

THE ROBINNS REV-UP

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PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1954

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

78th CS, IT Directorate become 78th Communications and Information Group Oct. 1



U.S. Air Force graphic by HARRY PAIGE

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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The 78th Communications Squadron and the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center's Information Technology Directorate will soon join together to better serve customers' needs. The two organizations will informally stand up Oct. 1 as the 78th Communications and Information Group. The new organization as a whole will fall under the 78th Air Base Wing.

Front offices for the 78th CS and the WR-ALC/IT will remain in Bldg. 228, while workers in the two organ-

izations will remain scattered throughout the base.

Carl Unholz, currently the director of the WR-ALC/IT Directorate, will become the group director when the two organizations join. Mr. Unholz said the group is awaiting Air Force approval on its official stand up.

The change is a big move for the two organizations.

"This restructure is one of the more significant changes that is taking place as part of (the Air Force Materiel Command's) center standardization effort. This has been something that has been worked and planned now for at least a year's time

frame. We have taken steps to posture ourselves for the stand up of this group."

Mr. Unholz said the ground work for the merge was laid years before its birth.

In 2001, Robins began working on standing up the IT Directorate. The directorate was to fulfill mission needs outside of the 78th CS realm, such as investment management and applications.

Mr. Unholz said the two organizations envisioned merging in the future, but they had to find a way to show their customers that service would remain top notch.

Currently, IT directorates and communications squadrons are merging at all other AFMC bases as well, Mr. Unholz said.

"As IT and CS, the two had to always work together as a team and there was always a level of overlap," he said. "So merging allowed for better efficiency. The big reason though was Program Budget Decision 720 which eliminated 24 civilian positions within IT and a number of military positions being eliminated from the 78th CS, including a majority of leadership and officer positions."

► see COMBINING, 2A

Reaching out to make a difference



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Col. Terence Szanto, 330th Aircraft Sustainment Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Mark Atkinson, 402nd Maintenance Wing commander, Maj Gen. Tom Owen, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, Brenda Romine, 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing director, Col. Theresa Carter, 78th Air Base Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Carol Dockery, 78th ABW command chief take time to sign their CFC pledge cards.



Combined Federal Campaign

FAST FACTS

The 2007 Combined Federal Campaign will run Oct. 1 to Nov. 9. The campaign gives military members and federal workers a chance to donate to many local, national and international charitable organizations each year. Robins' goal for the 2007 CFC is \$1.35 million.

The CFC was established in 1961 and is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country.

For more information, contact Mark Shores, chairperson for the 2007 Middle Georgia CFC, at 222-0679 or Paul Nagle at 745-4732, extension 128.

LSET serves as wake-up call for Center

By 1st LT. SEQUIOYA LAWSON
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While the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center had a list of strong individual and team performers during our recent Logistics Standardization Evaluation Team inspection, the results served as a "wake-up call" for Warner Robins Air Logistics Center.

"I'm extremely disappointed in the overall ratings because I know our WR-ALC team is better than the scores reflect," said Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, Center commander. "My near-term game plan is for the Center's leadership team to first analyze the report and detailed findings, then compare and contrast with our own knowledge of the status of our organizations."

The Center's overall grade was Marginal, on a five-tier scale with highest to lowest ratings being Outstanding, Excellent, Satisfactory, Marginal and Unsatisfactory.

On the positive side, a long list of superior performers was cited for their work, in addition to the 330th Aircraft Sustainment Wing receiving an excellent overall rating.

"What's important to note is that we continue to outperform Air Force and Air Force Materiel Command standards in aircraft on-time delivery, reducing parts back ordered - resulting in quality aircraft being delivered to the warfighter," said General Owen.

The report analysis will include taking a look at documented issues found in preparing for the LSET inspection, unit self inspections, the August 2006 Unit Compliance Inspection and other assessments, General Owen said.

Most of the units are doing well, with 82 percent receiving a satisfactory or better, but some have problems the Center needs to address

► see LSET, 2A

Robins kicks off 2007 Combined Federal Campaign Monday

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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Thanksgiving may be a little more than a month away, but that doesn't stop people at Robins from getting in the giving spirit a little early. Robins' 2007 Combined Federal Campaign, "Help Our World Forward," will officially kick off Oct. 1 at 1:30 p.m. at the Museum of Aviation's Vistascope Theater. Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, will be present for the event.

Mark Shores, chief of the Workforce Development Division, Directorate of Personnel, and also the chairperson of the Middle Georgia CFC for 2007, said this year Robins AFB plans to raise \$1.35 million. The goal for the remaining 18 counties in the Middle Georgia CFC Campaign is \$100,000; the total campaign goal is \$1.45 million.

Mr. Shores said CFC is the federal government's

way of combining charity drives that formerly took place throughout the year. Any bona fide charity recognized as a non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service may participate in the campaign.

There are about 200 charities in the 18-county Middle Georgia area and a little more than 1,600 national and international charities that participate in CFC, Mr. Shores said.

Anyone can contribute to the campaign. However, the method for giving differs slightly. Military members and federal employees may give through payroll deduction or by making a one-time cash or check donation. All others, like contractors, may contribute through a cash or check donation, Mr. Shores said.

"The primary method for giving is through payroll deduction," he said. "The contributor fills out a pledge form and states how much they would like to contribute every time they're paid." Mr. Shores said payroll deduction contributions must be a min-

imum of \$1.50 per pay period. And while people are encouraged to designate the charitable organizations they wish to donate to, donations that aren't designated are divided equally among charities in the campaign.

Finding a charitable organization to help isn't as hard as some may think.

"If (people) look through the Charitable Agencies Listing booklet, it shows the names of all the charities that participate," he said. "It's very likely that they're going to find a charity that either appeals to them or possibly even a charity that they or a family member has benefited from."

In addition to the base's CFC goal, individual base organizations will each set a goal for their workers to reach. An organization's CFC goal is collectively based upon its potential contributors' rank and grade.

► see CFC, 2A

FM transformation underway at Robins

Office of Air Force Financial Management

The Air Force Financial Management transformation is currently underway and many within the organization think it is the greatest single change in financial management history.

"We, and all of Air Force Financial Management, are transforming the way we conduct business to better provide

expert decision support and analysis to commanders while continuing to provide high quality financial services to all Airmen," said Lt Col Kalwant Smagh, 78th Comptroller Squadron commander.

According to John Vonglis, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for financial management and comptroller, the result of this effort will save the Air Force more than \$200 mil-

lion over the next 10 years - money that will be available for other programs supporting the warfighter.

One of the cornerstones of the financial transformation effort is the opening of the Air Force Financial Services Center at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. The AFFSC will centralize and streamline most financial processes

► see FM, 2A



THINK SAFETY

Alcohol Against Driving

222-0013

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

Total rides given this year: 521

Days without a DUI: 5

Last DUI: 78th Operations Support Squadron - courtesy 78th SFS Reports and Analysis Section

THE TWO-MINUTEREV

Gate closure

The inbound lanes at Gate 14, the Russell Parkway gate, will be closed through Oct. 18 due to work on the pop-up barriers. The traffic flow will be as follows:

- Between the hours of 5 a.m. and 2 p.m. there will be two inbound lanes that will narrow into one lane after you enter the gate. During these same

hours there will be one outbound lane.

- Between the hours of 2 p.m. and 1 a.m. there will be two outbound lanes. During these same hours there will be one inbound lane.

If there are any questions or concerns contact Master Sgt. Rodney Summerwell or Staff Sgt. Christopher Nelson at 327-8941 or 327-8934.

INSIGHT

Summer Bash

Robins end of summer festival sends season out with a blast, 1B

SPORTS

Golf Tourney

Georgia Invitational kicks off at Pine Oaks Golf Course, 3B

SERVICE

New technology

New Air Force One Stop kiosk gives Airmen better access to service, 3A

WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY 86/62

SATURDAY 83/58

SUNDAY 81/60

LSET

Continued from 1A

immediately, General Owen said.

"We will address not just the root cause analysis of our problems, but put in place a more comprehensive plan to get well," the general said. "This will include more intensive corrective actions than we have taken in the past, more thorough follow-up, and most difficult – but most importantly – identify and then work to improve workforce 'people' issues."

General Owen believes if the Center can implement a successful Voluntary Protection Program, which stresses workforce ownership of safety, it will go a long way to improving performance across many areas.

"We will do this as a team and I expect a spirit of cooperation, positive attitudes, and personal ownership of responsibilities," he said. "We must now focus our efforts in a safe and healthy environment and re-establish the momentum of improved warfighter support we've had going for the last four or five years."

The LSET team brought about 60 inspectors and graded 83 units during the two-week inspection covering every aspect of logistics and supply chain management. It is a multi-event, compliance-and-performance-based evaluation divided into aerospace and equipment maintenance, munitions, supply chain management areas and logistics readiness functions.

Colonel Peter Robichaux, AFMC LSET team chief, said the Sept. 21 out-brief culminated two weeks of intense inspections. "We are a mile wide and a mile deep," Colonel Robichaux said. "There is a lot of good

work going on out there."

An Operational Readiness Inspection is scheduled for the Center in April 2008, which will include an emergency management exercise and targeted compliance inspection as two additional components.

