



Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

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NEWS

YOU CAN USE

Overseas job opportunities

Ogden Air Logistics Center-MALY (Hill Air Force Base's overseas repair depot known as Support Center Pacific, at Kadena Air Base) is currently looking for qualified personnel to apply for the following positions which will be filled in the near future:

- GS-0861-12, **Aerospace Engineer**
- GS-0855-12, **Electronics Engineer**
- GS-0895-11, **Industrial Engineering Technician (Planner)**
- WG-2854-10, **Electrical Equipment Repairer**
- WG-2610-12, **Electronic Integrated Systems Mechanic**
- WG-2604-11, **Electronics Mechanic (Avionics and Instrument)**
- WG-8255-10, **Pneudraulics Systems Mechanic**
- GS-0856-11, **Electronics Technician**
- WG-6904-06, **Tools and Parts Attendant.**

Relocation or assignment to Okinawa is an accompanied tour with an initial 24-month service requirement and an option to extend.

Upon completion of the initial two years, the employee has Return Rights to their position and geographical location that they departed from in the States.

Government quarters and utilities are provided, as well as limited transportation of household goods and storage of household goods left in the States.

This assignment falls under overseas regulations and entitlements, which currently include a Post Allowance, Environmental Morale Leave travel, accumulation of home leave, and a maximum carryover Annual Leave balance of 360 hours.

How to Apply:

Employees who wish to be considered for these Kadena Air Base positions should register in the Civilian Announcement Notification System to receive weekly updates.

Vacancy announcements are posted every Friday at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>.

Air Force employees interested in employment at SCP are encouraged to self-nominate for advertised vacancies.

For more information contact Freddy Loertscher at Freddy.Loertscher@hill.af.mil, or by calling DSN 775-5283.

Isabel causing CAC problems

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

Though nary a drop of rain hit Robins during Hurricane Isabel's fury last week, her wrath did not leave it completely untouched.

According to Master Sgt. David Lee, noncommissioned officer in charge of Customer

Service, the aftermath of the storm has caused some technical difficulties with Common Access Card registration.

"The problems we've had resulted from recent power outages, which knocked the East Coast-based registration site off-line for a few days," Lee said.

In addition to the sites

being off-line, Lee said an increased wait time has been added due to building damage at the DEERS/RAPIDS site in Alexandria, Va.

"This has made our computers slow and have some not working at all," he said.

Lee asks that everyone be prepared for increased waiting and continue to be patient.

"We apologize for the inconvenience, and DEERS/RAPIDS is working around the clock to fix the problems," he said.

Though there have been a few snags, according to Lee, the military personnel flight is still going full steam ahead to

Please see **CAC, 2A**

What to know

Wednesday is the Department of Defense launch date for use of the new cards as entry points onto computer networks and secure e-mail and secure Websites across DoD.

A simple message



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Kahn Wahl, aircraft scheduler, wears a T-shirt celebrating the 23rd C-5 to complete programmed depot maintenance in fiscal 2003 at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center.

Wetekam: I'm proud of you

By Lanorris Askew
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Maj. Gen. Don Wetekam said his message to the C-5 program depot maintenance team was a simple one.

"I'm proud of you," he said. "I've been looking forward to this day for most of this fiscal year."

The day he and so many others had eagerly looked forward to arrived Wednesday when the 23rd and final C-5 Galaxy to roll through the periodic depot maintenance line this fiscal year, taxied down the runway heading home.

To its left, a sea of C-5 personnel clad in white t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan 'We Did It.'

As a crowd numbering nearly 1,000 looked on, Wetekam said although making the promise to deliver the 23 C-5s in 2003 was his idea, making the commitment was the easy part.

Please see **C-5, 2A**



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, WRALC commander, looks on as a ceremonial key for aircraft #86-019 is presented by Col. Andy Scroggs Jr., Headquarters Air Mobility Command Liaison to Warner Robins, to Maj. Darrin Daniel, pilot with the 339th Flight Test Squadron.

Air Force Survey launches Wednesday

By Holly J. Logan
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When the Air Force Climate Survey kicks off Wednesday, Robins employees will have the opportunity to tell Air Force leadership exactly what they think about their work environment.

To make participation easy, a survey link will be

available on Robins' home page as early as Tuesday; however,

Please see **SURVEY, 5A**

What to know

The 100-question survey runs from Wednesday through Nov. 23 and can be completed online at <http://afclimatesurvey.af.mil> anytime during the survey period. The 2003 survey will cover 13 factors that measure work experience: job, resources, core values, leadership, supervision, training and development, teamwork, participation and involvement, recognition, unit flexibility, general satisfaction, unit performance outcomes and job enhancement.

Pine beetles bark up the wrong trees

By Lanorris Askew
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According to Becky Crader, some unwanted guests were recently discovered living near the Robins Horse Stables. No, they weren't trespassers or terrorists, not in the traditional sense anyway, but they did threaten some lives - the lives of Robins pine trees.

The unwanted guests were pine bark beetles, more specifically black turpentine beetles, which according to Crader, a biological scientist with Robins' Environmental Management Directorate, are one of five species of bark beetles that attack pines in Georgia and across the Southeast.

"A few weeks ago, Sheri Wetekam and Shawndell McKinnon noticed a problem with some of the pine trees surrounding the horse stables where they keep their horses Bozley, Trooper and Kory," she said. "They immediately notified Environmental Management about the problem. It was determined that the pine trees at the stables were infested with pine bark beetles."

Crader said she was

Please see **BARK, 5A**



Pine bark beetle

Robins 3-day forecast

Today Cloudy with chance of afternoon rain

84/63

Saturday Cloudy with scattered t-storms

80/69

Sunday Partly cloudy and cooler

77/59

What's inside

POW/MIA Day ceremony coverage **4A**
F-15 community meets at Robins **8A**
New feature: crossword puzzle **2B**
A big hello from the desert **5B**

C-5

Continued from 1A

"I did it for a reason," he said. "I knew we were on the verge of something good because of a lot of the things that had been put in place over the last few years. I knew we had the right leadership team in place and I felt we were ready to break through with our lean improvements and do what we accomplished here."

He added that Robins had struggled with its C-5 production in the past.

"The most we had ever done before was 17," he said. "We had done 17 the two previous fiscal years and quite frankly we had struggled to do it in 2002. We had fallen short to be honest."

He added that when the team struggles, we all struggle.

"When we fall short, we all fall short, but when we succeed, we all succeed," he said.

Calling this achievement a long-term success, Col. Ed Connolly, C-5 production chief, said what is being seen today is the dividend of the hard work that has built steam over the past several years.

"We got here because of the solid foundation laid by supervisors in the C-5 both today and in the past," he said. "This is not a flash in the pan success. We will continue to see an increase in the reduction of flow days, increase in customer support and cost cutting."

Jim Culpepper, Maintenance Directorate director called the success unprecedented.

"In my 34 years in logistics command, I have never seen anything at this level," he said.

In addition to reaching the goal, Culpepper said that in the past seven months there have been zero defects reported on aircraft returned to the user.

Wetekam ended by saying that the efforts must continue.

"I don't see anyone ready to rest on their laurels," he said. We have a job to do for our war fighters, and we do that exceedingly well."

According to C-5 personnel, the enormous global transport demands of supporting the war fighter increased the C-5 program depot maintenance production goal to 23 C-5s in fiscal year 2003, and teamwork pulled it off.

In an effort to meet those demands, they transitioned the maintenance organization from the tail team approach to the dock cell concept. The cell concept will standardize work and make the PDM process more efficient.

What to know

The first C-5 inducted into programmed depot maintenance at Robins arrived on Jan. 7, 1998. Since then, the Center has completed maintenance on 101 C-5s. The Air Force currently has 126 C-5 aircraft in its inventory – two C models, 50 B models and 74 A models.



David Yawn

ALS scheduler

"It's a really big plane."



Samuel Hare

Hydraulic specialist

"It's the only place in Warner Robins that you can work 14 hours a day, 7 days a week."



Daniel Gullick

Sheet metal mechanic

"It will carry over 78,000 fifths of wine."



Col. Ed Connolly gets his 'free shower' after his final flight in the 23rd C-5 Monday. Connolly is scheduled to retire Wednesday.

U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp



Willie Aguilar

Scheduling chief

"I had always heard it was just a big 'ole 141."



John Hatfield

Sheet metal mechanic

"Management is almost as organized as the workers."



Col. Ed Connolly

Director of C-5 Production Branch

"The free showers ... for everyone!"

CAC

Continued from 1A

ensure all Robins personnel are ready when the Wednesday deadline arrives.

Hoping to issue as many CACs as possible during the final week before deadline, the office extended its hours to 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. through today with normal office hours returning Monday and Tuesday 7:30

a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

All registration is by appointment only with an average wait time of 2 hours.

"We are in the 90th percentile of completion at this point," said Lee.

In order to speed along the renewal process for CACs, beginning Nov. 1 the process will undergo a change from its current paper trail to a Web-based format, saving time and mailing costs for contractors seeking to renew their cards.

Lee said a link will be available on the Robins Web page.

"This new process won't help the active duty or Reservists but will be a big aid to contractors," he said.

The process will involve the contractor accessing the link through the Robins home page and filling out the online application for renewal. He or she will then forward that form to his or her certified contracting officer, who will

in turn verify the information contained in the form. The contracting officer will forward the form to the military personnel flight.

"The contractor will receive an e-mail message from us stating that he or she can come in and get the renewed CAC," said Lee.

According to Lee, this process will save most people at least two days and some up to four days due to the time usually taken to mail forms

back and forth.

Partial access to the Web-based renewal will be available for review as early as Oct. 1, but full implementation won't take place until Nov. 1.

"Not only does this save time, but it will also cut down on the confusion of who to send the forms to and wondering if everything was filled in correctly," he said.

The form will not accept incorrect information and is designed to be mistake free.

What to know

If you have forgotten you PIN, you must report to the MPF to have it reset. For more information call the MPF at 327-7361. For more information on CAC visit <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard>

equity
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lety
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nationwide
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angelina
58288302

flint
58334001

savealife
58353001

Remembering their sacrifice

Retired Brig. Gen. James Sehorn says freedom is not free, at POW/MIA ceremony

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



POW table

A black table setting on a white tablecloth is a stark contrast intended to inspire a memory of American's men and women missing in action or held prisoner of war.

Robins dining halls have two such tables, one in the extended flight line facility at the base's northwest corner; the other at the Wynn Dining Hall. Gary Knickerbocker, who served two years in Vietnam during the war, is responsible for placing them there.

An Army food service worker, he traded uniform for civilian clothes, but remains in food service. Knickerbocker is the 78th Air Base Wing's food service officer in charge of quality food standards.

On the tables is an explanation of their symbolism in words Knickerbocker said came from the Vietnam Veterans of America.

While the unknown author probably is a veteran of Vietnam, the ideas apply to all those who went to serve America and never came home.

The words:

"The table is small, set for one to symbolize the frailty of one prisoner against his or her oppressors.

The tablecloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms.

The single red rose signifies the blood they may have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. This rose also continues to remind us of the families and loved ones of our missing comrades who keep faith while awaiting their return.

