

THE ROBINS REV-UP

October 12, 2007 Vol. 52 No. 41

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Robins APTO helps AF, industry develop hybrid truck technology

BY AMANDA CREEL
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When it comes to heavy duty, special purpose vehicles most Americans imagine a gas guzzling engine and tons of unfriendly emissions taking their toll on the environment.

But the Air Force's Advanced Power Technology Office is working to change the stereotype and prove heavy-duty hybrid electric vehicles can not only help preserve the environment, but also can help reduce dependence on foreign fuels.

"Heavy-duty vehicles are the greatest consumers of fuel and also the great-

est polluters. If we can get heavy-duty vehicles to reduce fuel consumption and reduce pollutants that will be a great accomplishment for the Air Force," said Harvey Collier, program manager for heavy-duty hybrid electric program.

The program is a combined effort by APTO, which is part of the 580th Combat Sustainment Squadron, and Mack Trucks Inc., which is part of the Volvo Group.

One of the vehicles developed through the partnership was displayed at the Hybrid Truck User Forum Sept. 19-21 in Seattle.

The vehicle, a dump truck, was built for the Air Force's APTO and presently

calls Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., home. It is a Mack hybrid electric powertrain.

The hybrid dump truck features an integrated starter, alternator and motor referred to collectively as an electric machine. The electric machine assist the Granite's Mack MP7 diesel engine in providing torque to the wheels and regenerates energy during braking. This energy, stored in ultracapacitors, is then used in place of diesel fuel. This technology provides the best result on routes with frequent braking and accelerations, particularly refuse collection and urban delivery, as well as certain construction applications.

Along with the hybrid at Nellis AFB,

the program will utilize five



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

other heavy-duty hybrid vehicles. Two other vehicles have already been deployed to various bases throughout the Air Force. Shaw AFB,

▶ see HYBRID, 2A



Local talent takes the stage during 2007 Tops in Blue

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Above, Christian rap group, Movement of Truth an Air Force level award winner in the family talent contest, performed before the home crowd at the Tops in Blue Show Oct. 6 at the Warner Robins Civic Center. Marc Anthony Freeman, Jamaal Jones and Xavier Adams make up the group.

At right, Emily Wallace, an Air Force level award winner in the family talent contest, performed a dance routine at the Tops in Blue show.



Fantastic flight



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Members of the Warner Robins Little League World Championship team take pictures and experience the noise of an F-15E Strike Eagle test flight during their tour of Robins Oct. 9. The team and its coaches toured selected areas of the base and were treated to a ride along on a KC-135 Stratotanker where they witnessed a refueling mission. To read more about the team's visit and to view more photos see page B-1.

Robins to welcome 19th Air Refueling Group members to 80th birthday bash



U.S. Air Force file photo by SUE SAPP

Above, members of the 19th Air Refueling Group's Aircraft Maintenance Squadron work beneath the groups famed KC-135 Stratotanker. In recognition of the unit's distinguished history and accomplishments, the 19th Heritage Group is hosting a two-day event Thursday and Friday. Attending will be several distinguished visitors. Also, current and former members of the 19th ARG will be there to share their stories and remember the 80 year history of the unit as well as its 40 years in Middle Georgia. For more information on the planned events visit www.19hg.org.

Robins charts new territory in educating and equipping future contracting workforce

BY AMANDA CREEL
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Members of the Team Robins contracting office are thinking outside of the box as they face the challenges of developing a sound contracting workforce today and in the future.

Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, and Frank Anderson, Defense Acquisition University president, joined together to announce the creation of another ground breaking training program that will help address the need to provide skilled contracting officers to the Robins workforce.

The training program was realized in the creation of three contracting courses using existing DAU curriculum that will be available to students at Macon State College.

David Bell, president of Macon State College, said helping the community and the base prepare for the future defines what the institution is about.

General Owen stressed how impor-



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

tant this training will be to the center and how its importance has grown since its inception due to the recent announcement Robins will become one of five regional contracting centers as part of

the Air Force's realignment of installation contracting support.

The creation of the new regional

▶ see DAU, 2A

THINK SAFETY



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

Total rides given this year: 546

Days without a DUI: 6
Last DUI: Civilian - courtesy 78th SFS Reports and Analysis Section



THE TWO-MINUTE REV

Flu vaccine currently available for active-duty military

The Flu Mist vaccine is currently available for healthy active-duty members ages 49 and under. The Flu Mist vaccine is available at the base Immunization Clinic Monday through Wednesday and Fridays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and

Thursdays from 7 to 11:30 a.m. Those over 50, who are pregnant or nursing or have severely immune compromised household members must wait until the injectable vaccine becomes available.

The Clinic is located on the first floor of Bldg. 700A. For more information call 327-7921.

INSIGHT



WRALL visits Robins

Robins rolls out the red carpet for Little League World Champs, 1B

SPORTS



Batter Up

Robins Airman swings her way on to the All-American team, 3B

CULTURE



Hispanic Heritage

Team Robins celebrates Hispanic Heritage, 7A

WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY 74/52

SATURDAY 76/51

SUNDAY 79/53

DAU

Continued from 1A

contracting center will generate about 385 contracting jobs, which will double the base's current contracting workforce. The center will be responsible for supporting 11 Air Force installations from six major commands across the Southeast.

"We are laying the foundation for the future to allow us to have that workforce," General Owen said.

He added some of the contracting officers would come from other bases, but many would need to be "grown" here.

The general also noted the importance of having this training available in the community to help provide the center with workers equipped to meet the challenges and requirements of becoming a contracting officer.

Through the traditional training structure it takes approximately five to seven years of on-the-job experience and specialized training to produce a qualified contracting officer. The partnership with Macon State College will produce ready-to-work employees and reduce the time required to produce contracting officers.

The first classes at Macon State will begin in January at the Warner Robins campus and will equate to the first two DAU contracting courses allowing students who complete them to start working at a higher pay level, said Patsy Reeves, director of contracting for the WR-ALC. The elective classes will be available to three majors; management, marketing and general business with a contracting concentration and will consist of three, three-hour elective courses.

