



**DUI prevention:
78th ABW kicks it
up a notch**

See Page 4A

NEWS

YOU CAN USE

**New changes to
force protection**

The following changes have been made to the base's security posture: ID checks at gates will be random, and visitors can be signed onto the installation 72 hours prior to scheduled visits by personally logging guests in at the Main Gate Visitors' Center. Vehicle Registration Stickers will be strictly enforced. If vehicles aren't registered, stickers are outdated or unreadable, report to your unit or Pass and Registration immediately for renewal.

For expanded coverage, see next week's Rev-Up.

— From staff reports

Seeing stars

The U.S. Senate confirmed the promotion of Col. Tom Lynn, 116th Air Control Wing commander, for promotion to brigadier general Feb. 6.



Col. Lynn

The official promotion ceremony will be March 12. President Bush nominated Col. Francis M. Bruno for his first star Tuesday. He is currently director of the Strategic Airlift, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center.



Col. Bruno

— From staff reports

**ORI countdown:
83 days**

The general definitions of each force protection condition are as follows:

Normal - General threat of possible terrorist activity exists but warrants only routine security

Alpha - General threat of possible terrorist activity against personnel and installations; nature is unpredictable

Bravo - Applies when increased or more predictable threat activity exist; must be able to be maintained for weeks without undue hardship

Charlie - Applies when an incident occurs or intel indicates terrorist action is imminent

Delta - Applies in area where terrorist attack has occurred or intel indicates attack is likely

Collings assumes command

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

Nearly 400 friends, family and community members gathered at the Museum of Aviation to watch as the Center's torch of leadership past hands Tuesday.

Accepting the torch, Brig. Gen. Michael A. Collings, who has been nominated by the President Bush for his second star, said he has big shoes to fill, but is honored to succeed the newly promoted Lt. Gen. Don Wetekam once again.

"This is the third time I have followed him, and every time I follow him it's a big challenge," he said. "I hope I'm able to follow through on some of the initiatives he's had, and I hope these initiatives continue to evolve."

The new commander said one of his focuses will be Lean.

"Lean is a great initiative," he said. "Any time you can streamline processes to be able to increase productivity, lower costs and provide more

capability out the door to the war fighter is a winning situation. I would be absolutely fool hearted if I didn't continue to embrace it."

Gen. Gregory S. Martin, Air Force Materiel Command commander, officiated the event and had good things to say about both generals.

Calling General Wetekam a focused, decisive and sensitive leader, Gen. Martin said he's confident that the outstanding mission accomplishments will continue under General Collings.

General Wetekam agreed.

"Mike Collings is the right person to lead this Center," he said. "I know him well, and I know his capabilities well. Robins is in good hands."

The former commander said the day was both happy and sad in that he is leaving a base and community his family has come to love.

"This has been home in every sense of the word," he said.

General Collings thanked

Please see **COLLINGS, 2A**



General Collings

An exercise in readiness



U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Sue Sapp

Formerly known as a Major Accident Response Exercise, or MARE, the Full Spectrum Threat Response Exercise, or FSTRE, gave Team Robins a chance to evaluate their processes before the Operational Readiness Inspection in May. For the next week, the Center will continue to test its capabilities through various scenarios like the one above at the base theater Wednesday. **For more on the exercise, turn to page 1B.**

Black Knights always on the fly

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

Mrs. Leslie Kanak's husband, Capt. Donovan Kanak, with the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, has been deployed since before Christmas. But that won't stop them from sitting by the tree and celebrating the holiday in style.

"I'm so excited to have him home," she said. "We've missed Christmas and New Year's. I left the tree up so we can open presents when he's ready to."

And they aren't alone. Tearful hugs and warm welcoming crowds are becoming a routine scene for Black Knights as deployments in support of the global war on terrorism continue.

Seventeen members of the 19th Air Refueling Group returned to Robins Feb. 13, after a 75-day deployment to the Middle East.

Col. Raymond Rottman, 19th ARG commander, said with high operations tempo maintained since operations began, Black Knights have remained at the forefront of war fighter support.

"Whether expediting the delivery of C-5

Please see **KNIGHTS, 2A**



U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Sue Sapp

Capt. Donovan Kanak gets a homecoming hug from his wife Leslie. The captain was one of 17 Black Knights to return from a 75-day deployment to the Middle East.

Transfer allows center commanders to focus on mission

By Air Force Materiel
Command News Service

AFMC commander, this change is being done for two major reasons.

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio - Beginning March 1, most Air Force Materiel Command center commanders will no longer serve as installation commander at their respective bases, allowing them to focus more on their acquisition, sustainment, and test and evaluation missions.

AFMC's installation commander job is being passed to each installation's air base wing commander who oversees the day-to-day operations and manages the infrastructure and people who operate the base and support its tenants. According to Gen. Gregory S. Martin,

"First, this will allow the center commanders greater opportunities to focus on their primary missions of delivering war-winning technology, acquisition support, sustainment and expeditionary capabilities to the war fighter," said General Martin.

This is especially important to the command's three product centers, Aeronautical Systems Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Electronic Systems Center at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.; and Air Armament Center at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., where

Please see **FOCUS, 2A**

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

Today
Partly to mostly
cloudy



72/50

Saturday
Mostly cloudy
with morning rain
then cloudy



62/45

Sunday
Partly cloudy



66/42

**What's
inside**

Jumper: Strategic airlift capability 'front burner issue' **2A**
Directorate brings home three AFMC maintenance awards **3A**
Museum workshops let kids experience another world **3B**
Robins explores new options in securing helicopter parts **8B**

Jumper: Strategic airlift capability 'front burner issue'

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – The Air Force's senior officer assured members of the Senate Armed Services Committee on Feb. 10 that maintaining strategic airlift capability is one of the service's top concerns.

Air Force Chief of Staff

Gen. John P. Jumper met with lawmakers on Capitol Hill for the annual service chief's posture testimony portion of the 2005 Department of Defense Authorization hearings.

Besides acquiring more C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, General Jumper told the committee Air Force officials are studying airlift requirements and looking into upgrading

the C-5 Galaxy fleet.

The current mobility requirement is 54.5 ton-miles per day, General Jumper said. The new study, due for completion in June 2005, will determine if that figure is still valid in today's contingency-filled world.

"In order to get to that number, we are on the track to get (more) C-17s, plus re-engine and re-engineer C-

5s," he said. "Part of our work with the C-5s is to see how many ... are capable of being modified -- do they have the service life left, have they been overworked, etc."

The general's comments were in response to Missouri Sen. James Talent's concern over the Defense Department's decision to contract foreign aircraft to

help meet America's airlift needs.

"I find it troubling that 125 times over the last three years, DOD has contracted with the Russians to use AN-124 aircraft ... because we simply don't have enough of our own," Senator Talent said.

General Jumper said the study's goal is to find the right combination of C-17s

and modified C-5s to meet the nation's strategic airlift requirement.

"The work is ongoing. It's on the front burner," he said. "The global mobility forces that are out there working every day are indeed the key to our ability to reach out around the world ... I can assure you this is an area of concern for us and we're going to keep pushing."



Brig. Gen. Michael Collings and his wife Jan leave the change of command ceremony Tuesday.

COLLINGS

Continued from 1A

the AFMC commander for his confidence, and said he will give 110 percent in his new role.

"What I'm chartered to do is to provide leadership to this organization," he said. "To accomplish what our nation has asked us to do as an air logistics center and that's to provide world class combat capability and sustainability to our forces."

He said a very important part of that leadership is people.

"People in my view are the cornerstone to everything," he said. "Most important as commander is taking care of your most precious asset, and without any question, that is people. Put your people before everything else, and the people will take care of the mission."

With experience as both an operator and logistician, General Collings is well aware of the Center's mission.

"Over the past year, Air Combat Command has had the highest mission capable rate of its combat platform aircraft - bombers fighters and special mission aircraft - in seven years. And Robins had a big play in providing those great sustainable war capable aircraft to the combatant commander through the war fighter," he said.



Gen. Gregory S. Martin and Mrs. Sheri Wetekam pin on General Wetekam's third star before the change of command ceremony.

More to know

Former Center commander Lt. Gen. Don Wetekam also received the Distinguished Service Medal. During the ceremony the Center was presented the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award for its role in support of the war on terrorism.

"It's very important as a fighter pilot to be able to put your foot on the ladder knowing that aircraft is airworthy and able to do the mission right the first time."

KNIGHTS

Continued from 1A

strategic airlift to the war fighter or providing vital aerial refueling to the full spectrum of coalition aircraft, the 19th ARG is out front in the Global War on Terrorism," he said.

The commander said the group keeps its skills honed so readiness is never in question.

"Our command leadership keeps visibility on our (operations) tempo, both deployed and at home," he said. "In doing so, they are able to ensure we have ample time and opportunities to accomplish our training requirements, ensuring the Black Knights remain poised and ready for any eventuality."

Mrs. Kanak said her faith helps pull her through the deployment cycle.

"You just trust that they're well-trained and pray that they make it back safely," she said.



U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Sue Sapp
Lt. Col. Mark Narron gives a thumbs up as 17 members of the 19th deploy Feb. 9.

