



aday
at the races

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NEWS

YOU CAN USE

Georgians called on to preserve experiences

The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress is honoring America's veterans through the Veterans History Project, a national initiative to collect individuals' wartime experiences.

The event takes place at the Atlanta History Center today, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Civic leaders, including the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony J. Principi, Gov. Sonny Perdue and state Senator Ross Tolleson, will be joined by VHP Georgia partner organizations along with AARP officials and members at the event.

The VHP is a congressionally mandated national effort by the Library of Congress to collect, record and preserve the personal experiences of veterans who fought in World War I, World War II and the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars as well as the civilians who supported them on the home front. It calls for all Americans to participate in the preservation of our nation's history by recording the accounts of our wartime veterans.

"The Library of Congress is proud to serve as steward in preserving our national collective memory," said Gen. Donald Scott, Deputy Librarian of Congress. "We're looking forward to adding more stories from the men and women from Georgia who served our country during wartime to the Veterans History Project. It's extremely important that their diverse voices are woven into the fabric of our history."

Also, each Wednesday beginning June 11, the Atlanta History Center, with the help of AARP volunteers, will conduct oral interviews with local veterans from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call the Atlanta History Center at 404-814-4150.

"We're reaching out to our 850,000 Georgia members and looking forward to working with the Atlanta History Center to capture veterans' stories," said Ken Mitchell, AARP Georgia state director.

A free instruction kit for veterans, volunteers and potential partners who would like to participate is available by calling 1-888-371-5848, or by visiting the Web site at www.loc.gov/vets.

Assistant secretary for installations on Lean, transformation, war fighter support

In between briefings and tours, Nelson Gibbs, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environments and logistics, took a few minutes from his schedule to sit

down and discuss issues facing the Center. Much of his three-day visit last week focused on Lean, and the Center's journey through its initiatives. During his stay, Gibbs also

was briefed on the transformation process, environmental efforts, military construction and capital investment at Robins.

Q. How have the ongoing efforts with the Depot

Maintenance Reorganization Transformation Program affected the way the ALCs, and Robins in specific, do business?

A. It has been a process whereby everybody has been looking back at how we've done things for a long, time and made a

decision that, in order to create the most value for the Air Force, we have to change a lot of the things we're doing. It's a long, hard process, but the outcome from it will be much greater value to our customers.



Gibbs

Please see **GIBBS, 2A**

Hearing looks at family support

By Lanorris Askew

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Calling her role in family readiness a type of secular ministry, Kate Payne, a military spouse and family readiness group leader from Fort Stewart, began her testimony Monday, in a hearing of the U.S. Senate armed services personnel subcommittee with a written statement commending the military and its programs for families.

"The attention to detail that we experience is just phenomenal," she said. "The Army's family team building program has gone beyond the motto of taking care of its own — it is teaching its own to take care of themselves."

Titled "Issues Affecting Families of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines," the hearing took place at the Museum of Aviation and involved three panels of subject-matter experts.

Representatives from the four services stressed the importance of morale, performance and caring for families on the home front.

Payne and four other spouses who have taken active roles in their homes and military communities came before U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., who officiated the hearing, to tell their stories.

Referring to her fellow panelists as her sisters, Semantha Mathews, of Moody Air Force Base, Ga., was met with applause as she gave a tearful commendation to those who take care of military families.

"If you haven't been there, it's difficult to imagine a return or a goodbye," she said. "But it's worth it."

Additional childcare, more time off after deployment and networking with spouses were key topics.

A panel of military and

Please see **HEARING, 2A**



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Tony Tabler, firefighter, checks the oil underneath the cab of a fire truck. Part of a firefighter's job is maintaining equipment for emergency calls.

The hottest job at Robins

Firefighters ready for fight at a moment's notice

By Holly J. Logan

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When Robins' firefighters aren't fighting fires, they're training and preparing equipment for saving people's lives and property.

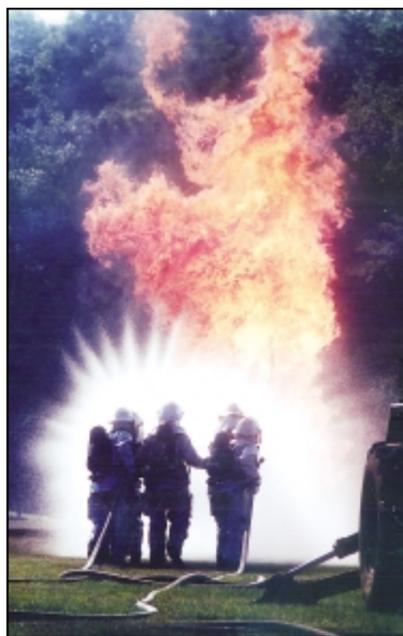
More than 76 firefighters at Robins' four fire stations manage structural fire and in-flight emergencies, hazardous material incidents, and serve as first responders for medical calls.

"There is no typical work day with this job," said Roger Rousey, assistant fire chief for the 778th Fire Protection Flight. "Some days are quiet, and some are as busy as can be. In this job, you have to be ready at a moment's notice because things can change that fast."

There have been 24 fires, resulting in a combined loss of \$40,217 at Robins Air Force Base since the beginning of fiscal year 2003.

Once a week, the crews test fire hoses, pumps, fuel systems, and new engines to ensure they're ready for emergency response. The firefighters also get ongoing, hands-on training to hone their skills.

Please see **JOB, 3A**



Some of the things firefighters do to be prepared for the unexpected is conduct quarterly fire extinguishing exercises, shown above, and battle mock fires in the department's fire training pit.

Tool time

Automated system takes hassle out of tool control

By Lisa Mathews

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Workers in the Component Repair and Manufacturing Shop Service Center of the Maintenance Directorate are thinking out of the crib and into the box - the toolbox that is.

Workers are now being trained to use newly installed automated tool bins. The new system will save time, money and space, said Mike Morrison, chief of the service center.

Robert Butvin, a process engineer with Northrop Grumman Electronics Systems, worked closely with Morrison and Eugene Cavaco, material support chief in the service center, to implement the new tool distribution system. The planning process began about two years ago.

The goal of the team, in implementing the new tool bins, is to keep track of the inventory and costs, and to know who has what tool at any given time.

The new system will also be helpful in maintaining minimum and maximum amounts of tools. A level can be established for each part and, once the minimum number is reached, the system sends an automatic flag by e-mail to the tool and parts attendant so replacement parts can be ordered.

"This is proactive versus reactive," Morrison said.

Cavaco agrees. "The benefit of this project is a decrease in inventory workload maintenance and an increase in the efficiency of the shop output."

Another plus, according to team members, is the regrind program. They estimate 10 percent of tool parts may be reused leading to more dollar savings.

The system will also help track what tools are needed for what job more accurately. This will have benefits when bidding on work in the future.

"We want to eliminate the

Please see **TOOL, 4A**

Robins
3-day
forecast

Today
Mostly cloudy
and warm



86/67

Saturday
Mostly cloudy
with chance of
thunderstorms



84/71

Sunday
Mostly cloudy
with chance of
afternoon rain



86/70

What's
inside

Perdue signs legislation **3A**
AFCOMAP ceremony makes it official **4A**
Heritage Building reopens at Museum of Aviation **4A**
New greens take shape at Pine Oaks **4B**

GIBBS

Continued from 1A

Q. Since your 2002 visit, how do you feel Robins is measuring up to your challenge to become a world-class organization?

A. It (Robins) has made the first few small steps in that direction. I first came down to Robins late in 2001. I came down at the request of Secretary (of the Air Force James G.) Roche because it was his opinion at the time that all three of the depots had the capability of becoming world-class, but because of lacking investment during the period of the '90s and several other activities, they just hadn't gotten to the point of believing in themselves enough to have that happen. I came very quickly to the same conclusion.

