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ROBINS REV-UP

March 27, 2009 Vol. 54 No. 12

Robins to receive \$35M under Recovery Act

BY ED DROHAN
78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Robins will receive more than \$35 million for 77 construction projects under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, according to a Department of Defense announcement.

The projects include construction of a parking lot valued at \$12,000 and nearly \$4 million in repairs to the base's runway.

The only base in the Air Force to have more projects funded than Robins is Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, which is home to Robins' command organization, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command. The Ohio base received funding for 86 projects.

Among the other projects funded at Robins were:

►\$1.61 million for repairs to the Airmen

dormitories

►\$4.8 million to repair the roof and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems at Bldg. 300.

►\$215,000 to resurface the Fitness Center track.

►\$322,000 to construct a parking lot at Second Street.

►\$2.1 million to repair or replace sections of the perimeter fence.

With a focus on Airmen and family care, and environmental stewardship, the Air Force's portion of the stimulus will spur about 1,500 military construction and facility improvement projects including quality-of-life upgrades and renewable energy research.

Officials said they specifically identified the locations around the Air Force with the greatest need based on previously conducted

facility and requirements studies to maximize the benefit of ARRA funding. Mission requirements, quality of life impact, environmental documentation and the ability of a base to start work on a project quickly were primary selection considerations, according to the DOD ARRA report.

The Recovery Act includes approximately \$7.4 billion in Defense-related appropriations, or about 1 percent of the total \$787 billion stimulus package signed on Feb. 17 by President Obama. The Air Force portion of the appropriation is \$1.7 billion.

The 2009 ARRA is an effort to jumpstart the American economy, create and save jobs, and build the foundation for long-term growth.

The complete list of projects, along with information about how they were selected, is at www.defenselink.mil/recovery or www.recovery.gov.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Senior Airman Adekunle Adeoti, 78th Security Forces, checks an ID at the Russell Parkway Gate.

Traffic study gives true view of travel patterns

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
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In a series of commander's calls held last year, one of the most common questions had to do with the time it takes to get through security check points to enter Robins.

Some complained that it took 15 to 20 minutes of waiting to get through the gates. To address those concerns, Security Forces conducted a study of traffic flow at each gate. They also looked at the wait times at the two busiest entrances, Watson Boulevard and Russell Parkway.

What they found was that perception and reality are sharply different. The wait times at those gates, measured over a three-day period in peak morning hours — 5 to 7:30 a.m. — was only two to four minutes.

"Your perception of time can become exaggerated if you are sitting in a car and not moving," said Maj. Russell Stilling, commander of the 78th Security Forces Squadron. "It seems that time accelerates, so a couple of minutes can seem like 10 minutes."

The base operates four gates for general use and one for commercial use. Of the four general-use gates, Gate 14, which is the Russell Parkway gate, rated the busiest during peak morning hours from 4:30 to 9:30 a.m. However, only Gate 3, the Watson Boulevard gate, is open at 4:30 a.m. The others open at 5 a.m.

But that's going to change. As a result of the study, the Russell Parkway gate will now open at 4:30 a.m., although it will close an hour early, shutting down at midnight rather than 1 a.m.

Gate 1 at Green Street primarily is used by flightline personnel and it had the lowest usage, with 2,716 vehicles entering the base over a three-day period during the peak hours. But for those who don't work on the flightline, the Martin Luther King gate, Gate 5, is the least-used gate. It registered 3,715 vehicles entering during the study period.

Major Stilling encourages drivers to use the Martin Luther King Boulevard gate if they want to get in with very little waiting.

The study also showed that customer interaction took about 4 to 6 seconds per vehicle with proper credentials and 25 to 45 seconds in special circumstances, such as having an expired ID.

BY THE NUMBERS

Percentage of vehicles entering Robins using each gate:

Russell Parkway	42 percent
Watson	25 percent
MLK Jr.	19 percent
Green Street	14 percent

A visit from the AFMC commander



U.S. Air Force photo by RAYMOND CRAYTON

Staff Sgt. Vincent Walker, training instructor with the 78th Security Forces Squadron, discusses weapons fighting techniques with Gen. Donald Hoffman, Air Force Materiel Command commander, and his wife, Jacki.

General shares command priorities

BY KENDAHL JOHNSON
kendahl.johnson@robins.af.mil

Despite the current economic downturn, the Air Force is still hiring civilian workers, particularly in the acquisition and sustainment fields, according to the commander of Air Force Materiel Command.

"We are not tied directly to the ups and downs of the economy," said Gen. Donald Hoffman at the end of a two-day visit on Tuesday. "You don't just park your military for six months or a year while you work through issues with the economy. The job of national defense goes on."

The topic of job vacancies was just one of several priorities the general discussed during a town hall meeting and follow-up interview. One of his goals for what he

calls his "immersion visit" to Robins was to emphasize the command's five priorities. Rolled out at the AFMC Senior Leaders Conference, which Robins hosted earlier this month, these priorities are:

- Reinvigorate AFMC's role in the nuclear enterprise;
- Implement effective and efficient integrated life-cycle management to support the warfighter;
- Support the Air Force by recruiting, training, and retaining a high-performing workforce;
- Nurture and protect the command's people and families;
- Be good stewards of government resources.

