

# THE ROBINS REV-UP

PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1954

January 25, 2008 Vol. 53 No. 3

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

## Leadership is big business in 402nd Maintenance Wing



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP  
Brig. Gen. Mark Atkinson, 402nd Maintenance Wing commander, sits down for an interview with the Robins Rev-Up Dec. 6, 2007.

Lt. Col. John Bryan, Team Robins Public Affairs director, recently sat down with Brig. Gen. Mark Atkinson, 402nd Maintenance Wing commander. Their discussion centered on the wing's priorities for 2008, and the direction it needed to go to get there.

**Q.** It's been an interesting first six months for you and the wing, since you took command June 15, 2007. With the Air Force Materiel Command LSET inspection in September 2007 and subsequent "marginal" rating, to the public commentaries in Local AFGC 987's paper, The Union Advocate, to tighter budget restraints for fiscal 2008 and beyond, where does the 402nd MXW go

from here?

**A.** This job is a dream come true for an aircraft maintainer and it most certainly has been an interesting first six plus months. But, it has been exciting and inspiring at the same time. Calendar year 2007 was a tremendous year for this wing in many ways. The LSET inspection results were not what we had worked for, but they highlighted many areas where we can now continue to focus our energy—particularly safety practices and the need for every individual to put workplace safety at the top of their personal agenda. Some of our key aircraft production numbers were outstanding—organic aircraft due date performance ended the year at 97 percent, and not mission capable hours

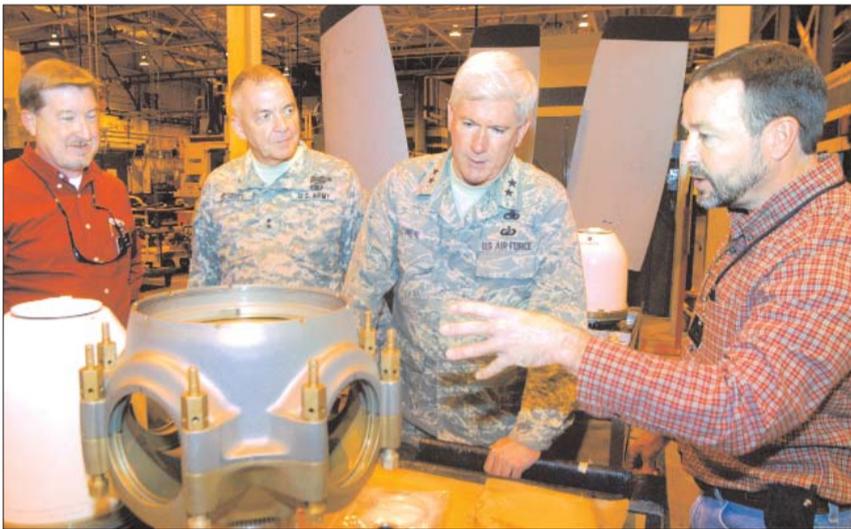
were down from 381,000 hours to 307,000. So, despite some of the bad press we actually had a good year in many ways. I'm proud to be a part of it all and to have the opportunity to work with such talented people.

**Q.** Now, you mentioned the LSET inspection, and I understand you're working hard at a re-inspection on certain areas for next month. What's different this time and why do you think the MXW will be ready?

**A.** The LSET team came in and validated concerns expressed by our local quality assurance

► see 402ND, 2A

## MOA grants Robins access to state-owned hangars



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP  
Tim Annis (left), 572nd Commodities Maintenance Group director, Maj. Gen. William Nesbitt, adjutant general, Georgia, and Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander listen to J. D. White, propeller flight director, 572nd Aircraft Component Squadron, talk about a prop barrel in the C-130 prop shop.

BY GEORGE JOZENS  
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Robins Air Force Base leadership and the state of Georgia entered into an agreement which provides more production space for the Warner Robins Air Logistic Center.

A memorandum of agreement between WR-ALC and the state, which

allows the Center to temporarily utilize state of Georgia owned facilities located at Robins for aircraft maintenance, repair and/or modification work, was signed Jan. 18 by Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, WR-ALC commander and Army Maj. Gen. William Nesbitt, state of Georgia adjutant general.

"We are so fortunate to have cemented this partnership today with

Governor Perdue, General Nesbitt and the state of Georgia," said General Owen. "We are all winners in this temporary sharing of these valuable hangars."

The facilities will be used by the depot maintenance when it is feasible based on Georgia Air National Guard mission requirements.

► see MOA, 2A

## Getting focused

Operational Readiness Inspection focus campaign kicks off with OPSEC guidelines

*Operational Readiness Inspection - It has been the buzz phrase at Robins Air Force Base for the past several months.*

*As the base heads toward the inspection, set to take place at Robins April 12-21, military and civilian Airmen alike are doing all they can to gear up for the test.*

*To help our readers better understand the inspection and how to ensure its success, the Robins Rev-Up will offer a series of articles in the next 12 weeks that tackle some of the most important issues of the inspection and provide guidance from subject matter experts on how people can 'raise their game' and come out on top in the end.*

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD  
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A scrap piece of paper with a home address, a recall roster with your co-worker's name and home phone number—these items may seem harmless, but if left in the hands of the enemy, they could be the pieces of information needed to create a disastrous situation.

Glen Haisten, Installation Operations Security Program manager in the 78th Air Base Wing's Plans and Programs Division, said OPSEC isn't merely a concern for people as they get ready for the Operational Readiness Inspection in April. It should be a priority every day, in every area of life.

"We all practice good OPSEC at home, probably better than we do at work at times," he said. "(For

instance), when we go on vacation and we stop our mail, or have a newspaper (delivery) stopped or have our lights come on with a timer, these are all things to fool any potential intruders into thinking someone is still there instead of advertising our absence."

While it's important to practice such methods at home, it's just as important at work.

Mr. Haisten said people should keep recycling bins and trashcans free of classified and other critical and sensitive information and don't leave such items lying on an unoccupied desk where they could easily be found.

"We try to encourage most organizations to adopt a shred policy," he said. "If you don't want it read, shred instead. That's a good ditty we try to

► see ORI, 2A

## General proud of efforts in ORI prep

The fantastic team here at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center just finished a challenging Operational Readiness Exercise that involved almost everyone across the Air Logistics Center. We exercised our ability to respond to Emergency Management scenarios, deploy, provide Wartime Materiel Support, and conduct operations while deployed. After observing many aspects of the exercise firsthand, I'm confident we can do very well for the Air Force Materiel Command Inspector General in the Operational Readiness Inspection in April.

My confidence is high because you performed the hardest parts of the exercise very well. The core function of what we do for a living is solid—that's the tough part. We also did a great job at the "pre-deployment fair" in catching discrepancies that would have been write-ups in the actual deployment line.

