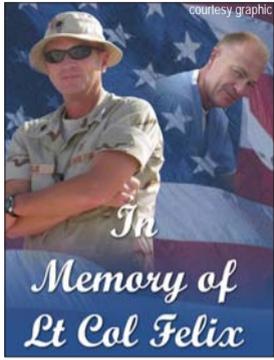


THE ROBINS REV-UP

PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1954
Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

June 22, 2007 Vol. 52 No. 25



Robins reserve unit recalls life of wingman, friend

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

The 622nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron is celebrating the life of one of their own, Lt. Col. Glade Felix, who died of apparent natural causes while deployed to Southwest Asia June 11.

Members of the 622nd ASTS, a reserve unit located at Robins, where he served for the last 15 years were shocked to hear their fellow Airman and friend had passed away.

"It was really, really unexpected. It wasn't so much that it happened to

someone you knew, but who it happened to," said Maj. Terri Millwood, the 622nd ASTS unit administrator. "Someone so full of life and in such good shape we kind of thought he was invincible."

Members of the 622nd ASTS, which is part of the 22nd Air Force, agreed Colonel Felix could put a smile on the face of everyone he encountered.

"You couldn't be around him and not enjoy life," said Diane Darden, a retired major, who served with Colonel Felix in the 622nd ASTS.

Along with his joyful outlook on life,

members of the unit said he was a great motivator.

"It was just his attitude and his passion for doing things. He made you want to do things, whether it was an order or just something you needed to do," said Senior Master Sgt. George Graham, the first sergeant of the 622nd ASTS.

Sergeant Graham added, Colonel Felix epitomized the term awesome and anytime someone hears that word from his unit they'll think of Colonel Felix.

▶ see FELIX, 2A

Memorial Service

According to members of the 622nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron a special memorial service is planned for Lt. Col. Glade Felix at Robins.

The service to remember their fellow unit member and friend will take place when all of the unit returns to Robins for their monthly drill weekend commitment.

Lee Greenwood to join Band of Air Force Reserve for Independence concert July 3

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

The Band of the Air Force Reserve and country singer Lee Greenwood will join in concert July 3 to celebrate both Independence Day and the U.S. Air Force's 60th anniversary.

The annual concert, sponsored by the Air Force Reserve Command, the Warner Robins Civitan Club, the 21st Century Partnership and a host of other Middle Georgia organizations, will be held at McConnell-Talbert Stadium, with gates opening at 6 p.m.

The Houston County Honor Band, featuring award-winning student musicians from throughout the county, will strike up at 7 p.m., with the main stage show beginning at 8 p.m. in the stadium on South Davis Drive in Warner Robins. Mr. Greenwood will take to the stage around 8:30 p.m.

Dave Ballengee, deputy director of the Band of the Air Force Reserve, said the country music artist performed in the Warner Robins area two weeks after 9/11 and is now returning to the heart of Georgia.

"This year, he's happy to come back and be a part of the Independence Day concert and help the Air Force Reserve Command salute the 60th anniversary of our Air Force," Mr. Balengee said.

Mr. Ballengee said the show is a family-friendly celebration.

"There will be something for everyone," he said. "We're going to open the show with our popular music group, Reserve Generation, and we're going to walk through different years of music, the 70s, the 80s, the 90s, doing hits from those eras.

The occasion will be marked with music and fireworks.

Allan Tatman, project chairman for the Independence Day celebration and fireworks for the Warner Robins Civitan Club, said people need an up-close view to enjoy the show.

"The fireworks show is a pyro musical, so the fireworks are set to music," he said. "The only way to get the full effect is to come into the stadium."

Mr. Tatman said he expects the fireworks show to last about 18 minutes.

People may find seating in the stadium's stands or bring blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy the show from the field.

Show goers will experience many surprises during the performance. It's a night people won't want to miss, Mr. Ballengee said.

"We look forward to seeing everyone at the gig," he said. "We've developed a family, if you will, of people that come and see us. We look forward to

▶ see CONCERT, 2A



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
Spectacular fireworks light the sky during the 2006 Independence Day concert.

Commonsense safety can help fireworks users avoid accidents

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

For most people, Independence Day isn't complete without a fireworks display. But base fire officials warn that lighting up the colorful explosive devices is prohibited on Robins.

Tommy Kennedy, assistant fire chief of the Base Fire Department, said Air Force Instruction 32-2001 Fire Protection



and Fire Prevention Program strictly bans the use of fireworks of all types on the federal installation. Due to its illegal status on base, Mr. Kennedy said people who violate the rule may be arrested. Staff Sgt. Andrew Hixson, NCO in charge of Police

Services in the 78th Security Forces Squadron, said fireworks are classified as 'illegal weapons' and are prohibited from being discharged on Robins, the golf course and on-base military housing areas.

Sergeant Hixson said anyone caught discharging or attempting to discharge fireworks on base will have the property seized

While the ban of

▶ see FIREWORKS, 2A

Survey gives Team Robins opportunity to provide feedback

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

Whether you are interested in seeing changes made or you are interested in keeping existing programs at Robins, now is the opportunity to let your opinion be heard.

The Wingman Wellness Survey went live June 18 and will conclude June 29. The survey is an opportunity for members of Team Robins to help create an accurate picture of the Robins community.

"If you want to have an impact on Robins, this is the venue," said Linda Towry, family advocacy outreach manager with Robins Mental Health. "The programs we offer to Air Force families are often determined by what we are told in these surveys."

The information collected by the survey will be used by leadership to help make future decisions.

"The survey will help leadership better address what our population needs or is asking for," said Cindy Graver, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator.

Survey responses are anonymous and participation in the survey is voluntary. All team members are invited to participate, including active-duty members, civilian personnel, reservists and guardsmen and contractors.

Survey participants can also choose to skip questions they are uncomfortable with or don't want to answer, Ms. Graver said.

The survey only takes a few minutes to complete and focuses on wellness related activities such as alcohol consumption or debt management, programs such as the Civilian Health Promotion Service and Family Advocacy and on the four dimensions of wellness: physical, emotional, social and spiritual.

Both Ms. Towry and Ms. Graver agreed the more people who participate in the survey, the better.

"The more people that take (the survey), the better picture we will get of the climate and how we are doing as wingmen," Ms. Graver said.

To take the survey visit <https://survey.afms.mil/wvs07/survey.htm>.



Appreciating Differences Robins diversity workshop equips new group of facilitators with awareness tools

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

James Betances, senior diversity consultant with Sounder Betances & Associates, recently used humor to teach a quite serious subject – diversity.

Mr. Betances, whose Chicago-based company has provided diversity training to several well-known companies for many years, kicked off a week-long workshop Monday at Robins to equip nearly 30 military and civilians with the tools to help others appreciate differences.

"We take a group of 20 to 30 people and we help them utilize some tools that we created originally for the Army Guard on creating diversity awareness so that we can develop respectful teams that can solve problems that could emerge and make it more difficult to achieve the mission at the earliest possible level," he said. "We do this so (the problems) don't become legal (matters)."

Teaching people to understand the differences among women, men, cultural groups, and generations was all in the hat for discussion.

The seasoned speaker, who has been a diversity advisor for multiple U.S. presidents and well-known companies, began working with Robins in its diversity education efforts back in 2002, when former Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Commander, Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, and a handful of other base leaders approached the idea of diversity training at the base.

"Given the cultural changes here, with the increasing civilian population, the Kelly (Air Force Base, Texas) mission coming over to Robins AFB, we sat down and General Wetekam said, 'Would you train a core group of my people internally that could provide an in-house capability for creating inclusive, diverse, respectful, high-performance teams so that we could achieve the mission easier?'" Mr. Betances' answer ters."

▶ see DIVERSITY, 2A

THINK SAFETY

Always Against Drunk Driving

222-0013

To request a ride, call 222-0013, 335-5218, 335-5238 or 335-5236.

Total rides given this year: 351

Days without a DUI: 5

Last DUI: 78th Security Forces Squadron

— courtesy 78th SFS Reports and Analysis Section

THE TWO-MINUTEREV

Reopening of Gate 5 delayed

Due to weather delays and unforeseen site conditions, the reopening of Gate 5, the Martin Luther King Boulevard gate, will be delayed until July 2.

The traffic pattern for Gate 5 will change when the gate reopens. Outbound traffic will exit straight out the gate from MLK Blvd.

Inbound traffic will have an immediate right turn upon entering the installation and will proceed to Page Road, where traffic will have the right of way for a right or left hand turn.

Operating hours for Gate 5 will be Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. for inbound traffic and noon to 6 p.m. for outbound traffic.

INSIGHT

Combat skills training

Expeditionary Combat Skills Training prepares Airmen for deployment, 1B

SPORTS

Volunteer basketball coach

Member of Team Robins taking youth team to national competition, 3B

COMMUNITY

Solutions Summit

Base, industry leaders meet to discuss shortage of skilled aerospace workers, 8A

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY 93/70

SATURDAY 95/71

SUNDAY 95/69

FELIX

Continued from 1A

"There is going to be a big hole in our unit for a very long time," Major Millwood said.

Other members of the 622nd ASTS agreed he was a gung ho Airman and always willing to go the extra mile for those he served beside.

"He always tried to lighten the atmosphere and help others feel good about what they were doing," said Lt. Col. Ricky Stewart, commander of the 622nd ASTS. "He was a true asset, a leader. He would bring

fun and smiles to everything he did."

His leadership abilities were evident in all that he did and Colonel Felix even served as interim commander of the 622nd ASTS, during his time with the squadron.

"He was handpicked for that and he provided excellent leadership during that time," Colonel Stewart said.

Though, Colonel Felix was described by those who served with him as "witty and unpredictable" there was one thing he took very seriously — his unit's physical fitness program. "It was like having a person-

al trainer in your unit," Major Millwood said.

Major Millwood credits Colonel Felix with helping her get back into shape after she injured her back during her last pregnancy.

It was his leadership in the physical training program that helped the unit attain the highest fitness compliance level of any medical unit in the Air Force Reserve Command.

