



Beyond borders

See Page 1B

NEWS

YOU CAN USE

Commissary open Monday

The Robins Commissary has added a full day – Monday – and extended Saturday hours to its Thanksgiving Week schedule, offering a chance for shoppers to fill their carts and check out with “relatively smooth sailing,” Store Director Teena Standard said.

The store is usually closed Mondays, which in the past was followed by the two heaviest shopping days of the year—the two days before Thanksgiving. Last year during those three days, sales soared to \$269,000, compared to a typical \$240,000 three-day sales period.

Commissary hours will be: Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (instead of the usual 6 p.m.); Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (normal hours); Monday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The store will be closed Thanksgiving Day, but will open the day after Thanksgiving from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

— Chris Zdrakas

Toy collection starts Monday

The Toys for Tots program is designed to collect toys for less fortunate local children. Collection bins will be placed at the Base Exchange and in each squadron. Monetary donations may be made via the 19th Air Refueling Group. Donations are welcome from Monday through Dec. 12.

— From staff reports

Coats for Kids being collected

The Robins Fire Department is accepting donated coats for its Coats for Kids program through Dec. 10. Anyone wanting to donate a coat should put it in the black trailer in front of Fire Station 1 on Robins Parkway. The trailer is marked with a sign designating it as the Coats for Kids trailer. For more information, contact Rusty Adams at 256-2975.

— From staff reports

Tree removal, pruning set

Areas of Robins will be closed off with cones for the removal of dead trees from Dec. 9 to 13. The schedule:

- Dec. 9 – Building 301 east side of building
- Dec. 10 – Building 901 parking lot north side of building
- Dec. 11 – Building 2039 near the gazebo on the east side of the building
- Dec. 13 – Byron Street islands between First and Third Streets

— Chris Zdrakas

Robins 3-day forecast
Courtesy of 78th OSS/OSW

Today Partly cloudy and cold



74/46

Saturday Partly cloudy and cool



76/47

Sunday Partly to mostly cloudy



78/49

What's inside

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ROBINS RevUp

Vol. 48 No. 46

Friday, November 21, 2003

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

To our readers: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the Robins Rev-Up will be published Wednesday, Nov. 26.

Sweeping changes for housing



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Residents attend a base housing meeting Nov. 14.

By Chris Zdrakas
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An Office of the Secretary of Defense-directed plan designed to underscore its policy of “community first” to house military members will mean a net loss of 404 military housing units and sweeping changes in the base’s oldest neighborhoods beginning in late 2005 or early 2006.

The details:

- ☞ The number of military family housing units on Robins will go from 1,477 to 1,073, numbers that include the privatized housing area of Huntington Village across State Route 127
- ☞ 582 units will be demolished on base – all of the housing areas of Crestview, Pine Oak, Lake View, Lakeside and Chief’s Circle
- ☞ 178 new units will go up in the Crestview area and will include hous-

ing for all grades. No plans have been made for other housing areas that will be razed.

☞ The 173-unit Turner Park will remain, as will all of Huntington Village

☞ The 52-unit Forest Park area and homes on Officer’s Circle will remain, but will be renovated.

☞ Air Force programmed about

Please see HOUSING, 2A

Moving out



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp



Thirty-seven servicemembers with the 5th Combat Communications Group said their goodbyes to family and friends Wednesday as they prepared to deploy to the Middle East.

Above, Staff Sgt. J.D. Wells spends a few moments with his wife Sharee prior to getting on the bus.

Left, Staff Sgt. Ronny Hopps is enthusiastic about the deployment, which is part of the 5th MOB’s normal rotation.

Robins scores win on airfield examination

By Chris Zdrakas
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Twenty-one examiners armed with more than 750 checklist items found the Robins Air Force Base airfield operations environment deficiency-free – a first in four years for an Air Force Materiel Command flying base.

The weeklong examination gave the 78th Operations Support and Communications squadrons and the 78th Civil Engineering Group cause for celebration on having what’s known as “no observations identified” in an evaluation. An observation, similar to a finding in an Inspector General report, is a system deficiency indicating an adverse flight safety or flying mission impact.

The AFMC inspectors had a busy schedule during their Nov. 3 through 7 visit here.

They looked at the Communications Squadron’s Air Traffic Control and Landing System Services – ATCALs; the Civil Engineer Group’s infrastructure support in maintaining the entire airfield environment and the Operations Support Squadron’s air traffic services, airfield management and base operations, forecasting and airfield weather advisories.

They also inspected the interface with civil and military flying units assigned to Robins and the working relationship with the Federal Aviation Administration and Air Traffic Control facilities.

Unlike Inspector General visits, the evaluations don’t carry ratings such as “outstanding” and “excellent.” Instead, the measurement is a conformity index – CI – reflecting compliance with

Please see AIRFIELD, 2A

Civilians earn their ‘stripes’

By Geoff Janes
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The Noncommissioned Officers Academy here is one of two Air Force test sites allowing civilians to learn the ropes of leadership by working side by side with enlisted airmen.

According to Chief Master Sgt. Orlando Justice, Robins NCOA commandant, the word came down this summer that Robins and New Mexico’s Kirtland Air Force Base would be part of the year-long trial phase that could change the way professional military education is handled in the future.

“Robins was selected for two reasons – sustained record of excellence at the academy and an environment rich in

What to know

Civilians eligible for acceptance to the Noncommissioned Officers Academy during the test program include those in the following categories: Wage supervisors grades 1 through 8, wage grade employees in grades 9 through 12, wage leaders in grades 1 through 6 and general service employees in grades 6 through 9. For more information, contact Linda Golden at 327-7320, or by e-mail at Linda.golden@robins.af.mil. A call for nominations for future classes is scheduled to go out this week.



MacLeod

civilians in leadership positions over enlisted personnel,” he said. “One force, one fight. If that’s the way it’s going to be, then we need to give everyone the same tools to succeed – that’s the premise. But more specifically, it’s just good common

Please see STRIPES, 5A

JSTARS takes part in Red Flag

By 2nd Lt. Pamela Montelepre
116th Public Affairs

Members of the 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron returned home Oct. 31 from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., where they participated in their first major exercise since being activated as a unit last year.

The unit joined forces with the 414th

Please see EXERCISE, 5A



U.S. Air Force photo

Staff Sgt. Steve Brown and Staff Sgt. Rachel Dukart, communication systems technicians, prepare for a mission during Red Flag exercises at Nellis Air Force Range Complex.

HOUSING

Continued from 1A

\$44 million for demolition, new construction and renovation.

☞ The first dollars will come in fiscal year 2005, and design will take an estimated six to nine months

☞ The housing plan is not related to the Base Realignment and Closure.

Costs, camaraderie, safety concerns

The plan – unveiled at a meeting for base housing residents a week ago and for the civilian community Wednesday – met with questions from anxious military families concerned about costs, loss of military camaraderie, safety and the future of Robins Elementary School. About 45 military members and spouses attended.

Among them was Mary Pangborn, a stay-at-home spouse with four children ages 4 to 16. Pangborn said because of military family housing, she doesn't have to "pinch so much," which has meant the children could have a few extras. The Pangborns

came from a New York-based mission that had no military family housing. They owned their own home in New York for 13 years. Her husband, John, is a master sergeant assigned to the 339th Flight Test Squadron.

"Here, our children have a lot more freedom and a chance to be part of the teen center and gym," she said. "In the case of the two younger ones, they have playgrounds and are surrounded by a safe community. It would be really hard to live off base because we have no family in this area."

Pangborn said with her two oldest children going to college in a few years, she would have to find a job to meet expenses if they moved off base.

Robin Hudson, a military spouse with children, ages 10 and 4, said if her family finds housing off base, she'd definitely have to find a job. The Hudsons tried living in the offbase community, but moved back so they could have the convenience of a three-bedroom home with two baths. Her husband, Brian was recently promoted to staff sergeant in the 116th

Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

"If you are a stay-at-home mom, which is something the Air Force prides itself on, you probably will have to go to work," she said. She worried that nearby affordable rental housing would go up as the private sector market responds to the increasing demand that will result from the OSD strategy.

First Lt. Eric Norton of the 78th Mission Support Group described the meeting as "very informative." He will be transferring from Robins in six months and said it was good to know that his future base will most likely go through base housing changes.

