



The Electronics Maintenance Group is the largest avionics unit in the Department of Defense; it supports more than 340 avionics systems. Among its many accomplishments, in 2009 the group was awarded the silver level Shingo Prize, the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for Manufacturing.

AFMC COMMANDER VISITS AOR

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Sexual Assault Awareness Month

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ROBINS REV-UP

April 1, 2011 Vol. 56 No.13

OPERATION ODYSSEY DAWN

Robins supports Libyan operations

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
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Team Robins is lending help in a big way to Operation Odyssey Dawn – the coalition effort to enforce a no-fly zone over Libya.

The 116th Air Control Wing has deployed aircraft and personnel in support of the mission, said Judy Smith, 116th spokeswoman.

The 116th, which has deployed extensively in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, flies the E-8 Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar aircraft, or JSTARS. The primary role of the aircraft is to track enemy ground

► see ODYSSEY, 7



U.S. Air Force photo by TECH SGT. LEE OSBERRY JR.

An F-15E Strike Eagle prepares to taxi prior to its departure from RAF Lakenheath, England. F-15 fighter jets are among the U.S. aircraft supporting Operation Odyssey Dawn.



U.S. Air Force photo by RAYMOND CRAYTON
The ribbon is cut on the new software support facility.

402nd MXW software facility officially opens

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

When people think of the military, the first images likely to come to mind are those of planes, tanks, bombs and the like.

But just as important as all of those is the software behind the systems, which increasingly serves as a driving force of military operations.

“It’s as much about the software as it ever is about the hardware,” said Brig. Gen. Lee Levy, commander of the 402nd Maintenance Wing, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony March 25 for the wing’s new software maintenance facility.

The two-story building connects three existing buildings to create a single facility with 350,000 square-foot of floor space – the equivalent of six football fields. The single facility is called Bldg. 229.

The \$21 million project was overseen by the Army Corp of Engineers’ Regional Office and the 78th Civil Engineering Group. The general contractor was McKnight Construction of Augusta.

Approximately 100 people, including community leaders, attended the ceremony and took a tour of the building, which will house about 200 of the 402nd Software Maintenance Group’s 1,000 employees.

OPERATION TOMODACHI



U.S. Air Force photo by MASTER SGT. JEROMY CROSS

As part of Operation Tomodachi, Staff Sgt. Chris Baker guides humanitarian supplies onto a C-17 Globemaster III March 21 at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Baker’s crew later unloaded the water and other items at Sendai Airport in the northern part of Japan, as part of U.S. military support to relief efforts in the country. The nation endured a devastating one-two punch March 11 – an earthquake and tsunami.

Base linked to Japanese humanitarian aid mission

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
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Team Robins members may not realize it, but they’ve been involved in helping earthquake- and tsunami-ravaged Japan.

In Operation Tomodachi, which means “friendship” in Japanese, Airmen have been using C-17s and C-130s to ferry personnel and relief supplies to and around the country.

Through March 25, according to Air Force statistics, Airmen had flown 225 missions in Operation Tomodachi, delivering 4.2 million pounds of cargo and 2,800 passengers. The cargo has included food and water, along with kerosene for relief-shelter heaters.

The 402nd Maintenance

Wing provides depot maintenance for the two aircraft and the WR-ALC’s Aerospace Sustainment Directorate provides life-cycle management of the airframes.

Approximately 20,000 American troops have been involved in Operation Tomodachi, the largest bilateral humanitarian mission the U.S. has conducted in Japan.

Although C-17s and C-130s are primarily used to ferry warfighters and combat equipment around the globe, the aircraft are often instrumental in humanitarian operations. Among other things, the two were used extensively in the Haiti relief efforts last year and during Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in 2005.

Half is good enough

BY TECH. SGT. VANN MILLER
Robins Public Affairs

Air Force fuels specialists here are performing tests to prove “half” is good enough.

Along with fuels specialists at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., they’re testing an alternative jet fuel — Hydro-Processed Renewable Jet fuel — which is a 50-50 blend of synthetic fuel and traditional petroleum.

During the tests, the engineers will observe the impact weather conditions have on the fuel and, in turn, the fuel’s interaction with engines.

“We currently have 6,000 gallons of the fuel on hand,” said Bill Likos, engineer in the WR-ALC’s Support Equipment Vehicles division.

► see SYNTHETIC, 2



The fuel has already been tested and approved by the Air Force for use in the F-15. The tests here and at Selfridge will allow engineers to see how the blended mixture performs in different climates.

“What has been observed so far is the user does not notice a difference,” Likos said.

The Air Force hopes to one day power its aircraft with fuels like HRJ. But, the service is not prepared for that, at least not right

Working together for positive change

BY FAYE BANKS-ANDERSON
Robins Public Affairs

Fear is powerful.

It’s also something that was prevalent among many members of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center workforce last year, after OSHA cited the Center for a number of safety violations.

However, instead of giving in to that, members of the 402nd Commodities Maintenance Group immediately went about conquering their fears through knowledge, training, and “buy in” from workers at all levels of the organization. The results have been dramatic.

