

# THE ROBINS REV-UP

December 14, 2007 Vol. 52 No. 50

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

## 'Tis the season



U.S. Air Force Photo by SUE SAPP

Santa Claus gives Kaleb Wilds, 3, a gift bag and listens to his christmas wishes at the library holiday party Dec. 10.

## Dec. 24 declared federal holiday

President George Bush has issued an executive order granting Dec. 24 as a paid federal holiday. Except for those in mission essential positions, federal employees at Robins will receive the holiday.

Civilian employees who are scheduled to take annual leave Dec. 24 will not be charged leave for that day. Those with use-or-lose annual leave should be reminded to reschedule another day of leave to be used before the leave year ends.

When an employee has scheduled use-or-lose annual leave for Dec. 24 and is unable to reschedule that leave before the end of the leave year, the leave will be forfeited. When use-or-lose leave is forfeited under those circumstances, there is no authority that permits restoration of the leave.

Employees with use-or-lose annual leave also have the option of donating annual leave to approved leave recipients. Employees may obtain a listing of approved leave recipients and instructions on donating annual leave on the Directorate of Personnel Web

page at [https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/dpc/EMR\\_leave.htm](https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/dpc/EMR_leave.htm).

Employees required to work the holiday will receive holiday premium pay in addition to basic pay for their regular hours of work. Holiday work performed outside the regularly scheduled tour of duty is overtime work and will be compensated with appropriate overtime or compensatory time payment.

Employees whose basic work week does not include Dec. 24th, as a regularly scheduled workday, such as employees working an uncommon tour of duty or compressed work schedule, will observe the holiday on their last workday immediately before the holiday.

Employees on an intermittent tour of duty are not entitled to pay for the holiday unless they actually work during that period. Employees in a non-pay status immediately before the holiday and at the beginning of the first workday after the holiday are not entitled to pay for the holiday.

► see HOLIDAY, 2A

## Robins engineers work to get F-15s flying again

BY AMANDA CREEL  
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An F-15 C located at Warrior Air Base made the ultimate sacrifice Dec. 6, as it underwent surgery for the greater good of the Air Force's F-15 Eagle A-D model fleet.

It was part of a major effort by the 830th Aircraft Sustainment Group to help the fleet find its way back to the clouds.

"Our role is to determine what should be done in the field to determine if these aircraft are fit to fly," said John Richards, deputy director of the 830th Aircraft Sustainment Group.

Gen. John D. W. Corley, commander of Air Combat Command, directed the stand-down of all F-15 A-D models Dec. 3, following findings by the Accident Investigation Board in the Nov. 2, F-15 C Mishap which resulted in the loss of that aircraft.

The initial findings of the Accident Investigation Board, while at the mishap site Nov. 27, indicate the fleet of F-15s A-D might not be airworthy after a metallurgical analysis of the mishap aircraft. The findings focus specifically on the upper longerons, major structural components of the aircraft, which are located near the canopy of the aircraft and run along the side of the aircraft lengthwise.

It was members of the Robins F-15 engineering team who recommended that a more focused inspection on the longerons be performed to ensure the safety of Airmen.

Though no exact time frame is available for when the inspection or Time Compliance Technical Order will be ready for use throughout the fleet, Mr. Richards said engineers at Robins are working as fast as they can to create the inspection. Once the F-15 engineers create the inspection, it will be used on the entire F-15 A-D fleet; however, the aircraft will not be returned to active service until all the



U.S. Air Force Photo by SUE SAPP

Senior Airman Michele Prindel watches as Staff Sgt. Wali Williams, both of the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, uses a K-12 Rescue Saw to cut the upper longeron from the F-15. The 653rd CLSS team is responsible for cutting longerons out of the F-15A to help F-15 engineers create an inspection program that would allow F-15s affected by the stand-down to return to the air.

inspections have been completed and the data about the longerons has been analyzed.

Robins F-15 engineers have been working to develop the inspection to isolate the areas of the longerons that are cracking.

However, the engineers couldn't develop an inspection for the longerons without the assistance of the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron. A 10-member team from the squadron could be found at Warrior Air Base preparing an F-15 C for a surgery of sorts Dec. 6 where both of the aircraft's upper longerons were removed and then could be used to establish a non-destructive inspection standard for the F-15s affected by the stand-down. (An NDI

is the examination of an object or material with technology that does not affect its future usefulness, which means it can be used without destroying or damaging a product or material.)

"We are working to help write inspection procedures that will be used across the fleet to detect any abnormalities that might be found in the longerons," Mr. Richards said.

The 653rd CLSS team spent their morning preparing the aircraft for the procedure and then returned to Warrior Air Base in the afternoon to begin sawing the longerons off with K-12 Rescue Saws.

► see F-15, 2A

## First Support Services is a 'star' example for Robins

BY 1ST LT.  
SEQUIOYA LAWSON  
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Robins has an on-site example of what it takes to truly have an employee-involved voluntary protection program.

"It took several years to get to this point," said Eddie Poole, First Support Services project manager for Robins. "Our overall goal is safety for all employees."

An on-site pre-approval evaluation was conducted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration at the FSS Robins vehicle operations and maintenance facility. All elements of the site's safety and health program met or exceeded standards. This led the review team to recommend that the FSS site enter the VPP at the Star level.

After the company came under new management in 2004, Dave Larsen, now a senior vice president with FSS, initiated the culture change within the company to focus on health and safety, said Mr. Poole.