"He always gave us total support and encouraged us to get involved in different sports. I played my first soccer game ever with Colonel Felix," Major Millwood said.

His love of fitness and sports was evident both when in his military service and at home in Lake Park, Ga.

He was instrumental in starting the Lowndes County soccer league, Major Millwood said.

A father of a blended family, together he and wife had six children.

"They were kind of like the Brady Bunch," Major Millwood added.

He was also involved in the Church of Latter-day Saints and a Boy Scout leader in his community.

When Colonel Felix passed

away he was deployed on his second deployment in the past 18 months.

The first deployment was to Afghanistan where he was responsible for the physical training and rehabilitation of troops and of Taliban prisoners.

During his second deployment to Southwest Asia, Colonel Felix provided rehabilitation services to the members of the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force with the 379th Expeditionary Medical Group.

"He was promoted to lieutenant colonel and he didn't have to deploy," Ms. Darden

said.

She added once he saw an opening posted he immediately volunteered to serve.

"He just cared so much about his fellow troops and caring for those who were injured," Ms. Darden added.

Sergeant Graham said one of the most impressive things about Colonel Felix was his ability to level the playing field when it came to patient care.

"He treated everybody the same whether you were a pauper or a king," said Sergeant Graham. "He gave the same status of care no matter who you were."

FIREWORKS

Continued from 1A

on-base fireworks usage is nothing new, Mr. Kennedy said recent drought conditions have compelled many Georgia counties to prohibit the explosive devices, which were otherwise made legal state-wide in July 2006.

Houston County Fire Chief, Jimmy Williams, said while Houston County isn't on the list of counties that have ruled out fireworks, there are precautions people should take to keep themselves and property safe from fire especially with recent drought conditions.

"We follow the state guidelines as to the types of devices that you can use," he said. "Any firework that's not an aerial device has been allowed by the state legislature."

Mr. Williams said people should always exercise caution and take measures to prevent fires when using such devices.

The Houston County fire chief said people should use fireworks only on an approved surface, such as a concrete or asphalt parking lot or driveway.

Master Sgt. Mark Wynn, assistant chief of readiness and NCOIC of Fire Prevention at the Base Fire Department, said people should be aware of their surroundings when launching fireworks devices.

"To prevent forest fires or house fires, you need to have a clear area around where

you're going to be lighting fireworks," he said. "When you point fireworks or any projectile in a direction, look where it's going. Don't fire off in a wooded area. It should be done in a parking lot area or some area where it's not going to cause a forest fire. It should be done in a sand area or a dirt area and in a controlled environment where you don't have a lot of dead grass and leaves lying around."

If bottle rockets are going to be part of people's celebration, Mr. Williams said people should clean up all debris from the devices.

Sergeant Wynn said fireworks that are not in use should be stored a safe distance from those that are being set off to prevent accidents.

According to Sergeant Wynn, people must be 18 or older to use fireworks.

Mr. Williams said with fireworks' inherent dangerous nature, responsible adults should always be present when using fireworks of any kind, with small children at a safe distance.

"Don't let your kids go out with sparklers and fireworks," he said. "Be very vigilant as to how you're handling the items."

The fire chief said with sparklers reaching 1,400 to 1,800 degrees, serious burns can occur. People should always wear safety goggles and gloves when handling the potentially dangerous items.

Base and county fire officials agree the safest fireworks displays are those held by the professionals.



DIVERSITY

Continued from 1A

was a resounding "yes."

In February 2003, Robins sent four people to Chicago to undergo diversity training under Mr. Betances' program.

Upon the group's return, Robins set up a diversity training course tailored to the base that was based upon the nationally-renowned speaker's program.

In February 2004, Mr. Betances returned to Robins to train about 30 civil service employees as volunteer facilitators to help deploy the diversity training.

Robins met its goal of training all civilian supervisors, officers and senior non-commissioned officers. By September 2004, Robins had trained about 2,000 people in Phase I of the diversity program.

In fiscal 2005, Robins began Phase II of the program, which involved bringing in the rest of the Center. In 2005 and early 2006, Robins began that effort and it continues today.

David Nakayama, director of staff for the WR-ALC, who was part of the core group to start the diversity program

here, said the program is helping Robins grow in its views of diversity.

"I think we have a better working environment," he said. "I think we've seen a drastic reduction in the number of Equal Employment Opportunity complaints, union grievances, and other types of relational problems that stem from relational differences."

Mr. Nakayama said the training program is only one of many such efforts at the base.

And like many programs, the diversity program's success is an ongoing journey.

Jamie Cook, an engineer in the Engineering Directorate here who was among the first group of people to become diversity training facilitators, said he has learned a lot in his experience with teaching others about diversity.

"I've learned that the people, by large, are interested in doing the mission," he said. "We're here for a singular purpose, and that is to serve the warfighter. That's at the core of what everybody brings to the table at Team Robins."

Alan Mathis, director of Plans and Programs at the WR-ALC who has served as the diversity chairperson for the Center for about two



U.S. Air Force photo by KENDAHL JOHNSON

James Betances, senior diversity consultant with Sounder Betances & Associates, visits with Staff Sgt. Tina Wells of the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron. Mr. Betances is at Robins providing diversity training to nearly 30 military and civilians in a week-long workshop.

years, said the diversity program promotes what Robins is all about — teamwork.

"The program is very effective in promoting teamwork and common ground as far as with the employees on base," he said. "I've been facilitating classes also for the last two years and it really promotes team building and working together as a united team."

According to Mr. Betances, the Air Force is the first military service to implement his diversity training.

"This is valuable to the people at the top, the people in the middle and the people in the early positions," he said. "It affects everybody because diversity isn't about counting heads. It's about making heads count."

Richard Ray Boulevard changing lanes to make room for parking

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD

holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

Richard Ray Boulevard is narrowing down to two lanes to make room for an additional 160 parking spaces on the north side of the thoroughfare.

The four-lane road, which runs along the north side of Bldgs. 300 and 301 and for-

merly accommodated traffic from the original main gate, will undergo its transformation as early as mid-July.

Tiffany Evans, a civil engineer in the 778th Civil Engineer Squadron's Design Branch, said 778th CES workers will do the changeover during weekends to make the project less burdensome on drivers.

Larry Allen, a community planner in the Programming and Planning Branch, said the conversion comes as Robins continues to battle with its ongoing parking space challenges.

"On Robins, we have a parking problem (involving) the placement of parking spaces," he said. "What this will do is add about 160 park-

ing spaces to Richard Ray, which should help out a lot of the buildings like Bldgs. 300 and 301."

Mr. Allen said the 778th CES is looking at other ways to generate parking to head off the growing problem.

"This will not be the last parking issue that we will try to address," he said.

CONCERT

Continued from 1A

seeing our friends again," he said.

A full service concession stand will be available onsite, Mr. Tatman said.

With the cancellation of the Big Bang Boom fireworks show in Perry Mr. Ballengee said he expects a good crowd at the Independence Day concert.

The Independence Day concert tradition dates back to the 1980s, when the band performed atop a flatbed truck. While its method of celebration has changed, its purpose has remained the same.

"This is just a very small way for the Air Force Reserve Command to give back to the community that supports not only big picture Team Robins, but also our citizen Airmen of the Air Force Reserve and our headquarters here," Mr. Ballengee said. "There are over 75,000 citizen Airmen and they're managed right out of Robins."

Mr. Ballengee, who has been with the band for more than 35 years, said the band couldn't ask for a better audience than its Middle Georgia family.

"The community of Warner Robins is a fantastic place to live," he said. "The people in the community support the base and support our citizen Airmen, and this has become a tradition for us to set up and play. It's the Air Force Reserve's version of an open house. It's what we can do to give back to the community in recognition of their tremendous support of us."

Culture change brings facelift to Robins' flightline

By LISA MATHEWS
lisa.mathews@robins.af.mil

If it doesn't look like a flightline and it doesn't sound like a flightline, it could still be a flightline. At least that was the perception many had until a couple years ago.

Lt. Col. Timothy Hershberger, former commander of the 78th Operations Support Squadron, talked about the transformation of the Robins airfield just a week prior to his retirement from the military.

The colonel said although there were no findings for the airfield by the Focused Area Risk Reduction team, then Center commander, Maj. Gen. Mike Collings, thought there were still some items that needed attention – in particular, the easy access contract vehicles had to the airfield.

A root-cause analysis team, or RCAT, was stood up to look at all areas on the airfield for means of improvement to normalize the Robins airfield to be more like flightlines found at other operational Air Force bases. The group included personnel from various organizations, with a large amount of valuable input from the 402nd Maintenance Wing, Colonel Hershberger said.

"There are two sections here depending on the way it's broken up, and that caused some confusion,"

Colonel Hershberger said, while pointing to the airfield from his second-floor office located in Bldg. 110.

"What we have here at the (Warner Robins) Air Logistics Center is an industrial area as well as an active airfield."

He said it was easy to determine the industrial areas when you got back in the hangars, but there were problems in between the hangars and out on the ramp in front of Bldg. 110.

Because part of the open area on the airfield was used by maintenance personnel, they needed access to their work. But a clear distinction between active airfield and industrial portions of the airfield were not in place.

"You had people going back and forth, and there were all

kinds of problems with getting mixed up with the jets that were trying to fly," the colonel said.

The RCAT focused in on clearing the blurred lines between the two areas. New lines were painted in the area so that various personnel were sure of where they could go and where they should not go. Also, flightline entry points were re-established for easy but correct access to those areas on the flightline.

The group also worked on how to prevent non-essential people and vehicles from gaining access to the aircraft and restricted areas. The group felt

there had to be a way to differentiate between the active flightline and the maintenance flightline and industrial areas.

"We had a big effort going on to organize the airfield and educate the population – whether it be driving, walking or working," Colonel Hershberger said.

Another area of intense focus was flightline security issues.

"We have millions of dollars worth of aircraft out here. After 9/11 there have been random attacks all over the world,"

Colonel Hershberger said, adding that the RCAT planned to improve the security of Robins' flightline area.

