

ROBINS REV-UP

June 12, 2009 Vol. 54 No.23

OSHA team recommends 402nd unit be designated a Star Site

Recognition would be an AFMC first

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

Efforts to improve workplace safety at Robins took a giant leap forward last week when the 402nd Software Maintenance Group became the first government organization on base to meet the requirements to become

an OSHA Star Site. Star Site is the highest level of Voluntary Protection Program recognition awarded by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The only other work area at Robins to have been declared a Star Site is the 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Vehicle Maintenance and

Operation Section in First Support Services, which is operated by a contractor.

An OSHA auditing team spent three days in the SMXG, touring eight separate facilities, reviewing hundreds of records, and interviewing many of its 900 employees. Once the team's work was



completed June 4, it announced that it would recommend the group be recognized as a Star Site.

Although the designation is contingent upon approval by OSHA officials, and could take up to three months, VPP program manager Melanie Clearman said it will be well worth the wait.

Ms. Clearman said earning the recognition is a "very big deal," and puts Robins on track for its ultimate goal of having the entire base declared a Star Site.

"The folks in the SMXG just did an awesome job preparing for this evaluation," she said. "They really set the standard for the installation."

► see STAR SITE, 2A

Robins Honor Guard member garners Air Force award

"For these families, a lot of times you are the last military presence they are going to see, and to lay their loved ones to rest with respect and honor is a great privilege."

Staff Sgt. Juan Scales
 Robins Honor Guard

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

When Staff Sgt. Juan Scales was picked for a rotation in the Honor Guard at Robins he had no idea that he had just found his calling in the Air Force.

"The first time it was a suggestion of my superintendent," said Sergeant Scales, who has been in the Air Force for five years. "She thought it would be good for me. So I came over here with no expectations and I absolutely loved it."

He liked it so much that he volunteered for two more 90-day rotations, and then last year he moved to Honor Guard full-time when the position of trainer came open.

His passion for his work was rewarded last week when he was named the 2008 Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Base Honor Guard Member of the Year. He found that out just a day after he learned he had won the honor



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

Staff Sgt. Juan Scales said serving in the Honor Guard has given him a deeper appreciation for the Air Force. He is the recipient of the 2008 Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Honor Guard of the Year award.

at the Air Force Materiel Command level.

His supervisor, Master Sgt. Sharon Royster, was thrilled with the news that he had won Air Force-wide.

"I was just ecstatic," she said.

"Words cannot express how proud I am of him in his accomplishment."

The Robins Honor Guard may be best known to those on base for presenting colors at various ceremonies, but its primary mission is

to serve at funerals of Air Force veterans. The Honor Guard here covers all funerals of Air Force veterans in most of Georgia and Tennessee.

► see AWARD, 4A

C-17 shop plays role in moving Strykers to Afghanistan

CAPT. JUSTIN BROCKHOFF
 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center
 Public Affairs

The Air Force this week began airlifting more than 300 Stryker vehicles to military forces in Afghanistan.

To transport the Strykers, it is employing C-17 Globemaster IIIs that have been modified at Robins with a laser-based advanced weapons system.

"This mission is a clear example of why we at Robins work hard every day to keep C-17s supported around the world," said Col. Christopher Garrett, 564th Aircraft Sustainment Squadron commander.

The defensive system protects large cargo aircraft from attacks from shoulder fired and vehicle-launched IR-guided missiles. The system detects and declares missile launches, continuously tracks the missiles that are a threat to the

► see C-17s, 2A

AF officials revise fitness program

Changes take effect in January, include twice-a-year testing

TECH. SGT. AMAANI LYLE
 Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

The need for a "clear, understandable and simpler" fitness program will mean significant changes to the Air Force's current fitness program, said the service's top officer during a senior leadership conference June 4-6 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz met with the service's other four stars at CORONA TOP, where one of the key agenda items was Air Force fitness.

His intent was to fine tune testing

promote a year-round fitness culture, and send a clear message that health and fitness are critical to mission readiness.

"Fitness is a vital component of Air Force culture," General Schwartz said. "These challenging times underscore the importance of properly caring for our most valuable resource: our Airmen."

Perhaps the most significant difference in fitness testing will be its frequency, Air Force officials said. Full-time active-duty Airmen will now test twice each year, while most reservists or guardsmen will continue to test once per year.

To maximize testing objectivity, the AFI designates trained civilian proctors to conduct fitness tests administered at new centralized locations called fitness assessment cells.

Aerobic fitness is the best indicator of current and future health risk, followed by body composition, said Lt. Col. Scott Arcuri, the chief of promotions, evaluations, and fitness policy at the Air Staff. Because of this, the aerobic run will now account for 60 percent of the test (previously 50 percent), body composition will account for 20 percent, while sit-ups and push-ups remain at 10 percent each.

"We developed evidence-driven, health-based criterion for aerobic

► see FITNESS, 2A



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Members of the 52nd Combat Communications Squadron exercise during an early morning training session are among those Airmen who will be affected by changes to the Air Force fitness program.

THINK SAFETY



Days without a DUI: 7
 Last DUI: 112th ACCS
 — courtesy 78th Security Forces

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



TWO-MINUTEREV

UPCOMING ROAD CLOSURE

Watson Boulevard at the Robins Parkway intersection will be closed June 26 to July 2 due to construction.

All Watson traffic should use Byron Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard to access Robins Parkway. Watson Boulevard local traffic can use Milledgeville Street and Third Street to access Robins Parkway. Bldg. 359 will still be accessible.

INSIGHT



Spinning act

Process improvements keep C-130 propeller shop on top of its mission, 1B

MESSAGE



Comedy with a message

Comic gets laughs while spreading 'sober' message, 5A

ENTERTAINMENT



July 4th concert

Motown legends to take center stage at annual concert, 3B

STAR SITE

Continued from 1A

She said the 402nd SMXG is the first maintenance operation in the Air Force Materiel Command to become a Star Site. One other AFMC site is a Star Site and three others, including Robins, have been recommended. Overall in the Air Force, two sites are Star Sites and five have been recommended.

Chris Moore, deputy director of the 402nd SMXG, credited the award to the “buy-in” of the VPP program by all employees in the group.

“The reason this program is so successful is that it’s a genuine grass-roots effort,” he said.

The 402nd SMXG has a core VPP team led by Mike Scott, but Mr. Scott also said the true VPP team is the group’s 900 employees.