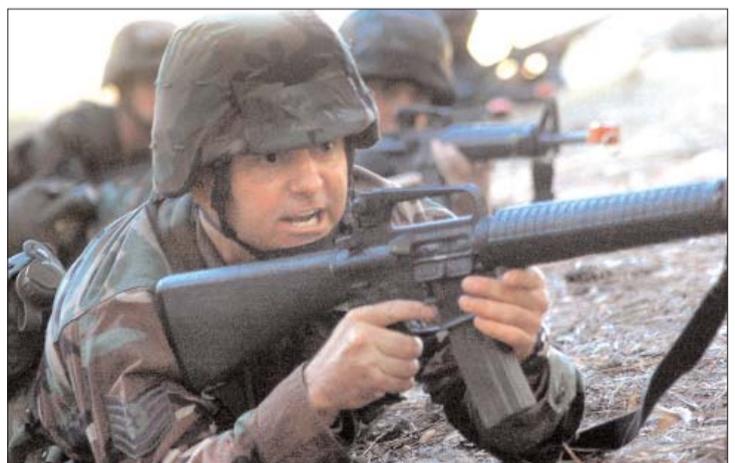
Dr. Steve Butler and I were justifiably proud of what we saw when we observed the 78th Air Base Wing deployment machine go

about its business during Phase I. The challenging Wartime Materiel Support scenarios were quickly taken to conclusion and were as professional as I've seen. Our emergency responders reacted to an exercise terrorist simulation with razor-sharp professionalism.

However, these successes are not enough because we didn't ace this last test when we easily could have. An ORI is a unique, all-encompassing, tough inspection that needs each and every one of us to pay close attention to our role on this team. For example, some individuals maintained discrepancies in the actual deployment line which had been identified in the pre-deployment fair we ran two days earlier. When we make it easy and give an individual a specific action to take, we really expect them to pitch in and help.

Let me pull this together. The flawless execution of a Wartime Materiel Support scenario for the inspector general (one of the many

► see CONFIDENCE, 6A



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP  
Tech. Sgt. Tim Brown participates in 78th Security Forces Squadron enemy engagement station training at Warrior Air Base Dec. 6. This training exercise was just a small part of the many preparations taking place through April to ensure Team Robins is ready for the Operational Readiness Inspection.

**THINK SAFETY**

**Alcohol Against Driving**

222-0013

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

Total rides given this year: **50**

Days without a DUI: **25**

Last DUI-78th SFS - courtesy 78th SFS Reports and Analysis Section

**THE TWO-MINUTE REV**

**Hannah Road closure**

Hannah Road will be closed from Richard Ray Blvd. to Seventh Street beginning Wednesday and ending Feb. 5. The purpose of the closure is to allow the safe pruning of the trees and bushes that extend over the roadside. If there are any questions or concerns in regards to this matter, contact Shirley Wilcox at 327-8910.

**Quarterly Awards**

Col. Warren Berry, 78th Air Base Wing commander, will host the 78th ABW 4th Quarter Awards Ceremony Feb. 4 at 9 a.m. in the Enlisted Club Ballroom. Outstanding civilian and military performers from the wing will be recognized. For more information, call Gayle Martin at 926-4940.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Losing a friend**

Robins loses military working dog to medical ailment while deployed, 8A

**IN THE NEWS**

**The Freedom Report**

Local TV station highlights Robins's successes with weekly newscast, 7A

**HERITAGE**

**Black History Month**

Robins to celebrate Black History Month with calendar of events, 3A

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FRIDAY 49/25

SATURDAY 57/32

SUNDAY 64/36

**MOA**

Continued from 1A

“This agreement is a win, win, win for Georgia, the U.S. Air Force and the community,” said General Nesbitt. “The gap in our programmed use of these excellent facilities affords the opportunity to increase capacity here at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center.”

The temporary use of the state owned facilities by WR-ALC will balance the priorities of the Air Force and the state while ensuring the availability of these facilities for future Georgia Air National Guard flying missions. The agreement identifies

support and responsibilities required by both entities during the temporary use of the state owned facilities. These items include building maintenance, security, upgrades and safety items.

The memorandum describes the basic uses of the state building. The more specific issues and concerns associated with facility requirements and specific areas for use by the Air Force will be addressed in implementation agreements.

The implementation agreements will describe which facilities, what maintenance, how many crew members will be working in the facility and what will be done to each specific aircraft. In addition the



U.S. Air Force photo

Air Force Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Commander, and Army Maj. Gen. William Nesbitt, State of Georgia Adjutant General sign the Memorandum of Agreement for Robins maintainers to use facilities owned by the State of Georgia.

agreements will define environmental and safety concerns. This agreement has no end-

ing date and can be terminated if a need arises by either organization.

**402nd**

Continued from 1A

program inspectors. When you read the report there is one common signal throughout; the need for individuals to take personal responsibility for wearing personal protective equipment and to follow prescribed safety practices. This wing has almost 8,000 hard-working patriots who come to work each day wanting to do their best for America and to support the war fighter. But there are many moving parts and sometimes the smallest details overlooked can be the most costly or dangerous.

I believe in our VPP, or Voluntary Protection Program—which ties directly to our overall safety efforts. In fact, we spend about a million dollars a year providing Personal Protective Equipment for our folks, because safety really is my biggest concern. Time and again the LSET emphasized many safety issues, so we're really putting some time and effort into it for the re-inspection and beyond. In the

end, I'm confident this wing will not only improve its overall rating, but continue to improve across the board in regards to our overall business practices. Ultimately, it's about competing in a tough marketplace.

**Q.** You've mentioned before the need to make changes in the wing—not just for the LSET re-inspection but to stay competitive. How have you done that?

**A.** Leadership is not always a popularity contest. I'm a chief operating officer if you will, of a \$1.4B “company” with more workers than many large corporations have. One of our biggest expenses every year is our labor budget. I'm encouraging folks to know the impact they have on our operations and put forth their best effort at being productive, showing up for work on time, and to understand the cost to the organization when our return on labor investment does not match our expenses. We recently estimated that in one area alone the cost of people showing up late for work exceeded \$18K every 15 min-

utes. That's real money we spent but got nothing in return. Every year, we start out with about \$10M in workman's compensation expenses because folks got hurt on the job—and it makes us 27 out of 40 large centers in the Department of Defense in regards to lost workdays—we don't want to be on the list at all.

I've challenged people to look outside their comfort zones, and to earn their paychecks everyday! I have also asked for inputs from our teams, and from the local union as well. After all, I don't have the copyright on ‘good ideas’. So when a good recommendation does come along, I fight diligently to make it happen.

**Q.** Let's talk about being competitive. Specifically, how does WR-ALC and the wing stack up to the competition and what must we do to be the best?

**A.** I've always said we want to be “the provider of choice”, which means more workload coming to Robins and certainly more great paying jobs for Middle Ga. But, it's a competitive world out there and we

must continue to put cost control measures in place—lower our labor costs, stay within our overtime budget and put real scrutiny on our contracts. We have to operate just like any business on the outside of the Robins ALC fence operates and we must compete favorably in the marketplace. We have to demonstrate we are the best provider in terms of safety, efficiency, cost and quality support for the warfighter. We're changing some of the ways we've done business in the past.

