



C-5 study to determine aircraft's viability

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ROBINS RevUp



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Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Holiday lights



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

The annual Robins Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was held Wednesday in front of the chapel. Col. Tom Smoot, commander of the 78th Air Base Wing, with the help of some children threw the switch lighting the tall pine, above, that for two decades has stood as a symbol of the season. Right, children from the Robins Elementary School chorus sing carols. The Chapel Choir also provided entertainment. Santa, arriving on a fire truck, was on hand to hear children's wish lists and for parents to take photos.



C-17 repair mission gets needed boost

By Lanorris Askew
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What to know

According to Todd Sappe, if the opportunity for C-17 expansion knocks, Robins will be ready - and a new project undertaken by Base Civil Engineering Building 81 proves it.

Begun just months ago, the project to replace hangar doors on Building 81 will increase the height of the hangar's doors to accommodate larger aircraft.

"If we see the C-17 workload growing, this will be the prime place for it," said Sappe.

Sappe, chief of Process

The \$3.4 million dollar construction project is being done in two phases. Phase one which consists of the east face of the hangar is set for completion early next year. Phase two, the west face of the hangar is slated to begin in spring.

Improvement Branch for the Aircraft Division, said the need for the new construction began with hangar door repairs.

"We have to repair hangar doors from time to time, and

Please see **C-17, 2A**

Reservists gain equal benefits

By Holly J. Logan
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Reservists at Robins said changes in commissary and other benefits are long overdue.

The fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act offers reservists and their families unlimited commissary privileges, better health benefits and an overall average military pay raise of 4.15 percent.

Tech. Sgt. Teresa Owens, personnel manager for the 339th Flight Test Squadron and a reservist at Robins since January 1998, said unlimited access to the commissary would help her save time and money.

"It's about time we receive equal treatment (with benefits) as the active duty members," she said. "It was a big inconvenience before. If I had to go to the store any other time, I had to go off base, which took more time and meant spending more money."



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Reservist Tech. Sgt. Teresa Owens shops for tomatoes at the commissary Wednesday.

Before, reservists were only authorized 12 commissary visits per year - with visits monitored by use of a punch card.

President George W. Bush signed the defense bill Nov. 24 - allowing reservists in the Selected Reserve, reserve

Please see **BENEFITS, 2A**

Cherokee Rose nose art restored on record-breaking aircraft

By Holly J. Logan
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The 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron unveiled a KC-135R Stratotanker bearing its recently restored Cherokee Rose nose art during a Nov. 25 ceremony in Hangar 2066.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Mills, KC-135R crew chief with the 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, restored the art - originally painted on Aircraft 3554 by the wife of one of the aircraft commanders years ago.

"Our maintenance superintendent, Senior Master Sgt. Tina Smith, first asked me if I'd like to paint the new Cherokee Rose, being that

Please see **ART, 2A**



U.S. Air Force photo by Gary Cutrell

Staff Sgt. Matthew Mills helps to restore the Cherokee Rose nose art on a KC-135R Stratotanker.

FSC funded for addition

By Chris Zdrakas
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The Family Support Center will add 3,100 square feet to its primary 7,600-square-foot facility, enabling its programs, including classes, to be housed under one roof for the first time in nine years.

Center Director Christine Parker said the Air Force Materiel Command has approved the funds for half the cost of the \$400,000 facility. The base will fund the other half. Ground will be broken in spring.

Parker said the center has been in two locations, Building 794 and Building 945, for several years. It has conducted classes such as its three-day Transition Assistance Program, Smooth Move and financial seminars in whatever locations were available. In addition to providing dedicated classrooms,



Parker

the expanded facility will be configured with an eye toward efficiency.

"We have been packing our literature and materials into a shopping cart and moving from location to location," Parker said.

The expanded headquarters coincides with another major change in the Family Support Center's operation. The center has begun a transformation through which staff members - who will be known as work-life professionals - are being cross-

Please see **FSC, 2A**

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

Today
Variably to partly cloudy



53/40

Saturday
Fair skies and cold



52/30

Sunday
Fair skies and cold



55/27

What's inside

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Foreign Liaison Officers ensure nothing gets lost in translation **4A**
Contracting Directorate dresses bears for Christmas project **10B**

Toys for Tots drive makes kids' holiday season brighter

By Holly J. Logan
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The Toys for Tots Drive is giving Robins a chance to give less fortunate children a happier holiday season.

The drive - running through Dec. 12 - is a base-wide effort to help Robins' families have the best Christmas possible, by giving their children toys they may not otherwise receive.

"There's always someone less fortunate," said Chief Master Sgt. Steven Hartley, 19th Air Refueling Group superintendent and Toys for Tots coordinator here. "It amazes me how every year, we outdo (ourselves) from the year before. I really appreciate how Robins pulls together to make this program a success."

Those wishing to donate toys may do so by depositing unwrapped toys in their original packaging in collection bins at the Base Exchange and other locations throughout Robins. First sergeants can provide specific collection points. Cash donations are also accepted.

Chief Master Sgt. Henry Leopard, 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron's first sergeant, who has been involved in Toys for Tots since 1989, said the program has been a true gift to families.

"The families out there having a hard time see Toys for Tots as angels to the rescue," he said. "It's a great program."

Toys will be distributed to children Dec. 18 and 19.

Last year, Robins collected more than \$6,000 in toys for children who were eligible



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Staff Sgt. Melissa Magyari puts a gift in the Toys for Tots box at the BX. The drive runs through Dec. 12.

What to know

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 for the donation of unwrapped toys. Monetary donations may be made payable to Toys for Tots and delivered to the 19th Air Refueling Group, 225 Beale Drive, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. 31098. Donations are welcome through Dec. 12.

through the first sergeant-sponsored program.

Hartley said he hopes the community will surpass that amount this year.

"It's important to provide a happy holiday season," he said. "We try to give each child three to five toys. All we want is for these children to be happy on Christmas Day."

C-17

Continued from 1A

this was a prime time for us to go ahead and increase the height of the doors to get maximum flexibility out of the facility," he said.

Once the doors are replaced, aircraft ranging from the petite fighting F-15 to the gigantic C-17 - with a tail height of 55 feet - will be able to comfortably fit into the hangar for repair.

The C-17s currently park in Building 82, and according to Sappe, the tail of the aircraft sticks out of the hangar. He also said that even though there is a curtain put around the tail, workers are impeded when performing some maintenance.

Bill Deaver, Civil Engineering Industrial Design and Construction Branch chief, said the project to repair the doors and solve these issues will be completed in two phases.

"We are replacing the hangar doors on both sides of the hangar," he said. "We are doing the east side first."

He said the current doors, which are 46 feet tall, will be replaced with doors that are 58 feet high, and this 12-foot difference in construction will make working on the aircraft easier.

Construction on the east face of the building is expected to run until the end of February or early March. At that time, the construction crews will move over to begin work on the west face of the building.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Patrick "Pac Man" Westmoreland works on the hangar door framing support for Building 81. The installation of new doors will increase the height of the hangar's doors to accommodate larger aircraft such as the C-17.

Deaver said due to ramp drainage pavement slope issues in Buildings 81, 82 and 83, a long-term goal is to level the floors of all four docks in the building.

"In a multi-stage set of projects, we are going to put in a weight and balance pad in dock four in parallel with the door project," he said "Then, we'll come back in a future project and do the floor work in the remaining three docks."

In addition to the doors, the gas-fired infrared overhead heating systems, bridge cranes and several other systems

are being partially removed and replaced at a higher height while the steel work is being done.

According to Deaver it took about a year with a specialist structural engineering firm to come up with the new design.

"We worked with the Army Corps of Engineers on this design as well, but the project itself is a base project managed by Base Civil Engineering personnel," he said.