“Back in May, there was a lot of emotional about this,” said Mike Arnold, CMXG deputy director. “Now, we’re doing a better job of working together as a team, addressing and developing complex processes. Our

► see SAFETY, 7



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

In preparation for aircraft skin removal, sheet metal mechanic Gwendolyn Allen applies ice to the damaged section of a C-5 flap.

THINK SAFETY



Days without a DUI: 23
Last DUI: 12 ACCS
— courtesy 78th Security Forces

AADD

To request a ride, call 222-0013.

TWO-MINUTEREV

Tickets still available

Team Robins’ observance of the National Prayer Luncheon will be April 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Museum of Aviation’s Century of Flight Hangar. Guest speaker will be former Atlanta Falcons and Denver Broncos head coach Dan Reeves.

Tickets may be purchased at the Base Chapel during normal duty hours. Cost is \$10, or \$5 for E-5 and below.

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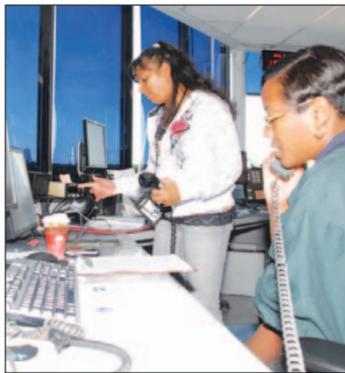
UNIT PROFILE: 78th OSS

What it does

The 78th Operations Support Squadron provides air traffic control and landing systems maintenance, transient alert services, weather support, host aviation resource management and airfield operations. "Ops Never Stops" is the motto for the unit, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays to ensure safe, orderly and expeditious control of the Robins flying mission.

Why it matters

More than 24,000 aircraft flew in and out of Robins last year. Without the OSS, that would have been impossible. The squadron does many things to ensure safe arrivals and departures for aircraft, from collecting FOD from the flightline to following the weather to make sure it's safe to fly, to maintaining crucial equipment like radars. The unit is critical to the success of the Robins and Air Force missions.



Anna Kemp (left) and Adrienne Collins, airfield management coordinators, make notification of an emergency situation on the airfield. Airfield Management is the focal point for Robins' flying operations.

By the numbers

91 Workers in the unit, equally split between military, civilians and contractors

37 OSS personnel deployed since 2006

2600 Flight plans managed annually

109 Pieces of airfield equipment maintained, including RADAR

644 Weather warnings, watches, and advisories issued in 2010.

What they say



Staff Sgt. Noel Foley
Air traffic control

"Working here is very enjoyable. It's something different every day. I get to see all sorts of aircraft arrive and depart, and watch the different ways they fly."



Senior Airman Ricky Taylor
Aviation records management

"Squadrons really depend on our office. Without flight orders and other paperwork, the pilots couldn't fly, and they couldn't accomplish their mission."

People Spotlight



Chris Mullis

TITLE: Sheet metal mechanic, 560th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

BACKGROUND: Mullis started work at Robins last June in the apprenticeship program. He was previously a project manager for a company which made parts for Boeing and Lockheed Martin.

HOMETOWN: Eastman

"I came here because of the opportunity to rise above what I could have been at my previous job. I have enjoyed it tenfold compared to my last job. It's like a family here."

"In the apprenticeship program you work the first year toward your WG-8, then in the second year you work toward your 10."

"In the program we have different tasks we have to complete. They sent us to advanced sheet-metal school for part of the first year, so it's a mixture of on-the-job training and schooling."

"I'm very fortunate to have Mike Long, one of the best sheet-metal mechanics out here, training me. Everyone in my area says the same thing about him."

"I like fishing, hunting and sports. I played football at Georgia Southern. I was a placekicker."

Back from the war: AFMC commander refines support priorities

BY MONICA D. MORALES
AFMC Public Affairs

When asked if he returned home with a to-do list after visiting select Pacific Air Forces bases and Afghanistan, Gen. Donald Hoffman thumbed through a quarter-inch stack of papers before citing several examples during a March 25 interview.

"The purpose of this trip was not to solve tactical-level issues, but to see how we can make improvements at a strategic level," the commander of Air Force Materiel Command said.

Hoffman recounted the warfighter insights and lessons learned he and a team of AFMC senior leaders noted during a 13-day trip in early March which took them to four countries and eight locations. It included stops in Alaska, Korea, Japan, Guam and Afghanistan.

"The team I took with me was primarily logisticians, my supply-chain management team and my Air, Space and Information Ops team, because they are the ones most closely engaged in sustaining forward forces," the general said.



U.S. Air Force photo by SENIOR AIRMAN SHEILA DEVERA

Gen. Donald Hoffman, Air Force Materiel Command commander, installs a nose fuse on a GBU-54 during his visit March 18 to the ammunition supply point at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

While designed to acquire feedback directly from warfighters to determine how the command can better accomplish its supply and sustainment operations, the general said the trip also provided an opportunity to observe innovative solutions in the field.

