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# ROBINS REV-UP

July 13, 2012 Vol. 57 No.28

## Semper Fi Leadership change for local Marine unit



**INSIDE:**  
Local Marines'  
quick response  
saves lives  
during fire

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BY JENNY GORDON

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Lt. Col. Michael "HoJo" Johnson and his family have made Robins home for the past two summers. But, on July 9, the Naval Academy graduate relinquished command of Marine Aircraft Group 49 Detachment A to its new commanding officer, Lt. Col. David Steele.

Johnson reflected on the unit's time in Middle Georgia since relocating from Dobbins Air Reserve Base in June 2010.

"It has been good working with the Marines down here, both active duty and Reserve," said Johnson, a Marine Corps veteran of more than 18 years. "And, it's also been a good fit and experience being stationed at an Air Force base like Robins."

MAG-49 Det A provides oversight of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773 – the only attack helicopter squadron in the Marine Corps Reserve. Combined, the units include about 300 active duty and Reserve members.

Johnson said his experience has been a bit different here since he came directly from an active duty squadron. The pace, for one thing, has been much slower, which has allowed Marines more time with their families.

Neither unit deploys very often, although they do undergo training all year as needed, from

nearby Fort Benning, Ga., to as far away as California.

Also, HMLA-773 doesn't have as many aircraft on station as an active duty location would; it's one of three locations in the U.S. The other two are in Louisiana and New Jersey.

At Robins, there are currently five AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopters and four UH-1N Huey utility helicopters. Overall, the entire unit includes 18 Cobras and nine Hueys. Maintainers here work on those aircraft and fly throughout the week.

The unit returned from about a month's worth of training last April after flying alongside infantry units getting ready to deploy to Afghanistan. They also recently supported Exercise Javelin Thrust 2012 – a brigade-level exercise in Yuma, Ariz.

Annual large-scale exercises help keep Marines combat-ready and able to respond to contingencies when needed.

As far as what the future holds, Johnson, a Cobra pilot, noted that focus will remain on ongoing local and national training. He and his wife, Monique, and their three children, will relocate to Montgomery, Ala., where he will study at the Air Force Air War College for 10 months.

Monday's change of command ceremony also included Johnson receiving a Meritorious Service Medal.

MAG-49's new leader, Lt. Col. Steele, also a Cobra pilot, previously served one year as executive officer at The Basic School, Headquarters Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va.

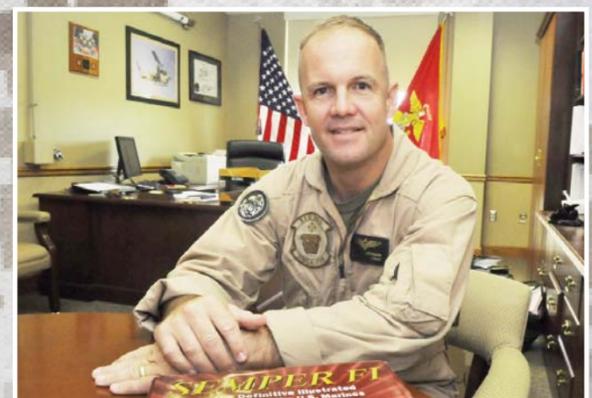
"We have a unique organization here on this Air Force installation," said Steele, who has served as an instructor pilot and quality assurance officer, deploying multiple times to Afghanistan. "Our mission will be to continue providing the ability to buffer active duty forces and provide operational readiness."

Steele was commissioned in 1995 through the Platoon Leaders Class after receiving a bachelor's degree from George Mason University.

Following designation as a Naval aviator in 1998, he reported to various light attack helicopter squadrons.

In 2004, he began a four-year tour with HMX-1, where he was ground training officer, scheduling officer and White House liaison officer. During this tour he was designated a Command pilot.

At right, from top to bottom, Marines stand in formation during the Marine Aircraft Group 49 Det. A change of command ceremony. Incoming commander Lt. Col. David Steele speaks with local reporters. Lt. Col. Michael Johnson, outgoing commander will relocate to Montgomery, Ala., to attend Air Force Air War College.



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

## NEWS

### YOU CAN USE



#### Gate Closure

The Air National Guard Gate will be closed through Sunday in support of the 461st and 116th Air Control Wings' Operational Readiness Exercise. The gate will re-open Monday.

#### Leadership Academy

The following leadership class is scheduled: Col. Mitchel Butikofer will present "Leadership Insight" Wednesday from 8 to 10 a.m. in Bldg. 905, Room 141.

The Leadership Academy was created to develop leaders to make Robins a world class center of excellence.

The framework of the classes consists of competencies, skills and tools a leader should possess to drive uniform and consistent leadership across the center.

All classes are instructed by senior leaders. Attendance is voluntary, but highly encouraged. For more information, call 497-4887.

## Motorcycle safety a top concern in summer

BY JENNY GORDON

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Safety should continue to be on everyone's minds during the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign. This season's campaign runs through Sept. 3.

More families are out and about enjoying the summer months. With this comes the increased risk of accidents, but also opportunities to pay more

attention to our surroundings.

Maintaining safety precautions can include everything from wearing safety glasses and hearing protection while operating yard equipment to practicing the buddy system while swimming or boating.

Motorcycles are a popular means of transportation for Airmen around base, and car drivers should be aware of their movements as they are driving. So far,

there have been six motorcycle fatalities Air Force-wide in the first six weeks of the campaign, according to Lt. Col. Nate Tart, installation chief of safety.

"Riding a motorcycle in traffic is like a mouse running through a herd of elephants," said Tart. "Be alert and ready to take quick evasive actions or you'll be crushed. Commit to taking motorcycle instruction to become a better and safer rider right now."

Sign up for classes by calling 468-6271 or stop by Bldg. 707. Basic, sports bike and experienced Motorcycle Safety Foundation classes are offered.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation also provides helpful information for bike riders at [www.afsec.af.mil/airforcerider](http://www.afsec.af.mil/airforcerider).

Additionally, the Air Force Safety Center website at [www.afsec.af.mil](http://www.afsec.af.mil) also includes useful tips for a safe summer.

## BASE NCO USES RACQUETBALL TO HELP WOUNDED WARRIORS

BY KENDAHL JOHNSON

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His speed and agility on the court have earned him the nickname Rabbit, and his talent and dedication have made him one of the top five racquetball players in the Air Force and earned him a national ranking.

Master Sgt. Frederick Rogers is ranked 341st in the country and sixth in the state of Georgia (second in the 50+ division).

Recently, he won his third gold medal in four years at the National Singles Championships in the Military Men's 40+ category.

However, amidst all his

accolades and accomplishments, it is his work with the Wounded Warrior Program's Racquetball Rehabilitation Clinic that he is especially proud of.

He recently returned from Fort Benning, where he worked a racquetball clinic involving about 150 participants.