"Every inspection, no matter the final outcome, gives us an opportunity to improve," said Col. Warren Berry, 78th Air Base Wing vice commander. "That external look by experts in their respective fields can only make us better." Colonel Berry said the ORI represents an opportunity to excel and to turn the LSET ratings completely around.

"We have amazing, professional Airmen working in this ALC and in our wing, and we have assembled a top-notch team to help us get ready," he said.

INFO BOX

A Warner Robins Air Logistics Center leadership team met recently and determined these fiscal 2008 improvement areas.

People: Recruit and develop a workforce in anticipation of future challenges and missions

Mission: Balance people, technology, and facilities to existing and future Center mission requirements

Culture: Create a workforce which reflects a normalized Air Force culture

"I'm confident we will successfully continue down the path toward achieving measurable progress in these three objectives in 2008."

-- Maj. Gen. Tom Owen,
WR-ALC commander

FM

Continued from 1A

now being handled by individual bases.

The AFFSC, which is set to open its doors for business October 2007, will centralize and transform the majority of financial services currently provided by 93 separate financial service offices at base level.

"The AFFSC will be established through two phases, ultimately resulting in Airmen having the total force expertise of FM matters available at one location," said Roger Bick, director of the Air Force

Financial Management Strategic Planning and Transformation Program Management Office.

Phase I will begin with the opening of the Central Processing Center in October 2007. The CPC will focus on consolidating base-level, backshop operations.

"Such operations include, but are not limited to, processing travel and military pay documents," Mr. Bick said. "These transactions are termed 'backshop' as they are not generally seen by the customer."

Phase II operations will begin in October 2008 when a "24/7" full-service contact

center is established. Knowledgeable staff in the contact center will provide top-quality pay and travel service to customers via telephone, Internet and fax.

From this point forward, Airmen will only need one telephone number to find solutions to their financial issues. Having a single contact center will eliminate the inconveniences that customers experience in having to fix financial issues during the regular duty day.

To prepare each base to transition to the new Financial Service Center, the financial service transformation team has launched a "cut-over" ini-

tiative. Cut-over includes both the preparation for migration of the workload and the actual migration of the workload to the Financial Service Center.

A team of experts on cut-over will be at Robins Oct. 10-11 to brief base leaders on the process and provide preparation guidance to the comptroller squadron personnel on the processes.

The town hall meeting will take place Thursday, Oct. 11 at 1 p.m. at the VistaScope Theater in the Museum of Aviation.

"I encourage anyone with questions or concerns to attend the meeting," Colonel Smagh said.

COMBINING

Continued from 1A

Mr. Unholz said the two organizations had to merge in order to effectively manage both organizations.

While some may fear change, the organizations' leaders say in this case, change is good.

Lt. Col. Eric Ferguson, 78th CS commander, said the merge will help both organizations be in better touch with customers' needs.

"First and foremost, one of the things customers benefit from is for our common IT organization to have good situational awareness about what our customers' needs are and what we're doing internally to satisfy those needs," he said. "We've always worked very closely together, but now being in essentially the same organization, the same group, we'll actually be able to improve our communications flow and project

tracking to the benefit of the customer in terms of making sure that we prioritize our resources and our time according to whatever the greatest need is."

Donna Mills, chief of the Business and Resources Division in WR-ALC/IT, said the merge will also help people in the two organizations to work together better.

"Right now, we are working hand-in-hand, but we do have two separate organizations," she said. "Now, we're merging together to pool those resources to fall under one management and we will be able to better see what the scope is across the whole (Air Logistics Center)."

Ms. Mills said combining the two organizations will allow their resource offices to better manage the Center's investments and infrastructure investments.

Despite all of the change, Mr. Unholz said outstanding service remains a top priority for the organization.

CFC

Continued from 1A

Each organization that reaches its CFC goal by Oct. 19 will receive the early bird award, which is a year bar to place on their organization's CFC plaque. Each Wing or equivalent has a CFC super monitor who ensures that the unit's grade and rank is accurate and a valid basis for the unit's CFC goal.

Unlike past years, all contributors will receive a collectable Robins

official CFC coin regardless of the amount donated.

Additional items of appreciation are given to those who donate their "fair share," an amount equal to one hour of salary per month for 12 months, Mr. Shores said. Those who give a fair share

donation will also receive an insulated Robins CFC lunch bag. A double fair share contributor will receive a CFC tote-style backpack, and a triple fair share giver will also receive the traditional eagle statuette.

Paul Nagle, CFC director for the Middle Georgia area, said CFC is a great way to reach out.

"It's a great opportunity to be part of something much, much bigger than just a single person," he said. "Locally, the campaign generated over a half a million

dollars for local organizations."

Mr. Nagle said the money can open many doors of opportunity for those that depend on the donations, adding he is confident Robins will reach its goal as it has so many times in the past.



**THE MILITARY PERSONNEL
FLIGHT HAS RELOCATED TO
BLDG. 767**

New Air Force One Stop kiosk gives Airmen better access to services

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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Robins is giving military and civil service employees who work in maintenance areas better access to Web-based human resource services.

The base plans to install about 67 Air Force One Stop kiosks throughout Robins, with about 54 of the kiosks concentrated in the base's maintenance areas.

With the use of a Common Access Card, the kiosks will connect military and civilian employees to Web sites like MyPay and other personnel links.

The kiosk project is largely funded by the 402nd Maintenance Wing.

Robb Brown, Information Technology chief architect in the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center's IT Directorate, said the project came about as a result of recent Air Force Materiel Command memorandums addressing wage grade employees' access to government computers for official purposes.

To support the policy, AFMC centrally purchased kiosk software to provide access for wage grade employees who do not have sufficient computer resources available, and 78th Communications Squadron and IT workers will load the software on existing AFMC hardware, Mr. Brown said.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
Chris Hassel, project manager for the kiosks in the 78th Communications Squadron, inserts his CAC in the Air Force One Stop kiosk in Bldg. 767.

Mr. Brown said Robins worked closely with the American Federation of Government Employees union in the project.

Robins is installing the kiosks to ensure maintenance workers can have an easier time managing their human resource affairs, Mr. Brown said.

"This kiosk has been around for quite a few years," he said. "They've largely been in places at other bases in other locations supporting the active-duty military as they travel around. It's essentially a one-stop human resources kiosk access. As we have moved a lot of our human resources applications online, if you're a mobile person and you're trying to access MyPay or various other financial or human resource applications, if

you're (on temporary duty) or in another location and don't have access, these kiosks provide that capability."

Mr. Brown said the kiosks will be made available in the flightline areas where personally-assigned computers are hard to come by.

"The increased accessibility will boost morale," he said. "You can't think of anything more frustrating than to have an issue with your paycheck and not be able to find the place to work it out."

Chris Hassel, project manager for the kiosks in the 78th CS, said in addition to the kiosk already in place at the Military Personnel Flight in Bldg. 767, Robins will install an Air Force One Stop kiosk in the Base Restaurant.

Weighing in: Team Lean Challenge participants gain healthier lifestyle as they lose pounds

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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Team Lean Challenge participants at Robins watched what they ate and kept moving toward their weight loss goals over the last five months.

Now, the moment of truth has arrived. Just how big of a loser were the 640 men and women who took on the challenge of shedding unwanted weight?

Kelley Denney, Civilian Health Promotion Service Program coordinator at Robins, said most people were seeing positive results in July, at the mid-way point weigh in. Halfway through the initiative, the more than 4,000 Team Lean Challenge participants across AFMC had lost six tons of weight.

"We had a large number of people who had lost a significant amount of weight," Ms. Denney said. "We had a few people that had maintained and a very few people that had gained any weight. So, the people that did come in and weigh at mid-point were doing really, really well."

Bridget Zimmerman, Health and Wellness Center director, said people seemed to be "pumped up" about the program in its last weeks.

"What I see is a lot more



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

The Team Lean Challenge gave members of Robins who wanted to shed a few pounds the chance to do so with their friends.

people walking around the base," she said. "They all have smiles on their faces. Even despite the hot weather we've had, people are still walking. So, that's a plus."

The HAWC director said she thinks people that didn't come in for the mid-way point weigh in will turn out for the final results.

In addition to taking a final weight, CHPS and HAWC workers will also retake participants' cardiac risk profile. Participants must fast for eight to 10 hours prior to the test.

The total amount of weight Robins' Team Lean Challenge participants collectively lost will be calculated at the Air Force Materiel Command level and reported at a later date.

Once the base's results are announced by AFMC, Robins will host a celebratory ceremony where prizes and awards will be presented.

With the holidays about a

month away,

Mrs. Zimmerman said staying on track with weight loss goals may be a challenge in itself, and the HAWC and CHPS plan to be there to help people stay on the losing streak.

Ms. Denney said each participant will receive a prize that will aid them in maintaining their weight loss efforts.

WHAT TO KNOW

More than 4,000 people participated in the 2007 Team Lean Challenge across Air Force Materiel Command. The program ran from April 16 to Sept. 28. Robins' Team Lean Challenge participants can get their final weight taken Oct. 1-5, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Fitness Annex in Bldg. 301 East Wing or at the Health and Wellness Center. Participants may also get their weight at the HAWC today.

► IN BRIEF

IMMIGRATION HOTLINE

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services have been developing some Web sites focused on our military members and their family members. One such site is www.uscis.gov/military.