All 15 individual sites in the group had already



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Carla Pati, flight test engineer in the 402nd Software Maintenance Group, tests software at a C-130H Gunship crew station. Ms. Pati’s group has been recognized as a VPP Star Site.

achieved Gold Site status, a designation in the Commander’s Safe Site Challenge aimed at helping units meet Star Site requirements, he noted.

To emphasize the importance of safety, the group has bulletin boards in which photos of family members and even pets are posted to remind workers why they should be safe. Work areas also have boards where

employees can anonymously alert leadership to safety hazards. Each computer also has a safety “dashboard” where team members can track VPP related information.

Some of those improvements, along with the Commander’s Safe Site Challenge, were cited in the evaluation as “best practices” by the OSHA team.

Col. Lee Levy, the new

402nd Maintenance Wing commander, said he has seen in his short time here how seriously employees are taking the VPP concept.

“I’m thrilled that they’ve taken VPP and internalized it in all that they do,” he said. “I’m equally thrilled it’s spreading like wildfire through the entire wing. One of first things folks want to show me is their VPP program.”

Ms. Clearman said there are only about 2,000 Star Sites in the country, which includes commercial activities. The evaluation team included representatives of other organizations that have been declared Star Sites.

Mr. Moore also noted that being declared a Star Site does not mean the group will no longer strive for more safety improvements. To maintain Star Site status, he said, the group will undergo evaluations every three years.

“This is just a start,” he said.

FITNESS

Continued from 1A

fitness and body composition and muscle fitness,” Colonel Arcuri said. “Airmen can be confident the new standards and corresponding points have sound rationale behind them.”

The Air Force’s top enlisted leader agreed that good fitness is a fundamental requirement for Air Force warriors.

“Maintaining the proper fitness levels is really about maintaining combat capability,” said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley. “Being fit can make the difference between life and death for Airmen when actions require concentrated physical activity on or near the battlefield.”

Chief McKinley said Airmen must

constantly hone their fitness abilities to withstand and overcome the demanding rigors of deployment and combat.

“Airmen must present the proper military appearance and project to the American public our ability to defend our nation and its interests,” the chief said.

While commanders have responsibility of their unit fitness programs, each Airman is responsible for meeting and maintaining fitness standards 365 days a year, said Lt. Gen. Richard Newton, the Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel.

“With these program revisions and enhancements, we encourage a culture of fitness, empowering all Airmen to take responsibility for being physically mission ready,” General Newton said.

General Newton added that the



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

With the new fitness program test, the 1.5 mile run will now account for 60 percent of the overall score. Sit-ups and push-ups will remain at 10 percent each.

new Air Force instruction, projected for publication in July, will better emphasize the service’s fitness expectations of its Airmen, as well as who will conduct fitness testing, when and how Airmen will test when the program takes effect in January.

Robins captain selects

Nicholas Battle	730th ACSG
Joshua Boucher	12th ACCS
Jason Giammarino	565th ACCS
James Haynes	12th ACCS
Jai Kim	16th ACCS
Daniel Kreher	12th ACCS
Robert MacDermott	580th ACSG
Jason Muller	16th ACCS
Rolando Perez	16th ACCS
Seth Simpson	16th ACCS
Nathaniel Sukolsky	16th ACCS
Gregory Wacks	78th FSS
Michael Webber	78th AMDS
Jonathan Wilson	12th ACCS

C-17s

Continued from 1A

aircraft, and then jams the missiles resulting in aircrew and aircraft protection.

“Quickly equipping C-17s with such protective measures will help the crews deliver the Strykers to forward deployed troops in Afghanistan with less risk,” Colonel Garrett said.

The term Stryker applies to a family of armored troop-transport vehicles used by the Army for ground operations. One vehicle can carry up to 11 troops and weighs approximately 19 tons, depending on the variation, according to an Army fact sheet.

Moving the Strykers, which are assigned to the 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team at Fort Lewis, Wash., is being accomplished by a combination of sealift and airlift assets. The vehicles and equipment are being taken by ship for the majority of the trip around the world, and then Air Force assets take over to fly the last portion of the journey into the land-locked country.

Air Force officials plan

to move the 300-plus vehicles and support equipment, totaling nearly 9,500 tons, into Afghanistan over the next two months on C-17s flown by military crews, as well as AN-124s, operated by commercial partners.

All efforts of the move are being closely coordinated by officials from the U.S. Transportation Command, Air Mobility Command and the 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center, all which are headquartered at Scott Air Force Base. The 618th TACC is AMC’s hub for global airlift, air refueling and aeromedical evacuation, and is responsible for planning and executing the airlift missions.

“When requirements are identified to move large vehicles by air, the 618th TACC schedules those missions, tasks aircraft and aircrews to fly the missions, and obtains permission from other governments to overfly their countries while executing the missions,” said Maj. Gen. Mark S. Solo, 618th TACC commander. — *adapted from a story by Capt. Justin Brockhoff, 618th TACC Public Affairs.*

AWARD

Continued from 1A

It's that duty, Sergeant Scales said, that gave him a deeper appreciation not just for the Honor Guard, but for the Air Force itself.

"You definitely gain a respect for past members of the Air Force," he said. "Even if you didn't know anything about that member... to know that they served and in some instances died for us, you go out there and give the utmost respect to these members who served their country for us."

"It the least we can do for them and their family. For these families, a lot of times you are the last military presence they are going to see, and to lay their loved ones to rest with respect and honor is a great privilege," he added.

Sergeant Royster said that even before the position of trainer came open, Sergeant Scales was assisting with training in his second and third rotations with the group. The Honor Guard here consists of two teams of 22 Airmen from units around the base, plus some full-time staff members.

"He has a lot of patience," Sergeant Royster said. "When you are training 22 different personalities coming from all walks of life, you have to have that patience. He has to get to know all the Airmen, and he has to be able to adapt to all the different personalities. That's definitely one of his strengths that impresses me a lot."

Sergeant Scales, 27, has been at Robins ever since initial training. He was a technician in the 5th Combat Communications



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

Staff Sgt. Juan Scales, Robins Honor Guard, comforts a mourner at a funeral in Andersonville, Ga.

Group before he joined the Honor Guard.

He will accept the award in a ceremony in Atlanta later this year. He said winning the award is "a thrill," but he credited it to his co-workers.

"This award would not have been possible if I did

not have my co-workers and my leadership," he said.

"From day one when I came here, they have always supported me in anything and everything that I have done. They are definitely the reason that this has happened them and the countless Airmen who come here."

Standing up to drinking and driving: Comic gets laughs while spreading 'sober' message

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

Leaders at Robins are willing to try just about everything to persuade Airmen not to drink and drive, and now they have even turned to humor.