Several of General Hoffman's comments during his visit and observations

about the air logistics center related to these priorities.

"These last two days I've had the opportunity to tour a lot of the back shops and see a lot of the activity going on at Robins, (and) I gained an overwhelming impression of just how huge the operation is here," he said. "Another impression is how strong the community support is for the mission here and for those who work at Robins."

General Hoffman also had appreciative observations of the Robins workforce.

"I am impressed with the professionalism of the workforce here and its dedication to getting the mission done effectively," he said.

► see HOFFMAN, 2A

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Resource conservation -- its our responsibility

Take the next 120 seconds and think how you can help Robins and Air Force Materiel Command conserve resources — using the fine-tipped pens in the supply closet instead of needlessly ordering the ones you really like, or discarding that old coffee pot in your workplace that have plugged in but no longer use. By putting the same thought into decisions to spend tax dollars and time as you would about decisions to spend your own money and time, you can make a difference. — 78th Air Base Wings Public Affairs

COMMUNITY

Cherry Blossom parade

Members of Robins community participate in local parade, 1B

SAFETY

See Me Save Me

Motorcyclists take Robins safety campaign on the road, 6B

AWARD

Groundwater Treatment Plant

Robins facility recognized for outstanding work, 2A

WEATHER

FRIDAY
70/57

SATURDAY
76/60

SUNDAY
65/49

Robins plant works overtime to treat groundwater

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

Nelson Rosa is working hard to make his job at Robins unnecessary.

When the Groundwater Treatment Plant opened at Robins in 1997, it was expected to take 30 years before it would have cleaned all the contaminated groundwater on base. Now it's on track to have that job largely completed in another five years, at which time the plant operations could cease.

"We are pretty much working to put ourselves out of a job," said Mr. Rosa, the operations manager at the plant.

The efficiency of the plant has once again been recognized by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals. On March 18, in a conference at Callaway Gardens, the group for the seventh time named the Robins facility the Plant of the Year for industrial water treatment plants in the state.

The plant does not produce water to be used for any purpose, said Phil Manning, an environmental engineer at Robins. It extracts contaminated water from six sites on the base, using a network of about 40 wells and eight miles of reinforced pipe to protect against spills as the water is piped to the plant.

After the water is treated it is sent to the Ocmulgee River.

The final product, Mr. Rosa said, is cleaner than the river water. While it is not recommended for drinking, he said it would probably be OK to drink. He recalled a general visiting the plant one year and a colonel showing samples of the treated water.

"The general's last question was 'How do I know this water is clean?'" Mr. Rosa said. "The colonel opened a jar and drank it. The general said 'That's good enough for me.'"

The contaminated sites are mostly the result of disposal done at Robins decades ago when environmental protection standards were a far cry from the strict regulations of today. Much of the contamination, Mr. Manning said, comes from barrels of solvents that had been tossed into landfills. Three of the sites are old landfills, another is from a storage tank that leaked, and another came from a leaking pipe. The contamination is not a threat to drinking water on base because that comes from a much deeper aquifer, Mr. Manning said. Although the contaminated water is not a threat now, he said, the purpose of the cleanup is to make sure that it does not become a threat in the future.

The influx of rainwater into the contaminated sites replaces water that is pumped out, but as the process continues the water becomes more diluted and less of a threat, Mr. Manning said.

Although it is manned only eight hours per day, thanks to computer technology the plant operates around the clock, processing 650 gallons of water per minute almost non-stop. Each plant operator has a computer hookup at home where the vitals of the plant can be monitored during off hours.

In fact, in 2008 the plant operated 99.6 percent of the time, with the only down time being the occasional repair or maintenance. That also earned the plant the Gold Award from the association.

"A lot of plant operators would give their eyeteeth to have the kind of up time that we have here," Mr. Manning said.

The plant also won the association's Safety Award for having no lost-time accidents in its history.

The high-tech plant employs a system that uses ultraviolet lights, chemical feed pumps and granular activated carbon filters. The plant costs a total of \$17.2 million which includes the original construction and two expansions. It is operated under contract by EarthTech.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Tyrone Daniel, operations and maintenance technician, does a process testing technique for peroxide.



U.S. Air Force photo by RAYMOND CRAYTON

General Hoffman takes a moment to pose with Commander Kill A Watt, mascot for the base energy conservation campaign. Energy conservation is a high priority for both the general and Robins.

HOFFMAN

Continued from 1A

The general said professionalism is vital in maintaining the confidence and trust of American citizens. He said it is important for government employees to respect resources paid for with tax dollars.

"Protect, conserve and consume resources as if they are your own," he said, adding that while consumption of resources is, of course, necessary, the command must be done responsibly.

General Hoffman, who leads a workforce of about 74,000, said one of the greatest resources the Air Force has is its experienced personnel, and keeping them is a high priority.

"If a person has worked somewhere for 15 years, it takes 15 years to replace them — not one day," he said. "We want talented people to stay;

we've invested in them."

General Hoffman said the Air Force also values workforce diversity.

"Diversity is so important in executing the mission and positively motivating people to serve," he said. "Diversity is strength. Embrace it."