What to know

Seventeen Black Knights returned home from a 75-day deployment to the Middle East, Feb. 13. The 19th Air Refueling Group has deployed 869 troops on a 45 to 120-day rotation schedule since 9-11.

FOCUS

Continued from 1A

the center commanders are now also program executive officers for the Air Force's aircraft, C2 and armament acquisition programs, respectively.

"Second, AFMC's organizational structure will now look more like those of other Air Force major commands where a wing commander is the installation commander," he said. "This will make AFMC look more familiar to our war fighter customers, thus making it easier to do business with our command. It will also give our wing commanders the full experiences they need to continue to grow into Air Force senior leaders."



General Martin

"This will make AFMC look more familiar to our war fighter customers ... It will also give our wing commanders the full experiences they need to continue to grow into Air Force senior leaders."

Gen. Gregory S. Martin
AFMC commander

To give wing commanders the right tools and people they need to exercise their responsibilities, some functions and offices will move from the center commander's staff to the wing. For example, some elements of several offices, including legal, financial and procurement, will realign to the wings. Also, there will be command chief master sergeant positions at both the centers and wings.

"What we have now is a structure that doesn't provide our air base wing commanders the authority and resources to fully support the people and organizations on their bases," General Martin said.

He said there are some

functions now being carried out at the centers that are actually wing-level in nature and will better serve the installation by being placed under the wing commander's authority.

While the new command structure will stand up March 1, each center and wing will work with AFMC headquarters to iron out the steps needed to complete all of the organizational restructure and physical relocations by October 2004.

Command officials emphasized that while some jobs will move from centers to wings, they do not anticipate any positions being eliminated as part of the realignment.

Directorate brings home three AFMC maintenance awards

By Ms. Lisa Mathews
lisa.mathews@robins.af.mil

The Center's Maintenance Directorate has netted three Air Force Materiel Command maintenance awards for the third quarter of fiscal 2003.

Among them, Ms. Stephanie Austin was named outstanding depot maintenance member; Mr. Chad Cagle was named outstanding wage grade maintenance member; and the C-5 maintenance management team in the aircraft division garnered recognition as AFMC's outstanding depot maintenance management team.

Both Ms. Austin and Mr. Cagle work in the commodities and industrial products division, or MAN. C-5 maintenance management team members include Mr. Willie Bowman, Ms. Sherry Bridges, Mr. Robert Collins, retired Col. Ed Connolly, Mr. David Mann, Mr. Ed Montano and Mr. Steve Tomblin.

"I am extremely proud of the recognition of outstanding performance by the two individuals and the C-5 team from MA," said Mr. Jim Culpepper, MA director.

Ms. Austin led her composite repair team of 200-plus mechanics in war fighter support and was vital to her section receiving International Organization for Standardization registration in metal bond and composite repair.

Her section works more than 70 different assets and

produces 400,000 earned hours annually in support of the C-5, C-141, C-130, C-17 and F-15 aircraft and the H-2 helicopter. Under her leadership, the team decreased flow days, reduced cost and improved on-time delivery.

"Winning this award is a tremendous honor for me," she said. "I greatly appreciate the opportunities I've been given in the positions that I've held and the support I've received over the years. I enjoy what I do and hope to do it for many more years."

A former co-op student, Mr. Cagle began working in the wing shop of MAN in 1999.

"He's one of our top-notch mechanics," said his supervisor, Mr. Frank Valasky. "He's very dependable. To my knowledge there is probably nothing he can't do. But, if he ran into something he couldn't do, he knows where to go to get the paperwork done to get the job done."

Through his efforts, the wing section produced 67 wings on an average of seven days early with zero late from

July 1 until the end of the quarter.

"I take my job seriously," Mr. Cagle said. "I don't come out here to make eight-hours-a-day, and 40-hours-a-week. I actually come out here and think about the person who's going to fly that plane."

Mr. Cagle quoted his grandfather by saying, "'When you die you can't leave anything behind but the memory of who you were.' If, God forbid, I leave here today and get in a car accident, at least I'll know the people here said I came in here and did my job every day."

Accolades for the success of the C-5 Production Branch haven't been rare this year, and this latest award reflects on everyone in the C-5 branch, according to Mr. Mann.

"I've been on this airframe for more than 20 years and there have been a lot of struggles during that time," he said. "It really feels good to be part of a winning team."

Those sentiments were echoed by Mr. Tomblin, deputy chief of the branch.

"The C-5 program, in the last year, has come around and made significant improvements," he said. "The reason for that is the team approach from everybody that works in C-5s."

The team won the award by exceeding all measured production goals and greatly improving combat capability, producing 23 C-5s to Air Mobility Command for joint and national strategic airlift. In past years, previous teams were never able to produce more than 17 C-5s in any fiscal year.

The team's efforts also led to a 45 percent decrease in downtime for acceptance inspections and an average decrease in flow days from 340 to less than 230. The team produced more than 100 percent of budgeted hours, bringing the net operating results into the black for the first time in C-5 PDM history.



Ms. Austin



Mr. Cagle



Mr. Bowman



Ms. Bridges



Mr. Collins



Col. Connolly



Mr. Mann



Mr. Montano



Mr. Tomblin

SF message to drinkers: Don't drive

By Mrs. Chris Zdrakas
chris.zdrakas@robins.af.mil

Robins Air Force Base has shifted into high gear to prevent drinking and driving arrests, adopting a zero tolerance policy, an incentive for teamwork leading to no DUIs and putting up signs to keep the message in drivers' minds as they leave the base.

More police checkpoints are next.

The initiatives are designed to reverse a DUI trend across the base, said Chief Master Sergeant Sam Mitchell, superintendent of the 78th Air Base Wing.

According to 78th Security Forces Squadron statistics, there were 63 drinking and driving arrests among the Robins' military community last year. Most were the result of off-base incidents.



Chief Mitchell

In January, Robins had six drinking and driving arrests, compared to three in January 2003.

"One DUI arrest is one too many," Chief Mitchell said. "We recognize that there is a problem, and we know that it can be solved."

In a policy letter to members of the 78th Air Base Wing, Col. Tom Smoot, 78th Air Base Wing commander, called drinking and driving "an irresponsible act that adversely affects military careers, undermines unit morale and discipline and costs innocent lives."

"Zero tolerance is my policy for DUI offenders who commit these irresponsible acts, either on or off the base," he said. "Those who ignore this policy and show such disregard for career, morale, discipline and the lives of others will be dealt with appropriately and swiftly."

He asked commanders, officers and enlisted leaders to join in spreading the policy message and in increasing awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving. In addition, Colonel Smoot announced a reward program - a time-off day - to wing units whose efforts result in a zero DUI rate each 100 consecutive day period.

Other major organization commanders on base plan to follow suit with similar policies.

Signs with the message "Arrive Alive...Don't Drink and Drive" have been erected at Gates 1, 2, 5 and 14.

According to Chief Mitchell, the bottom line is that base leaders and security forces are serious about cutting down on the trend.

"Commanders and supervisors at all levels are working hard to develop and implement education and prevention programs," he said. "But, the overall responsibility - and ultimately the repercussions - lies with the individual who makes the choice to drink and drive."

Who to call

Airmen Against Drunk Drivers is a 24-hour-service that provides rides to those who have consumed alcohol and need transportation home. The program is run by volunteers from across base, and those who use the service aren't subject to adverse action. To request a ride, call: 335-5218, 335-5238 and 335-5236.

DUI checkpoints

Security Forces teamed up Jan. 23 with the Office of Special Investigations, Warner Robins Police Department and Houston County Sheriff's Department to form a DUI checkpoint at Robins' main gate. More checkpoints are planned in 2004.

Police checked for license, registration, insurance and signs of drinking drivers in both inbound and outbound lanes. There were no DUIs, but police issued 42 citations for no insurance, 19 for no registration and one for operating a vehicle without headlights. One person was turned over to the Houston County Sheriff's Department for driving on a suspended license.

Bad move ...



U.S. Air Force photo illustration by Ms. Sue Sapp

In an effort to curb a drinking and driving trend that includes people of all ranks, Robins has put up signs at Gates 1, 2, 5 and 14 reminding people not to drink and drive. According to 78th Security Forces Squadron statistics, there were 63 drinking and driving arrests among the Robins' military community last year. Most were the result of off-base incidents.

Robins DUI tracker

February: 3 February 2003: 6 Year to date: 9 2003: 63 Number of days since last DUI: 3 (Sunday at 2:29 a.m.)

DUI puts ex-cop on other side of the law

By Mrs. Chris Zdrakas
chris.zdrakas@robins.af.mil

Handcuffed and scared, the 23-year-old senior airman rode in the back seat of a Warner Robins Police Department squad car, enveloped in darkness and playing over in his mind the night that abruptly changed his life.

Veterans' Day 2003 was a nightmare of bad decisions, reckless behavior and an accident. It was the night he drank, drove, got caught and crashed his truck into a stopped car at a red light.

The airman, who talked about his arrest on the condition of anonymity, was charged with driving under the influence, the start of a continuing, biting nightmare he said haunts him every day. He stepped forward to tell his story in the hopes of helping someone. He was in a Security Forces squadron before his assignment to Robins.

