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# ROBINS REV-UP

August 17, 2012 Vol. 57 No.33

## New aircraft training pad under construction

BY JENNY GORDON

jenny.gordon.ctr@robins.af.mil

Bulldozers are currently busy moving dirt on the northwest corner of Macon Street and Marchbanks Drive.

The \$580,000 construction project will be home to an aircraft training pad. The nearly two-acre site will include concrete pavement that will initially hold an F-15 and a C-130. The aircraft will be used to provide ongoing training to mechanics in the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group.

"This project will provide a dedicat-

ed space for aircraft training operations," said Christina Honea, 402nd AMXG industrial engineer.

The new training area, scheduled to be completed this fall, will allow mechanics to work in a permanent location. Temporary sites for training have previously been set up on grounds at the Museum of Aviation and also inside the industrial complex.

Currently, earth work is underway to bring the site up to grade prior to placement of the pavement. The concrete pad will measure 175 feet wide from east to west, and 325 feet from north to

south, according to Jeff Hooper, 778th Civil Engineer Squadron project manager. The site will include security fencing, along with access roads; storm drainage facilities, including a dry detention basin for stormwater control and treatment; and gravel area for future growth.

"Due to the steady efforts of Marion Edwards, the inspector on this project, we expect the facility to be completed on or ahead of schedule," Hooper added.

As future requirements grow, there is room for expansion on the site, with

space for an additional aircraft, as well as support facilities through a partnership with the museum.

"At some point we're hoping to be able to relocate some of our restoration and training classrooms to that area," said Ken Emery, museum director.

Emery added that a partnership already exists with Middle Georgia Technical College, which conducts sheet metal classes at the museum. He said he hopes to expand offerings with the college, in partnership with the 402nd AMXG, as part of the overall development of the site.

## DBIDS upgrade starts Tuesday

The Defense Biometric Identification System is scheduled to receive a system upgrade Tuesday through Aug. 28.

On Tuesday, the DBIDS systems located at the Visitor Control Center will be the first to receive the upgrade. During this time, the VCC will be unable to process DBIDS ID cards for contractors, students and civilian family members, or to process DBIDS-generated visitor and vehicle passes.

Due to the DBIDS upgrade, personnel requesting a DBIDS ID card will be issued a temporary visitor pass until the system is fully upgraded and operational. Those issued a temporary DBIDS pass will have to return to the VCC after Aug. 28 to receive their DBIDS ID card.

For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Smith at 472-1972 or Staff Sgt. Crystal Kesey at 472-1984.

## NEWS

### YOU CAN USE

#### Hannah Road closure

Hannah Road will be closed Aug. 26 through Oct. 29 so repairs can be made to the culvert near the cattle guard and the asphalt around the bridge. Previous efforts to fix the problem were unsuccessful. Signs will be placed along Seventh Street and Richard Ray Boulevard to redirect traffic.

#### Horizons Club card holders continue to get benefits

With the redesignation of Horizons from a club to an event center, club members may be wondering about their membership cards.

Club members will continue to be billed monthly dues for membership unless they decide to initiate a cancellation.

There are benefits to keeping the card active. They include:

►Eam up to 2 percent cash back when using a club card at 78th Force Support Squadron activities, the commissary and Exchange, and 1 percent elsewhere.

►A 10 percent discount on all Morale, Welfare and Recreation purchases.

►Club dues are waived during deployments.

►Access to borrow (for personal use) small quantities of daily-use china, glassware, flatware, or tables and chairs, when items aren't needed for club functions. A nominal fee will be charged for the use of club linens due to laundering costs.

►Complimentary hors d'oeuvres at First Friday and Boss & Buddy events; typical fee is \$5 for non-members.

For those wishing to cancel the card: Members with the club MasterCard should call the 1-800-number on the card and request cancellation. Members with a proprietary card can do so at the cashier's cage in the Heritage Club.



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Above from left, Jeff Lamb, element chief, and Robbie Massengale, Avionics and Instruments Flight director, discuss the Versatile Depot Automatic Test Stations that will be used for new LAIRCM work. Eventually about 15,000 square feet will be devoted to the new workload. Northrop Grumman Technical Services here was recently awarded a \$485 million contract to repair the Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures System.

Left, Michael Hunt, electronics technician, downloads information on a processor used on current workload.

## LAIRCM repairs awarded to base contractor

BY ALAN COONCE

Communications-Electronics Commodity Council program manager

The 638th Supply Chain Management Group recently awarded a five-year, \$463 million contract to Northrop Grumman Technical Services to repair the Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures System here.

The system is used on the C-5, C-17, C-130 and several other large fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

The LAIRCM system is a complex, but highly-effective missile threat detection and countermeasures system used by the Air Force, Navy, foreign allies, and several federal agencies.

Bonnie Jones, 638th Supply Chain

Management Group director, emphasized the importance of the contract.

"Without it, commanders must accept substantial risks to their personnel and equipment as well as mission accomplishment," she said. "We in the 638th are very proud of our supply chain management contributions to the military efforts overseas. We ensure reliable support is available for LAIRCM to help keep our warfighters safe and accomplish their mission."