"We witnessed a wealth of great ingenuity going on at all levels," Hoffman said.

This trip differed from others in years past, in that it included a

view through the lens of Hoffman's role as the Air Force's new lead integrator for agile combat support. As such, he bears responsibility for an extended portfolio which includes base operations support and training, in addition to the sustainment acquisition activities across all Air Force installations.

Hoffman emphasized the importance of the command's role in keeping warfighters equipped with the parts and engi-

neering support to continue their operations, including the personal dedication to work warfighters' problems first before tackling routine matters.

Excerpts from the interview:

Q: What feedback did you receive from AFMC's warfighter customers at the bases you visited and in the AOR?

A: I got universally positive feedback from all quarters. They get it — they know there are budget pressures and there are challenges in the parts-supply system and so forth. Whether they are in the AOR or in Korea, Okinawa or Alaska, they know they are at the far end of the transportation line. But especially those engaged warfighters, they also know they are our highest priority. They are not waiting for a part that exists somewhere in the system; it's usually already on its way.

They also very much appreciate the quick turns — I got this unsolicited [feedback] everywhere. If they've taken an airplane apart and found a crack or found a hole that's elongated and they need an engineer's disposition — turnaround is usually

within 24 hours. Overall, they are very appreciative of what the enterprise is doing for their sustainment.

Q: What messages did you deliver to those who rely on AFMC?

A: For deployed members, I wanted to ensure they understood how much we appreciate them. Our job back home is to make them successful.

I also talked about the fiscal realities which are descending upon us in the Air Force, the Department of Defense, and as a nation. Our fiscal habits have driven us to create our number-1 national security challenge, which is long-term economic health ... fiscal solvency, if you will. As a nation, we spend a lot more than incoming revenue and that path is not sustainable over the long term. I wanted to set the tone for how we all need to be good stewards of every dollar we get because the flow of dollars is not assured. We need to make sure we spend each one wisely.

Editor's note: To read the complete story please visit <http://www.afmc.af.mil>.

SYNTHETIC

Continued from 1

away.

"Not only are we not capable of meeting that demand with the limited number of facilities capable of generating Hydro-Processed Renewables, but our fleet would have problems," he said.

That's because most fuel tank seals currently in

use are accustomed to petroleum-only fuels. Those seals would need to be replaced.

There is a typical amount of swelling to seals when traditional fuel is used. However, that doesn't happen with fuels such as HRJ, and some leaking occurs.

The fuels specialists expect to complete their analysis of the fuel by October.



ViewPoints

“No man ever listened himself out of a job.”
– Calvin Coolidge

RAISING AWARENESS

Air Force leaders issue sexual assault prevention, response message

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy issued the following message to the men and women of the United States Air Force:

We must commit to eliminating sexual assault from our Air Force. Air Force leaders have focused on sexual assault prevention and response for several years, with special emphasis on

victim care. Unfortunately, sexual assault continues to burden our Airmen and degrade our mission effectiveness. Sexual assault is a crime, and there is no place for this behavior in our Air Force. We demand better of ourselves.

Experts tell us sexual assault is the most underreported crime in America. For that reason, we contracted with Gallup, Inc., to conduct an anonymous survey about sexual assault in the Air Force. The results show that in the 12

months prior to the survey, 2,143 (3.4 percent) women and 1,355 (0.5 percent) men were sexually assaulted, with the majority of female victims reporting that their assailant was a fellow Airman. The results also confirm most assaults go unreported. We encourage you to review the complete report.

Airmen cannot allow this destructive behavior to persist in our Air Force. Every Airman has the moral obligation and profes-

sional duty to intervene appropriately and prevent an assault, even when it means taking difficult or unpopular actions. The Air Force Bystander Intervention training provides you tools and skills to meet those responsibilities, to intervene in situations where fellow wingmen seem vulnerable and to encourage victims to seek help.

We remain committed to meeting this challenge.

– *courtesy AF News*

Robins events to shed light on underreported crime

BY CINDY GRAVER

Robins Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

The Department of Defense has a no-tolerance policy toward sexual assault. This type of act not only does unconscionable harm to the victim; it destabilizes the workplace and threatens national security.

– Secretary Robert M. Gates

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. It is a time to focus not only on awareness, but also sexual violence prevention.

The 2011 theme is, “Hurts one. Affects all. Preventing Sexual Assault is everyone’s duty.” The purpose is to concentrate on the effects sexual assault has on mission readiness. As is readily understood throughout the military, mission readiness defines a unit’s ability to deploy quickly and efficiently.

A sexual assault can reverberate throughout a unit and beyond, degrading readiness by



harming both the victim, and the military’s ability to work effectively as a team.

Sexual assault is one of the most underreported crimes in society. In the Department of Defense, fewer than 10 percent of sexual assaults are reported. It is DoD’s goal to have all victims of sexual assault report via the Unrestricted or Restricted reporting options. When victims access medical and mental health care, they are likely to have better recoveries.

