



Home sweet
d o r i m

See Page 1B

NEWS
YOU CAN USE

ADR briefing set
for Monday

The General Counsel of the Air Force and chief legal officer of the Department of the Air Force Mary L. Walker is coming to Robins Monday.



Walker

She will conduct a briefing to senior staff in the CC Conference Room, from 1 to 2 p.m., on the Alternative Dispute Resolution process and how it can help manage workplace dispute issues.

Attendance at this briefing is same as for WR-ALC Staff meetings.

Also, all military and civilian managers and supervisors must attend one of the briefings at the base theater concerning ADR. The briefing schedule is as follows:

Monday – Base Theater
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
1 to 2 p.m (senior staff briefing in CC conference room)
3 to 4 p.m.

Tuesday – Base Theater (make-up session)
8 to 9 a.m.

For more information, contact the LR office at 926-7781.

– From staff reports

Senior leader
appointments

W. Michael Hatcher, from GM-15, Deputy Director, F-15 System Program Office, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Robins AFB, Ga., to SES, Director, Engineering, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Robins AFB, Ga.



Hatcher

Deryl W. Israel, from GS-15, Director, C-17 Partnership Office, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Robins AFB, Ga., to SES, Director, Engineering, Ogden Air Logistics Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Hill AFB, Utah



Israel

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

ROBINS RevUp



Vol. 48 No. 29

Friday, July 25, 2003

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Robins hit by cutbacks

Force structure announcement results in a loss of 381 jobs

By Faye Williams
faye.williams@robins.af.mil

The Air Force Fiscal Year 2004 force structure announcement Wednesday

listed authorization losses for the base - many of which were already addressed or planned for during FY03 cuts.

Robins Air Force Base

will experience a decrease in 152 military, 173 civilians and 56 drill authorizations.

“Robins has already accounted for 125 of the of the air logistics center’s civil-

ian reductions through attrition in FY03,” said Michael O’Hara, 78th Civilian Personnel Division chief.

Please see **JOBS, 3A**

INSIDE

Building a first-rate personnel system
Page 4A

A permanent plan for Robins security



Submitted illustrations

Top, an artist’s rendering of the new visitor center building. Above, an artist’s rendering of the new main gate. The project is set to begin construction in December and will include a new main entry road, Air Force standard main gate signage and a new visitor center complex complete with covered gate entrance facility, visitor center and inspection shelter.

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

Visitors to Robins Air Force Base will soon have a new and improved entry point thanks to a recently funded force protection project set to begin later this year.

According to Chip Bridges, Civil Engineering Group project engineer, the main gate project, set to begin construction in December, will provide Robins with a new main entry road, Air Force standard main gate signage and a new visitor center complex complete with covered gate entrance facility, visitor center and inspection shelter.

Bridges said the construction will not only change the landscape of Robins, but will ensure safety and help alleviate traffic problems.

“Traffic flow onto the installation has been a documented problem since 1957,” he said. “After the events of Sept. 11, funding for force protection measures began, and this project was tied into that.”

The new construction, which will cost an esti-

INSIDE

Base security depends on all

Page 2A

mated \$4.9 million, also includes standoff spacing between all buildings as a part of force protection criteria, spike strips on exit and inbound lanes, an entrapment area and an over watch position for Security Forces during heightened security measures.

Bridges said the visitor’s center building will be 1,600 square feet, or 50 percent larger than the current one, with higher ceilings and a more aesthetically pleasing look for its users.

A new roadway that will line up directly with Watson Boulevard will be the new construction’s link with the city. The new design also takes into

Please see **SECURITY, 2A**

C-130J contract brings new workload

By Tim Kurtz
tim.kurtz@robins.af.mil

A C-130J which will arrive here Monday not only brings immediate new work for the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, but also signals the beginning of a first-of-its-kind sustainment partnership that could span decades.

The aircraft, to be welcomed in an early morning ceremony, will be the first C-130J in the operational fleet to undergo a series of about 30 modifications at Robins through a \$565,474 contract.

It is the initial contractual event under a new strategic partnership between Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co. and the Center, which could eventually be designated a major licensed C-130J repair center.

Maj. Gen. Donald J. Wetekam, Center commander, and Bob Elrod, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics executive vice president for programs, will sign a partnership agreement Monday that sets the stage for the two parties to create a long-term C-130J sustainment strategy. The agreement identifies overarching responsibilities, goals for the partners and establishes a framework for additional agreements.

Robins and Lockheed Martin officials envision a future C-130J Sustainment Management Office with both Air Force and Lockheed Martin representation working together to support the weapon system.

The partnership will encompass a blending of government-contractor sustainment infrastructure, providing the war fighter the strengths of each partner’s experience.

Ideally, a prime contract for long-term sustainment would legally formalize the partnership in time for an orderly transition from the interim contractor support contract which ends Jan. 31, 2006.

The modification jobs will be performed by the Center’s Maintenance Directorate from Tuesday through April 1, 2004. The work accomplished under the contract will re-baseline operational C-130Js, upgrading the flying fleet to match the configuration of planes coming off the production line at

Please see **C-130J, 3A**

Training with two-fold benefits

■ Long-term, Full-time Academic Degree program means a win-win for Robins

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

Unlike some college students, Sherrie Nelson earned her graduate degree without the full-time juggle of work and school.

Nelson, division chief within the

Logistics Management Directorate, earned a Master of Science degree in logistics management at Georgia College and State University in 1996 through the Long-term, Full-time Academic Degree Program.

The program is offered to Air Force Materiel Command federal civil service employees at the Center, who have at least five consecutive years of service, excluding prior military service.

Accepted applicants for academic year 2003-2004

David N. Brown, Thomas D. Coleman, Virginia C. Does, Rosemary Foskey, Franklin Kee, Vivian McGhee, Todd Y. Pearson, Lillian M. Slappey, Terrance C. Warnock, James E. Yasechko

“I earned a degree that no one can ever take away,” she said. “I’ve gained

Please see **TRAINING, 2A**



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Brenda Bryson, supervisory inventory management specialist in the C-141 Requirements and Sustainment Office, displays the degree she earned through the training program.

Robins
3-day
forecast

Courtesy of 78th
OSS/OSW

Today
Partly cloudy
with chance
of p.m. storm



91/68

Saturday
Partly cloudy
with chance
of p.m. storm



89/70

Sunday
Partly cloudy
and warm



90/71

What's
inside

5th Mob still helping to tow the line in Iraq **5A**
Robins bulletin board **3B**
Football fever: Vols fan displays memorabilia **4B**
Botanical society explores Robins' natural beauty **5B**

Base security depends on all

By Lanorris Askew

lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

We all know that long lines at the gates and long walks to our offices can get a bit tedious, but in the wake of 9/11, many things changed.

One of those is in our method of security, and though it has been nearly two years, Robins security personnel want everyone to know they are still at work and your safety is job one.

Master Sgt. Shannon Gallien, 78th Security Forces Squadron anti-terrorism officer, said the security of our Air Force base is everyone's responsibility.

"The Air Force promotes a statement that everybody is a sensor, and in reality they really are," he said. "The actual security of the base depends on everyone, not just Security Forces. Personnel need to know when things are out of place and who to contact when they are."

Though it may be hard to imagine a tragedy like that of Sept. 11, hitting Robins, the reality is - it could happen.

"We must all realize that complacency is the biggest downfall for our personnel," he said. "Although there may be changes in Force Protection Conditions as directed down by major command, a lot of the measures that are taking place on Robins will remain standard."

One-hundred percent identification

checks and random vehicle searches may be here for the long haul. And even if they become annoying, remember that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Gallien said keeping everyone on their toes by keeping things random in nature is key.

"We want to keep everyone focused so they don't become stagnant or complacent," he said. "We want to keep them aware of what is going on around them."

Changes we have seen

Over the past year and a half there have been many changes in force protection at Robins.

Manpower on the gates has changed from civilians and reservists to Army personnel.

Barriers have been erected; tire shredders installed and many other measures taken to protect the populace.

Many of those came from Air Force Materiel Command funding.

Gallien said Robins has received a great deal of money this year for force protection issues and as a part of the Joint Services Installations Pilot Project, or JSIPP, Robins is one of three Air Force bases to test equipment and receive funding to identify biological or radiological chemicals that might infiltrate the installation.

"Right now Robins is leading the way on these requirements and identi-

fying requirements for the Air Force," said Gallien.

He said approximately \$500,000 worth of equipment and \$500,000 worth of funding to purchase emergency response items has been received through the project.

"Since 9/11 we have received over \$10 million for various force protection items around the base," said Gallien. "The biggest of which is the gate 2 project for which we were awarded \$5.4 million for a Congressional insert."

The gate 2 project set to begin in December will construct a new main gate and visitors' complex.

He said an additional \$2.2 million was awarded for the Air Force Reserve Command barriers project.

Approximately \$2 million for other projects like producing an emergency mass warning system for the base, force protection improvements on various areas of the base and purchasing equipment to assist Security Forces in accomplishing their duties has also been awarded.

Though many of the safety procedures begin at the gate, Gallien asks that office personnel also be aware.

"Be aware of who works in your building and of the things that seem out of the ordinary," he said.

He also asks that everyone continue to carry his or her id cards in case of random checks.

TRAINING

Continued from 1A

valuable knowledge of logistics principles for sustainment of systems and their lifecycles, which will help me devise effective solutions to problems as they arise."

From 1980 to 1995, Nelson earned her undergraduate degree, working full-time and taking one class per quarter - while balancing the demands of motherhood.

"This program provides a wonderful opportunity for people trying to work and go to school," she said. "Being able to concentrate on school and still earn a paycheck and leave helps you to finish your degree quicker, without the added stress."