**Q.** Do you have any closing comments?

**A.** I'm truly amazed at the hard-working professionals I see around this wing everyday. And, I want people to have great careers, enjoy their time serving our country, love coming to work at this ALC everyday, and leave at the end of the day knowing they made a difference by their efforts today. With all of us working together, the maintenance wing will become the manufacturing, maintenance, repair and overhaul provider of choice for our warfighters.



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP



**ORI**

Continued from 1A

get across to people, and it's easy to remember.”

Mr. Haisten said people should ensure the information they're openly working on isn't on the installation or unit critical information list. Some of these items may include plans, projects, itinerary of special visitors and organizational charts. Such items should be kept out of view.

“We're not trying to make things inconvenient, but we're trying to protect each other in our own private lives by not revealing things no one needs to know,” he said.

Mr. Haisten said OPSEC affects work done electronically also. Computers should be locked when a person is away and Common Access Cards should be secured with the person when the person's away from the computer even for a moment.

E-mails with critical information in them should always be encrypted and e-mail messages containing Privacy Act type information should be labeled as such in the subject line with a message warning the potential reader before the actual e-mail message body, Mr. Haisten said.

Mr. Haisten said people can check Air Force Instruction 33-332 for more information on the Air Force's rules with Privacy Act materials.

Along with ensuring work spaces are scrubbed, Mr. Haisten said people need to always know who is in the workplace.

Mr. Haisten said if visitors are expected, everyone in the office should be made aware so they can protect information accordingly.

“You need to be aware of people that walk into your office,” he said. “It's also professional to ask someone you don't know if you could help them, direct them in the right area, and ensure they have a valid reason to even be there.”

When a visitor is in one's office, that person shouldn't be left alone, Mr. Haisten said.

These are just a few of the points Keri Paul, a security manager in the 78th Security Forces Squadron who will soon take over as the Installation OPSEC Program manager, hopes to keep in the forefront of people's minds.

Mrs. Paul, who worked in security forces at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., before coming to Robins in December, said everyone is responsible for OPSEC.

Ensuring OPSEC is an around-the-clock venture, Mrs. Paul said.

People shouldn't discuss job-related items with anyone outside of work, because you never know who is listening and piecing together the bigger picture, Mrs. Paul said.

“Look how long it took for the planning of 9/11,” she said. “It didn't take two weeks of people planning. ‘Hey, let's do this.’ It could take 10 years. People could be outside this base now trying to listen in to what people are saying so they can (say) ‘okay, now we can achieve this goal,’ and hurt our installation somehow.”

**Airman's Manual Test**

1. All Air Force personnel must keep their personal affairs in order at all times. Toward that end, which of the following are areas that Air Force members should address before deploying?
  - a. Obtain a myPay Personal Identification Number.
  - b. Settle any Government Travel Card bills.
  - c. Review legal documents, such as wills and powers of attorney, and keep them up-to-date.
  - d. All of the above.
2. The document that lets you designate someone else to perform one or more legal acts on your behalf for a set period of time is known as a:
  - a. Living Will.
  - b. Power of Attorney.
  - c. Legal Declaration Document.
  - d. Life Insurance Policy.
3. The three types of Powers of Attorney are:
  - a. General, Special, and

- Health Care.
  - b. Special, Health Care, and Major.
  - c. General, Major, and Special.
  - d. General, Special, and Limited.
4. Which of the following are types of mobility bags that can be issued to deploying members?
  - a. A-Bag, General Support, containing basic items such as helmet, web belt, body armor, sleeping bag, canteen kit, mess kit, and other support items.
  - b. B-Bag, Cold Weather, containing basic items such as parka, gloves, boots, socks, and other cold weather items.
  - c. C-Bag, Chemical Defense, containing chemical warfare defense ensembles, protective mask, mask filters, gloves, hoods, boots, detection papers, and other chemical defense items.
  - d. All of the above.

**Answers:**  
 1. ANSWER: D (Reference Page 2 / Section 1 / Staying Ready)  
 2. ANSWER: B (Reference Page 3 / Section 1 / Staying Ready)  
 3. ANSWER: A (Reference Page 3 / Section 1 / Staying Ready)  
 4. ANSWER: D (Reference Page 5 / Section 1 / Staying Ready)

# Robins' 2008 Black History Month activities set to educate, celebrate and bring people together

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD  
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The 2008 Black History Month Observance Committee has planned a host of activities to teach people of all races about the contributions black Americans have made to American society over the years.

The committee, comprised of about 25 military and civilian employees from Robins Air Force Base, will lead the base community in celebrating black heritage with events throughout

the month of February.

David Salone, director of the 402nd Maintenance Support Squadron who is this year's Black History Month Observance Committee chairman, said the observance, which is themed "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multi-culturalism, is a way to bring people together.

"The purpose (of this observance) in 2008 is to educate the community as a whole about the contributions of black Americans in the development of America," he said.

Mr. Salone said the calendar of events has something for just about everyone to enjoy.

"It's about inclusion," he said. "When you start talking about history and the contributions of African-Americans, we really want to educate and include everyone to learn more about those contributions, and so with that, there's no better way than to commune with all races with respect to fundraisers and different events and activities that will bring us closer together."

The month will include a

health fair, a walk/run, and suicide awareness program at the Base Gym on Feb. 1. A group of musicians called, "The Five Men on a Stool," from Atlanta, will perform on base Feb. 1. The observance will also include a luncheon with guest speaker, Maj. Gen. Gary McCoy, on Feb. 21.

These are just a few of the events planned for the observance.

Mr. Salone said he encourages everyone to get involved in activities of interest in the observance.

## 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron team helps out with C-5 Galaxy wheel, brakes upgrade at Edwards AFB

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

Members of the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron teamed up with others from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., and Lackland Air Force Base, Texas in an effort to stop brake fires and other related problems in the C-5 Galaxy aircraft.

The C-5 Wheel Brake System Improvement project, which involved a 14-person team, was a seven-month project that was about four years in the making.

It all started in May 2003 when Hill Air Force Base, Utah, who overhauls the wheels, brakes and landing gear of the C-5, called for a new wheel and brake design to make the plane safer for its crew.

Laurence Gressett, a mechanical engineer in the 730th Air Combat Sustainment Group who has just recently made a permanent change of station to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, served as the lead project engineer.

Mr. Gressett said the project would save the Air Force millions.

"We spent \$12 million a year on landing gear wheels and \$2.5 million on nose landing gear wheels, so that's \$14.5 million a year and it lasts one year," he said. "This current one is going to last 10 years. So, we're going to spend \$14.5 million for 10 years instead of spending \$145 million the next 10 years. That's \$130 million in savings every 10 years."