There were excellent facilities, and there was an outstanding work force. It just required somebody and some things to pull that together to move them forward. Some of the things had already started. The Lean process, particularly here at Robins, had already begun in small places. It has moved ahead very aggressively, but not without its bumps. Whenever you are going through change, you are always going to run into some minor setbacks along the way, but it's the length of the dream that's important, and it's essential to just keep going down the track. That is what Robins has done.

Q. How are the ALCs performing in their implementation of Lean concepts compared with the efforts of commercial industry?

A. It has taken root in all three of the ALCs. Some are a little further ahead than others, as one would expect. More and

Whenever the depots were asked to perform, they did, and they performed admirably. The mission capable rates - all of their assistance - were really outstanding, and that comes right back to the depots, and in some cases, back to the contractors who provide the logistical support. It was an outstanding performance.

more people are becoming trained, and more and more people are beginning to see the benefits in going through the Lean process. My experience would say that the ALCs have not progressed (as well as) some of the more advanced commercial companies in using the techniques, but would compare reasonably favorably with some. Let's put it this way, they are in the race now.

Q. During operations in the Middle East, were there lessons learned in the way the ALCs are supporting the war fighter?

A. I'm not sure I'd call it lessons learned, but I think the war fighters learned something. They learned that they could depend on the equipment they had, from the first line maintenance capabilities all the way back through the depots. Whenever the depots were asked to perform, they did, and they performed admirably. The mission capable rates - all of their assistance - were really outstanding, and that comes right back to the depots, and in some cases, back to the contractors who provide the logistical support. It was an outstanding performance.

Q. Last year, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld expressed the view that there was a 20 percent excess in infrastructure. Is that the current view or has it

changed?

A. The Secretary hasn't given me any indication to think that he has changed his view, but that is a notional amount. I don't think he is clairvoyant and has the specific knowledge as to whether it's 19 or 21 (percent). I think it's his assessment that it is an order of magnitude — that we have a significant amount of infrastructure that is costing a lot of money to maintain, and it's keeping us from putting money where it will have a greater effect and a greater result. So, I'm confident we will go through the '05 BRAC round and there will be a significant reduction in infrastructure — whether it's 20 percent or not, I don't know.

Q. How do you see the workload at Robins changing in the future?

A. I tend to work more in today rather than into the future. I do know the C-141 workload is going away, but I think there is sufficient workload on the C-5s and the C-130s that that will be soaked on up. I think that over time there will be additional weapons systems or increased work on additional weapons systems. I think you are aware there are some discussions in regard to the C-17. You are already doing some work on the C-17; I would guess that over time there will be more work here on the C-17.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

From left to right, Peter Isaacs, Navy Capt. Marc Purcell, Marine Col. Gerald Yanello and Barbara Murray testify about current policies designed to help military families.

HEARING

Continued from 1A

civilian officials gave testimony on policies designed to help military families.

"We recognize the unique pressures placed on military families," said Peter Isaacs, chief operating officer, U.S. Army community and family support center. "The Army places a high value on both military and personal preparedness and is committed to providing a full range of essential support and services to soldiers and their families throughout the entire spectrum of operations of pre-deployment, deployment and redeployment."

Barbara Murray, chief force sustainment division, United States Air Force, said the Air Force has changed in philosophy on how it approaches family needs and support, and it has been a tremendous success.

"Across the Air Force, Services actively supports our deployed members and their families," she said. "For example, at Robins Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, held two briefings for spouses for deployed members, on-site childcare was provided while he relayed vital deployment information. Functional experts from family member programs, family support, the chapel, medical group, legal, family housing and the base school attended and shared the programs offered to assist families left behind.

Chambliss said he was extremely pleased with the hearing and its witnesses.

"There is no more important subject than making sure the quality of life of all of our service members is well taken care of," said Chambliss. "These folks from the administrative level all the way through the spouses of our deployed personnel were very forthcoming and did a great job of presenting testimony today."

Chambliss said the intent of the hearing was to listen to the unique issues affecting military men, women and their families, identify things the military could do better - especially during times of deployment - to support military members, their spouses and children.

"Despite the successful military campaign in Operation Iraqi Freedom and other key missions and deployments around the world, it is clear there has been a tremendous burden placed on our military families," said Chambliss.

"The goal of this hearing is to learn first-hand from our military men, women and their families the unique challenges they face. The more information we are able to take away from this hearing, the more we will be able to improve the quality of life for our service members and their families."

Chambliss said the information gathered at the Warner Robins hearing would be used to help him as a Senate Armed Services member who will be negotiating final touches to the fiscal year 2004 Defense Authorization bill with House members. The information will also be used at a hearing on Capitol Hill later this month on a similar subject to support military families.

JOB

Continued from 1A

Some of the things they do to be prepared for the unexpected is conduct quarterly fire extinguishing exercises, battle mock fires in the department's fire training pit, and map out details of most of Robins' buildings that are important to emergency responders through pre-fire planning.

U.S. Air Force firefighters receive their initial 13-week training at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas. There, they learn to combat structural and aircraft fires, first aid and cardiac pulmonary resuscitation, rescue operations, and other areas of the field.

While many calls are in response to small fires and false alarms, Tony Tabler, firefighter, said he and his crew treat every fire with an equal amount of urgency.

"We don't know if they're going to be real emergencies or not," he said. "We respond every time as if it were the real thing because you just never know until you get there."

On occasion, emergency situations arise that affect the base and surrounding community, calling for a Mutual Aid Agreement between the Houston County and Robins fire departments.

"The working relationship between Houston County and Robins emergency management is a benefit to both military and civilians," Jimmy Williams, Houston County fire chief and Houston County Emergency Management director, said. "We're able to share equipment, experience and response capabilities. We both use the instant command system that facilitates our working relationship. We've worked well in the past, which has helped us better serve the public."

Working 24-hour shifts fighting fires and training for possible fires can be an exhausting thought to many, but Rousey, who has been

What to know

If you wish to know more about fire prevention or schedule a tour of Robins' fire department facilities, contact a fire inspector at 926-3487 or 926-3488.

■ ■ ■

Remember to pull over when approached by emergency vehicles in traffic so emergency responders may safely pass.

with the department for 16 years, said it's an adrenaline rush.

"It's a great feeling to be able to help someone when they are in desperate need of it," he said. "Firefighting is my life. Most days, I can't wait to get to work. I'm one of the luckiest people in the world to have a job I love."

Staff Sgt. Darren Gause, fire protection crew chief, said although there are obvious risks in his line of work, saving people's lives makes it all worthwhile.

"Firefighting is not black and white," he said. "There are a lot of gray areas. In my 11 years of firefighting experience, I've been trained to accept the risks and avoid the dangers of the

job. In this job, you've got to use common sense and be able to think on your feet."

While protecting people's lives and property is the best part of the job for most firefighters, Tabler said being away from his wife and three children is one of the worst.

"It's frustrating when my wife or kids are sick, and I can't be there," he said. "Sometimes, on holidays we don't get to celebrate when everyone else does. We either celebrate the day before or after, depending on my work schedule."

Tabler said with bunkrooms, kitchens, day-rooms and a fully equipped gym to fulfill the crew's one-hour a day fitness requirement, the fire station has become a home away from home and the firefighters, an extended family.