Information-sharing meeting

Col. Bruce Curry, vice commander of the 78th Air Base Wing, and Lt. Col. Joe Ballard, commander of the 778th Civil Engineer Squadron, said the intent of the meeting was to share as much information as is currently available with residents. Specific timetables for demolition and construction, and the phasing of the projects

are among the remaining unknowns.

Ballard said the housing changes are rooted in OSD policy, which is to rely on the community first to meet military housing needs. As a result, most Air Force bases will be in the same position Robins is – fewer military family housing units required on base.

Recent increases in the Basic Allowance for Housing, or BAH rates, broaden the housing options available to military families, Ballard said. For example, the rate for the four lowest grades of enlisted military members with dependents is \$749 a month; for master sergeants (E-7), with dependents, \$892 per month. The with dependent BAHs for first lieutenants is \$872; captain, \$922; colonel, \$1,064.

Much of the meeting with base housing residents was devoted to explaining the Office of the Secretary of Defense Housing Requirements and Markets Analysis, the study on which the 404 surplus units was determined. Another focus was the Air Force's Housing Community Profile that will

determine how Robins plans on getting to the 1,073 units left when the 404 surplus units go down.

The OSD analysis considered communities' abilities today and in the future to support the military's needs for suitable, affordable housing. The study excluded several dilapidated and high-crime areas as established by discussions with local police and sheriff's authorities. The study's time/distance criteria used in Robins' case, was the greater of either a 45-minute commute or 20 miles from the installation. Robins argued for and won a 15-minute reduction in the usual 60-minute criteria based on waiting times at the base gates.

The Air Force, Ballard said, complies with OSD policies, but also considers a core, or minimum number of families that should be housed on base. For Robins, it's 10 percent of each grade plus key and essential personnel as outlined by the commander in an Air Force Instruction.

Keeping the impact on families minimal

Ballard told the group that the timeline for phasing in the

demolition, construction and renovation projects would be designed to keep impact on residents minimal. The government will pay the moving costs for residents who will have to leave their homes.

Since the on-base Robins Elementary School had been expected to be a topic for concern and was, Curry opened the meeting by reviewing the status of a three-part study under way about the future of elementary schools on military installations. He reaffirmed that even if transfer of the school from the DoD structure is recommended, any changes would not take effect until the 2007-2008 school year. A draft report on the third and final phase of the study is due this month. No decisions have been announced to date.

"Good discussion," Curry told the audience at the meeting's conclusion. "We don't have all the answers, and hopefully you will leave here today confident that you know what we know, that we are listening to your concerns and that as we begin to develop the implementation plan, your concerns will be folded in."

AIRFIELD

Continued from 1A

DoD, Air Force and major command guidance. The Airfield Operations Flight's CI went from a previous 91 to 94; and ATCALs had a 17-point gain to a new high of 93.

The team praised the airfield management operations contract, performance work statement and training plan as "best in AFMC" and took copies of all three to use as command benchmarks.

"The evaluation proved how well Team Robins works together to support the airfield and the air traffic system," said Maj. Glenn Sigley,

Operations Support Squadron commander.

In addition to everything else, the team evaluated four special interest items mandated by AFMC and Air Force Flight Standards Agency. All of them – airfield signage and lighting systems; oversight, functionality and accuracy of the Terminal Instrument Procedures Program; Maintenance Standardization and Evaluation Program; and grounding and lightning protection systems, were rated "satisfactory," the highest possible rating.

The Operations Support Squadron's weather flight scored a CI of 93.8 percent, the highest in AFMC to date and nine points above the command average.

Weather also had three exceptional performers – Master Sgt. Jasper Harris, Roddy Nixon and Martin Thompson, all recognized for their thorough knowledge of weather operations and mentorship of junior military personnel. In addition, the flight earned praise for being one of a select few that provides space weather information to its flying customers. Space weather data is important because it affects aircraft radio and navigation systems. In addition, the team praised Nixon's weather training program as a major strength.

The Civil Engineer Group is a vital member of the airfield team, overseeing repair, maintenance and improvements. Hayden Hinton of

the 778th Civil Engineer Squadron said millions of dollars have gone into airfield maintenance and repair, including the recent \$11 million drainage improvement project accomplished ahead of schedule and with little interference to flying operations.

"We couldn't be more pleased," said Capt. Christopher Corn, airfield operations flight commander. "The record of no observations was great news and a welcome pat on the back for teams that have worked very hard to be the best."

Capt. Bill Hill of the 78th Communications Squadron said the squadron's record achievement represents people – noncommissioned officers in charge and work center

managers – "getting down in the trenches and training our folks down to the lowest rank to make sure everyone understood their job and that everyone had the training they needed to be proficient in them."

Weather Flight Commander Capt. Mike Lewis said the results are indicative of a super team effort and "superior forecasters, all working hard to prepare for the inspection." At the tower, Technical Sgt. Tom Craine, chief of air traffic training and standardization, said his "highly dedicated, extremely knowledgeable" controllers were told they provided "excellent support and leadership to the mission and users."

armed
58599801

Chaplain earns Air Force Bronze Star Medal

By Chris Zdrakas

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Robins' Wing Chaplain, who worked alongside Special Operations Forces in an intensely perilous desert, followed in his father's footsteps Sunday when he received the Air Force Bronze Star Medal.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dan Nigolian spent five months based in a camp in a classified location in the Middle East where windstorms blew dust through canvas tents and the threat of attack was as real from the human enemy as it was from the aggressive camel spiders that flourished there. Throughout what others would see as an ordeal, he said faith and "the incredible richness of the ministry" kept him going.

"A place where people are in potential crisis all the time, carrying gas masks around, filling sandbags, digging bunkers and watching airplanes come back battle-damaged is an outstanding place for a chaplain to be," he said.

Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Center commander, presented the award to Nigolian after Sunday services at the Robins Chapel. Nigolian's father, Leon, who landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day with the Army's First Infantry Division, also is a Bronze Star recipient. The elder Nigolian, 78, who lives in Belleair Bluffs, Fla., near Clearwater was among the 23 percent of his group that survived the Omaha Beach landing. He was unable to attend Sunday's presentation.

Nigolian was the senior chaplain of the 444th Air Expeditionary Group, engaged in ground operations against Operation Iraqi Freedom enemies from January through May this year. As senior chaplain, he headed a team of four Air Force, two Army and two coalition chaplains assigned to three bases in the country. His team logged more than 19,000 visits monthly during what were described as "dangerous air and ground combat support operations."

Nigolian, a Cleveland, Ohio, native who will mark 20 years in the Air Force next July, has another member of the family associated with the military. He and wife, Kathy, are parents of 1st Lt. Daniel Nigolian, who is stationed in Eileson Air Force Base, Alaska. The Nigolians also have a daughter, Carrie, an algebra teacher in Pensacola, Fla.

Nigolian said he was well prepared for his deployment because he had ministered to special operations personnel a couple of times before. This time, he and other chaplains accompanied special operators as they were preparing for and returning from missions and also traveled place with them on special operations aircraft.

Troops disciplined and well-trained

"The people we were serving were incredibly disciplined, very responsible, serious and unafraid. They were well-trained, well-controlled and very good at what they do," he said.

Troops would wait alongside a runway when they were going out on a mission. He described one of them:

"There was one young man about 21, totally in black, fully armed and equipped with electronic gear sitting there with a hard sort of look on his face. I said 'Hi, how you doing?' He looked at me, saw I was a chaplain and a smile broke out. To help people come out and be human in times like that was incredibly wonderful and greatly rewarding."

None of Nigolian's military family in the country died in hostile fire, but he and other chaplains led memorial services for others



Courtesy photo



U.S. Air Force photo by Gary Cuttrall

Above, a sign in Arabic and English marks the entrance to a park the chaplain helped renovate during his five months in the Middle East.

Left, Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Center commander, presents Nigolian with the Air Force Bronze Star Medal Nov. 15.

What to know

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dan Nigolian spent five months based in a camp in a classified location in the Middle East. While there he managed to supply thousands of free Bibles and literature to four other bases, energized volunteers and gathered resources to renovate a playground and soccer field.



"It's not the home, the food or the kind of place we were. It was the ministry, and the chance to do what we were trained to do. It has a warm place in my memory as a spot where I felt not only needed and useful, but where it felt right to be – almost homey. In God's will and plan, when you are doing what you are supposed to be doing, there's a feeling of home to it."

