

THE ROBINS REV-UP

PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1954

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

June 8, 2007 Vol. 52 No. 23

Smoke from nearby wildfires causing breathing problems

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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Smoke from fires raging in South Georgia has recently drifted into the Middle Georgia area, and the matter is choking some people up.

In recent weeks, southeast winds have carried clouds of smoke from the fires over the Central Georgia area, randomly causing visibility problems during certain parts of the day in some areas. Although winds and a recent rainfall have alleviated some of the problems, the relief may be temporary.

First Lt. Kenneth Chilcoat, wing weather officer in the 78th Operations Support Squadron's Weather Flight, said while eastward winds have decreased the frequency of the smoke somewhat in the past

several days, the ongoing drought may mean the smoke may linger.

"This is the first time we've seen the smoke in probably about a week and a half," he said. "That's because the winds have been mainly from the east. With the winds being from the east, places such as Moody Air Force Base and places along the Florida panhandle have seen the smoke more than Central Georgia."

Lieutenant Chilcoat said winds may have carried the smoke north and south, leaving Middle Georgia in a "pocket," and carrying the brunt of the smoke elsewhere.

Although recent rainfall has helped the situation, a more serious storm is needed to put out the fires.

"Basically, we're not going to get out of

▶ see SMOKY SKIES, 5A



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

The sky above the flightline is dark due to drifting smoke from fires burning in southwest Georgia. The fires have affected the air recently and are causing breathing problems for some people who are sensitive to the smoke.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Col. Jim McClain, 78th Medical Group commander, answers media questions about the recent tuberculosis concerns at Robins.

Robins employees cleared for duty in recent TB scare

BY 1st LT. SEQUOIYA LAWSON
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Three Team Robins employees have been cleared by the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to return to their duty locations following an investigation into their exposure to a potentially infectious strain of tuberculosis, according to the Robins Public Health Office.

The employees were passengers on at least one commercial flight sometime between May 12 and May 24 where Andrew Speaker, a U.S. citizen, was known to be aboard with XDR, a form of TB that can be highly resistant to most drugs used to treat the disease.

"Fortunately, the risk of a TB outbreak at Robins or in the local community is very little to none as a result of these recent events," said Col. Jim McClain, 78th Medical Group commander. "Taking care of our people is a top priority, so infectious disease of any type is a valid concern to our community."

According to the CDC's Web site, passengers exposed to Mr. Speaker pose no threat to others.

"Some of the passengers are worried that they pose a threat to other people right now, and that's absolutely not the case," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the CDC, according to a June 1 press

release on the CDC Web site. "We want to make sure we reassure them personally, but also generically, so that people who know someone who has been on this flight don't erroneously conclude that there's some kind of infection risk."

There were 26 passengers of the 292 U.S. residents that the CDC considered highest risk; they would have been seated in the row the passenger was in and the two rows in front and behind.

The Robins employees were either on a different deck or several rows behind the infected passenger. One employee is back on duty at Robins, while the other two are currently on temporary duty overseas.

Due to very limited, if any, exposure to TB bacteria on the aircraft, there is minimal risk that the three Robins employees would have a latent TB infection, said Colonel McClain.

According to the CDC Web site, people with latent TB infection have TB bacteria in their bodies, but they are not sick because the bacteria are not active. These people do not have symptoms of TB disease, and they cannot spread the bacteria to others. They may develop TB disease in the future and are often prescribed treatment to pre-

▶ see TUBERCULOSIS, 2A

FECA investigators keep watchful eye for fraudsters

BY AMANDA CREEL
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When it comes to being incognito, three men on base are always working to be beneath the radar in order to complete their mission.

The mission of these men is to build a case on present and former Robins' employees who are collecting Workers' Compensation fraudulently.

"This is a different type of fraud and it is hard to prove. So we have to develop a good case," said Tom, a Federal Employees Compensation Act investigator.

Because of the undercover nature of their job, FECA investigators will only be identified by first names.

The men can be found lurking around grocery stores or gyms hoping to catch a glimpse of someone in the

program who is abusing the system even though they are physically able to return to the workplace.

"We want to look like Bubba whether they are fishing or at Wal-Mart we want to blend in," said Tom.

The men said they do whatever is necessary to secure evidence in cases where fraud is taking place and rely on the assistance of others to provide tips if they suspect someone is defrauding the government.

"You don't get a warning. If we catch you roofing a house, the hammer comes down," Tom said.

The investigators have been known to visit claimants' neighbors, do undercover work and do surveillance

WHAT TO KNOW

If you suspect someone is collecting workers' compensation fraudulently, call 926-3681 or 926-3769 to report your suspicions anonymously.

by documenting activity through videos or photographs.

"We will canvas a neighborhood in a heart beat," Tom said.

Most of the time, the evidence collected is used during court proceedings against an individual for defrauding the government, but sometimes the investigators show the videos or photos to the claimant's physicians as proof the person is capable of returning to work.

Though the men agree the percentage of people who are fraudulently claiming workers' compensation is small, a small group of people fraudulently collecting long-term benefits

▶ see FRAUD OFFICE, 5A

Base puts new drug and alcohol awareness campaign to the test

BY AMANDA CREEL
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Events over the Memorial Day weekend elevated Robins' Drug and Alcohol Responsibility Condition level to DARCON Bravo, just weeks after launching the drug and alcohol awareness campaign targeting consciousness and accountability.

Two suspected drug-related incidents involving base personnel, lead to the elevation to DARCON Bravo.

One event involved two non-commissioned officers who were arrested on suspicion of possessing an illegal drug. The other event involved a civilian employee suspected of using an illegal drug while at work. Both cases are under investigation.

The DARCON system was tested for the first time as a result of the recent incidents and members of the Alcohol Issues Working Group were pleased with the efforts of the base community.

"We knew there were going to be some hiccups and speed bumps. What we've learned is there are some problems with dissemination of the information," said Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Pope, Airmen and Family Readiness Center superintendent and chairman of the AIWG.

He said the AIWG has identified things that need to be done differently and are finding more efficient ways to disseminate the information when the

▶ see DARCON, 5A

DARCON LEVELS

- ▶ **DARCON Normal** — Applies when no drug or alcohol related incidents have occurred.
- ▶ **DARCON Alpha** — Applies when there is an increased risk for drug or alcohol abuse (for example, prior to an upcoming holiday, three-day weekend or other similar event.)
- ▶ **DARCON Bravo** — Applies when a drug or alcohol-related incident occurred and no significant injuries are reported.
- ▶ **DARCON Charlie** — Applies when a drug or alcohol-related incident occurs and results in significant injuries to one or more personnel.
- ▶ **DARCON Delta** — Applies when a drug or alcohol-related incident results in death.

Services director touts club changes

By ED MILES
Director, 78th Services



Ed Miles, Services director

A recent article on clubs in the Rev Up spurred me to submit this article to clarify some of the misconceptions about the current Robins club configuration and use of each club. Hopefully, readers will get a better understanding of what the Robins' clubs are and are not, as well as where we're headed in the near

to intermediate future.

By way of background, let me first revisit a little of the club history here at Robins. At the end of fiscal 2005, Enlisted Club membership was at 3,156. Financially, the club lost \$40,000. Officers' Club membership at that time was 2,323 and the bottom line in that club was a loss of \$79,000. Continuity of management in both clubs had suffered for some time, as managers in each club had come and gone for various reasons. Services leadership recommended to 78th Air Base Wing and Air Logistics Center leadership that the two clubs collocate in order to improve

▶ see ROBINS CLUBS, 4A

THINK SAFETY



To request a ride, call 222-0013, 335-5218, 335-5238 or 335-5236. Total rides given this year: 324

Days without a DUI: 33
Last DUI: 116th Maintenance Squadron
— courtesy 78th SFS Reports and Analysis Section



THE TWO-MINUTEREV

Watson Extension
Phase 2 of the Watson Boulevard Extension Project will begin June 17.