"One thing we did was purchase \$10,000 worth of steel-toe boots," said Mr. Poole. "One week after everyone had their boots; someone dropped a tow bar on their foot and thankfully didn't receive any injuries."

Mr. Poole said it's not just a manager-focused safety pro-

gram, but that their efforts truly involve all employees.

"It's not just about safety on the job," said Dee Selph, safety and environmental manager for FSS. "All employees participate by sharing safety and health information that's useful at work and at home."

Simple communication such as sending an e-mail with holiday safety tips for the home can go a long way to involving everyone in the program, said Ms. Selph.

"We believe that if you improve a safety program, you can improve morale and productivity," said Mr. Poole.

Ms. Selph explained there are several incentives, programs and activities that help contribute to their success.

The green light program involves placing a traffic light in the work area so employees can monitor their safety status. If the light is green everything is going well. When the light blinks yellow or turns red, Ms. Selph said employees naturally spread the word. Employees talk to each other about how those incidents can be prevented in the future and it is also discussed in daily safety briefings for each shift during the 24-hour operating schedules.

"If a section goes 90 days without a reportable accident they get a free lunch," said Ms. Selph. She said the vehicle sec-

ure program is a key component of the VPP. The program is a key component of the VPP.

► see VPP, 2A

**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: 40

Last DUI: 116th AMXS - courtesy 78th SFS Reports and Analysis Section

**THE TWO-MINUTE REV**

**Russell Parkway gate closure**

Gate 14, the Russell Parkway gate, will be closed temporarily to allow for the repair of a broken water line beginning Saturday and ending Dec. 22.

Base traffic should use Gates 1, Watson Blvd. Main gate and the new Martin Luther King Drive Gate 5 entrances. During the time Gate 14 is closed, Gate 5 will be open from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. each day.

For more information contact Master Sgt. Rodney Summerwell at 952-5955 or Marshall Wall at 808-9846.

conservation

**DROUGHT**

Drought continues in Ga.

EM officials emphasize importance of adhering to water restrictions, 4A

INSIGHT

'Winging it'

653rd CLSS helps FTD course gain ability to offer hands-on training, 1B

SPORTS

Holiday Bowling

Rev-Up helps you plan your holiday bowl schedule, 8A

WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY 74/51

SATURDAY 70/44

SUNDAY 59/43

## F-15

Continued from 1A

An F-15 engineer, Thomas Lamb, who was on-scene with the 653rd CLSS team as they removed the longerons, said the two longerons would be used as samples the engineers could manipulate by adding defects and trying to locate them ultrasonically.

The 653rd CLSS team responsible for cutting the two longerons out of the F-15A were excited their skills with the saws could possibly help the F-15 engineers create an inspection program that would allow F-15s affected by the stand-down to return to the air.

The F-15 that was used for the parts was one of the aircraft used during exercises at Warrior Air Base to help prepare our Airmen for various combat situations, said Master Sgt. William Wheaton, exercise evaluation element chief with the 653rd CLSS.

Once the longerons are removed, the aircraft will be demilitarized and given to the Defense Reutilization Marketing System, where it will be sold as scrap metal. Any profits will be returned to the Department of Defense, Sergeant Wheaton said.

"Hopefully, they will be able to find the problem and get them fixed and back in the air," said Senior Airman Michele Prindle, a depot aircraft structural maintenance journeyman.

Staff Sgt. Edgar Torres, a depot aircraft structural technician, said nothing could stop the 653rd CLSS team from helping the engineers get the parts they need to develop the fleet-wide inspection guidelines.

As of Dec. 4, cracks have been discovered in four other F-15s in the stand-down.



U.S. Air Force Photo by SUE SAPP

Tech. Sgt. Albert Arsenault, 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, works with a saw from inside the cockpit to remove the upper longerons from the F-15.

"What we are looking for is relative or similar to the abnormalities that we have seen in these other aircraft," Mr. Richards said.

None of the aircraft found to have abnormalities or cracks in the longerons will be returned to operational status until repairs or replacements have been made. The stand-down does not impact the operational status of the F-15 E Strike Eagle, which is currently being used by coalition central command in the area of responsibility.

## VPP

Continued from 1A

tion just received rib eye steak dinners for going an entire year without a reportable accident from 2006 to 2007.

without a reportable accident.

The FSS vehicle operations and maintenance facility is co-located with various functions of the 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron which has similar programs and parallel requirements for safety and health standards.

Melanie Clearman, VPP manager for the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, said there are definitely plans in the works to review what FSS has done so that government organizations can learn from their example.

"Having them on base is a great resource to see what they are doing to maintain an

excellent program," said Ms. Clearman. She said the Air Force standards are at the OSHA standard or greater, and that those who participate in VPP programs are going above and beyond minimum OSHA requirements.

The OSHA site visit took place Nov. 5-7. Two OSHA and one special government employee evaluated the vehicle operations and maintenance facility to determine their eligibility to participate in VPP.

"Our goal is zero accidents," said Mr. Poole. "We'd be glad to get the star status and we'll take that excellence to our other sites such as ground support because the overall goal is to satisfy our employees and keep them safe."

FSS anticipates an answer from OSHA by spring 2008. According to OSHA, only five percent of companies receive Star status.



## Voluntary Protection Program Star Program

Approval into VPP is OSHA's official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health.

The Star Program recognizes the very best workplaces that are in compliance with OSHA regulations and that operate outstanding safety and health management systems for worker protection.

