

Robins Fitness Center earns award for putting health first

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Robins 2007 Tattoo draws record-breaking crowd

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NASCAR visits Robins

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THE ROBINS REV-UP

March 23, 2007 Vol. 52 No. 12

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

THE MACH READ

Air Force changes leave, special liberty

Airmen may now be granted a special liberty (pass) in conjunction with leave without requiring a duty day between the pass and leave periods.

Airmen must be physically present in the local area when departing and returning from leave. If they wish to leave the local area during the pass period and not return prior to the beginning of the leave period, then the entire leave and pass period will be charged as leave.

A pass may not be used in combination with holidays or other off-duty periods if that combination extends the absence from duty beyond four days.

Commanders may further restrict leave and passes as necessary to meet mission requirements. For more information, Airmen should contact their commander's support staff. — *Air Force Print News*

Easter Egg Hunt

The Robins Chapel will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt March 31 at Robins Elementary School from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There will also be inflatables, games, face painting, food and drinks. For more information call Marcia Little or Liz McCarthy at 926-2821.

Kindergarten and preschool registration

New kindergarten and preschool student registration will be held April 11 at Robins Elementary from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parents of children who will be attending kindergarten and the half-day four-year old program in the 2007-2008 school year should plan to attend.

All kindergarten students must be five years old on or before Sept. 1. All preschool students must be four years old on or before Sept. 1. All children attending Robins Elementary must reside on federal property (main base) in permanent military family housing. Temporary Lodging Facility does not qualify.

For both registrations, parents should bring their child's birth certificate, certificate of immunization from the base hospital or local health department, Georgia Department of Human Resources Form 3231 (not the yellow shot record), certificate of ear, eye and dental examination from the base hospital and the child's social security card.

If the certificate of immunization or the certificate of ear, eye and dental examination is not available, parents can register their children and present the documents before school starts in August. All documents are required before school begins.

IAS, Foreign Language Programs briefing

An International Affairs Specialist, Foreign Language Programs briefing will be held Friday at 2 p.m. in Bldg. 1555, 78th Civil Engineering Group conference room.

Line of the Air Force lieutenants through Lt. Colonels will have an opportunity to learn about the IAS program. Commanders and senior leaders are encouraged to attend to gain a better understanding of this important program.

The IAS program enables the Air Force to build a cadre of officers with skills needed to foster effective relationships with global partners in support of combatant commanders and United States' global interests.

Maj. J.J. Casey, Chief, IAS Strategic Plans and Programs Secretary of the Air Force International Affairs will brief.

More information about this program can be found at www.my.af.mil/iaw/iaw.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual assault response coordinator, victim and victim advocates talk about sexual assault, importance of reporting

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

As Sexual Assault Awareness Month approaches, Robins is bringing the often taboo subject into the spotlight.

The April observance month will kick off here with a sexual assault awareness luncheon, 'Stand Up Against Sexual Assault...Make a Difference,' on April 5 at 11 a.m. in the Officers' Club ballroom. Dr. Mark Lafferty, a locally-based obstetrician and gynecologist, will serve as the luncheon's guest speaker.

On April 20, Robins will host 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes,' a one-mile walk at the Base Fitness Center's outdoor walking track for everyone with base access to offer support to sexual assault victims. If rain occurs, the event will be moved inside the Fitness Center.

Cindy Graver, sexual



assault response coordinator here, is working with the 78th Security Forces Squadron to set up a self-defense and safety tips class that will run April 4, 11, 18, and 25, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the gym next to the

Health and Wellness Center.

People interested in participating in any of the month's activities should contact the SARC office at 327-7272 or 926-2946.

While the month provides

the opportunity for education, Robins began making sexual assault awareness and getting help for its victims a priority back in June of 2005 when it started the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention program, a Department of Defense-wide initiative.

Mrs. Graver said sexual assault is a serious problem that affects more people than society may think.

"Statistics tell us that one out of four females can be expected to be sexually assaulted in their lifetime, while one in six males may be sexually assaulted in their lifetime," she said.

Females age 18 to 24 are at the highest risk to become victims. Mrs. Graver said that is in part due to age, the maturity level of the person, and situations people find themselves

▶ see SARC, 2A

The following question and answer series resulted from a one-on-one interview between the Robins Rev-Up and a local victim of sexual assault.

Q. Were you afraid to come forward and report your sexual assault? Why?

A. "Yes, I was scared just because of the ramifications that come with reporting something like this. People always look at you as the problem, and I guess with the different TV shows that come on TV, it always makes it look like the woman's fault no matter what happens. It's always about what she had on. It's always about how she acted and that she was the cause of what happened to her. So, all of those thoughts were running through my head."

Q. What was your experience when you came forward?

A. "There were people that used to speak to me every morning and they stopped speaking to me. People would just stare at me."

▶ see Q AND A, 2A

Journey of a lifetime



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Lt. Col. Jeff Thetford has landed at all 106 air fields in Georgia to raise awareness of the Robins Air Force Base Aero Club and to spread information about the Georgia Air National Guard.

Robins Lt. Colonel meets goal of visiting all airfields in Georgia

By Senior Airman Paul Ross
116th ACW/PA

In many cases using an airplane to conquer a mountain could be considered cheating.

But if your mountain is landing at all 106 air fields in Georgia, an airplane is the only way to fly.

Lt. Col. Jeff Thetford conquered his mountain Nov. 5, 2006, when he landed at the Hartsfield Jackson airport in Atlanta.

The 330th Combat Training Squadron director of operations set out on a nearly three year journey to raise awareness of the Robins Air Force Base Aero Club and to spread information about the Georgia Air National Guard. The Robins Aero Club is an organization run by the 78th Air Base Wing that provides all the necessities for learning how to fly general aviation aircraft.

"It's one thing to take a kid down to the mall to a recruiter, but seeing an aircraft at the airfield is something totally different," said Colonel Thetford. "General aviation is a tangible thing; you can touch it, see it and hear it. General aviation has the ability to excite the public's imagination."

Motivation for the journey also came from the desire to do something difficult.

"Why do you go to all 106 air fields? You do it because they're there," said Colonel Thetford. "They're meant to be visited and seen. It was a chance to do something difficult and combine the challenge of it with meeting folks and telling the 116th story."

Colonel Thetford, who also serves as operations officer for the Robins Aero Club, was able to complete his journey because of the help of two great friends and the availability

of resources through the club. Lt. Col. Ed Bodony and Lt. Col. Ben Sutton, both Georgia ANG members, accompanied Colonel Thetford on many of the flights.

"I'm grateful for the support of my friends," said Colonel Thetford. "I'm grateful for having an aviation club here, that at a moderate price, can give people the chance to participate in general aviation."

Landing at 106 airfields in three years is a tremendous feat and could never take place without proper planning and coordination.

"It took a lot of time and planning to land at 106 airports," said Colonel Sutton, 116 Operations Support Squadron chief of deployment planning cell. "Even though we didn't do it all at once, on most flights we would hit several airports. But before traveling to each airport we had to find information

on runway length, width, elevation and any obstacles that were near the airport to ensure that we could safely land at that field. We also had to plot our course and figure out the distance and time it would take to get there to ensure we had enough fuel to make the flight and that we could navigate to the airport. Some of these airports were so small and hidden that they were difficult to find even from the air.

Colonel Thetford, a flying enthusiast, has been taking to the skies for about two decades.

"Even though he is real busy as director of operations for a flying squadron, he makes time to fly general aviation airplanes and support flying operations at Robins Aero Club," said Colonel Sutton.

His aviation roots started at an airfield in Waco, Texas, that

▶ see FLYER, 3A

Leadership panel gives Robins' women road map to success

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

Female employees came together at Robins Base Theater Wednesday to celebrate women's rise to the top.

A senior leadership panel composed of four Robins female senior leaders and sponsored by the Women's History Observance Month Committee, gave its audience a chance to learn how to reach their personal and professional goals during a two-hour lunch program.

Among the panelists were Shelbie Purser, deputy director of the 730th Aircraft Sustainment Group; Donna Frazier, deputy director of the 402nd Electronics Maintenance Group; Karen Brigrance, chief engineer in the 752nd Combat Sustainment Group and Chief Master Sgt. Suzanne Clemons, chief of Security Forces at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command.

Diane Suchan, director of the 402nd Software Maintenance Group, served as the panel moderator, asking questions that focused on the differences seen between generations of women on base, what contributions women have made to positively impact their working conditions today, as well as other related topics.

Participants were also invited to ask questions during the discussion.

