ROBINS
Rev Up

Vol. 49 No. 1 | Friday, January 9, 2004 | Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

What's Inside

Getting the kinks out

See Page 1B

News You can use

ORI countdown: 125 days

With the arrival of the Air Force Materiel Command Inspector General team just 125 days away, Operational Readiness Inspection preparation should be well underway. Here's Robins' approach to ensure an outstanding ORI. Use these as a guideline for planning and executing your preparation.

Four steps for ORI success:

1. **Know standards – communicate to all:** Start with ORI criteria listed in AFMCI 90-202 and functional regulations. Know these to understand expectations and performance standards.

2. **Train right people to right standard:** Examine the people you have available for the inspection and select the right folks for the right positions and then train them to excel.

3. **Graciously and positively host IG:** The IG is not the bad guy. They are here to see what we can do. Have a positive, professional attitude in all IG interactions and they will certainly be impressed. Most importantly, don't forget value of first impressions.

4. **Demonstrate our abilities:** If the first three steps are fully accomplished, our success in the actual ORI will follow. Continue to give 100 percent of your best effort, communicate, and work as a team.

– Lt. Col. Kevin A. Foley

16 picked for command posts

Joe G. Ballard, 778th CES, to FE Warren, 90th CES
Geoffrey S. Ellazar Jr., WR-ALC, to Little Rock, 314th CONS
David C. French, WR-ALC, to Greenville, S.C., DCMA
Christopher D. Hill, 116th MOS, to Offutt, 55th MXS
Robert W. Jackson, WR-ALC, to Yokota, 374th MOS
Nathan G. Lyden, WR-ALC, to Tyndall, 325th MXS
Louis P. Seliquini Jr., 78th LRS, to Luke, 56th LRS
David T. Blackwell, from McChord, 62nd SFS, to 78th SFS
Enrique T. De La Garza, from Camp Smith, PACOM, to 116th CSS
Eric V. Faison, from Fort Leavenworth, IDE student; to 19th AMXS
Richard F. Janoso, from Maxwell, ACSC, to 52nd CBCS
Kirk B. Mott, from Luke, 56th LRS, to 116th LRS
Darryl F. Neal, from Maxwell, ACSC, to 51st CBCS
Kathyleen M. Pare, from Hurlburt, AFSOC, to 778th CES
Thomas A. Schneider, from Ramstein, USAFE, to 78th LRS
Brian A. Wilkey, from Pentagon, HQ USAF, to 5th CBCSS

A place for everything

U.S. Air Force photo

A bird's eye view of the flight line highlights two upcoming construction projects: One will provide a 40,000-square-foot facility that will store all parts and equipment required to support aircraft maintenance activities, and the other project will eliminate clutter and allow greater distances between parked aircraft, providing a safer, more efficient work environment.

$16 million plans to put new face on functional test

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

Two military construction projects set to transform functional test processes here while reducing cost and flow days are on the horizon, promising a bright future for Robins.

According to Ms. Wendy Johnston, the projects, including the construction of a consolidated aircraft maintenance facility and the reconfiguration of the aircraft ramp, will provide the infrastructure needed to equip Robins with a consolidated functional test area capable of handling all aircraft.

In addition, process improvements and consolidation efforts should result in a 20 percent cost savings related to labor and transportation costs, and a 15 percent decrease in flow days for each type of cargo aircraft through the functional test process.

"The first of the two projects, the consolidated aircraft maintenance facility, will be funded in fiscal 2004 via Congressional Insert and will provide a facility large enough to store all parts and equipment required to support aircraft maintenance activities," said Ms. Johnston. "The 40,000-square-foot facility will consolidate all cargo functional test operations into a "state-of-the-art facility" designed to better meet the needs of the operations."

After funding, the projects will take approximately two years to complete allowing for a six-month design and solicitation period and a construction period of 18 months. The ramp will be reconfigured in two phases to ensure minimal impact on existing functional test operations.

According to Mr. Todd Sappe, the existing functional test facility doesn't meet current mission requirements for personnel and storage with personnel and equipment located in facilities far away from the functional test line, having a negative impact on the productivity and effectiveness.

"The inadequacy of the current functional test facility and ramp configuration affects our testing

Please see **TEST, 2A**

What to know

Consolidated Functional Test Facility
Estimated Contract Award Date: May
Estimated Construction Start Date: November
Estimated Construction Completion Date: April 2006

Ramp Reconfiguration
Estimated Contract Award Date: January 2005
Estimated Construction Start Date: Summer 2005
Estimated Construction Completion Date: Summer 2007

BRAC 2005 process begins

Department of Defense News

The Department of Defense on Tuesday requested commanders of installations in the United States, territories and possessions to gather information about their installations as part of the 2005 round of Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC.

