

THE ROBINS REV-UP

June 29, 2007 Vol. 52 No. 26

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Robins Gate 5 set to reopen Monday

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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After a one-month closure for a construction project, Gate 5 is set to reopen for base traffic Monday.

The gate, also known as the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard gate to base motorists, received a canopy shelter and a new traffic flow that takes incoming motorists southward on the base, much like the base's present main gate.

Unlike other gates that received similar canopies and adjusted traffic

flows however, Gate 5 remained open in the first part of the project earlier this year while crews built the shelter in a nearby area. The gate was to be closed from the end of May to the end of June to allow the structure to be erected. Inclement weather pushed the original reopening date of June 24 back to Monday.

Terry Landreth, 778th Civil Engineer Squadron Design Branch chief, said the gate's new configuration will solve a lot of the traffic problems that existed with the former gate setup. "The main problem with Gate 5 was

that it was located right at the edge of (Ga. Highway) 247 and there was little room for cars to get in line to have their (base identification cards) checked, which posed a problem with people waiting to get IDs checked actually sticking out into (Ga. Highway) 247," he said. "So, when we constructed the new canopy, it needed to be located in a way that was going to alleviate that traffic problem."

Mr. Landreth said the new traffic flow routes motorists southward



Workers from C.T. Bone Company work on a traffic island at the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard gate Monday. The gate is set to reopen Monday.

► see GATE, 2A

Proud, passionate and professional



U.S. Air Force photo by CLAUDE LAZZARA

Col. Theresa Carter, 78th Air Base Wing commander and Capt. Kay Beigh, 78th ABW executive officer, drink the grog at the 78th ABW Dining-In June 22. The event, which was held at the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar, boasted a "Proud, Passionate and Professional Airmen" theme and was an occasion for Airmen to meet socially at a formal military function. For a full account of the evening's events and more photos see page B-1.

19th ARG Aircrew Life Support Team wins AF award

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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Keeping aircraft in the safety zone and ensuring Airmen are secure on and off board is keeping the 19th Air Refueling Group's Aircrew Life Support Team pretty busy.

The 10-person team is staying on top of its mission though, as its 2006 Outstanding Life Support Small Team of the Year Air Force award attests.

Master Sgt. James Garner, superintendent of Aircrew Life Support for the 19th ARG, said part of his shop's job is to ensure Airmen receive local survival and water survival training, as well as teach them how to live off of the land and fight in a chemical warfare environment.

"It's a pretty big (mission)," he said. "We have 13 aircraft here, about 122 aircrew members who are assigned and attached. Each

one of those aircrew members has a helmet, has a mask that those guys inspect on a regular basis, as well as a chemical warfare bag that has to be inspected on regular intervals."

Airman 1st Class Andrea James, ALS journeyman in the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, said he knows one mistake in his job could mean someone's life. It's a responsibility he takes very serious.

"We put a lot of time and effort into the work that we do on an everyday basis," he said.

Sergeant Garner said the award recognizes all of the great things people on the team have done together for the mission and the achievements they've reached in their own time.

The superintendent said the team was the only one within their unit to score an outstanding rating in the 2006 Unit Compliance Inspection.

"Very few people get outstanding ratings during a UCI,



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Airman 1st Class Jay Brown demonstrates the modification the 19th Air Refueling Group Life Support Team made to the HGU-55P flyer's helmet of attaching ANVS-6 night vision goggles so they may be flipped down for hands free use.

and we were able to achieve that," he said.

In addition to the team's high rating in the inspection, several team members earned post-secondary degrees and devoted their time to Junior ROTC as well as the Honor Guard.

All the while, the ALS team maintained deployments and kept aircraft ready to fly missions.

Being recognized for their hard work isn't anything new for the team. The team earned similar accolades in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2006 at the Air Mobility Command level.

Landing an Air Force-level award is something altogether new for the ALS team however.

"(It is) super," Sergeant Garner

► see AWARD, 2A

SKILLED LABOR

Apprenticeship program gives job skills to high school sophomores, juniors



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Kayla Jackson, who will be a senior at Perry High School this year, works on a transfer report from a home station for an incoming F-15. She is one of 19 students participating in the Youth Apprenticeship Program.

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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The Youth Apprenticeship Program is giving high school sophomores and juniors a chance to build on their future careers.

Five sophomores and 14 juniors from Houston County schools are participating in YAP, a program that gears sophomore, junior-level students up for enrollment in the base's cooperative education program designed to line students up for future employment on the base.

Wayne Murphy, YAP facilitator, said the state-funded program gives students a leg up in the job market.

But not just any student can get that advantage, the YAP facilitator said.

"We select students that have already made a solid career choice about what they want to do with their life," he said. "We provide educational opportunities related to that career choice and then we provide work experience to that as well. So, it's a cooperative agreement between the Houston County Board of Education, the post-secondary school, in our case Middle Georgia Technical College, and then business and industry."

Mr. Murphy said to get in the program, students must be 16 years old and going into the 11th or 12th grade.

Students must have a 3.0 or better grade point average, a career plan, a training plan that specifies on the job training tied to educational course numbers, and recommendation letters from their math, English, and technical career teachers. Additionally, students must have a record of excellent attendance and behavior.

Once students are enrolled, Salena Boyd, human resources assistant in Civilian Personnel's Employment Recruiting Office, ensures students are processed and lined up for their full-time job in the program.

"The Youth Apprenticeship Program is a feeder program for the co-op program at Middle Georgia Technical College, and it also serves to expose students in the Houston County school system to some of the technical fields Robins Air Force Base has to offer."

The co-op program is a long-time effort that has given Middle Georgia Technical College students a chance to work at the base for six months and take

► see YAP, 2A

THINK SAFETY



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

Total rides given this year: 372

Days without a DUI: 13
Last DUI: 78th Security Forces Squadron
— courtesy 78th SFS Reports and Analysis Section



THE TWO-MINUTE REV

Autograph signing
Country music artist and 2007 Independence Concert performer Lee Greenwood will sign autographs Tuesday at the Robins Base Exchange beginning at 1 p.m.

Civilian personnel closure
The civilian personnel offices will close early today for a Wingman Day

function. Hours of operation will be from 8 to 10:30 a.m. If you have questions or concerns call Susan McCluskey, 222-0667.

78th MSS closure
Due to an official function, the 78th Mission Support Squadron will be closed July 13. Please schedule your needs around this time.

INSIGHT



78th ABW Dining-In
78th Air Base Wing members gather for morale building, fun, 1B

SPORTS



Hockey player at heart
Robins sergeant breaks away from deployment through hockey, 3B

COMMUNITY



Community Service Award
Black Knights win the 2007 Community Service Award, 10A

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY	94/71	
SATURDAY	93/70	
SUNDAY	92/69	

GATE

Continued from 1A

through a former parking lot to where individuals' ID cards can be checked. He said the traffic pattern is like other base gates that received similarly fashioned canopies and entry ways.

Gate 5 isn't the only area where people will notice a traffic flow change due to the construction, Mr. Landreth said.

"The traffic pattern on Page Road is going to change," he said. "The people coming from the gate (Gate 5) will have a free left-hand turn and a free right-hand turn on Page Road. People on Page Road will have to stop to permit the traffic at Gate 5 to turn left or right freely."

Outbound traffic at the gate will remain the same, with motorists allowed to use the exit from noon to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. The gate is closed on Saturday and

Sunday.

Those heading outbound from the gate will not be diverted through the new canopy configuration, but will rather take the former path from the base.

Tiffany Evans, a civil engineer in the 778th CES Design Branch, said the new setup, the last of its kind at Robins, will make getting to and from the base a little less hectic.

"I think they'll be excited about the gate opening," she said. "I think that it will alleviate some of the traffic at the other gates. You'll probably get in much quicker at Gate 5 than you did previously."

Shrad Amrit, an architect in the 778th CES Design Branch, said the project was the last of its kind at the base. Other gates like the Main Gate at Watson Boulevard, Gate 14 at Russell Parkway, and Gate 2 at Green Street received canopies and new entry configurations over the past three years.

YAP

Continued from 1A

classes for another six months in order to have a shot at employment at Robins.

Ms. Boyd said under YAP, qualified sophomores with the required 144 credit hours in the career cluster of their choice are in a two-week shadowing program with maintenance workers, where they get training and learn about the aircraft.

Juniors and seniors are enrolled in YAP for six weeks. Both groups of students are committed to YAP for three years. The current group will participate from summer 2007 to 2010.

While at Robins, YAP students are paid as entry-level wage grade employees.

WHAT TO KNOW

For more information on The Youth Apprenticeship Program, qualified students should contact Wayne Murphy, Youth Apprenticeship Program facilitator at the Houston County Board of Education, at 988-6200 ext. 27101 or via e-mail at wmmurphy@hcbe.net.