Half of the large parking lot across from Bldg. 300 will be closed for 21 days. Extra parking will be available next to Bldg. 334. The project, which will direct traffic from the main gate to Robins Parkway off of Peacekeeper Way,

should be complete in August.

Road Closure
Due to a malfunction of the cattle gate, Hanna Road will be closed to all traffic except emergency vehicles until further notice. For more information call Master Sgt. Rodney Summerwell or Staff Sgt. Chris Nelson at 327-8941 or 808-9723.

INSIGHT



19th ARG SAFETY DAY

Group emphasizes safety during annual event at Lake Tobesofkee, 1B

SPORTS



2007 SPORTS DAY

78th SFS squeaks out a three-point victory at this year's event, 3B

FAMILY



PROJECT LINUS

Program gives blankets to children going through tough times, 2A

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY	92/70	
SATURDAY	94/71	
SUNDAY	93/70	

HOMEMADE HUGS FROM THE HEART

Project Linus gives children blankets to offer comfort during tough times

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

Charlie Brown's friend Linus carried around a blanket for comfort. And just like Linus, every kid needs a little comfort at times.

Since its inception in 1995, Project Linus, a national non-profit organization which has 397 chapters throughout the U.S., has provided homemade blankets to children who are going through an emotionally tough time.

Joan Anderson, Project Linus' Bibb County Chapter coordinator, said the blankets are her group's way of giving hugs to children in need.

"They're a form of security so that when a child is ill or is going through some sort of trauma like divorce in the family, a death or illness or a separation, the child has a hug with him or her all the time in the form of a blanket."

From babies in the neonatal unit of the local hospital all the way to age 19, Mrs. Anderson said Project Linus provides "hugs" of all sizes.

More than 40 ladies and nine groups in the Middle Georgia community craft the handmade blankets that come in the form of fleece, knit, crocheted or quilted materials.

Mrs. Anderson said with the growing needs of the community, the organization is requesting more volunteers step forward to make the blankets.

Locally, the chapter has provided 4,300 blankets to children in the Middle Georgia community since its first blanket day May 22, 2004.

Since Dec. 31, 2006, nearly two million blankets have been given to children nationwide in the program.

Mrs. Anderson said each blanket is bagged in order to keep it clean and delivered to each child by a designated point of contact from the organization that nominated the child to receive a blanket.

Project Linus has provided blankets for children in the Medical Center of Central Georgia and Coliseum Medical Center's neonatal unit, the



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Dashara Hollis, 2, daughter of Senior Airman Rashad Hollis, 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, and Senior Airman Suzy Hollis, 19th Maintenance Squadron, was the first child at Robins to receive a blanket through Project Linus.

WHAT TO KNOW

If anyone would like to volunteer to make baby blankets or package them for Project Linus, contact Joan Anderson, Project Linus chapter coordinator, at 781-9742. The organization is strictly a volunteer group and doesn't receive any kind of funding. For more information on Project Linus, visit www.projectlinus.org.

Department of Family and Children Services, Mother/Child Ministries and other organizations that help children in the Middle Georgia community.

In recent months, the Airman and Family Readiness Center and the local chapter of Project Linus have come together to bring a little warmth and security to military members' children facing hospitalization or the deployment of a parent.

Tech. Sgt. Mike Bullard, readiness NCO in charge at the Airman and Family Readiness

Center, said the blankets are a nice addition to the pillowcases the center provides children of deployed military members.

"I think it's a great fit and a great opportunity to provide the young ones another comfort," he said. "Right now, I currently do pillowcases. I take the family photographs and put them on a pillowcase and they can have kind of a 'sweet dreams' concept."

Sergeant Bullard said about three children at Robins have received blankets since the organization began working with the A&FRC within the last month.

The readiness NCO said the blankets are a good idea since so many families are on the go.

"These blankets are small enough and the size is in proportion with the child and age that they can carry this around with them during the day, sleep with it at night or take it with them on trips," he said. "It's something they can carry around with them like Linus did on Charlie Brown."

TUBERCULOSIS

Continued from 1A

vent them from developing TB.

The site also said people who actually develop TB are sick from TB bacteria that are active, meaning they are multiplying in their body. They usually have symptoms of TB. People with TB of the lungs or throat are capable of spreading bacteria to others. There are prescribed drugs that can cure TB.

"Additionally, contracting TB is far more difficult than catching the flu," said Capt. Patricia Garcia, Robins public health officer. "In the medical community we never want to say never, but we are confident there is a low to minimal

risk."

A person must be exposed to the TB bacteria in a large concentration for an extended period. If the bacteria make it into the body, it now must survive the attack of the immune system, and even if it makes it through that, it may never manifest to an active disease phase, she said.

Captain Garcia said the Robins Public Health Office has an active TB Detection and Control program that operates in full compliance with CDC and Air Force guidelines.

"It is our job not only to educate people on possible communicable diseases and

how to protect themselves but also to do surveillance for the possible introduction of any diseases into our population," said Captain Garcia.

"TB is a treatable disease. XDR TB, the drug-resistant strain, is harder and more expensive to treat but it is treatable," said Colonel McClain.

Robins employees may contact the base public health office at 327-8019 for more information.

More information about this incident and XDR TB can be found on the CDC's TB Web site at www.cdc.gov/tb, www.cdc.gov/tb/xdrtb or by calling 1-800-CDC-INFO.

► IN BRIEF

SAFETY AWARENESS WALK

The Health and Wellness Center, Civilian Health Promotion Services and 78th Services are hosting a 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety and Skin Cancer Prevention Awareness walk June 15.

The walk, which takes place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the outdoor track across from the fitness center, is to promote summer safety awareness, including water safety, food safety, heat stress, and summer exercise tips. Participants can receive a free skin cancer screening.

For more information, call 327-8031 or 327-8430.

"Today, our mobility Airmen and aircraft follow the examples of two of the most recognizable Airmen heroes from the Berlin Airlift -- Major General William H. Tunner (named to lead the Airlift by our second Air Force Chief of Staff) and 1st Lt. Gail Halvorsen (renowned for his brilliance, meticulous organization and visionary leadership). They are visible and recognizable signs of U.S. compassion and unyielding resolve, helping deliver justice to our enemies and comfort to the suffering. Day or night, operating from pavement or dirt, our Airmen deliver the goods, the gas, and the warfighters beyond oceans, into hostile territory, and across the last tactical mile." — *Air Force Chief of Staff, Rodney J. McKinley*

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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

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

ADVERTISING

For advertising information, call The Telegraph advertising department at (478) 923-6432.

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From cadet to lieutenant



One of the Air Force's newest second lieutenants waves to the crowd after receiving his degree and commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy May 30 in Colorado. The ceremony in Falcon Stadium ends the cadet careers and begins the Air Force careers of 977 new lieutenants.

U.S. Air Force photo by JOEL STRAYER

First sergeant: Are we a one-mistake Air Force?

Throughout my almost 28 years in the Air Force, I have often heard the old adage that we are not a one-mistake Air Force.

If an Airman did something wrong, he typically would not be kicked out for that one mistake. It was possible to recover and lead a productive and successful career.