The department will use BRAC to eliminate unnecessary infrastructure and to increase military capability and effectiveness.

All installations will participate in these calls.

While none of the questions or data associated with the questions will be released to the public prior to the department's recommendations being forwarded to the independent Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, which will be named by March 2005.

All questions and data will be publicly available once the Commission receives them.

This data call is only one of many steps in the BRAC process. There will be additional data calls as necessary.

Formal data calls are one of the ways the department satisfies its statutory obligations to treat all military installations equally and to make its closure and realignment recommendations based solely upon certified data.

In a related action, the department published Draft Selection Criteria in the Dec. 23, 2003, Federal Register for public comment. The department will use the criteria as part of its evaluation process.

Comments are due not later than January 28, 2004.

The department's list of base closure and realignment recommendations will be submitted to the independent BRAC Commission no later than May 16, 2005, as required by the legislation.

What to know

General information on the DoD's BRAC process is available online at: http://www.dod.mil/brac/.

Sergeant selected for AF Flight Attendant Program

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

It's not every day you get to cook dinner for Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife, but that's what Staff Sgt. Melissa Magyari will soon be doing - and at 30,000 feet, no less.

The 19th Air Refueling Group command section information manager was one of 10 active duty military members recently selected for the Air Force Flight Attendant program - in existence since the Air Force's beginning.

The 25-year-old Starke, Fla., native, who joined the Air Force in 1998, said the four-year assignment would allow her to fulfill her dream of seeing the world.

"My only reason for joining the Air Force was to travel," she said. "I just want to see the places I'd never see otherwise. This will give me the opportunity to see places overseas without moving there."

Mr. Ronald Magyari said he is proud of his daughter's accomplishment.

"I'm very happy for her," he said. "I was in the Air Force for 22 years, and I didn't quite get the jobs I wanted. I'm excited that Melissa is."

Sergeant Magyari, who was accepted in the program Nov. 25, will attend training at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash. and flight attendant school in the Atlanta area to learn the fine art of cooking

Please see **FLIGHT, 2A**

What to know

For more information on the Air Force Flight Attendant Program, contact the 78th Military Personnel Flight at 327-7362.

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

Staff Sgt. Melissa Magyari is one of 10 active duty military members selected for the Air Force Flight Attendant program. She will be greeting and serving meals to the vice president and his wife, governors, congressmen and other distinguished visitors aboard C-32 and C-40 aircraft.

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

Today Cloudy with isolated showers 47/36

Saturday Cloudy and cold 50/29

Sunday Mostly to partly cloudy 54/29

What's inside

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TV show gives woman second chance 5A
FitLinxx keeps Robins on task at Fitness Center 6B

Robins wins AF-level pollution prevention award

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

Robins' employees have worked together to make the base more environmentally friendly - and the hard work has paid off, according to Mr. Shawn Politino, environmental quality division chief.

Robins will be honored as the Air Force-level recipient of the 2003 Gen. Thomas D. White Pollution Prevention Industrial Category Award in a ceremony at the Pentagon May 5.

Mr. Politino called the award that recognizes excellence in environmental protection measures a team effort.

"It always makes you excited when you're recognized for something you've spent years working toward," he said. "We're really proud of all of our base employees, school children and visitors for helping us improve the environment over the years. It feels good to see a reward for all of our efforts."

Environmental Management initially won the same category award at the Air Force Materiel Command level, and is currently competing for the Secretary of Defense Environmental Award for Pollution Prevention in the industrial category, an award often presented the same day by the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the Air Force.

Ms. Linda Larson, solid waste and toxics program manager, said all have played a role in Robins' success.

"This is truly a Team Robins effort," she said. "All have contributed (to this award). From the flight line to the base housing recycling program, this is a well-deserved, base-wide award."

Coyle

Mr. Steve Coyle, Environmental Management Directorate director, said Lean initiatives at Robins have paved the way for pollution prevention success.

"A great resource for identifying pollution prevention opportunities comes from basewide Lean events, and the Lean events themselves often result in waste reduction," he said. "Pollution prevention benefits the base as well as the surrounding communities with reductions in air emissions, resulting in an overall cleaner environment."

What to know

These are a few of the initiatives that led to Robins 2003 Air Force-level win of the Gen. Thomas D. White Pollution Prevention, Industrial Category Award:

Improving pollution prevention throughout base operations, from flight line maintenance to solid waste disposal in family housing.

