

THE ROBINS REV-UP

April 6, 2007 Vol. 52 No. 14

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

THE MACH READ



Easter celebration, B1

Pass and Registration changes

Effective Monday, all 78th Security Forces Pass & Registration services will be processed exclusively in the Visitor's Control Center, Bldg. 219, with the exception of Restricted Area Badges. Bldg. 219 is adjacent to the Watson Boulevard installation gate. Until technical issues are resolved, the issuance or turn in of restricted area badges will remain in Bldg. 263 by appointment only Monday & Wednesday 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and Tuesday & Thursday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Contact Pass & Registration at 222-1972 or 222-1998 to set up an appointment for all restricted area badge issues. Additionally, the hours of operation for Pass & Registration in Bldg. 219 have been extended from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Handicap Parking

Repainting of handicap parking spaces at Robins will begin Thursday, with the administration area between First Street South and Peacekeeper Way. For more information, contact Tiffany Evans, a civil engineer in the 778th Civil Engineer Squadron, at 327-2927.

Easter Service

The Chapel will have a Protestant Good Friday Service today at 4:30 p.m. in the Chapel sanctuary and a sunrise service at the Chapel Sunday, beginning at 6 a.m. followed by an Easter sunrise breakfast. Both events are open to all who wish to attend. 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, 4-year-old program in the 2007-08 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.

'Silent warriors' return to Robins

Forty-three members of the 78th SFS rejoined Team Robins following deployment

By GEORGE F. JOZENS
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After taking several military aircraft through several different countries, 43 "silent warriors" from the 78th Security Forces finally made it home to Robins after a long charter bus ride from Baltimore Washington International Airport, Md.

"Coming home — it was unbelievable," said Capt. Eric Horst, team leader. "We went back on a rotator aircraft into Germany where the plane broke. After some unique challenges, we got a flight out of there and into Baltimore, but unfortunately, because of the Final Four basketball tournament, we couldn't get a flight (into Atlanta)."

Captain Horst credits "some quick thinking folks back here at Robins," whose plan got them home.

"We did some creative load planning with all of our bags and we got back here after a 13 or 14 hour bus ride," he said.

The bus ride ended behind the security forces building where nearly 100 friends, family and Robins leaders waited anxiously to see them.

"The team has been deployed a little over six months, since September of last year," said Maj. Gregory Anderson, 78th Security Forces Squadron. "They're all back safe and sound. They did wonderful work over there and we are excited about getting them back (home)."

The wives and children waited with hand painted signs and glittery hair.

"All prayers were answered and everybody is coming home," said Tawny White, wife of Senior Airman Craig White. "The support from the 78th Security Forces has been awesome. It was unbelievable how much they (Key Spouse program) had gone through and did for us."

The security force teams were at Sather Air Base, Iraq,



U.S. Air Force photos by AMANDA CREEL

Above, Beunca Smith embraces her husband, Staff Sgt. Jeffery Smith, when he returned to Robins from a deployment to Sather Air Base in Iraq.

Right, Senior Airman Craig White greets his daughter Alexis, 3.



and performed many different missions in the war on terror.

"We secured the military side of the base, liaised with Army units for force protection, liaised with a contract security unit that takes care of the (Bagdad) airport and provided a very diverse mission," said Captain Horst. "We provided flightline security for coalition aircraft. I truly mean coalition; we had Iraqi aircraft transitioning in and out, Polish, British, Korean, and Japanese and none of these were permanently stationed at the base, making us twice as busy. We were the airlift hub and the personnel moving hub for all of Iraq."

The mission in Iraq also involved working

beside coalition forces.

"I worked the gate and sometimes patrolled the flightline," said Senior Airman Tremource Malone, deployed security forces member. "I jointly worked with the Iraqis on a gate called Echo 4. They loved us over there."

The returning Airmen will now get to enjoy their friends and families for a couple of weeks before being rotated back into their normal jobs.

Robins pilot proposes over Iraqi airspace

By TECH. SGT. KEVIN WILLIAMS
506th Air Expeditionary Group

Stuck in a holding pattern over Iraq, a flight engineer in an E-8C Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System aircraft from Robins Air Force Base, Ga., had a chance to ask his girlfriend a very important question Feb. 28.

With his heart pounding and his crew listening in, Staff Sgt. Ed Chorney, 16th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, dropped to one knee.

In the tower at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq, Staff Sgt. Sarah Radel, 506th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, thought this would just be a chance to catch up with her boyfriend who was passing through Iraqi airspace. She had no idea what he was about to do.

"Hey there, beautiful. I have a



U.S. Air Force photo illustration

Staff Sgt. Ed Chorney, 16th Airborne Command and Control Squadron flight engineer, popped the question to Staff Sgt. Sarah Radel, 506th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, while his aircraft was in a holding pattern over Iraq.

question for you," he said. "I was going to wait until our impending trip ... just imagine me down on one knee ... Will you marry me?"

With her coworkers gathered

around and listening in on the loud speaker, she said, "Yes."

"I didn't want to embarrass you, but I figured it would be a good opportunity to ask," he said.

State, WRALC join forces to bring prosperity to base, Georgia

By AMANDA CREEL
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Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue joined Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, March 20, to announce the first joint venture between an air logistics center and its state government.

"This historic agreement represents the State of Georgia's first formal research and development partnership with the United States Air Force," Governor Perdue said. "We are excited about the opportunity to provide the Air Force easier access to the innovative technologies being developed by research universities and companies right here in Georgia."

Robins has joined with the state of Georgia to provide Georgia businesses the opportunity to win U.S. Air Force contracts through a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement.

► see CRADA, 11A

NorthStar Survey: Results aiding base in creation of new, more focused plan

By AMANDA CREEL
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Members of the Robins community who were surveyed as part of the 2006 Air Force Community Assessment might have noticed the addition of some new questions.

These questions, which focused on secretive behaviors, were part of the NorthStar Survey, which Robins volunteered to participate in to better serve the Robins community.

"The extra questions focused on secretive behaviors. Things that are not good for them, but that they are not likely to tell someone they are doing such as illicit drug use, alcoholism or spousal abuse," said Linda Towry, Integrated Delivery System chair.

The questions in the NorthStar survey targeted areas of concern including community members with suicidal tendencies, alcohol problems, illicit drug use or prescription drug misuse and family maltreatment such as partner or child physical or emotional abuse.

"The NorthStar initiative is designed to get at some information that is not normally targeted," said Maj. David Estep, behavioral health flight commander. "It is not a sneaky way of asking the questions it is just a more effective way."

Robins was one of 25 bases that volunteered to participate in the NorthStar Survey; participation allowed a more accurate understanding of the community when it

► see NORTHSTAR, 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 OCS/DSW

TODAY 74/57 SATURDAY 76/53 SUNDAY 78/55

NORTHSTAR

Continued from 1A

comes to secretive behaviors such as domestic violence, suicidal thoughts and alcohol abuse.

“Robins elected to participate in the NorthStar survey because it provides better

information and some evidence-based proven strategies,” Major Estep said.

The information, which is all provided anonymously, doesn’t signal out people, it signals out problems, Major Estep said.

“The survey gets at Robins culture and helps us find ways to solve problems that affect Robins culture,” Major Estep said. “It gives us ways to reduce the stresses and pressures that cause people to participate in these secretive behaviors.”

Now that the results are in, members of the IDS, a committee responsible for coordinating the entire prevention program on base such as child abuse, obesity, underage drinking and suicide prevention, are using the results to help focus the Robins Community Action Plan on some of the areas identified as problem areas.

Robins will now be able to address problems that exist in the Robins community that have not been addressed before because Robins had no way to identify the problems, Ms. Towry said.

Two problem areas identified by the NorthStar Survey were interpersonal relationships and alcohol consumption.

“Anything found through the NorthStar survey is new because we haven’t measured these things before,” Ms.

Towry said.

The community action plan is expected to focus on three desired results as answers to problems identified by the community assessment and the NorthStar survey.

The first area the plan is expected to address is the Air Force spouses’ ability to cope effectively with deployment by

continuing existing programs such as spouse’s game night, video and telephone morale calls and the Key

Spouse program, which provides a link between deployed spouses and unit leadership and support agencies available.

The second area is to help establish and inform members of the community about what is available through base support agencies.

Ms. Towry said based on the results of the survey, members of the Robins community don’t feel they have the support of their commanders and base agencies.

“Our goal is for them not to only feel they have support, but to know they are being provided support,” she said.