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dan Nigolian

who had lost their lives. A Patriot missile battery, perimeter defenses up to 35 miles out, special operators and aircraft reconnaissance protected his camp. He said at the camp population at one point reached 6,700 people living in more than 600 tents.

Dusty and dangerous

Nigolian has maintained a sense of humor about camp life.

"I'm still getting the dust out of my hair," he said. "Look at it his way: The Children of Israel passed through there and didn't stay."

The dust forced through the tent seams by blowing wind could be so thick that you couldn't see inside even with the lights on. At 6'3", he slept on a 6-foot cot "specifically designed to hit you in the back of the head and back of the heels." Humidity was zero, and the dry air absorbed rain as it fell. He

observed the camel spider – a predator – ripping apart a mouse.

And yet, he would go back.

"People concentrate on the fact that the living conditions are difficult. That's not the issue," he said. "It's not the home, the food or the kind of place we were. It was the ministry, and the chance to do what we were trained to do. It has a warm place in my memory as a spot where I felt not only needed and useful, but where it felt right to be – almost homey. In God's will and plan, when you are doing what you are supposed to be doing, there's a feeling of home to it."

He managed to supply thousands of free Bibles and literature to four other bases that had been unable to obtain them, energized volunteers and gathered resources to renovate an overgrown playground and soccer field. The result is a new recreational area – Friendship Park – serving the host country's children. The park sign is written in both English and Arabic.

U.S. Central Command wanted the place the troops occupied to be left in better condition than they found it. The forces drilled a new well, built a school and park, and renovated the runway of what had been a military installation and prison. Most of the people in the area are Bedouin Arabs resettled after the 1967 war. Accustomed to a nomadic life, they had little contact with the outside world.

Bibles flowed in

The flow of Bibles into the country is a story about teamwork. Nigolian mentioned a shortage of Bibles to his wife, and she and a friend went out to area churches asking for help – prayer and Bibles. The churches sent cases of Bibles and literature, enough to supply Nigolian's bases and others with chapels. A visiting dignitary to whom Nigolian presented a briefing asked if he could do anything to help. Nigolian obtained permission to send 10 cases of Bibles and literature on the dignitary's jet to another base, a process other dignitaries followed on 15 subsequent visits.

Area churches also sent messages, snacks, food and sundries along with Bibles, and the process opened up a chance for the troops to e-mail church members back home.

"It all turned into quite a deal," he said. "During Girl Scout cookie season, I think I had more cookies than the Girl Scouts. I was in my tent one evening, when a young Security Forces troop came through all decked out in flak vest, helmet and weapons. She said, 'chaplain, do you have any cookies?' I took her over to where we had them stored. We gained quite a reputation for handing out cookies."

The base's chapel was a 4,000-square-foot tent shaped like a Quonset hut. Nigolian brought his guitar, sang and led the music for worship services. A former Air Force Tops in Blue performer assigned there had brought his electronic keyboard, a communications group set up a sound system, and "we got a great choir going," Nigolian said.

When the chaplain's nearly 30-year-old guitar, a Gibson Heritage worth about \$5,000, sat on the runway on a pallet in 104 degree heat for three days, its top cracked and its net warped. To his surprise, on his return home Nigolian found a luthier – a person who makes and repairs guitars and violins – five minutes from his home. The luthier didn't want to charge Nigolian, but the chaplain still paid him the \$25 it would have cost the Air Force.

EM works to balance fish populations in Scout Lake

By Lanorris Askew

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What to know

According to Bob Sargeant there's something fishy going on out at Scout Lake, but there's nothing to be concerned about.

The Environmental Management Conservation Team lead said a recent pond check indicated the fish population in the lake was significantly out of balance.

In order to remedy this situation, EM is temporarily reducing the lake to a fraction of its normal size to repopulate, leading to a healthier fishery.

According to Sargeant, this move will allow the predatory bass more access to the lake's overpopulated bream.

The bass numbers will be supplemented with additional stocking.

EM made the decision to make changes due to an overabundance of bream, a lack of larger bass and the presence of some undesirable competitive species such as crappie.

A pump located at the

Scout Lake is expected to reopen in May 2004 with a denser bass population. 400 permits per year are issued and Scout Lake is a big attraction for fishermen.

northeast corner of the lake began pumping water out of the lake Tuesday.

The pump, which reduces the lake's size by about 2,200 gallons a minute, should have completed its mission in a week.

"We estimated a few years ago that the lake holds about 30 million gallons of water," said Sargeant. "We are trying to take 10 million out in a relatively short period of time. The lake covers about 22 acres, and it will be brought down to 14 or 15 acres so there will be exposed lake bottom all around the fringe when done."

Sargeant said the Scout Lake has been closed for a lit-



U.S. Air Force photo by Krista Folsom

Scout Lake was restocked with bass recently. EM officials hope to balance the fish population by spring.

tle more than a year, and fishing will continue to be prohibited until spring.

The right balance

"The whole idea is to try to get the fish populations back into balance," he said. "There have been problems

maintaining a healthy fishery in that lake for the past few years. Once the repopulating is complete we'll give it a few months and over the winter to gradually expand back to its normal size through rainfall. We won't pump water back into the

lake if we can help it."

Though signs at the lake say "closed per environmental management," there is no contamination.

"The thing is, if we were to allow fishing out there right now, people would be pulling the bass out of the lake. We would be defeating the purpose of putting them in there," said Sargeant.

"We want to make sure that people understand that the bass will be available for them to capture in the spring when the lake is reopened, but in the meantime we need to make sure that we are protecting those bass because they are helping us to reconfigure the population balance in that lake.

"The only other choice was to drain the lake and kill all of the fish in the lake and then restock," he said.

"That is extreme and a last resort. We felt this was the best compromise to close lake for a year or so and see if we can bring it back into balance by putting more predators into it and shrinking it down."

The game plan

According to Sargeant, the long term plan is to fertilize the lake - similar to fertilizing a field - to improve the fish density and size.

EM will put fertilizer in the lake to promote phytoplankton development, which is the green tinge sometimes seen in lakes. This is eaten by zooplankton microscopic animals, which is in turn eaten by bluegill, increasing their numbers. Then, the bass eat the bluegill - it's a small portion of the food chain going on.

Many people may think a green tinged lake is bad, but it's just the opposite, according to Sargeant. It means you have a healthy fishery versus a clear lake where there are no nutrients in the water column and the bottom of the food chain is missing.

All three of Robins' lakes are man made, and some have little nutrient inflow.

Duck Lake tends to have the healthiest fishery because it is fed by three streams and has nutrient inflow.

STRIPES

Continued from 1A

sense. If this training is essential for military leaders of enlisted personnel, then, it only stands to reason that the civilians in leadership positions need the training, too."

Paula MacLeod, a contract specialist with the Center's contracting directorate, was chosen from a field of her peers at Robins, and is scheduled to be the first civilian to graduate from the academy Dec. 11.

"I think this will be helpful," said the 27-year-old Alabama native. "For example - last week we went over leadership. I had seen it before, but only because I'm working on my master's degree. Civilian employees don't get this type of training until they're at the GS-12 and 13 level, so the military is kind of ahead of us in that respect."

The six-week course of instruction covers everything from leadership and writing enlisted performance reports to physical conditioning, counseling and drill and ceremony.

Tech. Sgt. Mark Tolston, a fellow stu-

dent who works in the FA-22 program at Lockheed Martin, said having civilians in the program is a positive move.

"She's getting training on counseling," he said. "She's learning the best way to write (evaluations), and getting some insight into writing bullet statements. If she's going to be supervising enlisted personnel, it's good that she's learning this stuff."

Tech. Sgt. Paul Roby, with the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, agreed and said the benefits go both ways.

"She's teaching us a whole lot that we wouldn't be getting if she weren't in the class as well," he said. "It's a real trade off of information."

Marisa F. Quiterio, who works in the Nuclear Weapons Directorate at Kirtland, is reaping the same trade off of information as MacLeod, according to Chief Master Sgt. Steve Sargeant, Kirtland NCOA commandant.

"The interaction between the students and civilian is fantastic," he stated in an e-mail correspondence. "If it wasn't for the the obvious absence of a uniform, her presence would be transparent."