A big believer in continuous improvement, the general said he isn't a fan of the catchphrase, "Do more with less." He said it's just as important in the workplace to decide what not to do as it is to decide what to do.

"All throughout our careers we're told what to do," he said. "Rarely are we told what we can let go of so we can focus somewhere else."

Safety is also one of the general's focus areas. He said leadership has to be assertive to the point of intrusiveness when it comes to safety.

"We can't get our mission done if we can't survive," he said.

**GOT NEWS?
NEED ANSWERS?
SEND SUBMISSIONS
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78ABW.PARevUp@robins.af.mil**

Stylish suit and a toilet bowl Dining out sure to make a splash

BY STAFF SGT. VANN MILLER
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Looking at himself in the mirror and adoring that glorious ensemble of Air Force distinction — patent leather shoes, long-sleeved white shirt, blue bow tie made of satin, pleated cummerbund and highly polished silver cufflinks — the Airman thought he looked like a special agent, as found in one of those spy thriller novels. There was no question...today the Airman was “stylin’.”

This night would be complete if he could just remember all the protocol rules for the evening. Otherwise, it would mean a drink from that infernal toilet, the one his peers affectionately call The Grog Bowl.

This is just part of the formal dining out. It is the military’s way of celebrating and building bonds during an evening dinner with leaders and warriors alike.

The 78th Air Base Wing is hosting a dining out this year so spouses and special guests could be in attendance and to show support of the “Team Robins” concept.

The event will kick off with the social hour beginning promptly at 5:45 p.m. April 3. This commemorative occasion will be held in the Century of Flight Hangar at the Museum of Aviation, highlighted with former U.S. Air Force chief of staff Gen. (ret.) Ronald Fogleman as the guest speaker.

American military customs around the dining out can be traced back to the days of George Washington. It can be traced back further in other countries, which each had their own customs and procedures when formally recognizing its military accomplishments during a special meal or service.

But how does this age-old tradition of the formal military dinner play out in a modern Air Force? With lots of customs, rules, etiquette, procedures and most of all

fun, according to Major NaQuita Manning, 78th ABW Dining Out arrangements officer.

“This is going to be my first Air Force dining out,” Major Manning said. “I look forward to having an opportunity to see a different side of some of the people I work so closely with day to day.”

Major Manning was selected as the arrangements officer, and then decided she would contribute something to the strange elixir poured into that Grog Bowl.

The Grog Bowl is a toilet used as a punch bowl. Typically, there are two Grog Bowls containing very mysterious

concoctions — one alcoholic, one not. Throughout the evening some members are encouraged to drink whenever an infraction to protocol is made. Ceremoniously, the president of the dining out committee nominates a person to drink from the Grog Bowl, and the attendees of the dinner tap their spoons on their tables in a vote.

The evening is a time for military members, Department of Defense employees and spouses to come together, socialize and enjoy an atmosphere of camaraderie.

“We’re all focused on our tasks at hand and committed to mission success,” said Major Manning. “But I also understand how important it is to not just exist, but actually feel like you belong. The words of Maya Angelou ring true in that ‘We are living art, created to hang on, stand up, forbear, continue and encourage others.’ That’s one of the things we’re hoping to accomplish with this event, enhance esprit

de corps, fellowship and have lots of fun.”

To encourage maximum participation, the Child Development Center will provide child care services for attendees that evening. Children aged 6 weeks through 11 years will cost \$3 per hour. Children aged 12 through 18 are charged \$3 for the evening and will participate in the Youth Center’s teen program.

Members interested in attending may purchase tickets from a unit first sergeant, or by calling 926-4940 no later than today by 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 for non-members and \$23 for club members. Dinner items include a beef, chicken or vegetarian meal.

Look out for your wingman; please plan accordingly if attending the social hour or participating in the wine toasting ceremonies.



U.S. Air Force file photo by CLAUDE LAZZARA

Col. Patrick Higby, 78th Mission Support Group commander, claims to have set the Robins record for most trips to the Grog Bowl at the 2007 Dining Out.

402nd EMXG aims for Shingo Prize

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
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The 402nd Electronics Maintenance Group is under consideration for one of the most coveted awards for manufacturing excellence, The Shingo Prize.

A team from The Shingo Prize for Operational Excellence visited the 402nd EMXG on Monday and Tuesday to gauge how well the group is following Shingo principles, which are related to efficiency and excellence.

Steve Arflin, the 402nd EMXG change manager, said the Shingo visit is a test of how well the group is applying the principles of Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century, more commonly referred to as AFSO21.

“They want to see your continuous process improvements,” Mr. Arflin said. “It is basically judging how well you use AFSO21.”

Although the group is not specifically concerned with AFSO21, Mr. Arflin said the Lean concepts are much the same as the principles behind Shingo.

The prize levels are bronze, silver and The Shingo Prize. It’s a non-competitive award in that organizations are not going up against other organizations, but are instead trying to meet the high standards of the award.

Last year seven organizations worldwide won The Shingo Prize, according to Steven von Niederhausen,

director of marketing for The Shingo Prize. He expects fewer recipients this year because the standards for winning the award have changed.

“We’ve raised the bar considerably,” he said.