Sexual assault is a readiness issue. Our mission not only involves national defense, but the defense and safety of the Americans who voluntarily risk

their lives for our country. Sexual assault can destroy unit cohesion and is inconsistent with good order, discipline, and conduct.

The impact sexual assault has on a victim can be devastating and, without treatment, can have a lasting negative effect on a person’s health and resilience.

Sexual assault prevention is everyone’s duty. Every Airman must understand the importance of safely intervening and preventing sexual assault. Bystander Intervention Training calls on all Airmen to take the initiative to help someone who may be targeted for a potential sexual assault.

Active bystanders also take the initiative to help fellow Airmen who are not thinking clearly, due to alcohol or drugs, for example.

The SARC office is located in Bldg. 708. The SARC or a SARC victim advocate may be reached 24 hours a day by calling 497-7272.

LOCAL SAAM EVENTS

►Today: Parking lot blitz. SARC volunteers will distribute sexual assault education and prevention materials throughout various base parking lots.

►April 13: Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes begins at 11 a.m. Meet on the grass between Bldgs. 300 and 301. Volunteers will be escorted by 78th Security Forces Squadron members as they walk around the buildings.

►April 15: Shoot for the Hoops 3-point challenge begins at 2 p.m. in the main Fitness Center. Awards will be presented to the top male and female shooters.

►Throughout April: Traveling Line of Courage is an outlet for anyone affected by violence to express their feelings by decorating a shirt. The shirts will be hung on a clothes rack to be viewed by others as testimony to the problem of violence.

*All events are free and open to all members of Team Robins.

WR-ALC VISION STATEMENT

A “World-Class” Center of Acquisition and Sustainment Excellence

WR-ALC MISSION STATEMENT

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

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions must be received by 4 p.m. Wednesday, the week 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 472-0806.

DELIVERY

To report delivery issues, call Kendahl Johnson at 472-0804.

ONLINE

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

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

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

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://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>. To contact the Commander’s Action Line, call 468-2886 or e-mail action.line@robins.af.mil.

KUDOS TO ROBINS FITNESS ASSESSMENT CELL

I would just like to say what a great Fitness Assessment Cell team – Scott Peavey, Demond Webb and Mike Whitehead – Robins has. Most of us get nervous about any kind of testing, but the fitness assessment can even be intimidating to those who work hard every day to remain fit to fight. From the moment I was greeted by Scott – with a smile, professionalism and courtesy – until the end of the assessment, this team was top-notch. I

am sure I am not the only one who appreciates the way they explain the assessment process, and encourage and enforce the “Fit to Fight” mentality. I am grateful to them for making the experience a great one; they deserve a medal for the job they do. Keep up the great work!

COL. BUHLER RESPONDS:

Thank you for the kind words. I too share your sentiments and agree our Fitness Assessment Cell is a fantastic team.

Their professionalism and dedication to duty has greatly aided in positively changing the physical fitness cultural at Team Robins. Their story is remarkable, especially when one considers the new Fitness Assessment AFI has only been in effect since July 1, 2010. Additionally, the FAC tests more than 12,500 Airmen a year, which is a daunting task for the cell.

Thanks again for your note. Such recognition reaffirms the important contribution the FAC team has on mission readiness.

► Security Forces	468-2187
► FSS (Services)	468-5491
► Equal Opportunity	468-2131
► Employee Relations	497-8253
► Military Pay	468-4022
► Civil Engineering	468-5657
► Public Affairs	468-2137
► Safety Office	468-6271
► Fraud, Waste & Abuse	468-2393
► Housing Office	468-3776
► Chaplain	468-2821
► IDEA	497-7281

On the Fly

AFIT course

A two-day course providing an overview of the acquisition lifecycle will be offered at Robins April 19-20 and again April 21-22 through the Air Force Institute of Technology.

The course, SYS 281 Air Force Acquisition and Sustainment, provides a general overview of the latest in acquisition policy, processes, management tools and acquisition reform initiatives. It is described by AFIT as a must-have course for all involved with Air Force acquisition and support.

For more information, contact Joanne Cavin, DSN 785-7777, ext 3245 or register at <https://atrrs.army.mil/channels/afitnow>.

Information Assurance training

The Department of Defense has mandated all network users must complete Information Assurance training prior to being allowed access to the network, and the training must be completed annually to maintain network access.

Though users have been receiving advance notice of training expiration up to 90 days in advance, Robins transitioned to an automated system Monday which assigned an expiration date to each network account. The system will provide notification 90, 60 and 30 days prior to expiration. Seven days prior, users will start to be notified daily. If training has not been updated by the expiration

date, the account will automatically be disabled.

If you have any questions concerning the DoD IAA training requirement or ADLS, contact your unit training manager. For questions regarding your network account, contact your organization's information assurance officer.

Upcoming

The Airman and Family Readiness Center is offering **free resume writing classes** at the Base Theater today, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, as well as April 11-12, April 14-15, and April 19. Classes will run from 9 to 11:30 a.m., and then repeat from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Robins will be implementing the Single Staffing Tool April 25. Current civilian employees will apply for all internal openings at www.usajobs.gov. The class will cover the new process.

