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THE ROBINS REV-UP

February 17, 2006 Vol. 51 No. 7

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

THE MACH READ

Annual prayer luncheon scheduled for March 15

The Chief of the Air Force Chaplain Service will speak at the annual Robins Prayer Luncheon March 15 at 11:30 a.m. at the Museum of Aviation Century of Flight Hangar.

The speaker, Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Charles Baldwin is the senior pastor for a combined active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian force of more than 850,000 people who serve at 1,300 locations in the United States and overseas. He leads the Air Force Chaplain Service of about 2,200 chaplains and enlisted support personnel.

A 1969 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Chaplain Baldwin flew the EC-121 and later, the HH-53, as a rescue helicopter pilot. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., in 1979.

The theme of his message will be "The Masquerade Parade," based on a passage from 1 Corinthians 13:11-12. Music will be by the Band of the Air Force Reserve Brass Quintet.

Luncheon tickets are $5 and are available from First Sergeants and at the chapel. The chapel will provide 100 free tickets for E-1 through E-3 members. The free tickets also will be available from First Sergeants on a first-come, first-served basis.

Deadline for ticket sales is March 8.

– By Chrissy Zdrakas

Center of Excellence

The following performance goals are set for the Center:

DUIs *as of Feb. 9*
50% reduction from fiscal 04

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

- Maximum DUIs allowed, 6
- Current DUIs obtained, 4

Training attendance *as of Feb. 9*
90% attendance of training

Currently 91.5 % — 90% Goal — 100%

Aircraft production *as of Feb. 9*
95% aircraft due date performance rate

Currently 97.3% — 95% Goal — 100%

Lost work day injuries *as of Feb. 9*
50% reduction from fiscal 04

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

- Maximum lost work days due to injury allowed, 16
- Current days lost, 6

Foreign Object Damage *as of Feb. 9*
50% reduction from fiscal 04

1 2 3 4 5 6

- Maximum FOD incidents allowed, 4
- Current FOD incidents, 1

Green means goal is being met or exceeded.
Yellow means goal has not been met, but is still attainable.
Red means goal cannot be met.

U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Master Sgt. Jimmy Whittington demonstrates how he and other members of the Drug Demand Reduction program notify drivers that they must submit to a mandatory drug test as part of Operation Nighthawk.

Drug-free zone

New program enforces zero tolerance

By LANORRIS ASKEW
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

Robins' Drug Demand Reduction program is sending out a zero tolerance message to all military members, and it's coming across loud and clear.

In October the Drug Demand Reduction office and the First Sergeant's Group began a drug-testing program called Operation Night Hawk.

The program calls for drivers entering the base to be randomly stopped, and all active duty personnel must submit to mandatory drug testing, regardless of their branch of service or duty station.

Vera Seales, Drug Demand Reduction program manager, said the program was set into motion several years ago when positive tests for the drug Ecstasy began to increase in the Air Force.

The program has been implemented at other bases and is basically an alternative to regular drug testing.

Joined by the Office of Special Investigation and the 78th Security Forces Squadron, the First Sergeant's Group and the DDR office are making a concerted effort to ensure military members know that drug use will not be tolerated.

"We, as the first sergeants group, enforce a policy that is already in place," Master Sgt. Jimmy Whittington, 5th Combat Communications Group first sergeant, said. "The Drug Demand Reduction program is the positive force behind that policy."

Mrs. Seales said the first sweep of Operation Night Hawk took place in October and a second one occurred last month, but they can take place any time – night or day – during the week or on holidays.

"Our Airmen are supposed to remain a ready force able to perform at any time to the best of their ability, and they can't do that if they are impaired by mind-altering substances," she said.

She added that drug use is also a safety issue.

Chief Master Sgt. Billy Doolittle, command chief master sergeant, said the message they're giving is simple.

"Operation Night Hawk is a visible deterrent that reflects a message that illegal drug usage is incompatible with serving in the United States Air Force," he said. "It also sends a positive message to the installation that the base leadership is serious about ensuring our members have the ability to work in a drug-free environment."

Robins' second successful anti-drug operation occurred Jan. 21, and about 50 cars were stopped with 38 active duty personnel tested.

Mrs. Seales said as of now everyone who has tested positive for a foreign substance had legitimate reasons for the positives such as prescription medications.

"We've all read the horror stories of Airmen who made the wrong choices with drugs." she said. "I think everyone knows how important this campaign is."

WHAT TO KNOW

Operation Night Hawk is a random drug testing program which stops drivers entering the base and forces all active duty personnel to submit to mandatory drug testing, no matter what their branch of service or duty station. Active duty drivers who are accompanied by family members are afforded 30 minutes from the time they are issued the notification to drop their family off at an appropriate location on base and return to the drug testing facility in Building 207.

2006 OPEN HOUSE AND AIR SHOW

Performers to highlight aircraft of several eras

By LANORRIS ASKEW
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As Robins' 2006 Air Show and Open House draws closer, those working to pull it off are going full steam ahead as the acts keep coming.

According to Maj. Manny Haldopoulos, air show director, they've received confirmation of several acts including the Air Combat Command F-15 Demonstration Team and Lee Lauderback and his vintage P-51 Mustang.

"The main goal of our show is to highlight aircraft from World War II to our modern war fighters and everything in between," he said. "Seeing two very different aircraft, each of which maintained air superiority in their eras, is a testament to the technological accomplishments of our great nation."

▶ see AIR SHOW, 2A

Agreement gives workers greater chance of promotion

By HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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Base and union officials signed an agreement last week that gives 875 wage grade employees the opportunity for a $4,000 pay increase and a greater chance at promotion.

Maj. Gen. Mike Collings, Center commander, and Tom Scott, American Federation of Government Employees Local 987 president, signed the agreement Feb. 9 as Georgia Congressman Jim Marshall looked on. The agreement retargets wage grade positions across the 402nd Maintenance Wing giving WG-7 and WG-8 employees a chance to advance their careers.

▶ see PROMOTION, 2A

U.S. Air Force photo by TECH. SGT. BEVERLY ISIK

Lt. Col. Skip Blumenthal practices playing bagpipes at least half an hour four or five days a week, usually in his backyard.

Robins Airman plays bagpipes during off-time

By TECH. SGT. BEVERLY ISIK
116th Air Control Wing Public Affairs

The E-8C Joint Stars crew had been flying for hours – their first combat mission in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The sky was dark and unknowing. As they crossed into Iraqi air space, the aircraft suddenly filled with a sound the crew will probably never forget.

"I was piping the troops into battle – playing 'Scotland the Brave,'" said Lt. Col. Skip Blumenthal. "I was thinking 'This is a real combat mission, we're going into real enemy territory.' But it was fun."

▶ see BAGPIPE, 2A

Weathering the storm

Tornado drill set for Severe Weather Week

By LANORRIS ASKEW
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Surviving a tornado takes more than just luck – it takes good tornado safety information.

There is now a collaborative effort between several Robins organizations to make sure people here have the needed tools to weather the storm, according to David Warren, 778th Civil Engineer Squadron Disaster Preparedness specialist.

Mr. Warren said the Robins Command Post, 778th Civil Engineer Group, 78th Operations Support Squadron and 78th Communications Squadron are teaming to conduct a tornado drill in conjunction with Georgia's Severe Weather Week, Feb. 20 through 24.

Although the date of the drill will be a surprise, Mr. Warren said they want to prepare the base through education.

"Knowing what to do before the storm and preparing in advance can be the difference between life and death," he said.

Captain Geoffrey Dawson, 78th OSS Weather Flight commander, said the flight will issue the exercise tornado watch and tornado warning, to set off the chain of events associated with the drill.

"We also coordinated with the Houston County Emergency Management Agency and National Weather Service to sync Robins' tornado drill with a statewide tornado exercise that is happening at the same time," he said.

▶ see TORNADO, 3A

WEATHER WARNINGS

The 78th OSS Weather Flight has the responsibility to monitor all weather conditions that may threaten the Robins area. Notification will go out through their weather net to specified organizations and the Robins Command Post will activate the Automated Emergency Notification System and the Robins Base Mass Notification System. Also available in some organizations are the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radios which provide information on watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service.

The Robins Mass Notification System will sound a steady tone for three to five minutes. This will be repeated twice and specific warning messages will be provided by voice over the system. Many facilities on Robins have notification speakers inside the building in which the warnings can be heard.

Personnel should remain sheltered until the "All Clear" is provided by voice using the same warning system.

THINK SAFETY

AIRMEN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING
To request a ride, call
335-5218, 335-5238 or 335-5236.

SLOW DOWN ▶ 141 speeding tickets have been issued to date.
Accumulating 12 traffic violation points within a year may cause drivers to lose base driving privileges for up to six months. Speeding violation points are based on the number of miles over the posted speed limit.

WEATHER FORECAST *Courtesy of 78th OSS/OSW*

TODAY 72/47 — SATURDAY 60/50 — SUNDAY 54/46

AIR SHOW

Continued from 1A

The director said they are also looking forward to having some naval aviators show how they do business.

"We're busily working on securing the F-18 Navy Demonstration Team from Oceana Naval Air Station, Va.," he said. "They're always looking for an opportunity to fly in the same show with their Air Force brethren and show the air show participants that landing on a moving postage stamp with 20-foot seas demands precision and talent. We're also working on more military acts."