Military members and their families stationed around the

world are now able to call USCIS for help with immigration services and benefits using a dedicated, toll-free telephone help line, 1-877-247-4645. This hotline honors the more than 40,000 non-U.S. citizens serving in the military today. The USCIS is committed to ensuring the application process for immigrant service members is convenient, quick and secure.

USCIS customer service center specialists are available to assist callers Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Callers will receive assistance with:

- Tracking their application for naturalization (Form N-400);
- Notifying USCIS of a new mailing address or duty station;
- Checking the status of an application or petition;

• Bringing a spouse, fiancé or adopted child to the United States;

• Obtaining posthumous citizenship for a deceased member of the Armed Services; and

• Submitting an application for expedited processing.

Service members and their families stationed in the United States or overseas may access the help line using the toll-free num-

ber, through their base telephone operator or using the Defense Switched Network. After hours callers will receive an e-mail address they can use to contact USCIS for assistance. Operators will ask members of the general public to call our main customer service line: 1-800-375-5283.

USCIS is working with the Department of Defense to ensure the military community has

accurate and up-to-date information about immigration services and benefits. USCIS offices and the designated point of contact at each military installation will receive information about the Military Help Line and other immigration-related information and resources geared specifically for the military and their families. — Michael Shutter, 78th ABW/JA.

Team Robins members eligible for incentives by carpooling to work

BY AMANDA CREEL
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As gas prices continue to soar, many drivers are looking for ways to keep their tanks full without emptying their wallets.

Some Team Robins members will soon have a new option to explore when it comes to commuting to and from the base each day for work.

Members of the Robins Environmental Management division are joining with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Clean Air Campaign to help curb the costs while helping the environment.

Information about how to not only save gas by carpooling, but to earn incentives for participating will be available at a transportation fair at Bldgs. 640 and 645 Wednesday and Thursday from 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Members of the environmental management team said members of the Robins community who are interested in participating but work elsewhere on the base are encouraged to contact the Environmental Management division for more information.

Michael Halicki, communications director for the Clean Air Campaign described Robins as "a critical partner" in the programs success in the Middle Georgia area.

The campaign and the Georgia DOT consider the partnership so important the pair is offering cash incentives to employees who take advantage of carpooling.

"We are putting money on the table," Mr. Halicki said.

He said the campaign has found that members who are offered incentives to carpool usually stick with carpooling long after the incentives have expired.

"The Clean Air Campaign and the Georgia Department of Transportation have done an excellent job promoting carpooling in Atlanta," said Heidi Schwingle air quality program manager with the Environmental Management division. "Our demographics here are quite different than those in a metropolitan area, but we still have personnel commuting from outlying counties and we are excited to initiate carpooling on a small scale to see how Robins Air Force Base can further improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion. As we monitor the success at Bldg. 640 and Bldg. 645, we will be able to make an informed decision concerning a base-wide carpooling program."

According to Mr. Halicki, Robins employees will be the first location outside the confines of Metro Atlanta to be offered the benefits for choosing to carpool.

She added there will also be numerous benefits to the base community by improving air quality, reducing fuel usage, traffic congestion and parking issues.

"We are offering some real incentives to help encourage people to change their behaviors," Mr. Halicki said.

Some of the incentives that will be discussed at the transportation fair include commuter prizes, which allow carpoolers and vanpoolers the opportunity to log their efforts on www.logyourcommute.com. Each month commuters logging their efforts will be entered in a random drawing where they have chance to receive a \$25 gift card.

Another incentive program is the carpool rewards program where carpools of three or more people are eligible for a \$40 gas card each month and carpools of four or more are eligible for a \$60 gas card each month.

The incentives being offered through the Clean Air Campaign could be beneficial both to those already carpooling or those looking to start, said Becky McCoy, chief of the Environmental Management division.

Those interested in carpooling will also have the opportunity to use a ride match program where Robins employees will be able to enter their address and work schedule and be matched up with others interested in carpooling.

Along with some of immediate incentives the environmental management team is working on other incentives for the future such as the guaranteed ride home program, where carpoolers are eligible for a free taxi ride or rental car five times a year to return home in the event of an emergency and for designated parking spaces for carpoolers on the base.

19th ARG sponsors town hall to help its Airmen prepare for deactivation

BY AMANDA CREEL
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Leaders of the 19th Air Refueling Group hosted about 125 Black Knights and their families Wednesday in an effort to address concerns and needs of unit members, as the 19th ARG prepares for its deactivation.

Representatives from both on and off base agencies were present to help members address concerns related to the Base Realignment and Closure decision to deactivate the group such as present housing situations, unemployment and relocating to a new duty station.

"They (our leaders) have told us what to expect, but hearing it from the source will give us a better visualization about what will come to be," said Tech. Sgt. Kenny Autry.

Representatives from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, the Robins Housing Office and Hunt Military Properties, the Georgia Department of Labor, Tricare, the Airmen and Family Readiness Center, the Traffic Management Office, Family Advocacy and the family member relocation coordinator were all on hand to present pertinent information and answer specific questions from the Airmen.

Some of the information members found helpful included information about the timelines for when the unit's aircraft would be leaving, when taskings for deployments would end and the timeline for when members of the groups could expect to receive permanent change of station orders if they hadn't already.

Staff Sgt. Andre Addison and his wife, Robin, were both pleased with the information presented about Seymour Johnson AFB, one of the bases members are being reassigned to.

"We never really considered Seymour Johnson at all, but with the information tonight it's now on our list," Mrs. Addison said.

Sergeant Addison agreed the informa-

tion about the assignments process cleared up a lot of questions for both of them.

"Going overseas and the assignment timeline for it wasn't clear and we had been talking about that at home a lot, but now we know its probably not a possibility for us," Sergeant Addison said.

Other information that seemed to relieve some of the stress for the families was the possibility of being able to move into base housing when their existing lease runs out or if they sell their homes with only a few months left before they are scheduled to arrive at their new assignment. Representatives for Hunt Military Communities, who will take over the on-base housing Oct. 1 as part of the base's privatization efforts, encouraged members of the 19th ARG to come and discuss individual needs with them and promised to do what they could to accommodate their unusual circumstances.

"We are going to do everything within our power to help you," said Danny Queen, Huntington Village property manager.

Many working spouses were also pleased to hear they could be eligible for unemployment benefits from Georgia when they relocate with their spouse for their new duty assignment.

Group leadership was disappointed more members of the group didn't attend the meeting because the information would have really benefited many of the Airmen and their families helping them know what procedures to follow when preparing to move, how to deal with healthcare needs before, during and after the move, and how their spouses could apply for unemployment benefits as a result of the force move.

"It was a great idea. I just wish that more of the people who needed to hear it were here like those who have never PCS'd before," Sergeant Ford said.

Col. Chris Bence, the 19th ARG commander, encouraged all those in attendance to share the information they learned at the meeting with their fellow Black Knights.

WHO TO CALL

Those interested in learning more about the advantages and incentives of carpooling to and from Robins each day can contact the Environmental Management Division at 926-9645 or visit www.cleanair-campaign.com.

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION PRESENTS
Air Force Ball '07

Date: October 13, 2007
Locations: Cobb Galleria Centre
Limited Seating / Advanced Ticket Sales Only
Cost: \$50 per person

AIR FORCE WEEK
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 8-14 OCTOBER 2007

Cocktail hour 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Dinner at 7:30 p.m. followed by dancing
Military: Mess Dress, Semi-Formal Dress Uniform
Civilian: Formal evening attire

For information contact:

Lt Col Arlene Salmon	(404) 379-6170	Arlene.Salmon@Dobbins.af.mil
CMSgt Sandra Wright	(678) 570-6939	Sandra.Wright@Dobbins.af.mil
MSgt Ina Pope	(404) 867-2527	Ina.Pope@Dobbins.af.mil

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

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 in Bldg. 905. Submissions that are brought to the office

should be in Microsoft Word on a CD. 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 or call 926-2137.

Robins Master Sgt. named DOD Military Fire Officer of the Year

BY AMANDA CREEL

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Team Robins has yet another reason to celebrate Master Sgt. Shawn Ricchuito after his recent selection as Department of Defense Military Fire Officer of the Year.

The award was presented Aug. 24 at the DOD Fire and Emergency Services Awards Banquet in Atlanta.

Sergeant Ricchuito, fire protection superintendent at Robins, said it was an honor to represent the Air Force during the event and being in the company of the best of the best from each of the Air Force's sister services was an amazing experience.

"I was proud just being the Air Force representative, but then when they announced that I was the winner, that was an unforgettable feeling," Sergeant Ricchuito said.

Members of Air Force Materiel Command were not surprised when Sergeant Ricchuito earned the honor; the team was convinced he would represent them well throughout the process and was more than pleased with the results of his nomination as the AFMC Military Fire Officer of the Year.

"When we selected Sgt Ricchuito as the AFMC Military Fire Officer of the Year, we were confident that he would be a strong contender for that Air Force award, too," said Mike Davis, chief of the AFMC Fire Protection Branch. "We had great hopes for Sergeant Ricchuito, because he has excelled

in so many areas that contribute to the whole-person assessment – in job performance, leadership, technical competence, initiative, and intelligence. But you can never really expect even the Command's best to eventually win that Air Force-level recognition, because the Air Force has many exceptional senior NCOs in the Fire Protection Career Field. Shawn Ricchuito proved to be not only the best Senior NCO in all of Air Force Fire Protection but the best in all of DOD – truly an awesome recognition."