The program, which began in 1995, is managed through the 78th Mission Support Group's Education and Training Flight.

As part of the program, students' positions remain unfilled with co-workers temporarily managing their workloads, until degree completion.

Each student is allotted \$3,500 per fiscal year to aid in the cost of tuition, books and lab fees. Program partic-

ipants must sign a continued service agreement, requiring the reimbursement of fees (excluding salary) if training is incomplete or employee leaves federal service before the CSA is fulfilled.

Ten federal civilian ser-vice employees are selected per year for the education program. Employees retain salary and leave benefits while enrolled.

Brenda Bryson, supervisory inventory management specialist in the C-141 Requirements and Sustainment Office here, who earned a similar degree as Nelson, said the program helped her to attain a long-time goal.

"Earning my degree brought a lot of self-satisfaction," she said. "Having this knowledge gives me more confidence in interacting with customers and serving the logistics aspect of Robins' mission."

Bryson said earning her degree through the training program helped her see her part in the mission more clearly.

"It's a lot of hard work and time-consuming," she said. "You have to be really dedicated to what you are working toward, but it's well-worth it when you are done."

SECURITY

Continued from 1A

account the high volume of traffic entering and exiting the base at rush hours and is set up to handle it.

"We will have three inbound and two outbound lanes at the gate itself," he said. "At the intersection of Ga. Highway 247, it will expand to five outbound lanes so we can have left and right turns without obstructing people who want to go straight. We are also looking to have at least nine people able to inspect cars coming in at the gate."

According to Bridges, a possibility for the future is the institution of FastPass, where a special tag will be placed on certain vehicles eliminating the need to stop and be checked when they enter the gate much like that on toll

roads. That process is currently being tested at Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.

Much like the testing of the FastPass at Andrews, this construction and new force protection project is relatively new, and Robins is one of the first bases to get funding for it.

"With this project it has been a continual development process," said Bridges. "We have continued to receive guidance from Air Force Materiel Command and the Air Force itself. Since all eyes will be on us, we will do well."

Linda Larson, solid waste and toxics program manager, said the main gate project is

also a hot topic because it is the first project at Robins to seek Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, certification from the United States Green Building Council.

In short, this voluntary certification is a consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings.

Larson said LEED looks at five basic categories: site design, energy, materials, water and indoor environmental quality. In each category, basic prerequisites must be met. Points are awarded in each category based on achievement beyond the minimum requirements. Based on the number of points earned, a project may be rated Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, or may not be rated.

"There is a lot of documentation that must be done in

order to receive the certification," said Larson. "The certification process must begin during the design phase of the building project and final certification is given when the construction is complete."

According to Shrad Amrit, 778th CES architect, when the main gate project is complete and gate 2 (current main gate) is closed, another project is set that will establish a controlled access campus area around Buildings 210, 214, 215, 220 and 220.

"(Maj.) Gen. (John) Batbie, vice commander of Air Force Reserve Command, and (Maj.) Gen. Donald Wetekam

didn't like the Jersey barriers, and they decided to do something more permanent," said Amrit. "The purpose is to create a secure environment."

The design will be a combination of 30-inch barrier walls, bollards in between and a gate that has zero penetration.

"The master plan shown to Gen. Wetekam and Gen. Batbie showed that Buildings 214 and 215 eventually will be incorporated as the funding comes available along with Buildings 210 and 220 which are the AFRC buildings," said Amrit. "This will set the precedent for the standard for barriers at Robins."

He said when the new gate is implemented, Richard Ray Boulevard will be partially closed because of security issues, and there will be two single lanes in front of buildings 210 and 220.

"The look will be that of a campus with pedestrian crosswalks," he said. "The function of the old visitor center has not been decided but that gate will be closed off."

Amrit said the AFRC campus plan's design is complete and is now in contracting for advertising and bidding. Bidding will begin before the end of the year with a one-year construction plan.



Bridges

landing
57723302

armed forces
57555001

ga pools
57814201

JOBS

Continued from 1A

"We are postured to reduce the center's additional FY04 numbers through attrition and other appropriate means. We do not anticipate the need for a reduction in force."

The FY04 announcement includes:

■ The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center decreases by 175 civilian and 38 military authorizations for work force reshaping.

■ Foreign military sales and special programs decrease by 37 civilian authorizations due to adjustments in these programs.

■ The 116th Air Control Wing reduces by 136 military as a result of the Secretary of the Air Force directed blending of the Air National Guard B-1 wing into the active duty E-8C wing.

■ The 622nd Combat Logistics Support Squadron will reduce by 56 drill authorizations to match wartime requirements.

■ The 19th Air Refueling Group will gain 15 authorizations due to crew ratio increases for the KC-135.

■ Other mission realignments result in a gain of seven military and five civilian authorizations.

■ The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center gains 34 civilian authorizations due to the Materiel Supply Division Tier 1.

Collectively Air Force Materiel

Command will lose 561 military, 1,018 civilian and 182 drill authorizations, not necessarily people, next fiscal year according to 2004 force structure and realignment information defense department officials.

Command officials said authorization cuts do not automatically translate into employee separations, and they are using a wide variety of manpower tools to minimize impact on AFMC people.

Force structure information indicated that 377 military and 1,074 civilian authorizations will be reduced at AFMC bases and units, according to command officials. At non-AFMC units residing on bases belonging to the command, 184 military and 182 drill authorizations will be reduced but 62 civilian authorizations will be added. At AFMC units residing at other locations, military authorizations will decrease by two while civilian authorizations decrease by half a dozen.

Force structure information indicated that 375 military and 1,074 civilian authorizations will be reduced at AFMC bases and units, according to command officials. At non-AFMC units residing on bases belonging to the command, 184 military and 182 drill authorizations will be reduced but 62 civilian authorizations will be added. At AFMC units residing at other locations, military authorizations will remain the same while civilian authorizations decrease by half a dozen.

Each year Air Force officials provide

a force structure announcement to Congress outlining the service's intent to realign, consolidate and enhance unit operations. This announcement addresses the president's budgeted force structure, realignment and management actions required to achieve efficiencies, modernize or make organizational changes, defense department officials said.

It specifies the force structure changes the total force experienced - active duty, Guard and Reserve. Before making any decisions concerning major force movements, Air Force officials said they'd fully comply with the spirit and requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

To the extent possible, employees impacted by reductions will be able to take full advantage of the wide array of personnel programs available, officials said.

Some of these include career job reservation and retraining opportunities for military members and priority placement, voluntary early retirement authority and the voluntary separation incentive program for civilians.

Air Force wide the reductions include a decrease of 2,261 military, 2,962 civilian and 1,409 drill authorizations - approximately 1 percent of the total force.

Editor's note Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs contributed to this story.

consignment
57842901

gpm life
57815201

nationwide
57842701

gold's
57842601

C-130J

Continued from 1A

Lockheed Martin's Marietta plant.

Some of the C-130J work to be performed here includes removal and replacement of several sensors, panels and valves; modifications to the emergency exit door assembly, the oxygen regulator switch and wiring; and inspections of fasteners and fittings.

The C-130J Hercules is the next generation in tactical military transport air-

craft. It is capable of airdrop or air-land delivery of combat troops, personnel and cargo to austere, bare-base sites worldwide.

With appropriate specialized equipment installed, the C-130J can perform a wide range of specialized missions such as tactical airlift, in-flight refueling, long-range search and rescue, weather reconnaissance, surveillance, command and control, fire suppression, electronic reconnaissance, flying hospital, and special forces operations, day or night, in adverse weather.



Submitted photo

The C-130J Hercules countermeasures system can dispense chaff cartridges and infrared flares and the POET and GEN-X active expendable decoys.

publix
57542101

Building a first-rate personnel system

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - It's all about building a first-rate personnel system to complement a first-rate military, said David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

In an interview, Chu spoke about the changes that may come about if Congress allows DoD to set up the National Security Personnel System.

For civilian employees the system will mean pay banding, easier hiring and firing, better compensation for the best personnel and many other aspects.

For military personnel, it will mean that many jobs - 300,000 by some estimates - now being performed by service members will revert to civilian employees or contractors. It may change the length of time general and flag officers must serve to retire, and it may allow some officers to stay in certain jobs for a longer period of time.

For the reserve components, it may allow individuals to move between active duty and reserve



Chu

component jobs more easily.

These changes were originally part of the Defense Transformation for the 21st Century Act of 2003. The legislation is now being considered as part of the Defense Authorization Act.

Chu said the vast majority of Americans "think we're stodgy and unresponsive, and they are right." Some of that is deserved, but some "reflects the statutes we're forced to operate with."

Chu says it takes a long time to hire a new worker. This can cause serious problems in offices, especially if someone leaves unexpectedly.

The department also does a poor job of recognizing excellent workers. Merit pay has to be more than a buzz word, Chu said. Compensation must be tied to performance and the proposals do this.

It is also a problem to fire someone. DoD is not good in getting rid of poor performers, he said. "Everybody wants to be part of a first-rate organization," he said. "And first rate means if you're not cutting it, then you're out of there. And we don't have the mechanisms to do that."

DoD will build on the successes on nine demonstration projects to put pay banding into effect. The department will move immediately to institute the pay reform in the

"It is critical that we assure people that their interests and our interests are aligned. We have no interest in a weak civil personnel system. We want a strong civil personnel system to produce a first-rate team for the nation."

David Chu
Undersecretary of defense
for personnel and readiness

acquisition community - the department already has the authority to do that. It must wait for changes in legislation to institute the practice throughout DoD.

If accepted, there will be five career fields with three or four pay bands, depending on the career field. The idea gives managers a lot of flexibility in placing new hires and rewarding good workers, Chu said.

Chu also spoke about proposed changes to reduction-in-force rules. Congress too must pass these changes for them to become effective. Current RIF rules "are dominated by seniority," he said. "That's

inconsistent with a pay-for-performance program."

