

Weather flight runs circles around twister

78th Operations Support Squadron meteorologists jump into action when tornado touches down near Robins

BY 2ND LT. CHRISSEY KEELEY
78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The 78th Operations Support Squadron's weather flight team had a chance to prove this past week why they were recently selected as AFMC's Outstanding Weather Unit of the Year.

The team of meteorologists was able to witness Mother Nature's fury first-hand when a tornado touched down a mile east of the base.

"Severe weather had been ongoing with this system for hours and numerous reports of damage had been received," said Roddy Nixon Jr., senior meteorologist. "Multiple tornado reports had (also) been received as well as reports of hail to the size of baseballs."

The weather flight had been preparing for the twister much of the day. It began with their morning "metcon" — short for "meteorological condition" in which the forecasters use each other's expertise in evaluating the current weather situation to come up with their weather "game-plan" so to

▶ see WEATHER, 2A

Robins to celebrate women's history

BY LANORRIS ASKEW
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

Robins will celebrate the accomplishments of women throughout history during its annual Women's History Month Celebration in March.

The 2009 celebration, themed "Women taking the lead to save our planet," will officially kick off March 6 with a self-defense class at the Fitness Center Annex. It will include events throughout the month, culminating March 26 with a luncheon featuring a special guest speaker yet to be announced.

▶ see WHM, 2A



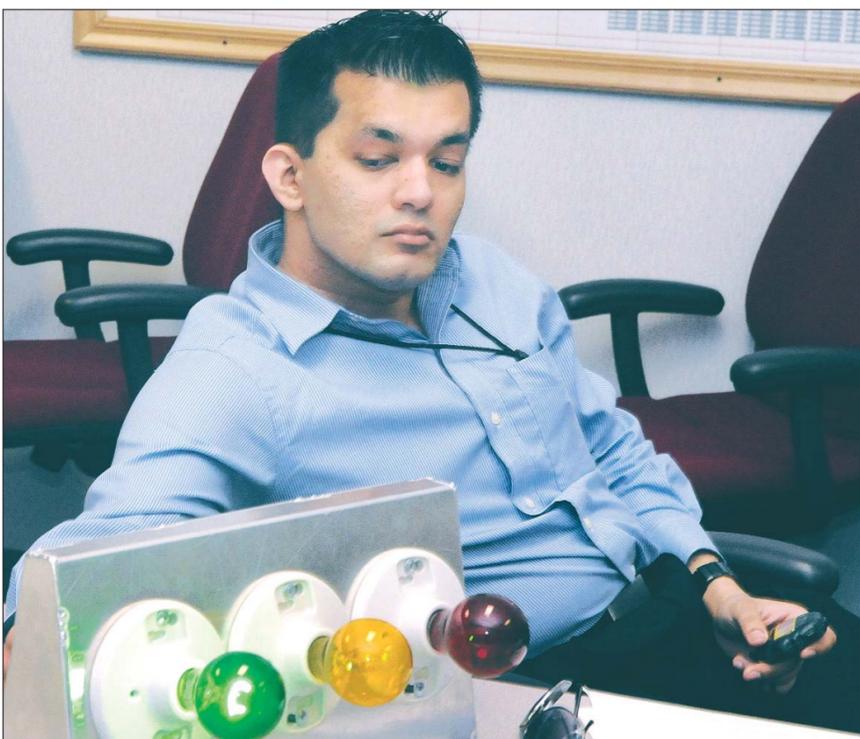
For art's sake

In celebration of Black History Month, an art show with exhibits and lectures presenting textiles, patterns and communities was held Wednesday and Thursday in the Heritage Club ballroom. The two-day event featured displays from artists Wini McQueen, Rudy and Carolyn Mendes, Darlene Murphy, Stacy Jackson and Adam Eccleston, as well as lectures and receptions.

Above, Debbie Davis from the Robins arts and crafts center looks at a fabric quilted art piece by artist Carolyn Mendes.

At right, Elizabeth Reis, a training specialist in the 406th Supply Chain Management Squadron, displays a royal Bwom mask from the Kuba ethnic group. The piece is from her personal collection of African artifacts. Mrs. Reis and her husband Frank lived in Zaire and the Ivory Coast for seven years, during which time they amassed an extensive art collection.

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Muhammad Patel, 579th Software Maintenance Squadron, operates the time clock at a recent Toastmasters meeting. The organization not only helps members overcome fears of public speaking, but also helps them improve their speaking skills.

Toastmasters helps members overcome fears, improve public speaking abilities

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
wayne.crenshaw.ctr@robins.af.mil

As a weapons officer in the JSTARS, it might seem that there's not much that could intimidate Capt. Terri Prosperie, but when it comes to speaking in front of people, she's a bag of nerves.

"Shaking, having a hard time breathing, fighting the feeling of passing out," is how she described her bodily reactions whenever she had to give a briefing to a group of people. "It's something that has bothered me my whole career, and I finally decided I wanted to do something about it."

She faced her fears by joining Toastmasters, an international organization that originated with a Santa Ana, Calif., YMCA class in 1924. The group, which today has 11,700 clubs and more than 235,000 members in 92 countries, is focused on helping people improve verbal communications skills.

Captain Prosperie joined the Aerospace 3368, one of four Toastmaster clubs at Robins. People who are interested can find a local Toastmasters Club by going to www.toastmasters.org.

The clubs are set up in small groups of 10-

15 people so that there will be ample opportunity for everyone to speak in a non-threatening environment. At each meeting several people speak in varying roles. At a recent meeting of the Aerospace 3368 group, two people gave speeches of several minutes each, then others had roles that included critiquing those speeches and speaking extemporaneously on impromptu "table topics."

Captain Prosperie said the group has helped her overcome her fear of public speaking and she plans to be a lifetime member.

"It forces you to get up there and do it and face your fears," she said.

Johnny Marlin, a production controller in the 78th Civil Engineer Squadron, is president of the Aerospace 3368 chapter. He joined the group a couple of years ago after he found himself speaking to groups as a part of his job. He decided he wanted to do something to improve his skills.

"I was charged with presenting information to my superiors in a timely, clear and concise manner so I turned to Toastmasters to help me with my skills," he said. "It has helped me tremendously."

▶ see SPEECHES, 2A

THINK SAFETY



222-0013
Days without a DUI: 25
Last DUI: 5th CBCSS

— courtesy 78th Security Forces

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



THE TWO-MINUTE REV

Invest in your marriage:
Relationship Skills Training for Couples

To help improve communication skills in marriages, the Family Advocacy Program will provide a six-week course utilizing a research-based program. Military and civilian couples who are engaged or married are welcome to attend. The course starts March 20 and concludes April 24. Each class runs from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Airmen & Family Readiness Center's large classroom, Bldg. 794. Contact Tracy Snider, Robins Family Advocacy outreach manager, at 327-8422 or tracy.snider@robins.af.mil for more information.

INSIGHT



Facing the music

Sergeant uses dance classes to bring rhythm to Robins, 1B

COMMENTARY



Congratulations

Governor's office take notice of Robins' energy reduction success, 4A

SPORTS



Cool runnings

Robins athlete trains in hopes of making Olympic bobsled team, 6A

WEATHER

FRIDAY



SATURDAY



SUNDAY



WEATHER

Continued from 1A

speak. On this particular Wednesday morning, all eyes were focused on a major storm system that was migrating into the southeastern U.S.