To get YAP students ready to take on their new learning experience, Carol Cox, chief, Production Acceptance Certification System and Training Section in the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group, gets students lined up for training on different weapons systems, seeks mentors on the weapons systems, and works to get students into groups in the

YAP.

Ms. Cox said the program is a good stepping stone to help students pin-point what area they want to get into in the co-op program.

"These students are our future," she said. "They're the future mechanics for Robins Air Force Base. They're the future leaders of America, and we as an enterprise need to help these kids in making good decisions and good choices as to what their future holds."

Since students are only at Robins for a short time doing over-the-shoulder training and minimal tasks, their training requirements are modified from those of new full-time permanent employees, Ms. Cox said.

Ms. Cox said she develops a training plan for the students as they come on the flightline,

with each plan being weapon system-specific and fluid so students can easily transition through their three-year commitment in YAP.

"It's basically a time for them to actually see a mechanic in action to see what they would be doing," she said.

Ms. Cox said the program enables students to earn a post-secondary certificate or diploma from a technical school or college in addition to their high school diploma. After earning 2,000 hours of OJT, students have the opportunity to earn a certificate of occupational skills.

Ms. Boyd said YAP, one of three apprenticeship programs run in Houston County, is a great way for students to gain valuable skills for their future careers.

AWARD

Continued from 1A

said. "We work really hard and we always have people deployed. We're always training. There's always something that comes up.

But, our folks back there, our whole team put in a concerted effort and it really pushed us through."

The sergeant said he expects the team will be presented with their honor at the Annual Worldwide Life Support Symposium in Reno, Nev., in late October.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Airman 1st Class Jay Brown and Staff Sgt. Dennis Moss perform an inspection on a HGU-55P flyer's helmet and ANVS-6 night vision goggles. They are a part of the 19th Air Refueling Group's Life Support Team that won the 2006 Outstanding Life Support, small team at Air Force level.

78th Services Division announces Independence Day operating hours

Open

- ▶ Pizza Depot, open Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ▶ Fitness Center, open Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ▶ Flight Kitchen
- ▶ Golf Course and Fairway Grill normal hours and tee times
- ▶ Lodging, normal hours
- ▶ Rasile Indoor Pool, open Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ▶ Wynn Dining Facility, normal hours

Closed Wednesday

- ▶ Aero Club, administration and sales
- ▶ Auto Hobby Shop
- ▶ Bamboo Grill
- ▶ Base Library
- ▶ Base Restaurant
- ▶ Bowling Center
- ▶ CDC East & West

- ▶ Community Center
- ▶ Enlisted Club
- ▶ Equipment Rental Center
- ▶ Family Child Care
- ▶ Fitness Center Annex
- ▶ Flight Line Dining Facility (fast food)
- ▶ Food Service office
- ▶ Honor Guard/Mortuary Affairs/Readiness (answering machine checked every two hours)
- ▶ Human Resource office
- ▶ Information, Tickets and Travel
- ▶ Marketing
- ▶ Officers' Club
- ▶ Pizza Depot
- ▶ Resource Management office
- ▶ Skeet Range
- ▶ Skills Development Center
- ▶ Teen Center
- ▶ US Veterinarian Services
- ▶ Wood Hobby shop
- ▶ Youth Center

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Disciplinary actions at Robins

Commanders and first sergeants, in concert with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, are responsible for ensuring good order and discipline on Robins Air Force Base. There are many avenues available to meet this responsibility. Examples include trials by courts-martial, Article 15s, administrative discharges, and the U.S. Magistrate's Court. Actions recently reviewed by the 78 Air Base Wing legal office include:



Article 15s

A staff sergeant failed to obey a general order by misusing the government travel card. Punishment was suspended reduction to senior airman and a reprimand.

An airman 1st class was absent from his unit from March 19 through March 24. Punishment was reduction to airman, forfeiture of \$250 pay per month for two months with \$200 suspended, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

An airman stole a dog collar from the Base Exchange. Punishment was suspended reduction to airman basic and a reprimand.

Discharges

An airman received an honorable discharge for Mental Disorders – Adjustment Disorders. The Airman was evaluated by a clinical psychologist who diagnosed him with an Adjustment Disorder with Disturbance of Emotion and Conduct, and Occupational Problem (Axis I), and an Antisocial Personality Disorder (Axis II) of a severity as to significantly impair from effectively functioning in the military environment.

An airman basic received an under honorable conditions (general) discharge for a Pattern of Misconduct - Conduct Prejudicial To Good Order And Discipline. The member consumed alcoholic beverages while under the legal drinking age of 21 and for this offense was tried by a summary court-martial and sentenced to five days confinement, 15 days hard labor without confinement and 15 days restriction to base. The member failed to report for duty at the time prescribed and for this offense received a letter of reprimand. The member consumed alcoholic beverages while under the legal drinking

age of 21 and failed to obey a lawful general order by wrongfully possessing and consuming alcoholic beverages under the legal drinking age of 21 in the dormitory and for these offenses received an Article 15 with a reduction in grade from Airman to Airman Basic, 30 days restriction to base, and a reprimand.

A senior airman received an under honorable conditions (general) discharge for Misconduct – Commission of a Serious Offense. Member was arrested by Warner Robins Police Department for Driving Under the Influence with a breath alcohol level of 0.14 and for this offense received a letter of reprimand, and an unfavorable information file was established.

An airman basic received an under honorable conditions (general) discharge for Misconduct – Drug Abuse, wrongful use of marijuana. For this offense, the member received an Article 15 with a reduction in grade from airman to airman basic, suspended forfeitures of \$650 pay for two months and suspended restriction to Robins Air Force Base for 30 days.

A senior airman received an under honorable conditions (general) discharge for Substance Abuse Treatment Failure - Failure In Alcohol Abuse Treatment Due To

Inability. The member failed from the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment program after having received the third alcohol-related incident since entering the program in 2005. After review and clinical assessment of the case, the ADAPT treatment team made a recommendation the Airman be referred to the Eisenhower Medical Center for intensive treatment and alcohol dependence. Due to the need for long-term treatment in a civilian medical facility the member was administratively separated from the Air Force.

Court-martial

An airman faced trial by special court-martial for failing to obey a no contact order given by a superior officer in violation of Article 92, UCMJ, for wrongful use marijuana, in violation of Article 112a, UCMJ, for wrongfully distributing some amount of marijuana, in violation of Article 112a, UCMJ, for selling military property of a value over \$500, in violation of Article 108, UCMJ, and for stealing military property of a value of over \$500 in violation of Article 121, UCMJ.

The member was sentenced to confinement for 12 months, reduction to airman basic, fine of \$150 (additional six months confinement is not paid), total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and a bad conduct discharge.

<http://www.robins.af.mil/library/rev.asp>

► IN BRIEF

HAIL AND FAREWELL

The June WR-ALC Hail and Farewell will be today 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.

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.

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

DELIVERY

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

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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

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Ready for the Challenge: Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape challenge pushes Airmen to the limits



U.S. Air Force photo by STAFF SGT. MATTHEW ROSINE

Staff Sgt. Matthew Zimmer pumps out as many push-ups as he can during the physical fitness portion of the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Challenge at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash. The participants in the challenge include SERE specialists, combat rescue officers and pararescuemen. The competition tested the Airmen's skills in evasion, resistance, escaping from captivity, shelter-building, rock climbing, rappelling, fire craft, combat arms skills and marksmanship. It wrapped up with push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups and a six-mile ruck march. The challenges took place with little or no rest between events. Of the 15 teams to start the challenge, 10 completed it. Three teams were pulled for medical reasons, and two did not make their checkpoints in time.

Defending our nation is every servicemembers' job

"That's not my job." We've all heard these words or some variation of them at some point in our career. What did it say to you about the individual or the organization that person represents? What would be the impact on our mission if we let this mentality creep into our culture?

Today, our service is in the midst of a reduction in personnel and resources. The effects of these cutbacks are further amplified by our nation being at war. The challenges we face because of these reductions are real. Their impact on our mission is real. Times like these can push supervisors and organizations to guard their people like a dog with a bone.

It's not pretty but it is human nature. In our profession, we must take deliberate

and conscious steps to resist this.

As we fight our nation's enemies with diminishing resources, our units, specialties and even branch of service must not get in the way of supporting each other and sharing assets. We all know somebody who has deployed to support our sister services through the "in-lieu of" tasking process. This is our service's way of supporting our overall mission: defending our nation against all enemies.

Our senior leaders answered our brothers in arms call. They did not say to them "that's not my job." Our service stood up and is making a difference.