The third focus area is a result of the NorthStar survey and its goal is to mitigate secretive behaviors. The two objectives are for members of the Robins community to engage in healthy interpersonal relationships with the intention to minimize emotional abuse within those relationships and for community members who consume alcohol to do so responsibly.

The Community assessment survey and the Community action plan are a biannual effort and the new community action plan is expected to be completed by July when it will be sent to the Robins Community Action Board for approval.

“The survey gets at Robins culture and helps us find ways to solve problems that affect Robins culture.”

Maj. David Estep

78th Medical Operations Squadron commander, behavioral health flight

Commander’s Call



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Col. Theresa Carter, 78th ABW commander, hosted her third commander’s call since taking command, addressing a list of topics with a full house in attendance at the Base Theater.

The installation commander spoke briefly about the Air Force’s 60th birthday, the effects felt from budget cuts, the rising DUI and underage drinking problem locally. Additionally, Colonel Carter emphasized the importance of taking care of Airmen, both military and civilian, taking pride in being part of the 78th ABW and the bringing back of Roll Call. Colonel Carter also discussed strategic alignment, the Voluntary Protection Program, as well as personal risk management.

78th ABW employees were reminded of upcoming events such as the wing’s formal Dining In June 22, as well as on-going events like the Team Lean Challenge, an Air Force Materiel Command-wide weight-loss initiative.

Base pedestrians encouraged to use crosswalks

By BRIG. GEN. BRAD HEITHOLD
WR-ALC Vice Commander

The other day I was driving along one of our roads on base, thinking about the culture change we are trying to achieve through the Voluntary Protection Program. You know a culture where everyone takes responsibility for not only their own safety, but also that of their peers. Suddenly I hit the brakes as a pedestrian began crossing the road.

No, it wasn’t a near-accident, but I didn’t expect to brake for someone at all. There was no crosswalk there, though there was one a mere twenty

steps away. In an instant I went from being glad I saw the pedestrian in time, to wondering why anyone would risk life or limb crossing the road away from a designated crosswalk.

I chair the V P P steering group, which is working hard to change the culture of Robins to create a safer and healthier environment. A few years ago we had serious accidents, and we lost good people when they were injured or even killed. We took responsibility for our peo-



Brig. Gen. Brad Heithold, vice commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center

ple’s safety and launched an aggressive effort to reduce risk at Robins called Operation Risk Reduction, and found our culture, unlike that of the Air Force, left us vulnerable to industrial accidents. We started to change that culture, and accelerated the change under VPP.

It is obvious to me that the same culture that left us vulnerable to industrial accidents leaves pedestrians vulnerable to traffic accidents when they fail to use crosswalks. You don’t see that happen on other Air Force installations, and shouldn’t see it here. Automobile drivers might justifi-

ably be confused when they see a pedestrian crossing outside a crosswalk. Drivers know they have to brake for pedestrians in a crosswalk, but what about away from a crosswalk? They may also be confused as to whether a pedestrian actually intends to cross the road. When using a crosswalk, there is no confusion. The driver stops.

We cannot on the one hand claim to be improving our culture in regard to industrial safety, while on the other hand we ignore that culture in regard to pedestrian safety.

Let’s all help change the culture to one that embraces Air Force Core values and see safety as everyone’s responsibility not just the safety professionals’ responsibility.

Child abuse prevention month brings awareness, opportunity to educate parents

By AMANDA CREEL
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National child abuse prevention month is not just about acknowledging it is an issue, but about teaching the community to carry the burden of prevention.

"For years, child abuse professionals have been preaching awareness. What I want is for people to start accepting some personal responsibility and not just to call and notify the responsible authorities such as the police or family services. The professionals alone can't do it," said Linda Towry, family advocacy outreach manager.

She said the old African proverb "It takes a whole village to raise child," illustrates the importance of each community member taking an active role in raising children and preventing children from being abused.

"We (at Life Skills) just want to remind members of our community how important our children are and how much they need our care and guidance," said Mary Hodgkins, family advocacy officer.

Life Skills team members agreed the month is not just about preventing children from being abused, it is also about taking the time to acknowledge parents doing a good job dealing with the stresses of life and still shining in their role as a mother or father.

"We want people to walk up to a good parent and say thank you," Ms. Hodgkins said.

During the observation of child abuse prevention month, there is an Air Force-wide effort to bring attention to Shaken Baby Syndrome, Ms. Towry said.

She said the Air Force focuses much of their parent education program on parents of children under 36 months of age because children in this age group are most likely to die from child abuse according to statistics.

Some of the programs available through the parent education program to help Air Force parents beat the statistics through learning good parenting skills are Dad's 101, a class for first time dads where a dad teaches them to help with both care of the baby and care of the expectant mother before and after the birth of the child; 1-2-3 Magic, a class to help parents effectively discipline; and a social support group, where moms bring their children to play and share experiences and advice with one another, said Sharon Lowe, family advocacy program assistant.

Ms. Lowe said Dad's 101 class was important because males between the ages of 18-35 are most likely to shake a baby according to statistics.

During Dad's 101, fathers learn how to hold, feed and nurture the new addition to their family, she said.

"We are trying to teach them it's OK to ask for help, information and resources," Ms. Towry said.

Other services available through the new parent support program include home visits by a registered nurse or social worker, free books, CDs, calendars and other materials to help parents plan for the arrival of their new born, infant CPR and safety and Passport to Parenthood and Bundles for Babies.

Center in Huntsville, Ala. The camp is open to eligible youth 12 to 18 years of age.

Applications may be obtained from the Youth and Teen Center and must be completed and returned to Youth Programs by May 1.

Throughout the month, the Robins community will be joining with the local community for events to help raise awareness and help parents and future parents gain valuable parenting skills.

"We are doing it in partnership with the community, the reason being the vast majority of our military families live off-base now and if we are going to reach them, we need to get off base too," Ms. Towry said.

Community events during the observation of child abuse prevention month:

April 14 – Child Safety Day will be held at Wal-Mart on Booth Road from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. During the event, Houston County Safe Kids will be conducting car seat checks, the Warner Robins Fire Department and Police Department will be on hand.

April 19 – An Internet safety forum will be sponsored by the Houston County Sheriff's Department Juvenile Division at

Bonaire Middle School at 6:30 p.m.

April 23 – Blue Ribbon Night will be held at Cheddar's Casual Cafe in Warner Robins from 5 to 9 p.m. and at Angelina's Italian Garden Café in Perry from 5 to 9 p.m. The event will feature celebrity servers, who will spread the prevention message and collect funds to support prevention efforts in Houston County.

April 28 – A bowling tournament will be held at Gold Cup Bowling Center in Warner Robins from 2 to 4 p.m. The event is held in honor of The Rainbow House Children's Resource Center and 21 years of keeping children safe. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the center.

April 28 – 1-2-3 Magic, a seminar for effective discipline for children ages two through 12 will be held at the Houston Pavilion from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with a lunch break from noon to 1:30 p.m.

LOVE IN THE AIR

Continued from 1A

Radel, referring to her gathering coworkers and everyone listening in.

As soon as she said yes, everyone on the aircraft cheered and congratulated Sergeant Chorney. The men on board told him their wives were going to be jealous of the public way he proposed.

"I was a little bit nervous starting out because I'm proposing to my girlfriend over the radio for everybody to hear ... including everyone in the aircraft," he said.

Sergeant Chorney said he was going to wait to pop the question until they were together during a planned vacation. With a little coaxing

by his crew, he decided this seemed like a better and more spontaneous opportunity.

"I wish I could take 100 percent of the credit for it," Sergeant Chorney said of the decision to ask her over the radio. "I had told (the aircrew) I had planned on asking her during our upcoming vacation. One of the pilots suggested I should go ahead and propose to her while we were flying overhead. I was hesitant about it because I didn't know if Sarah would like that or not. I asked a female on the crew what she thought about it, and she thought it was pretty cool. The chief on board said I should go for it."

Instead of asking for her hand in marriage during their vacation, they will now exchange vows in Hawaii.

► IN BRIEF

Air Force Space Camp

Applications are being accepted for the Space Camp that will be held July 29 through Aug. 3 at the US Space and Rocket

Munitions team tackles 'explosive' situation

BY CHRISSEY ZDRAKAS

542nd Combat Sustainment Wing

The multi-service munitions community tackled an "explosive" situation and diffused it using AFSO21 – the Air Force pathway to smart operations – in a five-day event last week in Warner Robins.

At issue was dual accounting of assets that negatively impacted Air Force Chief Financial Officer reports and a congressional mandate to migrate munitions to one system. Today, munitions are managed in both the decades-old DO35 system and the munitions-unique Combat Ammunition System, or which the Air Force has identified as its munitions system of record.

