



The Robins Combined Federal Campaign runs through Nov. 17. Currently we are at 91.2 percent of the local goal of \$1.4 million. For a list of unit CFC monitors, see page 4A

Trick or Treat!

Halloween will be observed at Robins tomorrow with trick-or-treating from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Participating base residents should leave exterior lights on; those who do not wish to participate should turn off exterior lights.

Security Forces and volunteers will help ensure safety in the housing areas with their annual Pumpkin Patrol.

The 78th Force Support Squadron is also planning two other events Saturday – a Scary Movie Night at the

Youth Center from 7 to 10 p.m. and a Thunder Alley Halloween Party at the Bowling Alley from 9 to 11 p.m.

Face painting and a balloon giveaway for children ages 1 to 12 is scheduled from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Base Exchange. It will be followed at 5 p.m. by a costume contest. Winners of the contest will receive gift cards.

“Trick or Trunk” in the BX parking lot will start at 6 p.m. People are asked to decorate their vehicles and park in a closed-off area, where trick-or-treating will be done at the cars.



ROBINS REV-UP

October 29, 2010 Vol. 55 No 42

Early flu shots key to prevention

BY DONNA MILES
American Forces Press Service

With flu season already under way, the top TRICARE military health plan official encourages the system's almost 9.7 million beneficiaries to get their flu shots as early as possible at a military medical facility, network provider, or at any participating pharmacy.

Military hospitals and clinics, and TRICARE network providers are stocked with this year's flu vaccine and ready to administer them now, said Navy Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, deputy director for the Tricare Management Activity.

It's available to every TRI-

AT ROBINS

Flu vaccines are currently available on a first come, first served basis for all active-duty personnel, dependents, and retirees. Clinic hours are 7 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. weekdays (with no afternoon hours on Thursday). For more information, call Immunizations at 327-7919.

CARE beneficiary more than 6 months old, with no copayment or preauthorization required, even for people enrolled in programs which typically require one, she said.

“We want you to get the shot,” Hunter emphasized, calling flu shots “an essential preventive service.” Nine out of 10 healthy people who get the shot won't get the flu, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Unlike last year, when people needed two vaccines — a conventional flu shot and another developed specifically for the H1N1 virus — one shot will suffice this year, Hunter noted. Its formulation covers two of the most common seasonal influenza strains,

► see FLU, 8A



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Ross, 78th Medical Group, gives a flu shot to Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Bowen, Robins command chief. All active-duty military are required to receive the vaccine.

EJECTION SYSTEM F-15 Egress Shop ensures pilots land safely

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

Before an F-15 Eagle flies following programmed depot maintenance here, every component is exhaustively tested except for one – the ejection system.

If it was tested, it would have to be rebuilt again, so testing it is simply not practical.

Pilots just have to put their faith in the seven people who work in the F-15 Egress Shop.

“They have to have a tremendous amount of integrity,” said George Reid, F-15 flight chief. “I can't emphasize enough how important it is, how each and every one of these guys have to really pay attention to what they are doing. You can't have an off day here.”

An F-15 comes to Robins for

► see EGRESS, 6A



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Lisa Harvey and Darrell Waters look over one of the seats refurbished by the F-15 Egress Shop.

Appeals court issues stay on 'Don't Ask' order

BY DONNA MILES
AND JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department supports the Oct. 21 federal appeals court decision to temporarily block a judge's order which put an immediate end to the so-called “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” law which bans gay men and lesbians from serving openly in the military.

“For the reasons stated in the government's submission, we believe a stay is appropriate,” said Pentagon spokeswoman Cynthia Smith of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision.

The three-judge panel issued a statement Oct. 20 which noted it allowed the “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” law to stand to provide more time to study the issues involved in its possible repeal. Both sides had until Monday to submit legal documents for consideration.

The higher-court decision tem-

porarily suspends U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips' Oct. 12 ruling that the law is unconstitutional. Phillips issued an injunction requiring the department “immediately to suspend and discontinue any investigation, or discharge, separation or other proceeding that may have commenced under the ‘Don't Ask, Don't Tell’ act or its implementing regulations.”

In its appeal, Justice Department officials asked the law be reinstated, at least until a study of the impact of repealing it is completed.

Defense Department officials want a deliberative, long-range look at any changes in the law, said Pentagon spokesman Marine Corps Col. David Lapan.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates set up a working group to examine the ramifications of a possible repeal of the law. The group is scheduled to submit its report Dec. 1.

► see DADT, 8A

Base becoming darker place

BY ED SALEEM
Air Force Reserve Command

Last week one of my workmates told me he thought we must be doing a good job because “the base is now a darker place.”

It sounded like something someone would say to a vampire, after he installed curtains on windows to block out sunlight, or maybe a writer like Stephen King for bringing a bit of his macabre to a location.

But I took it as a compliment. What he was saying was as he drove around the base at night, he noticed lights are off where they are supposed to be off. Further, in the morning, security, street, and airfield lighting



are off.

This is the result of a lot of work and planning from a lot of teams, including maintenance squads who have fixed what needed to be fixed, and are getting and keeping automated systems working as they should.

It's also a result of employees throughout Robins. But it doesn't stop there.