The red ribbon tied on the vase represents the red ribbons worn on the lapels of thousands who demand, with unyielding determination, a proper accounting of our missing.

A slice of lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate.

A pinch of salt on the bread plate is symbolic of the families' tears as they wait for their return.

The candle is reminiscent of the light of hope that lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to open arms of a grateful nation.

"The glass is inverted, they cannot toast with us at this time.

The chair is empty; they are not here.

Let us remember - and never forget their sacrifice.

(Out of respect for what this table represents, please do not place anything on the table or re-arrange or remove anything from the table.)

Retired Brig. Gen. James Sehorn told a crowd gathered under a large tree just outside the Noncommissioned Officers' Academy, he knows freedom's price firsthand - because he lived it as a former prisoner of war.

Sehorn, a Vietnam War era prisoner of war, and current inspector general of Georgia, shared memories of his experiences Sept. 19, at the 2003 POW/MIA Day ceremony.

"I call the 63 months that I spent in the prison cells of Hanoi the proudest I've ever served ... and the tour I'd least like to repeat," he said. "Not too often do we have the opportunity to test our personal commitment to the values we hold. But I served with 556 men in the prison cells of Hanoi who received a very severe test of their commitment to those values, and they weren't found wanting."

POW/MIA Day is a national day of recognition, taking place the third Friday in September, set aside to remember prisoners of war and those missing in action.

As a command pilot whose F-105 jet was shot down over North Vietnam, Sehorn recalled memories of pledging allegiance to a homemade American flag made from a prison shirt, thread from a worn cotton blanket and a piece of stolen copper wire.

"The old great philosopher, Cicero, in speaking to some of his students one day suggested that 'the fangs of freedom bite not so deep as when that freedom is lost,' and to that I'd say amen," he said. "... I wonder how deeply we appreciate our freedoms. I assure you the men who walked the prison cells of Hanoi appreciated them and exercised them ... not without great punishment though."

Typically, Americans think of service members when they think of defending freedom, but that role changed when America was attacked by an enemy without uniform, an enemy without country on 9/11, Sehorn explained.

"It's our shared purpose to preserve, protect and defend our freedom," he said. "My former roommate and former POW, retired Brig. Gen. Bruce 'Robbie' Risner, while addressing a group of cadets at Maxwell Air Force Base, said this: 'To be born free is an accident. To live free is a privilege. To die free is a responsibility.' We should remember what they (POW/MIAs) were called there to do, to preserve, protect and defend our freedom. Now, we must also remember how we've joined them in that struggle."

For some, POW/MIA Day is a day of ceremony. But for Sehorn it is a day to remember.

"For me, it is a reminder of a special tour of duty and a time to remember the group I served with," he said. "It's a reminder that people are called to serve in a unique mission, and there is great sacrifice involved in that calling."

Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Mast, Center command chief master sergeant, echoed the importance of the day in her opening remarks at the ceremony.



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp
Above, Robins Air Force Base Honor Guard folds the flag during the Retreat portion of the Sept. 18 POW/MIA Day ceremony at the NCO Academy. Below, retired Brig. Gen. James Sehorn, the event's guest speaker, explains the significance of the POW table. He spent 63 months as a POW in Hanoi.

Number of missing in action and unaccounted for
1,882 Vietnam 126 Cold War 8,100 Korean War 78,000 World War II

Source: http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/powday/pow_rec_day_background.htm

What to know

Every year, on the third Friday in September, military units, veterans, families, civilian organizations and state and local governments observe National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Observations usually include POW/MIA flag raising and retreat ceremonies, fun-runs, vigils and various other ways to commemorate the day.

"I think on days like this, it's so incredibly important to remember the sacrifices of our POW/MIA and their family members because they've made incredible sacrifices for all of us," she said. "We wouldn't be here serving ... We wouldn't be living in this country today, if it weren't for them."

The ceremony gave attendee, Garth Girman, electronics engineer for the Combat Electronics Systems Directorate, the chance to hear the man his mother Beth Girman had told him about for years - a man whose name was engraved on a POW/MIA bracelet she has worn since high school.

"I've known his name since childhood," he said. "I've heard all about him growing up. Mom wore the bracelet with his name on it until the day she heard he had been released. It's a point of pride to be able to finally see the man I've heard so much about over the years."



According to Sehorn, Girman was one of more than 400 people nationwide to wear a POW/MIA bracelet bearing his name. The then 33-year-

old Sehorn wrote personal letters of thanks to those who carried a reminder of him during his POW days.

VA department seeks former POWs

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Department of Veterans Affairs officials want former prisoners of war who are not using VA benefits to contact the department to find out if they may be eligible for disability compensation and other services.

More than 23,000 former prisoners of war already receive compensation from the VA.

This year, the department mailed information about benefits to another 4,700 known ex-POWs not on its rolls; however, VA officials estimate they do not have an address for as many as 11,000 more former POWs.

Officials are asking former

What to know

Former POWs not receiving benefits who did not receive a VA letter recently should call the Department of Veterans Affairs at (800) 827-1000.

POWs not receiving benefits who did not receive a VA letter recently to call the department at (800) 827-1000.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi said the VA has expanded policies to cover increasing numbers of former POWs as new illnesses have been

found related to captivity.

The administration currently is pressing to get even more compensation and medical care benefits for former POWs.

"These veterans sacrificed for their country in time of war, and it's the nation's turn to serve them, to help them determine if they are entitled to compensation, health care or other services," Principi said.

According to the VA, 90 percent of former POWs are veterans of World War II, and their service predates the use of Social Security numbers as a military "service number."

That, coupled with the decades that have elapsed

since their service, makes it difficult for the department to track down those who have not opened a file with the VA in recent years, VA officials said.

The most recent expansion of VA benefits for former POWs was included in a July regulation change that added cirrhosis of the liver to the list of diseases to which entitlement to disability compensation is presumed for former POWs.

Similar policies making it easier for former POWs to obtain compensation have been enacted for POWs detained for 30 days or more who develop specific illnesses.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Malcomb Bryant, left, and Frank Ryals, both POWs during WWII, attend the POW/MIA ceremony.

SURVEY

Continued from 1A

Robins' employees can't take the survey until Wednesday.

For the survey to be effective in improving leadership-employee conditions, it's important that as many people complete the survey as possible, according to Charles Drake, management analyst for the Center's Manpower Office and point of contact for the survey here.

Across the Air Force, survey participation has climbed from 39 percent in 1997 and 36 percent in 1999 to more than 65 percent of military and civilians in the 2002 survey.

Last year, 46 percent of survey-eligible Robins' employees took the survey, Drake said.

The results give leadership a clear

understanding of what employees feel needs to be addressed.

"It will give Air Force leadership a better view of what is important to employees, and it gives them a chance to make changes based on the survey's results," Drake said.

Top Air Force leadership echoed Drake's remarks.

"Leadership must be made aware of what's really going on out there," said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche. "By taking a few brief moments to fill out this survey, you can help your leaders understand your concerns and, ultimately, better serve you and our nation's interests."

Previous surveys included active-duty airmen and appropriated-fund civilians.

This year, the survey also will include the Reserve, Guard, non-appropriated fund civilians and students in a temporary-

duty status.

"We want to make sure all members of the Air Force team have an opportunity to participate," said Lori Marcum, the survey's team leader. "Leaders at all levels use the Air Force Climate Survey to target areas for improvement. In order to create positive changes within an organization, (leaders) must know where to begin. This survey provides everyone an opportunity to speak out about strengths and areas for improvement in their organization."

Because Air Force leaders ask for direct and candid feedback, the survey team has taken extraordinary measures to ensure privacy by using advanced information-masking software.

Anonymity continues to be a key factor of the survey, officials said.

Editor's Note: Richard Salomon, Air Force Manpower and Innovation Agency Public Affairs, contributed to this article.

BARK

Continued from 1A

able to identify the infestation as black turpentine pine bark beetles due to the size and location of the pitch tubes found on the trees.

"As the name implies, these beetles are highly attracted to the odor of pine sap from wounded trees or, in this case, possibly the fresh shavings used for the horse's stalls," said Crader.

The pine bark beetle is most active between March and September. Their life cycle lasts 22 to 30 days, which is why it is important to take care of the problem as soon as it is identified. It's not actually the beetle itself that kills the tree, but a fungus they introduce that blocks the plumbing system of trees.

"Identifying this pest can be fairly easy as long as you know what to look for."

As the beetles bore through the bark, they reach the tree's cambium layer, an area of rapid cell growth, and produce a reddish-brown boring dust.

"As the tree sap begins to flow down, the beetle tunnels to the outside of the tree, it mixes with the dust and forms globs of sap called pitch tubes," she said. "These tubes vary in size, color and location depending on the species of beetle involved."

The black turpentine beetle produces pitch tubes that are pinkish-white and measure about the size of a quarter to half-dollar.

"The pitch tubes are found no higher than 10 feet off the ground, so if we see large pitch tubes and they only go up 6 to 10 feet, most likely it is the black turpentine pine bark beetle," she said.



Courtesy photo

Pitch tubes, like those pictured, are no higher than 10 feet off the ground. Large pitch tubes that only go up 6 to 10 feet, are more than likely the work of the black turpentine beetle. The tree at left was one of 11 cut down at the base stables.

Although they aren't the most destructive of pine bark beetles, the black turpentine can cause major problems.

Crader explained the black turpentine normally only infests trees that have been stressed or damaged by drought or storm, but are also attracted to freshly cut pine shavings.

"At Robins we have a good program in place for identifying damaged trees and getting them removed. This is probably one of the reasons why we don't have major problems with these beetles," she said.

Since pine bark beetles are very hard to eliminate once they've infested trees, Crader said the best bet when they are detected is to

get rid of the trees.

"Although insecticides may have some effect, the removal of the tree and

stump is the only sure-fire way of stopping the spread of pine bark beetles," she said.

"Robins is reducing the amount of pesticides used on base and only applies them

where they will be both effective and environmentally safe. Because insecticides aren't foolproof, and can create additional hazards, it just didn't make sense to use them. Dead trees from which pine bark beetles have emerged may actually be beneficial if they don't pose a safety threat.

"They're no longer infested, so there's no chance of the beetles spreading to

healthy trees, and they could harbor many beneficial insects such as checkered beetles, as well as harmless lizards, and serve as important habitat for birds that excavate nest cavities in dead trees," she said.

When EM surveyed the trees around the stables, they found three that were heavily infested and others that were slightly infested.

"Even though some additional pine trees only had two or three pitch tubes, we went ahead and removed them as well," she said.

In all, 11 pine trees were removed.

"It may seem like a drastic measure to take out all of the trees, but because the infestation can reach epidemic proportions, it is best to get rid of the trees as soon as possible," she said.

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cotton
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sushi
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national
57649001

Groome
58357801

F-15 community meets at Robins

By Lanorris Askew

lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

A group of Eagle keepers gathered at Robins Sept. 16 through 18 to discuss ways to keep the F-15 Eagle fleet healthy.

Col. Sam Lofton, F-15 Systems Support Manager, said the conference brought together operations and maintenance group commanders from the Air Force's F-15 fighter wings, representatives from the six major commands that fly and support the fleet of nearly 740 F-15s, air staff and system support contractors to talk about issues, concerns and suggested action plans required to keep the F-15 viable.