"We looked to be sure all the fencing was secure and asked if we needed to badge people to know if they belong on the flightline," he said.

He said there were times in the past where people would be taking photographs or do videotaping on the flightline without proper clearance.

Other security measures included limiting the number of vehicles allowed in the area and placing decals on authorized vehicles.

"When we started, there were probably 50 passes for (personally owned vehicles) to go out on the runway," the colonel said.

"Now, even if the wing commander or the general wants to go out to respond to some incident, unless in a military vehicle, they'll have to stop at base operations to be briefed and get a (radio) before they can go out. We've also reduced the traffic and the number of parking passes to reduce the flow without stopping the maintenance flow," he said.

Other issues the team focused on included flightline safety for the workforce. The colonel explained cases where workers of the tenant organizations would be working on the flightline atop aircraft without the proper personnel protection equipment. Although the RCAT was a WR-ALC-led project, it included members from both the 116th Air Control Wing and the 19th Air Refueling Group. They were also instrumental in taking information back to their organizations on changes being made in the flightline areas.

Brig. Gen. Brad Heithold, former WR-ALC vice commander, has been well pleased with the accomplishments of the RCAT.

"I think one of the more significant things we have done at Robins Air Force Base is to make our flightline look more like an Air Force flightline," the general said. "I think we have a more productive flightline today; we have a safer flightline and we have a more secure flightline today than we had two years ago."

"I think we have a more productive flightline today; we have a safer flightline and we have a more secure flightline..."

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

STRAIGHT TALK HOT LINE

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

Wish Book brings maintainers improved communication, better work environment

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

C-130 structures crew lead. He said the addition of the Wish Book has been a great morale builder for the maintainers.

Have you ever sat at work and wished for better lighting or even a latch for the restroom door? For those who've pondered what it would be like to have those wishes granted, the D Flight in the 560th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron has the answer.

The C-130 maintainers have seen numerous wishes granted since their flight chief, David Griffin, first introduced the Wish Book.

"Anything you want, you put it in the Wish Book and I'll get it for you if I can," Mr. Griffin said. Mr. Griffin started the Wish Book because he noticed the mechanics weren't getting a lot of the things they needed.

The Wish Book is a large bound book that waits patiently for members of the flight to record any requests or needs they have that could help the flight become more productive.

The Integrated Product Team addresses each issue listed in the book at their weekly meetings and minutes from their meetings are even placed in the book so wishers may check on the progress of their request.

"Just about everything we want, we get. That makes it nice," said Danny Vaughan,

"We've got better listeners. They take the word of the mechanics," said Robert Eddins, production craft overhaul foreman. "The Wish Book has helped a lot."

Some of the projects the book has helped tackle include the lack of lighting around and under the wing, safety improvements to the stands and the addition of new reamer kits.

He said the book not only provided him a way to understand the needs of his mechanics, but it gives

the mechanics a way to personally talk to him, their flight chief.

"It's important to make sure there is an open line of communication between workers and leadership," Mr. Griffin said. "This is how we develop a high-performing team."

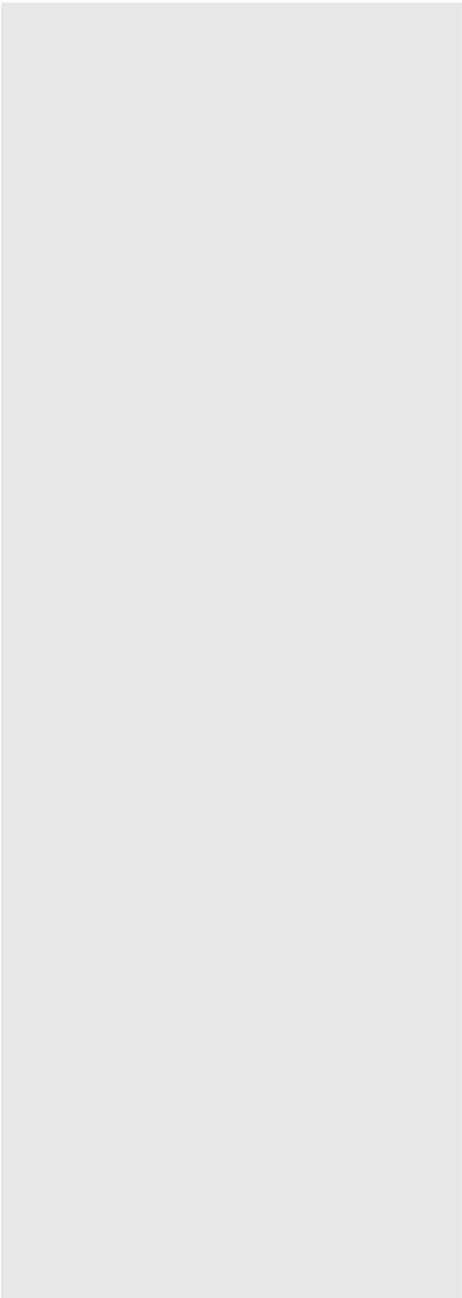
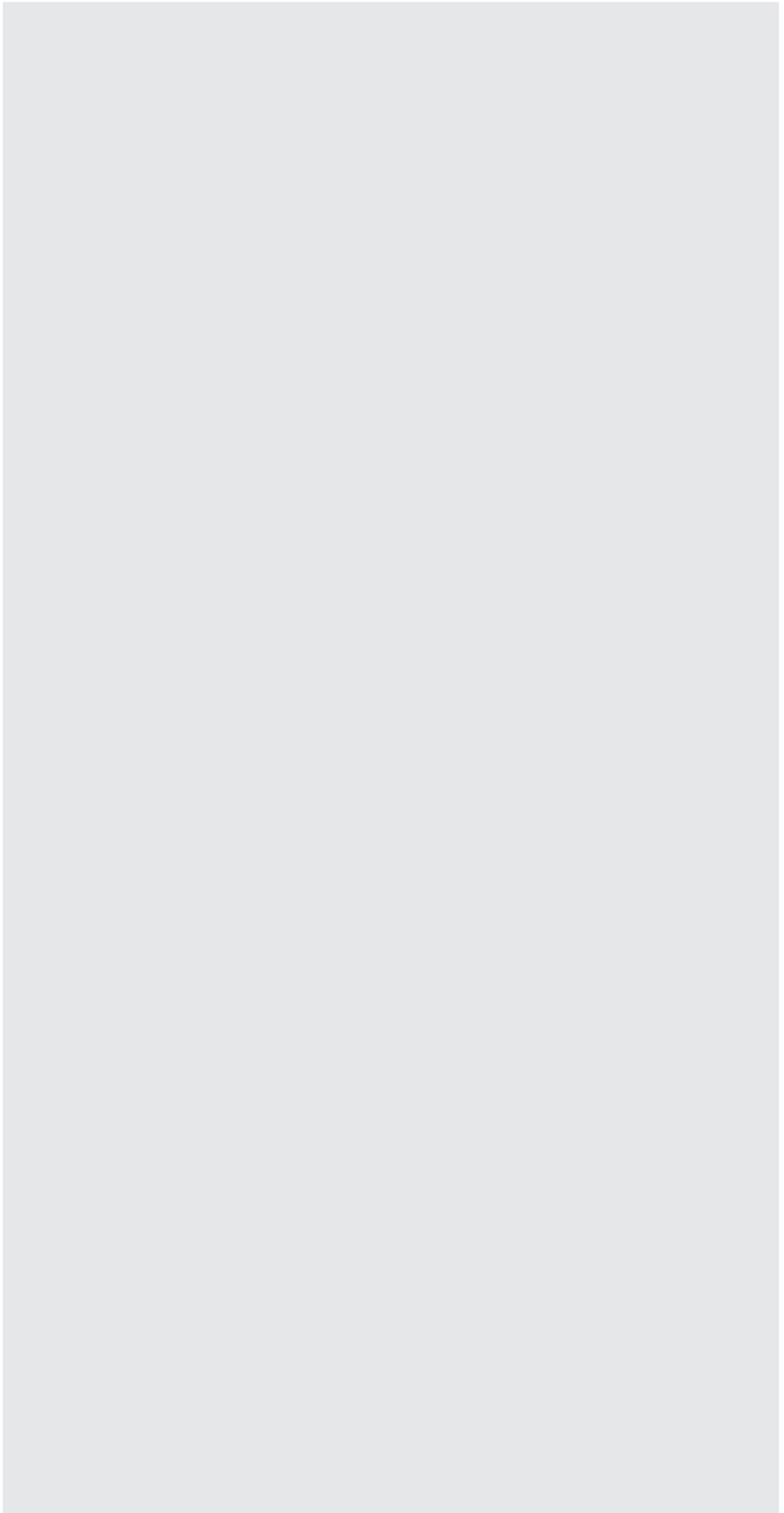
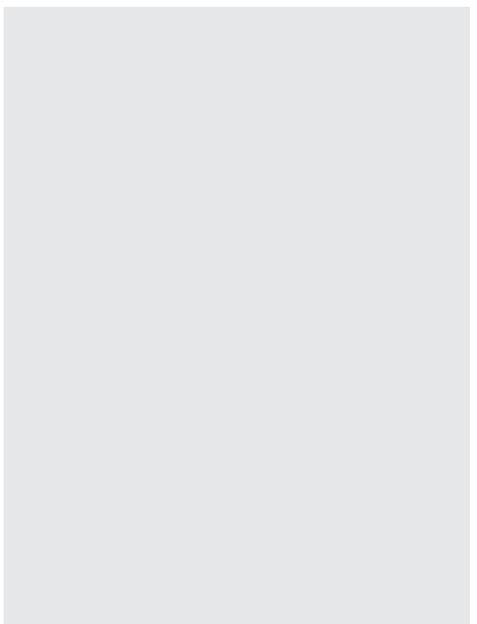
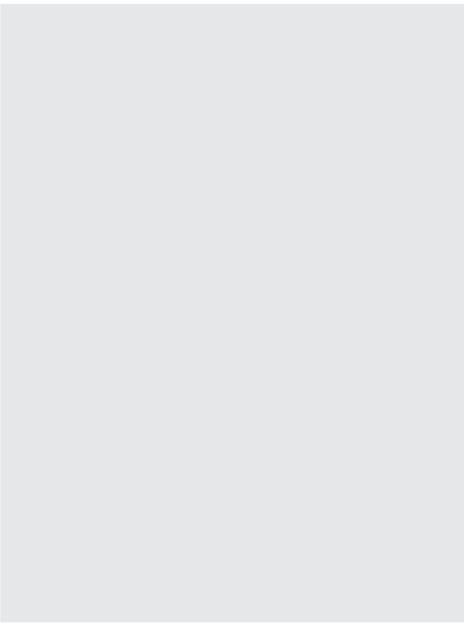
He said since the flight began using the book, it has become more productive and been able to complete maintenance projects further ahead of schedule because the suggestions are helping the maintainers do their job more efficiently and comfortably.