Maj. Sam Simpliciano, aerial events coordinator, said returning this year to perform will be Patty Wagstaff, a multiple winner of the United States Aerobatics Championship, Ed Hamil, and Dan McClung.

" In addition, we are looking forward to new aerobatic performances by John Klatt and Gary Ward as well as a performance by Sky Soldiers — a Vietnam Army combat reenactment complete with helicopters and soldiers," he said. "We're also working on several aircraft fly-bys including the F-117 and B-2."

With the theme of "Keep 'em Flying – Six Decades of Dedication" commemorating the men and women and their critical role here at Robins sustaining the assets of freedom since the 1940s, all of the air show committee members are working hard to put together a show all generations will be proud of.

Major Simpliciano said all of the various committees have their taskings and are diligently planning their portion of the open house and air show.

"We always try to put on an event bigger and better than the last one and I think we'll be able to do that again with a full air show schedule and some new ground displays," he said.

Major Haldopoulos said something they're very excited about is a change in venue so to speak.

"In the past having the static displays at the south ramp area near the depot hangars has precluded a very good vantage of the runway's full length due to the sunken elevation of the ramp," he said. "This year, we're excited to announce the show's location at the north ramp area also known as the Georgia Air National Guard Ramp. The area designated for this year's static displays, vendors and show center viewing area will allow all spectators an incredible view of the entire runway."

He said the Guard ramp rests on the highest elevation at Robins and the view for many will be greatly increased. Because of that, they've invited a very special guest.

"Something new and unique is the Jet Ambulance by Pat Davidson," said Major Simpliciano. "This is basically an ambulance with an F-4 jet engine."

Nearly 100 people make up the air show committee and are serving in various capacities.

"With the location change this year most committees are basically starting with a clean sheet as they plan placement of aircraft, crowd line, food booth, displays and force protection," said Major Simpliciano. "Despite this change everything is moving along well as the volunteers are enthusiastic on putting on a great event."

Major Haldopoulos said the logo is also in the works.

"We're honored to have the talents of Mr. James Balletto of the Museum of Aviation lead our efforts in creating a memorable logo," said Major Haldopoulos. "His exhibits at the Museum have thrilled thousands and we're excited to see what creative genius he'll apply to our logo."

WHAT TO KNOW

The following civilian acts will be performing at the 2006 Open House and Air Show:

►Patty Wagstaff http://www.pattywagstaff.com/

►John Klatt http://www.johnklattairshows.com/

►Ed Hamill http://www.edhamill.com/

►Red Eagles http://www.redeagleairsports.com/

►Sky Soldiers http://www.armyav.org/fly_prog_1.htm

►Under Pressure Rescue Jet Team http://www.underpressurejet.com/

PROMOTION

Continued from 1A

Robert Williams, chief of the Directorate of Personnel's Work Force and Resources Division, said the agreement creates a road map to success for 875 wage grade employees at the base.

"This memorandum of agreement outlines the way and means for wage grade employees who are WG-7 and WG-8 level to advance to the journeyman grades in several different occupational series," he said. "In those grades, a WG-7 would progress to a WG-9 and a WG-8 would progress to a WG-10 based on the criteria contained in the agreement."

Mr. Scott, whose organization represents bargaining unit employees at the base, said this agreement is a step in the right direction and brings the Center more in line with the other (air logistics centers) in the command.

In the past, WG-7 and WG-8 employees had to wait for a vacancy before the possibility of promotion could arise. Now, the case is different.

Mr. Williams said the new agreement will clearly define what is expected of employees for promotion.

"The very significant difference in this and the way we've filled jobs in the past at those journeyman grades is that we will now define for each employee the tasks that he or she must be proficient in to be promoted to that target grade of 9 or 10," he said. "(It will) also identify the training that the individual must have attended and the performance proficiency that person must have for non-competitive promotion to take place."

Mr. Williams said the agreement calls for the same guidelines for advancement to be applied to both the current work force and those hired in the future.

"It gives us a level playing field for advancement across our wage grade employees," he said.

Reggie Butts, Civilian Personnel Directorate's Work Force Effectiveness Division labor relations officer, said the agreement's benefits are twofold.

"One benefit is for us to attract more people, creating a more diverse work force," he said. "We've got the new C-17 workload coming on board, and we want to be able to ramp up in order to be able to handle that."

The MOA emphasizes the importance of training, particularly in technical areas, and prepares the base for future workloads as mission needs change. The agreement also gives many wage grade workers the opportunity to advance their careers.

Mr. Butts and Mr. Williams agreed that the agreement puts people's needs first, while maintaining the mission.

"As Maj. Gen. Collings alluded to at the signing ceremony, our wage grade work force is in fact a national treasure," Mr. Williams said. "As such, we should nurture and develop that work force with that in mind."

Mr. Butts agreed.

"Ever since Maj. Gen. Collings came on board, he has emphasized 'People First … Mission Always,' and he has pretty much put his money where his mouth is," he said. "We've had several agreements to benefit the people at Robins, from the Civilian Fitness Program to the Credit Hour Program, and now this. He has really let the people know that he's out here to look out for people's families, careers and provides a better avenue for them."

Mr. Williams said the agreement holds great things for Robins.

"I think this is a great day for the Center," he said. "It significantly postures us for a bright future."

As with all base agreements of this nature, Mr. Scott said the union and base management will monitor the non-competitive promotion agreement and work together to address valid concerns.

WHO TO CALL

For more information, contact the American Federation of Government Employees Local 987 at 922-5758 or the Labor Relations office at 926-7781.

BAGPIPE

Continued from 1A

The colonel, a senior director on the E-8C, has been playing the bagpipes more than 15 years.

"Some people would argue that I haven't played them yet," he said jokingly. "I just enjoy doing it."

It's not a hobby he took up because of family tradition. In fact, his wife, Missy, signed him up for lessons after he expressed a slight interest at a county fair in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

"I'm vaguely Scottish," he said. "My mother's maiden name is Ramsey – a Scottish lowland name." It's a fact he knows only because he traced the history of the name, not his family history, to an area south of Edinboro, Scotland.

The colonel has suffered through more than his share of jokes about wearing a skirt. When his children were growing up, he gave many talks and performances in front of elementary school classes, clad in the traditional Scottish kilt.

"When my youngest son was in the fourth grade, he asked if I would come talk to his class. When I ask if he wanted me to wear the kilt, he said 'No. It's hard enough without having my dad show up at school wearing a skirt.'

"The kids usually just love it and they all want to know why I'm wearing a skirt. It's a kilt. It's called a kilt because that's what happens to people when they call it a skirt," he said. "An old highland joke."

Colonel Blumenthal is still playing the only bagpipes he's ever owned – a used set he picked up for $400 when he first started lessons. When he pinned on lieutenant colonel in December, he treated himself to a new set that are expected to arrive soon.

"I saw a set of 1916 Henderson's that had been carried in World War I for $36,000," he said. "They were offered for sale (on the Internet)for about three days before somebody grabbed them. But, you can get a good basic set today that will probably last you for your lifetime for about $1,000."

The prior enlisted AC-130 Gunship gunner had a line number for master sergeant when he went to Officer Training School.

"I've been in the Air Force for 25 years," he said. "If I ever figure out what I want to do when I grow up, I'll get out and do it."

The colonel plays with The Heart of Georgia Pipes and Drums band. They will compete in Atlanta Feb. 26, at the Highland Games Southern Branch of the Eastern United States Pipe and Band Association workshop.

As an augmentee for the Air Force Reserve Pipe Band here, he plays at various military functions, including the 116th Air Control Wing change of command in October.

"We wear the Air Force Reserve tartan," he said. "That was an actual military uniform I wore when I played at the change of command."

Wearing the tartan was a priority for the colonel.

"He always wanted to wear the official Air Force uniform when he played at military functions -- so he'd borrow one from us every time," said Master Sgt. Scott Dunn, Reserve band first sergeant. "After a while, we asked him to be an augmentee."

If things go as planned, the colonel will be going to Washington with the band to play at the Capitol on St. Patrick's Day.

Playing the pipes is soothing for Colonel Blumenthal, but can be exhausting at times. He normally practices about half an hour four or five days a week -- usually in his backyard.

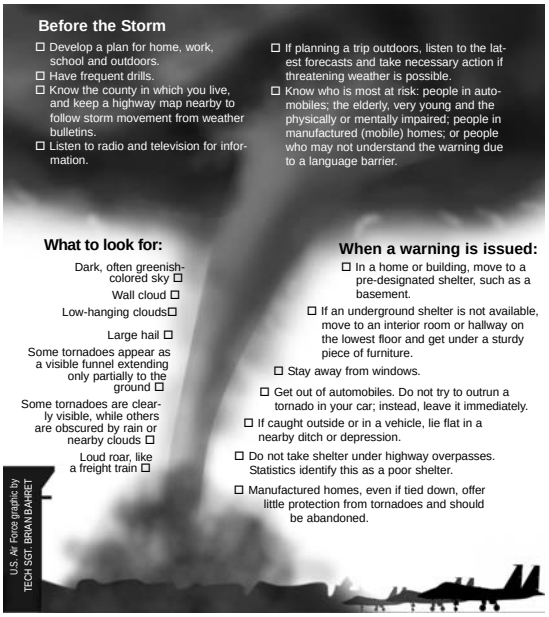
"If I'm just standing at the edge of a lake playing a bunch of tunes I know, I can play for an hour," he said. "It both relaxes and exhausts me – probably similar to long distance runners. They can run all day and are exhausted and feel really good when they're finished."