"We are covering the cradle-to-grave aspects of the F-15 to ensure the war fighters have combat capability through acquisition, sustainment, and depot maintenance," said Lofton.

Describing the F-15 as the Air Force's superior fighter, he said as the aircraft ages, addressing aspects to maintain its future are important. Airworthiness, sustainability and a capabilities road map were just a few of the items reviewed.

Lofton said due to the Eagle's heavy demand from combat commanders, the original conference date was changed because of recent operations in the Middle East.

"We had the 4th Fighter Wing at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., give a detailed presentation of what it took to get to the fight and to get the F-15 ready to perform in the exceptional manner that it did," he said.

Those lessons learned will be applied to various issues such as engines, avionics, structural concerns and the aging aircraft problems the F-15 has experienced.

From an operator's vantage point, Maj. Ferrelle Smith, operations officer for the 4th Equipment Maintenance Squadron at Seymour-Johnson, said he is amazed at what goes on here in the depot.

"There is a lot of work that goes on here that people never get to see," he said. "If they were able to come out, they would see how hard the people at the depot work to get those jets back to us on the other end so they are able to fully function and are out there flying for us."

The conference concluded with a tour of Robins maintenance facilities where visitors were able to see how Lean had transformed program depot

"There is a lot of work that goes on here that people never get to see. If they were able to come out, they would see how hard the people at the depot work to get those jets back to us on the other end ..."

Maj. Ferrelle Smith

Operations officer
4th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

maintenance.

"We are taking this opportunity to give them a good idea of how Lean has transformed this production line, and what we are doing to get the aircraft back out to them in good quality at a faster rate," said Col. George Ireland, chief of F-15 Production Branch.

"We have been able to show them some of the innovations we have placed here on the floor to free up space and equipment and to move aircraft on time."

Ireland said supply issues and how parts have been worked to turn aircraft a little quicker were also discussed.

"By and large the people saw a very positive thing that has been happening on the F-15 Programmed Depot Maintenance line, and I think they will see those results when they go back to their unit when those aircraft are arriving on time and in good quality," he said.



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Above, Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Herman (center) discusses the fighter data link system with Capt. Jeff Styers and Tech. Sgt. Kennita Mathis during a tour of the F-15 facilities. Below left, Col. Terrence Feehan, F-15 SPO director, Aeronautical Systems Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, speaks at the conference. Below right, Feehan and Col. Sam Lofton, Center F-15 Systems Support Manager, listen to briefings.



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Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Dan Mokkris, Center director of safety, presents Joe Taylor with the safety practice on target award. award.ter's Safety Office.

Maintenance employee wins safety award

By the Center Safety Office

Joe Taylor, a shift work leader and alternate supervisor in the Maintenance Directorate was recently awarded the safety practice on target, or SPOT, award by the Center's Safety Office.

SPOT, a new safety awareness campaign, aims to serve many functions.

It's an individual recognition award, a tool for increasing safety awareness and a means of educating

co-workers and management to the safety culture in their work place.

The SPOT award is a result of a combined effort by a committee of safety, civilian personnel and other management-level leaders.

Developed to heighten safety awareness in the work place, the award will be presented at least weekly.

In addition to the individual recognition, the award recipient will receive coupons for prizes from local businesses.

Winners are selected based on established safety criteria, workplace safety practices, consistence job performance and compliance to safety standards. Presentations are made in the work place, all personnel are eligible and repeat winners are authorized.

Taylor has worked in Building 149 for ten years.

During that time, he has been part of Lean, TQM, Quality and Safety management teams for the work place.

What to know

The SPOT award is a result of a combined effort by a committee of safety, civilian personnel and other management-level leaders.

Air Force names best commander, spouse team

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. (AFPN) – The Air Force's best wing commander and spouse team was recently named by Air Force Personnel Center officials at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

The 2003 recipients of the General and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley award are Col. William A. Chambers, 11th Wing commander here, and his spouse, Bonnie.

"My wife and I are truly grateful to be selected for this award," said Chambers. "To even be associated with the legacy of General and Mrs. O'Malley is a tremendous honor."

O'Malley was a Tactical Air Command commander in the early 1980s. He and his wife, Diane, both perished in an aircraft accident April 21, 1985.

According to the award citation, Chambers and his wife, who have been stationed here since November 2001, have spent countless hours finding and implementing ways to improve readiness and quality of life for the more than 16,000 military and civilian people who live and work here.

Their vision and drive helped transform the wing into an air expeditionary force for the first time, according to the citation.

Since AEFs became a mainstay here, more than 150 wing members have been deployed throughout the world.

Throughout his tenure as commander, Chambers has maintained a resolute focus on the mission of the 11th Wing to provide the Air Force with "wartime readiness and wartime customer support."

Mrs. Chambers led the effort to develop and begin a symposium on readiness for the spouses of 11th Wing commanders and directors, enabling them to prepare spouses when unit troops deployed.

"Bonnie and I are sincerely grateful for the tremendous support of the Air Force's leadership, and we're humbled to be serving with the great airmen of the 11th Wing," Chambers said.

"The honor is really the result of the professionalism and teamwork of every member of 'The Chief's Own' – airmen, [noncommissioned officers], officers, civilians, volunteers and family members – who took up the calling to be part of the larger Air Force focus on readiness."

Married for 25 years, the Chambers have four children, ages 15 to 21.

The colonel and his wife will be presented the award by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper during a Pentagon ceremony later this year.

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Q&A with Kim Personius

Kim L. Personius is the director of Specialized Management, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. Her directorate provides the full range of acquisition and sustainment services to several Department of Defense and Air Force high-priority, sensitive programs assigned to the air logistics center.



Personius

After serving in the United States Air Force, Personius began her civil service career in 1981 as an aircraft production scheduler at Warner Robins Air Logistics Center. In 1982, she transferred to the Procurement Directorate and was selected to participate in the Contracting Management Intern Program. Personius has served in a variety of contracting, acquisition logistics, and program management positions in the Specialized Management Directorate. She assumed her current position on July 30, 2000.

You have been on active duty and have risen through the ranks of the civil service. How did that experience shape you as a leader?

My brief tour on active duty had a profound effect on my life. I enlisted in the Air Force in 1973, at the end of the Vietnam War, and the military was not a popular career choice then. But, the training, experience, and people I met definitely influenced my decision to return as a civilian.

I've had opportunities to go to the private sector, but I consider public service to be a calling, and believe that there is just as great a need, maybe more so, for smart, dedicated people in government service.

I like to think that I haven't forgotten what it was like to be on the bottom rung of the career ladder. One of my prevailing philosophies is: "Don't expect your people to do something you wouldn't do yourself."

That doesn't mean you personally have to know how to do everyone's job, but rather to remember that no job is beneath you.

You deal with high priority and sensitive programs. How does this working environment differ from working with less sensitive programs?

Well, it tends to limit your ability to make small talk at parties, since you can't discuss your job. Seriously, the working environment tends to be much more self-contained. The specialized management community is small; you tend to see a lot of the same people in different programs over time. There are more face-to-face meetings, more traveling. There's also a shorter management chain — almost anyone at any level in the organization can have visibility at the Senior Executive Service or flag officer level when briefing their particular area of expertise. One of the biggest advantages to working special programs is organizational cohesiveness. We have to rely on each other due to the nature of the business. We really are like a family; occasionally dysfunctional, but fiercely loyal to each other.

How have you seen the role of women in top management positions change over the years?

There are certainly more women in senior positions now, and they span the spectrum of line and staff. When I enlisted in 1973, there was only one female flag officer in the Air Force — Maj. Gen. Jeanne Holm — from the personnel field. When I came to work at Robins in 1981, there was one female GS-15, Vivian Hartman from accounting and finance, and shortly thereafter Joyce Cody from contracting joined the ranks. Today there are more than two dozen women in senior civilian and military positions on Robins: GS-15s, colonels, chief master sergeants, and an SES — across a variety of occupational specialties from medical to maintenance. We're not the exception any more, and that's substantial progress.

What would you say are the talents or traits that make a good leader?

Integrity first and foremost — and walking the talk. The ability to spot talent, whether full-fledged or potential, and employing people effectively. Giving people the opportunity to do something risky, and if they don't succeed, not

punishing them for it. I like the quote from Rear Adm. Grace Murray Hopper, "A ship in port is safe, but that's not what ships are built for." A sense of humor is also important. It's what's kept me relatively sane over the years. Life is full of absurdities, so you might as well laugh, especially at yourself.

Would you say that those are different from traits important for active duty or business leaders?

I think they are universally applicable, but the uniqueness of the military mission calls for an additional level of order and discipline that isn't necessarily required in the civilian or commercial world. It's also important to remember that while we can certainly apply business principles and techniques to many aspects of our mission, we are not a business.

You have been associated with Robins since 1981. How has the base changed in these 22 years?

The work force is certainly more diversified — by gender, ethnicity, and geographic origin. I was hired under the Federal Equal Opportunity and Recruiting Program, which was designed to get more women and minorities into traditionally white male fields like maintenance. We weren't exactly welcomed with open arms, but those of us who managed to stick with it gained an incredible amount of experience.

There's been a greater emphasis on higher education and working in multiple disciplines, to create more well-rounded managers. And certainly within the last few years, I've seen a change in what used to be an "attitude of entitlement."

Between BRAC and increased privatization, no one can afford to take their job for granted. I think more people understand that you have to be customer-oriented, you have to be open to better ways of doing business, and most of all, and you have to recognize we're in a competitive environment.

We want to be the war fighters' supplier of choice, whether it's depot maintenance, spare parts or product support.

Everyone, every day is an ambassador for this Center, this base, this Air Force.

'Over learning' philosophy sharpens skills

By Lt. Col. Mark McLean
76th Airlift Squadron commander

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Whenever we approach another wing exercise or warrior day folks inevitably ask, "Why do we practice bleeding? Haven't we done this enough?"

For those who feel that way, let me describe another viewpoint. I would like to suggest that for the next exercise, we practice until we are perfect and employ the philosophy of "over learning." This is the term Don Shula, the famous football coach, uses to describe his method of practice. And it is a great idea for warriors.

"Over learning," Shula explains, "means that the players are so prepared for a game that they have the skill and confidence needed to make a big play."

His style of practice is to limit the number of goals and moves his players work on, to cut down on practice errors, to make players absolutely master their assignments, and then seek continuous improvement. Bottom line: he insists on practice perfection.

I have found this style of training to be effective, particularly for war fighting tasks. I always strive to practice until perfection every time. And no, I don't achieve perfection, but I do drive myself hard to get to a level of perfection that by my definition is nearly impossible to attain. And often it means I have to do a task over and over again, rather than simply debrief the minor errors.

For example, in flying we have "boldface procedures." These are emergency procedures so critical they are written in boldface type and must be memorized perfectly, down to the letter, comma or hyphen. A pilot must be able to recite them without defect. This process ensures the crewmember has them memorized correctly and can recall them during an emergency.

The procedures are practiced on every training flight, and must be written down once each month. Crewmembers know these proce-

dures cold. We keep practicing so we can do the task with confidence and proficiency when it counts.