Participants do not need to register for the resume classes in advance. For more information, call 926-1256.

The Air Force **men's lacrosse team will be in Macon Saturday** to face off against Mercer at the Bear Soccer Field. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the field.

An event for deployed servicemembers and their families will take place April 9 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the American Legion at 1345 Radio Loop in Warner Robins.

Experts in education, finance and other areas will

be available to provide information and answer questions.

A limited free breakfast will be served from 8 to 9 a.m., and lunch from noon to 1 p.m. Child care and a "kids activity corner" will also be offered. For more information, call Eileen Byrd at DSN 241-1286.

Enrollment has started for the **Team Pedometer Challenge**, which runs from April 11 to May 15. Register online at www.afmcwellness.com.

For more information, contact Kelley Denney at 497-8030.

The 78th Force Support Squadron and Hunt Communities are co-sponsoring **Family Fest, a free event April 16** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Youth Center.

In addition to an Easter egg hunt put on by the Base Chapel, there will be mini-Olympics, a relay race, a dance contest, face painting, and many more activities for all ages.

For more information, call 468-2110.

The **Camellia Gardens Memorial Service**, which pays tribute to deceased members of Team Robins, will take place May 26 at 10 a.m. in the tranquil garden across from Horizons.

Robins network users can visit <https://org.eis.afmc.af.mil/sites/78abw/HC/default.aspx> to submit names for this year's ceremony.

For more information, call 1st Lt. David Cox at 497-4743.



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

15 minutes or less

A camera crew from GEICO interviews Roger Hayes, 402nd Maintenance Wing chief of safety. Hayes won GEICO's 2010 Public Safety Award in the Traffic Safety and Accident Prevention category. He will be recognized May 2 at a ceremony in Washington D.C. In addition to the all-expenses-paid trip, he will receive a commemorative plaque and \$2,500.

Air Force workers can find help here

Finances & Work-Life Balance	Airman & Family Readiness Center	468-1256
Health and Wellness Education	Health and Wellness Center	497-8480
Health Screenings	Civilian Health Promotion Services	497-8030
Work, Personal or Family Issues	Employee Assistance Program	(800) 222-0364
Work Stress, Psychological Issues	Organizational Consulting Office	497-9803
Mental Health & Substance Abuse	Houston Healthcare	(478) 922-4281
Unplanned Pregnancy	Houston Healthcare	(478) 922-4281
Suicide Prevention	National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	(800) 273-8255
Sexual Assault & Victim Advocacy	Sexual Assault Response Coordinator	468-2946
Crime Victim Advocacy	Victim Witness Assistance Program	497-4584

AFMC Wellness Support Center — www.afmcwellness.com

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Etcetera

The following leave recipient has been approved through the Vol-

untary Leave Transfer Program:

Debbie Abbott of WR-ALC Directorate of Personnel. POC is Regin-

ald Kiper at 472-0740.

To have the name of an approved leave recipient printed, e-mail lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil.

JSTARS helps carrier strike group get combat ready

BY 1ST LT. CLAY GIBBS

116th Air Control Wing

Aircrew members of the 116th Air Control Wing recently participated in a joint task force exercise in the Atlantic Ocean.

As part of the exercise, the members provided critical command and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance information to the George H.W. Bush Strike Group. In turn, the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System members gained a better under-

standing of U.S. naval operations.

Approximately 10 other naval and air assets participated in the exercise, which involved “opposition” forces trying to disrupt the Strike Group’s ability to operate effectively with other U.S. and coalition forces.

Logistics was critical to the members’ success in the exercise.

“The real enablers behind the scenes were our maintainers,” said Col. William Welsh, 116th Air Control Wing commander. “All five scheduled

missions launched on-time, and some days even in foul weather.”

“I think the Navy realizes the joint capabilities the Air Force can bring to the Naval fight and will continue to develop this relationship,” Welsh added.

The exercise concluded with the George H.W. Bush Strike Group being certified “Combat Ready” by the U.S. Navy’s 2nd Fleet. That’s an important designation as it clears the way for the Strike Group to depart on its initial overseas deployment later this spring.



Courtesy photo

U.S. Navy Commander Greg Sipple (left) and Capt. Michael Brantley, 116th Air Control Wing crewmember, discuss how flight operations are conducted aboard the George H. W. Bush.

Child abuse awareness, prevention take stage in April

April is National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, and the Family Advocacy Program will be using the time to help to bring the important subject to the forefront.

Roslyn Battle, family advocacy outreach manager, said the observance will provide opportunities for the entire community to become aware of the four major types of child abuse: physical, sexual, emotional and neglect.

Base and community leaders, along with and the Rainbow House Children’s Resource Center, will kick off the observance by signing a proclamation today at 9:30 a.m. at a Pinwheels for Prevention Ceremony in the Lower Lobby of the Northwest Tower of Houston Medical Center.