"It's not so much the sport itself, it's the mental attitude, the desire of those who are trying to overcome mental and physical injuries," Rogers said. "They're working towards finding something positive in their lives, and racquetball helps so much. The determination and fortitude that some of these



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Master Sgt. Frederick Rogers works with the Wounded Warrior Program's Racquetball Rehabilitation Clinic.

▶ see RACQUET, 6

# Page Two

## Marines help with evacuations at apartment fire

BY JENNY GORDON

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The quick reaction of several local Marines resulted in resident evacuations from a fire that occurred July 3 at Sandpiper Apartments complex in Warner Robins.

As heavy rain and lightning came through the area, Gunnery Sgt. Dan DeMuro, Staff Sgt. Corey Flowers and Staff Sgt. Travis Romig were enjoying an early evening of down time with their families.

At about 7 p.m. that evening, DeMuro thought he heard an explosion outside.

“One clap hit, and it was a pretty loud boom,” he said. The power inside his apartment went out immediately. “We were scrambling with lighting candles and things of that nature to get some light inside,” he added.

DeMuro, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron ordnance chief, had been living at the complex since March. He said his coworker and friend jokingly asked if he had lit incense.



“I smelled it and knew what it was,” he said.

The men immediately evacuated their apartments, gathering their children away from the building.

“I ran outside and thought maybe a tree was struck, hoping that’s what it was,” he said. “I then ran to the front

parking lot and saw smoke coming from the back side of the roof. That’s when I ran upstairs, knocking on doors.”

There were 16 units in the complex. The men, who moved to Robins when their squadron relocated from Marietta in 2010, estimate their reaction time

U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Gunnery Sgt. Dan Demuro and Staff Sgt. Corey Flowers talk about the night of the fire. Staff Sgt. Travis Romig also assisted in the evacuations at Sandpiper Apartments in Warner Robins.

was about 30 seconds from realizing there was a fire until they began banging on doors to help evacuate residents.

“It was pretty crazy,” recalled Flowers, ordnance staff NCOIC, who has been stationed at Robins for almost a year.

Jennifer Powell, Warner Robins Fire Department spokeswoman, said once responders arrived on scene, the fire was put out within an hour.

Firefighters, however, continued to put water on hot spots for some time after that.

“Lighting was determined to be the cause by the fire investigator that responded,” said Powell.

There was heavy smoke and fire damage to the entire roof, which encompassed all 16 apartment units, she said.

## Engineers’ efforts keep C-5 PDM on time

A group of engineers from Robins recently traveled to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, to assist in the recovery of a damaged C-5M.

Since the aircraft was scheduled to begin depot maintenance here in May, leadership opted to send the aircraft to Robins and attempt to perform the repair work concurrently with the depot work.

However, the aircraft required an engineering assessment and considerable work before being declared safe for a ferry flight back to Robins.

That’s where the program office engineers stepped in.

By having engineers onsite, maintainers avoided having to flow multiple engineering assistance requests halfway around the world.

“Not only our blue suit airmen,

but our civilian airmen are quick to answer the call. That’s what makes Robins special,” said Col. Michael Gregg, Aerospace Sustainment Directorate Galaxy Division chief.

The engineers had only a few days to coordinate their travel plans and prepare for the trip to Afghanistan.

The engineers – Nicholas Pitman for avionics, Doug Nañez for hydraulic systems, and Capt. Matthew Harvey for structures – departed for Afghanistan April 27.

Though conditions at Bagram were less-than-extravagant, they readily put their hands to the challenge and provided continuous on-site support to the maintainers as they prepared the aircraft, for its trip to Robins.

“Although we didn’t have long to prepare, our working alongside



U.S. Air Force photo

A group of Robins engineers pose in Afghanistan in front of a C-5M they helped recover and prep for return here.

the maintainers really had a beneficial effect on the project schedule,” said Capt. Harvey. “It was very rewarding to complete the repairs so quickly.

“Mr. Nañez and Mr. Pitman were invaluable in supporting the recovery

team at a grassroots level,” he added.

The engineers’ efforts led to the aircraft arriving at Robins on time for PDM on May 16.

“This effort is a great example of how Team Robins comes together to support our customers,” Gregg said.

# AIR FORCE



## Acting undersecretary of the AF appointed

On July 3, President Barack Obama appointed Dr. Jamie Morin to serve as the acting undersecretary of the Air Force.

He will serve in this capacity effective immediately and until such time as a new undersecretary is nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

Morin said he welcomed the new responsibilities. To read more, visit [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

## AF clarifies ITDY dependent travel, transportation allowances

Air Force officials announced a clarification concerning transportation and travel allowances for Airmen tasked with 365-day extended deployments, commonly referred to as an indeterminate TDY.

In accordance with guidance provided in the Joint Federal Travel Regulation, effective July 1, Airmen tasked to deploy on 365-Day Extended Deployments will no longer be automatically considered ITDY for purposes of dependent travel and transportation allowances under the JFTR.

Airmen tasked for a 365-day extended deployment prior to July 1 will not be affected by this clarification.

Previously, Airmen tasked for 365-day extended deployments automatically received ITDY entitlements for dependent travel and transportation allowances. These allowances included dependent and household goods movement during the deployed period.

To read more, visit [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

## AF initiates voluntary limited loadmaster recall

Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard loadmasters may be eligible to apply for a limited period recall to extended active duty, Air Force Personnel Center

officials announced.

The loadmaster career field is chronically undermanned, said Senior Master Sgt. Marvin Daugherty, AFPC accessions branch superintendent. Initiatives are underway to increase loadmaster manning levels from 82 to 95 percent by fiscal year 2014.

"While those initiatives are designed to address long-term loadmaster manning, this recall will help us address immediate combatant commander needs," he said. "We expect to bring a total of 110 ARC loadmasters on extended active duty during fiscal 2012 and 13. They'll serve in active duty flying billets until manning initiatives mature."

Eligible applicants must be master sergeants or below, be current and qualified on their major weapon system, have less than 16 years of Total Active Federal Military Service by the end of their extended active duty period, and have a current qualifying flying Class III physical, said Daugherty.

Tours will be one or two years, during which time members will be eligible for deployment. While on extended active duty, members will remain affiliated with their AFR or ANG unit and will return to that unit when their active duty assignment ends.

For more information, visit [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

## Airmen build ties with Colombian counterparts

Members of the 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron completed the first part of an Air Mobility Command Building Partner Capacity mission June 28 working with the Colombian air force to promote regional stability by fostering key relationships and enhancing partner nation capabilities, at General Alberto Pauwels Rodriguez Air Base in Barranquilla, Colombia.

The mission also supports the 12th Air Force's (Air



U.S. Air Force photo by SENIOR AIRMAN KENNY HOLSTON  
From left, Staff Sgt. Julius Givens, Airman 1st Class Justin Fleming and Tech. Sgt. Daniel Harrington repair airfield approach lighting at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. The 20th Civil Engineer Squadron Airmen worked together to recently repair several airfield lighting lamps and re-sync flashing approach lights.