When I was stationed at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., I worked with special operations alert crews. They had the same requirements for chemical warfare operations, but they practiced them much more in depth.

Rather than a simple suit up, they flew missions with the gear on, worked with night vision goggles on hot steamy nights while fully dressed out, and they conducted full decontamination procedures at the end of the day. They were good, and it showed! They had confidence in the gear and were ready to use it for real.

Often I see folks going through the motions to fill out a square. Just how close to perfection did you try to get during your last suit up in chem gear? Did you get it down to the last snap, bootlace, tape location, or was it all "close enough?" And this isn't just about chem warfare. It applies to every task: self-aid and buddy care, pallet build up, deployment line processing, unit control center checklists, etc. Work hard to make all your actions perfect.

Why should everyone strive for practice perfection? For one thing, it makes it more challenging. For another, it drives home the training so you can operate instinctively, quickly and with fewer mistakes when it really matters.

Another benefit to "over learning" is that by learning your assignment or task inside and out, you are ready for the inevitable "audibles," to use the football analogy, that are called out just before the snap. You are prepared to make on-the-fly adjustments at the last moment. Your flexibility is increased, and you are more likely to have a successful outcome — the winning edge.

So, for your next warrior day, exercise or training event, dig deep and give it your all. Try to achieve realism and perfection. In Shula's words, "You play at the level you practice, so practice hard."

— Courtesy of U.S. 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 addresses: If sending from a military



Commanders' Action Line

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

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



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, Bellsouth etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil.

Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins Air Force Base 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.

Security Forces.....	327-3445
Services Division.....	926-5491
EEO Office.....	926-2131
Employee Relations.....	926-5802
Military Pay.....	926-3777
IDEA.....	926-2536
Base hospital.....	327-7850
Civil engineering.....	926-5657
Public Affairs.....	926-2137
Safety Office.....	926-6271
Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline.....	926-2393
Housing Office.....	926-3776

Please explain variance in Wage Grade pay raises

After reviewing the new schedule we have noticed that all pay grades did not receive the same percentage increase. The increase ranged from .94 percent to 4.29 percent. It doesn't appear that everyone was treated fairly. Is this schedule right or is there going to be a change? Why weren't the raises across the board?

Gen. Wetekam replies: Thanks for the call and the opportunity to briefly explain how the Department of Defense Wage and Salary Division establishes the wage schedule based on data collected by the local wage survey committee. The policy for wage surveys is established in 5 U.S.C. 5341. The 2003 Macon, Ga., area wage survey was conducted following code

instructions that require pay lines to be established for each pay grade. The schedule issued on Aug. 5 is correct and available at www.cpms.osd.mil/wage. The average hourly wage adjustment for non-supervisory employees was 3.40 percent or \$.55593. Below is an example for each grade at step two and reflects the percentage increase variances you questioned. Please note that increases do not reflect a straight line providing uniform cents-an-hour for successive grades. The rates set by the survey committee must consider the relationship to the average wage rates for specific occupations in the employment area along with local labor market conditions in relation to principal occupations used by local installations.

WG-01.....	\$0.45
WG-02.....	\$0.49
WG-03.....	\$0.46
WG-04.....	\$0.13

WG-05.....	\$0.38
WG-06.....	\$0.21
WG-07.....	\$0.33
WG-08.....	\$0.43
WG-09.....	\$0.57
WG-10.....	\$0.70
WG-11.....	\$0.80
WG-12.....	\$0.82
WG-13.....	\$0.85
WG-14.....	\$0.87
WG-15.....	\$0.90

If you would like more detailed information regarding the very specific rules the Wage Survey Committee is required to use, please contact Albert Holliday at 926-3805, extension 126.



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Celebrating Hispanic heritage



By Lanorris Askew

lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

A rainbow of faces gathered in the Robins Enlisted Club ballroom Sept. 16 for a luncheon celebrating Hispanic Heritage month.

Themed "Hispanic Americans: Honoring Our Past, Surpassing Our Present and Leading Our Future," the luncheon was a celebration of Hispanic culture and life.

According to Master Sgt. John Maldonado, heritage committee member, the event revealed several aspects of Hispanic heritage.

"The luncheon's goal was to highlight the different accomplishments, struggles and overall colorful history of the Hispanic American people," he said.

Keynote speaker for the event, retired Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez, who served as the Center's director of materiel management from 1975-1977, infused bits of wisdom with humor as he spoke on what America is really about.

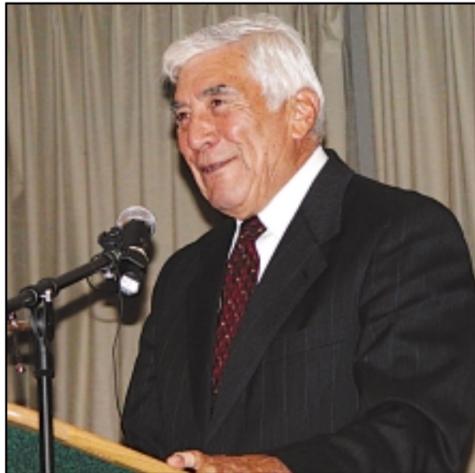
"This country is all about allowing everyone to be all that they can be," he said. "This month is not for political speeches but to realize and appreciate the contributions made by Hispanic Americans."

Marquez, who held many staff and command positions in several major air commands at Headquarters United States Air Force and in the Canadian Armed Forces, said all he ever wanted to do was reach his full potential, and the Air Force provided that in spades.

"General Marquez brought a lot of experience to the event," said Maldonado. "With 33 years in the military behind him he has seen a lot of things."

One of those things, according to Marquez, was Hispanic Heritage week's growth into Hispanic Heritage Month.

Calling Hispanic Americans a part of the American mosaic he ended by stating that "we are all Americans and will fight and die to preserve our freedoms."



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Top, Velma Chandler is serenaded by Eziqiel Paisano of Mariachi Juvenil America at the Hispanic heritage luncheon Sept. 16. Above left, a crowd at the luncheon welcomes keynote speaker retired Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez, who served as the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center director of materiel management from 1975-1977. Above Right, Marquez speaks to the luncheon crowd.

Right, Master Sgt. John Maldonado says the goal of the luncheon is to highlight the different accomplishments, struggles and overall history of Hispanic Americans.



Oct. 4
Special banquet, includes dinner and dance, will be 6 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. Tickets are \$20 per person. Attire is semi-formal.

Point of contact is Yolanda Vasquez at 926-5214.



Above, Diane Salinas Lea wears an authentic Mexican costume.

LEAVE/ TRANSFER

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

■ Keith Barrett, WR-ALC/LU. Point of contact is Jeannine Candelaria at 926-9333.

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.

ROBINS CLUBS

Robins Top 3 Association meets the third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Enlisted Club. For information call Master Sgt. Joyce Jones at 926-4997 or Master Sgt. Andrea Johnson at 327-7356.

Editor's Note: Information is provided by club members. To have your club or group's information included or updated, submit it to Angela Trunzo by e-mail at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil or by fax at 926-9597.

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.

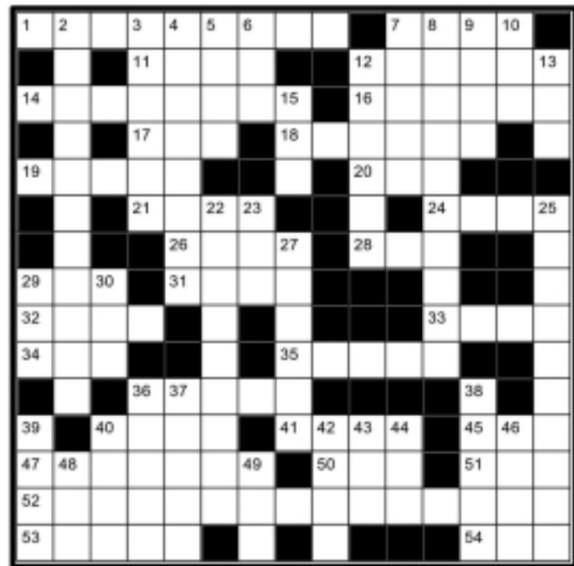
Protestant General Services take place every Sunday at 11 a.m. This service includes some traditional and contemporary worship styles in music and in format. **Protestant Inspirational Services** take place every Sunday at 8 a.m. **Protestant Contemporary Services** take place 11 a.m. each Sunday at 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.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Operations to Go

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

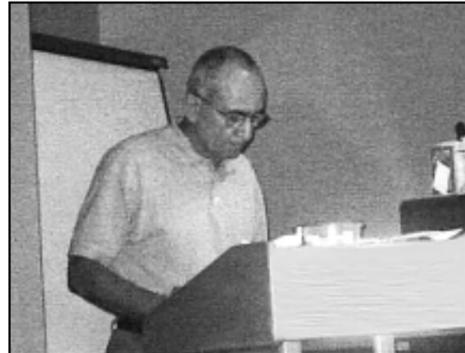
- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ACROSS | 40. Post | Grenada |
| 1. 1980 Operation to rescue American hostages in Iran | 41. Current special staff concerned with tac ops (abbrev.) | 9. Installs |
| 7. Pack animal | 47. Advice | 10. Kitchen extension |
| 11. San Francisco Giants manager Felipe _____ | 50. Zero | 12. Second part of 4 Down |
| 12. Gables and Sea | 51. Place Mork was from | 13. Body of water |
| 14. Liquid holders | 52. 1995 operation to destroy Bosnian military sites/facilities | 15. Nickname for Stallone |
| 16. Type of socks | 53. Glasses | 22. X-Mas kissing site |
| 17. Older computer operating system | 54. Precursor to the CIA | 23. NBC comedy show (abbrev.) |
| 18. Magnifying glasses | | 25. 1972 air campaign to stop North Vietnamese offensive |
| 19. Switch | DOWN | 27. A frozen dessert fruit juice |
| 20. Japanese currency | 2. 1999 Kosovo air campaign against Serbian forces | 29. Federal drug agency (abbrev.) |
| 21. St. Louis team | 3 Fireman tool | 30. Dine |
| 24. Blue-green color | 4. 1986 operation to attack Libyan terrorist sites (part 1) | 36. Type of boom |
| 26. Deafening noises | 5. Sprinter | 37. Baby places |
| 28. Command structure between MAJCOMs and MOBs | Director Peter _____ | 38. 1991 Operation Desert _____; Liberated Kuwait |
| 29. Female deer | 6. Nomadic Moslem people in Iran's Zagros Mtns | 39. Signals |
| 31. Capital of Norway | 7. Type of code | 40. Record |
| 32. Ages | 8. 1983 operation to protect Americans in | 42. Madonna, "Get _____ the groove." |
| 33. Ire | | 43. Mold |
| 34. Play | | 44. Lord of the Rings character |
| 35. Singer Chuck _____ | | 46. Killer whale |
| 36. Arena | | 48 Zest |
| | | 49 Gun lobby |

For puzzle solution, see Oct. 3 edition of Rev Up

Museum of Aviation news



Courtesy photos



Above: The Museum of Aviation tour guide graduates for August are, from left to right, Jorge Mangual, Jeff Pierce, Ron Kurth, Gloria Hughes, Director Paul Hibbitts, Brion Lewis, Gerry Acree and Frank Cross. The museum offers people 15 years and older a chance to volunteer their talents and time. Volunteers work as tour guides, building greeters, gift shop helpers, administrative and education program assistants and aircraft restorers. The museum relies on its energetic, experienced and informative volunteers to keep its facility a welcome place for visitors from all over the world.

