



Riding the storm out:
Audiovisual specialist
has a passion
for lightning

See Page 1B

NEWS

YOU CAN USE

ORI countdown:
76 days

Information Operations Conditions, called INFOCONs, are to computer network defenders what Force Protection Conditions are to Security Forces protecting people and resources.

Increases in INFOCONs lead to additional network security precautions.

INFOCON levels are as follows:

- Normal** (normal activity)
- Alpha** (increased risk of attack)
- Bravo** (specific risk of attack)
- Charlie** (limited attack)
- Delta** (general attack)

At different INFOCON levels, use of the Internet, certain Web sites, e-mail, networks, and various other communications may be restricted.

Base actions and specific responses to computer attacks vary and will be directed by the 78th Communications Squadron's Network Security Office, or NSO.

Computer users should continue everyday precautions: ensure current anti-virus program is on your work station, control your password and change it as required, virus scan media before loading it on your computer, obey copyright laws and never install unapproved programs, never open e-mail attachments from unknown senders, and back up critical data.

Your Work Group Manager and Information Systems Security Officer will assist you and answer questions.

They will get specific directions from the NSO as levels increase or decrease. They will distribute specific directions on your required actions.

INFOCON status for Robins is posted on base gate marquees and on your computer when you log on to the Robins network.

Computer users should report unusual network conditions or suspicious computer activities to their WM or ISSO.

Notify the 78th Communications Squadron Help Desk at 926-4357 if the WM or ISSO can't be contacted.

Anyone with questions concerning INFOCONs or computer security measures should call the Robins Network Security Office at 926-4843.

— By Mr. Robert Kinsey, 78th CS

MOPP 4



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

An airman cautiously inspects the area around the building following a simulated chemical attack Tuesday. The attack was part of the second phase of the operational readiness exercise that kicked off Feb. 18. The exercise is used to prepare Robins for the operational readiness inspection slated to begin in May.

For more on the exercise, turn to page 5A.

Diversity program teaches tolerance to get mission done

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

Team Robins Diversity Awareness program facilitators are crossing cultural and ethnic boundaries to help people see how their differences help mission success.

The training program, which held its first session of the year Feb. 17, is an on-going effort to

teach people to go beyond tolerating workplace diversity and see the value in having a variety of personalities and talents contributing to the mission.

Maj. Michael Mistretta, one of 30 facilitators for the diversity training program, said for mission success to occur, people must exercise

Please see **DIVERSITY, 2A**



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

Senior Master Sgt. Colin Whelan rides his bike through Gate 5 recently.

Bicyclists save money, keep fit riding to work

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

While traffic jams may plague the morning commute for some drivers - bicycle commuters say getting to work is a breeze.

Senior Master Sgt. Colin Whelan, program depot maintenance U-2 program manager for the Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Directorate, said the 10-mile trip to work on his 10-speed helps him start his day.

"When I was little, I used to watch the Tour de France (bicycle race) and thought it was really cool," he said. "I

On the Web

For information on bicycle safety, visit www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/GaCode/index.htm.

really like to ride. It's cheaper, and I like the fact I'm not polluting the environment."

The 42-year-old father of two, who once rode his bicycle to work while on an icy temporary duty assignment in France, said his chosen cardiovascular activity helps him save time and aggravation.

"Since 9/11, it's faster to ride my bike," he said. "It's nice seeing the people sitting in their cars, while I'm riding past them."

Mr. Ralph Birchfield, a 60-year-old sheet metal mechanic and metal bond specialist for the Metal Bond Repair Section of the Maintenance Directorate, is no fair-weather bicyclist either - once riding his nearly two-mile commute in 17-degree weather.

"Some of the guys I work with made a bet I wouldn't ride to work one morning when it was really cold, but I did," he said.

Mr. Birchfield, a native of Bangor, Maine, said pedaling to work is a great way to maintain his health.

"Riding my bike gives me the right amount of exercise without being over-strenuous," he said. "I didn't ride as much when my family lived farther from the base. But now that I live closer, I usually ride every day."

Incorporating fitness into one's morning commute might be a good idea, but Ms. Jackline Baker, recreation assistant at Robins Fitness Center, said novice bicyclists

Please see **FIT, 2A**

Structure change seen as positive

78th ABW commander will become installation commander Monday

Center Office of Public Affairs

Organization charts will change, but jobs won't when Col. Tom Smoot, commander of the 78th Air Base Wing, becomes installation commander Monday.

The impending organizational restructuring is an AFMC-directed initiative in which wing, instead of center commanders, will be designated installation commanders. Some functions that have been carried out at the Center level will be placed

under the wing's authority in a phased-in transition whose nuts and bolts will be ironed out in cooperation with Headquarters AFMC in the coming months, Colonel Smoot said.

"People will be doing the same jobs in



Colonel Smoot

Please see **CHANGE, 5A**

Security shift reflects a more relaxed posture

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

Flashing base ID cards at the gates and maneuvering among concrete barriers is a thing of the past at Robins - at least for now.

Beginning Feb. 17, several of the 5,500-pound concrete barriers across the installation were removed and random ID card checks began as part of Robins' effort to physically reflect its more relaxed secu-

rity posture of Force Protection Condition Alpha.

Lt. Col. Mark Papen, 78th Security Forces Squadron commander, said upon Air Force officials' review of Robins' current security posture and real-world requirements, base leadership decided to lower its "security" guard.

"These changes are meant to make people more aware

Please see **SHIFT, 2A**



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

Base civil engineers remove concrete barriers from in front of Building 215 Feb. 18.

Security forces cracks down on speeders at Robins

Senior Airman Jermaine London aims to catch motorists who speed on base. Accumulating 12 traffic violation points within a year may cause drivers to lose base driving privileges for up to 60 days.



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

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

Drivers exceeding Robins' speed limits face penalties that could put the brakes on their base driving privileges.

Since November, base security has issued 205 speeding violation tickets - a statistic that has Lt. Col. Mark Papen, 78th Security Forces Squadron commander, and base leadership concerned.

"Don't speed," he said. "Robins is just as busy and congested as anywhere else

How the points add up

Accumulating 12 traffic violation points within a year may cause drivers to lose base driving privileges for up to 60 days. Speeding violation points are based on the number of miles over the posted speed limit.

10 miles = 3 points
11 - 15 miles = 4 points
16 - 20 miles = 5 points
21+ miles = 6 points

Source: AFI 31-204

in Middle Georgia. We definitely wouldn't want any serious injuries or fatalities on base. So, we ask for everyone's cooperation in abiding

by the speed limit."

Traffic rules are based on Air Force Instruction 31-204. But Colonel Papen said if drivers don't heed to posted

speed signs, the base may use tougher means to get their attention.

"If speeding continues to be a problem here, we could change the penalties locally," he said.

Currently, traffic violations are rated on a point scale, with 12 or more points revoking base driving privileges for up to 60 days.

Most tickets are issued to speeding drivers on Richard Ray Boulevard, Robins Parkway and other streets on the southeast side of base, the colonel said.

DIVERSITY

Continued from 1A

mutual respect for each other.

"We don't have to endorse the things which we must tolerate in a respectful work place in order to get the mission accomplished," he said. "You may be a smoker, and I may not be. But to have a respectful working relationship, I should respect your right as an adult to smoke. It's about teaching people to tolerate each other to get the mission done."