Mrs. Brigrance said she chose to participate in the open forum so that others could learn from her story.

"I like having an opportunity to mentor and share my experiences with the other women across the base," she said. "I'm in a pretty unique field for a female. I'm an engineer. So, I like to encourage

▶ see PANEL, 2A

THINK SAFETY

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

SLOW DOWN

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	80/52	SATURDAY	82/53	SUNDAY	82/53

SARC

Continued from 1A

in.

Mrs. Graver said many sexual assault victims live with the aftermath of their assault.

"A lot of our sexual assault victims suffer from post traumatic stress disorder," she said. "It's very much like when people go to war and they come back (and) they have flashbacks. Well, victims of sexual assault often suffer from PTSD. They have flashbacks of the assault or parts of it. They play the tape over and over in their head."

While many victims don't report such assaults, Mrs. Graver said the base has a variety of reporting methods for those who want to make a report.

Restricted reporting, an option available only to active-duty military members and those members serving under Title 10 status, provides the victim the avenue to report an assault without revealing the victim's identity. With such reporting, the SARC doesn't report the assault, but instead contacts helping agencies here to be on stand-by to help the victim when needed. Many assaults reported in this way later become unrestricted reports.

Unrestricted reporting, which is available to all DOD civilians, military members and DOD family members, allows for identity of the victim and initiates an investigation by the Office of Special Investigations. A third reporting option is the Independent reporting option which involves an eyewitness to a sexual assault making a report about the incident.

Independent reports fall in the same category as unrestricted reports, which involve investigations.

Robins has about 11 volun-

teer victim advocates throughout the base to help sexual assault victims here go through the reporting process. VAs, as they're commonly called, provide emotional support and a physical presence for the victim as they go through reporting procedures, Mrs. Graver said.

Master Sgt. LaSandra Simmons, a VA at Air Force Reserve Command Headquarters since October 2005, said she has seen the importance of her role.

"I find being a victim's advocate very rewarding," she said. "I feel that the victims need someone to be with them during these trying times, and my being there, even though I feel like I'm not doing much. They're very appreciative of someone just being there on call for them 24 hours a day, just someone they can reach out and talk to and not have to feel apprehensive with."

Sergeant Simmons said such advocates are there to give victims an ear to listen.

She said the program is an important tool for victims.

"This (sexual assault) is something that needs to stop, so we need to have a zero tolerance," she said. "For those victims who are assaulted, they need to know that there are avenues that they can go to and that there are people who can help."

Sergeant Simmons said victims need to know there is hope.

"You're not going to be a victim forever," she said. "You will be a survivor and we'll get you there."

WHAT TO KNOW

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. For help when sexual assault occurs, contact Robins' Sexual Assault Response Coordinator 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 327-7272.

Q AND A

Continued from 1A

Q. How did Robins' Sexual Assault Program help you take that step?

A. "I just made a phone call to one of my friends who put me in touch with the military side, the Military Equal Opportunity officer, and then he put me in touch with the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. So, basically I described what happened and the SARC told me that I had to report this, and that's when the whole process began. It was a good experience. The victim's advocate was wonderful. The SARC, she was wonderful as well."

Q. How has sexual assault changed your life?

A. "Well, it's changed my life in the sense that now I'm a victim. I never imagined in a million years (I would be one). I thought I was strong enough to never have to go through a situation like this. I never thought I'd be the girl on the TV. I never thought I would be the girl in the newspaper, but I am. I guess I'm a lot more sensitive now to different things I hear on TV and I read in the newspaper about different women being taken advantage of because I know how they feel."

Q. What advice would you offer other sexual assault victims to help them recover?

A. "I would say, even though it may be hard to come forward, that's the best thing that you could ever do because the problem with this particular crime is it's so under reported because the woman is so scared about what's going to happen to her. Definitely, I was scared. But, there are enough support systems in place that everything will work out just fine. But, the best thing they can do is come forward and know there are other people out there this has happened to and they're not alone."



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
Shelby Purser, center, speaks at the senior leadership panel discussion Wednesday. The discussion was one of the Women's History Month events. The finale of the month-long celebration will be a luncheon Thursday in the officers' club ballroom from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

PANEL

Continued from 1A

the other females to decide what it is they want to do with their life and know that they can do it. They have the capability to do anything that they want to do."

The engineer, who has been at Robins for 25 years, said she was glad to share what she had to go through to get to where she is today and help others in that process.

"They need to set goals," she said. "(They need to) try and think about what it is they want to do, where they want to get to in the future. Get with somebody and find out what it is that (you) need to accomplish in order to get there. Then set little mini goals, take baby steps and work your way along until you get to what it is that you're trying to get to."

Renada Bonham, Unit Self Inspection Program manager in the 402nd Software Maintenance Group and Women's History Month Observance Committee chairperson, said the panel discussion, a first-ever of its kind here, was intended to give women a chance to see where other women are coming from and to learn what they do on a day-to-day basis.

"We wanted people to be able to come together from the Robins Air Force Base community and visually see women who sit on our base in different leadership positions, because we do have an SES (Senior Executive Service)," she said. "We have several GS-15s (General Schedule). We have female colonels. We have female chiefs on this base. A lot of people are not aware of that. So, this was to allow people to see who they are and to actually get feedback from them on how they can maybe get to where they are."

Chief Clemons, who shared her experience of coming up in the ranks of security forces, said she hopes women were inspired to achieve their dreams.

"It doesn't matter what obstacle is out there," she said. "Anybody can be successful. Just don't take 'no' for an answer (and) don't let any obstacle (get in your way). It just gives you a different chance to succeed. I came into a career field that wasn't open to women, so I've seen them (women) come a long way."

CoStella Edwards, Integrated Product Team lead for C-5 engines in the 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing who is the point of contact for the event, said she hopes

women walked away from the event with a renewed confidence in their ability to succeed.

And Dana Stanley, chief of Quality Assurance and Process Improvement in the 402nd Maintenance Wing, did just that.

"There was lots of good information about how people in comparable positions handle issues from everything like generation gaps to achieving a balance between family and your work," she said. "Basically, it was a chance to look back over your career and understand 'Yeah, that's what I did right and they did the same thing,' or 'No, I didn't do that right.'"

Mrs. Stanley, who is a GS-15, said the frank conversation gave her insight into others' experiences so that she may learn from others' lessons in life and grow even more in her own career.

"I think the women that have been here have been very honest," she said. "They've talked about their experiences, good and bad, and they've really tried to help the folks here that were listening to it to understand and think about what they can aspire to and what they can achieve, how to set goals, and learn the basics of what to do."

FLYER

Continued from 1A

wasn't very different from many he landed on during his three year trip.

"I started flying as a private pilot in 1986 while attending college in Texas," said Colonel Thetford. "I had just turned 20. So, I've been flying privately and professionally for more than 20 years now."

While attending Baylor University with hopes of becoming a lawyer, he saw a more exciting future for himself.

"I was walking across campus one day and saw a couple of F-4s fly over," the colonel said. "They came screaming across the campus, probably lower than they should have and did a little wing rock. I thought 'that's what I want to do for a living, law school can wait.'"

Colonel Thetford was commissioned in 1989 and went to navigator training at Mather Air Force Base, Calif. He has since flown more than 4,500 hours in the B-52, RC-135, B-1 and E8-C Joint STARS, but has trouble picking a favorite.

"I don't have a favorite per se," Colonel Thetford said. "They all have great qualities. I have a tremendous sentimental attachment to my first airplane, the B-52. The first time I ever flew the aircraft without a flight instructor or an evaluator on board was in the Gulf War. It was an unusual situation in that I had gone straight from training to my operational squadron, and just after I arrived our planes and crews deployed to the gulf. I was a replacement aircrew member and got sent over."

Although flying military missions is a big part of the colonel's life, it's sometimes nice to fly for the sheer enjoyment.

"You take out the chart and you look at the state of Georgia and I guess there are a couple of



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Lt. Cols. Ben Sutton, Jeff Thetford and Ed Bodony stand in front of a Beechcraft Baron at the Aero Club.

things that strike me," said Colonel Thetford. "The first is how pretty the state is from the air. The second thing that jumps out at you is the variety. You can literally fly from sandy beaches in the southeast to mountains in north Georgia. Looking back, this journey was largely about meeting people and just doing something for the sheer challenge of doing it. It was a chance for me to go out and meet other people, tell the guard story and try to get them excited about flying."

But much like a military mission, Colonel Thetford challenged himself and returned with great memories.