The base has more ener-

gy-saving projects in the works, from more automation of buildings for better heating, cooling, and lighting control, to comprehensive energy surveys to identify other areas needing improvement.

Can you guess or do you know what retro-commissioning means? The end result will be a more energy-efficient Robins.

However, the base still needs your eyes, your ears, and your ideas to make energy conservation work. Lights are still being left on that could be turned off for greater energy savings.

With your support, Robins will continue to be a “darker place.”

Public confident in military

BY CHERYL PELLERIN
American Forces Press Service

Americans have more confidence in the military than they have in banks, the media, public schools and organized religion, according to a recent national poll.

More than 1,000 adults answered questions about their confidence in 18 U.S. institutions — including the military — for the Associated Press-National Constitution Center poll, conducted in August by market-research firm GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications.

In the poll, respondents had more confidence in the U.S. military than in Congress; state, federal and local governments; the Supreme Court; and print, broad-

cast and online news media.

On the question of measuring confidence in the military, 13 percent of respondents were “extremely confident,” 30 percent were “very confident,” and 43 percent were “somewhat confident.” Only 13 percent were “not too confident” or “not confident at all,” and 1 percent “didn't know.”

This poll agrees with the results of two recent annual polls — from Gallup in Washington and Harris Interactive in New York — which also show high levels of confidence in the U.S. military.

In the July Gallup survey, 76 percent of people queried said they had a “great deal” or “quite a lot” of confidence in the military.

The February Harris poll showed 59 percent had a “great deal of confidence” in the “people in charge of running” the military.

THINK SAFETY



Days without a DUI: 13
Last DUI: 78th SFS
— courtesy 78th Security Forces

AADD

To request a ride, call 222-0013.

TWO-MINUTEREV

Energy Ideas

The base is seeking input from Team Robins members about how it can save energy.

Those with ideas are asked to send them via e-mail to commanderkillawatt@robins.af.mil.

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Page Two

AF starts migration of information, services to new total-force website

BY STAFF SGT.
STEVE GREVER

DCS, Manpower, Personnel and Services

Air Force personnel specialists are in the process of migrating personnel information and services to the new Air Force Personnel Services website.

The transfer aims to move the Air Force toward its goal of establishing a single, online knowledge base for active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, civilian members, and retirees.

"The Air Force is transforming the delivery of personnel information and services for total force Airmen through responsive, effective and modernized processes and capabilities," said Chief of the Air Force Manpower and Personnel Program Integration Office Col. Steven Talley. "The new website incorporates total force personnel information — what we call knowledge — and makes it available to all Airmen, online."

Each Air Force component did its part in the over-

all planning, coordination and execution phases of migrating more than 3,400 total force knowledge articles to the personnel services website, said Tom Oates, AFPC's knowledge management branch chief for the active-duty component.

"We reconfigured the website to have the capability to serve all total-force Airmen and retirees," Oates said. "The website reconfiguration plan included modifying our existing drop-down menus, specific customer segment menus, and categories for knowledge articles to accommodate total-force component content."

The new knowledge base is designed to offer "one-stop-shopping" for personnel information and services for customers. Knowledge articles from all components continue to be phased into the new website as they are updated and approved by component representatives, offering the most current and applicable information for customers, according to Senior Master Sgt. George Macaluso, Air Force Reserve knowledge management

operations superintendent.

"While we want Reserve and Guard members to visit the AFPERS website, they can still find information on the ARPC and AFRC websites until the migration is completed in 2011," Macaluso said.

The consolidation of personnel information will ensure total force Airmen have only one official source to receive personnel-related content.

Currently, there are numerous online resources for personnel information, and the content is not standardized for customers, said Thomas Pague, Air National Guard Personnel Services Delivery Transformation documentation management chief.

"We worked together to make the collaboration happen for all rather than focus on one component," Pague said.

This knowledge content migration is part of a larger Air Force Personnel Services Delivery Transformation initiative to integrate all active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilian and retiree personnel information and services into one of many total-force solutions.



U.S. Air Force photo by STAFF SGT. ALEXYSALTEKOFF

AFRC chaplain memorialized

Tech. Sgt. Tiffany Jackson, Robins Honor Guard flight sergeant, places a flag in front of a photo of Chaplain (Col.) Charles M. Bolin during his memorial service Oct. 14, in the base chapel. Bolin was serving with the Yellow Ribbon Campaign at Air Force Reserve Command headquarters. He suffered a heart attack Sept. 21 while on temporary duty at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

Working Together

Union steward gives thumbs up to 560th AMXS open-door policy

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

Brian Smith really likes his job as a union steward. That hasn't always been the case.

When he first started, relations between employees and management here were strained and he stayed busy dealing with issues.

Nowadays, an open-door relationship with management in the C-130 area where he works makes his job much easier.

"I'll tell anyone right now is the best time ever to be a union steward in the C-130 area," he said.

Smith, an aircraft mechanic, has been a union steward for three

years in the 560th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He is the union steward in the C Flight, where he works, as well as the directorate steward over the entire squadron of 1,300 people.

He credits much of the improvement of labor and management relationships in the unit to Mark Johnson, the squadron direc-

tor.

"He has an open-door policy," Smith said. "Instead of having to wait to talk to him, I can pretty much walk in and have a conversation about something that's real important, and try to get it settled that day. Before, we didn't have that."

