

Center commander sends Memorial Day message

"Freedom isn't free." Everyone is familiar with these words. Especially in traditionally patriotic regions of our country like Middle Georgia, this is a well-known, often-used phrase. It's one of those "author unknown" sayings that remains alive through the years due to common belief and frequent usage. Ease of remembrance and the simplicity of its truth give the words strength and staying power.

This holiday weekend — particularly Monday — is an appropriate time to revisit what I believe to be the real meaning of "freedom isn't free."



Maj. Gen. Tom Owen
WR-ALC
commander

Memorial Day is a day set aside for all Americans to honor our fellow countrymen who gave their lives serving our nation. We take this time to salute their dedication to duty because they made the ultimate sacrifice for our way of life. With their very lives, they paid the true price for our privilege of living free.

Since the "shot heard 'round the world" started the Revolutionary War and marked our birth as a nation, generations of brave Americans have answered our nation's call to arms.

They know the dreadful risks, yet to this very day, even as we battle a shadowy foe in the global war on terrorism, they still report to duty. They come to work every day to selflessly serve others. I am forever in awe of these true patriots. Indeed, we are indebted as a nation to all who serve; but our greatest debt is to those who have fallen in battle.

We recognize our war dead on Memorial Day in many ways. We praise them in ceremony with speeches, parades and presentations. We fly our flag and show our respect with moments of silence. We decorate their resting places with flags and flowers in cemeteries across the land and around the globe. Here at Robins Air Force Base, we conduct our very own,

special Camellia Garden Memorial Service that recognizes not only our war heroes, but all those civil servants and military who served with us here at Robins to support our Nation's needs.

Such humble commemorations are but a small measure of our enduring gratitude. The important thing is that we remember. In honoring the memory of those who went before us, we give sacred meaning to their sacrifice. In remembering their service, we bolster our obligation to continue the fight to preserve the precious freedom they fought and died to ensure.

As we live in a time of war, the memory of lives lost and injuries received in the fight is all-too-fresh for many of us. Our thoughts and prayers

continue to be with our deployed warriors and their families. More than ever, we are thankful for their noble service. That our bravest men and women are in harm's way is a constant reminder that the cost of freedom is, unfortunately, never fully paid.

Mary Beth and I ask every member of the Robins team to join us this Memorial Day in remembering the courage and commitment of those who died in service to our country throughout our rich history. We also urge everyone to keep safety in mind at all times during your holiday activities and throughout the summer ahead.

My sincere thanks to each of you for all that you do for our base, our U.S. Air Force and our nation.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Robins Elementary will be open for 2008-09 school year

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
holybirchfield@robins.af.mil

Department of Defense school officials said Robins Elementary School will remain at the base despite rumors circulating about the school's eminent closure.

School principal Bill Rose said closure rumors, which first surfaced during the 2007-08 school year, are simply not true.

Mr. Rose said they dealt with the false rumors last year as well.

Despite meetings between school officials and base housing residents to quell rumors, false information still persists, Mr. Rose said.

"I don't know if it is starting again because (on-base) housing is being demolished across the street from the school, but we are going to be open next year," he said.

Mr. Rose said the school recently sent a flyer home with students to assure parents of the school's fate for the upcoming school year and more information is forthcoming.

The school will be open all summer for parents to register their children. Hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. The school will welcome 140 new and returning students to a new academic year on Aug. 8.

Gail LaFramboise, director of accountability and public relations for the Georgia/Alabama district for DOD schools, said the school will remain a source of solid education for military members' children.

"Plans are underway at this moment and will continue on through the summer with teachers preparing for a really exciting school year," she said. "There will be lots of exciting things happening at Robins next year. Everybody is really looking forward to a great year."



Bill Rose
Robins Elementary
principal

Dr. Dell McMullen, superintendent of DOD schools in the Georgia/Alabama district, said the school has exciting happenings on its horizon.

"We're looking forward to being open in August," she said. "We will provide a top quality education for Robins children with a full array of school services."

Those services will include art, music, physical education, technology and a host of other educational disciplines.

Dr. McMullen said the school's staff is fully equipped for the 2008-09 school year.

"There's an exceptional staff at Robins that is 100 percent dedicated to serving military children," she said.



U.S. Air Force photo by RAYMOND CRAYTON
Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Young (left), 53rd Combat Communications Squadron, and Chief Master Sgt. Mark Henderson, 78th Security Forces, along with dozens of Airmen, salute the flag at the Robins NCO Academy's inactivation ceremony May 20.

Robins bids farewell to NCOA

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
holybirchfield@robins.af.mil

The Robins NCO Academy's long history came to a close May 20, with the graduation of its last class, Class 08-4, and inactivation of the school.

The historical event unfolded at the Robins Heritage Club. Col. Thomas Klinkar, commander of the College for Enlisted Professional Military Education at Maxwell-Gunter Air

Force Base, Ala., presided over the inactivation ceremony.

Colonel Klinkar said the NCOA's closure lined up with the Air Force's plan for its NCO academies.

"We've already closed the academy at Barksdale (La.)," he said. "We've closed the academy at McGuire (N.J.), and tonight, we're closing the academy at Robins. Next week, we will be closing the academy at Goodfellow in Texas."

He said in 2009, he anticipates closing the academy at Kirtland AFB, N.M., and the academy at Keesler AFB, Miss., was just added to the list.

The NCOA's final festivities included a closing ceremony for the school's final class and the final retreat at the school's drill pad, among other activities observed throughout the day.

► see RNCOA, 5A



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
Robins Elementary teacher Sandy Jones helps kindergarten student Omarre Freeman in the computer lab May 14.

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN HEROES



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
Tech. Sgt. Chris DeRousse and Chief Master Sgt. Ricky Patterson, 116th Air Control Wing, attaches a flag to a flagpole at Andersonville National Cemetery. These two and others from the Robins Riders motorcycle club rode to Andersonville to place flags in honor of Memorial Day. For full story, see Page 2A.

THINK SAFETY

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Last DUI: 19th MXS
— courtesy 78th Security Forces

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222-0013, 335-5218,
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THE TWO-MINUTEREV

MISSION COMPLETE CEREMONY

The 19th Air Refueling Group will celebrate the closing of another chapter in a proud 80-plus year heritage. Everyone is invited to attend the group's Robins Mission Complete Ceremony Wednesday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the KC-135 mass parking area.

QUARTERLY AWARDS CEREMONY

The Team Robins first quarter awards ceremony will be May 30 at 2 p.m. in the Base Theater. Everyone is invited to come out and support your organization's nominees.

ENERGY

Robins aims to save energy over 3-day weekend

Base leadership asks Robins workers to unplug electronics over Memorial Day holiday, 3A

SAFETY

101 Critical Days of Summer campaign kicks off

Officials give boating safety tips, 4B

WEATHER

FRIDAY 83/67

SATURDAY 85/58

SUNDAY 84/57

Robins Riders pays tribute to fallen comrades

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

Few of us envision men and women choking back tears when we picture a group of motorcyclist cruising down the highway with a police escort.

But on May 16, members of the Robins Riders, the base motorcycle group, could be found choking back tears as they participated in their annual Memorial Day ride.

"You start getting teary eyed a little bit. It gets pretty emotional," said Jeff Pickett, an F-15 mechanic with the 561st Aircraft Maintenance Support Squadron.

The men and women donning motorcycle jackets and Harley Davidson t-shirts were bonded not only by their love of bikes but by their apprecia-

tion of those willing to sacrifice everything for our country.

The ride began on Ga. Highway 247 and ended about 55 miles later at the Andersonville National Historic Site. The riders came together to honor the men and women who have given their lives in the name of America's freedom.

"Let us be reminded freedom is not free and that it comes with a cost," prayed John Marlin moments before the 67 riders made their way into the cemetery to post more than 200 American flags.

Later Mr. Marlin told us he knows the cost of freedom all too well after losing many of his fellow soldiers during the Vietnam War.