Mr. Arflin said he is hopeful the 402nd EMXG will take the top prize. The group works on avionics for aircraft throughout the Air Force and in other military branches.

“I think we are going to show them things that they have never seen,” he said prior to the visit. “I think we are going to do well.”

The Shingo Prize was referred to by Business Week magazine as “the Nobel Prize of manufacturing.” It is named after Japanese industrial engineer Shigeo Shingo, who helped create many of the aspects of the Toyota Production System.

The Shingo Prize is administered by Utah State University School of Business.

The 402nd EMXG team was expecting to learn within two weeks of the visit whether it would be getting the award. The honor would be presented at the Shingo Prize Annual Conference in Nashville.

Mr. Arflin said the 402nd EMXG submitted a 100-page application detailing how the group follows Shingo principles. The site visit this week, he said, was to confirm the information in the application.

Mr. Arflin said the 402nd EMXG is the only Air Force entrant for the award.

Commentary

"General Schwartz and I, along with the entire Air Force leadership team, are committed to providing the best combination of air, space and cyber power possible within available resources. We build on the capabilities given to us by past Air Force leaders, knowing that years from now, it is today's young Airmen and Air Force civilians who will grade our work as you continue to advance the world's finest Air Force."
 — Michael B. Donley, Secretary of the Air Force

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 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 78ABW.PARevUp@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.

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Col. Warren Berry
 78th Air Base Wing
 Commander

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. 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.

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► Civil engineering	926-5657
► Public Affairs	926-2137
► Safety Office	926-6271
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► Housing Office	926-3776
► Chaplain	926-2821

Circle of prayer



U.S. Navy photo by PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS TODD FRANTOM

Airmen come together for a prayer at Forward Operating Base Falcon near Baghdad, Iraq. The Airmen traditionally pray before heading out on their mission to police the Abu T'shir area of the city where they partner with the Iraqi police.

A day in the life of a mentor, an Airman, a security forces officer

Another day, another mission, another "X" on the calendar. My day begins early. I literally plan my day backwards revolving around start and release times. These are the times by which I plan my chow, my telephone calls home and my sleep. I can't be preoccupied with those small pleasures now though. I have to check my gear. My ammo and first aid kit. My body armor; it is my shield. I must check my weapon...it's the sword that guards my comrades, my family. I check my vehicle. If it fails because I didn't make the proper checks, I failed my team and my mission. I check each radio. Does each work properly? The voices on the other end are our lifeline. Do I have my map, water, extra food and medical bag? Check, check, check. We assemble as we did yesterday, as we will tomorrow. God willing, we'll see the same vehicles and the same faces as this day. We go over our battle drills as we have for months and months prior. Even though it has become second nature and monotonous, we will continue to go over

every scenario we can. We cover the latest intelligence. We discuss weather, events in the area, and all the "what ifs." Although we've been assembled for a couple of hours, our day hasn't officially begun. We bow our heads for a short prayer before climbing into our vehicles and making final communication checks. Weapons loaded, seatbelts, eye protection, hearing protection, gloves, doors battle locked. We are ready for whatever the day may bring. Our mission is clear. We are the mentors to a struggling entity, the Iraqi Police. We are Security Forces performing on a Police Transition Team and our Iraqi counterparts are the reason for our efforts. We are volunteers and we believe in our cause. We know if the Iraqi police fail, quite simply, Iraq will fail. Security must exist in order for leaders to be chosen in elections, for school children to go to class and for citizens to buy food in a downtown market without fear of losing their life. What we do is paramount and where we are is the front line of this war.

We leave the confines of the base at the final coalition entry control point. We are now outside the wire moving away from the relative safety of the base. Nearly all of us left what we call normal duty behind months ago. This is our life now and it's hard for us to imagine any future tasks being more important or difficult as this. Our eyes have been opened to a different life, a life as far away as one could imagine from a typical Air Force duty day. Nevertheless, we stand ready for whatever might come our way. Although this route and this day appear routine, we guard against labeling anything routine. We know if we are thinking about what will be served at chow or what movie we might partake in later, we have lost a small battle in this war. Our mission, our teammates, our young airmen in the turret and our families back home now depend on raw focus. Truck commanders point out the potential threats. And the threats are everywhere. Gunners scan their sectors looking for IEDs, snipers, a speeding vehicle...anything, every-

thing. Drivers perform a tactical like dance in sequence as each vehicle performs a role in the march of dusty, tan vehicles. Those that travel these mean streets are sure not to forget the lives lost nearly on every turn. Focus however, has to remain centered on the lives of this convoy. Our convoy arrives and the mission can now begin. We will concentrate on where we can make the biggest impact. And when complete, the journey back to base begins. The more effective we are, the quicker the Iraqi Police can stand as the strong sentinel so direly needed. The more strides we make, the quicker a stable democracy may thrive. Each city block we assist in making safer, less danger will come to those that follow in our footsteps. For this, we willfully assemble again tomorrow, the following days and weeks, and the subsequent months. Another day, another mission, another "X" on the calendar.
 — This commentary was written by Master Sgt. Buffy Verhagen, 78th Security Forces, who recently returned from deployment.

Who is your pick to win the NCAA men's basketball championship?

