



The 402nd Commodities Maintenance Group operates in nearly 1 million square feet of floor space across 32 facilities to support the warfighter.

## Workplace Safety and Health



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## Divine Intervention



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# ROBINS REV-UP

August 12, 2011 Vol. 56 No.32

## NEWS

### YOU CAN USE



#### Blood drives Aug. 19

The Armed Services Blood Program will conduct a blood drive Aug. 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fitness Center Annex.

The American Red Cross will also conduct a blood drive the same day from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Bldg. 210 and from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Bldg. 640.

The ASBP plays a key role in providing quality blood products for service members and their families in both peace and war. The American Red Cross collects blood in support of civilian agencies and national disasters.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. Kristen MacBride at 497-5262.



#### Take time to speak up

Has a customer ever told you you've made a difference? What are your organization's strengths? When do you feel your job is important? Many base employees have an opportunity to answer those and other questions, but time is running out.

The latest CheckMATE Q12 survey will close Aug. 22. Base personnel who are part of the current survey pool should have received an e-mail inviting them to answer 12 short questions about their organizations. The survey is administered by Gallup, is completely anonymous, and takes less than 10 minutes to complete. Participation is encouraged.



#### Air Force/Robins celebration on tap

The Museum of Aviation will be the site of a celebration Sept. 17 marking the Air Force's 64th birthday and Robins' 70th anniversary.

Sen. Saxby Chambliss will be the guest speaker.

The celebration will include dinner, dancing and entertainment by Warner Robins native Bobbie Eakes, an actress and singer.

There will also be an appearance by the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve.

Social hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Cost for the event is \$30.

For a list of ticket POCs visit <http://www.robins.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123267488>.

## AFSO21 course offered to base leadership

BY JENNY GORDON

78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Senior leaders from across Robins took part in an Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century Senior Leader Course Aug. 1-2.

It was the third course hosted by the Center this year.

The two-day class gave participants the opportunity to learn more about continuous process improvement; tour high-performing lean facilities at Boeing in Macon and the 402nd Electronics Maintenance Group; and receive briefings on the Center's vision,

focus and transformational objectives.

During a mid-morning gathering Aug. 2 at the Center's mission control room in Bldg. 215, Maj. Gen. Robert McMahon, Center commander, spoke on the responsibility of leadership and the role each person played in ensuring a successful outcome.

"This is not my Center, it's our Center. The key is that every leader here – we don't have managers or supervisors here, we have leaders – understands this is their Center," said McMahon.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Maj. Gen. Robert McMahon, Center commander, speaks to course participants.

▶ see AFSO21, 6



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Robins firefighters are taught the proper way to strap a victim onto a spine board for safe water removal.

## Fire rescuers conduct safety exercises

BY JENNY GORDON

78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

If you had a chance last week to dip into the waters of the Heritage Club pool, you may have noticed members of the Robins Fire Department practicing rescue techniques.

Alternating groups participated in the department's yearly in-house Basic Introductory Water Rescue Course, designed to teach the crew of more than 60 firefighters how to properly save victims in various situations.

"This is to make sure our people are familiar with the equipment, and also know when

to use it," said Capt. Tony Tabler.

Properly attired in life jackets and hard hats, each firefighter would stand poolside and throw a yellow personal retriever disc, similar to a large Frisbee, into the water. Simulating a rescue operation in progress, another firefighter in the water would grab the disc while the other pulled him in.

The disc weighs about three pounds and also serves as a flotation device for distressed swimmers.

Pool lifeguards also assisted in showing

▶ see SAFETY, 6

## Breaking Barriers

CMXG paint/depaint shop tackles its toughest obstacles

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW

78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

A collaborative effort between management and employees is responsible for significant safety and efficiency improvements in the 402nd Commodities Maintenance Group's paint/depaint shop.

The depaint shop chemically strips paint from parts removed from F-15, C-130, C-17, and C-5 aircraft undergoing programmed depot maintenance. The parts are sent to various shops for refurbishing, and then returned to the paint shop for painting.

Numerous improvements have occurred in the area during the last three years. Mario Largaespa, paint shop first-level supervisor, began spearheading those efforts last year and, with newly-promoted supervisors Ray Minter and David Moore, the transformation has continued.

▶ see PAINT, 6

## CCAF helps Airmen advance careers

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW

78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Every enlisted member of the Air Force is a college student.

When they enlist, Airmen are automatically enrolled in the Community College of the Air Force, where they can pursue an associate's degree and take other classes to advance their careers.

While Airmen don't have to take CCAF courses, they will need some if they want to advance to certain ranks, said Brian Mertz, 78th Force Support Squadron acting educational services officer.

Airmen can take courses in



### WHAT TO KNOW

This year has been declared "The Year of the Community College of the Air Force."

the classroom and online. They can also "audit" some classes by passing a test. The end result for Airmen who seek higher education through CCAF is they can achieve an associate degree after reaching the five-level in their career field.

"CCAF is vital to an Airman who wants to make a career of the Air Force," Mertz said.