Mr. Bell said, by adding contracting courses to the curriculum

or class system, it just further strengthens the bond between the college and the base.

"It gives our students an added option in business degrees. If they choose to take these as electives they are better prepared for positions at the contracting directorate," said Barbara Frizzell, vice president for academic affairs at Macon State.

She added this was just another effort on the part of the college to provide classes and curriculum that would directly benefit the base and students interested in employment there.

The Air Force will also save about \$13,500 in training cost for each person who completes the courses at Macon State College.

"It's a win, win for all involved," Ms. Reeves said.

Ms. Reeves described the courses as, "a great way to give a clear road map on how to become a government employ-

ee."

General Owen said the new courses are, "a big step forward" as the center strives to continue to provide better workforce development.

"It's exciting because other people haven't yet done what we are doing here today," he said.

The innovations were described by Mr. Anderson as the answer to future workforce needs both here at Robins and throughout the DAU community.

"This is the pipeline that will ensure Warner Robins has a viable institution in the future," Mr. Anderson said.

He said the creation of the courses is a leading edge practice that wouldn't have been possible without the visionary thinking of Ms. Reeves.

"We believe it has the potential to change the way we develop the workforce for the DOD," Mr. Anderson said.

New DAU satellite campus to help equip Robins' workforce

BY AMANDA CREEL
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Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center joined Defense Acquisition University president, Frank Anderson in announcing the establishment of the Defense Acquisition University South Satellite Campus at Middle Georgia Technical College.

The satellite campus will provide Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act of 1990 certification training courses and continuous learning experiences for Robins' personnel and other Department of Defense services and agencies. The WR-

ALC and the Air Force Acquisition Career Management and Resource Division together are partnering with DAU in an effort to bring needed acquisition certification training to Team Robins.

Mr. Anderson, said Robins was on the leading edge by creating this model where the local academic organizations, defense training and the field unit are working together to find the best possible training solutions for their workers.

"The innovation is really about the things that we need to do to have the right workforce to be successful in the future," he said.

He added the model allows DAU to deliver training in an environment where neither workflow nor the personal lives of students are disrupted.

"This partnership is a model for how public institutions can offer competent and effective education services," said Ivan Allen, president of MGTC. He added, he is excited the college's support for the satellite campus will ultimately support the warfighter.

Mr. Anderson said DAU was looking to expand on the model here and take it to other locations where it can be developed as well.

"This is a great partnership

and I don't know that I've seen it work any better than what we have created here," said Patrick Hogan, director of Acquisition Career Management.

Last year, 17 DAU classes were held at MGTC and by holding the classes locally the base was able to save about \$380,000, General Owen said.

Next year the amount of classes available at the new satellite campus will more than double with approximately 40 offered, which will result in about \$1 million in cost avoidance, he added.

"I applaud DAU for their innovative thinking and for allowing these partnerships to flourish," General Owen said.

HYBRID

Continued from 1A

S.C., is home to an R-11 refueler and Hickam AFB, Hawaii, has a dump truck. In 2008, three additional hybrid trucks will be delivered to Edwards AFB, Calif., Nellis and Robins.

The truck scheduled to arrive at Robins will help collect data on the success of the vehicle in a real-time environment. The data collection will be done through an agreement with the City of Macon and in partnership with the Middle Georgia Clean Cities Coalition.

"It will actually be on the streets of Macon doing refuse collection, just like any of their other trucks," Mr. Collier said. "We will test to see how it performs and what the savings are in comparison to a traditional refuse truck."

The truck will be in Macon for one year to demonstrate its capabilities and then will move to other locations to repeat the process, said Mike Mead, APTO office chief.

The APTO office works to apply the greener technology to all the different platforms used by the Air Force to achieve its mission, Mr. Mead said.

He said the heavy-duty hybrid program is one they use to help them achieve their goals of increasing capabilities and benefits to the warfighter, while supporting the Air Force's environmental and energy policy requirements and reducing dependency on foreign energy sources with the insertion of advanced power technology.

The development of the prototypes and the application of the technology in various venues are done to prove the value of the technology in different applications, Mr. Mead said.

By allowing the warfighter to test the reliability and advantages

of hybrid technology, the pair agreed it allows the user to develop a desire to continue using the new technology.

"Right now, these are just prototypes. As commercialization takes place, price will come down where we could have them all over the Air Force with a potential for all sorts of savings in fuel," Mr. Collier said.

Ernie Powell, APTO engineer, said the program will allow the Air Force to utilize advanced power technology and alternative fuels. It will also assist and encourage private industry to continue developing and increasing the reliability of the hybrids.

Physician assistants put people on road to recovery

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD

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When people are sick, they want to know they have a health care provider they can trust.

First Lt. Brandy Perry, one of three physician assistants in the 78th Medical Group's Medical Operations Squadron, has been ensuring patients who come through the Family Medicine Clinic at Robins have that peace of mind since she graduated from the Interservice Physician Assistant Program at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in January 2006.

Maj. Robert Pohl, an instructor in the Interservice Physician Assistant Program said the program, which started in 1996, involves 12 months of book-based studies and lessons on how to do physical exams.

"The first year, the Air Force goes out to about six different sites to do clinical rotations where they average four to six weeks in a clinical rotation like internal medicine, pediatrics, family practice, dermatology, etc.," he said. "At the end of their 12 months, they've completed their training (and) they receive a Master's of Physician Assistant degree and they're commissioned as first lieutenants."

Good grades, good enlisted performance reports, and outstanding letters of recommendation are only part of what it takes to make it in the PA program, the major said.

Major Pohl said the first year of the program is very intensive, with lots of reading and courses. Students take exams at a rate of two to three per week.

"I like to personally describe it as a one-year remote because you basically have to give up a lot of your personal time and your family has to understand that you're going to be studying six to seven days a week, four to six hours a night, and 10 to 12 hours on the weekend," he

said. "So, they have to know that going in. They have to give up a lot, but the rewards in the end of it are wonderful."

Capt. Frank Dessauer, a physician assistant here since May 2006, graduated from the PA program in January 2000. The 40-year-old Kaiserslautern, Germany, native said it takes a lot of motivation and dedication to get through the program.