Three firms out of Florida, Alabama and Tennessee are doing the contract and subcontract construction.

BENEFITS

Continued from 1A

retirees under age 60 and their families to have access to commissaries on the same basis as active-duty people, retirees and their families.

Master Sgt. Leo Epley, assistant functional area manager for the Aerospace Expeditionary Force's civil engineering section and a reservist for 26 years, said with reservists' providing increasing support in the global war on terrorism, increasing their benefits seems only natural.

"It's a well-deserved benefit," he said. "We're just as

much a part of the war effort as the active duty (military members). The increase in our benefits is definitely a step in the right direction."

Additionally, the act authorizes a minimum pay hike of 3.7 percent to everyone with additional increases to mid-grade and senior NCOs and mid-grade officers.

To improve readiness, the law permits the Department of Defense to provide immediate medical and dental screenings and care to reservists who are assigned to a unit that has been alerted or notified of mobilization.

Reservists can obtain improved TRICARE cover-

age until Dec. 31, 2004, under the following circumstances:

■ **Non-mobilized** reservists and their families can enroll on a cost-share basis if the reservist is unemployed or the employer does not offer health insurance.

■ **Coverage for mobilized** reservists and their families can begin up to 90 days before the start of the reservists' active duty. Previously, coverage started only when the active-duty period began.

■ **Coverage can continue** up to 180 days after separation from active duty. Previously, coverage lasted up to 60 or 120 days after sep-

aration, depending on the years of service.

Another change expands eligibility for family members to enroll in Department of Defense Dependent Schools on a space-available, tuition-free basis.

In the past, this benefit was limited to families of reservists who were recalled from an overseas location. The change also permits DODDS enrollment if reservists are recalled from a continental United States location.

Editor's Note: Air Force Reserve Command News Service contributed to this article.

FSC

Continued from 1A

trained so that each professional will be fully qualified to conduct needs assessments and consultations offering the entire range of services available through the center.

"This is an exciting time for the Family Support Center," Parker said. "All the changes that are taking place are a heightened sense of recognition of the key role military families play in the Air Force mission."

ART

Continued from 1A

aircraft 3554 is the plane I'm assigned to as the designated flying crew chief," he said. "I jumped on the opportunity."

It took Mills four days to paint Georgia's state flower on the aircraft, but he said it was well worth it.

"I feel privileged to have been able to adapt a talent that God has given me into my career," he said. "I'd like to thank my higher ups for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Air Force, my squadron and the history

of this plane."

"It's a source of unit pride and an important part of the 19th Air Refueling Group's heritage," Lt. Col. Mike England, 19th AMXS commander said.

Seventeen men and women from Altus Air Force Base, Okla.; Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.; McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.; and Robins Air Force Base made aviation history when they broke three long-standing Soviet records and established 13 new time-to-climb records, marking the time it takes to reach a certain altitude Nov. 19, 1988.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

It took Staff Sgt. Matthew Mills four days to paint the nose art on the aircraft. The 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron unveiled the KC-135R Stratotanker bearing Mills' artwork during a Nov. 25 ceremony in Hangar 2066.

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78th Air Base Wing effort enhances war fighter support

By Chris Zdrakas

chris.zdrakas@robins.af.mil

The 78th Air Base Wing recently chose deployment as the first of 37 processes that will undergo Lean review.

Paper charts representing major processes lined the walls of the Robins Conference Center Annex for four days as wing leaders began a corporate journey aimed at eliminating waste and improving customer support.

Col. Tom Smoot, 78th Air Base Wing commander and initiator of the consolidated effort, said the wing's Lean journey would lead to better performance and a framework for integrating and prioritizing improvement efforts.

The first of the deployment Lean reviews began this week.

Tackling Lean as a macro challenge taking

in the wing's three groups, operations support squadron, chapel and staff offices served two purposes, Smoot said. It re-enforced Lean's position as a platform for improvement and provided an opportunity to seek out overlapping and redundant processes.

Tony Boles, Lean change manager for the wing, said the event brought commanders and directors together as a first step of many for the wing.

The focus, he said was how to use Lean thinking's basic tools - examining value from the customer perspective; value streams or how processes flow; "perfection," which is the Lean term for continuous effort to provide better service.

Because of the four-day event, Boles said, the wing has a Lean roadmap and prioritized objectives.

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Changes to FSA Open Season announced

The Flexible Spending Account open season for federal employees has been extended to Dec. 15, and the maximum contribution employees can elect under the program for a health care flexible spending account has increased to \$4,000.

The decision to raise the

limit was prompted by the recent Internal Revenue Service announcement that over-the-counter medicines may be reimbursed under a health care FSA.

Enrollment is not automatic.

Employees must elect a health care and/or dependent

care FSA account each year, if they wish to participate in this important program. Enrollments do not carry over from year to year.

For complete information or to enroll, visit www.FSAFEDS.com or call 1-877-372-3337.

— From staff reports

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CIVILIAN RETIREES

Civilian retirees as of Dec. 1

Annie Bell, MADWTB
Charles R. Benson, LEAD
Charles S. Gibson, AFRC/LGMA
James A. Gore, MAIFW
Bobby L. Hill, MABBA
Opal B. Jobe, MAIEC
Larry W. Jones, MATRIX FM

Miltee Manning Jr., MAIFW
Brenda W. McElmurray, ALC/LGPC
Charles W. Myers, MABBP
John L. Portz, LYRA
Linda L. Selph, FMH
Steve W. Sheffield, MABJD
Jeanne M. Vollmer, ALC/LGF
Rosa M. Watkins, AFRC/SCTI

carrie
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armed
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colonial
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U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Bob Oldham

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq -- Senior Airman Eric Stafford and his partner, Tino, patrol a bombed out building near the perimeter of the base. Tino is trained to detect explosives and is credited with stopping two men who breached the perimeter of the base. Stafford is a military working dog handler here. He and Tino are assigned to Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

Military dogs help defend Iraq, airmen

By Tech. Sgt. Bob Oldham

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) – Hiding behind mounds of dirt or anything else his handler could find, Tino sat and waited for an intruder to breach the base's fence on his random listening and observation post.

Suddenly, the military working dog's ears, eyes and nose zeroed in on two men as they entered the base's perimeter. As the men closed in, Tino stood up, fluffing up his hair and tail to make his presence known.

"You could hear them stop breathing (when they saw Tino)," said Senior Airman Eric Stafford, a military working dog handler here from Moody Air Force Base, Ga. "They knew it was over."

The two men threw their hands in the air – their foray onto the base was over. Stafford called for backup, and the two were hauled away. Mission complete.

In today's Air Force, it takes a special breed of airman and dog – German shepherd, Dutch shepherd or Belgian malinois – to secure the perimeter of a military installation, and it is no different here.

To help security forces airmen cope with the hazards of

"The locals talk. They know we have them, and they're scared to death of them."

Tech. Sgt. Michael Silvin
kennel master

the job, they team with military working dogs to thwart potential aggressors and keep base airmen safe to do their jobs. Stafford and Tino are just one example of that teamwork.

All of the Department of Defense's military working dogs are trained at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Once trained, dogs are shipped to units and paired with a trained handler. The two work together at home station and temporary duty locations, as is the case with Tino and Stafford. They will separate only when the airman permanently changes duty stations.

Tino is not just a security dog, he is also trained to smell explosives or explosive-making materials. The dog and Stafford are one set of an undisclosed number of dogs and handlers here, keeping intruders and terrorist bombs out, officials said.

While both tasks are important, so is keeping military working dogs healthy.

That job falls to a trained Army veterinarian technician

who monitors the dogs' health on a weekly basis, looking for signs of disease or injury.

To keep the dogs hydrated, they drink the doggie version of a human sports drink to replace lost electrolytes. They also have special equipment that works like an ice pack to help them stay cool when temperatures rise, officials said.