Supervisors and managers at Robins will be scheduled to attend a four-hour session to be offered as part of the managers' refresher course throughout 2004 -2005.

Sessions will include discussion of the difference between the diversity process and the already established equal opportunity programs, demographic realities impacting Robins' mission and Robins' recruitment, retention and promotion challenges.

As Robins' cultural and ethnic environment changes, Ms. Ellen Griffith, program facilitator, said the need for diversity education is an ever-present priority.

"I really can't overstate how important this is to Robins," she said. "Obviously, we've seen a lot of demographic changes with an increase in the Hispanic population at Robins with the closing of Kelly Air Force Base, Texas and the movement of C-5 and other workload to Robins. We've got to incorporate all that talent and develop them for leadership roles in the future."

Mr. Charles Byrd, also a facilitator for the



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

Maj. Mike Mistretta and Mr. Charles Byrd, Team Robins Diversity Awareness Facilitators, discuss diversity factors Feb. 18.

What to know

The Team Robins Diversity Awareness Training program is an ongoing effort that offers supervisors and managers a four-hour session on how to implement diversity tolerance in the workplace. Classes will be offered March 22-26 on the first floor of Building 905. Individuals attending the course will be notified by their respective training managers.

diversity training program, said it's important for people at Robins to keep their eyes on the mission and not on each other.

"The main thing here is focusing on the mission," he said. "We can't focus on the mission if we're focusing on our differences. We need to be more concerned with what it takes to make the best product for the installation to support the United States."

SHIFT

Continued from 1A

of what the FPCON level is since physical features will correspond," he said. "If today or tomorrow, we were to go to FPCON Bravo or Charlie, in a sense, we were already there. Over time, people desensitize themselves, and it means nothing to them."

In addition to removed barriers, the colonel said 100 percent ID checks will only be



Colonel Papen

conducted at random intervals throughout the day.

"We still need you to be prepared and ready to show your base ID card," he said. "We really need people to make sure their car's base decal sticker is updated because we're relying on those more so than we have in the past."

Vehicle decals must be current and readable or motorists will have to get a visitor's pass to enter the base, he said.

Robins' return to a more relaxed security posture puts it in line with other Air Force bases' security levels. Despite security measure changes Army soldiers will continue helping the squadron conduct training they haven't been able to complete due to the high operations tempo.

FIT

Continued from 1A

should ease into the routine.

"Start taking a bike ride around your neighborhood one day a week," she said. "As you feel more comfortable, you can try to move up to two or three times. It's important to let your body

adjust to the new routine."

In addition, bicyclists should take the proper precautions to reach their workplace safely, said Mr. Bill Morrow, Center safety specialist.

"Bicyclists, like the motorcyclist, have an even greater problem with being seen, as they are even less visible with their size," he said. "Besides the mandated bicycle helmet,

bicyclists should consider reflective material in their outer layer of clothing and a generator or battery-powered front and tail lamp on their bikes during hours of darkness."

Mr. Morrow reminds cyclists that they are to obey traffic laws the same as drivers - to ensure their safety as well as the safety of motorists.

"Some of the guys I work with made a bet I wouldn't ride to work one morning when it was really cold, but I did."

Mr. Ralph Birchfield
bicyclist

aunt
59494702

armed
59518501

Base-wide exercises may look like fun and games to the casual observer, but these extensive tests of preparedness take a lot of planning, skill and people to carry out.

This week, Phase II of the Operational Readiness Exercise continued as a scenario involving hundreds of Robins personnel and tons of equipment being deployed to a forward operating location was played out.

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

IG – Putting it all together

Months before any alarms sound or simulated conditions begin, the Inspector General's Office exercise team is busy making sure the scenario to be played out will be a genuine test of capabilities.

According to Mr. Frank Trzaski, after coordinating with evaluators from various organizations on base, the exercise office decides when the exercise is going to take place and what the scenario will be.

"Exercises are important to keep the organizations prepared and ready to meet their Air Expeditionary Forces taskings and to make sure they receive the proper and necessary training prior to deploying," he said.

Phase II involves a mock deployment to a forward operating location so troops can hone their ability to survive and operate for real world taskings.

The exercise evaluation team chief is responsible for ensuring there is a sufficient number of exercise evaluators assigned to examine responses to scenario conditions.

One-hundred fifty functional exercise evaluators augment the IG office. They are experts in their fields and can evaluate work done in their organization.

In addition to working with organizations on base, the exercise team also works with local community emergency personnel in order to prepare everyone for real world situations.

EOD – A booming business

Disposing of bombs is not a job to be taken lightly—whether real or simulated—and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team knows this all too well.

EOD team members' responsibilities include handling live explosives by detecting, identifying and disposing of potential explosive devices. These devices include conventional military ordnance, criminal and terrorist home-made items, and chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Duties of the EOD team may include areas on the flight line during aircraft emergencies, on bombing ranges during range clearances, in munitions storage area accident areas and in any area where an explosive hazard exists.

Services – More than just a meal

When an actual emergency arises Team Robins must pull together to ensure all of its people and assets are taken care of. One of the many organizations that helps make this possible is the

Making it happen



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

Above, Brig. Gen. Mike Collings, Center commander, right, visits Inspector General Col. William Saunders at an exercise site Tuesday. Clockwise from below left, Tech. Sgt. Larry Craven and Staff Sgt. Jacob Henderson take smoke grenade and ground burst simulators out of the temporary storage facility. Civil engineers prepare to do a rapid runway repair. First responders aid an exercise victim.



What to know

The scenario for Phase II of the Operational Readiness inspection began last week, involved the deployment of 395 Robins personnel and 49.6 short tons of cargo to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. The scenario took place at Warrior Base.

Services Division.

Like one ad campaign states, "You gotta eat," and Services took care of that and more during this week's exercise.

Master Sgt. Douglas Guyton, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Services readiness operation, said they train to provide a variety of services to troops during these scenarios and in real world situations.

"We provide the meals, the mortuary support, and depending on the length of the deployment, we also provide recreational activities," he said. "In addition we also provide a field exchange or a mini BX where snacks and personal hygiene items are available."

While mortuary support may be a morbid thought, it is a very real and important part of wartime situations and this group makes sure that families are taken care of.

All of the vital functions provided by Services are monitored from the services control center.

This center is the hub of everything they do.

"If anything goes wrong in any of the areas we provide support to, that problem is sent to the control center which is like the command center," the sergeant said.

support, and that won't change."

As with the other air logistics centers, elements of several of Robins' offices such as legal, financial, procurement and public affairs will realign to the wing so installation commanders will have the tools and people to exercise their responsibilities.

"I would like everyone to view the restructuring as a positive change," Colonel Smoot said. "It doesn't matter which patch you wear or what organization you represent, here at Robins we are one base, one team.

From their mobile kitchen trailer where nutritious meals are prepared to dealing with death, Services plays a vital role in both preparing and dealing with the realities of war.

"This exercise was very successful," said Mr. Matthew Fogerty, title?. "I think the key to this success was good planning and good communication."

Medics – On call

No one wants to need them, but everyone wants them around just in case. They could be the difference between life and death; they are the Combat Medics.