Mr. Gressett said the project's peripheral effects could end up saving the Air Force even more money in the end.

To make the project feasible, the Air Force Reserve Headquarters allowed Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., to provide a C-5 aircraft for the project.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Towe, an aircraft electrical environmental craftsman in the 653rd CLSS, who was the team chief for the project, said Hill first approached the C-5 System Program Office on the project, and that's when he and his members were called in.

"We flew out to Edwards Air Force Base the first of May of 2007," he said. "We, in conjunction with the engineers at Edwards and (the) modification team, started to modify the aircraft. They added sensors, removed all of the wheels and brakes, and the aft axles off the aircraft. The new parts that we installed were instrumentated (so) the engineers could read temperature and measure the stress the aircraft was going through."

Sergeant Towe said this part

of the project took about three months.

After the modification was completed, the team started tow testing on the plane to see how much stress the landing gear could take, Sergeant Towe said.

The team then started baseline testing on the original wheels and brakes for about a month and half. After this line of testing, the team removed the legacy wheels and brakes and installed the WBSI wheel and brakes and put the aircraft through the battery of tests again to compare the old and new wheel and brakes for signs of improvement.

Sergeant Towe said the project went very well.

"I think it was very successful," he said. "The amount of money that the new wheels and brakes will save, I think it's well worth the work we did and it was very interesting work."

The success didn't come without its challenges though.

Sergeant Towe said the weather slowed the project a bit.

"We had a few cancellations from weather because we were limited by the amount of wind during an actual test," he said. "(On) a couple of days, the heat (affected us). We broke a record for heat one day."

Tech. Sgt. Ronald Bolden, a hydraulics mechanic in the 653rd CLSS who helped plan the project, said keeping the plane in tact was a hefty chore.

"The normal day-to-day maintenance of keeping the aircraft maintenance ready (was a challenge)," he said. "With the C-5, you're going to have little



courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Steven Markowski, Staff Sgt. John Rosier, Staff Sgt. Curren Smith, 653rd CLSS prepare to tow a C-5.

things that are going to go wrong. You've got the modifications of testing that's going on, but also you have just trying to keep the aircraft itself working."

Sergeant Bolden said on average, the team had to make about 240 tire changes. With each weighing in at about 300 pounds, the endeavor took a team effort.

With each configuration, brakes and tires had to be changed. There were 24 changes for each configuration, Sergeant Bolden said.

Parts availability for the project was low since support needed for the on-going war on terrorism took priority. But, Sergeant Towe said their partnering bases came through for them.

Good coordination among Robins, Hill, Edwards, and contractors such as B.F Goodrich out of Troy, Ohio, and General Atomics based in Utah, helped make the project run smoother,

Sergeant Towe said.

The team chief said he also gives great credit to the bases that provided support.

"We couldn't have done this project without the support from Travis and Lackland Air Force bases," he said. "They definitely helped out a lot with the people and some of the equipment they sent for us."

While most of the team members stayed a few months before rotating out, two members were on board from start to finish, Sergeant Towe said.

"Two of us stayed the whole time, (me) and Tech. Sgt. Amos Salisbury, the lead crew chief for the trip," he said.

Sergeant Towe said no matter their stay, all were dedicated to the mission at hand.

Sergeant Towe said the Air Force hasn't yet determined when it will implement the new wheels and brakes on the C-5.

4A ■ The Robins Rev-Up ■ January 25, 2008

**FRIDAY**

An indoor soccer tournament is slated for Saturday starting at 10 a.m. Register at the fitness center by noon today. No late entries will be accepted. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

**SATURDAY**

Dance the night away on Latin night today from 9 p.m. to close. Enjoy DJ Lucho with the best Latin and Salsa music in Middle Georgia. Cost is free to members and \$5 for guest. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-2670.

**SUNDAY**

Watch "Royal Rumble" today in the enlisted lounge, located in Bldg. 956. The action begins at 8 p.m. Cost is free for members and \$5 for nonmembers. For more information call the enlisted lounge at 926-2670.

The officers' club will be closed until Jan. 31 for kitchen hood and duct renovation. Please utilize the Pizza Depot, On Spot Café or Enlisted Lounge during this time. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

**MONDAY**

Family Bingo will be today with door prizes and snacks. Membership Bar Bingo will be held on Jan. 16 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. 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.

**TUESDAY**

Free tacos and draft specials are available to club members on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Robins Enlisted Club. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-2670.

**WEDNESDAY**

A children's art show will be held today from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Child Development Center East and West. For more information call the Child Development Center East and West at 926-3080 or 926-5805.

Enjoy M.U. G. night at the enlisted club every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to closing. Customers may bring their own mug and get refill (up to 20 ounces) for only \$2.00. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-2670.

**THURSDAY**

Every Thursday night is Karaoke night with DJ Rockmaster "DM" from 8 p.m. to closing. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-7625.

**UPCOMING**

The Black History Month 5K Run/Walk will be held Feb. 1 at 11 a.m. The run/walk will begin in front of the Health and Wellness Center. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

A Give Parents a Break and Hourly Care will be held Feb. 2 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.

A First Friday "Love is in the Air" will be held at your enlisted and officers' club from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Feb. 1. First Friday means great food, chances to win cash and prizes, entertainment and drink specials. Members must be present to win. Cost is members free and nonmembers \$5. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-2670.

Texas Hold 'Em will be held Feb. 2 and will return to Sundays starting Feb. 10. Sign ups will be taken at 1:30 p.m. and games begin at 2 p.m. Prizes include the following: First place \$85 gift card, second place \$55 gift card, third place \$35 gift card and fourth place \$25 gift card. The entertainment fee is \$10 for club members and \$15 for nonmembers and includes snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. Texas Hold 'Em is open to all ranks and grades. For more information call the enlisted club, located in Bldg. 956, at 926-7625.

A Super Bowl extravaganza will be held Feb. 3. Enjoy free food, prizes, beverage specials and live gridiron action. Cost is free to members and \$5 for nonmembers. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-2670.

A "Be my Valentine" bingo will be held Feb. 14 with door prizes, snacks and more money games. No bingo will be held

## The art of stained glass

U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Cathie Wood scores a piece of glass while Joy Vermilyea, stained glass class instructor, and Betty Hardy look on at the Arts and Crafts Center Jan. 18. Classes at the Arts and Crafts Center are open to the entire Robins community. For more information call 926-5282.



on Presidents' Day Feb. 18. A Membership bar bingo will be held on Feb. 20.

A Sweetheart Valentine's dinner special for two will be held Feb. 14 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Gourmet entree includes filet of beef tenderloin stuffed with crab meat topped with a homemade burgundy wine sauce accompanied with a panache of vegetables and duchess potatoes. Cost is \$65 per member couple and \$70 for nonmember couple. Open to all ranks and grades but reservations are recommended. Guests may also order from the menu. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

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. 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.