Military working dogs are one line of defense in a multi-layered defensive plan. The dogs serve two roles: to detect and to deter, said Tech. Sgt. Michael Silvin, the kennel master here.

Detection is manning a post, looking for bad guys, much like Tino and his handler. Deterrence comes in a couple of forms, like posting the dogs in areas visible to those entering and exiting the base and by word of mouth, such as the two intruders that Tino stopped in their tracks, he said.

"The locals talk," Silvin said. "They know we have them, and they're scared to death of them."

Welser assumes command of 18th Air Force

By 2nd Lt. Dustin Hart
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. William Welser III assumed command of the recently reactivated 18th Air Force during a change of command ceremony Dec. 1 at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

In the ceremony, officiated by Gen. John W. Handy, commander U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command, Welser was also promoted to his new grade.

The 18th Air Force, located at Scott, is Air Mobility Command's only numbered air force. It reactivated Oct. 1, and is responsible with tasking and executing all air mobility missions including that of the 19th Air Refueling Group at Robins.

"This war-fighting concept ... the 18th Air Force, is exquisite," Welser said. "If you think about all the things we have done in the history of Air Mobility Command, suddenly we have an organization under a single commander with the mobility forces... to go out and fight the wars of the future. I look forward to the opportunity to do that job."

Welser leads a force of more than 54,000 airmen and civilians located at 12 AMC wings, three AMC groups, the Tanker Airlift Control Center at Scott and the new 15th and 21st Expeditionary Mobility Task Forces.

His prior assignment was as the Director of Operations for USTRANSCOM. He left that assignment in August and has since served as special assistant to Handy.

Welser is a command pilot with more than 3,500 hours in the C-5, C-141, KC-10 and T-1.



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Paul Fazzini

Gen. John W. Handy, left, commander U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command, and Sue Welser pin a third star on newly promoted Lt. Gen. William Welser III during a promotion ceremony Dec. 1 at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

AF announces prom sweepstakes

Courtesy of AFRS News Service

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Air Force officials announced the start of the fourth annual "Win the Perfect Prom Sweepstakes" on Dec. 1.

The sweepstakes, which runs through Feb. 29, offers high-school students a chance to win prizes, including the grand prize, an all-expenses-paid prom and a live prom concert by recording artists Wakefield.

Air Force officials are holding the prom sweepstakes to reinforce and expand a message for high-school students: "Be safe. Be smart. Be sober. Make the right choice."

"We're serious about helping young people to make good choices," said Master Sgt. Juan Demiranda, an Air Force Recruiting Service account executive. "Students will be constantly exposed to the message, but not browbeaten, lectured or

What to know

"Win the Perfect Prom Sweepstakes" runs through Feb. 29. Students can enter online at www.airforce.com or www.perfectproms.com.

otherwise bombarded with a boring message. They get it. They know that an otherwise perfect prom can be ruined in an instant by the unsafe and unwise use of alcohol or drugs. All we want them to do is make the right choice during this high-risk event."

More than 12,000 high schools across the country received promotional materials to show students how to enter the sweepstakes. The program also will be highlighted in popular teen magazines and on Web sites. Students can enter online at www.airforce.com or www.perfectproms.com.

www.airforce.com or www.perfectproms.com.

The grand-prize winner will be drawn at random March 1. He or she will receive a \$1,500 cash allowance for personal expenses such as a tuxedo rental or a new dress, glamour makeover, corsage or boutonniere, or other expenses. The prizewinner will also ride to the prom in a Hummer limousine. His or her high school will receive \$20,000 to cover prom expenses such as banquet facility rental, catering, decorating, photography, mementos and a disc jockey.

Ten first-place winners will each receive a \$500 allowance for personal prom expenses, while 25 second-place winners will each get a \$150 allowance. Weekly prizes of Wakefield's compact discs also will be given away.

Officials said the best advice for high-school students is to graduate, keep out of trouble, stay away from drugs and remember to exercise both mind and body.

Student invents new process for solving problems

By Mike Wallace

Aeronautical Systems Center
Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMNCNS) – A local middle school student found a new solution to subtraction problems involving whole numbers and fractions.

Killashandra (Killie) Rick used the concept of negative numbers in a way that has never been done before, as far as her seventh grade teacher has been able to tell.

Rick attends Mary Help of Christians in Fairborn, Ohio and is the daughter of Terri Rick, a senior accounting technician in Air Force Materiel Command's Materiel Systems Group here.

Her teacher, Colin McCabe, said, "I've never seen anybody do this. It simplifies it by taking out three steps (in finding the solution). I went home and tried to find fault with it, but I couldn't. I got online and did research, and I talked to friends of mine from college,

Example

An example of a problem and Killie's solution is: $8 \frac{2}{5} - 5 \frac{3}{5} = 3 - 1 \frac{1}{5} = 2 + \frac{4}{5} - \frac{1}{5} = 2 \frac{3}{5}$

and I can't find anybody who's seen this."

McCabe said Rick's process was not used in any of his reference materials.

He was so impressed, not only by her using negative numbers but also by her humility, that on Nov. 12 he presented her a certificate for outstanding achievement in recognition of her mathematical ingenuity in discovering a new method of solution to mixed number subtraction."

McCabe said he intends to teach what he calls "Killie's Way" to students in his future classes.

School principal, Anne Steck, said, "I think a lot of credit should go to the teacher. I know lots of math teachers who would've looked at



U.S. Air Force photo by Spencer Lane

Killashandra Rick, a seventh grade student at Mary Help of Christians school in Fairborn, Ohio, came up with a new method of solving subtraction of fractions problems. She uses negative numbers, and her teacher, Colin McCabe (at blackboard), said he'd never seen this done before.

Killie's work and just said it was wrong."

As for Killie, she said, "I got this (math) problem, and I didn't remember what to do (to solve it). I thought (my solution) made sense, but I expected the teacher to say it was wrong."

She added that using nega-

tive numbers seemed reasonable to her.

Finding a new way to solve problems with fractions, having her teacher praise her work and hearing her school principal call it a "day of mathematical rejoicing," maybe it's not so surprising that math is Killie's favorite subject now.

Fitness Forum keeps Robins on track

By Lanorris Askew

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As the initiation of the new Air Force fitness standards draws near, Robins is continually helping to ensure its people are right on track.

The most recent effort at this took place during a fitness forum Nov. 24 at the Smith Community Center. The day-long forum, featuring various health and fitness professionals, was hosted by the Robins Health and Wellness Center.

"The fitness forum was held because we are trying to educate the commanders, first shirts and unit fitness program managers on how to anticipate and prepare everybody for the new fitness program coming in January," Jamie Martin, HAWC fitness program manager, said.

Master Sgt. Kenneth Kozak, superintendent of Commando Control in the Special Operations System Program Office, said the forum was informative.

"It was very well laid out," he said. "I gained a lot of knowledge that I didn't have before. They covered everything from nutrition to the shape of your foot."

Kozak said the new fitness standards were also broken down for the audience of more than 100 - something he had been waiting for.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Mark Kasper, professor of exercise science at Valdosta State University, speaks at the fitness forum Nov. 24 at the Smith Community Center. New Air Force fitness standards begin in January. To view the fitness charts, go to www.af.mil/news/USAF_Fitness_Charts.pdf.

Martin said the forum's goal was to train fitness program managers and representatives so they would be able to take the information about proper exercise, supplements and hydration back to their units.

As a follow up, a practical portion will be held either later

this month or in early January.

During the practical portion, coordinated through the base fitness center, there will be hands on fitness guidance including circuit training, assessing injuries and proper form.

The lecturers for the forum included Mark Kasper, profes-

sor of exercise science at Valdosta State University, LaGary Carter, coordinator and associate professor of exercise science at VSU, Lindy Kurtz, base dietician, and Kenneth Glover, director of cardiopulmonary rehabilitation at Tift Regional Medical Center in Tifton.