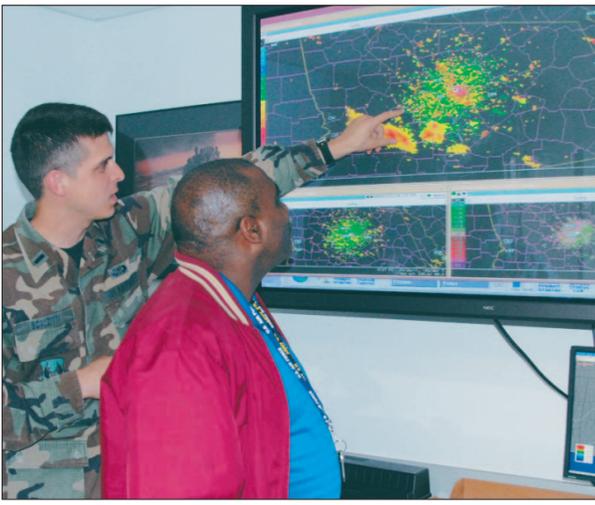
The system showed a strong potential for severe weather and demonstrated a phenomenon weather forecasters refer to as the “Triple-point,” an intersection point for frontal boundaries where severe weather development is favored.

Throughout the morning, senior meteorologists Kevin Turner and Mr. Nixon continued to monitor the radar, satellite imagery, wind profiles, storm reports, and other key information related to the system. As a precaution, they decided to issue a weather watch shortly after 9 a.m. for the potential of damaging thunderstorm winds.

As the afternoon progressed, Mr. Nixon and Mr. Turner observed that the storms produced by the system were intensifying. They promptly provided an update on the increasingly dangerous situation to the base leadership. By 3 p.m. the reinforcements were called in.

SWAT, or Severe Weather Action Team consisting of 1st Lt. Jason Scalzitti, weather officer; Tech. Sgt. Brad Godwin, weather flight NCO in charge; and Senior Airman Stephanie Rodriguez, weather forecaster, helped monitor the storm system. The team focused its attention on the storm as it pursued a dangerous track across west central Georgia.

At 5 p.m., the team determined the imminent threat of severe weather for Robins. “Damaging winds greater than 60 mph and large hail were



U.S. Air Force photo by 2ND LT. CHRISSEY KEELEY

1st Lt. Jason Scalzitti, 78th Operations Support Squadron, points out weather signatures on the base Doppler Radar system to his coworker Roddy Nixon Jr.

anticipated, thus a severe thunderstorm warning was issued,” Sergeant Godwin said. “By 5:30 p.m., the storm had produced a series of funnel clouds and tornadoes as it advanced across Taylor, Macon, and western Peach counties.”

On the flightline, just outside the base weather station, skies were becoming “dark and ominous.”

“The skies to the southwest of the base had that look,” said Mr. Nixon. “The ante was being raised; there was little doubt that this one would be extremely dangerous.”

According to Mr. Nixon, as 6 p.m. approached, the cloud base about seven miles west-southwest of Robins had definitely taken on the classic “funnel” cloud configuration. Doppler radar continued to reflect strong rotation in the storm and the team facilitated the issuance of a tornado warning at 6:19 p.m. and the installation sirens were sounded.

Thirty minutes later all warnings were cancelled, but the

weather team continued to closely monitor the situation to ensure the safety of the people and resources on base.

Lt. Col. Matt Hoose, 78th OSS commander, was impressed after witnessing the team in action.

“The weather flight displayed immense skill, professionalism, and courage in reporting the dangerous conditions,” he said. “As I proudly observed these men and women do what they do, it was clear why they are the best and why they truly epitomize the concepts of service before self and excellence in all we do.”

Although this storm has passed, the weather office warns that Robins hasn’t seen the last big storm of 2009.

“This game is not over by any means,” said Lieutenant Scalzitti. “We must remain ready at a moment’s notice. Rest assured the weather flight will be ready if and when Mother Nature desires to once more unleash her fury.”

SPEECHES

Continued from 1A

Ron Jones, the area governor for Toastmasters, has been a part of the group since 1993. Although some people stay in for a short while to develop their skills and then leave, many people like Mr. Jones become life members. He said he stays in the group both to help others and to continue to develop his own speaking skills.

“I enjoy helping others and there’s always something to learn to work on,” he said.

Members are given a booklet in which they go through a series of speaking assignments that get progressively more challenging.

WHM

Continued from 1A

“The overall purpose of the Robins Women’s History Month celebration is to recognize the continuous achievements and contributions made by women,” said Tracy Twedell, project officer for the observance. “It is also used as a vehicle to continue to educate and uplift our community, while fostering interaction of people of all races, ages and gender.”

Ms. Twedell said she hopes each person who participates in the activities leaves with more knowledge of women’s history and a more expansive vision of what women can do.

“This perspective can encourage girls and women to think larger and bolder and can give boys and men a fuller understanding of the

Different members of the group are assigned different tasks to gauge the effectiveness of a speech. One person times the speech, using a green-yellow-red light board to warn the speaker when time is up. Another person watches for bad grammar and counts the unnecessary “filler words,” such as “uh” and “you know.”

Finally someone gives an overall critique of the speech. It might sound pretty intimidating, but Mr. Marlin said the process is designed to be positive and encouraging. In fact, in the two main speeches given at their meeting Feb. 11, the critiques were almost entirely positive, noting that the speakers were animated, engaging and to the point.

In fact, whatever criticisms are given are not called criticisms, but “opportunities for improvement.”

The Aerospace 3368 meets in the civil engineering building, and Joe Ballard, 78th Civil Engineer Group director made a point to visit the group at its Feb. 11 meeting and thank members for their effort to improve their skills.

“This is invaluable training,” he told the members. “You can come in here and mess up and nobody knows. It doesn’t affect your job. This is a place to practice and learn to get better. Learning to communicate more effectively is one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your life.”

female experience,” she said.

While Ms. Twedell said she is looking forward to all of the events, there is one that is unique to this year’s celebration.

“The Hat Party we are hosting is something different,” she said.

The committee has scheduled the youngest breast cancer survivor in Georgia to come and speak at the event. Participants will bring a hat or hats for admission and the hats will be donated to local cancer societies.

“One of the ladies on the committee, Angela Reaser, had one when she was diagnosed with breast cancer and it meant the world to her,” Ms. Twedell said. “Hopefully we can make others smile as well.”

Ms. Twedell said she hopes men and women alike

will support the observance by attending the month’s events.

“I would just like to encourage everyone to come out and participate in the upcoming events,” she said. “We have a full month of events lined up and there’s something for everyone.”

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

March 6- Self Defense Class, 11 a.m. to noon, Fitness Center Annex Bldg. 301

March 11- 5K Health Walk, 2 p.m., Fitness Center

March 23- Hat Party, 11 a.m. to noon, Base Chapel Annex

March 26 Luncheon, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Heritage Club Ballroom

What are you doing to save money with the economy the way it is?



Brittany Robinson
Pizza Depot

“I’ve changed my movie experiences. I have cut my movie going to matinees or the cheap theater.”



Elaine Armstrong
Civilian Personnel

“I’ve cut things that I don’t need. If I don’t need it, I don’t buy it.”