"The bottom line is it is giving them what they need," Mr. Griffin said.

"It's important to make sure there is an open line of communication between workers and leadership. This is how we develop a high-performing team."

David Griffin

D Flight chief, 560th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



HOW TO CONTACT US

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

EDITORIAL STAFF

COMMANDER
Col. Theresa Carter

PA DIRECTOR
Capt. Rickardo Bodden

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

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

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

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

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

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.

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, call The Telegraph at (478) 744-4234.

ONLINE

To read articles online, visit www.robins.af.mil/library/rev.asp

The Robins Rev-Up is published by The Telegraph, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Robins Air Force Base, Ga., of the Air Force Materiel Command. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Robins Rev-Up are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, or Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force, or The Telegraph, of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical or mental handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

Fire when ready!



U.S. Air Force photo by AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CHAD STROHMEYER
Capt. Daniel Vorenkamp prepares to fire his rifle June 8 during a training scenario near Osan Air Base, South Korea. Captain Vorenkamp is with the 51st Security Forces Squadron's quick reaction team, which provides security for all military personnel at the base.

Lightning strikes, fatalities peak during 101 Critical Days

I was watching the news the other night and I saw a video of several kids playing in the rain. In the video, a lightning bolt hit the ground near the group, almost knocking them off their feet.

"Wow! That was close," the anchor said.

Close indeed — those children were lucky to be alive.

We often joke about lightning strikes as an analogy for a sudden idea or an incident happening infrequently. One might think, "Lightning doesn't strike twice." Well, in fact, lightning can strike twice ... or many times!

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, the government's leading authority on weather phenomenon, there were 3,239 deaths and 9,818 injuries attributable to lightning during the 36-year period they studied. That's interesting, but the really "shocking" (I couldn't resist) part of the report is that casualty and damage events caused by lightning had little variation year to year.

In essence, weather events such as hurricanes and tornadoes are devastating, but rare. Lightning, by comparison, is a constant, widespread, and

deadly event — every year.

This is especially timely during the 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign. Deaths by lightning strikes peak during these months; with July as the No. 1 most deadly month.

The NOAA statistics should serve as a warning to Air Force members stationed at bases in Florida, which is the leading state in the nation in the number of deaths and injuries caused by lightning.

Once the data is adjusted for population, plains states jump to the top of many of these frightening lists. Be careful Air Force members at Vance and Offutt Air Force bases. Think you're safe Pennsylvania Air National Guard? Your state is tops in lightning-related property damage.

These statistics aren't meant as some kind of scare tactic. During the 101 Critical Days of Summer, you'll hear statistics meant to help you think critically about your actions.

Summer is a time to relax, but you should never become complacent and ignore common-sense steps to protect yourself and your family from Mother Nature.

So what can you do to protect yourself from becoming a lightning statistic for the next NOAA study?

For starters, heed the warnings of safety staff and the base giant voice. Some bases have implemented computer-based "pop-up" warnings to alert staff of incoming storms. When you get the notification of "lightning within five," go inside.

But you can't depend on the military for every notification. When planning outdoor activities, check local weather reports or keep a weather-band radio handy. Weather awareness off-duty is a must. The NOAA study found weekends are when most lightning victims met their demise.

Don't let male hubris get in the way of weather safety. Listen up tough guys: Males are killed by lightning 5.6 times more often than females, usually while trying to finish the big game or one last hole. Your ego will always lose out to voltage.

When the softball game is called off due to a summer thunderstorm, never wait out the weather under a tree. These tall, water filled lightning rods are the preferred method for

electricity to seek a ground. It's no surprise NOAA researchers found people involved in recreation and those seeking shelter under trees were statistically more likely to be casualties of lightning.

Golfers, or people holding portable metal lightning rods in a vast open area where their own body is the tallest object, are also one of the top groups who became victims of lightning strikes.

Weather safety doesn't end with the 101 Critical Days of Summer. If you haven't incorporated lightning awareness into your safety training regimen, I encourage you to do so. Every Airman and their family are potential targets of this phenomenon...and during the 101 Critical Days of Summer, lightning can strike at any moment.

Author's note: Data contained in this article was gathered from NOAA Technical Memorandum NWS SR-193. Read the full research article at www.nssl.noaa.gov/papers/techmemos/NWS-SR-193/techmemo-sr193.

— This commentary was written by Capt. Nathan Broshear 505th Command and Control Wing Public Affairs.



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.

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://wwwml.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>.

Include your name and contact information so a response may be provided.

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.

Unclean gym issues

It is one thing to not give out towels any more; that is understandable because of cost and misuse. I am a retired civilian and have been going to the gym faithfully for the past 15 or so years, at least five times a week. I have never seen the gym so filthy until the past month. I have told the people at the desk, but it seems of no concern to them or they are not the ones in control. I put some paper on the floor one day to just see how long it would be there. You would be surprised. The two biggest complaints are standing water in the showers and the spray bottle rags they use to wipe the equipment after use. This is the third fungus I have picked up from the equipment when using the weights. Those filthy rags do nothing but pass the germs from one machine to the next. We need the wipes back or each person should be given their own sanitized cloth. Who wants to use a rag someone else just used and pass the germs on? I understand the cut back but are you all willing to pay doctor bills for fungus? I know you all know it is not sanitary to pass those wet filthy rags on. I am very upset about this and others are too, but they just decided to quit going to the gym. Is this fair? We are promoting health here at Robins.

Colonel Carter's Response:

Thank you for your concern and I agree with you that a clean fitness center is of utmost importance. Unfortunately, we're very short of funding and subsequently ran out of wipes. Our fitness center staff resorted to washcloths and disinfectant spray bottles to wipe down equipment as opposed to not wiping it down at all. Just prior to your timely letter, we allocated \$20,000 in emergency funds to get us through September for equipment maintenance and sanitary wipes. In regards to the shower situation and the cleanliness of the facility, the custodial contract was cut back to once a day cleaning. To help mitigate this cutback, our civil engineers are cleaning the shower drains each month to help reduce standing water. Unfortunately, next fiscal year looks worse and more cuts to base operating support are likely including our fitness center. These days it is critically important that we all take some ownership of our fitness center—as you have done—and do our part in maintaining a clean and safe facility. If we see trash, we should pick it up. If we witness an unsafe situation, we need to get involved or report it to the staff. We should thank our fitness center and other base facilities as though they were part of our home...because they are. We'll continue working this issue hard and will only make those reductions to service that are absolutely necessary. Your patience and understanding are appreciated.

Non-bargaining employees mini-mock exercise

This is the second article concerning the Pay Pool Process, the Center's mock pay pool (starting in June 2007) and other pay pool issues of interest. This week we will look at the pay pool mock exercise and proposed schedule.



Members of all pay pools will be taking the following under consideration within their own pay pools.

Objectives

- ▶Solidify the pay pool process.
- ▶Evaluate pay pool rules used.
- ▶Reinforce and understand the use of performance plan objectives, performance indicators and contributing factors.
- ▶Summate supervisor ratings against objectives and score.
- ▶Consider how ratings were supported through the process, i.e. sub-panel, pay panel work.
- ▶Exercise the mechanics of entering ratings, using tools, working with performance indicators and contributing factors documents.
- ▶Validate NSPS timeline details.
- ▶Identify steps missing, or not needed in timeline.
- ▶Identify organizational unique pay pool tasks, (i.e. - 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing colors on money issues, or variety of job series issues, and for 402nd Software Maintenance Group sheer size of the organization (600 plus

personnel) processing issues.

- ▶Identify roles and tasks involvement of the supporting organizations - Financial Management, Civilian Personnel, NSPS Civilian Resource Program Office, wing resource support offices and pay pool administrators.
- ▶Validate impacts and timelines of Civilian Resource Program Office duties and responsibilities in process
- ▶Identify, develop, exercise metrics in process
- ▶FM - identify issues regarding (by simulation) management of money, distributions, tracking, colors of money, etc.
- ▶Capture overall lessons learned and report findings back to WR-ALC/CCN.

The following timeline is notional, however, it will give supervisors and workers an idea of the process involved. This same basic or general concept will again be used when the actual rating cycle for NSPS ends Sept. 30 with the first pay out in the first pay period in January.

Mini-mock schedule

May 14 - 24 -Employee self assessments completed (Supervisors may begin the mock appraisals upon completion of

the employee self assessments.)

May 25 - Notify supervisors to begin appraisal process (non-bargaining employees only.)

May 25 - June 1 -Begin appraisal process.

June 1 - Provide appraisals and worksheets to servicing resource advisor by COB June 1.

June 4 - 8 - Quality check and data input by RAs.

June 8 - Completed data analysis and appraisals sent to sub pay pool panel leader.

June 11 - 15 - Sub pay pool panel meeting (Schedule) -Convene panel and identify changes as needed.

-Servicing Resource Advisor serves as recorder.

June 15 - Submit data to RAs - changes made.

June 18 - 22 - Wing personnel and financial analyses.

June 25 - Wing analysis provided to sub pay pool panel leader.