Comedian Bernie McGrenahan gave three performances of his show called "Happy Hour," billed as "comedy with a twist."

The twist is that after about a 30-minute stand-up routine, Mr. McGrenahan turns to the serious subject of his own bouts with alcohol, his DUI arrests and his 19-year-old brother's suicide, which Mr. McGrenahan blames on his brother's excessive drinking. Both he and his brother were heavy drinkers as teenagers, he said.

"Alcohol is a depressant and my brother got depressed," he said. "I know it's tough with the deployments that you have, but no matter what the military asks of you, alcohol and drugs are going to make those problems worse."

Mr. McGrenahan said as a high school freshman, he was a straight-A student with dreams of winning a college baseball scholarship. But his partying ways led to excessive drinking, and by the time he was a senior, he was a D student and his baseball skills had declined sharply.

He got his first DUI at 18, then another at 19, then a third DUI that sent him to the county jail for six months. Even his brother's suicide did not stop his



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Robins Airmen respond to comedian Bernie McGrenahan during a Happy Hour Comedy Tour performance at the Base Theater. The show combines humor with an inspirational message.

drinking. It was during his time in jail, he said, that he decided to turn his life around.

The people he drank with, whom he thought were his close friends, never visited him while he was in jail.

"Not one of my boys showed up for that six months," he said. "When the chips are down, your party boys are not going to be there."

This January, Mr. McGrenahan said, marked his 21st year without a drink.

He told the Airmen he was not suggesting they should never drink, but that they should recognize if they have a problem with excessive drinking and should never drink and drive.

"I pray that none of you Airmen get behind the wheel of a car after even one drink," he said.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Harold Hutchison followed the performance by telling the group Robins Airmen have had 22 DUIs during his seven months on the job. He told the story of the latest DUI in which an Airman said he shared a pitcher of beer with friends at a local bar, had more drinks, then drove home. He rear-ended an SUV and registered a blood-alcohol level of .24, which is three times the legal limit.

Chief Hutchinson said he wondered about the people who shared the pitcher of beer with the Airman.

"I'm willing to bet those people knew he shouldn't have been driving," Chief Hutchison told the Airmen. "I need you to grab your friend by the ear and stop him from doing something stupid."

Commentary

"All my life I have tried to pluck a thistle and plant a flower wherever the flower would grow in thought and mind."

— Abraham Lincoln

WR-ALC VISION STATEMENT

Be recognized as a world class leader for development and sustainment of warfighting capability.

WR-ALC MISSION STATEMENT

Deliver and sustain combat-ready air power ... anytime, anywhere.

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

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

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.PARRevUp@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.

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.

For more information on the Action Line, visit <https://wwwmil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>.

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

▶ Security Forces	327-3445
▶ FSS (Services)	926-5491
▶ Equal Opportunity	926-2131
▶ Employee Relations	926-5802
▶ Military Pay	926-4022
▶ IDEA	926-2536
▶ Civil engineering	926-5657
▶ Public Affairs	926-2137
▶ Safety Office	926-6271
▶ Fraud, Waste, Abuse	926-2393
▶ Housing Office	926-3776
▶ Chaplain	926-2821

Develop, champion your vision

Imagine, if you will, an adaptive training environment that sits inside a bare room. This environment can be manipulated to simulate any task; from simple to complex. With the flick of a switch or push of a button, the bare room transforms into a living, breathing, interactive experience. Sounds and smells abound, people appear and interact, and objects can be held and manipulated. Once the training is complete, the same switch or button disengages the system, making the entire simulation disappear, leaving the original stark, bare room.

In the "Star Trek" series, such an innovation was part of their daily routine. The "holodeck" permitted personnel aboard the Starship Enterprise to experience an interactive learning simulation. Imagine how such an innovation could help members of our Air Force. Not only would it save space, but also it would help manage risk, reduce training costs and permit personalized learning programs built specifically for the individual. The holodeck would revolutionize all aspects of how we operate in the Air Force.

The holodeck is my vision of the perfect training and education aide. In fact, I wish every installation had hundreds of these interactive rooms throughout the base. The possibilities are endless. Sadly, I must temper my vision with reality and the realm of the

possible. Although my vision may not be feasible today, it doesn't mean that I should give up. Our job is to make dreams come true each and every day. I know you all have similar dreams, visions that could benefit our Airmen both today and tomorrow. Such visions must be pursued: You should never, ever, ever give up.

In order to realize a vision, several things need to happen. First, you must align the vision with one of our core service functions. The closer to the core, the easier it will be to gain support and, eventually, resourcing. Next, take the vision and develop a strategy. Depending on your vision, the strategy may involve acquisition, implementation, execution, modification or one of many other aspects. Let your strategy start at the 40 percent solution and then let it evolve to 80 percent and eventually to 98 percent. Realize that the process is continual; you will never get to 100 percent.

With the strategy in place, you can start socializing the vision. Socialization will also help your vision progress and grow roots through increased organizational



Gen. Stephen Lorenz
Commander Air Education and Training Command

support and understanding. The support will help you champion the concept for resourcing. After all, your vision must have resourcing in order to come true. Those resources will go to winners, not to losers.

Invest the time and energy to be a winner.

In life, and especially in the Air Force, priorities and personnel are always changing. Over time, your vision will need to adapt to the realities of change. It will require even greater persistence and objectivity. Giving your vision roots and aligning it with core functions will create something that can be handed off and sustained through change. The best ideas, sustained by hard work, can be carried forward by any leader.

You may also find yourself joining an organization and accepting someone else's vision. In this situation, evaluate their vision against current realities and resourcing priorities. If they've done their homework, the project will be easy to move forward. If they haven't, assess the vision to determine if it should move ahead or if its time has passed.

Last month, while visiting Fort Dix, N.J., and the Air Force Expeditionary Center, I came as close as I've ever been to a functioning holodeck. I watched in awe as deploying Airmen entered a series of rooms at the Medical Training Simulation Center. They fought through heavy smoke to reach bloodied bodies that littered the floor. Sirens wailed and explosions shook the room, all interrupting their efforts to save the simulated wounded.

Once their training was complete, instructors activated a switch that disengaged the simulation. In this situation, the switch did not make the entire interactive experience disappear. Although the smoke cleared and sirens stopped wailing, the "original stark, bare room" still held the medical training dummies. It was more than enough to get my heart racing.