"We work, eat and sleep at the station," he said. "These guys act like cousins to my kids. We sometimes share holidays together, when work calls us to be here. The long hours take a lot of my time away from family, but gives me a lot of time with them too."

'Courage to Act' is more than a motto to Robins' firefighters; it's one they live and breathe, said Rousey.

"The public trusts us," he said. "It's our job to serve them. We can't let them down."

Perdue signs bill at Robins

■ Legislation to stop encroachment on military bases

By Lanorris Askew
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Gov. Sonny Perdue returned to his old stomping ground to sign a bill that will essentially give military installations around Georgia a say in who their neighbors are.

The legislation, known as Senate Bill 261, mandates that local communities coordinate with their adjacent installations to consider the impact of zoning decisions on military operations.

Perdue said the legislation is functionally important because it gives communities more authority in protecting the military installation's assets in their midst regarding planning and zoning and encroachment issues.

"In this day after September 11 we have got to be more concerned about what is next to us," he said. "Our military installations are vital in our national security so this legisla-

tion affords communities the opportunity to have more authority in making sure that those military installations are protected."

He said the legislation also sends a signal to Washington that Georgia is going to do its part in ensuring that the value and the assets to which they entrust this state will be protected and will be guarded.

Perdue added that while the legislation is new, Robins has been on the leading edge of this

legislative effort.

"Robins was ahead of the curve with what was done in the late 90s regarding reserving land and actually purchasing land to the north of the base in the n o - f l y

zone," he said. "It was brought up as an issue in the last BRAC and identified as a potential threat and Georgia stepped up to the plate and resolved that issue. This gives the authority for all of our military installations to do what needs to be done."

Brig. Gen. Darryl Scott, Center vice commander, said



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Gov. Sonny Perdue signs Senate Bill 261 at the Museum of Aviation's Vistascope Theater Tuesday.

the legislation really ensures that the base has an input into the use of the land around Robins.

"Really the issue is for us to be able to operate, for example, our hosted units like the 116th Air Control Wing and the 19th Air Refueling Group, and be able to have areas to train in and fly unrestricted when we do functional check flights," he said. "All of those things are terribly important and this ensures that before anyone can take that area away from us they have to consider our input and make sure there is not going to be an impact on the military mission before converting that land or the air space above it to alternate use."

Ocmulgee
57468401

Raffield
57406301

Ga theater
57483601

Employment process clarified

By the Air Force Personnel Center

Directorate of Civilian Career Management
Career Management Information

not have the authority or the capability to self nominate on behalf of applicants.

System confirmation:

Candidates should be informed that when they self nominate the system will generate a confirmation of their self nomination. This confirms their self nomination transaction is successful and a copy should be printed or saved as an electronic file. This proof is required by the AFPC / DPCTDC Recruitment Call Center and by DPK. If their self nomination does not show up in the "Status of Self Nominations," this means the self nomination did not flow through the system and this confirmation will serve as a means of proving that they did in fact submitted a self nomination.

Problems with self nomination:

If a candidate is having problems or doesn't get a confirmation at the time they self nominated, this would be the appropriate time to contact the Recruitment Center (<https://ww2.afpc.randolph.af.mil/resweb/contactus.htm>) or their servicing CPF. The Recruitment Center or CPF should be engaged and verify whether a system problem has occurred. We encourage CPFs to be involved, our experience has been that the majority of the problems stem from the applicant not being familiar with the self nomination process. However, occasionally a system problem may prevent an applicant from self nominating. If this is the case, it may have affected more than one individual in your servicing area and the CPF can serve as mediator and verify that in fact their employees did try to self nominate.

Items of interest

AFPC/DPKD released the call for the Civilian Competitive Development Program May 19. The suspense date for submissions to AFPC will be July 31. General information on CCDP can be found on the AFPC Web site at (<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cp/ccdp/default.htm>). Note some changes in AY04, the GS-15 Executive Development Courses will no longer be boarded through CCDP. The Executive Development Program will be managed through the Air Force Senior Leadership Office. You may contact AFSLMO at (703) 604-5021, DSN 664-5021. We've also added several requirements to the nomination process. Candidates for academic programs must provide documentation demonstrating they have fulfilled all program prerequisites.

Robins Elementary School holds registration

Parents may register their children in Robins Elementary School from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during the summer. School starts Aug. 8.

To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before Sept. 1 of the current year. For first grade, a child must be six years old on or before Sept. 1 of the current year. The base school also has a pre-kindergarten program for four-year-

olds. To be eligible, a student must be four on or before Sept. 1 of the current year.

Students entering school for the first time are required to present a birth certificate and immunization records. For more information, call the school at 926-5003. All children between the ages of 7 and 16 years of age are required to attend school in the state of Georgia.

— From staff reports



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Visitors to the Museum of Aviation's Heritage Building can view exhibits, like the one above, that explore Native American heritage. The museum is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week.

Museum's Heritage Building reopens

The Heritage Building at the Museum of Aviation reopened earlier this week. The building now features "Windows to a Distant Past," a sight-and-sound Native American history exhibit that explores the culture of Georgia's first inhabitants, complete with realistic figures, preserved animals and centuries-old artifacts found during archaeological digs on Robins Air Force Base.

The original painting, "The Creek Removal," by Muskogee artist Sandra Peters and a rare oral tape by Muskogee elder Pauline Pakoska Billy, whose great-grandfather walked the "Trail of Tears" as a little boy, are also now on exhibit.

AFCOMAP ceremony makes it official

By 2nd Lt. Tevan Green
116th LRS

In a national chartering ceremony symbolically representing the official alignment of the Middle Georgia chapter of the Air Force Cadet Officer Mentor Action Program or AFCOMAP with the national organization, Robins Air Force Base stood proudly in the Air Force spotlight May 20.

Gen. Lester Lyles, Air Force Materiel Command commander, was the keynote speaker for the chartering luncheon and discussed the importance of mentoring to force development.

"The Air Force has renewed its interest in mentoring and AFCOMAP is the model for establishing groups to mentor," he said. "The Air Force's push for better and more mentorship is real and the topic is an area of concern

What to know

AFCOMAP is a non-profit service organization committed to promoting professional development of Air Force junior officers as well as assisting Air Force Academy and ROTC cadets with their transition to active duty. For more information about joining AFCOMAP, contact 2nd Lt. Tevan Green, 327-2579.

with senior leaders."

Lyles also discussed the new Air Force policy on mentoring and congratulated the Middle Georgia chapter for being one of the first organizations to charter since issuance of the new

policy letter.

"This is a fantastic jumpstart...keep going...spread the word...and show that we are inclusive," Lyles said. "Tell people what we've done, what were doing, and why it's important. AFCOMAP is making great strides towards pursuing their vision of 'every officer mentored.... every leader a mentor'."

AFCOMAP, through its membership and programs, fosters the professional development of all officers, by conducting Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp detachments visitations, establishing chapters at Air Force bases throughout the world, conducting professional development seminars, and performing any other service that would further this goal. The organization is open to all active duty and retired officers, as well as ROTC cadets.

TOOL

Continued from 1A

waste," Butvin said. The process began with what Butvin describes as "the attack plan."

This plan involved analyzing project cost savings, benchmarking best practices in industry and interviews with five companies.

"It was through the benchmarking of best practices that we're able to truly Lean the processes and make us more competitive," Butvin said. "Therefore, it makes us more agile to make the base more productive. We found where we could eliminate waste, increase efficiency and reduce costs."