"Some of the fun was seeing how many fields we could hit in one day," said Colonel Thetford. "On one particular day we hit nine air fields. I don't think we ever flew over 3,000 feet that day. As soon as we would take off we were getting ready to descend and land again at the next field. That was a real memorable flight."

Of all the things the colonel saw while crisscrossing the peach state, the towns found off of the beaten path were the most enjoyable.

"It was all of the little towns

that I enjoyed the most," said Colonel Thetford. "Most of them are not more than a wide spot in the road. When you go to a town that's got one stop light and you land at their field, sometimes they've never met anyone in uniform. Getting to spend a little time with them is a great opportunity. It was a chance to be a good ambassador not only for the Air Force but for our unit and try to get people excited about aviation. It's remarkable how many interesting people we've met."

The colonel stresses that military members need to get involved with the community.

"I encourage you to get out there and be involved," he said. "Get involved with something in the community – coaching soccer, general aviation or whatever you want. But get out there and be a part, because often times you are the only face of the military that people ever see. For those out there who are looking for something great to get into to, I would strongly encourage you to give the Aero Club a shot. Come out, see what we're about, do some flying with us. We're always looking for new folks and we'd be more than happy to get you on your way, you may find that it's the journey of a lifetime."

HOW TO CONTACT US

78th Air Base Wing
Office of Public Affairs
215 Page Rd., Suite 106
Robins AFB, GA 31098
(478) 926-2137 DSN 468-2137
Fax (478) 926-9597

EDITORIAL STAFF

COMMANDER
Col. Theresa Carter

ACTING PA DIRECTOR
1st Lt. Sequoia Lawson

CHIEF OF INTERNAL
INFORMATION AND EDITOR
Kendahl Johnson
kendahl.johnson@robins.af.mil
(478) 222-0804

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Lanorris Askew
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil
(478) 222-0806

STAFF WRITERS
Amanda Creel
amanda.creel.ctr@robins.af.mil
(478) 222-0807

Holly L. Birchfield
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil
(478) 222-0810

CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Damian Housman
damian.housman@robins.af.mil
(478) 222-1044

PHOTOGRAPHER
Sue Sapp
sue.sapp@robins.af.mil
(478) 222-0805

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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Submissions must be received by 4 p.m. the Monday prior to the requested Friday publication. They should be e-mailed to lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil. Submissions should be of broad interest to the base populace. If there are further questions, call Kendahl Johnson at (478) 222-0804.

DELIVERY

The Robins Rev-Up is published 50 times a year on Fridays, except when a holiday occurs during the middle or latter part of the week and the last two Fridays of the year. To report delivery issues, call Lanorris Askew at (478) 222-0806.

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DUTY CALLS

Robins Airmen take communication around the world



Airman 1st Class Mahendra J. Dataram and Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Jordan with the 5th Combat Communications Group, check the voltage on a Giant Voice System March 16, at Sather Air Base, Iraq. The GVS is used to address all commands and send messages to every individual in the area if there are intrusions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

U.S. Army photo by ARMY SPC. ELISHA DAWKINS



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 222-0804 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://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response.

Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Robins Rev-Up. Anonymous action lines will not be processed.

Why haven't there been any action lines printed lately?

While the purpose of the Commander's Action Line is to provide a venue for the open addressing of concerns and the highlighting of successes, many of the action lines received lately have been narrowly focused and have been resolved through the regular chain of command.

Action lines chosen for future publication, as in the past, will be issues with a broad focus which affects the general base populace.

Please continue to submit questions and kudos to the commander's action line and a response will be provided as well as consideration for print.

Why isn't the Robins Rev-Up posted electronically to the Web page real time like it used to?

The Robins Rev-Up is still posted to the Robins Public Homepage each Friday morning.

The new link to the paper is <http://www.robins.af.mil/library/rev.asp>. This link is also available by clicking on the library tab at the top of the home page. There, archived papers from the previous year through the current edition will be available.

The new web management system has an occasional time delay, which may cause the posting of the PDF version of the complete current edition to be temporarily unavailable. However, individual current stories and photos are available for viewing on the Robins Public Home page at www.robins.af.mil.

Deployed behind: Thanking our unsung heroes

There is a group of unsung heroes who have silently supported our Airmen and our nation as we fight the war on terrorism whose sacrifice, service and heartache too often go without recognition or respect.

These heroes are the spouses and family members of our warriors who have selflessly created the bed-rock from which our nation launches its virtuous defense of our constitutional freedoms.

To all of you I personally say thank you. Most people know the general details of the deployed environment and mission we must endure, but too few words are spoken regarding the absolutely fundamental mission carried out around the clock on our home front by all of those we "deploy behind."

It is their endless love, care, patience and selfless devotion to our families and our country, which provides our deployed Airmen the peace of mind, focus and balance needed to

excel in their undertakings when serving halfway around the world.

No one has spent endless hours and dollars training our spouses to accomplish what it is they do every day when "deployed behind", holding down our home fronts and accomplishing our family's mission, no matter what. No one solicited their service, or informed them of the trials and tribulations they must endure. Anyone who says, "They're just doing what's expected" hasn't a clue, and more than likely takes the very gifts of freedom our Air Force spouses provide for granted.

In today's Air Force environment of fiscal conservatism, recapitalization and off-the-chart operations tempo, one often hears the phrase, "We must do more with less." I contest this phrase applies more to our spouses, deployed behind and forced to support and provide for our families without

their proverbial soul mate, sounding board, rock, center, companion, husband, wife, dad, or mom home to share in this great inexorable experiment we call life.

There are no medals or citations for the sleepless nights spent with sick toddlers, or for the courage displayed when consoling the inquisitive minds of young children who ask those incredibly astute, yet emotionally taxing questions about Mom or Dad's service to our great nation. Their collective strength, resolve and resourcefulness makes our Air Force's expeditionary posture possible.

Our spouses provide us all with clear minds and unwavering confidence in knowing harmony and stability reign supreme at home. The pillar of strength they provide allows Airmen across the world to commit 100 percent of their heart and souls towards achieving repetitive mission success,

anywhere, anytime, thus preserving our service's global monopoly on Air and Space supremacy.

Their cause is extremely difficult and selfless but above all else, righteous. They embolden our service and preserve the prosperity of our families and our nation. Every medal or award their spouse earns is equally earned by each of them, and that vital linkage cannot be expressed enough.

Regardless of anyone's opinion on the war on terrorism, or the prolific expectation of freedoms rampant in America, the simple truth remains our spouses bear the burden of untold sacrifice, and in my eyes are the unsung heroes of our time. It is with immense gratitude, pride and honor that I salute their service to our Air Force and our nation.

—This commentary was written by Col. Christopher Weggeman, 12th Operations Group commander.

Women's History Month allows for reflection, changes

Women's History Month provides an occasion to reflect upon our nation's history and the amazing and well-fought accomplishments of women, who have passionately defended the rights of equality to afford women the civil liberties, privileges and opportunities we have today and are continuing to pursue.

March is not about segregating a gender to acknowledge or accentuate our differences. It is about the realization that every person, regardless of gender, has the right and the realistic opportunity to pursue the fruits of this great nation, and to acknowledge the women who sacrificed to make a difference and change the past, forged these rights.

In the 18th and early 19th centuries, women were considered by some to be second-class citizens whose acceptable existence was limited only to care of the home and children. They did not have many options nor the rights to own property, maintain wages, sign a contract or vote. It was considered improper for women to travel alone or to speak in public and they were often taught to refrain from acquiring higher education.

Throughout the years, women have fought for equality and have met significant and strong resentment and public animosity for going against what was socially

acceptable. As women requested change and defied laws and rules, they were ostracized, ridiculed, humiliated and discriminated against for their beliefs, desires and their pursuit for equality and justice.

There are many significant women and dates in our past we must remember. Many people have sacrificed and are responsible for the changes seen today. This includes the women who instigated and created the need for change as well as those people with the moral, mental and physical courage who recognized their efforts and contributions, and who fought for what was right.

Recognizing and acknowledging this history enables us to learn from past events and enables us not to repeat the unforgivable and questionable behavior and mistakes that made change incredibly difficult.

This history allows our mothers, wives, sisters, girlfriends, daughters and granddaughters the chance to dream of and strive for accomplishments and successes, and to act upon those dreams. It provides them the moral, mental and physical courage to embrace the willingness to stand up for what they believe is right even if it is unpopular and would hurt their reputation in an environment that doesn't accept change.

This history offers motivation and facili-

itates an enthusiastic and optimistic attitude and commitment to achieving personal goals.