Now I hear that we are a one-mistake Air Force, and if you do anything wrong, you will be discharged.

I want you all to know that is not a true statement! The only difference is that crimes are no longer treated like mistakes.

A mistake is something you did not do on purpose and will try not to repeat. A crime is something you know is illegal and choose to do anyway.

Take drunken driving for example. For years, Airmen could recover their career if they had been charged with drunken driving, sometimes even after being charged twice. Society thought of it as a mistake.

Today, many Airmen and supervisors still consider it as only a mistake in judgment when they get charged with drunken driving. Society and the Air Force have since changed their views on drunken driving. Choosing to drink and drive is a dangerous crime, not a mistake in judgment. A person knows that it's illegal to do, but still does it anyway, making it a crime.

In recent months, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base officials have adopted a zero-tolerance policy for drunken driving. Violators could be discharged, just like any other serious crime committed against the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

So don't confuse a mistake with a crime.

A mistake, on the other hand, is something that was done unintentionally, but was wrong.

A missed appointment for the first time would be a mistake. When it happens, you look at why it happened and implement some things that will prevent it

from happening again. If you are late for work because your alarm clock battery died, it is a mistake. So is failure to keep your uniform pressed and clean one day. These are mistakes because they are not routine happenings on your part.

Now, if you consistently make these mistakes, then you are not showing an effort to improve. A pattern of misconduct can lead to more serious consequences for the member under the UCMJ.

Mistakes have become more costly to Airmen since the Air Force began trimming its numbers. Commanders, first sergeants and supervisors do not have time to deal with people who cannot obey simple rules and regulations. It does not take much to be discharged in this day and age.

Senior leadership asks that Airmen come to work on time, do their job to the best of their ability and behave in a sensible manner when off duty.

That doesn't seem too diffi-

cult, does it? But in fact, we have too many individuals who choose not to comply with one or more of these simple rules.

If you sign a contract for four or six years, do your best during that contract. Once it is over, make an informed decision. If you can live up to the Air Force standard, then your continued service is welcome. If not, get out and move on with your life.

If you choose to not uphold that contract, then a pattern of mistakes will have a negative impact on your career, while committing a crime will probably cost you your career and have other life-long consequences.

The Air Force has provided a great life for me. I know the difference between a mistake and a crime. I have made plenty of mistakes that I've learned from, but I will not commit a crime.

—This commentary was written by Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Blietz, 4th Equipment Maintenance Squadron first sergeant.



Col. Theresa Carter
78th Air Base Wing
commander

Commander's Action Line

To contact the Action Line, call 222-0804 or e-mail one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List.

If sending from a commercial e-mail account, use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also visit <https://wwwmil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>. Include your name and contact information so a response may be provided.

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, 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.

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

This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

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.

ROBINS CLUBS

Continued from 1A

overall efficiencies of the two clubs and reduce the financial losses.

The two clubs at Robins collocated for accounting purposes in January 2006 and operationally in April 2006. We made the lunch and dinner meal program "all ranks" and moved nearly all of the food staff to the officers' club because the kitchen there is bigger and could better support day-to-day operations. Kitchen staff could support the weekday lunch buffet program while still allowing preparation and delivery of special function events at the museum as well as to the enlisted club whenever ballroom use at that facility called for catering support. The enlisted club kitchen was too small to support this volume of operation. The enlisted lounge (JR Rockers), bingo and the barber shop remained operational within the enlisted club and the ballroom still supports special events such as weddings, the quarterly awards ceremonies and similar programs.

There are differences between "collocation" and "consolidation." To most of our customers, these two terms are used interchangeably when discussing clubs. Each means something a little different than the other but significantly impacts the way the two clubs operate. "Collocation" means that there are two separate club facilities operated by one management staff, one kitchen staff and one catering staff. "Consolidation" means that there is one club facility, one management staff, kitchen staff and catering staff.

Separate officer and enlisted lounges are operated but are under the "same roof" in a "consolidated" facility. To the average club member, these terms don't mean a whole lot as long as the food, entertainment and service are good and meet the expectations of the membership. To club management and staff however, each is very different and presents unique operational intricacies and concerns.

Since the collocation back in April 2006, there has been much discussion about how the clubs should operate at Robins, the pros and cons of current operations and where we need to take the program from its current status. Our intent is to continue operating two clubs. We will continue to offer "all ranks" programs open to the entire club membership where it makes sense.

As an example, we offered a "Casino Night" in January at the officers' club. It was well attended and we plan to do this again in July at the enlisted club, again as an all ranks event. Similarly, Football Frenzy and Texas Hold 'Em tournaments were conducted at the enlisted club, open to all ranks and they too, have proven successful. The first Friday of each month, "First Friday" events are conducted at each club.

We run separate events for these because the primary emphasis is on bar operations and current guidelines are that enlisted and officers will have separate lounges. We're currently planning a joint membership "Family Night" for the second Friday in July. This event will be conducted outside the officers' club around the pool and will include entertainment for the whole family. We thought it only smart to make this an all

ranks program so that the entire club staff can focus on providing members a night of fun and enjoyment. Assuming we conduct another joint membership night towards the end of the summer, we'd alternate and run that one at the enlisted club.

So why don't we do separate membership nights at each club? Conducting combined membership nights is more efficient for the club as participation is maximized. We can do one large event with the same staff it would take to provide two separate events, so we save membership dollars. If the joint programs aren't successful, we'll return to separate membership nights and stagger the nights on which we provide them. We'll continue to look for opportunities to provide joint programs and services where it makes sense and guidelines allow. Hopefully, this will allow us to be better stewards of membership dollars and to provide better service to attendees.

So where are we headed? In March of this year, we convened a joint Club Advisory Committee. These representatives from across the base are working hard to identify programs and services for the entire membership as well as to provide us feedback on our ongoing events. In May, we moved the Pizza Depot into the enlisted club, allowing us to provide better support to bingo operations and catered events in the ballroom. We've pulled all the JR Rockers paraphernalia out of the enlisted lounge. It's currently operating as a sports bar and we're discussing further renovations to that part of the club.

We've added the MousePad, which offers free computer access for all and

we've created a separate billiards room adjacent to the Pizza Depot. ITT has also moved in so the enlisted club is now an active hub for a number of community programs. Long range, we're working on a plan to build a new consolidated club and golf facility that would house both clubs with separate lounges, the golf pro shop and possibly even the lodging front desk operation. This project calls for including the existing pool and tennis courts as a part of this facility and would be located somewhere near where the current officers' club and Pine Oaks Lodge currently exist. The plan is still in the concept stage and will take several years to materialize.

In the meantime, what we need is support from the membership at both clubs. I've heard a lot of discussion about what clubs are and what they aren't. The success or failure of a club isn't dependent on the building. It isn't dependent on the entertainment program or the hours of operation. What makes a good club program is the people who support it. When the membership is strong and supportive of one another and the club, all the pieces come together and you get vibrant memberships enjoying a variety of programs — a little something for everyone.

Our goal is to deliver the best programs and services we can with the resources we currently have available. Membership participation and feedback are critical to the success of these efforts as neither Services nor the advisory committee can accomplish anything without membership support. It is my sincere hope that we'll see you at the club!

DARCON

Continued from 1A

campaign is used in the future.

The DARCON campaign was implemented to address issues in the Robins community regarding drug and alcohol abuse. The aim of the campaign is to utilize face-to-face interaction to help discourage drug and alcohol abuse by discussing incidents or solutions to incidents during roll calls or other briefings in the workplace, he said.