Johnny Beard
Civilian Personnel

“I’m driving less, buying off brands on groceries and cutting off my heating and air when I can. I live a simple life.”



Staff Sgt. Rhonda Smith
94th APS

“I’m not taking advantage of luxuries as much as I used to.”



Talara Garcia
Pizza Depot

“I’m very thrifty about my gas. I do errands on the way to or from work. And when I get home, I stay there.”

READ THE ROBINS REV-UP ONLINE
www.robins.af.mil/library/

THIS IS AFSO21 COUNTRY

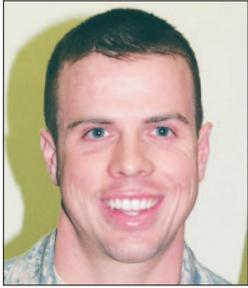
PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER FOR ...

The "Put your hands together for..." feature is a regular feature in the Robins Rev-Up, usually published the last Friday of the month. Due to the overwhelming number of awards people at Robins receive, we aren't able to cover them all. This feature is our way of ensuring we give credit where we can. To have an award

included in the "Put your hands together for..." page, submit a brief write up of the award and the people who have earned it. Photos may also be submitted, but space is limited. Submissions should be sent either by e-mail or brought to the Rev-Up office in Bldg. 905. Submissions that are brought to the office should be in

Microsoft Word on a CD. Photos can be e-mailed or delivered to the office too. For more information, contact Lanorris Askew at lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil or Kendahl Johnson at kendahl.johnson@robins.af.mil. Either can be reached by phone at 926-2137.

Air Force Materiel Command award winners



CAPT. KENNETH CHILCOAT
78th Operations Support Squadron
Weather
CGO of the Year



ROBERT HARVEY
78th Operations Support Squadron
Air Traffic Control — Civilian Controller In Charge



SENIOR AIRMAN JONATHAN TORRES
78th Air Base Wing
Chaplain Assistant of the Year



SENIOR AIRMAN JENNIFER BENDER
78th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Transportation
Airman of the Year



SENIOR AIRMAN RYAN FALLON
78th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Traffic Management
Airman of the Year



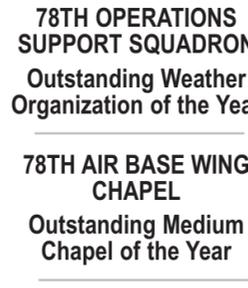
TECH. SGT. MELANIE MOORE
78th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Logistics Plans
NCO of the Year



MAJ. JOSEPH GIULIANI
653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron
Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Award — Field Grade Manager



SENIOR AIRMAN ASHLEY SWANSON
402nd Electronic Maintenance Group
Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Award — Technician



78TH OPERATIONS SUPPORT SQUADRON
Outstanding Weather Organization of the Year



78TH AIR BASE WING CHAPEL
Outstanding Medium Chapel of the Year



5TH COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP
ACC Best Large Communications Unit Award



447TH EXPEDITIONARY COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON
ACC Outstanding Small Communications Unit



Command Civilian Valor Award



U.S. Air Force photo by GARY CUTRELL

When employees in the 402nd Electronics Maintenance Group noticed co-worker Donnie Smith was not breathing, they reacted quickly, administering CPR and other life-saving procedures. The quintet's actions resulted in a saved life, as well as the awarding of the Command Civilian Valor Award by Brig. Gen. Mark Atkinson, 402nd Maintenance Wing Commander. Pictured from left to right: Brent McGreggor, Newton Lewis, Donnie Smith, John Williams, Audel Rodriguez, Christine Williams and General Atkinson.

Work force climbs corporate ladder in Training magazine's Top 125 rankings

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
wayne.crenshaw.ctr@robins.af.mil

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Centralized Training and Professional Division had reason to be proud when it made Training magazine's Top 125 ranking a year ago.

In its first year applying, the division checked in at 98th on the list that ranks the best employee training programs in government and private-sector organizations around the world. The list includes the likes of McDonald's, IBM, and the No. 1 company this year, Pricewaterhouse Coopers. Hundreds of organizations are reviewed to compile the list, according to the magazine.

In the magazine's Top 125 list this year, featured in the February issue, Robins moved up to 48th. The companies that it finished ahead of include Wachovia, CarMax, UPS and Windstream Communications.

But that's not good enough for Ken Wallace, the acting chief of the training division.

"That's still too low," he said. "We want to move up to the top 10. That's what we are looking for is to move up to

that."

The magazine lists the factors that influence the rankings as follows: training tied to business objectives, number of trainers, employee turnover and retention, leadership development, tuition assistance, corporate university, certification, training budget and percentage of payroll.

Mark Brotherton, chief of resources and planning branch in the WR-ALC Centralized Training Office, said the base's leadership training program played a big role in the ranking. He also said that the division was able to provide metrics to back up the success of the leadership training.

"Anybody can write an award saying we are doing great things but what Training magazine wants is metrics that prove it," he said.

Among other things, the division surveys those who take the class to ensure they have retained the knowledge taught in the class.

Mr. Brotherton said the ranking is a special honor because the base is competing against public and private organizations from around the world.

"Obviously it's an honor

when you compete against civilian companies, when you compete against the likes of IBM, Toshiba, Sony... that says that not only are we doing our job military-wise, but we are world class," he said.

The magazine's listing for WR-ALC cites the organization as having \$4.2 billion in annual revenue, 20,544 employees and a total annual training budget of \$232 million. The listing cites the training division for emphasizing "knowledge management" with 40 percent of its workforce expected to become retirement eligible over the next three years. To maintain continuity as the workforce changes, the division stresses "knowledge sharing" through regular staff meetings, status reviews, shared drives and Web sites, the listing states.

The Training and Professional Development Division oversees an array of training activities, including new employee orientation and partnerships with area colleges.

"We are not just focused on winning an award," Mr. Wallace said, "but it's also recognizing that we are focused on the customer."

Commentary

"The strength of the Air Force comes from our people - and in large measure from our diversity. We join together from all walks of life to collectively serve our nation and its flag. Whether Regular, Reserve, Guard or Civilian, all of us take pride in our service, pledging that every action reflects our personal best. We also take pride in each other, bound through our common duty to perform the mission and perform it well."

— *Michael B. Donley, Secretary of the Air Force*

HOW TO CONTACT US

Robins Office of Public Affairs
620 Ninth Street, Bldg. 905
Robins AFB, GA 31098
(478) 926-2137 DSN 468-2137
Fax (478) 926-9597

EDITORIAL STAFF

COMMANDER
Col. Warren Berry

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
Rick Brewer

CHIEF OF INTERNAL INFORMATION
Lt. Chrissy Keeley
christine.keeley@robins.af.mil
(478) 222-0809

EDITOR
Kendahl Johnson
kendahl.johnson@robins.af.mil
(478) 222-0804

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Lanorris Askew
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil
(478) 222-0806

STAFF WRITER
Wayne Crenshaw
wayne.crenshaw.ctr@robins.af.mil
(478) 222-0807

PHOTOGRAPHER
Sue Sapp
sue.sapp@robins.af.mil
(478) 222-0805

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 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

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 Kendahl Johnson at (478) 222-0804.