Robins and Hill Air Force Base, Utah, manage some 4,600 munitions items ranging from 15,000-pound bombs to bullets at 220 locations worldwide, according to Butch Harvey, CAS functional analyst at Gunter Air Force Base, Ala., home base for CAS.

Headquarters Air Force issued a mandate in January directing all munitions be migrated to CAS. To get that done, the 782nd Combat Sustainment Group at Robins and the 784th Combat Sustainment Group at Hill teamed up to bring representatives from Headquarters Air Force, Air Force Materiel Command and the U.S. Army together with Robins and Hill subject matter experts. Co-leading the event were John Collins and Rick Tamiso of the 782nd CBSG and Bob Wicks from the 784th CBSG.

"We want to see where all the assets are with the push of a



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

George "Trash" Harper facilitates a discussion at a recent AFSO21 event at Robins. The multi-service munitions community discussed the best ways to migrate all munitions records to the Combat Ammunition System.

button," said Chief Master Sgt. Rick Follett, Headquarters Air Force conventional munitions actions officer. "Having immediate access to that kind of information is pivotal in the Global War on Terrorism and any contingency because these are items that can make or break our operational capability."

Chief Follett said he's confident the team developed a good plan.

"With all the changes coming throughout the services, it's necessary that we find ways to do things smarter," he said. "This week, as we used the tools of AFSO21, it became apparent we were on the right path."

"It sounds easy – remove munitions from the old DO35 and put them into CAS," Mr. Collins said. "But the road from one to the other is peppered with sister feeder systems, manual workaround processes and enough other complications to

keep the 30-plus member team engaged for more than 40 hours."

The event was just the start in a series of actions that are already under way. The team left with a workable action plan that will keep key players busy until the CAS capability is fully exploited.

The co-leads worked for months identifying a team with the right expertise and held a series of planning meetings before the event to ensure a profitable week.

"We have a real sense of urgency," Mr. Wicks said. "We already knew what was expected in the future—a single system for munitions accounting. But what we didn't know was exactly how to get there. AFSO21 gave us the framework to develop a workable plan to deal with the many issues we had to resolve in a relatively short period."

► IN BRIEF

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Robins Education and Training Services is accepting applications for the Maj. Gen. (Retired) Cornelius Nugteren Scholarship. This \$750 competitive scholarship will be awarded to one individual who is enrolled in an on-base education program. The award is made directly to the individual and can be used for books, living expenses, tuition and fees or other necessary expenses as appropriate. Both active duty military and civilian personnel assigned to Robins are invited to apply. To be eligible, the individual must be enrolled in one of the educational

programs conducted on-base.

Applications are available at the following locations: Education and Training Services office in Bldg. 905, Airman and Family Readiness Center in Bldg. 794, On-Base Schools offices in Bldg. 905 and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Bldg. 380.

Applications must be returned to the Education and Training Services office by noon Tuesday. Incomplete applications will not be returned for correction or considered for the award.

For more information contact Gail Simon-Boyd at 327-3414 or Andrea Harris at 327-7312.

Great ideas can bring monetary rewards through IDEA program

By AMANDA CREEL
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Earning some extra cash could be as easy as coming up with a great idea.

The Air Force Innovative Development through Employee Awareness program allows employees to get recognized when their creative thinking and innovations benefit Team Robins and the rest of the Air Force.

"It's a wonderful program and I want people to utilize it because they can get \$200 to \$10,000 for their ideas," said Renee' Beringer, Robins IDEA program manager.

Since the beginning of fiscal 2007, 108 ideas have been submitted to the IDEA program here and 33 ideas have received a monetary award and two ideas have received a non-monetary award or certificate recognizing the importance of the idea submitted.

"The IDEA program is essential to our business. We need to use the multi-talented employees we have on base. It is essential that we stay ahead of the competition. I urge all employees to submit ideas that they have you never know when they might be worth \$10,000," said Steve Almeida, a recent award recipient and a first line supervisor with the 402nd Commodities Maintenance Group.

Though coming up with a great idea may be an easy feat for many members of the Robins work force, proving the merit behind the ingenuity can take months or even years. "All my submitters put a great amount of work and research into these ideas," Mrs. Beringer said.

Many members of Team Robins learned the value of a good idea when they were awarded \$10,000 for their efforts to

improve processes and save the government money.

However, none of these great ideas would have resulted in a pay off if it hadn't been for the efforts of their evaluators, who take on the responsibility as an extra duty.

John Ycaza, a recent IDEA award recipient said he thinks the program would be better if it also rewarded the evaluators for their efforts in the program

Whether the evaluator was "voluntold" or volunteered, without their efforts no one would be receiving monetary payments. Regardless of the reason, many evaluators are glad to help Robins improve its processes and save the Air Force some green.

"Evaluators have done an excellent job and deserve to be recognized for their dedication," Mrs. Beringer said. "All they get for their efforts is a certificate at the awards presentation and we just started doing that to recognize them for all their hard work."

Tony Horne, an electronic integrated system mechanic supervisor for the 402nd Electronic Maintenance Group, who recently served as an evaluator on a \$10,000 idea, said, "The savings through ideas not only saves the government in terms of dollars, but often results in increases to mission capability."

The IDEA program is a chance for employees to show off their abilities and their commitment to supporting the warfighter in an effort to save cash that can be spent elsewhere as we continue the fight against terror.

"I think it is a good way to get improvements to products and processes in the Air Force. Not every IDEA qualifies for a cash award, but if it gets approved you know you have done something to improve the day-to-day operation of the Air

WHAT TO KNOW

If you have a great idea and would like to submit it to the IDEA program, contact Renee' Beringer, IDEA program manager, at 222-0750.

Force," said Mike Mullaney, an electronics engineer.

Another evaluator, Wendell Ratterree, a plans operations chief with the 78th Civil Engineer Squadron, said he was very pleased when the person's energy savings idea he evaluated brought in a \$10,000 award.

Even great ideas that are found to have intangible benefits can see some cash after their ideas are evaluated. Idea submitters, whose ideas are determined to be intangible and out of the scope of their responsibilities, can receive a \$200 award and a certificate recognizing their great ideas.

But when the idea nets tangible savings, idea submitters can be awarded up to \$10,000 based on the amount of projected savings for the government above \$20,000 during the first year the idea is implemented.

If the idea is considered outside of the submitter's job responsibility then they will be awarded 15 percent of the projected total savings during the first year, while those whose ideas are considered within their job responsibility will receive three percent of the total projected first year savings.

All civilians, active duty and reservist who are on active-duty status are eligible to submit an idea and earn a financial reward for their efforts based on the amount of tangible efforts available to the government. Contractors on base can also submit ideas, but are not eligible for monetary awards through the program. Contractors, who participate, will receive a certificate validating their great idea.

Robins IDEA award recipients

Steve Almeida and Robert King were awarded \$5,000 each for their ideas about fixing or refurbishing C-5 support assemblies for the C-5 pressure door.

"We looked at the cost of the part and found we could repair it for less than \$100 each when the replacement part cost over \$1,000. There are six of them on each pressure door and we did about 22 doors per year," said Mr. Almeida when asked what helped him decide he might have a better solution to the present repair method.

Mr. King said he would encourage other thinkers on base to test their ideas and take them as far as they can by submitting them to the IDEA program.

When asked how it felt to earn extra cash for his efforts, Mr. King said, "It feels pretty good; we had a lot of help to keep this suggestion going. It took 6 years, but it finally paid off in the end."

Kevin Schlageter was awarded \$10,000 for his suggestion to reprogram the computer system that controls water flow and level in a boiler. The reprogramming allows the boiler to convert the water to steam at a faster rate reducing the amount of natural gas used at the central heating plant.

Mr. Schlageter, an electronics industrial controls mechanic with the 78th Civil Engineer Squadron, said he was inspired to find a way to reduce natural gas usage at Robins after a directive was signed by President George W. Bush explaining that natural gas usage had to be reduced.

The thing he seemed most proud of when he spoke about his idea was the \$265,000 in natural gas the central heating plants saved in 2006 after reprogramming the boilers, while still producing the same amount of steam as the previous year.

Rienk Kay and Nancy Neubauer discovered the centers or tabs on the splitter combiner of the APX-101 transponder could be repaired rather than replaced. The transponder is used on the F-15, F-16 and the A-10 as an identification tool.