The colonel has taken his pipes on every one of his deployments. And although he doesn't mind if people listen, he usually tries to find a place to play "out of ear shot."

If he gets an audience while he's practicing a new song, he's quick to give fair warning. The onlookers might hear the same tune 10 times and a couple of expletives.

The type of pipe music affects his mood. The lighter music like marches and dance music – "have a tendency to get your blood boiling."

The classical style is for "when you're listening and sipping your scotch, smoking a big cigar and remembering the good old days."



TORNADO

Continued from 1A

The 78th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness Office will oversee the public awareness, emergency response plan, exercise development and evaluation. The 78th CS will assist in validating the base emergency notification system with feedback from base organizations, and the command post will sound the alarm.

Although this area has not had many tornadoes, those involved say it can happen here, which is why this education campaign is so important.

"It's important for everyone to understand what protective actions to take when severe weather threatens the base," said Mr. Warren. "While it can't be accurately predicted when and where a tornado will strike, it is known in advance when the potential for tornadoes and severe weather is present in our area. Every employee, family member and visitor on Robins needs to understand what to do before (a tornado) strikes."

Captain Dawson agreed.

"Middle Georgia's severe weather events, including tornadoes, peak in the spring," he said. "It's a smart idea for everyone to familiarize themselves with evacuation and sheltering procedures for their buildings and practice taking protective measures when weather is nice. You don't want to be the person trying to figure out where you're supposed to go when a tornado is bearing down. There's not a lot of advance warning, so everyone needs to be able to react quickly."

The captain added that Robins suffered significant damage from a tornado in 1953 and towns as close as Fort Valley have seen damage in recent years.

"While we can't prevent damage to buildings and infrastructure, we are able to protect people," he said. "Take this tornado drill seriously."

To prove that Robins' leadership takes preparedness seriously, emergency managers and first responders rehearse constantly to protect and safeguard base resources and mission assets.

"Previous exercises and actual warnings have shown us that many people ignore the warning of severe weather," said Mr. Warren. "This public awareness effort is needed because the threat is real. Conducting a tornado drill and rehearsing our notification and sheltering actions, along with advance planning, are our most effective ways to counter this threat."

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Monica Harvey presents John Wooten with a heart-shaped pin engraved with a bandage at the Welcome Home tribute Friday.

Tears, joy mark Robins' Welcome Home for Vietnam-era veterans

By CHRISSY ZDRAKAS
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Some were moving their lips to "God Bless America" as singer Monica Harvey made her way through the crowd, stopping to greet those whose eyes met hers, wiping away tears and touching the veterans who greeted her in a silent language of understanding.

The emotions – tears, laughter, hugs and handshakes – marked a "Welcome Home" celebration for Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans held Feb. 10 at the Smith Community Center. For most, the event was a stark contrast to the hostile homecoming they had decades ago.

Mrs. Harvey, a former teacher who is a national speaker, author and missionary, is a friend of Bob Bovitch, a Vietnam veteran and construction supervisor for the 78th Air Base Wing Services Division. Bovitch joined with Warner Robins Chapter 902, Vietnam Veterans of America, to organize the Welcome Home event.

Two senior leaders from Robins – Col. Andrew Busch, commander of the 402nd Maintenance Wing, and Col. Theresa Carter, commander of the 78th Air Base Wing – spoke and participated in a reception line, where they individually thanked the more than 60 veterans filing past them at the program's conclusion.

The keynote speaker was Jerry Clineman, VVA president, who spoke of a "special bond" veterans share, especially veterans who have endured war.

"That bond … is not definitive; it is silent – it is just there, and we know that the veterans in this room know what it is," he said. "It has been 30-plus years for most of us, but in the short period of time that this room filled with Vietnam vets and era vets, I started to see that bond rejuvenate."

He said Vietnam veterans had that bond destroyed "by the labels placed on us, the garbage thrown at us" and sought refuge in silence about "who we were and where we had been."

Bob Bovitch, welcomes veterans to the Welcome Home tribute.

Mr. Clineman said VVA's Chapter 902, chartered as a non-profit organization, has been active in fighting that mindset and in community service, stepping out for two parades in Warner Robins and one in Macon, among other projects.

"The reception is heart-warming and well deserved," he said. "It makes you feel good for them (the parade spectators) to stand and salute you, to say welcome home and to run out and shake your hand. It's part of the healing process."

Mr. Bovitch said he believes the event was successful in its mission – to give veterans a long overdue welcome.

"It was very touching," he said. "You could see the emotion in the faces of people in the audience."

Glenn Parker, who retired from military service after 34 years, said the event was "very heart wrenching."

"That song, 'Proud to Be an American' means a lot to me," he said. "There were a lot of tears today."

He said, "Just being in the presence of these guys" was emotional.

Vietnam veteran Earl Strobush also said the event was meaningful. For him, it was the "start of a closure that hasn't come yet."

Allen Smith, a Vietnam veteran retired from the Navy, said when he returned home in 1969, the public's attitude and news media coverage were far different from what they are today.

Charles Conley agreed.

"I'm happy that most of the returnees from Iraq are getting the welcome home they richly deserve," Mr. Conley said. "I think we have learned a lesson from the Vietnam returnees."

Near the program's conclusion, Mr. Bovitch read his poem, "Let Me Walk With You," from his book of poetry titled "Reflections from the Life of a Vietnam Veteran." Its inspiration was his chance meeting Ms. Harvey at a welcome home tribute for Vietnam vets in Branson, Mo.

Mrs. Harvey approached him and gave him a heart-shaped pin engraved with a bandage. She did the same for the veterans at the Robins event, first handing them the pins, then touching each one as she sang.

Some of the approximately 75 people who were there were young military, including First Lt. Matthew Fogarty, protocol officer for the 78th Air Base Wing and a student of military history. He described the event as "one of the most significant and emotional events I have seen over the past few years."

Local youth earns congressional medals

By LANORRIS ASKEW
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

Nathaniel Gingery, like many of his peers, is thinking about the future. But, unlike some teens his age, this 17-year-old has a plan and the steps he's taking to execute it are earning him high praise and some impressive hardware.

In a special ceremony officiated by Congressman Jim Marshall, the 11th grade student received the Congressional Award Program bronze and silver medals Jan. 27.

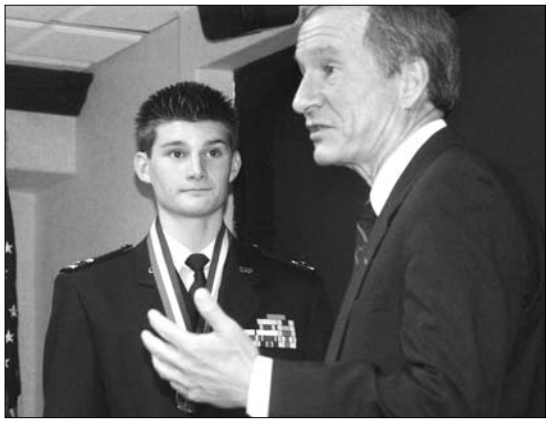
"You're headed in the right direction," the congressman said during the pinning on ceremony.

Nathaniel, who called the awards a high honor, used words like elated, ecstatic and very happy to describe his emotions.

"This has been something I've wanted to accomplish for quite awhile and I've worked really hard on it," he said. "Hopefully, I can use it to better myself in the future."

The award program, which was signed into law in 1979 by then President Jimmy Carter, offers young people, ages 14 to 23, the opportunity to set and achieve a personal goal in four program areas, including volunteer public service, personal development, physical fitness and expedition or exploration.

In the volunteer public service arena, Nathaniel volunteered with the Red Cross and also became a regular volunteer with the physical therapy program at Nellis Air Force Base Nev., and continued to be involved with the local program when his family moved to Robins. For personal development he participated in the youth praise band at his church and read several novels. For the physical fitness area he became a member of the presidential physical fitness program and discovered a love for running. Last, in the area of exploration, the young man took a trip with the Las Vegas Youth Center to Montana.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Nathaniel Gingery is presented the Congressional Award Program bronze and silver medals by Congressman Jim Marshall.

"The congressional award gives kids an opportunity to participate in service to the community and develop themselves physically and mentally," said Congressman Marshall. "It covers a spectrum of opportunities and I'm pleased to be able to participate in the awards ceremony recognizing kids who've accomplished an awful lot."

Nathaniel, who is the son of Master Sgt. Robert W. Gingery and Mrs. Laurie M. Gingery, said though challenging at times, the program offers an awesome opportunity.

"It doesn't take much time other than the time you spend doing what you already do," he said. "It's basically just a documentation of what you're doing, and you get recognition for it. It's a really unique program."

Nathaniel's future plans include attending the Air Force Academy and pursuing a career in physical therapy, a field he became interested in through his volunteer work.

"It's a way of helping people to recover and I really enjoy working with people and helping them get back on track," he said.

He added that he thinks his experience in physical therapy was the most rewarding part of this journey because it helped point him in the direction he wants to take his life.

In addition to meeting the requirements to receive the bronze and silver medals, Nathaniel also recently completed all requirements for the gold award and forwarded his records for approval so that he may be eligible to attend the 2006 Congressional Award Gold Medal Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

"I hope to be the best that I can be," he said.