Sergeant Ricchuito said one of the highlights of the evening was being able to share the honor with his family: his wife, Cindy, and his two children, Devin, 15, and Lakin, 8.

He said he felt the experience was rewarding for his family as well because they had the satisfaction of knowing they helped him along the way.

"It was a very good night. It was rewarding as a father and husband to be able to receive such an award with them at my side," Sergeant Ricchuito said.

Sergeant Ricchuito said he also owes appreciation to the Airmen he works with today and all the Airmen who have mentored and assisted him throughout his Air Force



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Shawn Ricchuito accepts the DOD Fire Officer of the year trophy.

career.

"I would like to thank my troops and those leaders who have helped me along the way because at the end of the day, they win this award with me," Sergeant Ricchuito said. Sergeant Ricchuito said no matter how unforgettable the experience of earning the DOD award was, it wouldn't stop him from continuing to strive for excellence.

"I will continue to work with the troops and make sure they understand awards don't change people, it motivates you. I won't stop working and I won't stop being who I am because that's what got me here," he said.

▶ Robins colonel earns AFMC Sijan award nomination

Lt. Gen. Terry L. Gabreski, Air Force Materiel Command vice commander, announced Aug. 22 that Lt. Col. Keith L. Bearden of the 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing was selected as Air Force Materiel Command's nominee for the prestigious Lance P. Sijan U.S. Air Force Leadership Award in the senior officer category.

The award is named in honor of the late Capt. Lance P. Sijan, an Air Force Academy graduate and combat pilot, who was posthumously awarded the

Medal of Honor for his intrepidity while evading capture by the North Vietnamese and during his subsequent captivity as a prisoner of war. The award recognizes the accomplishments of officers and enlisted members who have demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership in the performance of their duties and the conduct of their lives.



Lt. Col. Keith Bearden is the AFMC Lance P. Sijan award nominee

Credited with providing unparalleled support of 80 percent of Air Force Electronic Warfare systems valued at more than \$2.7 billion, Colonel Bearden led the design of the Electronic Warfare Product Group Management construct providing enterprise-wide solutions.

The construct is considered to be the most profound change

electronic warfare development and sustainment seen in over 20 years.

Colonel Bearden also led delivery of a new man-portable air defense analysis and protection suite to support the Project Angel Fire counter-improvised explosive device capability. This capability has improved survivability of U.S. and coalition forces fighting the global war on terrorism.

Bearden will now advance to the Air Force-level competition for this award.

▶ Robins Retirees

The following people have been announced as optional civilian retirees

- ▶ James Colvin
- ▶ Victor Diodato
- ▶ Timothy Fanning

- ▶ Peggy Farmer
- ▶ Gerald Fisher
- ▶ Eric Garren
- ▶ William Gurr
- ▶ Michael Hatcher

- ▶ Larry Layfield
- ▶ Philip Leonard
- ▶ Terry Minyard
- ▶ Samuel Rawlins
- ▶ Donald Sloat

- ▶ Carolyn Sweat
- ▶ John Tharpe
- ▶ Jacqueline Trotter
- ▶ Clint Ward
- ▶ Juanita Womack

Airman and Family Readiness Center classes, workshops

For more information on how to attend the following classes contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 926-1256. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

A&FRC closed

The Airman and Family Readiness Center, loan closet and Airman's Attic will be closed Oct. 8, in observance of Columbus Day. Normal hours will resume Oct. 9 at 7:30 a.m.

Bundles for babies passport to parenthood

The Airman and Family Readiness Center's Family

Advocacy will conduct a Bundles For Babies Passport To Parenthood class Tuesday, 8 to 11 a.m., Bldg. 794.

The course is for all active duty Air Force families preparing for a new baby. Discussions cover early childhood development, attachment, infant care, practical preparation and financial preparation. At the end of the session, a bundle is presented, compliments of the Air Force Aid Society. In the bundle: a thermal weave plaid cotton crib blanket, a hooded towel and wash mitten, a white knit crib sheet, a 2-pack printed cotton receiving blanket, a 4-pack cotton diapers, a 2-pack sleep-

n-play, a 3-pack onesies and a pair of booties.

This program is open to all active-duty members and their spouses, who are expecting a child, regardless of rank or number of children in the family.

Group pre-separation Counseling (separating members)

The Center provides pre-separation counseling completion of DD Form 2648, Thursday and Oct. 18, 9 to 11 a.m., Bldg. 794.

Pre-separation counseling for members 90 days from their separation date is conducted in a group setting.

The goal of Transition Assistance is to equip transitioning military personnel and their families with skills and knowledge for re-entry into the private sector workforce. The emphasis is on transition preparation rather than job placement.

The transition counselor will walk you through the sections listed on DD Form 2648, "Pre-separation Counseling Checklist." The checklist items ensure you receive the necessary assistance and information to benefit fully from the wide range of services and entitlements available. Call 926-1256 to schedule your appointment.

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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.

ADVERTISING

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

ONLINE

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

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POW/MIA Recognition



The American flag is folded by members of the 8th Fighter Wing during the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Ceremony Sept. 21 at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea. Sept. 21 is National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

U.S. Air Force photo by SENIOR AIRMAN GIANG NGUYEN

Air Force heritage: Continue the legacy

How many of you have seen the movie, Night at the Museum? Remember the theme of the movie: Where history comes alive. In honor of 60 years of Air Force Heritage, I want to touch on our history as a service with a personal story.

My parents live in a retirement community of military folks in Southern California founded by Gen. Curtis Lemay, the father of Strategic Air Command. At this retirement community there are military retirees of every service and every rank. What binds them together is their service to our nation. They are World War II, Korean War, Vietnam and Cold War vets. The streets are named Twinning, Lemay, Mitchell, Brown, Vandenberg, and Arnold. These are the name of Airmen who founded our service.

You see, my story is about the history that lives there today. The same as many of you, my parents are proud of their son. When I visit, I have to make the rounds of their friends visiting people I do not know but know a lot about me. It can be embarrassing and awkward but I do it because I know my parents are just proud and after putting up with me as a kid, they deserve to catch a break.

Instead, my story is about the men and women I meet as I

go from home to home. Some joined the Army Air Corp in 1944. Some joined our Air Force in 1947, some in 1957 and some in 1967. When I sit in their living rooms and look at their memories, it is a living tribute to the start of what we are doing today. They broke from the Army and formed the most dominant air power to ever fly the skies. They developed air and space technology that became the envy of the world. It became clear very quickly, our new U.S. Air Force would not be matched by anyone, anywhere.

Some I talk with were POW's in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. They don't tell horror stories of their daily combat with the enemy — sometimes for years. Instead they talk about the brotherhood of those who love the man or woman next to them because they serve a nation they love. I read their decorations; Silver Stars, Distinguished Flying Crosses, Air Medals in the hundreds. They were warriors and victors.

In some of the houses I sit with widows or widowers who have lost the other half of their heart in the march of time. They just want to hold my hand and talk about their time serving and living their adventures in the Air Force just like we are serving and living our adventures today.

In their living rooms, our Air Force history comes alive just as vividly as the Night at the Museum.

I am a lucky man. When I go home, I get to spend time with the true pioneers of our service. They love our Air Force with a passion. They ask me tough questions about our future. They want our Air Force to shine today like it always has.

Here is my answer: I look them in the eye and tell them about you. I tell them our NCO's and officers are trained and fit. I tell them the latest generation of Airmen are the very best our nation has ever seen. My Airmen tell the truth and challenge the status quo. They don't settle for average in anything. I get to tell them about what standard means. How my Airmen never hesitate to go the extra mile for a fellow Airmen in need. I tell them how you stand in the rain, the wind, and sun without complaining, servicing jets, standing watch, providing support for the force, training for the future. I tell them we go down range and dominate the enemy. I let them know they can be proud. As proud as I am of what our Air Force has been, is and will be in the future. The future is where it's at.

Airmen, it is vitally important for us to take a moment to

look toward our future and recognize its significance. From our first day as a service, in the year 1947, until today, in 2007, the United States Air Force has always focused on the future of air power. This unwavering tradition of forward thinking by our Airmen is what separates us from any other military in the world, and from any other service in the Department of Defense, be it Army, Navy or Marines. Today, at this very moment, we are at war — a brutal war, with an outcome that will set the world stage for our children and our children's children.

Our Airmen are deployed in many capacities in the war on terror. Right now, we are defining air power in new ways, every day; our security forces defenders, civil engineer tradesmen, air traffic controllers, log dogs, contracting agents, medics, cooks — all of our Airmen are being asked to do more with less and are meeting the challenges set before them with an unmistakable sense of honor and pride. This desire to put "service before self" makes all the difference.

You, ladies and gentlemen, are why I love being an Airmen.

—This commentary was written by Col. J.L. Briggs, 65th Air Base Wing commander.