Implementation of alternative depaint processes, such as Flashjet, resulted in an additional two-year reduction of 43 percent in methylene chloride.

Implementation of powder coating in Hydrostat Shop eliminates solvent emissions for this process.

First sustainable construction of "Green Building" in design phase at Robins is ahead of U.S. Air Force goals.

TEST

Continued from 1A

capacity and directly affects the aircraft flow day schedule, causing aircraft delivery delays," said the chief of Process Improvement Branch for the Aircraft Division. "Improving the functional test process will eliminate a bottleneck in aircraft maintenance operations, resulting in improved throughput, reduced work-in-process, and improved on-time delivery."

According to the chief of engineering and infrastructure planning, the ramp reconfiguration project will be funded in fiscal 2005 via Transformation military construction funding.

"We had so many aircraft that we didn't have enough room," said Mr. Sappe. "We decided that if we reconfigured the ramp, we could put in one continuous blast fence which would give us major flexibility. Reconfiguring the ramp allows more space per aircraft and more room for work stands and ground support equipment without a crowded cluttered condition."

The ramp expansion will reduce inefficiencies and safety risks associated with current operations and further enhance the flexibility of the functional test area. Also, fuel hydrants, which will be installed using separate funding, will provide efficient fuel servicing.

Eliminating clutter and allowing greater distances between parked aircraft will also cut down on damage to equipment and aircraft frames, providing a safer, more efficient work environment.

"Additionally, the project will allow us to optimize recent and on-going Lean and process improvements to the functional test process," said Mr. Sappe. "Since this project will allow different aircraft to use all functional test spots rather than having dedicated locations, the method by which we schedule and process aircraft into the functional test area will be transformed."

FLIGHT

Continued from 1A

aboard the C-32 and C-40 aircraft.

Along with trotting the globe, Magyari will also be greeting and serving meals to the vice president and his wife, governors, congressmen and other distinguished visitors.

"Cooking on a plane obviously isn't the same as cooking on a stove in a regular kitchen," she said. "There's a lot less space to work with. The training helps you learn how to cook in that environment."

As a flight attendant, Sergeant Magyari said her face will be the first image of hospitality the travelers see - and her estimated six-week training will teach her the proper culinary etiquette.

"If the vice president prefers certain foods, we give him a menu to select from, and we shop and cook according to that," she said.

While she will make a permanent change of station to Andrews Air Force Base for the assignment, she said beginning in early spring, she won't be spending much time at her home location.

"Long work hours are a given with this job," she said. "With next year being a presidential (election) year, I've been told not to expect to be home much at all."

However, Sergeant Mayari said, once the plane lands, her job is done and she can enjoy some rest and relaxation often in the five-star hotels many stay on the trips.

Col. Raymond J. Rottman, 19th ARG commander, said he recommended Magyari for the program because of her strong character and work ethic.

According to Tech. Sgt. Shannon Hughes, a three-year flight attendant with the 1st Airlift Squadron at Andrews, there are currently 200 active duty and 25 Air National Guard flight attendants serving in the Air Force.

"I just want to see the places I'd never see otherwise. This will give me the opportunity to see places overseas without moving there."

Staff Sgt. Melissa Magyari
Air Force Flight Attendant program selectee

AFMC improves deployment process

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFPN) – Air Force Materiel Command officials fielded a tool in the summer designed to help people keep better track of their deployment information and they said it is already making a difference.

The Deployment Qualification System is a Web-based tool providing units with capabilities they have never had before, such as timely and accurate information integration across functional areas, e-mail notifications for expiring training and daily summaries for unit deployment managers.

The system gives individuals access to their current deployment-readiness status, including prerequisites like self-aid and buddy care, chemical-warfare training and weapons qualifications, said Maj. Jeff Stephan, DQS program manager.

Unit deployment managers are happy to receive expiration reminders for their law of armed conflict training or self-aid buddy-care training, he said.

"The self-service approach automates administrative steps in our processes and has proven effective in industry," he said.

"I love it," said Staff Sgt. Ron Dunn, a UDM for the 78th Security Forces Squadron at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., while gearing up for a deployment. "This saves me so much time." He said he was thrilled that people could update their own records, and all he had to do was approve the changes.