Bronze Star Medal



U.S. Air Force photo by Eric Palmer

Lt. Col. Royce Eves, right, a KC-135 master navigator with the 19th Air Refueling Group, received the Bronze Star Medal Nov. 21 from Col. Raymond Rottman, group commander. Eves is the director of operations for the 99th Air Refueling Squadron. He was credited for his leadership during 50 combat sorties, and refueling more than 334 fighters and support aircraft.

Recycling cardboard easy with convenient drop-off locations

Cardboard-only containers are located near most buildings on base, making recycling cardboard easy.

Breaking down the cardboard prior to placing it in the container, means less trips to the recycling center.

Happy Hour Recycling doesn't pick up cardboard during their regular visits to the base.

However, if your organization generates a large quantity of cardboard (from furniture, computer purchases, moves, etc.) call the recycling contractor at 929-

6624 for a special pickup. This also applies to anyone living in on-base housing.

In addition to recycling cardboard, Robins recycles the following: newspaper, mixed paper, white paper, computer paper, aluminum cans, wood, metals, type 1 and 2 plastics, and clear and colored glass.

The Environmental Management program manager for recycling is Linda Larson. She can be reached at 926-1197 extension 137.

- From staff reports

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A hero was in our midst

By Diane Gross
78th Air Base Wing

I worked at the Museum of Aviation for about five years in museum operations and special events from retirements to school tours. I had the opportunity to meet some of our area's finest - Museum of Aviation volunteers and staff, community leaders, and some awesome military war heroes and aviators.

I am saddened by the recent death of a man I dearly loved. His name was retired Air Force Lt. Col. Darwin G. Edwards - the curator of the Museum of Aviation. He was described to me by a co-worker in words that say it all: "When I worked with him on anything . . . he always gave me the feeling I was going to be OK, and things would turn out fine."

That is just the way I always felt too. He was a guy you knew - everybody liked.

I knew when I first went to work at the museum that Darwin would be my friend - and he was. Five years later at a new position, I was not surprised that he continued our friendship for the last five years too. He would come to headquarters every few weeks to stick his head in the door and tell me he liked a particular story and he never missed reading one.

Sometimes he'd just sit down and talk about his rattlesnake hunting adventures or just to see if things were going OK with me.

To me, he had class, yet he was so down to earth. He was modest and seemed kind of shy. He loved life. He would tell me about things that happened during the war but never bragged about what he did. He must have been something else during that time too - the deeds and honors listed in his obituary didn't surprise me at all - in fact, they made me smile to think how he always talked about everybody else's accomplishments.

He was a highly decorated combat veteran with 33 years of exceptionally honorable military service and 14 years of distinguished service to the Robins Air Force Base Museum of Aviation as curator. Among his numerous awards and decorations were the Silver Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Purple Heart, and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

That's a bunch of decoration on his uniform - he kind of reminded me of a multi-millionaire that would wear a pair of overalls over a plaid shirt because money or fame made no difference and he didn't want to draw attention to himself.

What Darwin accomplished in his lifetime was always low key with him - but somehow I just knew when I met him that he was special - one of International City's finest - my friend. Darwin was laid to rest on Nov. 26 at Andersonville National Cemetery - how fitting.

Rest in peace my friend - I will miss your smiling face.



Edwards

Making a difference in a child's life

By Laura Lunday
Contracting Directorate

Have you ever wanted to change your life by helping someone else or expand your view by looking through someone else's eyes?

If the answer is yes, then becoming a mentor may be just what you're seeking.

The Contracting Directorate manages a meaningful program called Raising Educational Achievement for Children of Houston County, or REACH, and we need people like you.

PK began REACH in 1997 after noticing the alarming statistics of Houston County at-risk schoolchildren in a state report compiled yearly for each county.

Here are some county statistics for the 2001-2002 school year:

- 21.6 percent of elementary school children are in the Early Intervention Program

- Of all the sixth graders taking the Standard Competency Test: 17 percent did not meet standards in Reading; 23 percent did not meet standards in Mathematics; 31 percent did not meet standards in Language Arts, and

22.5 percent did not complete high school

PK wanted to help the schools turn around these numbers. We determined the at-risk children required one-on-one tutoring and if change were to occur, the community needed to become involved.

What is REACH? Affiliated with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, REACH differs from the traditional BBBS program in that volunteers mentor their little brother or sister during school hours.

2002, Maj Gen. Donald Wetekam, Center commander, granted mentors administrative leave in conjunction with lunch breaks. Volunteers spend one hour a week with children tutoring them in one of their weak subjects.

REACH is now in its seventh year and going strong. Initially, volunteers were limited to PK employees; however, today's volunteers represent the entire base-wide work force, from aircraft mechanics to Directors.

Last school year, the American Federation of Government Employees local 987 committed to support REACH and doubled our list of volunteers.

BBBS selects children at high risk for dropping out of high school. Each has the ability to do well in school; however, for various reasons each child isn't meeting his or her potential.

The mission of REACH is to help students improve school attendance and academic performance, reduce disciplinary problems and improve their self-images.

The BBBS Match Coordinator for Houston County, Patti Conley, has 210 mentors active in Houston County schools, and 95 percent of mentors are from Robins Air Force Base.

REACH supports seven Houston County Elementary Schools - Lindsey, Pearl Stephens, Westside, Parkwood, Russell, Bonaire and Linwood.

Since the REACH program began, BBBS of Middle Georgia has compiled statistics on the mentored children. The June 2003 statistics show the tremendous impact of the program. Of the children mentored by REACH volunteers:

- 93 percent had improved self-esteem
- 84 percent improved their grades

■ 81 percent increased school attendance

Where else can someone spend an hour a week and bring about so much change? Being a mentor changes both peoples' lives. The child has increased self-esteem, better behavior, and more confidence.

The mentors profit, too. For them, mentoring helps put life in perspective; problems at work disappear as both the child and mentor solve a difficult math problem or learn about the ocean currents. Mentors often report feeling more happy and relaxed after the sessions with their students.

If you would like to help a child, the schools need volunteers. Children are on waiting lists at most of the schools, and children ask their counselors daily "when am I going to get my mentor?"

To become a mentor or obtain more information please contact Laura Lunday at 926-5220 or e-mail Laura.Lunday@robins.af.mil.

REACH also has a Web site at <http://pkcc.robins.af.mil/Mentor/Mentor.htm> which is linked from the Robins home page.

Advisory board outlet for your voice to be heard

By Staff Sgt. Jamesha M. Jones
11th Wing Reserve Affairs Office

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, DC (AFPN) - Have you ever had an issue or idea you wanted someone to take action on, but felt like nobody would listen to you? Then, if someone did listen to you, did you find them saying, "It's not going to happen because it would take an act of Congress to make those changes?"

Regardless of past letdowns and frustration, I know from personal experience that you can make a difference.

I had the honor of attending the Air Force Reserve Advisory Board recently.

The AFRAB is the primary forum to develop and implement clear policies for the Air Force Reserve. The board studies complicated Reserve issues, channels multiple-service initiatives to the Air Reserve Forces Policy Committee and helps develop proposed legislation of benefit to the Air Force Reserve.

My week began with a series of briefings on how the legislative process works.

At first, I thought I was back in high school learning civics all over again, except

I learned a whole new language.

Terms like ULB, which means unified legislative and budget; appropriators; authorizers; HASC, or House Armed Services Committee; and SASC, which is the Senate Armed Services Committee, were explained to the group so we could understand the language of "the Hill" and why it takes so long to change existing law.

After our visit to the Capitol, we were ready to settle down to business.

The AFRAB receives issues from people throughout the Air Force. Most of the input comes via e-mail.