Master Sgt. Bobby Munda, superintendent of the bioenvironmental engineering flight, a part of the 78th Medical Group, said during exercises – just as in day-to-day activities, they are in the business of saving lives.

Operating out what is called the casualty collection point, they serve the dual function of decontamination and treatment.

"One of the most important capabilities that we bring to the fight would be the decontamination operation done by our decon team," said Sergeant Munda. "Their goal is to make

sure patients are decontaminated prior to being provided treatment at the medical treatment facility."

It takes medics, administrative personnel, bioenvironmental engineering technicians and more to do the job.

Combat medics train every day to be able to provide this kind of support out in the field.

CE – Let there be light

Referred to as the public works of wartime situations, the civil engineering squadron brings the necessities to otherwise austere locations. Providing water, electricity and waste facilities, this group ensures that other functions are able to operate at full capacity.

In addition to providing the bare essentials, the squadron is also in charge of the rapid runway.

Tech. Sgt. Robert Wyatt, Rapid Runway Response chief, said Rapid Runway Response training prepares the team for what to do in the event of an actual bomb attack. The rapid runway is a minimum operating strip selected as the source for launching jets. If there are craters in this area, CE's job is to fill them as fast as possible.

"After we fill the crater, a mat team comes in and drags a Foreign Object Debris cover over the area and sweeps it off so that jets can be launched," he said. "This gives a lot of the newer guys a real world view of what could happen."

CE also provides other services such as pouring concrete, heavy equipment support of other agencies and all contamination control for biological and chemical hazards.

ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

School board meeting

Robins School Board will meet Tuesday at 4 pm. at Robins Elementary School, Building 988. The public is invited to attend.

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.

AF seeks former Lowry employees

The Air Force Real Property Agency wants to interview people who were employed or stationed at the former Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colo.

The AFRPA is conducting the interviews to ensure all environmental conditions on the base have been investigated. If you worked at Lowry and want to volunteer, call 1 (800)725-7617 or e-mail the AFRPA public affairs officer at doug.karas@afarpa.pentagon.af.mil.

North Carolina Air National Guard

The North Carolina Air National Guard is looking for Air Force members who are completing Palace Chase applications for the Air Force fiscal 2004 Force Shaping Program. If any member is planning to move back to North Carolina after leaving the Air Force under this program, contact us at 1(800) 354-6933. One of our recruiters will be happy to help you with the Palace Chase application.

AFAS education grants

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. Eligible recipients may apply for the grants for the 2004-2005 school year from now until March 12. 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. A limited number of forms are available at the Family Support Center and also is available at www.afas.org. Follow the education link to the form.

Museum art exhibit

The Museum of Aviation is featuring Georgia artist Mr. Marc Stewart in the final art exhibit celebrating the anniversary of the Centennial of Flight in the Eagle Building art gallery. The exhibit, entitled A Celebration of Heroes, features over 30 general aviation themed pieces. The exhibit will be on display through March 12.

Boy Scout Troop 220

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

Girl Scouts leaders needed

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

Robins Thrift Shop

The Robins Thrift Shop is taking donations on consignment. Everything from baby items to weight equipment can be sold. The shop is located on Page Road, Building 288, just inside gate 5. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays and the shop will be open Saturday. Also, the thrift shop is looking for volunteers to fill various positions. If you have any questions, call 923-1686.

Firing range reminders

The 78th Security Forces Squadron conducts live fire training at the base firing range, located on the northeast side of the base. Robins' firing ranges are adjacent to the horse stables and off-limits to all persons, unless scheduled for training or official business. Nearby housing residents should warn children of the hazards of playing near the firing ranges.

CHANGE

Continued from 1A

the same locations working as a team empowered fully to perform the wing's two-pronged mission," he said. "The wing's mission remains the same - to provide trained, ready forces to support the Expeditionary Air Force and to support the base community, its facilities and provide our customers with the quality service for which we are known. Our bottom line has always been excellence in customer

My job before was supporting the boss in taking care of the installation. My job in the future will be the same."

For those nervous about having a new boss, Colonel Smoot said he has always been a people person and a "what you see is what you get kind of guy."

"I've been in the support business my entire career, and most of my background is in personnel - dealing with and helping people," he said.

"That's what we do," he said. "We go out, we support people and we provide customer service to the outstand-

What to know

- The new command structure will stand up March 1
- Details will be worked out over several months with AFMC Headquarters
- People will stay in the same jobs in the same location
- Restructuring will be completed by October
- Command officials emphasized that while some jobs will move from centers to wings, elimination of positions is not anticipated under the realignment

ing men and a woman at Robins Air Force Base. That includes military, civilians, contractors, retirees and family members. We touch every member of this community across the board in the wing, and we will continue to do so with the excellence for which we are known."

Retiring soon: What has it all meant?

By Col. Greg Postulka

C-130 System Program director, WR-ALC/LB

For the last 30 years, it has been my privilege to wake up each morning and put on an Air Force uniform. On June 27, 1974, I joined the Air Force as I took our Oath of Office for the first time and walked up the U.S. Air Force Academy "Bring Me Men" ramp, taking my first steps of a great career. As I ponder my future, I've looked back on what I've done. I



Colonel Postulka

can enthusiastically say it has all been highly meaningful to be part of our Air Force.

Because sometimes we forget just how much each of us means to our mission, I'd like to share my perspective. It's my strong belief that your service to our Air Force mission is meaningful, whether you're a blue-suiter, Air Force civilian or one of our support contractors. I was taught what my efforts meant to the greater whole, the mission. You need to understand what you do means to the Air Force mission.

Let me share some of my "memories" with you. It's not my intention to boast, rather I want to show you that good work now creates results later – the results of your

work, just like that of those before you, lives on. For example, the fuses, warheads and rocket motors I had a hand in developing and testing are now part of the Laser Maverick missiles that Marine Corps fighter pilots use today. The Request for Proposal I drafted for a defense satellite acquisition resulted in satellites being in geosynchronous orbit today protecting our nation by providing surveillance and early warning of missile launches. The LSU Tigers that AFROTC instructor Capt. Postulka commissioned as second lieutenants are now majors and lieutenant colonels. Those "kids" are now pilots and navigators flying C-130s, C-17s, F-15s, C-21s, and Gunships. They're also intelligence officers, missile

officers, squadron commanders and acquisition and logistics officers.

The list goes on, but the point remains the same ... the work I did, the work you do and have yet to do will touch generations to come. Work like the guided weapons tech demo that I led turned into the Joint Direct Attack Munition; it's a much studied acquisition success but an even bigger success as a precision guided weapon for our bombers and fighters. With the help of hundreds of outstanding individuals working together, my time in F-15s yielded software and radars, 10 new Strike Eagles and more capable defensive systems and weapons delivery.

Lastly, as I think about my job at Robins, I plainly see the mighty C-130, the SUV of airlift, experiencing

great aircraft mission capable rates in the current area of responsibility while at the same time successfully undergoing total fleet modernization with the Avionics Modernization Program and C-130J production. The great people of the C-130 Program Directorate, at both Warner Robins Air Logistics Center and Aeronautical Systems Center are as great as they've ever been!