"The goal is to quickly get the attention of our Airmen, let them know what happened and get them talking and exerting positive peer pressure as we strive to eliminate drug and alcohol-related misconduct," said Col. Theresa Carter, 78th ABW commander in a May 11 Rev-Up article announcing the program's launch.

Patterned after Force Protection Conditions, DARCON aims to raise awareness levels throughout the installation when a drug or alcohol related incident occurs by instilling personal accountability and increasing individual awareness.

"Prevention is always going to be our driving factor. We want to open their eyes and help them make smart choices," Sergeant Pope said.

The campaign utilizes several avenues to ensure the base population is aware of drug and alcohol-related events involving base personnel by posting the DARCON conditions on the base marquee, e-mail and the base splash page.

"We want people to know when they see the condition the severity of the event that has happened," Sergeant Pope said.

Those with ideas, suggestions or other feedback about the DARCON program are encouraged to e-mail awig@robins.af.mil.

FRAUD OFFICE

Continued from 1A

can be a huge financial loss to the base.

Tom said the program is designed for people who are legitimately hurt on the job and it is unfair for those who recover or aren't hurt to collect payments from the system.

The men said one person can earn more than a \$1 million in injury compensation payments when collecting long-term benefits.

All injury compensation payments are taken off the top of the Robins' budget each fiscal year, so ensuring those who are collecting workers' compensation are legitimate is an important task, Tom said.

"That's money that could go to fixing planes or recreation for the troops," he said.

The efforts of the FECA investigators have already aided in the recovery of \$350,000 to

the base budget and provided cost avoidance of future base budget authorizations for workers' compensation claims of more than \$12,000,000, Greg said.

"Cost avoidance is a real savings for the base," he said.

The investigators explained relocating doesn't hinder them from tracking someone who is suspected of Workers' Compensation fraud.

"Even if you are in jail we will come to look at you," Tom said.

Moving to a new state can't guarantee you are free of the FECA investigators watchful eyes either. The team has traveled to several other states, including Alabama, Florida and Texas, to investigate fraud tips, Greg said.

"We can call other FECA investigators at other bases and ask them to look into someone for us," said Bill, a FECA investigator who also works for the claims review office, of the

times when the investigators are unable to follow-up on a tip themselves.

The men said those who are guilty of making fraudulent workers' compensation claims are often paranoid.

"I think there are a lot of them sitting on the edge wondering whose watching and when they are going to get caught," Tom said.

Bill added, "They expend more energy trying not to get caught than they would if they just returned to work."

If convicted of fraud you are convicted of a felony, Tom said.

"No voting, no hunting. You'll lose your rights," Bill said.

Other consequences of a felony conviction can include a fine of up to \$10,000, incarceration for up to five years for each count and up to three years of probation.

However, felony charges are not the investigators only means of punishing fraudsters.

Alternate means of punishment can be sought through the Magistrate Court, Federal Civil Court and through administrative hearings through the Office of Workers' Compensation Program.

"Fraud is wrong, criminal, expensive, damaging and all too often overlooked," said Debra Foy, Injury

Compensation and Retirements section chief. "Everyone can help Robins save thousands if not millions of dollars by reporting suspected workers' compensation fraud. FECA was created to protect employees who suffer work-related injuries, not to create a windfall for the underserving who bilks the system."

SMOKY SKIES

Continued from 1A

this drought unless we have a tropical storm," he said. "It's forecast to have an active hurricane season this year, so we have a good chance of getting our rainfall back this summer and into the fall."

In the meantime, breathing easy isn't an easy thing to do on days when the smoke is heavier.

Pat Tooley, lead health specialist in the Public Health Flight of the 78th Medical Group's Medical Operations Squadron, said her area is currently putting together a report that tracks any health problems people here have had from the smoke.

"The biggest health risk is going to be respiratory infections, allergic reactions and things like sinusitis," she said.

Although some may have problems with the smoke, Mrs. Tooley said Robins hasn't had a spike in health-related problems since the situation arose May 12.

Jennifer Jones, public information officer for the North Central Health District in Macon, which serves 13 Georgia counties, said the risk for health hazards are a concern for both people predisposed to health problems and the healthy alike.

"What we've been telling people is the wind is bringing in smoke from the wildfires in southern Georgia," she said. "The smoke is a mixture of gases and fine particles that are burning from the trees and other plant materials that can hurt your eyes and irritate your respiratory system. If you have any chronic heart or lung conditions, it can worsen the symptoms from that."

Mrs. Jones said while people with pre-existing health problems are at risk, people without health problems are just as much at risk.

"Anyone can experience the effects from the smoke, but the people with those chronic heart and lung conditions, children, the elderly and pregnant women, they're at a greater risk of getting the side effects the smoke can bring," she said. "So, if you fall into one of those categories, you definitely want to make sure you're staying inside as much as possible, with the windows and doors shut."

To keep the smoky air at bay when cooling your home or vehicle, Mrs. Jones recommends people use methods that recirculate air to avoid bringing smoky air into the area.

Capt. Patricia Garcia, officer in charge of the Public Health Flight in the 78th MDG's Medical Operations Squadron, said people should turn to their primary healthcare providers for more individualized advice about heading off health problems from the recent smoky situation.



courtesy photo
Retired Air Force Colonel Ken Emery II was appointed Museum of Aviation director May 29.

Ken Emery named Museum of Aviation director

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

Ken Emery II recently took over as director of the Museum of Aviation as former director, Paul Hibbitts, bid farewell to the role. And while Mr. Emery's position at the museum is new to him, Robins is certainly not.

The retired Air Force colonel was commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Air Force ROTC program in 1977, and in July 1983 came to Robins as the first executive officer in the Logistics Operations Center.

From July 1984 to July 1987, Mr. Emery was assigned to the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center F-15 System Program Management Division, where he was the program manager for the F-15 Multi-Stage Improvement Program. Later, he was reassigned to the Center's F-15 System Program Office as the program manager for the F-15 Depot Competition Initiative and chief of the F-15 Logistics Division.

In February 2001, Mr. Emery became chief of the F-15 Production Division, and was reassigned as the C-141 System Program director the following year. In July 2003, he was assigned as the director of the C-17 System Support Management Directorate, and later the C-17 SSM Division in the Strategic Airlift Directorate.

Needless to say, the 56-year-old Youngstown, Ohio, native's history has beefed up his resume for his current leadership role.

"For many years, I volunteered at this museum and I volunteered in 1982 and 1983, at the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson," he said. "I just have a natural interest that has turned into a passion for aviation museums, old airplanes, history, artifacts and the education process."

Mr. Emery will be charged with overseeing the entire operation of the museum, including the buildings, grounds, educational programs and events, as well as the museum's foundation and staff.

"The number one goal is to see the completion of the World War II Hangar under construction right now," he said. "The installation of the exhibits we've planned and moving airplanes inside and getting that facility completely finished and open to the public over the next six to 12 months, that's a huge project on our plate."

The new director said the future holds a lot for the museum in other ways.

"We also are expanding our education program so we can make sure we can reach out to more students and continue to expand the reach of the program for students and teachers as they use the museum as a resource for

classroom instruction," he said.

Although budget constraints are a fact for Mr. Emery, he said the museum's close relationship with its foundation and the government should help it meet those challenges head on.

He said he plans to do all he can to continue nurturing the positive relationship with the community.

"In the early days and even now, the community has continued to be a strong support of the museum," he said. "It has sort of been the bridge between the base and the community. The museum fosters and strengthens that relationship between the base and the community. It's just a perfect avenue to do that."