June 27 - Wing pay pool convenes

- Using wing staff meeting
- Analyses and feedback
- Lessons learned

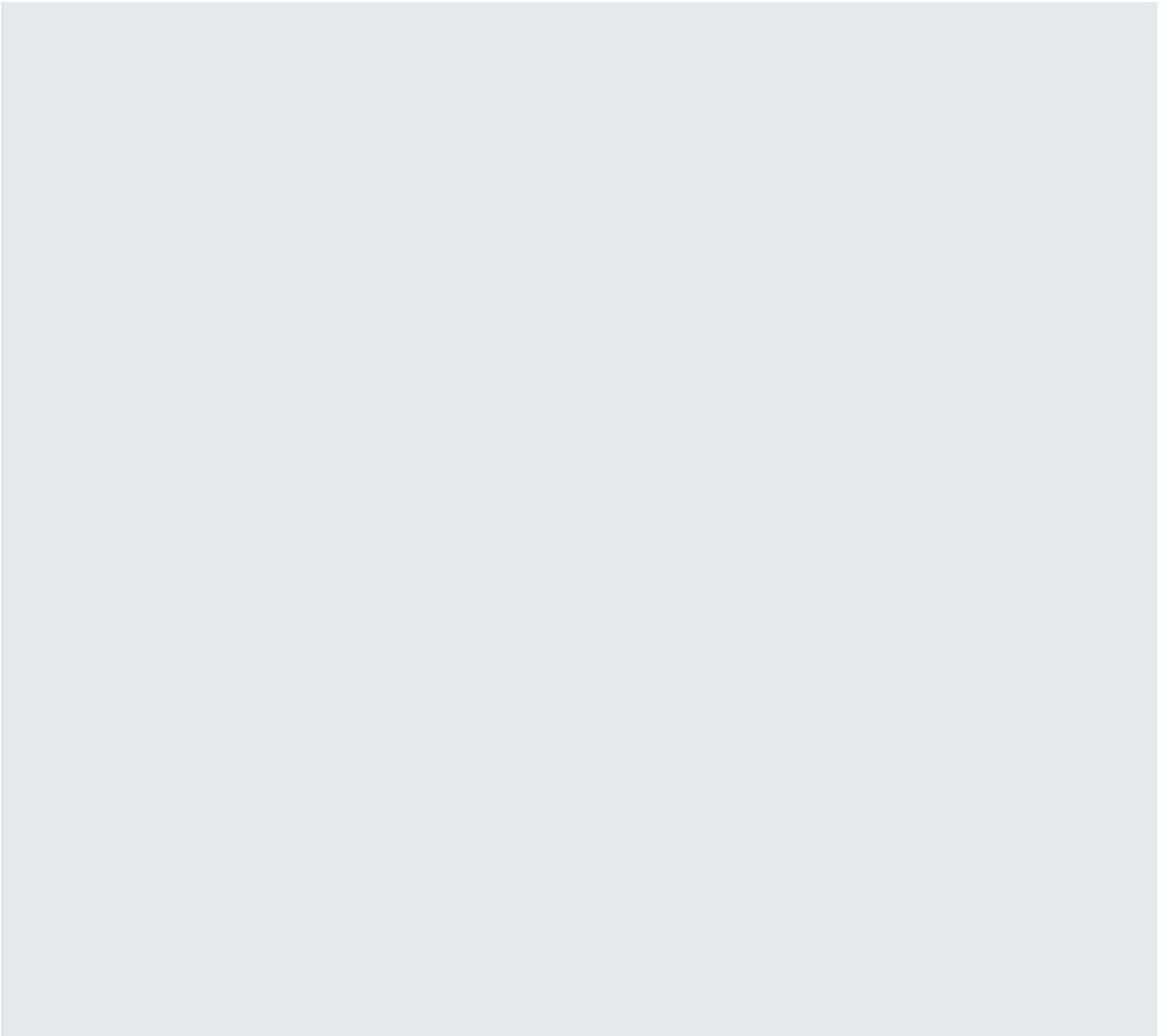
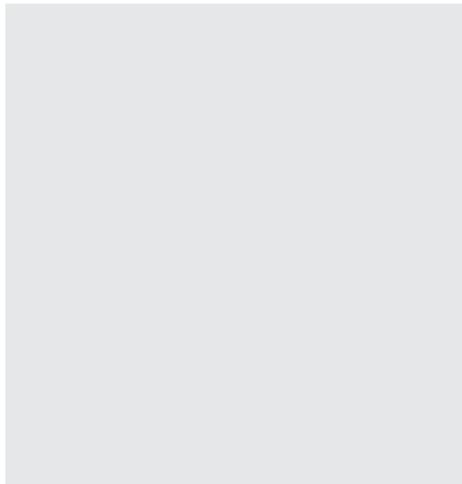
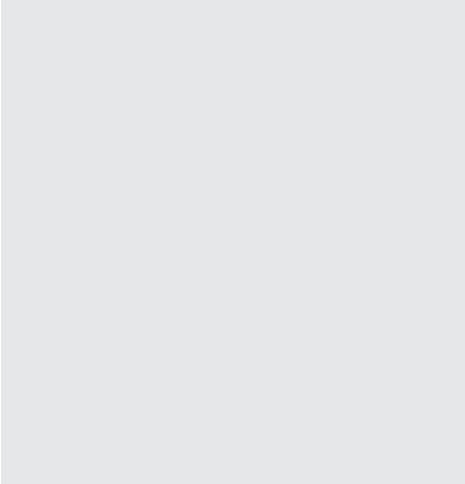
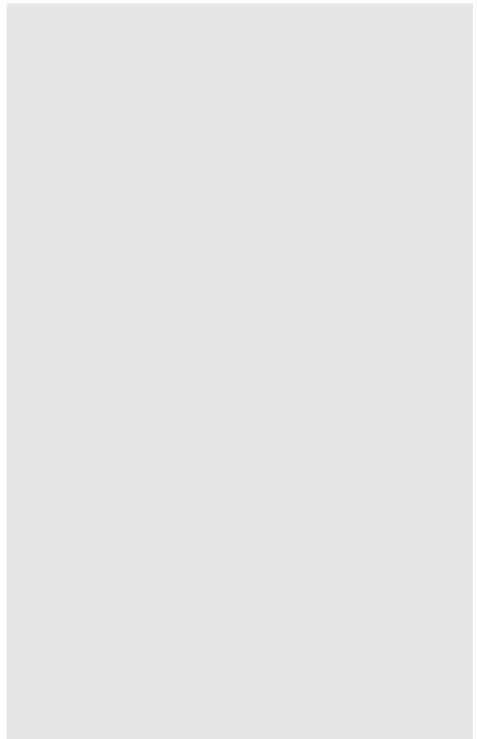
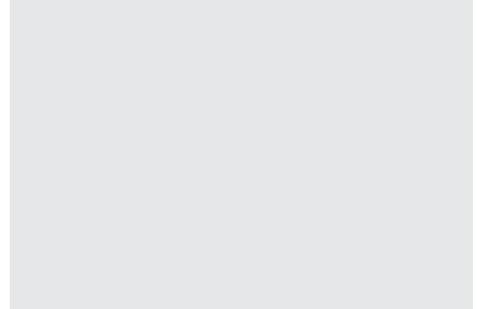
You can access more information about pay pools on Robins Home Page (WR- ALC NSPS) and then click on CRPO CoP - Pay Pool Management. Specific questions may be addressed to the CRPO office at 926-7874.

Give till it hurts



U. S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Armed Services Military Blood Program phlebotomist, Jose' Guerrero, takes blood from Keisha Law June 15 at a blood drive. According to Staff Sgt. Yvette Dennis, NCO in charge of Kendrick Memorial Blood Donor Center, these units of blood will be sent straight to the theater for injured troops of all branches of the service within 10 days of collection. "Robins gives us great support producing as many as 180 units every 56 days," Sergeant Dennis said.



► IN BRIEF

78TH MDG CHANGE

The 78th Medical Group Flight Medicine Clinic will be changing the hours of dependent sick call beginning July 1. You must sign into Flight Medicine Clinic by 8:30 a.m. This change will enhance the clinic's ability to see dependent sick call patients in a more time-efficient manner. We look forward to the opportunity to better serve you.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

The June WR-ALC Hail and Farewell will be June 29 at 4 p.m. in the Robins Officers' Club ballroom. The event will welcome newcomers and send off outbound personnel. Spouses are welcome to attend the event and the fellowship that follows.

For more information, contact 2nd Lt. Leo Garcia at 926-5505 or e-mail at leodanny.garcia@robins.af.mil.

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 in the armed forces 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.

HEALTHY START SCREENINGS

The 78th Medical Group will provide Healthy Start School Screenings for newly assigned family members and current students from pre-k through 12th grade June 30, July 14 and 28 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. No appointment is

necessary. The children will have their vision and hearing tested and a dental exam performed, both of which are

required by the Georgia school system. In addition, your child's height, weight and blood pressure will be checked

and a scoliosis screening exam will be performed. Immunizations will be available if needed. The 78th

Security Forces Squadron will be providing finger printing services if interested. The Georgia school forms 3300 and

3231 will be available and completed at the event. For more information call Staff Sgt. Kenena Johnson at 327-8219.

Solutions Summit discusses projected skilled worker shortage

BY 1st Lt. SEQUOIYA LAWSON
sequoia.lawson@robins.af.mil

Combating the projected shortage of skilled aerospace workers in Middle Georgia was at the heart of discussion with base and private industry leaders at the 2007 Middle Georgia Work Ready Aerospace Partnership Solutions Summit at the Robins Conference Center Tuesday.

"We can expect to hire people that come out of cookie cutter learning institutions, or we can go over to those learning institutions and tell them what we're looking for," said U.S. Representative Tony Sellier, R-Georgia. "We've got to be involved at the ground level in providing our workforce with the knowledge they need."

The aerospace workforce in Georgia may soon be insufficient to support projected growth in workloads by both public and private employers. According to a WR-ALC press release approximately 3,000 new workers will be needed in the next two years, based on known projections within the maintenance, repair and overhaul sector alone.