The automated tool bins were one of 19 best practices identified. Russell Calo, of Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems, describes them as "low-hanging fruit," or something easy to grasp at and implement.

He describes the efforts of the team as a perfect partnering example.

"This has only been successful to a significant degree because of the partnership with the folks in (Component Repair and Manufacturing Shop Service Center and Commodities and Industrial Products Division)," said Calo. "We worked very closely together to implement best practices and benchmarks against companies to evaluate whether or not this automation of tool cribs was a cost-effective solution for the folks here."

The old tool cribs were



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Victor Conner, tool crib attendant, enters a request for a tool from the new automated tool bin system. The tool bin eliminates waste, increases efficiency and reduces costs.

large rooms manned by people and required large amounts of paperwork and time.

The new system is a point of use distribution system that is always available — no breaks, no days off and no vacations.

"We are prototyping this for the Department of Defense and Air Force Materiel Command," Morrison said.

Eventually the group hopes the automated tool bin system will be used Air Force-wide.

Morrison said if the system were put into place at all three of the air logistic centers, workers would have a quicker, more efficient means of identifying tools they could share among the ALCs.

Morrison said that with the new system, if a part was needed at the Oklahoma City or Odgen ALC, they could check computer records, locate

the part at Robins and have the part sent overnight.

This would save time and money and, in the end, get the war fighter served faster and more efficiently.

In their studies, the team found that at the El Segundo, Calif., Northrop Grumman facility, a 25 percent savings was noted for the annual budget and monthly tool savings.

The Pratt and Whitney benchmarking review showed a 30 percent savings on annual budget and monthly tool savings.

Calo described these as "green-dollar savings," or dollars that come right back in.

He also described "blue-dollar savings," as things such as getting the job done faster, eliminating unproductive time and space being made available for more useful purposes.

In fact, the crib that has already been cleared out is now being used as office

space.

"We see significant benefits here ... there are various benefits that will hit the bottom line - benefits that will support the war fighter by getting the part to the airplane quicker," Calo said.

The projected first-year savings in annual budget and monthly tool savings at Robins are at 25 percent. Morrison, Calo and Butvin agreed that those figures were a "very conservative estimate."

They also agreed that the second-year savings should increase.

"Bottom line to this project is that, over the next few years, we can save the Air Force millions of dollars plus we can more effectively produce or manufacture parts for the war fighter and the program depot maintenance aircraft," Morrison said. "This will enable us to get the aircraft out just a little bit earlier."



Honoring old glory



U.S. Air Force images by Ed Aspera

Students at Robins Elementary School raise the American flag at school every morning, but May 23, they didn't use the school's flag - they raised the same flag that was flying at the Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001.

According to Jeanne Roberts, the school's principal, the flag was used during a ceremony to commemorate Memorial Day.

"First of all, I told everybody a little about the flag," Roberts said. "Then we sang the national anthem. I also had a book I discovered called, 'The Flag We Love.' It's really sort of a poem, and I read that. I also explained the different aspects of the use of the flag, and what it stands for, and the symbolism that it invokes."

Tyler Sims and Max Whittington were the lucky fifth graders who had the honor of raising the flag, which has been circulated among stateside Department of Defense schools. It came to Robins by way of Camp Lejeune, N.C., and was sent to the two schools at Fort Stewart, Ga.

Overnight stay for 275?

No problem for Pine Oaks lodging staff

By Chris Zdrakas

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Keeping 275 overnight guests comfortable and satisfied seems like a daunting task, but for the Pine Oaks lodging staff it's just business as usual — good business if awards are a measure.

Excellence — a 95 percent overall customer satisfaction rate — and what Pine Oaks general manager Leo Boyce said is a "100 percent team approach" put the lodging staff on top as winner of the Gold Key Award in Air Force Materiel Command competition. The command's choice gives Pine Oaks a shot at the Air Force Innkeeper Award. A 14-member Air Force team that will decide the Innkeeper winner will evaluate Pine Oaks' facilities and staff June 18 and 19. Boyce said preparations are in place for the visit.

"It's a real challenge to meet all the guests' needs and to keep their satisfaction and comfort levels up," he said. "Well-trained employees who fully understand the team concept are the engine that drives our excellence."

Boyce said the lodging staff is "probably one of the finest I have seen in my career," which includes four years' active-duty Air Force and 22 in federal service.

Master Sgt. Jason Toney, lodging operations manager, said Pine Oaks underscored the importance of Pine Oak's teamwork and outstanding training programs.

"Despite many deployments and TDYs," he said, "We were able to carry on without missing a beat



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Leo Boyce, general manager of Pine Oaks, accepts the AFMC Gold Key Award from Col. Tom Smoot, 78th ABW commander. The lodge received a 95 percent overall customer satisfaction rate. Pine Oaks now has a chance at the Air Force Innkeeper Award.

because of a strong cross-training program."

Both Toney and Boyce also said top-down support from the 78th Air Base Wing, especially world class support from the 78th Civil Engineer Group, and the Services Division that manages the facilities were responsible for driving improvements to Pine Oaks and sustaining its excellence.

Happy employees also contribute to the operation's success, Toney said.

"We start off with a good working atmosphere," he said, "and a super employee

recognition program in which both civilians and military members are recognized and awarded for a job well done. Employees know they are important, and managers visit the facilities nearly every day and let the employees know they are part of a team."

Pine Oaks won the command award twice before in the 1980s, Boyce said. In the past five years, lodging facilities have had \$2.4 million in upgrades, with another \$2.7 million programmed the next five years. Throughout lodging quarters, Boyce said, the

Air Force team will find new furnishings, wall coverings and carpeting.

Among the largest recent projects was the visiting airman's quarters, Building 755, with \$510,000 in new paint, wall covering, carpeting and furnishings. In a companion project by the 78th Civil Engineer Group, another \$125,000 went into replacing vanities, sinks, exterior lights and bathroom shower fixtures. In addition to the VAQ, the base's temporary lodging facilities received \$531,000 to replace furnishings, draperies and carpet.

Huntington
57462901

Macon
57357401

Mentoring: Please and thank you

By Airman 1st Class Madelyn Waychoff
388th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah — I recently sent out an e-mail with a couple of questions to a few people for a story I was writing about Stop-Loss. I got many answers back, but one answer in particular stood out and made a lasting impression on me.

The answer I got back was from a major who was affected by Stop-Loss. When I asked how he felt about it and if it would change his plans for his career, he sent me the most honest, straightforward answer I have received in a long time.

"I'm an F-16 pilot at Hill who is retiring the First of May this year," said Maj. James Elwell. "I have tried to get caught in the Stop Loss and serve longer during a time of war. I'm a warrior. I would want nothing more than to fight any chance I get, and maybe even to die in battle at 44 rather than in bed at

84. 'Stop loss?' How about 'continuation of service?' How about the mission — the defense of the United States, and her interests and allies — that we all volunteered for when we signed up? How does this effect my decision to retire? I've tried for over a month not to."

This answer made me understand how much the Air Force means to the airmen in it and the people around the world. Even though I have never met the major, his answer made me respect him and understand what being in the Air Force is really about.

I began thinking about the impression veteran troops can have on younger airmen like me. Whether the officers or noncommissioned officers realize it, they are mentors.

If their uniforms look sharp and they show respect to others, we do the same. If it's the opposite, we also do the same. I think most of what we, the younger airmen, learn in the first few years affects every-

Whether the officers or noncommissioned officers realize it, they are mentors. If their uniforms look sharp and they show respect to others, we do the same. If it's the opposite, we also do the same. I think most of what we, the younger airmen, learn in the first few years affects everything we do throughout the rest of our Air Force careers.

thing we do throughout the rest of our Air Force careers.