The fitness center and the health and wellness center will hold a Healthy Heart Walk starting at 11 a.m. on the outside track Feb. 21. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

Letters of intent for six-a-side soccer are due Feb. 25 at the fitness center. A coaches meeting will be held in the golf course conference room on Feb. 29 at 1 p.m. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

Casino Night will be held Feb. 29 at 6 p.m. at the Robins Officers' Club and is open to all ranks and grades. Cost is \$20 per person for club members and \$23 per person for nonmembers. Tickets will be sold at the door and includes: \$300 in play chips, hors d'oeuvres, entertainment and prize auction. Featured games include craps, blackjack, roulette and Texas Hold 'Em. Volunteer training classes will be held Feb. 24 at noon or Feb. 27 at 5:30 p.m. For information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

A Gourmet Night will be held March 21 in the Georgia Room at the Officers' Club. An exquisite five-course menu paired with hand-picked wines from around the world. Menu is created by Chef Douglas Goodridge. Cost is \$56.95 for club members and \$59.95 for nonmembers and tickets will go on sale March 3 at the officers' club cashier's office. Tickets will be available to the first 60 club members. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

For more information on the following community center events and activities call 926-2105.

► A Mystery Theater/Dinner "The Wedding Mystery" will be featured at the community center ballroom on Feb. 23 starting at 6:30 p.m. Cost \$23 per club member and \$25 for guests that include theater and dinner. Menu includes house salad, turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, tea, water and choice of chocolate, lemon or pecan pie. Meet the cast at 5:30 p.m. in the enlisted lounge. Purchase tickets in advance at the officers' club or community center starting Feb. 1. Tickets will not be sold at the door. For more information contact the community center at 926-2105.

► Win your sweetheart a special prize by guessing the right amount of candy in the sweetheart jar. The contest will be held Feb. 4 - 13 at the community center. One guess per person. Entries will be reviewed on Feb. 14 at 2 p.m.

► A single elimination pool tournament is slated for Feb 12 starting at 5 p.m. in the community center. Prize will be awarded for first place winner and certificates for

runners up. Register by Feb. 11.

► Learn exciting new classes starting Feb. 12 in the community center. Salsa will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and belly dancing from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 12, cost \$40 per class; swing dancing will be held on Feb. 13 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; cost \$40 and piano classes starting Feb. 14 at 7 p.m., cost \$65. If you are also interested in ballroom dancing, please sign up at the community center. A minimum of ten students are needed for this class.

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

► Join outdoor recreation on a horseback riding trip to Rancho Loma Linda in Cochran, Ga. March 22. Meet at outdoor recreation at 8:30 a.m. with a departure of 9 a.m. Cost is \$90 per person. Package includes travel, two-hour guided horseback ride and lunch. Age requirement is 10 years and older. Long pants and closed toed shoes are required. Deadline to sign up is March 6. A minimum of 10 people is required for outdoor recreation to host the trip.

► Outdoor Adventure invites you to a walking/running Volkssport March 8 at the Silver Comet Trail located in Atlanta, Ga. This paved trail accommodates hikers and strollers. Cost is \$35 per person and includes transportation and entry fee. Bus will depart outdoor recreation at 8:30 a.m. and return at 3 p.m. Please sign up by Feb. 29. A minimum of 6 people is required to sign up for the trip.

► A bike trip is slated for May 3 at Red Top Mountain located in Atlanta, Ga. Cost is \$25 per person and includes transportation, guide and water. Arrive at outdoor recreation at 8:30 a.m. and depart at 9 a.m. Must have 10 people to make trip. Registration deadline is April 5.

A new menu created by Chef Douglas Goodridge and his culinary team will debut at the officers' club in February 2008. If you would like to provide input prior to its creation, please go to the Services Web site at [www.robinservices.com](http://www.robinservices.com) and click on the ICE icon and select the officers' club. In the comment section, please type your input. You may also visit the officers' or enlisted club to complete a customer comment form or email the club manager at [aaron.feinberg@robins.af.mil](mailto:aaron.feinberg@robins.af.mil).

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

► Scroll saw Feb. 12 and 26 from 6 to 8 p.m., cost \$12

► Sewing Feb. 8, 15, 22 and 29 from noon to 2 p.m., cost \$15

► Watercolor painting Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 10 a.m. to noon or 1 to 3 p.m., cost \$12

► Valentine pail Feb. 12 from noon to 1 p.m., cost \$12

► Cherish scrapbook Feb. 26 from 5 to 7 p.m., cost \$15

► Lathe class (woodshop) Feb. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m., cost \$45 for 4 weeks

► Wood shop safety classes are held Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Auto shop safety and orientation classes are held every Wednesday at 6 p.m. and every Saturday at 11 a.m. free of charge. Registration is not required.

► Do-it-yourself framing is available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Do-it-yourself framing, during the evening and Saturdays, is by appointment only.

Advance registration and payment is required for all classes. Classes are subject to change without notice. All classes are open to active duty, reserve and retired military and family members and DOD civilians.

**ONGOING**

Robins Youth Center has the following activities available. To learn more call 926-2110

► Robins Youth Center will be conducting baseball, softball and T-ball for ages 5 to

17 years old Feb. 15 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is \$55. Registration is conducted Monday through Friday 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until full. Also, start smart T-ball for children three - four years old will also be held on Feb. 15 for \$45.

► Robins Youth Center soccer registration for ages 5 to 17 years old will be held Monday through Friday 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until full. Cost for returning players \$30. Any new players cost is \$55. Also, start smart soccer for children 3 to 4 years old will be held Monday through Friday 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until full for \$25 for returning players and \$35 for new players.

► Come to the youth center Feb. 4 and we will make you a member free for the month. Continue to come and receive a surprise on Feb. 29. Youth center hours of operation are Mondays from 1:30 to 7 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays from 3 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.

► The FOX Theatre presents, "The Lion King" April 5 for \$68.50 and April 26 for \$71.00 at 2 p.m. A limited number of tickets are available.

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

► A USBC Youth City tournament is slated for Feb. 2 and 3. Open bowling will be available at 4 p.m.

► A special Valentine's Thunder Alley will be held Feb. 15. Pay regular price and your date is half price.

► Every Monday - Friday in January bowl for \$1 a game from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

► A 2008 Warner Robins Bowling Association All Star tournament will be held Feb. 10. Bowl at Robins Lanes and Gold Cup on Russell Parkway and qualify for the All Star team.

► A 9-pin no-top tournament will be held Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. All games are scratch. Entry fee is \$15.

The bowling center will be open Feb. 18 from 1 - 7 p.m. during Presidents' Day. Wear red, white and blue and bowl for \$1.50 per game. Get a strike with a red head pin and receive that game free.

► On Spot Café February special is a BBQ sandwich, fries and medium drink for \$4.45. For more information call the On Spot Cafe at 926-5240.