Lieutenant Perry said though the program is tough, it's worth it.

"I was enlisted as a medical technician for eight years and during that time I was around really good providers who mentored me and kind of got me motivated to want to do more than be a medical technician," she said. "I wanted to actually treat and diagnose patients. From there, that kind of sparked my interest.

When I found out there was an enlisted to officer program for me to do that, it was the perfect opportunity for me to do more in the medical field."

The lieutenant said the three PAs on the clinic's staff keep a tight schedule.

"All of our providers are on call at the clinic," she said. "We also have to do a lot of the administrative things to include medical evaluation boards for active-duty people that may have illnesses, diseases, and disorders that cause them to need an evaluation review. We have to review labs that we order for patients. We do telephone consultations. We fill medications."

As a military officer, Lieutenant Perry said she and the other PAs have to stay updated on education and training in their career field.

Captain Dessauer said being a PA is not a routine job.

"It takes a lot of motivation, drive, and patience," he said. "You've got to really be able to listen to your patients... You've got to really want to be able to help the patients. You can't think of it as a 7 to 4 job. The job goes far beyond that."

Robins fiscal end-of-year walk thru

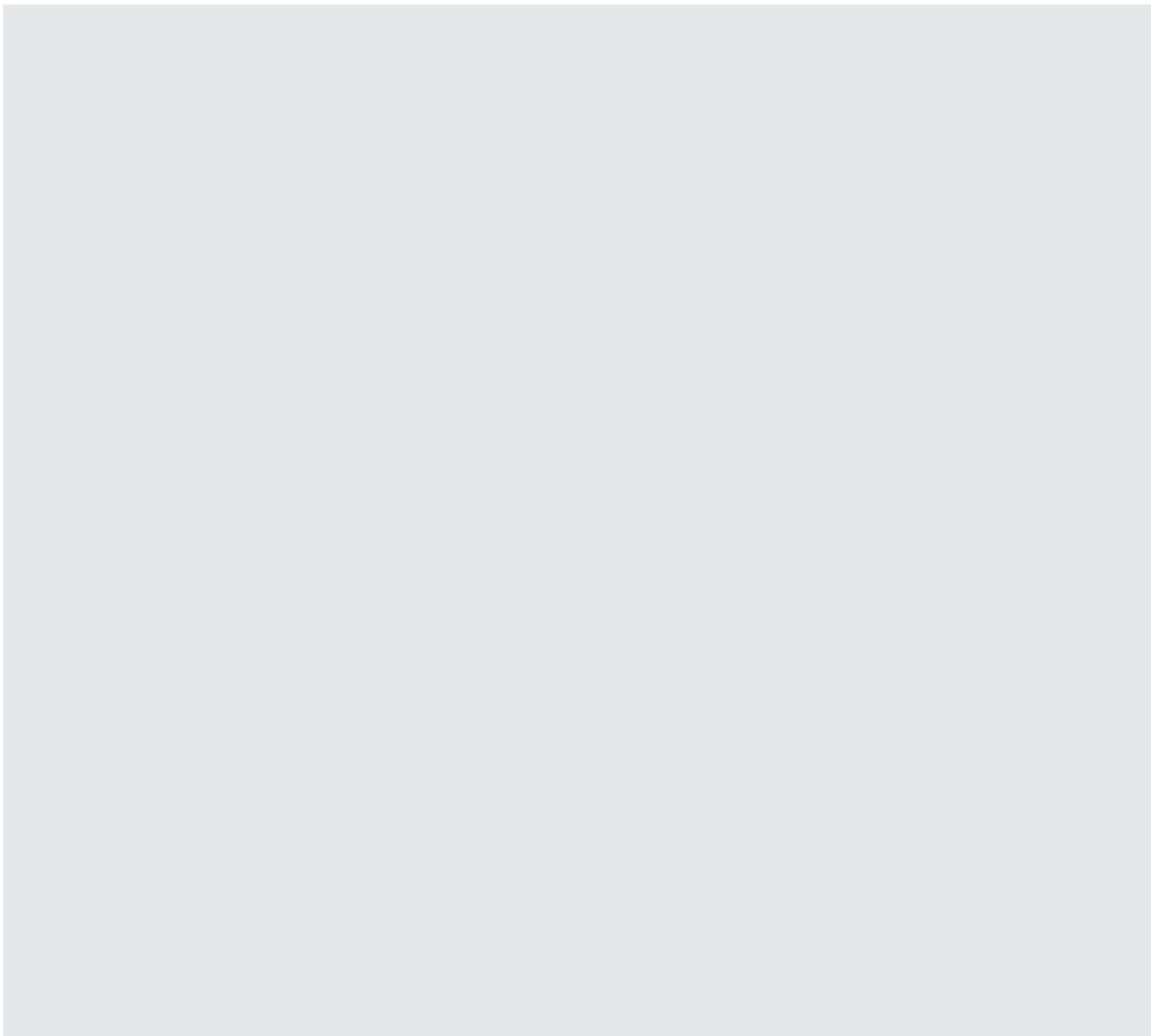
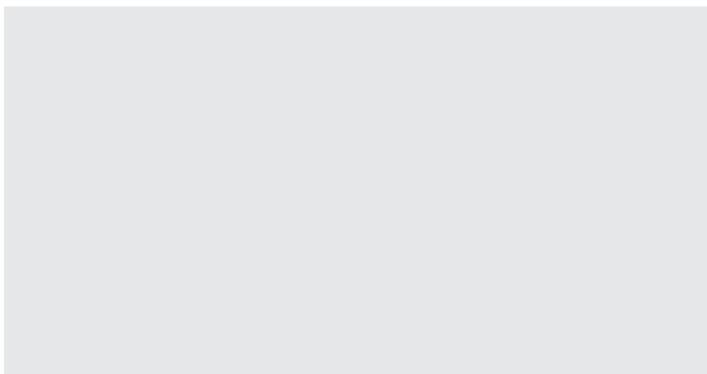
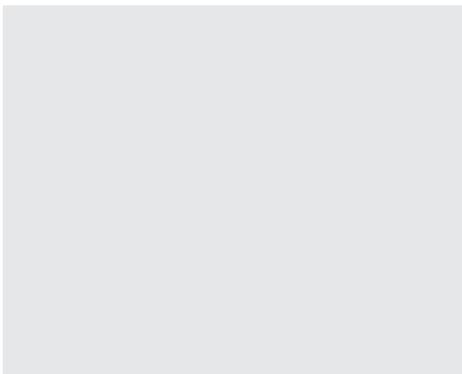
U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Left to right, Michael Hatcher, special assistant to the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander; Patsy Reeves, WR-ALC Contracting director, and Dr. Steve Butler, WR-ALC executive director, listen as Doug Pugh, 580th Aircraft Sustainment Group director gives a briefing during a workforce tour Sept. 26.