What to know

The Deployment Qualification System is a Web-based tool that provides units and individuals with:

- Timely and accurate information integration across functional areas
- E-mail notifications for expiring training
- Daily summaries for unit deployment managers
- Access to current deployment-readiness status

DQS now has more than 10,000 registered users, including several unit deployment managers, training providers and installation deployment officers providing constructive feedback on how to increase the tool's usefulness, Major Stephan said.

"We've made a deliberate effort, listening to our users since day one," he said. "We were able to incorporate their feedback during the summer and that approach is paying off. The system has tremendous built-in capabilities, and as we activate them, we're striking positive chords with UDMs and training providers."

Many users were pleased when medical-status flags appeared in DQS, Major Stephan said.

Medics share an enterprise view and perspective, and it makes sense to reuse data, said Lt. Col. Steve Toney of the Air Force Medical Support Agency.

The flags do not convey medical information per se, but compliance with instructions, he said.

Specifically, they convey whether a person is ready or not ready with regard to immunizations, dental, laboratory, equipment and health record-review status.

Before there was DQS, deployment managers and commanders had to rely on spreadsheets e-mailed or mailed to units to see where their people stood status-wise.

Units now have direct access to the information as part of their integrated view of individual readiness status.

This medical-data feed is expected to help keep UDMs and commanders involved in supporting their troops to complete their medical requirements.

Other improvements, based directly on user feedback, included reminders e-mailed to course enrollees before scheduled courses, a course roster e-mail sent to training providers when registration closes out, and new UDM and commander reports.

The reports put total numbers in perspective by summarizing individual readiness by air and space expeditionary force windows and priority.

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A cultural exchange

Russian exchange student teaches host family as she learns

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

Raising a teenager can be challenging enough. But raising a teenager from another country can be an experience that's out of this world.

Mr. Brent Inman, electronics business area chief for the Maintenance Directorate, and his wife, Mrs. Debbie Inman, purchasing and supply chain management chief for the Logistics Directorate, opened their lives to such an experience when they began hosting Miss Mariya Lykova, a 16-year-old native of Kostroma, Russia, through the Future Leaders Exchange program, a non-profit high school foreign exchange student organization, in late July.

Lykova

Mr. Inman said when he and his wife - both Air Force reservists - decided to open their lives and home to a student from a world away, they wanted it to be a mutual learning experience.

"For several years, we'd talked about hosting an exchange student," he said. "I told my daughter that if we hosted an exchange student, I'd want one who we could learn as much from as she learns from us."

Mariya, who is currently attending Warner Robins High School along with the Inman's 16-year-old daughter, Katie, is providing the family with that experience and more.

"It has been interesting just talking to her, learning the differences between the cultures and understanding how things translate from one language to another," Mrs. Inman said. "I've really had to adjust my cooking. They don't eat a lot of spicy foods (in Russia). That has been a big adjustment, but we manage by putting the salt and pepper shakers out for everyone else to use."

The Inman's 19-year-old daughter, Erica, a freshman at Georgia Southern University, said hosting Mariya has taught her not to take her culture for granted.

"Getting to meet someone new and getting to know another culture has been interesting," she said. "I went to Germany last summer, but then to experience the Russian culture and see how things are different has been interesting. Having Mariya here, I've been able to broaden my cultural experience a little bit."

As a host family, the Inmans are responsible for providing Mariya with a home environment, exposing her to the different holidays, traditions and language of American culture.

In addition, the Inmans are charged with making sure she takes the proper educational courses, and fulfills other requirements of the exchange program, such as performing 20 hours of community service per month and periodically taking trips that allow her to learn about the American government and all aspects of American life.

The Inmans said they've helped the exchange student better understand holiday celebrations and observances, by including her in community events here and at other bases.

"We had a cookout on Labor Day, and we went to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. to participate in some community events," Mrs. Inman said. "We explained to her what the day meant and let her see different displays there and other things there to observe that day."

Even with three daughters of his own, Mr. Inman said parenting a Russian teenager is unlike anything he has ever known.

"It's like she's from a different planet, with all the language and cultural differences," he said. "On the other hand, she's the typical 16-year-old - liking boys, make-up and clothes."

Becoming a basketball cheerleader and soon to be a Miss Warner Robins High School Pageant contestant, the new kid on the block said she hasn't had much trouble adjusting to American culture.

"I've met a lot of interesting people," she said. "Being here has helped me improve my English, and I've been to a lot of new places. Sure, I miss my family very much. But the family I'm staying with is very nice, and so, I feel like I'm at home."

What to know

Academic Year in the United States of America places an estimated 2,000 students from more than 60 countries world-wide, across the U.S. each year. For more information on hosting a foreign exchange student through AYUSA and Future Leaders Exchange, contact Ms. Pat Balli at 329-0307 or 1-866-241-0517.