Women's History Month is a time to recognize, express gratitude and celebrate these ideals and endeavors we hold so dear. This month offers us the chance to end discrimination when we see it today. It's an opportunity for us to deepen our understanding of outstanding contributions and to renew dreams to build on the past and construct boundless futures.

We must remember the fight for equality is not to receive preferential treatment based upon gender, but to afford the same opportunities and rights among all those with the same qualities, characteristics, skills and attributes.

Both men and women are the pride of the American people and of this nation and have the possibility to represent the very best of society.

I see increased opportunities, acceptance, accomplishments and satisfaction and greater gender tolerance and compatibility as we Americans, regardless of sex, race or heritage, coalesce for the mutual benefit of our nation and the pursuit of happiness.

—This commentary was written by Col. Anita Latin 653rd Electronic Systems Group commander

BABY BUNDLES OF JOY

5th CCG welcomes new babies with gifts of love

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

The 5th Combat Communications Group and its squadrons are showering their Airmen's new babies with gifts of love.

Each new-born baby in the Group receives a burp cloth embroidered with a baby gator along with the words "Gator Baby, Robins Air Force Base, Ga." The new arrivals are also presented with the children's book, "Abby the Alligator," one in a series of books written by Maria Fleming.

Jennifer Block, wife of 5th Combat Communications Group commander, Col. Carl Block, said the project, which she initiated shortly after her husband took command in July 2006, is a way to let the unit's Airmen know that they're family.

"We knew we wanted to give a baby gift, but it was hard to find a baby gift that was useful, but not too expensive," she said.

After some thought and consideration of what other squadrons have done for their unit's new bundles of joy, Mrs. Block settled on the idea of providing the practical gifts.

The Group began providing baby gifts of varying kinds to the squadron's new infants as early as 2002.

The Air Force spouse said the Group expects to provide about 75 gifts each year during the two-year venture based on the number of babies born in the squadron in the past.

Mrs. Block said she wanted Airmen in the group to know they're valued.

Tanja Ramsby, wife of Maj. Corey Ramsby, commander of the 54th Combat Communications Squadron here, said she also wanted to

do something special for new infants in her husband's unit.

The 54th CBCS welcomes each of its new babies into the world with a hand-sewn fleece baby blanket, embroidered with the squadron's name and home base, along with a fleece alligator attached to the blanket. Each new baby also receives a hand-made baby rattle, and a "boo-boo bunny," a washcloth sewn into the shape of a bunny that parents can slip an ice cube into and use to soothe a child's minor injury.

Mrs. Ramsby said she started the effort soon after her husband took command of the squadron in July 2005.

"We've had many occasions where we've been able to present these to families," she said.

"Not only is it a morale booster, but it gives us a great opportunity to say hello to these folks and let them know we appreciate them," she said. "We are aware that they've got this new perfect little bundle in their life that is going to take time. It also gives us a chance

to get resources out there to them."

Mrs. Ramsby said the squadron has given out about 27 welcome packages to its new babies so far.

The group's other squadrons have also jumped on the baby welcoming team, providing diaper cakes, gator stuffed animals and other token gifts.

Wendy Bullington, owner of Sew What by Wendy, a Warner Robins embroidery business provides her services to make some of the baby gifts, said she has worked with the 5th CCG for more than a year in the project and was excited about helping with the gifts.

"I absolutely love it," she said. "Anything that I can do for any of the troops, I'll do it."

New parents in the 5th Combat Communications Group who have not received a baby gift from the group should call Machele Morrison at 926-3223.



Jennifer Block shows off the baby package given to new 5th CCG parents.
U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
At left, Darlene Koske has been known to crochet 15 baby blankets in one week. Above, the art of crocheting takes agile hands and care.

WHAT TO KNOW

Airmen who are having their first child and are interested in receiving a layette and crocheted baby blanket may register with the Airman and Family Readiness Center's Operation Stork program by calling 926-1256 or visiting the center in Building 794 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Ladies from Middle Georgia Crochet Club make baby blankets for Operation Stork

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

Joyce Lyman took up crocheting nearly 30 years ago to stay awake on her third shift job. Now, the 66-year-old New York native uses her talent to make baby blankets for Operation Stork night after night, with her 6-year-old female Golden Retriever, Buttons, at her feet.

"She lies at my feet and likes to get in my yarn too," she said.

The mother of five and grandmother of seven is one of about 10 other members of the Crochet Club of Middle Georgia who donates her handmade blankets to new military parents through the Robins Airman and Family Readiness Center program that started 17 years ago.

In addition to crocheted baby blankets, the program provides new military parents with a layette complete with a diaper bag, a onesie, a night gown, socks, and other helpful items that parents can use when car-

ring for their new bundle of joy.

Mrs. Lyman said her hobby is now helping others and helping her stay on the go.

"It keeps me occupied and gives me a hobby, something to do because I live by myself," she said. "It's just me and my dog. It keeps me busy. I enjoy it. It's relaxing."

Other ladies, like Beverly Talley, a 71-year-old New Hampshire native whose husband is a retired Air Force captain, said she began crocheting for the program because she can remember what it was like to be a young military spouse with a new baby.

"I think it's an excellent idea because it's one thing they don't have to worry about buying," she said. "I know their money is tight, having gone the same route myself many years ago."

Joyce Farmer, who took up her crocheting hobby in the early 1970s when she began making Afghans, said she enjoys seeing the pictures of the

families that receive the blankets.

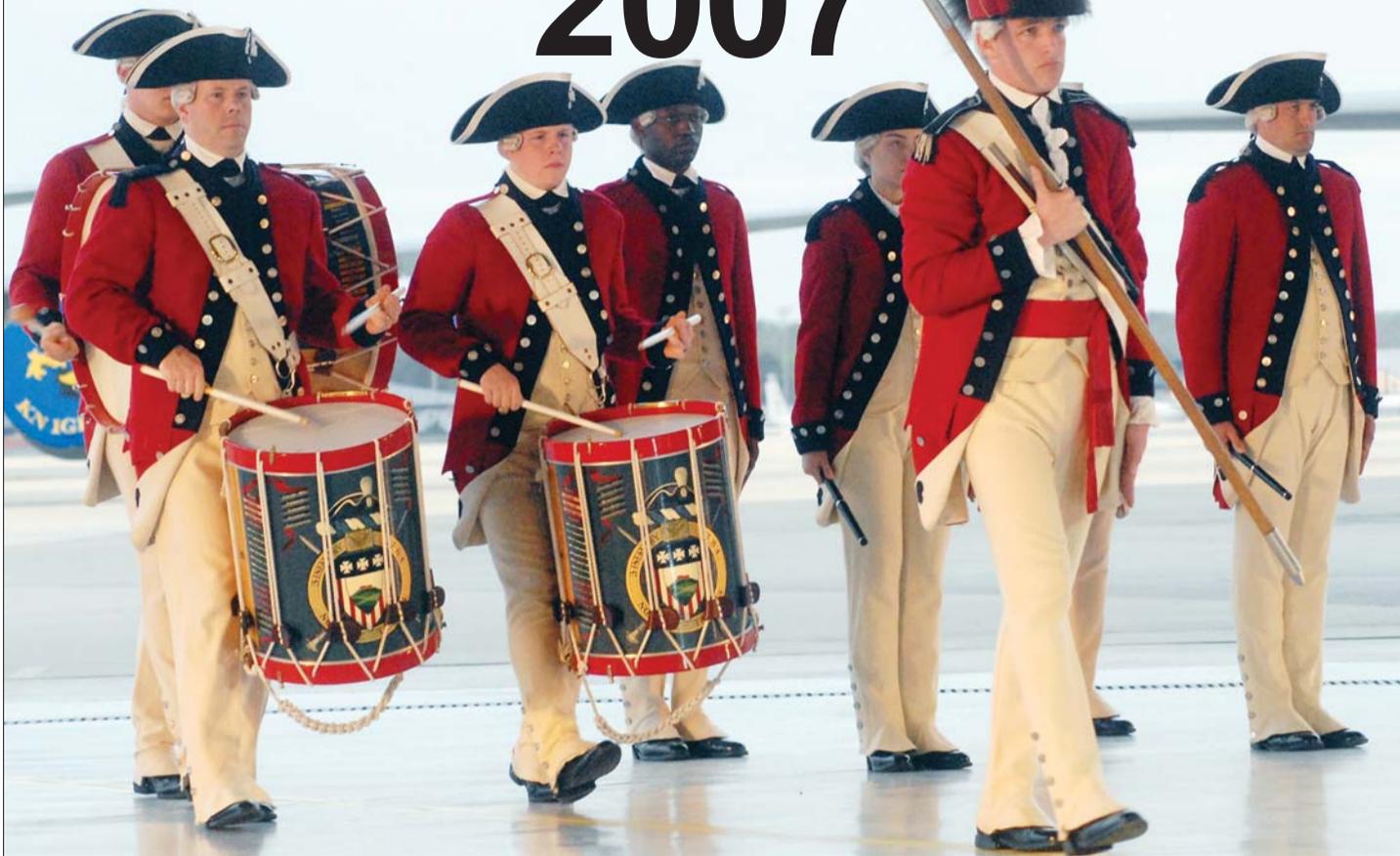
"I think it's wonderful for couples to get something that's homemade," she said. "You get a lot of things that's bought sometimes, but it's nice to have something that's handmade that you can hand down."