Staff Sgt. John Caponong, a

JSTARS airborne operations technician instructor in the 116th Air Control Wing, graduated CCAF in April with an associate's degree. It allows him to start as a junior in his pursuit of a bachelor's at American Military University.

"Without CCAF, I would have had to start as a freshman," he said. "It gives me a stepping stone to apply for officer training school."

Caponong was a Pitsenbarger Award winner, which is given to exceptional CCAF students by the Air Force Association and includes a \$400 scholarship toward a bachelor's degree. The award is named after Airman First Class William H. Pitsenbarger, a Medal of Honor recipient who died in Vietnam saving others.

According to its website, CCAF is the largest community college system in the world, partnering with 90 Air Force schools and 1,500 civilian colleges to serve 320,000 active, guard and reserve military personnel. CCAF is accredited through Air University.

## THINK SAFETY



Days without a DUI: 12  
Last DUI: 330th CTS  
— courtesy 78th Security Forces

### AADD

To request a ride, call 222-0013.



Safety slogan for the week of Aug. 14 - 20:

"My job provides my paycheck, but safety takes me home."

Breathing small amounts of hexavalent chromium even for long periods does not cause respiratory tract irritation in most people.

## TWO-MINUTEREV

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# Page Two

## UNIT PROFILE: WR-ALC Office of History

### What it does

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Office of History incorporates topics of relevance into the Center's annual history, the Center archives and other historic publications and websites. The office personnel create oral histories of key people such as former Center commanders. They also research and write special studies and scholarly articles on topics related to the Center's role in key Air Force projects and contribute to heritage and heraldry projects. The office also supports the installation's preservation of historic buildings and sites on base.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP  
**Dr. William Head, base historian, conducts research in his office.**

### By the numbers

- 3** Staff members who work in the office.
- 100 K+** Linear feet of archives maintained.
- 80** Inquiries made to the office per year.
- 7** Sets of historic building sites on base.
- 5** Prehistoric sites on base.

### Why it matters

The documented history of the Center serves as a vital management tool for Air Force military and civilian leaders and personnel. It also provides an accurate record of the significant events that happen throughout the Center's history.

### What they say



**Ana Westlake**  
Administrative assistant

"I'm currently on loan to the History Office to help straighten up the archives. I've been organizing documents and photographs. It's very interesting, especially things pertaining to aircraft."



**Diane Truluck**  
Historian

"We collect photographs, documents, etc., to write the history of the Center. By doing so, we preserve its corporate memory so it will be remembered in the future, long after we're gone. Historians here have done this since 1941."

## In the Spotlight



**John Walker**

**TITLE:** Electronic mechanic, 566th Electronics Maintenance Squadron.

**BACKGROUND:** Walker recently completed 50 years combined federal service. The first four were in the Navy, where he was a radio operator. He left the Navy in 1964 and came to Robins on a temporary job painting C-130s.

**HOMETOWN:** Macon.

"I work the (heads-up display) in the A-10, which sits right in front of the pilot."

"I like everything about the job. I work with a bunch of really good people. That really makes all the difference. I've had some good supervisors over the years - there is really nothing I don't like about the job. I'm one of the few who has remained in the shop for about 15 years."

"When I first started, transistors hadn't even come into use yet; it was mostly vacuum tubes. The technology has changed 100 percent."

Walker and his wife, Runette, have two sons.

"I like to go to church and hear gospel music. Since the Lord saved me about 30 years ago, that's changed a lot of what I enjoy. I like to fish, and I like to garden."

## JA offers Airman challenging opportunity to retrain

### BY THE CENTER LEGAL OFFICE

Airmen interested in law may want to consider retraining into the legal career field.

The primary mission of an Air Force paralegal is to assist attorneys in providing legal counsel to commanders, first sergeants and other key personnel on a broad spectrum of matters.

They provide legal assistance to eligible clients under the supervision of an attorney.

Consequently, paralegal apprentices, journeymen and craftsmen support virtually all areas of the legal office, including military justice, claims, civil law, legal assistance, contracts and environmental law.

Within those divisions, a paralegal will team with an attorney (Judge Advocate) and perform whatever task is required.

For instance, in the Military Justice

Division, he or she could perform legal research, interview victims and witnesses, draft opinions and documents and prepare for courts.

In the Legal Assistance division, paralegals assist clients with Will preparation, powers of attorney, notarizing documents, and ensuring Airmen know what they need prior to deployment.

Paralegals also support investigations of serious incidents, such as aircraft, missile or rocket mishaps.

Our senior paralegals – superintendents and managers – use their management abilities to ensure those missions are accomplished.

They also perform the same type of tasks expected of any Senior NCO – management duties such as budget and manpower; training and retraining paralegals into the career field; and staff assistance visits, just to name a few.