Gerry Allen, an Andersonville park ranger, told

the riders about the 88 American patriots who had been laid to rest at the site this year. Some of those who were buried this year served the country during World War II, others died fighting the war on terrorism in Iraq and others were spouses of troops joining their soul mates. Those who came to rest at Andersonville served as members of all the uniformed services some died in service and others died years later but wanted to be laid to rest with their brother and sisters in arms.

"These grounds are sacred grounds. When you see the avenue of the flags, it takes your breath away especially on a holiday like Memorial Day," Mr. Allen said.

The riders all agree being a part of the ride is a tangible

reminder of the many lives that have been lost in the name of freedom.

"These guys gave their lives for us and I think it is very important we honor them," said Donn Johnson, ride organizer.

"I knew people that are buried here. It is something a little special we can do for them and their families," said Michael Johnson, a base contractor with First Support Services.

Lt. Col. Jeff Menges, director of operations for the 330th Combat Training School at the 116th Air Control Wing, participated in the ride for the first time. He said it was an overwhelming experience to walk these grounds and watch the flags rise up.

"It's emotional. It's fantastic. It gives you that lump in your throat," Colonel Menges said.

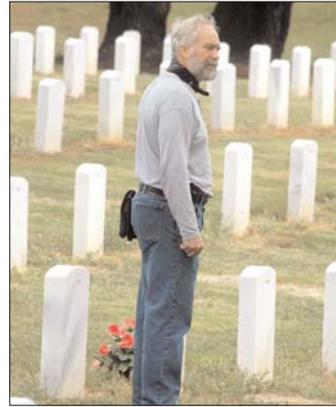
Bruce West, who served as the lead rider, agreed one of the most impressive things about the ride is the work the riders do posting the flags.

"It means a lot to me to see what it looks like here before we get here and what it looks like when we leave," Mr. West said. "It makes me realize freedom is not free."

He said the diversity among the group's riders is astounding, but more astounding is how the group is unified by the simple gesture of respect for the sacrifices of all those who have given their lives or lost their loved ones in the name of freedom.

Mr. West said he learned how important the American flag is to the men and women in uniform during his stint in the Navy.

"It's part of home to see our



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Scott McGuffin, Electronic Combat Support, pauses for a few moments in the cemetery as he visits the grave of his father who was in the Air Force and served in Vietnam.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Members of the Robins Riders motorcycle club travel down Ga. Hwy. 247 on the way to Andersonville National Historic Site to post flags there for the Memorial Day holidays.

flag. I went all over the world when I was in the Navy and I know what it means to see our flag," he added.

Tech Sgt. Lark Williams, a first-time rider, said she was surprised by the magnitude of the project.

"It was overwhelming. I didn't know it was going to be this many flags," Sergeant Williams said. "There is a bigger picture here and I am just glad I can contribute because this is part of a much bigger celebration."

The importance of the posting of the flags to the site's many Memorial Day observances motivates many of the riders to come back year after year.

"No matter what, this ride will go down," Mr. Johnson said. "Our efforts to make

these flags go up will happen because these flags are critical to the Memorial Day observations that go on here."

The park rangers at Andersonville said they wouldn't be able to post the flags without volunteers like the Robins Motorcycle group.

"If it wasn't for groups like this, we wouldn't be able to do special projects like this. For that we are truly grateful," said Kim Humber, Andersonville lead park ranger.

Along with posting the American flags on the Avenue of the Flags in the Andersonville National Cemetery, the riders also post state flags representing each of the 50 states in the union outside of the Andersonville National Prisoner of War Museum.



How do you plan to spend the Memorial Day holiday?



Bob Dalton
78th Medical Group

I'm going to be getting the message out to make sure all the troops are informed on how to enjoy a safe holiday and get back with no DUIs, drug abuse, underage drinking or accidents.



James Ford
Retired Air Force

I'll be getting ready for a two-month trip in our motor home. We're going to Wisconsin, Washington State, Minnesota, Michigan and Tennessee. We're going to see family.



Kim Coultas
78th Services

I'm going to spend my Memorial Day at the beach, probably Tybee. I'm looking forward to it.



Malik Gordon
402nd EXMG

I plan to reflect on those who have served and died for our country and on my own 8 years of service in the U.S. Army. And of course everybody's going to eat.



Penny Roland
Defense Logistics Agency

I'm going to spend it at my house with friends and family having a cookout and just enjoying the day.

Robins workers asked to take steps to conserve energy over Memorial holiday

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

A holiday weekend means less traffic in many of our offices, and less traffic should mean a dramatic decrease in energy consumption.

However, Robins' energy usage history tells a different story.

Energy use during a typical holiday weekend such as Memorial Day or Thanksgiving Day only drops to about 80 percent of a typical workday. This leaves many to ask the question, how much energy does Robins waste when nobody is home?

For most of us the answer is surprising.

"Our energy consumption for the long Thanksgiving holiday in 2007 was only 20 percent less than an average workday the same month. Could it be 40 percent less? 50 percent less? The truth is we just don't know 'how low we can go?' That is the driving factor behind our focus on the Memorial Day holiday," said Randall Evans, 78th Air Base Wing change manager.



Air Force illustration by HARRY PAIGE

There are more than 500 sets of microwaves and coffee pots in Bldgs. 300 and 301 alone.

Each coffee pot costs \$10 a year to operate and each microwave costs \$12 a year, which means in Bldgs. 300 and 301 more than \$11,000 are spent running these two small appliances.

Now imagine how much money and energy could be saved just by unplugging the small appliances for the approximately 6,736 hours per year that we are away including 10 federal holidays, daily off time and weekends.

"If you aren't working, consumption is a total waste of energy," said Dave Bury, pollution prevention program manager in the Environmental Management Division.

So as Team Robins prepares to celebrate Memorial Day weekend, senior leadership is asking each team member to pull a plug and flip a switch before they race to the parking lot to begin their holiday.

Commander Kill A Watt wants Team Robins, "To turn it off if they are off."

"No one leaves the house on a holiday and doesn't check to make sure the lights are off and their air conditioning is turned down," Mr. Evans said.

He said Team Robins members should take a stroll around the office and unplug or turn off anything they can before they leave -- not just the things in their cubicle, but things shared in their office such as copiers, printers and TVs.

ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

- ▶ Turn off lights when not in use
- ▶ Turn off computer monitor
- ▶ Unplug electronic chargers when not in use
- ▶ Turn off printers, copiers, and fax machines
- ▶ Unplug coffee pots and microwaves
- ▶ Unplug TV's and DVD's
- ▶ Unplug plasma screens and radios
- ▶ Unplug space heaters and fans
- ▶ Consolidate refrigerators
- ▶ Turn off lights when exiting bathrooms

"Holidays offer us an extended period of time to conserve energy and reduce costs," said Judah Bradley, 778th Civil Engineer Squadron project manager.

Base personnel are asked to implement energy savings practices into their daily routine, simple things such as turning off lights, unplugging personal electronics and chargers, unplugging small appliances, and turning off computer monitors.

Mr. Bury suggested plugging everything into an electrical power strip.

"Make it easy to power down nonessential equipment so all you have to do when you leave your workspace is hit the button or unplug one cord," Mr. Bury said.

Mr. Evans said to take time to evaluate what areas can be powered down each evening,

each time you leave your cubicle and during longer breaks such as weekends or holidays because different situations provide different opportunities to save energy.

"There may be some things that we don't want to turn off overnight, but could turn off for a long weekend such as test equipment, copiers, fax machines and printers," Mr. Evans said.

Every time you leave your cubicle it's important to think energy conservation, not just when you are leaving for the day or the weekend, Mr. Bury added.

"It all counts," he said.

Along with encouraging members of Team Robins to take responsibility for their own workspace, workers are being asked to encourage their coworkers to also take action against wasted energy too.

"Focus on energy reduction and be a good wingman by reminding fellow employees to 'turn it off,'" Mr. Evans said.

Mr. Bradley encouraged base employees to take the initiative to locate energy hogs in and around their office and make an effort to reduce or eliminate them when possible.

"If you don't have control of the equipment, find out who does and ask them to turn it off," he added.