Forces Southern) continued engagements in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility of Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, the 571st reached out to the Inter-American Air Forces Academy and 12th AF (AFSOUTH) for assistance to complement their team.

"This BPC mission was a success from multiple angles," said Maj. Brian Symon, 571st MSAS Colombia mission commander. "We were able to build lasting relationships that will pave the way for greater interoperability."

For details, see [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

## New options arise for many military homeowners

The Federal Housing Finance Agency recently announced changes to its short-sale policies that should make it easier for military homeowners with Fannie Mae- or Freddie Mac-backed mortgage loans to honor their financial commitments when they are required to move as part of their duty.

Under the new policy, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will not pursue deficiency judgments, cash contributions or promissory notes from members of the military with a change in duty station for any property purchased on or before June 30. Service members must have a Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac loan to be eligible.

According to FHFA records, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac together own or back more than half of the country's \$12 trillion in mortgages.

To read more, visit [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

## A-10 first aircraft to use alcohol-based fuel

An A-10C Thunderbolt II flies over Florida's Gulf Coast on June 29, marking the second flight of an aircraft powered solely by an alcohol-derived jet fuel blend.

On June 28, the 40th Flight Test Squadron made history here flying the first aircraft to use a new fuel blend derived from alcohol.

Alcohol-to-Jet is a cellulosic-based fuel that can be derived from wood, paper, grass or anything that is a cell-based material.

To read more, visit [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).



U.S. Air Force photo by STAFF SGT. JOELY SANTIAGO

## FEEDING THE FORCE



Dana Yearty prepares mashed potatoes for lunch at the base restaurant.

U.S. Air Force photos by MISUZU ALLEN



Top, Liz Simmons and Alice Foster cut pans of cornbread into individual servings.

Above, Anthony Nobles places battered chicken in a wire tray to go in the deep fryer.



Right, Nobles removes the chicken from the oil. He said he fries around 200 pounds of chicken to prepare for the lunch crowd.

### ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER  
Col. Mitchel Butikofer

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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. For information, call Lanorris Askew at 472-0806.

### DELIVERY

To report delivery issues, call 472-0802.

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# On the Fly

Eligible veterans can receive up to \$10,000 through the **Troops to Teachers Program**.

If you've ever considered teaching as a second career, this class is for you.

Bill Kirkland, state program manager for Troops to Teachers, will conduct a 90-minute Transition to Teaching Class July 20 at 9 a.m. in Bldg. 905, Room 123.

Troops to Teachers is a federal program that assists eligible veterans (active duty, reserve and retired military) who want to become public school teachers.

The Transition to Teaching Class is free and reservations aren't required.

For more information, visit [www.tttga.net](http://www.tttga.net) or call the Georgia Troops to Teachers office at 404-413-8199.

It's that time of year again. **The 78th Medical Group will provide Healthy Start Screenings** for Tricare beneficiaries entering Georgia schools for the first time.

Screenings are for students from Pre-K to 12th grade and will be conducted July 21 from 9 a.m. to noon in Bldg. 700A. No appointments are necessary.

Children will have vision, hearing and dental exams – all of which are required by the Georgia school system.

In addition, height, weight, blood pressure and scoliosis screenings will

be performed.

Immunizations will be available, so bring a copy of your child's latest shot record.

Georgia school forms 3300 and 3231 will be available and may be completed at the event.

These are the only services which will be performed at the school screenings.

If a sports physical is needed, contact 327-7850 to schedule an appointment.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Joseph Prunty or Senior Airman April Cooper at 327-8220.

**The 78th Civil Engineer Squadron's Entomology Section has started adult mosquito fogging** of family housing, dormitories, Officer Circle, FAM Camp and the wastewater plant.

The fogging takes place every Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. through late September.

Fogging has been implemented due to warmer nighttime temperatures and the increasing mosquito counts, which are provided by the installation Public Health Office.

## Upcoming

**The 2012 SNCO Recognition Ceremony will be conducted July 26.** A social will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the event at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar.

Tickets are \$25.

Deadline for ticket purchase is July 23. Contact your unit POC.

For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Phylisa McCarthy at 497-0263.

The Robins Air Force Base Military Education and Training Office will host an **Education Fair in the Heritage Club Ballroom Aug. 1** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Robins personnel, retirees and family members interested in learning more about available educational opportunities are invited to attend.

Representatives from about 30 colleges and universities from across the U.S. are scheduled to be on hand to provide information on their programs.

For details, call 497-7312.

**CivilianJobs.com will host a Career Expo Aug. 2** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Heritage Club.

Early candidate registration begins at 9 a.m.; floor exhibits open at 10 a.m. All military and prior military may preregister online at [www.CivilianJobs.com](http://www.CivilianJobs.com) and be matched with companies based on career and geographical preferences.

National and regional opportunities include: management, medical, driving, engineering, sales, administrative, aviation, customer service,

## Air Force workers can find help here

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

**AFMC Wellness Support Center — [www.afmcwellness.com](http://www.afmcwellness.com)**

law enforcement, logistics and maintenance.

Veterans and prior military who are non-ID Card holders will be granted access to attend the job fair if their name is on the Entry Authorization List.

If you are a veteran and are not a current ID card holder, you must pre-regis-

ter at [www.CivilianJobs.com](http://www.CivilianJobs.com) and email the following information no later than Wednesday to [cbranning@civilianjobs.com](mailto:cbranning@civilianjobs.com): First and last name, birth date, state of driver's license issuance and driver's license number.

For more information, call (678) 819-4153.



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## afreserve.com

# Changes coming soon for base visitors

BY STAFF SGT. CRYSTAL KESEY

78th Security Forces Squadron

Visitors to Robins Air Force Base are currently allowed access without a Department of Defense-issued identification card as long as they're escorted by someone with a DoD-issued ID.

Beginning July 25, visitors may enter Robins with unescorted sponsored access if they consent to undergo a check of their criminal history.

The check will take less than 10 minutes and be conducted at the Visitor Control Center at Watson Boulevard.

Individuals who appear on an Entry Authority List for an

## What to know

Visitor Control Center hours will remain the same: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 7:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Wednesdays from 7:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Tech Sgt. Jeffrey Smith, at DSN 472-1972 or 222-1972.

event taking place on base will also undergo a background check. EAL submission times will increase in the future to allow the checks to be made. More information will be provided at [www.robins.af.mil](http://www.robins.af.mil).

Background checks

will be conducted through the National Crime Information Center, Georgia Crime Information Center, Security Forces Management Information System, and Suspension, Revocation, Barment and Wants and Warrants Roster.

Unescorted visitors will need either their driver's license, state-issued ID, or social security card, which will be checked through those systems by name and date of birth or SSN.

Everyone is asked to be patient during this time as changes are implemented in order to protect personnel, resources, and the mission.