"I'm concerned about the person nearby that feels they have to leave the local area to develop their skills," said Rep. Sellier. "We have some of the best teaching and learning institutions in the nation, so let's keep our young folks at home...that helps the community, our state and our region."

After eight months of preparation, the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center in partnership with the Georgia Aerospace Innovation Center and the National Aerospace Development Center hosted the summit to brainstorm on how to solve these issues.

"(The summit) is a great step forward for the Center, for the aerospace industry and for our learning and education partners," said Robert Williams, deputy

director of personnel for the Center. "We need to ensure that through collaborative partnerships we have a ready worker base to draw from that could turn fairly quickly as we have more and more people entering into retirement age."

Mr. Williams said upwards of 40 percent of the Robins workforce will be entering retirement age over the next few years.

Troy Thrash, executive director of The National Aerospace Development Center based out of Alpharetta said the average national age of aviation and space workers is 55.

"Even NASA said they employ more people older than 70 years old than they do younger than 30," Mr. Thrash said. "The concern is that we don't have knowledge transfer mechanisms in place to take what's in the brains of those 70 year olds back down to the kids coming up in the aerospace industry today."

"(The summit) is important because we have to share this workforce," said Joseph Marks, director of materials at TIMCO Aviation Services, a private industry representative at the summit. "Our goal is to spread our knowledge of aviation to children coming up through the school system so we can train a viable workforce for the future."

Mr. Marks said TIMCO is still in the planning process right now, but hopes to get curriculum into some middle Georgia high schools by the 2008 school year.

"We want to work together to get children more interested in aviation," said Mr. Marks, who has been in the aviation field for more than 23 years. "Once you get into it you get hooked."

Robins has similar initiatives in progress which include expanding its current Youth Apprenticeship Program with local high schools to white collar areas.

Mr. Williams said the aerospace industry is in need of a full

spectrum of careers including financial management, engineering, information technology and supply chain management.

The plan is to assign a base liaison at each of the six high schools in the local area to work with counselors and help demystify the process of getting a job at Robins, said Mr. Williams.

This includes a list of suggested courses and offering field trips to areas such as Robins and the Museum of Aviation.

"Everybody loves rockets and dinosaurs in second grade, but we need to start building that bridge from what kids are studying now to what they can be when they grow up," Mr. Thrash said. "We have to make sure kids understand that the math class they have today and the science class they have tomorrow is going to be very important years down the road."

The one-day summit served as a critical waypoint for two parallel aerospace workforce development initiatives through general discussions and breakout sessions.

The "demand side" of the summit consisted of the Air Force and private industry focusing on sharing employment projections, workforce skill needs and developing effective processes to fulfill those workforce needs.

The state and community education and training systems formed the "supply side" partnership which addressed the aerospace sector's growing needs and, ultimately how to prevent the unneeded loss of significant aerospace business opportunities and future workloads to other states.

More than 100 representatives from aerospace educational and training components, private and state universities and colleges



U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. SEQUOIYA LAWSON

Troy Thrash, executive director of The National Aerospace Development Center, speaks with local media at the Solutions Summit Tuesday.

and other workforce investment systems were in attendance.

Col. Robert Simmons, director of the Force Training Directorate, a key organization in planning the summit, said attendees will most likely meet again in the upcoming months to follow-up on the progress of plans the group made.



Combat Training

courtesy photos

Students high crawl through the mud during Expeditionary Combat Skills Training. The full training course includes a day and a half of classroom instruction and a day and a half field training at Warrior Air Base.



Top, Staff Sgt. Genis Membrila, an instructor in the 78th Security Forces Squadron, leads a team of students safely away from a helicopter.

Center, An OH-58 Bell lands at Warrior Air Base. The purple smoke is used so helicopter pilots know the wind direction and where to land.

Bottom, Staff Sgt. Genis Membrila (far right) instructs a group at Warrior Air Base.

Expeditionary Combat Skills Training gives Airmen tools to succeed, survive in deployed environment

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

Dodging smoke grenades, crawling through muddy ditches and riding in a convoy while being fired upon with blank ammunition – it’s not a bad dream.

It’s just a handful of the things Airmen in Expeditionary Combat Skills Training must endure to be ready to fight in deployed locations.

Staff Sgt. Genis Membrila, an instructor in the 78th Security Forces Squadron, said more than 300 Airmen have come through the physically and mentally demanding course since its inception in late 2005.

All Airmen deploying to combat zones like Iraq and Afghanistan who won’t receive en route training must undergo a day and a half of classroom instruction in Bldg. 127 and a day and a half of training in realistic war zone simulations carried out at Warrior Air Base, Robins’ mock version of a deployed environment. Airmen must attend the three-day training every 20 months to keep combat survival skills sharp, said Sheree Evans, Readiness Flight deputy chief in the 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Mrs. Evans said Airmen are scheduled for the training by the installation deployment officer.

“All of the taskings come into our office and we will schedule people based on their required in-place date and whether they’re going to en route training or not,” she said. “We will prioritize those people and get them in.”

Mrs. Evans said classes

WHAT TO KNOW

Robins is in need of augmentee instructors for the Expeditionary Combat Skills Training. For more information on how to volunteer, call Staff Sgt. Genis Membrila at 222-4940.

are already set up for the rest of the calendar year so those deploying can more easily be scheduled when the need arises.

Currently, four classes are set up for the rest of calendar year 2007.

Unit deployment managers use the Training and Scheduling System to fill unit training quotas and notify Airmen of their ECST class dates. The TSS will notify Airmen and their supervisors of the requirement, as well as send an e-mail reminder one day prior to the class start date.

If an Airman fails to attend the class as scheduled, a “no show” notification will automatically be sent to the Airman’s supervisor.

Upon completion of the course, Airmen will receive a system-generated certificate of completion.

Sergeant Membrila said the average class size can range from 30 to 100 Airmen.

The training is among 10 types of training Airmen must have locally before deploying to combat zones, according to a recent tasking from Air Force headquarters, Mrs. Evans said.

Mrs. Evans said the course was recently cut from four days to three to keep the flow of Airmen coming through fluid, while keeping the necessary level of course material in tact.

Sergeant Membrila said both the 78th Air Base Wing and the 78th Mission Support

Group has ensured all safety precautions are taken and fully gotten on board with the training, which involves bringing in an OH-58 helicopter to simulate a rescue mission normally carried out using the U.S. Army Reserves’ MEDEVAC Huey.

The instructor said the training prepares Airmen to get from point A to point B safely in other ways too.

“We do the convoy training out there (at Warrior Air Base) as well,” she said. “We have blank ammunition and we have people come attack them. We set up scenarios to see how they’re going to act or react to being fired upon or having an IED (improvised explosive device) explode.”

The training scenarios are lifelike, with a public address system projecting sounds of heavy artillery and rocket propelled grenades exploding in the background as realistic events unfold, Sergeant Membrila said.

“We fill the ditches with water and they’re all muddy and they have to crawl through them with their weapons, so they’re getting soaked,” she said. “They have this obstacle course they have to crawl over, go around and come through. They also have to deal with the fact it’s so loud out there with the gunfire going off (and) they can’t hear each other to give their commands. So, they have to learn to focus, communicate and work as a team to get through all of the obstacles together.”

As with sister services like the U.S. Army, so many Airmen are going beyond the lines of their normal job duties in the deployed location. Sergeant Membrila said the training helps equip them to do that.

2B ■ The Robins Rev-Up ■ June 22, 2007

FRIDAY

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

Watch WWE Wrestling "Vengeance" tonight in the enlisted lounge, located in Bldg. 956. The action begins at 8 p.m. Cost is free for members and \$5 for non-members. For more information call the enlisted lounge at 926-7625.

Sunday champagne brunch is open to all ranks and grades from 10 a.m. to 1 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 \$11.95 for members, \$13.95 for nonmembers and \$6.95 for children (3 to 10 years old) and children two years and younger are free. For more information call officers' club at 926-2670.

Texas Hold 'Em is held on Sundays with sign up at 1:30 p.m. and games at 2 p.m. 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 non-members and includes snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. Texas Hold 'Em is open to all ranks and grades. For more information call the enlisted lounge, located in Bldg. 956, at 926-7625.

MONDAY

Triple S Monday with soup, salad and sandwiches is available at the officers' club from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$7.25. 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 and wings and nachos for \$3.50. Lunch is open to all ranks and grades. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

TUESDAY

A retiree appreciation lunch buffet will be today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the officers' club. Military retirees and spouses receive an additional \$1 discount on the lunch buffet when they present their retiree I.D. card to the cashier. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

Free tacos are available to club members Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the enlisted lounge, located in Bldg. 956. For more information call the enlisted lounge at 926-7625.

A lunch buffet is 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 or for both hot lunch and salad bar \$7.50 members and \$8.50 nonmembers. Lunch is open to all ranks and grades. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

WEDNESDAY

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 Prime Rib on Wednesdays, butchers choice on Thursdays and a la carte with rotating dinner specials on Fridays and Saturdays. Kids, 10 years and younger eat free Wednesdays and Thursdays off the kid's menu with the purchase of an adult entrée. Evening dining is no longer available on Tuesdays. For more information, call the club at 926-2670.

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

Enjoy Wednesdays 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. Cost for entry is \$2 for nonmembers. For more information call the enlisted lounge at 926-7625.

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. For more information call Pizza Depot at 926-0188.

UPCOMING

The teen center will hold poetry night June 29 at 7 p.m. and Keystone meetings every Friday at 5 p.m. For more information call the teen center at 926-5601.

A "Picnic with Altitude" event will be held July 14. Check out the current fleet, information on avionics and equipment, meet current and new instructors, talk with other pilots and explore class opportunities. Food and prizes will be available to all members and their families as well as prospective new members of the Robins Aero Club. Membership is open to all active-duty and reserve military, DOD civil

Learn to play golf for kids

U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Keith Brady, a teaching professional at Pine Oaks Golf Course, works with Josh Higgs, 10, on how to properly grip a golf club during "Learn to play golf for kids," a one-week instructional clinic. Pine Oaks is offering the clinic again July 23-27. Cost is \$60 with classes are from Monday through Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m. for children 6 to 8 years old, 10 to 11 a.m. for children 9 to 11, and 11 a.m. to noon for children 12 to 15 years old. For more information, call the golf course at 926-4103.



ians and retirees. For more information call the aero club at 926-4867.