"I have to admit it was a bit strange seeing Ms. Quiterio standing in formation during retreat," he added. "But I also concede she had one of the sharper salutes. I give her a lot of credit, her enthusiasm is unmatched and her deter-

mination to experience everything her military counterparts do is phenomenal. I am proud of her commitment and service."

Justice said that although the education phase is the same, there are some things that are different for the civilians attending the course.

"Within the confines of this course there are some things civilians aren't required to do - physical conditioning, command inspections and drill and ceremony," he said. "It's my hope and my expectation that they will voluntarily take on the full experience. She's doing it all."

Justice added that the modifications to the course were minimal.

"There were a few minor modifications to in-processing," he said. "The rules for using the fitness center are different for civilians. We also addressed the instructors. We had to adjust our teaching lingo so that it fits both the military and the civilians."

According to Sargeant, the program will allow civilians to reap the benefit of world class leadership and management training as well as gain a tremendous insight on the enlisted corps.

"I realize this is only the first of seven classes used for the test," he stated. "But if this is any indication of what's to come, we have a new way of developing our civilian leadership in the future."

Got news? E-mail the Rev-Up at Robins.revup@robins.af.mil



Justice

EXERCISE

Continued from 1A

Combat Training Squadron's Red Flag exercise in a mock war over southern Nevada on the Nellis Air Force Range Complex. Red Flag is a realistic combat training exercise held three to four times a year that involves the air forces of the United States and its allies.

"Red Flag's a big deal, but it's an especially big deal for us because this was the first exercise of the newly formed 128th ACCS," said Lt. Col. George Riebling, unit commander. "We just started flying our own operational sorties Oct. 1, and this was our first deployment where we took the squadron out of town to support an Air Force combat training exercise."

When the 128th was activated Oct. 1, 2002, the squadron "stood down" for a year to give it time to build up, rewrite processes, restructure the organization, and build up its number of qualified Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar Systems crewmembers assigned to the unit, said Riebling.

"Oct. 1 was a proud day for the 128th," the colonel said. "Until this point we had been flying with our sister organizations, the 12th and 16th ACCS, now we had our own lines on the flying schedule."

"To see the 'Razor 81' call sign take off and then using the 'Alley cat' call sign in the back of the jet...it was a real feeling of pride for all unit members."

A typical Red Flag exercise involves a variety of attack, fighter, bomber, reconnaissance, electronic warfare, air superiority, airlift support, search and rescue, and aerial refueling aircraft. The E-3AB/C Airborne Warning and Control System and E-8C JSTARS aircraft play a significant role in the training by using their unique radar capabilities to monitor and support many aspects of the exercise.

"The environment was very fast-paced, dynamic and concentrated," said Maj. Jan "Chewy" Bacca, sensor management officer. "It was a great opportunity to learn how we (JSTARS) fit into the battlefield."

Maintainers and crewmembers repeatedly demonstrated their abilities by meeting the requirements of each Red Flag scenario.

"We had a good crew that clicked together and wanted to learn," said 1st Lt. Mark "Exxon" Valdez, sensor management officer. "The people had their priorities straight. It's easier when people want to work together for the good

of the mission."

Wing officials agreed that Red Flag was an excellent opportunity to educate the Combined Air Operations Center on the capabilities of JSTARS.

"Red Flag is about the best

training you can get outside of actually going to war. It helps units prepare for future operations and deployments," said Riebling. "It allowed us the opportunity to work with a wide variety of assets at the same time in an intensive

training environment.

"Seeing the 128th go from a very small unit, with not even one crew of JSTARS warriors to three-plus crews, flying in a major exercise like Red Flag is a tremendous feeling of pride."

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raffield
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Civilian personnel system changes long overdue

By Michael O'Hara
WR-ALC
Civilian personnel director

Several weeks ago I reported that the Secretary of Defense had advanced a number of proposals to reform and streamline the personnel management system within the Department of Defense. At that time, his proposal was just that - a legislative proposal.



O'Hara

Subsequently, the proposal weathered the legislative review necessary to affect it into law.

Naturally, that process of vetting has generated some changes. I am happy to say though that the fundamentals necessary to precipitate transformational change in the way

we manage the DoD workforce remain in tact. Changes that I personally believe were long overdue and absolutely necessary to ensure the competitiveness of the organic work force in the 21st Century. Naturally, the day-to-day impact of this sweeping change to our human capital management system will be spelled out within implementing instructions and policies. However, this is what I see coming as result of this much needed legislation:

■ **Pay banding for virtually the entire DoD work force** - This will both reduce contentious disagreements on position classification and provide for a more competitive environment whereby our most creative and productive employees are recognized.

■ **Pay for performance** - This based on some fundamental changes to the way employees are appraised and monetary and other recognition of the best of our best.

It is true that "automatic raises" will become largely a thing of the past. Naturally, this connotes risk. However, I believe the competitive challenges we now face, demand that our leaders, and indeed our work force, engage in measured risk taking.

■ **The institutionalization of Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay** as both a force shaping tool and means to mitigate the effects of Reduction in Force. The authority is sorely needed, particularly in light of the fact that 40 to 50 percent of the DoD civilian workforce will be eligible to retire within the next four years.

■ **The ability to re-employ retired employees without requiring an offset of their annuity.** This is a wonderful tool which will allow management to "bridge the gap" between the large number of new and junior employees we will need and those seasoned individuals

who desire to retire. A great tool to promote training and mentoring.

■ **The establishment of a human capital performance fund to reward the highest performing and most valuable employees.** The fund is authorized and appropriation of \$500,000,000 authorized for fiscal year 2004 to support this initiative. This is another incentive which allows for greater recognition of those members of our workforce whose contributions clearly distinguish them as being the "best of the best."

■ **Simplification of both our staffing and reduction in force processes.** These steps are being designed to both expedite the processes and ensure the outcomes are better understood by our work force and the general public.

■ **The establishment of an intra-DoD appellate review board to review adverse action involving suspension of more than 14 days**

up to and including removal. The goal is to promote both timely and fair decisions on employee appeals. Limited review from the Merit Systems Protection Board would be available if sought by the employee on his/her representative.

■ **The option of national consultation/negotiation between the office of Secretary of Defense and recognized labor unions.** In this instance, the hope is to establish more consistent contractual provisions across the Department to both reduce confusion and cost.

Naturally, there's much to be said on these exciting and long-needed reforms. As the picture becomes clearer through issuance of policy and implementing instructions, I will make sure you are informed. Change is inevitable; that is not in question. The only issue that remains is how we manage it and make it work to the advantage of the Air Force and Robins Air Force Base.

Q&A with Lt. Col. Carl Unholz Jr.

78th Communications Squadron commander

What would you like to start out telling us about the 78th Communications Squadron?

Well, first I think our diverse mission surprises most people. Sure we do the network, telephones, and radios; but we also do the airfield communications, landing, and weather systems including a radar site in Jeffersonville, Ga.

We also have the information technology equipment warehouse, postal, records management to include Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act, base operators, photography, graphics, COMSEC, and public address to name a few of our missions.

A couple of intended "mission omissions" are the message center and technical order warehouse. We used to split our customer support between the help desk and the message center.

Due to the advent of the defense message system, the help desk stood up 24 hours, seven days a week Oct. 1 and the message center will be phased out on Dec. 31. For the TO warehouse, we're

close to finalizing a transfer to the Logistics Directorate as part of an effort to consolidate TO activities and responsibility.

How does the WR-ALC Information Technology Directorate standup change the communications business in your opinion?

The IT standup is an important step for Robins and its ability to advance operations and work smarter. Responsive communication by computers on the network is no longer a luxury but an absolute necessity for mission accomplishment.

With the advent of IT, the comm squadron will take on primarily an "execution" role and will continue to ensure we're getting the most out of our base infrastructure. We will continue to execute the base operating support and deployment functions under the 78th Air Base Wing but will also act as a "subcontractor" for IT in many ways as our missions are essentially intertwined as we attempt to bring our customers optimal IT solutions and service.

How will the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection impact the squadron?

Good question. Technically you don't prepare for an ORI, you train and prepare to do your mission. The ORI is just a measure of your unit's ability to fulfill that mission. The comm squadron is in a daily battle to defend our systems and is well-practiced in this role.

I'm happy to report we're not as rehearsed at responding to all possible outages so we'll continue to review and practice the applicable procedures. The squadron has a large military population and while we are deploying personnel regularly, our daily mission of providing base communications does not include practicing our wartime skills.