Commander Kill A Watt will serve as a reminder to base personnel that with a little effort, we can get a grip on the base's energy costs.

"There is no doubt that with everyone at Team Robins engaged, we are poised for a very successful energy conservation effort," Mr. Evans said.

2007 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND ENERGY USE

	May 26 - 777510 KW hours
	May 27 - 762201 KW hours
	May 28 - 770301 KW hours
	Average Wednesday in May
880837 KWh	



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

JoAnne Tillman

HOMETOWN:
Macon, Ga.

FAMILY:
Married for 19 years and has two children and three step children.

BACKGROUND:
Mrs. Tillman has been teaching kindergarten at Robins Elementary School since 1972. She will retire June 1, and plans to spend lots of time with her new granddaughter, who will be born in July.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT TEACHING?
"The best part about teaching is the children. They're just very excited about learning and each day is a new day with them. Their excitement for learning makes me excited."

HOBBIES:
Gardening and reading

78th Services — Memorial Day hours

OPEN:

Bowling Center, noon to 7 p.m.
Fitness Center, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Flightline Kitchen
Golf Course, normal hours
Heritage Club Pool, open
May 24-26 from noon to 7 p.m.
Horizons Pool, open May 24-26
from noon to 7 p.m.
Honor Guard/Mortuary Affairs/
Readiness, normal hours
Lodging, normal hours
Wynn Dining Facility, normal hours

CLOSED:

Aero Club, administration & sales
Arts & Crafts Center
Auto Skills Center, closed May 28
Base Library
Base Restaurant (all snack bars
will close at 1 p.m. May 23)
CDC East & West
Community Center
Equipment Rental Center
Outdoor Recreation
Family Child Care
Fitness Center Annex

Flightline Dining Facility (fast food)

Food Service office
Heritage Club, also closed May 25
Horizons, also closed May 25
Human Resource office
Information, Tickets and Travel
Marketing
Pizza Depot, closed May 26-27
Resource Management office
Skeet Range
Team Center
US Veterinarian Services
Wood Hobby Shop
Youth Center

Museum's summer programs begin June 2

This year's STARBASE Robins summer academies, which are based on engineering, rockets and robots, are set to start June 2.

STARBASE Robotics I Academy is June 2-3. The academy will allow students to understand the basics of robotics to include gears, sensors and motors.

This academy will also include a robot rodeo and the participants will be building an award winning OWI robotics kit to take home. The cost of the academy is \$100 per student, which includes their personally built robot.

STARBASE Rocket Science Academy takes place June 5-6. Students will learn the history of rocket science and rocket building and build and launch their own rockets.

"This academy will allow students to combine hands on science, technology and fun," said Wesley Fondal, STARBASE Robins director.

The cost is \$75 per student, which includes a personally built rocket.

STARBASE Robotics II Academy runs June 30 through July 3. Students will design, build and program robots using the Lego NXT robotics sets.

"Student teams will use their imagination to program

their robot to solve challenging problems," Mr. Fondal said.

The academy will end with a robotics competition. The cost is \$200 per student, which includes an academy t-shirt.

STARBASE Engineering and Manufacturing Academy is also June 30 through July 3. Students will use ProDesktop software to design a flashlight on the computer, then print it out using a Dimension 3D printer. Students will also be able to experiment with the software to create their own designs. The cost is \$125 per student, which includes their created flashlight.

All programs are open to students entering sixth, seventh and eighth grades and will take place in the Century of Flight hangar located at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins. Space is limited.

For more information visit the STARBASE Web site at www.starbaserobins.org or contact Martha Lockhart at 926-1769. — *News report*



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
Students test robots at last year's STARBASE robotics academy

RCNOA
Continued from 1A

Former commandants and staff members joined current staff members to mark the occasion, one that Chief Master Sgt. Roy Lapioli, the school's most recent commandant, said came with mixed emotion.

"We're done," he said. "It's bittersweet. I'm humbled, sad. I'm proud of what we've done and who we are, and I'm excited about the future."

Chief Master Sgt. Carol Dockery, Robins's Command Chief Master Sergeant, said the RNCOA has done a great job of investing in future NCO leaders.

"Robins NCOA has been a vital continuum of professional development, preparing enlisted Airmen for positions of greater responsibility since the Air Force Logistics Command transferred the school house to Robins in the early 1970s," she said.

Chief Dockery said the RNCOA staff's leadership is reflected in the academy's graduates.

"Over the years, instructors on staff have successfully produced proud professionals skilled in critical thinking and servant leadership," she said. "While the academy inactivation is a significant loss to Team Robins, the rich tradition of developing enlisted leaders lives on in the thousands of warfighting Airmen who have entered to learn and departed to lead."

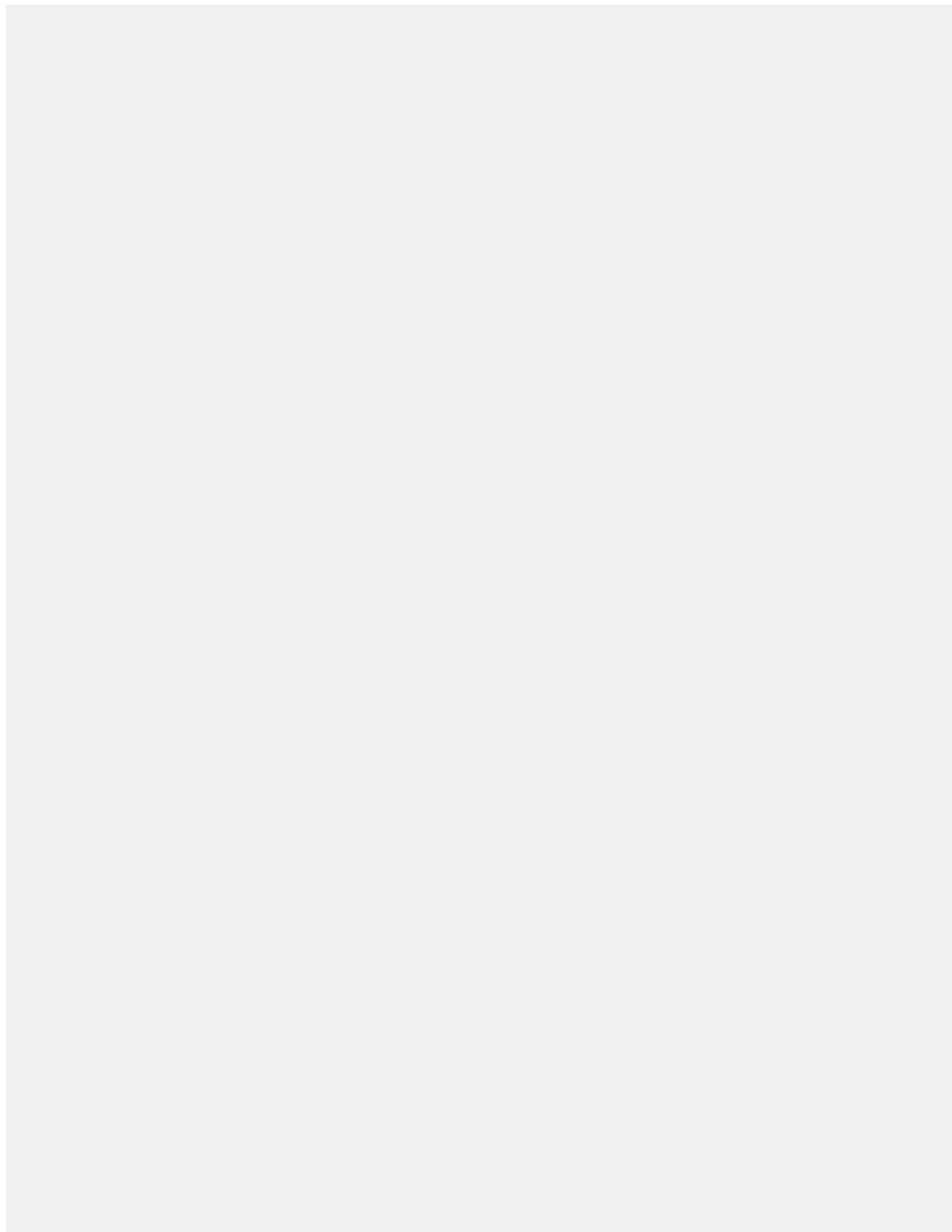


U.S. Air Force photos by RAY CRAYTON

ABOVE: Students of the NCO Academy participate in the final retreat ceremony. RIGHT: Chief Master Sgt. Roy Lapioli (right), the last commandant of the Robins NCO Academy, holds the flag that flew over the campus during the inactivation ceremony and receives last salute from the class commander, Tech. Sgt. Curtis Taylor.