Mr. Emery said he's excited about being back in the arms of the community and openly embraces what is to come.

"We're very excited to have Ken come on board," said Dudley Bluhm, Museum of Aviation deputy director. "He's going to be a great asset to the museum. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge about Air Force aircraft and being a retired colonel in the Air Force, he also brings a wealth of knowledge of the Air Force in general. That's what we're here to portray is the men and women of the United States Air Force and what they have done to keep this nation free and really protect the liberties we have as citizens."

Support network

5th MOB Spouses helps wives, husbands of unit members connect, have fun

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

Coping with the deployment of a spouse and making life work at a new base can be tough. But spouses in the 5th Combat Communications Group have the help of others in their situation to get through it.

The 5th MOB Spouses, a group of spouses from 5th CCG squadrons that took shape earlier this year, offers companionship and a wealth of resources to help make life a little easier to manage.

Jennifer Block, wife of 5th CCG commander, Col. Carl Block, said the group reaches beyond the boundaries of military rank and strives to meet people's personal needs.

"The purpose of the group is for spouses to get together and network," she said. "They can make friends with one another so that when husbands are deployed or things come up, they have other spouses they can call and either get help from or have fun with."

Since the group came together, about 25 spouses have attended numerous outings, like going to dinner, bowling and seeing a movie.

While no husbands have attended the group's events, Mrs. Block said they're a welcomed addition.

Mrs. Block said the group's activities are budget friendly so parents can bring their children along without emptying their wallets.

"My goal when I plan



you first move to a place," she said. "I figured it would be the best place to start to get to know who I'm with and (who is) going through the same things we all go through. If you're new, whether it's new to the Air Force or new to Robins, or even if you're not new, it's a great way to get to know people."

Susan Holmstrom, newlywed wife of Tech. Sgt. James Holmstrom who is in the 53rd Combat Communications Squadron, said being a part of the group has helped her stay connected in more than one way.

"I think it's an awesome network," she said. "We really rely on each other for a lot more than just companionship," she said. "We're all in the same situation, almost at the same time. Sometimes, the deployments fall on different squadrons at different times, but they all overlap. At one point in time, someone in our spouses' group is going through being without their spouse."

WHAT TO KNOW

The 5th MOB Spouses is a group open to wives and husbands of 5th Combat Communications Group members of all ranks. The group meets the second Monday of each month at various locations for dinner and other activities. For more information, contact Machele Morrison at 926-3223.

events with people is for a person to be able to go out for under \$10 for the evening," she said.

Prices of events are made available to spouses ahead of time so no one is caught off guard, Mrs. Block said.

For many spouses, going out for a night on the town is just one benefit to the group.

Alison Storms, wife of Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Storms, superintendent in the 52nd Combat Communications Squadron, said the group has helped her get more settled in her husband's new assignment.

"I think it's an easy way to know people quickly when

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The 5th MOB Spouses will meet at Logan's Roadhouse at 2701 Watson Blvd. at 6:30 p.m. Monday. To sign up, contact Kathy Eckert at 971-3389 or at eckertk2@juno.com. No event is planned for July. On Aug. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m., the group will bowl at Robins Lanes.

Those interested in bowling are encouraged to R.S.V.P to Mrs. Eckert.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

New identity-theft scam targets military spouses

The American Red Cross is warning military spouses about a new identity-theft scam that targets family members of deployed troops.

The Red Cross was alerted of the scam earlier this month, said Deborah Goldberg of the Red Cross.

The scam involves a person with an American accent calling a military spouse, identifying herself as a representative of the Red Cross, and telling the spouse that her husband was hurt in Iraq and was medically evacuated to Germany. The caller then says doctors can't start treatment until paperwork is completed, and to start the

paperwork they need the spouse to verify her husband's social security number and date of birth.

It is hard to determine how many spouses have been targeted by this scam, Ms. Goldberg said, as there are many ways for spouses to report problems like this. However, one confirmed report was enough for the Red Cross to act, she said.

"We know that it happened to one person; it was probably going to happen to others, and we wanted to be prudent and alert people," she said.

American Red Cross representatives typically do not contact military members or

dependents directly and almost always go through a commander or first sergeant, according to a Red Cross news release. Military family members are urged not to give out any personal information over the phone if contacted by unknown individuals, including confirmation that their spouse is deployed.

In addition, Red Cross representatives contact military members or dependents directly only in response to an emergency message initiated by a family member, the news release said. The Red Cross does not report any type of casualty information to family

members; the Defense Department will contact families directly about family members' injuries.

It is a federal crime, punishable by up to five years in prison, for a person to fraudulently pretend to be a member of, or an agent for, the American Red Cross for the purpose of soliciting, collecting, or receiving money or material, according to the news release. Any military family member who receives such a call is urged to report it to his or her local family readiness group or military personnel flight.

—*Courtesy of American Forces Press Service.*

► IN BRIEF

TUITION ASSISTANCE SUSPENSION RESCINDED

The temporary one day suspension of military tuition assistance has been lifted. Secretary of the Air Force Financial Management found funding to cover military tuition assistance therefore all tuition requests can now be processed.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS

Bill Kirkland, representative for the Troops to Teachers program, will be at the Robins Education Center today, from 10 to 11 a.m. to take questions about the cooperative program between the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Defense that provides referral and placement assistance to men and

women who have served the nation as members of the Armed Forces and who are seeking a second career as teachers in public schools.

The briefing will be held in Bldg. 905, room 140, no reservations are necessary.

For more information, contact Andrea Harris at 327-7312, or Mr. Kirkland at bill.kirkland@gapsc.com.

FREE USPS PACKAGING FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF SERVICE MEMBERS

The United States Postal Service is providing military family members and friends with packaging materials to send packages to service members. Call 1-800-610-8734, and then select option #1, then #1 again, then #2 and ask for the military pack.

Eight boxes, tape, packaging materials and labels will be

mailed to those who call. They will also provide an I.D. number to re-order. Please allow four to 10 days to receive the materials.

Take advantage of this great opportunity to show support to your loved ones overseas.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SKILLS PROGRAM

This on-base youth volunteer program is funded by the Air Force Aid Society. Dependents, in grades 9 through 12, of active-duty Air Force members assigned to or living on Robins may apply.

The program affords eligible teens an opportunity to learn valuable work skills while having a positive impact on their communities. Program participation incentives are in the form of dollar credits for grant funding. Students "bank" volunteer dollar credits toward

their post-secondary education at a rate of \$4 per hour volunteered. Participants may accumulate as much as 250 hours for a \$1,000 scholarship over all four years of high school combined. For more information call Marvin Hawkins program coordinator at 926-5601.

PALACE CHASE

Active-duty members, are you interested in applying for an early separation? The Palace Chase program allows eligible members to apply to separate early, and continue their participation on a part-time basis. All Air Force Specialty Codes and ranks are eligible to apply. Refer to AFI 36-3205, or contact Tech. Sgt. Deserie Jackson, In-Service recruiter, at 327-7367, or deserie.jackson@robins.af.mil for requirements and questions on this program.

Airman and Family Readiness Center classes, workshops

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

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

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

Job Connection

The A&FRC will host a job connection to include 25 employers today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the ballroom in Bldg. 956.

The Job Connection is open to all DOD ID card holders.

For more information contact Shannon Satterfield or Jim Brewer at 926-1256.

Bundles for babies Passport to parenthood

The A&FRC Family Advocacy program will conduct a Bundles For Babies Passport to Parenthood class Tuesday, 8 to 11 a.m., Bldg. 794.