## RACQUET

Continued from 1

members have can't be put into words."

In addition to his work with the Wounded Warriors, he also promotes racquetball in deployed locations and helps acquire racquets to help replace deteriorating equipment in those locations. He is also a member of the Air Force Racquetball Team, and he said it's been one of the most rewarding experiences of his life.

"Being able to represent the Air Force in tournaments has been very special," Rogers said. "It's breathtaking when people acknowledge and support us for not what we do on the court, but for what we do for our country."

Rogers started playing racquetball as a teenager. His primary sport was wrestling, and he picked up racquetball as a way to help keep weight off and never stopped. He's now been playing the sport for three and a half decades.

Age and injuries – two knee surgeries and an Achilles injury – has forced him to adjust his strategy a little, but Rogers is still able to beat players half his age.

"It becomes more of a mental game," Rogers said. "When you're young, you're invincible. You can bounce off the walls and chase everything down. I can still compete at a national level because I'm playing smarter and not try-



Master Sgt. Frederick Rogers keeps his eye on the ball.

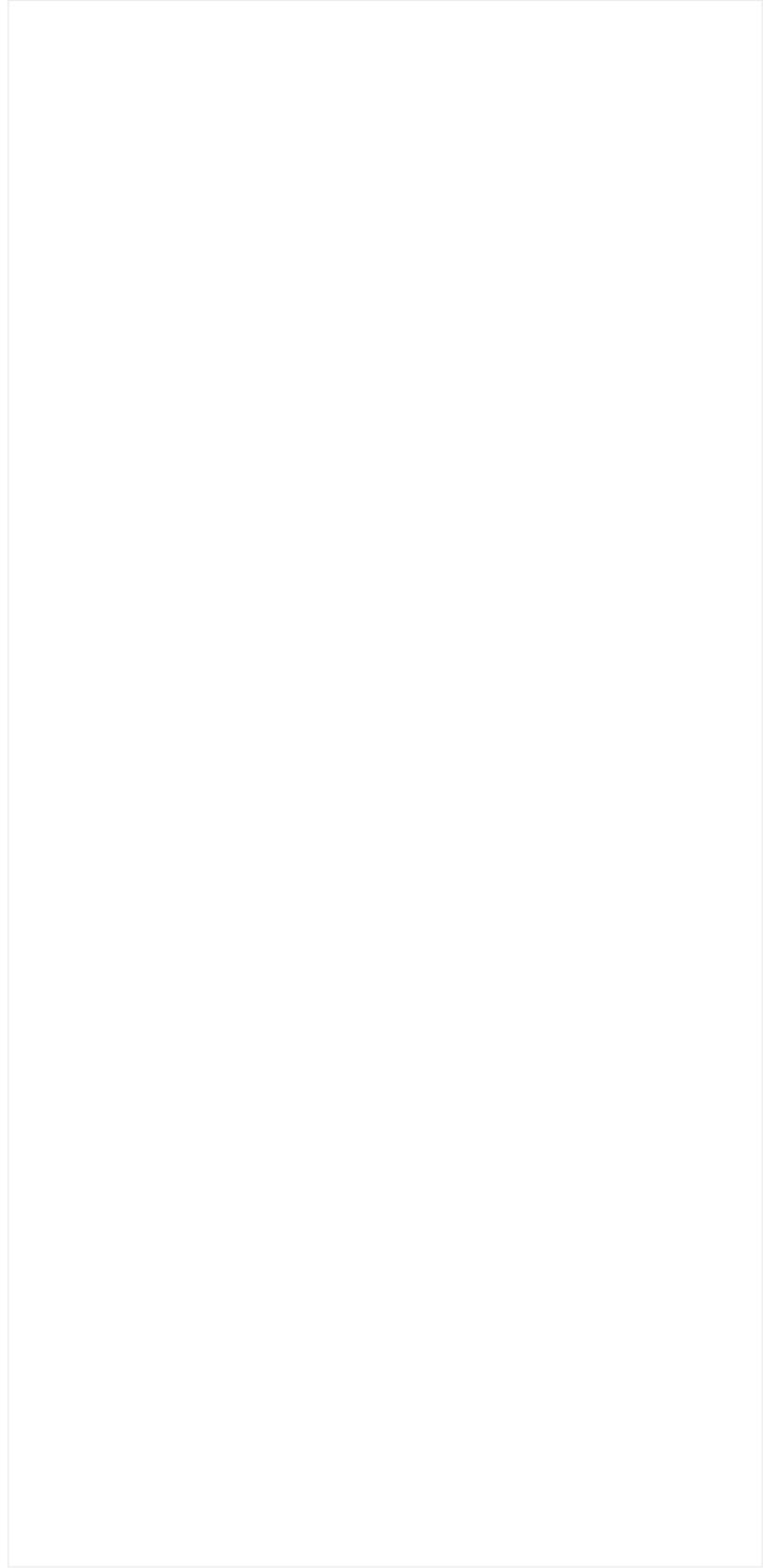
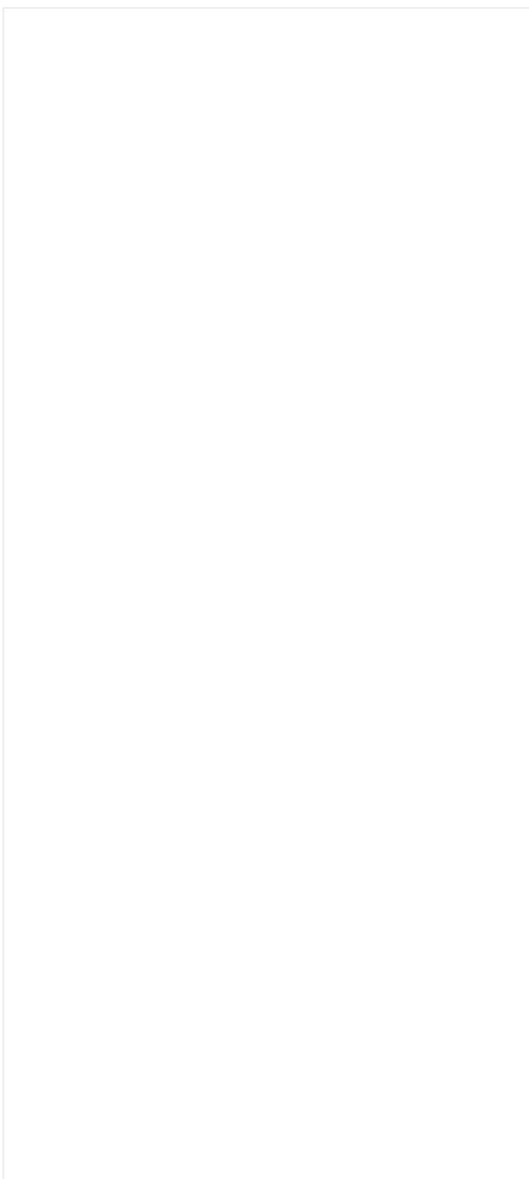
ing to do all the things I could do when I was younger. "

His secret to success?