During a recent TDY, I sat next to a Soldier returning from Iraq. I mentioned I was in the Air Force. We began to talk about his experiences

and how the Air Force supported this critical mission. He was very emphatic about the outstanding job the Air Force personnel did.

In particular, he mentioned that although at home friendly, cross-service rivalry does exist, on the ground in Iraq it is one team, one fight. He did not care what uniform the man next to him had on. More important was the flag on the shoulder of the man covering his back. It is this willingness to reach across our services that we need to foster and feed into our wings, our squadrons and all the way down to the individual.

This is not a new concept. It is captured in our core value, "service before self" and our wingman culture. We all need to look out for each other. When a fellow service-

member is in need, it must be part of our organizational and personal fiber to share the load. It is our willingness to reach out a hand to our fellow brothers in arms that will tell us what kind of person, unit and service we are.

We have answered this call and will continue to do so. But as the challenges continue, we can not become weary and lose focus on our obligation to each other.

We all need to remember that our responsibilities are much greater than those required by our particular specialty. Just like the Soldier in combat, we must have each others back, no matter what patch we wear. Our mission depends on it.

— This commentary was written by Lt. Col. John Hamuka, 571st Global Mobility Squadron.

Take responsibility for safety of your family, friends and self

Just step outside and you know summer is here. And, with the lure of summer fun, Airmen will face the increased risk of mishaps now that we are in the 101 Critical Days of Summer between May 25 and Sept. 4.

Although the 101 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day account for more than a quarter of the calendar year, history has shown that an exponentially higher percentage of off-duty accidents, and resultant injuries and fatalities, occur during the summer season.

"Operation Summer Survivor — Zero in on safety" is the theme for this year's Air Education and Training Command campaign to prevent the loss of the Air Force's most valuable resource — our Airmen. Gen. William R. Looney III, the

AETC commander, asked commanders and supervisors to clearly communicate his message that "we want all our people to enjoy the summer, but survive it safely."

An Internet search for "101 ways" will bring up more than 54 million entries, but not one of those entries will provide a guaranteed way to survive the 101 Critical Days of Summer. I can't make that guarantee either, but to paraphrase legendary coach John Wooden, I won't let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.

What I can do is ensure everyone is aware of the risks associated with these critical days and that they remember to use operational risk management in all decision making.

Why — with all of the safety information available

today — do off-duty accidents still continue to occur every summer?

The answer to that question, from an article in an old safety publication, is just as applicable today as it was when it was printed four years ago.

"For most of us, the reason may be because we simply don't believe that the accidents will happen to us ... that the child who dies while swimming will not be our child ... that the friend who dies while driving drunk will not be our friend because our friend can handle the drinking ... and that the one little phone call will not hurt because we have always been able to handle driving distractions. Yet each time we do any of these activities without taking safety precautions, we increase the chances that next

time it will be our child, our friend or ourselves. This year, remember that safety is a personal responsibility. It is up to you to take responsibility for the safety of your family, your friends and yourself."

The same operational risk management we practice on the job can be used in all we do. If we assess the risks of our activities, evaluate them with safety in mind and then make a sound decision before acting, we are likely to see a significant reduction in mishaps and prevent fatalities. Proper risk management planning will allow us all to keep ourselves, our loved ones and our friends out of harm's way.

— This commentary was written by Col. Richard Klumpp Jr., 71st Flying Training Wing commander.



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://www.mil.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.

Officers' Club tennis courts

It's that time of year again when the tennis courts are busy. Everyone is getting in shape for the summer. However, the courts are in need of some attention again this year as before. There are numerous weeds and even small bushes growing inside the court. The hedges leading to the courts from the parking lot are in dire need of trimming. The leaves and tree debris inside the courts is deep enough to hide tennis balls that happen to end up in this refuse.

If there is any way to clean the courts and get them back in their proper shape, it would be beneficial to all who go there to exercise.

Colonel Carter's Response:

The outside maintenance contract with JOPPA for trimming hedges, leaf and weed removal was cancelled at the start of 2007 due to funding shortages. All outside work is now done in-house by fitness center personnel, and although it is getting done, the frequency of maintenance on the tennis courts has decreased. Mr. Enterman, the Robins Fitness Center director, has directed his staff to remove the leaves and the upstart weeds on the courts and he is working with the facility manager of the officers' club to get the hedges trimmed. We should have all this done by the time you read this.

Kudos to Medical Group

I want to pass on my praise and appreciation to the Robins hospital clinic staff, especially Dr. Stephans. His care and concern for my recovery during my recent bout of pneumonia was first rate and handled with extreme professionalism. Although under an extremely high patient load, Dr. Stephans never allowed this to affect his patient care. He took all the time necessary to ensure a correct diagnosis was made and to ensure my return to good health. Additionally, Dr. Stephans cared enough to insist on performing my follow-up visit even though he was not my primary care doctor. This included a personal phone call to my home to check on my well being, which I might add, was at almost 6 p.m. in the evening. Once again, extend my thanks to your clinic staff for their professionalism.

Colonel Carter's Response:

Thank you for taking the time to recognize the professionals at our medical group. The 78th MDG provides top notch care to our community each day. Providing health care for our Airmen is both challenging and rewarding, and having people like you express your appreciation is always highly valued. Dr. Stephans is an esteemed professional and one of our hard-working contract physicians. He always takes extra time to ensure the care for each person is of the highest quality. Again, thanks for reaching out to express your appreciation and for your service to our nation. I will pass on your comments to the 78th MDG professionals.

Accessing employee NSPS performance plans

Q. As a new supervisor, how do I access the NSPS Performance Plans of my employees?

A. First, contact your unit civilian personnel resource advisor to ensure the personnel action placing you into a supervisory position has been processed in the Civilian Personnel Data System. Once that has been verified, connect to the Web site at https://bantam.afpc.randolph.af.mil:8007/OA_HTML/AppsLocalLog.in.jsp and enter the same UserID and password you are using to access MyBiz. After logging in, you will have the



option of choosing to enter either MyBiz or My Workplace. My Workplace is the tool which allows supervisors to access the Performance Appraisal

Application to develop performance plans, conduct interim reviews and rate their NSPS employees. Once logged into My Workplace, if there are discrepancies in who is listed as your subordinate versus who should be listed, that can be remedied by notifying your Unit Civilian Personnel Resource Advisor, who will coordinate all corrective actions.

► IN BRIEF

78TH MDG CHANGE

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

TROOPS TO TEACHERS

Bill Kirkland, representative for the Troops to Teachers program, will be at the Robins Education Center Monday, from 10 to 11 a.m. to take questions about the cooperative program between the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Defense that provides referral and placement assistance to men and women who have served the nation as members of the Armed Forces and who are seeking a second career as teachers in public schools. He will also discuss the Spouses to Teachers program.

For more information on the programs, visit the following Web sites: www.proudtoserveagain.com or www.spousestoteachers.com.

The briefing will be held in Bldg. 905, room 139, no reservations are necessary. For more information, contact Andrea Harris at 327-7312, or Mr. Kirkland at bill.kirkland@gapsc.com.

CGOA GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Robins Company Grade Officers' Association will host its annual golf tournament, a four-person scramble, July 13 at Pine Oaks Golf Course. Cost is \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members (includes range balls, golf cart, green fee, lunch, prizes, arrival packages and a Red Cross donation.) Registration and sign in will begin at 10:30 a.m., lunch at 11 a.m., and a shotgun start at noon. An awards presentation and door prize ceremony will be held at 4 p. m. To sign up call 2nd Lt. Robert MacDermott, at 327-6204.

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 military 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 about this program.

FREE USPS PACKAGING FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF SERVICE MEMBERS

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

Eight boxes, tape, packaging materials and labels will be mailed to those who call. They will also provide an I.D. number to re-order. Allow four to 10 days to receive the materials.

Computer users should beware of e-mail phishing schemes

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

"Hey you just won \$1 million," are words many dream of hearing; however, base computer experts warn that e-mails containing such messages are anything but a dream come true.

Base personnel should always be cautious when it comes to e-mail messages and should never open unsolicited e-mail or junk mail, said Coqueese Rodriguez, exchange administrator with the 78th Communications Squadron.

"We don't like people to open any e-mails, when they don't know the sender or the subject," she said.

E-mails searching for personal or financial account information, commonly known as phishing or "password harvesting fishing" are always floating around the Internet.

Though, many would be wise to an e-mail subject line promising millions, other phishing attempts are much harder to spot because phishers pose as legitimate businesses such as credit card companies or the Internal Revenue Service.

"The bottom line on all this is to follow what your momma said, 'if it's too good to be true it probably is,'" said Jennifer Dodson, network technician for the 78th CS.

"People have to be aware because they are becoming quite sophisticated about how they are trying to solicit your information," said Pat McCants, e-mail exchange administrator with the 78th CS.