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

The Robins Rev-Up is published by The Telegraph, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Robins Air Force Base, Ga., of the Air Force Materiel Command.

This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Robins Rev-Up are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, or Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force, or The Telegraph, of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical or mental handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.



Commander's Action Line

The Action Line is an open-door program for Team Robins personnel to give kudos, ask questions or suggest ways 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>

PHONE NUMBERS

▶ Security Forces	327-3445
▶ Services	926-5491
▶ Equal Opportunity	926-2131
▶ 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
▶ Chaplain	926-2821

BASE ENTRY

I think Robins needs to relook at gate entry via Common Access Cards. During the Christmas holiday I left my CAC in my office computer and was not admitted entry until someone could bring me my CAC. After numerous phone calls I finally reached a co-worker. Unfortunately, my office was locked and the only other person with a key was on leave. I was then directed to the Visitor's Center to gain access. There I found six or seven people lined up, waiting for the Visitor's Center to open. I called another co-worker who picked me up at the Visitor's Center, I retrieved my CAC from my office and returned to the Visitor Center to get my vehicle. On arrival, those same people were still standing outside for it to open.

Today at lunch neither me nor my co-worker had our CAC so we were denied entry. Once again, we had to go thru the same phone call after phone call

trying to locate someone who could bring us our CACs.

I know this frequently happens to others; is there a possibility for employees to have some other form of ID for base entry?

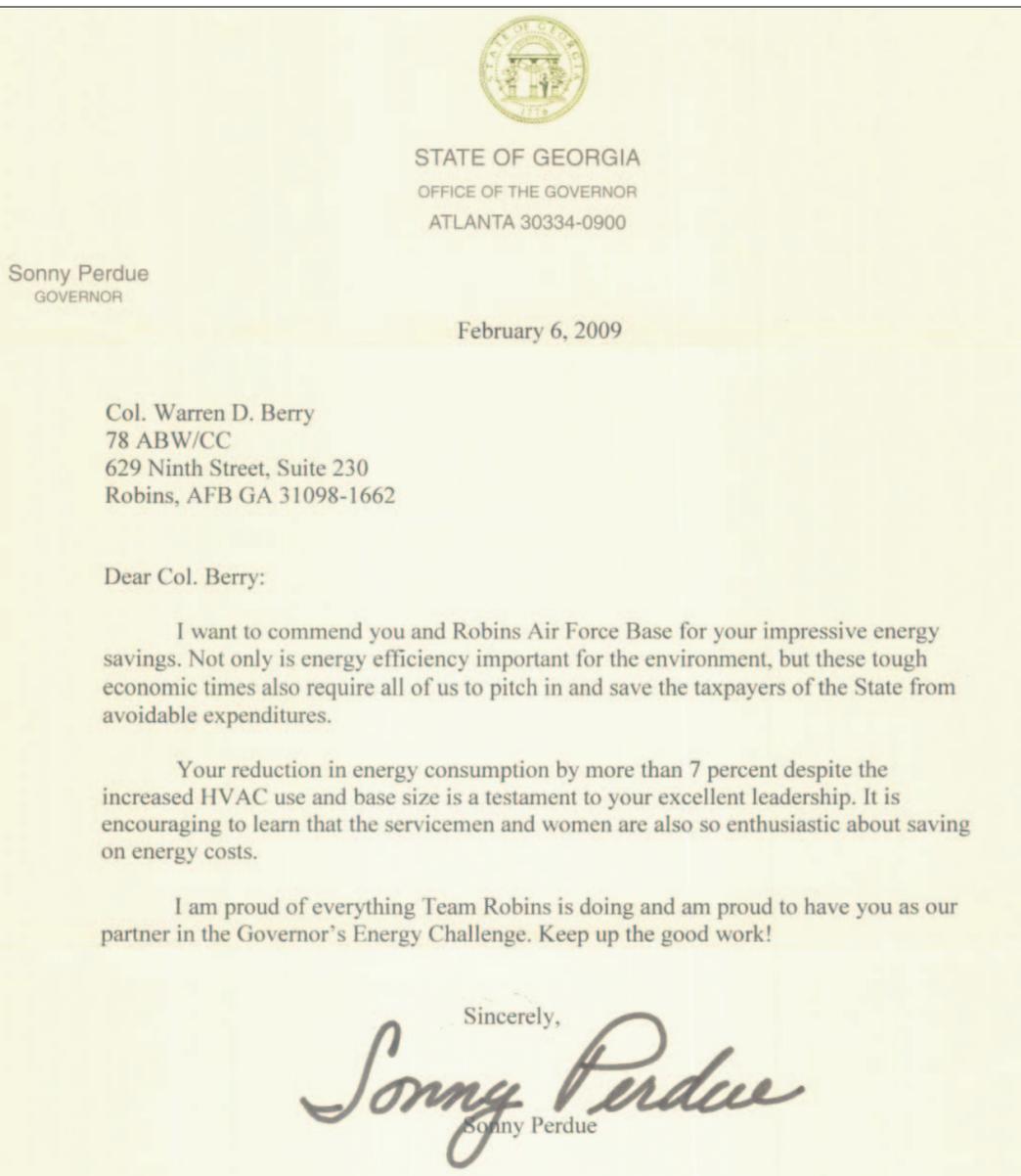
COLONEL BERRY'S RESPONSE:

Funny you should mention forgetting your CAC. I did this exact thing last week when I went to an off-base meeting. Someone from my office had to come meet me at the Russell Gate to hand me my ID so I could regain access to the installation. Was this inconvenient? You bet. Was I embarrassed? Uh-huh. Is it necessary? Absolutely. See, I could probably talk my way on base as the installation commander in my staff car. But that wouldn't be right.

DOD levies the rules for the types of ID we can accept for base entry, and for base employees that

requirement is a valid CAC or other military-issued ID (retiree, dependent, ANG, etc.). Those IDs tell us you are authorized to be on-base and have a valid need to enter the installation unescorted. No other ID card can do that (state licenses, for example), and entry authorization lists with 45,000+ names are just unmanageable to both search for names and keep accurately updated.

I take my force protection responsibilities very seriously...they are in place to protect you, your co-workers, and the other national treasures we have at Robins. It wasn't that long ago authorities foiled a terrorist plot against Fort Dix in New Jersey, so the threat is real. Sorry to say we'll all just have to be a bit more mindful of our CACs. By the way, I now have a Post-It note in my car to remind me to check that my CAC is in my wallet and not still in my computer. So far, so good.



Job well done!

Governor takes notice of Robins energy reduction efforts



Back to basic blue that good old feeling

Nothing feels better than marching in formation; After all, everyone loves a parade. The music, the sound of cadence and heels pounding together. That might sound strange to some but hear me out.

Anyone who has been in the military remembers their first time, probably while in Basic Training, that they experienced that special moment out on the drill pad, marching along in formation, after days or perhaps weeks of stumbling along as individuals. That day their flight came together and finally got it right. At that moment their training instructor might have

said something like. "There you go girls. Now you've got it! Nice heal beat... Mak'in me proud!"

After countless hours on the pavement you and your unit got it right. You were finally marching as a single element rather than a mass of people. It felt good. Real good. You never thought you would get it right... but you did. Some of you may have wanted to give up along the way but your instructor never gave up on you. He never doubted the outcome of the countless hours of drill that got you there. Rigid discipline, practice, expert leadership and determination got

you there. Do you remember how it felt that first time?