To ensure paralegals are qualified to

**WHAT TO KNOW**

To be eligible to retrain into the paralegal career field, you must type a minimum of 25 words per minute, have a minimum general Airman Qualification Exam score of 51, take the Air Force Reading test, have no derogatory information in your records and complete a personal interview. If you are eligible and wish to retrain, you must submit a retraining application.



support these many legal areas, the Judge Advocate General Corps provides the necessary training, both in the classroom and on-the-job.

To become a paralegal, selected nominees must first attend the six-week Paralegal Apprentice Course at the Judge Advocate General School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Before paralegals are awarded their 7-skill level, they must return to the Judge Advocate General School and attend the six-week Paralegal Craftsman Course.

Once Airmen become Paralegal Craftsmen, they have the opportunity to attend attorney-level specialized courses such as operational, environmental and contract law, as well as the annual federal income tax course.

They can also attend some paralegal and attorney-level courses hosted by the Army and Navy.

For more information contact Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Coasey at [Kimberly.Coasey@robins.af.mil](mailto:Kimberly.Coasey@robins.af.mil) or 472-0559.

# The facts about hyperthermia

## Robins Family Advocacy gives tips on keeping children heat safe

78TH AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The July 31 death of a 3-year-old boy who was left in a parked car at 100 Georgetown Blvd., drives home the importance of keeping children heat safe.

According to an article in the Telegraph, police said Andrew Leighlan Calloway was in the vehicle with Shelia Henderson, 50, along with her sister, Johnnie Mae Grayer, 66, of Macon, and other children.

Henderson was later charged with felony murder, second-degree cruelty to children, involuntary manslaughter and reckless conduct, according to the article.

Hyperthermia is a serious condition which occurs when the body's thermostat is overloaded by heat.

In 2010, 49 children in the United States died as a result of hyperthermia.

The Family Advocacy Program at Robins receives



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Ann Holl removes her 2-year-old son Charlie from his car seat.

many questions about the safety and welfare of children.

Roslyn Battle, Family Advocacy Outreach manager, and Patricia Prime, Family Advocacy nurse and child passenger safety technician, are available to provide parents with safety information on a variety of topics.

Families moving to Robins

may not have experienced Georgia summer conditions.

The recent extreme hot weather increases the need to know about hyperthermia.

You may have heard about heat stroke, an acute condition of hyperthermia.

Symptoms include: dizziness, disorientation, agitation, confusion, rapid heartbeat or halluci-

### WHAT TO KNOW

For more information on hyperthermia or other safety topics contact Roslyn Battle or Patricia Prime at 497-8398.

nations.

Children are at far greater risk for the illness. Their bodies heat up three to five times faster than an adult because children can't cool down like an adult. When a child's body temperature reaches 104 degrees, the internal organs start to shut down, and at 107 degrees, death can occur.

The temperature inside a car increases by 19 degrees in as little as 10 minutes, and continues to rise. On a typical Georgia summer day, the temperature could be 95 to 100 degrees outside, but the temperature inside a car can reach 119 degrees in minutes.

"You have probably noticed cracking a window does little to keep the interior of a car cool in this heat. Be very cautious of your child's car seat," said

Prime. "A hot car seat can injure your child. Cover the car seat when you leave the car to keep it shaded from the direct sunlight."

In order to prevent needless injury and death, also never leave your child alone in a car – not even for a minute.

Place something you need at your destination on the floor of the back seat as a reminder on a hectic day not to forget a child. Take your child with you when you leave the vehicle. If you see a child alone in a car, the best thing to do is call 911 immediately. Wait by the vehicle so Emergency Medical Services can find you. They're trained to determine if the child is in serious trouble.

Make a personal commitment to never leave your child in a car alone. Urge friends and family to do the same. **Editor's note:** Information courtesy Golden Gate Weather Services and Safe Kids Worldwide websites at [www.ggweather.com/heat](http://www.ggweather.com/heat) and [www.safekids.org/nlyca](http://www.safekids.org/nlyca).

USE YOUR WITS.  
SAVE OUR WATTS.



# ViewPoints

“Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.”  
 – Will Rogers

## WR-ALC VISION

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

## WR-ALC FOCUS

- ▶ Exceed Warfighter and Customer Expectations
- ▶ Lead DoD in Cost Management
- ▶ Re-energize and Sustain Continuous Process Improvement

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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](mailto:lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil) and [vance.janes@robins.af.mil](mailto:vance.janes@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 Geoff Janes at 472-0802.

## ONLINE

To read articles online, visit [www.robins.af.mil](http://www.robins.af.mil).

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## Some things can't wait

*“God grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the courage to change the one I can, and the wisdom to know it's me.”*

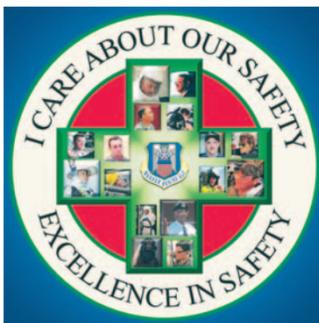
– Author unknown

BY FAYE BANKS-ANDERSON

78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

In life, we often have to wait for many things – our first driver's license, the birth of our first child and retirement. We shouldn't have to wait to see a change in our safety culture here.