All of the VPP requirements must be in place and working effectively for at least one year prior to Star approval. Categories include: injury and illness history requirements, comprehensive safety and health management system requirements, management leadership and employee involvement.

There is no limit to the term of participation in Star, as long as a site continues to meet all Star requirements and to maintain Star quality.

For more information on VPP, visit [www.osha.gov/dcspp/vpp/](http://www.osha.gov/dcspp/vpp/)

U.S. Air Force Photo by SUE SAPP

Craig Williams, an ASE, or Automotive Service Excellence, certified mechanic with First Support Services, works on the wiring under the dash of an MB4 flightline tow truck at the vehicle operations and maintenance facility. The facility recently entered the Voluntary Protection Program's Star level.

## Toy drive makes final push for donations

The annual "Toys for Team Robins Angels" Christmas drive, which kicked off Nov. 13, solicits aid from the base community to ensure all children with ties to Robins have toys for Christmas. You might notice the name change adding "Angels." This year marks the first year both the toy drive and angel tree are combined under one initiative solidifying the commitment to Team Robins families.

"The idea is to gather as many toys as we can to be certain that no child associated with Robins wakes up on Christmas morning without a full load of presents," said Senior Master Sgt. Clifford Powers, 19th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant.

The Angel Tree will be located at the Robins Air Force Base Exchange.

Donations are due by today to ensure timely delivery. The toys

will be distributed to the units on Dec. 18 and 19. Monetary donations are also being accepted and said checks can be made out to Toys for Team Robins Angels. For any late donations contact Senior Master Sgt. Clifford Powers 327-9624, Master Sgt. Robert Zippies at 327-3668 or Senior Master Sgt. Janet Osborne 201-1994

— 19th Maintenance Squadron

## HOLIDAY

Continued from 1A

ted to pay for the holiday. Questions may be referred to a servicing employee relations specialist at 926-5802 or 926-0677.

A special pass is available on Dec. 24 for military members with concurrence from the unit commander. If active duty Airmen are required to work that day, due to mission essential reasons, commanders are encouraged to authorize a special pass on another day.

Airmen should be reminded that there are no mileage or travel restrictions on a special pass; however, supervisors and commanders can impose mission or safety related restrictions. AFMC Airmen are required to report any out of

the local area travel to their supervisors. They are also required to provide specific travel plans to include dates, times of travel, and contact information if they are unable to return to duty within six hours.

Questions regarding guidance for military personnel may be referred to MPF Customer Service at 327-7362.

Contractor employees should contact their supervisor (or contracting officer) to obtain information on their pay and leave entitlements for Dec. 24. Contractor employees are not allowed in government-owned buildings without government personnel present, so arrangements should be made with supervisors for work to be done at a different site if contractor employees plan to work that day.

— Directorate of Personnel



## Drought continues

Robins EM officials emphasize importance of adhering to water restrictions

By RUSSELL ADAMS  
Water quality program manager

Most of Georgia remains in an exceptional drought, which occurs once in 50 years, or extreme drought, which occurs once every 100 years.

The conservation of water by all Georgians is of critical importance during the next year. The state climatologist forecasts that while we may see some short-term relief during the winter months, we may continue to be faced with water shortages during the summer of 2008.

Robins resides in an area of the state with a declared Drought Level Two. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division establishes restrictions on outdoor water use based on the declared drought level. Outdoor water use includes activities such as watering lawns, washing vehicles, and cleaning driveways or lawn furniture. The following rules are in effect for Military Family Housing, Huntington Village residents, and all other facilities on base:

- ▶Homes and facilities with odd-numbered addresses are permitted to use water outdoors on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays between midnight and 10 a.m.

- ▶Homes and facilities with even-numbered addresses are permitted to use water outdoors on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays between midnight and 10 a.m.

- ▶No outdoor water use is allowed on Fridays.

Base personnel can report leaks, water use during unscheduled periods or other deficiencies through their facility manager.

### **Water conservation tips:**

- ▶Water lawns once per week, one inch of water.

- ▶Place mulch around trees/shrubs to hold moisture.

- ▶Check irrigation/sprinkler nozzles to ensure all water lands on the ground and not roadways or driveways.

- ▶Run your dishwasher only when it's completely full.

- ▶Turn off water while brushing teeth, use a glass for rinse.

- ▶Fix leaking toilets and faucets.

- ▶Take showers instead of baths, or try filling the tub halfway.

- ▶Limit your shower time to five minutes or less.

- ▶Install low-flow showerheads.

- ▶Install low-flush toilets

- ▶Wash laundry with a full load, saves water and reduces your energy cost

## Buckle up ... It's the Law



According to Air Force Instruction 91-207, all motorists and passengers must wear seat belts when operating and/or riding in a moving vehicle. Individuals found not wearing a seat belt in a moving vehicle may be issued a ticket by the 78th Security Forces Squadron.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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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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## ADVERTISING

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## CLASSIFIEDS

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

## ONLINE

To read articles online, visit [www.robins.af.mil/library/rev.asp](http://www.robins.af.mil/library/rev.asp)

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## Post Attack Reconnaissance



A Robins Airman, in full Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive gear, cordons off an area around unexploded ordinance as a result of post attack reconnaissance during station training at Warrior Air Base, Dec. 6.