It felt real good. Remember?

Well as we go along we sometimes forget that day. Just another milestone along the way, right? Sadly the feeling too is often filed away along with so many other experiences the military gives us.

An article by Robert F. Dorn in the Air Force Times "A more Martial Manner" - January 26, 2009, pg. 46 pointed out the feeling by many that we need to adjust our course to refocus on basic customs and courtesies which at times are lacking in our

service today. As Mr. Dorr put it "It's time to focus on proper military conduct so we'll be at our best to focus on the larger issues." I couldn't agree with him more. I believe you have to admit that it feels good to be squared away. To have your stuff together. To look good. Have you seen the U.S. Marine Corps TV commercials where sharp, almost flawless Marines execute pristine maneuvers, be it with rifles or swords? How many of us have thought "Man! They're good!" Well, so are we. Or at least we were once. And there's no reason we can't be again. After all, just think back to how good it felt

- that heal beat, all together - one unit getting it right.

It is the same feeling you can embrace in any military formation; Retreat, reveille to the colors. Even on the job. Especially on the job you can reclaim that same old feeling. A good haircut, a crisp well tailored uniform on a trim fit body. I urge you to reclaim that good old feeling and take unique pride in your heritage. The Marines deserve the pride and acclaim they have earned as a fighting force and so do you! Hey Airman - Let's get back to basic blue!

— *This commentary was written by Scott Hubbart, retired chief master sergeant*

Robins Health Expo draws crowd

Health Expo readies Robins for start of Team Lean Challenge



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Above left, Staff Sgt. Travis McCord, 78th Medical Group Mental Health Clinic, talks with Wayne "Wes" Warren, 638th Supply Chain Management Group, about the "You Matter" campaign, a Team Robins suicide prevention program, at the Fitness Center Annex health fair Feb. 19.

Above right, Harold Dobbs, with the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc., gets a blood sample from Gracie Thomas in order to do a sickle cell test at the health fair.

► IN BRIEF

WR-ALC ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center annual award ceremony will be March 12 at 2:30 p.m. in the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar.

ROSC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Robins Officer Spouses Club scholarship applications are now available. All applicants can access the applications via the ROSC Web site at www.robinsosc.com.

Graduating seniors may also pick up a packet from their high school guidance counselors. Completed application packets must be post-marked by March 16.

Eligibility requirements for all applicants:

- Dependent children or spouses of retired, deceased, or active-duty military members currently stationed at Robins or be a dependent child/spouse of an eligible retired, deceased, or current DOD civilian employee of Robins.

- 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.

For more information e-mail Gail Simon-Boyd at gail_simon2000@yahoo.com.

ROBINS OFFICER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Robins Officer Christian Fellowship meets every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. in the Base Chapel classrooms 3 and 4. For more information call 218-5494 or e-mail luis.morales@afrc.af.mil or janice.morales-hill@afrc.af.mil.

NATIONAL PRAYER LUNCHEON

The annual National Prayer Luncheon will be held March 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Museum of Aviation Century of Flight Hangar. Guest speaker will be Chaplain (Capt.) Jeff Struecker whose service in Somalia was captured in the best-selling book and award winning movie, "Black Hawk Down."

Individual tickets are on sale through March 10 for \$5. For more information call Chaplain (Capt.) Joshua Payne 955-5577.

SPREAD THE WORD

An electronic version of the Spread the Word briefing is available online at <https://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/pubaffairs/word/word.asp>.

Briefing topics range from the assignment cycle and tempo banding to upcoming uniform changes and civilian hiring procedures.

Questions may be sent to the Spread the Word team at stw.workflow@randolph.af.mil.

Robins athlete in 'cool running' to make U.S. Olympic bobsled team

BY KENDAHL JOHNSON

kendahl.johnson@robins.af.mil

Although the weather is improving and winter is fading into spring, the cold elements will remain a part of everyday life for Tech. Sgt. Hoy Thurman, who is training for the 2010 Olympics.

Sergeant Thurman, a surveillance radar technician in the 116th Air Control Wing, was recently reaccepted into the World Class Athlete Program. He will spend the next year competing for a coveted spot on the United States 2010 Olympic bobsled team.

He said he spends his time weight lifting, trying to increase his size without losing speed or mobility.

"I need to gain 10 or 15 pounds to truly be competitive," the sergeant said, "but you can't just be big and strong, you also have to have mobility."

The 41-year-old Georgia Air National Guard sergeant spent the last 15 years participating on the Air Force track and field team, racing in World Class events both nationally and internationally. In 2004, he was recruited to the sport of bobsledding. He is currently racing in USA Bobsled & Skeleton Federation races, including one recently in Park

City, Utah.

Once he started bobsledding, he had to give up track and field.

"I was a top sprinter for Air Force for several years, but once I started doing the bobsled, I started putting the weight on," Sergeant Thurman said. "I had too much mass to run around the track at the speeds I used to run at."

Making the Olympic team will be an uphill battle for Sergeant Thurman. There are a limited number of spaces available and he is competing against athletes half his age. He welcomes the challenge.

"This is my last chance and I am giving it everything I've got," he said. "I've always been on the threshold of being a World Cup level athlete and now I am ready to take it beyond that."

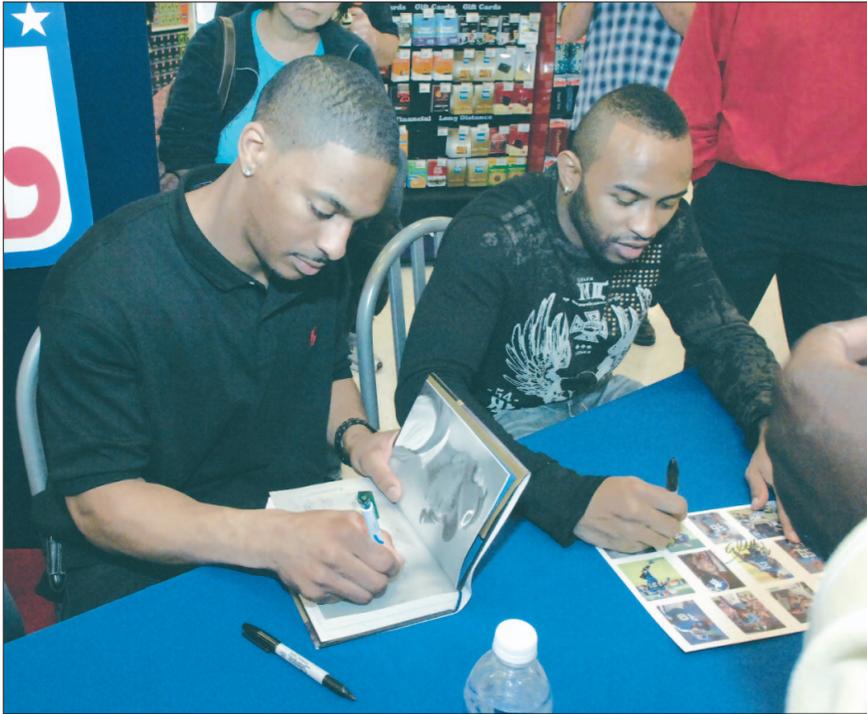
When not traveling the country competing in events, Sergeant Thurman gives back to the Warner Robins community. He has been touring the elementary school speaking circuit, speaking to youngsters about staying active and being involved in sports.