Longevity counts first, veterans preference is second and performance, third. "As a practical matter, performance is such a distant third that it doesn't count," Chu said. "We've proposed to exactly reverse those three items. Performance would be first; veterans status, second; and longevity, third. We're very hopeful that the Congress will give us the authority to do that."

Chu said the proposals don't look to gut the civil service, but to bring it into the 21st century. The proposals respect the "bedrock" of the U.S.

Civil Service. But they do place that bedrock firmly in the present.

Some proposals will not make it this year - they have not been included in either the Senate or House versions of the bill. There will be no authority to modernize the training system.

"Under current law, we cannot train you for a job you don't have," Chu said. This will continue. The undersecretary said the department will resubmit this proposal next year. He said that charges that the proposals would allow nepotism or political favoritism are "hogwash." He said that prohibited practices will still be prohibited.

"It is critical that we assure people that their interests and our interests are aligned," he said. "We have no interest in a weak civil personnel system. We want a strong civil personnel system to produce a first-rate team for the nation."

Chu observed it's important to modernize and transform the system not only for today's personnel, but also for tomorrow's.

"We have to appeal to the next generation of talented men and women - the new people who are going to make the decision about 'Should I take a public-sector post?'" he said. "We are not seen by the nation's young people as a good choice. We have to change that."

Personnel director shares thoughts on personnel management reform

By Mike O'Hara

Civilian Personnel Director

I know that I cannot speak for anyone besides myself.

In doing so, it seems clear that throughout my entire adult life I have sought security, predictability and the elusive zone of certainty. Without a doubt, that is one of the many features which drew me to serve first as an active duty member in the U.S. Navy and finally as part of the Air Force team. It is, therefore not a revelation that I have not always embraced change.

However, having been fortunate enough to survive nearly 55 years of life, I have finally realized that the tide of fundamental change is clearly upon us. From my perspective, it began with the advent of the information age in the early 1980s. It has continued through the 1990s and will be with us for the foreseeable

future.

Viewing this inevitability, I have attempted to force my thought patterns and reactions to be more open and flexible. Frankly, I'm not there yet, but I have made some progress. Unlike the "former me" I try to analyze the patterns of change in an attempt to both frame my future role and also discern the path of opportunity for both my organization and, to a degree, myself. This altered mindset has provided pearls of opportunity my former mindset would have concealed. Such is my view of the Department of Defense plan to reform our current personnel management system.

Frankly, it is a system, which served us rather well over the last 60 years or so. It is a system, founded on merit principles, providing well-defined competitive benefits and entitlements, and a segmented system based on the complexity of one's job to determine appropriate pay levels. In addition, there are a variety of venues designed to protect the rights of the employees. Unfortunately, as the tide of change has rolled forward, our system has

remained static.

In 1987, I was fortunate to be a member of an Air Force team, the charter of which was to develop a laundry list of legislative reforms for the federal employment system. That team was headed by a person whom I consider the pre-eminent expert on the federal employment practices: Dr. Ronald P. Sanders. Clearly, he was the catalyst and creative force for that group. Over a week or so we compiled a laundry list of proposed reforms. Those proposals included the following: The establishment of a pay banding system for all General Schedule employees in place of the current 15 grade plan and the standup of a system of pay for performance - one which pooled monies currently dedicated to fund step increases, performance awards and the annual comparability increase.

Under our proposal the resultant pool of funds would be distributed to employees based on their level and quality of contributions toward the achievement of organizational goals. Naturally, the system had to be underpinned by a discrete and easily understood

performance system. Next proposed was the simplification of the staffing process: categorical versus numerical rating and the institutionalization of what is called the outstanding scholar hiring authority with the eligibility threshold being reduced from a 3.45 cumulative grade point average to 3.0. Also proposed was the simplification of the rules for Reduction in Force.

The final proposal was for the reform of the Equal Employment Opportunity complaints system in a way that would require each complainant to post a modest filing fee, which would be forfeited with a loss and refunded if the complainant prevailed.

Additionally, we proposed the establishment of an independent review committee to hear final appeals of rulings from the EEO commission. It was hoped that these changes would expedite complaints processing for those with the most legitimate concerns.

Well, after nearly 17 years it appears that these reforms might be within reach, with the possible passage of the National Security Personnel System for the Department of

Defense. Certainly, that legislative proposal goes even beyond that, which was generated by our work group in 1987 to include changes to the employee appeal process and alterations in the way the Federal Labor Relations Program is managed. Frankly, even I, a person who seeks certainty is excited in anticipation of the next wave in this tide. I believe, if affected and honorably administered, these reforms portend greater rewards for the best within our work force, a greater competitive spirit, greater nimbleness and flexibility, and enhancement of management's ability to hold each and every one of us equally accountable.

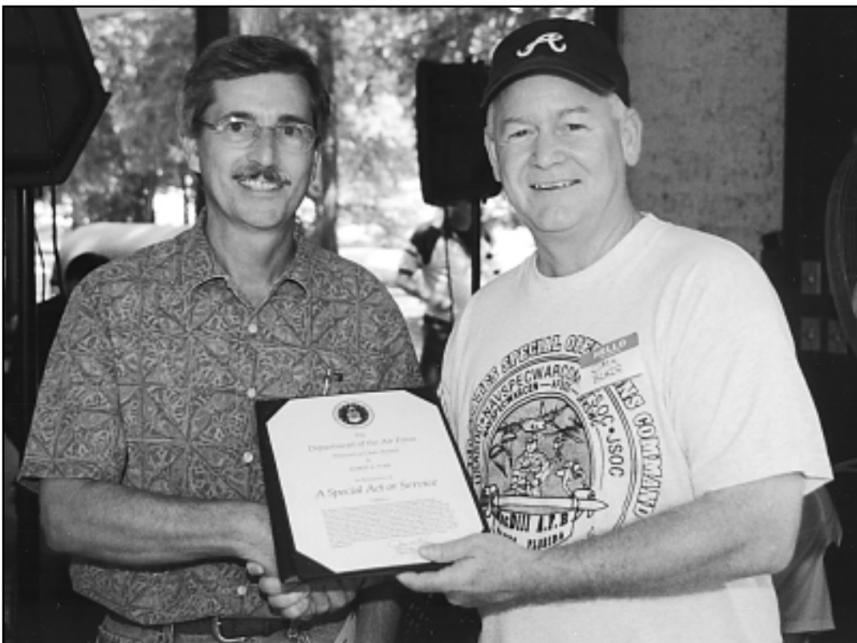
In the end, I truly believe that change will provide many seams of opportunity to those among us who are committed to the mission, focused on positive and measurable outcomes and are willing to take measured risk. I am hopeful that most employees at Robins maintain an open mind toward this and other changes coming our way. In the meantime, I encourage each of you to learn more about this proposed legisla-

WR-ALC BY THE NUMBERS

11,890	Total number of civilian employees
7	Number of ES employees
91	Number of GM employees
7,253	Number of GS employees
4,181	Number of WG employees
105	Number of WL employees
253	Number of WS employees
34	Percentage of retirement-eligible employees

tion to determine how it might work for the benefit of the Robins community and yourself.

Jack Blair presents \$1250 Special Act or Service Award at first director's call



U.S. Air Force submitted photo

Bob Yohe, left, of the Logistics Management Directorate, Data Management Branch, receives a \$1,250 Special Act or Service Award from Jack Blair, LG director. Blair held his first director's call at Gator Park July 11. The event provided an opportunity for him to get out and meet people under the Georgia sunshine. More than 350 Logistics Management employees enjoyed an afternoon of food, fun and teambuilding activities.

Mandatory split disbursement travel claim review enacted for military personnel

By the Comptroller Directorate

A mandatory travel voucher split disbursement provision for all Air Force personnel was recently enacted.

Mandatory split disbursement requires the Air Force travelers to separately identify travel card charges on their travel claim and directly disburse those amounts to Bank of America. Civilian travelers are not affected at this time, but are encouraged to use split disbursement.

Split disbursement is an automatic electronic funds transfer to the Bank of America and is applied to the traveler's credit card balance. The traveler and supervisor or approving official are ultimately responsible to ensure that split disbursement is used on each travel voucher for at least the minimum required charges.

The traveler can call Bank

What to know

The Comptroller Pay Services office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. They are located in Building 301. For information about military pay, call 926-3777. For information about travel pay, call 926-3482

of America's 24-hour, automated help line at 1-800-472-1424 and select 2 for the customer service menu to obtain their account balance, last payment and amount due. This number can also be found on the back of the GTC card. The unit or organization's Agency Program Coordinators and alternates should be available to assist travelers as necessary to ver-

ify amounts for split disbursement.

Robins Finance Customer Service will return travel vouchers of military members that are not signed by their supervisor or order's approving official beginning Aug. 1.

For more information, contact Annette Hankins at 926-3777.

ocmulgee
57652704

Rising to the task

5th Mob still helping to tow the line in Iraq

By Capt. Jill Whitesell
506th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs chief

KIRKUK AIR BASE, IRAQ - As the fourth aircraft touched down here after the Army seized the airfield, Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, gained one of its mission essential teams - combat communications.

There was literally nothing here but gunfire, but for a team whose sole purpose in life is to deploy into a bare-base environment and set up expeditionary communications, this was not a challenge. It was their charge.

The 506th Expeditionary Combat Communications Squadron is just that - a combat communications team. Unlike any stateside communication squadron, the team is trained specifically for field deployments, and for this team, there was no better place to test that training than at Kirkuk.

"We are responsible for providing command, control, communications and computer systems allowing the 506th AEG and hosted Army units to complete their mission," said Maj. Scott Moser, squadron commander, who is stationed at Robins. "Nearly every functional area significantly relies on C4 to accomplish their job and therefore we are critical across the entire base."