Commissary officials sensitive to beef concerns

By Ms. Bonnie Powell
bonnie.powell@deca.mil

FORT LEE, Va. - Officials at the Defense Commissary Agency are closely monitoring the ever-changing situation involving a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, also known as "mad cow" disease, identified Dec. 23 in a single cow in Washington state.

Since Dec. 23 the U.S. Department of Agriculture has conducted a limited recall of 10,000 pounds of beef that may originate from the infected cow and from cows slaughtered at the same time and location.

"No beef in any of our 275 commissaries worldwide has been involved in a USDA recall," said Col. Mark Wolken, chief of public health, safety and security for DeCA. "The USDA has stated that the U.S. beef supply is safe and that the beef recall resulted from an abundance of caution, not fear that the meat is infected. Should the USDA make a determination that there is a danger, DeCA would be first to react to protect the health of our customers," he said.

Since the first U.S. case of BSE was identified Dec. 23, commissary customers have raised questions about the safety of beef purchased at their local commissary.

"As is always the case, customers who wish to return commissary products for a full refund may do so without question," the colonel said. "The brain, spinal cord, and lower intestine - where the protein or 'prion' that is believed to cause BSE is found - is not generally used in food consumed by Americans. Those parts were removed from the infected cow before any of it could enter the meat supply."

USDA investigators have determined that the recalled meat went to a few commercial markets in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana and Guam as well as Washington state, Oregon, California and Nevada.

"No commissaries received any of those shipments," he said. "But I can certainly understand customers having concerns and questions. We're all affected by this - we're all concerned."

Mad cow is a fatal disease that destroys the brains of the infected animal. It is caused in cattle by misshapen proteins called prions and is thought to be spread from animal to animal through contaminated feed. A rare form of the disease in humans known as variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease has been linked to the consumption of contaminated beef products.

What to know

For the latest developments and for links to the USDA and other information on recalls and food safety, check the food safety link at http://www.commissaries.com.

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Personnel center teams getting civilians hired faster

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER - It has been taking up to 200 days to get some vacant Air Force civilian jobs filled and senior leaders have said those long delays have to stop.

They have launched a war on bureaucratic steps.

"And even early on we're showing results," said Mr. David Davenport, chief of the human resources laboratory and reengineering division here.

That means units will be able to hire workers sooner, and that may mean more people in work areas from the flightline to headquarters to get the mission done, he said.

"We have to remember who our customer is - military and civilian managers - in the field," said Mr. Ron Orr, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics. "We must look at it from their focus, getting skilled people out there faster to roll up their sleeves and help get the job done in these busy times."

Three process improvement teams reviewed, brainstormed and validated ways to reduce the total time a job request is in the system and the administrative handling time spent on each.

"The teams identified more than 40 policy, procedure or systems changes that they feel would improve the fill process toward the 'ideal to be' state," said Mr. Davenport.

"But this is a complex issue and we're only fixing the small part of the overall process that we can fix here," said Mr. Greg Den Herder, executive director of the personnel center. "Hopefully our success so far will stimulate similar efforts at every level. It must be a multi-front war."

In one week, the teams organized into work groups called "cells" and were able to reduce time spent on various parts of the job-fill process. The total time fill actions are in the hands of the personnel center was reduced by 12-14 days.

After studying the current conditions, the teams were allowed to design a model to reduce steps and then implement major changes. A third day was spent testing the new processes and by week's end, the new processes were up and running.

Three more so-called "rapid improvement events" - covering additional processes - were conducted in early September.

Rapid Improvement Events are part of a larger "Lean" streamlining process, a government-wide Business Initiative Council program to remove waste while making programs more cost effective and efficient, officials said.

Lean is an ongoing process for continuous improvement, and the three teams will continue to refine the process as the recommended policy and systems changes are approved, officials said.

FDA issues ephedra alert

By Mr. G.W. Pomeroy
Air Force Surgeon General
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Following an FDA alert, Air Force Medical Service officials are once again "strongly advising" airmen to contact their physicians or health-care providers before taking dietary supplements containing ma huang, ephedra or ephedra alkaloids.

Food and Drug Administration officials have issued a consumer alert on the safety of dietary supplements containing ephedra that calls for consumers to immediately stop buying and using ephedra products.

Besides issuing an alert, FDA officials are notifying manufacturers that they intend to publish a final rule stating dietary supplements containing ephedrine alkaloids present an unreasonable risk of illness or injury.