Each year the command section leaders visit work teams where the operations tempo is extremely high the last days of September. These visits are rewarding for the senior leaders, who share the "end-of-year high" with employees, and encourage and support the workers who put in countless hours to meet mission needs.

These visits showcase some of the challenges overcome by the organizations' innovative and dedicated workforce. As a result of those efforts, an estimated 12,355 contractual actions totaling \$4.74 billion were awarded. This phenomenal accomplishment was achieved with less people and fewer contracts through strategic sourcing.

The tour included a 78th Comptroller Squadron briefing on accounting operations and the 78th Air Base Wing budget; and stops at the finance offices supporting the Materiel Support Division of the Working Capital Fund and the office of the Mission Support Accountants, a satellite office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.



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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

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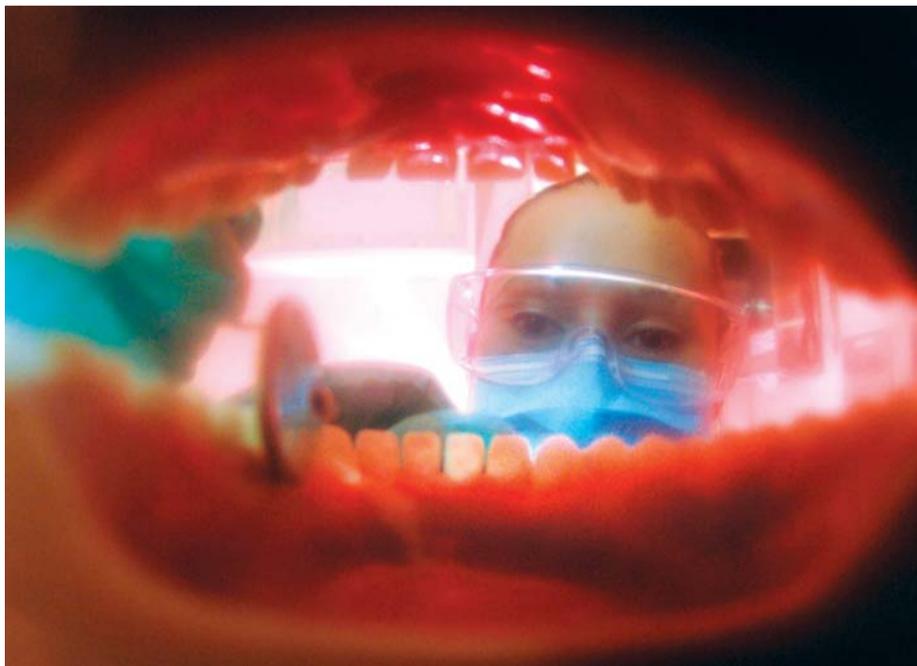
ONLINE

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

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Say 'Ahhhh'



Senior Airman Cynthia Atilano takes a look inside a set of teeth Oct. 2 before scaling off the plaque. Airman Atilano is a dental technician with the 5th Medical Operations Squadron at Minot Air Force Base, N.D.



Col. Theresa Carter
78th Air Base Wing
commander

Commander's Action Line

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live.

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

If sending from a commercial e-mail account, use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also visit <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>.

Include your name and contact information so a response may be provided. Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Robins Rev-Up.

Remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

Anonymous action lines will not be processed.

Exiting Gate 5 at lunch

Gate 5 does not allow exiting traffic until noon. The majority of the traffic leaving the base during the lunch period exits before noon. The gate, staff, and Ga. Highway 247 red lights need to be adjusted to accommodate the base traffic flow.

Colonel Carter's Response:

Thank you for your suggestion. The Georgia Department of Transportation went out Sept. 6 to assess the traffic lights at the intersection. It was determined that two detectors were faulty and they were adjusted. In addition, one of the detector loops is broken and scheduled to be replaced in the near future. While we certainly understand your desire to both enter and exit the installation as quickly as possible, we must weigh your request to open installation entry points outside prescribed hours with available security forces. The war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan have placed significant demands on security forces. The size of the rotations has forced Robins to pursue extraordinary measures to support the war effort while maintaining a reasonable level of security for the installation. Some of these measures have the potential to significantly change the way we traditionally operate, to include re-evaluating our gate hours to open only those essential to the installation and not open gates for extended convenience hours. The new design of Gate 5 requires a security forces member to be posted while outbound lanes are open. Upon opening Gate 5 after construction, the outbound lane was designated to be opened from noon to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Security forces monitored the traffic flow at the gate prior to the designated opening time and determined traffic was minimal and did not justify opening the gate at an earlier time. Also, security forces current Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom taskings limit their abilities to post any gate outside of approved hours. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you Team Robins for their continued support to the Air Force mission in light of the heavy taskings placed our superior security forces personnel at home and abroad.

Alcohol can change your life

I didn't think. I didn't do the right thing. I threw it all away. Respect, trust, integrity ... all washed away with each tip of the bottle.

It all happened because I decided to drink the morning of May 28 and tried to go to work while I was legally drunk. I made it worse by trying to drive a government vehicle while still under the influence.

And I got caught. I am a drunk driver. I became one of "those people" you see on the news; another statistic.

My actions were unacceptable as a member of the Air Force's NCO corps. I have no excuse. I'm writing this to warn everyone about alcoholism and how it can control your life.