Left: Museum of Aviation volunteer Jorge Mangual discusses a vacation interest story at the Eagle Conference room of the Eagle Building Aug. 11.

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 customers. In order to become proficient, the FSC will be closed for routine business every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. In case of emergencies, there will be someone 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, call FSC Director Christine Parker at 926-1256.

Sponsorship training

The Center's Relocation Assistance Program will offer training for both beginner and experienced sponsors Tuesday from 2 to 3:30 p.m., Building 945, Family Support Center Annex.

The training provides information on what types of information to send to the PCSing member and where to obtain it; different ways to communicate with the inbound member; and finally sponsors are given vital information regarding his/her responsibility

ties to the newly assigned member and their family, if applicable.

Base tour

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a Base Tour for all Team Robins members and their eligible family members, Wednesday from 1 to 3 p.m. Meet at the Enlisted Club. The tour is designed to help the newcomers become acclimated with the base.

TAP workshop

The next three-day Department of Labor sponsored Transition Assistance Program Workshop is Oct. 6 through 8, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day, Smith Community Center Ballroom.

SERVICES BRIEFS

Civilian Recreation

922-4415
All kids will receive a prize when their families attend Family Night Bingo Monday at the Smith Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m., and games start at 6 p.m. Cost is \$3 per game pack.

Enlisted Club 926-4515 Officers' Club 926-2670

■ Enjoy the country sounds of E.G. Kight Oct. 3 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Officers' Club. She has been compared to Phoebe Snow, Bonnie Raitt and K.D. Lang and called the female Delbert McClinton.

■ A Sunday Brunch will be held Oct. 5 and 19 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the ballroom. Brunch is free for primary members and for their children ages 5 and younger. Cost is \$5.95 for members' children, ages 6 - 12, \$8.95 for guests and children 13 and older and \$11.95 for nonmembers.

■ Football Frenzy 2003 is ready to make a touchdown at the Robins Enlisted Club. By participating in Football Frenzy, club members have an opportunity to win a trip to a pro game. Football Frenzy is sponsored in part by Miller Brewing Co., American Airlines, Double Tree Alana Waikiki and NiteLife Entertainment, USAF Services No federal endorsement of sponsors intended. Call the enlisted club for complete details and contest rules.

Family Child Care 926-6741

The Robins Child Development Centers, Youth Center and Family Child Care announce the sponsorship of the U.S. Department

of Agriculture funded Child and Adult Care Food program. Nutritious meals are available, at no separate charge, to children enrolled in each program without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. For more information, please contact Josie Carter, USDA Food Monitor for Family Child Care. Anyone believing they have been discriminated against should write immediately to: Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Va., 22302.

ITT 926-2945

■ The Georgia National Fair will be held Oct. 3 - 12 at the Georgia National Fairground in Perry, Ga. Advance admission tickets are available at ITT. Cost for ages 11 years and older is \$5.50 or \$6 at the gate; those under 10 years of age are admitted free. Advance ride sheets are \$10 at ITT or \$18 at the gate.

■ The monthly yard sale will be held at the Smith Community Center, Building 767, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 4. Cost of tables is \$7 each and should be paid for by the Saturday prior to the event. Tables can be set up beginning at 7 a.m. To make reservations, visit the ITT office, Building 767.

Smith Community Center 926-2105

■ A Parent's and Tot's play group will be held Monday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Smith Community Center.

■ A Family and Teen Talent contest will be held in the Smith Community Center Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. Register now through Oct. 31 at the center. This contest is open to the entire Robins community. Admission is free.

MOVIE SCHEDULE

Friday 7:30 p.m. — Grind — Mike Vogel and Adam Brody

While the rest of his high school graduating class is heading to the same old grind of college, skateboarder Eric and his best friends, Dustin and Matt have one last summer roadtrip together to follow their dream of getting noticed by the professional skateboarding world - as they grind handrails across America and force the skateboarding world to give 'em a piece of the action. Rated PG-13 (crude humor, sexual content and language) 100 minutes



Saturday and Sunday 2 p.m. — Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over — Antonio Banderas and Carla Gugino

Underage agents Juni and Carmen journey inside the virtual reality world of a cool but crazy video game, where anything is possible, including the impossible. The 'Toymaker,' wants to take over the youth of the world, and Juni and Carmen must battle their way through tougher and tougher levels of a three-dimensional game ingeniously designed to outwit and defeat them. Rated PG (action sequences and peril) 85 minutes

**Saturday
7:30 p.m. — Free movie, call 926-2919 for details.**

STREAMING VIDEO

FULL STREAM AHEAD*

To view streaming video, go to
<http://www.robins.af.mil/pa/stream/index.htm>
Air Show 2003 highlights

- Profile of static displays
- Profile of the USAF Thunderbird team
- Lima Lima 10 T-34 Mentor Team
- Military airpower on display
- Red Eagle air show team
- Air Force Academy Wings of Blue
- Utah State University Wright Flyer

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

ROBINS REPORT

News from around base — Watson and Cox Channel 15
Friday — 8 p.m.
Sunday — 1:30 p.m.
Monday — Noon

Air Force announces marathon winners

By Sue Baker

Aeronautical Systems Center
Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFPN) – More than 3,300 runners from 48 states and eight foreign countries ran in the seventh Air Force Marathon here Sept. 20.

Individual overall male winner was Hendrick Vanloon of Kleine-Brogel, Belgium, with time of 2 hours, 37 minutes and 44 seconds. Second-place male winner was Chris Juarez of San Antonio with time of 2:41:27. Taking third place was Robert Schnell of Tucson, Ariz., with time of 2:44:58.

Individual overall female winner was Jill Metzger of Ramstein Air Base, Germany, with time of 3:05:35. Second place went to Sandy Hundley of Hilliard, Ohio, with 3:05:42. Finishing third was Kathy Flannagan of Cincinnati with 3:14:27.

Patrick Doak of Cumming, Ga., was the first male wheelchair competitor to cross the finish line with winning time of 1:50:48. Grant Berthiaume of Tucson finished in second place with time of 2:07:56. Gerardo Maldonado of Macungie, Pa., came in third at 2:12:08.

Holly Koester of Cleveland



U.S. Air Force photos

Robins marathon runner profile

Name: Robert Sander

Rank: Senior Airman

Unit: 51st Combat Communications Squadron

Overall place: 319 out of 1,268

Overall time: 3 hours, 51 minutes, 37 seconds

Pace: 8 minutes, 51 seconds per mile

Memorable moment: "There was a car crash right before the race. Because of the backup, I had to run three miles to the start line in about 20 minutes. Then, I turned around and ran the marathon."

was the first-place female wheelchair competitor with winning time of 3:12:49. Christy Campbell of Kitchener, Ontario, was the second-place female wheelchair competitor with time of 3:20:50. There was no third-place female wheelchair finisher.

Lt. Gen. Dick Reynolds,

Aeronautical Systems Center commander, presented awards to the top three finishers in all categories.

Final race results can be found on the marathon Web site at <http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil>.

Next year's Air Force Marathon is scheduled to take place Sept. 18.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Information, Tickets and Travel 926-2945

NASCAR tickets are on sale at ITT for the Aaron's 312 Busch Race Oct. 25 and the Georgia 500 Winston Cup Race Oct. 26 at the Atlanta Motor Speedway. Cost for both races is \$45 per person.

Fitness Center 926-2128

Football fitness is underway at the fitness center. Participants predict weekly winners of the National Football Leagues schedule games based on the type and amount of daily exercise they perform.

Players who correctly predict the most number of winners will receive prizes. Total amount of predicted points scored by each team on Monday Night games will be used to break a possible tie.

The scheduled football fitness training is as follows: cardiovascular exercise for three picks, strength training for two picks and flexibility for one pick.

Golf Course 926-4103

Family Golf will be Tuesday at 3 p.m. Cost is \$25 per couple, which includes green fee, golf cart, range balls, food and prizes. There will be three divisions: couples, parent and child under 15 years old and parent and child over 16 years old. Format will be four person, 9-hole scramble.

New Greens Grand Opening will be held Nov. 1 and 2. Enjoy 20 new USGA greens, 45 percent larger than before, Tif Eagle grass, new greenside bunkers and surrounds. Call or visit the pro shop for details.

Youth Center 926-2110

The Youth Center JR, NBA and JR WNBA basketball registrations will be held Oct. 18 through 25, Monday through Friday from 3 - 6 p.m. and Saturday from 1 - 6 p.m. Cost is \$55 for members and nonmembers. A \$5 late fee will be added after Oct. 25. A copy of birth certificate and current physical examination will be required.

Dedicated basketball coaches are also needed. Apply in person at the center or call for more information.

The Robins Youth Center is still accepting applications now until full for in-line hockey and flag football players. Apply in person or call Ron Hayes at the youth center for more information.

Archery season

Robins is expanding its archery-only hunting into three large woodlots located at the south end of the base.

Deer and feral hog activity has been increasing in those areas, causing an increased risk of automobile collisions with wildlife, as well as damage to natural resources.

Robins features four hunting areas, two of which are restricted to archery hunting only, located primarily along the base's eastern boundary.

A four week archery season, starting this weekend coincides with the statewide archery hunting season in Georgia - Sept. 13 through Oct. 10 - and hunters would be required to abide by rules as defined in RAFBI 32-7064.

For more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at 926-4001.



Senior Airman Robert Sander displays the medal he received for participating in the seventh Air Force Marathon held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 20. He placed 319 out of 1,268 overall with an overall time of 3 hours, 51 minutes, 37 seconds.

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A big hello from the desert



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Laura Hoover

Troops in the picture are stationed at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Master Sgt. Laura Hoover arranged for the photo. "I pulled a few of the RAFB troops together this morning for this photo. We would appreciate it if you would use it to say hello to our family and friends and thank them for their continued support."

ABOM hits air logistics center

By Lisa Mathews

lisa.mathews@robins.af.mil

An "ABOM" hit Warner Robins Air Logistics Center in mid-August and the Center is better because of it. ABOM, or Automated Bill of Materiel now provides an audit trail when materiel is ordered in the Depot Maintenance Activity Group.

ABOM is one of the systems in the Depot Maintenance Accounting and Production System, or DMAPS.

Walt Bagnol, chief DMAPS/H033 project office, said the most significant advantage of the ABOM program is that it will provide an audit trail for Depot Maintenance Activity Group materiel ordered.

"ABOM provides edits that allow the user to control orders for a particular workload. Then there is an audit trail to show what materiel was used to repair that particular end product.

"Materiel control is probably the biggest problem we've had with audits in the past because we didn't have an audit trail to show what we did with materiel," he added.

ABOM will allow a more accurate picture of what it costs to complete a job, explained Wayne Hamlin, deputy program manager.

"In the past, the legacy systems automatically receipted the materiel," said Hamlin. "Once the materiel was ordered and on its way, we got charged for it. If some fell off the truck or didn't show up, we still got charged for it.