"The item was fairly expensive to procure and the transit time for ordering the part to

receiving it was more than eight hours. So, while we were waiting for a replacement part, we reverse engineered the unserviceable one and found that it would be easy to repair," said Ms. Neubauer, an electronics journeyman with the 402 Electronics Maintenance Group.

Their discovery earned them \$5,000 each and Mr. Kay, an electronics technician with the 402nd EMXG, said though it can be time consuming to deal with process and the details it requires, it is well worth the effort.

James Depew was recently awarded \$9,800 for his idea to make the Smart Cable, a missile warning system component, a recoverable and repairable asset.

Though, Mr. Depew's idea was a \$10,000 idea, it was originally submitted as an intangible benefit to the Air Force earning him \$200, but it was later revealed the new process would save the Air Force about \$570,000, helping Mr. Depew take home a bigger payout.

Mr. Depew, a warfighter support liaison and equipment specialist with the 565th Aircraft Sustainment Squadron, said the Smart Cable, was originally classified as a disposable component in the supply system, but he realized it could be repaired for a very low cost compared to the cost of buying new replacement assets.

"It feels great to receive a cash payment for my efforts. But, more importantly the recoding action taken, labeling the item as a repairable or recoverable item was the right thing to do. It avoided a possible security issue and provides more assets to the warfighter," said Mr. Depew.

John Ycaza, Craig Kobmann, Mike Mullaney, Steven Craven and John Wiggins, all members of the 402nd Electronics Maintenance Group, decided repairing the A-16 subassembly was a more viable solution to the maintenance of the RF Microwave generator for the F-15 Test Station.

The team accomplished the repairs by replacing the thyristors in a delay circuit, said Mr. Mullaney, an electronics engineer.

Mr. Ycaza, an electronics engineer, said he knew he could make valuable contributions as the team worked to develop a repair idea and implement it.

Mr. Kobmann said the cash wasn't his motivation. "It (the cash award) is an added bonus. The real feeling you get is knowing you are helping the field be able to support their missions," Mr. Kobmann said. He added it was nice to know their efforts saved the taxpayers money too.



Steve Almeida



Robert King



Kevin Schlageter



Nancy Neubauer



Rienk Kay



James Depew



Local sergeants association chapter represents interests of enlisted Airmen

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

The Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 404 is working hard to make sure enlisted Airmen are taken care of.

The organization was established at the national-level in the spring of 1961. AFSA's local chapter gives Robins Airmen a voice in matters such as benefits and other important issues at the nation's capitol.

The enlisted organization is run solely by volunteers.

The chapter boasts less than 400 enlisted members locally, but Tech. Sgt. Ken Castle, AFSA president and acting chief of the Airfield Systems Flight in the 54th Combat Communications Squadron, said it's an organization that needs many more people to get involved.

"We would like to see every enlisted person join," he said.

Sergeant Castle said the organization's membership dues are based upon one's rank and go to support the association's efforts to help enlisted Airmen.

Staff Sgt. John Besselman, an Airman Leadership School instructor at Robins since June 2006 and AFSA member, said ensuring enlisted Airmen are represented in Washington D.C. is critical with the numbers of representatives with military backgrounds on Capitol Hill dwindling.

Sergeant Besselman said before, about 70 percent of representatives on Capitol Hill had served in the Vietnam War. Now, the number of people on Capitol Hill with previous military involvement has shrunk to 15 to 20 percent.

"They need organizations like AFSA to voice our concerns and tell them our needs," he said.

The staff sergeant said membership in such organizations as AFSA is highly encouraged among the enlisted military community because the organization is an example of Airmen taking care of Airmen.

"The Team Robins' motto is 'People First, Mission Always,'" he said. "This is about taking care of the people."

The organization's membership is open to all enlisted Airmen and enlisted retirees.

The AFSA president said getting involved to make a differ-

ence is easy.

"If you want to be a member, all you have to do is show up to our monthly meetings at the Wynn Dining facility at 11:30 a.m. the first Friday of every month," he said.

AFSA has helped enlisted Airmen move ahead one step at a time. Pay raises and TRI-CARE are two of the issues the group has tackled recently. The group is currently working to stop TRI-CARE from raising enlisted Airmen's medical rates, Sergeant Castle said.

"We don't want the government to tell TRI-CARE what they want the rates to be," he

said. "Otherwise, they'll go through the roof. We want to

have a say-so in it and that's what we're fighting for presently."

Sergeant Castle said two of the organization's next major issues will be the 2008 Defense Budget and veterans' administration benefits.

The AFSA president said he encourages input from his fellow enlisted Airmen.

"If anybody sees me around base doing anything, (they should) stop me and ask me more about AFSA," he said. "I'd be very happy to give them more information."



Tech. Sgt. Ken Castle, president of the local chapter of AFSA

BE KIND TO THE EARTH, PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

► IN BRIEF

Commissary closing

The Commissary will be closed on Sunday so employees may spend time with their families for Easter. It will reopen on Tuesday with normal operating hours beginning at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Paula Lewis at 926-3714.

BYU-Idaho Dance Alliance

The BYU-Idaho Dance Alliance will be performing in Warner Robins at the Civic Center Thursday at 7 p.m. The event is open to community members five years of age and older and is free of charge. Tickets must be reserved in advance by calling 784-8770.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive April 13th with the following times and locations:

Cotton Auditorium and Youth Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Bldgs. 640 and 645 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To donate blood, contact your blood drive monitor or Staff Sgt Hammack at 327-7936 or via email at garah.hammack@robins.af.mil.

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 78th Air Base Wing Office of Public Affairs at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Stories and briefs must be submitted as a Word document. They may not exceed two pages, double spaced. They must be typed using the Times New Roman font, 12-point type, with 1-inch margins. All submissions will be edited to conform to Associated Press style. Submission does not guarantee publication.

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

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BULLET'S EYE



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Bradley Lai

Senior Airman David Hallmon inspects an unfired 50 caliber round March 21 at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. All unserviceable ammo is sent to the explosive ordnance disposal team for detonation. Airman Hallmon is a munitions specialist with the 506th Air Expeditionary Group.

Myths and facts on sexual assaults

The Air Force remains committed to fighting inexcusable sexual assaults, and those who commit these crimes face swift, severe legal and command-directed ramifications.

National Sexual Assault Awareness Month started April 1, and this year's theme encourages people to "Stand up against sexual assault...make a difference."

Air Force base sexual assault prevention and response offices seek to call into action all those touched by sexual assault — victims, survivors, relatives, law enforcement officers and legal advocates and those in our local community — to show support and honor those victimized by this invasive crime.

Sexual assault is a crime that is preventable. That's why it's important to raise awareness of the tactics perpetrators like to use on men and women. Unfortunately, it's also the hardest crime to prove, particularly if the victim knows the perpetrator. Research shows sexual assaults by acquaintances remain the most damaging type of assault psychologically due to the crime's many unique fac-

tors. What do we know about sexual assault? Here are some of the common facts and myths about the crime and those who commit it.

MYTH: "Strangers commit most sexual assault crimes."

FACT: The "non-stranger" — a date, co-worker, casual acquaintance, relative or spouse — is the most likely perpetrator of a sexual assault. According to results from the 2003 National Crime Victimization Survey, nearly 70 percent of victims know their attacker.

MYTH: "The victim didn't physically fight back or scream for help, so it must mean they agreed to the act."

FACT: Victims often respond to this type of attack with three natural reactions: freeze, flight or fight. In fact, most victims initially "freeze" due to the shock of this betrayal and fear being physically injured. Some victims report feelings of pending death, even if the perpetrator didn't threaten them this way. The resulting shock sends the victim into a pattern of confusion — the feeling of being taken captive. This

is another reason victims have a hard time trusting others after an assault.

MYTH: The alleged perpetrator wasn't charged, it must mean it was a false report.

FACT: An "unfounded" or "unsubstantiated" statement in the investigative report doesn't mean the assault didn't occur. These words are often misinterpreted. It actually means investigators couldn't find sufficient witnesses or evidence to prove or disprove the allegation.

This is when victims need support. They are likely to feel a deep injustice by the perpetrator but also by the law enforcement and judicial system.

MYTH: "Collecting evidence for a sexual assault crime is the same as any crime."

FACT: A sexual assault forensic exam should be conducted as soon as possible by a sexual assault nurse examiner or a physician or nurse with the necessary training in discovering, collecting and documenting evidence of the smallest and hidden injuries.

MYTH: "Sexual assaults only happen to women because men can fight back physically

and prevent this type of attack."

FACT: Sexual assault is an equal opportunity crime for women and men. Research statistics indicate that one in three military women, one in four women in general society and one in 33 men are sexually assaulted. Alcohol and drugs can incapacitate men as easily as women.