We're making sure we give our troops sufficient training opportunities, again, to make sure they're ready for their real-world taskings and, consequently, the ORI.

We've talked much about the systems and ser-

vices, tell us about the people of your unit.

I can't tell you how grateful I am to the men and women of this squadron. No matter what the challenge, they always give me their best.

We have a tough mission when you look at the sheer volume of customers on this mega-installation. You add in the criticality of the missions across this base and my folks find themselves in a perpetual hot seat. They're barraged with the constant change of technology, changing requirements, deployment taskings, and the challenges of tired equipment. Many of their heroic acts go completely undetected by the customer.

Our unit funding over the last several years has only provided for the basic comm services with little investment in our infrastructure outside of CITS. The people of this squadron continue to amaze me daily in their ability to attain performance levels and metrics that far exceed our funding. I'm immensely proud to be affiliated with these consummate professionals who essentially keep the nervous center of this base working at maximum capacity.

Is there anything else significant in the works or

on the horizon for the squadron?

We're on the verge of wrapping up the CITS or combat information transport system phase II upgrade that included the install of a GigaByte backbone, greatly increased network reliability, and the ten-fold processing speed improvement to 273 buildings.

We had a delay due to a design flaw that left one network node unable to handle the volume of traffic in building 300. However, recent testing shows steps taken to remedy this situation have been successful so we expect to close the 2-year \$13 million project in a matter of days.

Another project receiving some finishing touches is the base' wireless LAN. We assumed responsibility for this capability from the MA community and have put it through a couple upgrades to meet changing Air Force policies. We're just a couple weeks from having one of the largest security policy compliant wireless networks in the Air Force. For those who don't know, Robins has also been chosen as one of Air Force Materiel Command's four regional network service providers. This means the comm squadron will be providing network services to

Robins, Eglin, Gunter, and Arnold Air Force Bases. The project is awaiting completion of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base regional hub and will likely come to fruition in fiscal 2005.

Have you any last thoughts you'd like to share with us?

First, the recent virus attacks have taught us that our standard boundary virus checking, that has been so successful over the last couple years, is not sufficient against all the new strains being developed and released on the Internet.

I'm grateful to the computer support personnel across the base for being cooperative, helping us secure Robins, and for keeping the base running when others have been crippled.

Finally, my time as the comm squadron commander will come to an end next summer. Fortunately for me, my leadership has agreed to have me stay on with IT as Mr. Alan Mathis' deputy. I'm extremely happy to be able to be given the opportunity to continue my affiliation with the men and women of the comm squadron, support Mr. Mathis in the important business of implementing IT, and continue working with the great people here!

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

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



Commander's Action Line

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

Col. Tom Smoot
Commander,
78th Air Base Wing



following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action

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

Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage at <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response. Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be

Can Robins get prescription refills by phone system?

Langley Air Force Base, Va., has a system to refill prescriptions by phone. There was also a space by the BX where refills could be picked up, and it was primarily manned by volunteers. Any chance a phone refill system could be implemented at Robins?

Col. Smoot replies: Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this high interest question. The Robins Pharmacy has used a "bank teller" concept for refills for several years. This method has provided the following advantages over a phone-in refill service:

- Problems with prescription refills can be worked with the patient immediately
- Possibilities of errors are lessened with a one-on-one encounter
- Long lines for refill pick up are avoided
- Large storage areas for called-in prescriptions are avoided
- A true active duty priority can be provided with this method
- Waiting times can be controlled during minimum manning situations

Our method has served us well through the years. The Robins Pharmacy has consistently maintained one of the lowest patient waiting times and error rates in the Air Force.

Additionally, the Robins Pharmacy offers a refill service through the 78th Medical Group Web site which can be accessed by military computers.

Beginning this week, the entire system of prescription processing will change with the change to PharmAssist. PharmAssist is an Air Force mandated system, which is not intended to reduce waiting times, but rather decrease the possibility of error.

Changes in the way our Pharmacy does business are expected, including the possible addition of a phone-in refill service. Waiting times during the installation of the new system are expected to reach as much as two hours. Detailed information will be provided to patients as the new changes are implemented.



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Air Force retires first C-5 Galaxy

recycle

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

The first C-5 Galaxy aircraft retired its wings from the Air Force inventory Nov. 4.

The cargo aircraft, bearing tail number 700458, was delivered Nov. 11 to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC) at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

Maintainers at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. prepared the Lackland Air Force Base, Texas-based aircraft for long-term storage.

Although Robins has performed program depot maintenance on many aircraft in the C-5 fleet, the retired aircraft last underwent depot maintenance at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, and never came to Robins for maintenance, said Al Fatkin, Strategic Airlift Directorate deputy director here.

The gigantic C-5 is an out-sized cargo-transport that provides Air Mobility Command officials intertheater airlift supporting U.S. national defense.

It has the capability to carry fully equipped, combat-ready military units to any point in the world on short notice, officials said.

A total of 14 C-5s Air Force-wide are scheduled to retire from the fleet during 2004-2005, with 13 bound

for the AMARC.

One of the retired aircraft will be retained at Robins for study purposes, said Fatkin.

"One of the retired C-5s will be kept at Robins to conduct a tear-down analysis and inspection to assess the viability of the remaining 60 A-Model aircraft in the fleet," he said.

In addition to the A-models, the Air Force operates and maintains 50 C-5Bs.

The analysis will take an estimated two years to complete, Fatkin said.

Travis will retire up to four aircraft by the end of 2004, reducing the total number of assigned C-5s at the base to 33, including 8 A-models.

"This event is historic because it marks the future of air mobility. Retiring the older C-5s is paving the way for the modernization of the C-5 fleet and the beddown of C-17 (Globemaster IIIs) at Travis Air Force Base by 2007," said Col. Steven Miller, 60th Operations Group commander.

Editor's Note: Capt. Angela Smith, 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this article.



U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt Beth Tucker

The first C-5 Galaxy to retire lands at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Nov. 4.

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ellen's
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gold's
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lenn
58710701

fickling
58807801

sun
58812801

theater
58704401

Maintainers get cold, hard cash for money-saving IDEAs

■ Employees save AF nearly \$700,000

By Lisa Mathews

lisa.mathews@robins.af.mil

Workers in two divisions of the Maintenance Directorate submitted three money-saving IDEAs and were rewarded with a total of \$30,000 in return.

An IDEA submitted by James Broadnax, who works in the Commodities and Industrial Products Division, resulted in \$83,244.28 being refunded to the Air Force. He was awarded \$10,000.

Broadnax discovered that Lockheed had over charged the Air Force for parts used on the C-130 outer flap trailing edge.

"We had been getting the part for \$3,000 to \$4,000. Then I noticed it went from that price up to \$29,000, and I said, 'Something's wrong here,'" Broadnax said.

Broadnax submitted a zero overpricing challenge, and this resulted in the refund to the Air Force. His ZOP was approved and then submitted to the IDEA Office as a confirmatory idea.

Eleazar Elizalde, who also works in MAN, received a \$10,000 award when he discovered a way to repair a part that had previously been discarded.

Elizalde was assigned to the machine shop when he first arrived at Robins following the closure of Kelly Air Force Base, Texas. He said that when he was working on hinges he noticed that small holes were repaired but larger ones were not.

He took the initiative to work with one of the hinges to see if they could be salvaged. He bore out the larger hole and brushing it with a beryllium copper bushing to make the hole the correct size.

"I did some intense investigation as to how much the part costs and found out that each part costs more than \$1,200," Elizalde said. "I took it upon myself to save all those parts rather than discarding them. I turned in the suggestion and I told them how many hinges I had saved and at what cost."

"It took a while, because it had to go to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., because those bases had to approve it too," he said.

Elizalde's repair IDEA saved the Air Force \$395,712.

In the Avionics and Instruments Division, a team of six employees submitted an IDEA that would result in first-year savings to the Air Force of \$215,187. The team consisted of John Ycaza, Harris Jones, Mike Mullaney, Jerry Walker, Brent Baumgartner and Robert Bird.

The group found that the radio frequency absorber foam used to isolate circuit cards



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

From left to right, John Ycaza, Mike Mullaney, Brent Baumgartner, Jerry Walker, Bob Bird and Harris Jones (not pictured) saved the Air Force more than \$200,000 with their IDEA.