Those jobs meant a lot to me then, but mean more now as I actually see the long-term results; results that I never thought about at the time but should have. The dedicated efforts you're making today are making a difference for the future. Can anything mean much more? I salute all of you and our mighty Air Force.

Showing respect for our flag at the end of the day



Chief Mitchell

By Chief Master Sgt. Sam R. Mitchell

78th Air Base Wing superintendent

Why should I stop what I'm doing each day for the playing of retreat?

That is a disturbing question that I hope you need not ask.

For anyone who is unsure, this article addresses the why and how we pay respect to our flag at the end of each duty day.

I'll begin by addressing the why question. Retreat is a

long-standing military custom that serves two general purposes.

First, it signals the end of the official duty day on a military installation.

Second, and more importantly, retreat pays respect to the American flag – the very symbol of our nation's commitment to freedom, equality and opportunity for its citizens.

It represents the sacrifices of the men and women who have fought and died for the rights our families and we

enjoy each and every day and is the reason our military exists.

As servants of the world's greatest nation, each and every one of us is a custodian of the American flag, and we should be proud to show respect for it.

Now, I'll address how we show respect for our flag during retreat.

For military members outdoors and in uniform during retreat, face the flag (if in sight) or the direction of the music (if the flag cannot be

seen). On the first note of retreat, assume the position of parade rest. Upon completion of retreat, assume the position of attention, and salute at the first note of the National Anthem. Hold your salute until the last note of the music has been played.

When outdoors in civilian attire, the procedure is the same, except that you salute by placing your right hand (with hat, if wearing headgear) over your heart.

Additionally, all vehicles in motion on military installa-

tions must stop on the first note of retreat, with occupants sitting quietly, until the last note of the national anthem has played.

I hope this article answers any questions you may have about how and why we pay respect to our flag at the close of each duty day.

As you contemplate how you'll react during the playing of retreat, I hope you'll consider why we honor our flag, and make the right decision. The three minutes of your time are well invested.

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

New parking lot near Building 301

I've heard a lot of people grumbling about the parking situation near Building 301. I was wondering why the base can't put another parking lot in where the empty grass/weed lot is on the corner of Richard Ray Boulevard and Robins Parkway? It seems like a waste of real estate and so many people could park there and save on parking tickets.

Commander replies: Thank you for your concern for improving parking on Robins. Your suggestion to increase the parking capacity around Building 301 is an excellent one. This project has been designed and is currently being planned. The estimated start date for the installation of this new parking lot is July. At the completion of this project, 360 new parking spaces are anticipated. Also, a project is being planned to install an additional parking lot across the street from your recommended one, which will provide an additional 70 spaces. The estimated start date for this project is also July. For any other questions concerning this issue, please contact 1st Lt. Malcolm Roberts at 926-5820 extension 238.

Lean works if everyone is on board

I attended a workshop on the principles of Lean. During the course of the workshop emphasis was placed on the need for management, especially senior leadership, to "be on board." Lean can be an effective way to improve our work processes in the Center. I was surprised to learn that very few of our leaders have been to any of the workshops. Yet, one of the greatest barriers to achieving our goals is the attitude (mindset) of the personnel who would be most affected by changes to improve the processes, and management is key to assisting

in changing that mindset. Is it possible to have this training mandatory for all supervisors? They should also attend the workshops on benchmarking and attend other methodologies used to achieve a Lean workplace. To remain competitive in a changing environment, and decrease the possibility of losing civil service jobs to commercial companies, we must be constantly prepared to make changes for improvement. The company that does the job the most efficiently, the quickest, and the cheapest will get the contract. If that company is the Center, then we all must work together to Lean for improvement.

Commander replies: Thanks for your call, and I could not agree more that having the right mindset and everyone "on board" is essential for a successful Lean journey. You are also right that many MA supervisors have not completed the specific workshop you attended. However, the Maintenance Directorate has been very committed to training all employees about Lean concepts and incorporating Lean principles into all maintenance processes which are so critical to the future of this Air Logistics Center. For example, MA directed that Lean events be conducted directorate-wide this past October. Included was direction for MA Change Managers to assess the pace of change toward Lean processes throughout the directorate. During this assessment, one of the problems identified was a lack of tailored training for maintenance supervisors. The team made this an action item to identify specific Lean training to correspond with the different levels of supervision – from first line supervisors to senior leaders. As you point out, it's important to get the right training to the right people. However, to mandate a "one size fits all" version of Lean training could be costly and may not be exactly what each person needs. Consequently, the Process Improvement

and Planning Branch is working with the MA Training Branch to identify, and make available, specific vendor approved courses for all supervisors.

While MA is working to improve supervisory training, please be aware many maintenance supervisors have completed Lean courses. At minimum, most have attended a formal Lean introductory training course or have attended workshops and seminars to learn the principles of Lean. Additionally, MA production organizations where more Lean knowledge exists through both training and participation in Lean events have very aggressive approaches to training. The Production Divisions conduct regular internal workshops and overviews for their work force, which includes assigned supervisory personnel. Overhead organizations are being included as well and are receiving supervisory overviews prior to the beginning of Lean events.

Finally, all MA senior leaders have had some form of Lean training. They recently put their Lean training and experience to good use in a policy deployment and goal setting offsite. This meeting was held Dec. 2 and 3 and included the director, deputy, all division chiefs and their deputies. Working as a team, they established MA's goals for the year ahead along with a timetable to deploy those goals throughout each division.

In addition, the executive director, vice commander and myself attend bi-weekly Lean meetings, conduct Lean event "walk-throughs" at least monthly, and have attended various Lean workshops and conferences. The concern you have about all members of Team Robins receiving appropriate training on Lean principles is valid and one that I share. Hopefully, my response has cleared up any doubts you may have had about the level of commitment to make Lean work within MA and throughout the Center.

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.**

Robins DUI tracker

Robins has adopted a zero tolerance policy for drinking and driving. In addition to an incentive for no DUIs and putting up signs to keep the message in drivers' minds as they leave the base, the Rev-Up will run weekly numbers of DUIs.

February: **5** February 2003: **6** Year to date: **11** 2003: **63** Number of days since last DUI: **2**



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Editorial staff

Warner Robins Air Logistics Center
Office of Public Affairs

Commander.....	Brig. Gen. Mike 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

Eglin officers visit Robins

By Staff Sgt. Jerron Barnett

33d Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A group of Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., logistics and maintenance officers from the Emerald Coast chapter of the Logistics Officers Association visited Robins Jan. 28-30 to learn more about the Center's maintenance operations.

Second Lt. Matthew Dougherty, 33rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's assistant officer in charge of one of the squadron's aircraft maintenance units, said he put the trip together to build camaraderie among Eglin's aircraft maintenance officers and to find out what happens to the aircraft when they are sent to Robins for depot maintenance.

"It'll help us do our jobs better," said Lieutenant Dougherty. "We will be able to explain why it's taking a little more time to our frustrated NCOs when they're mad that aircraft or parts aren't coming back from depot right away."

They saw everything from F-15 parts being stripped of paint by a high-voltage light machine to learning the repair status of some of their unit's crashed aircraft in the Center's "hospital."

"It was good to see those aircraft again," said Capt. Douglas Kuhn, 33rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, who served as a crash investigation officer on one of the 33rd Fighter Wing's wrecked air-

craft being fixed here.