"The keys to being a successful racquetball player are patience and dedication," he said. "Like any sport an individual wants to excel in, it takes time. A lot of people have natural skills and abilities, but it takes time to refine those."

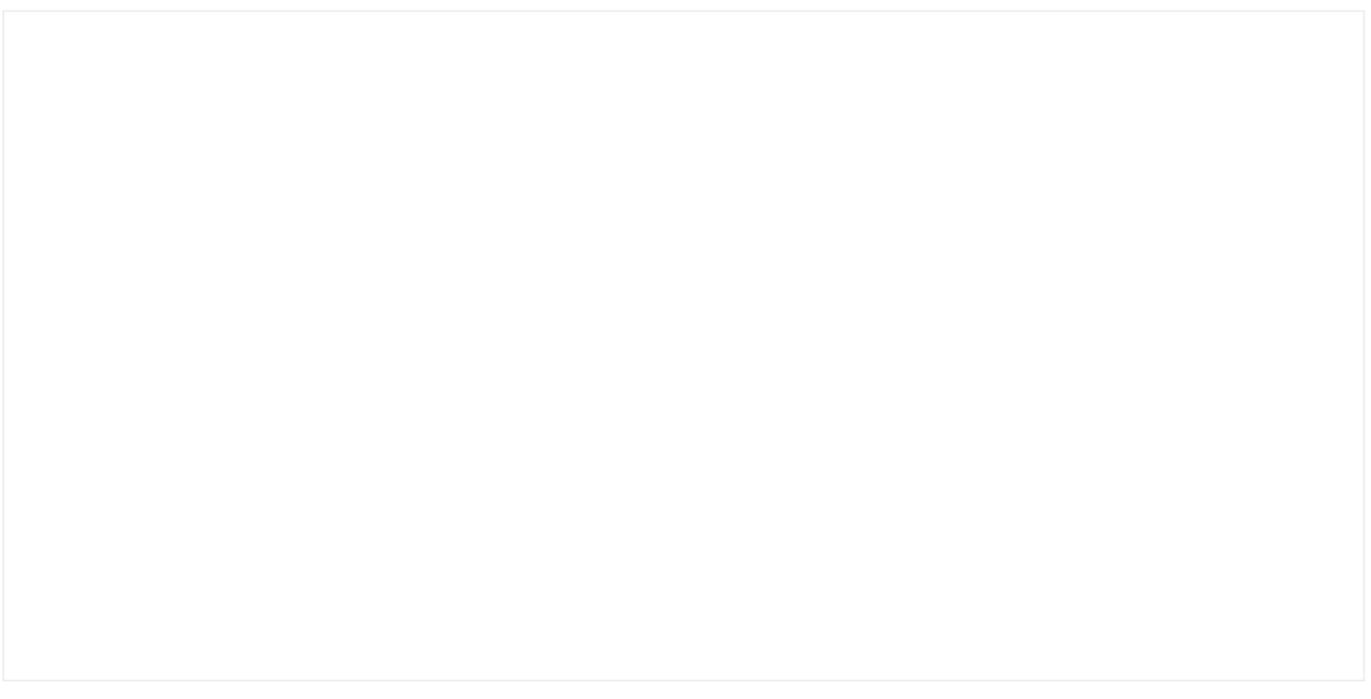
Because he plays at such a high level, it's difficult to find a challenge at the base level. But, locally he spends a lot of time alone on the courts drilling and time off the courts cardio training and weight lifting.

He plays in tournaments throughout Georgia and makes an effort to find partners his level while traveling for his job as a functional manager in the Air Force Reserve Command.



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# All Creatures Great and Small



BY JENNY GORDON

jenny.gordon.ctr@robins.af.mil

The geographic landscape of Robins is an interesting one. Its rich diversity of plant life and several thousand acres of river swamp between here and neighboring Twiggs County make our work and living spaces an ideal location for various forms of wildlife.

American alligators, black bears, feral hogs, deer, red and gray foxes, fire ants, yellow jackets and black widow spiders are just a sampling of assorted creatures and other creepy crawlies we may come across on any given day.

The last several weeks have been busy for Bob Sargent, the installation's natural resources manager and wildlife biologist. But then again, it's expected this time of year since animals known to inhabit the base are finding mates and feasting on available lush vegetation and insects.

## Foxes and bears

Recently, the Florida native was called out early one morning to check on a fox with several pups who had dug a den under a building's foundation.

"Foxes are very common on base, especially gray foxes," he said. "They don't mind living around us. They take advantage of fruit trees we plant, pet food on porches, unsecured trash, and they don't mind making their dens near buildings on base."

A young black bear even made an appearance a few weeks ago near the Visitor Control Center, hiking up a tree early one morning. It was eventually moved, with assistance from the Department of Natural Resources, to a wildlife management area.

Sightings like these aren't unusual, added Sargent, especially given our location near the Ocmulgee River watershed, which joins the Oconee River to form the Altamaha River, eventually emptying into the Atlantic.

Big and small mammals are able to move along this forested river highway of sorts, seeking food and thriving in the wild, natural terrain.

## Don't feed the alligators

Alligators are known to live in various drainage ponds east and south of the airfield and in various lakes on occasion.

Signs are posted that warn people not to approach or feed them, no matter how cute or interesting they may look.

"A fed alligator becomes a nuisance," said Sargent. "They then overcome their natural fear of people. I know people are fascinated by them, but feeding them alters their behavior."

He said that a mental red flag goes up once he notices alligators readily approaching him by swimming or crawling up an embankment.

It becomes a dangerous situation not only for people, but for the animals once they have become familiar with humans. They may be put to death for safety reasons.

"By feeding them, you could literally end up killing them," he stressed.

Deer are also common on base, as well as raccoons, opossums, coyotes, bobcats and feral hogs, which from time to time enjoy digging up residents' lawns and parts of Pine Oaks Golf Course.

**Do not approach or feed them, no matter how cute or interesting they may look.**

"Hog sightings are largely dependent on what is going on with our rainfall pattern," he noted.

Hogs prefer to inhabit swampy surroundings because they can easily overheat. When it rains for days on end, this drives them to higher ground, and sightings become more pronounced. They may also come to high ground during prolonged droughts, poking about freshly-watered yards around base housing so they can root up and feast on earthworms and other seasonally-available goodies.

## Creepy crawlies

Moving on to animals of a smaller variety, Georgia is home to some 42 species of snakes, of which six are venomous, meaning they are capable of injecting toxins that can either make you really sick or kill you.

In Middle Georgia, there are four commonly-found venomous species: Timber and pigmy rattlesnakes, copper-

heads, and the cottonmouth snake, more commonly known as a water moccasin.