The 2010 Winter Olympics will be held Feb. 12-28, 2010, in Vancouver, Canada. Eight people will make the team and compete in both the two-man and four-man events.



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Hoy Thurman (left), a surveillance radar technician in the 116th Air Control Wing, will compete in many bobsled events like this one in Park City, Utah, in an effort to make the U.S. 2010 Olympic bobsled



NFL players greet fans, salute troops

Warner Robins native and Northside High School graduate Chansi Stuckey (left) signs autographs at the Base Exchange. Stuckey, a wide receiver for the New York Jets, was joined by 11 other NFL players at Robins, including St. Louis Rams cornerback Tye Hill (right). The group was here as part of a "Salute the Troops" event.

U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

Regular season standings (through Feb. 21)

TEAM	W	L	UPCOMING SCHEDULE:
116 ACW	9	2	March 2
581 SMXS	7	2	78 LRS vs 5 CBCS #1
542 CBSG	7	2	78 MDG vs 402 EMXG
402 EMXG	5	2	SMXS vs 5 CBCS #2
78th LRS	5	4	March 3
5 CBCS #1	5	5	78 MDG vs 78 LRS
78th CG	3	8	5 CBCS #1 vs 5 CBCS #2
78th SFS	3	8	March 4
78th MDG	2	7	116 ACW vs 542 CBSG
5 CBCS #2	1	7	402 EMXG vs 78 CG

OVER 30 LEAGUE

TEAM	W	L	UPCOMING SCHEDULE:
542 CBSG	6	2	March 3
116 ACW	2	2	78 FSS VS 116 ACW
5 CBCS	5	3	Postseason tournament
78th FSS	2	4	March 4
78th MDG	1	5	4 Seed vs 5 Seed
			March 5
			4 or 5 Seed vs 1 Seed
			3 Seed vs 2 Seed

Swinging Shaking & Shimmying



Fancy foot work is the order of the day during salsa dance class at the community center.

Sergeant uses dance classes to bring rhythm to Robins

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
wayne.crenshaw.ctr@robins.af.mil

Every Tuesday night at Robins, Tech. Sgt. Sa'Rita Williams teaches a dance class that takes students from one side of the world to the other.

In the first segment of the class she teaches what is advertised as a salsa class, but she said it is more accurately described as a Latin dance class. That's because salsa is just one of the Latin styles that she covers.

Then she moves across the ocean to teach belly dancing, which originates from the Mediterranean. The men tend to only be interested in the Latin dance class, but Sergeant Williams noted that men can belly dance and it's done in a masculine style different from female belly dancers.

Even the Latin class has more female participants than males, which is typical of most dance classes.

"Men are shy," Sergeant Williams said, "really, really shy. My own husband really wouldn't do this."

She learned Latin dance growing up in Brooklyn because her father is a native of Puerto Rico. She learned belly dancing at Robins after she transferred here over a year ago and began taking the classes. She eventually took over both the classes from the previous instructor and has been doing it for about a year.

The classes cost \$40 to attend four sessions, and that includes both the Latin and belly dancing instruction. Sergeant Williams is accustomed to working with a class with varying skill levels, so students can start any time they want.

C.J. Holmes and his wife, Staff Sgt. Charisse Holmes, have been taking the class for three weeks. Mr. Holmes said he and his wife started taking the class because she is Hispanic and they like to go to a lot of Latin clubs.

Although he had not been especially crazy about dancing before, Mr. Holmes said he has enjoyed learning Latin dance.

"It's pretty easy," he said. "She's a good teacher."

Riza Dostie said she attends the class because it's fun and good exercise.

"I like it a lot," she said. "You meet a lot of people."

Sergeant Williams said the classes are good for people who are just getting started with exercise because it's a good workout without being overly strenuous.

This is the slow time of year for the class, with about eight to 10 people in each session, but Sergeant Williams said it typically goes up to about 20 during the summer as more people are interested in heading out to clubs and dancing.

At the end of each month she takes the class to Emilio's Cuban Café, which has a Latin band each Saturday. That's sort of the test for the class to try out their skills in public.

The Latin class begins at 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday and the belly dancing class starts at 6:30 p.m. The classes are held in the community center at the Heritage Club. Students can sign up by calling the community center at 926-2105.



Dance instructor Tech. Sgt. Sa'Rita Williams (center) helps Riza Dostie (left) and Staci Curry practice steps during belly dancing class at the community center.



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Staci Curry uses hip movements to make the coins on her belly dance skirt jangle.



Above, Dance instructor Tech. Sgt. Sa'Rita Williams (right) helps Staff Sgt. Charisse Holmes and her husband C.J. Holmes with an "under the arm" move during salsa dancing class at the community center Tuesday.

At left, the salsa dance class practices the cha-cha dance steps they have learned.

78th FSS BRIEFS

FRIDAY

The teen center will hold Keystone meetings Feb. 27 at 6 p.m., public speaking sessions will be held Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m., career launch classes Feb. 27 at 5:30 p.m. The monthly fine arts and photography submissions are due by Feb. 27. For more information call the teen center at 926-5601.

SATURDAY

A Texas Hold 'Em will be held Feb. 28 in the Heritage Club. Sign-ups start at 3:30 p.m. with games beginning at 4 p.m. Prizes will be based on customer participation. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for guests. All ranks and grades are welcome. For more information call the Heritage Club at 926-2670.

A two-person dogfight is scheduled for Feb. 28 with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. The event package includes golf cart, range balls, lunch and prizes. Cost is \$25 per person AGF and \$30 for guests. Sign up by Feb. 26 at the Pine Oaks pro shop or call 926-4103.

SUNDAY

Super Sunday brunch will be held once a month at Horizons from 10 am. to 1 p.m. Brunch will always include breakfast items, omelet station, dinner entrees, carving station, salad bar, dessert and ice cream bar and more. Cost is \$11.95 for members, \$13.95 for guests and \$6.95 for children (3 – 10 years old) and children two years and younger are free. Please mark your calendar for the following dates: Super Sunday brunches will be held March 1, April 12 (Easter Sunday), May 10 (Mother's Day), June 21 (Father's Day), July 12, Aug. 2, Sept. 13, Oct. 4, Nov. 1 and Dec. 6 (Santa comes early). For more information call Horizons at 926-2670.

THURSDAY

The table tennis club will meet every Thursday in the Heritage Club ballroom from 4 to 8 p.m. Open to all and sign up is not necessary. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

UPCOMING

Texas Hold 'Em will now be held on Sundays starting March 1 in the Heritage Club. Sign-ups start at 1:30

p.m. with games beginning at 2 p.m. Prizes will be based on customer participation. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for guests. All ranks and grades are welcome. For more information call the Heritage Club at 926-2670.

Learn a new skill or brush up on an old one starting March 2 in the community center. Piano classes starting March 2 from 7 to 8 p.m., cost \$65 per person; salsa starting March 3 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and belly dancing from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., cost \$40 per person when you register for one class, get the other for free. All classes need to be paid in advance. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

A First Friday will be held at the Heritage Club and Horizons March 6 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. First Friday means great food, chances to win prizes, entertainment and drink specials. Members must be present to win. Cost is members free and non-members \$5. For more information call 926-2670.