"This allows a positive way of identifying what parts are ordered for a given job order number," he explained. DMAPS also allows a way for the Center to refute charges for materiel not received.

Hamlin explained that testing of the system recently involved 54 users simultaneously inputting 5,600 transactions and requisitions into the ABOM system in a two-hour timeframe. The amount test simulated up to 600 people using the system at once. The number of transactions processed exceeded a normal day's processing for all three centers combined.

At the end of the testing there were no problems processing the transactions, and the number of concurrent users didn't stress the system. Of the 5,600 requisitions inputted there were only 60 errors generated, according to Hamlin.

"There are a lot of front-end edits on the system to validate the process," Hamlin said.

He explained the process is

What to know

ABOM, or Automated Bill of Materiel provides an audit trail when materiel is ordered in the Depot Maintenance Activity Group.

part manual keystrokes and part scanning of bar codes. By scanning in the bar code, the job order number ordered is positively identified and users are only allowed to order materiel that is planned for a particular job.

Also, this system has provisions for ordering materiel not initially planned that will require planner's approval.

"They can order materiel by stock number, by part number or from a list of parts displayed on their terminal," Hamlin said.

"When the document number is generated you have a way to track parts throughout the system from the time they are ordered to the time they are receipted," said Shelby Roland, DMAPS materiel test lead.

Testing and deployment here was so successful, the other two centers (Oklahoma Air Logistics Center, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., and Ogden ALC, Hill Air Force Base, Utah) plan to implement the system within the next year.

"Although we experienced several significant problems throughout the deployment phase, most have been overcome and software changes are being developed to resolve these," Hamlin said. "Users are identifying system enhancements that may also result in future software upgrades."

Personnel from Ogden and Oklahoma City traveled to Robins to participate in the testing and deployment, Hamlin said. Roland said Ogden has performed initial ABOM testing and plans to implement the system in November. Oklahoma City plans to implement the system in March.

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AAFES Furniture Store moves to former BX by base theater

By Holly J. Logan

holly.logan@robins.af.mil

The Army Air Force Exchange Service Furniture Store at Robins recently made a move that puts customers' convenience first.

The store, which opened Thursday in Building 914, has a 16,000-square-foot floor plan, is closer to other businesses on base and provides more room for inventory.

Elaine Schencks, AAFES Furniture Store manager, said by moving into the former BX by the base theater, the furniture store gained 10,000 square feet of retail space.

"Our previous facility was located in an antiquated building and wasn't conducive to a favorable shopping experience," she said. "With the new store, customers and associates will enjoy an updated facility, including air conditioning, modernized lighting and ample parking."

"With the new store, customers and associates will enjoy an updated facility, including air conditioning, modernized lighting and ample parking."

Elaine Schencks

AAFES Furniture Store manager

What to know

Robins Army Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) Furniture Store, formerly in Building 657, reopened in Building 914, next to the Base Theater, Thursday. AAFES Furniture store offers large appliances, and living room, dining room, bedroom and kitchen groupings to active duty, retired military members and their dependents. Store hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, contact Elaine Schencks, furniture store manager, at 929-3837.

In addition, AAFES administrative offices, including AAFES human resources, services and the general manager's office will relocate to the same building.

Robins' Outdoor Recreation moved to the former BX location in December, relocating its offices and equipment rental center.

Carolyn Stevens, Community Support flight chief, said the benefits of the move are twofold.

"Outdoor Recreation moved to a larger facility that provides space for our larger inventory of rental items," she said. "We have expanded an area for campers, boats and other outdoor equipment we offer. It has been a great move for us and made things easier for our customers."

The decision to relocate the 10-year-old furniture store came when the new BX opened in November 2001. Status of the former furniture store location has yet to be determined.

The store offers living room, dining room and bedroom sets, large appliances, and other home décor and furnishings. AAFES Furniture Store will soon offer their "room saver" groupings, designed to fit most budgets.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

A banner announces the grand opening of the new AAFES Furniture Store in Building 914.

Study: parents have power over what children eat

By Airman 1st Class
Susan Stout

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — Health and wellness center officials here are offering nutrition tips for parents in response to studies that show a growing number of overweight children in America.

According to a study by the American Dietetic Association Foundation, parents have more potential to influence their children's behavior, including their eating habits, than anyone else.

About 10 percent of 2- to 5-year-old children and more than 15 percent of children ages 6 to 19 are overweight, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

"Children are often more willing to eat healthy foods and be active if they see their parents and other family members eating healthy foods," said Capt. Risa Riepma, 56th Medical Group health promotion manager and a registered dietitian. "When the whole family participates, children don't feel singled out or like they're being punished. They learn from example. It will be ... more fun ... and it will keep everyone motivated and on track."

According to Riepma, setting realistic goals and step-by-step guidelines will lead

to successful eating habits.

"Remember, change takes time so be patient and stick to your goals," she said. "Decide on two or three specific, but small, changes in eating or physical activity. Keep track of your weekly goals by writing down the family's progress."

Riepma also suggests parents and children keep a daily food and activity log.

"A log will help you keep track of healthy eating and physical activity goals," she said. "Focus on accomplishments, not failures, and don't expect perfection. If your goal is to walk five times a

week and you miss a day, it's OK. It's important that you are making a healthy change."

Healthy changes that turn into habits should be rewarded, according to Marlyn Shults, 56th MDG exercise physiologist.

"Reward yourselves with a fun physical activity like bowling, ice skating or miniature golf," Shults said. "Other fun physical activities may include basketball, football, hiking, swimming, biking, playing catch, dancing and tennis. Overweight children may not feel comfortable playing competitive

sports, so keep that in mind."

The following tips for parents can help a child understand when he or she is physically hungry and when he or she is satisfied:

- Do not overly restrict food. This can lead to preoccupation with food or make the child feel punished or rejected.

- Do not use food to reward, comfort or punish a child.

- Do not make a child eat everything on his or her plate.

- Encourage a child to eat slowly. When a person eats too quickly, the body thinks it

needs more food to be satisfied.

A balanced diet is key to good nutrition, according to Airman 1st Class Emily Cayton, a 56th MDG diet therapy technician.

"Aim for five servings of fruits and vegetables each day," Cayton said. "Reduce fat, eat sugary foods in moderation and eat healthy snacks. Parents should also serve appropriate portions. Oversized portions often contribute to weight gain."

— Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service

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KC-135 landing gear initiative largest improvement program in Air Force history

By Gary Boyle

Ogden Air Logistics Center
Public Affairs

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah (AFMNS) – Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker brake systems will go from metal to lighter, longer-lasting carbon now that service officials approved a Hill-proposed initiative that saves nearly \$600 million during the next six years.

Dubbed the largest improved item replacement program in Air Force history, the new commercial rated brake system will not only last longer, but require less frequent maintenance, according to Capt. Adam Curtis, project program manager who estimates that approximately 99 percent of the savings comes from parts.

The new brake systems are being added because the last Stratotanker was delivered in 1965 and the 581 aircraft in service are beginning to show their age, Curtis said.

Plus, the aircraft have undergone modifications and retrofitting, expanding their fuel storage area and gross

weight liftoff abilities. Combining those factors, the current steel brakes are only good for 100 sorties, making brake replacement an annual event.

“The objective is to improve reliability and maintainability,” Curtis said. “The carbon brake systems will last for 1,000 sorties, which is about 10 years of operation.”

Additionally, Curtis said the new brake system, while fitting into the same spot at the steel brake, eliminates axle damage and is about 500 pounds lighter, meaning the tanker can carry more fuel and maintain stopping performance.

The new brakes will be retrofitted at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., during program depot maintenance and all fleet aircraft will operate with carbon brakes by October 2009, Curtis said.

French company Messier-Bugatti was awarded the supply contract, Curtis said, but after the initial delivery, scheduled for October of next year, 95-percent of the brake manufacturing will be performed at a plant in

Kentucky.

“The new brake system will use components currently fielded by the C-17 Globemaster III. The performance requirements for this brake are detailed and comprehensive with emphasis on system reliability and maintainability, incorporating commercial and military standards,” said Ron Montgomery, lead engineer for the KC-135 landing gear.

“Messier-Bugatti’s risk management program initiated a prototype development test campaign during the design phase. During months of testing, the developmental brake demonstrated positive results.”

Each system has a fixed cost of \$13,150, \$2,000 less than the steel brakes, Curtis said. They’ll take approximately 20 to 25 hours to install, and each Stratotanker has eight brake systems which totals 4,648 systems to replace.

The workforce maintaining the KC-135 will experience a drop off in workload once the carbon brakes are installed, he said. Currently

the more than 3,400 major maintenance actions per year the steel brakes require account for more than 54,700 direct labor hours.

Officials estimate the carbon brake retrofit will cut those maintenance actions to 342 per year, reducing required labor hours to 5,472, according to Curtis.

This will allow the freed up workforce to be moved to other mission essential duties.

The KC-135 is scheduled to remain in the fleet until 2040.

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MREs: Don’t forget the hot sauce...

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Servicemembers in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere will soon have several new MRE options to choose from for their deployed-dining pleasure.

The newest meals, ready-to-eat, feature three new entrée items: pot roast with vegetables, barbecue pork ribs and vegetable manicotti. The menu also includes clam chowder, both peanut butter and crispy M&Ms, almond poppy seed pound cake, pumpkin pound cake, chocolate mint cookies and vanilla waffle-sandwich cookies.

The new entrée additions come at a cost, according to Defense Logistics Agency spokesman Jack Hooper.

“We are dropping three menu items that were found to be less popular than others,” Hooper said. “We will continue working with military members who are consuming the products – finding their likes and dislikes – and adjusting as necessary.”

Jamaican pork chops, pasta with Alfredo sauce and beef with mushrooms are no longer on the MRE menu.

Research into the popularity of menu items came from all branches of the military, said George Miller, director of Air Force Food Services. Air Force Services Agency officials are responsible for providing the Air Force input when decisions are being made on new MRE items.

“We get a lot of feedback from end-of-tour surveys and from after-action reports,” Miller said.

Air Force feedback came mostly from the service’s largest consumers of MREs – the special-operations community, air-combat controllers, elements of the civil-engineering community such as Prime Beef and Red Horse, and Prime Ribs from Air Force Services.

While feedback from all services is what ultimately influences changes to the MRE lineup, Miller said the Air Force was instrumental to the addition of a couple of MRE items.

“We had a lot of input into some of the new snack items, (like) the cheese spread with bacon and the jalapeno cheese spread,” he said.

The jalapeno cheese spread first appeared in the MRE in 1996. If all goes according to plan, Miller said bacon-cheese spread should appear in MRE pouches sometime next year.

MREs are designed to provide a complete nutritional meal for servicemembers while in the field, Miller said. They are also designed to be a certain weight and size. There is always discussion on how to balance those two requirements and still maintain palatability.

“The bottle of hot sauce has some weight to it,” Miller said. “We asked if we could add something more nutritious than hot sauce to the MRE. Maybe increase the size of the entrée or add a fruit module such as raisins – anything to replace that hot sauce for nutritional value.”