The Center's mission is to provide comprehensive depot-level maintenance and repair to U.S. air and space weapon systems.

There are three such air logistics centers in the Air Force.

"It's an enjoyable job, but one that's taken very seriously," said Col. David Nakayama, Center director of Support Equipment and Vehicle Management Directorate here. "The Center strives to return the best possible weapon systems and support equipment to its customers."

One of the tour's highlights - the F-15 Programmed Depot Maintenance cells - illustrated the in-depth maintenance performed on the aircraft.

Because it's so detailed, this type maintenance can't be performed at an aircraft's home base; the aircraft has to be sent to an ALC, said Lt. Col. Alex Cruz, deputy director of F-15 Programmed Depot Maintenance.

The Center's work force

can strip an F-15 down to its paintless, bare fuselage and inspect every inch of the aircraft.

It's a 104-day process and each of the 738 F-15s in the Air Force's inventory must rotate through PDM every six years. One-hundred F-15s are planned for PDM each year.

After the tour, most of the group came away with a different, more positive impression of the Center's commitment to its mission.

"I definitely have better respect for them," said 2nd Lt. Don Gray, 46th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's aircraft maintenance unit assistant officer in charge. "I didn't realize how big their operation was. It was good to talk to some of the people here and start networking with them."

Second Lt. Kristy Rasmussen, 46th Maintenance Squadron, agreed.

"I highly suggest that every maintenance officer visit an ALC if they get a chance," she said. "You'll learn a lot."

AFOSI seeks new special agents

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations seeks military members and civilians looking to cross-train to become a special agent.

Special agents are members of a highly-trained team that investigate crimes against persons and property, defeat and deter base-level and contract fraud, combat threats to our information systems and technologies, and provide the Air Force counterintelligence support for its force protection mission.

Senior airmen with less than six years time in service,

staff sergeants through master sergeants with outstanding records and fewer than 12 years of military service are eligible. Security forces members in the grades of staff sergeant select through master sergeant are eligible. Senior airmen must be in their cross training window (35-38 month 4 years enlistee/59-62 month for 6 year enlistees). Members must have at least 18 months time-on-station (waiverable).

Officers must have less than 12 years Total Active Federal Military Service and

less than 6 years Total Active Federal Commission Service to apply. AFPC must agree to release the officer applicant in order to apply.

More information can be found at afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/osi/crossflow.htm.

For more information on AFOSI special agent duty, visit www.dtic.mil/afosi or contact Robins AFOSI detachment at 926-2141.

military
59430403

fickling
59541001

karate
59394501

lenn
59418502

sun
59547601

Riding the storm out

Audiovisual specialist has an electric passion for catching the perfect storm



Submitted photo

Mr. Ed Aspera has been chasing storms since 1986. He has chased them from the west coast to the east coast.



U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Sue Sapp
Mr. Aspera drives an SUV and uses a portable scanner, a Global Positioning System, maps, a compass and camera equipment when chasing storms.



Twentynine Palms, Calif.



Twentynine Palms, Calif.



Americus, Ga.

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

Some folks might say that Mr. Edward Aspera Jr. doesn't have the common sense to come in from the rain.

But he'll tell you he doesn't mind. When you're a storm chaser and your passion for photographing Mother Nature's fury takes you all over the country in an SUV loaded down with camera equipment, a portable weather radio and steely nerves, it just goes with the territory. Regardless how wet that territory may be.

Mr. Aspera, 47, has been chasing storms since 1986 when he was serving with the Marines in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

"I've just always been interested in storms," the audiovisual specialist with the 78th Air Base Wing here said. "There's just something about a good storm that gets my adrenaline flowing."

It was an easy transition for Mr. Aspera to go from his job as a combat photographer in the Marine Corps to taking photos of lightning. The subject matter could be just as deadly.

As a Marine, he was tasked with shooting photos of every weapon system in the Marine Corps inventory - and in many cases he was required to take stop action photographs of munitions in mid-launch.

"Sometimes I had to photograph the weapons from the front sight angle," he said. "To do that, basically I had to set the equipment up in front of where the weapon was being fired."

But, according to Mr. Aspera, there was a lot of down time and that's when he started becoming interested in the storms rolling across the Texas plains from 50 miles away. He turned his lens toward the sky, and a passion was born.

He constantly increases his knowledge of storms by reading as much as he can, watching the weather channel and surfing the Internet. But, most of his knowledge has come from the greatest teacher of all - experience.

And to this day, 18 years later, he'll tell you he's still learning. He has honed his skill mostly by using different documentation techniques; it's all trial and error. But he says it's also intuition.

"It's kind of like you get where you can feel it in the air when a storm is coming," he said.

And when they do, it doesn't matter what time of the day or night, Mr. Aspera will chase a storm 100 miles to get the perfect photograph.

"Yeah, there have been times when I've gotten up in the middle of the night to the sound of thunder, and the first thing I'll do is turn on the weather channel," he said. "I've loaded up the car, and chased a storm all the way from Warner Robins to the Alabama border."

Mr. Aspera said working in teams is the safest way when it comes to catching the perfect storm.

"While I'm concentrating on taking pictures, the other person is paying attention to the global positioning system, listening to the weather and making sure the storm isn't getting too close," he said.

The father of two said that although he tries to operate as safely as possible there have been times when he has gotten a little too close for comfort.

"There was once - here in Georgia - where I was waiting and waiting. And then when the lightning finally struck, I watched it go across the sky above me," he said. "I was at the wrong place at the right time; it was too loud and too close. I knew it was time to move. There's nothing worse than standing out in that environment with a metal tripod and lightning is going off."

Although some may think chasing storms is about getting right in the middle of it, Mr. Aspera said that it's safest to be a good distance behind or ahead of it.

"You don't want to be trapped right in the middle of the storm," he said. "The idea is to capture the storm on film, not become a victim. Nobody wants to be a human lightning rod."

Mr. Lans Rothfusz, meteorologist in charge with the National Weather Service in Peachtree City, Ga., said it's not the safest of hobbies and the NWS doesn't recommend it.

"It's no different than going scuba diving with sharks," he said. "If you don't know how storms work, it can be dangerous. Now if someone has been doing it for years, and understands weather, that's one thing. But, most storm chasers are meteorologists."

"So, why do I do it?" Mr. Aspera said. "I do it to educate people - mainly school-aged children. The idea is that through my photography I can show them what causes the sound and

what lightning really looks like. If I can cure their curiosity by showing them what's out there, then I've achieved my goal."

"I also do it for the bragging rights," he said with a laugh. "If I can catch it on film, it's like I own it. Lightning strikes are like snow flakes, no two are the same, and each picture has a life of its own."

Since moving to Georgia from Texas a few years ago, he has monitored the storm tracks in the region and has scouted the best places to set up when a storm is approaching.

And according to Mr. Kevin Turner, a meteorologist technician with the 78th Operational Support Squadron here, Mr. Aspera shouldn't have had a problem finding storms to contend with. With cold fronts moving into the area, there are a lot of storms from February through May. And in the summers there are storms almost every afternoon.

Mr. Aspera said that even with an abundance of storms, the Georgia landscape makes it one of the hardest places for the chase.