U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP



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

- ▶ Security Forces 327-3445
- ▶ Services Division 926-5491
- ▶ EEO Office 926-2131
- ▶ MEO 926-6608
- ▶ Employee Relations 926-5802
- ▶ Military Pay 926-3777
- ▶ IDEA 926-2536
- ▶ Base hospital 327-7850
- ▶ Civil engineering 926-5657
- ▶ Public Affairs 926-2137
- ▶ Safety Office 926-6271
- ▶ Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline 926-2393
- ▶ Housing Office 926-3776

To contact the Action Line, call 222-2886 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](mailto:action.line@robins.af.mil). Readers can also visit <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/action-line.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response.

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

Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Robins Rev-Up. Anonymous action lines will not be processed.

## Paying respect during national anthem

Could you clear up any questions about what civilians and military members should do upon the sounding of Retreat and the playing of the national anthem? I saw three ladies in the parking lot Thursday having a conversation. Retreat started then the national anthem was played and not one of them even acted like they heard or cared. They continued their conversation with blatant disregard during Retreat and the national anthem like nothing was happening. Too many people act like it is a nuisance to stop what they are doing when the music starts. They will just wait or duck back inside the door of their building or jump in their cars to avoid rendering respect to the flag and our country.

## Colonel Carter's Response:

Thank you for the opportunity to remind everyone about showing the proper respect to our country and our flag. When outdoors during the playing of our national anthem, civilians or military members in civilian clothes should turn toward the flag and/or music and put their right hands over their hearts. If a gentleman in civilian clothes is wearing a hat, he should remove the hat with his right hand, holding the hat at the left shoulder with the hand over his heart. Military members in uniform should also turn toward the flag and/or music and stand at parade rest during the playing of "Sound Retreat." The military member in uniform should come to attention during the national anthem, render a salute on the first note of the music and maintain the salute until the last note of the anthem. If the anthem is played while in your car on base, both military and civilians should stop their vehicle and sit quietly until the last note of the music has played.

Properly honoring our flag, the symbol of the United States of America, requires very little time and effort and is something each citizen should be proud to do. Paying respect to the flag is a relatively short process...it takes about 2.5 minutes. That's a small amount of time to pay tribute to and respect in this time-honored tradition.

## Make a difference this holiday season

Thank you for the difference you make every day, defending the United States of America and promoting our interests and ideals around the world. As the holiday seasons approaches, we encourage you to make a special effort to make a difference in the lives of those immediately around you. Many of you will travel to your hometowns across the country. Others will spend the holidays deployed in defense of freedom or at a critical duty station at your home base. Wherever you spend the holidays, we encourage you to make a difference.



**Gen. T. Michael Mosely**

Make a difference as a Wingman. Each year the Air

Force experiences at least three fatal mishaps over the holiday period. This year, let's make a difference by dropping that number to zero. We need each commander, supervisor, and Airman to get personally involved. Know the holiday travel plans of your Wingmen. Check each other, and if travel plans don't pass the common sense test, adjust them. Apply personal risk management to all of your planned activities to better ensure you and your fellow Airmen return safely after the holidays.



**Michael W. Wynne**

Suicide remains a formidable enemy for our Air Force, taking more lives each year than direct enemy action. Unfortunately, the holiday sea-

son is not a joyous one for everyone. Recognize the signs of distress and take action to help your fellow Airmen in need. With proper planning and good wingmanship, we can ensure our safest holiday season ever.

Make a difference as an ambassador. Every Airman is an ambassador to all we meet. This is true every day, but the holiday season provides many of us unique opportunities to relax and share our Air Force experiences back home. The American public overwhelmingly respects your service to the country and our Air Force. Your parents, friends, family, and teachers want to hear about your successes. We encourage you to be proud, tell the Air Force story, and brag a little!

Make a difference as an Airman. Integrity, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do are our guiding principles, the bedrock of the Airman's way of life. Directly

linked to them is mutual respect - a care for one another that goes beyond the recognition of being on the same team. It's not just how we greet each other, but more importantly how we treat one another. As you share your Air Force experiences this holiday season, set the example by living our core values.

Over the course of this past year, we've traveled the globe, watching you in action. You are magnificent. We've seen you executing the mission while deployed, and we've seen you serving our combatant commanders from home station. You've been imaginative and innovative, finding better and more efficient ways for our Air Force to provide unmatched Air, Space, and Cyberspace power. Our Air Force family and mission depend on each and every one of you. Thanks again for your service and thanks for making a difference every day. Happy holidays.

## Every Airman ... an airpower advocate

The Marines live by the motto "Every Marine ... a rifleman."

This ethos is foremost in the mind of every Marine, young and old. It's a simple motto, but it sums up what the Marine Corps believes as paramount in the employment of their service. Every Marine, no matter what his or her specialty, is a rifleman first.

Today's Airmen have an equal responsibility to express the capabilities of their service. As the Air Force continues to engage throughout the globe, we are assuming what seems to be an ever-expanding mission set. We continue to execute "in-lieu-of" taskings and other non-traditional missions, but we Airmen must always remember what made the Air Force an independent service. This requires "Every Airman ... an airpower advocate."

Arguably the most important airpower advocate of all time, Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell, is often referred to as "the father of the modern Air Force." It was largely through his efforts and advocacy that the Air Force became a service independent of the Army. Why was this so important to him and ultimately to our country?

The answer is simple: Airpower is most effectively employed by an Airman, one who understands the full capability of this powerful, rapid and unique force.