And Kim Myers, a community readiness technician at the Airman and Family Readiness Center here, said she thinks the ladies' willingness to donate their time and talent to help Robins Airmen who are first-time parents is wonderful.

"I think anyone who sees the blankets would be pretty amazed at what the women do," she said. "You would think it takes them hours to put such detail in something for someone they don't know. I think it's a very giving and considerate and loving way that they're giving back to the community. They've been blessed with a talent and the fact that they're willing to share that with other people is quite significant."

TATTOO

2007



The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps performs in uniforms patterned after Gen. George Washington's Continental Army. The group reenacted the custom of the Tattoo.

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Heritage to Horizons: Commemorating 60 years of Air and Space Power

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

The Robins 2007 Tattoo Ceremony may have taken on a different format than in past years, but the solemn ceremony still hit its mark recognizing and celebrating military tradition past and present – and with record-breaking attendance.

Orchestrated by a mixture of Robins military and civilians and with static displays of Robins aircraft presently fueling the fight as its backdrop, the Tattoo combined celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force, 100 years of aviation in Georgia and the Cherry Blossom Festival with a series of colorful and historic feature acts.

The two-hour ceremony was attended by an estimated 1,800 people and featured the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (the Old Guard) Fife and Drum Corps from Washington, D.C.; the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve's Bagpipe Band; the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve's Ceremonial Band and the Air Force Honor Guard drill team. The event also included an F-15 fly-by and a POW/MIA ceremony, including a 21-gun salute and playing of "Echo Taps."

In a press release statement, Staff Sgt. Ryan Miles, Tattoo Ceremony Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve liaison, said the Tattoo committee had a goal of bringing the Tattoo back to its Scottish roots.

"We're trying to get back to the more traditional definition of Tattoo, which is more ceremonial in nature, more musical performance-branded, and bring back that flair of 'Tattoo,'" he said.

Before show time Col. Robert A. Hopkins Jr., 2007 Robins Military Tattoo chairperson, said to look forward to a lot of excitement, but at the same time expect a celebration of the true



meaning as a memorial service to the past, present and future military members and the words rang true. The 16-member U.S. Honor Guard Drill Team drew oohs and ahhs from the crowd as they skillfully executed precision moves, while the reverberating sounds of the Fushu Daiko Japanese Drum Corps brought even the smallest audience members to their feet to see the origin of the giant sound.

"It was a world class event," said Colonel Hopkins. "I want to thank the Cherry Blossom Festival, the 100th Year Anniversary of Georgia Aviation and especially the men and women at Robins Air Force Base for supporting an outstanding show celebrating 60 years of Air and Space Power: Heritage to Horizons 60th anniversary of the Air Force."

While the musical performances caught a lot of attention, the distinguished visitors in the audience representing wars past and present brought the true meaning of the ceremony to light – sacrifice.

The ceremony also included the setting of an empty table representing POW/MIAs, a wreath laying ceremony performed by

Above, Members of Fushu Daiko put on a performance that is visual as well as musical.

Below, Members of the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard drill team show off their skill with behind the back tosses.



Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander and Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue, a twenty-one gun salute, a flag ceremony and a tribute of Amazing Grace.

"The ceremony was spectacular," said Neeka Linn Watkins, who works in the Robins Employment Office. "It was a real honor to be able to learn about the history and heritage of the Air Force while being entertained at the same time. I'm

looking forward to attending again next year."

The military tradition of Tattoo stretches back to the 17th century, during the reign of King William III of Great Britain. English soldiers who served during a war in the Netherlands often spent their evenings in local taverns.

The Tattoo ceremony, most famously celebrated in Edinburgh, Scotland, since 1950, has been a Robins tradition since 1987.



Top, The Band of the United States Air Force Reserve Pipe Band performs traditional pipe music.

Center, Gov. Sonny Perdue and Maj. Gen. Tom Owen place a wreath to honor fallen heroes.

Bottom, Hiram E. Little, an original Tuskegee Airman, meets with Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, WR-ALC commander, during an office visit Wednesday. Mr. Little was recognized as a distinguished visitor for his service during the Tattoo ceremony.

2B ■ The Robins Rev-Up ■ March 23, 2007

TODAY

An Air Force chess tournament is scheduled for Saturday starting at 10 a.m. in the community center. Players need to register by today. To learn more call the community center at 926-2105.

An after work super cool party, with complimentary snacks, food and entertainment will be held every Friday after First Friday starting at 5 p.m. at the officers' club. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

SUNDAY

Sunday champagne brunch is open to all ranks and grades from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Robins Officers' Club. Enjoy all-you-care-to-eat breakfast, dinner entrees, carving station, salad bar, dessert and ice cream bar and much more. Cost is \$12.95 adults, \$6.95 children (3 to 10 years old) and children 3 years and younger are free. Members receive a \$2 Members First discount. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

Texas Hold 'Em will be held every Sunday with sign up at 1:30 p.m. and games at 2 p.m. Texas Hold 'Em is open to all ranks and grades. Prizes include the following: first place \$85 gift card, second place \$55 gift card, third place \$35 gift card and fourth place \$25 gift card. The entertainment fee is \$10 for club members and \$15 for nonmembers and includes snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-7625.

MONDAY

Step Up to the Plate scratch and win game will continue through March 31 at lunch time at the Robins Officers' Club. Club members who eat lunch at the club will receive a scratch-off card for a chance to win prizes such as a 26-inch flat screen television, two months free dues, next lunch on us, extra \$1 off next visit a coffee mug or water bottle. Lunch is open to all ranks and grades Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more details call the officers' club at 926-2670.

Triple S Mondays with soup, salad and sandwiches has arrived at the officers' club from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$5.95. Enjoy made to order sandwiches or a full course salad bar with a variety of rotating gourmet soups. New special: soup and half sandwich combo only \$5.25. Lunch is open to all ranks and grades.

TUESDAY

Enjoy dining at the Robins Officers' Club every Tuesday through Thursday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and every Friday and Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m. Dinner is open to all ranks and grades. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

Free tacos and draft specials are available to club members Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Robins Enlisted Club.

All retirees get a free fountain drink or iced tea with a \$4 minimum purchase when they show their retiree I.D. card on Tuesdays in April. For more information call Pizza Depot at 926-0188.

WEDNESDAY

All retirees get a free fountain drink with a \$5 minimum purchase when they show their retiree I.D. card on Wednesdays in March. For more information call Pizza Depot at 926-0188.

Enjoy pizza on Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Robins Officers' Club. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

Enjoy Wednesdays at the enlisted club with M.U.G. night and karaoke with DJ X-Man. Bring your own mug (up to 30 ounces) and get refills for only \$1.50 from 7 p.m. to closing. Cost for entry is \$2 for nonmembers. For more information call 926-7625.

UPCOMING

A spring break kids' crafts class will be held April 4 and 5 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 2 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 for each session and includes all supplies. Register by April 2. For more information call the arts and crafts center at 926-5282.

A Give Parents a Break and Hourly Care will be held April 6 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at the Child Development Center East and School Age Program (unless otherwise posted). Advance sign-up is required. An advance \$6 nonrefundable deposit is required by the prior Monday for hourly care. Cost is \$3 per child per hour for children six weeks to 12 years old. New enrollees must have up-to-date shot records for their children and required forms prior to making reservations. For more information call the child development center at 926-5805.

A combat cross country race is slated for April 13 at 2 p.m. with men's and women's divisions. Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers and top four-per-

Hit the ground running

U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Jamie Wilkins runs the indoor track at the fitness center. The fitness center is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturdays 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and federal holidays 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 926-2128.



son unit teams. Register by April 11 at noon. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

A sexual assault prevention walk will be held April 20 starting at 11 a.m. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

The Artist Craftsman and Photography gallery program will be held May 14 through 18. For more information call the Arts & Crafts Center at 926-5282.