"The majority of our snakes are harmless, and all of them serve important roles in nature, eating rodents, insects, and sometimes other snakes," said Sargent. "You don't need to learn how to identify all of these species. Just take the time to learn how to identify the few potentially-harmful ones."

Spiders are also common in our environment, particularly the black widow. They have a distinguishable bright red, hour glass shape on their underbellies; and only the females bite.

Care should be taken to pay attention to surroundings, in particular if you're working around old barns and sheds, in dark, unused closets; and places that have been undisturbed for long periods of time.

"People are most likely to be bitten by black widows when they either put their hands in some dark, low place such as a rock pile, or because they try to put on an old coat or pair of shoes that have been left in an outbuilding," he explained. "These types of spiders defensively bite when you put your body up against them."

He added that brown recluse spiders are rare in this area, despite the contrary view held by many people.

Common stinging or biting insects on Robins include paper wasps and bumblebees, hornets, carpenter bees and the usual litany of mosquitoes, ticks and chiggers, and fire ants.

Yellow jackets, like fire ants, release a chemical signal if you crush or swat

them. That signals other yellow jackets to come to its rescue, sometimes making an uncomfortable situation worse.

## Tips and helpful info

There generally are simple explanations as to why animals behave the way they do. For example, alligator and bear sightings become more common this time of year because it's mating season.

After a good rainfall, frogs are out exhibiting breeding behaviors, so snakes, also breeding, come out to make a meal of them. It's all interconnected, said Sargent.

Always remember to keep your distance from these animals and insects, don't feed them, secure your trash, and always be aware of your surroundings, in particular if you come across unfamiliar plant life.

Among the more than 400 species of plants found on base are poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac. Poison ivy and poison oak are common, even in some developed locations.

Sargent emphasized the old mantra, "Remember: If it has leaves in clusters of three, let it be!"

Despite what we may or may not run into throughout our day, he said that shouldn't stop us from enjoying the abundance of nature and beauty that's freely available to us.

"We work and live in a beautiful landscape complete with fascinating plants and animals, stunning butterflies and birds, and cute furry, crawling and hopping things. Learn to identify the few hazards and use common sense," he said. "It's true that there are some things out there that could bite us if we threaten or feed them. But there are a lot of great reasons to get into the outdoors."



A baby alligator in a body of water along Beale Road gets a little sun on his mother's nose.

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP



Clockwise from upper left, Bob Sargent, base natural resources manager, explains how trash cans with screw-on lids discourage wildlife near Scout Lake. A Golden Orb spider hangs in the woods at Robins. Sargent checks a wild hog trap in the woods on the south end of the base. (Note: Last month 10 hogs were captured in traps. Feral hogs sometimes come to high ground during prolonged droughts, poking about freshly-watered yards in base housing). Cottonmouths, commonly referred to as water moccasins, are one of the four venomous species of snakes in Middle Georgia. Sargent points out damage to a pump house at Luna Lake caused by Carpenter Bees. Among the more than 400 species of plants found on base are poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac. Poison ivy (shown) and poison oak are common, even in some developed locations.



Courtesy photo

Courtesy photo

## Conservation piece

# Drip, Drip, Drip ... fixing leaks saves water and money

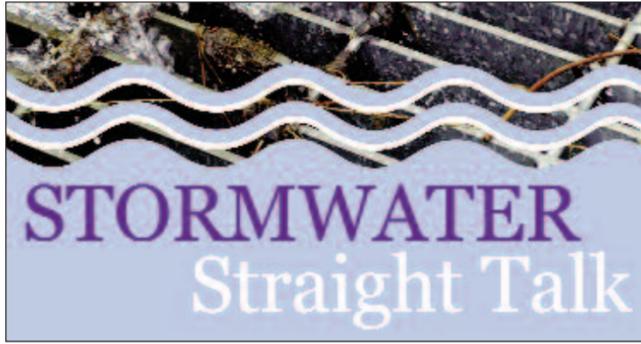
BY RUSSELL ADAMS  
Water Quality Program manager

An average home in the U.S. can waste more than 11,000 gallons of water every year due to leaks in toilets, faucets and other household plumbing systems.

That's about the same amount of water used by a family of four in a month.

At Robins, water leaks can occur not only in base housing, but in office buildings and industrial shops.

The base is committed to checking for leaks. The base's water quality program team performs an annual dry weather inspection of select pipe outfalls of the stormwater system to observe if any flows are present. If there is, the sources are



investigated so necessary repairs can be made to eliminate the cause.

Base employees can also inspect their homes. Fixing leaks in the house conserves water and saves money.

Common sources of household leaks are listed next, along with simple steps to investigate and repair them.

► **Dripping faucets** – Faucets and shower heads can often be fixed by tightening the fixture with a wrench, or replacing a washer.

► **Running toilets** – If the sound of a toilet running is common when it hasn't been flushed recently, the toilet could be wasting 200 gallons of water per day.

An easy way to find out if a toilet is leaking is to put about ten drops of food coloring in the toilet tank.

If the color shows up in the bowl after 15 minutes, it has a leak.

Fixes for toilet leaks may be as easy as replacing the rubber flapper inside the tank that regulates water flow. If a toilet replacement is required, look for high-efficiency toilets to reduce water usage.

► **Outdoor plumbing** – Be sure all outdoor hoses are secured tightly to spigots so water isn't dripping from the connection when the water is turned on.

Also, ensure irrigation system fixtures aren't leaking or sending water into the street, rather than on the landscape.

Another way to investigate for leaks is by locating the water meter connected to the house. It's typically outdoors near the sidewalk in a box or under a metal cover marked "water."

Be sure all water inside and outside the house is turned off and check the water meter. Wait another two hours without using water, including flushing toilets and running sinks. Check the water meter again. If it has increased, you likely have a leak to investigate.

Questions or comments about this article should be directed to the author at 468-9645.

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



### Straight Talk

#### Hot Line

Up-to-date information during base emergencies.

222-0815

### WINGMEN WANTED

ASIST – 468-2821;

497-8480

EAP – 497-7683;

468-9516

AIRMAN AGAINST

DRUNK DRIVING –

335-5218; 335-5236;