Today, as in the early days of our Air Force, airpower is fundamentally different from land power and sea power. Each has their own place in contingency operations, but only the Air Force can truly deliver effects with strategic-level impact.

Only the Air Force can deny enemy anti-access strategies through the employment of its global attack capability using weapons systems like the B-2 Spirit, which can takeoff from Middle America to deliver precision munitions on time, on target in Afghanistan and then return to base in the states. Of course, the B-2 couldn't do this mission without the refueling capability provided by our tanker force. The synergistic capabilities of these weapons systems combine to provide a rapid, powerful, and precise response to any potential enemy action. This strategic capability is an awesome deterrent that keeps the bad guys awake at night.

The Air Force is also unique

in its ability to provide rapid global mobility to put "boots on the ground" anywhere in the world through employment of its airlift assets. We've had this capability from the inception of our service as demonstrated during the Berlin Airlift in the late 1940s. This amazing operation showed the world that we could not only establish an air bridge to provide food and supplies across enemy lines, but that we could sustain that effort for as long as it took to impose our will on the enemy.

While aircraft have modernized since the days of Berlin, the Air Force continues to amaze the world with its ability to provide rapid global mobility. We see examples of that every day here in the deployed environment as C-130 Hercules aircraft depart from here and go deep into dangerous enemy territory delivering troops and supplies with precision ... all day, every day. We need to step back and admire what we're doing here with absolute awe. We may not realize it, but the rest of the world looks with amazement at what our Air Force is accomplishing. And it all happens because of Airmen like you. Speaking of Airmen like

you, we must carry the airpower torch to pass on to the next generation. Our future as an independent service depends on it. As individual Airmen, we need to articulate the distinctive capabilities that the Air Force brings to the fight. This continuing effort to promote "airmindedness" (a term coined by General Mitchell), requires constant vigilance and education. To enhance your own airmindedness, constantly educate yourself via Air Force professional military education and professional publications and show your Air Force pride and professionalism by engaging in healthy discussion with our sister servicemembers about what the Air Force brings to the fight. The next time you feel like expressing your enthusiasm, don't yell "HOOAH!", shout "AIM HIGH!" Take pride in your Air Force, and you'll find it to be contagious. The power that our service brings to bear on the enemy is uniquely ours. Let's keep it that way ... be an airpower advocate.

—This commentary was written by Lt. Col. Rick Matton 386th Expeditionary Operations Group deputy commander.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Epley

Professional boxer Felix Trinidad (left) and promoter Don King (right) sign autographs and take pictures with Airmen from Hurlburt Field, Fla. Mr. Trinidad, Mr. King and boxer Roy Jones Jr., visited Hurlburt Field as part of their tour of military installations to show support for military members.

## Boxing trio visits Hurlburt Field

By TECH. SGT. KELLY OGDEN  
1st Special Operations Wing Public Affairs

Boxing promoter Don King and two world champion boxers talked to Airmen and signed autographs during a meet-and-greet session Dec. 5 at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Five-time boxing world champion Felix Trinidad and eight-time boxing world champion Roy Jones Jr., on their "We Care" tour, stopped at the special operations base to boost morale and to promote their fight at Madison Square Garden in New York City scheduled for Jan. 19.

As part of their four-hour visit, the group toured units unique to the base and the Air Force.

"I am so happy to be here in this visit to the military bases," Mr. Trinidad said. "For me, it's a great experience, and I'm happy to do it."

First on the agenda was a trip to the 4th Special Operation Squadron, the largest of the nine flying squadrons within the 1st Special Operations Wing, where the group was given a detailed tour of the AC-130U Spooky Gunship.

Upon arrival, the group was greeted by more than 150 Airmen from the 1st Special Operations and Maintenance groups.

"I love my Airmen, and their morale, welfare and recognition has to always be at the forefront if you want to complete and win the mission," said Chief Master Sgt. James Wilkerson, the 1st Special Operations Maintenance Group superintendent. "Every day is great when operations and aircraft equipment maintenance personnel get to show off what they do for a living. The up-close and personal interaction with each of them was insanely incredible. From one-on-one time, to autographs, to team photos, the atmosphere was first class."

Next, the group was whisked away to the 1st Special Operations Equipment Maintenance Squadron's Fabrication Flight. Flight members used their special water jet cutting center equipment to showcase their talent by cutting out personalized boxing mementos for the fighters to sign.

"You are the greatest fighting men and women in the world, and freedom isn't free," Mr. King said. "You're willing to put your life on the line and put yourself in harm's way to protect the cherished democracies, liberties and freedom we enjoy. God bless you!"

The highlight of the tour was the meet-and-greet session with Airmen at the Commando Fitness Center, which drew 300 Airmen and six media outlets.

"Without you guys being out there doing what you do, we wouldn't have the freedom, the respect or the ability to give you guys the beautiful fight we are about to put on in January," Mr. Jones said.

The boxer and promoter trio left no souvenir unsigned. Each fan had no less than two items, all requiring each of the three celebrity signatures. With smiles on their faces, the celebrities

were willful participants in brightening the day of Hurlburt Field Airmen.

The tour culminated with a stop to the 720th Special Tactics Group Advanced Skills Training building where Senior Master Sgt. Mickey Wright, the AST superintendent and Tech. Sgt. Ruben Reyes, an AST instructor, showed the group numerous static displays with weapons, Humvees, all-terrain vehicles, tactical equipment and advanced skills Airmen.