Many have gotten on the bandwagon. That's why all but a few of the 39 safety violations the Center was cited for by OSHA have been adequately addressed. That's why a Workplace Safety and Occupational Health tiger team is addressing safety issues full-time, including making sure standard processes are in place



across the Center, and Team Robins, to ensure everyone's safety. That's why the message that safety is paramount is now evident nearly everywhere here – in briefings, on signs and television monitors, in e-mails and newspaper articles.

Still, many have yet to sign on. The reasons are many.

Some simply want to blame everyone else instead of themselves for what prompted the need for change. Depending on where

they sit, it's the worker or the supervisor – certainly not them – who is the problem.

Some just want to fight tooth and nail before, or even if, they eventually change. They're reluctant to do business differently because they don't want to leave the comfort of doing business “the way it's always been done” or “the Robins way.”

But, consider this.

A worker puts on his PPE and starts performing his job about 80 feet in the air. However, for some reason, he doesn't hook himself up to his fall protection. Is that his fault, his supervisor's fault, or the fault of his wingman standing next to him for not taking a moment and correcting the situation?

A driver nearly mows down a pedestrian on a street or in a parking lot. Whose fault is it?

Should the driver have driven more carefully? Should the

pedestrian have paid more attention to his or her surroundings?

Even after our citations, our ICD – Inattention, Carelessness and Distraction – reportable injuries are hovering at 69 percent. So 69 percent of the time we're hurting ourselves because “we” are not paying attention. Unbelievable but true.

The point is, we all must actively contribute to the safety of the team. And that requires change from all of us.

One unknown author states, “It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.”

Nolan Ryan puts it this way, “Enjoying success requires the ability to adapt. Only by being open to change will you have a true opportunity to get the most from your talent.”

Are you on board?