Alcohol controlled my life for seven years. I was on a path of self destruction. It nearly cost me my wife and children, and I now realize it might have eventually cost me my life.

I tried countless times to stop drinking on my own. I tried limiting the number of drinks. I switched to drinking only beer and when that failed, I drank only hard liquor. I planned to stop for a year, but only made it a week. I tried to limit my drinking to home or at a bar and resorted to having my wife try to con-

trol how much I had. All of these attempts failed.

Every night, I would go home and drink a case of beer. I was able to stop this nightly routine out of fear of losing my career, but I "made up for it" on the weekends when I drank until I blacked out, unless my wife intervened.

Drinking preoccupied my day. Everything I did had to involve it. My wife and I put up a strong front so everyone looking in would think all was well. In fact, we were experiencing a living hell. When I wasn't drinking, I was a great, gentle, loving, kind husband and father. When I was drinking, I went from Dr. Jekyll to Mr. Hyde. My wife didn't know me when I was drinking, and it killed her emotionally. In an odd way, my wife and I are grateful the events of May 28 happened the way it did before I lost everything.

My actions were unacceptable, and I know things could've been worse. How long did I have left before I lost it all and killed or injured myself or someone else? There are many people out there who can enjoy alcohol responsibly. I'm not one of them. What frightens me is there are many people out there walking the same path.

My actions on that day made me see just how sick I really was. Alcoholism is a disease and nothing you can fully cure. Each day, recovering alcoholics fight a battle to say "no" to the bottle. Each day, they know they could relapse and return to the road to self destruction.

Are you traveling on this road or know someone who is? Don't wait. Seek help immediately before it gets worse (because it will).

If you know someone who drinks too much, wait until the both of you are alone and sober and talk to him or her. People who need help include those who say they need to quit drinking, drink alone, drink to the point of drunkenness every night or can't enjoy anything unless it involves drinking. If you feel there is no one to talk to, I'm available, no questions asked.

No one can make anyone stop drinking. It's a step you have to take yourself, but there are many people out there that can help.

Alcoholism knows no race, ethnic origin or income. It can take hold of anyone. If you find yourself powerless over alcohol and your life is unmanageable, it's time to get help. If you don't want to talk to anyone on base, Alcoholics Anonymous meets off base.

If you drink and drive, stop now. It only takes one time to hurt your career or worse yet, kill or injure yourself or someone else.

For six years, I was an outstanding Airman who never got into any kind of trouble. In one day I went from top troop to rock bottom.

It's all because I didn't think. I didn't do the right thing. I let alcohol control my life and me.

I'm not writing this as an excuse. No one made me write this letter and I can't save my Air Force career by doing so. My message is genuine. I'm hoping to reach anyone and let that person know alcoholism is a serious problem, and it's OK to admit it and to just get help. I've remained sober for almost three months — a lifetime for an alcoholic. My life gets better with each day that passes.

Words alone can't express my deepest apologies I want to extend. I let everyone down, both as a person and team member. I can't change what I have done, but I can ensure it doesn't happen again by helping others get the help they need.

— This commentary was written by Senior Airman Andrew Smith 366th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Military Ball to celebrate Air Force 60th anniversary

Please accept this invitation for all Airmen at Robins, both military and civilians, to attend the 22nd Middle Georgia Military Ball Nov. 3 at the Museum of Aviation. The theme for this year's ball is A Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force—Heritage to Horizons. This year's theme commemorates our 60 years of air and space power and is dedicated to the men and women whose service and sacrifices have made the Air Force what it is today—the people, events and equipment of the past are integral to understanding the future.

The military ball offers each of us the opportunity to join with our friends in the neighboring communities for an evening of fine dining, dancing and entertainment. It also provides us the opportunity to share with our community friends many of

the traditions and customs of our rich military history and is our chance to foster wingman relationships with them.

A ticket entitles ball attendees to a wonderful buffet prepared by the chef and staff of the Robins Club. The evening will also include music and dancing provided by "Reserve Generation" from the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve. Other entertainment planned throughout the evening will include the United States Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team and The United States Air Force Strolling Strings; this event

offers those in attendance the rare opportunity to witness their spectacular shows. Attendees will also have the opportunity to purchase an individual or couple's photo during the ball as a memento of their special evening.

The Middle Georgia Military Ball has a 21-year history of excellence. This year's Military Ball is no exception; it promises to be a stirring, patriotic evening that attendees will remember for years to come.

I hope you'll join me at this year's ball as we gather with local community members to celebrate the Air Force's 60th birthday and honor members of our armed forces as they continue the fight for freedom around the world. Contact your organization ticket representative to make your reservation and purchase tickets. Point of Contact for base ticket sales, 1st Lt. John

Roh, from the Military Ball Project Office can be reached at 222-1331 or the following:

- WR-ALC Command Section and Staff Offices - 1st Lt. John Roh
- HQ AFRC- Senior Master Sgt. David McElligott
- 78th Air Base Wing - Senior Master Sgt. Sharon Ward
- 330th Aircraft Sustainment Wing - 1st Lt. John Roh
- 116th Air Control Wing - Capt. Lillian Talevera
- 19th Air Refueling Group- Capt. Michael Irwin
- 94th APS - Master Sgt. Thomas Turner
- 402nd MXW - Master Sgt. Wanda Henderson
- 542nd CSW- 1st Lt. Roniece VanDyke
- 5th Combat Communications Group- Capt. Gregory Gough



Maj. Gen. Tom Owen
WR-ALC
commander

► **IN BRIEF**
MUSEUM OF AVIATION
LUNCHEON

Colleen Nunn, wife of former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn, will bring four author friends to the Museum of Aviation for the Middle Georgia Luncheon "Women with a Voice." The annual luncheon will take place Thursday at 11:30 am in the Museum's Century of Flight Hangar.

The authors include Karyn Frist; June Jackson; Betty Londergan and Nancy McGuirk. Authors will be available following the luncheon to autograph books. Tickets for the luncheon are \$25 per person and can be obtained by calling the Museum of Aviation Foundation at 923-6600 or e-mailing museumevents@museumofaviation.org.