Mr. Jones immediately jumped off the bus to commandeer a red combat controller beret and rocket launcher, while Mr. Trinidad grabbed an over-sized rifle and began play-firing at the crowd of spectators while

## Planning your holiday bowl viewing schedule

This year, there are 32 college football games on the bowl schedule, four more than last year. Since watching football competes with so many other holiday activities, it's nearly impossible to watch all of them. So viewers must pick and choose a handful of games to watch.

In an effort to help our readers make the difficult decision of which games to watch, we offer a few of what we think are the best matchups on the schedule. There are many great games, but we've narrowed it down to six "must see" bowl games.

**Poinsettia Bowl (Dec. 20)** — The Navy Midshipmen kick off the bowl season with a game against Mountain West Conference's Utah. Navy's defense was suspect this season, but it's offense lit up scoreboards. If you like scoring, you'll find a lot of it in this game.

**Las Vegas Bowl (Dec. 22)** — As a BYU grad, I'd be remiss if I didn't give a shout out for my alma mater. Biases aside, this game is a solid rematch of a regular season game. UCLA handed the Cougars one of two losses this season. BYU will certainly be out for a little payback.

**Independence Bowl (Dec. 30)** — What a turnaround for the Air Force Academy. Under a new head coach, Troy Calhoun, the Falcons notched a 9-3 record. They face off against a Colorado team. A win against a solid Big 12 team would be a big achievement.

**Sugar Bowl (Jan. 1)** — Despite going undefeated, Hawaii was never mentioned as a contender for the national championship. This game should prove whether the Warriors are for real or if their unbeaten record is a result of playing in a weak conference. They face local favorite Georgia, which started off slow, but finished strong.

**Fiesta Bowl (Jan. 2)** — Oklahoma is arguably the best team in the country, despite its two losses. West Virginia needed a victory over unranked Pittsburgh to play in the BCS title game. Both teams have something to prove, a recipe for a great gridiron battle.

**BCS Championship Game (Jan. 7)** — The top two teams in the country square off for the right for the national championship in the last college game of the season. Should be a great matchup. — *Kendahl Johnson*

the combat controllers watched.

"The greatest nation in the world is America, and don't you forget it," Mr. King said.

## 2007-08 BOWL SCHEDULE

DATE	BOWL	MATCHUP
Thurs, Dec. 20	Poinsettia	Utah vs. Navy
Fri, Dec. 21	New Orleans	Memphis vs. Florida Atlantic
Sat, Dec. 22	Papajohns.com	Southern Miss vs. Cincinnati
Sat, Dec. 22	New Mexico	Nevada vs. New Mexico
Sat, Dec. 22	Las Vegas	UCLA vs. BYU
Sun, Dec. 23	Hawaii	Boise State vs. East Carolina
Wed, Dec. 26	Motor City	Purdue vs. Central Michigan
Thurs, Dec. 27	Holiday	Arizona State vs. Texas
Fri, Dec. 28	Champs Sports	Boston College vs. Michigan St.
Fri, Dec. 28	Texas	TCU vs. Houston
Fri, Dec. 28	Emerald	Maryland vs. Oregon State
Sat, Dec. 29	Meineke Car Care	UConn vs. Wake Forest
Sat, Dec. 29	Liberty	UCF vs. Mississippi State
Sat, Dec. 29	Alamo	Penn State vs. Texas A&M
Sun, Dec. 30	Independence	Alabama vs. Colorado
Mon, Dec. 31	Armed Forces	California vs. Air Force
Mon, Dec. 31	Humanitarian	Georgia Tech vs. Fresno State
Mon, Dec. 31	Sun	South Florida vs. Oregon
Mon, Dec. 31	Music City	Kentucky vs. Florida State
Mon, Dec. 31	Insight	Indiana vs. Oklahoma State
Mon, Dec. 31	Chick-fil-A	Clemson vs. Auburn
Tues, Jan. 1	Outback	Wisconsin vs. Tennessee
Tues, Jan. 1	Cotton	Missouri vs. Arkansas
Tues, Jan. 1	Gator	Texas Tech vs. Virginia
Tues, Jan. 1	Capital One	Michigan vs. Florida
Tues, Jan. 1	Rose Bowl	Illinois vs. USC
Tues, Jan. 1	Sugar	Hawaii vs. Georgia
Wed, Jan. 2	Fiesta	Oklahoma vs. West Virginia
Thurs, Jan. 3	Orange	Virginia Tech vs. Kansas
Sat, Jan. 5	International	Rutgers vs. Ball State
Sun, Jan. 6	GMAC	Bowling Green vs. Tulsa
Mon, Jan. 7	BCS Championship	LSU vs. Ohio State

## Robins brings home 2007 Air Force General Council Award

Warner Robins Air Logistics  
Center Staff Office

Robins has won the Air Force General Council's Alternative Dispute Resolution Award for 2007. The award was presented to Robins by Mary Walker, General Council of the Air Force, at the ADR Worldwide Conference.

The citation read; "Robins Air Force Base distinguished itself as an activist leader in the Alternative Dispute Resolution program for Air Force Materiel Command from 1 Oct 06 – 30 Sep 07. With emphasis on "people first, mission always," Robins' customer-focused ADR process reduces workplace disruptions."

According to Marilyn Gantt, Robins Equal Employment Opportunity program manager, the Robins ADR program through continued partnership efforts with AFGE Local 987, has accomplished a steady decline in grievance and unfair labor practice numbers with an estimated cost savings for arbitrations of \$343,300 in fiscal 2007, and an estimated cost avoidance of approximately \$128,000 for informal and \$480,000 for formal EEO complaints.