CONGRESSIONAL AWARD

The Congressional Award was signed into law November 1979 by then President Jimmy Carter. The program offers young people the opportunity to set and achieve personal goals in four program areas. There are six levels of awards: bronze, silver and gold certificates and bronze, silver and gold medals. For more details on the program contact Marvin Hawkins, base program advisor, at 926-5601 or e-mail him at marvin.hawkins@robins.af. mil.

▶ IN BRIEF

WR-ALC AWARDS LUNCHEON PLANNED

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Awards Luncheon will be March 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Century of Flight Hangar at the Museum of Aviation.

MPF CLOSURE

The 78th Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight will close at 1 p.m. for training Feb. 24. Customers are asked to plan their visit for assistance accordingly. For more information call Master Sgt. Matt Ogle or Senior Master Sgt. Oakley Coleman at 327-7356.

General Fogleman visits 116th ACW

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

U.S. Air Force photo by TECH. SGT. DETRA MASON

Aboard a Joint STARS E8-C aircraft, retired Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald Fogleman talks with Staff Sgt. Charles Jackson, an airborne operations technician with the 330th Combat Training Squadron. General Fogleman visited the 116th Air Control Wing Feb. 10 before he was inducted into the Order of the Warhawk. The induction was part of the sixth annual Museum of Aviation Foundation Gen. Robert L. Scott Jr. Heritage Society Banquet. The award honors individuals or groups whose achievements in aviation or national defense represent the values, courage and idealism of General Scott. The 116th ACW is the first Total Force wing – a mixture of both Air National Guard and active-duty personnel under one commander.

Bolt, bond repairs extend fleet's life

By HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

Robins has performed bolt and bond repairs on the wings of about six C-130H aircraft within the past two years extending the fleet's service life by up to eight years.

Steve Adams, an aerospace engineer in the Engineering Directorate (EN) here, said the repairs, began at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, in 2004 and are intended to carry the aging aircraft through its next scheduled depot maintenance cycle.

Corrosion problems had grounded the planes, making them unable to meet mission needs.

"There's multiple cracking in the location on the C-130's wing," he said. "It was identified during a full-scale fatigue test about 10 years ago, and now they're (the Air Force) starting to see it in the fleet. So, this is a structural reinforcement for the wing to restore static strength where the fatigue cracking has made the residual strength drop. The bond line is used to enhance the fatigue life of the repair."

Also involved in the ongoing project are mechanics in the 402nd Maintenance Wing's Machine Shop and Prototype Shop and other engineers in EN and the C-130 System Program Office.

Two war wagons, tractor trailers designed to fit on a C-130 that carry the necessary equipment for the work, enabled the repairs to be done at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.; and RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom.

The around-the-clock project has presented many challenges to the nearly 35 workers involved.

"It's all a challenge, because every repair is different," said John Mackey, a journeyman mechanic in the 402nd Maintenance Wing's Metal Bond Shop. "Every repair is a prototype, because it may be in a little bit different area. So, we have to design every patch differently."

Patches are made from an engineer's design, with the aircraft's specific needs in mind.

"You've got to feel your way through it and come up with new ways to do operations on each one of them," Mr. Mackey said. "It gets tough because you don't have a set of tools or reamers (drill bit) to use for every repair. You've got to go out and get a different reamer for each one."

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Stees, a depot aircraft structural maintenance craftsman in the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, who along with others in his unit helped in the project, said the repair project gave him and others in his unit a chance to learn more about the sheet metal process to better support C-130H needs.

"The 653rd CLSS is currently training sheet metal technicians to be certified in the bolted bonded process," he said. "This will add to the ALC's (air logistics center) ability to repair C-130 center wings. The 653rd CLSS can mobilize quickly, and with the composite repair trailer and an engineer, we can go anywhere in the world to fix the mighty Hercules and bring it back to the war fighter."

Mr. Mackey said there's no end in sight for the repair of the cargo aircraft fleet.

"This has been a learning experience for us," he said. "We're learning how to work through these situations as a team and prototyping our way through each repair."

Hilton Coman, a work leader in the 402nd Maintenance Wing's Metal Bond Composites section, said the repairs will enable it to continue its mission.

"It's going to extend the life to where these aircraft are not restricted as far as flights and weight is concerned," he said. "Now, they'll be able to carry on their mission at full capacity."

Nominations sought for Volunteer Excellence Award

Nominations are sought for the Volunteer Excellence Award. This award is authorized by the United States Air Force Chief of Staff for federal civilians, family members, federal and military retirees who perform outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct, and consequential nature.

To be eligible, an individual's service must be performed either in the local civilian community, or the military family community, and be of a sustained and direct nature. The volunteer service must be significant in character, produce tangible results and reflect favorably on the United States Air Force. Eligible persons must be nominated by their supervisor or by the voluntary agency for which they donated their service, in the form of a memorandum.

The VEA is intended to recognize exceptional long term community support and not a single act or achievement, and is intended to honor direct support of community activities. Attending membership meetings or social events of a community service group would not normally be considered qualifying service, while manning a community crisis action phone line would. The volunteer service may have been donated over time at another military installation or in a local civilian community if the volunteer recently transferred to this community. The nominee must be performing service on a voluntary basis, not as a part of a tasking, and may not result in any personal gain. This award will not be reflected in personnel records or earn promotion credit for federal employees selected to receive this award. The VEA may be awarded posthumously.

Nominations will be one page, typed single space (front only). Direct, fact-filled, results-oriented nominations are preferred. The nomination should emphasize the benefits realized by the volunteer service and include qualifying factors that are out of the ordinary. Some suggestions for consideration are leadership and management, scope of responsibility, innovative and creative ideas, community involvement, initiative, and reliability. Nominators should be specific when giving the time frame of the accomplishments. Period of consideration for nomination is each calendar year (Jan. 1 through Dec. 31). Nomination packages will include on a separate page, name, office symbol, and phone number of individual writing the package.

All nominations must be submitted no later than March 17 to: Volunteer Resource Manager, 78th Mission Support Squadron/DPF, ATTN: Diane Thielemann.

Questions may be directed to Diane Thielemann, 926-1256.

commentary

"Integrity First reminds us we must "walk the talk" – our words and actions must be integrated in our lives."

– Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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Cope Tiger '06

U.S. Air Force photo by TECH. SGT. KEITH BROWN

NAKHON RATCHAISMA, Thailand (AFPN) — Airman 1st Class Brock Wood shakes hands with elementary school children near Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, during a break from the Cope Tiger '06 exercise. Airman Wood was part of a group of Airmen who delivered supplies to the Ang Huay Yang Elementary School. He is a computer specialist with the 3rd Communications Squadron at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

Excellence in all we do ... How do you fit in?

We all know the Air Force Core Values – Integrity first, excellence in all we do, and service before self. But do you wonder sometimes just how you fit in?

Let's focus on "excellence in all we do." We all work for the best Air Force in the world – it doesn't matter if you are a civilian, a military member, a contractor or a member of the local community – it takes all of us working together as a team to make the Air Force mission happen every single day.

Think about it. We are all service providers and customers during various parts of our day. It's lunchtime, and you are in a busy restaurant downtown – do you expect excellence in the service and the food for which you paid? Recently, as I was coming home from a temporary duty trip, I stopped in an airport restaurant to grab a bite to eat before boarding a long flight home. Upon arrival, the waitress greeted us with a mutter under her breath, a roll of the eyes with a little attitude and then threw the menus on the table – she was rude at every turn. The food was good, but the service was very bad. I expected excellence in both my product (the food) and the service. I left there feeling less than happy about my experience, and she had no tip.

On the other hand, during the Thanksgiving break, I went on a cruise with my daughter – it was a wonderful experience because we were treated with excellence every moment, starting from the time we arrived at the port. The food, the service, the accommodations and the entertainment – everything exceeded our expectations. We left the cruise as happy customers and plan to return due to the excellent manner in which we were treated.

What makes the difference in these two examples? And yes, I know an airport restaurant and a cruise are two different things. But guess what? You are spending your hard earned money for both and should expect excellence in what you receive no matter the cost level.

In the first example, the waitress did not want to be there for whatever reason. She either had a chronic bad attitude or possibly she was just having a bad day. Maybe her leadership had not told her the mission of the restaurant. Maybe they didn't have a mission. The entire organization (the airport restaurant) was not working together as a team to make dining there a great experience. There was no team with a common purpose and, obviously, the waitress did not understand that her purpose in being there was to provide an excellent service and product.

Now on the other end of the spectrum, the cruise line had built a very strong team – every member of the team from the captain of the ship, the cooks, the waiters, the engineers, the spa service reps to the room stewards – knew their mission was to provide excellence to the guests on the ship. Working together they accomplished that mission and exceeded the expectations of the guests. For the cruise line, that results in having a great customer service reputation which equates to more business and more profits from more repeat customers.

Now, you may be saying, "Nice examples, but what does this excellence thing mean to me. I work at Robins Air Force Base? How do I fit in?" No matter what your job here at Robins Air Force Base, you provide a service to your customers. We are a world-class team here at Robins – a team with a common mission – we provide combat capabilities for our Department of Defense war fighters and allies, through superior (excellent) sustainment and deployment of combat ready forces. Every product/service you are responsible for should be done to insure you are providing excellence. No matter what your job, do it in an excellent manner and do it right the first time.

Let me give you some examples:

You may be a squadron secretary doing time keeping for your organization – your "customers" are those folks who enjoy their paycheck every two weeks.