Course is for all active-duty Air Force families preparing for a new baby. Discussions cover early childhood development, attachment, infant care, practical preparation and financial preparation. At the end of the session, a bundle is presented, compliments of the Air Force Aid Society. The bundle includes: a thermal weave plaid cotton crib blanket, a hooded towel and wash mitten, a white knit crib

sheet, a 2-pack printed cotton receiving blanket, a 4-pack cotton diapers, a 2-pack sleep-n-play, a 3-pack onesies and a pair of booties.

This program is open to all active-duty members and their spouses, who are expecting a child, regardless of rank or number of children in the family. Call Family Advocacy at 327-8398 to sign up.

Starting a business (writing an effective business plan)

A business consultant from the Small Business Development Center will conduct a "Starting A Business" workshop Wednesday, 9 to 11 a.m., Bldg. 794.

Information will include developing your business ideas, putting your plan on paper, information and resources available for your use, and more. If

you are considering a business venture, you will gain valuable information to help you get started.

Pre-deployment briefings

Pre-deployment briefings are offered twice weekly by the A&FRC Readiness Team. Briefings are conducted at 9 a.m., Monday and Friday in Bldg. 794. Call 926-1256 for details.

Airman's attic

The Airmen's Attic program supports junior enlisted members that are establishing a household. E-4s and below are encouraged to screen and use items in the attic to help defray the cost of setting up an apartment or home. Items usually available include kitchenware, small appliances, and decorative items. The attic also receives children's clothing, toys and military uniforms.

STRAIGHT TALK HOT LINE

For up-to-date
information in the event of a base
emergency, call 222-0815.

Summer safety shines



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

With safety at the forefront of the 19th Air Refueling Group's activities Monday, 1st. Lt. Jason Knab remembers to fasten on a life vest before he leaves the shore to cruise the waves on Lake Tobesofkee.

19th Air Refueling Group hosts annual safety fair

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

As summer rolls around each year, members of the Team Robins community turn their attention to enjoying a safe, fun-filled summer.

The 19th Air Refueling Group doesn't just opt to have another safety briefing to get their Airmen focused on safety.

Instead, the group hosts a fair, where Airmen and their families can come out and learn how to be safe during summer activities such as boating or jet skiing.

"It's a good chance to focus on safety, but makes it a fun event that is more than just a PowerPoint safety briefing," said Lt. Col. Sandra Chandler, 99th Air Refueling Squadron commander.

"We really focus not only on the Black Knights, but their families. We try to talk about things their families can relate to. That's what safety day is all

about," said Tech. Sgt. Larry Prado, who helped organize the event for the group and lead technician for aerospace propulsion with the 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The event is the group's way of kicking off the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign, said Lt. Col. Marc Van Wert, deputy commander of the 19th ARG. He said the group knows how important safety is and that's why it spends an entire day emphasizing its importance.

"I can't think of a better way to drive the safety lesson home than having a day like this where families can come together and we can weave the safety story into all those summer fun activities," said Lt. Col. Blaine Holt, acting commander of the 19th ARG.

Other members of the group agree the chance to focus on safety away from work is beneficial.

"It's a nice break away and a good chance to focus on what's going on in safety and mingle

outside of work," said Tech. Sgt. Gary Rose, electrical environmental craftsman with the 19th AMXS.

It wasn't just the Airmen who were glad to usher in summer in an environment where safety was paramount. Many of the group's spouses were grateful the group took the time to kickoff summer in a way that would promote safety throughout the season.

"It's a great beginning to summer with the kids out of school; it's a great way to transition to summer," said Tara Hart wife of Maj. Alan Hart, commander of the 19th AMXS.

Though safety is the main focus of the day, members of the group and its leadership were all quick to point out the event also fosters camaraderie and fellowship within the group.

"I think it is a good family environment and that it builds squadron morale and team work," said Airman Kendall Coleman, a boom operator with the 99th ARS.



1 The 19th ARG spent Monday at Lake Tobesofkee for their annual safety day.

2 Dwayne Jolley, Grainger representative, talks to Tech. Sgt. Larry Prado about safety glasses Monday.

3 People were given free literature and gifts at the 19th ARG Safety Day.

4 Maj. Donovan Kanak keeps a watchful eye as his daughter Rachel, 2, plays in the sand.

5 Staff Sgt. Timothy Swinney and his 3-year old son Isaac enjoy the water Monday.

SATURDAY
"Picnic with Altitude" will be held June 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Perry, Houston County Airport.

SUNDAY
Texas Hold 'Em is held on Sundays with sign up at 1:30 p.m. and games at 2 p.m.

MONDAY
Robins Child Development program will offer a Junior Summer Camp for children entering pre-K or kindergarten.

TUESDAY
Lunch buffets are held every Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the officers' club.

Lunch buffets are held every Tuesday through Friday at the officers' club. Cost is \$6.50 members and \$7.50 nonmembers.

Free tacos are available to club members Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the enlisted lounge.

WEDNESDAY
A membership bar bingo will be held today at 6 p.m. A special Father's Day bingo will be played at 2:45 p.m.

The officers' club is available for evening dining Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The officers' club is available for evening dining Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 6 to 9 p.m.

Enjoy Wednesdays in the enlisted lounge, located in Bldg. 956, with M.U.G. night customers may bring their own mug and get refills (up to 30 ounces) for only \$2 from 7 p.m. to closing.

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

All retirees get a free fountain drink or iced tea with a \$5 minimum purchase when they show their retiree I.D. card along with coupon on page 17 of the June Edge on Wednesdays in June.

UPCOMING
A 101 critical days of summer walk will be held June 15 at 11 a.m. This walk is in partnership with HAWC and CHPS.

Come out to a ball hockey tournament slated for June 16 starting at 11 a.m. at the outside inline skating rink.

DONATE YOUR LEAVE

Employee-relations specialists at 926-5307 or 926-5802 have information and instructions concerning requests to receive or donate annual leave.

Falcon Fest Monday

U.S. Air Force file photo by SUE SAPP

Atlanta Falcons full-back Justin Griffith leads a clinic at the youth center during a visit in June 2005. Information, Tickets and Travel will hold a Falcon Fan Fest Monday.



sticks, balls and equipment will be provided. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

Watch WWE Wrestling "Vengeance" June 24 in the enlisted lounge, located in Bldg. 956. The action begins at 8 p.m.

The teen center will hold poetry nights June 15 and 29 at 7 p.m. and Keystone meetings every Friday at 5 p.m.

Club scholarship submissions are due June 15. Robins Officers' and Enlisted Club members and their families may apply for the Air Forces Services club membership scholarship program.

Lunch buffets are held every Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the officers' club. Cost for hot lunch or salad bar is \$6.50 members and \$7.50 nonmembers.

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receive an additional \$1 discount on the lunch buffet when they present their retiree I.D. card to the cashier.

Come out to the officers' club during your birthday month and receive a \$15 coupon to redeem toward your meal.

Outdoor Recreation For more information on these programs and events call outdoor recreation at 926-4001.

Swim lessons are also available for children up to three years old for \$30; youth ages four through 14 years old for \$40 and adults for \$40.

Join outdoor recreation on a trip to the World of Coca Cola June 28. Meet at outdoor recreation at 9 a.m. for departure at 9:30 a.m.

A community water safety class will be held June 25 at 9 a.m. in the enlisted club pool. Cost is \$10 per person six years and older (14 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult).

A CNN Studio tour will be held July 6 in Atlanta, Ga. Cost is \$53 for 12 years and older; \$51.50 for 55 years and older and \$49 for children one to 11 years old.

