

THE ROBINNS REV-UP

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PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1954

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

542nd CSW director earns Presidential Rank Meritorious Service Award

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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Brenda Romine, who became the director of the 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing Aug. 3, has made it her priority to put the Air Force's needs first.

Her "taking care of business" attitude compelled Ms. Romine to lead the way for positive change in her previous role as the deputy director of Logistics at Headquarters, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., and earned her the 2007 Presidential Rank Meritorious



Brenda Romine

Service Award.

Presidential rank awards are reserved for career senior executives who have a stellar record of achievement that is recognized throughout the agency and is acknowledged on a national or international level.

While at Scott AFB, Ms. Romine was the driving force behind implementation of the most significant change to the Air Force's civilian personnel system in decades throughout AMC. She personally ensured more than 13,000 employees impacted by the

change fully understood the move and reached out to labor relations representatives early in the process to build a better implementation strategy in the command.

In addition to her many other accomplishments, Ms. Romine implemented Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century to promote an atmosphere for continuous process improvement in AMC.

The presidential rank award, which is the first of its kind for Ms. Romine, wasn't earned without the help of others.

"I think it takes a lot of hard work and dedication," she said. "It takes a lot of looking at what the needs of

the Air Force are and working toward (meeting) those needs, trying to be a team player with everyone. It takes an understanding and an awareness of what's going on."

Ms. Romine said timing is also part of the equation.

"In a lot of cases, I think it's a lot of luck," she said. "It's a lot of being in the right place at the right time and taking advantage of opportunities to be able to make things better for the Air Force."

Being able to work with people that share a vision of improving the Air Force as a whole and making a

▶ see AWARD, 2A



U.S. Air Force photo by CLAUDE LAZZARA

Capt. Steven Wymore, 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was awarded the Bronze Star Oct. 23 by Col. Theresa Carter, 78th Air Base Wing commander.

78th LRS officer steps into new role, earns Bronze Star Medal

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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Capt. Steven Wymore, an installation deployment officer in the 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron, went to Iraq to provide logistics support to the Iraqi Army's 2nd Brigade, 7th Division.

The logistics officer came home with a better understanding of how his service ties in with other coalition forces in the global war on terrorism and earned a Bronze Star Medal in the process.

Captain Wymore, who worked as a senior adviser to the Garrison Support Unit for the IA's 2nd Brigade, 7th Division during his year-long assignment, was presented with his Bronze Star Medal by Col. Theresa Carter, 78th Air Base Wing commander, during a 78th LRS commander's call in Bldg. 127 Oct. 23.

Colonel Carter said the captain is very deserving of the honor.

▶ see BRONZE STAR, 2A

Robins encourages water conservation during drought

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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Water conservation is a hot topic at Robins, just as it is for the rest of Georgia.

Robins' environmental management officials are emphasizing the importance of adhering to water restrictions made by Georgia's Environmental Protection Division recently.

Bob Sargent, natural and cultural resources manager in the 78th Civil Engineer Group's Environmental Management Division, said Lake Lanier and Lake Altoona are at record lows.

"Really, we've been dealing with significant drought in Georgia for eight to 10 years," he said. "In the summer of 2000 here, we were dealing with drought-associated issues on the base. We had restrictions back then concerning the way we irrigated landscaping."

Mr. Sargent said Robins' wildlife has suffered from the drought too.

Russ Adams, water quality program manager in the 78th CEG, said a drought's impact is far reaching.

"A drought is an extended period of time where a region realizes a deficiency in its water supply," he said. "Water supplies can be ground water or surface water. The drought occurs when a region receives consistently below average precipitation, and droughts can have a substantial impact on the ecosystem and agriculture of the affected region."

Mr. Adams said the problem lingers.

▶ see DROUGHT, 2A

BIGGEST LOSER

Motivated by a desire for better health, Robins cost analyst loses 110 pounds

BY KENDAHL JOHNSON
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Sometimes all it takes for a person to find the determination and dedication to reach a weight loss goal is a simple wake up call. Natasha Dunomes, a cost analyst in the Financial Management's Acquisition and Cost Division, got that call.

Weighing nearly 250 pounds, weight that was taxing her 5-foot-1 frame, Ms. Dunomes received word in June 2006 that her mother and younger sister had been diagnosed with diabetes. Worrying about her own health, she decided it was time to lose weight.

"My health wasn't good. I was suffering from fatigue and had a severe case of sleep apnea," she said. "When family members were diagnosed with diabetes, it really hit hard. I knew I wanted to get healthier. I have an 8-year-old son and want to be around for him."

So she set some weight loss goals. She started slowly, working out twice a week for 30 minutes. Gradually, she increased the amount and duration of her workouts. When the fitness center annex in Bldg. 301 opened, she started taking the allotted three hours per week administrative leave for physical training. In addition, she was working out at home each night.

She also joined the base Weight Watchers group, which she said was very instrumental in helping her lose weight and keep it off.

"Weight Watchers showed me what to eat and how to eat healthier. Plus, there was a strong support group," she said. "It was really helpful to have a support group and have that accountability. I knew once a week, I'd have to go weigh in and that was motivation to stick to my eating plan."

Another motivator was joining several weight loss challenges. In addition to the AFMC Team

Lean challenge, she joined two challenges among her financial management co-workers.

Greg Huttner, chief of FM's Financial Analysis Division, competed with her in one of the challenges. He said watching her work hard and stick to her plan was inspirational.

"She really drove me to work out harder," Mr. Huttner said. "She was one of the most dedicated persons I've ever seen trying to lose weight and get in shape. She was on a mission. She lost a whole person and it's unbelievable."

Mr. Huttner, who used the motivation to help him lose 32 pounds of his own, said he was not only impressed with the weight loss, but with Ms. Dunomes's attitude throughout the process. "She always stayed so positive."

That positive attitude was mostly a credit to her personality, but Ms. Dunomes said she hasn't always been that way.

"Being overweight, I was usually in a drowsy, depressed state," she said. "Now I have more confidence. I am more bubbly and energetic. It's like I have new life in

▶ see WEIGHT LOSS, 3A



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Courtesy photo

Natasha Dunomes, cost analyst for the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center's Financial Management Division, receives a letter of commendation from Mike Mehrman, director of Financial Management, in August 2006. Since that time, Ms. Dunomes has lost 110 pounds and gone from dress size 22 to 8.



THINK SAFETY

Alcohol Against DUI

222-0013

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

Total rides given this year: 573

Days without a DUI: 10

Last DUI: 78th Security Forces

-courtesy 78th SFS Reports and Analysis Section

THE TWO-MINUTEREV

It's still possible for Robins to reach this year's Combined Federal Campaign goal of \$1.35 million, but we need your help. As of week three, the total stands at \$1.22 million. To donate see your unit representative now!

The campaign runs through Nov. 9.

Help Our World Forward

INSIGHT

Happy Birthday 19th ARG

Black Knights celebrate 80 years of heritage during 80th birthday bash, 1B

SPORTS

Youth football

Robins youth tackle football team wins city championship, 3B

RESOURCES

Robins' Environment

EM keeps Robins environmentally sound through various programs, 6A

WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY 75/53

SATURDAY 73/48

SUNDAY 71/50

DROUGHT

Continued from 1A

"We are still in a drought here," he said. "Just because we have received a lot of rain locally does not relieve us from the drought conditions that are statewide."

For that reason, it's important for people to strictly follow the outdoor water use schedule put in place April 18 when Georgia EPD director Carol Couch declared the state to be in a Drought Level 2 status, Mr. Adams said.

People's outdoor water use is based on their street address. People in even numbered homes may water from midnight to 10 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Residents in odd numbered homes may water during the hours of midnight to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. No outdoor water use is allowed on Fridays.

Mr. Sargent said the schedule benefits conservation and plant life.

"People have a tendency to water their lawns when they get home from work, and of course we are, at that time of the day, just getting past peak air temperatures," he said. "So, a substantial amount of water that you put on your landscaping in the late afternoon ends up getting wasted because it gets evaporated right back into the atmosphere."

Mr. Sargent said Georgia's rainfall level is below normal.

"Georgia typically gets 43 to 54 inches of rain per year," he said. "Over the last 10 years, we've had far more drought years than average years. We've had years where we were 10 and 11 inches below average rainfall within the last six or seven years. All of those years stack up and it becomes a cumulative problem."