A yard sale will be held March 7 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). For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

Visit ITT's 9th Annual Explore & Expand Your Horizons Travel Show March 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Heritage Club, Bldg. 956. Visitors will have chance to win a variety of prizes and gain information to plan their next weekend getaway or vacation. For more information call ITT at 926-2945.

Want to learn new tricks? Join in on the fun and play Bridge at the Heritage Club starting March 11 at 6 p.m. for five weeks. Cost is free. For more information contact Ruth Suggs at 923-4574 or the Heritage Club at 926-2670.

A Women's History Month Art Exhibit will be held March 23 and 24 from 11 am to 6 p.m. in the Heritage Club ballroom. Tickets will go on sale

Equipment rental



U.S. Air Force file photo by SUE SAPP

Wayne Warren, Outdoor Recreation equipment technician, gets one of two Bayliner inboard 3 liter ski boats in their fleet ready for rental. They also have three Wildwood 19 ft campers that sleep seven and are totally self-contained. Outdoor Recreation is located in Bldg. 914, Ninth Street. For more information on their equipment rental call 926-4001.

March 1 for \$5 for both days. For more details call the Arts & Crafts Center at 926-5282 or visit www.robinservices.com/artsandcrafts.

A skeet tournament and steak dinner will be held March 29. The tournament will be from noon to 6 p.m. and the cost is \$20 and includes skeet with 50 challenging clay targets and steak dinner with the trimmings or non-shooters for \$12. Dinner will be from 2 to 6 p.m. For more information call outdoor recreation at 926-4001 or the skeet range at 926-4733.

ONGOING

Come by the Heritage Club and check out and play the XBOX 360 in the Mouse Pad. To check out games please show your ID card. Hours of operations are Monday – Thursday 8

am. to 8 p.m. and Friday 8 am to 5 p.m. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

Time to play and win a trip to a final four game during the Air Force March Madness. Pick up a game piece, one per customer per visit at the Base Restaurant, Fairways Grille (Golf Course), Heritage Club, Horizons, On Spot Café (Bowling Center) or Pizza Depot. Go online for more details. Go to www.airforcemarchmadness.com to enter your code for the online bracket tournament. Prizes will include first place a trip for four to the 2010 Final Four game for three days/two nights, hotel, air, car rental, game tickets and \$1,000 spending money, second place receives \$5,000; third place \$2,500, fourth place \$1,000 and five subsequent winners will win a Coca Cola

NCAA Pop-A-Shot arcade home-style basketball game. For more information call Marketing at 926-5492.

The 78th Force Support Squadron offers designated driver programs at the Heritage Club, Horizons and Pizza Depot to assist in reducing alcohol related incidents. For groups of two or more, please identify yourself as the designated driver to the operations assistant on duty. They will provide free fountain soft drinks, fruit juices or non-alcoholic frozen drinks during your visit. To learn more about FSS designated drivers programs, call 926-2670.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the bowling center. Bowl a strike when the green pin is in the number one position and that game is complimentary. For more information call 926-2112.

Editor's note: Have an opinion? If you have any suggestions for topics or would like to sound off on my top five, email kendahl.johnson@robins.af.mil.



FAVORITE COLLEGE NICKNAMES

Nearly every educational institution, from the large universities to the small colleges, has a nickname. For many, it's the usual animal, like the ever popular Eagles or Tigers (the most common and second most common nicknames respectively). Many are chosen based on the location or history of the institution. Some make sense while others just make you scratch your head in bewilderment. Some send you to a dictionary, like the California Maritime Academy Keelhaulers. Here is a list of my five favorite nicknames:

5 Sweet Briar College Vixens
Students at Sweet Briar College, a liberal arts women's college in Sweet Briar, Va., selected the vixen as their mascot in 1979. The Oxford American Dictionary offers two definitions of vixen: a female fox and a quarrelsome woman. The school's website offers: "Either works. Take your pick."

4 Southeastern Oklahoma State University Savage Storm
SOSU, formerly called the "Savages," was one of the many schools named by the NCAA regarding the use of a Native American nickname. The school buckled under the pressure and changed its athletic nickname to the "Savage Storm". Its mascot is now a superhero instead of a Native American symbol. I approve of the change.

3 University of Arkansas-Monticello Boll Weevils
This university actually has two of my favorites, as the women's sports teams are known as the Cotton Blossoms. It's an ironic choice of nicknames however, since the boll weevil is a destructive pest that infested U.S. cotton-growing areas in the early 1920s and devastated the crop.

2 Long Beach State Dirtbags
The Dirtbags is the unofficial nickname of Long Beach State's baseball team. The name Dirtbag first appeared in 1989, when new head coach Dave Snow inherited a program that had compiled a horrific 14-45 record the year before, along with a roster consisting almost entirely of new players. The team posted a 50-15 overall record, an amazing turnaround, and The Dirtbag name continues to be worn as a badge of honor today.

1 University of California-Santa Cruz Banana Slugs
What could be more intimidating than this little creature, known for its ability to process leaves, animal droppings, and dead plant material, and then recycle them into soil? In 1986, students at UCSC were unenthused about the current mascot, the sea lion, and voted via referendum to declare the banana slug the school's official mascot. I guess they'd prefer to be called "Slugs."

DONATE YOUR LEAVE

Employee-relations specialists at 926-5307 or 926-5802 have information and instructions concerning requests to receive or donate annual leave.

The following person has been approved as a leave recipient: **Candice Shinholster**, 578th SMXS. POC is Brad Simmons 926-0427.

To have an approved leave recipient printed in the Robins Rev-Up, wings should send information to Lanorris Askew at: lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks.

78th FSS PHONE DIRECTORY

- ▶ Services926-5491
- ▶ Community Center926-2105
- ▶ Outdoor Rec926-4001
- ▶ Arts & Crafts926-5282
- ▶ Horizons926-2670
- ▶ Heritage Club926-7625
- ▶ Library327-8761
- ▶ HAWC327-8480
- ▶ Fitness Center926-2128
- ▶ Fitness Center Annex926-2128
- ▶ Youth Center926-2110
- ▶ ITT926-2945
- ▶ Bowling Center926-2112
- ▶ Pine Oaks G.C.926-4103
- ▶ Pizza Depot926-0188

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

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic
Catholic masses are 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.

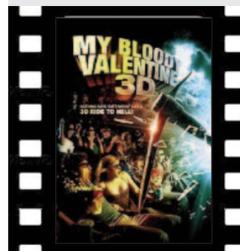
Jewish
Jewish service is Fridays at 6:15 p.m. at the Macon synagogue.

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.

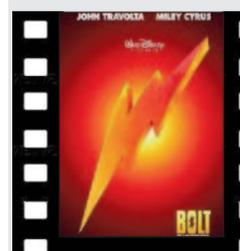


NOW PLAYING



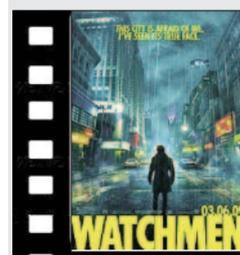
FEB. 27 — 7:30 P.M.
MY BLOODY VALENTINE
RATED R

Ten years ago Tom Hanning, an inexperienced coal miner, caused an accident that trapped and killed five men and sent the only survivor, Harry Warden, into a permanent coma. Then, exactly one year later, on Valentine's Day, Harry Warden woke up—and brutally murdered 22 people with a pickaxe before being killed.