A yard sale will be held April 14 from 8 a.m. to noon in front of the enlisted club. Set up starts at 7:15 a.m. Cost is \$7 per table (limit 3 per person). This is a first come first served basis for the tables. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

A membership appreciation barbecue will be held April 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Robins Aero Club. For more information call the aero club at 926-4867.

A Big bingo "April Showers" will be played April 17 and a membership bar bingo will be held April 25.

A special Easter Sunday bingo will be played April 8 with giveaways and snacks. 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 begin 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.

An Easter Sunday brunch will be held April 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the officers' club dining room. Cost is \$14.95 for adults, \$6.95 for children (three to 10 years old) and free to children two years and younger and is open to all ranks and grade. Club members receive a \$2 discount by showing their club card. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

Take part in paintball fun with Outdoor Adventure at On Target Paintball May 18 from 4 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$28 per person and includes a wooded area for daylight shooting, and a life field for night speed ball. Paintball equipment will be available for use as well as an air conditioned room for breaks. Meet at On Target Paintball at 3:45 p.m. Persons 18 years old and older are permitted to play. Persons 10 to 17 years old may come with an adult over 18 years of age. Participants may also purchase additional paintballs for \$45 a case (2,000) or \$15 a box (500). A minimum of 15 people are required to participate. Register at outdoor recreation, Bldg. 914 by May 11. For more information call outdoor recreation at 926-4001.

Join outdoor recreation on a trip to Rock City, Lookout Mountain, Ga. May 26. Meet at outdoor recreation at 9 a.m. for departure at 9:30 a.m. Bus will return at 8 p.m. Cost is \$40 per adult, \$35 per child (ages three through 12 year olds) and \$140 for family of four (two adults and two children). Package includes self guided rock tour, swing-a-long bridge, lover's leap, fairyland caverns, Mother Goose Village, 90-foot water fall, various gift shops and eateries throughout the trail and ride to and from Rock City Gardens. Deadline to sign up is May 18. A minimum of 12 people are required for outdoor recreation to host the trip. For more information, call 926-4001.

ONGOING

Members come out to the officers' club during your birthday month and receive a \$25 coupon to redeem toward your meal. Pick up coupon at cashier office. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

Visit the arts & crafts center and fill out a survey during the "Luck of the Irish" drawings in March. The drawings will be held April 3 and participants need not be present to win. The drawing is open to all active duty, reserve and retired military and family members and DOD civilians assigned to Robins. For full prize and drawing details call 926-5282.

The Airmen Against Drunk Driving program provides rides free of charge to all Robins Department of Defense card holders. Coverage is from Perry to Macon. For a free, anonymous ride, call 222-0013.

Fly any time on Tuesdays in March and receive a discounted rate. For more information call the aero club at 926-4867.

Robins Youth Center soccer registration for ages five to 17 years old will continue until full. Cost for returning players is \$30. Any new players cost is \$55. Registration is conducted Monday through Friday 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information call the youth center at 926-2110.

Robins Youth Center baseball, softball and T-ball registration will continue until full for ages five to 17 years old. Cost 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 Ron Hayes at 926-2110.

Several new tempting and value-added selections are available for the evening dining at the officers' club. On Tuesdays kids, 10 and younger, eat free from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. with a paid adult entrée. On Wednesday prime rib is offered from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. for \$11.95 and Thursday butcher's choice is featured from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Eat steak, lobster, lamb, shrimp shish kabob's and many more choice cuts that will be wonderfully displayed on ice to select (item prices will be determined by market). On Friday and Saturdays enjoy an a la carte menu with rotating dinner specials from 6 to 9 p.m. Dinner is open to all ranks and grades. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

A no-cost reading motivation program "Read By Mail" is going on through April. Kids grades K - 8th create their own book list of over 15, 000 recommended titles, read the books and their mentor signs their record of books. This is a fun way to earn points and incentives. Local incentives per pages read include the following: 150 pages - \$2 discount on children's tickets at Six Flags & Wild Adventures through ITT; 200 pages - free small one-topping pizza with a minimum \$5 order at Pizza Depot; 250 pages - 50 percent discount on all youth instructional programs at the arts & crafts center; 500 pages - three free games of bowling and shoe rental at Robins Lanes Bowling Center and 750 pages - 25 percent discount on one-day rentals of inflatable party equipment at outdoor recreation equipment rental. Look for the published list of books and a special display area of these books at the Base Library. To register for Read By Mail log on to www.bookadventure.com and complete the required fields. For teachers name field enter Hinds for all grades and for name of school field enter robinsyouth. For more information call the youth center at 926-2110.

The Officers' Club barber shop is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and closed for lunch from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. All ages, ranks and

grades are welcome. For more information, call 918-0775.

The Enlisted Club barber shop is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All ages, ranks and grades are welcome. For more information call 923-9593.

Information, Tickets and Travel Robins Enlisted Club, Bldg. 956 has the following tickets for sale. For more information on these or other events, call 926-2945.

► **The Al-Sihah Shrine 67th Circus** will be held May 5 and 6 at the Macon Coliseum. Advanced tickets sales are available at Information, Tickets and Travel; \$12 adults and \$6 children (3 to 12 years). Show times are May 5 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. and May 6 at 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. ► Tickets are available for the Georgia Renaissance Festival to be held April 14 through June 3. Enter the gates of a magnificent 15th century kingdom where you will find the king and his court, castles and cottages, cheery pubs and over 150 elaborately adorned shops offering an array of unique treasures. Cost is \$13.50 for adults and \$6 for children 6 to 12 years old.

► **The bowling center** has the following specials. To learn more call 926-2112. ► The 7th annual World Wide Bowling program will be held through April 14. Bowl Monday through Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 6 p.m. Open to all youths five to 18 years old. Cost is \$5 for three games. All games are scratch. ► All retirees receive a complimentary game when they show their retiree I.D. card along with coupon located on page 17 of the April Edge on Tuesdays in April. ► On Spot Café March special is a Philly cheese steak, fries and medium drink for \$5.50. For more information call the On Spot Cafe at 926-5240.

► Reserve your lanes in advance for office parties, wingman days or fundraisers. Cost is \$5 per person and includes three games and shoes. ► A free bowling clinic will be held for youth bowlers April 14 at 3 p.m. Limited space is available for the following age categories: 4 - 7 years, 8 - 13 years and 14 - 21 years. Register by April 11. ► Show us your library book from April 15 - 21 and receive a complimentary game during National Library Week. ► Enjoy Thunder Alley glow-in-the-dark bowling Fridays from 9 to 11 p.m.; cost 12 years and younger, \$5 and 13 years and older, \$10 and Saturdays from 9 to 11 p.m.; cost is \$10 for everyone.

► **Pine Oaks Golf Course** has the following specials. To learn more, call 926-4103. ► Every Monday through Thursday in March pay \$15 for green fee and cart starting at 2 p.m. ► Play golf after 2 p.m. on weekends in March and pay only \$20 for green fee and cart. ► Hit all the range balls you can from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays for only \$5 in March. ► A Link Up 2 Golf orientation class will be held April 5 at 5:30 p.m. at Pine Oaks Golf Course with classes starting April 10. Link Up 2 Golf offers participants over \$300 in savings for \$109 per person. Class 1 will be held April 10, 17, 24 and May 1 and 8 at 5:30 p.m. and Class II April 12, 19, 26 and May 2 and 10 at 5:30 p.m. Sign up at the pro shop.

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

For Services information any time call 222-4636.

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

BREACH

Chris Cooper
Ryan Phillippe

Eric O'Neill is promoted to a job inside FBI headquarters working for respected agent Robert Hanssen. Then O'Neill learns his true mission: finding proof that Hanssen has been selling American secrets to the Soviet Union for years. (violence, sexual content and language) Rated PG-13. 110 minutes.

SATURDAY

LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA

Ken Watanabe
Kazumari Ninomiya

The story of the battle of Iwo Jima between the United States and Japan during World War II, as told from the perspective of two good friends serving the Japanese forces, who watch helplessly throughout various battles as their comrades are killed. (graphic war violence) Rated R. 141 minutes.