Smith was recognized

for his efforts to improve employee/management relationships with the Foster Leadership in People award. He was nominated for the award by Johnson.

Michelle Smith, no relation, works with Smith on many issues in the C-Flight, where she is human resources supervisor.

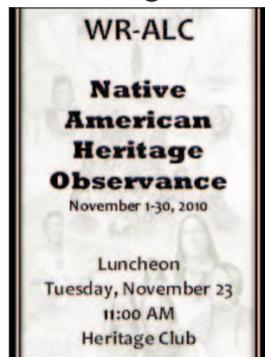
"One of the things I like so much about Brian, is that when I have an issue, or something I think might be an issue, I have the ability to call and discuss it with him, to make sure we are doing things right," she said. "He's real easy to work with that way. It's easier to work out issues when you have a good union-management relationship."

Native American Heritage Observance Month

Robins' annual celebration of Native American Heritage Observance Month begins next week. This year's theme is "Life is Sacred – Celebrate Healthy Native Communities."

The celebration kicks off Wednesday with a free corn roast, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the courtyard between Bldgs. 300 and 301.

Stephen Hammack, base archaeologist, will be on hand to identify artifacts people may have. In addition, a primitive skills demonstration will be given by Scott Jones of Athens, Ga., a noted archaeologist and primitive



lifestyles expert.

Robins volunteers will be reaching out to the community with book readings to children at the Warner Robins Library Wednesday at 4 p.m., the Base Library

Nov. 15 at 10 a.m., and the Perry Library Nov. 18 at 11 a.m. Robins employees will also be reading to pre-K and second grade students Nov. 18 at 15 elementary schools. Hammack will give archaeological presentations to students at Huntington Middle School Nov. 5 and Veterans High School Nov. 18.

On Nov. 23, there will be a luncheon at the Heritage Club from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$13 and can be purchased from unit NAHO representatives.

For more information on NAHO activities, call Linda Fountain at 926-6001.



Brian Smith

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

SnapShots

TOPS IN BLUE



U.S. Air Force photos by TOMMIE HORTON

Tops In Blue performers entertain the audience Sunday at the Warner Robins Civic Center. The annual musical showcase drew more than 1,000 people.



A Tops In Blue vocalist belts out a tune while background singers keep in step.



A Tops In Blue guitarist showcases his string work during the performance.



Candice McLellan, winner of the Robins U Got Talent Family and Teen Talent Contest, has her time in the spotlight.

**REPORT
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO
926-EYES**

ViewPoints

“Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all.”

— Sam Ewing

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

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions must be received by 4 p.m. the Friday prior to the requested Friday publication. They should be e-mailed to lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil.

Submissions should be of broad interest to the base populace. If there are further questions, call Lanorris Askew at (478) 222-0806.

DELIVERY

To report delivery issues, call Kendahl Johnson at (478) 222-0804.

ONLINE

To read articles online, visit www.robins.af.mil.

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ARE YOU COMMITTED?

For 69 days, the world watched to see if 33 miners trapped in a mine in Chile would be alive. It seems like there have been a multitude of disasters lately, but this one was different.

As the drama unfolded, our attention was focused not only on the rescue operations but the miners themselves.

What made these men they would survive the ordeal? What kept them alive and in relatively good health and spirits are things which contribute to success—teamwork, planning and organization. But, what really got these men through—and what really matters whether you are trapped in a mine, on a sports team or at work—is commitment. Commitment is believing success is

Commitment is called by other names: confidence, hope, faith, the will to win ... But, it is the belief your goal is not only possible but obtainable.

going to happen, or you will achieve your goals, whatever they may be. Of course, planning and teamwork play a role. However, if members of any team don't believe in the desired outcome, they will not commit themselves to the goal. They will only go through the motions, and then shrug and say, “Oh,

well. I tried.” Commitment is called by other names: confidence, hope, faith, the will to win.

Whatever it's called, it is the follow through. People fail, but those who are successful basically just try again and again, until they achieve what they started. The miners had commitment

— they believed they would be rescued. The team working on the surface had commitment — they believed they would rescue the miners.

It was the commitment which kept the operation going. Indeed, even in the most desperate situations, commitment is the most crucial element of success.

— Commentary by
Col. Brynn Morgan,
WR-ALC Staff Judge
Advocate

Making a difference

Editor's note: *The following is part of an ongoing series of personal accounts from those who have benefitted from the Combined Federal Campaign.*

To share your CFC story, contact Maj. Wade Cornelius at wade.cornelius@robins.af.mil or at 222-3470.



face and body).

I became acquainted with the Houston County Salvation Army Safe House through my employer. I have since been involved for approximately 20 years.

Late one night, I met a lady and her young children in a deserted parking lot. The children were confused, and their mother was petrified. She had been beaten (there were visible bruises on her

I took the family to the Safe House, where the staff began to immediately care for and get them as comfortable as possible.

This is just one of many abused spouses/partners I have knowledge of in Middle Georgia. The stories don't get prettier, and the struggle to provide them safety doesn't get easier, but the Salvation Army continues to per-

severe.

The Safe House assists abused spouses/partners in securing protective orders, looking for work, learning how to manage their finances, and starting over (in a new home and, sometimes, even in a new state). Unfortunately, the facility is almost always at full capacity.