RNCOA LAST GRADUATING CLASS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tech. Sgt. Brian Abraham | Tech. Sgt. Christopher Haider |
| Tech. Sgt. Raymond Artis Jr. | Staff Sgt. Jawhana Hollins |
| Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Bare | Tech. Sgt. Donald Johnson |
| Tech. Sgt. Duane Burton | Tech. Sgt. Wesley Keville |
| Tech. Sgt. Russell Campbell Jr. | Tech. Sgt. Bradley Ledbetter |
| Tech. Sgt. Gustav Cariglio Jr. | Tech. Sgt. Richard Lemings |
| Tech. Sgt. Jaime Clinton | Tech. Sgt. William Lickman |
| Tech. Sgt. Demario Cruver | Tech. Sgt. Adele Rostington |
| Tech. Sgt. Cecil Decker III | Tech. Sgt. Jason St. Clair |
| Tech. Sgt. Chris Dreisbach | Tech. Sgt. Brian Strother |
| Tech. Sgt. Randall Evans | Tech. Sgt. Curtis Taylor |
| Tech. Sgt. Paul Feltes III | Tech. Sgt. Sven Voigt |
| Tech. Sgt. John Florendo | Tech. Sgt. Terneka Watson |
| Tech. Sgt. Ian Gardner | |



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Submissions must be received by 4 p.m. the Monday prior to the requested Friday publication. They should be e-mailed to kendahl.johnson@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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Commander's Action Line

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

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

Col. Warren Berry
78th Air Base Wing,
commander

Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response. Anonymous action lines will not be processed. Discourteous or disrespectful submissions will not be processed.

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

To contact the Action Line:
Call 926-2886 or for the quickest response, e-mail action.line@robins.af.mil.

<https://wwwmil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>

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- ▶ Security Forces 327-3445
- ▶ Services 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, Abuse 926-2393
- ▶ Housing Office 926-3776

HANDICAP PARKING ISSUES

We, the handicapped military veterans working in Bldg. 231, seem to never have handicap parking spaces for our vehicles in the assigned handicap parking slots. We only have five assigned spots in front of our building with five handicap employees. There is one assigned in back of the building but it is reserved for one of the handicapped individuals assigned to this building. When we had numbered, reserved handicap slots there was never a problem.

I have recently been evaluated a 100% Vietnam Disabled Veteran, and when I come to work in the morning all the handicapped slots are full, but not from vehicles that belong to individuals from Bldg. 231 but from people in Bldg. 226. For us to use Bldg. 226 handicapped parking area, we would have to traverse up to a city block away. It would be much closer

for them to use their slots, to their duty stations, than it is for us to use their slots, to our duty stations.

I thought if we could all come in a little earlier we could retain our assigned slots, but believe it or not they would all be full most of the time. I know from applying and receiving a permanent disabled parking vehicle tag that the hang up placards are for temps only. So why do we continuously see the same vehicles parked in these handicapped slots continuously on up to two to three years, with these temporary hang up placards? The people at the tag office told me I am permanently disabled. I will receive a license tag (which we have) with the handicap emblem on the tag.

Any and all assistance will be greatly appreciated.

COLONEL BERRY'S RESPONSE:
The recent changes in the parking

regulations that converted assigned handicap parking to open handicap parking was intended to improve the overall situation on Base and in many cases it has. However, as always, there are some areas where things are not improved. The current construction in that area has no doubt only served to aggravate the problem.

It is base policy to provide sufficient handicap parking to meet the need. All those requiring handicap parking spaces are to inform their local parking monitors of their need. This is so we can get an accurate count of the spaces required to ensure sufficient spaces are provided. If there is insufficient handicap parking in your area or it is not located in an appropriate location, please contact your local parking monitor. They are to inform CE through the Work Order process of this need. It will be evaluated by the Base Traffic Engineer and if it is appropriate,

the paint shop will make changes as soon as practical.

If circumstances warrant special accommodation or designation, a letter from your wing commander to the installation commander in accordance with the procedure in the Base Parking Instructions (RAFB 32-101) is served to obtain approval for any non-standard situation.

It is the intent of the 78th Civil Engineer Group to place open handicap parking at the best possible location as well as to provide an adequate amount of open handicap parking to each building. The parking wardens and parking monitors are vital in determining the handicap parking needs on base. We are continually striving to improve the parking situation on base with the available resources. If there are concerns about misuse of handicap parking, please inform your local parking monitor.

Let's observe Memorial Day's true meaning

BY GEN. BRUCE CARLSON
Commander, Air Force Materiel Command



Gen. Bruce Carlson
AFMC
commander

This Memorial Day, I invite you to join me in a tradition that has been somewhat forgotten over time. On Monday, let's celebrate the true meaning of this national holiday by flying our American flags at half staff from dawn until noon.

As you wind down your holiday weekend, take this time to remember why we have a long weekend toward the end of May each year. It's not because we've earned it as individuals, but rather because we've earned it collectively as a nation—through the heroic sacrifices of great Americans who laid down their lives in order to gain and protect the many freedoms we enjoy in this great country today.

Remember their sacrifices and the sacrifices made by their friends and families. These are sacrifices that Airmen, Sailors, Soldiers and Marines—and the people who support them—continue to make during current conflicts around the world. These men and women are America's heroes, and their ultimate sacrifice of laying down their lives for our country should be memorialized on this special day.

There are more than 1,300 Air Force Materiel Command men and women cur-

rently deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Nearly 100 Airmen across the Air Force have given their lives in these two campaigns. Their commitment to helping ensure our nation's freedom cannot go unnoticed. Please pause to remember these men and women as you pay tribute to all those who have died in defense of our country. A great time to do this is during the nationwide Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day, a time designated for all Americans to recognize our common heritage.

So as you raise the "Stars and Stripes" early this Memorial Day, think too about a little-known verse from Francis Scott Key's "The Star-Spangled Banner:"

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust"

And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Please have a safe, joyous Memorial Day weekend. Thank you for your continued commitment to our great country. God bless each and every one of you.

SPREADING THE MESSAGE



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Col. H. Brent Baker Sr., Air Force Global Logistics Support Center commander, speaks at one of two town hall meetings at the Robins Base Theater May 20. In addition to the meetings for the workforce, he also met with 638th Supply Chain Management Group leadership.

MGMAC MEMBERS VISIT ROBINS



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Members of the Middle Georgia Military Affairs Committee visited Team Robins May 21 and received a mission briefing, toured the C-5 and C-17 aircraft repair facilities, visited the air traffic control tower, toured an E-8C Joint STARS and KC-135 Stratolifter aircraft, and watched a K-9 Military Working Dog demonstration. Made up of members from the various Chambers of Commerce around Middle Ga., the MGMAC supports Robins Air Force Base and its various missions.

ATA elects new leadership, launches scholarship drive

Col. James Dendis, the 730th Aircraft Sustainment Group commander, recently took the reins of the Team Robins Chapter of the Airlift/Tanker Association.

He's joined by several other Robins members working to keep the local chapter going strong despite the upcoming departure of the 19th Air Refueling Group, stalwart supporters of the association.

The Team Robins Chapter is part of the international ATA organization that is dedicated to ensuring American military forces have the air mobility capability required to implement U.S. National Security Strategy.