My vision still needs some time to evolve and mature. This doesn't mean I'm going to give up. I simply need to work a little harder. Our Air Force needs you to champion your vision as well. Develop it along our service core functions and socialize it; let it grow roots and evolve. Don't let your vision disappear like the end of a holodeck simulation exercise. Do your homework and the resources will follow. After all, it is your initiatives that fuel the positive change that makes our Air Force the finest in the world.

Why telling your story is important

When I was deployed to Iraq, my mother said, "We have Air Force people in Iraq? What does the Air Force do there?"

My mother is probably like a lot of other people out there. She's educated, watches the usual news networks every day and reads the newspapers. How can they not know about the most advanced, capable and superior air force on the planet? Well, it seems we haven't done a very good job of telling them about ourselves.

Air Force leaders encourage every Airman to tell the Air Force story. We should be able to articulate our core values, mission, priorities and functions and what we bring to the joint fight.

There are several helpful links on the Air Force Portal homepage under the heading (oddly enough) "Tell the AF Story." I encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with the facts and mes-

sages those resources contain. Just as important as it is to tell the Air Force story, it's important to tell your own story.

Less than four percent of the United States population serves in its military. Very few have firsthand experience to understand our character, commitment, sacrifice, service and experience. Most of us serving in the Air Force today have either begun or extended our service since Sept. 11, 2001. That says something about who we are. We are the ones who go running into the burning building. We sacrifice much of ourselves in order to serve others. Your personal story of service to your country is an important story to tell.

I'm not saying each of us should get out there and toot our own horns for our own personal glory. I'm saying tell your story as an example of the thousands of

others who stand beside you every day in service to our nation. I'll give you an example from my personal experience that illustrates my point.

I recently received a Distinguished Service Award from my university's alumni association. I was very reluctant to be singled out for recognition. Those of us who serve are not doing it for the recognition. The only thing that could justify it in my mind was to use it as an opportunity to tell the story of military medical professionals of which I am merely an example.

I was able to talk about the core values, dedication and teamwork of thousands of medics who have served and continue to serve at home, overseas and deployed. Although the story was my story, it was also the story of many others. The story allowed the audience to gain insight into the lives

and experience of the troops they support. Priceless.

Each one of us has a unique story to tell. It is, at a minimum, unique from 96 percent of the population. Telling our individual stories is an important part of telling the Air Force story. As said by Gen. Norton Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, "I think the fundamental thing is that everybody counts. No one, no job, no specialty is more important than any other. Everyone matters, and everyone is an important part of this team."

Thank you for your service, dedication, sacrifice and commitment. Thank you for the job you do every day that supports the Air Force mission.

— This commentary was written by Lt. Col. Jody Ocker, 65th Medical Operations Squadron commander, Lajes Field, Azores.



Will the state of the economy affect your summer vacation plans?



Art Dingler
First Support Services

"No. I don't plan to go anywhere except maybe fishing."



Pam McCollough
First Support Services

"No, I'm going on with my plans though I might feel a little guilty. We're going for a week to the beach. That's also a mini family reunion. I don't want to back out on that."



Senior Airman Rashel Phegley
78th LRS

"Not this summer because we saved up for it last year."



Staff Sgt. Bruce Raynor
78th LRS

"No, it's not really going to affect it. We might just put it off a few weeks to save up a little more."

Defense Travel System to modify reservation process

BY ARMY SGT. 1ST CLASS
MICHAEL J. CARDEN

American Forces Press Service

Minor changes are scheduled to take place within the Defense Department's travel reservation system later this summer to support the Transportation Security Administration's new pre-flight screening program, a Defense Department official said June 10.

Under the current format, when travelers arrange flight, hotel and rental car reservations online at the Defense Travel System Web site, the only personal information the site processes through to the vendors is the traveler's first name, last name and middle initial. Now, after the system and Web site modifications take effect, the traveler's date of birth and gender will be included to comply with the TSA's Secure Flight Program, said Pam Mitchell, director of the Defense Travel Management Office.

Defense travelers will be prompted by a pop-up screen from the DTS Web site to add the information, as well as to enter their name as it appears on their government-issued identification card. The change will be minimally inconvenient to the traveler, as the information will be entered only once then saved to their profile, Mitchell said.

The program is an outcome of the 9/11 Commission, and it basically streamlines the process of identifying potential passengers deemed a match on the FBI-generated watch list screened by the airlines, said Paul Leyh, the program's director.

Before the program offi-

cially began last month, the various airlines each had their own screening processes, which was inconsistent and inconvenient for many travelers, Leyh said. It's not uncommon for a passenger's information to be identified as a match on one airline's list but cleared through another's, he added.

"From carrier to carrier, because the process is different, it's inconsistent across all carriers," he said. "Throughout the world there are hundreds of carriers, and it could be kind of a crap shoot for people. But with Secure Flight, it's going to be the same process for that person regardless of the carrier."

With the Secure Flight Program, the TSA eventually will become the sole pre-screening agency for all airline passengers. The program officially started in May with several domestic airlines, but within 18 months, every airline - international and domestic - that travels within, to, from and over the United States will be phased into the program, he said.

This will improve the safety of more than 2.5 million people, Leyh added. Also, travelers who've been misidentified as a match on the watch list can apply for a redress number through TSA to prevent future inconveniences. If cleared, the redress number also will be added to their profile in DTS.

"With nearly every commercial airline participating, watch list matching is going to be more effective, which is going to allow us to clear more people and focus on those potential travelers that are considered as a close match," he said.

413th FTG to get new commander

The 413th Flight Test Group will be getting a new commander June 22.

Col. Douglas Carpenter will take command of the group in assumption of command ceremony. Colonel Carpenter was formerly the group's vice com-



Col. Douglas Carpenter

mander.

The 413th FTG is an Air Force Reserve unit which conducts flight tests on aircraft after programmed depot maintenance is completed. The group also provides flight test support to the Air Force Flight Test Center. —from staff reports

Robins employees invited to comment on NSPS

Workers who are interested in providing feedback on the National Security Personnel System are

Written comments should be addressed to:
Defense Business Board
ATTN: Ms. Phyllis Ferguson
2521 South Clark Street
Room 650
Arlington, VA 22202

being invited to do so.

Public comments are being accepted by the Defense Business Board as part of a comprehensive review of the NSPS. Comments are being accepted until June 26. However, it is recommended that comments be submitted no later than June 18.

The review will help the Department of Defense determine whether NSPS is

operating in a fair and effective manner. It will also include an examination of NSPS policies, principles and implementation.