I don't have much, but I always give what I can to help abused women and men (yes, men can also be victims of abuse), as well as their children and the Safe House.

I encourage you to do the same. You just never know if one day the person in need of help may be your son, daughter, or even you.

Do your part today!

CFC Monitors

Maj. William Bath, 339 FLTS
Veronica Burden, DDWG
MSgt. Tobias Chipman, 689 CCW
SSgt. Dwainie Clarke, MAG 49
Dawn Dixon, AFAA
Penny Greer, 402 MXW
Regina Huston, 402 MXW
Kristine Griffis, 638 SCMG
2nd Lt. Daniel Haigler, WR-ALC/GR
2nd Lt. Anthony Maxie, WR-ALC/GR
Shaneka Wright, WR-ALC/GR
Kelly Hughes, CARE
Regina McGill, DLA
Agent Rhoshonda McGruder, OSI
MSgt. Marjorie Mitchell, 78 ABW
Maj. Ember Johnston, 78th ABW
Marsha Reynolds, 78 ABW
Caroline Shedd, 116 ACW
Capt. Sharon Spudic, HQ AFRC
MSgt. Thomas Turner, 94 APS
Shelly Ward, WR-ALC Staff

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 responsible organization. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve its processes.

Please include your name and a way of reaching

BASE RESTAURANT ACCOMMODATIONS

I have asked this question to every administration since I got here 11 years ago, and still don't have an answer. I even put it in writing at Maj. Gen. (Polly) Peyer's (WR-ALC commander) last “Gather 'round” at the civic center downtown a year ago. I'm still waiting for closure.

Any chance we can take our lunches to the

base restaurant if we promise to buy a drink?

COL. BUHLER RESPONDS:

Thank you for your feedback regarding our cafeteria accommodations. I conferred with our Base Restaurant manager, Jon King, in reference to this issue.

The policy prohibiting patrons from bringing their lunch into the base restaurant was

you, so we can provide a direct response. Anonymous action lines will not be processed. Discourteous or disrespectful submissions will also not be processed.

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

For more information, visit

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

To contact the Commander's Action Line, call 926-2886 or e-mail action.line@robins.af.mil.

► Security Forces	926-2187
► FSS (Services)	926-5491
► Equal Opportunity	926-2131
► Employee Relations	327-8253
► Military Pay	926-4022
► Civil Engineering	926-5657
► Public Affairs	926-2137
► Safety Office	926-6271
► Fraud, Waste & Abuse	926-2393
► Housing Office	926-3776
► Chaplain	926-2821
► IDEA	327-7281

rescinded approximately 18 months ago. Therefore, you are welcome to eat your brown bag lunch at the Base Restaurant.

King will reiterate the policy to his staff for their situational awareness.

Your feedback is valuable to us as we constantly strive to improve our customer service. Please contact King at 222-7223 if you have any further questions or concerns.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO 926-EYES

On the Fly

Award winners

Master Sgt. Victor Gonzalez, 78th Security Forces Squadron, has been named AFMC's nominee for the 2010 GEICO Military Service Award in the Traffic Safety and Accident Prevention category.

The **Special Operations Forces/Combat Search and Rescue Fixed-Wing Aircraft Sustainment Team** was recently honored with the 2010 Air Force Association Aerospace Award Citation of Honor.

Exercise

The 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron will conduct an exercise Monday to Friday at Warrior Air Base.

The exercise will run daily from midnight to noon and include the use of the Warrior Air Base giant voice system, ground burst simulators, and small arms.

Exercises at WAB are designed to provide a realistic wartime expeditionary training experience to prepare and provide Robins Expeditionary Airmen the skills to meet contingency requirements.

Upcoming

The **Air Force Sergeants Association** Chapter 404 meets the first Friday of every month at 11:30 a.m. at the Wynn Dining Facility. All enlisted and retired enlisted members and their spouses are welcome.

The next meeting will

be Nov. 5 at 11:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Bobbie Dobberstein at bobbie.dobberstein@robins.af.mil or Master Sgt. Varnell Simpson at varnell.simpson@robins.af.mil, or visit www.afsa.com.

There will be a **free pancake flip** Nov. 10 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at Robins Park.

This event is sponsored by the Robins Chapel and Airmen's Ministry for all Team Robins personnel and family members.

Col. Carl Buhler, 78th Air Base Wing commander, said the pancake flip is a 50-year tradition of the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron "Thunderbirds." He served with the unit as maintenance officer and decided to bring the event to the Robins community.

The **annual Team Robins Angel Tree Christmas Drive** kicks off Thursday. The program solicits aid from the base community to ensure all children with ties to Robins will have plenty of presents to open on Christmas Day.

The Angel Trees and collection boxes will be located at the Commissary and Base Exchange.

Donations will be taken through Dec. 12 to ensure timely delivery. Gift cards and monetary donations are also being accepted.

Checks should be made out to the Team Robins First Sergeant's Council. For late donations, contact Master Sgt. Jerry Sutton at 497-5127 or Master Sgt. Robert Wolfe at 926-8142.

The Airman Ministry Center is holding a **donation drive for the Airman's Attic**. The AMC will be collecting items through Nov. 6 from member's houses. Items can also be dropped off at the Airman's Attic.