"With a mission like that, it's no wonder the Robins ATA chapter continues to grow," said Col. John Tobin, a strong supporter of the association. "Home to major sustainment efforts for the C-5, C-130, and the C-17 airlift aircraft, many of the officers,

enlisted, civilians, and contractors working on base feel passionate about their efforts to keep the Air Force mobility fleet healthy."

Professional development of ATA members is a big focus area for Colonel Dendis and his new ATA board. On top of monthly meetings and guest speakers, the chapter is in the middle of their annual enlisted/dependent scholarship drive, where several \$500 scholarships will be given to help defray college expenses.

Aside from the upcoming scholarship presentations, the ATA does a lot throughout the year to support its members and air mobility.

"A tremendous resource for anyone supporting the airlift business here at Robins is the Airlift/Tanker Quarterly," Colonel Dendis said. "As the name implies, this magazine is published quarterly and an absolute must-read."

The colonel said the maga-

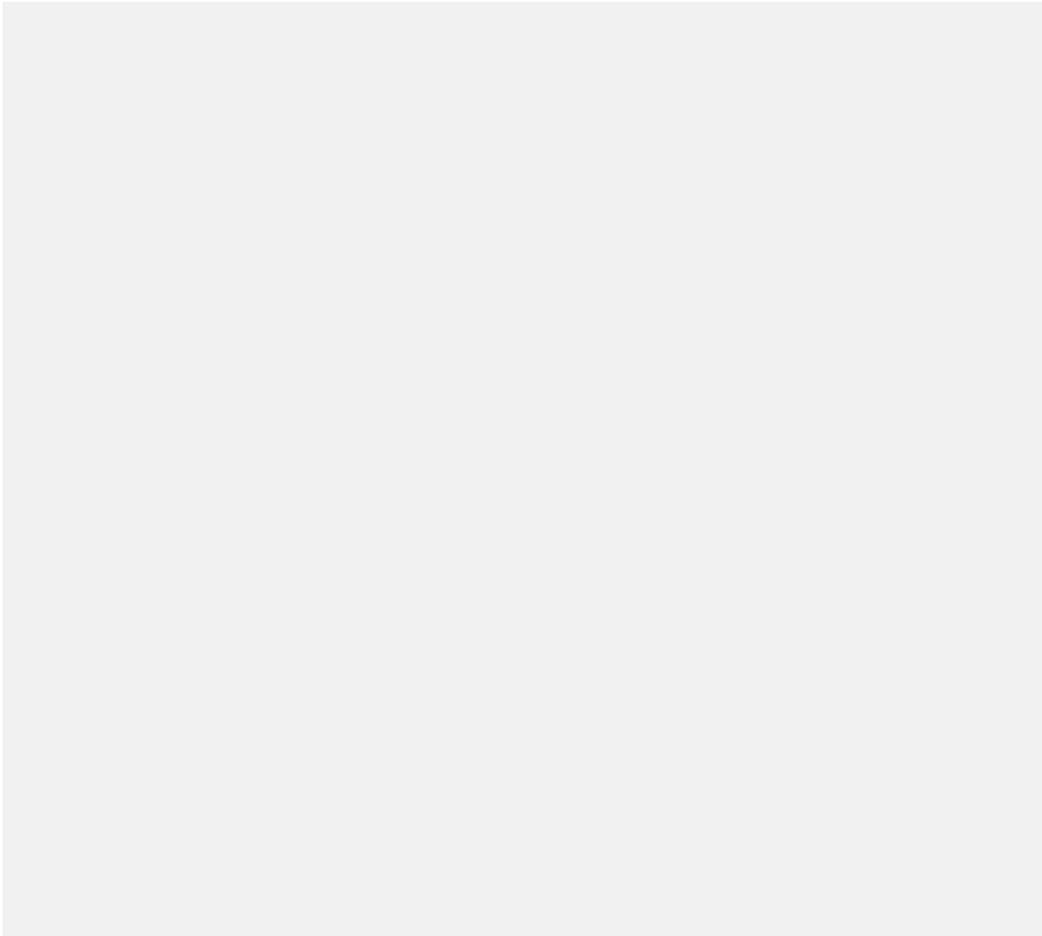
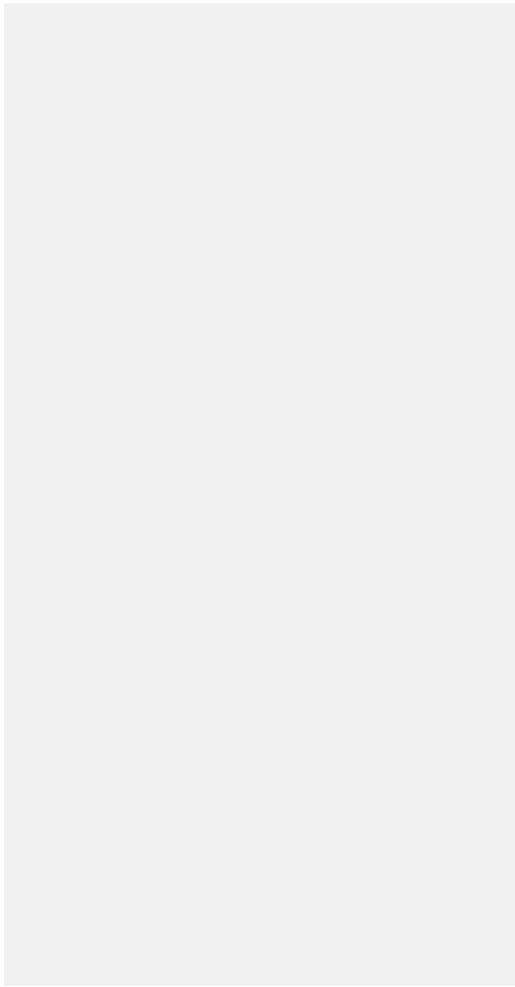
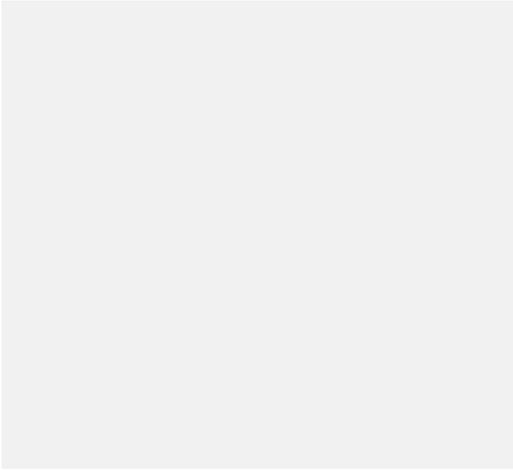
zine is full of up to date information on mobility issues, articles of professional interest, and stories concerning the heritage of the mobility mission.

Another opportunity offered to ATA members is the annual convention each fall. In addition to the annual business meeting, professional symposiums are presented that cover the gamut of mobility issues from the latest aircraft being considered for the mobility mix to new airlift organizations such as contingency response wings.

"Basically, anything shaping the mobility arena for the US Air Force will likely be discussed at the ATA convention," said Maj. Robert Meadows, a member of the association.

Local ATA chapter meetings are at noon the fourth Tuesday of each month at Horizons. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Gillie Zamora at 926-8100

— News report





Eric Danforth, Robins Fire Department, walks in front of the aircraft model in the fire training pit. Members of the Robins and Macon Bibb County fire departments worked side by side in a two-day joint exercise, sharing knowledge and experience in an effort to become better trained for a real emergency.

U.S. Air Force file photos by SUE SAPP

Joint exercise helps firefighters gain experience

BY AMANDA CREELE
amanda.creele@robins.af.mil

Base and community firefighters joined together for two days, swapping knowledge and experiences to ensure in the event of an emergency, they are prepared to answer the call.

The Macon Bibb County Fire Department joined the Robins Fire Department for a joint live-fire exercise May 8 and 9 at the Aircraft Rescue Firefighting training facility.

The firefighters joined together in the fire pit training area on Robins to fight a simulated fire involving a medium-size cargo aircraft.