 Britanny Smith 566th EMXS "I like Oklahoma. They've been playing good. I like the effort they've been putting in."	 Richard Newton 566th EMXS "Louisville's going to win. It should be a good game but they should win by 5 points."	 Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Storms 5th CCG "North Carolina. That was my grandmother's favorite basketball team. Every year she would watch them play."	 Deb Hogan Robins Elementary "North Carolina. They have an awesome coach and a great team. My second choice is Syracuse because I'm from New York."
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Robins group honored for providing training, employment to disabled

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
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Although the true benefit occurs far away from here, the 642nd Combat Sustainment Group at Robins is being honored for its contributions to the employment of the disabled.

The group has been selected by the board of directors of the National Industries for the Severely Handicapped as the 2008 winner AbilityOne/NISH Government Award for Products. The 642nd CBSG is expected to receive the award at a NISH conference in Atlanta in May.

According to the notification NISH sent to Maj. Gen. Polly Peyer, commander of Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, the award is "present-

ed annually to a government agency that has performed in an exceptional manner by providing training and employment opportunities for Americans with severe disabilities through the AbilityOne Program."

The group was nominated for the award by Cliff Meyer, CEO of TAC Enterprises in Springfield, Ohio. The non-profit group helps the mentally handicapped manufacture cargo netting for the Air Force, and the 642nd CBSG handles the contract.

Marianne Weaver, contracting officer of net manufacture in the 642nd CBSG, said the group's relationship with TAC Industries dates back to 1983. For most of that time, the contract was prima-

rily for the repair of nets. But four years ago, she said, the relationship took a giant leap forward when the group inked a contract with TAC Industries to manufacture the netting. The contract has totaled approximately \$11 million in those four years, she said.

"We are real proud of ourselves and we are proud for them too," Ms. Weaver said of winning the award. "Everybody is winning in this. Their clients who do the work are really dedicated to it."

The nets cost about \$175 each, she said, and are used throughout the Air Force to secure cargo.

"If you move it in the Air Force, it's probably on a pallet and probably on one of these nets," she said. "They are very necessary."

Other team members cited in the notification are net repair contracting officer Debi Weens; project manager Larry Baker; project engineer Ramon Rodriguez; and item manager Cheri Henssler.



Bob Warnock

Time well served

Robins worker retires with 50 years federal service

Bob Warnock was recently recognized at a 5th Combat Communications Group commander's call for 50 years combined federal service. Mr. Warnock served both as an enlisted Air Force member and as a civilian. He received a 50-year pin with a diamond, a 50-year certificate and letters from Michael Donley, Secretary of the Air Force, and Gen. Norton Schwartz, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff. Mr. Warnock retired from civil service in January 2007.

339TH FLTS GETS NEW LEADERSHIP



U.S. Air Force photo by GARY CUTTRELL

Col. Darrel Ekstrom (left), 413th Flight Test Group commander, hands command of the 339th Flight Test Squadron to Lt. Col. John Nowak on March 20 at the Museum of Aviation. The 339th FLTS is a Reserve squadron responsible for conducting flight tests on the C-130 Hercules, the C-5 Galaxy and F-15 Eagle after program depot maintenance is completed here.

Rev-Up editor wins AF level media award



Kendahl Johnson

Kendahl Johnson, Robins Rev-Up editor, was recently announced as a 2009 Air Force Media Contest award winner. Mr. Johnson placed third in the sports category for his story "Volunteer coach devotes time, money teaching ice hockey to local youth."

The Air Force win followed a first place win in the Air Force

Materiel Command competition for the same article.

► CORRECTION

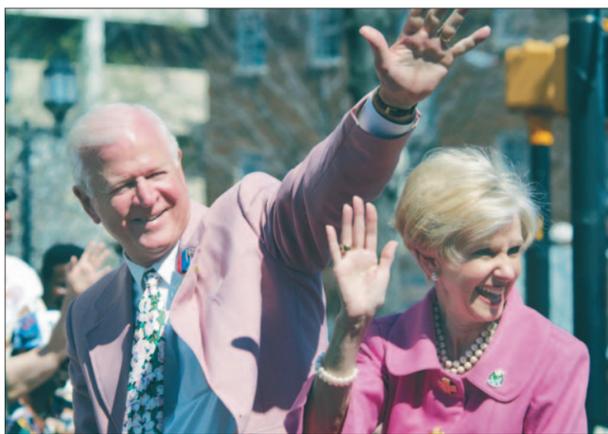
An article in the March 20 Rev-Up indicated the 78th Air Base Wing makes the decision to authorize the use of time off and monetary awards. The article should have said individual wings and staff offices have the discretion to authorize these awards.

Spring is in the air

Center commander, other dignitaries help kick off annual Cherry Blossom Festival



Maj. Gen. Polly Peyer, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, waves to the crowd as she passes by during the 2009 Cherry Blossom Parade March 22. U.S. Air Force photos by GARY CUTRELL



U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss and his wife Julianne, were among a number of dignitaries who participated in the Cherry Blossom parade.



U.S. Representative Jim Marshall, greets parade goers along the route.



Robins Honor Guard members carry the colors during the parade.



Westside High School cheerleaders wear their parade faces.



Cherry Blossom queens from various age groups wave to their subjects.