Public meetings of the Defense Business Board's Task Group Review of the NSPS will be held June 25 from 1 to 4 p.m., and June 26 from 9 a.m. to noon, and resuming from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Hyatt-Arlington, 1325 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. Results and recommendations to DOD leadership are expected late this summer.



► IN BRIEF

ASMC LUNCHEON

The Middle Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold its June luncheon at the Robins Horizons Club Ballroom on Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.

The new 2009 ASMC officers will be sworn in and the chapter will make a charity presentation.

Tickets are \$10 for members and \$11 for non-members. For more information and tickets to this event, please call Darlene Delozier at 222-3452.

5TH CCG TACTICAL TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

The 5th Combat Communications Group will host the Tactical Technology Showcase at Gator Air Base July 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featured vendor technologies will include tactical equipment, weaponry, protective shelters, mobile communications, surveillance and reconnaissance, ruggedized computers, training and simulations capabilities and transportation and logistics. There is no fee to attend the showcase. Register at www.FederalEvents.com

MACON STREET SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION

Due to the opening of the new Robins Commissary, the speed limit on Macon Street between 10th and 12th streets has been temporarily lowered from 25 mph to 15 mph. The Civil Engineering Squadron will keep a watch on the area, and expects to raise the speed limit back to its original rate in the near future. The area in front of the Commissary is not a pedestrian crosswalk, and pedestrian patrons should be careful when accessing the store.

Spinning act

Process improvements part of C-130 propeller shop's continued mission success

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

The C-130 propeller shop has been at Robins for a long time, but they are still finding ways to do things better.

In the past couple of years the shop has made equipment and efficiency improvements that have reduced flow days, which is the time it takes to refurbish a full propeller assembly, from 45 days to 38.

Although a propeller might seem like a simple part of an aircraft that wouldn't take much maintenance, the assembly goes through a several-step process that includes disassembly, cleaning, grinding, polishing, reassembly, balancing and testing. The primary purpose of the work is to prevent corrosion.

It used to be that those operations were spread throughout the huge building shares with other shops. About two years ago, the prop shop operations were consolidated into one area to reduce the time it takes just to move the blades and parts from one area to another.

"In the old process we had 7,000-plus linear feet that the blade would actually travel," said Flight Chief Chris Barkley. "Now we have that down to about 800 feet."

Automation has also not only sped up the process, but reduced the physical demands on workers.

The first step after the disassembly is cleaning the blades and stripping the black covering on their lower end. At one time that was done with chemicals, but around the early 1990s the shop started using high-pressure water. Workers used a handheld wand to spray water at about 15,000 pounds per square inch. Consider that a top-line home pressure washer

runs about 3,000 PSI.

"We used to have people standing there all day long going back and forth with a wand that was 15,000 PSI," Mr. Barkley said. "You can imagine how it would hurt their backs."

About a year and a half ago, the shop installed a machine called an aquamiser to do that job. The blades are now put into an enclosed area where the machine does the same thing at 30,000 PSI.

For further corrosion prevention, the shop had at one time used handheld grinders to polish a blade. That took about 45 minutes and also put physical stress on workers. But last year the shop installed an \$800,000 robot that picks up the blade and runs it over a belt grinder. That reduces the process to about 17 minutes.

Propeller mechanic Michael Lawhorn was operating the robot when Mr. Barkley gave a tour of the shop last week. Mr. Lawhorn said he has been working at the shop for eight years, and he likes the fact that job duties are rotated regularly.

"I'm in a shop where we've got a different thing to do every day," he said.

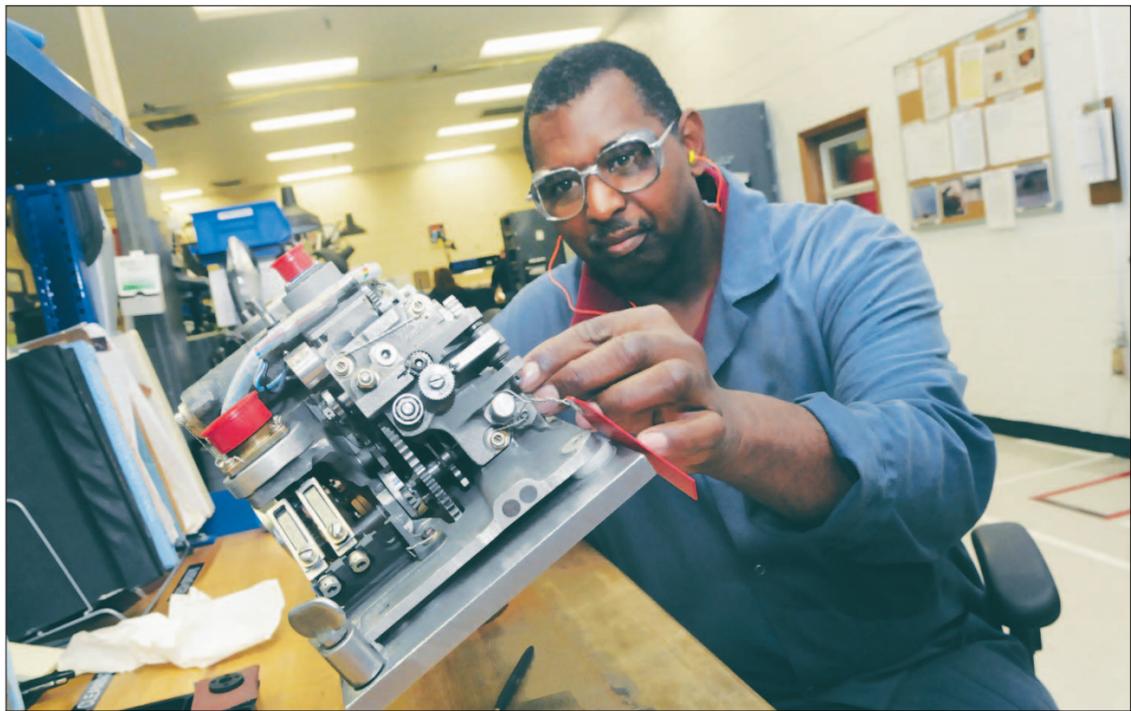
A propeller assembly includes four blades and the barrel housing that attaches to the aircraft. Each assembly costs \$189,000, and must go in for maintenance approximately every 5,000 flying hours. The assemblies are shipped around the world, not just for the C-130s maintained at Robins. Although the shop tests the integrity and balancing of the assemblies, it's the shops where the installation is done that will place them on a machine for run up before the installation.