AFMC commander gives views on VPP

I am proud to be called an Airmen and to serve with the absolute most professional, talented, and patriotic people in the world. And that's what I'd like to talk to you about today ... our people. Too often, the Air Force is associated with cutting edge aircraft, weapons, and satellites. But you and I both know, the heart and soul of the Air Force is our people. You are the only asset in the Air Force that gets more valuable everyday. Just like a new car, our new aircraft are less valuable today than the day they were delivered. Not so with you. We invest our time, money, resources and talents to make you more valuable today than you were yesterday. That's why I am committed to ensuring we do everything possible to take care of you, and one important way to do just that is through the Voluntary Protection Program. I hope by now you have each heard of VPP, but before you chalk this up as "just another program" let me share a few thoughts.

Here's how I see it.

In the June Commander's Log I talked about my thoughts on AFSO21 ... when you get down to it, VPP is a lot like AFSO21. At their core, they are both about process improvement. VPP,

however, has a more narrow focus of continuously improving the workplace environment ... it's focused on our people. To call VPP a safety program greatly underestimates the power of the program and misses the point. Sure, a goal of VPP is to create a safer workplace, but VPP is about giving you the power to improve the overall quality of life in your workplace. It's not a program but a mindset.

VPP requires involvement from each and every level of the organization. From the worker on the shop floor, to the first line supervisors, to the commander; everyone must be on board to make this work. And just like with AFSO21, the key to this lies with you. If you become serious about improving your work environment, VPP can be the tool to bring about real, positive change. If there are issues in your work place — you know what they are. You know the safety hazards that may have become accepted



Gen. Bruce Carlson is commander of Air Force Materiel Command

over time. You know the deficiencies that make it less pleasant to go to work in the morning. Basically, you know what needs to be fixed ... VPP is designed to give you an avenue to fix it. Leadership has the responsibility to listen, and take action. All that said, I believe VPP is most successful when you can fix deficiencies on-the-spot without the bureaucratic runaround. I've made it very clear to the senior leaders in AFMC that I am serious about VPP and leadership's responsibility to make it successful.

I'm very encouraged with the initial steps I've seen across the Command. On a recent tour of the three Air Logistics Centers I saw some very successful VPP sites. The major thing they had in common was a commitment from labor and management, workers and supervisors to work together. Our labor unions have been 100 percent behind VPP and I am proud to stand beside them on this effort. But there is still a lot of work to be done to spread the good news of VPP to every shop and duty section in the Command. Once you see the power of VPP you'll become a convert ... I have.

—This commentary was written by Gen. Bruce Carlson, AFMC 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.

Remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible:

- ▶ Security Forces 327-2113;
- ▶ 78th Support Group service desk 926-3733
- ▶ 78th Mission Support Group commander 327-7331
- ▶ Comptroller 926-4462
- ▶ Communications Squadron help desk 926-4357
- ▶ Civilian Personnel 222-0667
- ▶ Household Goods 222-0114
- ▶ SARC 327-7272
- ▶ Vehicle Dispatch 926-3493
- ▶ Services Division 926-5491
- ▶ EEO Office 926-2131;
- ▶ MEO 926-6608
- ▶ Employee Relations 926-5802
- ▶ Military Pay 926-3777;
- ▶ Civil engineering 926-5657
- ▶ Safety Office 926-6271
- ▶ Housing Office 926-3776

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

To contact the Action Line, call 926-6203 or for the quickest response, e-mail one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List.

If sending from a commercial e-mail account, use actionline@robins.af.mil.

Readers can also visit <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>.

Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response.

Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Robins Rev-Up.

Anonymous action lines will not be processed.

Dress code at Robins

I thought there used to be a civilian dress code here on Robins? It's starting to look like a lot of the employees are going to the beach instead of working for the USAF.

Colonel Carter's Response:

I appreciate your concern over the appearance of the Team Robins Workforce. First impressions are very important to our operations and a critical part of establishing a good first impression is appearance. With the hot days of summer upon us and everyone trying to stay cool, perhaps this is a good opportunity to reiterate to employees their obligation to comply with Air Force civilian dress and appearance standards.

In accordance with AFI 36-703, employee attire will be in good repair, and should not be considered offensive, disruptive, or unsafe. Due to the diversity of work functions and locations, appropriate dress standards may vary significantly. Supervisors are expected to correct situations of inappropriate attire on an individual basis. The determination of inappropriate attire should be based on a clear showing that the prohibited dress contributes to an unsafe, unhealthy, non-productive or disruptive work environment and not a disagreement with style.

Should you have any additional questions, you may contact your servicing Employee Relations Specialist at 926-5802 or 926-0677.

► IN BRIEF

CAMP WINGS

The Heart of Georgia Hospice will host a bereavement camp for children ages 6 to 16, who have lost a loved one the first week in November. There is no cost for the camp other than a \$10 registration fee. The camp will be held at Camp Martha Johnston in Lizella, Ga. For more information contact the Heart of Georgia Hospice Family Support Services at 953-5161 extension 121.

COMMISSARY ROAD

CLOSURE

Due to construction on the new Commissary, Kathleen Way west of the Commissary parking lot and Bonaire Street between the Commissary parking lot and 10th Street will be closed as of Sept. 24 until further notice. In addition, the north entrance on the east side of the Commissary parking lot will be closed from Sept. 24 to Nov. 30. Only two entrances and one exit will remain open. The existing south exit on the east side of the Commissary parking lot off of Macon Street will be converted into an entrance and an exit as a result of the closures. Additional entry can be obtained by turning east onto 11th Street from Robins Parkway. If you have any questions, contact Tech. Sgt. Steve Rice at 327-8953.

3-D SAFETY TRAINING

More than 3,000 volunteers are needed to participate in an innovative safety training experience designed to enhance safety awareness at home and in the workplace. Filmed right here at Robins, "A Second Chance," is a 3-D video that will be part of an all new one-hour training session as part of a Department of Defense initiative. Training will be scheduled for individuals beginning in November and is open to all military and civilian

personnel as well as contractors. Contact Lisa Mathews at 222-0762 or lisa.mathews@robins.af.mil to sign up.

FM TRANSFORMATION COMING TO ROBINS

Lt Col. Kalwant Smagh, commander of the 78th Comptroller Squadron, will host a Town Hall meeting on Oct. 11 at 1 p.m. at the VistaScope Theater in the Museum of Aviation, to discuss the upcoming transformation of AF Financial services being implemented over the next 18 months.

Lt Col. Kalwant Smagh, along with representatives of the Secretary of the Air Force, Financial Management Transformation, Financial Services Transformation Team, will provide information on the FM transformation - the biggest change in 60 years of AF financial management. A Q&A session will follow.

19TH ARG ANNIVERSARY

The 19th Air Refueling Group will be celebrating its 80th anniversary Oct. 18-19. Planned events include a golf tournament, social, open house and dinner in the Century of Flight Hangar. To register or for more information go to www.19hg.org or call Maj. Alex Czernecki at 327-6713.

GREEN PROCUREMENT PROGRAM BRIEFINGS

The Green Procurement Program will be implemented in the near future and will affect all requirements and acquisitions on Robins. Robins employees will have to determine which forms to use and how this will impact their requirements and contracting efforts. All personnel who have any part to play in the requirements or acquisitions arena should attend one of the following briefings: Oct. 25, 26 or 29 at 9 a.m. or 1 p.m. or Oct. 30 at 9 a.m. The briefings will

last about an hour and will discuss the policy, forms for contracting efforts, and implementation at Robins. For more information, call Ben Torrey at 327-4173 or Dawn Messer, at 222-1102.

MUNITIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE CLOSURE

The Munitions Operations Office will be closed for business Oct. 15-19 for the semi-annual wall-to-wall inventory of the munitions stockpile. Only emergency issue requests, submitted in writing, approved by the group commander, will be accepted during this time so please plan accordingly. For more information call 926-3640.

VETERAN'S HOSPITAL TRIP

The 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing Advisory Council will sponsor a trip to the Veteran's Day program at the Veteran's Hospital in Dublin Nov. 11. Administrative leave of four hours will be permitted.

For more information contact Diane Nickels at diane.nickels@robins.af.mil or Joseph Shayan at joseph.shayan@robins.af.mil.

GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIR

The 18th Georgia National Fair will be held Oct. 4-14 in Perry at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter.

Patriotic Day - "EDIM-GIAFAD - Every Day in Middle Georgia is Armed Forces Appreciation Day" will be Oct. 8 which allows all Armed Forces active, retired, guard and reserve military personnel free admittance with ID cards.

Family members pay gate fees; however, children 10 and under are admitted free; 11 to 18 years of age \$4 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 8. Regular gate admission for adults is \$8. For more information, call 478-987-3247.

Robins motorcycle safety program gets new training range for students

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

The Robins motorcycle safety training program has a new training range to help ensure all drivers of two wheelers are prepared to hit the road safely.

The new training range, which is located in the PAVE PAWS (Perimeter Acquisition Vehicle Entry Phased Array Warning System) parking lot will give the RiderCoaches and their students more space to practice skills such as turning or breaking without being interrupted by foot or vehicle traffic, said Jerry Morningstar, motorcycle and ATV program administrator.

"Back there, we are away from all the congestion and are not surrounded by cars and other vehicles. We are in a wide-open space where students can concentrate on what they are doing," Mr. Morningstar said.