"If I reach one person, retelling that night will have been worth the effort," he said.

Home alone watching television Nov. 11, he drank three six-ounce drinks laced with vodka before taking off in his nearly new truck for a friend's home about 10 minutes away. He had eaten a steak and cheese sub sandwich earlier that evening.

"I have never been a heavy drinker," he said. "I thought I was OK."

The circumstances of the accident are not clear in his mind, but he recalls being on Russell Parkway for about five minutes when he ran into the back of a Lexus sedan at a red-light. His airbag deployed, striking him with a force he said left him disoriented. No one in either vehicle was seriously injured. Both

"I used to see people like that and think 'man, this has to (be rough).' Now I am one of those people - I have to wake up and look at myself in the mirror. I did the crime, and I deserve the punishment. Living with it isn't easy ... I'll know better in the future."

truck and car were heavily damaged.

He and the other driver pulled off Russell Parkway into an adjoining parking lot, and he went in search of a pay phone. Meanwhile, the friend he had been planning to visit, concerned he hadn't arrived, went looking for him and came upon the accident scene.

She called the police.

Police apparently smelled the alcohol, which was later confirmed in sobriety tests at the police station. Police charged him with DUI, and he called his first sergeant to drive him home. It was about 3 a.m.

"I was once again in the back seat of a car seeing my whole life flash in front of me. I was thinking 'my life is over.' I was mad and very disappointed at myself," he said.

His first sergeant told him he would pick him up at 7 a.m. for an appointment with his commander.

"I was still hazy. He could have told me anything, and I would have agreed to it. I took a shower, but I slept very little," he said.

Before the events of the night unfolded, he had his alarm set so that he would get to work his usual time, 9 a.m. At 7, his

phone started ringing, but still in a dazed sleep, he didn't answer. An hour later, three of his supervisors were knocking on his door.

"They were mad," he said. "I began to put on my camouflage, but they said they wanted me in blues because I was going to see the commander."

He stood at attention for five or ten minutes as the commander gave him what he described as a "good scolding." Then she sent him back to work, telling him he would not be getting a day off.

"It seemed like the longest day of my life," he said. "I was tired, I had a headache and I was filled with remorse."

Later that day, he made a call he dreaded - to his parents. He said his parents had been "pretty strict" while he was growing up, insisting on good grades. He earned As and Bs in school, enlisting in the Air Force right after high school graduation. He said because his family didn't have the money to send him to college, he chose the Air Force to better himself and one day, to be able to afford college on his own.

He had been in the Air Force more than five years and was a senior airman when he was charged with DUI. Because of the charge, he was demoted to

airman first class, received a letter of reprimand, an unfavorable information file and an Article 15 non-judicial punishment for tardiness (for the day after his arrest). He also lost his base driving privileges for a year, was disqualified from testing for staff sergeant and directed to attend ADAPT - Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment - on base.

That wasn't the end of his nightmare. In Warner Robins Municipal Court, a judge fined him \$1,400. Retaining a lawyer cost him another \$500. His parents helped him pay the initial costs, and he is paying his debt off in \$160-a-month installments. The added expense and a \$300 monthly decrease in Air Force pay meant he found himself doing without some things to which he had grown accustomed - cable television, telephone, dinners out with his wife.

"Now it's just survival," he said.

His wife, who is also in the Air Force, drives him to and from work, and he relies on co-workers and others to get him to medical and other necessary appointments.

"I used to see people like that and think 'man, this has to (be rough),' he said. "Now I am one of those people - I have to wake up and look at myself in the mirror. I did the crime, and I deserve the punishment. Living with it isn't easy. The only good thing is that I got the dumb stuff out of the way. I'll know better in the future."

He said his advice to others is this: Be responsible, don't drink alone. Plan ahead, and if you are going to drink, have a designated driver.

ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

Officers' Hail and Farewell ceremony

There will be an Officers' Hail and Farewell ceremony today at 4 p.m. in the Officers' Club ballroom. For more information, contact Capt. Jeff Styers, WRALC/LF, at 926-3873, or e-mail him at jeffrey.styers@robins.af.mil.

Atlanta Braves tickets

Atlanta Braves tickets for the April 16 game against the Florida Marlins are on sale

through Monday at Robins Elementary School from 8:05-8:30 a.m. The school chorus will be singing the national anthem. Chartered bus tickets from Robins will also be available. For more information, call 926-5003.

ASMC luncheon

The American Society of Military Comptrollers Middle Georgia Chapter February awards luncheon will be Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at the

Officers' Club. Tickets are \$7 for members, \$8 for non-members and free for award winners. Please R.S.V.P. with a ticket seller: Ms. Kathy Piper at 327-1410, Ms. Amy Galeazzo at 472-0381 or Ms. Betty Enge at 926-5485.

Engineering, technical management awards

This year's Engineering and Technical Management awards presentation banquet will be Wednesday, at the

Officers' Club. The theme is "Teaming for Success." For tickets, contact Ms. Sara Smelt at 926-6451 or Airman 1st Class Michelle Woods at 926-4489.

Robins Technology Show cancelled

The annual Robins Technology Show, originally scheduled for Thursday, has been cancelled. For more information or questions, call 1 (888) 282-2262, e-mail

info@atc-expo.com or visit www.atc-expo.com/shows

78th ABW Enlisted Promotion ceremony

The 78th Air Base Wing Enlisted Promotion ceremony, hosted by Col. Tom Smoot, 78th Air Base Wing commander, will be March 4, 3:30 p.m., at the Base Theater. Those being recognized will be notified by their respective first sergeants. Commanders, supervisors, family members

and friends are encouraged to attend. Show your unit's pride and spirit; come and join us in congratulating our new promotees. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Editha S. Garcia or Staff Sgt. Jessica Jackson at 926-0792.

Museum art exhibit

The Museum of Aviation is featuring Georgia artist Mr. Marc Stewart's exhibit, A Celebration of Heroes, through March 12.

Shootin' from the lip: I don't know, but I'll find out

By Mr. Geoff Janes
geoff.janes@robins.af.mil

If you've got kids, you've heard it before. Without a doubt I have; my son first and then my daughter have asked it all.

And I've never minded, but as much as I would have liked to, I haven't always had the answers.

"Dad, why is the sky blue? Why does it rain so much? Why do I have to go to bed; it's only 11 o'clock? Why is mom mad at you?"

And I've given a string of answers ranging from carefully-calculated guesses to the cold, hard facts as I know them.

But, if I guessed, I always followed up. And, again, if you're a parent, you've probably been there.



Mr. Janes

You've given the - sort of - answers as well.

"Cause God made it that way; so the flowers and grass can grow; because I said so, and because I didn't clean out the garage for the 14th weekend in a row."

They aren't always logical, and they're not always the answers my kids are looking for. But I'm always as honest as I can be.

Sure, it'd be easy to just throw something out there, but as an old boss of mine used to say, "If you don't know, please, please, please just say you don't know. It's OK to say you'll get back to someone. Remember, apologies and delays are easy; pride can be a bitter pill."

Anyway, I've always figured as a dad, it's my job to know, to have the answers for my kids.

So, I've always tried to be honest, and when I didn't have the answer, I did what all parents do - I made something up.

No, seriously, I've always done

what I thought they would understand, I told them I didn't know, but I would try to find the answer, and when I had it, I'd get back to them.

And if it meant three hours on the Internet, five phone calls, another trip to the zoo, or whatever - I got the information.

Not always because I wanted to, not because I had to or because I felt guilty about not knowing in the first place, but because I said I would.

And even in today's society, with its microwave dinners, instant communication via the Internet and whatever the heck a "hustle and bustle" atmosphere is, a person's word means something.

It always has to my dad. It always has to me and my real friends, and if I'm doing it right, it will to my kids.

Today, they say things like, "Dad said he'd find out, so we'll ask him tomorrow." It works.

So, what does that have to do

"Good leaders don't give a half-hearted, politically correct answer. They don't throw something out without doing their homework because it's easy and they think they'll save face."

with anything you may ask? Well, it has as much to do with running a section, directorate, squadron or wing as it has to do with being a friend or parent.

Good leaders don't give a half-hearted, politically correct answer. They don't throw something out without doing their homework because it's easy and they think they'll save face.

A real leader says "I don't know,

but as soon as I have that answer, I'll get back to you."

And then, believe it or not, they follow through. They get it.

No excuses, no bull - just straight shooting.

Supervisors want answers; subordinates want answers; children want answers. And you don't do anyone any favors by buying time with excuses.

So to my daughter Haley who asked me just yesterday on the way home if box turtles can swim, I just have to say that according to Melissa Kaplan's Herp Care Collection at <http://www.anapsid.org/box.html>, "Box turtles require plenty of fresh shallow water (one quarter to one third their shell height); while they are not as adept at swimming and diving as the water turtles, they can paddle around."

So, yes, honey they can swim.

I just wish all the answers were that easy.

Integrity, service before self and excellence endure winds of change

By Chief Master Sgt. Randy Auld

14th Flying Training Wing
command chief master sergeant

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. - As I awoke this morning, I reflected on all the changes that are happening in the Air Force.