## 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](mailto:action.line@robins.af.mil).

▶ 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

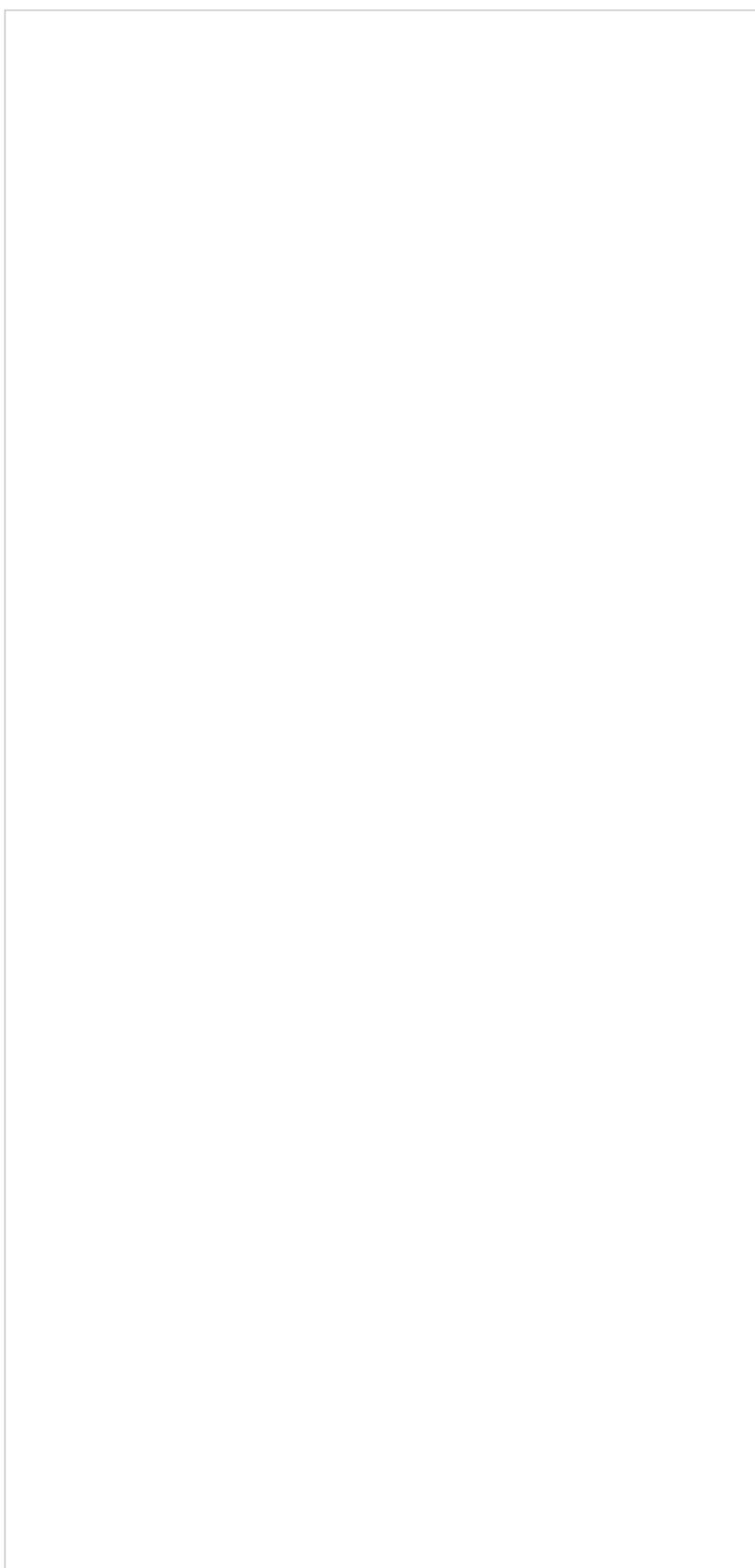


## STRAIGHT TALK HOT LINE

Up-to-date information during base emergencies  
**222-0815**



**U.S. AIR FORCE**  
**EagleEyes**  
 WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.  
**REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO 468-EYES**



# On the Fly

## AF Academy instructor vacancies

Opportunities are available for active-duty officers to apply for U.S. Air Force Academy instructor vacancies for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Interested officers must apply by Sept. 15 for USAFA dean of faculty, preparatory school and athletic department positions.

Limited positions are also available at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.; the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md.; and the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, Long Island, N.Y.

Eligible applicants include first lieutenants through lieutenant colonels who will have a minimum of four years time on station between June 1 and Dec. 1, 2012. Those stationed overseas must be eligible to return from overseas between May and December 2012.

This special duty assignment is a controlled, three-year maximum tour, and officers must be released by their Air Force Personnel Center core officer assignment team in order to compete.

Officers must submit a completed Air Force Form 3849, PME/AFIT/RTFB Officer Worksheet, to the Academic and Special Utilization Branch by Sept. 15; AFPC will notify officers selected for assign-

ment by Jan. 10, 2012.

For more information on USAFA instructor opportunities, go to the Air Force personnel services website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/home> and search for USAFA opportunities.

## Upcoming

The Museum of Aviation will host a **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Day** Saturday for children in grades 1-5.

Students will have the opportunity to work with real scientists and engineers from the Middle Georgia community to make a solar-powered robot, build a bridge or skyscraper, and just have fun.

The event will be held in the museum's Century of Flight Hangar from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and includes lunch and activity supplies. The cost to attend is \$35.

"We're excited to have mentors from L-3 Communications, Raytheon and Robins, and area educators who will work with the kids in hands-on activities," said Melissa Spalding, the museum's director of education. "Groups are welcome, and we can work with Scout troops and other groups to keep students together in classes."

Registration forms for the event are available at [www.moaeducation.com](http://www.moaeducation.com). Those interested can also contact Candi James at 472-7575.

**The Reserve Officers Association Chapter 36** will hold a general membership meeting and the election of officers during a luncheon Aug. 24 at 11:30 a.m. in the Horizon Club's Georgia Room.

The luncheon is open to all current and retired officers. For more information, call Gerald Mekosh, chapter president, at 497-1727.

Due to the Labor Day holiday, **Central Georgia Marine Corps League Detachment #1373** will meet Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. at Flint Energies off Highway 96, between Sun Trust Bank and Houston County High School.

Bring your DD-214 or retired I.D. card and \$35. A short application will be provided. For more information, call John Harmon at 472-0853.

## Et cetera

**The following leave recipient has been approved** through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program: *Diane Whittle* of the 568th EMXS. POC is Thressa Gregory at 468-4773.

To have the name of an approved leave recipient printed in the Rev-Up, e-mail [lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil](mailto:lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil) or call 472-0806.

**The tuition assistance cutoff date** for fiscal 2011 is Sept. 18 for military members. For more information, call Garrett Gordon at 497-3410.



U.S. Air Force photo by MASTER SGT. ROGER PARSONS

## Welcome aboard

**Capt. Rebecca Zaborowski, 12th Airborne Command and Control Squadron air battle manager, briefs Northside High School AFJROTC students July 22 on the functions of the E-8C Joint STARS aircraft. The students learned about the mission of the 116th Air Control Wing and some of the opportunities available to them in the military.**

## 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](http://www.afmcwellness.com)**

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The **Robins Thrift Shop** is now open. Shopping hours are: Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m.; Fridays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.;

and the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Consignment hours are: Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3 to 5:30 p.m.; Fridays 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For more information, call 472-7480.

## PAINT

Continued from 1

They have worked together lockstep to bring many improvements to fruition.

With the support and involvement of employees, the changes have led to a safer, better-organized shop and improved production times, said Bob Reynolds, 573rd Commodities Maintenance Squadron director.

One of the biggest changes was the introduction of DEKOTE as the primary stripping material, a safer and more environmentally-friendly alternative to the methylene chloride that had been used.

Also, a more ergonomically-sound process was developed for employees using the powerful “aquamiser” during the stripping process.