The advisory board consists of active duty members, active Guard members, active Reserve members, individual mobilization augmentees, traditional reservists and civilians from different major commands, bases and Air Force specialty codes and grades. The members are subdivided into smaller working groups who are given specific issues that are submitted. These issues are then defined, different options for solutions are explained and a course of action is recommended.

My group was responsible for discussing many different issues. One particular issue

we discussed came from a member requesting the Montgomery GI Bill cover certification testing for reservists. The member wanted to know why active-duty members can use the GI Bill to cover certification testing and reservists can't. The member believed by providing an incentive for reservists to get certification, they would have more knowledge to support the mission. After much debate, the recommendation from the board was to have AFRC step forward with a legislative initiative on the subject.

Sometimes, we may not think our issues are very important, but unless we bring them to someone's attention, we will never know. Prior to attending the meeting, I had no knowledge of the AFRAB. This was my first experience, and I recommend it for junior enlisted troops because it provides the opportunity to see firsthand how policy changes take place. It also gives junior troops the chance to have their voices heard on issues that affect the Air Force community.

If you are interested in or would like more information about the AFRAB, go to <http://www.afrc.af.mil/special/afcab/afcab.htm>.

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



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 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

Issue more tickets for illegal parking

I would like to see more ticketing in some of the parking lots. Despite calls to the Security Police to periodically patrol the lots, I still see a lot of illegal parking, especially on the north side of Building 301. People routinely park on the grass, in traffic lanes, and in areas that block other cars. I believe that better patrolling and ticketing of the offenders would act as a deterrent to the problem. I realize parking spaces are in short supply, but it wouldn't hurt for most people to walk a few extra yards and get some exercise.

Also, there is no paved access to the small parking area under the water tower so the ground is developing some severe ruts and holes. Can something be done to provide a

paved access to that area if it is intended to be a parking area?

Col. Smoot replies: Thank you for your concern about the parking situation in this area. Force protection measures, assigned parking slots, and construction have taken a toll on our available parking spaces. The security forces personnel along with installation parking monitors are working to ensure serious parking violations are targeted. Our security forces patrols conduct spot checks as workload permits and tickets will be issued as appropriate. Due to the sheer number of incidents our patrols respond to each day, the amount of time they can spend writing parking tickets is limited. Also, our parking monitors only monitor lots and ticket vehicles as an additional duty. As a deterrent, base policy states that per-

sonnel who receive three or more parking citations within a 12-month period may lose their driving privileges for 30 days or more; subsequent violation have additional penalties.

As for the small area under the water tower, it has been reviewed and you are correct in that it is not part of either one of the existing parking lots. The area was left when the CE water treatment office moved to Building 201. By circumstance over the last few months, this area has been transformed into an overflow parking area by personnel working in facilities immediately surrounding it. It seems to be a logical place for additional parking in this congested area. By the end of November, Civil Engineering will initiate action to improve the access to this small lot by filling in the holes and establishing driveways.



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Warner Robins Air Logistics Center

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U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Ken Schencks, sheet metal mechanic, pulls leading edge panels off for inspection. Structural engineers, program managers and others from the Strategic Airlift and Maintenance directorates have been working full-time examining the guts of the C-5 aircraft that was delivered here in November.

Checking it out

C-5A study to determine aircraft's viability

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

What to know

The four-phase C-5A Structural Risk Analysis and Model Re-validation study began in November at the request of Air Mobility Command headquarters. The following are the four phases the aircraft will go through to determine its future.

Phase 1 - Non-destructive inspection takes place at Robins Air Force Base. Initial results are due at Air Mobility Command headquarters by February.

Phase 2 - Planning and gathering of support equipment to tear down the plane. This phase runs through 2004. Components will be sent to a location later determined for further disassembly and inspection.

Phase 3 - Tear down and further analysis.

Phase 4 - Remaining parts of the aircraft will be disposed.

Robins' participation in the first phase of an ongoing C-5 study is helping put together the picture of the aircraft's future.

The four-phase C-5A Structural Risk Analysis and Model Re-validation study - that began at Robins the beginning of last month - came at the request of Air Mobility Command headquarters to determine the aircraft's future viability.

Col. Frank Bruno, Strategic Airlift Directorate director, said Robins' part in the AMC-funded study will help shape future decisions about the cargo plane by evaluating its present health, service life and long-term viability.



Bruno

"We're going to provide a quick look at the C-5's status, and AMC headquarters will use that information to see if the C-5 is a good candidate for future investment and upgrades," he said. "If our tear-down analysis indicates that the plane is structurally sound, then they may consider it as a future investment. If not, they may



Top left, an inspector looks for major corrosion and stress cracks on a stringer in the troop area on the C-5. Above left, the C-5, tail number 690004, was chosen because of its true representation of the fleet. Above, right, John Nichols, Non-destructive inspection specialist, examines the splice joints on the mainframe of the C-5.

be hard-pressed to invest more dollars."

Robins' management of the C-5 made it a natural choice when AMC officials and others decided upon the location for the initial phase, said Bruno.

Structural engineers, program managers and others from the Strategic Airlift and Maintenance directorates here have been working full-time examining the guts of the C-5 aircraft bearing tail number 690004 - one of 14 C-5 aircraft selected for retirement by the Air Force.

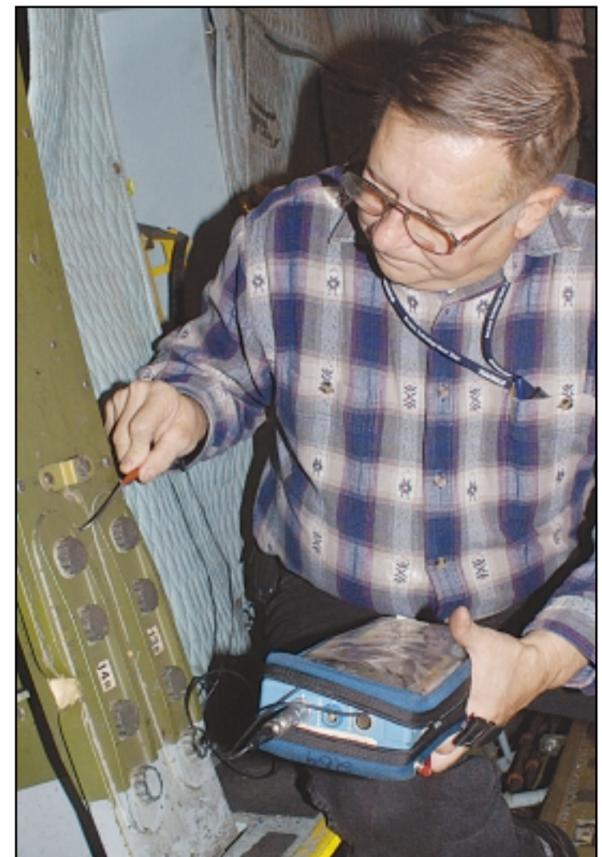
"We're taking a hard look at the skeleton of the plane and trying to determine if there's any damage that hasn't been uncovered before through normal inspections," said Buc McRory,

"We're going to provide a quick look at the C-5's status, and AMC headquarters will use that information to see if the C-5 is a good candidate for future investment and upgrades. If our tear-down analysis indicates that the plane is structurally sound, then they may consider it as a future investment. If not, they may be hard-pressed to invest more dollars."

Col. Frank Bruno
 Strategic Airlift Directorate director

structures engineer for the Strategic Airlift Directorate and lead engineer for the project, who is charged with determining the plane's structural service life.

According to McRory, this particular C-5 was selected because of its retirement status and its true representation of the fleet.