Join outdoor recreation on a white water rafting trip in Hartford, Tenn.

Join outdoor recreation on a white water rafting trip in Hartford, Tenn. June 15 through 17. Cost is \$285 for one person and one room; \$428 for two people and one room; \$572 for three people and one room and \$716 for four people and one room.

ONGOING
Enter the Name the Clubs contest for a chance to win a vacation for two valued at \$1,000. The contest continues through June 30 to give club members a chance to re-name the two club facilities (Officers' Club currently located in Bldg. 542 and Enlisted club located in Bldg. 956).

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.

Enjoy a historic tour of Savannah with Information, Tickets and Travel July 26. Cost is \$164 per person and includes

transportation by motor coach, time on River Street, historic grand tour of Savannah on a trolley, early dinner at the restaurant Lady and Sons.

Atlanta Falcons tickets will be on sale at the Information, Tickets and Travel office, Bldg. 956, from 6 to 9 p.m. June 11.

FOX Theatre presents, Dream Girls July 28 at 2 p.m., cost is \$74; Wizard of Oz on Aug. 4 at 2 p.m. or Aug. 11 at noon, cost is \$60.50.

The FOX Theatre presents, Dream Girls July 28 at 2 p.m., cost is \$74; Wizard of Oz on Aug. 4 at 2 p.m. or Aug. 11 at noon, cost is \$60.50.

The bowling center has the following specials. To learn more call 926-2112.

Enjoy Thunder Alley glow-in-the-dark bowling Fridays from 9 to 11 p.m.; cost 12 years and younger, \$5 and 13 years and older, \$10 and Saturdays from 9 to 11 p.m., cost is \$10 for everyone.

On Spot Café June special is a turkey burger, fries and medium drink for \$4.75 or a turkey deli sandwich, chips and medium drink for \$3.85.

On Spot Café June special is a turkey burger, fries and medium drink for \$4.75 or a turkey deli sandwich, chips and medium drink for \$3.85.

School's out so bring the kids and have fun bowling. Bowl three games every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. for \$5 per person which includes shoes.

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

Every Monday and Tuesday in June pay only \$20 for green fee and cart.

Every Wednesday and Thursday in June pay only \$15 for green fee and cart starting at 5 p.m.

Receive 10 to 50 percent off selected merchandise during the Father's Day weekend sale at the Pine Oaks Golf Course.

Every Monday and Tuesday in June pay only \$15 for green fee and cart starting at 3 p.m.

Learn to play golf for kids will be held June 11 - 15 and July 23 - 27. Cost is \$60 and includes a nine-hole tourney on Fridays, lunch and trophies.

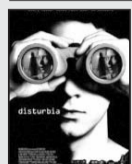
Link Up 2 Golf offers participants over \$300 in savings for \$109 per person. Class V will be held on Tuesdays July 17, 24, 31 and Aug. 7 and 14 at 5:30 p.m.

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Submissions run for two weeks. The following people have been approved as leave recipients: Joy Brown, 579th SMXS/Flt G, POC is Ric Sellers, 926-8870; Phillip Le Francois, HQAFRC/A6N, POC is Mark Mercer, 327-1777 and Charlene Thomas 78th CONS, POC is Dawn Hardison, 926-3666

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 INVISIBLE

Justin Chatwin, Margarita Levieva

Nick, is a high school senior with a bright future until, in a tragic case of mistaken identity, he is brutally attacked by a troubled girl, Annie, and his body is left for dead.

SATURDAY

DISTURBIA

Shia LaBeouf, Carrie-Anne Moss

After his father's death, Kale becomes sullen, withdrawn, and troubled - so much so that he finds himself under a court-ordered sentence of house arrest.

UPCOMING

LUCKY YOU

Erica Bana, Drew Barrymore

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.

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.

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

78th SFS wins narrowly at 2007 Sports Day

The 78th Security Forces Squadron won the 2007 Sports Day competition for the fifth year in a row with 57 total points. They won in dramatic fashion by beating runner up, the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, in the final pull of the final event Tug-of-War. This capped off a furious comeback which they placed second and third in the previous event Dodgeball which brought them back into contention. Up until that point the 653rd CLSS led 49 to 45 with the final two events remaining. In each event, first

TOP 8 FINISHERS

- 78th Security Forces Squadron- 57 points
- 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron- 54
- 330th Aircraft Sustainment Wing- 32
- 78th Civil Engineer Group- 31
- 5th Combat Communications Group- 21
- 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron- 19
- 78th Communications Squadron-16
- 116th Maintenance Squadron- 15

place was worth five points, second place three and third place two. One point was awarded for participation. Sports Day is comprised of 30 events which include eight swimming events and eight track and field events.

"This was one of the best Sports Days yet; the competition was keen and one of the closest finishes ever," said John Enterman, Robins Fitness Center director. "This was also the best year ever for volunteers, with over 30 volunteering their time towards the day." — *78th Services*



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
Airman 1st Class Candace Covil, 78th Services, captured first place in the women's long jump.

116th members witness miracle

Little league teams give disabled kids chance to play

By SENIOR AIRMAN PAUL ROSS
116th Air Control Wing Public Affairs

The words miracle and sports have almost become synonymous.

Babe Ruth called his shot, Franco Harris caught the Immaculate Reception and Barry Bonds has yet to be found guilty of steroid use – all can be considered miracles. But never do the words mesh more appropriately than when players from the Miracle League take the field.

The non-profit organization is set up to allow disabled children the chance to round the bases, get some hits, make friends and have fun.

Troops from the 116th Air Control Wing got the chance to witness the miracle in a game between the Macon Cubs and White Sox, May 29.

"Two innings are played during each Miracle League game," said Alan Marsh, coach of the Macon Miracle League Yankees and father to Benjamin Marsh, who traded in his Yankee pinstripes for a White Sox uniform for this game. "Every child bats, every child scores and all games end in a tie."

Without the Miracle League most of these kids would never get a chance to play organized baseball.

"I feel very happy because I get to be with other kids with disabilities like me and we get

to play ball and have something to do on Saturdays," said Benjamin Marsh. "If it were not for Miracle League I could not play baseball."

Volunteers for Miracle League are called "buddies." They offer encouragement, assist in game activities and most importantly, keep the players safe.

"Buddies are very important," said Benjamin Marsh. "They help us throw the ball and knock down balls so we won't get hurt."

The games are just as rewarding for the buddies as they are for the players.

"When (a player's) bat made contact with the ball, their eyes would light up and you could see the sense of accomplishment on their face," said Staff Sgt. René Ortega, 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron Airborne Intelligence technician and Miracle League buddy. "The best part of my day was when my player, Jamarco, hit the ball for the first time without a tee. It was awesome."

The League currently plays games on a regular grass and dirt field at West Macon Park on Saturdays, but construction on a specially designed field began in May. Once completed, the rubber-surfaced field will accommodate wheelchairs and allow easier mobility and greater safety for the players. For more information on the Miracle League visit the Web site at www.maconmiracle.org.

SPORTS BRIEF

"Shoot for the Stars" basketball camp will be held July 9-13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Robins Youth Center gym. Cost is \$65 per youth. The camp is led by Michael Douglas, former Harlem Globetrotter. Youth meet and spend the week with special guest professional athletes and former members of the Harlem Globetrotters and former NBA players.

The camp is geared toward teaching fundamentals of basketball for ages 7 to 14 years old. Registration deadline is June 30. A late registration fee is \$10. For more information, call Ron Hayes at 926-2110.