North Georgia has had the most impact where water supply comes from surface water in lakes. Middle Georgia gets its water from an aquifer located several hundred feet below the ground, Mr. Sargent said. With Lake Lanier's water level dramatically down and the forecast for winter rain looking dim, Mr. Sargent said there's reason for concern.

Mr. Adams said people should save water any way possible.

"Water is one of our most precious resources and it's often overlooked because people have the perception that we have plenty of rain so there must be plenty of water," he said. "But, now, we find ourselves in a reactionary crisis management mode because of the drought, and we all must pull together in this state to prevent a catastrophe by conserving water."

Conserving water isn't hard, Mr. Sargent said. Watering lawns only once a week saves water and helps promote deep roots in plants and grasses.

Mr. Sargent said people should put about an inch of water on their lawns and cut their grass to about three-quarters of an inch to create deeper roots and hold in moisture. Putting mulch around trees and shrubs also helps conserve water by helping soil stay wet instead of being dried by the sun.

Make sure nozzles on timer-controlled sprayers are directed on the lawn and set only for authorized watering times, Mr. Sargent said.

Mr. Sergeant also recommends using soaker hoses which use water more efficiently.

Mr. Sargent said local nurseries often have plants that are drought tolerant to help cut the amount of water needed. Pulling water-zapping weeds also helps conserve water.

In addition to landscaping practices, Mr. Sargent said taking baths instead of showers, using a low-flow showerhead and low-flush systems for toilets, and turning off water when not in use can all save significant amounts of water.

Mark Summers, chief of the Compliance Branch in 78th CEG, said people should take the drought seriously.

"I see people even in my neighborhood that are constantly watering their grass and I don't think that people will change until they see a higher water bill and see water pressure dropping off," he said. "Obviously, anything that we can do on a daily basis to conserve just a gallon or two makes an overall huge impact."

Robins is doing its part, Mr. Adams said.

The base is participating in a countywide study on ground water sources.

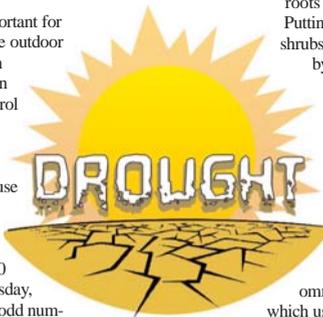
"We've been working with county municipalities over the last two years in measuring and studying the water levels within the aquifer," Mr. Adams said. "Trends over the last two-year period are showing that our groundwater levels are decreasing slightly and that clearly shows (how) the lack of rainfall isn't replenishing aquifers."

While Middle Georgia isn't in present danger of losing its water supply, the Georgia EPD's Water Council is finalizing a statewide water management plan.

Mr. Adams said the plan consists of three new concepts to create a more integrated water management policy for Georgia.

Robins is reviewing the plan and providing comments on how the plan will affect Robins.

The Water Council is accepting comments on the new plan through Oct. 30. People can offer comments at www.georgiawaterplan.org.



BRONZE STAR

Continued from 1A

"It's always an honor to present a decoration to a deserving Airman, and even more so when that decoration is a Bronze Star recognizing significant accomplishments while serving in a deployed environment," she said.

Captain Wymore said his role in the recent deployment was a new one for him.

"You're over there meeting with some chiefs in a local community and getting a new unsecured site, a new permanent construction for the Iraqi Army," he said. "It was just a year of working hard."

The captain said the mission was an eye-opening experience.

"It was actually exciting," he said. "It was a great learning experience. Understanding what the Army and the Marines go through on the ground (and) definitely having a big picture of the joint perspective, I can appreciate more what they do and how we fit into that."

Captain Wymore was one of three servicemembers on a military transition team working with a 12-man Marine team that served as the main staff of advisers to the brigade.

About 15 team members worked with the coalition, while the Iraqi Army filled in

the gaps. They worked at solving problems and helping the Iraqi Army take over their air space. The end result was less Marines and Soldiers on patrol and the Iraqi Army taking care of its own issues.

While in the area of responsibility, Captain Wymore worked diligently to keep the mission rolling.

"I advised the Iraqi Army in everything (to do) with logistics — from life support and food to vehicle maintenance and fuel to movement in convoys and all of those different areas that roll underneath logistics in the joint world," he said.

Captain Wymore said staying on top of the mission meant staying on his toes.

"You have to keep a level head the whole time you're over there," he said. "Things can spin out pretty quickly. There were some interesting situations. Definitely, the training in the Air Force and keeping a level head is what helped me out."

While the captain was modest about his achievements, others commended the IDO on his efforts.

Maj. Scott Hall, 78th LRS commander, said he's proud of Captain Wymore's exemplary service.

"By receiving this award, it is evident that Captain Wymore mastered the art of joint logistics while working side by side

with our sister services, such as the Army and Marine Corps," he said. "He is the perfect example of why Air Force logistics readiness officers are in such high demand, both in the joint commands and deployments."

Maj. Curtis Lee, operations officer in the 78th LRS, spoke just as highly of the captain's achievement.

"Captain Wymore skillfully advised the Iraqi Army leadership with all aspects of logistics support," he said. "Our LROs are asked to step up and work in the joint community in what were previously traditional Army billets. His efforts were noticed and appreciated ... as demonstrated by this Bronze Star."

Colonel Carter said Captain Wymore's service in the deployed location mirrored his commitment to service at his home station.

"I knew Captain Wymore would do a great job because I watched him excel as our installation deployment manager," she said. "We're very proud of his contributions and know he represented the 78th Air Base Wing, Robins Air Force Base and all Airmen very well during his time in the AOR."

Captain Wymore said his homecoming was an award in itself. "It's just good to be home and alive," he said.

AWARD

Continued from 1A

difference for Airmen are two things that laid the groundwork for her honor, Ms. Romine said.

"It's really more the people I worked with (and) the people I've had the opportunity to be associated with who provided the foundation for any recognition I have had," she said. "There are a lot of great folks doing great things out there every day. I'm really humbled to be recognized for what I perceive as just doing my job."

Those who have worked with Ms. Romine see her accomplishments in a different light.

Maj. Gen. Robert McMahon, director of logistics for Air Mobility Command, said Ms. Romine made a lasting impact on AMC.

"During the past two years, I've watched in awe as Ms. Romine simultaneously managed

reductions in personnel, dollars, and weapons systems, while ensuring AMC could sustain its 900 plus sorties per day operational tempo," he said. "In short, her leadership led to sustaining America's air bridge support of the global war on terrorism. Each of us within AMC is proud of Brenda's accomplishments and congratulate her on this prestigious award."

Lt. Gen. Chris Kelly, AMC vice commander, had similar praises for the senior leader.

"It came as absolutely no surprise to me that Ms. Romine has been selected for this very special and prestigious award," he said. "Brenda is that very rare combination of technical expert, farsighted planner, and get your hands dirty, out front leader. Brenda is the total package and we're very proud of her."

Ms. Romine will be presented with her award during a ceremony in the spring in Washington D.C.

2007 Requirements Symposium set for Nov. 6-8

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

WHAT TO KNOW

The 2007 Requirements Symposium will be held Nov. 6-8 at the Perry Agricenter in Perry, Ga. The symposium is free for government employees and costs \$300 for each private industry attendee. Cost of the golf tournament at the Landings Golf Course is \$85 per person. People can register for the symposium online at www.wrcoo-aic.org.

"The AIC in Warner Robins created this symposium five years ago and it was a 'win-win' situation for everyone," she said. "For the base, it gives us one venue to communicate on an annual basis with industry the future needs that we envision our customers will have. It's a plus for us because we do this one time, in one forum, to one group, rather than have multiple meetings throughout the year trying to

target different audiences."

Mrs. Reeves said the event gives industry representatives a multitude of different requirements from different groups. Industry representatives are then able to take those requirements back to their companies for consideration.

Tim Callahan, first vice chairman of the AIC of the Warner Robins Area Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the 2007 Requirements Symposium, said the forum helps private industry to better help the ALC.

"It provides the ALC the opportunity to share its current and future requirements and vision for the future with the defense industry community," he said. "It allows the AIC and businesses to understand what the upcoming requirements are, so we can plan our capabilities to better meet the needs of the Center in those requirements and to support the warfighter

with best value services."