Broadnax



Elizalde

from radio frequency interference was flaking and causing destructive corrosion and short-circuiting the cards. The cards are part of the ALQ-153

analog data signal processor.

The team worked together to determine the cause and to come up with a replacement for the absorbers, and received a \$10,000 award for their IDEA.

"I feel very proud to have worked with such a great group of people," said Ycaza, the team leader. "Harris Jones did testing, Mike Mullaney and Jerry Walker worked the antenna part of it, and Brent Baumgartner and Robert Bird did analysis."

What to know

Anyone with an idea that could save the government money can submit it through the IDEA program. If the idea is found to be within eligible guidelines, the submitter could be eligible for a monetary award. For more information on the program, visit the Robins Web site or contact Carol Norris or Susan Davis at 926-2536.

of what's going on in their surroundings, they can get some ideas," said Broadnax.

Baumgartner and Bird said that they have received awards before, but most were in the range of \$50.

"I would recommend that

everyone take their time to see areas that would help improve procedures and save parts that could be recycled or repaired,"

said Elizalde. "Not only as an IDEA, but it saves the Air Force thousands of dollars and that makes Robins look good."

Harris agreed with Ycaza, "I feel privileged to have taken part in this suggestion program with these people."

Most of the award winners are not new IDEA submitters. Most in fact have received awards before.

"I pay attention to a lot of stuff, and if people stay aware

waterford
58816501

new
58780401

geico
58815301

union
58703402

atl
58765301

beds
58730201

Unit pays tribute to past

By 2nd Lt. Pamela Montelepre
116th Air Control Wing
Public Affairs

from that mission.

Researchers uncovered several items documenting Walzel's military service, including correspondence between him and his mother. Two members of the 116th Air Control Wing read excerpts from recovered letters during the ceremony.

The 330th Combat Training Squadron's "Living History" exhibit was recently unveiled and a student learning resource center dedicated to Airman Sally Crosby, who died in an automobile accident last year, while an audience of family, friends and wing members looked on.

Dozens of graphic illustrations line the walls of the squadron providing a visual history of the unit dating back to World War II.

"I was asked to develop a theme which would greatly enrich our unit ... to motivate and increase the morale of our squadron members and all who visited," said 1st Lt. Greg Malone, deputy chief of current operations.

The display boards feature documents, letters, newspaper clippings, graphics, and photos from World War II, post WWII and the Cold War, and Joint Strategic Targeting Attack Radar System mission.

"This is a way for the unit to honor all of its members - past, present and future," said Lt. Col. Joseph Richardson, director of operations. "By looking back, we gain insight into who we are."

As part of the ceremony, two former members of the 330th were honored for their contributions to the unit - 1st Lt. Leland Walzel who was a bombardier for the 330th Bomb Squadron during WWII and Crosby.

"Sally was one of our fellow Raptors training to be an airborne operations technician," said Lt. Col. Stephen Barrett, CTS commander. "Unfortunately, Sally was tragically taken from us in an automobile accident one year ago.

"Sally's death was a defining moment for our squadron ... a moment to forge the true meaning of family and shape the character and image of our unit."

The learning center was dedicated to the young airman who had a deep and growing patriotism and who displayed a great love for her country, said Barrett.

According to historical information, Walzel was one of the unit's earliest members. He served in WWII and was killed during his 25th mission. He would have rotated back to the states if he had returned



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp
Lt. Col. Stephen Barrett, 330th CTS commander, looks at a flag that was flown in honor of Sally Crosby.



Airmen use the learning center that was dedicated to Sally Crosby. The young airman died in an automobile accident last year.

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ROBINS CLUBS

Aerospace Toastmasters meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the Contracting Directorate conference room, Building 300, west wing. For more information, contact Keith Dierking, 926-0420.

Robins' Voices International Training in Communication Club meets the first Thursday of each month at 11:45 a.m. in the special functions room of the base restaurant. For information on the communication organization, call Evelyn Fountain, 926-7429 or Nancy Kwiatkowski, 923-1752.

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 in the Rev-Up office, Building 215, Room 111, by e-mail at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil or by fax at 926-9597.



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Above, 1st Lt. Shunsuke Sasaguchi, left, and 1st Lt. David Drummond, a C-130 engineer, discuss how to repair simulated battle damage. Sasaguchi, a student from Komaki Air Base, Japan, participated in the three-week Japanese Air Self Defense Course offered by the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron. Below, students and instructors work together to repair simulated battle damage.

beyond borders

653rd CLSS lends a hand to Japanese students

By Lanorris Askew

lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

The Battle Damage Doctors of the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron are lending more than just a helping hand to ailing aircraft; they are reaching across the Pacific Ocean to share with their Japanese military counterparts.

Today ended a three-week course of study in Aircraft Battle Damage Repair for five Japanese Air Force members.

The students, from Komaki Air Base and Hamamatsu Air Base, Japan completed the Japanese Air Self Defense Course under the supervision of Tech. Sgts. Dennis Perine and Henry Hayes.

Perine, lead instructor for the course, said the purpose of the training was to assist the students in setting a foundation for building an ABDR program for their own units.

"This is the first time the 653rd CLSS has provided training to a foreign country," he said. "The units these students come from do not have wartime experience or ABDR programs, so they are trying to set the foundation for building a program for wartime situations."

Hayes, also an instructor, said the training and the tasks accomplished exceeded expectations.

Capt. Yo Akagi, maintenance officer from Komaki Air Base, Japan said this is her fourth trip to the U.S., but she has

What to know

Komaki Air Base, Japan, is a C-130 base and Hamamatsu Air Base, Japan is an F-15 Base.

During the three-week training, students attended a total of four courses: an Aircraft Battle Damage Repair Journeyman course, an ABDR general assessor course, an ABDR Specific F-15 assessor course and an ABDR specific C-130 assessor course. The courses included classroom training on how to assess and repair battle damaged aircraft and the techniques and theory on doing that. Then they got hands-on training. The students received a certificate of completion from each of the courses.

The students will take the information back to their respective bases to begin an ABDR program.

never had an experience like this one.

"I have no chance to repair the aircraft," she said. "So it was the first time for me to repair the real fuselage of the aircraft."

Akagi said though the work was a little bit difficult, it was interesting.

"I like to have new experiences, and in America I can learn many things," she said. "I feel that since (the first



Capt. Yo Akagi, left, and Tech. Sgt. Makio Kinugasa practice patching a hole. Today marks the end of their training at Robins.

time) I came to the United States, every time (I return) I can learn many things from Americans."

Tech. Sgt. Yoshihiro Kamada, Airplane General from Hamamatsu Air Base, Japan, said this was his second trip to the U.S.

"In Japan, the Japanese Air Force does not have actual war experience, so we have to learn from the United States

Air Force," he said. "We just perform peacetime maintenance."

Perine said although this was the 653rd's first participation in this sort of training, they are looking forward to doing it again.

"There are other countries taking an interest in the ABDR program because of the contingencies that are currently taking place," he said. "There are a lot of countries and other branches of our own military that don't have this program."

Jerry Lewis, Japanese country manager of the F-15 International Programs Division, said this is a win-win situation.

"It's a big advantage to the United States to have our strong allies capable of doing this type of repair work because if they can do ABDR, then they can deploy troops into the zones to assist us," he said.

According to Lewis, the program is an Air Force Security Assistance & Training initiative at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and the students are here on invitational orders. Previously the training program was restricted to U.S. Air Force students only.

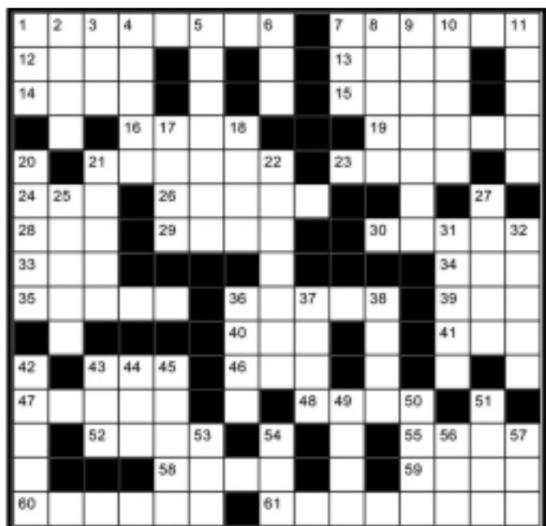
"During the hands-on portion we were very impressed with the skill of each student," said Hayes. "Although officers typically don't perform maintenance, the way they carried out their business was very precise and their willingness to learn was outstanding."