"I've been storm chasing everywhere from California to Texas to New Mexico to Indiana," he said. "It's a lot better in those places because you can see the storms from a long way off. Here it's harder. With the trees and everything, the window of opportunity is much smaller."

But it hasn't slowed him down. While most people think they're being sensible making the most of indoor activities during a storm, you can bet Mr. Aspera's good common sense is telling him the chase is on.



Indianapolis, Ind.



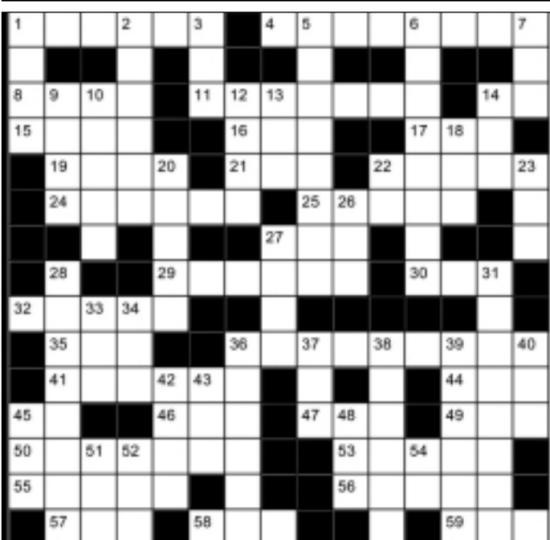
Las Cruces, N.M.



El Paso, Texas

Lightning photos by Mr. Ed Aspera

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Hometown USAF (Vol. 4)

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

- ACROSS**
- Hawaii AFB home to 15th ABW
 - Texas AFB home to 47th FTW; a/c tail marking of XL
 - Minnesota state bird
 - Florida AFB home to 325th FW; a/c tail marking of TY
 - Security clearance (abbrev.)
 - Chemistry work stations
 - Shoe size
 - Near the ground
 - Amphibian
 - Neither's partner
 - Spain AB home to 496th ABS
 - Ford and Fonda
 - Ooze
 - Bother
 - Guardian of Giza
 - Bother
 - Apes
 - Animal 'down under' (slang)
 - Washington AFB home to 336th TG; a/c tail marking of FC
 - Oklahoma AFB home to 552nd ACW; a/c tail marking of OK
 - Paulo, Brazil
 - Tail marking for 28th BW aircraft
 - Base person responsible for deployments (abbrev.)
 - Barbie's pal
 - Unknown (abbrev.)
 - Massachusetts AFB home to ESC
 - Harsh sleeping noise
 - Between meals item
 - Symbol
 - Driving offense (abbrev.)
 - Military pay stub
 - Military person on-call (abbrev.)
- DOWN**
- Utah AFB home to 388th FW; a/c tail marking of HL
 - Korea AB home to
 - 8th FW; a/c tail marking of WP
 - Roll
 - Guam AB home to 36th ABW/13th AF
 - New Mexico AFB home to 49th FW; a/c tail marking of HO
 - Navy equivalent to AFB
 - Statement given during enlistment/commissioning
 - Woodwinds
 - Japense monies
 - Later revival
 - Even number
 - Mining goal
 - Put clothes on
 - State home to 127th WG at Selfridge ANGB
 - Government org. controlling satellites
 - 70 in olden days
 - Elvis song "___ Las Vegas"
 - New Mexico AFB home to 150th FW; a/c tail marking of NM
 - AF Auxiliary Field in Arizona
 - Former Kenyan president Daniel ___
 - Age
 - Edith Wharton novel Ethan ___
 - Annoy
 - New Mexico AFB home to 27th FW; a/c tail marking of CC
 - France AB home to 16th EOG
 - U.S. military forces headquarters (abbrev.)
 - Indented part of a bottle
 - Tokyo formerly
 - Questions?
 - Founding of a company (abbrev.)
 - Arizona school in Flagstaff (abbrev.)
 - Movie genre ___-Fi
 - Tail marking for a/c assigned to 138th FW

For puzzle solution, see March 5 edition of the Rev-Up

Puzzle solution for Feb. 20



LEAVE/TRANSFER

The following people have been approved as participants in the leave transfer program.
Ms. Joy A. Brown, WRALC/LSEEV. Point of contact is Mr. Jim Botkin at 926-2994.
Mr. George E. King II, WRALC/LSEEW. Point of contact is Ms. Linda Matlock at 926-5948.

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 e-mail at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks.

Tuskegee Airmen to relive history at museum Saturday

In celebration of Black History Month, the Museum of Aviation will host several Tuskegee Airmen at a forum in the Vistascope Theater at 11 a.m. Saturday.

The Tuskegee Institute was a place where dreams were realized, skin color was put aside, and men were made into pilots. Retired Col. Chuck Dryden, Hiram Little, Roy Elie and others will participate in the free forum, The Tuskegee Experience. Following the session, there will be a short documentary on the Tuskegee Institute.

Tours of the Museum's America's Black Eagles: The Tuskegee Airmen Exhibit, in Hangar One, will be given immediately following the event.

The exhibit tells the story of America's Black Eagles through artifacts, memorabilia and photos depicting pilots, navigators, mechanics and nurses in training and in combat.

Flying 200 escort missions for B-17 and B-24 bombers, the Tuskegee Airmen never lost a bomber to enemy aircraft. During 15,000 sorties, they destroyed 111 enemy aircraft in aerial combat and 150 on the ground.

Sixty-six were killed, and 32 were captured. The exhibit highlights many of Georgia's own, including Freddie Hutchins from Donaldsonville, Henry Perry from Thomasville, John Morgan from Cartersville and author Chuck Dryden from Marietta.

BHOC 5K Health Fun Walk/Run



Submitted photo

More than 125 participants from 15 organizations took part in the 5K Health Fun Run/Walk, sponsored by the Black Heritage Observance Health Committee, Feb. 6. Each organization entered a 5-member team to compete for T-shirts, water bottles, certificates and bragging rights to the best fit organization. The Center Contracting Directorate team braved the elements to grab first place in 23:21 minutes. The team members were Dave Tenenbaum, Steve Bury, Nick Haas, Theodore Rivera and Mark Dillinger. Second and third place winners were 78th Communications Squadron, 25:28 minutes, and 78th Civil Engineering, 27:32 minutes. Special recognition goes to Kris Krueger from LFE who crossed the finish line first, but without any team members, in 21:2 minutes. Pictured in the photograph with the winners is Ms. Brenda Frazier/PKO, assistant chair for the Health Committee.

SERVICES BRIEFS

Customer Feedback Survey 926-5492

The annual Air Force Customer Feedback Survey has been sent randomly to individuals throughout Robins. The survey is used to measure customer satisfaction, quality of service, quality of facilities, quality of equipment and materials, value for price paid, and an overall assessment of at least 20 of the division's major programs. This survey is easy to complete, has a self-addressed envelope and requires no postage. Customers who take the time to answer the survey provide input that will have a major impact on future Services programs. The survey data is presented in a software program and by using it, managers are able to enhance programs, improve service, and make optimal use of their resources to benefit Services customers. For more information, call Ms. Linda Hinkle, Services Marketing director, at 926-5492.