Come out to the officers' club during your birthday month and receive a \$15 coupon to redeem toward your meal. Birthday coupons are available to club members of all ranks and grades. Coupons may be picked up at the cashier office. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

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

►Pools are now open. 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. Lessons will take place at the officers' club pool Tuesday through Friday. For dates and times please call outdoor recreation or stop by Bldg. 914.

►The indoor fitness pool, Bldg. 826 will be closed from June 24 – 27 for renovations.

►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. Meet at outdoor recreation at 9 a.m. for departure at 9:30 a.m. Bus will return at 4:30 p.m. Cost includes transportation to and from and entrance into CNN Studios. A minimum of 10 people are required for outdoor recreation to host this trip. Register by June 27 at outdoor recreation, Bldg. 914.

"Shoot for the Stars" basketball camp will be held July 9 - 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 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. Deadline to register 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 – 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 – 4 years old). Hours to register will be Monday – Friday, 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registrations accepted until teams are full. Coaches are needed in all areas. To register or for details, visit the youth center in Bldg. 1021 or call 926-2110.

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 located in Bldg. 542 and Enlisted club located in Bldg. 956). Second prize will be \$200 Division Dollars and third prize will be \$100 Division Dollars. Entry forms will be accepted until 5 p.m. June 30. Entry boxes are available at the Base Restaurant, Bldg. 166, Pizza Depot, Bldg. 956, and the current officers' club, located in Bldg. 542. Entries can also be e-mailed to linda.hinkle@robins.af.mil. Contestants may enter multiple submissions and submit names for both or only one of the club facilities.

Contest guidelines: Must be a Robins Officers' or Enlisted Club member to enter the contest. Exclusions include Services management, club management, Club Advisory Council members and Services Marketing staff. For more information, call the club at 926-2670 or Services marketing at 926-5492.

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. After dinner guests will take in the show "Return to the 50's." Transportation will depart Bldg. 956 July 26 at 7:30 a.m. and return 1:30 a.m. July 27. Payment is due by July 9. Must have a minimum of 25 people for trip.

►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; West Side Story on Aug. 25 at 2 p.m., cost is \$60.50 and Stomp on Sept. 22 at 2 p.m., cost is \$57. All seats are located in the orchestra level. A limited number of tickets are available.

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

►The Air Force Services Summer Strike Force is underway. Patrons will receive punch cards when participating in bowling center programs for the chance to win \$500 first prize or \$250 second prize and other prizes. Summer Strike Force sponsored in part by Quibica AMF and Coca-Cola. No federal endorsement of sponsors is intended.

►All retirees receive a free iced tea when they show their retiree I.D. card along with coupon on page 17 of the June Edge Tuesdays in June.

►Stay in form through the summer season and bowl from 11 a.m. – 1p.m. for only \$1 a game.

►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. 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. For more information call the On Spot Cafe at 926-5240.

►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. And on Wednesdays enjoy Thunder Alley from 2 to 4 p.m. for \$6 per person.

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.

►Play golf after 2 p.m. on weekends in June and pay only \$22 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.

►Play golf after 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays for \$20, which includes green fee and cart.

►Learn to play golf for kids will be held July 23 - 27. Cost is \$60 and includes a nine-hole tourney on Fridays, lunch and trophies. Classes are Monday through Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m. for children six to eight years old; 10 to 11 a.m. for children nine to 11 years old and 11 a.m. to noon for children 12 to 15 years old. Sign up at the pro shop.

►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. Class VI will be Thursdays July 19, 26 and Aug. 2, 9 and 16 at 5:30 p.m. Sign up at the pro shop.

►Take a golf lesson with teaching pro Keith Brady. Rates are military \$50 hour, \$25 for half hour and junior for half hour is \$20; AFP rates are \$55 hour, \$30 for half hour and junior for half hour is \$25 and non-AFP rates are \$60 hour, \$35 for half hour and junior for half hours is \$30. For

more information or to make an appointment, call Mr. Brady at 747-0318.

►In June enjoy several Fairways Grille weekly specials for only \$5.95: June 25 - 29 bacon and bleu cheese burger with chips and drink. Lunch is held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call 923-1717.

The barber shop, located in Bldg. 956, is open Monday – 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.

The officers' club barber shop is open Monday – 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, please call 918-0775.

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, 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 call 926-2670.

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.

Pizza Depot is now open in Bldg. 956 (enlisted club) offering the same great service and food. Hours are Sunday – Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on-base delivery is available 5:30 to 8:45 p.m. Hours vary on holiday weekends. For more information call Pizza Depot at 926-0188.

Find out how the 78th Services Division rates!

Go to <http://www2.robins.af.mil/services> and click on the ICE icon.

When you make a comment about a Services facility on ICE you will be e-mailed a message stating how the facility has been rated by customers like yourself in the past 114 days.

Let us know what you think today about Robins clubs, fitness centers, the golf course, the bowling center, child care centers, the arts & crafts center, the auto shop, the wood hobby shop, Pizza Depot and more. Share with us what type of experiences you have had at outdoor recreation, the Robins Aero Club, the Base Restaurant or one of the many snack bars.

Also, tell us what you think about information in the Services Edge, e-mails, posters, marquee, and other media by clicking on the Marketing link in ICE.

To use ICE, go to <http://www2.robins.af.mil/services> and click on the ICE icon (right-hand side of the screen).

At the next screen, click on the activity link you want to give a rating or comment. Provide contact information about yourself to receive an answer.

To learn more about ICE, call 926-5492. You can also give your opinion and ideas by filling out a comment card. Comment cards and drop boxes are located in all 78th Services Division facilities.

Have the latest 78th Services Division information electronically delivered to you.

Subscribe to the Services Cutting Edge electronic newsletter by going to www.robinservices.com and clicking on the subscribe icon at the top of the home page. From there click on the Services newsletter link and complete the questionnaire. Subscribe to the overall Services newsletter and receive all information or to only those activities that are of interest to you – the choice is yours.

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

28 WEEKS LATER

Jeremy Renner, Harold Perrineau Jr.

Six months have passed since the rage virus has annihilated the British Isles. The U. S. Army declares that the war against infection has been won, and that the reconstruction of the country can begin. As the first wave of refugees return, a family is reunited but one of them unwittingly carries a terrible secret. The virus is not yet dead, and this time-showing no outward symptoms-it is more dangerous than ever. Rated R. 91 minutes.

SATURDAY

THE CONDEMNED

Steve Austin, Vinnie Jones

A select group of death row inmates are offered the opportunity to compete in a deadly game on an abandoned island for one week. The winner of the game will have his or her sentence dropped down to life imprisonment and avoid execution. Rated R. 113 minutes.

UPCOMING

SHREK THE THIRD

Mike Meyers, Cameron Diaz

When King Harold falls ill, it is up to Shrek to find a suitable heir or he will be forced to give up his beloved swamp for the throne. Recruiting Donkey and Puss, Shrek sets out to bring back the rightful heir to the throne, Fiona's rebellious cousin Artie. In Far, Far Away Fiona's jilted Prince Charming storms the city with an army of fairy tale villains to seize the throne. But they have a surprise because Fiona, together with her mother, Queen Lillian, has drafted her fellow fairy tale heroines to defend themselves. Rated PG. 93 minutes.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic

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

Islamic

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

Jewish

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

Orthodox Christian

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

Protestant

The traditional service meets Sunday in the Chapel at 11 a.m. featuring hymns, anthems, congregational prayers and readings. Contemporary service meets at 6 p.m. in the Chapel Sanctuary, 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 Bldg. 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.

Volunteer coach to take local basketball team to nationals

By FAYE BANKS
faye.banks@robins.af.mil

He's not your average volunteer coach. As a matter of fact, he doesn't even have a son on the team. But that doesn't keep Roosevelt Harrison from getting the best out of "his boys," who will be playing at the 2007 Division II Amateur Athletic Union national competition next month in Arkansas.

His team, the Warner Robins Express Boys 16 and under team, will travel to Little Rock, Ark., to participate in the tourney July 8-13.

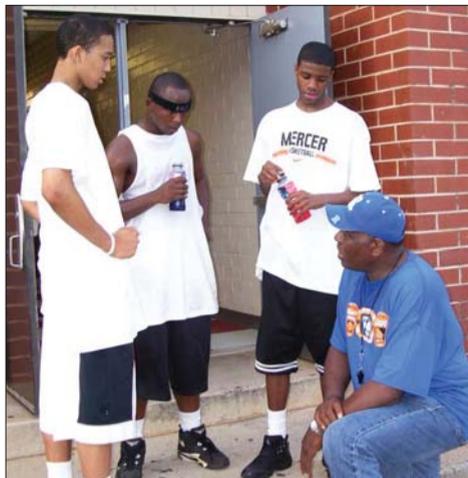
Harrison, an inventory management specialist in the 330th Aircraft Sustainment Wing, said he is often asked why he coaches a team that he doesn't have a child on.

His answer is simple: "They are all mine," he said. "During my long years of being around basketball, I have learned a lot of stuff about basketball, and I want to pass it on to any kid who wants to learn."

"I feel that I'm more of a basketball teacher than a basketball coach," said Harrison, who played high school basketball and on the Marine Corps varsity basketball team, later receiving a scholarship to Coahoma Community College.

Harrison has been with this team the past three years. He stresses good grades to his players whose team grade point average is 3.0. But Harrison admits learning is a two-way street because he learns from their triumphs and disappointments.

"I am very proud of my



U.S. Air Force photo by FAYE BANKS

Roosevelt Harrison (kneeling), volunteer coach for the Warner Robins Express Boys 16 and under team, discusses strategy with team members following a practice. The coach will travel with his team to Arkansas in July to participate in a national competition.

guys," he said. "This is their first time qualifying. They are very excited. I have really enjoyed each moment with them. Whether we have just won a tournament championship or we are at our lowest moment at practice, my boys are very memorable."