"It's a big advantage to the United States to have our strong allies capable of doing this type of repair work because if they can do ABDR, then they can deploy troops into the zones to assist us."

Jerry Lewis

Japanese country manager of the F-15 International Programs Division

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Northern Lights

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

ACROSS

1. PACOM exercise _____ Edge
7. Region northern Alaska is part of
12. Fencing sword
13. Part
14. Letter opener?
15. Chinese seed used for healing
16. Track
19. Intelligent
21. Popular Alaska fish
23. Arrival times (abbrev.)
24. Pie _____ mode
26. Type of bear found in Alaska
28. Ride home?
29. AFB in Korea
30. Second letters of Greek alphabet
33. Oxygen
34. Persona
35. Famous psychiatrist
36. Even
39. Lord of the Rings person
40. Shoe size
41. British afternoon drink
43. NBA Basketball executive _____ Jackson
46. "City of a thousand and one churches"; ancient Armenian town
47. Bravery
48. Built an arc
52. Holes
55. Mocked
58. Saga
59. Late show host
60. Northern Light; _____ Borealis
61. NAF for Alaska

- of The Crying Game
4. _____ firma; solid earth
5. Native Americans in northern Alaska
6. Bother
7. Part of a circle
8. Nest
9. Weather condition
10. State established on December 29, 1845
11. Talks
17. Pet food maker
18. 1999 movie Run _____ Run
20. MAJCOM responsible for AK
21. Fencing sword
22. Sturdy yellow or buff cotton cloth
25. Dens
27. F-15 _____
31. Under Secretary of the Air Force Peter _____
32. Couches
36. Shakespeare play King _____
37. Vessel used to carry used blood to the heart
38. Singer Ford
42. Eighth letter of the Greek alphabet
43. Tree residue
44. Three
45. State
49. Shrek was one
50. Revolutionary martyr Nathan _____
51. Let
53. Resort
54. Frozen water
56. Writing tool
57. Homer saying on The Simpsons

DOWN

1. Homer's neighbor on The Simpsons
2. Ajar
3. Actor Stephen _____

For puzzle solution, see Nov. 26 edition of the Rev-Up

Puzzle solution for Nov. 14



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 Macon synagogue. **Islamic Friday Prayer** (Jumua) Fridays at 2 p.m. in the chapel annex Rooms 1 and 2.

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

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

Family Support Center sponsored classes, workshops and seminars are open to all Team Robins employees 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.

Family day

The FSC will hold a Family Day celebration open house Monday, 2 - 4 p.m.

The center staff would like to take the opportunity to thank the entire Team Robins personnel for all the support the center has been given during this past year.

Center closed

The FSC and Family Services loan closet and Airman's Attic will be closed Thursday and Nov. 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Personal financial fitness

The center has a CD-ROM on Personal Financial Management. The series has been developed to educate military personnel, their spouses, and youth on financial issues relevant to their day-to-day lives. This self-paced series introduces basic financial tools.

Call the center at 926-1256 for a computer time to watch the series.

Employment assistance

A Georgia Department of Labor Veterans Service Specialist in the Family Support Center is available to assist veterans or personnel within 180 days of leaving the military with their job search.

For more information, call Jack Tooley at 929-6801.

Base tour

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a Base Tour for all Team Robins members and their eligible family members Dec. 3, 1 - 3 p.m. Meet at the Enlisted Club.

The tour is designed to help the newcomers become acclimated with the base.

Sponsorship training

The Center's Relocation Assistance Program will offer training for both beginner and experienced sponsors Dec. 3, 9 - 11 a.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 responsibilities to the newly assigned member and their family, if applicable.

Marketing Yourself for a Second Career

There will be a lecture, Dec. 5, 9 - 11:30 a.m., Base Theater, for officers and senior noncommissioned officers who plan to leave the service in the next one to five years. The lecture will cover: competition for finding a job; perceptions civilian employers have of military personnel; resumes and cover letters; how employers read your resume; networking; preparing for a successful interview; and salary and benefit negotiations.

UNISERV Thrift savings plan briefing

The Personal Financial Management program is offering a briefing on UNISERV Thrift Saving Plan Dec. 6, 1 - 2:30 p.m., Building 905, Room 127. Uniformed service members are now eligible to enroll in the TSP. More information can be found at www.tsp.gov.

TAP workshop

The next three-day Department of Labor sponsored Transition Assistance Program workshop is Dec. 8-10, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. each day, Smith Community Center Ballroom. Personnel leaving the military within the next six months need to sign up as soon as possible.

STREAMING VIDEO



ROBINS REPORT

News from around the base - Watson and Cox Channel 15

- Friday** - 8 p.m.
- Sunday** - 1:30 p.m.
- Monday** - noon

MOVIE SCHEDULE

Friday
7:30 p.m. - **Intolerable Cruelty** - George Clooney, and Catherine Zeta-Jones

Miles, a divorce lawyer nearing a midlife crisis meets his match in his client's gold-digging wife, Marilyn. He's impressed by her similarly heartless ways of using marriage to fuel an expensive lifestyle, but he still defeats her in court. With Marilyn looking to get her revenge and Miles finding himself attracted to her, the two engage in a ruthless romantic pursuit to out-swindle each other.

Rated PG-13 (sexual content, language and brief violence) 100 minutes

Saturday
7:30 p.m. - **Under the Tuscan Sun** - Diane Lane and Sandra Oh



An American lawyer (Lane) quits her stressful job and travels to Tuscany, Italy looking for a new life, deciding to buy a derelict villa near the village of Cortona. While rebuilding her new home and learning how to live in another country, she finds a new start on life... and love (Bova).

Rated PG-13 (sexual content and language) 113 minutes

SERVICES BRIEFS

Base Restaurant 926-6972

A Thanksgiving carry-out special will be available that includes a 15 pound turkey, 8 pounds of cornbread dressing, half-pan of mashed potatoes, half-pan of green beans, one quart of giblet gravy and one quart of cranberry sauce for \$45.95. Orders will be taken through today. To place an order or for more information, call 926-3031 or 926-6972.

A renovation project to improve the facility will begin at the end of the month. During this period, cafeteria-type meals, fried chicken, deli-bar, salad bar, burger bar and breakfast to order will be offered.

Civilian Recreation

922-4415

The Civilian Recreation canned food drive begins Monday and runs through Dec. 19. Each year donations are used for holiday food baskets distributed to families of Robins. Collection boxes will be placed throughout Services facilities. Collection boxes for other areas can be placed upon request. For more information,

contact Lynne Brackett, civilian recreation manager, at 922-4415.

Family Night Bingo will be 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, limit 3 packages per person. Children receive a prize when they purchase their packs.

Fitness Center 926-2128

Beginning Saturday, the Fitness Center weekend hours will be 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Information, Tickets and Travel 926-0093

The Armed Forces Vacations Club leases condominiums for \$249 a week in various locations around the world. For more details, stop by ITT or go to www.afvclub.com. The Robins AFVC installation number is 79.

Officers' Club

926-2670

Tickets are on sale now for the

Thanksgiving buffet Thursday, noon - 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$13 for adults and \$6.95 for children ages 6 - 12.

Smith Community Center 926-2105

Play table tennis at the community center ballroom Thursdays, 5-7 p.m. Matches consist of the best of three, 11-point, games.

Wynn Dining Facility 926-6596

All active duty and retired military members and their families are invited to a Thanksgiving meal at Wynn Dining Facility Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For a look at the menu, visit www.robins.af.mil/services and go to Food Service. Military members who do not live in the dorms are asked to notify the dining hall no later than Monday if planning to dine so food may be prepared accordingly. For a look at the menu, visit the Services Web Site at www.robins.af.mil/services go to Food Service and click on the Thanksgiving Menu.

Got news for the Rev-Up?

Call us at 926-2137.
E-mail us at Robins.Revup@robins.af.mil.
Fax us at 926-9597

SPORTS BRIEFS

Fitness Center 926-2128

An Air Force Fitness Program forum will be held Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Smith Community Center. Topics include: running clinic, injury prevention, sports nutrition, components of fitness and assessment and templates for squadron physical training. Wear exercise attire to meeting. For more information, call Jackline Baker at 926-2128.