335-5238

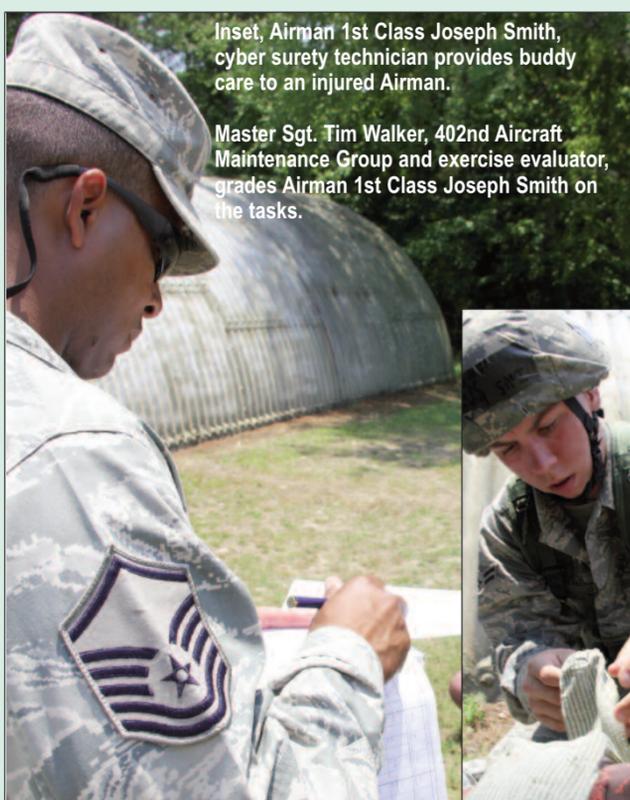




Senior Airman Matthew Grove, a radio frequency transmissions technician, reviews chemical agent sensitive paper placed on a stanchion while Staff Sgt. Brandon Cook, also a radio frequency transmissions technician, calls in the status of their findings on a mobile radio during the unit's ability to survive and operate exercise June 25-27 at Warrior Air Base.

# Survive and Operate

## Exercise prepares 52nd CBCS Airmen for upcoming operational readiness inspection

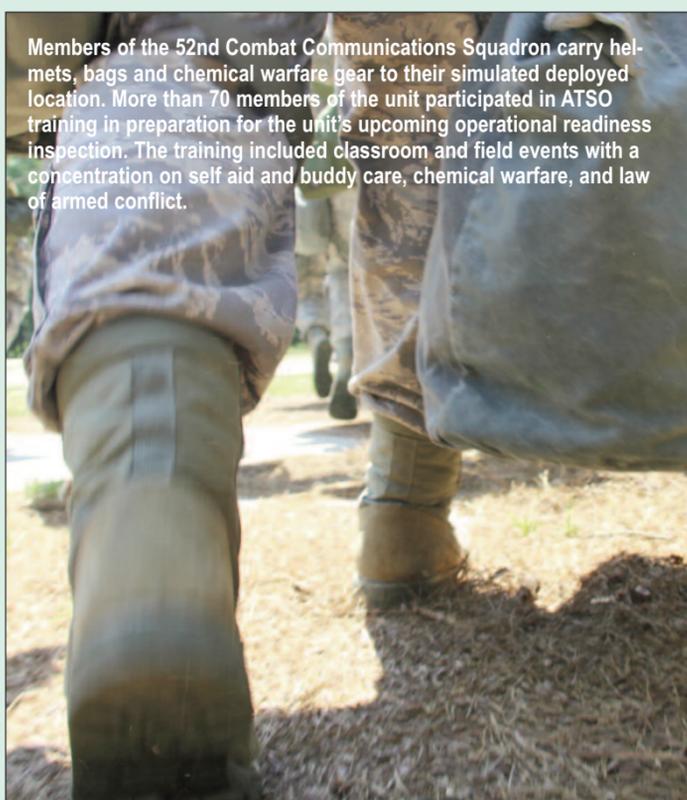


Inset, Airman 1st Class Joseph Smith, cyber surety technician provides buddy care to an injured Airman.

Master Sgt. Tim Walker, 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group and exercise evaluator, grades Airman 1st Class Joseph Smith on the tasks.

*U.S. Air Force photos by*

**Robert Talenti**  
689th Combat Communications Wing  
Public Affairs



Members of the 52nd Combat Communications Squadron carry helmets, bags and chemical warfare gear to their simulated deployed location. More than 70 members of the unit participated in ATSO training in preparation for the unit's upcoming operational readiness inspection. The training included classroom and field events with a concentration on self aid and buddy care, chemical warfare, and law of armed conflict.



Christopher F.S. LaFrance, 78th Air Base Wing exercise evaluation team chief, briefs members of the squadron on what to expect during their training.

## Classes available for those needing continuous learning points

**Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio** – The Air Force Institute of Technology offers a myriad of resources and options available to those needing acquisition continuous learning points.

Course offerings are open to officers, enlisted and civilians alike, and are delivered through both live instruction and student-paced web formats.

One of AFIT's most important classes for the acquisition community is Fundamentals of Acquisition Management.

FAM 103 has four graded measurements which include three multiple choice tests and one, three-week group exercise.

The course is a fulfillment for ACQ101 for acquisition workforce members.

FAM 103 is required for all new 61BX, 61CX, 61DX, 62XX and 63XX officers and cross-flow officers into those career fields.

The course is also required for all civilian 1101 PAQ interns who are new to weapon system acquisition.

The course is offered on a space-available basis and centrally funded to those in other military career fields

and civilian job series that are acquisition coded.

Students who complete the course are awarded 114 CLPs.

The first week of FAM 103 focuses on basic project management skills based on the Project Management Body of Knowledge from the Project Management Institute.

The remainder of the course provides students an overview of the entire weapon system acquisition process using key Defense Department- and Air Force-level documents, as well as Air Force specific processes and methodologies. Additionally, the course also covers information on the various functional disciplines required to execute an acquisition program.

The course includes instruction on other topics such as teaming, communication, ethics and the Acquisition Professional Development Program.

There are several seats available in each of the following class offerings list:

- Register now to secure a seat in this course and also
- 12S begins Aug. 6 and ends Aug. 23
- 12T runs Aug. 13 through 30.
- 12U starts Sept. 4 and ends Sept. 21.

■ 12V will run from Sept. 10 through 27.

AFIT also offers a variety of other acquisition courses. Those needing a top-level overview of challenges and initiatives impacting acquisition and logistics should consider registering for SYS 281 – Air Force Acquisition and Sustainment.

Those involved in the depot process should look at the new Critical Chain Project Management Foundational Concepts course (LOG 238), which provides a wealth of practical applications.

Life Cycle Risk Management (SYS 208) is another course which helps students evaluate risk management in the workplace.

Go to [www.afit.edu/index.cfm](http://www.afit.edu/index.cfm) (AFIT Main Menu) or <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/afitnow/> to view course offerings and to register for classes.

Questions about AFIT/LS courses should be directed to the email help desk at: [afit.lscoursemanagers@afit.edu](mailto:afit.lscoursemanagers@afit.edu).

For more information, contact Linda Moore at DSN: 787-0207 or commercial: 937-257-0207.

## HAPPENINGS

### ON TAP

**Automatic Bumper Bowling**  
Every day in July  
1 to 5 p.m.  
Six years and younger can bowl for 50 cents when accompanied by a bowling adult  
For details, call 468-2112.

**Interview with Confidence**  
Monday  
9 to 11 a.m.  
Bldg. 794  
For details, call 468-1256.

**Afternoon Thunder Alley Bowling**  
Every Monday in July  
2 to 4 p.m.  
\$6 per person  
For details, call 468-2112.

**Military Challenge Competition**  
Sign-up by Monday for Wednesday's event  
7 a.m.  
Fitness Center  
For details, call 468-2128.