Key initiatives such as transformation and force development are examples of ideas that demand a new way of thinking to get our jobs done faster, cheaper and more efficiently, while creating a new vision for developing our most valuable resource - our people - for

success in the future.

The changes aren't just limited to how we develop our people or the thought process for performing our jobs.

We are also evaluating our utility uniform requirements and are currently conducting a wear test of the proposed replacement.

Naturally, when you consider upcoming changes, it certainly causes you to look at the effects of the past.

Over the past 26 years, I have had the opportunity to "transform" from the typewriter to computer automation.

Uniforms have changed as

well, moving from blue stripes on cotton fatigues to subdued stripes on permanent press battle dress uniforms.

The new service dress was a controversial change, replacing the older "Combo 1" style adopted from the Army days.

Let's not forget about name tags, either, from the sewn on version in blue and white to subdued then to the aircrew style name tags and back again to subdued.

Technology and uniforms aren't the only changes the Air Force has made over the years.

The Berlin Wall is down

and the Cold War is over. We have moved from a predominantly home-based force posture, both stateside and overseas, to a more dynamic, quick-reaction force designed to deploy on a moment's notice anytime, anywhere.

Our smaller, focused air and space expeditionary forces remain challenged as they never have been before.

Winds of change? Or are they? When looking back, and then forward, you quickly realize changes are only skin deep.

Although we operate with different weapons systems and procedures, and we dress

differently, our core foundation has not changed.

Even before our Air Force formally established its core values - integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do - we strived to instill those values in our people.

If you have doubts, ask a World War II veteran or those who sacrificed so much during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Desert Shield and Desert Storm demanded no less.

Today, the global war on terrorism again proves our sincere commitment to our core values.

Yes, the way we look and

act on the outside may have changed, but not our internal drive and dedication to duty, honor and country - three precepts that sustain the devotion to our core values.

Yes, winds of change are here. However, as history documents, the United States of America and its men and women in uniform will continue supporting freedom.

When you think about all the changes coming down the road, remember duty, honor and country.

Press on with pride knowing that integrity, service before self and excellence is what we do - and no one in the world does it better.

Commander's Action Line

Col. Tom Smoot
Commander,
78th Air Base Wing



Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live.

Please remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-

mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line 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

Thanks to the BX staff

I would like to say how pleased I am with shopping at the Base Exchange. I find great savings on name brand clothing comparing to the retail stores off base. I visit often in order to select from new arrivals. The sales associates are always so helpful and courteous. I enjoy shopping at my BX. I know the monies will go back to the community. Whatever I'm looking for - I look at the BX first. I have also run into contractors during lunch hour that didn't know the food court is open for them. It would be nice if you could get the word out to them.

Commander replies: Thank you for your letter regarding the high quality of service you received at the Base Exchange and facilities. On behalf of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, we take pride in all our associates and the level of service they provide to our customers. We're always pleased to hear about our good customer service and the quality and pricing of our clothing. We will forward your suggestion regarding Food Court privileges through the appropriate channels. We strive to be a valued benefit to our customers and the military community. One of our many missions is to generate reasonable earnings to supplement appropriated funds for the support of Army and Air Force Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. We're always pleased to hear from our customers and rely on you as a customer to bring your comments to our attention so that we can take the appropriate action and promote the high level of service you deserve.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to comment.

Fix the lights in racquetball court No. 3

The lights in racquetball court No. 3 at the new base gym have been inoperable now for more than 10 weeks. I use the gym an average of four times per week. I play racquetball each Tuesday and Thursday. I check with key gym personnel each day for a status on getting the lights fixed. The answer is always the same: no one from Civil Engineering has come to the gym.

Commander replies: Thank you for bringing this to our attention. You are correct that the lights on this court have not worked for an extended period. The circuit and controls feeding it were rendered inoperable as a result of a lightning strike. Our civil engineers responded shortly after the fact; however they had difficulty trouble-shooting the problem because they couldn't access the light fixtures (the courts have a relatively small access door through which to get the lifts and staging required to reach the high ceiling). Upon further review, electrical relays within the control panel were replaced and the lights are now functioning properly. Again, thank you for your concern regarding our world-class gym facility.

Camera cell phones are a security risk

I see a lot of the new cell phones with the instant picture

feature on base. With us in a war situation I would think this might be a way that terrorists could get their hands on information that is sensitive. I have asked around, and there is no rule about these phones since it is new technology.

Commander replies: Technology today is moving at the speed of light, and we are trying to keep up with the pace. The Air Force Certified TEMPEST Technical Authority discussed this issue with National Security Agency representatives at a recent meeting. The NSA advises new cellular phones with integral digital cameras pose an unacceptable security risk as determined by the Office of Homeland Security. An individual is not authorized to use or to be in possession of this type of phone within any Air Force facility processing classified information without written authorization from the Designated Approval Authority. The following information supplements AFMAN 33-214, Volume 2, paragraph 3.4.4. "Special Items Cellular Telephones" and provides guidance to prohibit cell phones with integral digital camera capability in facilities processing classified information. Individuals in possession of these cellular phones upon entry to Air Force facilities will be denied access to classified facilities. Anyone found in possession of this type of cellular phone while inside or upon exiting classified Air Force facilities will have the phone confiscated and delivered to the Security Forces for disposition. More information is available on the AFCA secure Web site. Use the Information & Services drop down and click on EMSEC. If you have any other questions please contact your security manager.



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

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

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

Editorial staff

Warner Robins Air Logistics Center
Office of Public Affairs

Commander.....	Brig. Gen. Michael A. Collings
Acting PA director.....	Maj. Scott Covode
Chief, Internal Information.....	Mr. Phil Rhodes
Editor.....	Mr. Geoff Janes
Associate editor	Ms. Angela Trunzo
Photographer.....	Ms. Sue Sapp
Staff writers.....	Ms. Lanorris Askew, Ms. Holly J. Logan
78th Air Base Wing staff writer.....	Mrs. Chris Zdrakas
Contributing writer.....	Ms. Lisa Mathews

Chiefs induction ceremony and dinner set for Feb. 28

Acquiring the final enlisted stripe is no small feat.

Recent statistics indicate that only one of every 100 personnel who begin basic military training in the Air Force will attain the status of chief master sergeant.

This year the Robins Chiefs' Group will induct 16 personnel to this elite rank.

The guest speaker will be the 5th chief master sergeant of the Air Force - retired Chief Master Sgt. Robert Gaylor.

The 2004 Chief's Induction

Ceremony and Dinner will be Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. at the Museum of Aviation, Century of Flight Hangar. Cost is \$30 per person. Dress for military members is mess dress or semi-formal uniform. Civilian dress is semi-formal.

The 2004 inductees, along with their unit and hometown, are:

Senior Master Sgt. N. Jerome Baker, 78th CS, Little Rock, Ark.

Senior Master Sgt. Kevin P. Beck, 116th MXS, Chicago, Ill.

Senior Master Sgt. Suzy

Clemons, HQ AFRC, Riceville, Tenn.

Senior Master Sgt. Joel Coppelino, AFRC, Berwyn, Ill.

Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth R.

Cox, 778th CES, Independence, Mo.

Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Dreer, AFRC, Baltimore, Md.

Senior Master Sgt. Scott

Dunford, AFRC, Bear Lake Valley, Idaho

Chief Master Sgt. Kevin B.

Hamilton, 116th MXS, Glen Burnie, Md.

Senior Master Sgt. Kevin D. Inskeep, 116th MXG, Ashdown, Ark.

Senior Master Sgt. Ron McAtee, AFRC, Perry, Ga.

Chief Master Sgt. Claude McKenzie, 94th APS, Ft. Valley, Ga.

Senior Master Sgt. John P. Moffo, 5th CBCSS, Waterbury, Conn.

Chief Master Sgt. Robert F. Parker Jr., 94th APS, Williston, S.C.

Senior Master Sgt. Kevin

Perkins, WRALC, Skidway Lake, Mich.

Senior Master Sgt. Dan RedCloud, 78th CES, New York, N.Y.

Chief Master Sgt. Tanya M. Richards, WRALC, Newark, Ohio

Senior Master Sgt. Timothy

Wells, AFRC, Pompano Beach, Fla.

For more information, contact

Chief Master Sgt. Greg Harris at 327-0599.

— *From staff reports*

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 Mr. Keith Dierking, 926-0420.

Robins Top 3

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

Procurement

Toastmasters Club, open to all of Team Robins, meets the first and third Thursday of each month at noon in the Contracting Directorate's conference room, north end of Building 300. For information, call Ms. Lily Fickler at 926-2855.

Ravens Toastmasters

Club meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Special Operations Forces Management Directorate's conference room No. 1, Building 300, East Wing, door E-4. For information, call Mr. Eddie Sanford at 926-1185.

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, call Ms. Evelyn Fountain at 926-7429 or Ms. Nancy Kwiatkowski at 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, associate editor, by e-mail at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil or by fax at 926-9597.



