAP for more than 737 F-15A-E model aircraft.

As a result of her direct oversight, F-15 SORAPs are being approved at a 50 percent rate, reducing the process time by as much as six months over the previous F-15 performance plan.

She also heads the F-15 Reliability and Maintainability Team, whose goal is to develop a long-term reliability process that analytically provides data to make informed decisions for continued sustainment of the F-15.

Green said some of the credit goes to

her peers, co-workers and management who she couldn't have made these accomplishments.

"I am elated," she said. "It's truly a great honor and one I am proud to receive."

Nominees for the award must be civilian career employees of the federal government who have not reached their 37th birthday by the end of the year in which they are nominated.

The award includes a golden key and a certificate of merit.

Green, will now represent AFMC as the Air Force nominee for this prestigious award.

The award was established in 1950 in honor of William A. Jump, budget and finance officer of the United States Department of Agriculture, known throughout the Federal Government and nationally for his leadership and distinguished contributions to public administration. It recognizes outstanding service in administration and notable contributions to the efficiency and quality of public service.

Spivey wins 2003 Malcolm Moore Award from GC&SU

Janet Spivey, civilian personnel employee relations supervisor, was selected as winner of the 2003 Malcolm Moore Award from Georgia College and State University. The award is given each year to graduating MPA students who faculty feel best exemplify the qualities that Professor J. Malcolm Moore advanced throughout his distinguished career as a practitioner and teacher of public administration.



Green



Spivey

RETIREES LIST

The following Robins employees retired for the March 2003:

Elouise Bowman
James K. Boyd
Johnny R. Cockrell
Jack E. Conyer
Rickey L. Dixon
Verlon L. Gilbreath
Polly Jones
Donna B. Kitchens
Amanda H. Knight

Mary Lawson
James M. Miller Jr.
Roy P. Oliver
Henry M. Owens
Donnie C. Powell
Mary B. Shepherd
Burbridge Cv Smith
Martin K. Smith
Linda V. Sumner
Christine M. Underwood
Cecil E. Via

116th MXG Easter Egg Hunt

The 116th Maintenance Group Spouses will be sponsoring a Children's Easter Egg Hunt Saturday from 10 a.m. - noon at Gator Park on Robins Air Force Base. All preschool and elementary school children of the 116th Maintenance Group are included. Be sure to bring a container for the children to gather eggs!

Armed forces
56884001

All in a day's work



- Airman 1st Class Arnold Goins
- 78th Civil Engineer Squadron-Heavy Equipment Operator

"I'm a dirt boy. I get dirty. Our main tool is the shovel, of course, but we also have big Tonka toys to work with. We use those to fix roads and sidewalks to make this base beautiful. The thing I like most about this job is seeing the finished product when we're done. I really love my job."

Morgan tire
56971801

Colonial mall
57007901