"For them to go inside and feel the heat is very beneficial to them," said Daniel Kelley, a crew chief with the Robins Fire Department.

He explained aircraft fires are typically hotter than structural fires because more liquid fuels are involved.

During the exercise, the firefighters were allowed to not only face the heat, but to test their skills in extinguishing aircraft fires affecting the interior and exterior of the aircraft, including the cockpit, cargo area, engine and auxiliary power units.

"To me this is as realistic as it gets other than real thing," said Sgt. Steven Bryant, a firefighter with Macon Bibb County Fire Department. "We get an opportunity to see what it's going to be like in real life if we ever encounter that situation."

The exercise allowed the firefight-

ers from off base to work with aircraft fires, valuable training not readily available to their department.

"We have guys in there intent on training and wanting to get something out of this training," said Lt. David Mixter, a training officer with the Macon Bibb County Fire Department.

The joint exercise allowed the firefighters to practice advanced firefighting skills, giving them an opportunity to work together in a non-emergency environment.

"It's about interoperability; they know what we do and we know what they do, so when we need to get together to do something, we are ready," said Brian Megonigle, Robins training officer.

The joint exercise is going to be the first of many, agreed representatives from the two departments.

"It opens up a great opportunity, not only today but for many days into the future," Sergeant Bryant said.

The close proximity of the two departments makes sharing resources much more feasible. It allows not only the sharing of resources, but the ability to back one another up during emergencies where the other department may need assistance.

The two departments signed a mutual aid agreement July 1, 2007, enabling them partner up when needed. The exercise was one of the first joint efforts since the agreement.

Many of the firefighters described the bond between the two departments as just another example of how



Ron Strout, a station captain with the Robins Fire Department, strategizes with a Macon/Bibb County firefighter about the best way to tackle the controlled fire.

strong the brotherhood among all firefighters is.

"No matter where you go, fireman to fireman is a brotherhood. It's like seeing family you haven't seen in a while," said Lt. Mark Duckworth, Macon Bibb County Fire Department.

Not only are the exercises valuable to the firefighters, it gives each department a glimpse into how the other works. The understanding that results from working with each other before a disaster strikes allows them to respond to emergencies in unison.

"We are able to speak and sing from the same sheet of music," said

Marvin Riggins, Macon Bibb County Fire Department chief.

Another benefit of the agreement and the joint exercise is an understanding of the Incident Command System and how to work together under the system during real world emergencies.

"It brings our resources together in a collaborative way. If there is ever a major disaster, we already know how to work together," said Danny Mercer, chief of training for the Macon Bibb County Fire Department. "This way we know each others capabilities."

Though the off-base firefighters

were benefiting from Robins resources, members of the Robins Fire Department were looking forward to benefiting from some structural fire trainers maintained by the Macon Bibb County Fire Department.

"They have some trainers we don't have such as confined space and entanglement training," Mr. Megonigle said.

The Macon Bibb County Fire Department also has some Class A burn rooms where materials such as wood, straw and hay can be burned, said Stan Beard, assistant chief of operations for the B-shift.



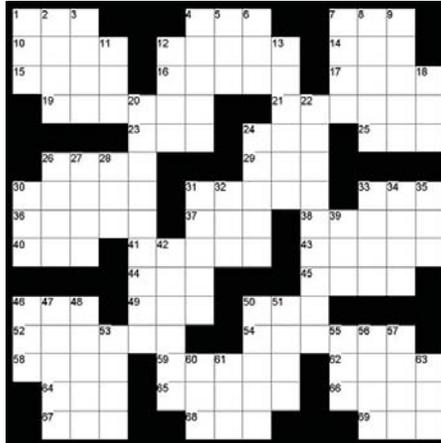
LEFT: Two firefighters assist each other with equipment when Macon Bibb County and Robins firefighters partnered in a joint training exercise at the Robins fire pit May 8.

RIGHT: Firefighters approach an aircraft training fire. Macon Bibb County and Robins fire departments signed a mutual aid agreement July 1, 2007 that makes sharing resources more feasible.



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

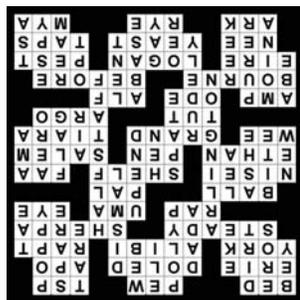


Memorial Day

By Capt. Tony Wickham
71st Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

- ACROSS**
- Resting place
 - Church seating
 - Kitchen meas.
 - Great Lake
 - Dealt out, as in payments
 - Mil. address overseas
 - See 30 DOWN
 - Criminal defense, perhaps
 - Deeply engrossed or absorbed
 - Firmly placed or fixed
 - C-23
 - Music genre
 - Actress Thurman
 - Hurricane center
 - Rover's toy
 - Friend
 - Person of Japanese descent, born and educated in the U.S.
 - Book holder
 - Federal org. enforcing rules of air safety
 - "Green Mountain Boys" leader Allan in the Revolutionary War
 - Author
 - Oregon capital
 - Tiny
 - Impressive in size, appearance, or general effect
 - Crown
 - Boy king in ancient Egypt
 - Ship carrying Jason and his crew
 - Guitar need
 - Lyrical poem
 - 80s sitcom with a puppet
 - The ___ Identity
 - Previous to; earlier or sooner than
 - Ireland, formerly
 - Gen. John A. ___; issued GO No. 11 declaring Memorial Day
 - Annoying or troublesome person, animal, or thing; nuisance
 - Formerly
 - Bread riser
 - Song performed on Memorial Day to remember American heroes
 - Raiders of the Lost
 - Widely cultivated cereal grass
 - Single name R&B singer, actress
- DOWN**
- Provincial governor in the Ottoman Empire
 - Greek god of love
 - Sod
 - Coelenterate, such as coral, having a cylindrical body
 - Cotton gin inventor Whitney
 - The Internet, informally
 - Any of various weedy plants, especially the common vetch
 - Show mercy
 - Flower used to commemorate Memorial Day
 - ___ out a living
 - Early 20th Century art movement
 - Gloomy; dreary; cheerless
 - ___ kwon do
 - Site of US National Cemetery for fallen military heroes
 - Position for 33 DOWN on Memorial Day
 - Affect drastically or radically, as opinions or reputation
 - Chomp
 - Tennis great Arthur
 - Meadow
 - US state to first recognize Memorial Day
 - Sudden, almost overwhelming, outpouring
 - Rooster's companion
 - Item those honored on Memorial Day fought for
 - Plane or club prefix
 - Dr.'s org.
 - Part of USAF
 - In an impolite manner
 - Honest ___; 16th POTUS' nickname
 - ___ Michael; raised funds for service-members for Memorial Day
 - More free of dirt, defilement, or pollution
 - Reduce or lower, as in rank, office, or reputation
 - Catholics' annual season of fasting and penitence
 - Stink
 - Choose
 - Paper quantity
 - See at a distance; catch sight of
 - ___ the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
 - Enola ___
 - Federal org. concerned with airport security

SOLUTION



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 Kendahl Johnson at: kendahl.johnson@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks.

SERVICES BRIEFS

UPCOMING

A First Friday "Hawaiian Beach Night" will be June 6 at Horizons and Heritage Club from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. First Friday means great food, chances to win cash and prizes, entertainment and drink specials. Cost is members free and nonmembers \$5.

A White Linen Party/R&B concert and Old School dance party (All in One) will be May 31 starting at 9 p.m. in the Heritage Club, presented by the Heritage Club and Mack-Tyne Entertainment. Enjoy the smooth sounds of Danny Clay, guest emcee comedian Ice Cream and special guest DJ, AJ the DJ. Advance price tickets are \$17 for members and \$20 for guests.

An eight-ball pool tournament will be June 18 and 19 from 5 to 8 p.m. with final competition June 20. Participants must register by June 16. Winner receives name on a plaque and runner-up will receive a certificate. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to Movies in the Park at Robins Park June 14 for a family-feature presentation of "Waterhorse." The movie will start at dark, about 8:30 p.m. Concessions will be on sale.