The EEO team recorded significant results, achieving a 33 percent reduction in formal

EEO complaints and a 17 percent reduction in informal EEO complaints, and an 83 percent resolution rate. The Robins team members yielded an outstanding 40 percent decline in ULP in fiscal 2007.

"This success and the resulting teamwork, enables Robins to deliver and sustain high performing capabilities on time and on cost while placing emphasis on its people first," said Reggie Butts, chief of labor relations.

In January 2007, senior leadership revalidated their commitment to using ADR as the primary method to address workplace disputes when Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, Maj. Gen. Tom Owen; and American Federation of Government Employees Local 987 President, Tom Scott; participated in a signing ceremony focused on three pivotal agreements that have been instrumental in fostering an environment of cooperation between labor and management since May 2003.

The success of these agreements is demonstrated by the significant and steady decrease in the number of formal grievances and unfair practice charges filed in the years since ADR was initially introduced to the workforce. ADR is now

considered the norm for initial attempts to resolve work place disputes at Robins.

"There were 265 requests for mediation in fiscal 07 and of those 196 or 74 percent were successfully mediated or withdrawn," said Bob Zwitch, Robins ADR champion. "Cost avoidance in arbitrator's fees is estimated at approximately \$260,000 not including man

hours that would have been expended on case preparation and hearings."

At the awards presentation, General Owen noted that "the impressive dollar savings that this program has achieved are fantastic, but, it does not fully tell the story of the true benefits that the program brings to our workforce in working through issues."



Staff Sgts. Wali Williams and Edgar Torres, 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, replace an access panel on the C-130 wing that is used now for training.

“The training program is going to improve the quality of the maintenance, reduce customer defaults and reduce reworks.”

**DOUG WALL**  
Field Training Detachment instructor



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

Getting your hands dirty is exactly what the Field Training Detachment had in mind for its fuel tank repair course. The FTD program has been working to attain a C-130 wing on which instructors could demonstrate fuel systems repairs and allow the trainees to attempt repair procedures. “We wanted to be able to train them on what they actually work on,” said Doug Wall, an FTD instructor. “The training program is going to improve the quality of the maintenance, reduce customer defaults and reduce reworks.”

Their idea began shaping into a reality after realizing that a condemned wing of a C-130 Hercules could be converted into the perfect training tool.

For FTD, the availability of a hands-on-training tool would be just the boost the civilian mechanics at Robins needed to ensure they minimized the amount of field reported defaults and returned the aircraft back to the field as quickly as possible.

In the past, the detachment, which is a tenant unit here attached to the 373rd Training Squadron at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, used theory of operation training rather than hands-on training.

With the theory of operations training, the civilian maintainers would be guided through how the fuel system works and how to repair or modify it, but would not be given an opportunity to put the theory to the test. Now that the training program has the C-130 wing, they can critique students as they attempt repairs.

“With theory of operations training we show them how the system works and here’s what you are supposed to do, but we don’t have the opportunity to actually demonstrate or let them try to do it,” Mr. Wall said.

Scott Ary, a C-130 maintainer presently enrolled in the course, said another advantage to the hands-on training is that each maintainer who completes the training will be on the same page using the same techniques for repairs.

“Instead of just getting the infor-



Eric Bryant, aircraft mechanic, helps find a leak in a fuel tank from underneath the C-130 training wing. Bryant thinks the training would especially be good for new people coming in with no experience. “We’ll have less trouble down the road,” he said.



C-130 aircraft mechanics and an instructor work atop the wing to receive hands-on training during class Nov. 30.



Michael Gayon, a C-130 maintainer, does a seal repair inside of a fuel tank on the C-130 wing.

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

# ‘Winging it’

## 653rd CLSS helps FTD course gain ability to offer hands-on training

mation, we are going through the step-by-step process,” said Michael Gayon, a C-130 maintainer presently taking the course.

Mr. Gayon said by having the hands-on training available for maintainers like himself, they will be able to give the warfighter the assets they need to complete their mission.

However, without the assistance of the Aging Aircraft Consulting Incorporated and the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron their dream of hands-on instruction might still be in the planning phase.

“The cooperation and commitment they had to getting it out quickly was greatly appreciated,” Mr. Wall said.

The AACI was the program manager for the project, so the team helped locate the condemned wing at Warrior Air Base and brought members of the 653rd CLSS in to help complete the necessary modifications, so that it could be used by the training program.

“FTD needed the asset and we secured it for them,” said Steve Haynam, engineering specialist with the AACI. “If we hadn’t been able to find one here, we would have had to procure one and the cost of that

would have been astronomical.”

It took the group of workers from the 653rd CLSS only five business days to complete the modifications and turn the trainer over to the training program, which allowed the trainer to begin benefiting the depot immediately.

Members of the 653rd CLSS team who made the necessary modifications to the C-130 wing said they are just glad to be able to help the C-130 maintainers provide the best possible service to the warfighter.

“Here we have taken a condemned asset and turned it into a valuable asset for minimal costs and in record time,” Mr. Wall said.

The addition of the C-130 wing is a win-win for everyone involved. It allows the C-130 trainers to complete hands-on training in their career field, while allowing members of the 653rd CLSS to brush up on their skills and teach some of the less experienced Airmen some new skills in their own career field.