Palatability won out in this case, even though the alternative might have been nutritionally better for the troops. Troops in the field nearly threatened to go on a hunger strike if they did not get their hot sauce, he said.

“They don’t care if you put raisins or a candy bar or anything else in there, they aren’t going to eat (the MRE) without that hot sauce,” he said.

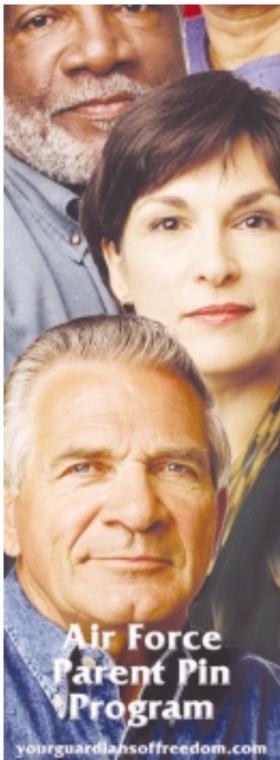
The newest MRE menu lineup features the familiar bottle of hot sauce in 15 of the 24 menus.

Production of the latest MREs began in June. They will be made available for immediate use by military services.

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ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

Please recycle this newspaper.

Legal office closing

The base legal office will close today at 11:30 a.m. for an official office function.

FMA golf tournament

The Federal Managers' Association will host its annual golf tournament at Waterford Golf Club Oct. 3 at 1 p.m. Cost of participation is \$40 per player and includes green and cart fees, lunch and prizes. The tournament is open to both DoD and non-DoD persons. The format is a four-person scramble. Proceeds from the event will be used to fund college scholarships for high school graduates in the surrounding community. All WR-ALC employees are encouraged to participate and invite other members of the community to join in the fun. Entry deadline is Monday. To sign up or for more information, contact Tena Dominy at 926-0793.

78th ABW Enlisted Promotion ceremony

The 78th Air Base Wing Enlisted Promotion ceremony, hosted by Col. Marvin T. Smoot Jr., 78th Air Base Wing commander, will be Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. at the Smith Community Center main ballroom. 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 R. Jackson at 926-0792.

Scholarship applications

Retired Maj. Gen. Cornelius Nutgeren Scholarship applications are being accepted for the academic year 2003-2004. The scholarship was established in 1998 by the Middle Georgia Affairs Committee to honor the service of Nutgeren as commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center. A scholarship for \$750 will be awarded to a military or civilian employee of Robins Air Force Base. To be eligible, the individual must be enrolled in one of the educational programs conducted on-base. Applications are available at the base college offices and the Education and Training Office. Applications must be completed along with supporting documentation and submitted to the Education and Training Office by Oct. 3. For more information, contact the Base Education and Training Office, Building 905, Suite 113, or call 327-7304.

Robins Thrift Shop

The Robins Thrift Shop is taking donations on consignment. Everything from baby items to weight equipment can be sold. The shop is located on Page Road, Building 288, just inside gate

5. Store hours are 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays and the shop will be open Oct. 4.

Also, the thrift shop is looking for volunteers to fill various positions. If you have any questions, call 923-1686.

School board meeting

Robins Air Force Base school board will meet Oct. 7 at 4 p.m. at Robins Elementary School, Building 988. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

Troops to Teachers program

Bill Kirkland, program manager, for the Georgia Troops to Teachers program will be at the Robins Education Center, Building 905, Room 159, Oct. 8 from 10 - 11 a.m. to meet with interested military personnel. For more information, go to www.proudtoserveagain.com or contact Fran Sheridan at 327-7325.

Air Force needs accountants

The Air Force needs accountants, auditors, budget analysts, cost analysts, financial management specialists and operations research analysts for the Palace Acquire training program in financial management. All degrees are accepted but prefer business, management or finance-related. U.S. citizenship, mobility and security clearance are required. Features and benefits include paid training, 10 paid holidays, tuition assistance for master's degree, nation-wide locations, 3-year structured training program, full-time federal civil service

career, use of most Air Force base facilities, earn sick leave and annual leave at start of position, Federal employees retirement system, relocation bonuses at selected locations and student repayment loan eligibility.

To schedule an interview, contact the placement director at the following colleges:

Wesleyan College, Macon, Oct. 14

Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, Oct. 15

Macon State College, Macon, Oct. 20

Mercer University, Macon, Oct. 22

For additional information, go to <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cp/recruit/paq.htm> or call 1-800-847-0108, ext. 3110.

Robins Health Fair, Oct. 28-29

There will be a health fair Oct. 28 and 29 at the Smith Community Center ballroom from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. The health fair, hosted by the Employee Relations Section of Civilian Personnel, will feature representatives from various federal health plans and will provide 2004 updates on coverage and information on their respective plans.

Workload permitting, supervisors may excuse employees without charge to leave to allow attendance and return to work in no more than one hour. Additional time will be charged to annual leave. Questions regarding leave usage may be addressed to your servicing Employee Relations Specialist at 926-0677 or 926-5802.

The base shuttle will be available to take employees to and from the Smith Community Center. The base shuttle runs every 30 minutes. In addition, bus transportation will be provided to and from the health fair from First Street, Building 125. The time lapse between scheduled bus transportation will not entitle employees to additional excused absence.

Boy Scout Troop 220

Boy Scout Troop 220 meets every Tuesday night from 7 - 8:30 at 1082 Hawkinsville St. For more information, call Mary Pangborn at 929-5742 or Dennis Collier at 953-8124.

Girl Scouts leaders needed

Girl Scouts of Robins is in need of leaders and co-leaders. The troops meet on base. If interested, contact Alyson Dreer at 329-8099.

Communications and electronics specialists

If you are currently a 1A3X1 and are looking for a career change, the 89th Airlift Wing at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., needs people to support crisis, contingency and continuity of government communications. This unit supports DV airlift for the United States' senior executives. For more information, contact Chief Master Sgt. Ed Moren at 89OG.OGK@andrews.af.mil.

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All in a day's work



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

■ William Rimmer ■ F-15 Aircraft Systems Worker

“This is depot maintenance. We take (F-15s) apart and put them back together again. I work in cell 4. Our present job is wing installation. I kind of like the stress tempo of my job. I like working under pressure. The stress is not really that bad; it's more performance oriented, knowing we have to pull together to get a jet out. The Lean process causes us to have to produce or the other cells get behind. I like the process. It's much more organized.

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Black Knights say farewell to the Knightly News



Medals

Lt. Col. Joseph T. Rohret receives Meritorious Service Medal, 4th oak leaf cluster

Lt. Col. Royces E. Eves receives Bronze Star

Chief Master Sgt. Alan E. Shaw receives Bronze Star

1st Lt. Chris Sibold receives Air Force Commendation Medal

Enlisted Promotions

Airman 1st Class Joshua Kierman 19th AMXS effective Sept. 14

Senior Airman Richard Clark 19th AMXS effective Sept. 11

Senior Airman Suzanne Pamplin 19th AMXS effective Sept. 11

Staff Sgt. Maurice Jones 19th AMXS effective Sept. 1

Staff Sgt. Amy Mackey 19th AMXS effective Sept. 1

Tech. Sgt. Alan Pekny 19th MXS effective Sept. 1

Tech. Sgt. David Stadnicki 99th ARS effective Sept. 1

Retirements

Maj. Mark W. Wesson, Sept. 26

Master Sgt. Timothy L. Richardson, Sept. 3

Maj. Kevin Gunnerman, Dec. 1

Dormitory room of the Quarter

Overall - **Airman 1st Class Daniel Alvarez**, 19th AMXS

1st Floor - **Airman 1st Class James Miller**, 19th AMXS

3rd Floor - **Airman 1st Class Holly Brown**, 19th MXS

Upcoming Events

Inspections and Exercises

Monday through Thursday: Initial Response Team Robins, Operational Readiness Exercise

Oct. 3: 19th ARG ATSO Warskills Training Day

Oct. 6 through 9: Employment / ATSO (aka Phase II) Team Robins Operational Readiness Exercise

Oct. 22 through 31: Global Guardian 04

Other

19th AMXS/ 19th MXS **Haunted House** is Oct. 28 through Nov. 1.



Black Knights of the 19th Air Refueling Group, 19th Operations Support Squadron, 19th Maintenance Squadron, 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 99th Air Refueling Squadron gather together on the flight line for a group photo.

U.S. Air Force photo

K.N. coverage rolls into Rev-Up

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

After a year and a half, the Black Knights say goodnight to the Knightly News.

In the past, the Knightly News has served as the 19th Air Refueling Group's medium for showcasing the Black Knights' unique mission and talented ser-



Rottman

vice members, and our primary interface with Robins' Rev-Up. In an ongoing effort to improve coverage for all base organizations, especially hosted units, the Rev-Up has recommended that we incorporate our organizational inputs into the weekly Rev-Up, which will give us more timely coverage, and get our stories more attention from the

wider base audience.

While the Black Knights certainly enjoyed our Knightly News format, we'll continue to work closely with the Public Affairs and Rev-Up staff to ensure our mission and professionals continue receiving the same level of coverage, without the inherent limitations associated with squeezing an entire month's news into a single, stand-alone section.

To the 19th ARG men and women who selflessly devoted their time and talents to tell our story - thank you. Your efforts

brought our story to life, and made the Knightly News something we all looked forward to reading.

As we bid a fond farewell to the Knightly News, I encourage each Black Knight to look for opportunities to contribute articles to help our accomplishments become regular features in the Rev-Up.

Just as the Black Knights continue to provide the combatant commander with world-class aerial refueling and strategic airlift, the Rev-Up will continue to highlight our dedicated airmen and their challenging mission.

Honorary Commanders Dinner shows community appreciation

By **Maj. John Chapman**
19th Operations Support Squadron

The 19th Air Refueling Group hosted 10 community members at the Honorary Commanders Dinner at the Officer's Club Aug. 23.

The annual event, designed to increase awareness of the Group and its symbolic relationship with the Middle Georgia community, offered Black Knights an opportunity to demonstrate the Group's appreciation for these individuals' constant support.

Col. and Mrs. Raymond J. Rottman hosted the dinner, and squadron commanders and operations officers shared insights of recent Group happenings with their respective honorary counterparts.

Rottman, 19th ARG commander, said the dinner was a chance for the honorary commanders to reconnect with their active duty service members, and come away with a better

Please see **DINNER, 2**

A visit back in history

Black Knights visit the DASH-80 at Wright Patterson before going to Smithsonian

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

A crew of Black Knights had a chance to visit the aircraft that sparked the birth of the KC-135 Stratotanker.

Crewmembers, Lt. Col. Barry Dowell (aircraft commander), 1st Lt. Benjamin Kline (Co-pilot), Master Sgt. Christopher Campbell (instructor boom operator), Tech. Sgt. Walter Markwas (boom operator), Staff Sgt. Adam King (crew chief), Staff Sgt. Dale Matthews (crew chief) and Airman 1st Class Daniel Alvarez (crew chief) flew one of the Group's KC-135 Stratotankers Aug. 25-26, to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, to participate in a static display next to the aircraft, similar to a Boeing 707, that the tanker was fashioned after - the Dash-80.

Lt. Col. Barry Dowell, with the 19th ARG, said the trip to visit the historic aircraft was a chance to visit the Stratotanker's roots.