78th FSS BRIEFS

SUNDAY

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.

Super Sunday brunch will be held once a month at Horizons from 10 a.m. 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 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.

MONDAY

Come on out for an evening of fun during the family night bingo on March 30 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Horizons ballroom. Doors open at 6 p.m. with games starting at 7 p.m. Cost is \$4 per pack, limit three per person. For more information call Horizons at 926-2670.

WEDNESDAY

The annual Volunteer Excellence Award package has been extended to April 1 and will be presented to the honored recipient at the annual Volunteer Appreciation reception to be held in April during National Volunteer Week. For additional criteria and nomination information, call Mike Bullard at 926-1256.

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

The Airman and Family Readiness Center holds classes each month in

Bldg. 794 for active duty, retired, reserve, spouses and family members. A group pre-separation counseling briefings (mandatory) will be held April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 1 to 2 p.m., a Department of Labor TAP employment workshop April 6 – 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (members and spouses who have completed pre-separation action and are leaving the military) and an Air Force spouse employment training to be held May 12 – July 28 (in-person registration April 22 – 24, Bldg. 794). For more information call the A&FRC at 926-1256

A base community Easter Egg Hunt and magical-eggstravaganza will be held April 4 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Robins Elementary School playground. Children may participate in an Easter egg hunt as well as other activities to include a magic show, face painting, music, giant slide, gladiator joust, moon walk combo, obstacle course, quad pod, and carnival games. Free hot dogs, sno cones, candy and drinks will be available for the children. Please bring a towel or blanket to watch a magic show, baskets for the egg hunt and a camera to take photos of all the fun activities. This event is presented by the base chapel and community center. For more information call the community center 926-2105 or the chapel at 926-2821.

Learn a new skill or brush up on an old one starting April 6 in the community center. Piano classes starting April 6 from 7 to 8 p.m., cost \$65 per person; salsa and belly dancing starting April 7 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.

An Air Force Chess tournament is scheduled for April 8 starting at 5 p.m. in the community center. All players please register now. This program provides opportunities for families, youth, and other community members to participate. Persons eligible may participate in the base-level and MAJCOM tournaments but only Air Force members may participate in the Inter-Service and North Atlantic Treaty Organization Chess tournaments. For more informa-

Exploring your horizons



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Staff Sgt. Tim Gordon, right, 5th Combat Communications Group, gets information about Big Kahuna's Water & Adventure Park, Destin, Fla., at the Explore Your Horizons Travel Show at Heritage Club March 19.

tion call the community center at 926-2105.

Come out and see the free Ariel and Zoey and Eli too Concert at the base theater April 9 at 6 p.m. Doors open at 5:15 p.m. with concessions on sale. This free event is open to all military and DOD civilian families. CDs will be given away on a first come first served basis with an autograph session after the show. This event is in appreciation of the Military Month of the Child. To find out more about Ariel and Zoey visit www.arielandzoey.com. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

A First Friday has been moved to April 10 at Horizons and Heritage Club from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. with food being served from 5 to 6 p.m. Menu will include pulled barbeque, coleslaw,

baked beans and Texas Toast. First Friday means great food, chances to win prizes, entertainment and drink specials. Members must be present to win. Cost is members free and nonmembers \$5. For more information call 926-2670.

A Easter Bingo with more money will be held April 12. A membership bar bingo will be held April 22. Big Bingo is located in the east wing of the Heritage Club. The hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday with games starting at 7:15 p.m. Games begin at 2:45 p.m. on Sundays. Enjoy bar bingo five nights a week at 6 p.m. Anyone with an active-duty, reserve, guard, retired, DOD or family member identification card is eligible to play. The entry fee is free to all Robins' club members, bona fide guests and active-duty or retired widow club members

and \$5 for eligible non-club members. For more information call 926-4515.

An electronics recycling event will be held April 25 at the Happy Hour Service Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Happy Hour Service Center is located at 802 Young Avenue, behind the Post Office on Davis Drive. Only non-government items will be accepted. Items that will not be accepted include: vacuum cleaners, televisions, refrigerators and freezers, washers and dryers, gas powered equipment and all non-electronic equipment. Business, schools, hospitals and government may call (678) 566-6666 to schedule a pick-up of large quantities of electronics. This event is sponsored by the 78th CEG Environmental Division, Happy Hour Service Center and Keep Warner Robins Beautiful. For additional information, call 929-7258 or 929-6622.

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 TRICK-TAKING CARD GAMES

Hearts was the card game I played more than any other as a kid and the game that got me interested in trick-taking card games. Although I still enjoy the occasional game of Hearts, it's fallen from my list of favorites. I think the luster is gone not only because there isn't enough strategizing to keep me interested, but also because there are better, more meatier games to choose from. Here's a look at my current favorites:

5 Sticheln
This German import is quickly working its way up my list of favorite games. The rules are a bit unorthodox when compared to traditional trick-taking conventions, but once understood, this is great fun. At the beginning of each hand, each player selects one card from his hand to be his "pain suit," and all the cards taken from that suit will bring negative points.

4 Euchre
Euchre, played with a standard deck of cards with 2s through 8s removed, can technically play two to seven players, but the game is best with four playing as partners. This is a relatively simple bidding and trick-taking game and one of the best non-threatening partnership games.