The aquamiser is similar to a carwash hose with about three times the pressure. The shop now rotates employees using the aquamisers to reduce the probability of employees developing carpal tunnel syndrome due to prolonged use.

Since implementation of the new process there have been no occurrences of carpal tunnel syndrome reported, said

Reynolds. Largaespada said the changes have also improved employee morale significantly.

“They see that management has listened to them and gotten things accomplished,” he said. “They’re taking more pride in their area.”

Some of the changes have saved significant dollars. Previously, C-130 Combat Talon II radomes had to be stripped by hand-sanding because methylene chloride was too harsh. The hand-sanding process took about 80 man hours.

DEKOTE is now used to chemically strip paint from the radomes, cutting the man hours required by more than half and saving about \$9,000 per radome.

Shop employees rearranged their work area to create a bay large enough to accommodate several parts. This bay is used as a dwell area. After DEKOTE is applied, it is allowed to dwell and work per the manufacturer’s specs. The improvement increases the shop’s throughput, which cuts flow days.

Other changes have improved the employees’ quality of life. One of the first things they did, Largaespada said, was convert a mostly unused area into a changing room. All shop



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

**Kyle Jackson uses an aquamiser to remove paint from an F-15 fuel tank. New improvements to the HVAC system will improve working conditions in the depaint area.**

employees have to wear full personal protective equipment, but previously didn’t have a good location to put it on.

They also built offices so employees could have a place to do computer record keeping, check e-mail or take a break from the heat and cold.

At times the shop gets so hot work has to be shut down. However, the heat and cold won’t be a problem for long. One improvement still in the works is installation of a heating and air system in the shop. The system is expected to be operational later this year.

Ray Minter became the

depaint supervisor a year and half ago, but in that short time he has seen a significant difference in the shop.

“The employees are happier,” he said. “They can see we care, and morale has gone up 100 percent.”

Derron Preston, a depainter, shared Minter’s sentiments.

“Our newly-assigned supervisor Ray Minter’s positive attitude and emphasis on creating a safe environment vastly improved the safety process,” he said. “In my opinion, the single most significant improvement was the change out room that created a buffer between the

chemicals used in the depaint area and the chemical-free areas.

“The other changes that have been beneficial for us are the reduced times we are required to use the aquamiser, and the great strides made in the supply system that enable us to have the correct and appropriate equipment needed to complete the assigned jobs,” he added.

Donald Chance, another depainter, said, “I have worked as a painter/depainter for the last 14 months. I am happy to be working at Robins because of the individuals we are supporting. I am truly committed to helping those who are keeping me and my family safe and free.

“I believe working at Robins is a privilege and not a right,” he continued. “Therefore, we should do everything we can to improve our processes. Our organization is doing an outstanding job of that. The process improvements have created a safer environment and have significantly enabled us to increase our support to our customers.”

With the help of the ongoing collaboration between employees and supervisors, the depaint shop will continue to seek process improvements, reduce flow days, and seek reductions in hazardous materials and waste.

## AFSO21

Continued from 1

On having several leaders in one room, he said, “What excites me most is when I don’t have to do the talking, when the team is talking about what the next step is, or how we improve a process.”

“I’m even more excited if I go down five levels in the organization – down to our first levels – and they’re the ones leading this, and I can be a mentor as opposed to a leader being served,” he added. “That’s when I know we’ve succeeded in the way that we’re headed.”

Instructor Robert Hamm, director of process improvement at Air Education and Training Command, emphasized the course doesn’t teach participants how to be facilitators.

“It is designed to teach them how to build an environment in their organization where process improvement can flourish,” he said. “They learn a little bit about CPI tools, but primarily what they learn is how, as a senior leader, you drive transformation.”

Along with hands-on group exercises, the topics discussed included understanding key lean tools and principles, strategic alignment and deployment, fiscal challenges, mission growth, problem

solving and developing new ways of thinking to improve how work is accomplished.

Carman Clark, chief of Robins’ Organizational Consulting Office, attended the class.

“Probably one of the most interesting things I’ve learned is ownership of the process,” said Clark. “It can produce phenomenal results. When teamwork is in place, everything flows well and the whole organization runs like a well-oiled machine.”

She continued, “When you allow your workers to express what their concerns are, and you begin to meet their needs from the top down, then you

allow other people to contribute to the process. You can get a lot of creative and great ideas on how to make an organization run well.”

Attending the course allowed Lt. Col. Melanie Carino, 78th Medical Support Squadron commander, to continue to address current work processes in her area and to share what she has learned.

“This is about changing the culture in the Air Force,” Carino said. “Bottom line is this is something that we’re going to have to do for the future. There’s always going to be constraints on money and manpower, and we need to be able to do what we do more efficiently.”

## SAFETY

Continued from 1

firefighters how to use a spine board, which stabilizes a victim’s head and injured back until pulled from the water to safety.

While the exercise provided some fun time, Tabler stressed the department needs to be ready for a rescue situation on base at any time. That can include inci-

dents at a nearby lake or even on a roadway after a heavy rain-storm.