78TH MDG HEALTH CARE COUNCIL

Col. James McClain, 78th Medical Group commander, will host the quarterly 78th MDG Health Care Council Thursday at 2 p.m., at the Robins Enlisted Club, East Wing. Everyone is invited to attend this open forum which will provide firsthand information about current medical processes and future endeavors. Commanders, first sergeants, unit health monitors, enlisted, officers, civilians and all others with concerns or positive feedback are highly encouraged to come out and be a part of this informative meeting. For more information, call Master Sgt. Chauncey Hewitt at 327-8381.

HALLELUJAH NIGHT

The Robins Chapel will host Hallelujah Night Oct. 31 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. There will be food and activities including a "Trunk or Treat" in the parking lot at 7:30 p.m. The chapel requests that no scary costumes be worn. For more information contact Marcia Little at 926-2821.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Armed Services Blood Program and the American Red Cross will host blood drives at Robins Oct. 19.

Locations will include Armed Services Blood Program (Ft. Gordon):

► Youth Center 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

► Cotton Auditorium 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Donations made at this location will directly support our troops fighting the global war on terrorism.

American Red Cross (Mobile Unit):

► Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Bldg. 210 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

► Bldgs. 640 and 645 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Donations made at this location will directly support our local community.

For more information or to schedule an appointment call 327-7931 or e-mail Staff Sgt. Garah Hammack at garah.hammack@robins.af.mil.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS

Bill Kirkland, representative for the Troops to Teachers program, will be at the Robins Education Center Oct. 19 from 10 to 11 a.m. to take questions about the cooperative program between the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Defense that provides referral and placement assistance to men and women who have served the nation as members of the Armed Forces and are seeking a second career as teachers in public schools. He will also discuss the Spouses to Teachers program.

The briefing will be in Bldg. 905, room 250, no reservations needed. For more information, contact Andrea Harris at 327-7312, or Mr. Kirkland at bill.kirkland@gapsc.com.

Robins celebrates Hispanic Heritage



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Above, Sonia Cervantes shows dance steps to the children at Robins Elementary Oct. 3 during Robins Hispanic Heritage Observance. Members of the observance committee presented an educational and entertaining program at the school emphasizing this year's theme, "Making a Positive Impact on American Society."



At left, Madison Barrera, Robins Elementary first grade student, tries out some castanets during Robins Hispanic Heritage Observance.

Some NCOs may apply to reenter old career fields

The Air Force is offering some active duty staff, technical and master sergeants the opportunity to reenter previously held career fields now in demand provided they apply by Oct. 31.

The Air Force initiated the fiscal 2008 NCO Limited Reclassification Program due to unexpected retention issues and Air Force Specialty Code mergers.

Eligible Airmen must have held a valid skill level in a secondary AFSC within the last four years to reclassify into one of more than 70 AFSCs. Additional eligibility requirements are available by contacting unit commander support staff personnel.

"The intent of this program is

to administratively move Airmen into career fields where the Air Force needs additional manning and to do so without formal training attendance," said Master Sgt. Catina Johnson-Roscoe, superintendent of Air Force enlisted retraining and reenlistments at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "Those Airmen who apply must realize approval or disapproval is based on Air Force needs at the time their request is processed."

To apply for the program Airmen must:

► Verify their eligibility and contact their commander support staff personnel for assistance in completing an application.

► Contact the base functional

manager for the old AFSC and obtain a letter of recommendation that certifies the member meets all eligibility criteria and is qualified for reclassification into the old specialty code.

► E-mail a scanned copy of the application and recommendation letter to ncorp.suspense@randolph.af.mil. Processing should take about four to six weeks.

Approved applicants will not incur additional active-duty service commitments for reclassification, and most will stay in the local area of their current duty location to reduce permanent change of station costs.

—Courtesy Air Force Personnel Center News Service.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Reaching new heights

Robins rolls out red carpet for Little League World Series Champs



U.S. Air Force photo by ED ASPERA

The WRALL World Championship Team tours Robins. Senior Airman Brian Porter from the 19th Air Refueling Group teaches Dalton Carriker and a teammate the controls to operate the refueling boom probe aboard a KC-135 Stratotanker.

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

When it comes to growing up in Middle Georgia everybody has heard of Robins Air Force Base, but for many youngsters in the area the gates seem like an impenetrable fortress.

However, if you are lucky enough to win the Little League World Series, the gates open and the VIP treatment is issued for a day of close encounters.

Mickey Lay, Warner Robins American Little League head coach, said one of the most exciting things about the team's invitation to celebrate their success at the base was, "getting to see what's behind the fence."

He added he felt it was important for the team members to see what the base does each day and what the military does for everyone.

The WRALL team, several with parents who are Team Robins members, was invited to the base Oct. 9 in recognition of their success on the baseball diamond and for their glowing representation of the Middle Georgia area.

Mike Smith, another coach for the team said, "I think it's a neat experience to see something they don't see everyday and they can't learn in the classroom."

The close encounters ranged from the opportunity to test out some K-9 safety gear and the biting abilities of a military working dog, eat a flight lunch

prepared by the base flight kitchen and the chance to sit in the cockpit of an F-15E Strike Eagle.

One of the many sneak peaks afforded to the 12-member team included the opportunity to fly with a crew of "Black Knights" and refuel an E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft.

Many of the young baseball champs, had never heard about the refueling mission of the KC-135 Stratotanker, and were impressed the tanker could refuel other aircraft while flying.

"I didn't know they had all this," Clint Wynn said.

The boys not only got the opportunity to watch the KC-135 in action, the group also let the team members crawl down

into the boom next to the boom operator and take the reins.

Taylor Lay, 12, said his favorite part was, "Laying down and controlling the boom thing."

The boys were also invited into the cockpit where they had the opportunity to interact with the crew members.

"It was fun. You got to see what was going on and you got to see all the controls," said Dalton Carriker, 13.

The KC-135 and its refueling capabilities wasn't the only aircraft the young VIPs were excited about seeing up close.

"I liked watching the F-15 flyover. My favorite part was just the noise. It was so loud," said Micah Wells, 12.