A blood pressure screening will be conducted Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

A turkey trot 5K run will be held Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. in front of the Wellness Center. Sign up sheets will be at the front desk of the fitness center for participants to predict their time.

Golf Course 926-4103

A turkey scramble is slated for Saturday with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. A four-person net scramble with a minimum handicap of 48. Cost is \$25 AGF, \$40 guests.

ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

Hail and Farewell

A Hail and Farewell, conducted by Maj. Gen. Donald J. Wetekam, Center commander, is today at 4 p.m. in the Officers' Club ballroom. Spouses are invited to attend the event and fellowship that follows. For more information, contact Capt. Rob Kurtz at 926-7963 extension 139 or Capt. Carrie Solorzano at 472-1605.

Commissary hours

The commissary will operate on the following schedule: Saturday and Monday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Nov. 27, closed; Nov. 28, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Nov. 29, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Nov. 30, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

MPF extended hours

The Military Flight Personnel will be open Saturday and Dec. 13, 10 a.m. - noon. For more information, e-mail shondrell.edwards@robins.af.mil or call 327-7361/62/63.

Holiday recycling pick-up schedule

Holiday recycling pick-up for Turner Park residents will be Nov. 26, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. If you have any questions, call the housing office at 926-3776.

Holiday vacancy announcement schedule

The closing date for vacancy announcements,

which open during the holiday season, will be extended as follows due to energy days and Federal holidays.

Thanksgiving - open: Nov. 21 - close: Dec. 1; open: Nov. 28 - close: Dec. 8

Christmas - open: Dec. 19 - close: Jan. 5; open: Dec. 26 - close: Jan. 8

New Years - open: Jan. 2 - close: Jan. 9

The regular schedule will resume Jan. 9.

School board meeting

Robins Air Force Base school board will meet 4 p.m. Dec. 2 at Robins Elementary School, Building 988. Public is invited.

Optometry Clinic to limit December appointments

The 78th Medical Group Optometry Clinic will limit dependent and retirement examinations to a space-available basis in December because of staff limitations. Space available appointments open when active-duty beneficiaries cancel. Staffing will return to normal in January. Military dependents and retirees should contact Central Appointments at 327-7850 to ask about cancelled appointments.

Blue Cross Blue Shield representative

A Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia representative

will be in Building 255 Dec. 3 - 4. The representative will be available from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Appointments will be in 15-minute increments. To make an appointment, call 404-923-3180 or e-mail fep-info@bcbsga.com, and leave your phone number and e-mail address so that your appointment can be confirmed. Workload permitting, employees may be excused for up to 1 hour, portal to portal, to meet with the representative. If you have any questions, contact your servicing Employee Relations Specialist at 926-5802/0677.

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Making it work

Dual military couples find solutions to marriage challenges

Dual military couples share not only a commitment to each other, but also a commitment to service. Today's article is the last in a three-part series that looks at how dual military couples, with differing life challenges and military careers at Robins are making their marriages work.

By Holly J. Logan

holly.logan@robins.af.mil

Challenges may come and go, but these couples have found solutions that help them battle the waves and go with the flow.

Taking care of you

Although time isn't always found in abundance, Staff Sgts. Christopher and Stephanie McCleskey have found ways to make it count.

"We spend as much time together as we can," she said. "We have family nights where we'll play a game instead of watching a movie, or go out to eat together. We try to vary things so it doesn't get monotonous."

When challenges of any nature come up, Stephanie McCleskey said it's always good to know the Air Force has support services to help.

"It's always good to know where to get help when you need it," she said. "The Family Support Center is great. They let you know about services available and what your first sergeant can do for you. They really take care of you."

When McCleskey gave birth, her husband was away on temporary duty. But with the couple's planning, Chris McCleskey will be present for his second child's birth expected in March.

"I was really scared when Calloway was born," she said. "I was so pregnant and couldn't do a lot. I really wanted Chris to be there. This time, we planned it so he could be there."

The right attitude

No matter what challenge lies ahead, 2nd Lt. Camille LaDrew said having the right attitude makes a world of difference.

"You just take things as they come," she said. "It comes, and you deal with it - whatever it is. After a while, things become less of a challenge. You have to figure out what works for you."

Give and take

Finding a solution to the challenge of taking care of their two daughters meant a career change for Maj. David Omstead.

"When we found out Barbara was pregnant with Katharine Eva, we decided one of us had to get out of the Air Force in order to keep up with the kids," he explained. "I was more than ready to get out, so I left active duty in 1999."

Omstead still retains his reserve commission. The couple said in their nearly 10 years of marriage, they're learning to master the art of give and take.

"It's about give and take," she said. "I can focus on my career now, and he can go back to his active duty military career later if he chooses."

Solid as a rock

Couples, like Tech. Sgts. Roderic and Claudia Lowe, who may not have the option of changing careers to provide for family needs, rely on a solid family care plan to help carry the load.

"We have family in the area who can help with the kids," he said. "We work together to make the best situation for the kids. We have to

Part

3

Dual
Military
Couples



Advice

"You need to look at the total picture. Don't get caught up in infatuation. Face reality. There may be some adjustments to be made, and it's important to recognize that."

- Tech. Sgt. Roderic Lowe

"Be fully aware of the benefits and entitlements offered by the U.S. Air Force system. Know that if hardship or conflict hits, you will deploy. Remember what you're committed to; the mission comes first."

- Tech. Sgt. Claudia Lowe

"You should learn as much as you can about each other's job."

- Staff Sgts. Christopher and Stephanie McCleskey

"Put everything you can on an automatic bill pay. It's more convenient when both of you are eligible for deployment."

- 2nd Lt. Camille and Capt. Mark LaDrew

do what's best for them - and our needs can come later."

Lowe said having her sister nearby has helped her manage family responsibilities when her husband is deployed.

"If I need assistance, she's good support," she said. "We

work together to make sure appointments aren't missed and the kids are off to school. I was a single parent for a long time and I can handle it, but it's good having my sister around to help when Roderic can't be here."

Even the most traditional families are prone to conflict. But Lowe said open communication helps her family stay together.

"We have regular family meetings to keep our communication in check and stay close as a family," she said. "If we have a problem, we talk it out. It really helps that we have a harmonious family and get along."

The Lowes said Family Support Center programs and working together to plan ahead has helped them.

"Roderic created a wonderful spreadsheet that holds all of our billing information, so if he's gone or I'm gone, we both know how the bills need to be paid on time and we can keep things at the house working smoothly," she said.

Whether in uniform or civilian clothing, newlywed or years beyond the honeymoon, marriage is about two people committed to making it work against all odds.

Curious about the new fitness standards?

Go to Air Force Link at www.af.mil, and click on the New Fitness Charts icon.



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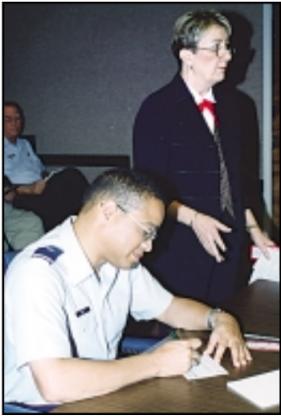
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Recycle for the future



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp



U.S. Air Force photo by Ed Hawkins
Top, Bill Mitchell stops by a display at the BX Friday to learn more about recycling.

Robins joined fellow Americans by celebrating the 7th annual America Recycles Day Nov. 15. Environmental Management and Maintenance employees provided a recycling display at the Base Exchange where they promoted recycling efforts at Robins. They also asked patrons to pledge to increase their recycling efforts and to purchase more products

made from recycled materials. Robins closed out fiscal 2003 by recycling 53 percent of the solid waste. The base participates in a Qualified Recycling Program, which aims to recycle as much of the municipal solid waste stream as possible. For questions or concerns about solid waste reduction and recycling, call WR-ALC/EMP at 926-1197 extension 137/138.

Above, Brig. Gen. Darryl Scott pledges to recycle more and to buy more products from recycled materials as Linda Larson from EM stands in the background. High-grade paper, mixed-grade paper, newspaper, cardboard, aluminum cans and plastic drink bottles can be recycled in all Robins work areas.

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