Dangerous conditions can occur when motorists innocently believe water on a road is safe to cross. But, people should never try to cross a road covered with water – looks can be deceiving, he explained.

“Even if water is only 1-foot deep, you don’t know if the road is still there,” he said.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

**Firefighters practice throwing a personal retriever device to a victim.**



**ON ROBINS IT IS THE LAW**

# Innovative learning opportunity for new engineers

Robins Air Force Base Electronic Warfare engineers have begun a hands-on workshop called New Engineer Threat Orientation, or NETO, to cross-train new engineers and create potential solutions to real-world problems.

While attending an EW technology summit at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, in Crane, Ind., Logan Flynn, an Electronic Warfare and Avionics Division electronics engineer here, was exposed to the Simplex creative problem-solving process by the University of Southern Indiana and thought it could benefit Robins.

Flynn said he felt certain the process could supplement previous training and prove beneficial to new engineers developing solutions for EW threats.

Ken Smith and Clarence Green from the Center's Intelligence Division led the previous training – New Engineer

Threat Training, or NETT – in a lecture environment.

“NETT evolved from the need to teach EW engineers more about the threat they were working to negate,” Smith said.

“The original program started out as a venue to provide an in-depth look at these threats and to determine if the engineers needed more information.

“The first NETT program lasted roughly 18 months before real-world tasking caused it to fade away. It has been revived a couple of times, but there was too much going on to keep it up and running in its original form,” he added.

In an attempt to enhance and make NETT more interactive, Flynn and Jayme Bethea, a 579th Software Maintenance Squadron electronics engineer, teamed with Green and Smith to implement the Simplex process and transform the NETT program.

When they briefed their

**“The NETO Workshop offers us a great environment to facilitate mentoring in small groups of new engineers.”**

**Jayme Bethea**

579th Software Maintenance Squadron  
electronics engineer

idea to retired Col. Stan VanderWerf, then EW and Avionics Division chief, he pledged his support to get the initiative started.

Bob Zwitch, 402nd Software Maintenance Group Director, then initiated potential ways to leverage the success of the workshop across the base.

The new and improved training is now called the New Engineer Threat Orientation Workshop.

“With so many new college graduates in our office, we recognized the need for a mentoring program,” said Bethea. “It would take a long time for the experienced engineers to mentor the new engineers one-on-one and without a mentoring forum.

The NETO Workshop offers us a great environment to facilitate mentoring in small groups of new engineers,” he explained.

To prepare the facilitators for the NETO Workshop, Robins contracted USI to provide training.

Engineers and intelligence analysts were instructed on using the Simplex process to capture, record, and implement their creative solutions to complex problems in an interactive team environment.

USI continued to mentor the team during the first NETO workshop held in May.

“The goal is to have our new engineers become active class participants,”

## WHAT TO KNOW

Simplex is an eight-step process that consists of the following steps: problem finding, fact finding, problem definition, idea finding, evaluate and select, plan, acceptance and action.

said Flynn. “We tend to learn the best when we are faced with a challenge. By giving our new engineers a common challenge in a safe environment, they can learn the NETO concepts as well as a creative problem-solving process.”

The NETO Workshop provides tomorrow's EW leaders with insight on methods to develop innovative solutions for difficult problems. NETO also provides the perfect forum for younger engineers to receive guidance and mentoring from more experienced engineers.

This will help ensure the knowledge gained by experienced personnel isn't lost when they retire. The individuals who

participate in the NETO Workshop are also poised to become future NETO Workshop facilitators.

“We have multiple programs that are aging and the Air Force cannot afford to fall behind our adversaries,” said Green. “The young engineers in the work force today are awesome and have too much knowledge and determination not to be part of the problem-solving solution.

“We have to instill confidence and provide them with the proper tools to voice their ideas and opinions,” he added. “The NETO Workshop is opening doors to better communication and information sharing so we all can have input into how to combat threats. I am very proud of the results we have witnessed thus far,”

For more information about the NETO Workshop, contact Flynn at 472-4139 or Bethea at 472-4140.

– *Courtesy Aerospace Sustainment Directorate.*

## HAPPENINGS

**ON TAP**  
**Family Nature Trail Challenge**  
Saturday  
8 a.m.  
Luna Lodge  
For details, call 468-2128.

**Customer Appreciation Open House**  
Saturday  
11 a.m.  
Bowling Center  
Train rides, face painting, moon walk and more  
For details, call 468-2112.

**Youth League Registration**  
Early registration held during open house  
Saturday  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
\$21  
For details, call 468-2112.

**Texas Hold 'Em**  
Saturday and Aug. 20 and 27  
Sign-up at 1:30 p.m.  
Games start at 2 p.m.  
Heritage Club lounge  
\$10 for club members  
\$15 for guests

For details, call 472-7864.

**WWE "Summer Slam" PPV**  
Sunday  
8 p.m.  
Heritage Club lounge  
Members free  
Guests \$5  
For details, call 472-7864.