The new training range allows the riders to be free of distractions and interruptions from the constant flow of both pedestrian and vehicle traffic that exists at the other base training range located at Bldg. 905.

"This will be excellent. It just increases our safety factor and it's nice to have our own facility," said Joe Petersdorff, a RiderCoach with the program. He added the new training range opens up the possibility of doing additional training for Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month each May and other activities to help highlight motorcycle safety throughout the year.

The first training class took place at the new training range Monday and continued through Thursday. But though the range itself is ready for business, there

is still work to be done before the entire training area is ready.

"Our eventual goal is to have a self-contained environment," said Donn Johnson, chief instructor for the motorcycle training program.

One of the many projects the RiderCoaches plan to complete is the modification of a building located on the parking lot to house the classroom portion of the training.

Until the modifications can be completed the training classes will be held in the cafeteria of the PAVE PAWS facility.

"We are getting a whole new class range set up. We won't have to rely on other people or reserve a room. We will have everything right here," said David Gustafson, a RiderCoach with the program.

Brett Clark, a RiderCoach with the program, said having a classroom at the driving range and dedicating it to the motorcycle safety program will really benefit the riders who take the course.

The training program at the former training range was in a central location where much of the base community would see the program in action each month.

"There are some drawbacks to the new location. Now that we are out here, we are out of sight out of mind. We have to do more to remind people we are here and that we are training," Mr. Johnson said.

Though the PAVE PAWS training range will become the primary training range for the motorcycle training program, the range at Bldg. 905 will continue to be maintained in case the training program has a need for it in the future, Mr. Johnson said.

Two different safety classes are available at the range. The first is a basic riders' course for riders with under six months experience, who hold a permit. The second is an experienced riders course for riders with more than six months of experience and an endorsement on their driver's license.

The classes are designed to help riders be seen on the road and learn to take evasive actions and be defensive drivers.

"We do a little bit of shock and awe to make sure our younger riders know they are not invincible," Mr. Morningstar said.

Any member of the Robins community, who rides a motorcycle on base, whether they are a civilian employee, contractor, military dependent, active-duty member, guard or reserve, is required to take the motorcycle safety class, Mr. Morningstar said.

Once riders complete the motorcycle safety course required based on their experience level, the riders are presented with a motorcycle safety course completion card, which has to be on the rider at all times, when operating a motorcycle on base.

WHAT TO KNOW

Anyone who operates a motorcycle on Robins is required to complete the safety course. You can register for the class on the Robins secure Web site by clicking on the safety office link and then Motorcycle/ATV course registration of by stopping by the safety office in Bldg. 707. For more information about the safety course contact the safety office at 926-6271.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Instructor Randy Miller gives the class information for the next part of motorcycle training Tuesday on the motorcycle training range now located in the PAVE PAWS parking lot.



Two young attendees test each other's balance at the Let's Celebrate Summer Bash at Robins Park Sept. 22 while they are cheered on by onlookers.

U.S. Air Force photos by CLAUDE LAZZARA

summer bash is a smash

Let's Celebrate Summer Bash was held at Robins Park Sept. 22. The event, which included rides, special entertainment, face painting, games and prize drawings was a way to bid farewell to summer 2007. Food and beverages along with fun events presented by the fitness center helped turn a day dampened by early showers into a great success. Activities included singles horseshoes; a punt, pass and kick competition for kids and adults and an adult 5-on-5 dodge ball tournament.



Above, A rock climbing wall was one of the attractions at this year's Summer Bash.



Top, Arts and crafts were among the day's activities during Let's Celebrate Summer Bash Sept. 22. Center, Activities like the bungee jump gave Summer bash attendees a chance to reach new heights. Bottom, The teacup ride was a hit with young and old alike.

2B ■ The Robins Rev-Up ■ September 28, 2007

SATURDAY

An AFMC Texas Hold 'Em tournament is underway at the enlisted club. The championship round will begin today. Please come and give support to all participants. Games begin at 4 p.m. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-7625.

SUNDAY

Sunday champagne brunch is open to all ranks and grades from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Robins Officers' Club. Enjoy all-you-care-to-eat breakfast, dinner entrees, carving station, salad bar, dessert and ice cream bar and much more. Cost is \$11.95 for members, \$13.95 for nonmembers and \$6.95 for children (3 to 10 years old) and children two years and younger are free. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

MONDAY

The Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command Gold Plate Evaluation team consisting of Pedro Perez and Tech. Sgt. Debbie Betz will be visiting and evaluating Robins Food Service Operation Oct. 1 through 3. During this time the Food Service operation will undergo a stringent 48 item checklist in the quest to find the best food service operation in Air Force Materiel Command.

Triple S Monday with soup, salad and sandwiches is available at the officers' club from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$7.25.

Enjoy made-to-order sandwiches or a full course salad bar with a variety of rotating gourmet soups. New special: soup and half sandwich combo only \$5.25 and wings and nachos for \$3.50. Lunch is open to all ranks and grades. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

Enjoy M.U.G. and Mic Night on Wednesdays at the enlisted club, located in Bldg. 956. Participants may bring musical instruments and show their talent and bring their own mugs and get refills (up to 24 ounces) for only \$2. The fun begins at 7 p.m. Cost for entry is \$2 for nonmembers. For more information call the enlisted lounge at 926-7625.

Every Thursday night, enjoy karaoke with DJ Rockmaster "D" from 7 p.m. to closing in the enlisted lounge, located in Bldg. 956. For more information call the enlisted lounge at 926-7625.

THURSDAY

Every Thursday night, enjoy karaoke with DJ Rockmaster "D" from 7 p.m. to closing in the enlisted lounge, located in Bldg. 956. For more information call the enlisted lounge at 926-7625.

UPCOMING

The teen center will hold poetry nights on Oct. 5 and 26 at 7 p.m., Keystone meetings on Oct. 6, 13 and 27 at 6 p.m., scrapbooking session on Oct. 1, 15 and 29 at 7 p.m., and TRAIL meetings on Oct. 12 and 19 at 6 p.m. For more information call the teen center at 926-5601.

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

►Outdoor Adventure invites you to a walking/running Volkssport Nov. 3 at the Red Top Mountain State Park located in Cartersville, Georgia. This paved trail accommodates hikers and strollers. Cost is \$65 per person and includes transportation. Bus will depart outdoor recreation at 8 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. Sign up by Oct. 19. A minimum of 12 people are required to sign up for the trip. For more details call outdoor recreation at 926-4001.

►Join outdoor recreation on a trip to Coca Cola Snow Mountain at Stone Mountain, Ga. on Nov. 10. Cost is \$70 per adult (children 17 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult). Deadline to sign up is Nov. 1. A minimum of 10 people is required for outdoor recreation to host the trip. For more information, call 926-4001.

►A Christmas shopping trip rendezvous will be held at the North Georgia Premium Outlets in Dawsonville, Ga. on Dec. 15. Cost is \$45 per person. Meet at outdoor recreation at 9 a.m. for departure at 9:30 a.m. and return to outdoor recreation at 7 p.m. A minimum of 10 people is required to host this trip. Register by Dec. 3. For more information call outdoor recreation at 926-4001.

►A Fantasy in Lights/Callaway Gardens trip will be held Dec. 21 in Pine Mountain, Ga. Cost is \$40 per person, \$60 for one parent and child and \$70 for couples. Meet at outdoor recreation at 2 p.m. for departure at 2:15 p.m. Bus will return around midnight. A minimum of 10 people is required for outdoor recreation to host this trip. Register by Dec. 10 at outdoor recreation, Bldg. 914. For more information call 926-4001.

►Deer and hog hunting season is open now through February. Hunting requires a

Tops in Blue is coming to town

U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

The musical showcase, *Tops In Blue 2007 "The Fly-By" tour* will be at the Warner Robins Civic Center Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. This year's event will be a musical tribute to 60 years of proud Air Force history. Doors will open to the public at 6:15 p.m. and at this time all attendees will be required to go through the Civic Center security checkpoint. *Tops In Blue* is sponsored in part by AT&T and Coca Cola. No Federal endorsement of sponsors intended. For more information call 926-2105.



valid Georgia state hunting license and hunting safety class offered by outdoor recreation. Cost is \$10 for archery hunting and \$30 for gun and archery. For class times and dates call outdoor recreation at 926-4001.

First Friday "Oktoberfest" will be held in the officers' and enlisted clubs from 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 5. First Friday means great food, chances to win cash and prizes, entertainment and drink specials. Members must be present to win. Cost is members free and nonmembers \$5. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-7625.

Local radio personality Chris Williams will be holding a house party every Saturday night from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. starting in October. Doors will open at 9 p.m. Old school variety will be played Oct. 6, 13 and 20 and a Halloween house party (come in costume) will be held Oct. 27. Cost will be \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-7625.

Watch WWE Wrestling "No Mercy" Oct. 7 and "Cyber Sunday" Oct. 28 in the enlisted lounge, located in Bldg. 956. The action begins at 8 p.m. for both events. Cost is free for members and \$5 for nonmembers. For more information call the enlisted lounge at 926-7625.