Capt. Chad Gross, acting commander of the 653rd CLSS, said he is just glad his Airmen had the opportunity to help ensure C-130s will be returned to the warfighter ready for the fight because of the enhanced



David Williams, aircraft mechanic, puts in a fuel quantity probe into a fuel tank on the C-130 wing.

training. “We are glad for our Airmen to be able to help out with this project and other projects around the base,” said Chief Master Sgt. Joe Hudson, 653rd CLSS squadron superintendent.





## ► IN BRIEF

### NEW COMMISSARY PARKING LOT TO OPEN MONDAY

The Commissary contractor will open the new parking lot and close the remainder of the existing parking lot Monday. The cable across Eleventh Street will be removed but vehicle operators will still be allowed to drop off patrons at the elevator. The number of parking spaces in close proximity to the Commissary entrance will be reduced considerably.

#### **There will be three routes to enter the new parking lot:**

- Eleventh Street will continue to have one-way traffic from Robins Parkway traveling east and will access the new parking lot at the south west corner.

- The south entrance off of Macon Street will remain as is with two-way traffic on Eleventh Street.

- The new main entrance/exit off of Macon Street will be opened to two way traffic.

#### **There will be two exits from the new parking lot:**

- Traffic will exit the south west corner of the lot and turn left (east) onto Eleventh Street after stopping at a stop sign.

- Traffic will exit the new main entrance/exit onto Macon Street.

### TAX CENTER

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Robins is looking for volunteers to serve as tax advisors at the base tax center. No prior tax preparation experience is necessary.

The IRS will provide certification training here Jan. 7-11. Each volunteer must be certified in order to prepare taxes. Volunteers should be

active-duty military, retirees and their dependents. Volunteers should commit to working at least two days a week if possible and not be slated for a TDY during the tax filing season which runs Jan. 21 through April 16.

All interested volunteers may contact Master Sgt. April Farmer at 327-4581 or via e-mail at [april.farmer@robins.af.mil](mailto:april.farmer@robins.af.mil).

#### **TROOPS TO TEACHERS**

Bill Kirkland, representa-

tive for the Troops to Teachers program, will be at the Robins Education Center Dec. 21 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 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 141, no reservations needed.

For more information, contact Andrea Harris at 327-7312, or Mr. Kirkland at [bill.kirkland@gapsc.com](mailto:bill.kirkland@gapsc.com).

# Hearts to Heroes: Motorcycle enthusiasts and charity work together for good of deployed troops

BY STAFF SGT. CHRIS HOLMES  
116th ACW/PA

With a little help from Robins Air Force Base troops, Southland's Full Throttle Magazine and Harley Davidson of Atlanta delivered thousands of pounds of items to Hearts to Heroes, Dec. 4.

Socks, calling cards and blank Christmas cards were just some of the items donated to the non-profit organization that mails goods to deployed troops.

"We did all we could to give them a taste of home for the holidays," said Randy Snyder, owner/editor of Full Throttle Magazine.

With so many toy drives in the metro Atlanta area the folks at Full Throttle decided to launch the Armed Forces Comfort and Joy Campaign.

"We have done Toys for Trots every year for our anniversary party," he said. "This year we decided to do one for the troops."

Hearts to Heroes has sent more than 1,000 boxes of donated goods to troops in the last four years.

"We've shipped 216 boxes since January," said Myra Foskey, a full-time volunteer.

The project started when a member of the 402nd Maintenance Wing deployed while Ms. Foskey worked in the administrative branch.



U.S. Air Force photo by SENIOR MASTER SGT. TOM MCKENZIE

Master Sgt. Michelle Rozier unloads packages collected by Harley Davidson of Atlanta and Southland's Full Throttle Magazine, Dec. 4. The packages were given to Hearts to Heroes, a non-profit organization that mails donations to deployed troops.

"We shipped some things to her and it has grown from there," she said. "We now ship to members from all of the services."

A big turn out for Full Throttle's sixth anniversary party resulted with a large amount of donations for the troops and kids.

"We had nearly 2,000 people show up to our party with toys for the kids and supplies for the troops," said Mr. Snyder. "We were able to help out two charitable campaigns in one drive."

Even though motorcycle clubs have an image that most

would not associate with charity, they are willing to help out when they can.

"Other than the rumble of their pipes, they do it very humbly and quietly in the background," he said.

Clubs around the country collect a total of almost \$2 billion a year.

"We raise \$2 million through our publication and the events we participate in alone," said the editor. "All you have to do is ask and they will step up to the table for us every time."

Not just the Harley riders jump in to help these cam-

paigns out when asked.

"This isn't just Full Throttle, Harley Davidson of Atlanta is one of our major sponsors," he said. "It's not just the Harley community, It's the sport bike guys, the chopper guys, and everybody that stepped up to help us out."

A regular columnist for the magazine, Walter Weasel who is actually a nine-year-old dog, had a message to the troops.

"Keep up the good sprits," said the canine with more than 1,500 miles riding bikes. "We never forget about you, and we know our priorities."

## WINGMEN WANTED

ASIST - 926-2821; 327-8480

EAP - 327-7683; 926-9516

AIRMAN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING - 335-5218; 335-5236; 335-5238

## Gate check



U.S. Air Force photo by CLAUDE LAZZARA

Col. Warren Berry, vice commander of the 78th Air Base Wing, mans the Robins Parkway gate, checking the IDs of those entering base Dec. 10.