**Starting A Small Business**  
Monday  
9 to 11 a.m.  
Bldg. 794  
For details, call 468-1256.

**Pre-Separation Briefings**  
Thursday and Aug. 25  
1 to 2 p.m.  
Bldg. 794  
For details, call 468-1256.

**Robins Idol**  
Amateur Solo Karaoke  
Thursday, Aug. 25,  
Sept. 1, 8, 15 and 22  
7 to 9 p.m.  
Heritage Club lounge  
Must be 18 years and older  
For details, call 468-2105.

**UPCOMING**  
**3rd Friday**  
Boss N' Buddy

Aug. 19  
4 to 5 p.m.  
Heritage Club lounge  
For details, call 472-7864.

**Money Credit Management**  
Aug. 22  
1 to 3 p.m.  
Bldg. 794  
For details, 468-1256.

**Dance Classes**  
Start Aug. 23  
Register now.  
Youth Center  
For details, call 468-2110

**ONGOING**  
**Men's Locker Room Closed for Renovation**  
Now through Jan. 2  
Fitness Center  
Temporary shower trailer is available.  
For details, call 468-2128.

**ITT Discounted Summer Tickets**  
Six Flags \$35  
White Water \$30  
For details, call 468-2945.

**Atlanta Falcons Tickets**  
\$77 lower level  
\$40 upper level  
Four tickets per family  
For details, call 468-2945.

**9-Hole Golf**  
Tournament Package  
Cost \$13; includes green fees, cart and range balls  
For details, call 468-4103.

**Youth Soccer Coaches**  
Accepting applications for volunteer coaches.  
No experience required; training provided.  
For details, call 497-6836.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

## Saddle up

L-R, Eddy O'Hern on Sabiha, Charis Meyers on Blue and Tiffany Bowen on Soleil take a trail ride Aug. 1. Stalls for personally-owned horses are available at the Robins riding stables. Stable facilities, near Luna Lake, also include a lighted riding ring, hot and cold wash racks, horse trails, stalls and pastures. All base ID cardholders are eligible. For details, call 447-6905.



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### 78th FSS DIRECTORY

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

**Note:** Unless otherwise noted, numbers listed in the Rev-Up are DSN numbers. If calling from a commercial or off-base phone, dial prefix 222 if listed as 472; 327 if listed as 497; or 926 if listed as 468.

Safety saves lives. Start your savings account today.

# ‘Divine intervention’

## 84-year-old going strong thanks to wingmen and luck

BY WAYNE CRENSHAW  
78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

When James “Tony” Spletstoser started working at Robins he was at an age when many people are either retiring or strongly thinking about it.

Today, more than 30 years later and at the age of 84, he’s still hard at work as a 402nd Electronics Maintenance Group mechanic.

He’s the second oldest person currently working at Robins, according to the Directorate of Personnel.

Spletstoser says he has no intention of retiring any time soon and would like to work here at least “several more years.”

“This is my family,” he said when asked why he stays at it. “I have some of the closest friends you could possibly have here. They care about me and take care of me.”

He isn’t exaggerating about that, either. He almost certainly would be dead right now had it not been for his coworkers being good wingmen.

About a year and half ago he started feeling a sensation of tightness in his chest. He wasn’t having pain, so he didn’t think a lot about it, but his coworkers badgered him into getting checked out.

So, his son drove him to the Carl Vinson



courtesy photo

**James “Tony” Spletstoser poses in front of his ultra-light aircraft. The 84-year-old 402nd Electronics Maintenance Group mechanic has cheated death more than once over the past few years, most recently when he crashed the aircraft shown here.**

Veterans Administration Medical Center in Dublin one day for a checkup. He was just lying on a table having sensors attached when he suffered a heart attack.

He flat-lined four times.

Medical personnel there hadn’t given him anything or done anything that would have prompted the attack. It was just pure luck that it happened while he was at the hospital.

“It was like divine intervention,” he said. “I was in the right place at the right time.”

With bypass surgery and good hospital care, he recovered and was able to return to work – although he said he is still healing.

It’s also not the only time he has defied death lately.

A long-time pilot, from J3 Cubs to a F4U Corsair, Spletstoser lives in Dodge County where he now flies his ultra-light aircraft.

When he flew his plane July 4 the engine started to lose power, and sputtered, just after take-off. He hasn’t determined just why, but something had gone wrong with the fuel delivery system, and he crashed into a tree. He was hanging in the aircraft upside down with fuel pouring on him.

Emergency responders had trouble getting to him due to the location of the accident and the height he was off the ground.

Terrance Allen, the owner of a local tree service, used his equipment to get him down. Spletstoser was taken to a hospital for examination

but was not injured. His plane, however, was destroyed.

“I’m going to get another one,” he said.

Spletstoser’s supervisor, Virginia Lamb, said he is one of her best workers and best trainers.

“It isn’t just that he is a good worker,” she said. “He has a heart of gold. He would do anything for you.”

Think twice, energy has a price.