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

► Sign up now for the 3-club championship on Jan. 26 starting at 9 a.m. Cost is \$30 for AGF patrons and \$35 for non-AGF patrons and includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes with lunch to follow.

► Every Monday through Thursday in January pay only \$17 for green fee and cart starting at 2 p.m. For more information call the golf course at 926-4103.

► Now is the time to book a tournament in February and receive a special rate of \$17. Price includes golf, cart and range balls. Lunch can be provided for \$5. For dates and times call the Pine Oaks Golf Course at 926-4103.

► Purchase a meal at the Fairways Grille Feb. 12 (Lincoln's Birthday) using a \$5 bill for payment and receive an entry form to win a movie package and purchase a meal Feb. 22 (Washington's Birthday) using a \$1 bill for payment and also receive an entry form to win a movie package. For more information call the golf course at 926-4103.

► A two-person dogfight is scheduled for Feb. 23 with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. The event package includes golf cart, range balls, lunch and prizes. Cost is \$25 per person AGFP and \$30 for guests. Sign up by Feb. 21 at the Pine Oaks pro shop or call 926-4103.

**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**

**ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS**

Jason Lee, Cameron Richardson

Songwriter Dave Seville transforms singing chipmunks Alvin, Simon and Theodore into pop sensations--while the out-of-control trio lays waste to Dave's home, wreaks havoc with his career, and turns Dave's once-ordery life upside-down. Rated PG.

**SATURDAY**

**CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR**

Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts

Based on the true story of how Charlie Wilson, an alcoholic womanizer and Texas congressman, persuaded the CIA to train and arm resistance fighters in Afghanistan to fend off the Soviet Union. With the help of rogue CIA agent, Gust Avrakotos, the two men supplied money, training and a team of military experts that turned the ill-equipped Afghan freedom-fighters into a force that brought the Red Army to a stalemate and set the stage for conflicts in the Middle East that still rage to this day. Rated R.

**UPCOMING**

**P. S. I LOVE YOU**

Hilary Swank, Gerard Butler

A grieving young widow discovers that her late husband has left her a list of tasks revealed in 10 messages, delivered anonymously, intended to ease her out of grief and transition her to a new life. Rated PG-13.

## CHAPEL SERVICES

**Catholic**

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

**Islamic**

Islamic Friday Prayer (Jum'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](mailto:lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil). Submissions run for two weeks.

"I encourage each of you to set personal goals that will take care of your mind, body and your family so you are ready to defend our great nation today and in the future. Additionally, each organization should set goals focused on accomplishing their specific missions with excellence and taking care of their people. To accomplish the Air Force Mission, General Moseley and I need every unit and individual to continue to develop, maintain and sustain the Warfighter Edge so you are prepared to fight alongside our Joint brothers and sisters anytime, anywhere."  
 — Michael Wynne, Secretary of the Air Force

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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

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

## ADVERTISING

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

## CLASSIFIEDS

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

## ONLINE

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

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# Confidence in our team's performance

Continued from 1A

tough parts involving complex coordination among several organizations) has little value if the IG finds complete "For Official Use Only" documentation in a recycling bin in a hallway.

We know what the IG will say about our team in their report if we successfully confront and detain one "inspector" posing as a terrorist, but others ignore procedures designed to protect the base from further attacks when Force Protection Condition Delta was exercised.

The fact is that we are all members of this team, and we will not succeed if others (incorrectly) decide what they do is not important and don't properly execute their duties.

At this point, I challenge you to take personal ownership for every part of the preparation that you touch.



Maj. Gen. Tom Owen  
 WR-ALC commander

Every commander, director, supervisor and employee needs to personally recognize that they have both a professional responsibility and a personal responsibility to prepare for our ORI in April. Feb. 11 is the kickoff date for our next major ORE.

With April just around the corner, this exercise should be closer to a final dress-rehearsal than a routine practice. I

need everyone to join in the effort to ensure complete success on the "easy" parts of preparing for and executing the inspection. This includes not allowing unknown individuals to freely operate in your work area without challenging them, getting involved and personally taking checklist actions to implement the appropriate Force Protection measures, and making sure you properly dispose of any documents with personal or FOUO information.

Preparation for an exercise has three distinct aspects. First and foremost is the real capability to perform the mission. We know our business! You know that, I know that, and with our record-setting production and materiel support, those who depend on us know it.

Second, you need to understand inspectors are human beings presenting a

simulated problem and they expect certain responses in a certain fashion. We have been practicing our inspection performance and have made improvements, but I think this area is perhaps where we are the weakest right now and needs more focus and attention to detail by all involved.

Finally, with the right emphasis on preparation, we will develop confidence in our ability to perform both our real mission and solve those problems presented by the inspection team. With a focused preparation, I believe we will all take pride both as a team and as individuals when we demonstrate our skills to the headquarters AFMC inspection team from April 12-21.

—This commentary was written by Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander.



Col. Warren Berry  
 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 [actionline@robins.af.mil](mailto:actionline@robins.af.mil). Readers can also visit <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response.

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.

## Mold in the basement of Bldg. 301

Please tell me what it is going to take to get the mold removed from the West Wing Basement of Bldg 301. I understand there is a Saber contract which has been awarded, but it is going on three months since this trouble with the black mold started. Four out of every five people have been sick with some kind of respiratory ailment since late summer.

## Colonel Berry's Response:

SABER recently completed a small project in the west wing basement of Bldg. 301 which includes removing a small amount of mold. The original contract requirement was to repair water damaged finishes and seal duct penetrations to prevent water infiltrating into one room and a communications room. (The area was unoccupied due to the water infiltration). When the damaged vinyl wall covering was removed, some small areas of mold were discovered. At that point, the scope of the project was adjusted to remove the mold, and to provide finishes which would be less likely to promote mold growth (paint instead of wall covering, floor tile instead of carpet). Note the office area will now be used as a library. Also, the 78th Communications Squadron sealed the ducts to preclude future infiltration into the communications room. Rains since the project was completed have not produced additional water damage. Finally, Bioenvironmental assessed the office/library area since the project was completed and reported no potential health issues.

If other areas of mold exist or there are additional concerns, please report them to your building manager who can then forward them to CE for further resolution.

## Face to face with the work force



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Col. Warren Berry, who recently took command of the 78th Air Base Wing, shares his goals and expectations with Robins workers during his first commander's call Jan. 22.

The new commander emphasized that everyone is an Airman and a valuable member of the team. He discussed the importance of the wing's mission in providing world-class support to all Robins's missions.

The colonel encouraged members of Team Robins to "increase velocity" or "raise their game" by following through on assignments and giving 100 percent.

Colonel Berry told audiences what they can expect from him: a commander who will work his tail off on behalf of the wing and the Air Force.

# Loyalty is integral to everything we do

To whom do you give your loyalty? What is loyalty and how does it affect you and our Air Force?