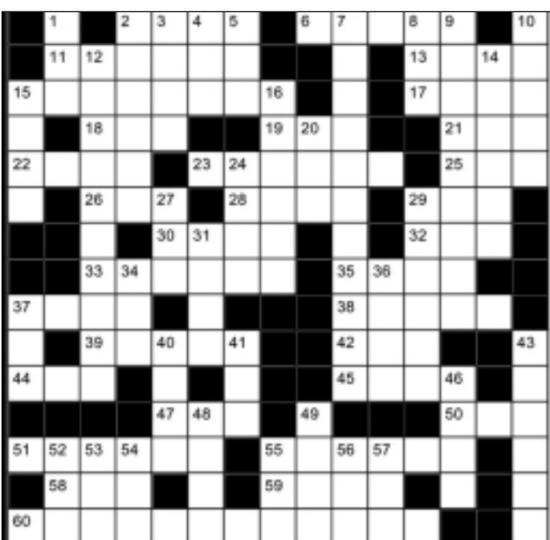


Individuals from the Non-destructive Inspection Division of the Maintenance Directorate are conducting the inspections, and results will be added to an existing model of the plane to compute how long the plane could continue flying, said McRory.

Although a majority of

the tear-down part of the study won't take place until the third phase, some parts are being removed to help facilitate the inspection and will be used to relieve some of the current spares issues with the C-5, according to Jerry Ethridge, program manager for the Strategic Airlift Directorate.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Flying into the Blue

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

ACROSS

2. Actress Ward
6. Florida AFB home to 33rd FW; a/c tail marking of EG
11. _____ de corps; service pride and loyalty
13. U.S. currency coin
15. KC-10
17. Periods
18. Fighter pilot expert
19. Sphere
21. Owns
22. Actress Petty
23. B-1B
25. Temp. military duty
26. Headed
28. Type of cheese
29. Comedian Margaret
30. Champion
32. Rule
33. F-16
35. Ponderous
37. Abominable snowman
38. Duties
39. Mistake
42. See
44. Combat
45. abcd...jklm....????
47. 2,000 lbs
50. Zero
51. F-15s
55. B-2
58. Formerly
59. Peers; as in court
60. KC-135

2. Money in coin
3. Sea eagle
4. Top
5. Dined
7. C-17
8. Actress Lupino
9. F-117
10. Sadlier novel, _____ Conway; or The Irish Girl in America
12. C-141
14. Lea
15. Fashionable magazine
16. Brazilian who opened country interior; Candido _____
20. Record company
24. Prefix meaning "air"
27. FedEx rival
29. Clothing spot
31. Greek nymph
34. Breath
36. Installs
37. Shrub tree
40. By memory
41. Galloped
43. C-5
46. Do _____ others
-
48. Capital of Norway
49. Gyrated
52. Picnic pest
53. Country between Ned. and Pol.
54. Actress Thompson
55. AF lawyer
56. Bother
57. Bread type

DOWN

1. Superman's nemesis

For puzzle solution, see Dec. 12 edition of the Rev-Up

Puzzle solution for Nov. 26



LEAVE/TRANSFER

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

- Rhonda Lee Hamilton**, WR-ALC/QL. Point of contact is Teresa Summers 936-8741.
- Thomas Belvin Livingston**, WR-ALC/LEET. Point of contact is Nancy Garrison 926-7697 extension 172.
- Julie Mae Slocumb**, 78th MSG/DPCCB. Point of contact is Angie Ard at 926-3805 extension 193.
- Linda Jo M. Dupree**, WRALC/LSTPS. Point of contact is William Sheppard at 926-7508.

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.

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 (Jumuah) 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 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.

to there with the least amount of hassle, frustration, and stress.

Interviewing Q&A

The Transition Assistance program offers a workshop on Interviewing Q&A, Thursday, 1:30 - 3:30, Building 905, Room 139.

Advance registration is required.

Heart link

A Heart Link seminar will be conducted Dec. 12, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Officers' Club.

Heart Link is designed for people who have been Air Force spouses for

five years or less.

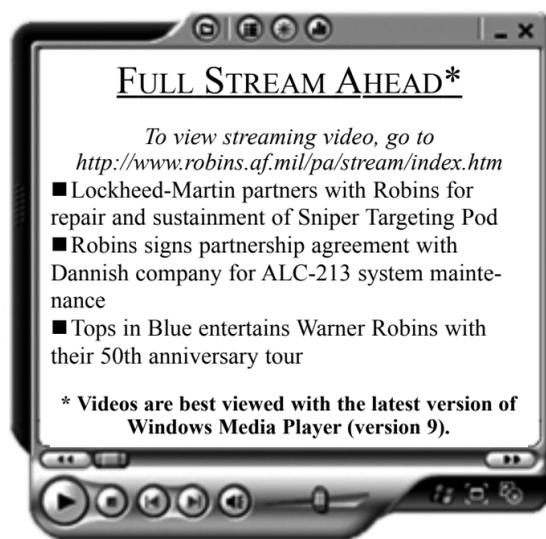
Financial workshop

The Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Middle Georgia will conduct a free "Money and Credit Management" workshop Dec. 12, 1 - 4 p.m., Building 905, Room 127.

A comprehensive workbook will be given to attendees. Information on credit management, debt reduction and consumer rights will be presented. This workshop is open to all Team Robins members.

To make a reservation, call 926-1256.

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

SERVICES BRIEFS

Aero Club 926-4867

The 2003 "Start Flying" promotion is underway until April 30, 2004. The Aero Club is inviting active-duty and retired military, DoD civilian employees and their families who are interested in earning their private pilot's certification to take advantage of the "Start Flying" promotion with introductory flights for \$49. "Be A Pilot" is a national educational program to help the public become more familiar with general aviation flying for personal and business use. For more information, call 926-4867.

The Aero Club will conduct Christmas light flights Dec. 15 - 24. Qualified commercial pilots will escort families on flights to see area Christmas lights from the sky. Cost is \$60 per half hour or \$100 per hour for up to three people. Reservations are required. For more information, call 926-4867.

Base Restaurant 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.

Child Development Centers East and West 926-5805/3080

A holiday cookie project is scheduled for Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. Parents are encouraged to come assist children with decorating holiday cookies and to enjoy the finished products.

Enlisted Club 926-4515

Enjoy a New Year's Eve gala at the enlisted club. Tickets are on sale and club will open at 5 p.m., light hors

d'oeuvres, down-home southern breakfast buffet, complimentary champagne and party favors will be offered. There will be sounds from DJ Silk in J.R. Rockers and Conquest in the ballroom beginning at 9 p.m. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for guests.

Information, Tickets and Travel 926-0093

Wild Adventure Theme Park season tickets will be available at ITT or Quick Shot Café, Building 16, Dec. 15 for \$55. These tickets will be on sale for one day only for ages three and older. Season parking passes will be available for \$21 per car. For more information call 926-2945.

Library 327-7379

Santa will visit Dec. 8 at 10 a.m. for story time. Santa will read and listen to children's wish lists. For more information, call 327-7379.

Officers' Club 926-2670

New Year's Eve tickets are on sale for \$30 per person. Featured entertainers will be Tommy West and the Sensations from 8 p.m. - 1 a.m. and Total Sound Productions in the main lounge from 8 p.m. - midnight. There will be a dinner buffet and party favors.

Enjoy the sounds of E.G. Kight Dec. 19 from 6 - 10 p.m. This entertainer has been compared to Phoebe Snow, Bonnie Raitt and k.d lang. She has been called the female Delbert McClinton.

Skills Development Center 926-5282

The skills development center will

MOVIE SCHEDULE

Friday 7:30 p.m. - The Texas Chainsaw Massacre - Jessica Biel and Jonathan Tucker

Five 20-somethings find themselves in a small Texas town, where they encounter a chainsaw-wielding maniac known as Leatherface. The killer has spent years sawing people up and constructing masks out of his victims' skin, with everyone in the town looking the other way. With no one to help them, the outsiders must find a way to escape before meeting a grisly death.