MYTH: "I'm not entitled to know the status of the investigation until it's completed."

FACT: If you report a sexual assault, you have the right to be informed by investigators of the case's status, including if they're waiting on evidence to be processed. You are not informed of the specifics, including who investigators are questioning. You also have the right to proper medical care and counseling whether it's spiritual or emotional.

If you or someone you know needs help, whether it's referrals for professional counseling, medical care, legal information or a support group, call your base's sexual assault response coordinator.

— *Commentary by Cindi Drake, 366th Fighter Wing*



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.milrobins.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.



Confiscation of Air Force Form 354

For the last several years, the Air Force has been confiscating incorrectly issued Civilian Identification Cards. It was discovered that many cards were issued with an "Indefinite" expiration date. According to AFI 36-3026 (I), table 21.2, only Retired Air Force employees will be issued an AF Form 354 with "Indefinite" in the expiration block, all others will indicate a specific expiration date.

To ensure Robins remains in compliance with Air Force Instructions, Security Forces personnel have been directed to collect all Civilian ID's with "indefinite" expiration dates that are not held by retired Air Force Employees.

If you have any questions, or your ID card has been confiscated, Civil Service Personnel in Bldg. 376 will be there to assist. They will verify the individual and their reason to access the base and help you prepare a DD Form 1172. When the DD 1172 is complete the member should hand-carry it to Bldg. 219, the Visitor Control Center, to be issued a new Civilian ID.

The hours of operation for Civil Personnel are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday and for the Visitor Control Center are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

NSPS, quality self-assessment products and quotas

Q. Robins converted to NSPS Jan. 21 and since that time there have been many employees who have changed pay systems from the General Schedule to the NSPS pay schedules. These new employees under NSPS may not have received all the NSPS training that was required prior to conversion. What or where is the best place for an employee to get current NSPS training?

A. Great question, since conversion sustainment training for new employees that come under NSPS is a current topic of discussion. At present, discussions are being conducted to determine if the formal NSPS training classes (Human Resources and Performance Management) that were conducted prior to conversion will be required for new employees. As soon as a decision is made, the workforce will be advised. In the meantime, there is vast amount of NSPS information available to you and can be easily accessed at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/training.html>.

The recommended and best place to start is with NSPS 101. In fact, NSPS 101 was



recently updated in January 2007. The Program Executive Office, NSPS, modified and expanded the NSPS 101 web-based training course. Employees who already completed NSPS 101 are not required to retake the training but may find the updated information helpful. The updated version of NSPS 101 now includes:

— An updated percentage breakdown of DoD career groups, updated rate range information based on 2007 NSPS pay tables and an updated conversion tool and estimated WGI buy-in calculator based on 2007 NSPS pay tables (See Conversion to NSPS - Conversion Process)

— Added Performance Management information that will help employees define and understand pay pools and their structure, the pay pool process, structure, pay pool panels, mock pay pools, discretionary performance payouts, and self assessments

(See Performance Management, beginning with Laying the Foundation)

— An updated self assessment with questions that reflect NSPS 101 updates (See Self Assessment)

— An updated course evaluation with questions that reflect NSPS 101 updates (See Course Evaluation and Certificate)

— Links to printable versions of the 2007 NSPS pay tables (Select resources button - DoD NSPS worldwide pay tables)

Q. When will NSPS be fully implemented?

A. It will take time and effort to fully implement NSPS, with elements of the program being introduced over the next several years to allow ample time for training, program evaluation, and adjustment. Until the lawsuit is resolved, the labor relations, adverse actions, and appeals systems are enjoined and are not scheduled to be implemented at this time. We anticipate a decision on the Federal lawsuit in the Spring of 2007.

Outdoor Recreation earns Five-Star Program Award

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

The Outdoor Recreation Center is working hard so that Robins can play hard.

From providing recreational and lawn equipment for rent to providing a family-friendly campground, Robins' Outdoor Recreation Center has a host of programs to improve military members, retired military members, civilians, contractors and their family members' quality of life.

Cheryl Dollard, Outdoor Recreation Center director, said her staff of 32 seasonal lifeguard workers and 10 permanent workers does the best it can to provide excellent customer service and quality programs.

The 32-year-old California native who comes from a military family heads up more than 10 programs, including the base's horse stables, lodge, skeet range, recreational vehicle storage, the aquatic program, the hunting and fishing programs, family Camp, the adventure program and the car sales lot.

Sharon Wilhelm, a recreation assistant with the Outdoor Recreation Center for 16 years, said the center's programs are a great asset to military families whose loved ones often deploy.

"This gives the family here different avenues and things they can do," she said.

Mrs. Wilhelm said her organization's mission is to take care of Robins' morale, welfare, and recreation – and it's a duty they take great pride in.

"I've been with Outdoor Recreation for 16 years, and I think it's a wonderful organization for the things that we offer people on the base," she said. "Mostly, (I enjoy) the public. I'm a people person and you deal so much with the public on a daily basis here. With all of the people I've met over the years, I've established some good friendships just from dealing with people for several years now. So, I think probably for me, the most important part is dealing with the public."

The center, commonly called Outdoor Rec by many, was recently named as one of 18 bases recognized for the Five-Star Program Award by the Air Force Services Agency for all its staff does for Robins.

The Five Star program provides yearly recognition, acknowledging bases that have reached the highest standard of achievement in all aspects of program management. The program recognizes excellence in the following five areas: operations, programs, training, facilities, and customer service.

Robins Outdoor Recreation earned the Four-Star Program Award in 2004 and 2005, meet-

ing an excellent standard in four of the five areas specified in the Five-Star program.

After some polishing of its programs and customer service approach, Mrs. Dollard, who has led the center for the past three years, said the staff finally achieved their goal and won the coveted Five-Star award.

"We deliver top programs," she said. "Anything that we put

our name on, we try to make it the best it can be. We always try to satisfy the customer. Every program that we run, we do it at its best."

Mrs. Wilhelm agreed. "I think it's wonderful," she said. "We all work extremely hard to give as good a product as we can. So, getting an award like that is kind of like icing on the cake for us."

WHAT TO KNOW

The Outdoor Recreation Center, located in Bldg. 914, is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. through September.

For more information, contact the Outdoor Recreation Center at 926-4001.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Wayne Warren, equipment technician, services a trolling motor on a bass boat at Outdoor Recreation Equipment Rental.

Base hopes to raise environmental awareness on Earth Day

By AMANDA CREEL

amanda.creel.ctr@robins.af.mil

When it comes to environmental awareness no one should be in the dark, which is why members of the Robins environmental management team are using Earth Day to get the Robins community educated and prepared to help protect the environment.

The team will be hosting events around the base throughout April as part of its efforts to shed light on environmental issues. The events will focus on teaching the Robins community about environmental programs available and encouraging members of the community to conserve resources by recycling, conservation and other methods.

Members of EM and the Air Force Reserve Command have partnered to celebrate the earth and inform the community about the efforts of the installation and the reserve command to preserve the environment.

"Robins Air Force Base and the Reserve Command Headquarters have built a strong partnership in environmental protection based on our common goals of preserving our precious natural resources while enabling our airmen warriors," said Brig. Gen. Robert Bailey, director of installations and mission support for the Air Force Reserve Command.

For several days during the Robins Earth Day celebration, members of the environmental

team will present Environmental Awareness Displays where volunteers will be available to discuss conservation, pollution prevention, recycling and other environmental programs available to the Robins community, said Griff Cox, an environmental engineer with 78th Civil Engineering Group. During the displays, volunteers will also be giving away recycled items such as pens, rulers and bags.

During the Earth Day festivities, three trees will be planted in memory of members of the Robins community, who have passed away. The three Leopold White Oaks will be dedicated during the Historic Forest Ceremony where Robins will also be presented with its 14th consecutive Tree City plaque from the Georgia Forestry Commission.

"This ceremony does three very important things. It encourages tree planting, it fosters an appreciation for our American Heritage and it helps memorialize people and events that are important to Robins Air Force Base," said Becky Crader, a Robins biologist and member of the EM team.

The bird watching event with guide, Bob Sargent, will allow novices and expert bird watchers to spot birds that inhabit and visit Robins while learning about the songs of these birds such as the call of the Cardinal or Blue Jay.

"Earth Day is all about celebrating the health of the planet and the environment," said Mr.

Sargent, natural resources manager. "Getting out and bird watching provides an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the environment."

For others who prefer to enjoy the environment while swinging a club, the Earth Day on the Greens is the perfect way for you to spend your day celebrating Mother Earth.