In addition to the more visible communication items such as computers, e-mail and telephones, the communications squadron also provides air traffic control and landing systems enabling safe, controlled use of Kirkuk by aircraft.

Since May 1, after a mere two and a half months, the team has been responsible for approximately 222,000 telephone and 51,000 morale calls that have been made; set up 1,750 e-mail accounts; received 13,100 pieces of mail; installed 280 telephone lines; issued more than 350 land mobile radios; and installed miles and miles of cable.

Those accomplishments didn't come without challenges.

"Anytime you deploy to a bare-base environment there is always the challenge of having the equipment you need to accomplish the mission," said Moser. "We couldn't bring vehicles or trenchers; we had to rely on what we could find here, which slowed us down a little."

Airman Lisa Lantz faced the challenge of learning her job, as she had only been out of technical school and on the job for a month before



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy

Staff Sgt. Michael Carter, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, runs jumpers for base phone lines at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

being tasked to deploy.

"The biggest challenge for me has been learning everything," said the computer-networking specialist. "It hasn't really been a 'challenge' though because I like learning. I want to do computer networking when I get out of the Air Force, so I want to learn all I can while I'm here."

Lantz said the common power outages did present some problems, but nothing they couldn't overcome.

"We had to wait for many of our customers to get power before we could set up the equipment. Now, the frequent power outages still cause us some challenges," said Lantz.

The team has been in the build-up phase of their mission since arriving, but will soon move to a sustainment phase.

"Over the next few weeks we are going to finish extending services out to the various locations," said Moser. "Then we'll be cutting over to the fiber optic cable. When that's complete, we'll go into a sustainment mode, and our mission will be to keep up services and to improve reliability."

The team has done an incredible job according to Moser and he couldn't be more proud of their accomplishments.

"There is no better job than to come out and do something like this - to create a robust communication squadron," he said. "But it's

not me doing this. It's the other 127 people out there who are doing the work. It

has been so rewarding to see those people rise to the task and to succeed and accom-

Check out the Robins Rev-Up online at
<http://www.robins.af.mil/pa/revup-online/index.htm>

william
57787903

legacy
57844101

steinmart
57758901

elva
57697401

comedy
57826901

Are you missing any body parts?

By Chief Master Sgt. Joe Lavigne
2nd Bomb Wing
Command Chief

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. – The other day I had an interesting conversation about drastically changing the Enlisted Performance Report system.

Someone suggested we totally do away with the numeric-based program, and even do away with writing all the flowery bullets to make sure the form is completely filled.

Instead, the form would simply be a drawing of a stick figure.

Really simple. There would be room to draw two legs, a torso, two arms and a head.

If, at the end of your rating period, your rater and the rater's rater felt you portrayed the "whole person" concept, they would draw a complete stick figure, and when you became eligible, you'd be able to take your promotion tests and compete for your next stripe.

If your picture wasn't

complete, you simply wouldn't test.

That would save you a lot of time studying, only to become frustrated when you weren't on the promotion list.

So exactly how would your rater decide what kind of person you are?

Easy. As you know, the legs provide the basis for movement.

One leg would represent your technical competence. If you had completed your necessary upgrade training, had been certified on all your core tasks and had mastered your trade, that leg would be drawn.

The other leg would represent your mastery of overall Air Force knowledge.

☞ Have you completed the appropriate levels of Professional Military Education?

☞ Have you read any of the books on the Chief of Staff's or Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force's professional reading list?

☞ Have you attended any voluntary professional development seminars?

You need to understand and accept the fact that today's enlisted corps is becoming more and more highly educated than at any other time in the history of the Air Force. If you're not pursuing your education, you're behind your peers, plain and simple.

If so, that leg would also be drawn.

Let's move up to the torso. Here you'd be evaluated on how well you maintain standards.

☞ Do you look sharp in your uniform?

☞ Are you presenting a proper military image?

☞ Do you participate in a personal fitness program?

☞ Do you follow the instructions you need to safely and effectively accomplish the mission?

☞ Do you ensure your subordinates meet the standards as well?

To draw your left arm,

your rater must be able to honestly say you are actively supporting your unit and the base.

☞ Are you out there helping your unit advisory council improve your squadron?

☞ Do you occasionally pitch in some off-duty time to help with your booster club's efforts?

☞ What about being an "active" member in one or more professional organizations or one of the benevolent organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life for our troops?

Remember, being active doesn't simply mean paying

your dues and hanging around waiting for your going-away gift when you move, separate or retire.

The right arm is simple.

☞ Are you taking part in any community activities?

The possibilities here are endless: youth groups, helping the aging, church groups, schools, support for community events.

Finally, the head must be drawn to signify your pursuit of a well-rounded education.

☞ Are you taking advantage of the programs offered by the Community College of the Air Force?

☞ If you've already received that degree, are you working toward a bachelor's, or perhaps a professional certification?

You need to understand and accept the fact that today's enlisted corps is becoming more and more highly educated than at any other time in the history of the Air Force.

If you're not pursuing your education, you're behind your peers, plain and simple.

Will we ever adopt this form of evaluation system? You never know.

If we do, will you be a complete person or will you have some missing body parts?

The choice is yours. By the way, this whole person concept isn't anything new.

It's clearly outlined in Air Force Instruction 36-2618, The Enlisted Force Structure.

We've been using the whole-person concept as a yardstick to measure people for years.

Be it a "Stripes for Exceptional Performance" promotion, selecting annual award winners, or picking our next batch of senior and chief master sergeants, the picture needs to be complete.

Why not take a few minutes to draw a picture of yourself?

Or, ask your boss to.

If you find you're missing some body parts, take action now. You'll be glad you did!

– Courtesy of Air Combat Command News Service

Don't let the 'details' slide, wear your pride

By Maj. Gen. Michael W. Wooley

Third Air Force commander

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England – Ralph Waldo Emerson once noted: "What you are stands over you... and thunders so that I cannot hear what you say to the contrary."

What does this mean in today's Air Force? I believe it means that I should be able to spot professional airmen from across a parking lot, before they render a sharp salute and a verbal greeting.

I should be able to tell by the manner in which they carry themselves, with their heads held high and looking everyone in the eye, and by the crisply ironed uniforms

bloused over freshly shined boots.

It means that those of us who serve don't just throw on a uniform because we have to. We wear it with pride because we choose to.

The men and women of the U.S. Air Force comprise the finest fighting force in the world.

With few exceptions, they are honorable, brave warriors who have conducted themselves brilliantly in conflict.

They embody the spirit of the heroes of past and give us great hope for the future.

Given what many of us have been through during our days in

No matter what the rank, how we look and conduct ourselves does matter. If we "let the details slide," then who is to say what's next?

the Air Force – the end of the Cold War; downsizing; the Gulf War; operations Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and numerous others – focusing on military standards of dress and appearance may seem like getting "down in the weeds" with details.

Experienced military men and women know, however, that it is often the details that mean the dif-

ference between mission accomplishment and failure.

I know how easy it is to let customs and courtesies slide when deployed, when trying to accomplish so much with so few people and resources, when we are

all hyper-focused on life-or-death missions.

But we are what the American people and our allies see and equate to the U.S. military.

No matter what the rank, how we look and conduct ourselves does matter. If we "let the details slide," then who is to say what's next?

Everywhere I go I am consis-

tently impressed by the sharp men and women I meet because I know why they behave that way.

They take pride in their Air Force, and how they conduct themselves underscores that pride. Each of us who serves is a role model, an ambassador in blue.

For those who have gone before us, who have given their lives so that we could have this great Air Force, so that we could enjoy the wonders of freedom and liberty, we pledge our best.

Remember each morning as you put on your uniform what it stands for. Then you will always look, act and be that ambassador.

– Courtesy of United States Air Forces in Europe News Service

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



Commanders' Action Line

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

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



addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage. 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.

Any chance of early retirements?

I know there has been previous discussion of this issue, but with the recent initiative to have slots available for the trainees already hired and plans for future hires, will this open up the opportunity for an early out? Several of us in my work area are a year or so from retirement eligibility and would welcome the opportunity to retire a little early.

Gen. Wetekam replies: Thank you for your recent inquiry regarding early outs. Voluntary Early Retirement and Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment are tools that are employed on occasion to shape the workforce. Although voluntary as the name clearly states, they are not normally offered unless needed as a last resort, usually to avoid a reduction in force. Based on an analysis of Robins Air Force Base assigned civilian strength for fiscal year

2003, neither VERA nor VSIP authorities are necessary this year and they are not planned. However, if these authorities are needed at some point in the future, the Civilian Personnel Office will ensure it is publicized well in advance for affected employees. Again, we appreciate your interest. If you have additional questions, you may contact Lisa Hollis at 926-3805, Ext 211.

Does Robins have a noise policy?

I've noticed an alarming increase in noise violations by people who play their music rather loudly in their vehicles on base. Is this a violation of any noise pollution laws or policies?

Col. Smoot replies: Robins Air Force Base does not have a policy that covers loud car stereos; however,

Georgia law states "It is unlawful for any person operating or occupying a motor vehicle on a street or highway to operate or amplify the sound produced by a radio, tape player, or other mechanical sound-making device or instrument from within the motor vehicle so that the sound is plainly audible at a distance of 100 feet or more from the motor vehicle." Normally the installation adopts the laws governing motor vehicle operations of the state or city where the installation is located. Many people from different walks of life drive the roads everyday together, and courtesy goes a long way in helping reduce tension among other drivers, residential areas, and work areas. Many Air Force people work shifts and are sleeping during the day and we ask that individuals be considerate. Don't assume that others enjoy the same type of music you do. Keep the volume down; excessive stereo volume is very disruptive.