Though members of the network security team encourage base personnel to never open unsolicited e-mails, they realize accidents happen. However, once an e-mail is open and it is suspected of being a part of a phishing scheme, it should be reported to their IT zone help desk, their information systems security officer or their client support administrator.

Ms. Rodriguez said messages shouldn't be forwarded.

"The key to it is to go in and delete these e-mails," Ms. Rodriguez said.

The trio advised computer users to never provide financial information or other personal information that might help someone access your accounts or steal your identity through e-mail.

One way to decrease your vulnerability to receiving phishing e-mails is to set-up e-mail filters where junk e-mail can either be automatically deleted or diverted into its own folder, Ms. Rodriguez said.

"Firewalls and anti-virus software can catch most items, but some items can get through. You can set up your own junk e-mail filters to get anything that may have gotten through," she said.

Other ways to limit junk e-mail is by refraining from registering with Web sites because the sites will sell your contact information, increasing the amount of junk mail you receive, Ms. Rodriguez said.

Ms. Dodson advised Web surfers to carefully consider what Web sites you are visiting.

"If you go to a shady site, it's like going to a shady neighborhood, you are going to get mugged," she said.

Along with the threat of phishing scams on the base computer network, security officials said there have also been a lot of classified message incidents where members of Team Robins have sent e-mails containing classified information.

Ms. Dodson reminded base personnel to "be very careful about sending information that might be classified. No classified material should be sent through e-mail."

The trio also stressed the importance of taking good computer habits home after work each day.

The trio agreed caution shouldn't just be exercised at work. It is also important to practice caution and utilize security software to ensure your information on your personal computer is safe from tampering.

Ms. Dodson added it's easy for Robins personnel to attain anti-virus software because Robins' personnel are eligible for free anti-virus software through the home use software program. Both civilian and military personnel can visit the Robins secure Web site and click on the "Software for Home Use" link to attain the anti-virus software, which also includes spyware protection.

Along with the anti-virus software, you should also have a firewall, and set-up automatic updates from Microsoft for new patches, Ms. Dodson said.



If you have any questions or concerns or wish to report suspicious e-mail activity send a description of the incident to postmaster@robins.af.mil or 78CSnetworksecurity@robins.af.mil.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Robins Air Force Base announces the availability for public review and comment of the Draft Final Environmental Assessment and proposed unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Facility Renovation/New Construction and Operation of Marines Corps Units (MAG 42, HMLA-773, and MALS-42) relocated from the Naval Air Station Atlanta to Robins Air Force Base.

The proposed action consists of renovation of existing facilities and new construction at Robins, and operation of Marine Corps units relocated from NAS Atlanta to Robins. This action includes: renovation of existing hangars and buildings; construction of a new aircraft hangar and associated hardstand areas; relocation of a roadway adjacent to the new hangar; construction of two parking lots for privately owned vehicles; and renovation of existing ordnance storage buildings. Pursuant to the 2005 BRAC recommendations, the purpose of this proposed action is to provide adequate and efficient space for continued MAG-42, HMLA-773, and MALS-42 operations at Robins AFB so that their missions can be achieved.

No significant impacts to the environment are anticipated.

A copy of the Draft Final EA and proposed unsigned FONSI are available for public viewing and comment for the next 30 days in the Nola Brantley Memorial Library (also known as the Houston County Library), 721 Watson Blvd., Warner Robins, GA, 478-923-0128.

For questions or comments on either public notice, contact the 78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office via fax at 926-9597 or via mail at:

78 ABW/PA
215 Page Rd, Suite 106
Robins AFB GA 31098-1662

Got news to share?

Contact a member of the Rev Up staff

Sue Sapp 222-0805 Holly Birchfield 222-0810
Amanda Creel 222-0807 Lanorris Askew 222-0806
2nd Lt. Sequoia Fransk 222-0802



2006 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Robins Air Force Base
Water System Permit
No. 1530042

Robins Air Force Base Drinking Water Program

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

Non-Disinfection Contaminants	Max allowed (MCL)	Goal (MCLG)	Robins AFB Water System Amt detected	Range of detection	Year sampled	Violation (Y/N)	Typical source contamination
Total Coliform (%)	1	0	0	N/A	2006	N	Naturally present
Flouride (ppm)	4	4	1.96	0.34 - 1.96	2006	N	Natural/additives
Nitrite (ppm)	1	1	0.88	0.40 - 0.88	2006	N	Erosion/runoff from fertilizers
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.88	0.40 - 0.88	2006	N	Erosion/runoff from fertilizers
Alpha emitter (pCi/L)	15	0	16	0 - 16	2006	Y	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-226 & 228 (combined) (pCi/L)	5	0	8	0 - 8	2006	Y	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper, at tap (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.77 ^a	1 sample above AL	2004	N	Erosion of natural deposits/corrosion of plumbing systems
Lead, at tap (ppm)	AL=15	0	2.5 ^a	1 sample above AL	2004	N	Erosion of natural deposits/corrosion of plumbing systems

Disinfection and disinfection by-products	Max allowed (MRDL)	Goal (MRDLG)	Robins AFB Water System	Range of detection	Year sampled	Violation (Y/N)	Typical source contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.3	0.9 - 1.3	2006	N	Water additive
Total Trihalo-methanes (ppb)	80	N/A	1.1	0.0 - 1.1	2006	N	By-product of chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	0	N/A	2006	N	By-product of chlorination

a. Data was collected in previous years, but is still considered representative of drinking water quality by the EPD.

TABLE DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

ppm: parts per million

ppb: parts per billion

pCi/L: pico curies per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

N/A: not applicable

How is your water treated?

A variety of techniques are used to treat your tap water, including disinfection by chlorination as well as fluoridation to protect children's teeth. The water also goes through a softening process by adding a corrosion inhibitor and lime. The water treatment operation is staffed 24 hours a day by highly trained, state licensed water treatment plant operators. Our water system has a storage capacity of over two million gallons, a pumping capacity of 10.4 million gallons per day and uses advanced technology to monitor and control drinking water distribution 24 hours a day. In 2006, over 700 million gallons of water was distributed to Robins consumers, a 20 percent reduction in water use over the past three years. Our operations staff work diligently 365 days per year to ensure our water is safe, available, and meets standards set by state and federal agencies.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, per-

sons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Reduced Monitoring Approved

The Source Water Assessment and Vulnerability Assessment show the Robins water system's raw water is not in a high potential pollution risk status. As authorized by the EPD, our system has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year. They have been tested over a long period of time and have not been present at levels that would be cause for concern. The reduced mon-

itoring requirements, called waivers, have been issued to our drinking water system for the following inorganic compounds: arsenic, asbestos and cyanide, effective Jan. 1, 2005 to Dec. 31, 2010. Additionally, our system has a waiver for 31 synthetic organic compounds, effective Jan. 1, 2005 to Dec. 31, 2007. Please contact the Robins AFB Public Affairs Office at 926-2137 if you have questions about drinking water waivers or wish to receive a copy.

Important Information About Radium

Analytical results from our 2005-06 quarterly water sampling and testing show that one of our seven water system wells produced water containing (see table, page 4) slightly higher levels of radium 226/228 and gross alpha emitters than the standards set by the EPD. A public notice on the MCL exceedance was issued in 2006. The well was disconnected from the water distribution system during August 2006 and will remain so until the water quality is restored through modification of the well,

installing a treatment system, or another best management practice.

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. As water passes through rock formations, alpha emitters, such as radium, can dissolve into the water. Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 or other alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. However, naturally occurring levels of radiation in drinking water are generally not considered to be a health emergency. The estimated health risks from low levels of radium are small, and short term exposures pose an extremely small level of risk.

Now, we are in the process of performing a scientific investigation concerning the radionuclides. The results of the investigation will provide us with choices for corrective actions to restore the water well to safe, beneficial use. The 78th Medical Group will notify you immediately if there is ever any reason for concern about your water. If you have questions concerning this report, or any other aspects of Robins facilities or operations, contact 327-7555.

This Water Quality Report summarizes the quality of your drinking water during calendar year 2006. Robins Air Force Base (Robins AFB) met all safety and quality standards set by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) except for some radiological standards. Included in this report is detailed information about these standards and our efforts to meet them.

This report also provides detailed accounts of all the water monitoring and testing results gathered during January to December 2006 for the Robins AFB Public Water System. Included are details about where your water originates, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The purpose of this report is to advise consumers about drinking water quality and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources. This report reflects the hard work and dedication of the 78th Civil Engineer Squadron, which operates and maintains the water distribution and treatment systems; the 78th Medical Group, which tests the drinking water for safety and quality; and the Environmental Management Division, which oversees the program and ensures compliance with our Georgia withdrawal and operation permits.