3 President (aka Scum)
We played this game for hours in college. Players try to work their way up the ladder to the top position by being the first to empty their hand of cards. It may not technically be a trick-taking game, as the goal is to get rid of cards not take tricks, but the person taking the most tricks is usually the winner. Unlike many trick-taking games, this one plays best with five to seven players.

2 Wizard
This game is an Oh Hell variant with jokers and wizards added in to provide additional tactical and strategic opportunities. With a 60-card deck comprising a standard deck plus four wizards (high) and four jesters (low). In the first hand, one card is dealt to each player. In the second, two and so on. Players state the number of tricks they will win each hand (with trump suit changing each hand). Players get or lose points based on their bid.

1 Die Sieben Siegel
Another German import, this is currently my favorite trick-taking game. Translated, the name means The Seventh Sign, although game play has nothing to do with Biblical calamities. After dealing cards of five different suits, players take colored chips to indicate how many of each color they think they will take. Game play is similar to spades. Each time a trick is taken, a chip of that color is paid. Leftover chips cost points and any time a player takes a trick and doesn't have a chip of that color to pay, a penalty chip is taken. Great fun!

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 have been approved as leave recipients: **James Hamrick Jr.**, HQ AFRC. POC is Brian Daniel 926-8870; **Roy Cross**, HQ AFRC. POC is Harvey Rosenmeier, 327-0275; **Kim Baker**, 78th CEG and **Howard Taylor** 78th CEG. POC is Rose Mansfield 926-1295; **Charles Lee**, 778th CS. POC is James Floyd 926-8544.

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.

78th FSS PHONE DIRECTORY

- ▶ Services 926-5491
- ▶ Community Center 926-2105
- ▶ Outdoor Rec 926-4001
- ▶ Arts & Crafts 926-5282
- ▶ 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 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 (Jumua) is Fridays at 2 p.m. in the chapel annex rooms 1 and 2.

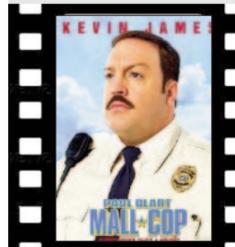
Jewish
Jewish service is Fridays at 6:15 p.m. at the Macon synagogue.

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.

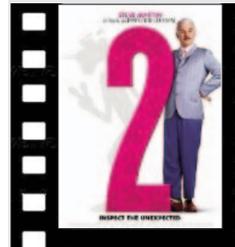


NOW PLAYING



MARCH 27 — 7:30 P.M.
PAUL BLART: MALL COP
RATED PG

Paul is a single, suburban dad, trying to make ends meet as a security officer at a mall. It's a job he takes very seriously, though no one else does. When Santa's helpers at the mall stage a coup, shutting down the megaplex and taking hostages (Paul's daughter and sweetheart among them), Jersey's most formidable mall cop will have to save the day.



MARCH 28 — 2 P.M.
THE PINK PANTHER 2
RATED PG

When legendary treasures from around the world are stolen, including the priceless Pink Panther Diamond, Chief Inspector Dreyfus is forced to assign Inspector Clouseau to a team of international detectives and experts charged with catching the thief and retrieving the stolen artifacts.



MARCH 28 — 7:30 P.M.
FRIDAY THE 13TH
RATED R

Searching for his missing sister, Clay heads up to the eerie woods of legendary Crystal Lake where he stumbles on the creaky remains of rotting old cabins that lie behind moss covered trees. Little do they know, they've entered the domain of the infamous killer who haunts Crystal Lake armed with a razor-sharp machete....Jason.

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

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL



Courtesy photo
Members of the 542nd Combat Communications Squadron pose with the championship trophy, awarded for winning the Over 30 intramural basketball title. The team grabbed the No. 1 seed with the best regular season record (6-2), and went on to beat the 116th Air Control Wing, 54-47, in the championship game.

FINAL STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L
581 SMXS	12	4
402 EMXG	12	4
542 CBSG	11	5
116 ACW	11	5
78th LRS	10	6
5 CBCS 1	7	9
5 CBCS 2	6	10
78th CG	4	12
78th SFS	4	12
78th MDG	3	13

OVER 30 LEAGUE

TEAM	W	L
542 CBSG	6	2
5 CBCS	5	3
116 ACW	5	3
78th FSS	3	5
78th MDG	1	7

POSTSEASON

DOUBLE ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT

March 24

581 SMXS def 78 CG, 81-62
116 ACW def. 78 LRS, 50-38
5 CBCS 1 def. 542 CBSG, 50-47
402 EMXG def 5 CBCS 2, 57-36

March 25

116 ACW def. 581 SMXS, 60-58
402 EMXG def. 5 CBCS 1, 55-50
78 LRS def. 78 CG, 73-56
542 CBSG def. 5 CBCS 2, 67-56

March 26

Winner's bracket
116 ACW vs. 402 EMXG

Loser's bracket

5 CBCS 1 vs. 78 LRS
581 SMXS vs. 542 CBSG

Air Force Aid Society: Helping the Air Force family

Editor's Note: The 2009 Air Force Assistance Fund drive runs through April 23. Over the next four weeks, the Rev-Up will highlight each of the four charitable affiliates that benefit from the AFAS. This week the spotlight is on The Air Force Aid Society.