Any donation, no matter how big or small, is greatly appreciated. For more information, call Airman 1st Class Brandon Womble at 327-4269.

Etcetera

The following leave recipient has been approved through the **Voluntary Leave Transfer Program**:

— *David Harp* of the 78th Civil Engineer Squadron. POC is Danny Butler at 327-8950.

To have the name of an approved leave recipient printed in the Rev-Up, e-mail Lanorris Askew at lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil.

A **Warner Robins Marine Corps League Chapter** is forming. A meeting is scheduled for Nov. 13 at 10:30 a.m. in the Eagle conference room at the Museum of Aviation. Those interested in joining should bring their DD214 or retired ID card and \$35.

For more information, call John Harmon at 327-4392.

The **Air Force Aid Society** will award up to **3,000 college education grants** to dependents of Air Force members through



U.S. Air Force photo by TECH. SGT. VANN MILLER

Operation Kudos

Staff Sgt. Shaun Duffy (left) and Staff Sgt. Shane Vandewark, 5th Combat Communications Squadron, apply camouflage paint to children Saturday during Operation Kudos. The program gives children a range of experiences to help them understand what their parents endure while deployed.

Air Force workers can find help here

Finances & Work-Life Balance	Airman & Family Readiness Center	926-1256
Health and Wellness Education	Health and Wellness Center	327-8480
Health Screenings	Civilian Health Promotion Services	327-8030
Work, Personal or Family Issues	Employee Assistance Program	(800) 222-0364
Work Stress, Psychological Issues	Organizational Consulting Office	327-9803
Mental Health & Substance Abuse	Houston Healthcare	922-4281
Unplanned Pregnancy	Houston Healthcare	922-4281
Suicide Prevention	National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	(800) 273-8255
Sexual Assault & Victim Advocacy	Sexual Assault Response Coordinator	926-2946
Crime Victim Advocacy	Victim Witness Assistance Program	327-4584

AFMC Wellness Support Center — www.afmcwellness.com

the General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program.

Applications for these \$2,000 need-based grants are now available at www.afus.org.

Completed forms must be received no later than March 11.

The grant program is open to dependent children

of active duty, Title 10 Reservists on extended active duty, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retirees, and deceased Air Force members. Spouses of active duty members and surviving spouses of deceased personnel are also eligible.

All applicants must be

enrolled as full-time undergraduates at an accredited college or university during the 2011-12 academic year, and are required to maintain a 2.0 gpa.

Grant award selection will be heavily based on cost of tuition, family income, and the number of competing applicants.

EGRESS

Continued from 1A

PDM approximately every six years, and the Egress Shop's job is to remove and completely refurbish the ejection system.

The system is a marvel of engineering called an Advanced Complex Ejection Seat, or ACES II. The system is designed to set off a complex sequence of events in a split second, and must work 100

percent of the time.

Its components include a rocket motor, a sensor to gauge the plane's altitude and speed at the time of the ejection, a gyro to stabilize the seat during ejection, and two parachutes.

The pilot and seat separate after ejection. One parachute is to save the pilot while the other is to slow the seat's fall.

Reid said no ejection seat has ever failed to operate as a result of work done at Robins. The last time

a seat refurbished here had to be used was in 2007 when an F-15 broke apart in mid-air. The pilot safely ejected.

Phil Welch, the work leader in the shop, said if a seat failed to work and it was determined to be the result of a mistake by his team, they would be in serious trouble. But, that's not what motivates them to do it right.

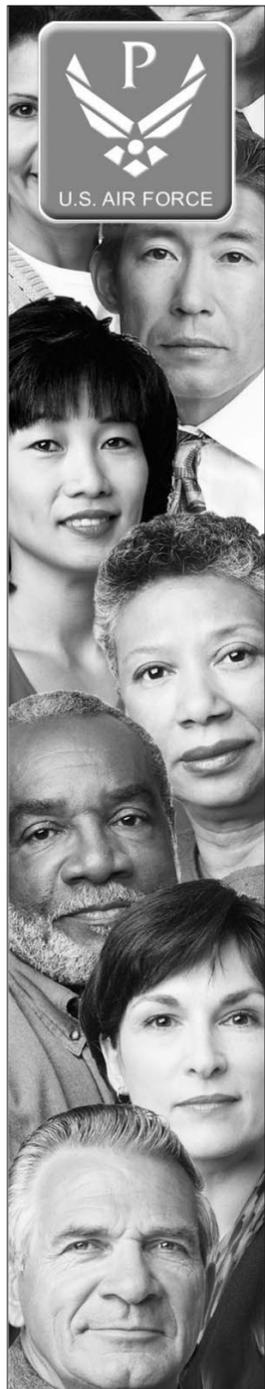
"What it's about is saving a pilot's life. That's what we think about," he said.