FEB 28 — 2 P.M.
BOLT
RATED PG

For super-dog Bolt, every day is filled with adventure, danger and intrigue, at least until the cameras stop rolling. When the star of a hit TV show is accidentally shipped from his Hollywood soundstage to New York City, he begins his biggest adventure yet, a cross-country journey through the real world to get back to his owner and co-star, Penny.



FREE ADVANCE SCREENING
WATCHMEN
RATED R
FEB. 28

Tickets available today at the Base Exchange checkout counters, Burger King, food court, service station and shoppette. Seating is first-come, first-served. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. movie starts at 7:30 p.m. A complex, multi-layered mystery adventure, set in an alternate 1985 America where superheroes are part of everyday society.

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

Services to standardize depot maintenance funding projections

BY PLAN AND PROGRAMS TRANSFORMATION OFFICE

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center hosted the Office of Secretary of Defense, Program Analysis and Evaluation, for a week-long process improvement event focused on reporting depot projected requirements to the Department of Defense.

Dr. Chien Huo, of the OSD/PA&E Force and Infrastructure Cost Analysis Division, led the event which included representatives from various Air Force, Navy and Army organizations.

The purpose of the event was to bring the services together to develop a standardized methodology to provide projected depot maintenance requirements as “leading” indicators for funding decisions.

Currently the reporting methodology used by the services does not provide the required depth of information to give DOD leadership visibility of depot-projected requirements – major end items. At a critical time in defending the war on terror, budget constraints, reviews of requirements and expenditures, and supplemental funding, there is strong need for adequate supporting information to ensure improved visibility of depot maintenance requirements.

“It was an honor to host this event,” said Maj. Gen. Polly Peyer, WR-ALC commander. “We hope to have other opportunities to share these experiences and find common ground for all services.”

Also attending the event was Gregg Fogarty from OSD

Maintenance Policy & Programs division. Mr. Fogarty outlined the importance of optimizing capability investments across the defense enterprise – both materiel and non-materiel – and minimizing risk to meet the needs of the DOD’s strategy.

“Capability portfolio managers do not have the authority to change funding dollars, but we are advocates to advise leadership of the right balance of risk and investment,” said Mr. Fogarty.

Regardless of service, the end goal is to improve warfighter material availability and reliability, reduce costs and reduce maintenance cycle times.

Identifying and sustaining requisite core maintenance capability and technical competence is necessary to fully support the strategic and contingency plans of the warfighters; but, understanding that at an executive level is vital in defending the budget to the comptroller and other head of DOD components.

In preparation for the event, Dr. Huo and his study team visited the Maintenance Wing at Robins, Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas, and the Fleet Readiness Service Center in Jacksonville, Fla., to research the requirements generation process and analyze a test-bed of data that identified the various definitions of what each Service calls readiness.

During the event each service presented their highlights how readiness is measured: Air Force uses aircraft availability; the Army looks at mission capability; and the Navy focuses a ready-for-tasking measure used for the Carrier

Air Wings. While each mission differs, there is a common theme having air vehicles ready and capable on time and on cost. It is that understanding that was necessary to translate the three “languages” and missions into one common graphical interface that ultimately allows OSD to translate programmed requirements into capability.

Using a series of improvement tools, it was determined that readiness drives the depot maintenance requirement and ultimately that metric is used to determine whether the programmed dollar fully supports, under or over, the depot maintenance requirement. Each Service then translated their mission into a “sliding scale” of readiness, creating a capability model to determine the consequences of not being funded. Ultimately for the Air Force, aircraft availability proved to be the measure which best assesses the health of the individual weapon system in a mission area, and illustrates the operational readiness of meeting Global Reach, Global Power and Global Vigilance. Aircraft availability is an improved measure of merit, optimizes capability and better assesses risk for timeliness prioritization.

OSD plans to use the new capability model to formalize metrics with the OSD and Service comptrollers to ensure the most accurate reporting possible.

The event was Phase II of Dr. Huo’s study which focused on aircraft; Phase I focused on ground combat vehicles and two other phases will consider software and ships.

More troops, families to qualify for New GI Bill

BY DONNA MILES

American Forces Press Service

Troops nearing retirement eligibility may be able to tap into the transferability benefits provided in the new Post-9/11 GI Bill, even if they're unable to serve four more years of duty due to service policies, a senior defense official said.

The Post-9/11 Veterans Education Bill that takes effect in August and will offer more benefits and the ability to transfer benefits to a spouse or child has proven to be a hit with the troops, Bill Carr, deputy undersecretary of defense for military personnel policy, told the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

Of servicemembers surveyed in August, 97 percent said they plan to take advantage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, particularly its transferability provision, Mr. Carr said.

“Enormous interest has been expressed in the transferability provision and how it would work, because so many in the force have families,” Mr. Carr said. He noted that half of the military force is married. By the time troops have served six years of duty, about two-thirds have families.

To qualify for transferability under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, servicemembers must have served six years on active duty or in the Selected Reserve and must commit to another four years. But Mr. Carr said the

rules could be tweaked soon to allow mid- or late-career troops to qualify, even if they can’t sign on for another four years of duty due to service restrictions.

Rules expected to be published in the months ahead will clarify exactly who is or isn't eligible to transfer their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits. Mr. Carr said he expects those rules to be “very flexible” to allow servicemembers with 15 or even 20 years of service to qualify. What’s definite now is that only those in the active or reserve components on Aug. 1 will be eligible for transferability under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

“The law doesn’t allow it to be retroactive” to cover those who already have left the military, Mr. Carr said.

The new bill represents the most comprehensive education package since the original World War II-era GI Bill, he said. Unlike the current GI Bill, it covers 100 percent - rather than 80 percent - of the cost of tuition, fees and books. Servicemembers no longer will have to pay \$1,200 out of pocket, at the rate of \$100 a month for their first year of service, to qualify.

In addition, most troops will receive a “living stipend” while drawing GI Bill benefits. That benefit will equate to the basic allowance for housing that an E-5 with dependents serving on active duty receives, Mr. Carr said. And for the first time, servicemem-

bers will be able to transfer any benefits they don't use themselves to their immediate family members.

Of those surveyed in August, 73 percent said they would transfer benefits to their spouse, while 94 percent said they would transfer them to their children.

This is a particularly attractive option for servicemembers who have earned degrees before entering the military or while on duty through the military's tuition assistance programs, Mr. Carr said. These programs will continue when the Post-9/11 GI Bill takes effect.

Troops automatically are eligible to transfer to the Post-9/11 GI Bill program when it takes effect, but must elect to do so, officials said.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, which administers the program, has more details about the basic program on its Web site. The Defense Department will oversee the transferability program and set up a Web-based application servicemembers can use to request transfer of their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, Mr. Carr said.

Mr. Carr expressed hope that servicemembers will take advantage of the new benefits.

“The new GI Bill provides some wonderful opportunities for the military,” he said. “These are benefits that we had hoped for for a number of years, and finally have received.”

CONSERVE ENERGY