UPCOMING

TYLER PERRY'S DADDY'S LITTLE GIRLS

Gabrielle Union
Idris Elba

A single father, Monty, is a garage mechanic who lives in a poor neighborhood and struggles to make ends meet as he raises his three young daughters on his own. But when the courts award custody of his daughters to his corrupt, drug-dealing ex-wife, Monty desperately tries to win them back, enlisting the help of Julia, a beautiful—and hard-nosed—attorney he meets during his short stint as a chauffeur. (thematic material, drug and sexual content, some violence and language) Rated PG-13. 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 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 (Jum'ah) 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

The traditional service meets Sunday in the Chapel at 11 a.m. featuring hymns, anthems, congregational prayers and readings. Contemporary service meets at 11 a.m. in the Base Theater, singing the latest praise and worship music. The gospel service meets at 8 a.m. at the Chapel, praising God with inspirational music. Religious education meets in Building 905 at 9:30 a.m.

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, winners should send information to Lanoris Askew at: lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks.

NASCAR visits Robins

By George F. Jozens
george.jozens@robins.af.mil

Team Robins was visited by an elite Air Force team March 15; the Air Force sponsored Wood Brothers Racing Nextel Cup No. 21 pit crew.

The race team, usually with a show car and occasionally the driver, visit several different Air Force bases and local events near NASCAR races supporting Air Force recruiting and retention efforts.

"This year we are going to have eight races with the Air Force sponsorship and paint scheme," said Master Sgt. Rupert Brown, Air Force Recruiting Service motor sports events manager. "Jon Wood will drive all of those races."

Although the driver is in high demand, the pit crew doesn't get requested for too many appearances.

"We (pit crew) don't get to go to too many events," said Mike Moore, Woods Brothers jack man. "Normally we only get to visit places in the Detroit area."

The team's visit to Robins was culminated by a pit crew competition between the various organizations, sorted by rank. Although Team Robins had some fast pit stops, the cream of the crop was the professionals of the Air Force No. 21's crew led by Gary Smith, team pit crew coach. They did a two tire change in 5.82 seconds.

"We are pitting the varsity against the junior varsity guys doing right side pit stops," said Mr. Smith "We got here a little early this morning and spent some time showing the guys how to change tires, index some tires and jack the car. We are showing the Air Force, who is very big on team work, our side of team work, have some fun, (let them) learn what we do and learn what they do."

There were nine teams from the base competing in its first pit crew competition.

"This is a real race car, it ran last fall at Homestead

(Fl.)," said Eddie Wood, team co-owner and Jon's father. "We brought the whole pit crew just like when they go over the wall at the race, all seven men. My guys really enjoy doing this."

The 19th Air Refueling Group really enjoyed the competition too.

The 19th ARG had both winning teams in the varsity and the junior varsity.

Then the two division winners competed against each other with the NASCAR driver, Jon Wood, driving the car in for the right-side pit stop during the championship round.

The 19th ARG junior varsity team beat out their seniors by just .24 of a second with a winning time of 15.39, earning them an autographed Air Force racing team helmet.

The idea came from one of our people visiting another base.

"I was at Randolph (Air Force Base, Texas) writing the performance fitness exam, during lunch time I saw some commotion on the flightline," said Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Hamilton, 19th ARG superintendent "When I went down there I saw a NASCAR race car and a bunch of teams of people in their own colored T-shirts. In their own colored T-shirts. When I started talking to people I found out one of the people was the base commander, another was the command chief and so on. Every one was having a great time, a lot of camaraderie. I've tried since then to conduct the pit crew challenge here. It almost happened last year and we couldn't quite pull it together. This year I locked in with (Air Force) Recruiting Service and we made it happen."

As with every NASCAR victory, the driver had to finish with a burn out. This time Jon Wood got to do something he usually isn't allowed to do.

"It's awesome, I usually don't get to smoke the tires until one blows," he said. "It's great getting to come to Robins."

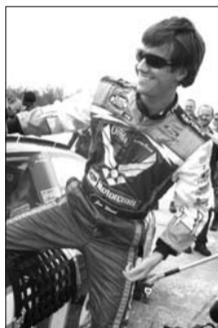


U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Above top, Tech. Sgt. Barry Stone, 19th ARG JV team, lifts the right front tire out of the way so it can be replaced. The 19th JV team won the competition.

Above, The pit crew for the No. 21 Air Force car shows everyone how it's done.

At right, Jon Wood, driver, climbs out of the No. 21 Air Force car, March 15 during the pit crew competition.



Falcons edge DePaul, 52-51



U.S. Air Force photo by JOEL STRAYER
 Falcon forward Dan Nwaelele eyes a path past DePaul's Sammy Mejia Wednesday at Clune Arena. Nwaelele scored 10 points in Air Force's 52-51 win and a berth in the NIT semifinals in New York's Madison Square Garden Tuesday against Clemson.

Air Force handily won its first two games in the National Invitation Tournament, but had to survive a nail biter to advance to the semifinals.

The Air Force Falcons' Jacob Burtschi scored 13 points, including the winning basket with 7.7 seconds left to send Air Force to the National Invitation Tournament semifinals with a 52-51 win over DePaul Wednesday.

The Falcons (26-8), will play South Region top seed Clemson in the semifinals Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden.

For the complete story, visit the academy sports Web site at www.goairforcefalcons.com.

— courtesy Air Force Print News Service

INTRAMURAL GOLF

Letters of intent for intramural golf are ready for pick up at the Fitness Center. The deadline to enter a team is March 30.

Team Robins members give back as mentors

By AMANDA CREEL

amanda.creel.ct@robins.af.mil

If you ran into Senior Airman Elizabeth Campos and Cheyanne Schley, you might assume the duet was sisters or cousins.

The twosome is actually a product of the Bonaire Middle School Mentoring Program, where students are paired with a member of the local community.

Both confessed they were a little anxious about their first encounter, but agreed they are destined for a lifelong friendship.

"I kept asking my teacher when am I going to meet her," said Cheyanne, an eighth grader. "The first day I meet her, we had so much in common."

The pair had so much in common they lost track of time and Cheyanne missed her lunch break.

The program tries to match the student with a mentor who shares common interests or has a common background. Airman Campos and Cheyanne have all sorts of things in common including their Mexican heritage, their love of food and the gift of gab.

"They (mentors) help you out a lot. It's just like having a big sister," Cheyanne said.

Now, when the girls are together they can be found with a twinkle in their eyes and matching grins as they chat about weekend plans.

"I wanted to do volunteer work, but I didn't want to do something that was empty. I wanted to do something that would make an impact," said Airman Campos with the 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Cheyenne and Airman Campos agreed one of their favorite things to do together is trying something new.

"I had never eaten other types of food before. I had only eaten American and Mexican," Cheyanne said.

When the pair isn't trying new foods or beverages, they are baking cookies or other goodies.

One of the biggest firsts for the duet will happen in a few weeks when Airman Campos takes Cheyanne on a special trip for her 14th birthday.

"She's going to take me to Savannah, the week before my birthday. I have never been to the beach before," said Cheyanne, who could hardly contain her excitement about the upcoming trip.

As part of the program, Airman Campos committed to



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Bonaire Middle School eighth grader, Cheyanne Schley, talks in the school hallway with her mentor Senior Airman Elizabeth Campos.

spend 30 minutes a week with Cheyanne, but the pair can be found together almost every weekend and every Wednesday night attending church or hanging out at Airman Campos' for some girls only time.

One of the successes of the program is the mentors and their students relationships are continuing beyond the school grounds on nights and weekends said Terry Manning, a member of the mentoring program staff.

Cheyenne's smile dipped when her mentor's move home to Texas came up.

But, their goodbye will not be forever, said Airman Campos, because Cheyanne has family in Texas and she plans to visit Airman Campos while she's there this summer.

"I told her she is stuck with me forever and I meant it," Airman Campos said.

One of the things the program provides to mentors is training to prepare to say goodbye in a healthy way, Mrs. Manning said.

"Since we are dealing with military, we know how important closure is and how important it is to end the relationship the right way," Mrs. Manning said.

The program, which began in October of 2006, allows the students to find a role model within their local community and 47 of those role models are Team Robins members.

"I think it is a great link with our military community," said Lynne Plumb, part of the mentoring program staff.

The program provides the mentors with training to help enable them to be successful. The program teaches about the characteristics of sixth, seventh and eighth grade students such as the great differences in development from one student to the next and their need for peer approval, Mrs. Manning said.

The training also covers the three stages of mentoring beginning with stage 1, developing rapport and building trust; stage 2, reaching goals and affirming the relationship; and stage 3, closure, Mrs. Manning said.

The school turned to Robins for help after searching other venues in the community with little success.

"No one else responded the way the base did," Mrs. Plumb said. "I give huge kudos to the military for coming out the way they did."