To comply with the Consumer Confidence Reporting Rule of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the 78th Medical Group Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight issues this annual report on drinking water monitoring results. For additional information about this report or to provide input regarding the Robins public water system, contact the Robins Public Affairs Office at 926-2137. The base organizations that manage the water system have an open door policy with our residents.

Our raw water source

Our drinking water is drawn from the Blufftown Aquifer, one of the best ground water sources in the State. This is a safe and reliable source, providing high-quality water that is free of micro-organisms such as *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* that are sometimes found in rivers and lakes.

Rainwater percolates down into the Blufftown Aquifer through layers of soil and sand, which act as natural cleansing filters to remove impurities (see Figure 1 for details). Robins is permitted to withdraw water through the seven water supply wells located throughout the base. Public water systems are required to develop a Source Water Assessment Plan to identify potential sources of contamination and review the controls to mitigate any potential impact. Management strategies to control current and future potential contamination sources have been identified and implemented at Robins AFB. These controls are designated as fully sufficient for the protection of our drinking water supply. Contact Public Affairs at 926-2137 if you have questions regarding the SWAP.

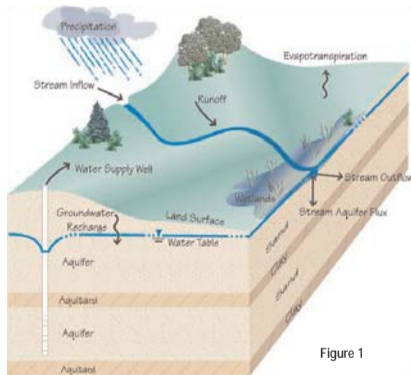


Figure 1

Water Everywhere

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, naturally occurring radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in any source water before it is treated include:

- Microorganisms, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, and wildlife.
- Inorganic chemicals, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring, or result from storm water runoff or industrial sources.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, or residential uses.
- Organic chemicals, originating typically from industrial operations and storm water runoff.
- Radionuclides, which can naturally occur, or are the result of mining activities.

Most surface water contaminants never reach the drinking water supply. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the US EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Copies of the Water Quality Report will not be mailed, but hard copies are available by contacting the Public Affairs Office at 926-2137.

Complaints regarding color, taste or odor? Please call the Civil Engineering Service Call Desk at 926-5657.

PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER FOR ...

The "Put your hands together for..." feature is a monthly installment to the Robins Rev-Up. Due to the overwhelming number of awards people at Robins receive, we just aren't able to cover them all. This feature is our way of ensuring we give credit where we can.

The installment runs in the last issue published each month. To have an award included in the "Put your hands together for..." page, submit a brief write up of the award and the people who have earned it. Photos may also be submitted, but space is limited.

Submissions should be sent either by e-mail or brought to the Rev-Up office, Suite 106, Building 215. Submissions brought to the office should be in Microsoft Word on a compact disc. Photos can be e-mailed or delivered to the office too.

For more information, contact Lanorris Askew at lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil or Kendahl Johnson at kendahl.johnson@robins.af.mil.

Either can be reached by phone at 926-2137.

Robins teen takes part in Presidential Classroom Scholar Program

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD

holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

Kyle Klobucher has dreams of becoming a politician one day.

The 18-year-old Warner Robins High School graduate and 2006 Robins Air Force Base Teen of the Year recently got a glimpse of what possibly lies ahead in his future political career when he took part – along with nearly 180 other students from the U.S. and countries like Korea, Japan and Germany – in the week-long Presidential Classroom Scholars Program June 17-23.

The Presidential Classroom Scholars Program offers hands-on experience in areas like journalism and communications, law, public policy and, science and technology.

The legislative leg of the program gives teens an inside view of the U.S. legislative process.

The heart of the program took place at Georgetown University Conference Center in Washington D.C. Students with political aspirations learned the ropes of legislative affairs in workshops and briefings on the floor of the U.S. Congress and at the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Klobucher, son of Andy and Ninette Crunkleton, a retired Air Force master sergeant, said being Air Force

Materiel Command's Youth of the Year runner up is what opened the door for him and the program's grand opportunity.

The recent high school graduate, who is Robins' first teen to go into the program, has been heavily involved in the Teen Center, has volunteered for various community service projects and is the president of the Keystone Club, a character and leadership-building program at Robins.

Mr. Klobucher said the Presidential Classroom Scholars Program brought new and interesting ventures.

"We met our congressman and our representative," he said. "We sat on the floor of Congress. We got to watch the Senate in session. That was exciting. I mean, I want to be a politician. That was a dream come true, sitting on the floor of Congress. Most people can't do that."

The aspiring political leader

said he and other students who were in the top of their classes learned a lot about politics. But they also learned they knew more about the subject than they may have expected.

"I like politics and this gave me a wide understanding of politics," he said.

During the week-long program, the teens broke into caucuses which served as individual model congresses. The caucuses created bills for topics such as No Child Left Behind, immigration, same sex marriages and the War on Terror, and argued passing of their bills in those same model congresses.

The trip, fully-funded by the U.S. Air Force, was definitely outside of the teen's routine.

"We got up as early as 5:30 a.m. and we got back as late as 10:45 p.m.," Mr. Klobucher said. "You always had to wear business attire, which was not my favorite thing to do. It was an experience though."

Marvin Hawkins, school-age and teen coordinator for the Robins Youth Center, said the teen is well-deserving of the opportunity.

"He's just a great young man who stood out," he said. "He had great leadership qualities."

Mr. Hawkins said he hopes the Air Force will continue sending teens like Mr. Klobucher to such programs that offer experiences of a lifetime.

"The Presidential Classroom Scholars Program offers an invaluable learning experience for students who want to sharpen their critical thinking skills and hone their leadership capabilities," he said. "While they're there, students research, draft, and present reports to summarize the pros, cons and possible solutions of a current issue. The participants also interact with Washington's insiders. They engage in team-building activities and enhance their negotiation skills."

Volunteer instructors in the program, like Maj. Eric Hommel, a military liaison for the U.S. Air Force on Capitol Hill, made a lasting impression with Mr. Klobucher.

"I gained a lot of political knowledge," he said. "I'm coming back a lot smarter. I have a lot more friends. It's a way to network. I have friends from all over the country now."

But if anyone thinks the program is all fun and games, Mr. Klobucher said they need to think again.

"I would tell them to make sure they know different bills that were passed in the past 10 years," he said. "Study politics. Watch politics. Watch the news. Everything that's on the news is what's going on in Congress today, and that's the easiest way to keep up with what people are talking about."



Kyle Klobucher recently attended the Presidential Classroom Scholar Program in Washington, D.C.

► ROBINS RETIREMENTS

The following people have been announced as optional civilian retirees.

- Ralph Allison
- Sherry Benefield
- Sherwyn Brandt
- Steve Clark
- Aaron Ethredge
- Joe Evans Jr.
- Harold Feightner
- Teresa Floyd
- Wanda Fullmore
- James Gosby
- Jane Greathouse
- Willie Hines
- Glynn Hooks
- James Hughes
- Nicholas Knopes
- Ross Lewis
- Carl McCarthy
- Cathy Miller
- Howard Norman
- Nancy Reid
- Eddie Sanders
- James Singleton
- Lance Stephen
- Annylis Tomblin
- David Vaughn

- Paul Hibbitts
- Russell Hohman
- Charlene Jackson
- Elaine Manders

- John Marchman
- Theodore McKim
- Kenneth McRae
- Peggy Mullis

- John Pacosa
- James Singleton
- William Stantz
- Dean Wicks

PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER FOR ...

The "Put your hands together for..." feature is a monthly installment to the Robins Rev-Up. Due to the overwhelming number of awards people at Robins receive, we just aren't able to cover them all. This feature is our way of ensuring we give credit where we can.

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For more information, contact Lanorris Askew at lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil or Kendahl Johnson at kendahl.johnson@robins.af.mil. Either can be reached by phone at 926-2137.

19th ARG wins annual community service award

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

The 19th Air Refueling Group was named as the 2007 Community Service Award recipient June 21 by the Warner Robins Military Affairs Committee of the Warner Robins Chamber of Commerce.

"The 19th came out on top. It was very, very close and as you can imagine all the units do some great things for the community," said Terry Smith, military affairs committee chairman.

The Black Knights have earned the award three times since 2000 for their efforts to preserve and enhance the relationship between the civilian community of Warner Robins and the base community.

"This is our way of recognizing them and thanking them for what they do," Mr. Smith said. "It is a real pleasure to be able to see that kind of demonstration of community service."

The 19th Air Refueling Group's commitment to community service is not about earning a trophy, but instead about repaying the local community for their support of their Airmen both here at home and when they are deployed, said Lt. Col. Blaine Holt, acting commander of the 19th ARG.