I have met numerous people who have many years in the service, and they have given me the impression that the Air Force is the best place you can be. They told me to look at all the opportunities given to us and compare them with what's offered in other jobs.

They taught me that I need to be patient before I can learn everything about the Air Force.

I also learned through their stories that serving and protecting our country selflessly are the biggest rewards many of these people have

received. Sure, they've gotten awards and decorations, but ultimately what made the impression on them was the ultimate joy they saw from the many people throughout the world they've helped.

In contrast, I have also had people in charge of me who made me want to leave the Air Force. They made me feel like it was the worst place in the world for me to be. Everyday I would hear them say how much they hated their jobs or make comments like "four more years and I'll be through."

I was lucky, though, when I arrived here. I found out I was

working with great people who didn't treat me like a child and allowed me to use my limited job knowledge to grow and learn more about my job and the Air Force. They showed me everyday what the "real Air Force" was like.

I want to thank those around me who have taken the time to talk with me and mentor me. These people have listened and watched out for me. If I didn't understand, they explained it clearly. If I needed help, they assisted me.

Please keep letting your troops know the Air Force is a wonderful place. If there is something going on in your life, please don't take it out on the younger airmen or give them the impression from your feelings that the Air Force treats people badly or doesn't help them — it's not fair to us.

And again, thank you to those who help us and make us feel welcome in our new world. (Courtesy of Air Combat Command News Service)

Expeditionary forces meet call for air power

By Maj. Gen. Timothy A. Peppe
Special Assistant for Air and Space Expeditionary Force Matters

WASHINGTON — Whether you were deployed to Southwest Asia launching wave after wave of aircraft, or at your home station working extra shifts to cover for those who were, you know that the global war on terrorism has required a massive Air Force effort.

But oftentimes I think it is hard to appreciate the full spectrum of operations our Air Force has participated in as part of the liberation of Iraq, the destruction of al-Qaida, the protection of our homeland skies, and the other recent operations in defense of our country.

So I thought it would be helpful to provide a "strategic overview" of what the Air Force has been doing since Sept. 11, 2001. To do this, I'll discuss the large numbers of airmen involved, the air mobility assets used and the incredible combat support efforts undertaken to defend the United States.

Not since Desert Storm has the Air Force been called

upon to amass as large a fighting force as it did for the global war on terrorism. The Air Force has responded magnificently to the call for air and space power after 9-11, drawing from an unprecedented six Air and Space Expeditionary Forces. Add to that the significant portion of our air mobility and other enabler forces, and you start to see the immense scope of our service's recent activities.

Although not everyone in each AEF was called upon to deploy, more than 120,000 airmen were involved and more than 50,000 deployed. And these were not just active duty, but Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve airmen as well.

That total-force effort was also seen on the home front, where almost 20,000 additional active, Guard and Reserve airmen kept our homeland secure, supporting Operation Noble Eagle on the mainland and in Alaska, Hawaii and Guam.

Of course, these war-fighting commitments didn't just affect those on the front lines. They affected the total Air Force community as home stations reduced ser-

Not since Desert Storm has the Air Force been called upon to amass as large a fighting force as it did for the global war on terrorism. The Air Force has responded magnificently to the call for air and space power after 9-11, drawing from an unprecedented six Air and Space Expeditionary Forces. Add to that the significant portion of our air mobility and other enabler forces, and you start to see the immense scope of our service's recent activities.

vices to its non-deployed members, families, Reservists and retirees. In some cases, the Army National Guard and U.S. overseas allies filled in for those deployed by providing security for air bases at home and abroad.

Among the large numbers of people fighting the war on terrorism are many who, prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom, were already operating at a high tempo. Airmen and equipment supporting the E-3 AWACs, E-8 Joint Stars, RC-135 Rivet Joint, U-2, Predator, Global Hawk and air mobility missions, as well as special operations airmen and combat search and rescue forces,

were already incredibly busy.

Because of OIF, training programs for the people assigned to these missions were greatly reduced and, in some cases, stopped altogether due to lack of aircraft, aircrews and maintainers.

The global war on terrorism has also required some Herculean efforts by our air mobility team. Air Mobility Command's total force of active-duty and air-reserve-component forces continued an unrelenting pace that began Sept. 11, 2001, and built our globe-spanning enroute structure, moving people, equipment and supplies, as well as deploying Air Force fighters and bombers.

This tremendous effort supported not only the Air Force, but also our sister services and coalition partners.

Many of the people and much of the equipment and supplies AMC moved were part of the extensive combat support efforts the war on terror required. For example, the Air Force opened and operated an additional 18 expeditionary bases around the OIF area of operations, calling upon combat and combat-support capabilities from many AEFs. In some cases, entire Air Force career fields were tapped out.

Opening these bases put pressure on AMC's tanker and airlift control elements and all of our combat support. After hostilities began, these TALCEs, along with assessment teams and contingency response units, also opened several bases inside Iraq.

The most recent campaign in our country's war against terror perfectly illustrates the might and power of the U.S. Air Force. As Operation Iraqi Freedom unfolded, the world watched as air power from the Air Force, Navy, Marines and Royal Air Force attacked Iraqi command and

control with devastating precision.

The combination of air and space power, special operations and information operations ground down Iraqi forces, leaving them demoralized, disoriented and without effective command and control. As a result, coalition ground forces shattered Iraqi resistance wherever it was encountered.

While the giant-sized efforts of our Air Force are often exhausting and thankless, all airmen should be proud of what they have accomplished. Al-Qaida is in disarray, our homeland skies are safe, and the people of Iraq are finally tasting freedom. In the end, I think our Air Force chief of staff, Gen. John P. Jumper, said it best.

"As we begin the process of redeployment and reconstitution, we can all be proud of the total team effort," the general said. "Although the AEF may never be called upon in the future to simultaneously deploy people from six AEFs, we can all take great comfort in the knowledge that the AEF can, and will, respond successfully to any challenge our nation faces."

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

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

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://wwwmil.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 be printed in the Rev-Up. Anonymous Action Lines will not be processed.

Traffic light timing needs changing at Robins Parkway and 9th Street

Can someone please check into the timing sequence on the traffic light at the intersection of Robins and 9th? Since 9th Street was repaved the light is now running through complete cycles at all times. This creates a bunch-up of traffic moving onto base on Robins Parkway and a waste of gas. I thought there was a smart system at this intersection that would only trip the green light if there was traffic waiting, not just a continual cycling through the lights. Again, I have not noticed this until after 9th was paved, so is it possible something is

now broken, and if not, can any adjustments be made to the timing?

Col. Smoot replies: You are correct on the connection between the road project and the now timed functioning traffic light. The traffic control equipment was damaged during grinding and paving of 9th Street at Robins Parkway and Macon Street intersections. Damages to road sensors were planned for in advance. The items required to make a complete fix for these two intersections, as well as the intersection of First Street and Page Road, were ordered before road work began in these areas. Detection replacement work is scheduled to begin in early July with completion by the end of sum-

mer. These intersections are operating on a timed program to allow for traffic flow in all directions in a safe manner. For this to happen, all lanes must be given the opportunity to turn green and allow traffic to pass through the intersection before turning red and allowing another movement at the same intersection. Due to this fact, CE currently has the intersections set to the best timing sequence at this time. Timing sequences are set to reduce delays during non-peak hours and allow for heavier traffic flow during peak hours of the day. Checks will continue and additional timing changes implemented as warranted by traffic studies. Thank you for allowing us to explain the changes to the traffic conditions and controls on Robins Parkway and 9th Street.