A quarterly table tennis tournament is scheduled for June 26 from 5 to 8 p.m. Draw is limited to 16 players and is open to all Robins personnel. Please register by June 23.

A retiree appreciation lunch buffet will be June 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Horizons. Military retirees and spouses receive an additional \$1 discount on the lunch buffet when they present their retiree ID card to the cashier.

A Mongolian BBQ is scheduled for June 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. Come out and try Chef Douglas's Mongolian BBQ in the dining room. Create your own stir-fry with a wide range of fresh meat and vegetables for only 75 cents an ounce.

Join outdoor recreation on a kayaking trip to Appalachian Outfitters, in Dahnlega June 12. Meet at outdoor recreation at 8 a.m. for departure at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$75 per person and includes use of kayak, paddles, life vest and transportation. Deadline to sign up is May 30. A minimum of

Speed racer



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Network 56, a junior NCO organization at Robins, held its second fund raising car show May 17 at the Galleria Mall in Centerville. Profits from the car show will be used to provide care packages to troops overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq. The event raised \$2,400.

10 people is required for outdoor recreation to host the trip. For more information, call 926-4001.

ONGOING

The Airmen Against Drunk Driving program provides rides free of charge to all Robins DOD card holders. Coverage is from Perry to Macon. For a free, anonymous ride, call 222-0013. The 78th Services Division also offers designated driver programs. To learn more call 926-2670.

The Information, Tickets and Travel office is selling Atlanta Braves VIP ticket packages for only \$50 (a \$300 value). Receive four free game tickets and six buy-one-get-one-free tickets. A limited supply is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information call the ITT office at 926-2945.

You could be the lucky winner of two round-trip tickets by participating in May Coca Cola Giveaway! Every time you purchase two 20 oz. bottled coke products for \$2.25 at Pizza Depot, On Spot Café, Base Restaurant and Golf Course you will be given an entry form to complete and drop in the box at that facility. The entry forms will be combined into one drawing bin on June 2 and a single form will be drawn and the winner will be notified shortly thereafter.

Pizza Depot's 20th birthday party will be June 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its new location, Bldg. 956. Sample new pizza selections and other appetizers and have some birthday cake. Look for the entry form in the June Edge to fill out and bring to the party for a chance to win prizes. For more information call Pizza Depot at 926-0188.

A yard sale will be held May 31 from 8 a.m. to noon in front of the Heritage Club, Bldg. 956. Set up starts at 7:15 a.m. and tables can be purchased in advance for \$7 per table (limit three per person).

CGOC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Support the Company Grade Officers Council and the American Red Cross at the annual CGOC golf tourney. This year's tourney will be May 30 at 10:30 a.m. at the Pine Oaks Golf Course and includes various "Caddyshack" themed events.

To sign up or for more information contact Lt. Katie Chiarantona at 327-2814 or Lt. Robin White at 327-5247. Or you may visit the CGOC Web site at www.afcommunity-ga.com/golf.html.

SERVICES PHONE DIRECTORY

- Services 926-5491
- Community Center 926-2105
- Outdoor Rec 926-4001
- Arts & Crafts 926-5262
- Horizons 926-2670
- Heritage Club 926-7625
- Library 327-8761
- HAWC 327-8480
- Fitness Center 926-2128
- Fitness Center Annex 926-2128
- Youth Center 926-2110
- ITT 926-2945
- Bowling Center 926-2112
- Pine Oaks G.C. 926-4103
- Pizza Depot 926-0188

Additional information on Services events and activities can be found in **The Edge** and at www.robinservices.com

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 (Jumuah) is Fridays at 2 p.m. in the chapel annex rooms 1 and 2.

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

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

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

NOW PLAYING



FRIDAY — 6 P.M.
THE RUINS
R

A group of friends who become entangled in a brutal struggle for survival after visiting a remote archaeological dig in the Mexican jungle where they discover something deadly living among the ruins.



SATURDAY — 2 P.M.
PROM NIGHT
PG-13

Surrounded by her best friends on prom night, Donna should be safe from the horrors of her past. But when the night turns from magic to murder there is only one man who could be responsible, the man she thought was gone forever.



SATURDAY — 6 P.M.
STREET KINGS
R

A veteran LAPD cop who finds life difficult after the death of his wife. When evidence implicates him in the execution of a fellow officer, he is forced to go up against the cop culture he's been a part of his entire career, leading him to question the loyalties of everyone around him.

Tickets: \$4 adult; \$2 children (11 years old and younger). For more information, call the base theater at 926-2919

Museum's Mission Quest gives JROTC cadets a taste of flying



Cadets Dwight Brown (left) and LeShawn Boyd maneuver a simulated flight from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. to Catalina. Cadets from the Northside High School's junior ROTC spent several days learning in flight simulators at the Museum of Aviation's Mission Quest Flight School. The training is designed to enhance interest and proficiency in several areas.

BY AMANDA CREEL
Amanda.creel.ch@robins.af.mil

"Don't forget to put your landing gear down," echoed through the corridors of the Mission Quest lab as Northside High School students took a few F-15 Eagles and a C-17 Globemaster III for a spin.

The 60 students, cadets in the high school's Air Force Junior ROTC program, were all thrilled to get in the cockpit of the Mission Quest Flight School program's simulators and test their flying skills.

The program is designed to enhance interest and proficiency in math, science and technology; aircraft components, functions, navigation and flight planning; eye and hand coordination; full-sized simulation operation; communications, leadership and team building and aviation history.

However, before the cadets could climb into the cockpit, they spent several hours at their

high school learning about aerodynamics, flight controls, navigation, avionics, compass reading and flight planning.

After three one-hour classes at their school, the students arrived to the Museum of Aviation for some hands-on flight training.

Once at the simulator, the students transformed to pilots, co-pilots and navigators and Wayne Carley, the Mission Quest instructor, became an air traffic control tower operator.

The cadets took their two-seater F-15s and one four-seater C-17 from Las Vegas to Catalina Island during the simulation and learned the value of communication in the cockpit.

The co-pilot and pilot share the controls making team work a necessity to arrive to their destination safely. The copilot is in control of navigation, radio, radar, the speed break and the landing gear of the aircraft, while the pilot controls the direction, altitude and

speed of the aircraft. For the three-man team flying the C-17, the navigation responsibilities were passed on to the third man, or navigator, whose sole responsibility was determining position, course, and distance traveled.

The students agreed the hardest part about flying the F-15 simulator was nailing the landing.

"You had to line up with the runway, reduce speed, hit the breaks and put the landing gear down," said Cadet Sabrina Dallas, a sophomore.

Cadet Dallas' copilot, Cadet Kali Birdsey had one piece of advice for future simulator pilots: "Just pay attention and make sure the landing gear is down."

Cadet LeShawn Boyd, a senior, also had some difficulty perfecting the landing.

"To land, you were supposed to be at about 3,000 feet. We were at 900 feet and about 15 feet from the landing area,"

Cadet Boyd said.

Cadet William Eubanks, a senior, said it was challenging to keep up with your copilot, while also keeping up with altitude and speeds.

"You've got to look at the speeds, but also have to look where you are flying and make sure you aren't flying into anything," he said.

For Cadet Troy Blanton, a sophomore, maintaining the proper altitude was not as easy as he anticipated.

"We were flying at about 34,000 feet and we were supposed to fly at 10,000 feet," Cadet Blanton said.

For the aircrew of the C-17, landing once again was the source of much contention.

"The runway wasn't big enough for a C-17," said Cadet Calvin Harris, a sophomore.

The aircrew agreed once they mastered communicating while in flight, flying the aircraft was more fun.

The C-17 crew also learned the importance of having a third man in the cockpit.

"Navigation is a big part of flying," said Dwight Brown, a sophomore.

None of the cadets had to worry about crashing during the simulation because the crash part of the program was disabled. Students would simply bounce along when they failed to land their aircraft properly.

Though the museum has had a simulator program for sometime, the system was recently upgraded with brand new software and hardware to give the students the most realistic experience possible.