Mr. Callahan said senior leaders will have the opportunity to discuss ops tempo, budget and other emerging needs that may impact requirements.

Five key speakers from the Air Force, Department of Defense and the private sector will address several important issues that impact the warfighter. Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, WR-ALC commander, will also speak on a variety of topics at the event.

In addition to presentations, the schedule will include a golf tournament at the Landings Golf Course Nov. 6 and a networking social at the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar Nov. 7.

General Owen said the symposium offers a great opportunity for people to learn how they can be part of the solution to fulfilling warfighters' needs and help those who provide humanitarian relief.

Commander's calls begin Tuesday: Take the bus!

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, will host a series of commander's calls at the Warner Robins Civic Center Beginning Tuesday and ending Thursday.

The commander's call is mandatory for all center employees. Although the briefing is not mandatory for hosted units, associate commanders are welcome to attend.

Since parking is limited around the civic center, bus transportation to and from the civic center will be provided. All employees, except handicapped employees, will be required to ride the buses. Only five handicapped spaces are available per session. Passes will be issued

on a first come, first served basis. All other private vehicles are subject to being ticketed or towed at the owner's expense.

Employees must have their base identification cards in order to ride the bus to and from the Civic Center and to re-enter the base.

An interpreter for the hearing impaired will be present at session 2 only (10:30 a.m., Tuesday). Organizations having hearing impaired personnel are asked to schedule those individuals accordingly. All base personnel are subject to search and backpacks and bags are not allowed at the civic center.

For more information, contact Kimberly Clark at 222-0532.

► BUS SERVICE PICK UP SCHEDULE

BLUE ROUTE

CORNER OF FIRST AND COCHRAN — Bldgs. 158, 177
FIRST STREET IN FRONT OF BLDG. 140 — Bldgs. 127, 128, 140, 141, 142, 145, 146, 148, 149, 150, 163, 169, 180, 181, 194, 20149, GATE 38
FIRST STREET AT BLDG. 125 GATE — Bldgs. 40, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 58, 81, 82, 83, 84, 86, 109, 110, 111, 125, 204, GATE 31
CORNER OF RICHARD RAY AND ROBINS PKWY — Bldgs. 196, 197, 321
CORNER OF THIRD STREET AND ROBINS PKWY — Bldgs. 302, 350
BLDG. 91 AT THE WALK-THRU GATE — Bldgs. 37, 91, 120, 131, 137
BLDG. 43 (as needed)
44 GREEN STREET (as needed)

RED ROUTE

CORNER OF RICHARD RAY AND PERRY — Bldgs. 214, 215, 228
CORNER OF RICHARD RAY & BYRON — Bldgs. 165, 225, 300
CORNER OF RICHARD RAY & COCHRAN — Bldgs. 162, 300, 301
CORNER OF RICHARD RAY AND MILLEDGEVILLE — Bldgs. 201, 301
CORNER OF THIRD AND MILLEDGEVILLE — Bldgs. 301, 306, 319, 323
CORNER OF THIRD AND COCHRAN — Bldgs. 300, 301
CORNER OF THIRD AND BYRON — Bldgs. 230, 300
CORNER OF THIRD AND PERRY — Bldgs. 226, 227, 231

YELLOW ROUTE

CORNER OF PEACEKEEPER AND PERRY — Bldgs. 255, 261, 263
CORNER OF PEACEKEEPER AND BYRON — Bldg. 376
CORNER OF PEACEKEEPER AND MILLEDGEVILLE — Bldg. 364
CORNER OF PEACEKEEPER AND ROBINS PARKWAY — Bldgs. 359, 368, 377
CORNER OF PEACEKEEPER AND WARNER ROBINS — Bldg. 351
CORNER OF MLK AND PERRY STREET — Bldgs. 270, 273, 280, 282, 288, 291, 292
BLDG. 557, 560, 826, 827 — As needed

GREEN ROUTE

CORNER OF PAGE ROAD AND DANVILLE STREET — Bldgs. 603, 605
CORNER OF PAGE ROAD AND NINTH — Bldgs. 640, 644, 645, 901
CORNER OF PAGE RD & 10th — Bldg. 655
CORNER OF TENTH AND MACON STREET — Bldgs. 660, 941, 943, 944, 945, 946, 983
CORNER OF NINTH AND MACON STREET — Bldgs. 767, 769, 794, 905, 914, 936
CORNER OF SEVENTH AND MACON STREET — Bldgs. 706, 707, 708, 765, 780
SEVENTH STREET (IN FRONT OF BLDG. 700) — Bldgs. 700, 700A
BLDG. 670, 1011, 1021, 1400, 1500, 1524, 1549, 1555

WHITE ROUTE (as needed)

BEALE DRIVE — Bldg. 8
JOINT STARS STREET — Bldg. 2039
BORGHESE DRIVE — Bldg. 2079

► SESSION DATES and TIMES

Session 1 — Oct. 30 ■ 7:30 a.m.	Session 5 — Oct. 31 ■ 7:30 a.m.
Session 2 — Oct. 30 ■ 10:30 a.m.	Session 6 — Oct. 31 ■ 10:30 a.m.
Session 3 — Oct. 30 ■ 2 p.m.	Session 7 — Oct. 31 ■ 2 p.m.
Session 4 — Oct. 30 ■ 5 p.m.	Session 8 — Oct. 31 ■ 5 p.m.

Session 9 — Nov. 1 ■ 7:30 a.m.

Session 10 — Nov. 1 ■ 10:30 a.m.

Sessions are at the Warner Robins Civic Center. Contact your group or squadron commander to determine which session you should attend.

WEIGHT LOSS

Continued from 1A

me. I have a renewed love for myself."

Kimberly Dickerson, chief of FM's Acquisition and Cost Division and Ms. Dunomes's supervisor, said the work ethic exhibited was nothing more than amazing.

"She's an inspiration to me," Ms. Dickerson said. "She didn't try any of the gimmicks or fad diets. Her weight loss is a result of truly hard work. She's going to the gym. She's watching what she eats. To lose weight, you really have to plan and prepare and work hard, and she did an excellent job of doing that. A lot of us just don't have that kind of dedication."

Ms. Dickerson said she's lost 20 pounds as a result of Ms. Dunomes's example. "She has helped me and has

tried to help each of us on the right path."

Ms. Dunomes has gone from a 22 dress size to an eight, a 16-month transformation that has been truly incredible. She said her renewed energy, new-found confidence and increased health have all been rewarding, but it really didn't sink in until a visit to the doctor's office.

"The doctor said to me, 'Do you know you just saved your life?' That was amazing. This has been a life changing journey," she said.

When asked what advice she would give to others who are trying to lose weight and improve health, Ms. Dunomes said, "If I can do it, so can you. You really have to make up within your mind you want to lose weight. Once you get that in your head, it's basically taking it one day at a time and being consistent. If you continue with your daily walk with making strives to be healthier, you will be successful."



The Defense Acquisition University is introducing the following Continuous Learning Modules now online. Register for these CLMs at <http://clc.dau.mil>.

New Modules:

- Capabilities Based Planning
- Contract Payment Instruction
- Cost Risk Analysis Introduction
- Organizational Conflicts of Interest
- Modular Open System Approach to DoD Acquisition
- Trade Studies
- A-76: Competition Accountability

Modules Coming Soon:

- Foundations of Government Property
- Packaging
- Joint Logistics

Boeing recognizes efforts of WR-ALC's C-17 program; presents model to Team Robins

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

When arriving through the main gate, members of Team Robins now have a friendly reminder of the partnership between the Boeing Co. and the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center's C-17 Globemaster III program.

The reminder, a one-twentieth scale C-17 model with a wing span of approximately six feet, stands proudly on the corner of Watson Blvd. and Byron St. The model dedication was held Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. as members of the C-17 program here stood on the corner in commemoration of the partnership.

Both the Boeing Co. and the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center know this is a great airplane. However, Gus Urzua, vice president for Air Force Integrated Logistics at the Boeing Co., said the purpose of displaying this C-17 model was not to celebrate the aircraft, but to emphasize the special things the Boeing Co. and the WR-ALC are doing through their C-17 partnership.

The model will stand as a symbol of the partnership between the company and the Center's C-17 program and its more than seven years as part-



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander and Gus Urzua, Boeing Co. vice president for Air Force Integrated Logistics, talk in front of a C-17 model that was donated to Robins by Boeing. The model sits at the intersection of Watson Boulevard and Byron Street.

ners.