U.S. Air Force photos by Ms. Sue Sapp

Security Forces members practice riot control procedures during an exercise Thursday morning. As part of the scenario, the protestors illegally entered the installation and didn't heed warnings to leave. Security police in full riot gear forcefully removed them from the base.

The scenarios

ONE:

Fifteen firefighters attending a briefing inside the base theater were overcome by a noxious gas. Robins' first responders responded to find victims, some inside and some outside, in various degrees of illness. An unknown container was identified inside the theater and the explosive ordinance team was called in.

TWO:

A group of protestors against the buildup and preparation for mobility illegally entered the installation to voice their views. They were given the opportunity to peacefully depart. Those who chose not to were taken into custody and processed accordingly.

Warrior Day revisited

Robins prepares for May ORI

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

If practice makes perfect, then the Center will be at the top of its game in May when it opens its gates to a team of Air Force Materiel Command inspectors during its Operational Readiness Inspection.

Preparing for that day, first responders flexed their collective muscle during Operational Readiness Exercise scenarios Wednesday and Thursday.

According to Col. Williams Saunders, the ongoing exercise is very similar to the upcoming ORI and is a test of skill and procedure.

"What we are doing is allowing our folks the opportunity to make sure we're ready for the ORI because it's a huge grade for this Center in terms of how ready we are to carry out our mission," the inspector general said. "We are ensuring that all activities on base that will be involved with the ORI can do their job."

Security Forces personnel donned their riot gear Thursday when a group of unruly individuals decided to come onto the installation to voice their protests against the war.

Lt. Col. Mark Papen, Security Forces Squadron commander, said though the scenario is one you don't see a lot in Middle Georgia because of the supportive community, it is important to be prepared for anything.

"This is a great example of practicing what we call confrontation management," he said. "This is fantastic training because it doesn't get any better than this. This gets us one step closer to being pre-



Robins' first responders treat firefighters exposed to a noxious gas while attending a briefing inside the base theater. This portion of the exercise gave Robins another opportunity to practice responding to a weapons of mass destruction attack.

What to know

Formerly known as a Major Accident Response Exercise or MARE the Full Spectrum Threat Response Exercise, or FSTRE, gave a chance for Team Robins to evaluate their processes before the Operational Readiness Inspection in May. For the next week, the Center will continue to test its capabilities through various scenarios.

pared for what could happen real world and during the IG inspection in May."

A team of more than 100 exercise evaluators has been assembled to watch, monitor and evaluate various scenarios.

They participate in a follow-on discussion after the exercise to take a hard look at what was done right, what was done wrong and areas to focus.

Colonel Saunders said ultimately the exercise and the inspection are to make sure that Robins is ready to go to war.

"Though we are preparing our folks for the ORI, we're really preparing to go to war," he said.



Colonel Saunders



Colonel Papen



"We are evaluating to see if they are ready and conditioned for war - not just a peacetime evaluation. They have to know how to wear their gear and survive and operate. We are testing all of that."

The IG said Wednesday and Thursday's exercises are just some of the many events that will occur during the next two weeks.



Above, firefighters carry a casualty from the base theater Wednesday morning. As part of the scenario, an unknown container was identified inside the theater and the explosive ordinance team was called in.

Left, two of the firefighters involved in the briefing in the theater scramble for help.

"Everyone is following a procedure of policy, and that procedure is to minimize loss of life and damage to equipment," said Colonel Saunders. "My charge is to evaluate very thoroughly, leaving no stone left unturned."

Looking back on phase one, Colonel Saunders said he thinks Robins did a good job.

"I think we did very well," he said. "Are there issues that we need to discuss and fine tune a little bit? Yes. If I were to put a percentage on it I would say we're in the 90th percentile, but that's not where we want to be - we want to be at 100 percent. Today we would pass, but we don't want to just pass, we want to do outstanding."

Black History Month events

For more information, go to www.robins.af.mil/blackhistory.

Dinner theater, today

The contemporary jazz/R&B quintet, Five Men on a Stool, will perform at the Enlisted Club. Cocktails will be served at 6:30 p.m.; dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

Youth Cultural Event, Saturday

The Youth Cultural Event, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Museum of Aviation, is an event for the entire family. With an essay contest, story telling, motivational speakers, and traditional African dance, there is sure to be something for everyone.

Career forum with panel speakers, Saturday

The forum will be from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Museum of Aviation. Preparing our youth for the future is a commitment. This five to seven member panel will feature guests such as lawyers, politicians and athletes that will address career choices, education and life topics.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Presidents of Yore

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

ACROSS

1. 1st President (1789-97)
8. 11th President (1845-49)
12. Everything
13. Retirees' org.
14. Military computer networks (abbrev.)
15. Allow
17. Creases
19. Building block of evolution
20. 14th President (1853-57)
22. Fencing tool
23. 3rd President (1801-1809)
29. Ford mistake?
30. Help
31. Capital of Norway
32. Military bed
33. English metaphysical poet and divine
34. 41st President (1989-93)
38. Blades
39. Jaleel White character on Family Matters
40. Comedian Caesar
41. Big truck
43. 103 once upon a time
44. Cauldron
45. TV show ___ Got a Secret
47. Military meal in the field (abbrev.)
48. Sign gas
50. Singer Fitzgerald
52. Sly look
53. Gov't space agency
57. Ease
71. Tryout
62. 6th President (1825-29)
63. Mexican food item
64. USAF E-4 aircraft (abbrev.)
65. 34th President (1953-61)

2. 1999 military operation ___ Force
3. Dozes
4. Neck region
5. Dame
6. Italian three
7. German grandpa
9. Peculiar
10. 16th President (1861-1865)
11. Abbrev. for Middle East country
16. Elm or Oak
18. 27th President (1909-13)
21. Cubicle
23. 7th President (1829-37)
24. Electrical insulating material
25. Smelly
26. 26th President (1901-1909)
27. Military ID number
28. Christmas carol
33. Lucy's partner
34. 15th President (1857-61)
35. 70s "spoon bender" Geller
36. Browse
37. Successor
42. Fight
46. 39th President (1977-1981)
49. 37th President (1969-1974)
51. Military pay stub
54. Oklahoma town
55. ___ Paulo, Brazil
56. USAF MAJCOM in charge of airlift
58. In USAF, acronym for time to intercept an enemy
59. ___ Cruces, N.M.
60. Best pilot

DOWN

1. Tail marking for aircraft

For puzzle solution, see Feb. 27 edition of the Rev-Up

Puzzle solution for Feb. 13



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.

Relocation assistance program

The Relocation Assistance Program at the FSC has base brochures on many Air Force, Navy, Army, Marine Corps and Coast Guard bases. They also have base videos on many Air Force installations around the world available for checkout. Call 926-3453 to order a SITES booklet. Base videos and brochures may be checked out for 48 hours.

Spouse appreciation essay contest

The FSC is sponsoring an essay contest for all Team Robins personnel titled "Why My Spouse is So Terrific!" The top winner will be announced as the Robins Spouse of the Year 2004.

All nominees will be invited to the 2004 Spouse Appreciation Reception May 14, and will receive a Certificate of Appreciation. The deadline is March 17. You may deliver it to the FSC or e-mail it to cindy.graver@robins.af.mil

"Special prize packages" will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners based on the following guidelines:

- Nominations may be submitted by all military members, DoD civilians or contractors assigned to Robins. This includes all branches of service and organizations.

- Each nomination should include a cover page listing the person being nominated and their address, the nominator's name/rank/title, unit or organization, and duty phone.

- Type the name of the spouse on the cover page only. Do not use the spouse's name in the actual write up. This is done so that the names will not influence the judges.

- Limit the write up to one typewritten page (Times New Roman - 12 point).

- Please stress the spouse's contributions made during the last twelve months

that have enhanced the nominator's career and mission readiness.

For more information, contact Ms. Cindy Graver at 926-3453.

Volunteer excellence award

It's time to nominate a civilian, military retiree, civilian retiree or family member for the Volunteer Excellence Award. To be eligible, an individual's service must be performed either in the local civilian community or the military family community. The VEA is intended to recognize long-term community support and not a single act or achievement.

Nominations should be one page, typed single spaced. Nominators should be specific when giving the time frame of the accomplishments. Nomination packages should include on a separate page, name, office symbol, and phone number of nominator. Nominations must be submitted not later than March 12 to: Volunteer Resource Manager, 78MSS/DPF, ATTN: Royce Williams. This award will be presented at the annual National Volunteer Recognition Week Ceremony to be held April 23. Questions may be directed to Mr. Royce Williams, at 926-1256.

SERVICES BRIEFS

Aero Club

Private pilot ground school registration will be held Monday through Friday, Feb. 27 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Payment of \$540 is due at the time of registration. Ground school is a 45 - 50-hour course, approximately six weeks and held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. One hundred percent tuition is available to active duty members upon completion. For more information, call the Aero Club.

Base Restaurant

Tell us what you think. What sort of business would you support in the front area of the main Base Restaurant, Building 166? Ideas so far include a nail salon, coffee house, deli, bakery or massage therapy. To give us your ideas, go to www.robins.af.mil/services and click on Base Restaurant ideas link. Select one of the choices or write in your own idea. Please include the distance from your work to the restaurant and how frequently you visit.