You may be a program manager leading an integrated product team in preparing a program review for your group or wing level director that will be briefed to your weapons system program office – your "customers" are your bosses and ultimately the war fighter who uses your product in the field.

Maybe you are a financial management specialist reviewing spreadsheets and producing PowerPoint briefings to be briefed up the chain to insure that management knows where we stand financially – ultimately affecting the amount of dollars that will be received to buy spare parts for aircraft across the Air Force.

Maybe you are a mechanic in the shop working on a circuit board assembly that needs to be repaired that will fill a mission incapable requisition that goes on an aircraft that flies missions supporting the Global War on Terrorism.

Maybe you are on the flight line working on a program depot maintenance aircraft that once returned to flying status will be flying missions to supporting our Homeland Security.

Maybe you work in the travel office and are making sure someone gets to a destination to deliver an important briefing that will result in an important decision being made in keeping workload at Robins.

Maybe you are an engineer who is trying to find an engineering solution for a reliability problem for a vital electronic warfare system.

Maybe you are a contracting officer that is working to award a contract to a small business that will result in improved supportability to our PDM lines.

Maybe you are an item manager who is working on a requirements computation and you are determining how many spares should be on hand around the world to insure no mission is aborted due to lack of a part.

Maybe you are one of the contractors who keeps our grounds looking good to all who visit Robins, or maybe you are a contract janitor keeping the buildings clean for all of us.

I think you get the picture – it takes all of us every day providing an excellent product or service to keep Robins and the Air Force flying high. If you don't know how you are doing – ask your customers. Get some feedback to find out what you can do to exceed your customers' expectations. If anyone of us falls away from the mark of excellence, we risk the reputations of all. Each one of us should ask ourselves each day as we go through the gate to go home – "Did I give it my best today? Did I deliver an excellent product or service today? Did I exceed my customer's expectations?"

Keep in mind we want the guys and gals in the field to say, "Wow those folks at Robins are world class! They consistently deliver war-winning capabilities … on time, on cost and exceed our expectations!"

Keep them flying and keep reaching for excellence in all we do.

— This commentary was written by Bonnie M. Jones, director, Electronics Sustainment Group.

Col. Theresa Carter
78th Air Base Wing
commander

Commander's Action Line

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.

Remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible:

▶ Security Forces 327-3445;
▶ Services Division 926-5491;
▶ EEO Office 926-2131;
▶ MEO 926-6608;
▶ 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.

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 or for the quickest response, e-mail 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, use action.line @robins.af.mil.

Readers can also visit 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 Robins Rev-Up.

Anonymous action lines will not be processed.

'Dear Roz'

Q: Would you please explain in detail how the Rate Range Adjustment and the Local Market Supplement will be managed within the National Security Personnel System?

A: Under the current personnel system we (GS) receive a pay increase (usually in January) based on a percentage authorized by a Presidential Executive Order. Once it has been determined how much of the salary increase will be received as an across the board increase and how much will be included in locality pay, salary tables are revised and published.

Unlike the annual salary adjustments we receive today, rate range adjustments will not be "across the board" where everyone gets the same percentage increase. The Department of Defense can adjust rate ranges of different occupational groups or pay schedules at different rates.

Rate Range Adjustments

DoD establishes minimum and maximum ranges of basic pay for each pay band within a career group. Those rate ranges will be the same for all locations for that particular career group.

Setting and adjusting of pay band rate ranges is based on mission requirements, labor market conditions, and other factors such as recruitment and retention rates for specific occupations/locations

Unlike the current GS pay structure which consists of grades and steps, pay bands will have open pay ranges, with no grades or fixed step rates.

Rate ranges will be reviewed annually for possible adjustment.

Example of a Rate Range adjustment – The lowest end of the pay band could be adjusted up 1 percent while the highest end of that pay band may be adjusted up by 3 percent. All eligible employees within the pay band would receive a 1 percent pay increase, (that is salary x 101 percent). The 3 percent applies to the maximum pay of the band and extends the pay band for growth. Generally employees receiving a rating above "unacceptable" will receive an increase.

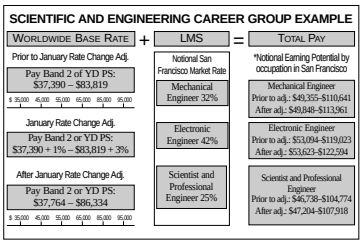
Using the Scientific and Engineering Career Group, Pay Schedule YD which is Full Performance Level and a Pay Range of $37,390 to $83,819 – if a rate range adjustment causes the lowest end of the pay band (that is $37,390) to increase by 1 percent (lowest end would be raised to $37,764) all eligible employees in this pay band would receive an increase in pay equal to 101 percent of their respective salaries regardless of where they are in the pay band. If the highest end of the pay band (that is $83,819) increases by 3 percent – this would raise or extend the pay band for growth to $86,334 (rounded up to the nearest dollar).

Local Market Supplements (LMS) – Basic pay ranges may be supplemented in appropriate circumstances by LMS:

▶Applies to employees whose official duty station is located in the given area
▶Will be In lieu of locality pay
▶Based on geographic and occupational factors
▶Expressed as a percentage of basic pay
▶Set and adjusted by DoD; reviewed annually in conjunction with rate range adjustments

DoD, in coordination with OPM, will set LMS by looking at the comparable pay rates in the local area (both federal and private industry), and comparing income rates of similar positions. The main difference between LMS and locality pay is that LMS may differ between career groups, pay schedules and pay bands. LMS supplements are additional payments to employees in specified local market areas, occupations, specializations, and/or pay band. They are established in response to labor market conditions that are not fully addressed by pay band Rate Range Adjustments. In some situations within the same local market area, different supplements may be necessary and approved for different career groups or for different occupations or specializations and/or pay bands within the same career group.

Example: The Scientific and Engineering Career Group – Employees located in the San Francisco, Calif., area – assume they are in Professional Pay Schedule YD, Pay Band II (Full Performance) with salary ranges from $37,390 to $83,819. Assume the lowest end of the pay band is adjusted up by 1 percent and the highest end is adjusted up by 3 percent by the Rate Range Adjustment changing the pay band rate ranges to $37,764 to $86,334. In addition to this Rate Range Adjustment, based on the criteria used for determining LMS, a toxicologist could receive a LMS of 25 percent, a mechanical engineer could receive a LMS of 32 percent, and an electronics engineer could receive a LMS of 42 percent, although they are in the same career group, pay schedule and pay band. LMS increases are not bound by the higher end of a pay band. See the chart for an example of Notional Rate Range Adjustment and LMS for the Scientific and Engineering Career Group.



In keeping with the intent to sustain a culture of high performance, employees with a rating of record of unacceptable will not receive any pay increase resulting from the Rate Range Adjustment or the LMS.

If your organization has not received the NSPS Overview, please contact Ms. Rosalind Overton, WRALC/CCN, Ph 926-4023, to schedule a date and time. For the latest information on NSPS, please go to the Robins home page and click on the NSPS logo.

Rosalind 'Roz' Overton, NSPS transition assistant, will address employees' NSPS concerns in the Robins Rev-Up each week. For more information, call Ms. Overton at 926-4023 or visit the NSPS link at www.robins.af.mil.

Best metro format newspaper in the Air Force 2003, 2004
Best metro format newspaper in Air Force Materiel Command 2002, 2003, 2004

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Johnny Evans (right), director of operations in the WOC, gives a tour of the new center to (from left) Col. Andrew Busch, Maj. Gen Mike Collings, Harold Scott, Col. Larry Eriksen, Ken Percell and others at the ribbon cutting ceremony Feb. 8.

In the know

WOC is nerve center of maintenance mission

By LANORRIS ASKEW
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

The pulse of the 402nd Maintenance Wing is the Wing Operations Center, or the WOC.

The center, which serves as the wing commander's operational center, provides critical information and analysis concerning daily production operations and long range business planning. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Feb. 8.

According to the WOC's leadership, the mission is to provide daily real-time data and critical analysis to the wing commander enabling maximum support for the war fighter and providing the wing's command and control capability.

Divided into two parts including a tactical or operations section and a strategic or business section, the WOC is unmistakably the nerve center of the maintenance mission here.

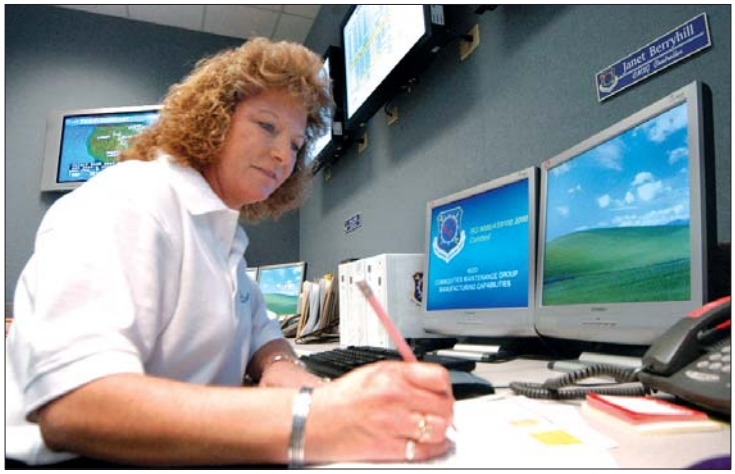
Johnny Evans, operations director, said his section, which when at full capacity will be staffed by four people, is responsible for the reporting and analysis of daily production and communication across the Group Command Centers or GCCs.