The rule would have the effect of banning the sale of these products as soon as it becomes effective, 60 days after publication.

"FDA will publish a final rule as soon as possible that will formalize its conclusions that dietary supplements containing ephedrine alkaloids present unreasonable risks to those who take them for any reason," said Mr. Tommy G. Thompson, health and human services secretary.

"[The action] puts companies on notice of our intentions, and it tells consumers that the time to stop using ephedra products is now," Mr. Thompson said.

"We are taking action today to notify Americans about the unreasonable risk of ephedra as currently marketed in dietary supplements," said Dr. Mark B. McClellan, FDA commissioner. "Our action is based on diligent and thorough work by the agency as required by the challenging legal standard in the dietary supplement law."

Dining facility construction nears completion

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

Soon, airmen at Robins will have a new place to get a good meal. Construction on the new Robins dining facility is expected to be completed in February. The new facility will have a seating capacity of 240, with a 300-square-foot patio for outside dining. The facility will offer two large dining rooms with skylights, seating for 105 each, and a conference room with seating for 30. The facility will offer a short order, deli and main food line. Above, Eddie Mullins does sheetrock finishing work around the skylight in one of the dining areas. Right, construction crews work hard to complete the project by the February opening date.

Courtesy photo

Mitzi, Ms. Mary Daniels' dog, is thankful for a TV show that saved her owner's ilfe.

TV program gives woman second chance

Watching TV could save your life - just ask Ms. Mary Daniels.

Ms. Daniels, an employee with Lockheed Martin, assigned to the Technical Orders Branch within the Strategic Airlift Directorate here, was watching a Discovery Channel program on heart surgery when she discovered she had the same symptoms as the patient on the show.

She went online, looked up the physician, and e-mailed him the next day.

She had copies of her tests and reports from her local physician forwarded to the show's doctor, and he informed her he and a colleague had reviewed them and believed they could treat her.

He informed her that she had anomalous coronary arteries from her pulmonary artery.

Ms. Daniels traveled to the Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 17 to have further tests. The tests were conclusive, and she had heart surgery Dec. 19.

Ms.Daniels was released on New Year's Day.

Because of the expense of the surgery and her lack of leave, she is on short-term disability making only 60 percent of her salary.

To help relieve the monetary strain, a donation fund has been set up on her behalf at Robins Federal Credit Union.

Ms. Daniels is an employee with Lockheed Martin, assigned to the Technical Orders Branch within the Strategic Airlift Directorate.

The point of contact to make donations is Ms. Sissy Jones, Technical Order Librarian, in the Strategic Airlift Directorate. You can reach Ms. Jones at 926-6156.

– Staff reports

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION RIGHTS

Section 7114, Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, provides certain rights to bargaining unit employees being questioned by management during an investigation. These rights are also spelled out in Article 5, Section 5.03 of the Master Labor Agreement between AFMC and AFGE, Article 16, Section c, of the Nonappropriated Funds Labor Agreement, and Article 7, Section 4, of the Command Labor Agreement between AFMC and IAFF (firefighters).

If a supervisor is questioning an employee and the employee believes discipline may result from the interview, the employee is entitled to be represented by the union if specifically requested by the employee. The following three ingredients must all be present for this right to be exercised:

a. The supervisor or management official must be asking questions,
b. The employee must have a reasonable basis to believe discipline could result,
c. And, the employee must request union representation.

This does not entitle employees to representation when normal day-to-day matters are being discussed or questions are not asked. A counseling session to be entered on the AF Form 971, Supervisor's Employee Brief, and the delivery of a proposed disciplinary action would be two examples of instances when the right does not arise.

If you have a question concerning representation rights under the investigatory interview circumstances, please call your servicing Employee Relations Specialist or the Labor Relations Office. Employee Relations can be reached at 63423 or 60677. Labor Relations can be reached at 67781.

Notice to AFGE Unit Employees Concerning Union Dues

Employees desiring to initiate an authorization for dues withholding may obtain an SF 1187 from any AFGE steward or official. The effective date will be the first full pay period after receipt of the SF 1187 by the Civilian Pay Section.

Employees wishing to discontinue their dues withholding may obtain SF 1188s from the Civilian Pay Section or the Labor Relations Office. Discontinuance of dues withholding will be effective as follows:

(1) For an employee who began dues withholding allotments before 11 January 1979: Beginning the first full pay period following 1 September provided the SF 1188 is received by the Civilian Pay Section prior to 1 September.