Published by The Telegraph, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Robins Air Force Base, Ga., of the Air Force Materiel Command. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Robins Rev-Up are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or The Telegraph, of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical or mental handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

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

Editorial staff

Warner Robins Air Logistics Center
Office of Public Affairs

Commander **Maj. Gen. Donald J. Wetekam**
PA director **Maj. Mike Pierson**
Chief, Internal Information. **Phil Rhodes**
Editor **Geoff Janes**
Associate editor **Angela Trunzo**
Photographer **Sue Sapp**
Staff writer **Lanorris Askew**
Staff writer **Holly J. Logan**
Contributing writers **Chris Zdrakas, Lisa Mathews**

Home

sweet dorm

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

Nineteen-year-old Airman 1st Class Jicela Givens, left the comfort of her parents home almost a year ago to join the Air Force. When she "stepped into the blue," she also stepped into her new living quarters - the dorms.

"I miss home, but I love my independence," said the 116th Logistics Readiness Squadron supply technician.

Though "spacious" is not a term used by some dorm residents, they offer a comfortable, relatively cost-free place to bed down.

According to Louis Webb, dorm manager, Robins is the home to nine dormitories for enlisted personnel. Dorm residents are grouped by their unit assignment unless there are shortages.

"We have 676 rooms for enlisted personnel," he said. "All nine dorms are 90 to 95 percent full at all times."

He said although 75 percent of the occupants are male, all of the dorms are coed, with female-to-female and male-to-male bathrooms.

Each floor of the dormitories is equipped with a laundry room and lounge, which are accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week to the residents of that dorm.

"Each of the residents is given a key that unlocks his or her door and all of the doors in the common areas," said Webb. "You must be a resident to access these areas."

Four dorm managers and the 78th Civil Engineering Squadron oversee maintenance and repair. Webb said his job is a busy one, but he loves interacting with the residents.

"I am up and down these stairs a hundred times a day," he said. "I like knowing the kids are taken care of."

In addition to the other amenities, Webb said free storage is provided for excess furniture. In-house mail delivery is also provided.

Though independence is a big plus, dorm life isn't without rules - and they're strictly enforced.

For instance:

- ☞ No pets are allowed except for fish

- ☞ Loud music is prohibited

- ☞ Smoking, though allowed in individual rooms, must be stopped if it offends others by being filtered through vents and is not allowed in common areas.

- ☞ Members of the opposite sex are not allowed to visit after 10 p.m.

Airman 1st Class John Locke, an airborne operations technician with the 12th Air Combat Control Squadron, has lived in the dorms for a year and a half and said for the most part, it has been a good experience.

"It's nice and quiet most of the time," he said.

Airman 1st Class Josh Arey, also with the 12th ACCS, agreed, but said whether the quiet is a good or a bad thing is left up to the individual.

For those who require quiet during the day - day sleepers - signs are posted on doors that serve as the dorm version of "do not disturb" signs.



What to know

An Airman 1st Class without dependents at Robins forfeits \$582 a month in basic allowance for housing to live in the dorms. The cost for a one-bedroom apartment downtown is between \$300 and \$500 for rent with an additional \$50 to \$75 for utilities.

U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Clockwise from top: Airman 1st Class Jicela Givens plays a game of pool in the common area of her dorm. Airman 1st Class Erwin Middleton watches TV in his dorm bedroom. Airman 1st Class John Locke and Airman 1st Class Josh Arey relax outside their dorm on the patio. Airman 1st Class Terry Maxwell looks out from the balcony of his dorm.

All new airmen must live in the dorms until they become senior airmen, but with finances tight, some choose to stay past that time.

"I like living in the dorms," said Airman 1st Class Erwin Middleton, a Logistics Readiness Squadron customer service representative. "I have some bills and other things I need to take care of, so I'm not trying to move out yet."

Though most of the amenities of dorm life cost airmen nothing, dormitory life is not entirely free. To live in the dorms, airmen forfeit their basic allowance for housing, which

for an E-3 is more than \$500. While many like Middleton choose to enjoy the cost-free portions, others are ready to leave the dorms and live off base.

Airman 1st Class David Wallace, 19th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, who recently married, is packing his bags.

"I've only lived here for a few months," he said. "I think I was probably the quietest suitemate my neighbor ever had."

Webb said some residents participate in what is called "ghosting" where they live off base, but do not

receive the BAH for it. These people are still responsible for their rooms in the dormitories.

"They take it upon themselves to live downtown because they want their privacy," he said.

In three years as a dorm manager, Webb said he has seen a lot of changes.

"When I first got here we had two people in every room," he said. "Now everyone has their own room."

He said there have also been updates in furniture and quality of life items.

"Living in the dorms is good now," he said.

Some lucky residents reside in newly renovated dormitories called one-plus-one dorms.

According to Webb, those dorms make up four of the nine and include a kitchenette shared by two people.

"We came online with the one-plus-one dorms in 1999," said Webb. "These dorms also include in-house weight rooms where the residents can workout."

According to a September 2002 Air Force Print News article, Air Force officials have developed a new dormitory standard designed to

enhance the standard of living for residents Air Force-wide. The four-plus-one style dormitory has four airmen sharing a common living area, complete with a kitchen and living room. Each resident has their own bedroom and bathroom. Under the current one-plus-one plan, two airmen share a kitchenette and bathroom, but have their own bedroom.

The new plan is a direct result of a recent policy change by the secretary of defense that increases the allowable space for dorm rooms to 17 square meters, said Col. James Holland, Air Force Housing Division chief. He added that the new dimensions, which constitute an increase in size of nearly 50 percent from the 11 square meters authorized under the one-plus-one plan, were authorized with certain stipulations on cost and overall building size.

While living away from home and loved ones is never easy, the perks offered by dormitory life aim at helping to ease the transition.

"I love my freedom and my space," said Middleton. "It's an all around good place, and I haven't had any problems."

Givens said though her dorm doesn't have as much closet space as she is used to, it is livable.

"The dorm managers are good people, and I have enjoyed my time in the dorms," she said.

Virtually free rent, utilities, laundry facilities and your own personal lounge-it doesn't get much better than that, and be it ever so humble for hundreds of airmen like Givens, there's no place like dorm.

LEAVE/ TRANSFER

The following person has been approved as a participant in the leave transfer program.

- Cathie Swartzlander, WR-ALC/LJLDM. The point of contact is Teresa Matkey at 926-7700 ext. 4132.
- Mary V. Lorton, WR-ALC/MAFA. The point of contact is Cynthia A. Williams at 926-3035.
- Sharon Goodwin, WR-ALC/LSACA. The point of contact is Liz Foskey at 926-7614.

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 fax at 926-9597, or 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., and on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and 5 p.m. and Monday through Friday at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Saturday from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Protestant General Services take place every Sunday at 11 a.m. This service includes some traditional and contemporary worship styles in music and in format. **Protestant Inspirational Services** take place every Sunday at 8 a.m. **Protestant Contemporary Services** take place 11 a.m. each Sunday at the Base Theater. This service is very informal, with a praise team assisting in singing and includes both traditional and contemporary styles of music and worship.

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

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

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

MUSEUM FILMS

Bombers B-52, 11 a.m., Vistascope Theater, today and Saturday

A suspenseful, aerial drama, set during the Cold War-era, centers on a grizzled airplane mechanic (Karl Malden), a hotshot pilot (Efrem Zimbalist Jr.), and a sergeant's daughter (Natalie Wood).

For more information, contact Alicia Kennon, at the Museum of Aviation at 926-6870.

MOVIE SCHEDULE

Friday
7:30 p.m. — Hollywood Homicide — Harrison Ford, Josh Hartnett

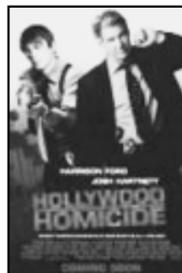
Two LAPD homicide detectives who moonlight in other fields, Joe Gavilian, a real estate agent, and K.C. Calden, a yoga instructor and wannabe actor, investigate the slaying of a rap group on stage that is possibly orchestrated by Sartain, a notorious rap label boss who is rumored to have arranged the death of rap artists in the past who wanted to get out of their contracts, and whose head of security is himself a former LAPD officer.

Rated PG-13 (violence, sexual situations and language.) 111 minutes

Saturday
7:30 p.m. — Rugrats Go Wild! — Bruce Willis, Jodi Carlisle

When the vacationing Rugrats and their parents get stranded on a deserted island, Tommy Pickles knows there's only one man who can help them: Nigel Thornberry! Except a bonk on the head has made Nigel suddenly seem more like a 3-year-old than a man. Luckily, the babies have Eliza on their side, and with her ability to communicate with animals, she can even talk to Spike! Will the Rugrats ever make it back to their own back yard? Will Nigel the toddler turn back into a documentary-making dad?

Rated PG (mild crude humor) 81 minutes



Teen returns from Air Force aviation camp

Billy Heberg recently returned from the Air Force Teen Aviation Camp at the Air Force Academy, Colo.

Heberg, one of two applicants selected from this area to attend the weeklong camp, was involved in piloting an aircraft flight simulator, touring the Academy, participating in the ropes course and more.

"Mostly I enjoyed the socialization with other teens from all over," he



Heberg

said. Heberg is a sophomore at Houston County High School and a member of the AFJROTC, Honor Roll, Marching Band and Boy Scouts.

Heberg is active in his church choir, which recently performed at

Ground Zero in New York City.

Currently, Heberg is working on an Eagle project building a 167-foot fence at the Home for the Aging.

After graduation from high school, he plans to attend the academy to become a pilot.

Heberg is the son of retired Lt. Col. Gail Heberg and Billy Heberg.

— From staff reports

"It's Time to Praise Him!"