"It was neat to look at the Dash-80," he said. "Air Force Materiel Command asked Air Mobility Command to provide a KC-135 Stratotanker, and having an avail-



U.S. Air Force photo

In late August, crew of Black Knights traveled with one of its KC-135 Stratotankers to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, to participate in a static display. The Air Force prototype aircraft, known as DASH-80, has a structure similar to a Boeing 707, and was used as a model to fashion the KC-135R Stratotanker, flown by the 19th Air Refueling Group. Crewmembers were on-hand as the base public viewed the two aircraft parked side by side.

able aircrew, Robins seemed like the likely choice."

The Dash-80 was an aircraft used to sell the U.S. Air Force on what the Stratotanker could do for its mission, said Dowell.

The Dash-80 stopped en route from Seattle, Wash., to the National

Air and Space Museum's new companion facility, Seven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, near Washington Dulles International Airport in Virginia.

The Dash-80 parked next to one

Please see **HISTORY, 2**

Changes to come for Air Force's tanker airlift business

By 1st Lt. Alison Thompson
99th Air Refueling Squadron

In an ever-changing war fighting environment, Air Mobility Command is bringing the past into the present - creating a more efficient future.

On Oct. 1, 15th Air Force at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. and 21st Air Force at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. will deactivate, and become the 15th and 21st Expeditionary Mobility Task Forces. The 18th Air Force will stand up at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. the same day.

Gen. John W. Handy, comman-

der of U.S. Transportation and Air Mobility commands, the changes come as result of the command's ever-changing needs.

"We're looking at an evolution in air mobility," he said. "As a command, we've matured in the past 11 years. The world has gotten smaller from a mobility perspective, increasing our roles and responsibilities of our Tanker Airlift Control Center, as the centralized mobility air operations center for the war fighting combatant commanders."

The activation of the 18th AF is bringing back the traditional role of the numbered Air Force, giving air-

men a clearer reporting chain and reconnects some disconnects, which puts the numbered Air Force in operational control of the Tanker Airlift Control Center, the air mobility operations group, 12 wings, three groups and the Global En Route Air Mobility System.

The 18th AF will be responsible for the presentation of forces to the war fighters, with the reorganization reportedly have a large impact on AMC's internal command structure and a low impact on AMC customers.

The 19th ARG is waiting for what changes may come their way, said Col. Raymond J. Rottman,

Group commander.

"The Air Force recognizes that the face of war, and how we get the war fighters to the war, has changed in recent years," he said. "The reorganization within AMC reflects our leadership's efforts to support both our front line troops and our support structures at home. This is being accomplished by utilizing our resources, namely materials and people, in a more efficient manner."

Rottman said he doesn't anticipate the reorganization to have an effect on the Group's daily operations, but he assures the Black Knights will meet any unforesee-

able challenges ahead for the fledgling 18th AF.

The 18th AF was originally activated in 1951 to manage troop carrier aircraft for the Tactical Air Command. It was then deactivated in 1958.

Its emblem displays a chevron and wings - which are ancient military symbols of strength and protection. Parachutes on the shield represent equipment used by the organization in carrying out its mission with speed, safety and success.

Editor's Note: Air Mobility Command Public Affairs at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. contributed to this article.

Commentary

Commander discusses transformation of 21st Air Force

As many of you know, we will begin a proud new chapter in Air Force history next week with the transformation of 21st Air Force into the 21st Expeditionary Mobility Task Force.

The historic re-designation ceremony will be conducted right here at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., and will be officiated by General John Handy, Commander, Air Mobility Command.

While we will furl the great flag of 21st Air Force on Monday, the proud heraldry of the 21st Air Force will live on.

Past and present 21st Air Force warriors share a common legacy of victory and honor, and will proudly pass that legacy on to the men and women of the fledgling 21st Expeditionary Mobility Task Force in a ceremony befitting the storied history of 21st Air



Williams

Force and Air Mobility Command. It all began 61 years ago during World War II, when the United States was mobilizing millions of men and

women and unprecedented amounts of war materiel to defend freedom in its darkest hour.

Through the successful buildup of forces prior to the D-Day invasion to the final victory in Europe, the parent units of 21st Air Force helped secure the freedom of millions.

Following the war, the same organizations were instrumental in the successful execution of Operation Vittles, otherwise known as

the historic Berlin Airlift. During the crucial period of that operation, the only hope for Berliners was the United States' unique ability to maintain a lifeline of food and supplies - a lifeline that had to be maintained by air alone. It was the men and women of our mobility air forces that made it happen and ultimately won Berlin its freedom.

This proud heritage and "Can-Do" spirit endures today and will live on for generations to come.

As 21st Air Force evolved through the '50s, '60s, '70s, and '80s, its people and equipment supported countless humanitarian operations, supplied our forces in Vietnam, and supported our nation's allies in times of maximum danger.

From Project Safe Haven in Eastern Europe to Operation Nickel Grass in the

Middle East, 21st Air Force carried the sound of Freedom around the world.

Along with that sound of Freedom came life sustaining supplies that demonstrated our nations' commitment to friends of peace and democracy.

From Operation Just Cause in Panama in the last days of the 80's to the incredible buildup of forces for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, to combat operations in Europe in support of Operations Joint Endeavor and Allied Force, warriors of 21st Air Force made their presence known to friend and foe alike.

Most recently, after the unprovoked terrorist attacks of September 11th 2001, the men and women of 21st Air Force were among the first to respond. Within minutes of the attacks, we were ready to

refuel the fighters that scrambled to conduct combat air patrols over our nation's major cities. Airmen from McGuire staged FEMA's critical relief missions for lower Manhattan as we prepared and deployed forces for Operation Enduring Freedom and then, Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As the Global War on Terror has unfolded, it has become even clearer to the world that only through strength, readiness, and vigilance can we secure our freedoms in the 21st Century.

The Global War on Terror will be one of the most demanding undertakings in history, and only the United States could lead such an effort.

The hard work and dedication of 21st Air Force warriors, who have shown they will go anywhere in the world

in defense of freedom, will sustain that effort.

Your service and sacrifice, and the support of your families, exemplifies our core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do.

I want to thank all 21st Air Force warriors, past and present, for all you've done to serve our country, protect our freedom, and save lives around the globe.

As we transition on Monday to a new war fighting command construct, know that our proud heritage and fine traditions will not only live on, but will grow stronger as we meet the challenges of the new century.

Best of luck and Godspeed to you all!

Maj Gen George N. Williams
Commander



U.S. Air Force photo

Col. Raymond Rottman, Lt. Col. Joe Rohret and wife, Tammy, Jack Steed, and Mr. and Mrs. Homer Childs, enjoy food and conversation at the Honorary Commanders Dinner.

DINNER

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understanding of the need of their support efforts during this fast-paced times of frequent and lengthy deployments and unprecedented operations tempo.

"These individuals have proven time

and again, their unwavering support of the Black Knights and our mission," he said.

Maj. Jonathan Claunch, 19th Maintenance Squadron, agreed.

"It was a rewarding evening for all involved," he said. "It allowed the military members to dedicate one night to the honorary commanders, in gratitude for their tireless support."

19th ARG Honorary Commanders

19th Air Refueling Group
Honorary Commander -
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Steed

19th Air Refueling Group
Honorary Deputy Commander -
Mr. and Mrs. Homer Childs

19th Air Refueling Group
Honorary Deputy Commander -
Mr. and Mrs. Berry Segraves

19th Aircraft Maintenance
Squadron Honorary
Commander -
**Mr. and Mrs. F. Ronnie
Sanders**

19th Air Refueling Group
Honorary Public Affairs Liaison -
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Tolbert

99th Air Refueling Squadron -
Mrs. Barbara Shaheen

99th Air Refueling Squadron -
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Callahan

19th Operations Support
Squadron -
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Bollinger

19th Operations Support
Squadron -
Mr. and Mrs. Skip Dawkins

19th Maintenance Squadron -
Mr. and Mrs. Guy Starling

HISTORY

Continued from 1A

of Robins' KC-135R Stratotanker. The Dash-80's pilot was Gerald Whites, and the flight engineer was George E. Kegebein, both Boeing employees since the late 1970s.

The forerunner of modern commercial carriers, the Dash-80 represents a step into modern jet travel. Powered by four Pratt & Whitney JT3 turbojet engines, the aircraft featured wings swept back 35 degrees. Compared to earlier, piston-powered passenger planes, the Dash-80 flew faster, smoother and quieter.

Boeing co-pilot for the flight, Charles Gebhardt III, pointed out that the Dash-80's fuselage was actually smaller than that of the C-135 Stratolifter, and the C-135's fuselage was smaller than the production Boeing 707.

He added that although the Dash-80 never carried passengers, it was fitted with seats, rows of three on starboard side and two on the port side.

The Dash-80 has two original seats and the rest are "vintage."

He said, there are no overhead compartments for carry-on luggage, and there's no bathroom, Gebhardt said.

The airplane only has 2,600 hours on it," Gebhardt said. "It's practically new. Of course, since most of those hours were in flight

test, they were 'hard' hours."

Boeing spokeswoman, Leslie Nichols, recalling one of the aircraft's more spectacular moments, said, "The aircraft did two barrel rolls on Aug. 7, 1955 over the (Seattle) Seafair hydroplane races. The company test pilot, Alvin "Tex" Johnston, wanted to show people what the airplane could do. He was a very meticulous pilot, and he was sure to have practiced the move before showing it in public. Nobody knows how many times altogether he did it."

According to company history, the Dash-80 production go-ahead was announced Aug. 30, 1952. The aircraft made its first flight on July 15, 1954, the company's 38th anniversary. On March 11, 1957, it set a record flying from Seattle to Baltimore, Md., in three hours, 48 minutes, for an average speed of 612 mph.

The Dash-80 also was the forerunner to the C-135 Stratolifter, the military derivative that has served in a wide variety of roles including transport, reconnaissance and tanker for the U.S. Air Force and the air forces of several U.S. allies.

Five C-135s were designated as VC-137s and used to transport the president of the United States and other high-ranking government officials.

Following its first flight, the Dash-80 flew many test missions and underwent

several major structural and aerodynamic changes. For example, it flew with a fifth engine mounted on the aft fuselage to test installation feasibility for three-engine aircraft.

With the Dash-80, engineers investigated engine thrust reversers, sound suppressors, engine icing, air conditioners, and wing flap and slat modifications.

The aircraft also was used for assessing the performance of various radar, radar antennae, and different paints.

In one test series, the Dash-80 tested oversized tires that enabled it to land and take off from mud fields that could barely support passenger automobiles.

Since the 707 prototype first flew, Boeing has sold more than 14,000 commercial jetliners.

In May 1990, the Dash-80 was pulled from storage in the Arizona desert and restored to near-original configuration.

It made a special flyover of the five Boeing facilities in Washington's Puget Sound area on July 15, 1991, Boeing's 75th anniversary.

Except for a flyover of the 2003 Seafair Air Show in Seattle on Aug. 3, the Dash-80 has been idle at Boeing before its current coast-to-coast flight.

Editor's Note: Mike Wallace, Aeronautical Systems Center Public Affairs, contributed to this story.



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