Rated R (strong horror violence/gore, language and drug content) 100 minutes

Saturday 7:30 p.m. - In the Cut - Meg Ryan and Mark Ruffalo

Franny, A New York City professor, dives into a passionate and possibly dangerous affair with a police officer who is investigating the murder of a young woman in her neighborhood.

Rated R (strong sexuality including explicit dialogue, nudity, graphic crime scenes and language) 118 minutes



offer the following classes:
Acrylic painting: Tuesday and Dec. 16, 10 a.m. - noon, cost \$10

Stepping stone (poinsettia): Dec. 17, noon - 2 p.m., cost \$12.50

Scrapbooking (holiday): Dec. 12, 12:30 - 2 p.m., cost \$12.50

Watercolor: Monday and Dec. 15, noon - 2 p.m., cost \$10;

Oil painting: Thursday and Dec. 18, 10 a.m. - noon, cost \$12.50

Beginning knitting: every Monday, 10 a.m. - noon, cost \$5

Kid's painting: Dec. 17, 6 - 7:30 p.m., cost \$12.50

Wood lathe: Thursday and Dec. 18, 6 - 8 p.m., cost \$35

Fret work: Wednesday, 6 - 8 p.m., cost \$10.

Registration and payment is required for all classes. Class space is limited. All classes are subject to change. For more information, call 926-5282.

Smith Community Center 926-2105

The USO is wrapping gifts now through Dec. 19 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the center. For more information, call 926-2105.

The Smith Community Center will be conducting a videotaped talent search for Tops In Blue Jan. 20 in the community center ballroom. Both entertainers and support staff are needed for the talent competition and Tops In Blue. Bus drivers, stage, light, sound technicians, wardrobe/costume coordinators, choreographers and vocal assistants, as well as, entertainers have a chance to compete at the worldwide competition and possibly earn the opportunity to tour with Tops In Blue. If interested, call Cheryl Dollard at 926-2105 to set up a recording session.

Leadership seminar focuses on upward mobility

By Lanorris Askew

lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

When Patsy Reeves attended a leadership seminar last summer, she was so excited about what she learned that she wanted to share it with others at Robins.

The National Contract Management Association helped make that a reality by hosting a leadership and mentoring seminar last month.

The seminar's speakers, Donna Back, Aeronautical Systems Center Financial Management director, and Debra Haley, Material Systems Group civilian director from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and Jackie Leitzel, director of Contracting at the Air Force Center for Scientific Research in Arlington, Va., discussed issues ranging from leadership to career building in the four-hour seminar.

"We are constantly gaining technical training to improve our job skills, but I saw the need to learn how to develop career building and leadership skills as well," said Reeves. "This seminar is a compliment to the technical training they already get."

Haley, one of the seminar's founders said she hopes the attendees left with a more proactive attitude toward taking on leadership roles and activities in their careers.

"We hope to challenge women to take greater leadership roles in their Air Force careers," she said.

Although a lot of the information is targeted at women, Haley said most are also applicable to men – a few of which were scattered about.

"It's nice to be in a forum where issues unique to women's careers can be raised," said Haley, "But these issues affect everyone."

During the segments, the speakers solicited input from the audience on

what their thoughts are on various leadership topics.

Jackie Leitzel, whose subject matter was seizing the opportunities, said her goal was to educate.

"We try to provide information about opportunities that are available that will help with career goals," she said.

Molly Statham, C-130 structural engineer, said she was glad she attended the seminar.

"They are giving very positive and inspirational messages," she said. "I have gained a lot of good information to take back to do my job better."

Kim Chatfield, LSI senior intelligence officer, said this was her first time attending a leadership seminar as a civilian and it was a good experience.

"It's interesting to hear the perspective of people who have gone up through the ranks," she said.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

From left to right, seminar speakers Debra Haley, Donna Back and Jackie Leitzel talk with attendee Diana Clark. During the seminar, the speakers discussed leadership and career building.

Airmen visit VA center



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Doug Harris

Senior Airman Luis Rodriguez, 16th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, spends time with E.C. Stephens, a WWII veteran, at the Carl Vinson Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in Dublin, Ga. A group of 20 airmen from the 116th Air Control Wing visited the hospital on Veterans Day. Col. William F. Grimsley, 3rd Infantry Division 1st Brigade (Mechanized) commander, Fort Stewart, Ga., was the keynote speaker for a ceremony honoring veterans.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bowling Center

926-2112

Celebrate New Year's Eve at Robins Lanes. Cost is \$20 per person which includes bowling, snacks, party favors and lots of fun. Children under 12 bowl free.

Enlisted Club

926-4515

Football Frenzy kicks off at noon on Sundays and 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.

Fitness Center

926-2128

A Jingle Bell fun run will

be held Dec. 13 at 9:30 a.m. in front of the Health and Wellness Center. This event is sponsored in part by Atlanta Bread Company. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

Information, Tickets and Travel

926-2945

The Macon Trax hockey team is in town and will be playing against Jacksonville today and Lakeland tomorrow. Cost is \$6 for upper seats, \$9 for lower seats and \$12 for glass seats. Game times are Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Outdoor Recreation

926-4001

Lease any boat in stock

for two weeks for the price of two days. Customer is responsible for battery charging, fuel and 2-cycle oil and any damages during lease period.

Low-impact water aerobics classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:20 p.m. Classes are \$30 each month or \$5 per individual class. Register at Equipment Rental Center.

Skeet Range

926-4733

A \$2 trap shoot is slated for Dec. 17. Cost is \$2 per round.

Amateur Hockey

The registration deadline for the Amateur Hockey Association's 2003-2004

season has been extended.

The cost of joining the league is \$295 for adult players for 20 sessions, \$195 for Bantam players ages 13-17 and \$195 for Youth Players ages 12 and under for 12 sessions. Since the season has begun, this cost will be prorated from the date of registration.

The season runs from the now through Jan. 31 for youth and adult leagues. Coaches and referees are needed for Peewee and Bantam teams. Office officials are needed to assist with keeping time and statistics for each game. Each youth player who signs up with the AHA will receive a free season's pass for the Macon Trax.

For more information call Robins Taviner at 471-2827.

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Foreign Liaison Officers ensure nothing gets lost in translation

By Maj. Mike Pierson
Center Office of Public
Affairs



Harris



Utata



Al-Mizani

“We don't work one-on-one with each other on a daily basis, but we do run a successful international coffee club among us!”

(Maj.) Martin Harris
Royal Australian Air Force Squadron leader

Martin Harris.

“One of the reasons I'm here is to promote good working level communications between our two Air Forces and help ensure, from Australia's perspective, at a technical level we continue to maintain interoperable capability with the U.S. military,” he said. Among the aircraft that the Royal Australian Air Force operates are the F-111 and C-130 which Robins supports.

“I also help to share experiences we have each had with

our common equipment,” he added. “The U.S. Air Force is a large organization and has a lot of experience the RAAF can learn from. I'd also like to think the RAAF - whilst somewhat smaller - also has some valuable experience to bring to the table in return.”

Harris gave one example where the U.S. Air Force learned from the 13,500 person strong Australian Air Force. The RAAF developed a boron-fiber repair technique for its aging C-130E aircraft that saved them from having

to replace the outer wings. The U. S. Air Force learned from that technique and used a similar technique to fix wing cracks in the C-141.

Japan Air Self Defense Force Lt. Col. Nobuaki “Lucky” Utata agreed that the personal touch was very important in getting past the vast time differences between America and his home country.

“Liaisons help to build personal contacts between our air forces,” said Utata, who learned about the U.S. Air

Force while working at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

The Japan Air Self Defense Forces fly and maintain their own fleets of F-15J and C-130 variants. Japan, Saudi Arabia, Australia and other countries get support in a variety of ways from the U.S. Air Force and from American contractors to support their fleets.