Carl Nelson, the deputy flight chief, said the shop's 70 employees are hardworking, dedicat-



James Kokotilo prepares to static balance a propeller assembly.

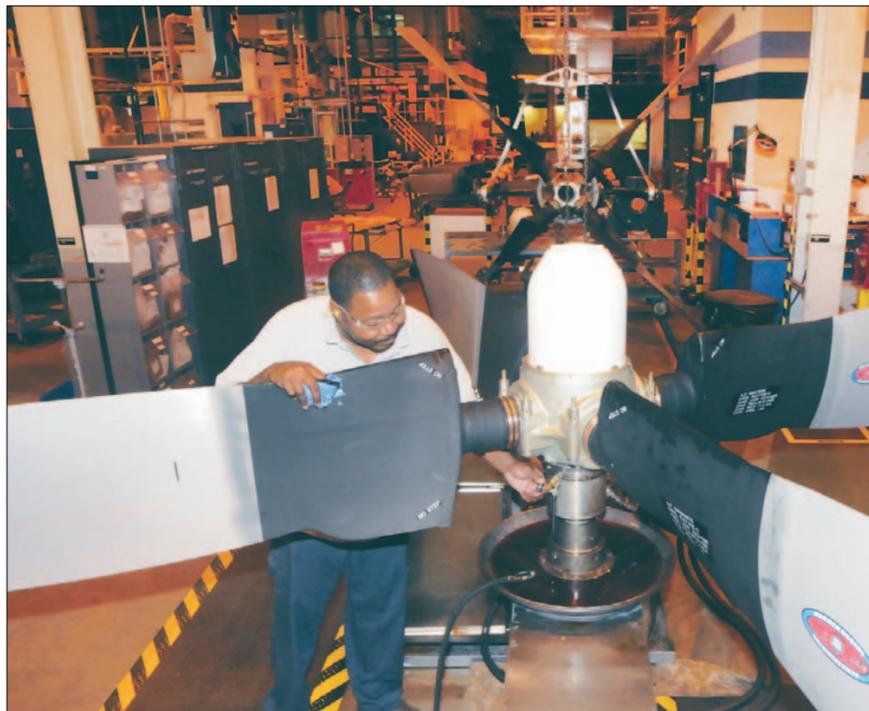
U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP



Garry McCrary overhauls a C-130 valve housing, which turns the angles on blades when a propeller is running.

ed people who practice the wingman concept.

"This whole flight is real family oriented," he said. "If somebody is down, or a family member is down, they are there for each other."



Darrell Carter performs final assembly testing on a C-130 propeller.



Robert Whaley overhauls an auxiliary control motor.



Brian Bradley, measures the outside diameter of a propeller blade so it can be cut down to size.

78th FSS BRIEFS

MONDAY

Come out and enjoy a fruits/vegetables carving class with Chef Douglas Goodridge, of Horizons, June 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Arts & Crafts Center. A pre-registration is required. Cost is \$20 (includes supplies). For more information call the Arts & Crafts Center at 926-5282.

The fitness center racquetball courts (1-4) will be closed June 15 – 26 for resurfacing. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

The Instant Payback club drive will kick off June 15. New members will receive three months free dues and zero percent introductory rate for six months. All new members can register on-line at www.afclubs.net for a chance to win \$250 by completing the on-line survey. Receive discounts on every club meal purchase and cash back (2% on base/1% off base) on everything you buy with your MasterCard. The club drive will end Aug. 15. Sponsored in part by Chase. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. To apply on line go to www.afclubs.net, or call 1-800-569-1285 or visit Horizons.

UPCOMING

The Arts & Crafts Center will hold the following classes in June:

- ▶ Calligraphy (kids), June 12 from 4:30 to 6 p.m., cost \$7
 - ▶ Basic watercolor, June 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., cost \$10
 - ▶ Acrylic "Landscapes," painting (day) June 11 from noon to 1:30 p.m., cost \$10
 - ▶ Beginning matting/framing, June 23 and 25 from 6 to 9 p.m., cost \$12.50 (both days)
 - ▶ Watercolor "Landscapes" painting, (evening) June 16 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., cost \$10
 - ▶ Stained glass workshop, June 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., cost \$70
 - ▶ Mosaic class (kids), June 22 – 24 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., cost \$25
 - ▶ Scroll saw June 17 from 6 to 8 p.m., cost \$12
- Wood shop safety classes are held Tuesdays at 6 p.m. and auto shop

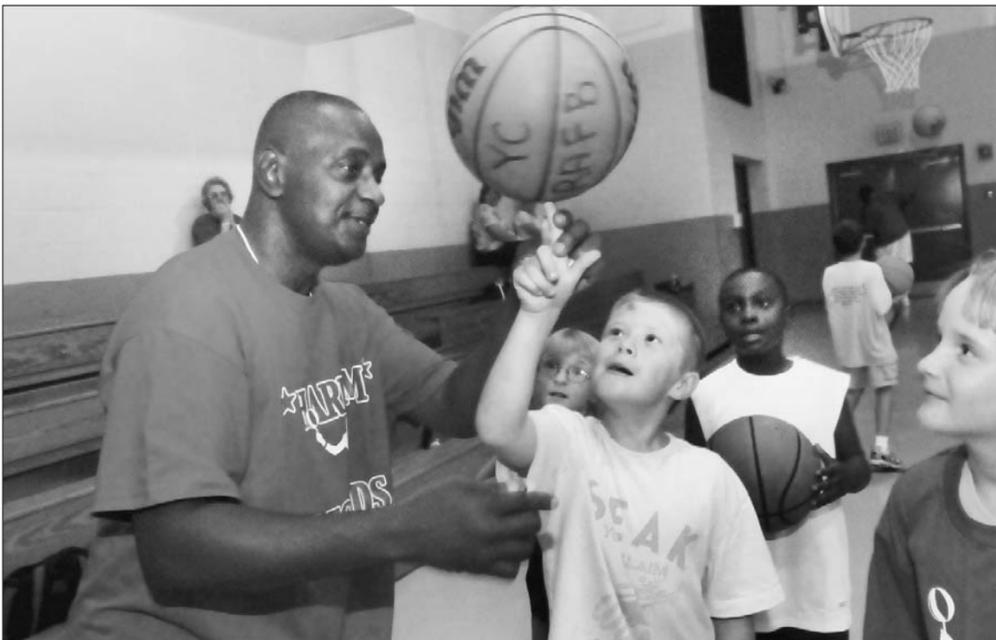
safety and orientation classes are held every Wednesday at 6 p.m. and every Saturday at 11 a.m. free of charge. Registration is not required. Do-it-yourself framing is available Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Do-it-yourself framing, during the evening and Saturdays is scheduled by appointment only. Advance registration and payment is required for all classes. Classes are subject to change without notice. All classes are open to active duty, reserve and retired military and family members and DOD civilians. For more information call the Arts & Crafts Center at 926-5282.

The Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008 amends Title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve after Sept. 11, 2001. This new program was signed into law on June 30, 2008 for the purpose of providing a wartime enhanced education benefit similar to that provided to veterans of World War II. This new bill, administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, will be referred to as Chapter 33. Benefits will be payable on Aug. 1, 2009 for training completed after July 31, 2009.

Chapter 33 is open to every veteran and service member who serve an aggregate of at least 90 days extended active duty since 9/11. The Robins Military Education and Training Office will hold four briefings on the new 9/11 GI Bill. Briefing times and locations are as follows: June 18, July 2 and 16 from 10 to 11 a.m. in Bldg 905, Room 137. For more information visit www.gibill.va.gov or call customer service at 327-7304.

Sign up for the Fit Factor Program, the Air Force Fitness Program for youth ages six to 18. FitFactor is a web-based program that encourages young people to Get Up, Get Out and Get Fit! The FitFactor program is based on the activities that you do in school, at home, with friends, family, and pets and even alone. So all the points you earn and record on the website

Learning with the Legends



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Larry "Shorty" Coleman helps Anthony Molargir, 7, spin a basketball on his fingertip during the Harlem Legends basketball camp this week at the Youth Center. Coleman was a dribbler with the Harlem Globetrotters from 1986-1990. Around 80 children participated in the camp.

are based on the FitFactor honor system. For each level you reach you earn valuable prizes. The FitFactor levels are Energy, Strength, Agility, Adventure and Endurance. Have fun, earn points and win prizes. To sign up contact the teen coordinator at 327-6831 or stop by the youth center.

Information Tickets and Travel has the following tickets:

▶ Tickets for the 2009 Coke Zero 400 July 4 at the Daytona International Speedway are on sale. Tickets are \$36 – 132 and Sprint Fanzone (pre-race fan zone pass) \$46. Last day to order tickets is June 27. All other orders will be sent to Will Call.

An Air Force Chess tournament is scheduled for June 25 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. For more information call the community cen-

ter at 926-2105.

ONGOING

The Afterburner, which proudly brews Starbucks coffee, is open Monday – Friday from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come in and enjoy a June special of a tall Verona coffee with midnight layer cake or strawberry shortcake for only \$4.25. Also in June, come in between 8 to 9 a.m. and receive 10 percent off any coffee purchase. Afterburner is located in the Base Restaurant, Bldg. 166 on Byron St. Afterburner offers a variety of hot and cold beverages, pastries and snacks. For more information call 222-7827 or 926-6972.

This year's club scholarship essay submissions, titled "The High Cost of Freedom," are due July 1. Robins Heritage Club and Horizons members and their families may apply for the 25 Air Force \$1,000 scholarships. The scholarships will be awarded through the Services club membership scholarship program, sponsored by Coca

Cola and Chase Bank. Air Force-wide. Nominees must provide an essay of no more than 500 words. Essays exceeding 500 words (excluding title) will be disqualified. Essays must be typed in 12-point Arial or Times New Roman font, single-spaced, with double-spacing between paragraphs, and submitted on standard white bond paper with one-inch margins top and bottom and one-and-one-quarter inch on left and right sides. Essays must be submitted electronically on a CD and must have applicants name, date written and word count (do not write SSAN on the CD), entry form (make sure all information marked with an asterisk is provided) and a current college/university acceptance letter for new students or official transcripts for students already enrolled.

Nominations are due to Sherry Trauth, FSS Marketing, located in Bldg. 983 by July 1. Submissions after this date will not be accepted. For more information go to www.afclubs.net or call 926-5492. No federal endorsement of sponsor.

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.



BEST GAMES FOR NINTENDO DS

Over the past month, we've looked at the top video games for the top three video game consoles. Last week, we looked at critics' top games for the Playstation Portable, a terrific handheld system for games, movies and more. In an effort to be fair, this week will look at games for the PSP's top competitor, the Nintendo DS. Here's the top five DS games, based on aggregate scores from video game reviewers across the Internet:

5 Advance Wars: Dual Strike (Metacritic Score - 90)
Dual Strike is a turn-based tactics video game. It is the third installment in the Advance Wars series, with the storyline being a continuation of the previous games. The amount of content is astounding and the number of unlockables is overwhelming. There are campaigns that will keep you awake at night, second-guessing your tactics, long after you shut the DS off.

4 Legend of Zelda: The Phantom Hourglass (90)
Phantom Hourglass is an action-adventure game with gameplay similar to other games in The Legend of Zelda series. Easy and approachable enough for the DS' vast base of casual users but rewarding and challenging enough to satisfy the hardest of the hardcore Zelda fans.

3 Mario Kart DS (91)
This racing game offers an above average single player experience, but really shines in multiplayer. The game's graphics are silky smooth and the track designs are fantastic. With a veritable buffet of racers, courses, modes, and multiplayer options, Mario Kart DS is a must play for any Nintendo fan and a requisite for any DS owner.

2 Chrono Trigger (92)
This classic role playing game won Metacritic's 2008 DS Game of the Year award, and deservedly so. It's a remake of an old Super Nintendo game and is faithful port of the original, with subtle improvements to the script and a little extra gameplay. It looks really solid on the DS, runs fine, and everything is intact. If you've never played Chrono Trigger, then this is the version to get.

1 Grand Theft Auto: Chinatown Wars (94)
Chinatown Wars is an entirely original entry into the critically acclaimed GTA series, and brings a new level of interactivity to its sprawling open environments. Critics call the game a triumph, not just in terms of bringing a difficult game to a new platform intact, but because it actually improves it in the process, and demonstrates a mastery of DS form and function. Great scope, nice car handling and awesome multiplayer.

Source: www.metacritic.com

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: **Angeline Addison**, 580th SMXS. POC is Lori Bloodworth, 926-4099; **Richard Dixon**, 580th SMXS. POC is Markus Johnson, 926-1501; and **Alice Williams**, 402nd MXW. POC is Jodi Spires, 222-3492

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.