As I began to contemplate the concept of loyalty, I realized how integral loyalty is to everything we do as Airmen. Loyalty is a multi-faceted virtue that flows both up and down the chain of command as well as laterally among our peers. It has the capability to hold units together in spite of the harshest conditions, including combat. Loyalty is an essential part of who we are and how we react to adversity.

Loyalty really means putting something or someone above your own self-interest. Loyalty embodies putting "Service Before Self."

Each of us took an oath to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic. This is the beginning of our understanding of loyalty as members of the U.S. Armed Forces. We owe the leaders of our nation and those appointed over us our loyalty. By putting the needs of our nation and our service above our own needs we live up to the highest ideals set forth by the founders of our nation as well as all of those heroes who have served before us.

However, loyalty does not only extend to high ideals and to officials placed in authority over us. Loyalty also extends to those we lead, our subordinates. Each time we put the personal and professional needs of those who work for us ahead of our own self-interest, we strengthen our team, our unit and our Air Force.

During our tenure in the Air Force, each of us will have the opportunity to lead others. Whether the number of Airmen we lead is 10 or 10,000, it does not make a difference to the loyalty we must demonstrate to them on a daily basis. We must care for those we lead more than we care for ourselves. The

needs of subordinates always outweigh the wants of a good leader and even outweigh the needs of a great leader.

Finally, loyalty must be directed to those around us who may not be in our chain of command. Those who work with us must trust us and the way trust is developed is through continuing demonstrations of loyalty to one another. Peer-to-peer loyalty is what the Air Force concept of a wingman is all about. We must take care of each other because there may come a time in combat where each other is all we have.

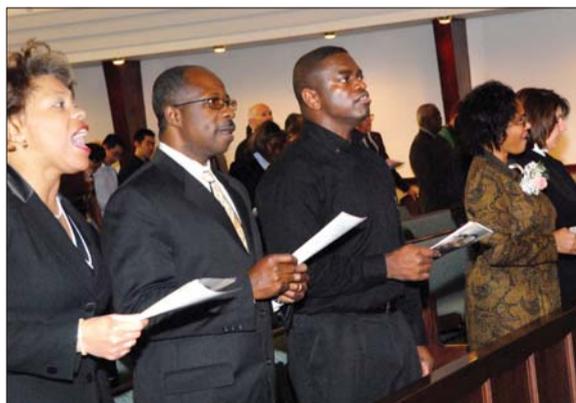
Loyalty is a powerful virtue, but it can easily be twisted. Above all, loyalty means doing the right thing for those around us and for our service. If you find yourself protecting someone out of "loy-

alty" who has done something wrong, you have misplaced your loyalty and put your need for acceptance above the needs of our service. Loyalty ought not to be given lightly or without serious thought.

Loyalty is the glue that binds us together as Airmen. It is enormously powerful and has the potential to make good organizations great. Each of us must conscientiously give our loyalty in all three dimensions. By carefully managing where our loyalties lie, we can ensure that we maintain a personal and professional balance while strengthening the organization to which we belong and helping all the people with whom we work.

—This commentary was written by Lt. Col. Don Fuller, 8th Operations Support Squadron commander.

## Remember, celebrate, act!



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

Members of the base community sing hymns at the Martin Luther King Commemorative Worship Service, Jan. 20 at the Base Chapel.

# WPGA TV station tells Air Force story through weekly broadcast called The Freedom Report

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

Television station WPGA, also known as ABC Macon to its Middle Georgia viewers, is telling the Air Force story through a weekly newscast it calls "The Freedom Report."

The weekly report, which broadcasts on Channel 58 during the station's normal newscast each Monday at 7 and 11 p.m., began in early December 2007.

Dick Byrd, WPGA news director, said the report is the best way for the station to bring Georgia's largest employer to light.

"Robins Air Force Base is the largest employer in the state of Georgia," he said. "It's very important to the economy of Middle Georgia. A whole lot of our viewers work there or are somehow economically involved with the base being there, and we thought it should be an integral part of our newscast."

The news segment focuses on the different aspects of the bigger Air Force mission at Robins and tells the service's story through the words of military and civilian Airmen alike.

Mr. Byrd said the report will attempt to translate the acronym-based lingo used at the state's largest industrial complex and show the base's community involvement in the coming months.

Claire Simms, a WPGA reporter who brings the reports to viewers, said she has learned a lot about the base in the short time she has done the report.

"It's only been on the air for probably two months and I've already learned a great deal," she said. "I'm just very excited to be working with the Team Robins community."

Mr. Byrd said he hopes his TV station will be able to make past Freedom Reports available on its Web site in the near future.

The Freedom Report isn't just a means of news for WPGA. It's a way public affairs specialists like George Jozens, who works with local and media from around the nation every day to tell the Air Force story through Robins'



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Above, Col. Carl Block, 5th Combat Communications Group commander, explains an exercise scenario to George Jozens, 78th Air Base Wing public affairs media specialist, Claire Simms, WPGA reporter and Alan Lincoln, WPGA videographer.

At right, members of the 5th Combat Communications Group scramble into action during an exercise Jan. 18. The exercise was featured on WPGA's The Freedom Report Jan. 21.



point of view, can get the Air Force story told.

"The Freedom Report is one of the many ways the public affairs office gets the messages of what Robins does out to the public," he said. "It's my job as a media specialist working in the Media Division to make sure that we put out all the good, the bad and the ugly stories that may come out of the base. Most of them are good, and that's what the Freedom Report is concentrating on."

Mr. Jozens was quick to point out that he's merely on scene to facilitate interviews between the station and those who are subject matter experts, the military and civilian employees who serve the mission day-to-day.

Col. Carl Block, 5th Combat Communications Group commander, whose unit was recently highlighted on the Freedom

Report, said the news report does a good job of putting the mission's unsung heroes in the spotlight.

"I think this series shows the local community is keenly interested in the military in Georgia," he said. "They're taking an in depth look beyond the aircraft to understand and learn about the professionals who enable the Air Force mission but do not fly."

Mr. Jozens said WPGA isn't the only station who has considered on-going news segments like this.

"Some of the other TV stations have had the idea of having a weekly report," he said. "It's something that if we offer it to one, we're going to offer it to all of them. So, if somebody else has an idea of something they want to do on a weekly basis, we'll work with those as well."

## ► IN BRIEF

### TAP WORKSHOP

A three-day Department of Labor sponsored Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshop will be held Feb. 5-7, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., each day, in Bldg. 794. Personnel leaving the military within the next 12 months need to sign up as soon as possible. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Workshop topics include: job search skills, resume and cover letters, interviewing skills, career planning, veterans benefits, disabled veterans issues and more.

Reservations are first-come, first-served within the appropriate separation or retirement dates. If you register for a session and find you cannot attend, contact the center to cancel your reservation — there is a waiting list. For more information, or to make a reservation, call 926-1256.