"I didn't want this to just be a model. I wanted it to be something bigger than a model and symbolize the partnership we have had for so many years," Mr. Urzua said. "As people drive by I want them to recognize the special relationship between Team Robins and Boeing."

Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, com-

mander of the WR-ALC, stressed the difference between having a contract with a company and being a true partner. He said a shared vision and mutual goals are important factors in developing a strong partnership.

"What a partnership really means is when your partner is having trouble, you don't just point your finger and chastise

them, you lift up your sleeves and help them," General Owen said.

Mr. Urzua said one of the things that made the relationship unique between the pair was the depth of the relationship.

"We have to trust each other to make sure we are doing what is best for our warfighter," Mr. Urzua said.

Halloween safety tips

78th Security Forces

Robins will observe Halloween Wednesday. Trick-or-treating hours are 6 to 8 p.m., in conjunction with the city of Warner Robins. Vehicle operators shall slow down during hours of trick or treating. Base housing residents who are participating need to ensure an exterior light of their home is on during these hours, while those not participating should leave exterior lights off. Security Forces and volunteers will increase the safety and security measures of the housing areas through their annual

Halloween Pumpkin Patrol.

Those interested in volunteering should contact Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hixson at 222-1990 or at andrew.hixson@robins.af.mil. Both military and civilians are welcome to volunteer. Volunteers need to be available from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

To make Halloween a treat for all, follow these safety tips:

- ▶ Use battery powered jack-o-lantern lights to avoid a fire mishap.
- ▶ Check that costumes are flame retardant. Teach children "Stop-Drop-Roll" technique in case costume catches on fire.
- ▶ Keep costumes short to stop

trips, falls and other bumps in the night.

- ▶ Sew emergency contact information inside your child's costume.
- ▶ Try make-up instead of a mask. Masks can be hot, uncomfortable and obstruct a child's view.
- ▶ Make sure children wear light clothes, reflective tape, glow sticks or carry a flashlight.
- ▶ Ensure older trick-or-treaters are in groups to avoid being a target for real-life goblins.
- ▶ Ensure kids know not to enter strangers' houses or cars.
- ▶ Remind children not to be

tempted to sample their treats until after it has been inspected by a parent.

- ▶ Do not ever allow children to eat opened candy or home made items.
- ▶ Remind children carrying cell phones to immediately dial 911 if there is an emergency.
- ▶ Always keep a safe distance between yourself and moving vehicles.
- ▶ Stop only at well-lit houses.
- ▶ Use sidewalks, walk facing traffic, walk and don't run, don't go between parked cars or cut across traffic, look and listen before crossing roads.

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Office of Public Affairs at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Stories and briefs must be submitted as a Word document. They may not exceed two pages, double spaced. They must be typed using the Times New Roman font, 12-point type, with 1-inch margins. All submissions will be edited to conform to Associated Press style. Submission does not guarantee publication.

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

DELIVERY

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

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Falcons support Eagle school



Senior Airman Kyle Renbarger performs an F-16 Fighting Falcon post flight inspection Oct. 18 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Airman Renbarger is a 63rd Fighter Squadron crew chief from Luke AFB, Ariz. The 63rd FS is at Nellis AFB supporting the F-15 Eagle Weapons School Instructor Course in an adversary tactics role.

Creating a culture of safety is a personal responsibility

Look both ways before you cross the street. Wash your hands before you eat. Wear your seat belt. Don't stare at the sun. Pick your friends wisely ... blah, blah, blah.

Do these sound familiar? They do for me. They're the sayings my mom used to say to me through various stages of growing up. The funny thing about it is these are the same sayings we hear every day from the safety office, commanders, supervisors and even Charlie Daniels on the Armed Forces Network. The problem is that we are grown adults and having the Air Force sound like your mother who constantly nags you can grow tiresome so fast.

Why do we nag? We nag because Airmen are doing the enemy's job for them and are killing themselves for no reason. If everybody would take a step back and accept the personal responsibility it takes to operate safely, maybe the Air Force as a whole wouldn't have to sound like

mom. Just before I deployed to Southwest Asia, I sat through the quarterly Air Combat Command fatality brief and listened to commanders and supervisors describe their Airmen and the incidents that took their lives. It was heart-breaking listening as each incident investigation was briefed. Not surprisingly, excessive speed and alcohol were a factor in each accident. In an effort to help stem these tragedies, ACC officials developed the Wingman concept. The Wingman concept is a good program to help us protect each other from ourselves, but it should not stop there.

Eighth Air Force also has a program that uses the "It's On You" slogan. When I first heard this slogan, I thought it sounded like a cop out; maybe leadership was washing their hands of this whole safety mess. But after thinking about it, some of it began to make perfect sense. The leadership in the 8th Air

Force is preaching a doctrine of personal responsibility when it comes to safety — from leadership all the way down to individual Airmen.

ACC's Wingman concept works when dealing in groups, but of course we aren't always going to be with buddies or a wingman. We at this point are going to have to decide for ourselves what is right. If we do it right, 99 percent of the time we will be safe (I say 99 percent, and it's not a scientific number, because we are in a business where there is considerable risk.) The overall goal is to mitigate the risk as much as possible, since sometimes the mission has to get done.

So where am I going with this? What's the bottom line?

Here it is: Make safety your personal responsibility.

What does that mean? Call "knock it off" when you see a foul. Wear the proper personal protective equipment when either at work or at play. Do not tolerate attitudes that do not place safety first.

Establish your own standards and don't be governed by other's expectations or demands. Wear your seat belt and make sure your passengers buckle up for safety as well. Drive defensively to provide a margin of safety and occasionally play out "what if?" scenarios.

In all cases, assess the risk, evaluate the alternatives and choose a best course of action prior to undertaking any task that could result in an injury. Proper risk assessment is paramount. Leaders are responsible for creating safe environments, as individual Airmen we're responsible for the rest. Safety is cultural; create that culture in your shop and at home.

OK, enough nagging, I think you get the picture. I'll sign off with a phrase an old boss of mine used: "Be safe, or die."

— This commentary was written by Lt. Col. Lenny D'Amico 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Safety chief.



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 action.line@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. Anonymous action lines will not be processed.

Why are contractors parking in handicap parking spaces?

There is a contractor whose crew is parking in handicap parking spaces without the proper handicap placard. This is happening between Bldgs. 300 and 301. He indicates it has been approved...how can handicap places be approved for other than handicap people?

You can cite that there is limited parking spaces, but people parking in handicap places is against the law.

Colonel Carter's Response:

According to RAFBI 32-101, Base Parking and Georgia Code 40-6-226, a valid state issued parking permit must be displayed to park in a designated handicapped parking space. Additionally, IAW RAFBI 32-101, para. 3.1.8.4, parking monitors may not use another organizational, government vehicle, handicap, or special reserved parking space to temporarily reserve additional parking spaces. Security Forces has reminded all parking monitors on the proper procedures for reserving parking spaces. In the event this occurs again, please notify your parking monitor.

Also, I would like to take this time to remind all personnel that receiving one parking citation for parking in a handicapped parking space without displaying a valid state issued handicapped decal will result in a 30-day suspension of driving privileges for the first offense, 60-day suspension for the second offense, and a 6-month suspension for any additional offenses.

New information on 2008 general pay increase

Latest information regarding the 2008 General Pay Increase for Spirals 1 and 2 NSPS employees

The local Civilian Resource Program Office has been steadily responding to questions about the 2008 across-the-board January Government-wide Pay Increase following Department of Defense's announcement last month that it would be distributed differently under NSPS.

"We received a lot of questions and concerns regarding DOD's decision to put half of the GPI (not allocated for Local Market Supplement into the pay pool fund," said Bob Caviness, CRPO financial analyst. This decision underscores the DOD's stated commitment to a system that rewards and compensates employees based on performance.

DOD has provided further guidance on the NSPS GPI breakout for the 2008 payout.

On Oct. 12, Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England specified 1.25 percent as the percentage of base salary to be included in pay pool funds. The guidance also included an exception for employees currently in NSPS who do not have an NSPS rating allowing them to receive the full equivalent of the GPI. For those not eligible for an NSPS rating, the Secretary of Defense is correcting a possible inequity. Employees in this category will receive the balance of the percentage of GPI allocated for rate range adjustments, but would not have shared the opportunity to receive any of the 1.25 percent performance payout noted above since they receive no rating.