KEEP'EM FLYING AFSSO21



**CLICK IT
OR
TICKET**

**ON
ROBINS
IT IS THE
LAW**

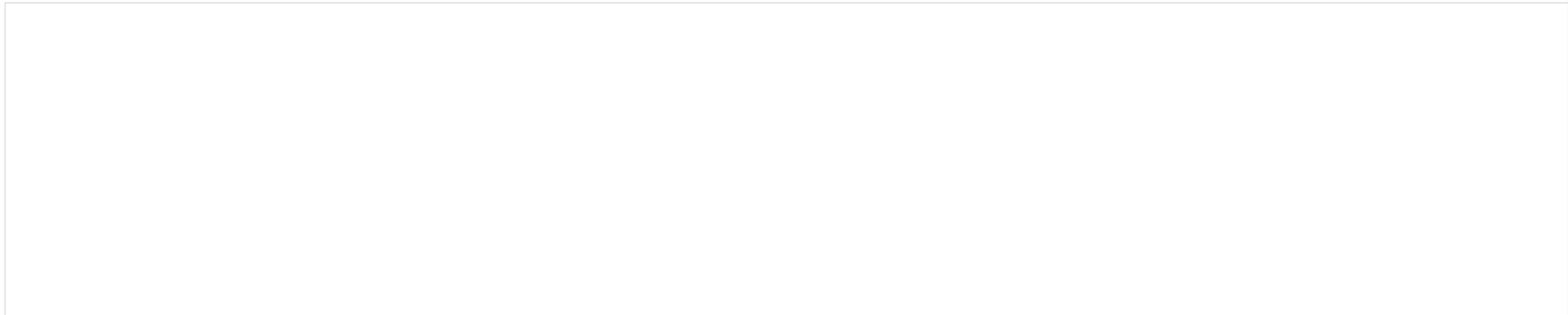
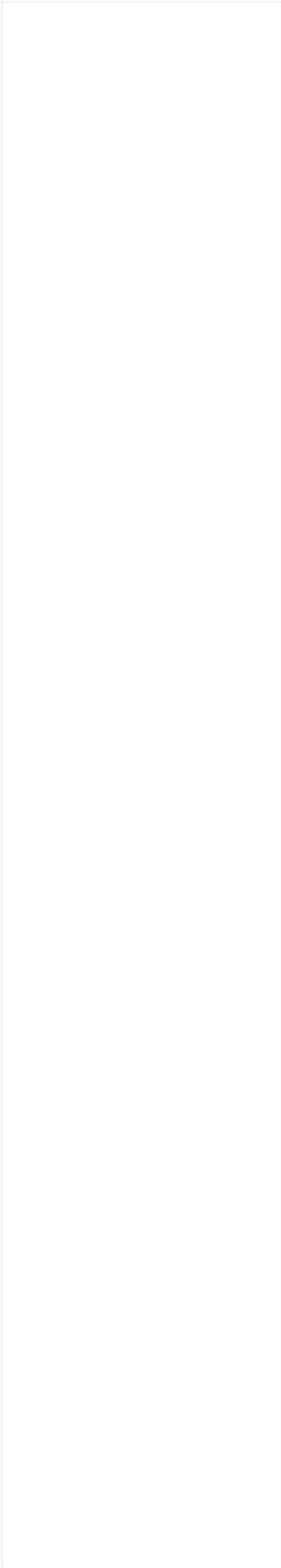


**WINGMEN
WANTED**

ASIST – 926-2821;
327-8480

EAP – 327-7683; 926-9516

AIRMAN AGAINST
DRUNK DRIVING – 335-5218;
335-5236; 335-5238



FLU

Continued from 1A

A H3N2 and B virus, as well as H1N1.

Although the flu typically doesn't hit some regions for another few months, research shows it's better to get the vaccine early, preferably by mid-October.

Last year, for example, when manufacturing shortages delayed flu shots for TRICARE beneficiaries along with the general population, 486,000 TRICARE beneficiaries who hadn't been immunized developed flu symptoms before Nov. 1.

"We went back and looked at our data and realized if we had been able to get everyone immunized in October, rather than later in the year, we would have prevented almost 500,000 people from getting sick," Hunter said.

Not all required a doctor's care, and most didn't experience any serious complications, she said, but almost all could have avoided the flu if the vaccine had been available

WHAT TO KNOW

In addition to getting a flu shot, CDC officials offer additional tips for avoiding the flu:

- ▶ Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue away after you use it.
- ▶ Wash your hands often with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand cleanser especially after you cough or sneeze.
- ▶ Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- ▶ Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- ▶ Stay home if you are sick until at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever — 100 degrees Fahrenheit or 37.8 degrees Celsius — or signs of a fever without the use of a fever-reducing medicine such as acetaminophen.
- ▶ While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.

sooner.

"This year, there is no delay in the distribution of the shots," Hunter said. "You can get it now. It's available in military hospitals and clinics and through TRICARE now. So we would like to encourage people to get it now."

To make it as convenient as possible, TRICARE has entered into agreements with about 50,000 retail pharmacies nationwide. Like military hospitals and clinics and other TRICARE network

providers, they will administer the flu shot at no cost to TRICARE beneficiaries.

Many of the retail pharmacies offer flu shots at night and on weekends, and most don't require appointments.

TRICARE introduced the pharmacy option during last year's flu season, and Hunter said she hopes more people will take advantage of it this year as they learn about the program.

"People really value convenience," she said.

"This is part of a campaign to bring preventive care as close to where people live and work as possible."

The TRICARE website (www.tricare.mil) lists participating pharmacies, with a locator button identifying the closest one, based on the beneficiary's ZIP code.