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a day at the races

Sports Day marks the end of fitness month with relays, racquetball, volleyball, basketball, tennis, softball, bowling, skeet shooting, tug-of-war and (deep breath) a bed race



Overall winners ■ 1st place 78th SFS ■ 2nd place 5th CCG ■ 3rd place 78th Services ■ 4th place 78th MSS



U.S. Air Force image by Ed Aspera



Above, Melissa Carlock competes in the Home Run Derby.



Main photo, from left to right, John Urritia, Beau Sullivan, A.J. Pitchford, Kevin Huggler and Belinda Sherwood (steering the bed) compete in the bed race. More than 800 people participated in Sports Day activities.

Above, the 78th MSS gives it their all in the Tug-of-War competition.

Left, Hillary Houston participates in the tennis tournament during Sports Day.



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Sports Day winners

Results listed in first, second, third place order

Golf 78th CEG 78th SFS HQ AFRC/ LGT	3-on-3 (male) basketball 78th COMM 116th CSS 78th SFS	4x400 78th SFS 78th MSS 78th services
Racquetball (male) 78th SFS 78th COMM 19th ARG	100 meter (male) 78th MSS 5th CCG 78th COMM	1 mile (male) WR-ALC/PK 78th services 78th SFS
Racquetball (female) 78th SFS WR-ALC/LKGA 78th services	100 meter (female) 78th SFS 78th LRS 78th MSS	1 mile (female) 5th CCG 78th services 78th COMM
Peddle paddle pat 5th CCG WR-ALC/LR 78th services	4x100 78th MSS 5th CCG 78th services	Bedrace 78th SFS and 78th MGD (tie) 78th services
	Softball 78th MSS 116th CSS 19th ARG	Volleyball 78th SFS C-130 SPO 653rd CLSS
		Home run derby (male) 78th COMM 5th CCG 5th CEG
		Home run derby (female) 5th CCG 78th LRS 78th SFS
		Tennis (male) 78th CEG 78th MSS 78th services
		Tennis (female) 116th ACW 78th CEG 5th CCG
		Bowling HQ AFRC 78th services 116th CSS
		3-on-3 (female) basketball 78th SFS 116th ACW 78th LRS
		Skeet 78th services 116th MXS CTS
		Tug-of-war 78th OSS 78th MSS



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



Submitted photo

Take me out to the ballgame ...

The Robins Elementary School Chorus sings the National anthem at the Atlanta Braves game against the New York Mets May 23. Earlier in the day they toured the state capitol and sang on the steps in the rotunda. The group was comprised of 64 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. To see this story on streaming video, go to <http://www.robins.af.mil/pa/stream/index.htm>

LEAVE/ TRANSFER

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

■ Donna Mitchell, WR-ALC/ENR. Point of contact is Cliff Robinson, 926-6451.

■ Amy Leary, Air Force Audit Agency. Point of contact is Janet Herndon, 926-6713.

Employee-relations specialists at 926-5307 or 926-5802 have information and instructions concerning requests to receive or donate annual leave. To have an approved leave recipient printed in the Rev-Up, directorates should send information to Angela Trunzo by e-mail at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks.

STREAMING VIDEO



ROBINS REPORT

News from around base — Watson and Cox Channel 15

Friday — 8 p.m.

Sunday — 1:30 p.m.

Monday — Noon

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic Masses are celebrated at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Saturday from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Protestant General Services take place every Sunday at 11 a.m. **Protestant Gospel Services** take place every Sunday at 8 a.m. in the base chapel.

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.

MOVIE SCHEDULE

Today
7:30 p.m. — **Bulletproof Monk** — Chow Yun-Fat, Seann William Scott

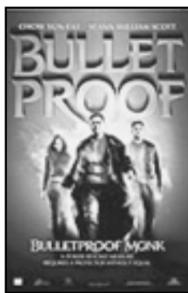
For 60 years, a mysterious monk has traversed the globe to protect an ancient scroll. Now the Monk must look for a new scrollkeeper. Kar is an unlikely candidate, but when he inadvertently saves the Bulletproof Monk from capture, the two become partners in a scheme to save the world from the scroll's most avid pursuer.

Rated PG-13 (violence, language and some sexual content) 104 minutes

Saturday
7:30 p.m. — **Holes** — Shia LaBeouf, Sigourney Weaver

A teenager, Stanley Yelnats, is sent to Camp Green Lake, a Texas detention camp, for a crime he didn't commit. There, he and the other boys are forced by the warden, a fiery woman who paints her nails with snake venom, to dig holes as something of a "character-building experience." Each day, each boy must dig a hole five feet deep and wide, in the long-dry rock that was once the bottom of Green Lake.

Rated PG (violence, mild language and some thematic elements) 117 minutes



Base swimming pools summer schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Outdoor Fitness, closed	Crestview, closed	Officers' Club, closed		Enlisted Club, closed		

Robins swimming pools are open from noon - 7 p.m.

Private pool parties

The pools can be reserved for private parties by calling the Outdoor Recreation Center at 926-4001. Cost is \$50 per event plus \$10 per hour for each lifeguard, minimum of two guards.

Swimming lessons

Register for swimming lessons at Outdoor Recreation Center for children ages 2 to 13. Classes will be held at Crestview pool in two-week sessions, Tuesday through Friday:

- June 10 - 20
- June 24 - July 4
- July 8 - 18
- July 22 - Aug. 1

Cost of Mommy and Me toddler classes (ages 2 - 3) are \$30 per child. Cost of beginner, intermediate and advance classes (ages 4 - 13) will be \$40 per child. All fees are due at time of registration.

clip & save

DEPLOYED SPOUSES' RESOURCES

Morale Call Program

Families of deployed and remote tour members can call from Robins to the deployed/remote location free of charge. This service is offered through the base operator and eligible members are allowed one call per week for 15 minutes each call.

Video cameras

Family Readiness has three video cameras that may be borrowed for up to 48 hours to tape a special event or private message to send to the military member. Some restrictions apply.

Car Care Because We Care

Sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society, the program provides a one-time preventive maintenance and safety inspection for one family vehicle if

the military member is TDY 30 days or longer or on a remote assignment. Eligible members must get a voucher from the Family Support Center to set up an appointment with the base Service Station.

Video Phone

Do you have a spouse that is TDY/on a remote assignment and would like to see them before they get back? You can, without leaving Robins Air Force Base. We have video-telephone capability to many installations around the world. Call us to make an appointment.

Pillowcases

Either the military member or the family member may bring a few pictures of his or her family to the FSC

either on a floppy disc, CD, or hard copy. The FSC will create and produce the pillowcase for free. (If you prefer a T-shirt, bring in your own and that can be arranged.)

E-mail for spouses

If you do not have e-mail capability from home and your spouse is on a TDY or remote assignment, don't fret. Just give us a call and we'll make an appointment to set up a free e-mail account for you in our computer resource library.

Letter writing kits

If you are separated from a family member due to deployment, come by and get a letter writing kit that includes stationary, post cards, greeting cards, stamps and note cards.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

Family Support Center sponsored classes, workshops, and seminars are open to all Team Robins personnel and their eligible family members. The FSC is located on Ninth Street in Building 794. For additional information, or to make a reservation, call 926-1256.

Heart link

The FSC's Family Outreach Program will conduct a workshop for military spouses married within the last 5 years, Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Base Chapel Annex.