According to Mr. Carley, the older system was not dependable and the graphics were poor in comparison to the new state-of-the-art simulator program.

"We had the same shells and a 15-year-old software package. It was like playing Pong," Mr. Carley said.

Google Earth was used for the graphics on the new system.

Though it was teenagers using the simulator this time, Mr. Carley said the simulator also caters to college students and adult groups interested in team building.

One of the things that make the simulation so exciting for the students is the ability to fly side by side with their peers and view one another on screen.

The simulator program also allows those trying their hand at flying to fly anywhere in the world. It allows the control

tower to add all sorts of weather conditions such as hurricane force winds and snow storms and creates night flying conditions.

"It's always good to hear it in class, but to be able to get the sensation of what pilots go through is a great opportunity," said Master Sgt. Marion Rhodes, aerospace science instructor at Northside High School.

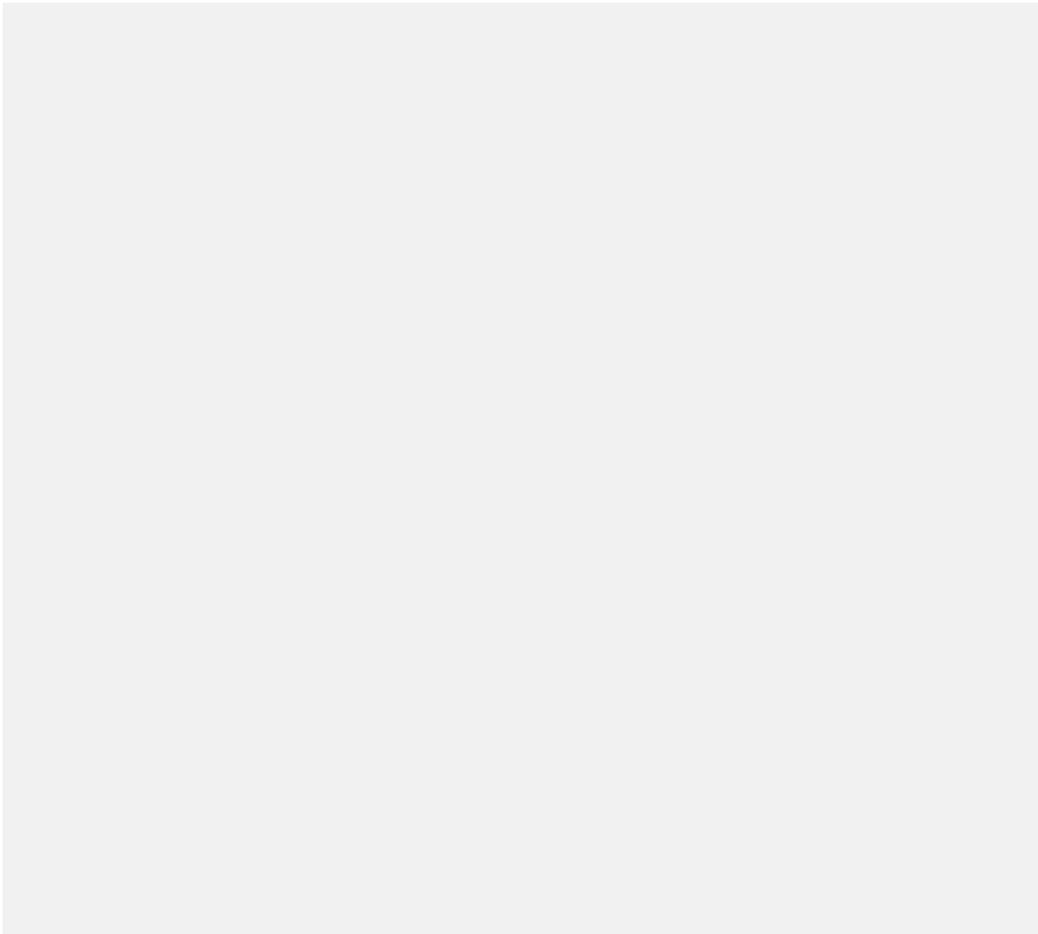
He added the students don't really realize they're learning.

"They have fun, to them it's a big video game," Sergeant Rhodes said.



ABOVE: Cadet Jerry Booth works out of the copilot seat in one of the F-15 flight simulators.

BELOW: Wayne Carley, lead flight instructor for the Mission Quest Flight School, acts as an air traffic control tower operator while students are flying.



101 CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER

Many Air Force members and their dependents are killed or seriously injured in boating mishaps every year. The majority of accidents would not have happened if the victims had taken time to learn proper small boat operating procedures. If small boat enthusiasts observe the following rules, they will be nautical miles ahead in personal fun and safety.

- ▶ Know your boat - what it can and can't do.
- ▶ Don't overload - check the boat manufacturer's capacity plate.
- ▶ Keep a good lookout and situational awareness of other boats and objects.
- ▶ Operate at safe and legal speeds

- ▶ Know and respect the weather - heed weather warnings.
 - ▶ Take sufficient fuel - in proper containers - know your cruising radius.
 - ▶ Keep your boat shipshape, check safety equipment.
 - ▶ Take necessary equipment fire extinguishers, personal flotation devices.
 - ▶ Secure the boat properly stow loose objects.
 - ▶ Learn boating laws and obey them.
 - ▶ Never operate a boat while intoxicated.
- All boaters are encouraged to take part in formal small boat training programs offered by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. — 78th Safety Office

Morale system undergoes changes

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
hobbybirchfield@robins.af.mil

The Air Force has a new system that will help ensure deployed Airmen get voice-to-voice time with their loved ones.

The Automated Health and Morale System is a personal identification number-based program generated at Air Force headquarters that makes calling home from the deployed location easier.

Staff Sgt. Brian Dunlap, a project manager in the 78th Communications Group and AHAMS project manager at Robins, said before, Airmen were either not getting to take full advantage of their 30-minute per week phone time due to weaknesses in the operator-based system or getting more than their share of talk time.

Now, the personal identification number-driven AHAMS tracks minutes used by the Airman to ensure minutes aren't lost or exceeded.

"Before the member leaves the duty location at Robins, they can write an e-mail to a general e-mail box that's monitored by some people in our telephone office and request a PIN," he said. "These PIN managers go back

into the server and create a PIN that's unique and is also a PIN for life."

Sergeant Dunlap said Airmen can dial a number and enter their PIN, all without the involvement of an operator.

Sergeant Dunlap said the system is a good checks and balances for the morale call program.

"A lot of time, the morale call system in the past has been abused," he said. "Plus, the workload with the operators can't monitor every single phone call to make sure (they're) half hour calls. It's expensive, obviously, calling from Iraq back to the States, so some people can go unmonitored and talk for hours. The other side of this coin is that some people feel that they didn't get their full half hour. With this system, it's fool proof."

Ariel Gonzalez, Robins's Voice Switching specialist for AHAMS and a quality assurance evaluator for the Base Telephone System, said calls are queued with prompts that let servicemembers know when their time is about to run out on a call.

Once time is up, the system shuts the call down, Sergeant Dunlap said.

The program, brought

about by Air Force headquarters, is a phased effort.

In the first phase, PINs will be established and provided.

"Right now, it's locally managed," Sergeant Dunlap said. "The deployed member at Robins would have to write an e-mail to the e-mail box where managers check it and issue the PIN."

In Phase II, AHAMS will be consolidated in a specific location.

"In Phase II, the equipment doesn't go anywhere, but the management of it goes to a consolidated headquarters where the member would log into a portal and request a PIN," Sergeant Dunlap said.

Sergeant Dunlap said the Air Force expects to have the system fully implemented in 2009.

Mr. Gonzalez said AHAMS will be a great benefit to military members and their families.

"The nice thing about this system is that it's completely off base and it keeps track of how often you call and how many minutes you spend," he said. "The system will allow one 30-minute call per week or you can make 30 one-minute phone calls per week. The clock doesn't start until the connection is made."