"This information is timely, as the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center pay



pool process has begun; each pay pool may now determine the actual value of its fund. October through December is a significant time during the NSPS Performance Management cycle filled with writing end-of-year assessments, pay pool panel meetings, and required supervisor — employee communication. As with any new system, the learning curve and time required is steepest in the beginning," said Bob Zwitch, CRPO chief. "NSPS focuses our attention on mission results and provides for increased flexibility in rewarding our employees, motivating our workforce, and advancing WR-ALC's mission. As we go through the pay pool process, it's a constant educational campaign to dispel rumors and clarify common misconceptions. It is important that we do this right and employees under NSPS know how these changes and their performance could affect their pay."

To help put things into context, it's helpful to remember two key points:

First, the January GPI is composed of two distinct parts like a pie split in two pieces:

- 1) a base salary increase
- 2) a locality pay increase (LMS under NSPS)

Under the new payout, the base salary increase piece of the 2008 GPI for Spiral 1 employees will be distributed as follows.

1.25 percent of the January 2008 GPI (not allocated for LMS) will be added to Element 2 pay pool funds and distributed

through the pay pool process based on performance.

The remaining portion of the GPI (not allocated for LMS) will be granted as an increase to base salary for employees with an acceptable performance rating. Both the minimum and maximum of the rate ranges will be increased so performance contributions of employees at or near the top of the pay band may be recognized in the form of a salary increase.

(Although employees on pay retention are eligible for LMS increases, they are ineligible for this base salary increase. Pay bands for Physicians and Dentists will be adjusted if the Department of Veterans Affairs makes adjustments).

The LMS portion of the GPI does not go into the pay pool fund. Employees with an acceptable performance rating (rating of record of two or higher) will receive the full amount of the percentage approved for LMS which is the same as the Government-wide increases for locality pay for General Schedule employees.

Second, the dollar value of the pay pool fund is calculated by multiplying the sum of base salaries of NSPS employees in a pay pool Sept. 30, by the sum of the percentages assigned to the Pay Pool Fund elements.

The Pay Pool Funding elements for WR-ALC are:

- Element 1: 2.39 percent
- Element 2: 1.25 percent
- Element 3: .50 to .75 percent (varies by pay pools)

The PEO is preparing a fact sheet on this issue, which will be available soon on their Website at <http://www.cpmosd.mil/nsps>.

MAKING LIFE BETTER

78th Civil Engineering Group earns four AFMC awards

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

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center is doing great things to ensure the environment will stand up to tomorrow's challenges.

The 78th Civil Engineer Group's Environmental Management Division has been taking the lead on Robins in a laundry list of projects to make certain the sprawling base is environmentally sound.

The division's efforts have landed the WR-ALC four General Thomas D. White awards at the Air Force Materiel Command level, covering areas such as pollution prevention, restoration, natural resources conservation, and cultural resources management.

Dave Bury, pollution prevention program manager in the 78th CEG, said the pollution prevention program was set up to help organizations eliminate pollution from their processes.

"One of the main forms (of pollution we try to remove) is hazardous materials and the pollution generated from the use of hazardous materials in our industrial processes such as in the 402nd Maintenance Wing in painting, depainting, cleaning and paint stripping aircraft," he said. "They use hazardous chemicals and they have different emissions that come off of those chemicals."

Mr. Bury said one of the program's biggest accomplishments has been with the 402nd MXW's Environmental and Ergonomics Office which put together a host of projects to improve processes and eliminate hazardous materials, helping making the workplace safer and more environmentally friendly.

Mr. Bury said the maintenance wing works hand in hand with the pollution prevention program to reduce the use of chrome in hangars as well as working to remove hazardous materials from other work areas.

Robins' organizations have worked together to go beyond standards to improve processes throughout the Center, Mr. Bury said.

Fred Otto, restoration program manager in the 78th CEG/CEV, works with a team of seven from his work area to ensure Robins stays environmentally clean.

"We clean up contaminated sites, sites with contaminated soil and contaminated groundwater," he said. "The environmental restoration program has 42 sites total and we've cleaned up 31 of those sites. Of the 11 sites left, they're the more long-term cleanup sites."

The base's award-winning Groundwater Treatment Plant is one of many systems in place to clean up the contaminated groundwater. In addition, the program's team has removed more than 95 percent



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

of contamination in the National Priorities List Site, also known as Landfill 4. The effort made way for the team to cut off its groundwater pump and treatment system.

Mr. Otto said Robins has done a great job of meeting its regulatory obligations.

"By cleaning up those sites, we're able to return those sites to the Center for them to use for some other purpose."

The base is also making a big difference through its natural resource management program headed by Bob Sargent, natural resources program manager in the 78th CEG.

"The natural resources management program is charged with managing the natural resources on base, which covers forest management, endangered species, wetlands, fish and wildlife," he said. "We work with a lot of other organizations on base. This is truly a team (effort)."

Mr. Sargent said he works with people in the grounds maintenance and Entomology Shop as well as the Safety Office concerning bird aircraft strike hazard issues on the airfield. He also works with the Services Division at Robins on the management of hunting and fishing programs and other recreational aspects that utilize natural resources.

Mr. Sargent said it takes a lot to ensure natural resources are protected.

"First and foremost, we're charged with ensuring the Air Force is in compliance with the laws that protect natural resources," he said. "On this base particularly, it means protecting the wetlands and state-listed species of plants, and ensuring that we're taking care of the resources."

Mr. Sargent leads Robins in managing the base's urban forests, making sure they're healthy and securing their livelihood for the future.

Additionally, Mr. Sargent said Robins manages forests at the South end of base where construction projects often occur to ensure forests are healthy and provide habitat for wildlife.

One example of Robins'



Courtesy photo

Top, Tallie Daniel, field technician, tests the operation of an isolation force main valve at the ground water treatment plant.

Bottom, The Air Assisted Airless Paint System that reduces the amount of paint need to paint aircraft thereby reducing toxic air emissions.

effort to protect natural resources involved the clearing of a 15-acre area for a new mission the 5th Combat Communications Group had on its horizon. Selling of the land's timber returned revenue to the Air Force for the creation of new forests, Mr. Sargent said.

Mr. Sargent said Robins continues to seek ways to manage its natural resources.

Similarly, the base takes great care in managing its cultural resources, said Becky Crader, cultural resources manager in the 78th CEG.

"A lot of people don't realize that Robins has some cultural resources including both archeological sites as well as historic buildings," she said. "We currently have 57 archeological sites on the base, 15 of which are considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Place, and we also have 26 buildings that are also on the list."

Robins is charged with identifying and protecting its cultural resources by federal law.

Mrs. Crader said Robins has completed its Phase I and II archeological surveys which identifies resources and deter-

mines if they're eligible for the registry. The base also completed its survey of historic buildings, finalizing its list of the base's cultural resources.

Mrs. Crader said educating the public on such resources has been a priority.

"The thing we've been focusing on lately is a lot of public awareness and outreach," she said.

Stephen Hammack, base archeologist, has been on site at the base to help protect cultural resources and goes out to the Middle Georgia community to give talks to archeological societies, historical societies, and schools about cultural resources and why we protect them.

A nearly 30-minute video produced by the base gives the public historical information on how the base came about. Mrs. Crader said the video is currently played on a continual basis at the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Macon.

IN BRIEF

STANDARD DESKTOP CONFIGURATION UPGRADES

Robins will soon be deploying an upgrade to the Standard Desktop Configuration which resides on all desktop PCs and laptops. Deployment of the SDC upgrade to all networked devices will occur between Oct. 30 and Dec. 31. This upgrade will install Internet Explorer 7, Windows Media Player 11, Tumbleweed Desktop Validator™, multiple security settings and other patches implemented since the previous SDC deployment.

Extensive testing of local applications and hardware have postured us for a smooth transition and should make the upgrade itself transparent to users. An e-mail notification will be sent to each user the day before the upgrade. This e-mail will provide

details on problem reporting procedure, if required, as well as available training sites.

The most significant change will be the 'new look' of Internet Explorer. To prepare yourself for these changes, you can access online training via the Blue Star on your desktop by selecting Link Internet Explorer 7 Training under Latest IT Central News on the "Welcome to IT Central" page. Please take a few minutes to view this training tool.