As the F-15 made a low pass the team members lined up

armed with cell phone cameras and audio recorders and preserved the moment.

Payton Purvis, 12, recorded the jet's passing and played it back clear as a bell for his teammates and said, "That's how loud that was."

However, it wasn't just the aircraft that helped the Little Leaguers erupt into screams of joy during their visit to the base, a trip to the military working dog kennels was one of the highlights for the young baseball team.

"Its pretty cool seeing all the dogs attack them," said Clint Wynn, 13. Though all the team members were anxious to watch the military members interact with the K-9s some were less convinced to put the protective gear on and let the

K-9s use them as a training tool.

Though in the end all 12 held their arms out and let Rudy, one of the military working dogs, take a bite.

"It feels like little needles going in at first," said Hunter Jackson, 13. He added, that the teams' trip to the Military Dog Kennels was one of his favorite experiences throughout the day.

The day ended as the boys piled into a 5th Combat Communications Group Light Medium Tactical Vehicle, also known as a five-ton, which is used to transport troops and equipment, and headed back to the Museum of Aviation. Even the young celebrities' exit from the base gave them a rarely seen glimpse into life as an Airman.



U.S. Air Force photos by TOMMIE HORTON

Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, welcomes the Warner Robins American Little League team to the Museum of Aviation before a day full of activities.



Payton Purvis and David Humphreys try out a piece of the 99th Air Refueling Squadron's Life Support Section equipment with the help of Senior Airman Andrea James while Coach Mike Smith looks on.



Taylor Lay gets an up close and personal experience with the military working dogs at the 78th Security Forces K-9 unit facility.



Micah Wells teases a fellow teammate during a demonstration at the 99th Air Refueling Squadron's Life Support Section.

2B ■ The Robins Rev-Up ■ October 12, 2007

FRIDAY
Give Parents a Break and Hourly Care will be held today 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 Monday prior 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.

SATURDAY
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 tonight and Oct. 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.

A yard sale will be held today 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.

SUNDAY
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.

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
Take a trip with the officers' club and enlisted club to see the Atlanta Falcons versus New York Giants today (kickoff 8:30 p.m.). Tickets are on sale 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.

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
A membership bar bingo will be held today with a Halloween Bingo on Oct. 31. Joint Forces Bingo is located in the east wing of the Robins Enlisted Club. The hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday with games starting at 7:15 p.m. Games begin at 2:45 p.m. on Sundays. Enjoy bar bingo five nights a week at 6 p.m. Any one with an active duty, reserve, guard, retired, DOD or family member identification card is eligible to play. The entry fee is free to all Robins' club members, bona fide guests and active duty or retired widow club members and \$5 for nonmember club members. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-4515 or Teresa Resta at 926-1303.

Register for the Family and Teen Talent Show today 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.

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



Texas hold 'em winner

U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Lamar Jackson, a production management specialist in the 573rd Aircraft Sustainment Squadron, is the latest winner at the Robins Texas Hold 'Em tournament that was held Sept. 29. Mr. Jackson will now compete at the Air Force Materiel Command Command Championship at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio Oct. 27.

ed 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.

THURSDAY
Join the fitness center for a Breast Cancer Awareness walk today 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.

UPCOMING
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 is required to sign up for the trip.

►Join outdoor recreation on a trip to Coca Cola Snow Mountain at Stone Mountain, Ga. 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.

►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.

►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.

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

The teen center will hold poetry nights Oct. 26 at 7 p.m., Keystone meetings on Oct. 13 and 27 at 6 p.m., scrap booking session on Oct. 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.

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.

Watch WWE Wrestling "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.

Family night bingo will be held Oct. 29 starting at 5 p.m. Cost is \$4 for children and \$6 for adults. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-7625.

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.

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.

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.

A 78th Air Base Wing Sports Day will be held 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
The 78th Services Division offers designated driver programs at the enlisted lounge, officers' club and Pizza Depot to assist in reducing alcohol related incidents. For groups of two or more, please identify yourself as the designated driver to the operations assistant on duty. They will provide fountain soft drinks, fruit juices or non-alcoholic frozen drinks during your visit free of charge. To learn more about Services Designated Drivers programs, please call 926-2670.

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

Arts & Crafts Center For more information, on the following, call the Arts & Crafts Center at 926-5282.

►The Arts & Crafts Center will hold the following classes in October: pastels with Tracy Oct. 17 and 24 from 5 to 7 p.m., cost \$15; watercolor painting landscapes Oct. 18 and 25 from 1 to 3 p.m., cost \$12; acrylic painting landscape Oct. 18 and 25 from 10 a.m. to noon, cost \$12; all age acrylic painting beaches Oct. 16 and 23 from 4:30 to 6 p.m., cost \$7 kid/\$10 adults; drawing, working on shading Oct. 12, 19 and 26 from 10 to 11:30 a.m., cost \$7 kid/\$10 adults; all ages encaustic with Tracy Oct. 22 from 5 to 7 p.m., cost \$15; sewing Oct. 12, 19 and 26 from noon to 2 p.m., cost \$15; scrapbooking Halloween Oct. 13 from 2 to 6 p.m., cost \$16; Halloween paint pail Oct. 13 from 4 to 5 p.m., cost \$15; basket weaving class Oct. 15 and 22 from 5 to 7 p.m., cost \$40 (both dates); scroll saw Oct. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m., cost \$12.

Advance registration and payment is required for all classes. Classes are subject to change without notice. Wood shop safety classes are held Tuesdays at 6 p.m. and auto shop safety and orientation classes are held every Wednesday at 6 p.m. and every Saturday at 11 a.m. free of charge. Registration is not required.

Do-it-yourself framing is available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Do-it-yourself framing, during the evening and Saturdays, is scheduled by appointment only. All classes are open to active duty, reserve and retired military and family members and offer full-time care.

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 \$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.

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.