### FINANCIAL BEGINNINGS

The A&FRC is offering a Financial Beginnings Workshop for Officers, Feb. 7, 9-11, Bldg. 794.

Information on credit management, debt reduction and consumer rights will be presented at this workshop. Assistance will be provided in the development of spending and savings plans so that financial goals may be realized.

For more information, or to make a reservation, call 926-1256.

# Deployed Military Working Dog dies from medical condition

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

Senior Airman John Spearing, a military working dog handler in the 78th Security Forces Squadron, set out on his first deployment with Rexo, a 7-year-old German shepherd explosives detection and patrol military working dog in November 2007.

Although the 23-year-old Pueblo, Colo., native knew the value of the dog's work, his true appreciation for his K-9 partner and friend was realized inside the walls of the Balad Air Base hospital where his faithful companion died on Dec. 6, during surgery to break up a kidney stone in his bladder.

A few short days earlier, as Airman Spearing was taking Rexo out for a break, he noticed the dog was expelling blood as he urinated. Airman Spearing took Rexo to the base's veterinarian staff that performed a series of medical tests to diagnose and treat the problem.

After trying different methods to help Rexo pass the stone, finally a urologist performed surgery to break up the stone. It was a surgery that proved too much for the canine.

"(On) the day of the surgery, he was fine," Airman Spearing said. "They put him under and about an hour into the surgery, there were complications. First, he stopped breathing."

Airman Spearing said Rexo's heart began to give out during the surgery, so the veterinarian and other assisting surgeons began giving chest compressions on the dog, while Airman Spearing fed his partner oxygen.

Moments later, Rexo's body gave out. It was more than Airman Spearing could take.

"Oh, I didn't move," he said. "At first, I thought he was breathing real slow, so at first, I didn't think anything else.

When it took about 20 minutes to resuscitate him, it really hit me."

Airman Spearing said losing Rexo was like losing a family member.

"He becomes like a part of your family," he said. "Rexo was a pretty happy dog. Even on your worst day, he could make you smile."

Airman Spearing said he spent a lot of his free time hanging out with his best friend.

"In Balad, especially when you're attached to the Army, that dog stays with you," he said. "He'd sleep in the same room with me. He would just jump up on the bed, hang out, and watch TV. I'd take him for breaks and walks."

The handler's bond with Rexo was strong.

"You'd see him almost every single day for seven months," he said. "Even on the weekends, you go in and check on him. Probably the longest I've been away from him was for four days when I went on a cruise. That was the only thing I was thinking about was going back and taking him out of his kennel."

Airman Spearing wasn't the only one bonded to Rexo though.

Senior Airman Shawn Kaup, a military working dog handler in the 78th SFS who worked with Rexo for a year and a half, and deployed for about six months with the dog, also held Rexo in high esteem.

"Rexo was a very laid back, loving, very compassionate military working dog," he said. "He always wanted to be around his handler. He was very loyal to his handler. He was very obedient and very deserving of the name 'military working dog.'"

When the solitude of their deployments left Airman Kaup feeling lonely, the father of two knew he had one he could count on.

"As dog handlers, when we



Senior Airman Shawn Kaup and military working dog, Rexo, inspect a vehicle at a check point in Baghdad. courtesy photo

deploy, we're not joined with other people or other squads," he said. "We're there by ourselves. When I was deployed to Iraq, it was just him and me. He was kind of not necessarily my partner, but he was like my son in a way. He was always there. He always gave me someone to talk to. If I was down, he could lift my spirit just by (our) playing together, wrestling around, licking my face. He was a very compassionate, very lovable, very loyal dog."

Rexo, who had been with the 78th SFS since May 2003, impressed people with his on-the-job skills also.

From performing explosive detection sweeps at area schools to securing areas where the President of the United States would visit, Airman Kaup said the military

working dog was always on his game professionally.

Rexo earned numerous awards during his military career.

Members of the 78th SFS said they lost a valuable part of their work family that December day.

Tech. Sgt. David Barber, kennel master in the 78th SFS, said the loss has left many in the squadron in dismay.

"It's just kind of a shock to lose a dog that young," he said. "(With) the older dogs, you have time to prepare for it. But, with Rexo, we looked forward to working with him for many years to come, but then he was gone."

The squadron will hold a memorial service in honor of Rexo in the future.

## ► IN BRIEF

### LIVE FIRE TRAINING CONDUCTED

The 78th Security Forces Squadron conducts live fire training at the base firing range, located on the northeast side of the base, adjacent to the horse stables.

The firing range is off limits to all personnel, unless scheduled for training or official business. Nearby housing residents should warn children of the hazards of playing near the area. The ranges are clearly marked with signs, and a red flag is flown when firing is being conducted. Night-fire is conducted throughout the year. For questions or concerns, call the 78th SFS Combat Arms section at 926-5031

### ROSC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD APPLICATIONS ARE READY

Applications for graduating high school seniors can be picked up at any local high school counselor's office, or by contacting Amy Noel at 337-257-0757 or AmyBNoel@gmail.com.

All applicants must be:
 

- Dependents/spouses of retired, deceased or active-duty military member currently stationed at Robins (from any rank or branch, including Reserves and National Guard), or be a dependent/spouse of an eligible retired, deceased, or current DOD employee of RAFB (GS-9 and above).

In the case of both retired/deceased military or DOD sponsors, the sponsor's last tour of duty must be Robins, and the applicant must have remained in the Robins area.

► in the upper 10 percent

of their class, or have a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale, and must have demonstrated scholarship, leadership and outstanding performance.

The deadline for post-marking all applications is March 16.

### CHPS CLASSES

The following classes are being offered by the Civilian Health Promotion Services:

Cholesterol and hypertension, Feb. 13; Nutrition, March 12; Healthy heart, March 26; Arthritis and carpal tunnel, April 9; Allergies, May 14; Healthy heart, May 28; Skin cancer, June 11; The essentials of back care, July 9; Healthy heart, July 23; Headaches, Aug. 13.

All classes are free and take place at 1 p.m. in the Fitness Center Annex conference room. To register for a class, call 327-8030 or 327-8031. Registration is not mandatory but appreciated.

### NATIONAL PRAYER LUNCHEON

The annual National Prayer Luncheon will be held Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Museum of Aviation Century of Flight Hangar. Guest speaker for the event will be Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Cecil Richardson, Air Force Deputy Chief of Chaplains. Admission is \$3. Tickets may be purchased through the Base Chapel.

### CORRECTION

The Jan. 18 Robins Rev-Up incorrectly identified the motto for the 19th Air Refueling Group. The 19 ARG's official motto is "In Alis Vincimus (On Wings We Conquer)." It was approved Oct. 19, 1936. The 19th ARG's rallying cry is "Black Knights -- Out Front!"

### LEGAL NOTICE

Any person having any claim against the estate of Airman 1st Class Beau D. Browning should immediately contact Capt. Cameron Richardson at 201-4724.