Child Development Centers East and West

Read Across America with Dr. Seuss March 1 - 5 at both centers.

Civilian Recreation

Watch the movie "Top Gun" in the Smith Community Center ballroom today 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.

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, including active duty, retired, reserve military, DoD civilians, contractors and immediate family members who register by March 31. Cost is \$10 per person.

Family Child Care

Are you a spouse of an active/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. to 2 p.m. in the Family Child Care office on the second floor of Smith Community Center.

Annual training for Family Child Care providers in fire safety, child abuse awareness, health and sanitation, and positive guidance will be held 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. March 20 in the FCC office on the second floor of the community center.

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, to include airfare and hotel accommodations, are 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

Clip the customer appreciation days coupon in March Edge magazine to receive two free hours of shop time at the wood shop.

The skills development center will hold monthly classes in stepping stone Wednesday from noon - 2 p.m., cost is \$12.50; acrylic painting Tuesday, 9, 23 and 30 from 10 a.m. - noon, cost is \$12.50; decorative stamping March 11 and 25 from 6 - 8 p.m., cost is \$12.50; drawing Monday, March 8, 22 and 29 from 10 - 11:30 a.m., cost is \$10; watercolor Monday, March 8, 22 and 29 from noon - 2 p.m., cost is \$10; cross stitch Tuesday, March 9, 23 and 30 from 1 - 3 p.m., cost is \$12.50; oil painting Thursday, March 11 and 25 from 10 a.m. - noon, cost is \$12.50; pen and ink Tuesday, March 9, 23 and 30 from 1 - 2 p.m., cost is \$7; kids painting March 10 from 6 - 7:30 p.m., cost is \$5. Registration and payment is required for all classes. Class space is limited. All classes are subject to change and don't include supply and equipment costs.

STREAMING VIDEO

FULL STREAM AHEAD*

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

- Brig. Gen. Michael A. Collings takes command of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center
- Ground breaking ceremony signals start of new main gate project
- Strategic Airlift Directorate increases C-5 parts and aircraft to meet increased airlift requirements

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

MOVIE SCHEDULE

Friday
7:30 p.m. - Along Came Polly - Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston
 Reuben's best-laid plans for life and love careen wildly off track, but an encounter with a childhood friend shoots him into a whirlwind of living in the moment.
 Rated PG-13 (sexual content, language, crude humor and some drug references) 90 minutes



Saturday
2 and 7:30 p.m. - Free pre-screening - Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson
 Tickets are available at any AAFES outlet today. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
 "Starsky and Hutch" follows a pair of undercover cops, focusing on how the two met and teamed up on their first big case.
 Rated PG-13 (drug content, sexual situations, partial nudity, language and some violence)



Sunday
2 p.m. - Big Fish - Ewan McGregor and Albert Finney
 Edward is a braggart who exaggerates his exploits and experiences. His estranged son has come home to take care of his dying dad and separate fact from fiction.
 Rated PG-13 (a fight scene, some images of nudity and a suggestive reference) 110 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 (Jum'ah) 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.

Wounded war bird goes home

C-5 Production Branch, 653rd CLSS work together to get C-5 back into airlift rotation

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

Workers in the C-5 Production Branch are feeling a little closer to the war fighter now that they've completed battle damage repair on the C-5 hit by a missile shortly after takeoff in Iraq Jan. 8.

The aircraft left Robins Monday - two days ahead of schedule.

The aircraft, retrieved from Baghdad by a team from the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron's, returned to Robins Jan. 21.

Prior to its return, the 653rd CLSS group made temporary repairs to the plane so it could be flown. Once at Robins, the C-5 Production Branch took over and is made permanent repairs to return the aircraft to Air Mobility Command so it could go back into the airlift rotation.

According to Mr. Al Hainse, C-5 production manager, the work on the battle damaged aircraft didn't interrupt normally scheduled work.

"Some of the guys from the 653rd CLSS who went over there and actually got the plane helped work the damage," he said. "It was civil service and active duty working side by side to not only to get this aircraft back to AMC on time, but two days early."

Ms. Gail Turner, a C-5 scheduler, said initially evaluations were needed to determine the extent of damage and what repair work would be accomplished. Weather was a factor at first because the aircraft was repaired on the ramp and not in a hangar.

Mr. David Johnson, a C-5

"It was civil service and active duty working side by side to not only get this aircraft back to AMC on time, but two days early."

Mr. Al Hainse
C-5 production manager



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

Top, the battle damaged C-5 retrieved from Baghdad receives permanent repairs on Robins fight line recently. Above, Mr. Wayne Selph, sheet metal mechanic, shows the damage done to the torque box panel.

planner, said the workers were enthusiastic about the aircraft.

"Working on something that was actually in battle brought out their pride," he said. "They were interested in getting it back to the war fight-

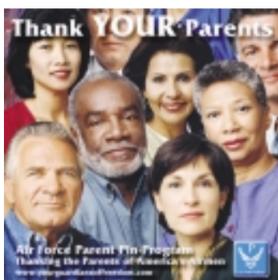
er as soon as possible."

Mr. Johnson added that, with the large troop rotation planned in the near future, it was important to have the plane completed and back to AMC as soon as possible.

hienergy
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armed
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window
59489401



theater
59530702

choice
59542501

Paintball offers thrill seekers the ultimate game of strategy

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

Surprisingly, the folks who play paintball seriously can get a little miffed when others refer to the game as a violent sport.

According to long-time player Scott Covode, the game isn't about glorifying violence at all. It's a game of strategy, hand-eye coordination and stealth.

"It's not about 'killing' people, and it's not about violence," he said of the sport. "It's an extreme sport for sure, but it's more like playing dodge ball. And, rather than using a rubber ball, we use paintball guns - called markers - and paint filled balls to tag people out. Sure they're projectiles, but it's about skill - not firepower. We're not hunting out there."

Josh Norman, like Covode, has been getting into the thick of things for quite some time. His father bought him and his brother their first markers when Norman was 13.

"I have been playing for roughly eight years," he said. "It's now a family tradition. My father still plays even though he has two replaced hips. I got into paintball through my friends and family. I am from a small town and paintball is probably the most exciting thing you can do for fun."

But whether you're from a small town, the suburbs or the city, when it comes to getting into the sport, it really just comes down to the desire to have a good time.

"Your average paintballer is social," Norman said. "You never know who will be on your team, but they become your friend instantly when you come under fire."

He went on to describe those who are drawn to the sport as exhibiting good sportsmanship, humility, leadership skills and the ability to



U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Rachel Jordan

Above, about 80 people made the drive to attend and participate in the Robins Air Force Base tournament in Dry Branch, Ga., Saturday. Services is looking to expand its on base paintball program. Below, this paintball marker set costs around \$150. But basic markers can cost much less.

How to get involved

The Robins Paintball Club has grown to 80 members who play every weekend both on and off base. All notifications are sent by e-mail, and games range from speedball to woods to urban assault scenarios. For more information, contact Senior Airman Joshua Norman at 926-3350.

be part of the team.

"You have to be a good sport to play this game because poor sports aren't tolerated on the field," Norman said. "No one can win every time, and paintball really makes you realize how easily



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

a mistake can take you out of the game. You have to be aware of your surroundings; you take fire from all directions. The bottom-line is that paintball players have no true description. Male or female, young or old, anyone who tries it loves it."