For younger celebrators there will be several opportunities to learn more about the planet. At Robins elementary students have already created their own masterpieces, using large brown grocery bags as their canvas to share an environmental message. The top 3 bags for each grade level will be presented with a gift certificate April 23 for their efforts and the winner for the school will be presented with a gift certificate, a large stuffed animal and their design will be used on next years Earth Day T-shirt.

All of the bags will help educate our community on the importance of recycling and protecting the environment when they are used by the Robins Commissary to bag groceries on Earth Day, April, 22, said Krista Folsom, a graphic and web designer with EM.

This year's T-shirt adorns the art work of Kiana Best, a former Robins elementary student, who won the contest last year, and her message is clear, "Animals are fading away. It's up to us to save the day." The T-shirts will be available for purchase for \$5

during many of the Earth Day festivities.

Members of Team Robins will also do presentations at two area elementary schools, L.H. Williams and Quail Run Elementary. During the presentations students will be taught the importance of recycling, water conservation such as turning off the water faucet while brushing their teeth and other good environmental habits like turning off their video games when they are not playing them, said Shan Williams, an engineer with Air Force Reserve Command. Children will also receive gifts made from recycled materials such as piggy banks made from recycled denim and coloring books and posters made from recycled paper to help encourage environmentally friendly habits.

Environmental Awareness Day at the Base Exchange will serve as the main event for this year's Earth Day celebration.

"It's a chance to bring the kids and catch some spring fever," said Ken Wharam, who works with environmental solid waste and recyclables.

This event will feature an archeological dig, moonwalk and face painting for children. There will also be tons of giveaways during the event. The first 100 who stop by will receive a tree seedling with instructions on how to properly plant it.

For a full list of Earth Day events, visit the Robins home page at www.robins.af.mil.

AF celebrates Month of the Military Child

By STAFF SGT. JEREMY LARLEE
Air Force News Agency

They never raised their right hands and pledged to defend their nation, but they still make sacrifices for their country.

The contributions of military children will be celebrated across the Defense Department as April is designated as Month of the Military Child, and the spirit of the event will be felt by military families throughout the Air Force, including members at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

Officials at Whiteman AFB are conducting a mock deployment April 28, named Operation Spirit, to celebrate the month. Operation Spirit will give military children a chance to tour the flightline, process through a deployment line, see a pallet building demonstration, and watch a military working dog demonstration. The goal of the event is to educate children about the military, said Tech. Sgt. Karen Simpson, the readiness NCO at the Whiteman AFB

Airman and Family Readiness Center.

"As military members, I think we sometimes take for granted some of the great things we do on a daily basis," she said. "Often we don't realize how much our children don't understand our jobs."

The sergeant is a mother of three and said she believes there is nothing more important than educating military children about what their parents do for a living.

Children can sometimes draw negative conclusions about the military through coverage in the media, Sergeant Simpson said. By simply talking to your children and explaining to them how the military works, you can greatly drop a child's level of anxiety before a big deployment.

"They are devastated that you have to leave and don't understand why you have to go," Sergeant Simpson said. "If you make them feel special and help them understand your mission, it helps make the separation more tolerable for them."

Amy Howard is also a mother of three. Her husband, 2nd Lt. Joseph Howard, is currently training to become a pilot. She is not new to the military environment, though, as her husband was previously enlisted. She said she thinks it is great military children have their own month to be recognized, but believes the children should be thought of all year.

"Parents should do the same things they do every month, which is provide a stable, loving and secure home environment," she said. "All children, especially military children, need to know that their needs will be met. They need to know that no matter what happens, they are loved and they will be taken care of."

Sergeant Simpson said it is a great feeling to see a child recognize what their parents do for the country and their part in supporting that mission.

"They realize the positive things that the military does and that they are exceptional people for what they have to sacrifice for their parents," she said.

CRADA

Continued from 1A

The CRADA will not only benefit Georgia businesses interested in gaining a defense contract, but it will allow the WRALC to gain valuable expertise from both the academic community and from private industry in Georgia.

"CRADA may prove to be one of the greatest partnerships our center has ever embarked upon," said, Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, WRALC commander. "Technical challenges are plentiful for an industrial complex like Robins. With CRADA, I'm confident solutions will become commonplace. I believe CRADA will help us leverage the best from government, industry and academia to achieve maximum value for our worldwide mission."

Under the partnership the Georgia Aerospace Innovation Center in Warner Robins and the Engineering Directorate of the WRALC will be the primary contacts. The AIC will lead a group of private companies that will collaborate with University System of Georgia researchers to provide solutions to technological challenges.

"This is an opportunity to try to tap into some of the cutting edge technology across the state," said Greg Sutton, a mechanical engineer at Robins.

The design of the alliance allows smaller companies to be given information about what technological issues the center is facing and what solutions are needed, Mr. Sutton said.

"We are proud that AIC will play a leading role in rallying Georgia's deep resources in aerospace and aviation technology to support Warner Robins and our military forces," said Nick Fuhrman, director of the AIC. "This is a great opportunity to showcase our technology sector's ability to provide fast, off-the-shelf solutions for the USAF."

The alliance will result in benefits for the state such as an increase in available jobs, revenue and companies and will provide enhanced technology to the WRALC and the other Air Force air logistics centers, said Lt. Col. Frank Dement, Air Force Research Laboratory commanders representative to the air logistics centers.

The new agreement encourages businesses that traditionally don't compete for defense contracts to offer developments and strategies to the center, Mr. Sutton said.

The alliance will also allow technologies developed for commercial applications to be applied to defense needs, which will reduce the cost of the product for all because there are more uses for it, Mr. Sutton said.

The technologies that emerge through the alliance could be used by various groups on base and applied to various missions such as support for various aircraft, weapons systems, missiles, remotely piloted vehicles, support equipment, electronic

warfare, avionics' systems and all Air Force helicopters.

However, emerging technology will not be the only thing gained through the program. The agreement also allows enhancements to processes and work-flow to be gained through CRADA.

Other, Air Force air logistic centers are considering implementing similar programs between their center and the state they reside in, Colonel Dement said.

Robins Easter celebration



By AMANDA CREEL
amanda.creel.ci@robins.af.mil

As the siren blared from the fire truck, egg hunters and volunteers alike were taken by surprise.

But, it didn't stop the egg hunters from charging the lawn at Robins Elementary School, where 5,040 pre-stuffed eggs waited to be claimed.

Those in charge were stunned because the siren sounded with no warning.

Elizabeth McCarthy, catholic religious coordinator said she was discussing with other officials when to sound the siren and begin the egg hunt when the siren sounded.

"It caught everyone off-guard, but once it went off there was no stopping the children," she said.

The premature siren was sounded when a child who was passing the time until the egg hunt began jumped into the fire truck and began imagining what it would be like to be a firefighter. Before long the future firefighter had managed to sound the siren and was just as surprised by the early start as the rest of the crowd, Ms. McCarthy said.

Though parents were dazed by the lack of warning that accompanied the start of the egg hunt, the children didn't seem troubled at all.

As the eggs disappeared, children could be found opening eggs anxiously awaiting to discover the treasures inside.

"I like the eggs with the candy in them. I had a candy

yo-yo in one," said Max McElroy, 5.

The eggs were filled with all sorts of goodies such as jelly beans, "Jesus loves me" stickers, candy coins and plastic watches.

Another big hit during the event was the free food. Participants could be found chomping on hotdogs, slurping on snow cones and sipping on juice boxes throughout the event.

"I like the hot dogs, but the best part was the snow cones," said Ashleigh Breazeale, 8.

Though the hunt was the main attraction there were plenty of other activities to keep the fun going such as bouncy castles, slides and playground equipment.

"I got to slide down the big giant slide and I got eggs," said Malcolm Breazeale, 5. "The one with candy money was my favorite."

It was evident Malcolm had enjoyed a snow cone too. His face was still stained with the remains of a blueberry snow cone as he waited in line to have his face painted.

Children also had the opportunity to play carnival style games where tossing the ball in the net, picking a duck out of a pool or knocking over tin cans could earn prizes such as additional eggs, stickers and yo-yos.

The event couldn't have asked for a better turn-out of volunteers and participants, said Marcia "Peat" Little, protestant program coordinator.

U.S. Air Force photos by AMANDA CREEL

Top, Madison McCleskey, 3, daughter of Staff Sgt. Christopher McCleskey and Tech. Sgt. Stephanie McCleskey, climbs her way to the top of the monkey bars.