Child Development Centers East and West

A CDC Art Exhibit will be held Monday from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Smith Community Center.

Civilian Recreation

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. All children receive a

prize with the purchase of a pack.

Watch the movie "Top Gun" in the Smith Community Center ballroom Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. Moviegoers are invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets to this free event. Concessions will be on sale. Youths 16 and younger must be accompanied by a parent. For more information, call Ms. Lynne Brackett at 922-4415.

MT Tennis players are invited to play at their own level in the singles and doubles spring tennis leagues, which begin April 5. Open to anyone 16 years and older in the Robins community to include active duty, retired, reserve military, DoD civilians, contractors and immediate family members who register by March 31. Cost is \$10 per person. Play at your own level.

Family Child Care

Parents with children on the waiting list for care in the Child Development Center are encouraged to take advantage of the following: Starting Sunday, the Family Child Care program will enroll 3 - to 5 - year-olds for fulltime care in the Subsidy Program.

The Subsidy Program offers parents the opportunity to pay the same rate for their subsidized space as they would if their child was enrolled in the CDC.

Parents must complete the DD Form 2652 (Application for DoD Child Care Fees) and all supporting documentation to calculate the Total Family Income to the FCC coordinator. The coordinator will provide the income category number (1-

6) and the appropriate weekly fee to the parent and provider.

The provider will not be privy to the DD 2652 or the supporting documentation.

Any questions about the calculation should be addressed to the FCC coordinator. Call 926-6741 for more information.

Are you a spouse of an active or retired military member who enjoys working with young children? Start a new career as a family child care provider by attending training March 5, 8 and 9 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Family Child Care Office, Smith Community Center, Building 767, 2nd floor.

Information, Tickets and Travel

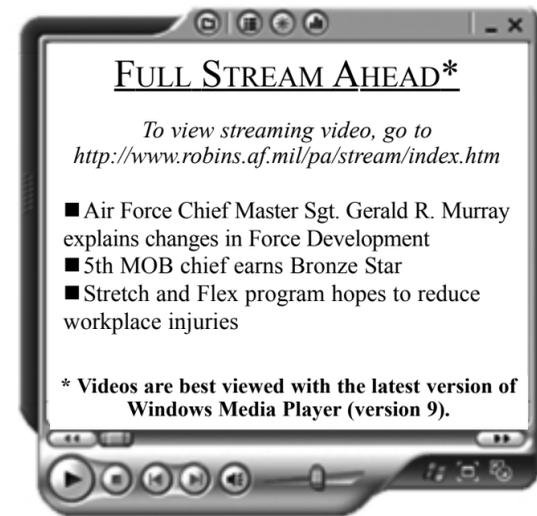
Explore and expand your horizons during ITT's Travel Show March 10 from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the Smith Community Center ballroom.

Get away to Las Vegas May 17 - 20. Price per person, single \$704, double \$580.50, triple \$545.35 and quad \$535.75. A \$100 nonrefundable deposit is due at time of reservation. Balance due by March 12. For more information, call ITT at 926-2945.

Skills Development Center

Sign up now for a six-week class for beginner and intermediate Quilting 101. Cost is \$55. Classes will be held on Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 6 - 8 p.m.

STREAMING VIDEO



MOVIE SCHEDULE

Friday
7:30 p.m. - Disney's Teacher's Pet - animated

Spot is a dog who can talk and read and longs for more than the doggy life. He masquerades as a human and sneaks into school with his master Leonard, posing as fellow student Scott Leadready II. Simply pretending to be a boy isn't enough for him, he wants the real deal.

Rated PG (some mildly crude humor) 84 minutes

Saturday
7:30 p.m. - Chasing Liberty - Mandy Moore and Matthew Goode

Tired of being followed around every moment of every day, the 18-year old daughter of the president of the United States ditches her Secret Service handlers and sets out on a romantic road trip through Europe with her boyfriend Ben.

Rated PG-13 (sexual content and brief nudity) 111 minutes



ROBINS REPORT

News from around the base - Watson and Cox Channel 15
Friday - 8 p.m. ■ Sunday - 1:30 p.m. ■ Monday - noon

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic Masses are celebrated at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., and on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and 5 p.m. and Monday through Friday at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Saturday from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Protestant General Services take place every Sunday at 11 a.m. This service

includes some traditional and contemporary worship styles in music and in format.

Protestant Inspirational Services take place every Sunday at 8 a.m.

Protestant Contemporary Services take place 11 a.m. each Sunday at the Base Theater. This service is very informal, with a praise team assisting in singing and includes both traditional and contemporary

styles of music and worship.

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

Islamic Friday Prayer (Jumuah) is 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.

Museum workshops let kids experience another world

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

Local children will soon be getting the chance to experience outer space without leaving the ground.

The 13th annual Georgia Young Astronaut's Day, scheduled March 6 in the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar, will offer 15 workshops from which third- through eighth-grade children will get to choose two and be assigned two.

The fifteen workshops include: Newton's Laws of Motion, Rocketery, Star Lab Portable Planetarium, Nature's Pilots, Hot Air Balloons, Air-Pressure - Egg in a Bottle, Mission Quest, Ham Radio, Ooblek Slime, Flight Simulators 2000, Fabulous Flight Tour, Bernouilli's Principle, Parachute Egg Drop and Aviation Drawing.

Ms. Melissa Spalding, Museum of Aviation Education Department

director, said the day offers activities that help the community learn more about aviation and aerospace careers.

"We want to encourage students to attend with their parents," she said. "We're one of the only places that lets kids talk to experts and mentors in the field of aerospace and aviation."

Mr. Joe Edwards, astronaut and Augusta Science Museum director, will share his astronaut experience

What to know

The Georgia Young Astronaut's Day, to be held at the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar March 6, is open to the Middle Georgia community, with special workshops and activities for third- through eighth-grade students. A \$10 registration fee includes a T-shirt, four workshops and materials, and a hot dog lunch. Registration deadline is Feb. 27. For more information on obtaining information forms, contact Ms. Melissa Spalding, Museum of Aviation Education Department director, at 926-5558.

as the event's keynote speaker.

All children must be accompa-

nied by an adult the entire day, with one chaperone per every 10 children.

National Children's Dental Health Month



U.S. Air Force photos by Ms. Sue Sapp

Members of the 78th Dental Squadron visited Robins Elementary School Feb. 10 for National Children's Dental Health Month. Above, Aiyana Tucker, left, and Carolyn Bates get a close look at a dental X-ray.



Capt. Justine Tompkins educates third-graders about sealants for teeth.



Floss Man, aka Airman 1st Class John Dinh, demonstrates how to use floss to clean between teeth.

HONOR ROLL

The Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Management Directorate quarterly award winners for July - September 2003 are:

Mr. Bob Perraut, Civilian of the Quarter

Ms. Darlene Robertson, Civilian of the Quarter

Mr. Milton Everidge, Supervisor of the Quarter

Second Lt. Chandra Sawyer-Pearson, CGO of the Quarter

Master Sgt. Carolyn Harris, SNCO of the Quarter (no photo)

Mr. Gregory Fechter, Contractor of the Quarter



Mr. Perraut



Ms. Robertson



Mr. Everidge



2nd Lt. Sawyer-Pearson



Mr. Fechter



Ms. Verrett



Ms. Brown



Ms. Schildknecht

The Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Management Directorate quarterly award winners for October - December 2003 are:

Ms. Wanda Verrett, Civilian of the Quarter

Ms. Debra Brown, Civilian of the Quarter

Ms. Jane Schildknecht, Civilian of the Quarter

Mr. Jim Godfrey, Supervisor of the Quarter

Second Lt. Joseph Quillin, CGO of the Quarter

Staff Sgt. Loren Hare, NCO of the Quarter

Mr. Harry Wood, Contractor of the Quarter

Ms. Judith Martin, Contractor of the Quarter



Mr. Godfrey



2nd Lt. Quillin



Staff Sgt. Hare



Mr. Wood

Mr. David N. Turner, sheet metal mechanic supervisor in the F-15 Wing Section Repair Branch, was named the MAN Supervisor of the Month for January.

Mr. Randy E. Stillwell, chemical engineer in the



Ms. Martin



Mr. Turner



Mr. Stillwell

Process Control and Improvement Branch, was

named the MAN Employee of the Month for January.

century21
59467301

geico
59483501

styles
59484001

wellston
59380602

hienergy
59420102

military
59430402

Candy Camp adds flavor to mathematics

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

The Museum of Aviation's Education Department recently gave local school children a math lesson their taste-buds won't soon forget.

The museum's first Candy Camp, held Feb. 13 in the Century of Flight Hangar, taught local kindergarten through fifth-grade children some basic math formulas using tasty treats.

Museum Education Department Director Ms. Melissa Spalding said the event offered parents of more than 50 Houston County elementary school children who had the day off from school an educational alternative to childcare.

"We're trying to offer more educational programs for children," she said. "We plan to have more opportunities like this for local children, especially on in-service days."



U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Tonya L. McClure

Ms. Brenda Sapp, Museum educator, helps students weigh Life Savers.