Maj. Mohammed Al-Mizani, representing the Royal Saudi Arabian Air Force which also flies F-15 and C-130 aircraft, said he sees the important personal connection the liaisons bring.

“We can operate by phone, or e-mail or fax,” he said, “but it helps a great deal to have someone here who can work issues in person.”

Language translations can also be a problem that the liaisons help to solve for both countries, said Al-Mizani, who studied at the University of Texas in Houston.

For Utata, who arrived from Japan in July 2002, the language barrier was the hardest adjustment for his family and him to make. “Not many Japanese people speak English” he said.

Saudi Al-Mizani, who has been at Robins since August 2002, said his culture shock was less since he had spent time in America before. His family has learned to make

adjustments to the culture and has found places in Atlanta where they can buy Middle-Eastern food.

To Harris, who will return home in December after almost three years at Robins, the U.S. is, “just like home but with a thousand little differences.”

Although language and food are very similar, the sheer scale of the U.S. and driving on the U.S. road system were a real eye opener to him.

“The biggest adjustment for me was driving on the other side of the road,” he said.

“We don't work one-on-one with each other on a daily basis,” Harris noted, pointing out that each foreign liaison officer works directly with the U.S. Air Force on behalf of their country, “but we do run a successful international coffee club among us!”

The liaison officers' life is not all work however. On occasion they do manage to get together for “green meetings” at the golf course.

“These meetings often offer comic relief from the office as there are no ‘Tiger Woods’ in the group,” Harris pointed out, “only ‘tigers in the woods’ as the previous Japanese foreign liaison officer would say.”

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ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

Christmas tree sale

The Chief's Group Christmas tree sale is today through Dec. 21 outside the BX. Choose from Virginia Pines, Red Cedars and Leland Cypresses Monday-Friday, noon - 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Proceeds will help support Robins' enlisted programs.

Housing Office closing

The Housing Office will be closed Tuesday, 2-3:30 p.m., for mandatory training.

Tree removal

Areas of Robins will be closed off with cones for the removal of dead trees Tuesday through Dec. 13. The schedule: Tuesday – Building 301 east side of building; Wednesday – Building 901 parking lot north side of building; Thursday – Building 2039 near the gazebo on the east side of the building; and Dec. 13 – Byron Street islands between First and Third Streets.

Communications and Electronics Association luncheon

The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, a professional communications and information technology organization, will hold a luncheon Dec. 12 at 11:30 a.m. at the Officers' Club ballroom. The organiza-

tion will hold elections for open positions, and the guest speaker will talk about the 78th Communications Squadron mission and deployment war stories. For more information, call Lt. Col. Paul Reimers at 926-3223.

Coats for Kids

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

MPF extended hours

The Military Personnel Flight will be open Dec. 13, 10 a.m. -noon. If a dependent or retiree has an ID card that will expire in the near future this is an excellent opportunity to get information updated in DEERS. For more information, e-mail shondrell.edwards@robins.af.mil or call 327-7361/62/63.

Children's Christmas party

The 116th Air Control Wing children's Christmas party will be Dec. 14, 2-5 p.m., at the Multi Purpose Hangar. Admission is a plate of cookies to share. Children will be able to chat with Santa and enjoy crafts and

games. For more information, contact Debbie Riebling at 328-3349 or Bev Kinney at 929-3982.

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: Christmas - open: Dec. 19 - close: Jan. 5; open: Dec. 26 - close: Jan. 8; and New Year's - open: Jan. 2 - close: Jan. 9. The regular schedule will resume Jan. 9.

Holiday recycling pick-up schedule

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

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. 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.

Applying early improves chances for AFAS grants

By Chris Zdrakas

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Spouses and dependent children of active duty and retired military members at Robins who are working toward undergraduate degrees have an opportunity to earn \$1,500 grants from the Air Force Aid Society.

The money comes from the General Henry H. (Hap) Arnold Education Grant program funded by contributions made to the Air Force Aid Society's annual April campaign.

Eligible recipients may apply for the grants for the 2004-2005 school year from now until March 12.

Janice Barnes, Air Force Aid officer here, said applying early is important because in addition to the initial application, applicants are required to answer a second, more detailed, questionnaire the Air Force Aid Society will mail.

She said her customers report the number one reason

their children didn't receive grants has been failure to apply on time.

The grants are for full-time undergraduates in colleges, universities or vocational or trade schools whose accreditation is approved by the U.S. Department of Education for participation in federal aid programs.

Applicants must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale.

Last year at Robins, Barnes said, 25 children (nearly 60 percent of those applying) and 15 spouses (56 percent of those who applied) earned grants.

The society awarded 3,500 grants nationwide last year.

Barnes said there are a limited number of forms available Family Support Center.

The form also is available on the Air Force Aid Society's Web page at www.afas.org.

Follow the education link to the form.

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Teens receive award for service to veterans, community

By Lanorris Askew

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Thirteen Robins Keystone Club members recently received the Southeast Region Conference Award for service to club and community.

The award, won during the Boys and Girls Club regional Keystone conference for youth volunteer work at the Veteran's hospital in Dublin, Ga., was officially presented by Maj. Gen. Don Wetekam, Center commander, Nov. 24.

The teens have given back to veterans in the past year through what is known as the Dublin Project, according to Marvin Hawkins, Keystone advisor.

Each month, the club members spend three hours at the Veteran's Hospital where they visit patients on both the regular ward and the Alzheimer's ward.

Along with visiting the vets, they spend time talking to the patients, playing games, and just keeping them company. They also collect donations for the vets during the year.

Before giving the club members the award Wetekam expressed his pride in their choice of projects.

"You are privileged to live in the greatest society ever on earth, and the veterans helped to maintain that," he said. "I can't think of any more productive work that you can do."

Cattera Anderson,

Keystone Club president who spoke on behalf of the group, said the work was worth it.

"It was a privilege to work with the veterans," she said. "Because our parents are also serving the United States, it has been an honor to help those who have served before them."

The club will go on to compete at the national level in March.

What to know

Keystone is a voluntary club with a focus on leadership and community volunteerism. Club members include: Cattera Anderson, Monica Nolan, Belinda Smith, Yasmin Johnson, DaMarcus Holmes, Tim Bishop, John Bishop, Kyle Klobucher, Brock Anderson, Desmond Lewis, Cameron Jones, Crystal Jones and Karina Bruce.



U.S. Air Force photo by Lanorris Askew

Maj. Gen. Don Wetekam, Center commander, presents Robins Keystone Club members the Southeast Region Conference Award for service to club and community. Club members performed volunteer work at the Veteran's hospital in Dublin, Ga.

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A 'beary' Merry Christmas



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Salvation Army Director Capt. Barry Corbitt, left, and Patsy Reeves, director of Contracting, stand before a wall of bears dressed by PK employees. For the 16th year, PK participated in the annual Salvation Army Christmas project. The Salvation Army provides 130 teddy bears and 165 Christmas stockings, and the "PK family" fills the stockings and creates unique bear personalities for children and senior citizens.



Pat Nixon, right, shows Diane Beers one of her dressed up bears that won Judge's choice and honorable mention.



For fun, the directorate recognizes some of the most outstanding dressed bears and filled stockings. This year's winners are:

Stockings

Boy's choice - Christine Clark
 Girl's choice - Larinda Tate
 Adult's choice - Larinda Tate
 Judge's choice - Christine Clark
 Honorable mention - Christine Clark

Bears

Best dressed boy - Doris Sciara
 Best dressed girl - Patti King
 Cutest Lady - Lenora Pinkett
 Cutest man - Crystal & Mark Hollifield
 Judge's choice - Pat Nixon
 Honorable mention - Pat Nixon

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