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

A yard sale will be held Oct. 13 from 8 a.m. to noon in front of the enlisted club, Bldg. 956. Set up starts at 7:15 a.m. Cost is \$7 per table (limit 3 per person). This is a first-come first-served basis for tables. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

Take a trip with the officers' club and enlisted club to see the Atlanta Falcons versus New York Giants Oct. 15 (kickoff 8:30 p.m.) Tickets go on sale Oct. 7 at 10 a.m. in the enlisted lounge. Cost is \$60 (18 tickets available) and includes tickets, transportation, food and beverage on the bus. Limit two tickets per person. First come, first served with limited seating. Open to all ranks and grades (club members only). For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

Register for the Family and Teen Talent Show Oct. 17 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the community center. Rehearsal will be held Oct. 22 through 25. Contestants may enter in one of 15 categories: parent and child team, husband and wife team, children - ages 3 to 5 years and ages 6 to 8 years, preteen solo and preteen group - ages 9 to 12 years, teen solo and teen group - ages 13 to 15 years, teen solo and group - ages 16 to 18 years and family. The talent show will held Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Base Theater. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

Join the fitness center for a Breast Cancer Awareness walk Oct. 18 starting at 11 a.m. Pre-registration is not required. Patrons can register upon arrival. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

A fall festival will be held Oct. 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. Children and parents from CDC East and West and Family Child Care are invited. For more information call Child Development Center East or West at 926-5805 or 926-3080.

Private pilot ground school registration will be held now through Nov. 5 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with school starting Nov. 5 through Dec. 21. One hundred percent tuition is available for active-duty military. Cost is \$575 and is due at the time of registration. Ground school is a 45 to 50-hour course, lasting approximately 10 weeks and scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 to 8 p.m. Register soon as classroom seating is limited.

Enter the "Short, Short, Short Story" contest (not to exceed 250 words), using either a funny or scary theme during the Celebrate Teen Read Week from Oct. 14 through 20. Stories can be turned into the library Oct. 14 through Nov. 2. For more information call the base library at 327-8761.

The Child Development Centers East and West have openings for ages 12 months through 5 years old. Both centers are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and offer full-time care.

►Hourly care is available at CDC West. The centers provide care for children 6 weeks and older, enrichment programs for 3 to 5 year olds and evening child care once a month.

►The Youth Center and Child Development Centers will provide child care Oct. 9 through 12 from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. while Houston County Schools are on a fall break. For more information about Youth and CDC services, call Vera Keasley at 926-6741. An online registration form is available at the Services Web site at www.robinservices.com.

All retirees get a free fountain drink or iced tea with a \$4 minimum purchase when they show their retiree ID card along with coupon on page 19 of the October Edge in October. For more information call Pizza Depot at 926-0188.

An 78th Air Base Wing Sports Day will be Oct. 25 starting at 8 a.m. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

►The fitness center annex, located in Bldg. 301 Bay H, is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A retiree appreciation lunch buffet will be held Oct. 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the officers' club. Military retirees and spouses receive an additional \$1 discount on the lunch buffet when they present their retiree ID card to the cashier. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

A Halloween 5K fun run is slated for Oct. 31 at 10 a.m. with prizes for best and scariest costume and top finishers. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

ONGOING

An Air Force Club Membership Drive "Start from Scratch" will be held Oct. 1 through Dec. 31 at your enlisted club and officers' club. All new members will receive six months free dues. Air Force wide, 100 new members will be randomly selected to receive an additional six months free dues by registering via an online survey. Scratch off tickets will also be given to new members for a chance to win \$100, \$25, \$10 & \$5 instantly. Every scratch off is a winner with a total of \$100,000 to be given away Air Force-wide. New club members, as well as current members, will also receive a coupon value pack with discount coupons to use in various services facilities throughout the coming year. Club membership is open to all ranks and grades. To learn more, call the officers' club at 926-2670.

Take a discovery flight and realize your dream of flying for \$49. Flight consists of one-half hour around local area. For more information call the aero club at 926-4867.

All retirees get a free fountain drink or iced tea with a \$5 minimum purchase when they show their retiree ID card along with coupon on page 26 of the September Edge every Wednesday in September. For more information call Pizza Depot at 926-0188.

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

►Atlanta Falcon tickets are on sale. Limited tickets for Oct. 15 at 8:30 p.m. (Falcons versus Giants) and Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. (Falcons versus 49ers.) Cost is \$40 for upper and \$80 for lower seating.

►Georgia National Fair tickets and ride sheets are available at ITT now through Oct. 3 while supplies last. The fair will be held from Oct. 4-14 in Perry. Admission tickets cost \$7 for ages 11 years and older and ride sheets cost \$10 each (no access to concerts). Admission is free for children 10 years old and younger with a paying adult.

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

►Registration for Pee Wee bowling will be Sept. 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for ages 3 to 5 year olds. Cost is \$21.50 for two games of bowling with league starting Oct. 6 for 10 weeks.

►Spin the wheel on Oct. 8 to determine the price of your game from 1 to 6 p.m.

►On Spot Café October special is Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich, fries and medium drink for \$5.50. For more information call the On Spot Cafe at 926-5240.

►All retirees receive one free game of bowling with one paid game when they show their retiree I.D. card along with coupon on page 19 of the October Edge for the month of October.

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

►The WR-ALC Commander's Trophy Golf Tournament will be Oct. 12 at Pine Oaks Golf Course with shotgun starts at 7:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. As in the past, the event spotlights a competition for the WR-ALC Commander's Trophy between the WR-ALC Commander's team and one designated team from each of the four wings.

This year's tournament will also include a competition for the WR-ALC Group Commander's Cup between a single designated team from each WR-ALC Group. This event is open to all WR-ALC personnel that would like to participate.

Additional participating teams, WR-ALC Commander's Trophy competitive teams and Group Commander's Cup competitive teams will also compete for overall tournament honors and prizes.

Event includes golf cart, green fee, range balls, continental breakfast for morning session, lunch at 11 a.m. and beverages at a cost of \$45 for members of Pine Oaks Golf Club and \$50 for guest players. The format for the event will be a 4-person scramble. If golfers do not have a USGA handicap, they should annotate their average score. The registration deadline is Oct. 8. For more information and to sign up, call Bob Campbell at 926-6761.

►A 2007 Base Open Golf Championship will be held Oct. 27 and 28 starting at 9 a.m. Cost is \$45 for AGF members and \$65 for non-AGF members. Price includes golf, range balls, food, drinks and prizes.

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

►Every Monday through Thursday in October pay only \$15 for green fee and cart starting at 3 p.m.

►Every Wednesday in October enjoy unlimited range balls for \$5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

►In October enjoy several weekly specials at the Fairways Grille for only \$5.95 (includes drink): Oct. 1 through 5: hot stuffed potato bar (all you can eat).

NOW PLAYING



Adult tickets are \$4; children 11 years old and younger tickets are \$2. Movies start at 7:30 p.m., unless noted. For more information, call the base theater at 926-2919. Beginning Oct. 5 All Shows will Start at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

WAR

Jet Li, Jason Statham
After his partner is brutally murdered by the infamous assassin Rogue, FBI agent Jack Crawford vows to find the elusive killer and personally avenge his partner's death. But Rogue proves untraceable until three years later when he resurfaces to ignite a bloody turf war between Chinese mob leader Chang and Japanese Yakuza boss Shiro. Eager to capture Rogue once and for all, Crawford leads his team of crime specialists headlong into the conflict. Rated R.

SATURDAY

THE INVASION

Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig
When a mysterious alien infection spreads like an epidemic over the entire country, a woman fights to save her own life and the life of her son, who may hold the key to stopping the takeover. A mysterious epidemic is sweeping the world, but it takes one Washington D.C. psychiatrist to discover that the disease is extraterrestrial in origin. When her son becomes infected, she and a colleague must work together to find a cure, before the entire world is lost. Rated PG-13.

UPCOMING

DEATH SENTENCE

Kevin Bacon, Aisha Tyler
Nick Hume is a mild-mannered executive with a perfect life, until one gruesome night he witnesses something that changes him forever. Transformed by grief, Hume eventually comes to the disturbing conclusion that no length is too great when protecting his family. Rated R.

CHAPEL SERVICES

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

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

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

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

Protestant
The traditional service meets Sunday in the Chapel at 11 a.m. featuring hymns, anthems, congregational prayers and readings. Contemporary service meets at 6 p.m. in the Chapel Sanctuary, singing the latest praise and worship music. The gospel service meets at 8 a.m. at the Chapel, praising God with inspirational music. Religious education meets in Bldg. 905 at 9:30 a.m.

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

DONATE YOUR LEAVE

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

To have an approved leave recipient printed in the Robins Rev-Up, wings should send information to Lanorris Askew at: lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks.

Pine Oaks in top condition as course hosts annual Georgia Invitational tournament

BY KENDAHL JOHNSON
kendahl.johnson@robins.af.mil

It's an event that attracts Air Force generals, both active duty and retired, as well as senators, congressmen, former professional athletes and other high-profile participants. It's the 18th Annual Museum of Aviation Foundation Georgia Invitational golf tournament and it started Thursday and continues today at the Pine Oaks Golf Course.

The tournament has been around for 18 years and is the biggest fund raiser for the Museum of Aviation Foundation. Nearly 380 golfers will pay the \$250 entrance fee to compete in the event. In addition, more than 60 businesses and corporations spend \$2,000 to \$10,000 to sponsor the event.