"It is nice to be recognized with a trophy and it's always good for our members to receive recognition for their efforts, but it wouldn't change our commitment to the community either way, with or without a trophy," he said.

Colonel Holt said the community service legacy of the Black Knights is not something members of the group take lightly.

"Due to our history here since 1967 there have been thousands of Black Knights and their families who have settled here in Middle Georgia. Our role in the community is an understanding that goes without saying," Colonel Holt said.

He added that by serving the local com-



U.S. Air Force photo by ERIC PALMER
Lt. Col. Blaine Holt, 19th Air Refueling Group acting commander, accepts the 2007 Community Service Award trophy June 21. The trophy was presented by 78th Air Base Wing commander Col. Theresa Carter (right) and Art Christie, Warner Robins Chamber of Commerce interim president (left).

munity, members of the Black Knights also benefit because anything that bolsters and supports the local community affects the Black Knights who call Middle Georgia home.

"We have a duty to the community that comes with an assignment here. We also have a duty to continue to preserve the relationship that has existed here since the '60s," Colonel Holt said.

Colonel Holt said the Black Knights promise the community their final year at Robins before their deactivation in May of 2008 will include the same level of community service the local area has seen from the Black Knights during their tenure here.

"It has always been a goal (to serve the community) and it's not going to change this last year," Colonel Holt said.

Mr. Smith said it is always tough to choose the top unit because all the units are generous to the Warner Robins community through service projects.

"We think it is important to recognize what members of the units at Robins do as a community service. All the members in the units are doing things for the community," Mr. Smith said.

Though the Black Knights were presented with a trophy for their contributions to the community during a ceremony at Museum of Aviation's Vistascope Theater, the contributions to the Warner Robins community of both the runners-up – the 580th Aircraft Sustainment Group and the 330th Aircraft Sustainment Wing – are impressive as well, Mr. Smith said.

Mr. Smith said the military affairs committee would welcome more applications from base units for the Community Service Award next year.

"We would like more units to get involved in the recognition process, because we want to recognize more units and their roles in the community," Mr. Smith said.

Robins Fire Chief earns professional recognition

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

The Institution of Fire Engineers recently announced Robins Fire Chief Donald Striejewski as a new member.

Chief Striejewski joins the institution as a member, the fifth highest of six grades of membership that can be achieved.

Chief Striejewski said it is important to be involved in professional organizations because it helps you perform your duties to the best of your ability.

"It keeps you informed and into what is a ctually needed on a daily basis to make sure the mission is completed," he said.

Along with earning membership in the international fire engineering organization, the Commission on Professional Credentialing designated Chief Striejewski as one of 506 Chief Fire Officers worldwide for the second time.

To be eligible for the professional designation, Chief Striejewski had to demonstrate excellence in seven

areas: experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement and technical competencies.

Chief Striejewski said he feels it is important to spend a lot of time on professional development.

"It is important a fire chief today stays current at the managerial level, but to make sure you are staying in touch with the basics of firefighting and the everyday type emergencies too," Chief Striejewski said.

Lt. Col. Steven Keller, commander of the 778th Civil Engineer Squadron, credits the recent success of the Robins Fire and Emergency Services to Chief Striejewski's leadership and said his commitment to self improvement through these programs will help the fire department continue on a successful path.

"In just one year of being assigned to Robins, Chief Striejewski evaluated the requirements in the fire department, developed a comprehensive master plan to drive the department to success, and then successfully implemented that plan," Colonel Keller said. "His efforts were recognized by AFMC by selecting his flight for the AFMC Chief Master Sgt. Ralph E. Sanborn Award for the best fire department in AFMC."



Fire Chief Donald Striejewski

CNA GRADUATES

The following military spouses received their certified nursing assistant certificates May 23 from the Air Force Aid Society-funded Certified Nursing Assistant Program at Middle Georgia Technical College:

- Angela Leverett
- Valerie Flores

- Charmaine Holyfield
- Melton Parker
- Tracy Burns
- Charlene Thompson
- Alicia George
- Suzanne Hunt
- Melinda Drake
- Kimberly Cockerell
- Kizzy Ervin
- Zandera White



78th ABW Dining-In

promotes proud, passionate and professional Airmen

By 2nd Lt. EVAN C. LAGASSE
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More than 240 military and civilian Airmen gathered in the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar June 22 for the 78th Air Base Wing's Dining-In.

The event, which boasted a "Proud, Passionate and Professional Airmen" theme, was an occasion for Airmen to meet socially at a formal military function.

"I was very delighted to meet lots of our civilian attendees and also countless young Airmen who had never been to a dining-in before," said Col. Patrick Higby, 78th Mission Support Group commander. "For example, I was very touched that three young Airmen from the Air Force's best heating, ventilation and air conditioning shop went out of their way to meet me and chat with me about their deployment experiences and families."

According to the event's program, a dining-in is meant to enhance the esprit de corps of units, lighten the load of demanding day-to-day work, give commanders the opportunity to meet socially with their Airmen and enable Airmen of all ranks to create bonds of friendship and better working relationships through an atmosphere of good fellowship.

"I believe it raised morale and gave everyone a chance to interact with other (squadrons and ranks) they normally wouldn't," said Airman 1st Class Joshua Edwards, heating, ventilation and air conditioning apprentice with the 78th Civil Engineer Squadron.

"My favorite part of the evening was spending time and socializing with friends and coworkers from around base that I don't get to see in my every day job," said 1st Lt. Paula Delapasse, bioenvironmental engineer with the 78th Medical Group.

The evening's events included the singing of the national anthem by Tech. Sgt. Darryl McEachin from the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, posting of the colors by the Base Honor Guard, an invocation given by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Thomas Fey, 78th Air Base Wing head chaplain, a welcome from Col. Theresa Carter, 78th Air Base Wing commander, POW/MIA recognition, mixing of the grog ingredients, grog demonstration, dinner, skits and a speech by guest speaker retired Maj. Gen. Edward R. "Buster" Ellis.

Many of the evening's laughs were provided by Airmen who experienced The Grog, a toilet bowl filled with a plethora of mysterious ingredients, both liquid and solid.

When the President of the Mess, Colonel Carter, made the determination that an attendee had to drink from The Grog, the individual marched swiftly to The Grog, saluted the commander, filled a cup with grog mixture, toasted the mess saying, "To the mess," drank every last drop in the cup, inverted the cup above their head proving that all contents had been consumed, discarded the cup, saluted the mess president one last time and returned to their seat as swiftly as they approached.

If there was an award for most trips to The Grog, Colonel Higby would have been the recipient. During one of his trips to The Grog, he was dressed up by the colorful and energetic Mister and Madam Vice of the Ceremony, Capt. Jason Huffman, 78th Operations Support Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Genis Membrila, 78th Security Forces Squadron, in a grass skirt, coconut bra, oversized sunglasses and a straw hat. While saluting Colonel Carter he somehow managed to maintain his military bearing.

"The taste was awful until I added my special gunpowder ingredient symbolizing warrior spirit. After the third time, though, I think my taste buds went numb and I'm still not sure which bowl had the leaded (alcoholic) versus unleaded (non-alcoholic). By mixing both together, I created a dense pigment, mild spicy flavor, with a complex dingle berry aroma, which was enhanced after (Col. Warren Berry's) visit to the grog, and a strong, fruity finish," said Col. Higby of The Grog's contents.

While Colonel Higby was trying to bring his taste buds back to life, Lt. Col. Eric Ferguson, 78th Communications Squadron commander, was busy singing and trying to remember the words to "I'm a Little Tea Pot," much to the delight of the crowd, due to his inability to flawlessly execute the grog procedures.

Alas, dinner came to an end, The Grog was closed, but the entertainment did not end there.

After a short break, Lt. Col. Steven Keller, 778th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, and Lt. Col. Arthur Davenport, 78th Medical Support Squadron commander, brought the crowd into a

rhythmic spoon-tapping frenzy (dining in protocol states that attendees must tap their spoon on the table as opposed to clapping) when they appeared on stage dressed as the Blues Brothers complete with sunglasses, hats, white socks and high-water pants, and pulled off a choreographed dance and lip-synching performance to "Soul Man."

"I thought they were hilarious. I did get concerned that (Colonel Keller) would hurt himself doing those cartwheels. Fortunately we had a great team from the medical group in attendance in case he threw his back out," said Colonel Higby.

The evening concluded with a speech by General Ellis, a command pilot with 240 combat hours in support of Operation Northern Watch and former commander of 19th Air Force.