The Bolling Air Force Base gospel choir will perform traditional and contemporary favorites Saturday, 7:30 p.m., at the Robins Air Force Base Chapel. Admission is free.

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

The FSC has video-telephone capability to many installations around the world. Call 926-1256 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.

Training Day

The FSC is undergoing a transformation process to better serve our customers. In order to become proficient, the center will be closed for routine business every Thursday from 11:30 to 3:30 p.m. If you have an emergency, there will be an individual at the front desk in Building 794, or at 926-1256 to take your information and pass it to the appropriate FSC staff member. If you have concerns or questions, direct them to the FSC Director, Christine Parker at 926-1256. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

Pre-TAP briefing

A Pre-TAP briefing will be conducted Tuesday, 1 - 3 p.m., Building 905, Room 139.

Bundles for babies & infant care

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

Sponsorship training

The Center's Relocation Assistance Program will offer training for both beginner and experienced sponsors Aug. 5, 9 to 10:30 a.m., Building 945, FSC Annex.

Base tour

The FSC is sponsoring a Base Tour for all Team Robins members and their

eligible family members, Aug. 6, 1 to 3 p.m. Meet at the Enlisted Club.

Interviewing Q&A

The Transition Assistance program offers a workshop on Interviewing Q&A, Aug. 7, 9 to 11 a.m., Building 905, Room 139. Advance registration is required.

Volunteer resource information

The Relocation Assistance program will conduct an informational class on Volunteer Resource Information, Aug. 8, 2 to 3:30 p.m., Building 945, FSC Annex. The class will be informal presentation on Volunteer Opportunities both on base and in the local community. The Volunteer Resource Program is the focal point that connects Team Robins members with service opportunities at Robins AFB.

SERVICES BRIEFS

Volunteers are needed to participate in focus groups at the Robins Officers' and Enlisted Clubs. The officers' club focus groups will be held Wednesday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Daedalion Room and enlisted club focus groups will be held Thursday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in ballroom B. Each session will last about an hour, and volunteers will receive a \$10 gift certificate to redeem at either the officers' or enlisted clubs. Club members and nonmembers should register by calling Sherry Trauth at 926-5492 by Monday.

Information, Tickets and Travel 926-2945

A yard sale will be held at the Smith Community Center, Building 767, from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Aug. 2. Cost of tables is \$7 each and should be paid for by Saturday. Tables can be set up beginning at 7 a.m. To make reservations, visit the

ITT office, Building 767.

Enlisted Club 926-4515

The Drifters will perform Aug. 23 at 9 p.m. Advance tickets for members are \$10; advance tickets for nonmembers are \$15. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Light hors d'oeuvre will be served.

Outdoor Adventure 926-6527

Go on a gambling getaway in Biloxi, Miss., with Outdoor Adventure Nov. 9 - 12. Participants will enjoy four-night and three-day deluxe accommodations, two free breakfasts and one dinner. The cost of the trip includes double occupancy for \$175. Transportation departs Nov. 9 at 9 a.m. and returns Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required at sign-up. Register by Oct. 10. For more information call 926-6527.

Smith Community Center 925-2105

A "Let's Celebrate" Summer Bash online coloring activity page is located on the Services Division Web site, www.robins.af.mil/services. Click on Summer Bash icon and then bash coloring icon. The first 50 kids to put the puzzle together, print and color it, and bring it to Summer Bash Aug. 9 will receive a prize. Must be 10 years old and younger to participant. Limit one entry per person.

Youth Center 926-2110

Membership Means More program begins soon. Become a youth center member during the National Kid's Day celebration Aug. 2 from 1 to 4 p.m. and get a free portable radio or Robby the Robin stuffed beanie toy. For more details call 926-2110.

ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

Gate 14 road construction

Due to road construction, the Russell Parkway Gate/Gate 14 will be one lane in each direction from 6 p.m., today through Sunday. Personnel should consider using the Main Gate/Gate 2 during these hours. For questions or concerns, contact the 78th Security Forces Squadron at 926-2186 or 926-2187.

BX parking lot closed

The BX parking lot will be closed for asphalt sealing through Aug. 4. Emergency vehicles will have access if needed, and privately owned vehicles will have partial access until the project is completed. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Paul A. Zink at the 78th Civil Engineer Squadron at 926-5820 ext. 607.

Phone book pickup

Warner Robins and Macon phone books will be available for pickup Wednesday, from 8 until 11 a.m., in Building 270.

Office closing

The 78th Medical Group will close at 2 p.m. Wednesday for an official change of command function.

78th Air Base Wing Enlisted Promotion ceremony Thursday

The 78th Air Base Wing Enlisted Promotion ceremony, hosted by Col. Marvin T. Smoot, Jr., 78th Air Base Wing commander, will be Thursday, at 3:30 p.m., in the Main Ballroom, Smith Community Center. Those being recognized will be notified by their respective first sergeants. Commanders, supervisors, family members and friends are encouraged to attend. Show your unit's pride and spirit; come and join us in congratulating our new promotees. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Editha S. Garcia or Senior Airman Jessica Jackson at 926-0792.

ROA golf tournament

The Reserve Officers Association, Chapter 36, annual golf tournament will be Aug. 22 at the Waterford Golf Club. Lunch is set for 12:30 with a shot gun start at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person with the proceeds to benefit the local Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. Prizes will be awarded to the top teams. Contact Maj. Wright at 327-1092 to sign up teams. Slots are limited.

OSA luncheons

The Officers' Spouses Club

luncheons will resume in August. For more information, contact Aimee Henson at 987-1964.

Elementary school 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. For more information, call the school at 926-5003.

OSC bowling league

The Officers' Spouses Club fall bowling league will start Sept. 2. To join the OSC bowl-

ing league as a regular or a substitute member, contact Mary Ann Cotton at 975-0764. The league bowls at 9:30 Tuesday mornings at Robins Lanes. More information will be available at the OSC Activities Coffee Aug. 28 at the Officers' Club.

Used car lot location moved

The used car lot has moved to the parking lot adjacent to Building 641 on Oak Street.

Cost is \$10 for 15 days or \$20 per month. A valid ID and proof of vehicle ownership is required. Call 926-4001 for more information or visit Outdoor Recreation, Building 941.

Firing range reminders

The Robins Air Force Base Firing Ranges are off limits to all personnel, unless scheduled for training or official business. Weapons firing is conducted every day of the

week and on all Air Force Reserve and Guard weekends. The range areas are clearly marked with signs, and red flags and streamers fly when weapons fire is in progress. July through December is scheduled for the 78th Security Forces Squadron night fire training. Night fire training is usually conducted once a week from 3 to 11:30 p.m. If there are any questions, contact the Combat Arms Section at 926-5031.

rex
57606601

fickling
57818501

SPORTS BRIEFS

Fitness Center 926-2128

■ An Air Force Materiel Command Women's 2003 Softball championship will be held today through Monday. Opening ceremonies will be held today at 9 a.m. on field No. 2.

■ A hot summer night's fun run will be held Aug. 7 at 6 p.m. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

Golf Course 926-4103

■ A Pee Wee Golf Clinic for ages 4 to 6 years old will be held Tuesday through Thursday. Cost is \$35 per person. Clinic times will be from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 10 to 11 a.m. For more information and to register call the Pro Shop, 926-4103.

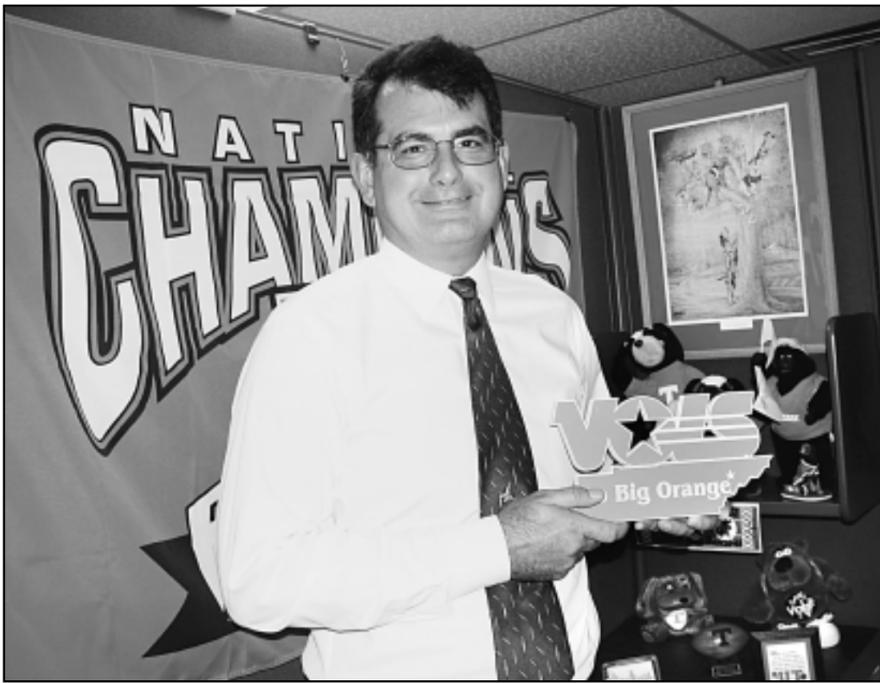
■ Link Up 2 Golf offers participants more than \$300 in savings. Cost is \$99 per person and includes eight hours of instruction, free range punch cards and three golfing experiences. Register now for fall classes. For details call 926-4103.