Children were taught how to graph, weigh, sort and calculate percentages of ingredients in various

chocolate candies.

In addition, kids learned the difference in types of chocolate by using their

sense of smell, made their own valentines and took home boxes of valentine candy.

nationwide
59484301

gold's
59483601

heart
59425502

let's
59484201

sacred
59453503

publix
59316901

Robins team steps up to call for assistance

By Ms. Lisa Mathews
lisa.mathews@robins.af.mil

When the Center's Airborne Communications System received a call for assistance from Duke Field, Fla., in 2003, they, with the help of the Maintenance Directorate's Software Division, answered the call quickly.

So quickly, in fact, that it resulted in members of MAS receiving the Air Force Civilian Achievement Award.

LYRC, now part of the Combat Electronic Systems Directorate, received a call from System Program Office personnel performing a time compliance technical order kit proofing on Special Operations aircraft at the 919th Maintenance Squadron at Duke Field, Fla.

During the process, they discovered that brand new ARC-222 receiver, transmit-

ters and radio control units from the TCTO kits weren't working. Spares weren't available, and the unit's most experienced technician was deployed. Added to that, the aircraft was scheduled for deployment, causing a time crunch to solve the situation.

Mr. Robert Vonschoeler, of the 919th MXS, briefed Robins' ARC-222 program manager Mr. Mike Myers about the situation. Mr. Myers' integrated product team in LY worked with members of MAS to align and test assets at Robins for delivery to Florida.

Item manager Ms. Yvonne Abney made sure the parts were available and arranged for their pick up and delivery to the radio/communication laboratory in MAS.

In MAS, Mr. Sam Kenley, Mr. Eric Hunter, Mr. Charlie Hayman and Mr. Youngsun Kim worked with LY engineer Mr. Joseph Yancy to set

up testing procedures.

At 1:30 a.m., Mr. Mark Kitchens left Robins to personally deliver the parts to Duke Field, which was faster than having them sent by a delivery service.

Mr. Vonschoeler notified Mr. Myers the parts were installed and functioning. The TCTO was completed on schedule, and the aircraft was able to deploy on time.

Following this, more of the parts were tested and aligned so that a shortfall of needed parts would not occur again. These parts were shelved for future surge stock.

Col. Larry Eriksen, deputy director of MA, presented Mr. Kenley, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Hayman and Mr. Kim with the Air Force Civilian Achievement Award for their part in the surge.

Editor's Note: Personnel from MAS and LSAC contributed to this story.

armed
59462901

SPORTS AND FITNESS BRIEFS

Bowling Center

A pee wee bumper league will start Feb. 28. Cost is \$22.50 per child for 10 weeks. Registration is Saturday. For more information, call the center at 926-2112.

Bowlers play for \$1.75 a game Feb. 29. If their birthday falls on Feb. 29, they bowl three games for free.

Outdoor Recreation

Round II of the Survivor Challenge will be held Feb. 28 at 1 p.m. Each month, there will be a new challenge for teams to compete for the overall Survivor title. Teams will include eight members, including three females. All members must be 18 years of age or older. Cost is \$100 per team. Register by today. For more information, call 926-4001 or visit

Equipment Rental, Building 914.

Paintball tournament

There will be a paintball elimination tournament Saturday at On Target Paintball in Dry Branch, Ga.. Cost is \$100 per six member team and includes all equipment and 2,400 paintballs per person. The tournament is open to all base personnel, active duty, DoD civilians, family members and retirees. For more information call Equipment Rental at 926-4001 or e-mail cheryl.dollard@robins.af.mil.

Youth Center

Robins Youth Center will be conducting baseball, softball, T-ball and micro T-ball registrations Saturday through Feb. 28. For more information, call Mr. Ron Hayes.

armed
58608701



Courtesy photo

This HH-60G Pave Hawk is one of 104 managed by the Special Operations Forces Combat Search and Rescue System Program Office here.

Robins explores new options in securing helicopter parts

By Ms. Holly J. Logan

holly.logan@robins.af.mil

As helicopters gain importance in the Air Force and Army's war fighting missions, Robins is seeking alternative sources for parts.

Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas - currently one of three sources of repair for the Air Force's HH-60G - manages depot-level repair of the Army's UH-60 Black Hawk making parts supply between the two branches a delicate balancing act.

Lt. Col. Chris Overman, Helicopter Division chief for the Special Operations Forces and Combat Search and Rescue System Program Office here, said with growing workloads, finding alternative sources for repair may be necessary to meet the aircraft's high demand.

"We're trying to expand outside having just one source to try and get better aircraft availability to the war fighter by having multiple sources for depot-level work," he said.

Sourcing depot repair through the Coast Guard in

What to know

The Air Force has 104 HH60-G Pave Hawks dispersed across 11 bases and seven major commands. The Army owns a reported 1,549 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

Elizabeth City, N.C., Korean Airlines and other avenues, with the Army's approval, could mean improved readiness for the war fighter.

Maj. Leon Dockery, H-1 and HH-60G integrated product team lead for the Special Operations Forces and Combat Search and Rescue System Program Office's Helicopter Division, spends most of his workday making phone calls and coordinating communication to get the Air Force's 104 HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters the right parts at the right time.

"It's tricky sometimes because a majority of (the helicopters) are run and owned by

the Army, who need the same parts in some instances," he said. "We're constantly trying to gain parts from the Army, and it's not always easy to meet requirements."

The major, along with a 40-person team consisting of program managers, production specialists, item managers, equipment specialists and engineers within the more than 300-person SPO, identify and secure needed parts and equipment to meet the aircraft's requirements for aircraft modifications performed at Crest View Aerospace Corporation, Fla.

While the HH-60G Pave Hawk is not within the team's reach here, he said he is still in touch with what's happening at the repair locations.

"It makes our job more interesting not seeing the aircraft first-hand," he said. "But I have liaisons at both places that keep me informed of what's going on with the aircraft."

The major said the aircraft's mission of combat search and rescue of downed aircrews is one that, during wartime, is invaluable.

morgan
59342701

Family Advocacy announces new WIC hours

The nutrition program known as WIC - Women, Infants, Children - is going from a two-day to a five-day operating schedule at Robins.

Robins' Family Advocacy Program announced new hours will be Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Previously, hours were Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The WIC office is in Building 700, Suite H101.

The program provides free healthy foods and nutrition information to pregnant women, mothers and small children up to age 5. It's free to those who meet eligibility requirements. To check eligibility or for other WIC information, call the WIC office, 327-8433.

lenn
59418302



Read the Rev-Up
online >>

[www.robins.af.mil/
pa/revup-online/
index.htm](http://www.robins.af.mil/pa/revup-online/index.htm)

huntington
59467501

Group annual award winners named



Senior Airman Andrew Rudnicki, 52nd Combat Communications Squadron, is the Airman of the Year.

Airman Rudnicki, a ground radio maintenance apprentice, deployed for 121 days to four different locations in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

While deployed to Tallil Air Base, Iraq, he helped install 28 land mobile radio base stations, 15 repeater nets and 750 hand held units. He also reengineered the radio network by reconfiguring and reallocating base frequencies, which increased the available channels by 53 percent. He also was instrumental in seamlessly relocating the deployed group's operations center, resulting in zero down time.

Airman Rudnicki also modified the giant voice package to a wireless operation, which cut installation and maintenance time by 30 percent and led installation of UHF communications for an A-10 squadron.

Airman Rudnicki is the 52nd's booster club president, choreographed the squadron's Christmas party, arranged music for a deployed Memorial Day retreat ceremony and provided public address support for the first commander's call at Tallil.

Tech. Sgt. Robyn Owens, 54th Combat Communications Squadron, is the NCO of the Year.

Sergeant Owens, chief of the command support staff and work group manager, deployed to Tallil Air Base, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom to be the NCO in charge of workgroup management. She helped set up a morale tent at the base, which helped 1,600 people each day communicate with their families back home.

During the first month of her deployment, she configured 350 computers for distribution. She also masterminded design of web pages to host thousands of deployed war fighters, earning her the expeditionary group's NCO of the month.

She also increased timeliness by streamlining her unit's performance report, decoration and feedback tracking system, getting the number of overdue items from 85 to zero in two weeks.

Sergeant Owens donated more than 400 hours of charitable service, serving as the sole coordinator for the Russell Elementary Spring Fling fundraiser. She arranged for 250 volunteers to help with the event, raising more than \$7,000 for the school.

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Cote, 5th Combat Communications Support Squadron, is the Senior NCO of the Year.

Sergeant Cote, superintendent of the combat plans and operations flight, was hand picked to set up combat airfield systems operations at Tallil Air Base, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He helped orchestrate the shipment and setup of 95 tons of equipment, getting the systems fully operational days ahead of expectations.

While deployed, he continuously tried to improve the quality of life for the communications personnel, building latrines, hand washing stations and showers. He was the first senior NCO of the quarter at Tallil.

The sergeant also helped orchestrate processing of over 900 tons of cargo for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. There were zero discrepancies and because of his leadership, the command and control and airfield operations packages arrived in time to initiate combat operations as scheduled.