"We relate with the GCCs, which are group versions of the WOC, within the 402nd's major production organizations," he said. "We are their liaisons to the wing and they are our liaison into the groups."

Mr. Evans said his section deals more with the production side of maintenance.

"We look at short term day-to-day operations while the business side looks more at the strategic or long term reports, briefings and operations," he said.

One of the key roles performed by the operations section is a daily morning briefing of 402nd leadership.



Above: Janet Berryhill is a CMXG (Commodities Maintenance Group) controller in the Wing Operations center. Below: A screen in the WOC tracks the location of each aircraft as it goes through the maintenance process.

"We brief Col. (Andrew) Busch (402nd MXW commander) and Col. (Parker) Plumb (wing vice commander) daily at 7 a.m. on activities and events that happened the previous day," said Mr. Evans. "That's how current we are to keep them informed on what's going on inside the wing."

That briefing includes scheduling, aircraft set to fly, depot field teams deployed, weather forecasts for flying and back-orders, among other issues, and makes its way up to Air Logistics Center leadership as well.

Jeanne Mitchell, business director, manages the opposite side of the coin and is responsible for long-range business planning and determining if the wing is on target to meet its

annual Strategic Alignment and Deployment plan through communications with staff and group agencies. The business side will also manage war plans and emergency management previously referred to as Full Spectrum Threat Response or FSTR plans. The goal is to provide a seamless transition between routine and exercise or real-world contingencies.

"We do more of the analysis behind the tactical information the operations side provides," she said. "On the business side we to try to find out the reasons and the trends, and get in front of any problems before they materialize."

"That mission is performed through continuous research into many different systems, briefings, and reports that break down management indicators such as revenue, profit and loss, expenses, productivity, work load and the like."

"We look more at the strategic side of the equation while they look more at the tactical side," she said. "We do the analysis needed to find the reasons why and try to determine cause and effects of any problems they identify."

Craig Jones, WOC chief, said although the center is relatively new they have high hopes for the future state.

"We are in our infancy as an organization and are daily taking on additional responsibility, but the ultimate goal of the WOC is to become the nerve center of the wing and the operations going on inside the wing," he said. "We want to become more than just a conduit of information between the wing and the production groups. We also want to be able to provide other value added services."

According to the center's staff, the WOC was the brainchild of Ken Percell, then director of the Maintenance Wing in the spring of 2005. It became a reality in fall 2005 and is a direct report to the Maintenance Wing business operations staff office.

The 800 square-foot center facility houses a 14-member staff, eight plasma screens, a projection screen and a combo DVD, VCR, audio amplifier and computerized feed that can send information to all of the screens.

"With access to all Information Technology systems used within maintenance, they can visually display and engage with all aspects of the maintenance operation," said Mr. Jones. "In addition, they display interactive maps which monitor the flight line aircraft population and movements on the ramp."

Mr. Evans said the center is totally unique in Air Force Materiel Command, but there are similar organizations in some of the operational units.

"We are setting the standard for other centers," said Janet Berryhill, 402nd Commodities Maintenance Group controller.

FRIDAY

A Child Development Center Art Exhibit will be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Smith Community Center. For more information call the Child Development Center East at 926-3080, or West at 926-5805.

SUNDAY

Sunday brunch has temporarily moved to the Robins Enlisted Club, Building 956. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670 or enlisted club at 926-4515.

WEDNESDAY

Joint Forces Bingo will hold membership bar bingo at 6 p.m. Feb. 22.
Joint Forces Bingo is located in the east wing of the Robins Enlisted Club. The hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday with games starting at 7:15 p.m. Games are at 2:45 p.m. on Sundays. Enjoy bar bingo five nights a week at 6 p.m. Any one with an active duty, reserve, guard, retired, Department of Defense or family member identification card is eligible to play. The entry fee is free to all Robins' club members, bona fide guests and active duty or retired widow club members and $5 for eligible non-club members. For more information call the Enlisted Club at 926-4515 or Teresa Resta at 926-1303.

A skeet or trap shoot will be held from noon to 6 p.m. at the skeet range. The cost is $3 and the event is open to all active duty, reserve, retired, Department of Defense civilians and family members.

The first quarter pool tournament is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. The tournament is open to all players 16 years and older wanting to show off their pool skills. The first 16 to register by Feb. 21 will be accepted. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

UPCOMING

Private pilot ground school registration will be now through March 1 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. One hundred percent tuition is available for active duty military. Cost is $575 and is due at the time of registration. Ground school is a 45 to 50-hour course, lasting approximately 10 weeks and scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 to 8 p.m. Register soon as classroom seating is limited. For more information, call the Aero Club at 926-4867.

The Spalding Nature Center invites the Robins community to meet the animals Feb. 25 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information call the nature center at 926-4500 or 926-4001.

Family Night Bingo will be Feb. 27 at the Smith Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games start at 6 p.m. Cost is $3 per game pack, limit three packages per person. All children leave with a door prize and have chances to win motor cars, sports equipment, outdoor games, electronic games and family games. To learn more call the community center at 926-2105.

Learn the high energy dance moves as seen in videos by taking Hip Hop dance lessons at the Smith Community Center. These lessons increase stamina and improve rhythm. This four-week session will meet on Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m. starting March 2. The cost is $40 per person. To register, visit the community center. To learn more call 926-2105.

The inaugural First Friday will be held at your favorite Robins membership club from 5 to 7 p.m. March 3. First Friday means great food, chances to win cash and prizes, entertainment and drink specials. Prizes to be given away at each location to club members will include a $100 bill, five $20 bills, an iPod, and $50 in Division Dollars. Other prizes include T-shirts, gift baskets, CD cases and more. Members must be present to win. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-4515.

Salsa dance lessons are back. Learn the hottest Salsa dance moves with instructors, Julie and Juan Sanchez. This dance duo has performed in Tops In Blue 2005 and won awards at Air Force level competitions. Their five-week course begins March 7 and will meet on Tuesdays at the Smith Community Center from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Registration fees are $175 per couple and $105 for singles. Class size is limited to 20 people. To learn more call the community center at 926-2105.

Aviation Camp applications are available at the teen center. Camp will be held at the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., June 3 to 9. Aviation Camp is for eligible students who will be sophomores or juniors during the 2006-2007 school year. Deadline to submit applications will be March 7. For more information, contact Marvin Hawkins at 926-5601 or e-mail marvin.hawkins@robins.af.mil.

The Missoula Children's Theater of Performing Arts is scheduling a week long camp at Lake Seely, near Missoula, Mont. This camp experience is fully funded by the Air Force for teens between the ages of 14 and 18. Camp includes lessons in voice, acting and dance. Other activities include swimming, boating, arts and crafts and sharing stories around the campfire. Space is limited and applications and audition tapes are required. The community center will make audition tapes March 7 from 4 to 8 p.m. Applicants must provide their own music and come fully prepared. Two camp dates are scheduled for July 16 through 22 and July 23 through 29. Selectees may request a desired date but it cannot be guaranteed. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

Flying around the track

U.S. Air Force photo by LARRY MCTIGHE

DAYTONA, Fla. (AFPN) -- The Air Force race team performs a pit stop during the Budweiser Shootout at Daytona International Speedway Feb. 12. The Air Force team finished 14th. Ken Schrader was at the wheel of the Wood Brothers/JTG Racing Team's No. 21 Ford Fusion.

Enter your best photographs in the youth photography contest. Categories for the contest are color process, black-and-white, digital or alternative process (pinhole camera or Polaroid transfers). Photos must not exceed 8-inches by 11-inches and a negative must accompany each photo. Photos must be turned in to the youth center or teen center by March 10.

The 16th annual Military Team Bass Fishing tournament will be held April 23 through 28 at Lake Toho, Kissimmee, Fla. Cost is $160 per two-man team. The tournament is open to all active duty, reserve and retired military and their spouses and children, DoD civilians and contractors from all branches. For more information, visit www.militarybass.com or call the community center at 926-2105.

ONGOING

Base standard reserve parking stanchions are now available for organizations to purchase through the Arts & Crafts Center. A complete stanchion with one removable plate costs $102. Additional plates cost $5. The Arts & Crafts Center accepts government IMPAC cards. For more information, call Jaclyn Wilkerson at 926-3004 or e-mail jaclyn.wilkerson@robins.af.mil.

Robins Youth Center soccer registration for ages 5 to 17 has been extended. Cost for returning players is $30; cost for new players is $55. Registration is conducted Monday through Friday, 3 to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until full. For more information call the youth center at 926-2110.

Robins Youth Center baseball, softball and T-ball (for ages five - 17 years old) and micro T-ball (for ages 3 and four years old) continues at the youth center Monday through Friday, 3 to 6 p.m., and Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. until teams are full. For more information call Ron Hayes at 926-2110.

Applications are being accepted for spring soccer and baseball coaches. No experience required, training will be provided. Apply in person at the youth center or call Ron Hayes at 926-2110.

The arts & crafts center will hold the following classes. For more information, call 926-5282.

►Landscape in chalk pastel, Tuesday, from 6 to 8 p.m., cost $25.

►Stained glass workshop Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., cost $40.

►Wood shop classes are held Tuesdays at 6 p.m. and auto shop safety and orientation class is held every Wednesday at 6 p.m. and every Saturday at 11 a.m. free of charge.

Advance registration and payment is required for all classes. Classes are subject to change without notice and do not include supply and equipment costs.