Information, Tickets and Travel 926-2945

■ Atlanta Falcon football home game tickets are on sale now at ITT. Cost is \$15 per ticket. Tickets are sold on a pre-paid basis and will be available to customers around the end of July. There are still some tickets available for the following games:

Aug. 9 at 8 p.m. vs. Greenbay Packers; Aug. 16 at 8 p.m. vs. Baltimore Ravens; Dec 7 at 8:30 p.m. vs. Carolina Panthers; Dec 28 at 1 p.m. vs. Jacksonville Jaguars. Games will be held on Sundays in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta:

Football fever strikes again



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

When walking into Al Thompson's office you might notice how he has categorized his belongings. First there's the family section, next the military section and then there's the Tennessee Volunteer section. Thompson received his Bachelor's of Engineering degree in 1985 from the University of Tennessee and says that football has been a big part of his life since he grew up playing. Now, he really enjoys attending the games to support his team.

"My wife, Angie, and I like to go to the games - especially the Georgia-Tennessee game since she's an alumnus of Georgia. The household gets along fine except for that one weekend of the year. And now, my oldest daughter, Annette is attending the University of Florida on an academic scholarship, so she's a Gator. There was nothing I hated more than a Gator, and then my daughter ends up as one."

The FAST lead engineer in PKF enjoys good-natured rivalries with his co-workers.

"It's great when your team is winning, but when you lose, you get abused because you're in the land of the red and the black. Last year, Tennessee lost to Georgia and Florida, and it wasn't pretty around here," he said.

Do you sit next to a sports fanatic? Let us know - they could be featured here in this spot. Call the Rev-Up staff at 926-2137 or e-mail us at robins.revup@robins.af.mil.



Above and right, Thompson's orange and white sports memorabilia collection.



Next Lunch & Learn set for Aug. 6

The next Lunch & Learn is set for Aug. 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Smith Community Center, Building 767.

James G. Martin, exercise physiologist, will discuss starting an exercise program.

Cost is \$5 per person and includes lunch.

Registration must be made by Aug. 4, by calling Lynne Brackett at 922-4415.

— From staff reports

Swim team members place in 13 events

The Warner Robins Aquanauts' newly formed Masters Swim Team sent five swimmers, three of which are base civilian employees, to participate in the 2003 Georgia Games State Championships in Atlanta last weekend.

In all, the masters swimmers won 13 out of 15 events entered.

Anna DeLozier, swimming in the women's 40-44 age group, won the 800 meter freestyle, 400 meter individual medley, and 50 and 100 meter backstroke. She set Georgia State Records in the 400 meter individual medley and the 50 meter backstroke, breaking her own record in the 50 meter backstroke.

DeLozier also holds the Georgia State Record in the 100 and 200 meter backstroke and the 200 meter individual medley. She works in WR-ALC/PKO, Operational Contracting.

Tracy Burkholder, competing in the men's 40-44 age group, won the 50 and 100 meter breaststroke and the 100 meter freestyle, and placed second in the 50 meter freestyle. He works in the 116th OSS.

James Parker, men's 45 to 49 age group, placed second in the 50 meter freestyle. He works in the Center Maintenance Directorate.

Florrie Cunningham,

swimming in the women's 19-24 age group, won the 50 meter breaststroke, 50 and 100 meter freestyle, and 50 meter butterfly.

The Aquanauts relay team of Anna DeLozier, Tracy Burkholder, James Parker and Cindy Parker won both the 200 meter freestyle and 200 meter relays.

Masters swimming is an organized program of swimming for adults.

Masters swimming exists to promote health and fitness in its members who participate in a variety of ways ranging from lap swimming to international competition. Anyone 19 years of age or older can join.

United States Masters Swimming, Inc. provides the national administrative structure for masters swimming, and it supports the local masters programs. USMS holds national championships each year for short course yards in the spring and long course meters in the summer.

The Georgia Local Masters Swim Committee, which has approximately 900 members, is responsible for the State of Georgia.

Anyone interested in masters swimming can contact James Parker at 929-8044.

— From staff reports

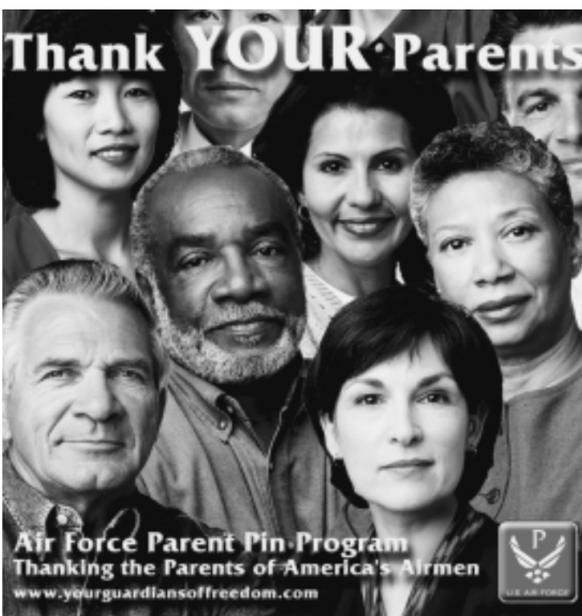
roberts
57842801

friends
57842501

hienergy
57643701

heart of ga
57820801

mcmahan
57677304



Botanical Society explores Robins' natural beauty

Please recycle this newspaper.



Harper's bog ginger



stinging nettle



pink sensitive vine



U.S. Air Force photos by Marilyn DeMetrick

The Georgia Botanical Society group poses in front of the entrance sign to the longleaf pine restoration site. Eleven people from across the state participated in a Georgia Botanical Society field trip to Robins July 19. The trip was organized and led by Dr. Bob Sargent and Marilyn DeMetrick of the Environmental Management Directorate. Participants searched for unique plants in several of the significant natural communities found on base including the creek forest, longleaf pine site, Grady freshwater meadow, and upland hardwood bluff. The trip provided participants the opportunity to see some of Georgia's rare plant species including awned meadowbeauty, Harper's bog ginger, and Ocmulgee skullcap, a type of mint listed as a threatened species and found in just six counties in Georgia. Participants also learned about various aspects of managing natural resources on Robins such as restoring a rare ecosystem and controlling exotic species. The Georgia Botanical Society exists to promote the understanding and conservation of native plants and the natural communities in which they exist. For more information about the society, go to <http://www.gabotsoc.org/>.



passion flower

jewelry
57579904

theater
57646601

century 21
57818601

lenndukes
57690503

fickling
57818401

acupunct
57675801

leon county
57684501

armed forces
57781401



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Laura Davis, REACH program coordinator, talks to Cheryl Hull, left, about becoming a mentor. The REACH, or Raising Educational Achievement for Children in Houston County, is coordinated through Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Houston County.

REACHing out to kids



Steve Rodgers, AFGE987 Union Steward and REACH volunteer spokesman, gives a presentation to potential REACH mentors in the PK conference room July 18. All production chiefs, division chiefs and supervisors are encouraged to call him at 926-4415 or e-mail him at steve.rodgers@robins.af.mil to schedule a REACH briefing for employees. The briefing lasts 10 minutes and explains the mentoring program and its relationship between the base and the schools that are served. Sessions can be scheduled anytime, Monday through Friday.

sun retail
57843001

Morgan
57626001

armes forces
57584301



Second Quarter Award Winners

Company Grade Officer of the Quarter

Capt. Kevin S.D. Thomas, 99th Air Refueling Squadron

Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter

Senior Master Sgt. Tina M. Smith, 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter

Staff Sgt. Aaron M. Cooper, 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Airman of the Quarter Senior Airman Hanif H. Huggins, 19th Operations Support Squadron

August promotions

Staff Sgt. Thomas E. Rowley to Technical Sergeant, 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman Phillip W. Johnson to Staff Sergeant, 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman David P. Marshall to Staff Sergeant, 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Second Lieutenant Brandon L. Preston to First Lieutenant, 19th Maintenance Squadron

Airman 1st Class Jeremy P. Laborde to Senior Airman, 19th Maintenance Squadron

Second Lieutenant Robert C. Sibold to First Lieutenant, 19th Operations Support Squadron

Airman 1st Class Cristi M. Heiser to Senior Airman, 19th Operations Support Squadron

News brief submission guidelines

Anyone interested in submitting news briefs or story ideas can contact Holly Logan by e-mail at holly.logan@robins.af.mil. Since space is limited, briefs will be printed on a first-come, first-serve basis.



U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Benjamin Brown Senior Airman Adam Fisher, with the 19th Maintenance Squadron, replaces a panel on a C-5 aircraft from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and preps it for inspection.

A little rest and reconstitution

■ Black Knights resume mission at Robins as others serve the mission abroad

By Lt. Col. Creg Paulk
99th Air Refueling Squadron commander

While some Group members remain deployed, more than 300 black knights are exercising a little R'n R - rest and reconstitution.

Black Knights welcomed the start of the

Air Mobility Command-directed rest and reconstitution period which runs from July 1 until mid-August.

"This is set aside for airmen to recharge their batteries and prepare for a future increase in operational tempo," said Lt. Col. Mike England, 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander. "Our people can take well-earned leave, and re-deploying airmen are granted a certain amount of 'down time' to handle personal affairs without taking

Please see **REST, 2**

Pride in military service

Rottman envisions a bright future for Black Knights

By Col. Raymond J. Rottman
19th Air Refueling Group commander

For 21 years, I have known of the Black Knights of Robins Air Force Base. Your impressive achievements and awards were the benchmark of success for many of the organizations in which I served. I had the good fortune to witness the professionalism of the Black Knights first hand during multiple Red Flags, Operational Readiness Exercises and real-world deployments. Whenever I met former members, they spoke of their love of the organization, the uniqueness of its mission and unparalleled support from the local community. When I learned that I would have the opportunity to be part of this world-class organization I was both honored and humbled.