Smooth move

The next Smooth Move workshop is Wednesday, 8:30 - noon, in Building 905, Room 141.

Starting a business workshop

A business consultant from the Small Business Development Center will conduct a "Starting a Business"

workshop Thursday, 9 a.m. - noon, Building 905.

Interviewing Q&A

The Transition Assistance program offers a workshop on Interviewing Q&A, Thursday, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m., Building 905, Room 137. Advance registration is required.

UNISERV Thrift savings plan briefing

The Personal Financial Management program is offering a briefing on UNISERV Thrift Saving Plan on June 13, 1 - 2:30 p.m., Building 905, Room 127.

TAP workshop

The next three-day Department of Labor sponsored Transition Assistance Program Workshop is June 16-18, 8:30 a.m. - 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. Reservations are taken on first-come, first-serve basis within the appropriate separation or retirement dates.

Community tour

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a Community Tour for all Team Robins members and their eligible family members, June 18, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Meet at the FSC.

Sponsorship training

The Center's Relocation Assistance Program will offer training for both beginner and experienced sponsors June 18, 9 - 10:30 a.m., in Bldg. 945, Family Support Center annex. Advance registration is required.

Applied suicide skills training

A workshop on Applied Suicide Skills Training will be conducted on June 18-19, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Base Chapel annex.

SERVICES BRIEFS

Civilian Recreation 922-4415

■ Family Night Bingo will be held Monday beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Smith Community Center ballroom, Building 767. Bingo cards are \$3 per pack and all children will receive a prize.

■ Beginning Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., Civilian Recreation and the Health and Wellness Center will host Lunch and Learn lectures at the Smith Community Center. Cost for each lecture is \$5 per person and includes lunch. Major Rottschaefer will be speaking at 11:30 a.m. on "Taking Control," a lecture on stress management. Registration must be made for the lectures by the previous Monday by calling Civilian Recreation.

Information, Tickets and Travel 926-2945

Let ITT plan your trip to include hotel and travel accommodations to one of the many military discounted attractions. Universal Orlando, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, Anheuser-Busch (Sea World, Busch Gardens,

Sesame Place Parks), Atlanta Braves, Hard Rock Café and Six Flags are offering specials for military members and their families, including free passes and discounts.

Library 327-7380

The "Take Flight" summer reading program will begin Monday with story time from 9 - 10 a.m. for children ages 5 and younger and from 10 - 11 a.m. for children ages 6 and older. Children must read at least seven age-appropriate books and attend four meetings at the library to be eligible for a drawing to be held at the ice cream social July 29. To register, visit the Library, Building 905 or call 327-7380.

Skills Development Center 926-5282

■ The Skills Development Center will hold beginning matting and framing classes June 17 and 19 from 6 - 9 p.m. Cost is \$12.50 per person and students must attend both nights.

■ Kids drawing and painting classes will be held in June and July. Cost is \$5 per child (not including supplies).

Smith Community Center 926-2105

■ A Peach Festival will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Lodge by Luna Lake. Activities include games, hayrides, craft bazaar, art exhibit, a 5K fun run and a Wish Boat Launch.

■ The Missoula Children's Theatre Camp production of Beauty Lou and the Country Beast will be held June 23 - 27 at the community center. Roles will be cast for 60 children and four assistant directors. To register for the free theatre camp, call 926-2105.

Youth Center 926-2110

The Youth Center will be taking field trips each week through July 30. Children must be registered and trip cost paid for one week in advance of each trip. June trip destinations are as follows: June 11, Sun Valley Beach; June 18, Douglass Theater and Lane Packing and June 25, Savannah Beach. Costs range from \$5 to \$13 for members and \$7 to \$15 for nonmembers. For details call the Youth Center or see the June issue of the Edge magazine.

ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

A picnic honoring spouses and family members of deployed airmen is set for Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Museum of Aviation pavilion. There will be hot dogs, hamburgers, cotton candy, popcorn, a moon walk, face painting and more activities for kids. The picnic is free to family members. For more information, call 987-7893.

The **Houston Community String Ensemble** - a collaboration of Central Georgia musicians, will perform a concert at the base chapel in support of our troops, families and country today at 7 p.m. Otis Taylor will conduct the concert. The theme is "The colors of music - welcome home to our troops." A broad selection of Broadway, patriotic and classical music will be performed and will also feature several of the area's younger soloists.

The **Middle Georgia Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association June luncheon** will be held Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. in the Robins Officers' Club Georgia Room. The guest speaker will be Col. Thomas H. Brown who will present "Operation Iraqi Freedom — Combat Air Forces Perspective." Attendees will have a choice of the full lunch menu available. All general officers and colonels should contact Maj. Jay Custine by e-mail jay.custine@afrc.af.mil or at 497-0037. Reservations are not required for other attendees.

The **Robins Air Force Base 2003 health fair** will be held Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Century of Flight Hangar at the Museum of Aviation. There will be vendors conducting a variety of health screenings. For more information call the Health & Wellness Center at 327-8480.

The **78th Medical Group** will close at noon June 25 for an official function. All ancillary services, including pharmacy, laboratory and radiology, will be closed. Normal services will resume June 26. For additional information, contact the respective services or Faye Rutherford at 327-8475. For urgent needs please contact Central Appointments at 327-7850.

The 2nd annual **Company Grade Officers' Association picnic** will be held at Gator Park June 27 from noon to 4 p.m. Food will be provided courtesy of the CGOA. There will be a horseshoe tournament and activities for children.

The **legal assistance walk-in system** has been replaced by a new appointment and walk-in system. Appointments are available

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesday will remain walk-in day for retirees from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Power of Attorney and Notary Service hours will be Mondays through Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. and Fridays from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. Same-day appointments will not be made except in the case of valid emergencies. Call 926-3961 ext. 109 or

ext. 111 for questions or to set up an appointment.

The **Customer Service Branch** will no longer mail travel settlement vouchers to customers. All travelers must use the July 2002 version of the DD Form 1351-2, Travel Voucher, when filling out their voucher. This version has a block requesting the e-mail address-Block 6e, and this must be filled in each time you file a voucher.

Individuals who do not have a base e-mail account can provide their personal e-mail address. All travel vouchers received that can't be e-mailed will be mailed to their travel monitors. For more information, contact Annette Hankins, FMFC, 926-3777.

For questions about the **Air Force Community Assessment survey**, call 1-866-753-1450.

Rex
57370801

Lenn
57417001

Fickling
57463201

SPORTS BRIEFS

Fitness Center 926-2128

The Peach Festival 5K Fun Run/Walk is Saturday at 9 a.m. in conjunction with the Peach Festival at the Lodge by Luna Lake.

Robins Lanes 926-2112

■ Celebrate Donald Duck's birthday Monday. Bowl three games and when you finish, do your best imitation of Donald Duck and the bowling center will give you a free popsicle.

■ Bring Dad to Robins Lanes Father's Day, June 15, and you pay regular price and Dad bowls for free.

■ Tuesdays the bowling center will have Low Ball Bowling. The lowest score wins a free large drink.

■ Thursdays are red-head pin days. Roll a strike when the red pin is in the number one position and that game is free.

■ Robins Lanes will hold a mixed scotch doubles tournament June 14. Bowl two sets of three sets of three games. Cost is \$20 per person.

■ NASCAR fans will be racing to the Robins Lanes Bowling Center for a chance to win a VIP trip to a NASCAR Winston Cup Series Race or other prizes. Buy a large Coca Cola fountain at On Spot Café for a snatch and win card today.