Norman said the most important skill to have when

you take to the field is communication.

"You cannot win without communication," he said. "That's the number one attribute most valued by the pros."

It may seem to be a dangerous sport, but just like with football, there is safety equipment and standards to cut

down on the chance of injury.

"I have seen players start as young as 8 with their fathers," he said. "With the right protective gear and guidance, any individual can play paintball safely and have fun. Paintball is only dangerous if you don't follow proper safety precautions and guidelines. The worst case scenario is a quarter sized welt or bruise, which normally goes away in a few days. Paintball was rated the safest extreme sport this year because it has lower incidents of injury than any other extreme sports."

Covode agreed.

"Paintball is a sport," he said. "It builds teamwork, responsibility and integrity. It really is no different than soccer, baseball or football.

According to Robert Willis

What it costs

Interested in playing? A basic starter package costs about \$100, including a paintball marker, goggles and a CO2 tank. Paintballs are extra. If you're interested in giving it a go, but aren't ready to invest the money, equipment can be rented, and the standard fee is normally around \$5 to \$10 including equipment and all-day air. For a group outing Services Outdoor Recreation will rent markers, goggles, air and paintballs for \$15 per person for minimum groups of six. Ranges are available on weekends, and anyone interested in becoming a referee or volunteering to maintain equipment should contact Outdoor Recreation at 926-4001.

with Services Outdoor Recreation Center, Services is trying to increase interest in the base program that began four years ago.

"We're really working hard to increase the program," he said. "We're looking for new referees and improving the two fields we have. Right now, we've got a speed ball course, which is an open field with barriers and we also have a 2-acre wooded course - the speedball course needs the most work."

Even so, Services has everything people need to get a game going. They currently have 31 Tipman markers, masks, tanks, and the fields for play.

"The program has grown every year," Willis said. "We will be able to do a lot more once we get a bigger staff, and they get up to speed."

Editor's note: Norman was one of about 80 people who made the drive to attend and participate in the Robins Air Force Base tournament in Dry Branch, Ga., Saturday. Covode was one of seven who officiated.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bowling Center

■ All bowlers play for \$1.75 a game. If their birthday is Sunday, they bowl three games for free.

■ All active duty military who bowl two games during open play will receive one game free March fourth - the only day of the year that gives a command.

Fitness Center

A St. Patrick's Day run will be held March 17 at 11 a.m. in front of the Health and Wellness Center.

Golf Course

■ A spring break junior golf clinic will be held March 16 - 18. Cost is

\$40, and clinic is limited to first 15 paid juniors in each class. Times are 9 - 11 a.m. for 7 - to 11 - year - old boys; noon - 2 p.m. for 12 - 15 - year - old boys; and 3 - 5 p.m. for 9 - 17 - year - old girls. For more information, call the golf course.

■ Link Up 2 Golf offers participants over \$300 in savings. Cost per person is \$99 and includes eight hours of instruction, free-range punch cards and three golfing experiences. Register now for March 22 class. For details, call 926-4103.

ITT

NASCAR tickets are on sale at ITT for the Inaugural 200 mile truck race

March 13 and the Golden Corral 500 NASCAR Nextel Cup Series race March 14 at the Atlanta Motor Speedway. Cost is \$40 per person for both races.

Youth Center

■ Robins Youth Center will be conducting baseball, softball, T-ball and micro T-ball registrations through Saturday.

■ Registration for Operation Night Hoops will be held Monday through Friday from 3 - 6 p.m. and Saturdays 1 - 6 p.m. March 13 - 20 at the Youth Center. Cost is \$10 per player with seven players per team. Season starts March 26 for eight weeks.

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HONOR ROLL

The following people received awards during the Engineering and Technical Management Awards banquet Wednesday:

2nd Lt. Katherine I. Lysaght, LS, systems engineer, Combat Electronic Systems Directorate, Junior Military Engineer Award

Mr. Peter J. Christiansen, LB, C-130 aircraft structural integrity program manager, C-130 Systems Program Office, Junior Engineer Award

Maj. Kevin W. Gilbert, LS, deputy chief, Systems Engineering Division, Combat Electronic Systems Directorate, Mid-Career Military Award

Mr. Ronald C. Hollingshead, LS, Global Positioning System user equipment system engineer, Combat Electronic Systems Directorate, Mid-Career Award

Mr. Wayne R. Williams, LS, lead electronics engineer, Combat Electronic Systems Engineer, Senior Engineer Award

Mr. John W. Louth, LS, senior electronics engineer, Combat Electronics Systems Directorate, Career Achievement Award

The Warner Robins Flight Test Office Team, led by **Maj. Stephen Brooks**, EN-2, chief, Flight Testing Division, Engineering Directorate, and team members **Maj. Karl J. Biermacher**, **2nd Lt. Ryan J. Davidson**, **Maj. Jeffrey E. Gates**, **Mr. Patrick C. Jones**, **Capt. Jeffrey J. Kotz**, **Ms. Kimberly J. Kovalick**, **1st Lt. Andrew C. Meudt**, **Mr. William M. Schleicher**, and **1st Lt. Gregory M. Zelinski**, Technical Management Team award

Ms. Lori Bloodworth, MA, lead, Partnerships and Business Development,

Software Engineering Division, Directorate of Maintenance, Technical Management Award

Mr. Frank G. Graham, LS, electronics technician, Combat Electronics Systems Directorate, Engineering Technician Award

Capt. Kristopher Kruger, LF, lead reliability and maintainability engineering, F-15 Systems Program Office, Individual Mobilization Augmentee Award

Mr. Sammy E. Dent, MA, financial management team lead, Software Engineering Division, Directorate of Maintenance, Support Award

Mr. Stephen Strawn, LS, lead electronics engineer, Combat Electronic Systems Directorate, General James Ferguson Engineering Award

The B-1B Defensive Systems Engineering Team, LS, Combat Electronic Systems Directorate, led by **Mr. Martin P. Markalonis** and team members **Mr. Jackie R. Ringley**, **Mr. Christopher J. Wharton**, **Mr. Roy A. Arnold**, **Mr. Daniel J. Conkerton**, **Ms. Maica D Echols**, **Mr. John D. Evertt Jr.**, **Mr. Brian D. Gaffney**, **Mr. Amit R. Gambhir**, **Mr. Matthew P. Haslaurer**, **Mr. George T. Hlavaty**, **Mr. Lawrence W. Kakritz**, **Mr. David A. McCrory**, **Mr. Richard E. McGregor**, **Ms. Paulette M. Polk**, **Mr. Gerald A. Prats**, **Ms. Donna A. Rivers**, **Ms. Cynthia P. Rump**, **Mr. David L. Sorrell**, **Mr. Alphonso Thomas**, and **Mr. David M. Zook**, General Barnard P. Randolph Engineering Team Award

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Safety first



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

Brig. Gen. Mike Collings, Center commander, presents the 2003 Commanders Trophy for Excellence in Safety to Master Sgt. Elijah Waring, 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron unit safety manager, and Lt. Col. Paul Wood, 653rd CLSS commander, Monday. The unit with the lowest on-job and off-job mishap record receives the annual award.

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