Rottman

While your long legacy of achievement is indeed impressive, your efforts over the past 23 months have been inspirational. Since the first attack on American soil in nearly 60 years, you successfully endured what could arguably be considered the most challenging period in the Black Knights' distinguished history. 'Checkmate to Aggression' seems to be a fitting motto for a group asked to address the global tyranny of terrorism. Your responsibilities involve sacrifices, at Robins and at austere locations far from home. And while our four squadrons perform a variety of diverse functions, the Black Knights represent a sin-



U.S. Air Force file image by Ed Aspera

Nearly 50 Black Knights returned home June 7. Expecting to return in September, 19th members said they were surprised with the news of an early homecoming.

gle team with a common purpose - ensuring America's Air Force remains the world's finest.

You each have served with distinction, faithfully answering your nation's call to arms when she needed you most. And while it would be impossible for the American public to fully compen-

sate you for your many sacrifices, your reward comes from the pride of being a Black Knight, knowing that your service is making a real difference to your country and that you are part of something far greater than self. I am proud to join your ranks.

Our nation needs the Black

Knights now more than any other time in history. The road ahead will not be without challenge and additional sacrifice - but as Black Knights, you understand the value of service. I look forward to serving with you as together we write the next chapter in the Black Knights' rich history.

Operation Iraqi Freedom factoids

Did you know that Black Knights ...

- ☛ flew 295 sorties?
- ☛ offloaded 10,530,200 pounds of fuel?
- ☛ flew 1,518.18 hours through June 23? This represents nearly half of the Group's allocated 3,311 flying annual hours.

99th ARS change of command



U.S. Air Force photo by Eric Palmer

At a ceremony July 1, Lt. Col. David A. Sprague relinquished command of the 99th Air Refueling Squadron to Lt. Col. Creg D. Paulk. Paulk is a command pilot, with more than 3,200 flight hours in the T-37, T-38, F-111, C-17A and the KC-135R/T aircraft. Paulk came to Robins in 2002 as director of operations for the 19th Operations Support Squadron.

Supervisor support is key in workplace safety

By Tech. Sgt. Bart Craven
19th Air Refueling Group
Safety Manager

A supervisor's position is one of the most important jobs - now more than ever.

In this time of leaning forward to accomplish the mission, supervisors must be ever vigilant in the work environment.

Let's face it - supervisor support is essential to the success of our entire Accident Prevention Program.

If people were to have mishaps and ignore established safety rules and regulations, the supervisor is the first line of resolve.

Supervisors' attitudes and behaviors toward safety are very important in the overall

Those who earnestly care about safety, and set a good example will maintain interest and enforce the rules, instead of depending on posters, warning signs and general directions to meet the requirements for good, sound tracking.

success of the Accident Prevention Program. Their members will adopt

and reflect these patterns. Those who earnestly care about safety, and set a good

example, will maintain interest and enforce the rules instead of depending on posters, warning signs and general directions to meet the requirements for good, sound tracking.

These are the individuals who are the key figures in the safety program.

Remember, supervisors are responsible for preventing mishaps and turning

management policies into action.

Your performance as a supervisor will ultimately determine employees' acceptance of the program.

Do your part to maintain proactive participation in all safety aspects and use operational risk management in each operation and process to ensure safety in the workplace.

From the round table



NAME: Airman 1st Class David Wallace
ORGANIZATION: 19th MXS
AFSC: 2A531C
DUTY TITLE: Aerospace Maintenance Apprentice
TAFMSD: Nov. 19, 2002
MARITAL STATUS: Single
GOALS: To learn how to be a great mechanic.
PERSONAL QUOTE: "Stand up for what you believe in. Never let someone put you down."



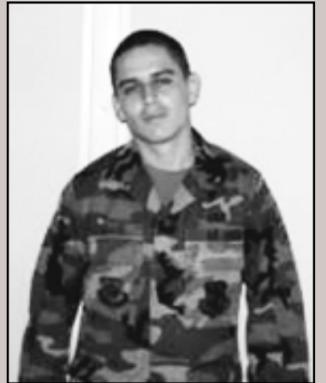
NAME: Airman 1st Class Terrell Frideger
ORGANIZATION: 99th ARS
AFSC: 1A031
DUTY TITLE: Boom Operator
TAFMSD: May 21, 2002
MARITAL STATUS: Single
GOALS: Be happy with what I do.
FAVORITE QUOTE: "If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything." - Mark Twain



NAME: Senior Airman Hanif Huggins
ORGANIZATION: 19th OSS
AFSC: 3C151
DUTY TITLE: Combat Crew Comm Journeyman
TAFMSD: Feb. 2, 2000
MARITAL STATUS: Single
GOALS: Complete college education, achieve CCAF, and to advance in rank and my career.
PERSONAL MOTTO: "Never compromise your dreams."



NAME: Airman 1st Class Roman Montalvo
ORGANIZATION: 19th AMXS
AFSC: 2A531G
DUTY TITLE: Aerospace Maintenance Apprentice
TAFMSD: Feb. 27, 2002
MARITAL STATUS: Single
GOALS: Obtain a B.A. in professional aeronautics while in the military.
FAVORITE QUOTE: "A leader is the one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." - John C. Maxwell



NAME: Airman Ricardo Bravo
ORGANIZATION: 19th MXS
AFSC: 2A531
DUTY TITLE: Aerospace Maintenance Apprentice
TAFMSD: July 23, 2002
MARITAL STATUS: Single
GOALS: Get a bachelor's degree - become an officer.
FAVORITE QUOTE: "A pint of sweat, saves a gallon of blood." - Gen. George S. Patton

REST

Continued from 1

leave. This gives our people time with their families, and with the decreased flying schedule, our aircraft will get a rest as well."

After the break, the Group will begin the reconstitution process - accomplishing required ground, flight and simulator training events.

Lt. Col. Royce Eves, 99th ARS operations officer, devised a local reconstitution plan, dividing the squadron into three groups that rotate ground and flight training, and leave every two weeks.

The 19th AMXS will also use this time to perform needed maintenance repairs on our aircraft - repairs that couldn't have been done during contingency operations due to lack of availability and the cost of having down aircraft.

"This R and R period is a fabulous opportunity to rest and train our world-famous maintainers," said England. "Then we can let them work their magic to get these old birds flying and looking as if they were brand new."

Although AMC has lowered some taskings, the Group has members on two aircraft still deployed in support of on-going operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Eves said he is certain the Group will emerge refreshed, rejuvenated, refocused and ready to go wherever its nation calls them.

"This gives our people time with their families, and with the decreased flying schedule, our aircraft will get a rest as well."

Lt. Col. Mike England
19th Aircraft
Maintenance Squadron
commander

A day with the deployed

One Black Knight's account of life at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

By Maj. Phil Frazetta
99th Air Refueling Squadron
Deployed

Deployed Black Knights battle the heat as one of the hottest months of the year approaches.

On average, crews can expect to fly once or twice a week, with two or three days on alert - which rarely turn into missions.

With five to six days of down time, having an outstanding services squadron helps fill the void.

Most operate on a "sleep when it's too hot to do anything else" cycle. Our day starts in late afternoon, with either a full or daily aircraft pre-flight and dinner - or just dinner if you aren't on alert.

The food is exceptional, compared to some places. Meals contain a couple of meats, vegetables, soup, breakfast foods, fruit (the highlight of most meals), cookies and desserts.

Dinner is usually followed with a trip to the KC-135 Operations Building (Ops) or Jacks' Place, sponsored by chapel services, that offers books, magazines, board games and puzzles, with all the free coffee you could want.

There are four computers in Ops, crews use to send e-mails home. Unless it's after midnight, when everyone is playing Medal of

Honor - a video game that has taken the Deid by storm - lines are short to use the computers.

With only one morale phone in Ops, the wait takes up most of your time for a 15-minute morale call.

If you choose to do the Ops trip after mid-night chow, you'll most likely find yourself going to Jacks' Place to sit, drink free coffee and play games,

where Black Knights cool down on really hot and humid nights. After midnight chow, we usually watch a movie or relax until it is time for the gym.

The gym includes free weights, machines, elliptical trainers and treadmills. Unless you go at 3 p.m., there's usually not a long wait for the machines. The gym also sponsors the Al Udeid running club, where you log miles and get T-shirts for reaching 100, 200, 300 etc. miles. They also host 5K runs, modified triathlons, volleyball and

basketball tournaments - all with free t-shirts for participating.

After the gym and cleaning up, it's again time to eat and get back to the tent before it gets too hot. We

The food is exceptional, compared to some places. Meals contain a couple of meats, vegetables, soup, breakfast foods, fruit (the highlight of most meals), cookies and desserts. Dinner is usually followed with a trip to the KC-135 Operations Building or Jacks' Place - a sponsored by chapel services that offers books, magazine, board games and puzzles, with all the free coffee you could want.

wake up about 10 hours later and start again.

There are other amenities, including two pools, above ground with a deck between them that is great for sunbathing or cooling off during the day. Another new addition to Al Udeid is the Aces tent, which provides televised sports and Playstations.

It's also possible to get off the base and go into the city of Doha to enjoy malls, nice waterfront hotels and a few restaurants. However, the

battle is getting off base. A driver and a vehicle must be found - and of course, there is a ton of paper work to be filled out. It's well worth it to get off base at least once

during your stay. On occasion, we get a United Services Organization tour that traditionally goes above and beyond to bring the best entertainment possible to the troops, with celebrities such as Robert DeNiro, Kid

Rock, and Alyssa Milano.

Finally, the Wagon Wheel and the Rock Island Club provide an oasis for those not in crew rest or on alert. There's also bingo, karaoke or music throughout the day to keep one busy, and you can always go to Pizza Hut and Baskin Robbins.

Even though family and friends are a world away, with e-mail, food, phones and luxuries like these, there's always something to help you get through the day.



filler ad