General Ellis spoke about attitude being more important than aptitude. He told the crowd they should never stop fighting for improvements to the Air Force. Improving the Air Force each and every day, he said, will ensure the U.S. Air Force remains the world's most feared and respected. He also placed special emphasis on the significance of family and making sure Airmen make time for their family members amidst their busy work schedules.

Second Lt. Eric Miller, dining-in arrangements officer, was pleased with the way the event turned out.

"For those who were there, I would like to thank them for coming out and helping to make the evening a hit. We can do all the planning we want, but when you get right down to it, it's the people that made it a good time," said Lieutenant Miller.

The spirit of the evening was captured by Lieutenant Delapasse, who said, "The dining-in promoted proud, passionate and professional Airmen by showing off our heritage with the POW/MIA table and Honor Guard, as well as hearing General Ellis speak.

"Joining together with fellow Airmen who had recently been deployed, or who are missing those from our units who are currently deployed, reminds us that the 78th Air Base Wing has an important mission that affects many different areas of the Air Force. Together, our hard work helps contribute to the Robins (mission) and we are a proud wing."



- 1 Capt. Jason Huffman, with the 78th Operations Support Squadron, shows off his sombrero.
- 2 Col. Patrick Higby, 78th Mission Support Group commander, proves his glass of grog is empty.
- 3 Lt. Col. Steven Keller, 778th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, and Lt. Col. Arthur Davenport, 78th Medical Support Squadron commander, pay homage to the Blues Brothers.
- 4 Retired Maj. Gen. Edward R. "Buster" Ellis, former 19th Air Force commander, was the evening's guest speaker.
- 5 Left to right, John Vreeland, 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron logistics manager, Lt. Col. Kurt Bergo, 78th Contracting Squadron commander, and 2nd Lt. Eric Miller, dining-in arrangements officer drink from The Grog.
- 6 The grog mixture gets yet another tantalizing ingredient.

U.S. Air Force photos by CLAUDE LAZZARA



U.S. Air Force photo by GEORGE JOZENS

Airman 1st Class David Hill checks a radio frequency transmitter during a United Architecture exercise. Airmen from the U.S. Air Force joined together with servicemembers from the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force in a field exercise.

United Architecture exercise builds unity among United Kingdom, U.S. military forces

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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Thirty-eight Airmen from the 5th Combat Communications Group and 32 servicemembers from the Royal Air Force's 3 Field Communications Squadron in the 90 Signals Unit came together in Americus, Ga., for what would be their fourth United Architecture exercise.

In such exercises in years past, the two units designed an air operability manual that would be deployed along with communications equipment sent to the area of responsibility. Now, the units are validating their capabilities' workability in the field.

While the field exercise, which took shape June 18-29, is in its fourth round, Maj. Corey Ramsby, 54th Combat Communications Squadron commander and U.S. exercise commander for the event, said it's the first time the group has deployed into a Basic Expeditionary Airfield Resource field environment in this exercise mode.

"This is the fourth in the United Architecture series," he said. "The first time, they got together to kind of see where they were and they started developing interoperability techniques. They actually started documenting those interoperability techniques. Last year, we went to RAF (Royal Air Force) Fairford in Gloucestershire, England. We actually deployed equipment and they set it up and we validated those techniques."

Major Ramsby said this year's exercise carried their efforts to the next level.

"This year, what we've done is taken those interoperabilities that they were technically able to prove in a lab environment and we have deployed it into a field environment, simulating a

BEAR base environment," he said. "It works great in the lab, but how does it work in the field? That's what we're doing this week."

Exercise participants learned a great deal under pressure and under the nearly unbearable Southwest Georgia heat.

Senior Aircraftswoman Claire Cullen, who is in the RAF 90 Signals Unit's 3 FCS and serves as an Exercise Control Team member responsible for setting up scenarios in the exercise, said despite the awesome heat and humidity, the two-week exercise was very valuable.

"It has been good to see the other side of it – how things are run from an exercise control point of view," she said. "It has given us good insight into how the United States Air Force works as well. More and more, we're deploying together and working with the Americans."

RAF Squadron Leader Justin Gilroy, commanding officer for the 90 Signals Unit's 3 Field Communications Squadron at RAF Brize Norton, England, said the exercise has opened his eyes to the groups' similarities.

"I've learned that the way we do business and what we do is actually incredibly similar," he said. "We're a lot closer than you might think and our ability to operate together has been proven again in terms of our outlook, our approach, and how we do business. It's actually more similar than I'd realized."

Even with the similarities, challenges remained for the group, Squadron Leader Gilroy said.

"What we're replicating here is as if we are going away and we were setting up an airfield in a foreign

country on short notice," he said. "We're providing all the communications that would be used in that kind of scenario. So, effectively, we've got satellite communications which would link us back into the U.K. to the communications of the structure. That allows us to make telephone calls to basically any U.K. location, both back in the mainland and Europe, but also to other operations around the world as we need to."

Squadron Leader Gilroy said the capabilities also enable the two services to meet information technology needs as well.

Hot and humid conditions took their toll on some of the groups' communications equipment. But, fortunately, air conditioned tents were set up to alleviate the situation.

Sgt. Dave Berrisford, who is with the RAF 90 Signals Unit's 3 FCS and served as the senior technician in the exercise, said although the area's hot and humid weather conditions are somewhat different than the dry heat experienced in the Middle East, the exercise still brings good results.

"I think this is one of the best exercises I've ever done in relation to working with our coalition, i.e. the U.S. Air Force," he said. "I've worked with them

many times, but this is the best exercise I've completed that involves ourselves and interoperability."

Airman 1st Class David Hill, satellite communications, wide-band apprentice in the 54th CBCS who participated in the exercise for the first time, said he has gained a wealth of knowledge from the experience.

"This has probably been one of the biggest learning experiences I've had since being in the Air Force," he said. "It has given me an opportunity to really see more about what we do than I would normally see, because we are really opening up our channels of communication and the way we use our equipment. This is giving us the opportunity to do things we wouldn't normally do."

While Major Ramsby said the future of the exercise is uncertain at this point, the groups have already made great strides in building a better working relationship.

"This has really grown from a couple of guys sitting down and looking at technical drawings to where we deploy our units to a BEAR base environment, actually delivering interoperable communications for a coalition user," he said.

The major said the exercise has been a worthwhile tool for both services to grow in their missions together.



U.S. Air Force photo by GEORGE JOZENS
Power production specialists from both the U.S. and U.K. Air Forces work on electrical distribution from their generators.

Air Force Assistance Fund

AFAF payroll allotments scheduled to begin in June will not take effect until July. To enable full contribution to these important charities, contributions will be prorated over an 11 month period rather than 12 months. In most cases this will cause no hardship to contributing members, however if you have questions or concerns please contact the 78th Comptroller Squadron Financial Services Flight at 926-3840.

Local youth produce 'Jack and the Beanstalk' in whirlwind week

BY AMANDA CREEL
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About 40 young aspiring thespians learned that all the world really can be a stage June 18 as they auditioned for roles in the Missoula Children's Theater tour production of "Jack and the Beanstalk."

The Missoula Children's Theater, which tours around the world to U.S. Air Force bases that house families, arrives at each location equipped with all the tools to put on award winning productions – everything except a cast. Members of the Robins community took care of that and those who received acting parts strutted their stuff live on stage June 22 and 23 at Robins Elementary in the school cafeteria.

During the auditions, parents and siblings crowded the back of the school cafeteria, watching as rising stars showed their ability to reflect emotions such as introducing themselves while they are sad and playing different characters. The aspiring performers even had a chance to show off their southern twang or lack thereof.

The students not only had to display their ability to adapt to different characters or emotions, but also prove talented as dancers and singers to earn the prime parts in the musical theatre production. The students from 1st grade through 12th spent the morning showing off attributes that could be valuable to the production, such as cartwheels and pirouettes.

Two hours later, all 40 who auditioned were on their way to stardom after the pair of tour actor directors announced the auditions had been so successful that everyone had found their way into the cast.

Savannah Moody, 12, who landed the role of a farmer, said she decided to try out so she could learn more about how plays and musicals work.

Justin Dykes, 9, who would be performing in his third play, said the most exciting thing about being in "Jack and the Beanstalk" was playing the ringmaster because it was a speaking part; he had never had a speaking part before.

"I am looking forward to being able to talk a lot and people hearing me talk," he said.

Other members of the play's cast didn't need a speaking part to get excited about performing.

"My favorite part is when I am still jumping," said Emily Ruizsoriano, 5, who was cast as one of four magic jumping beans. She said she wasn't nervous at all about being the last jumping bean on stage and having to jump by herself.

Being a part of the production would be a challenge, admitted many of the performers, because there was less than five days to learn the play before the first of two performances.

"It's a challenge to memorize your lines faster, your dance steps faster and cram things into your heads faster," said Katrina Rodeheaver, 14, who played a merchant.