If you are currently aware of incompatibility problems with existing applications, feel free to either call 926-HELP or open a ticket using the Blue Star on your desktop to document them. Exclusions from the SDC upgrade for incompatibility problems will be handled on a case-by-case basis. These same procedures should be followed to document problems after deployment.

Catch!



Courtesy photo

Members of Team Robins joined the Peach County Military Affairs Committee at the annual 'Peach County Play Day' held Oct. 20 at Hooterville Farms. The annual event hosts fellowship and recognizes Peach County's partnership with Robins Air Force Base and the surrounding community.

► IN BRIEF

HALLELUJAH NIGHT

The Robins Chapel will host Hallelujah Night Wednesday 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 no scary costumes be worn. For more information call Marcia Little at 926-2821.

PERIMETER ROAD DETOUR

Perimeter Road near the Robins Aero Club will be detoured in order to accomplish road repairs through Oct. 27. Perimeter Road near Bldg. 43 will be closed Nov. 9-12 to complete the project.

For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Steven Rice at 327-8953 or Master Sgt. Rodney Summerwell at 327-8934.

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.

CAREER COUNSELING

All personnel assigned to the Career Counseling Office will be integrated into the staffing sections within the Workforce Development Division of civilian personnel. This change will not affect the services currently provided by the Career Counseling Office.

Personnel will still provide all the pertinent information that has been provided by the Career Counseling Office in the past. Employees will continue to receive information relating to career paths that will allow them to make informed decisions about their careers.

These changes will consolidate operations and provide a broad knowledge base for the advisory services at Robins. Questions should be referred to a servicing staffing specialist.

GREEN PROCUREMENT PROGRAM AND EM SYSTEM AWARENESS BRIEFING

The Green Procurement Program has been mandated for use by all acquisitions using appropriated funds, including supplies, services, government purchase cards and new requirements. Therefore, Environmental Management, in conjunction with Contracting, will be providing awareness briefings on the following dates and times at the base theater:

► Today - 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

► Monday - 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

► Tuesday - 9 a.m. only

Personnel who have any role in the acquisition and requirements process should attend one of these briefings.

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 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 pre-registration fee of \$15 covers a T-shirt and refreshments. On-site registration is \$20. A picture ID card is required. Interested persons may register online at <http://www.cv-afa.org/>.

Proceeds will be dedicated to Prisoner of War Missing in Action 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.

ROAD CLOSURE

Due to the need for the installation of underground utilities, Peacekeeper Way between Bldgs. 333 and 364 will be closed beginning Monday and lasting until January 14, 2008. Traffic signs will be posted to redirect traffic. For more information call Ray Tuten at 327-2941.

ROBINS OFFICERS' SPOUSES CLUB SPECIAL ACTIVITIES LUNCHEON

Come join the ROSC for "The Mystic Road Show," and Italian Dinner Nov. 15 at 10:30 a.m. Reservations are required. For more information, call Phaedra Tretter at 922-7923.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Volunteers are needed. Childcare will be provided. Stop by for more information.

Don't forget to check out our uniform closet. The shop has a variety of current uniforms offered free of charge. It also welcomes donations and accepts consignments.

Hours of operation are Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays from 3 to 6 p.m. and the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Happy Birthday Black Knights

Highlights in Black Knight history

- ▶ In 1941, the group made aviation history when a mass flight of B-17C Flying Fortresses, flew 2,400 miles from the West Coast of Hawaii.
- ▶ Dec. 8 of 1941, the group was attacked at Clark Air Field, Philippines, losing more than half of its aircraft. However, the group armed with the remaining aircraft was the first U.S. bomber unit to strike back at the Japanese by attacking their ships during the Japanese invasion just two days later.
- ▶ Only one of the 19th Bombardment Group's original B-17s survived World War II. Nicknamed "Alexander the Swoose," it now holds a place of honor in the Smithsonian Institute's National Air and Space Museum.
- ▶ Within 48 hours of the 1950 Communist Invasion of South Korea, the group was flying B-29 Superfortress missions from Kadena Air Force Base, Japan in support of the United Nations forces. By 1953, the group had flown 645 missions, 5,950 sorties and dropped more than 52,000 tons of bombs.
- ▶ The first KC-135 R Stratotanker arrived Feb. 10, 1986 and the aircraft and the unit made aviation history in 1988 when Cherokee Rose, named after the Georgia state flower flew to 16 world records in four weight classes.
- ▶ In 1992, the unit participated in the humanitarian relief effort in Somalia, Operation Restore Hope. During the effort the unit flew 614 missions and offloaded 43.1 million pounds of fuel.
- ▶ After the attacks of Sept. 11, the Black Knights were one of the first units to fly launching three sorties within five hours of the attacks.



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

The most senior Black Knight present, retired Master Sgt. Howard Genthner from Washington DC., and the youngest Black Knight present, Airman First Class Josh Wullenweber, now stationed at Robins, cut the cake during the 19th Air Refueling Group's Black Knight Heritage Dinner and Ball.



Left, Rick Jones, a former B-52 pilot who was stationed at Robins from 1971-1975, looks at the displays at the open house Friday.



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP AND RAY CRAYTON

Center, Gen. Arthur Lichte, Air Mobility Command commander, stands with Col. Chris Bence, 19th Air Refueling Group commander, at the 19th ARG's 80th Birthday Celebration.



Right, 1st Lt. Eric Hudson, 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron sortie support flight commander, donned a suit of armor to become the Black Knight symbol at the 80th Birthday Celebration.

19th ARG recognizes eight decades of Black Knights during 80th Birthday Bash

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

On Sept. 18, the Air Force marked its 60th birthday. Just one month later, Oct. 18 marked the 80th birthday for the 19th Air Refueling Group.

Members of the unit agreed the realization their unit's history began 20 years before the Air Force made last week's festivities more meaningful.

The group hosted a two-day 80th Birthday Bash, Oct. 18-19, where former and present members had the opportunity to learn about the trials and triumphs of the group throughout its 80 years.

The group refused to let such a significant occasion pass by without taking the time to celebrate the many accomplishments of the men and women known today as the Black Knights.

During the 80th birthday bash, former members of the unit were treated to incentive flights on the KC-135

Stratotanker, KC-135 Simulator flights, and an open house where they had the opportunity to tour the Alert Facility, a KC-135 static display and Bldg. 2072. The heritage celebration also included an opportunity to participate in the 19th Heritage Group golf tournament, an evening social and the Black Knight Heritage Dinner and Ball.

Black Knights from throughout the group's tenure were on hand to reminisce about days gone by and share stories from their own service.

"I learned a lot from the ball and it made me appreciate being a member of the 19th ARG," said 1st Lt. Octavio Prieto, a KC-135 pilot with the 99th Air Refueling Squadron.

He said one of his favorite parts of the ball was a video spanning the entire lineage of the unit.

"Seeing them (the past Black Knights) watch the video, getting all nostalgic, made me appreciate being a part of the

19th," Lieutenant Prieto said.

Col. Chris Bence, 19th ARG commander, said one of his favorite things about the festivities was hearing former members of the unit say "I haven't seen you in 20 years" accompanied with a heartfelt hug.

"It has made me very proud to be able to offer this opportunity for my fellow Black Knights," Colonel Bence said.

Members of the 19th ARG past and present gathered during the celebration to honor one another and celebrate what could be the group's last birthday as an active unit in the Air Force.

"I am hoping the people who are here now appreciate the honor of the 19th and what part they have taken," said Dallas Falk, who was a B-47 Stratojet crew chief with the 19th Bombardment Wing from 1957 to 1960.

Mr. Falk said he was proud to be surrounded by so many heroes of the past, because those who served before him "made

this country."

"Now, as I stand here today and see these guys in flight suits and fatigues, they are my heroes too, as they continue carrying on the freedom of our country," Mr. Falk said.

Mr. Falk commended the 19th ARG for celebrating not only the refueling mission, but the other missions the group had been responsible for.

Staff Sgt. Marcus Barnes, a boom operator with the 99th Air Refueling Group, said he enjoyed being able to hear about the many missions in the unit's past, while having the opportunity to share with fellow Black Knights about their mission today.