Right, Jalen Darden, 2, enjoys the free food at the Easter egg hunt by munching down on a hot dog. Jalen is the son of Staff Sgt. Enrico and Henrietta Darden.

Below, Molly Starrett, 2, shows off her Easter basket as the last of the eggs disappear from the Robins Elementary lawn. Molly is the daughter of Capt. Broc and Katie Starrett.



Two brothers don helmets and battle it out with inflatable weapons. There were several inflatables for the children to enjoy, including a giant slide and a bounce house.

Keagan Adams, 3, plops down with his family to examine the goodies inside the eggs he claimed during the egg hunt. Keagan is the son of Staff Sgt. James and Sharon Adams.

2B ■ The Robins Rev-Up ■ April 6, 2007

TODAY

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.

A special Easter bingo will be played today with giveaways and snacks. A Big bingo "April Showers" will be played April 17 and a membership bar bingo will be held April 25. 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. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-4515 or Teresa Resta at 926-1303.

An Easter brunch will be held today 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.

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

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

Enjoy pizza on Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Robins Officers' Club.

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 Give Parents a Break and Hourly Care will be April 13 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-person unit teams. Register by April 11 at noon. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

A base-wide weight loss challenge "Team Lean Challenge" for active duty and civilians will be held April 16 through Sept. 28. Register before April 13 at the Health and Wellness Center or Civilian

Spares and strikes

U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Phaedra Tretter bowls recently at the bowling center. Reserve lanes in advance for office parties, wingman days or fundraisers. Cost is \$5 per person and includes three games and shoes. For more information call the bowling center at 926-2112.



Health Promotion Service. For more information call HAWC at 327-8480, CHPS at 327-8034 or the fitness center at 926-2128.

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.

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

Let's Give The World A Hand is slated for April 20. Yard work is for families of our deployed men and women of Robins AFB on or off-base. If you know anyone who can use a helping hand, contact the community center at 926-2105. The community center will be the hub of this all-day event, providing equipment and support.

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to Movies in the Park at Robins Park April 27 for a family-feature presentation of "The Secret of Nihm." The movie will start at dark. Concessions will be on sale.

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 lit 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. 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.

The 17th annual Military Team Bass Fishing tournament will be held May 6-11 at Lake Barkley State Park, Cadiz, Kentucky. 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 of the military. For more information, visit www.militarybass.com or call the community center at 926-2105.

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.

The Artist Craftsman and Photography Gallery program will be held May 14 through 18. For more information call the arts and crafts center at 926-5282.

ONGOING
Officer's club members who come out to the club during their birthday month will receive a \$25 coupon to redeem toward your meal. Pick up coupon at cashier office.

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

The 2007 Air Force Falcons Sports Camps will be held June 10-27. Camps will include the following activities: baseball, boy's and girl's basketball, cheerleading, cross country, diving, fencing, football, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and volleyball. For more detailed information go to www.GoAirForceFalcons.com or call Ron Hayes at 926-2110.

The Bamboo Grill featuring Oriental cuisine offers a lunch buffet Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. for \$6.24 (plus tax). Robins club members receive a 10 percent savings when they show their club card at time of purchase. The Bamboo Grill, a unique buffet dining experience with food cooked in an open kitchen, is located in Bldg. 767 on the corner of Ninth and Macon Streets. For more information or to place an order, please call 922-0136.

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.

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, \$6 for children 6 to 12 years old.

►Join ITT on a trip to the Atlanta Aquarium on June 16. Cost is \$94. Package includes roundtrip motor coach, admission, aquarium movie and late lunch at Maggiano's Little Italy. A deposit of \$50 is due by April 16 and the balance due May 28.

►Enjoy a historic tour of Savannah with ITT July 26. Cost is \$164 and includes transportation by motor coach, time on River Street, historic grand tour of Savannah on a trolley, early dinner at Lady and Sons and a show "The Beat Goes On." Transportation will depart Bldg. 956 July 26 at 7:30 a.m. and return 1:30 a.m. July 27. A deposit of \$80 is due by May

14 and balance will be due by July 9. Must have a minimum of 25 people for trip.

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 April special is a spicy chicken sandwich, fries and medium drink for \$4.50. For more information call the On Spot Cafe at 926-5240.

►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 and Saturdays from 9 to 11 p.m.; cost for 12 years and younger, \$5 and 13 years and older, \$10. Cost is \$10 for everyone else.

Pine Oaks Golf Course has the following specials. To learn more, call 926-4103.

►In April enjoy several Fairways Grille weekly specials for only \$5.95. April 2 – 6 taco salad and drink; April 9 – 13 light and refreshing (fruit, yogurt and pinwheels); April 16 – 20 meatball hoagie with chips and drink and April 23 – 27 Reuben with chips and drink. Lunch is held from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Every Thursday in April also enjoy barbecue chicken dinner with potato salad, roll and soda for \$5.50. For more information call 923-1717.

►Play golf after 2 p.m. on weekends in March and pay only \$20 for green fee and cart.

►Link Up 2 Golf starts April 10 at the Pine Oaks Golf Course. Link Up 2 Golf offers participants over \$300 in savings for \$109 per person. Class I will be held on Tuesdays April 10, 17, 24 and May 1 and 8 at 5:30 p.m. and Class II on Thursdays April 12, 19, 26 and May 2 and 10 at 5:30 p.m. Pine Oaks will take the first eight paid for each class.

►Sign up for a free 15-minute club fitting session during the PGA free fitting and trade-up day April 18. Call the golf pro shop for more information at 926-4103.

►A Pine Oaks Golf Course golf league will begin April 23. Format is a 3-person scramble match play nine holes. Cost is \$50 per team. Golf fees are \$13 to ride for non-AGF members, \$7 to walk for non-AGF members and \$6 to ride for AGF members. League will consist of the first 16 teams that sign up.

►A two-person club championship will be held April 21 and 22. Play four different 9-hole formats for \$40 annual green fee members or \$45 non-annual green fee members. Includes golf, cart, range, food and prizes.

The 78th Services Division offers designated driver programs at the Robins Enlisted and Officers' clubs and Pizza Depot to assist in reducing alcohol related incidents. For groups of two or more, please identify yourself as the designated driver to the operations assistant on duty. They will provide fountain soft drinks, fruit juices or non-alcoholic frozen drinks during your visit free of charge. To learn more about Services Designated Drivers programs, please call 926-2670.

The Base Restaurant serving lines will be closed until May 25 for renovation. The restaurant continues to remain open to serve its customers. For more information call the Base Restaurant at 926-6972.

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

THE ASTRONAUT FARMER
Billy Bob Thornton, Virginia Madsen
From the time he was a child, Charles Farmer had only one goal: to be an astronaut. Earning his degree in aerospace engineering and joining the Air Force as a pilot, Farmer was a natural for NASA's astronaut training program and was well on his way when a family situation forced him to drop out. But Farmer was not a man to let anything stand in the way of a dream. He spent the next decade and every cent he had building his own rocket in a barn on his ranch in Story, Texas, working toward the day when he could triumphantly launch it into space. By himself. (thematic material, peril and language)

SATURDAY

MUSIC AND LYRICS
Hugh Grant, Drew Barrymore
Alex Fletcher is a washed-up '80s pop star who's been reduced to working the nostalgia circuit at county fairs and amusement parks. The charismatic and talented musician gets a chance at a comeback when reigning diva Cora Corman invites him to write and record a duet with her, but there's a problem-Alex hasn't written a song in years, he's never written lyrics, and he has to come up with a hit in a matter of days. (some sexual content)

UPCOMING

GHOSTRIDER
Nicolas Cage, Eva Mendes
A motorcycle stuntman, Johnny Blaze, makes a pact with a dark force, selling his soul to save his girlfriend. When the bargain goes sour and the girl isn't saved, Blaze is transformed, gaining raging superpowers.

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

Water aerobics offers exercise, fun for all ages

By MEGAN JOINER
Special to the Rev-Up

Show tunes blare from the pool area at the Robins Fitness Center as 18 people – men and women, young and old – bounce to the beat. The instructor, Donna Hunt, shouts instructions from the pool deck.

“Now agitate!” Ms. Hunt says into her microphone.

The water aerobics participants begin the abdominal workout, twisting at the waist while raising their legs.

“Get those knees higher! C’mon. Now turn towards the front desk,” Ms. Hunt commands.

For a full hour, the class continues the rigorous aerobic workout.

“We do a warm up, at least 30 to 40 minutes of cardio, then we do a cool down and a hard stretch. It’s easy to learn, the choreography’s simple. It burns...between 300 and 450 calories an hour,” Ms. Hunt said.