According to Bob Dubiel, director of marketing for the museum, the tournament helps the museum raise close to \$400,000, money used as operating expenses for the museum and the foundation, and for various programs, including the foundation's volunteer, education and historic preservation programs.

"It's obviously our largest fund raiser of the year, but the other benefit is it brings the community and the base closer together," Mr. Dubiel said. "So many businesses and individuals sponsor the event, attend it or volunteer. Hundreds and hundreds of people are brought together so it really is a major event for both the museum and Robins Air Force Base."

The event not only attracts golfers from as far as California, but it also attracts some well-known politicians and former professional athletes. Last year, Dan Reeves, former head coach of the Atlanta Falcons, and John Stallworth, former wide receiver for the Pittsburgh Steelers, were participants. This year, U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss is the honorary chairman. U.S. Congressmen Jack Kingston

and Jim Marshall can often be found at the event.

Eddie Wiggins, local chairman for the Georgia Invitational, has been a part of the tournament from its inception 18 years ago as one of the original founders.

"The original idea was to raise money for the museum and to get some wider exposure for the museum and Robins Air Force Base," he said. "We charged \$1,000 to play in the first one. It costs less to play now, so the event has really grown over the years. It's a pretty big deal and every year I try to bring someone special to the tournament."

Because it's such a prestigious event to play in, tournament organizers treat each participant as a VIP. Admission price includes a dinner, a breakfast and lunch buffet and a final barbecue. There are courtesy stations at every hole with soft drinks and other refreshments. And for those lucky enough to win, more than \$30,000 worth of prizes will be granted.

"From the time you get your clubs unloaded to when you are leaving the Thursday night dinner or the Friday night barbecue, you are pampered with hospitality unknown by many outside of Middle Georgia," said Dan Langevin, a winner of last year's event.

Chuck Shaheen, a local pharmaceutical representative, is a big supporter of the tournament. He said he tries to bring someone special every year because it's such a terrific event.

"There is incredible value of what you get for your money," Mr. Shaheen said. "I am always impressed with the professionalism. Everything from the hospitality to the golf course itself to the prizes is excellent. And it's a collaborative effort. This tournament could not be as successful as it is without so many people pulling together."

All the extras wouldn't mean much without a top-notch golf course to play on, and the Pine Oaks Golf Course,



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Mike Wilkes, head groundskeeper at Pine Oaks Golf Course, stands with course manager Clay Murray on the first hole inspecting the golf course. The duo has been working overtime the past few weeks in preparation for the Museum of Aviation Foundation Georgia Invitational.

which hosts the tournament, is the perfect choice. Workers at the course have been preparing for this event for months and have the course in outstanding condition.

"All of our crew has been working nonstop to get the course in the best shape it can possibly be in for this event," said Clay Murray, golf course manager. "We have a checklist of things we cover to get the course ready. We want the course in beautiful shape."

Mike Wilkes, head

groundskeeper at Pine Oaks said the work began months ago – everything from trimming hedges to laying sod to renovating bunkers.

"We pay close attention to detail. We're out there every day working long hours to get this course ready for the tournament," Mr. Wilkes said, adding that the week prior to the event is a 70-plus-hour work week.

Mr. Murray said although there is an added cost involved in the extra preparation, its offset by the tournament fees paid

by the museum. But the real benefit is the publicity the tournament brings.

"It's a high profile event," he said. "It's one of the biggest events in Middle Georgia or perhaps the entire area in terms of players. It's great to have it here because of the notoriety that comes with it. People take a lot of pride in this tournament."

Mr. Wilkes, who has been involved with the past two tournaments, said his expectations of how the course should look

are probably higher than anyone else's expectations, but the extra time and money spent getting the course ready for the tournament is well worth it.

"We've always received positive feedback on this tournament – from the museum to the players to the committee that puts it together – it's always been very positive," he said.

One thing the course superintendent and manager can't control is the weather. They worry about rain and wind. "A good 30-mile-per-hour wind on this course could deliver enough trash and debris that it would take weeks to clean up," Mr. Wilkes said. "Several years ago, a hurricane came through a week prior to the tournament. I wasn't here, but I heard the horror stories about the clean up."

Mr. Murray said the weather isn't the only thing he's had to worry about in past tournaments.

"Last year, I was here the Wednesday evening before the tournament making final preparations and saw about 16 kids run out on to the 18th hole to play tackle football. I thought 'Holy mackerel!' Luckily I caught them and escorted them off the course, but can you imagine if I had come here the next morning to find the 18th green destroyed by some kids playing tackle football?" he said.

With the weather fine and any potential disasters averted, this year's Georgia Invitational looks to be another great success, both for the Museum of Aviation and the Robins community.



U.S. Air Force photo by KENDAHL JOHNSON

Golfers lined the driving range Thursday at the Pine Oaks Golf Course to practice for the annual Museum of Aviation Foundation Georgia Invitational, the course's biggest event of the year. Nearly 380 golfers are expected to participate in the two-day tournament.

8 compete in summer biathlon

Eight military members competed in the first annual PT Summer Biathlon at the Combat Arms Training Center. The event was a joint venture between the 78th Services Fitness Center and the 78th Security Forces Combat Arms Training Center.

The event tested competitors' physical endurance and marksmanship through running and shooting an M-16 rifle. The competitors ran a one-mile loop and would then shoot two times each at three different targets ranging in different sizes in the standing position. Participants would then repeat the course, the second time shooting in the prone position, followed by a final sprint through the course.

Staff Sgt. Adam

Kuchy from the 78th Civil Engineer Squadron came in first place with a combined time of 31:31. Lt. Col Christopher Leist, 99th Air Refueling Squadron was second with 32:50 and Sergeant 1st Class Sterling Deck of the 138th Military Intelligence Company was third with 33:13. Sergeant Deck was also the best marksman hitting 10 of 12 targets. — Robins Fitness Center



Courtesy photo

Sergeant 1st Class Sterling Deck was the best marksman, hitting 10 of 12 targets.

Information Technology Directorate uses courses of action to combat restraints

BY LISA MATHEWS
lisa.matthews@robins.af.mil

Information technology might not be the first thing to come to mind when thinking Operation Risk Reduction, but Carl Unholz, IT director, said his organization discovered a lot of things to think about.

“When you think ORR, you think of safety and such,” he said. “You don’t necessarily think of business software; but, in fact, we were one of the original buckets.”

The directorate had 35 findings of noncompliance issues across the center in regards to IT, IT systems and infrastructure following the ORR.

“We found that a lot of the findings attributed to the ‘production-first’ mentality,” Mr. Unholz said. “It was OK to break the rules, as long as we were getting something done quicker, or so we thought.”

The directorate, which had only recently stood up when the Focused Area Risk Reduction team was at Robins, used the findings and the ORR to develop a roadmap for their business processes.

“We as a Center were being very inefficient and ineffective about how we were doing IT. We had no centralized planning, which resulted in a high level of expenditures without much analysis about what we were spending it for,” Mr. Unholz said. “We had a lot of

projects – either command wide, Air Force wide or even Department of Defense wide – and yet we didn’t send the right subject matter experts. So we ended up getting a product that didn’t meet our needs. That put us into an immediate condition where we needed changes made, and there was no good requirements process to handle those things.”

After a comprehensive analysis of the organization’s processes, the directorate developed 61 courses of action. That was the highest number of any organization on base, including the wings, Mr. Unholz explained.

“I hope this demonstrates how seriously we took this,” he said. “We wanted to dive into these issues and details and arrive at an effective way ahead.”

The director, who describes himself as a Lean advocate, said that using the Lean principles helped the organization arrive at the smarter solutions in a shorter period of time.

“The result was a wonderful roadmap for us in how to move ahead and change the way we were doing business,” he said.

Starting with 61 tasks, IT currently has only one task still outstanding.

Results from the organization’s work have been good, Mr. Unholz said. When the ORR first began, the organization was spending \$112 million on IT. Now, two years later, this amount has dropped around \$41 million. The directorate has also saved base organizations man hours by turning back 145 positions which, in the past, had to work IT issues as well as other duties.

“We’ve overcome all service gaps and are providing efficient support with fewer dollars and fewer people,” Mr. Unholz said.

“We’re getting much greater value for our investment because of the changes,” he said.

The customer has been involved in all aspects of the organization’s change. IT zones and help desks have been established to deal with issues when someone has a computer problem they need fixed.

Liaisons and requirements managers are in place for the wings and staff offices. The liaisons work to fully understand customer needs and bring their concerns to IT’s attention.

“When we meet, even if the customer isn’t there, we still have someone who knows their concerns and issues and can bring those to the table for them,” Mr. Unholz said. “We have a customer perspective in everything through the liaisons and the way we’re organized.”

The director said the actions that came out of the ORR have helped the organization better deal with current budget and personnel cuts the Air Force is facing.

“We find, as long as we explain to the customer why we are doing something, they can accept and support what we have to do, whether it is because of security or cost reasons,” Mr. Unholz said.

He added these principles will remain in effect as IT absorbs the 78th Communications Squadron to become the 78th Communications and Information Group in the 78th Air Base Wing starting Oct. 1.



Carl Unholz is the Robins IT director