He said he was glad he was given the opportunity to be one of the static display boom operators who had the opportunity to share his present mission with those attending the open house at the alert facility.

"My favorite part was seeing all the old maintainers and crew

members come on board," he said.

No matter what era the Black Knight served, there was an evident excitement as they spoke about their fellow comrades -- whether they were reminiscing about the past or commenting on those who followed in their footsteps.

Lt. Col. Dana Nelson, who served as a Black Knight from 1996 to 1999 as a KC-135 Stratotanker navigator and flight commander, said some of his fondest Air Force memories were during his time with the 19th ARG.

"This is a unit that is near and dear to me," he said.

Colonel Nelson was thrilled the 19th was taking the time to recognize all the contributions of the unit throughout its history and said the unit history was filled with stories that needed to be told.

He took the opportunity to show his two sons Caleb, 7, and Seth, 1, about his days as a Black

Knight during a simulation flight at the KC-135 Simulator.

No matter when the uniform was worn, all the members of the unit past and present were saddened by the upcoming unit deactivation and hated seeing the unit fold its flag after so many years of great service.

"The 19th is one of the most decorated units in the Air Force. I am very disappointed the Air Force has decided to deactivate it," said Ron Barlett, who served with the 328th Bomb Squadron as a B-52 Stratofortress navigator from 1972 to 1975.

Sergeant Barnes said it was overwhelming to think about the impending deactivation as he heard stories and listened to the memories of the Black Knights, who served before him.

"It (the heritage celebration) allows people to really reminisce and gives everybody closure," Sergeant Barnes said.

He added, it helps everyone realize "It was a great life and now its time to let it rest."

2B ■ The Robins Rev-Up ■ October 26, 2007

FRIDAY
A fall festival will be held today 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.

The teen center will hold poetry nights tonight at 7 p.m., a Keystone meeting Saturday at 6 p.m., and a scrapbooking session Monday at 7 p.m. For more information call the teen center at 926-5601.

SATURDAY
Local radio personality Chris Williams will hold a Halloween house party (come in costume) tonight from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Cost will be \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-7625.

SUNDAY
Watch WWE Wrestling "Cyber Sunday" 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.

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

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

A Halloween Bingo today. 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 eligible non-club members. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-4515 or Teresa Resta at 926-1303.

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.

THURSDAY
The officers' club is available for evening dining on Wednesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m. Enjoy Prime Rib on Wednesdays for \$11.95, stuffed flounder on Thursdays for \$10.95, Porterhouse steak (16 oz.) Fridays for \$14.95 and pasta Chardonnay with salmon on Saturdays for only \$10.95. Kids, 10 years and younger eat free Wednesday and Thursdays off the kid's menu with the purchase of an adult entrée. For more information, call the club at 926-2670.

UPCOMING
A First Friday fall festival will be held at your enlisted and officers' clubs from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Nov. 2. 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

Armed Forces blood drive

U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Army Sgt. Joshua Bravo, medical laboratory specialist, takes blood from 2nd Lt. Andrew Moran, 54th Combat Communications Squadron during the Fort Gordon Armed Services Blood Program blood drive at the Robins Youth Center Oct. 19.



\$5. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-7625 or officers' club at 926-2670.

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

► 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.

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.

Robins School Age Program provides care for children ages 5-12 who are eligible family members of active duty and DOD civilians. The program is accredited by the National Afterschool Alliance. In order to become an accredited program, the program has to maintain compliance with national standards that are designed to describe the best practices in our school programs for children ages 5-12. Cost of program is based on total family income. For application go online to www.robinservices.com and click on youth center. For more information call the youth center at 926-2110.

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 3 of the November Edge in November. For more information call Pizza Depot at 926-0188.

A Family and Teen Talent 10th Anniversary show will be held Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. in the base theater. Cost is free. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

A Give Parents a Break and Hourly Care will be held Nov. 3 from 6 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.

The annual holiday canned food drive will be held Nov. 12 - Dec. 17. To learn how you can help call the community center at 926-2105.

The base restaurant will offer its annual customer appreciation Thanksgiving meal Nov. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dine at the main restaurant or purchase a meal at one of the snack bars or mobile trucks. Meal includes turkey,

combread dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, giblet gravy, roll and cranberry sauce for \$3.25.

A turkey dinner carry-out special is available to include a 15-pound whole turkey, 8 pounds of combread dressing, half-pan of mashed potatoes, a half pan of green beans, one quart of giblet gravy and one quart of cranberry sauce for \$47.95. Orders will be taken Nov. 1 to 16. Final day for pick-up is Nov. 21 by 3 p.m. To place an order or for more information, call the base restaurant at 926-3031 or 926-6972.

For more information on these fitness center events call 926-2128.

► A Great American Smoke Out walk is scheduled for Nov. 15 starting at 11 a.m. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

► Letters of intent for basketball are due Nov. 16. A coaches meeting will be held Nov. 20 at 1 p.m. in the golf course conference room and the basketball season will begin Nov. 26.

► A turkey trot run will be held Nov. 21 at 8 a.m. in front of the Wellness Center. Register at the fitness center. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

A Thanksgiving buffet will be held at the officers' club Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost for members is \$12.95, guests \$14.95 and children 12 years and younger, \$6.95. The traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings, including salad and dessert bar, will be served. Reservations are not required. Open to all ranks and grades. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

ONGOING

Get started in FitFactor an USAF Get Up, Get Out and Get Fit program geared for ages 9 - 18 years old. The Youth Center goes an extra step to create healthy habits by holding FitFactor Fridays. FitFactor Ages 9 - 12 year olds need permission slip from parent and 18 years old need to be in high school. Sign up at the youth center to establish a username and password each time you log in. For more information call the youth center at 926-2110.

The community center is looking for professional or experienced instructors to teach one or more of the following evening classes: salsa, line dancing, guitar, piano, step program and more. If there are any other classes you would like to take call the community center at 926-2105.

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

► Get ready for the cold weather and holiday trips with a "Winterize Your Car" class to be held Nov. 1 and 8 at 6 p.m. at the auto hobby shop. Learn how to do an oil change, brake check and more. Cost is \$12 and when participants register their names will go into a hat for a chance to have their car serviced during the class.

► A Thanksgiving break kid's craft class will be held Nov. 20. Two classes will be offered for \$10 per class. Make a card and a gift will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and make a card and an ornament will be held from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

► Military name tags are available at the Arts & Crafts Center. Same day or on-the-spot service on military blues for \$2.50 or next day for four hour service on military silver for \$7.50.

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.

► Tickets are available for the Atlanta Thrashers and Atlanta Hawks home games. Prices vary based by ticket location.

► Daytona 500 tickets are on sale now.

Great American Race Feb. 17 \$90 Superstretch Tower Offer-Feb. 16 and 17 for \$135 and Nextel Fanzone and pre-race pass-Feb. 17 \$75.

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.

The Youth Center JR NBA and JR WNBA basketball registrations will be held Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 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.

An Air Force Club Membership Drive "Start from Scratch" is being held now - Dec. 31 at your enlisted club and officers' club. All new members will receive six months free dues along with Air Force wide, 100 new members will be randomly selected to receive 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.

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 Café 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.

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

► Enter the turkey shoot during open bowling now - Nov. 16. Bowlers pay \$7 to bowl three games of 9-pin no-top. League bowlers pay only \$2 and use their league series with handicap.

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

► 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 November pay only \$15 for green fee and cart starting at 2 p.m.

► A turkey shoot will be held Nov. 17 with a 9 a.m. shot gun start. Cost is \$35 for AGF players and \$40 for non-AGF players. Price includes applicable green fees, cart, range balls, prizes, a turkey lunch with all the trimmings and a \$15 Kroger gift card.

► A Veteran's Day weekend sale is slated for Nov. 10 - 12. Receive 10 to 50 percent off selected merchandise in the pro shop.

NOW PLAYING

Adult tickets are \$4; children 11 years old and younger tickets are \$2. Movies start at 7 p.m., unless noted. For more information, call the base theater at 926-2919.



FRIDAY

MR. WOODCOCK

Billy Bob Thornton, Seann William Scott

John Farley, author of a best-selling self-help book about letting go of the past, violates his own advice when he returns to his small hometown to receive the community's highest honor. While there, John learns, to his horror, that his widowed mother, Beverly, is engaged to be married to none other than Mr. Woodcock, the gym teacher whose sadistic exploits were the bane of John's youth. Rated PG.