The Air Force Aid Society was founded as a non-profit organization in 1942 by members of the Army Air Corps and the World War II Air Forces who wanted to take care of their own. Today, it is the official charity of the U.S. Air Force.

The AFAS was built upon the concept of promoting the Air Force mission through upholding a three-pronged charter: provide worldwide emergency assistance to Air Force members and their families, sponsor education assistance programs, and offer a variety of base community enhancement programs. In 2008, the AFAS donated \$24.3 million towards fulfilling this charter.

Emergency assistance is provided primarily through the Airman &

Family Readiness Center located on base. Local officials have the ability to approve most requests.

Additionally, the

AFAS issues Falcon loans and grants—interest-free loans given for such purposes as food, utilities, car repair, and some medical care costs. In 2008, \$13.7 million was dedicated strictly to emergency assistance.

Education assistance programs include education grants, scholarships, and tuition assistance. In the coming year, the AFAS will give out 3000 scholarships, each at \$2,000. In 2008, over \$8 million was dedicated solely to education programs.

Community enhancement pro-

grams include several different child care programs, respite care, spouse orientation and employment programs, and phone and car repair programs. In 2008 \$2.6 million was dedicated

to helping improve the Air Force community.

In order to provide this large amount of support, the AFAS is overseen at any time by 18 board members, with active duty representatives including the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. As such, from top to bottom, Air Force officials are directly involved in AFAS activities.

The primary source of income for the AFAS is the annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign.

The money received by the AFAS from the AFAS is put directly to use in helping Air Force members and their families. For further information on the Air Force Aid Society, visit their website at www.afas.org.

The 2009 Robins AFB Air Force Assistance Fund drive runs through April 23. The AFAS campaign is designed to help the Air Force Family. At Team Robins, let's work together to reach our goal of raising \$76,391. To contribute, contact your unit representative to fill out a donation form.

UNIT PROJECT OFFICERS

- ▶ Capt. Michael Davila, 638th SCMG
- ▶ Capt. Randy Soloman, WR-ALC
- ▶ Capt. Darryl McLean, AFRC
- ▶ 1st Lt. Michael Webber, 78th ABW
- ▶ 1st Lt. Tammy Pacini, 116th ACW
- ▶ Senior Master Sgt. Stuart Allison, 330th ASW
- ▶ Master Sgt. John Kearney, 402nd MXW
- ▶ Tech. Sgt. James Brown, 542nd CSW

Max Impact gives free concert

The United States Air Force Band Max Impact will be at Robins today at 3:30 p.m. for a free rock concert at the Base Theater. For more information, call the community center at 926-2105.

IN BRIEF

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The Women's History Month Committee is hosting a luncheon today at 11 a.m. at the Heritage Club featuring keynote speaker retired Lt. Col. Marie Berry.

Mrs. Berry is the wife of Col. Warren Berry, 78th Air Base Wing commander, and recently retired as the Specialty Care Nursing Section Chief at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Landstuhl, Germany. While there she led personnel from three branches of the military providing care to 48,000 Americans as well as casualties from Iraq and Afghanistan.

LONGEST DRIVE COMPETITION

The Asian Pacific American Heritage Planning Committee is sponsoring a Longest Drive Competition April 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pine Oaks Golf Course. The event is a fundraiser for APAH month activities. A \$250 grand prize will be given to the amateur golfer with the longest drive. For more information call Capt. Jesse Herrera at 926-7807.

EARTH HOUR

Earth Hour 2009 is a global call to action to every individual, every business and every community. A call to stand up, to take responsibility and to get involved in working towards a sustainable future. Iconic buildings and landmarks from Europe to The Americas will stand in darkness. People across the world will turn off their lights and join together in creating the

vital conversation about the future of our precious planet.

Over 64 countries and territories are participating in Earth Hour 2009. This number grows every day as people realize how such a simple act, can have such a profound result in affecting change.

Earth Hour is a message of hope and a message of action. Everyone can make a difference.

Join us for Earth Hour 2009, turn off your lights at 8.30 p.m. Saturday and sign-up at www.earthhour.org.

ROBINS JUNIOR SUMMER CAMP

Good news for those of you scrambling to make summer plans for children entering kindergarten or Pre-K in August. Child Development Center (East) will have their annual junior summer camp from June 1 – July 31.

Priority for enrollment is given to children who will be eligible for kindergarten in the 2009/2010 school year. Camp registration for children entering Kindergarten will be April 6-10 at Robins Child Development Center, Bldg. 943.

All others who are eligible to register can do so starting April 13. Spaces will be filled on a first come first served basis.

The following items are needed for registration:

▶ A copy of a current LES and/or pay statement.

▶ First week fees and a \$25 deposit for each week enrolled in the program. (Non-refundable)

If you have any questions about the program or would like more information, call 926-5805.

“See Me, Save Me” hits the road



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

David Shepherd (right) a retired civil service worker and member of Robins Riders and Rod Captain Motorcycle Club, distributes motorcycle safety information to a passerby at the Galleria Mall March 20.