Youth fall sports registration will be held July 14 for tackle football (ages 11 and 12 years old), flag football (ages 5 - 10 years old), cheerleading (ages 5 - 12 years old), fall soccer (ages 5 - 18 years old) and start smart soccer (ages 3 and 4 years old). Hours to register will be Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registrations will be accepted until teams are full. Coaches are needed in all areas. To register or for additional details, visit the youth center in Bldg. 1021 or call 926-2110.

Gaudet All-Star Baseball Camp will be hosting a youth camp today at Luther Williams

Field for kids ages 6 to 12 years old. Camp attendance is free and includes a t-shirt and six instruction stations on hitting, pitching, catching, infield, outfield and rules with umpires.

Macon Music players, former professional baseball players, local coaches and college and high school players will all be available to help the attendees master the skills. Camp attendees will also receive a ticket to the Georgia Sports and Music Halls of Fame and a ticket to a Macon Music baseball game and camp reception tonight.

Registration forms will be accepted until the morning of the camp. For more information contact Lynne Brackett, community center director, at 926-2105.

Courtesy photo



Staff Sgt. René Ortega (right) looks on as Jamarco Wilson gets ready to hit. The non-profit organization is set up to allow disabled children the chance to round the bases, get some hits, make friends and have fun.

Center, Union join forces for workforce safety

By Damian Housman
WR-ALC Public Affairs

The Voluntary Protection Program is making progress, according to Warner Robins Air Logistics Center and Union officials, but the journey will take time.

"We really began our VPP journey in August of 2004. We didn't know it was VPP then, but that was when we experienced an industrial accident that was our wakeup call," said Brig. Gen. Brad Heithold, Center vice commander. "If you look at other institutions which have started their VPP journey, they also started with some earth shattering event like that."

The accident that August resulted in the Focused Area Risk Reduction program under Maj. Gen. Collings, in an effort to change the culture at Robins. That was followed by Operation Risk Reduction. VPP is a continuation of the move toward cultural change to embrace safety and health. "I call it VPP now, but we didn't call it that then," said General Heithold. "Root cause analysis teams were in place to go through 1,800 plus write-ups and get to the heart of the problem. The people involved were made up of management and employees."

"Beginning in 2006, we took note of VPP and established core teams and a steering group," said General Heithold. "Our objective is to create a safer working environment where people are empowered to take action. People shouldn't look at a safety situation as some one else's problem. Under VPP, people are involved in their own safety."

Tom Scott, president of American Federation of Government Employees local 987, is certain labor is as committed as management to the cultural change.

"To most workers, VPP is

just an acronym now. However, the idea is gaining momentum, where employees take control of their own safety environment," said Mr. Scott. "Labor is committed to VPP on several levels, mostly with education. We have the commitment from management, and it is starting to trickle down, through the wings, the groups and the squadrons. We were once number two in DOD on work-related injuries. We have reduced injuries quite a bit, but we're still in the top 40 for lost work-days and injuries."

Mr. Scott said we now have the opportunity to give employees a vested interest in their own work environment.

"That will change the mindset, much like we did with FOD. Employees are now vigilant, and know what damage FOD can do to aircraft. We can put the same education process toward VPP, and it will work to improve the safety environment," he said.

How long it will take to fully implement VPP and see results is an open question. Both General Heithold and Mr. Smith are optimistic Robins will see results in as little as three years.

"Phase one was to educate management in the tenets of VPP. Now we're in the process of educating the workers. It will get traction," said General Heithold.

Mr. Scott agreed, judging from what he has seen. He and Doug Keene, 402nd Maintenance Wing vice director, talked to first line supervisors about VPP. Together, they spent a week going to every work area in the wing, explaining VPP.

Talking with supervisors in person is effective, but the union also has other ways of getting the word out to workers. The union has its own newspaper, mailings to members, membership and stewards meetings,



U.S. Air Force photo by GARY CUTRELL

left to right, Brig. Gen. Brad Heithold and Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, Center vice and commander respectively seated with Tom Scott, AFGE Local 987 president and Rusty Adams, International Association of Fire Fighters Local 107 president were all part of the VPP signing May 21.

billboards, and has 1,000 AFGE t-shirts with the VPP logo. The union and Center management are also sending their people to VPP star sites for training.

Empowerment of the workers for their own safety is a message beginning to be heard and understood.

"People are learning it's OK to point out unsafe practices and take responsibility for safety. We can produce, and we can do it safely," said General Heithold.

He pointed out that the culture today may attempt retribution against some one who drops a red card to stop an unsafe operation. "It must be the right thing to do to point out something unsafe. There must be action taken, without retribution," he said. Management and the unions are working on all cylinders to ensure everyone at Robins gets the message. May 21 witnessed the signing of the commitment to health and safety excellence and Occupational Safety and Health Administration's VPP. The signatures of Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, Center commander, Brig Gen Brad Heithold, Tom Scott, and International Association of

Fire Fighters Local 107 president Rusty Adams formalized the commitment to assuring the Center achieves environmental, health and safety excellence. With this agreement, management and labor encourages all employees to be active partners and participants in achieving this goal as a way of life.

"The combination of management, the AFGE and the fire-fighters means there's no disagreement in direction. There is a deep commitment on all sides to buy into the program. We're doing it now," said Mr. Scott.

General Heithold has moved on to new challenges at Hurlburt Field, Fla. His final legacy here will be his devotion to the People First cause at Robins, exemplified by VPP. But it is a legacy shared by General Owen, Mr. Scott, Mr. Adams and every worker here who will benefit from the deep concern for safety in the workforce.

"We can't make this work without the entire workforce becoming a part of this, making safety everyone's responsibility. It can't be left to the people in the safety office," said General Heithold.

► IN BRIEF

DINING-IN

A 78th Air Base Wing Dining-In will be held at the Museum of Aviation Century of Flight Hangar June 22 from 5:30 until 10 p.m. The event is open to all 78th ABW military and civilian personnel.

The event's theme is "Proud, Passionate and Professional Airmen." The social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. The dinner program will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information or for tickets contact your organization's POC or 2nd Lt. Eric Miller at 327-8887.

COMPTROLLER SQUADRON CLOSURE

The 78th Comptroller Squadron will close at noon June 15 for a squadron function. For assistance, call the 78th CPTS Customer Service Blackberry at 390-3135 or Accounting and Budget Blackberry at 213-0098.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 19th Air Refueling Group's Heritage Group will host a golf tournament June 18 at Waterford Golf Club in Bonaire. It is a 4-person scramble (best ball format) with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Individuals or teams are welcome and the cost is \$50 per person. All participants receive

a sleeve of balls and golf tool pack. There will be prizes for the longest drive, closest to the pin and trophies for the top three teams. For more information call Deb Ilgenfritz at 919-921-6419.

FISHING TOURNAMENT

The 19th Air Refueling Group's Heritage Group will host a fishing tournament June 16 at Little River Park (Lake Sinclair) from safelight to 3 p.m. It is a five-fish limit (catch and release only). The cost is \$50 per two-person team with a 70 percent pay-back. A safety brief and review of the rules will precede the event. For more information call Jeff Wade at 951-0741 or Mark Denney at 213-0466.

HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE

Share your good news with family and friends back at home by taking part in the Army and Air Force Hometown News Service.

Submissions may include professional military education graduations, reenlistments, retirements, quarterly and annual awards at all command levels and participation in national news events.

Submit DD Form 2266 within 30 days of the event. For more information contact 1st Lt. Sequoia Lawson at 222-0802 or sequoia.lawson@robins.af.mil.

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