In addition to the proclamation signing, Family Advocacy is co-sponsoring a host of activities about child abuse prevention and child safety:

►April 15 – Parents of children ages 12-18 can attend “Surviving Your Adolescents: Learn How to Manage and Let Go of Your Adolescents” at Coldwell Bankers, 420 Houston Lake Road, 8:30 a.m. to noon.

►April 16 – Easter in the Park, a free community egg hunt at Peavy Park, 610 Johnston Road, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

►April 19 – Passport to Parenthood & Dad’s the Basics class for expectant fathers and mothers, at the Airmen and Family Readiness Center, Bldg 794, 8:30 a.m. to noon. The class will provide information about good nutrition, car seat safety, TRICARE, and dental care.

►April 22 – An awareness and prevention information table will be set-up at the Base Exchange from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

►April 30 – Car seat safety checks, sponsored by Safe Kids of Houston

County, at the Wal-mart on Watson Boulevard from 10 a.m. to noon.

Mary Hodgkins, family advocacy officer, said education is the first step to prevention.

“An overwhelming majority of reports involve ordinary people who are caught up in stressful situations,” she said. “When they have access to the tools and support services they need, they can better understand their children’s emotional, physical and developmental needs.”

She emphasized the importance of immediately reporting concerns about a child who may be abused or neglected. Parents should also let their children know they can talk with a trusted adult if they’re concerned about things which have happened to themselves or a friend.

For more information, call the Family Advocacy Office at 497-8398.

Blind workers help Air Force save money

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW
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In an old hangar near the south end of Robins, a unique operation is saving money while giving independence to people who might otherwise have trouble getting a job.

Defense Logistics Agency Warner Robins and Georgia Industries for the Blind formed a partnership last summer to capture expensive packaging materials for reuse.

The operation has a staff of five contractors, employed by the Georgia Industries for the Blind, including a supervisor and four people who are legally blind. They take boxes which have been used to ship parts and equipment to the flightline, remove the shipping labels, and make any necessary repairs so the boxes can be used again.

It's cost effective not because of the cardboard box but because of the foam packaging inside.

The specially-made packaging is designed to ensure the safe travel of expensive items and can cost more than \$100 per box. Because the boxes can be used on average 8-10 times, the program can save as much as \$1,000 over the life of each box.

Both parties agree the arrangement is working well. In fact, the Georgia Industries for the Blind would like to see other Air Force bases with large distribution volumes follow suit. Currently, only Hill Air Force Base, which has been doing it for 20 years, has a similar operation.



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

Deon Jones, Georgia Industries for the Blind, prepares boxes for reuse.

Site supervisor Pete Richardson said he wouldn't trade his crew for four people with 20/20 vision.

"One, they want to work, and two, they like to work," he said. "It's a source of pride for them to be able to come to work every day. They have good attendance and good attitudes."

Watching the team work, one can not tell they are legally blind. They are able to do the job because they can see well enough directly in front of them. It's beyond that where they have problems. None of them are able to drive.

The team includes Stanley Parham, who is deaf and blind, Chad Annis, Deon Jones and Jeffery Robertson.

Robertson, 21, lives by himself in Cochran and gets here on a transit bus for Robins workers. At one time, he worried he would never have a real job, but he did an internship at Robins as a high school senior which gave him confi-



Chad Annis, Georgia Industries for the Blind, inspects boxes which have been repaired.

dence. This is his first full-time job.

"I love doing things with my hands," he said. "It's a load off to be independent and out in the real world."

Hilliard Reese, DLA-WR special assets division chief, said the organization previously reclaimed used boxes, but that was taking away from the regular duties of those who were doing it. They thought it would be more efficient to have people dedicated to "sanitizing" the boxes, and the partnership was formed,

Reese said.

The Georgia Industries for the Blind is a state Department of Labor organization which helps provide employment opportunities for the blind.

Becky Labat, services director for the organization, said employers who have jobs the blind can do, will find no shortage of willing and able employees.

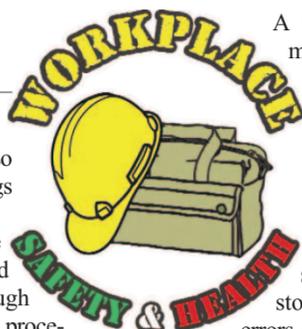
"Jobs are tough for them to get, so when they do get one, they give it everything they've got," she said.

Robins Airman Leadership School graduates

Levitow Award Senior Airman Jeremy Fazely	Other Graduates Senior Airman Wesley Allen Senior Airman Joshua Baker Senior Airman Brandi Coffey Senior Airman Justin Dillinger Senior Airman Winlon Doctor Senior Airman David Leblanc Senior Airman Matthew Rexrode Senior Airman Karess Sanford Senior Airman Hollie Scoma Senior Airman Krystal Schwartz Senior Airman Steven Thomas	Senior Airman Christopher Butler Senior Airman Christopher Brown Senior Airman Jarrett Cox Senior Airman Julian Dees Senior Airman Corey Jones Senior Airman Letina Jones Senior Airman Nathaniel Turner Senior Airman Segundo Velastegui Senior Airman Brittany Weekly Senior Airman Michael Yaude Senior Airman Victoria Young
Academic Award Senior Airman Brandon Burbridge		
Commandant Award Senior Airman Donald Wentworth		
Distinguished Graduates Senior Airman Brandon Burbridge Senior Airman Jason O'Brien		

CHANGE

Continued from 1



employees are the number one reason we've been so successful in turning things around."