Even the tour actor directors agreed that the speedy preparations can prove challenging.

The general rule for practice time for theatre is one hour for every one minute on the stage, said Melanie Wagner, tour actor director.

"We fall way short of that," said Dustin Sleight, tour actor director.

Instead, the two-person team had eight two-hour sessions to teach a one-hour musical.

Sophia Uddin, 17, who landed the role of Jack's mother, said one of her favorite parts of the play, "was getting to see the whole thing come together in a few days."

And come together it did. After just a few days, the young thespians appeared on stage mastering the songs, lines



Above, Jack, played by Yusuf Uddin, 15, gives the "small" gold coin given to him by the giant in the land above the giant beanstalk to his mother during the cast's dress rehearsal at Robins Elementary. It was the last chance for members of the cast to perfect their lines, lyrics and choreography before their stage debut.

and choreography of the musical theatre piece anticipating the opportunity to perform "Jack and the Beanstalk" for their families and friends.

"The whole thing has been really fun and we have good teachers," said Yusuf Uddin, 15, who played Jack.

When the props appeared on stage, the scenes started to come alive through the young actors and actresses. Many performers, like Courtney Crossan, 9, as the strong lady, enjoyed their moment in the limelight.

"My favorite part is when I lift it (the barbell) up and say 'wimp' to the strong man," Courtney said.

The lion tamer, Dawson Cowart, 8, thoroughly enjoyed his chance to crack the whip as he called for a lion during the musical.

"My favorite part is when I am in the circus and I get to use the whip," Dawson said.

Once the costumes came out, the eagerness grew as the performers knew their moment to shine on the stage was just hours away.

As dress rehearsal ended and the performers prepared for their live performances, the performers hoped for two shows with no hitches and a curtain call fit for a celebrity.

And, all the performers had the words of Ms. Wagner dancing through their heads: "No matter what happens, even if your line gets skipped don't say anything, just keep in character. Because we don't want the audience to know we made a mistake."



Above, Left to Right: Essence Hunter, 6, Simon Emery, 7, Anna Emery, 7 and Emily Ruizsoriano, 5, dance like "magic" Mexican jumping beans in preparation for the premiere of "Jack and the Beanstalk." Helping them perfect their dance moves is Dustin Sleight, MCT tour actor director.

At left, during a dress rehearsal June 22, the strong lady, Courtney Crossan, 9, shows up the strong man by hoisting the barbell with just one arm after watching him struggle to lift the barbell during their circus act.



Gavin Combs, 8, hangs a sock on the "clothesline" while performing as a clown in the circus as part of the Missoula Children's Theatre traveling production of "Jack and the Beanstalk."

Robins sergeant breaks away from deployment through hockey

By TECH. SGT. SCOTT MOORMAN
U.S. Central Command Air Forces PA

In the rolling sage brush covered hills reminiscent of West Texas, the temperature hovers above 100 at 9 p.m. in this dusty, deployed military location.

Even after a 12-hour shift, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Wayland Baker, 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, is ready to hit the "ice."

Every day, the 31 year-old vehicle operator swaps his desert camouflage uniform for the Air Force blue shorts and gray t-shirt with a reflective Air Force logo that spans across the back. He trades the tan-suede boots for a pair of rollerblades and heads to his "rink."

The over-sized gloves and crooked stick are as alien to the region as the local customs are to him. However, his time spent under an Arabian sky is not.

Sergeant Baker has deployed six times in his twelve year military career. The active duty Air National Guardsman is on a temporary duty assignment from the 116th Logistics Readiness Squadron of the 116th Air Control Wing here, where he serves as NCO in-charge of vehicle operations.

Throughout most of the day, the devoted father of six is on the road transporting aircrew members across

hot tarmacs and taxiways or delivering cargo down routes where flocks of sheep graze in the medians and herds of camels can be seen wandering in the distance. He takes his chances pushing loaded semi trailers down dangerous roads to forward operating bases sprinkled around the rugged terrain to support Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

"Local drivers weave through traffic at excessive speeds with no regard to other motorists, and others limp down the middle of the road at extremely slow speeds," he said. "I have sat at intersections and watched impatient drivers drive up the sidewalk to get to the front of the line or to get around a red light."

But when the sun goes down, Sergeant Baker transforms a beige, pre-fabricated steel pavilion with corrugated metal roofing into a hockey rink. The concrete surface will never see a Zamboni. Here, he can escape the reality of his living conditions at "The Rock," an affectionate name given to the base during its construction.

"I get lost in the game; it's my relief," said the die-hard Buffalo Sabres fan. "When I am finished skating in the evening, I am relaxed and ready to start over the next day."

Tonight, the Corinth, N.Y., native faces off against himself. The former

goaltender skates endless circles across the gray surface, pushing the puck in a one-man power play. He envisions a defenseman and a goalie as he glides across the imaginary ice trying to improve his stick handling and speed. A slap shot into a non-existent goalpost allows the dead puck to sail off the rink and skip across the gravel encompassing the pavilion. The athletic framed Sergeant Baker retrieves the black disk and the ritual begins again.

"I play hockey wherever I go," he said. "So, you could say it's a piece of home while away from home."

He started playing hockey while deployed to Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia after a couple of co-workers talked him into giving the winter sport a try.

"It was rough at the start," he said. "I didn't know how to skate or much of anything else relating to hockey."

Sergeant Baker said he plays for fun mostly; but the highlight of his hockey career was protecting the net for a league team while stationed at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

"That was the last time I played goalie," he said. "We ended up winning the championship that year."

Eight years later, Sergeant Baker is still practicing, still lugging his gear to the other side of the world; far away from the inline rink near his home were he enjoys playing hockey with his family.

There are no cheering fans here. No Saturday league games; not even a net for a goalie to protect. Here, there is one man, a pair of rollerblades, a hockey stick and a puck. Here, he is home.

"I get lost in the game; it's my relief. When I am finished skating in the evening, I am relaxed and ready to start over the next day."

Tech. Sgt. Wayland Baker
116th Logistics Readiness Squadron



Air Force photo by SENIOR AIRMAN ANDREW DUMBOSKI
Tech. Sgt. Wayland Baker takes his passion for hockey to the Middle East. Sergeant Baker, an active-duty Air National Guardsman who is on a temporary duty assignment from the 116th Logistics Readiness Squadron, has deployed six times in his 12-year military career.

New Air University program helps Airmen earn bachelor's degree

BY AMANDA CREEL
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A new Air Force program helps Airmen attain bachelor's degrees using Community College of the Air Force credits.

The Air University Associate-to-Baccalaureate Cooperative program is open to all active-duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard members. Enrollment for the program began on June 15 and the program accepts all credits earned to attain the CCAF associate degree and allows students to apply the credits to a bachelor's program of the Airmen's choice.

"The real advantage is they will accept all of the CCAF credits," said Andrea Harris, degree programs administrator and guidance counselor for the base education office.

Through the AU ABC link located in the Air Force Virtual Education Center on the Air Force Portal, Airmen can enter their Air Force Specialty Code to find eligible bachelor's programs based on their AFSC CCAF degree.

For example, an associate's degree in transportation can be applied to a degree related to transportation, such as transportation and logistics management, or can be used to attain a degree outside of the field such as business administration or lib-



eral arts.

Each AFSC included has at least one degree for Airmen to pursue at the bachelor's level, Ms. Harris said.

"One of the largest benefits is the vitality of the CCAF degree as a whole, because a lot of Airmen think the work they did in the Air Force is going to be meaningless outside the Air Force," said Larrinecia Parker, guidance counselor at the base education office.

The program shows these military friendly colleges and universities have a lot of respect for the CCAF degree itself, Ms. Harris said.

Once at the AU ABC located in the AFVEC, Airmen can shop and register for classes, apply for tuition assistance, take courses and track degree progress online.

The program also allows Airmen to research the schools available for their AFSC and learn about their class fees, school policies and visit the school's Web site.

Ms. Parker said the program

is user friendly and puts everything at the Airmen's disposal.

"It gives them a chance to become more independent and pick something on their own, but we (base education counselors) are here if they need help," Ms. Harris said.

The program also allows Airmen to choose from both online programs and in-residence programs. The online programs allow Airmen to continue their education even when they deploy or change duty stations.

"If they are here or if they deploy somewhere else, they can still get online and go to classes," Ms. Harris said.

By requiring no more than 60 additional credit hours to complete a bachelor's degree, Airmen with a CCAF degree will be able to cut down on the time required to achieve a bachelor's degree.

"Some of them (Airmen) are intimidated by the idea of a bachelor's degree. It (AU ABC) makes it look like something they really can attain," Ms. Parker said.

STRAIGHT TALK HOT LINE

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