►Do-it-yourself framing is available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Do-it-yourself framing, during the evening and Saturdays, is scheduled by appointment only.

Morning Out is available to provide quality care for children ages 19 months to 4 years old at the Child Development Center East, Building 943. Cost is $60 per month per child and is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, call the Child Development Center East at 926-5805.

Look for GO offers throughout 78th Services Division facilities now through Feb. 28. The GO program offers a variety of events, activities and discounts designed specifically for Robins' junior enlisted force. All E -1s through E – 4s and their immediate family members may take advantage of these programs. Your ID card is your entry to all special events and must be shown to receive special discounts. Make sure you carry your ID card. All E- 1s through E-4s are eligible to take advantage of the following February GO events:

►Information, Tickets and Travel Special – Receive a 10 percent discount on balloon bouquets when you show your military I.D. card.

►Pizza Depot Special – Receive a free fountain drink with a minimum purchase of $4 when you show your military I.D. card.

For more information call 926-5492.

Information, tickets and travel has the following tickets for sale:

►Tickets are on sale for the Aaron's Dream Weekend at the Talladega Motor Speedway April 28 through 30. Cost is $109 and includes Saturday, Sunday and a pit pass or $55 for Sunday race only. Tickets are also available for the Nicorette 300 and the Golden Corral 500 to be held March 18 and 19 at the Atlanta Motor Speedway. Cost for both days is $65. These tickets will be available until March 3 for seating located in the east turn.

►Tickets are available for "Little Women the Musical" at the Fox Theater, Atlanta, for $52. The production will be April 2 at 1 p.m.

►Purchase a Wild Adventure Passport for $60 (gate $64.95); parking pass for $22 (gate $25) or a platinum pass for $125 (gate $129.95) includes parking, unlimited go-karts, sky-coaster ride, golf and discounts on food.

►Visit ITT's sixth annual Explore & Expand Your Horizons travel show March 9, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Smith Community Center, for a chance to win a three night/four day vacation package to include hotel, car rental, attraction tickets and dinner show in Kissimmee, Fla. Visitors will have a chance to win a variety of other amusement tickets, hotel stays and prizes and gain information to plan their next weekend getaway or vacation. Travel and amusement representatives will include: Albany Convention and Visitors Bureau; Mossy Creek; Armed Forces Vacation Club; Park Inn, Brunswick, Ga.; Atlanta Braves; Quality Inn & Suites of Jekyll Island; Atlanta Spirit with Hawks and Thrashers; Sam Shortline Excursion Train; Big Kahuna Water Park, Destin, Fla.; Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Sandestin, Fla.; Best Western Bradbury, Pooler; Seralago Hotel & Suite, Orlando, Fla.; Boardwalk Beach Resort, Panama City Beach, Fla.; Six Flags over Georgia, Atlanta; Callaway Gardens; Talladega Superspeedway, Ala.; Chattanooga, Convention and Visitor Bureau; Thomasville Convention and Visitor Bureau; Columbus Convention and Visitor Bureau; Universal Orlando; Emeral Coast Convention and Visitor Bureau; Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.; Walt Disney World; Georgia Sports Hall of Fame; Warner Robins Convention and Visitor Bureau; Hay House; Westgate Resorts, Orlando, Fla.; Jekyll Island Authority; Wild Adventures and Medieval Times.

►Tickets are available for several events held in the Philips Arena, Atlanta.

Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Feb. 18 and 19, show times at 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., $26.50.

Harlem Globetrotters, 1 p.m. March 11, $20.

John Hancock Champions on Ice 2006 Tour, 3 p.m. May 20, $46 or $66.

For more information call 926-2945.

The fitness center pool is now open. Enjoy lap swimming Monday through Friday from 5:30 to 8:30 a.m.; family swimming Tuesday through Friday from 2 to 3 p.m.; and regular hours of swimming Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The pool will be closed on Saturdays until a lifeguard is available. For more information, call 926-4001.

Pizza Depot is offering chicken tender and grilled chicken salads for $4.95 in February. The Pizza Depot will be closed Sunday and Monday in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday. For more information call Pizza Depot at 926-0188.

The Oscar's Amphitheatre is available for weddings, retirement parties, meetings and classes at the nature center. Cost for rental is $15 with a $25 refundable deposit. For reservations call 926-4001.

The bowling center has the following February specials:

►The bowling center will be open Feb. 20 from 1 to 6 p.m. during Presidents' Day. Provide the years presidents Washington and Lincoln were born and get a complimentary game of bowling.

►A Fun Night Bowl is slated for Feb. 25 starting at 6 p.m. Pay $15 and bowl four fun games of 9-pin no tap, 3-6-9, low ball and odd/even. Have fun and win money and prizes.

►Red head pin bowling days are Feb.13 and 27 from 1 to 5 p.m. Get a strike when the red pin is in the number one position and that game is complimentary.

For more information call the bowling center at 926-2112.

Pine Oaks Golf Course has the following specials. For more information call 926-4103.

►Play all the golf you can for $5 or ride a golf car for $5 every Monday through Thursday in February starting at 2 p.m.

►Take advantage of the Monday through Thursday golf special in February. This special includes green fee and cart fee for $20.

►Lunch time specials on the range are held Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is $5 for all the range balls you can hit plus free swing tips from the golf pro starting at noon.

►Take advantage of the Saturday and Sunday golf special in February at 1 p.m. The special includes green fee and golf cart for $20.

►Purchase two hot dogs, a bag of chips, candy bar and soda for $5 during the lunchtime special held every Monday through Thursday in February.

Customer feedback surveys will be coming soon. There are added incentives to complete the survey if you are one of 2,100 people at Robins randomly chosen to receive it.

Complete the survey and the enclosed entry form and return them to the 78th Services Division Marketing and Publicity office, located in Building 983, by Feb. 28 for a chance to win a digital camera worth more than $400.

The first 250 people to turn their surveys in to the marketing office will also receive $5 in Division Dollars to redeem in a variety of participating Services facilities. For more information, please call Services Marketing at 926-5492.

Telling us what you think about the 78th Services Division activities, products and services has never been easier with the new Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) program. To use ICE, go to www.robins.af.mil/services and click on the ICE icon. At the next screen, click on the activity link that you want to provide a rating and/or comment.

Please provide contact information about yourself if you want to receive an answer. To learn more about ICE, call Services Marketing at 926-5492.

Have the latest 78th Services Division information electronically delivered to you. Subscribe to the Services Cutting Edge electronic newsletter by going to www.robins.af.mil/services and clicking on the subscribe icon at the top of the home page.

From there click on the Services newsletter link and complete the questionnaire. Subscribe to the overall Services newsletter and receive all information or to only those activities that are of interest to you – the choice is yours. For more information call Marketing at 926-5492.

To have an item listed, send it to Amanda Smith at amanda.smith@robins. af.mil by 4 p.m. Monday prior to the Friday of intended publication.

NOW PLAYING

Adult tickets are $3.50; children 11 years old and younger tickets are $2. Movies start at 7:30 p.m., unless noted. For more information, call the base theater at 926-2919.

FRIDAY

Hoodwinked

Animated

Furry and feathered cops from the animal world, Chief Grizzly and Detective Bill Stork, investigate a domestic disturbance at Granny's cottage, involving a girl, a wolf and an axe. The charges are many: breaking and entering, disturbing the peace, intent to eat, and wielding an axe without a license. Not to mention, this case might be tied to the elusive "Goody Bandit" who has been stealing the recipes of goody shops everywhere. PG (some mild action and thematic elements) 83 minutes.

SATURDAY

Grandma's Boy

Allen Covert, Peter Dante

By day, 35-year-old Alex is the world's video game tester, but by night, he is privately developing the next big game for the X-Box generation. When one of his roommates spends all the rent money on Taiwanese hookers, Alex is kicked out of his apartment, and finds himself forced to live with his grandmother and her friends Grace and Bea. R (drug use, strong language throughout, strong crude and sexual humor, and nudity) 96 minutes.

UPCOMING

Hostel

Jay Hernandez, Derek Richardson

Two Adventurous American college buddies, Paxton and Josh, backpack through Europe eager to make quintessentially hazy travel memories. They are eventually lured to what's described as a nirvana for American backpackers – a particular hostel in an out-of-the-way Slovakian town stocked with Eastern European women ... R (brutal scenes of torture and violence, strong sexual content, language and drug use) 95 minutes.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic

Catholic masses are held at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and at a 5 p.m. vigil the day before, and Monday through Friday at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is Saturday from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

Islamic

Islamic Friday Prayer (Jumuah) is Fridays at 2 p.m. in the chapel annex rooms 1 and 2.

Jewish

Jewish service is Fridays at 6:15 p.m. at the Macon synagogue.

Orthodox Christian

St. Innocent Orthodox Church service is at the chapel on the second Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m.

Protestant

General services take place Sundays at 11 a.m. The service includes some traditional and contemporary worship styles in music and format. Protestant inspirational services take place Sundays at 8 a.m. Contemporary services take place 11 a.m. Sundays at the base theater. This service is informal and includes traditional and contemporary styles of music and worship.