The water workout has become extremely popular at the Fitness Center. When Ms. Hunt began teaching two years ago, the class averaged three people per session. Her classes now run between 15 and 20 people, and each session is replete with new

WHAT TO KNOW

Water aerobics is held at the Fitness Center indoor pool Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 10 a.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

faces.

Amanda Smith is one new student who enjoys the vigorous workout. The 22-year-old Army recruit must run during physical training each day, but participates in water aerobics for

her own enjoyment.

“You’re exercising, but at the same time you’re in the water so you’re not stinking. The water just keeps you a lot more cooled off than running,” Smith said.

Her friend Staff Sgt. Melody Shaw of the 78th Medical Operations Squadron, who has been attending water aerobics since December, introduced her to the class.

“My knee is injured, so it’s a low impact, great workout. I’ve lost a little over 10 pounds and about three inches, and all I’ve been doing is working out here. That’s it, nothing more than just watching what I eat,” Sergeant Shaw said.

Ms. Hunt said that her classes are great for people who, like Shaw, have joint injuries.

“It takes about 90 percent of your body weight off of your joints. If I had you jump for two minutes it would kill your knees, but in the water you can go that long,” Ms. Hunt said.

Many people with arthritis also find water aerobics beneficial.

“I have a lot of arthritis, and the water seems to be a good way for me to exercise without hurting forever. I have lost about six pounds, and my joints and everything are far more flexible than they were, and they don’t ache. Exercise gives me a far greater range of motion,” Carol Fiarkoski said.

Ms. Fiarkoski, 64, also participates in regular aerobics and circuit training classes at the Fitness Center, but said water aerobics is her favorite. She likes being able to work out for an entire hour without overheating.

Charles Nale, 69, and his wife Hanna, 67, have been attending water aerobics three days a week for the past three years. Like Ms. Fiarkoski, the improvement they have seen in their joints has kept them coming back.

“Water aerobics is the answer. I told Charles when we went on vacation for a week, ‘My neck is so stiff,’ so coming back in the water I worked



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Donna Hunt, water aerobics instructor, keeps the class moving with her high energy instructions.



A group of water aerobics participants use “noodles” during a workout March 23. Water aerobics is a favored form of exercise for those with arthritis, bad joints and sore muscles.

that out,” Hanna Nale said.

Her husband has also found the workout is good for his muscles.

“It gets all the soreness out of my muscles, and it just good for me all around. It’s very good mentally because it helps you feel better. It wakes you up and gets your circulation going,” Mr. Nale said.

It seems each student has a success story. Donna Bowman, 59, has found the workout has helped a variety of her health problems.

“I no longer have to take any of the medication that I used to have to take, so it affected my blood pressure and a lot of my different levels have come down. I’m very, very pleased,” Ms. Bowman said.

Cathy Talban, 54, began water aer-

obics in December after having gastric bypass surgery last year. “It’s easy to work with as far as not doing any damage to the surgery area – I just like it,” she said. “We have ladies that think they can’t do any exercise, and I say, ‘You can do the water aerobics.’”

Several of the exercisers do not know how to swim, but it does not matter in water aerobics. The pool is only four feet deep in the shallow end, and partic-

ipants do not submerge their face and head. For moves that require participants to float, Ms. Hunt offers alternative moves.

“It’s a little bit different. This is a full body workout, and it gets your heart going,” the instructor said. “Besides, it’s fun!”

“It’s a little bit different. This is a full body workout, and it gets your heart going. Besides, it’s fun!”

Donna Hunt
Water aerobics instructor, Robins Fitness Center



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Andy Long closes a valve to perform a backwashing of carbon vessels at the groundwater treatment facility. The facility was named Plant of the Year by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.

Ground Water Treatment facility wins award

By AMANDA CREEL
amanda.creel.ctr@robins.af.mil

Robins Groundwater Treatment Facility was recently named the Plant of the Year by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.

The facility was also presented the Gold Award for having no Notices of Violations of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System during the 2006 calendar year.

The facility is responsible for removing contaminants from the water at Robins to ensure Robins meets Air Force, Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division water quality guidelines before it can be dis-

posed of.

The facility has won the plant of the year award every year they have been eligible to compete and has earned the Gold Award four times since it first entered the competition in 1999.

"This is just unheard of. Everybody is pretty envious of what we do here," said Nelson Rosa, operations manager of the plant.

The groundwater treatment team agreed the plants success is due to the efforts of the entire team.

"I am really proud of the team we have and the level of excellence they maintain everyday," said Becky McCoy, chief of the environmental management division.

Robins began the operation of the Groundwater Treatment System in October 1997 and reached a milestone of two billion gallons being treated as part of the project in 2006.

"Because the EPA and the Georgia EPD are pleased, it sheds a good light on the Air Force and that is an image we want to illuminate," said Philip Manning, environmental engineer and ground water treatment system project manager.

During the presentation of the award, the facility was called a "perennial winner."

Mr. Manning said at that moment he looked over at Mr. Rosa and said, "I like the sound of that phrase and I want to hear it again."

GPP calls for DoD contractors to use recycled materials in products, services

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

Department of Defense contractors and agencies are making sure they stay in the green when it comes to the procurement process.

The Green Procurement Program is an offshoot of the Affirmative Procurement Program. APP was established by Presidential Executive Order 13101 in 1998 and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976. Presidential Executive Order 13101 was later replaced by Presidential Executive Order 13423 in January.

GPP is a DoD program that calls for DoD contractors and government contracting workers to make every effort to use recycled materials when producing and purchasing products and services.

The program that includes some of the original requirements as its predecessor, the Affirmative Procurement Program, is currently being worked at all Air Force Materiel Command bases. Robins will soon develop a written plan locally for the program.

Ben Torrey, an environmental engineer in the 78th Civil Engineer Group's Environmental Quality Branch here, said the initiative aims to make recycled materials a natural part of the buying and selling of products and services.

"The idea behind the whole program is to try to reduce waste going into our landfills and then also to try to save energy and water in our federal facilities and also to try to expand our markets for green products and services," he said.

Mr. Torrey said Robins already uses a number of products made from recycled materials, such as picnic tables made from recycled milk jugs, benches made from recycled plastic, and paper made from recycled paper products.

But, the base, along with other installations, agencies, and defense contractors, will be expected to step up their efforts another notch now that the executive order calls for an increase in use of environmentally-friendly materials.

GPP incorporates a list of requirements that defense contractors, civil engineering workers,

government purchase cardholders, GPC approving officials, and government contract workers must consider when purchasing for or selling products and services to the government.

Companies and those that purchase items for the government will have to put a lot more thought into their products and services now.

"Environmentally-sound products must be considered in the procurement process," he said. "You just can't go buy a piece of equipment made from virgin materials without first considering a piece of equipment made from recycled materials."

Dawn Messer, a procurement analyst in the Contracts Policy and Review Branch of the Contracting Directorate here, said the program has a wide-spread impact.

"This initiative applies to anything purchased by appropriated funds, whether it's for a major weapons system all the way down to some basic unit of supply like recycled paper," she said. "So, our entire acquisition work force, including contracting personnel and any person who has a requirement, is going to be affected. They will have to be trained on what Green Procurement means to them and what to look for when they're buying items of any type."

Mr. Torrey and Ms. Messer are co-leads of a 20-person team recently configured to implement the environmental program here.

As with most new initiatives, Mrs. Messer said there are challenges that come with such a program. Establishing and documenting individuals' training in the program and documentation of contract files are just two of the obstacles the team must overcome in the near future, as the program remains in its early stages here.

Mr. Torrey said Robins is still awaiting guidance from AFMC headquarters on how training on the program will be carried out.

While GPP's monetary benefits have yet to be determined, its environmental savings are conservation of natural resources, Mr. Torrey said.

"Of course, there will be energy savings and water savings, which will save everybody money and resources," he said, adding he hopes the program will make the Air Force more sustainable years down the road.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Ben Torrey, environmental engineer, shows off a picnic table outside of building 905 that is constructed out of recycled milk jugs.

► 78th LRS AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron, which won the Air Force Materiel Command's National Defense Transportation Award. The 78th LRS Fuels Management Flight received the American Petroleum Institute Award.

In addition, the following 78th LRS members won individual AFMC awards:

- Master Sgt Walter Seth, fuels SNCO
- Senior Airman Joseph Jinks, fuels Airman
- Tech. Sgt. William Geiger, transportation NCO
- Patricia Peterman, senior civilian manager
- Kenneth Fowler, fuels civilian technician
- Roberto Bravo, supply civilian supervisor