Robins was able to fill the mentor program's need for minority and male mentors, Mrs. Plumb said.

"I am thrilled about the military involvement. There is no better role model than a man or woman in uniform," Mrs. Manning said.

WHAT TO KNOW

For more information about the program or to volunteer as a mentor at Bonaire Middle School contact Terry Manning at tmanning@hcbe.net or Lynne Plumb at lplumb@hcbe.net.

Robins Fitness Center earns award for putting health first

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
hollybirchfield@robins.af.mil

Keeping Robins' people healthy is keeping the Fitness Center staff on the go.

With about 453,000 active-duty military, military retirees, reservists, Department of Defense civilians and their family members getting fit at the Fitness Center and Fitness Annex combined so far this fiscal year, the center's 19-person staff is staying pretty busy to keep up with the demand.

John Enterman, Fitness Center director, said the center's main facility, which was built in April 2001, and the Fitness Center Annex, its newest addition built in Bay H of Building 301 East Wing in August 2006, gives customers what they need to meet fitness goals.

"We offer a full range of fitness equipment," he said. "We offer cardio equipment, some strength equipment, stretching equipment and free weights. We also have a full range of fitness classes."

The fitness facility is currently offering 41 classes, including aerobics, water aerobics, spin and circuit training classes each week.

In addition, the center offered 51 special events as part of its fitness program.

The fitness center director said recent budget cuts have made the job of holding high fitness standards a challenge.

The staff has kept its tools for mission success in good repair through ongoing maintenance and upkeep of equipment," Mr. Enterman said.

Mr. Enterman said his staff knows that its mission is important.

"It's important mainly for the readiness of our military," he said. "That's our number one goal; to keep our military fit to fight and to have proper facilities



The Robins Fitness Center has been named a 5-Star program by Air Force Services Agency officials. U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

and programs so that they're ready whenever they're called to deploy. We also have a big focus on our civilians as well."

The fitness center director said with the creation of the Civilian Fitness Program and the increase in health assessments conducted by the Health and Wellness Center and the Civilian Health Promotion Service, the center discovered a 50 percent obesity rate among the civilian work force here and learned that about 50 percent of Robins civilians were in advanced hypertension.

Mr. Enterman said the alarming statistics pushed the center to create the Fitness Annex, making room for those trying to reduce their numbers.

And the exercise hot spot is continuing to give people incentives to lose weight, with its Presidential Fitness Challenge programs, which kicked off March 16.

For those who are athletically inclined, Kenneth Porter, Sports Program director at Robins, has nine sports for competitors to

choose from.

Mr. Porter, who has been over the program since 1993, said despite a high number of deployments, the center's programs have drawn more than 1,000 participants this fiscal year alone.

"I think it's one of the better seasons that we've had from start to finish," he said. "Our team numbers are down a little bit because of deployments. But, I think we have more involvement with our civilians and family members now."

The sports program director said he hopes to add tennis to the intramural sports program's bill in the near future.

All of the Fitness Center's hard work has paid off. The center was recently named as one of 30 Air Force bases distinguished as Five Star for 2006 by Air Force Services Agency officials in San Antonio, Texas, recognizing their high quality of service and trust.

The Five Star programs provide annual recognition, acknowledging bases that have

reached the highest standard of achievement in all areas of program management. The comprehensive program recognizes excellence in five areas of operations, programs, training, facilities and customer service.

The Fitness Center is no stranger to the award.

"It's a wonderful award to be presented for the last five years," Mr. Porter said. "It's the dedication of the staff that makes it all possible."

Mr. Enterman agreed. "We're quite proud of that," he said. "We're one of only two facilities in the Air Force that have gotten the Five-Star award the past five years in a row."

WHAT TO KNOW

The Fitness Center's main facility is open 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Friday. The facility is open Saturdays, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Fitness Center Annex is open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Airman and Family Readiness Center offers classes, workshops

Airman and Family Readiness Center sponsored classes, workshops and seminars are open to all Team Robins personnel and their eligible family members.

Absences from duty sections to attend these offerings are the responsibility of the employee to coordinate with his or her supervisor. Because room assignments are subject to change, specific room numbers will be confirmed at the time of registration.

A&FRC is located in Bldg. 794, across the street just before the enlisted club. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information or to make a reservation, call 926-1256.

Sponsorship training

The A&FRC will offer training for both beginner and experienced sponsors Tuesday, 9 to 10 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m., Bldg. 794.

The training provides information on what types of information to send to the moving member and where to obtain it; different ways to communicate with the inbound member; and finally sponsors are given vital information regarding his or her responsibilities to the newly assigned member and their family, if applicable.

Financial workshop

The Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Middle Georgia, a non-profit organiza-

tion funded by the United Way, will conduct a free "Money and Credit Management" workshop Thursday, 1 to 4 p.m., Bldg. 794.

A workbook is provided to all attendees. Information on credit management, debt reduction and consumer rights will be presented at this workshop. Assistance will be provided in the development of spending and savings plans so that financial goals may be realized. This workshop is open to all Team Robins members.

Heart Link seminar

A Heart Link seminar will be conducted April 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bldg. 794.

The overall purpose and objective of Heart Link is to increase retention of members in the Air Force by increasing spouse awareness of the Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocol, support resources and services available to them.

Heart Link is designed to help people who have been military spouses five years or less feel they are a critical part of the Air Force team and help their families be physically, emotionally, and spiritually healthier. The program is sponsored by the base Community Action Information Board and the Integrated Delivery System team. For information contact Roslyn Battle at 926-1256.

THINK LEAN

► IN BRIEF

FORMAL TRAINING CALL

Robins Education and Training Services is accepting Air Force civilian employee nominations for Squadron Officer's School and the Air and Space Basic Course for the 2008 academic year in-residence programs. SOS applicants must be GS 9-12, National Security Personnel System Y2 (except YB2), or equivalent, with a bachelor's degree and at least four years continuous civilian service by the beginning of fiscal 2008. ASBC applicants must be a PALACE Acquire, COPPER CAP, or Base Level intern with a bachelor's degree and at least six months of service by the beginning of fiscal 2008. Secret clearance is desired but not mandatory for both programs. Procedures, nomination form (AF 4059) and physical requirements can be found at: <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil>. Submit packages to beverly.lawson.ctr@robins.af.mil by noon April 27. For more information Call Beverly Lawson at 327-7316.

ASMC 5K FUN RUN/WALK

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will host a fun walk and run Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Base Fitness Center. Contact Amy Galeazzo at 222-0381 for more information.

AFGE UNIT EMPLOYEES UNION DUES

American Federation of Government Employees Employees desiring to initiate an authorization for dues withholding may obtain a Standard Form 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 Form SF 188s from the Civilian Pay Section or the Labor Relations Office. Discontinuance of dues withholding will be effective as follows:

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

For an employee who started dues withholding on or after Jan. 11, 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. Standard Forms 1188 may be obtained from the Labor Relations Office. The Labor Relations Office is located in Bldg. 255, 1st Floor. The Civilian Payroll Liaison Office is located in Bldg. 301, East Wing, Bay F. A Standard Form 1188 may be requested either in person or by telephone by calling 926-

7781 or 926-6229.

AFCOMAP AND BBBS GOLF TOURNAMENT

A joint golf tournament between the Air Force Cadet Mentoring Action Program Middle Georgia and Big Brothers, Big Sisters Middle Georgia will be held April 27 at Pine Oaks Golf Course. Lunch and registration will be at 11 a.m. with play beginning at noon. The cost is \$45 per person and includes 18 holes, lunch and beverages. For more information call 2nd Lt. Nicole Rogers at 222-4249, Joseph Dolce at 222-3636 or Chris Grover at 222-0827.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

The Education and Training Office is sponsoring a call for nominations for its local Long-Term, Full-Time Academic Degree Program which funds tuition, books and lab fees for accredited courses leading to a masters degree or completion of the final year of undergraduate requirements.

The program is limited to Air Force Materiel Command civilians physically assigned to Robins. There are no grade or position restrictions. Deadline for submission is April 23. Nomination instructions can be obtained from unit training monitors or from the Robins home page. Go to <https://wwwmil.robins.af.mil/>. Under MAIN, click Education and Training, then Robins Education Office. Scroll to downloads at bottom of page and click on 2007 LTFT package.

Those selected for the program will be released from duty to attend classes full time for up to 12 consecutive months beginning with the fall session in August 2007. The degree must be applicable to the individual's career field. Funding will not be provided for doctorate, second masters, second undergraduate or associate degrees.

For more information and eligibility requirements call your unit training monitor.