These things have included developing and instituting more thorough sanding booth guidance and procedures, and communicating openly about swipe sample results, Arnold said.

George Pierce agrees.

"Now that we have a standard way of doing things and we're publishing the (swipe sample) results, it's become a self-fulfilling prophecy," said Pierce, 574th Composite Repair Flight director.

Recently, workers in the flight also identified a trimming tool which lowers the chance for particles to be ejected from booths. The trimming tool makes a cleaner cut and is connected to a HEPA vacuum, which captures the fragments.

"I'm confident our team will identify additional safety measures," Pierce said.

According to Arnold, that's understandable, due to the size of the operation.

A C-5 pylon, for example, might be worked on by dozens of different technicians and for more than 1,900 manhours while it's in the group's hands.

"The number of places we can make a mistake is enormous," he said. "If you take all the stops and possibilities for errors into account, you begin to understand the complex problems our people are sorting out."

But Arnold and Pierce say the safety and health culture in their organization continues to change for the better – at all levels.

One employee recently pointed out to her supervisor when a visitor was in the restricted area with jewelry on – a definite safety infraction.

Meanwhile, during a recent supervisors call, chaired by Ellen Griffith, CMXG director, one swing shift supervisor said it was the first time anyone had explained to him so clearly what is expected of him in that regard.

"We're better now," said Pierce. "And communication has been key."

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targets.

The F-15 Eagle, C-5s and C-17s have also been involved in the effort, as has the Global Hawk – an unmanned aircraft which performs an intelligence,

surveillance and reconnaissance mission.

Personnel and equipment of the 116th were transported to the theater by two C-5s.

Global Hawks have been used primarily for bomb-damage assessment.

Among other things, the Warner Robins Air Logistics

Center's Aerospace Sustainment Directorate manages the F-15, C-5, C-17 and Global Hawk programs.

The 402nd Maintenance Wing provides programmed and unscheduled depot-level maintenance on F-15s, C-5s and C-17s, and more.

KEEP'EM FLYING
AFSO21

78th FSS BRIEFS

ON TAP

First Friday

Today
5 to 6 p.m.
Heritage Club and Horizons
Dinner at 6 p.m. at Horizons
For details, call 468-2670.

WWE PPV WrestleMania

Sunday
8 p.m.
Heritage Club
Members free; guests \$5
For details, call 472-7864.

Mongolian BBQ

Monday through Thursday
Fairways Grille
70 cents per ounce
For details, call 923-1717.

Home-Buying Seminar

Tuesday
9 to 11 a.m.
A&FRC, Bldg. 794
For details, call 468-1256.

Texas Hold 'Em

Tuesday
Heritage Club
Games begin 2 p.m.
For details, call 472-7864.

UPCOMING

Teen Leadership and Space Camp

April 8 deadline to apply
For details, call 468-2110.

Karaoke

April 14
8 to 11 p.m.
Heritage Club
For details, call 472-7864.

Boss N' Buddy

April 15
4 to 5 p.m.
Heritage Club
For details, call 472-7864.

National Volunteer Week Recognition Ceremony

April 15
1 p.m.
Horizons

For details, call 468-1256.

National Library Week

April 10-16
For details, call 497-8761.

Free Birdwatching

April 16 (register by April 8)
May 7 (register by April 29)
8 a.m. to noon
For details, call 497-3974.

9 Pin No-Tap Tournament

April 16
6 p.m.
Bowling Center
Cost \$15
For details, call 468-2112.

Money & Credit Management

April 18
1 to 3 p.m.
A&FRC, Bldg. 794
For details, call 468-1256.

Bundles for Babies & Passport to Parenthood

April 19
8:30 a.m. to noon
A&FRC, Bldg. 794
For details, call 497-8389

Teen College

Dreams Seminar
April 19
5 to 6 p.m.
A&FRC, Bldg. 794
For details, call 468-1256.

Swim Lessons

Registration begins April 19
For details, call 468-4001.

Easter Brunch

April 24
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Horizons
For details, call 468-2670.

Family Night BINGO

April 25
Doors open 5 p.m.
Heritage Club
\$4 per package
For details, call 468-4515.

NEW HOURS

Changes begin today:

Auto Hobby Shop –
Mon, Tues: Closed
Wed, Thurs: Noon to 7 p.m.
Fri: Noon to 5 p.m.
Sat, Sun: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wood Hobby Shop –
Sun through Thurs: Closed
Fri: 4 to 8 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Library –
Mon to Thurs: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Fri to Sun: Noon to 5 p.m.