SATURDAY

RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

Milla Jovovich, Oded Fehr

Alice, now in hiding in the Nevada desert, once again joins forces with Carlos Olivera and L.J., along with new survivors Claire, K-Mart and Nurse Betty to try to eliminate the deadly virus that threatens to make every human being undead... and to seek justice. Since being captured by the Umbrella Corporation, Alice has been subjected to biogenic experimentation and becomes genetically altered, with super-human strengths, senses and dexterity. These skills, and more, will be needed if anyone is to remain alive. Rated R.

UPCOMING

THE KINGDOM

Jamie Foxx, Chris Cooper
A team of U. S. counter-terrorism investigators set out to find the perpetrators behind a deadly attack on Americans in a Middle Eastern country. 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. vigeil 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. The following person has been approved as leave recipients: Loraine Higgins, HQ AFRC/FMF, POC is Jerianne Warner, 327-1445 and Rosario Wilson, 579th SMXS, POC is Alan Lunsford 222-4171



Fullback Decoda Davis takes a handoff from quarterback Tyler Gray. Decoda scored two touchdowns in the Robins 13-7 victory over Perry in the youth tackle 2007 Optimist Bowl championships.

Robins youth team wins football championships

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

The Robins Falcons youth center tackle football team was named the 2007 Optimist Bowl champions after beating the Perry Stallions 13-7 in the bowl championship game Oct. 20.

The 11- and 12-year-old football players took the title in the 50th annual Optimist Bowl at McConnell-Talbert Stadium in Warner Robins.

The game started slow with neither team able to get inside the end zone during the first half.

"They (the Stallions) scored first in the third quarter and then we came right back for the tie," said Earl Billingsley, the team's assistant coach, who stood in for the team's head coach, Staff Sgt. Roosevelt Marks, who was recently deployed causing him to miss the postseason action.

Mr. Billingsley said the team rallied together after the Perry

Stallions took the lead and fought to stay in the game.

"They said they were going to march right back down the field and they did," he said. "When they rallied together it seemed like the momentum started right then."

The score remained tied through the fourth quarter sending the teams to overtime to vie for the championship.

Robins scored an unanswered touchdown during the overtime battle.

"We held them on four downs and took the win," Mr. Billingsley said. "It was great to see them come alive as a team. I was just so proud."

Both of Robins' touchdowns were scored by 12-year-old, Decoda Davis who plays fullback for the Falcons.

"The best part of the game was scoring the touchdowns. It felt real good to hear everyone cheering your name," Decoda said.



Photos by BRUCE AVERY

Decoda Davis takes a handoff.

However, he said he wouldn't have been able to land in the end zone twice without his teammates' efforts on the field. "They did real good blocking

and tackling, so I could make the touchdowns," Decoda said. "We knew it was going to be a good game and it felt really good to win."

Robins sergeant wins right to announce NASCAR race

Tech. Sgt. Charlie Spratt is still pinching himself after learning he has won Atlanta Motor Speedway's "The Call This Fall" promotion, earning him the right to be the voice of driver introductions for Sunday's Pep Boys Auto 500 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series event.

"This was a very cool promotion that AMS did and I'm beyond ecstatic to have won," Sergeant Spratt said of winning. "It still hasn't sunk in; I keep pinching myself to make sure I'm actually awake!"

Sergeant Spratt, an air traffic controller for the 78th Operations Support Squadron found out about the unique promotion by visiting the speedway Web site and with some encouragement from his daughter, decided to enter.

"I accidentally stumbled onto the promotion when I was



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Charlie Spratt won an Atlanta Motor Speedway promotion earning him the right to be the voice of driver introductions for Sunday's Pep Boys Auto 500 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series event.

researching the seating chart for Atlanta Motor Speedway," Spratt said. "I was planning on taking my 17-year-old daughter,

Kayde, to her first NEXTEL Cup race at the end of October and I saw the banner for the contest.

"I thought it would be loads of fun to write a script and record a mini-introduction, not to mention my daughter really encouraged me to enter. She had the utmost faith in me"

Sergeant Spratt's efforts paid off and he will be responsible for announcing the name, starting position, car make, sponsor and number of all 43 entries in the Pep Boys Auto 500 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series race.

Chosen from 38 entries, Sergeant Spratt, a 36-year-old West Virginia native didn't think he would have any chance of winning, but decided to submit his version of the introduction anyway.

"I thought I would be listening to the winner of the contest from the grandstands," Spratt said. "I couldn't have even fathomed a guess that I would win. It still hasn't sunk in."

— Atlanta Motor Speedway

Native American Heritage Observation chance to gain insight into Robins past, present

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

The land now known as Robins Air Force Base has seen many tenants before becoming the largest industrial complex in Georgia.

Robins was once the stomping ground of many Native American tribes, and signs of their presence still exist today, which is why members of the Native American Heritage Observation committee are thrilled with the prospect of shedding light on Robins' past.

"People don't realize we have our own cultural resources and archaeological sites here at Robins," said Becky Crader, cultural resources manager at Robins.

The theme for this year's Native American Heritage Observation is "Honoring Heroes: Past and Present," and the committee is looking forward to helping the Robins community appreciate both the bases historical and present ties to the Native American community.

Today, Robins is affiliated with 12 tribes: three Cherokee, two Seminole and seven Creek, through the government-to-government relations with Native American Tribal Governments, said Stephen Hammack, base archaeologist.

"There are probably a lot of people on base who have some connection to Native American heritage and don't know anything about it," said Alan Marsh, historian with the 116th Air Control Wing. "This is a good way to come out and learn about the Native American culture."

The Native American Heritage Observation will have several events during the month-long celebration, where members of the Robins community can be exposed to Native American culture such as a primitive skills demonstration, traditional flute

and hand drum playing, dancing and storytelling.

Robins Elementary students will have the chance to learn more about the Native American culture during the observation when The Blessed Blend's "Journey Through the Mist" tour offers the students a glimpse into Native American culture – specifically the Muscogee Creek, who once called Middle Georgia home.

"We will focus on the people of the land," said Laralyn RiverWind from The Blessed Blend.

The students will be introduced to the Muscogee language and will have an opportunity to join in activities such as traditional story telling and learning the round dance.

She said all the students should expect to have fun during the sensory journey, where the students can look touch and feel pieces of the Native American culture.

"It's an educational program about Native Americans, dispelling some of the myths around the culture," Mrs. RiverWind said.

The base will have two primitive skills demonstrations Nov. 8 at 9:30 a.m. by Scott Jones, sole proprietor of Media Prehistoria. The demonstrations will allow participants to learn how to make a fire using friction, introduce them to flintknapping, a process of chipping and shaping flint to give it sharp edges useful for scraping and cutting, and teach them about native weapons such as the Atlatl or spear thrower. The primitive skills demonstration at Robins Elementary will take the kids on a journey through 12,000 years in 45 minutes.

"These skills may be Native American, but these skills are so basic that all our ancestors did them at some point," Mr. Jones said. "To learn these skills teaches us about ourselves."

At 11 a.m. the demonstration will relocate to the courtyard between Bldg. 300 and 301, giving Robins' employees a chance to observe primitive technology, while enjoying a culture delicacy, roasted corn. The event will also offer Team Robins members the opportunity to bring in some of their own archaeological treasures for identification.

"Everybody's probably got an arrowhead tucked away from when they were a kid. I encourage everyone to come out and learn about their childhood finds," Ms. Crader said.



Schedule of Events:

Nov. 2- The Blessed Blend, a husband and wife team, will present crafts, storytelling and traditional flute playing at Robins Elementary at 9 a.m.

Nov. 3- Stephen Hammack, base archaeologist, will lecture on the Archaeology of Robins Air Force Base at Macon's Museum of Arts and Sciences at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Nov. 7- The Native American Observance Luncheon will be held at the Robins Officers' Club at 11 a.m. The event will feature guest speakers, Richard Mayer, CEO of MHA Systems Incorporated and Tex Hall, two-term president of the National Congress of American Indians. The event will feature the Mandaree Singers.

Nov. 8- A primitive skills demonstration will be held at Robins Elementary at 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 8- A primitive skills demonstration and artifact identification will be held at the courtyard between Bldg. 300 and 301 at 11 a.m. During the event free roasted corn will be given away.