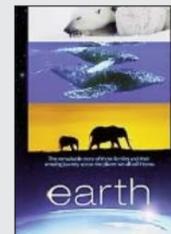
Protestant
The traditional service meets Sunday in the Chapel at 11 a.m. Contemporary service meets at 6 p.m. in the Chapel sanctuary. The gospel service meets at 8 a.m. at the Chapel. Religious education meets in Bldg. 905 at 9:30 a.m.

NOW PLAYING



JUNE 12
7:30 P.M.
OBSESSED
RATED PG-13

Derek Charles, a successful asset manager who has just received a huge promotion, is blissfully happy in his career and in his marriage to the beautiful Beth. But when Lisa, a temp worker, starts stalking Derek, everything he's worked so hard for, is placed in jeopardy.



JUNE 13
3 P.M.
EARTH
RATED G

The story of three animal families and their amazing journeys across the planet we all call home. The film combines rare action, unimaginable scale and impossible locations by capturing the most intimate moments of our planet's wildest and most elusive creatures.



JUNE 13
7:30 P.M.
GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST

Connor Mead is a womanizing, commitment-phobic bachelor whose carefree antics nearly destroy his brother's wedding weekend when straight out of the afterlife comes Connor's philandering late Uncle Wayne to lead him through a spook tour of ghosts of his many female conquests from the past, present and future. Rated PG-13

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



Robins July 4 concert to be 'miraculous'

Motown legends to take center stage at annual celebration

The Miracles invite everyone to share their past and present at the Air Force Reserve Command's Annual Independence Day Concert celebration.

This year's celebration is scheduled for July 2 at McConnell-Talbert Stadium on South Davis Drive in Warner Robins.

"The Miracles have been around for years, and yet songs like 'Tears of a Clown,' and 'Shop Around' are just as appreciated today during their 50th anniversary, as they were when the songs were first released," said Maj. Don Schofield, Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve commander.

He said this is an

opportunity to dance and sing along with the legendary greats, who are sure to fill the red, white and blue celebration with great sounds from the past, and rekindle many memories among all who attend.

The AFRC Band will also perform a variety of music to get the crowd going.

"Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and the talent of the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, we have an incredible celebration planned," said Allen Tatman of the Warner Robins Civitan Club. "The Middle Georgia community will have front-row seating to a fireworks display that gets bigger and better every year. We encourage families to bring the children and enjoy an amazing show."

The free concert will begin at 8 p.m. with the National Anthem and a scheduled F-15 flyover.

"Last year was a record-setting crowd, and this year we are expecting just as big attendance," Mr. Tatman said.

He encourages everyone to watch the show from the stadium interior."

The stadium bleachers offer seating; however, attendees are welcome to bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating on the infield. Food and beverages will be available. Bags and containers are subject to search. No alcoholic beverages or glass containers and no pets are allowed at this family event. For more information, visit www.usafreserveband.af.mil

—courtesy AFRC Band

**BE KIND TO THE EARTH.
PLEASE RECYCLE THIS
NEWSPAPER.**

101

CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER

Officials encourage motorcycle safety

Motorcycle riders must adhere to several safety practices required by Robins policy. 78th Security Forces personnel will enforce requirements and could refuse entry to the base.

► Wear a helmet and other protective gear:

Protective gear serves three purposes for motorcyclists: comfort and protection from the elements; injury prevention; and a means for other motorists to see the motorcyclist, through the use of color or reflective material

Helmets: This is the most important piece of safety equipment. Safety helmets that comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 218 save lives by preventing or reducing the extent of head injuries in the event of a crash.

Eye Protection: Since many motorcyclists don't have windshields, riders must protect their eyes against insects, dirt, rocks, and other airborne matter. Even the wind can cause the eyes to tear and blur vision, and good vision is imperative when riding. Choose good-quality goggles, glasses with plastic or safety lenses, or a helmet equipped with a face shield.

Proper clothing: The only upper outer garments authorized for motorcy-

clists on Robins are a brightly-colored upper outer garment during daylight hours and a reflective upper outer garment at nighttime or dusk.

Contrasting colors are no longer an option, and vests are strongly recommended.

Wearing a backpack is authorized only if it has brightly colored/reflective properties.

Jackets must have long sleeves and be made of durable material like leather or denim. Riders must wear bright colors and a reflective vest.

Gloves: Durable gloves must be a non-slip type to permit a firm grip on the controls.

Footwear: Proper over-the-ankle footwear must be worn.

► Never mix motorcycles and alcohol.

Alcohol affects those skills essential to operate a motorcycle – balance and coordination. Alcohol and motorcycling are a deadly combination.

► Make sure that your motorcycle is road-ready.

Check your tires' pressure to make sure they are set correctly. You should also inspect your motorcycle for loose chains, and make sure that the clutch, brake and other control positions are set correctly.

— 78th Safety Office

Once upon a story time



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Peggy Thornton, Bonaire Elementary media specialist, reads to children attending the "Be Creative @ Your Library" summer reading program. The program is every Monday through July 13 from 10 to 11 a.m. for preschoolers and 11 a.m. to noon for children in kindergarten to fourth grade. For more information, call the library at 327-8762.

AAFES supports local quality of life programs

Troop investments pay dividends for Robins MWR efforts

Purchases made by customers at Robins Army & Air Force Exchange Service facilities, like the commissary and base exchange, generated a dividend of \$509,507 last year.

Chris Holifield, general manager for the Robins Base Exchange, said these funds are critical to the 78th Force Support Squadron's ability to enhance local programs and facilities including the Heritage Club, Horizons and Pine Oaks Golf Course.

"Historically, roughly two-thirds of AAFES earnings are paid to Morale, Welfare and Recreation and

78th FSS programs with the other third used to build new (AAFES) stores or renovate existing facilities," Mr. Holifield said. "This structure means authorized customers are essentially our 'investors.' Fortunately, thrifty shoppers rediscovering the value the exchange offers allowed the BX to provide a healthy return on its investment."

With a mission to provide quality goods and services at competitively low prices and generate earnings to support MWR and the 78th FSS programs, the dual benefit AAFES provides military families goes far beyond the clothes, electronics and snacks on shelves, Mr. Holifield said.

— from staff reports

Unclaimed student school records

Robins Elementary still has a number of unclaimed student records that need to be picked up by parents. These may be picked up until July 17; after that date they will be archived at Ft. Benning. Please pass this information on to your friends, neighbors

and co-workers who had children at Robins Elementary.

These records will be required by the childrens' new receiving schools. The school is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. until noon and from 1 to 3:30 p.m.