Horizons –
Lunch (no Monday lunch served beginning April 18):
Tues to Fri: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dinner:
Fri, Sat: 6 to 9 p.m.
Holiday Sunday brunches:
Easter, Mother's Day and Thanksgiving

Resume and Cover Letter Prep

April 26
9 to 11 a.m.
A&FRC, Bldg. 794
For details, call 468-1256.

Financial Beginnings

April 27
9 to 11 a.m.
A&FRC, Bldg. 794
For details, call 468-1256.

Heart Link/ Spouse Immersion Tour

May 6
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
A&FRC, Bldg. 794
For details, call 468-1256.

Monster Motor Mayhem

May 14
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Registration \$15
Arts & Crafts Center
For details, call 468-5282.

Tops In Blue

May 15
7 p.m.
For details, call 468-2105.



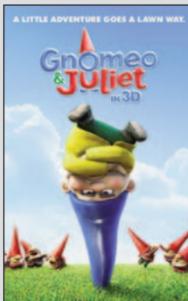
U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

Making the Grade

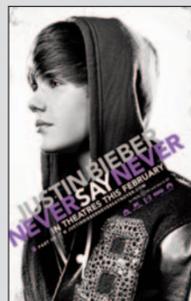
Lt. Col. Lea Kirkwood, 78th Mission Support Group deputy commander, and others congratulate Northside High School student Saadiq Goins for winning third place in AAFES' You Made the Grade contest. Goins was presented a \$2,000 savings bond. The quarterly contest is open to students in military families who achieve a "B" or better average.

NOW PLAYING

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



APRIL 1
7 P.M.
GNOMEO & JULIET
G



SATURDAY
6:30 P.M.
JUSTIN BIEBER:
NEVER SAY NEVER
G

78th FSS DIRECTORY

- ▶ FSS Administration . . . 468-3193
- ▶ Community Center . . . 468-2105
- ▶ Outdoor Rec 468-4001
- ▶ Base Chapel 468-2821
- ▶ Arts & Crafts 468-5282
- ▶ Horizons 468-2670
- ▶ Heritage Club 468-2670
- ▶ Library 497-8761
- ▶ HAWC 497-8480
- ▶ Fitness Center 468-2128
- ▶ Fitness Center Annex . . 472-5350
- ▶ Youth Center 468-2110
- ▶ ITT 468-2945
- ▶ Bowling Center 468-2112
- ▶ Pine Oaks G.C. 468-4103
- ▶ Pizza Depot 468-0188

Stormwater Straight Talk

Conserve water: Tips for protecting a natural resource

BY RUSSELL ADAMS
Water Quality Program manager



Water use in many areas of the country has soared in recent years.

The average person now uses 140 to 170 gallons of water a day to take baths or showers, wash dishes, flush the toilet, water the lawn, and other everyday tasks.

Due to recent drought conditions and limited drinking water supplies, the federal government established several mandates for water conservation. At the same time, Georgia enacted the Water Stewardship Act to create a culture of water conservation in the state.

Conserving water is extremely important for the protection of our water resources.

As we use more water, we lower the levels of our bodies of water. Lower water levels can contribute to higher concentrations of natural or human pollutants. By decreasing our water use, we can also decrease the load on our wastewater treatment facilities, improving treatment efficiency.

Fortunately, saving water can be easy, and everyone can participate. Below are

some tips for conserving water in your home:

►Leaks: Check your home regularly for leaky pipes and faucets. A dripping faucet can waste more than 2,000 gallons of water per year.

►Showering and bathing: Combined, these two activities account for more than a quarter of the water used in an average American household.

To reduce showering and bathing water demands, consider taking shorter showers, and only showering once per day. When shaving, brushing teeth, or washing your face, turn off the water as much as possible.

►Washing dishes: Hand washing of

dishes can consume 20 gallons of water. If you do the dishes by hand, fill the sink with soapy water rather than letting the faucet run constantly. Alternatively, use a dishwasher; it requires only eight to 12 gallons per load to accomplish the same task. Also, to optimize efficiency, only run the dishwasher when it is full.

►Washing clothes: Although modern washing machines are relatively efficient, washing clothes still consumes a large amount of water. To decrease water use, only run the washing machine when you have a full load.

►Landscaping: Water your yard during the coolest period of the day to limit evaporation. Use mulch around trees, shrubs and flowers to minimize water demand by holding moisture in the soil. Use commercially available timers on your lawn sprinklers to minimize excess watering and runoff into storm sewer systems.

Those with questions or comments regarding this article or other stormwater issues can call me at 468-9645.

Editor's note: Stormwater Straight Talk is a quarterly column intended to educate and inform base personnel and families about stormwater pollution.

VA launches new campaign on suicide prevention

Department of Veterans Affairs officials are reaching out to veterans in need and their families in a new public service announcement to raise awareness about suicide prevention resources, such as the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

The new television spot encourages veterans in need to call the crisis hotline number at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), and then push 1 on their telephone keypad to reach a trained VA mental health professional who can assist them 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

So far, more than 379,000 people have called the hotline, and more than 200,000 of these callers have identified themselves as veterans, family members or friends of veterans. The hotline has led to more than 13,000 rescues of suicidal veterans.