While encouraging people to get their flu shot wherever it's most convenient, Hunter emphasized some TRICARE beneficiaries should consult their medical provider first. These include people with a serious chronic illness, young children who have never had a flu shot, and other at-risk groups.

Retail pharmacies will administer flu shots to active-duty military members and can provide documentation for their official shot records.

However, Hunter recognized some service-members may be required to get their shots along with the rest of the members of their units. That way, she explained, the information is immediately recorded in unit shot records, with no delay.

DADT

Continued from 1A

"The review that is going on would look at all the far-ranging impacts of what changing the law would mean," Lapan said.

A long-range plan for changing the law would include a period of transition to conduct training to ensure everyone is informed about new policies and procedures, he said.

In response to Phillips' ruling, Pentagon officials instructed recruiters to begin processing paperwork for openly gay men or lesbians to apply to serve in the military. But citing uncertainty over final disposition of the matter in the courts and on Capitol Hill, Smith warned at the time that potential applicants needed to be aware the situation could change, as it has with the Oct. 20 appellate court decision.

WHEN NOT IN USE, KILL THE JUICE

Save energy by taking a few easy actions before you leave each day

▶ Switch or turn off all energy vampires (chargers, coffee pots, computer speakers, etc.) The best way to do this is use a power strip and switch the strip off.

▶ Turn off overhead and task lights

▶ Turn off monitors (Leave your computer on for updates.)

▶ Turn off desktop and network printers

▶ Turn off copiers, fax machines, data senders, etc.

THINK
OPSEC:

IF YOU
DON'T
WANT IT
READ.....

SHRED
INSTEAD

Local champ wrestles way to second-place finish

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW

wayne.crenshaw.ctr@robins.af.mil

About six years ago one of Doug Erlich's co-workers challenged him to an arm-wrestling match. Erlich won and soon found himself with a parade of challengers.

He vanquished every one until Oct. 9, when Erlich, an electrician in the 560th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, traveled to Dalton for his first professional arm-wrestling tournament. He won his weight class to qualify for the overall championship round, where he lost in the final title match.

He wasn't terribly disappointed considering it was his first organized event.

"I told everybody at work I just wanted to win one match to save face," he said. "I went up there and did a lot better than I thought."

He entered the open round with two significant disadvantages. His opponent was a veteran who didn't have to qualify as Erlich had done. So by that match, Erlich was competing in his 15th match while



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Doug Erlich, 560th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, won a trophy in his first organized arm wrestling competition.

his opponent was in his sixth match.

Erlich also hurt his arm in the final match of the weight-class round.

Erlich now has his sights on Florida's annual state tournament.

He would like to even-

tually make it to a big-time tournament, like 26-time world champion Ron Bath, who he met while he was competing in Dalton.

"I want to go as far as I can go," he said. "I'm going to push myself until my arm breaks."

Positive workplace relationships enable everyone to perform at their very best.

78th FSS BRIEFS

ON TAP

NASCAR – Talladega
Saturday and Sunday
\$45 and \$95
For details, call 926-2945

Six Flags Over Georgia
Fright Fest, \$30
Now through Sunday
ITT, Bldg. 956
For details, call 926-2945.

Financial beginnings
Monday
9 to 11 a.m.
A&FRC, Bldg. 794
For details, call 926-1256.

TAP workshop
Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
A&FRC, Bldg. 794
For details, call 926-1256.

Group pre-separation briefings
Thursday and Nov. 18
1-2 p.m.
A&FRC, Bldg. 794
For details, call 926-1256.

UPCOMING
First Friday Bash
Nov. 5
5 to 6 p.m.
Heritage Club and Horizons
For details, call 926-2670

Fitness Assessment Clinics
Nov. 5 and 19 at 2 p.m.
Push ups, sit ups and run
For details, call 222-5350.

Texas Hold 'Em Saturdays
Nov. 6, 13 and 20
Games begin 2 p.m.
Heritage Club, Bldg. 956
For details, call 926-7625.

BINGO Room Renovation
Nov. 6 to 14
Bingo program relocating to
Heritage Club Ballroom

For details, 222-7864.

Sunday Brunch
Nov. 7
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Horizons
For details, call 926-2670.

Texas Hold 'Em Tuesday
Nov. 9
6 p.m.
Heritage Club
For details, call 222-7864.

Introduction to resume and cover letter prep
Nov. 10
9 to 11 a.m.
A&FRC, Bldg. 794
For details, call 926-1256.

Veteran's Day Bowl
Nov. 11
1 to 5 p.m.
Veterans - \$1.75 per game
For details, call 926-2112.

9-Pin No-Tap
Nov. 13
6 p.m.
\$15 per person
Bowling Center
For details, call 926-2112.

Ping Pong Tournament
Nov. 19
5 to 8 p.m.
Heritage Club
For details, call 926-2105.

ONGOING
78 FSS Holiday Food Drive
Now through Dec. 17
For details, call 926-2105.

Frequent Flyer Challenge
Now through April 30
Aero Club
For details, call 926-4867

Glow-in-the-Dark Bowling
Fridays and Saturdays
9 to 11 p.m.
For details, call 926-2112.

Cheerleading Classes
Saturdays
Youth Center, Bldg. 1021
\$40 per month
For details, call 926-2110.