**Bundles for Babies & Passport to Parenthood**  
Tuesday  
8 a.m. to noon  
Bldg. 794  
For details and to sign-up, call 468-1256.

**Hook Up 2 Bowling**  
Tuesday through July 20  
9 to 11 a.m.  
\$69 children  
\$99 adults  
For details, call 468-2112.

**Starting a Small Business**  
Tuesday  
1 to 3 p.m.  
Bldg. 794  
For details, call 468-1256.

**Bowling Movie Days**  
Every Wednesday in July  
2 p.m.  
\$6 per person  
For details, call 468-2112.

**Runaway Bar BINGO**  
Wednesday  
6 p.m.  
Heritage Club  
For details, call 468-4515.

**UPCOMING Heart Link**  
Please register by Tuesday  
July 20  
8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Bldg. 794  
For details, call 468-1256.

**Boss N' Buddy**  
July 20  
4 to 5 p.m.  
Heritage Club  
Members free, guests \$5  
For details, call 471-7864.

**Scotch and Cigar Night on the Patio**  
July 20  
5 to 7 p.m.  
Golf Course  
For details, call 468-4103.

**30 & Over Summer Basketball Tournament**  
Sign-up by  
Wednesday at 4 p.m.  
July 20 through 22  
6 p.m.  
Fitness Center  
For details, call 468-2128.

**Artist Craftsman Gallery Facebook Online Voting Extravaganza**  
July 23 – 27  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Bring entries to Bldg. 984  
For details, call 468-5282.

**1st Annual 4-Ball Championship**  
July 28 and 29  
Tee time 9 a.m. both days  
Golf Course  
8 to 13 years and 14 to 18 years  
Open to all juniors with one military connection  
\$75 per player or \$150 per team  
For details, call 468-4103.

**Braves versus Phillies**  
July 28  
\$55  
Includes ticket, transportation and 755 Club access  
First 39 single Airmen to sign-up are free  
Purchase ticket at ITT  
For details, call 468-2945.

**Fall Soccer**  
Register through July 31  
Youth Center  
For details, call 497-6831.

**Education Fair**  
Aug. 1  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Heritage Club Ballroom  
For details, call 497-7304.

**Private Pilot Ground School**  
Aug. 6 through Sept. 26  
\$605 per person  
Tuition assistance available for those who qualify  
For details, call 468-4867.

**Canoeing at Veterans State Park**  
Aug. 11  
\$35 per person  
Register by Aug. 8  
For details, call 468-4001.

**Casino Cruise**  
Aug. 25  
Brunswick, Ga.

\$35 per person  
Register by Aug. 8  
For details, call 468-4001.

**Volkssport in Rome, GA**  
Sept. 8  
\$35 per person  
Register by Aug. 25  
For details, call 468-4001.

**ONGOING Golf ShootOut**  
Open to anyone with a USGA handicap  
Enter as many times as you want  
\$2 per attempt  
Qualifying tournament each month  
For details, call 468-4103.

**Interested in being a Tennis Coach?**  
Contact Ron Hayes  
For details, call 497-6831.

**Seeking Volunteers**  
Wood Hobby Shop  
For details, call 468-5282.

**Horizons Closure**  
Food services are closed temporarily for kitchen and utility maintenance  
For more details, contact Marsha Snead at 472-7899.

**Pools Open**  
Noon to 7 p.m.  
Heritage Club and Horizons Pools  
Free  
For details, call 468-4001.

**ITT**  
►South Carolina Aquarium  
►Atlanta Falcons Tickets  
Bldg. 956  
For details, call 468-2945.

**FSS Gift Cards**  
\$5 to \$1,500  
No expiration dates  
Pick up cards at the Arts & Crafts Center, Bowling Center, Horizons, ITT and Outdoor Recreation.

## What's cooking on spot



U.S. Air Force photos by MISUZU ALLEN

Above, Casey Anderson (right) and Alexandria Barr (left) On Spot Cafe workers cook outside Wednesday. The snack bar and outdoor kitchen is temporarily serving a barbecue lunch menu while the center's kitchen is under renovation.



Right, John Evans, Aerospace Sustainment Directorate, places his lunch order. The outdoor kitchen is temporarily operating while the inside kitchen is undergoing renovations. Hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m., and closed on Sundays. A limited snack menu will be available inside the bowling center when the outdoor kitchen is closed. For more information, call the bowling center at 468-2112.

PEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

**CLICK IT OR TICKET**

**ON ROBINS IT'S THE LAW**

## Drugs and alcohol don't mix

You've probably seen the warnings on medication bottles you and your family members or friends have taken.

### The danger is real.

Mixing alcohol with some medications can cause nausea, vomiting, headaches, intensified drowsiness, fainting or loss of coordination.

Risk of falls and serious injury is a threat for elderly and disabled people with complex medical problems. It's estimated by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism that alcohol-medication interactions may be a factor in at least 25 percent of emergency room admissions.

There can even be greater risk for internal bleeding, heart problems, and respiratory difficulty.

In addition to those dangers, alcohol can make medication less

effective, or even useless.

Alcohol can make medication toxic to your body. A single drink or several drinks over the course of several hours can increase the risk of harmful side effects.

Remember, alcohol and medication can interact harmfully even if they're not taken at the same time.

You may be surprised to learn that alcohol can also react with many over-the-counter medications and herbal remedies to cause harmful effects.

Next time you go to the pharmacy or your medicine cabinet, look at the inactive ingredients listed on the labels – if alcohol is in the product, that's where it will be listed.

While many brands carry alcohol-free versions, cough syrup and laxatives can have some

of the highest alcohol concentrations. Even though a product has alcohol in it, that doesn't mean that it's safe to mix more alcohol with it.

Even very small amounts of alcohol should be avoided when taking medications or antihistamines and medications with sedative effects.

Mixing alcohol and some medications can create changes in behavior that are troubling to others. Memory disturbances, violence and impulsivity can harm adult relationships, confuse children and create legal problems.

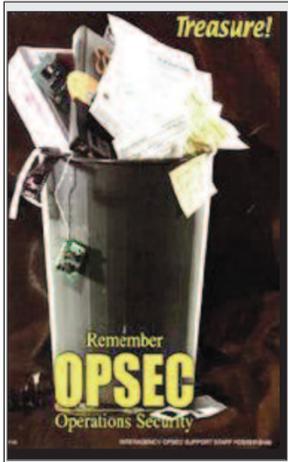
Protect yourself, family members and friends. Ask your pharmacist or health care provider to help you determine which medications interact harmfully with alcohol.

— Courtesy  
78th Medical Group

# Medic's message

AFMS - Robins - 78th Medical Group  
Like us on Facebook!

Think twice, energy has a price.



## THINK OPSEC:

YOUR TRASH  
COULD BE  
AN ADVERSARY'S  
TREASURE