Sergeant Cote was a booth manager for the base air show, a church usher, secretary of the group's Top 3 council and committee member for the Boy Scout's Camping Jamboree.

Capt. Melissa Cunningham, 54th Combat Communications Squadron, is the CGO of the Year.

Captain Cunningham, mission systems flight commander, deployed to Tallil Air Base, Iraq, last year, serving as the flight commander for the mission systems, mission support and base level systems flights. She led 161 members to establishing a bare base network, radio, giant voice and messaging services, supporting more than 2,000 people.

Her leadership was key because 95 percent of the team were three-level pipeline students. They built 28.4 short tons of cargo and established a primary crash net with the command post, Army and Air Force fire departments, security forces and medical squadron.

The captain also served as the squadron commander for three months, leading the 54th through an operational readiness exercise, reconstitution and unit compliance inspection preparation. She also received her squadron's highest leadership rating in the Air Force Unit Climate Assessment Survey.

Captain Cunningham is the group SCB council president, vice president of the CGO group and is a volunteer for multiple community activities.

Other yearly award winners are:

First Sergeant — Master Sgt. Jack Ladley, 54th CBCS

Civilian — Mr. Steve Feeley, AFETS

Communication-Electronics Maintainer:

• Technician — Senior Airman Lisa Lantz, 51st CBCS

• Supervisor-Technician — Staff Sgt. Michael Cole, 52nd CBCS

• Supervisor-Manager — Master Sgt. Roger Cain, 52nd CBCS

SHF Transmission Systems Maintainer/Operator:

• Technician — Senior Airman

Robert Cortez, 51st CBCS

• Supervisor-Technician — Staff Sgt. Sergio Perez, 51st CBCS

• Supervisor-Manager — Master Sgt. Michael Wolf, 52nd CBCS

Communications/Information Operator:

• Technician — Senior Airman Anthony Miller, 54th CBCS

• Supervisor-Technician — Staff Sgt. Joseph Bordage, 54th CBCS

• Supervisor-Manager — Master Sgt. Gary Enns, 54th CBCS

Communications Support Person:

• Technician — Senior Airman Victor Sarmiento, 51st CBCS

• Supervisor-Technician — Tech. Sgt. Robyn Owens, 54th CBCS

• Supervisor-Manager — Master Sgt. Robert Burrell, 51st CBCS

Outstanding Team Award —

54th CBCS Power/HVAC work-

center: Tech. Sgts. Robert

Sandaver and Matthew Stathakis;

Staff Sgts. Randy Downie, William

McElroy and John Wrobel; Senior

Airmen Jeffrey Mihelcich, Jason

Franklin, Thomas Prater, Paul

Prescott and Antonio Goldsmith;

and Airmen 1st Class Kenneth

Grey, Elton Brock, Keith

Drummond, John Nacinopa and

Michael Martin

Leo Marquez Awards:

• Supervisor-Manager — Senior

Master Sgt. Shawn Ashley, 51st

CBCS

• Supervisor-Technician — Staff

Sgt. Jeremy Jackson, 51st CBCS

• Technician — Senior Airman

Chad Lee, 51st CBCS

Communication and Information Awards:

• C&I Team Award — 52nd

CBCS BII

• C&I CGO — Capt. Patrick

Hilgendorf, 5th Combat

Communications Support

Squadron

• C&I 3C Senior NCO —

Master Sgt. Michael Kochera, 51st

CBCS

• C&I 3C NCO — Tech. Sgt.

Moses Knott, 51st CBCS

• C&I 3C Airman — Senior

Airman Stacie Najar, 52nd CBCS

• C&I 2E Senior NCO — Master

Sgt. Maria Kamrowski, 5th CBCSS

• C&I 2E NCO — Tech. Sgt.

Wade Wardrip, 51st CBCS

• C&I 2E Airman — Senior

Airman Brian Angell, 51st CBCS

• C&I 3A NCO — Tech. Sgt.

Robyn Owens, 54th CBCS

• C&I 3A Airman — Amn.

Lanell Peterson, 54th CBCSS



photos by Staff Sgt. Adam Stump

Heading out

At left, Airman 1st Class Ryan Andrews, 53rd Combat Communications Squadron Network Administrator, takes a break before deployment processing Feb. 6. Above, Master Sgt. Dennis Andre, left, hands medical records to Tech. Sgt. Sam Roberts, a telephone switch maintainer, before leaving for deployment processing. Andrews and Roberts were two of more than 40 airmen from the 53rd that recently deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Diggs

5th MOB Warrior

by Staff Sgt. Adam Stump
adam.stump@robins.af.mil

Airman 1st Class Charles Diggs, 53rd Combat Communications Squadron, is this month's 5th MOB Warrior.

Airman Diggs, a telephone systems apprentice, has been assigned to the 5th for one year and two months out of his one year and 10 months in the Air Force. Even though he hasn't been in long, he's already left a mark.

"Airman Diggs sets the example as to how a young troop should represent today's Air Force, from his outstanding appearances to his go get it attitude," said Master Sgt. Alfred Campbell. "Another thing which makes him such a sharp troop is his outstanding rapport with his fellow team members. They know that they can

depend on him in any situation."

Airman Diggs said he enjoys being in the Air Force because he enjoys the work environment and there's always a challenge. He said he likes being in the MOB because of the variety in his job and because of his fellow airmen.

"The MOB has a diversity of jobs and tasks," he said. "I am never doing the same routine everyday and the MOB members I work with are like family."

He recently returned from a stint on the base honor guard, where he volunteered to serve. He also was selected as the squadron's airman of the quarter for January-April 2003.

When Airman Diggs isn't at work, he said he loves spending time with his wife and newborn son and volunteering on base in the local community.

Stepping up when your team needs you

by Staff Sgt. Lucus Fletcher
53rd Combat Communications Squadron

The leadership role of today's NCO is multifaceted. We exhibit leadership in many ways, from looking professional, emulating the dress and appearance standards to being good followers, supporting senior leadership, and exercising both assertiveness and restraint, depending on the situation.

The surface layer of leading by example is relatively simple, especially in an organization that spells out the standards and how to meet and even exceed those standards. Keeping our uniforms ironed and our boots shiny is the easy part.

But what about making those "tough decisions" they talk about in all the professional military education courses? That becomes a little cloudier.

There are times in every NCO's career when we have to make tough choices, when the course of action is not clearly laid out in a regulation or a manual, when the right path may not be the most popular, but is right none the less.

At these times it is not easy to step outside the box and confront issues. It's difficult to run the risk of being told by someone who is a little higher up in the food chain, "Thanks, but there is really nothing we can do about it at this time." It's difficult to chance someone holding a grudge or be the one responsible for opening up the proverbial "can of worms." It's difficult to risk losing a friend or being the "odd guy out" in the crowd. Who will be the wiser if we choose to look the other way?

These are gut check times, times when we must look inside ourselves and ask the tough questions. Will we do what is right or what is easy?

Sometimes even harder than confronting tough issues is knowing when to let go and drop the issue. As NCOs we may identify a problem but then be less than satisfied with the way it is handled or resolved. In the end we may feel ineffective, or even like a fail-

ure. In fact, this may be precisely the reason why some choose to look the other way.

But it's important to point out that a huge part of leadership is learning from the past, both from successes as well as failures, and everything in between. Another important part of leadership is knowing when to follow, knowing when to let go and let our leaders take over. We may not entirely agree with decisions or even entirely understand the big picture, and that's okay. The important thing is to step outside of ourselves, reflect without emotions on the entire situation as we understand it, evaluate and assess our choices, and learn from the experience.

We should remember that when we identify problems that we cannot correct, we are doing our jobs. We are setting the example for others to follow. And even when we miss the mark, if we learn from our mistakes, then maybe we didn't entirely miss it after all.

Michael Jordan, in his book "Struggles/Success" stated: "I have missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions I have been entrusted to take the game winning shot... and I missed. I have failed over and over and over again in my life. And that's precisely why I succeed." If Michael Jordan dwelled on those failures after the first two missed game winning shots and threw in the towel and said, "I quit; I will never take a game winning shot again," he wouldn't have become arguably one of the greatest players of all time.

So how can we be effective leaders? By being true to our troops, the Air Force Core values, and ourselves and by learning from our experiences. A truly effective leader will be acquainted with difficult and trying times; we will be forced to make tough decisions. It is these decisions, the lessons learned, and the learning applied to future situations that will ultimately define our careers and those of the future leaders we impact today.

GT&T News



Editorial Staff

Col. David A. Cotton.....Commander, 5th Combat Communications Group
Staff Sgt. Adam Stump.....Chief, Public Affairs

This Air Force supplement of the *Robins Rev-Up* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *GT&T News* aren't necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The contents are edited and prepared by the 5th Combat Communications Group Public Affairs staff, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. All photographs are Air Force property unless otherwise indicated. The deadline for inputs is Thursday the week prior to publication. Submission by deadline does not guarantee publication. The editor can be reached at (478) 926-2338, or by e-mail: adam.stump@robins.af.mil, or by writing to: 5CBCSS/CTPA, 575 10th St., Robins AFB, Ga. 31098.