New greens taking shape as Pine Oaks rebuilds

By Phil Rhodes
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John Anderson is smiling more these days when he looks out at Pine Oaks Golf Course and sees heaps of churned up grass and muddy outlines that were once shapely greens and deep sand traps.

It's a beautiful sight.

For Anderson, Pine Oaks Golf Course manager, that mess is the culmination of years of begging, pleading and bartering to get new greens for this 40-year-old track. And by late summer or early fall, the membership at Pine Oaks will be smiling, too.

In mid-May, crews from Greens Construction, Tifton, Ga., began a four-month process of destroying and rebuilding the 18 greens on the golf course, the chipping and putting greens, as well as 32 sand traps.

When the \$936,000 construction project is complete, Robins' golfers will play on the newest greens in Middle Georgia, featuring Tift-Eagle grass that is as smooth as Bent, but more durable. Tommy Stinson, greens superintendent here, said the Tift-Eagle grass is the "latest

and greatest" in greens surfacing. "It's a fine-bladed grass that mats together tightly to produce a smooth putting surface."

Work was limited to the front nine for the first three weeks.

Anderson expects work to begin on the back nine sometime next week, if all goes as scheduled.

Both Anderson and Stinson were careful not to commit to a course reopening date.

"It all depends on Mother Nature," Stinson said.

"If the contractors get all the greens done by mid-July, we'll have the rest of July and August to grow and completely cover the greens."

"If all goes well, it might be the end of September, or early October," Anderson said cautiously. "But I don't want to commit to an exact date."

Judging from the planned improvements, the wait will be worth it. Gone will be the vicious back-to-front slope on painfully small greens.

Instead, golfers will aim at wider, smoother, more undulating greens featuring little or no slope. The greens will be nearly double the current size.

"The old greens were about 3,000 square feet,"

What to know

Pine Oaks Golf Course is undergoing an Air Force funded \$936,000 renovation to replace 18 greens, the chipping and putting greens as well as 32 sand traps. The course will remain open during construction for play on temporary greens and Pine Oaks members are being offered cart and green fee discounts at six area golf courses during the renovation.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

John Anderson, Pine Oaks Golf Course manager, stands on what will be the new seventh green. It will be twice the size of the old green. Construction will continue through the summer.

Local golf course discounts

Pine Oaks advanced green fee members can take advantage of special discounts at six area golf courses during the renovation. Members must show their Pine Oaks cards to get the discount. Courses offering discounts for 18 holes with cart:

	Weekday	Weekend/holiday
Houston Lake 218-5252	\$18	\$25
The Landings 923-5222	\$20	\$25
International City 322-0276	\$8.56	\$11.50
Perry Country Club 987-1033	\$12.84	\$12.84
Waterford South 328-7533	\$16.05	\$16.05 (after 2 p.m.)
Southern Hills 783-0600	\$16	\$22

Anderson said. "Our new ones will be about 5,500 square feet."

Anderson showed how dramatic the size difference is by standing where the middle of seventh green used to be. A tough par-3 hole that used to play 181 yards from the white tees to the front of the green,

it will play only 163 yards to the front. It will be more than 20 yards deeper and more than a third wider than the one it replaces. The left trap is gone, leaving players room for a chip and run shot if they miss this larger green.

Bigger will also be better, because French drains are

being built into all the greens and sand bunkers to improve drainage.

Another change of note: the 13th and 14th holes will be reversed. Those holes will be rebuilt, tee-to-green and won't be available for play until the entire project is complete.

Pine Oaks' membership will have to do without a home course for a while, but Anderson has worked some incentives to accommodate them during the construction.

Temporary greens will be cut out of the fairways next week and golfers can play the 16 open holes for \$12 (\$7 for cart and \$5 for green fees). Junior golfers up to age 15 can play the course for free if accompanied by an adult. Adults who don't play can ride along for \$5.

Anderson said this is a perfect time for families and beginners to come out and play since there will be less traffic on the course.

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An occasional series on people who work at Robins

Executive officer

By Holly J. Logan

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U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Maj. Carol Johnson and Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam discuss his schedule for the day.

Ever wonder how the top man at Warner Robins Air Logistics Center manages to stay organized and on top of this massive mission and mammoth work force? The simplified answer is: A well organized staff. Closest to the boss in that small cadre is "the exec"- that's Maj. Carol Johnson, executive officer for Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam.

Johnson coordinates the Center commander's day-to-day activities, prioritizes and formalizes correspondence for the Command Section, and performs a host of other duties that help make Wetekam's work day run smoothly.

Arriving at Robins in 2001 to work as a C-141 branch chief, she set her sights on garnering the elite position more than a year ago, with aspirations of learning skills from senior leaders that will help her achieve her goal of becoming a maintenance commander in the future.

"In my job, it's really important to know how (the commander) thinks on all issues," she said. "It was awkward at first. Senior leadership would ask me for advice so I had to learn quickly but it didn't take me long to understand his values, his work ethic and his vision for the Center."

"It's really important to have this understanding," she said.

Johnson said that a working relationship with the senior staff that is open and based on trust is the key to success. In her position, she is their link to the commander so her knowledge of how he makes decisions is key to keeping things moving along at the senior level.

"I try to make his day run as smoothly as possible," she added. "He's a very busy man. I try and work the less urgent issues so he can concentrate on other important aspects of Robins' mission."

Johnson is busy, too - keeping the commander's workday details in line keeps her on her toes most days.

At a time when most are just waking up, Johnson is checking numerous e-mail accounts to prioritize incoming messages, a task she performs repeatedly throughout the day. That - coupled with

What to know

Are you interested in becoming an executive officer? See how you measure up next to these criteria:

- flexibility
- home-life stability
- written correspondence proficiency
- strong organizational and briefing skills
- energy to work extended hours

managing the commander's incoming phone calls regarding advice, appointments and guidance on Air Force policies and procedures, as well as senior officer personnel issues - often means her job isn't done until after many have gone home for the day.

"This job has its stressful points, but it really is a lot of fun," she said. "He makes it fun. He teaches me every day how to be a successful leader in today's Air Force. I watch what he does and the decisions he makes and I mentally file them for future lessons and decisions. The long hours are definitely worth it."

"I like helping people. When someone calls about certain matters, I can sometimes direct them to the proper agencies and help them get what they need."

The full-time executive officer and single mother said even with a demanding work schedule, she still makes time for her 9-year-old son, David, and 11-year-old daughter, Ashley.

"My kids are very independent," she said. "Having the type of work hours I have

means they have to take on responsibilities that other kids don't have to... I make a lot of sacrifices of family time right now, but it's worth it to gain the education and experience my job affords me."

As the youngest of three children, Johnson was the only one in her immediate family to tread the same career path as her father - a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel with over 35 years active duty.

"It's all I remember ever wanting to do," she said. "I originally wanted to be a pilot, but I learned early you needed good eyesight so I chose an even better career field, aircraft maintenance. I grew up around the Air Force and everything I saw, I liked."

In 1987, Johnson's father had the honor of commissioning her as a U.S. Air Force officer, at the University of Maryland.

"My parents taught me that as long as I have my faith and patience, everything else will fall into place," she said. "My mother has been a great role model of what a wonderful mother should be. She has taught me the importance of service to others and family."

"My father taught me that you should treat people as people, and not according to their rank or status," she added. "My father spent 14 years enlisted and another 21 as an officer. He never taught me the rank structure...for a reason. There were parents that wouldn't allow their children to play with kids of parents that had different ranks from theirs. This lesson has been one I try and always apply when working with others."

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