(2) For an employee who started dues withholding on or after 11 January 1979: Beginning the first full pay period following the particular anniversary date (the anniversary date is the starting date of the first pay period for which dues were deducted from the employee's pay).

According to the Labor Relations Office, the Civilian Pay Section referenced above is now the Civilian Payroll Liaison Office (WR-ALC/FMFS). Standard Forms 1188 may be obtained from the Labor Relations Office, (78 SPTG/DPCEL), or WR-ALC/FMFS. The Labor Relations Office is located in Building 255, 1st Floor. The Civilian Payroll Liaison Office is located in Building 301, East Wing, Bay F. A Standard Form 1188 may be requested either in person or by telephone by calling extension 67781 (DPCEL) or 66229 (FMFS).

A look back on successes, ahead to challenges

By Gen. Greg Martin
Commander
Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) -- In a flash, 2003 has come and gone, and with it the year's many challenges and successes.

Martin

Regardless of the situation, obstacle or challenge, our Air Force Materiel Command team came together and got the job done, keeping America's Air Force the premier power in the world. When you look at our military's ability to fight and the weapons and technology war fighters take to the battlefield, you can take pride in knowing you've made that happen.

You carried out the AFMC mission by delivering war-winning, expeditionary capabilities to the war fighter: war-winning technology; war-winning acquisition support; and war-winning sustainment.

America's overwhelming success in places like Afghanistan and Iraq came riding in on your backs. Don't ever underestimate your value to this command, the Air Force or our great nation.

We did a lot in 2003. AFMC logistics operations reduced non-mission capable hours due to supply problems by 37 percent from September 2002 to the same time in 2003. This, in turn, reduced the Air Force fleet average total not mission capable rate for supply from 10.2 percent in fiscal 2002 to 9.2 percent in fiscal 2003.

Our air logistics centers and their contract partners did not exceed planned expense rates in 2003, resulting in no final bill to the corporate Air Force for the first time in half a decade.

Maintainers at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., shaved four months off individual C-5 Galaxy programmed depot maintenance time which allowed them to deliver an unprecedented 23 aircraft back to the war fighter this year; 17 had been the previous high mark. They're doing similar things with the C-130 aircraft, and cut 30 days off PDM time for four Air Force Special Operations Command aircraft.

Maintenance professionals at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., did their part in finding new efficiencies. Because of that, they have more net serviceable fighter aircraft engines on hand than required to meet the Air Force's warfighting needs, a first since the Gulf War.

And the list goes on. Two F-16 aircraft, deliberately approaching each other head on during a test at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., went into automated maneuvers to avoid collision via the Automatic Air Collision Avoidance System. The ACAS will help alleviate midair collisions and save lives and tax dollars.

Experts at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., developed a Miniature Air-Launched Decoy that will entice enemy forces to prematurely disclose their air defense locations, keeping pilots further out of harm's way.

And as F-16s flying missions in Operation Iraqi Freedom were having problems delivering their munitions, experts at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Edwards and China Lake, Calif., worked together and found a fix an amazing 30 hours later. That's the kind of war fighter support our Air Force wants, needs and continues to get.

But 2004 is now waiting in the wings with a new set of challenges.

First among those is ensuring the programmed executive officer restructuring is successful. I think it has the potential for creating the most positive and important improvement in our acquisition capability since we established AFMC more than a decade ago.

Next, we have to make sure that, in the process of executing that restructure, we remain focused on developing Air Force capabilities. We've taken great strides in this area, but the programs and systems we develop should always be oriented toward the contributions they make toward enhanced capabilities. We'll be taking a good look at how we are structured to make sure we're as efficient in this area as we can and should be.

Thirdly, throughout this entire process, we have world-class science and technologies that will play into each of those systems. We have to make sure they are totally connected in every aspect of our weapon system development from concept to ultimate demilitarization.

To do that, we have to make sure that our people are continuing to develop and improve our expeditionary force structure.

So, while we are restructuring to connect AFMC and our acquisition community better than ever before, and make sure they're focused on the capabilities in integrating technology, we're also putting them out in the field as part of our expeditionary deployments, which is very exciting for the people because they're connected with what the war fighters are doing operationally.

And the next logical step would be to make sure we're doing everything we can to develop our people for the responsibilities we want them to assume as time goes on.

We must understand the expeditionary nature, the S&T priorities and capabilities and ultimately manage the program development so all those aspect and characteristics are considered.

This is exciting, and I'm thrilled to be a part of it. I've always been amazed at what our AFMC team can accomplish as evidenced in the successes from 2003.