November Golf Special
Sunday through Friday
After 1 p.m.
Pine Oaks Golf Course
18 holes, cart \$19
For details, call 926-4103.

Football Frenzy
Sundays
Doors open at noon
Heritage Club
For details, call 222-7864.

Ballroom Dancing
Thursdays
6 to 7 p.m. or 7 to 8 p.m.
\$40 – one-hour lessons for four weeks
\$70 – two-hour lessons for four weeks
Heritage Club Ballroom
For details, call 926-2105.

Private Golf Lessons
\$40 per half hour
\$190 series of five
Pine Oaks Golf Course
For details, call 926-4103.

Golf Punch Cards
20 nine-hole rounds
\$120, \$220 with cart
For details, call 926-4103.

Guitar lessons
\$85 per person
Dates, times vary
For details, call 926-2105.

The Afterburner
Located in Bldg. 166
5 a.m. to 1 p.m.
For details, call 222-7827.

Fundraising opportunity
Pine Oaks Golf Course
\$22 per player
For details, call 926-4103.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Renovation

A worker removes equipment from the Base Fitness Center's main cardio room. The room is being renovated with new flooring, a new fan and paint. It will reopen in December. Until the work is complete, patrons are encouraged to use the old fitness center in Bldg. 827, the Fitness Center Annex in Bldg. 301, Bay H.

NOW PLAYING

Tickets - \$4.50 adult; \$2.50 children (up to 11 yrs)
For details, call 926-2919.



TODAY
7 P.M.
MACHETE
R



SATURDAY
6:30 P.M.
GOING THE DISTANCE
R

78th FSS DIRECTORY

- ▶ FSS Administration . . . 926-3193
- ▶ Community Center . . . 926-2105
- ▶ Outdoor Rec 926-4001
- ▶ Base Chapel 926-2821
- ▶ Arts & Crafts 926-5282
- ▶ Horizons 926-2670
- ▶ Heritage Club 926-2670
- ▶ Library 327-8761
- ▶ HAWC 327-8480
- ▶ Fitness Center 926-2128
- ▶ Fitness Center Annex . . 222-5350
- ▶ Youth Center 926-2110
- ▶ ITT 926-2945
- ▶ Bowling Center 926-2112
- ▶ Pine Oaks G.C. 926-4103
- ▶ Pizza Depot 926-0188

POLITICS

Avoid violating the Hatch Act

The Hatch Act prohibits Federal employees from engaging in political activity while on duty or when using government resources, including the base e-mail system. Two recent cases have shown just how costly violating the Hatch Act can be.

Pattie Ware was a program analyst and contractor officer's technical representative with the Treasury Department's Bureau of Printing and Engraving with 38 years of service.

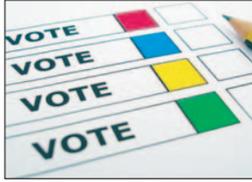
In September 2008, she sent several e-mails from her government computer seeking support and political contributions for one of the candidates in the Presidential election.

Among the recipients of the e-mails were several employees of the staffing contractor for which she was the COTR.

After the Office of Special Counsel, the agency which enforces the Hatch Act, filed a complaint against her with the Merit Systems Protection Board, she agreed these events happened and the Bureau had been sending out training materials on the Hatch Act, including the misuse of e-mail systems.

The MSPB found she had knowingly solicited political contributions, took part in political activity while on duty, in a government office and using government resources, and used her official authority or influence to interfere with or affect the result of the election, all of which violated the Hatch Act.

The MSPB found her



multiple violations to be serious, especially when some of the recipients were employees of the contractor over whom she had influence. The Board said forwarding e-mails is little different from handing out campaign literature.

The Board did not accept her arguments she didn't realize what she was doing. While she had claimed no lawyer had told her what would violate the Hatch Act, the Bureau's training efforts, which included advice from the Bureau's lawyers, prevented her from reasonably claiming her violations were unknowing and unintentional.

The MSPB determined her long service record with no evidence of performance problems or disciplinary actions was not sufficient to reduce the presumed penalty for Hatch Act violations—removal from employment, and she was removed from her position within 30 days.

Phillip Mark is a Revenue Agent with the IRS. In January 2008, he forwarded an e-mail to various persons, including co-workers, which solicited contributions and support for a Presidential candidate in that year's election.

He sent the message from his office while on duty and included his

name, title, duty location, and telephone number.

The MSPB found he violated the Hatch Act by using his official authority or influence to interfere with or affect an election, soliciting a contribution from anyone, and by engaging in political activity while on duty.

The MSPB ordered the IRS to suspend Mark without pay for 120 days.

How to avoid violating the Hatch Act:

1. Don't send e-mails using the government e-mail system which support or oppose a political candidate or party. If someone sends one to your government e-mail address, don't forward it, except to leadership or to our office to have it investigated for a potential Hatch Act violation.

2. Don't solicit political contributions on- or off-duty. While it is permissible to send a political e-mail from home using your personal e-mail address, those e-mails still must not seek contributions for a candidate or party.

The prohibitions of the Hatch Act are enforced, even against employees with very lengthy service. The penalty can be removal or a long-term suspension.

If you have questions about the Hatch Act, you can contact the Legal Office at 222-0571 or the Office of Special Counsel at 1-800-85-HATCH.

— *Courtesy
Robins Legal Office*