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

►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 ID 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 four-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. Pacing 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. 15 through 19: hot sausage hoagie w/grilled onions & peppers and potato salad

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
MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
Rowan Atkinson, Willem Dafoe

In his latest misadventure, Mr. Bean-the nearly wordless misfit who seems to be followed by a trail of pratfalls and hijinks-goes on holiday to the French Riviera and becomes ensnared in a European adventure of cinematic proportions. Tired of the dreary, wet London weather, Bean packs up his suitcase and camcorder to head to Cannes for some sun on the beach. But his trip doesn't go as smoothly as he had hoped when the bumbling Bean falls first into a series of mishaps and unfortunate coincidences, far-fetched enough to make his own avant-grade film. Rated G.

SATURDAY
BALLS OF FURY
Dan Fogler, Christopher Walken

In the unsanctioned, underground, and unhinged world of extreme Ping-Pong, the competition is brutal and the stakes are deadly. Now, this outrageous new comedy serves up this secret world for the first time on-screen. Down-and-out former professional Ping-Pong phenom Randy Daytona is sucked into this maelstrom when FBI Agent Rodriguez recruits him for a secret mission. Rated PG-13.

UPCOMING
SHOOT 'EM UP

Clive Owen, Paul Giamatti
Mr. Smith, the angriest, most hardboiled man in the world, finds himself entrusted to protect the most innocent thing of all-a newborn child. 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. vigils 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 (Jumuah) 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. The following person has been approved as a leave recipient Siletha Marzette King, HQ AFRC/A4R, POC is Lt. Col. Chris Nick, 327-0414.

BATTER UP

Robins Airman swings her way on to the All-American team

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

For one Team Robins Airman, a passion for softball lead to a whirlwind month on the softball diamond. In the end she was named an All-American after helping the All-Armed Forces team earn top honors at the Amateur Softball Association Women's Slow Pitch National Championship.

Senior Airman Toni Epps' journey to the national championship game began while playing in the United States Specialty Sports Association Military Worlds Tournament in Orlando, Fla. As luck would have it the Robins Air Force Base team faced-off with the Hurlburt Field Commandos. As Robins battled to win, Cheryl Trappnell, the coach of the All-Air Force slow-pitch softball team looked on from the opposing dugout. She too was there to win as a member of the Commandos, but she was also there scouting for fresh talent for the All-Air Force team. Epps, a maintenance controller in the 5th Combat Communications Group, was one of two players picked up during the tournament who would join the Air Force team just a few weeks later as they took gold at the 2007 All-Armed Forces Women's Softball Championship at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

But, first she had to survive the Air Force's Women's Softball training camp also held at Hill AFB. Epps was one of 26 players invited to vie for a spot on the Air Force Team, but only 15 were chosen.

"She was an infield player and I converted her to the outfield because that's where I needed her skills," Ms. Trappnell said.

She added, one of the reasons she decided Epps would be an asset to the outfield was because of her speed.

Once Epps and the other 14 members of the team were announced, the team hit the field to practice before heading to a tournament in Las Vegas. Epps said the results of that

tournament were heartbreaking, but the perfect motivation to get herself and her teammates back to the practice field.

"We lost all our games. We were worried and we came back and we just practiced and practiced," Epps said.

The

team's drive to improve and willingness to practice helped them reign victorious at the All-Armed Forces Tournament.

"The very first day we went undefeated against all the other teams, Army, Navy and Marines," Epps added. "The one game we lost out there we got beat pretty bad but then we came back in the last game to beat them."

However, the highlight for Epps was her ability to excel on the offensive, which according to her is the weaker side of her game.

Epps said she was surprised when Ms. Trappnell chose her as a clean-up hitter for the team.

"She did a great job in the outfield and at the plate," Ms. Trappnell said. "She was a key player in our success out there."

The decision was apparently right on as Epps' batting average soared during the All-Armed Forces tourney.

"I had the highest batting average for the whole tournament," Epps said.

As the All-Armed Forces tourney ended, Airman Epps geared up for the next leg of her journey as a member of the All-Armed Forces team, which competed and won the national championship at the ASA Nationals tourney in Oklahoma.

The All-Armed Forces coach, Senior Chief Petty

Officer Kirk Myer described Airman Epps' achievements as reaching all the milestones you can reach the first time out.

"She can hit. She can run. She's phenomenal," he said. "She is one of the best women outfielders I have ever coached."

He added that Airman Epps was a smart defensive and offensive player making

her a true asset to the All-Armed Forces team.

Epps said there wasn't a stand-out on the team, the entire team just worked together.

Senior Airman Toni Epps



well as a team, everyone was making the catches and the hits.

Epps said one of the many things that made her participation in the tournaments special was having different members of her family come out and support her.

"I made a sliding catch and I looked up in the stands and I could see my grandmother stand up and say that's my granddaughter," said Epps.

Epps said she thought that winning the state championship in high school would be her crowning glory on the softball field, but now her journey as an Air Force softball player and a national champ trumps all.

"To have U.S.A. on your uniform and to go out there and yell armed forces when you stand in a circle, was definitely a proud moment," Epps said.

SPORTS BRIEFS

AFA Thank-a-Vet Run and Veterans Day Dedication

The Air Force Association Carl Vinson Memorial Chapter and Prisoner of War Missing in Action Memorial Committee will host the 7th annual Thank-a-Vet Run on Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Museum of Aviation. The run will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Check-in time for the 5K/one-mile run/walk begins at 7:15 a.m. The preregistration fee of \$15 covers a T-shirt and refreshments. On-site registration is \$20. A picture identification card is required. Interested persons may register online at the AFA Web site, <http://cv-afa.org/>.

Proceeds will be dedicated to POW/MIA Memorial Monument, which will be erected at the Museum of Aviation. To date, \$110,000 has been raised toward the construction cost of approximately \$130,000.

Sponsors of the event will be recognized and have an area to display materials. Companies or individuals interested in sponsoring the race may contact David Cowles at 955-0568 or 327-3476.

Youth Center Sports

The Youth Center JR NBA and JR WNBA basketball registrations will be held Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Cost is \$55. The program emphasizes fundamentals of skill development, teamwork, sportsmanship and positive adult participation with the goal of providing a fun and rewarding youth basketball experience. A copy of birth certificate and current physical examination will be required. Dedicated basketball coaches are also needed. Apply in person at the center or call 926-2110 for more information.