Challenges lie ahead in this new year, but we stand ready to overcome them all through teamwork and dedication.

I'm proud to be your commander and am looking forward to the great things you're going to do in 2004.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

"Maintainers at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., shaved four months off individual C-5 Galaxy programmed depot maintenance time which allowed them to deliver an unprecedented 23 aircraft back to the war fighter this year; 17 had been the previous high mark. They're doing similar things with the C-130 aircraft, and cut 30 days off PDM time for four Air Force Special Operations Command aircraft."

USO volunteers make airport experience special

By Chief Master Sgt. Robert A. Stewart
5th Combat Communications Support Squadron

Recently, I went to the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport to pick-up my daughter. I was in uniform and was approached by several people who thanked me for being in the military. It was special, needless to say.

However, I was never so proud to wear my uniform, especially in a public forum, as I was that day!As I stood waiting for my daughter, there were three volunteers from the USO with a TV camera crew, waiting for military members returning from Iraq. As each military member, wearing DCUs, came off the escalator, the USO volunteers would start whooping and cheering, welcoming the GIs home.

Each was met with a hug, a kiss and given a Beanie Baby wearing cammies.

One family from Alabama was waiting for their GI. He had been deployed from the Alabama National Guard since March. Family after family rushed forward to greet their GI, to the approving applause of those in the airport.

The USO volunteers then whipped the people waiting for non-military family members into a crowd roaring its approval for our men and women in uniform.

As each soldier walked away, the call went out "soldier coming through!" And the folks in the airport applauded their approval and thanks.

It was a tremendous and profoundly emotional experience, and I was never so proud of the amazing young men and women we have serving our county as I was that day. I am so glad I was there to witness it.

Commander's Action Line

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

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://wwwmil.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

No hot water in restrooms in Building 301 Bay C

I called in December to check on the status of a work order to get the hot water working again in the bathrooms. I was told that the work order was closed because they already had a work order for the repair of the hot water which was to be done by a contractor. With all the sickness that is going around, it would be nice to have some hot water in the restrooms for washing our hands. We have not had any hot water for at least four to five months.

Col. Smoot replies: We regret that the domestic hot water in Bay C restrooms of Building 301 has not been working properly. The 78th CES responded (Work Order #D8372) and discovered that the heat exchanger that generates hot water has internal steam coils that are beyond repair. As such, they have had to order an entire new unit.

Unfortunately, it must be custom made and has an estimated delivery date of Thursday. Initially the entire job was going to be completed by contract, but after further review it was determined that the new unit could be installed more quickly by CE craftsmen. As soon as the unit comes in it will take approximately two days to complete the job. Once again we are sorry for the inconvenience.

CE always strives to respond to service calls in a timely manner, and we ask that facility managers communicate requests or status inquiries to the 78th CES Customer Service Flight at 926-5657.

Watson and Highway 247 intersection dangerous

The potential exists for a serious accident with vehicles traveling northbound on Ga. Highway 247 and vehicles traveling west on Watson Boulevard both entering the base through Gate 2 in the mornings. Can something be done to make this a safer situation?

Col. Smoot replies: The Highway 247 and Watson intersection has been a high interest item for a while. The biggest safety hazard at this intersection is due to motorists disregarding the traffic signal and not ensuring the intersection is clear prior to crossing it regardless of the signal.

Georgia Code 40-6-205 (Obstructing Intersection) "prohibits drivers from entering an intersection unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection to accommodate the vehicle he is operating without obstructing the passage of other vehicles or pedestrians, notwithstanding any traffic-control signal indication to proceed."

Security forces planned to block the northbound lane of 247 leading into Gate 2, but after further review with the Department of Transportation and Houston County Sheriff's Department, it was determined that without a constant police presence at the intersection, the cones would create a greater hazard due to drivers attempting to go around the cones thus blocking the through lane.

Since the Sheriff's Department cannot afford the overtime pay to post deputies at the intersection and Security Forces does not have legal jurisdiction outside the installation gates, this plan was not implemented.

The red light was adjusted allowing more traffic to enter from Watson during the morning rush period. All leaders and supervisors should remind and encourage their emplyees to be considerate of others on the road and to use the following designated traffic plan: All northbound traffic on Highway 247 must use the Russell Parkway or MLK gates, traffic southbound on 247 must use the Green Street gate; Watson Boulevard traffic must use the Watson street gate and Russell Parkway will use either the Russell or MLK Gate.

ROBINS Rev-Up

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