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

DONATE YOUR LEAVE

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 Robins Rev-Up, wings should send information to Amanda Smith at: ***amanda.smith@robins.af.mil.*** *Submissions run for two weeks.* ***Robert Plummer*** *has been approved as a leave donor recipient. Point of contact is Norma Smisson, 926-0671.*

Holiday hours for Presidents' Day

Open

Bowling center, 1 to 6 p.m.
Fitness center, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Flight Line Kitchen, normal hours
Golf Course, normal hours and tee times
Lodging, normal hours
Wynn Dining Facility, normal hours

Closed

Aero Club, administration and sales
Airman's Attic
Arts & Crafts Center
Auto Hobby Shop, closed Feb. 19 to 21
Base library
Base restaurant. All snack bars close at 1 p.m. Feb. 17
CDC East and West
Enlisted Club, Feb. 19 and 20
Equipment Rental Center
Family Child Care
Family Support Center
Family Services Loan Closet
Flight Line Dining Facility
Food Service office
Honor Guard/Mortuary Affairs/Readiness Office
Human Resource office
Information, Tickets and Travel
Marketing
Nature Center
Officers' Club
Pizza Depot, Feb. 19 and 20
Resource Management office
Robins Japanese Grill
Skeet Range, closed Feb. 20
Smith Community Center
Teen Center
US Veterinarian Services
Wood Hobby shop, Feb. 20 and 21 (no wood safety class Feb. 22)
Youth Center

▶ IN BRIEF

WINTER SPORTS DAY FEB. 24

Winter Sports Day will be Feb. 24 starting at 8 a.m. Events include: three-on-three basketball at 8 a.m. in the fitness center gym; bowling 8 a.m. at Robins Lanes; table tennis at 8:45 a.m. in the fitness center aerobics room; walleyball at 9:30 a.m. on courts 5 and 7; bowling at 10 a.m. at Robins Lanes; racquetball at 10:15 a.m., courts 1 through 4; swimming at 11 a.m., Rasile indoor pool; and volleyball at 11:45 a.m. in fitness center 2 gym. Trophy presentation will be at 2 p.m. in the fitness center. For more information call the fitness center, 926-2128.

Volunteers are needed, and will be scheduled on a minimum two-hour shift. Volunteers are also needed to post the standings board and event set up and take down. For more information, e-mail John Enterman at john.enterman@robins.af.mil; Kenneth Porter at kenneth.porter@robins.af.mil or Senior Airman Timothy Montjoy at timothy.montjoy@robins.af. mil.

TOP 3 ASSOCIATION TO MEET

The next meeting of the Robins Top 3 Association will be today, 3 p.m., in the enlisted club bingo room.

ET&M AWARDS PRESENTED

The Engineering and Technical Management awards are presented annually to recognize the outstanding contributions of scientists, engineers, and technical teams to the mission of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center and to aerospace power.

This year's awards will be presented at a luncheon Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Officers' Club grand ballroom. Dr. Steven F. Butler, Air Force Materiel Command Engineering and Technical Management director, will be the guest speaker.

The Center has nominated 67 of its best technical people in 15 categories. Local winners will be submitted to Air Force Materiel Command for competition across the command and the Air Force. AFMC winners will be announced and recognized by senior leadership during a banquet in May.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY

Children of active-duty, Reserve, Guardsmen and retired military members will be allowed to apply for more than $1,000 in scholarship money in the Scholarships for Military Children Program.

Applicants must be unmarried and under 21 (23 if enrolled in school), and must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database and should be enrolled in or planning to attend an accredited college or university on full-time student status for the fall 2006 term.

Applications include an essay on why the applicant admires a great military leader (past or present), and must be turned in at the Commissary by close of business Feb. 22, by mail or in person. Faxed and e-mailed copies will not be accepted.

For more information, visit http://www.militaryscholar.org or via a link on the Defense Commissary Agency's Customer Service Web site at http://www. commissaries.com.

MOTORCYCLE CLUB KICKOFF HELD TODAY

Motorcycle Mentorship Program and Robins Motorcycle Club kickoff will be at the base theater today at 4 p.m. All Robins motorcyclists are invited.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Group Diversity Awareness Training is now entering its third year and Warner Robins Air Logistics Center is making significant progress toward achieving its 100 percent population training goal.

This training continues to provide value to Team Robins by equipping every member to become a valued contributor to the mission. As many trained facilitators change stations, retire, or move into areas of responsibility that do not allow the level of commitment necessary to remain an effective facilitator, additional facilitators are needed. This will also allow for more flexibility in reaching the 100 percent trained goal.

In order for Team Robins to remain competitive and to accomplish the mission at hand, committed volunteers from all wings and staff are needed. It is imperative that the supervisors and management be supportive of the volunteers and their need to be away from their work areas during the required 40-hour facilitator training that will be held May 15 through 19 and for their commitment of at least one, four-hour session a month and occasional facilitator meetings.

Those interested should obtain a letter of recommendation from their squadron or other leadership. There will be a panel interview prior to final selection. Volunteers will be contacted to schedule interviews. Letters should be forwarded to cathy.broadwell@ robins.af.mil by Feb. 21.

FSC HOLDS CLASSES

The Family Support Center, Building 794, will offer sponsorship training for beginner and experienced sponsors Feb. 21, 9 to 10:30 a.m. Training covers types of information to send to the PCSing member, where to obtain it, and different ways to communicate with the inbound member. Sponsors are given information regarding his or her responsibilities to the newly assigned member and their family.

FSC is offering a federal job search basics class, Feb. 22, 9 to 11:30 a.m., to educated personnel on the variety of jobs, qualifications and classification process, the steps to apply, and how to write a federal resume.

The Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Middle Georgia will hold a free "Money and Credit Management"workshop Feb. 23, 1 to 4 p.m.

For information, or to make a reservation, call 926-1256.

SOUTHEASTERN MILITARY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

MEN'S FINAL BASKETBALL REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS
(As of Feb. 13)

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
TEAM	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
**Moody	17	7	.708	19	9	.679
**Tyndall	17	7	.708	20	9	.690
Robins	14	10	.583	15	12	.556
Eglin	11	13	.458	12	17	.414
Hurlburt Field	10	14	.417	10	14	.417
Mayport	8	16	.333	9	18	.333
MacDill	7	17	.292	7	17	.292
Keesler	– Will compete in post-season tournament					

MEN'S SCORES (FEB. 11-12)

GAME 1
*Hurlburt 2, MacDill 0 (f)
*Moody 84, Mayport 59
Robins 96, *Eglin 79
Tyndall – bye

GAME 2
*Hurlburt 2, MacDill 0 (f)
*Moody 86, Mayport 55
*Eglin 87, Robins 78

* - Home Team

**Co-conference champions. Moody is the No. 1 seed in post-season tournament (tie breaker).

MEN'S TOURNAMENT

Robins fitness center will host the men's post-season tournament Feb. 18 through 20. Robins will play Mayport in the opening game, which begins at 11 a.m. Saturday. The tournament concludes Monday with the championship game at 12:30 p.m. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS
(As of Feb. 13)

WOMEN'S	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
TEAM	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
Robins	16	4	.800	19	4	.826
Eglin	15	5	.750	16	9	.640
**Ft. Benning	9	11	.450	9	11	.450
**Moody	9	11	.450	11	13	.458
Tyndall	8	12	.400	8	12	.400
Mayport	3	17	.150	3	19	.136
Keesler	– Will compete in post-season tournament					

SCORES (FEB. 11-12)

GAME 1
Robins 59, *Eglin 45
*Moody 2, Mayport 0 (f)
Fort Benning – open
Tyndall – bye

GAME 2
*Eglin 65, Robins 62
*Moody 2, Mayport 0 (f)

* - Home Team

**Fort Benning is the No. 3 seed (tie breaker). Women's post-season tournament will be held Feb. 25 through 26 at Eglin Air Force Base.

ROBINS BASKETBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS (AS OF FEB. 9)

I/M Monday/Wednesday league W-L-F

78th Civil Engineer #1, 6-0-0
402nd Air Logistics Center, 5-0-0
116th Air Control Wing, 5-1-0
78th Security Forces, 2-3-0
78th Operational Support Squadron,2-3-0
5th Combat Communications Group, 2-4-0
53rd Combat Communications Sq., 1-4-0
330th Aircraft Sustainment Wing, 1-5-0
116th Computer System Squadron, 0-5-0

I/M Tuesday/Thursday league W-L-F

78th Mission Support Squadron, 5-1-0
78th Communications Squadron, 5-1-0
78th Medical Group, 5-1-0
78th Civil Engineering Group, 4-2-0
78th Logistics Readiness Squadron, 4-3-0
19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 3-3-0
542nd Combat Sustainment Wing, 2-4-0
653rd Combat Logistics Support Sq., 2-5-0
52nd Combat Communications Sq., 0-6-0

Over 30 league W-L-F

5th Combat Communications Group, 6-1-0
78th Medical Group, 5-1-0
HQ Air Force Reserve Command, 5-2-0
116th Air Control Wing, 5-2-0
78th Security Forces, 3-4-0
78th Logistics Readiness Squadron, 3-4-0
78th Mission Support Squadron, 0-4-1
78th Civil Engineer Group, 0-2-2

Hello babies

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Twelve Airmen with the 19th Air Refueling Group returned from a 65-day deployment Feb. 10 as part of a continuous deployment rotation in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Top: Senior Airman Xalavier Nelson, crew chief, is welcomed home by his daughter Erin, 3.

Middle: Tech. Sgt. Greg Pearson, crew chief, gets a warm welcome from his children Tanner, 5, and Amelia, 2.

Left: Aircraft commander Capt. Ben Kline kisses his 6-month-old son, Noah.