No stranger to coaching, Harrison has coached boys and girls teams since 1992, when he started coaching his 6-year-old daughter in the Warner Robins Recreation Department. He coached the Warner Robins Lady Express from 1999 to 2003, qualifying for nationals four consecutive years. That team even finished up as runner-up at the nationals in 2003.

The coach is very excited about this team going to the national competition but added that they need help getting there. "The trip is very expensive and

we have to raise about \$6,500 to attend," he said.

This year's team includes from Houston County High: Enrico Anderson II, Vincent Stewart II, Brandon Davey, Jarrid Nunn, Brandon Scott, Dante Williams, Davon Williams, Craig Pressley, Roger Stanton, Geo Stotts, and Brandon King; from Northside High: Kenny Morton, Kenyatta Ward, Allen Davis and Alvin Howard; and from Perry High Jared Fluellen.

Harrison's coaching staff includes John Bailey of Warner Robins and Jared Fluellen of Perry. Team mom is Maj. Zina Crump, 78th Air Base Wing Clinic; and team manager is Vincent Stewart, 579th Combat Sustainment Squadron.

For information on how to help the team contact Harrison at 396-3876.

AF, academia to partner in Air Force Marathon

By KATHLEEN A.K. LOPEZ
Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs

Leaders from the Air Force and Wright State University gathered at a press conference June 13 to discuss their new Air Force Marathon partnership and other details of the September race.

Standing on the flightline of the 445th Airlift Wing in front of a massive C-5 Galaxy — the featured aircraft of the 11th annual race — Lt. Gen. Terry Gabreski, vice commander of Air Force Materiel Command, and Molly Louden, director of the Air Force Marathon, were accompanied by David R. Hopkins, president of Wright State University, as they spoke to nearly two dozen media.

One of the most obvious changes to the marathon is the date and location of the five-kilometer race. Historically, it has been run on the day of the marathon, in conjunction with the full- and half-marathon, wheelchair and relay races.

This year, it will take place on the evening of Sept. 14, General Gabreski said. She explained how the course will take runners through the campus of Wright State, namesake of Orville and Wilbur Wright, the founding fathers of modern-day flight.

"The race will conclude with Air Force and university senior leaders presenting medals to everyone who crosses the finish line," she said. "It's going to be a wonderful event."

Dr. Hopkins, who holds a doctorate in kinesiology, said. "I want to say how pleased we are to be partners with the Air Force and Wright-Patt in this venture."

"At Wright State, we're celebrating the 40th anniversary of our birth," he said. "It's so much fun to think that we will join the Air Force in celebrating its 60th anniversary in September."

"We're proud of the partnership we've had with Wright-Patt over the years, where we've

shared talent and expertise in education, research and health care, and all the different ways we serve our community," he continued. "So, we're really excited this year to add the five-kilometer race."

A significant change marathoners will experience this year is an altered race route.

"The course was recertified, but the race is still a Boston Marathon qualifier," Ms. Louden said. "By making parts of the route go through the neighboring city of Fairborn, family members and other spectators will be able to cheer on runners at the ninth and 10th miles. Wright State will host spectator areas at miles five and 21."

The Air Force Marathon, which is open to the public, is like no other. The race begins and ends at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, the largest aviation museum in the world.

Throughout the race, Air Force fighter, bomber and cargo aircraft will fly continuously, offering inspiration to runners. Aircraft are scheduled to fly during the five-kilometer race, as well.

The marathon course will take runners over the very grounds where the Wright brothers flew the Wright B Flyer, and there will be themed hydration stations nearly every mile of the race. As runners cross the finish line, they will be presented medals by senior Air Force leaders.

The goal of this official 60th anniversary event is to double participation from last year's race to 10,000 runners, regardless of racing category, Ms. Louden said. Participating means becoming a part of Air Force history.

Log onto www.usafmarathon.com to learn more about the Air Force Marathon races, the sports and fitness expo, the gourmet pasta dinner, and special guests, runners Alberto Salazar and Dick Beardsley, and legendary coach Bill Squires.



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.

Sponsorship training

The Center will offer training for both beginner and experienced sponsors Tuesday, 9 to 10:30 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m., Bldg. 794.

The training provides information on what types of information to send to the PCSing member and where to obtain it; different ways to communicate with the

inbound member; and finally sponsors are given vital information regarding his or her responsibilities to the newly assigned member and their family, if applicable.

Interview basics & preparation class

An Interview Basics & Preparation class will be conducted Wednesday, 9 to 11:30 a.m., Bldg. 794.

Interviews are the most important aspect of the job search process but often the scariest. This covers types of interviews; the purpose of each and what to expect from them.

Financial workshop

The Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Middle Georgia, a non-profit organization funded by the United Way, will conduct a free "Money and Credit Management" workshop Thursday, 1 to 4 p.m., Bldg. 794.

A comprehensive workbook is provided to all atten-

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

Airman's attic

The Airmen's Attic program supports junior enlisted members 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 a home. Items usually available include kitchenware, small appliances and decorative items. The attic also receives and provides children's clothing and toys.

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.

► IN BRIEF

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Parents who are new to and reside on Robins may register their children in Robins Elementary School during the summer months. The school is open from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily for registration. Parents can help the school system plan for the new school year by registering as soon as possible, if they have not already done so. School starts Aug. 10.

Kindergarten is an important part of the school program at Robins. To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before Sept. 1 of the current year. For first grade, a child must be 6 on or before Sept. 1 of the current year.

The base school also has a pre-kindergarten program for 4 year olds. To be eligible, a student must be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1 of the current year.

Students entering school for the first time are required to present a birth certificate, copy of the social security card for the student, housing verification letter, copy of sponsor's orders and immunization records (not the yellow shot record.) More specific information can be obtained by calling the school at 926-5003. All children between the ages of 7 and 16 years of age are required to attend school in the state of Georgia.

ATHLETIC MOUTHGUARDS CAN SAVE YOUR TEETH

Every time you get in your car you automatically put on your seat belt. Sure, you do it because it's a base regulation and state law, but also because you know it could save your life. Using this same logic, why would you engage in an activity that could cause you dental injury, when wearing a simple mouthguard could reduce your risk significantly?

Activities such as football, basketball, racquetball, soccer, etc. subject the players to potential dental injuries. Studies have shown if the individual is wearing an athletic mouthguard, the injury can be reduced significantly and in many cases be entirely pre-

vented.

The athletic mouthguard (sportsguard) is made of a soft, elasticized rubber and is custom fabricated in such a way that it only fits the mouth it is made for. This type of mouthguard is recommended for use during the play of contact sports or any activity where the potential for injury to the teeth is likely.

The sportsguard works by absorbing and dissipating the energy generated during impact to the mouth in the event of a blow to the face. In effect, cushioning the teeth, tongue and lips. This is possible due to the flexible nature of the material used in its con-

struction. For children who are still developing, there are "Boil and Bite" appliances that can be purchased at local sports retailers. Older children with all their adult teeth can have a well fitting sportsguard made professionally at a dental clinic. Active-duty military may have a custom sportsguard made at the base dental clinic.

Enjoy the summer season...have fun...and if you would like more information on sportsguards, give the dental clinic a call at 327-8056. This might be the best decision you make all summer.

— *courtesy 78th Dental Squadron.*

Uniform officials warn Airmen about knockoff Airman Battle Uniforms

BY STAFF SGT. MONIQUE RANDOLPH

Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs

Commercial manufacturers have begun to advertise sale of the new Airman Battle Uniform at various online Web sites. Air Force officials warn Airmen these uniforms are not the authorized items provided by the Air Force's official source, Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, and may not meet the service's stringent specifications.

Many Airmen who want to get the uniform immediately may be tempted to purchase these uniforms, potentially sacrificing the safety and quality of the DSCP-procured uniforms scheduled to be available for purchase at Army and Air Force Exchanges Service locations in October, said Maj. Randall Smith of the Air Force Uniform and Recognition Branch.

"Many of these Web sites are advertising their uniforms as 'official' and 'fully certified,' however, no commercial vendors currently have Air Force certification," he said. "All uniforms must be purchased through DSCP or AAFES when they become available."

When the Army introduced its Army Combat Uniform, it faced similar issues, said Maj. Brian Schooley, the program manager for Air Force Military Clothing at AAFES. Many soldiers purchased uniforms from uncertified commercial vendors, and the uniforms did not meet Army specifications.

In many cases, the pockets were improperly sewn or



U.S. Air Force photo

The approved Airman Battle Uniform is pictured above.

sized, the stitching was incorrect, and the weight, quality and feel of the garments were inferior, he said. There were also safety issues.

"The (certified) ACU (and ABU) have an inherent non-infrared quality that makes them undetectable by night-vision equipment," Major Schooley said. "The knockoffs may not have that same quality."

Additionally, when soldiers purchased knockoff uniforms that did not meet military specifications, they were not able to return them for refunds, and military clothing sales cannot exchange them because they are not certified, he said. DSCP uniforms have a replacement warranty and may be exchanged at AAFES locations.

"DSCP provides high-level quality with all our products," said Al Esposito, a supervisory product service specialist with DSCP. "We only award (contracts) to the best vendors to give (members) the best quality."

While the military can not legally stop vendors from advertising and selling

knockoff uniforms, it can educate military members on the importance of buying their uniforms from certified vendors.

"Our folks deserve to know what they are, or are not, buying," Major Smith said. "Airmen, especially those who are deploying, don't need hassles, and when you buy something uncertain, you run the risk of having your uniform fall apart at a very inconvenient time."

The ABU is being issued to Airmen scheduled to deploy and those already in deployed locations. It will be issued to Airmen in basic training and available in select AAFES locations in October. The mandatory wear date is in 2011.

"We're getting great reviews about the uniform, and we're thrilled that folks want to get it now," Major Smith said. "We are working as hard as possible with DSCP and AAFES to get it out while meeting the AEF and AOR requirements. We ask Airmen to hold on. It's coming, and it's worth the wait."