An Integrated Process Team, headed by the Communications-Electronics Commodity Council, effectively partnered with NGTS and the 402nd Maintenance Wing Business Office to accomplish the effort. The result was a rapid deployment of the repair contract to meet growing user

needs, more workload for the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex, and a significant reduction in system life cycle costs.

Creation of a long-term contract was especially challenging because of the significant growth of the LAIRCM system.

"Interest in the LAIRCM system remains high," said Col. Shawn Shanley, LAIRCM system program manager. "Modification lines, including one at Robins, keep busy with hundreds of LAIRCM installations remaining. Such growth is a testament to the LAIRCM system's performance in the field and the excellent support provided by the men and women of Robins and the surrounding community."

For the first time, LAIRCM will now be

► see CONTRACT, 5

## Former commissary to get new occupants

BY JENNY GORDON

jenny.gordon.ctr@robins.af.mil

The C-17 Globemaster III Combined Program Office will be moving into a new home this fall.

Renovations inside the northeast corner of Bldg. 660, site of the former commissary, have been ongoing since January. The move will co-locate more than 200 C-17 personnel and include a central setting for government, Boeing and foreign military sales team members.

"The facility will accommodate 24/7 C-17 MICAP control center operations, and allow synergistic teamwork of government, industry, and FMS sustainers," said Col.



Lisa Poole and Capt. Timothy Stephens talk about Phase 1 of renovations to the old commissary.

David Morgan, C-17 Globemaster Division chief. "The entire C-17 team is very grateful for the hard work all of Team Robins provided. Their contributions will have a tremendous impact on C-17

sustainment and indirectly improve the Air Force's overall airlift capability."

The renovated workspace includes 35,000 square feet of accommodations, with room for four-person cubicles,

offices, break rooms, secure communication rooms and a command suite, all working under one umbrella.

The program office is currently located in Bldgs. 300 and 301.

Ceilings were lowered as part of the renovation, along with the removal of a few walls, and the installation of new carpet, lighting, fire alarms, HVAC systems and doors. Work inside is nearly complete.

All that remains is ordering furniture and installing cabling and office equipment.

Parking has been added and elevator access is available.

Base plans include renovating additional space in the building at a later date.

# Page Two

## Air Force welcomes new Chief of Staff

### Welsh 'humbled' to serve in new position

BY TECH. SGT. SHAWN JONES  
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

**JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. (AFNS)** – The Air Force chief of staff flag passed to the service's 20th chief in a ceremony Aug. 10. Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, a 36-year Airman, stepped into the position, taking over for Gen. Norton Schwartz, who also retired from the Air Force during the ceremony.

"Mark is respected throughout the Air Force for his exceptional leadership and ability to connect with Airmen," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley.

Raised in an Air Force family, Welsh said he found a role model in his father, a decorated combat pilot.

"Today, I think he'd be proud of me," Welsh said. "And, any day a kid can make his dad proud is a great day."

Welsh emphasized the need for Airmen to understand the importance of the other services in joint operations, but also said Airmen shouldn't underestimate the combat capabilities of their own service in winning today's fight.

"No one else can bring what



U.S. Air Force photo by SCOTT ASH  
**Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley swears in Gen. Mark A. Welsh III as the 20th Air Force Chief of Staff, assisted by Welsh's wife, Betty.**

we bring to the fight, and any real warfighter knows that," he said. "Don't ever doubt yourself or this service."

Welsh also addressed his stance on issues affecting the well-being of Airmen.

"When it comes to Airman resiliency, suicide prevention, and sexual assault prevention and response, I believe you're either part of the solution or you're part of the problem," he said. "There is no middle ground."

Welsh also said the Air Force must shape the future, and that will

require innovative thinking and different approaches to problems, along with modernization.

Welsh was nominated by the president May 10 and confirmed by the Senate Aug. 2.

In his previous position as the commander of U. S. Air Forces in Europe, he was in charge of Air Force activities in an area of operations covering nearly one-fifth of the globe.

A 1976 graduate of the Air Force Academy, Welsh has served in numerous operational, command and staff posi-

tions, such as commandant of cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy, vice commander of Air Education and Training Command and associate director for military affairs at the Central Intelligence Agency.

"When I became a squadron commander, I felt excited. When I became a wing commander, I felt proud. When I became a major command commander, I felt privileged and a little bit old," he said. "Today, when I was sworn in as chief of staff of the Air Force, I felt humbled to be given the honor of

leading its incredible Airmen."

His experience includes nearly 3,300 flying hours, most of which came in the A-10 Thunderbolt II and F-16 Fighting Falcon.

As the ceremony ushered in a new chapter in Air Force history, it also served as the final chapter for Schwartz's four years as the service's senior uniformed leader and his more than 39 years of military service.

Schwartz's career began in 1973 after graduating from the Air Force Academy. He has logged more than 4,400 flying hours and participated in military operations in Vietnam, Iraq and Cambodia.

"Anyone looking for an example of Air Force core values need look no further than Gen. Norty Schwartz," Donley said. "Thank you for your lasting contribution to our Air Force and the character and quality of your service."

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta presented Schwartz with the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, which is awarded to service members who perform exceptionally meritorious service in a position of great responsibility.

The award citation highlighted his success in restoring excellence in the Air Force nuclear mission, his efforts to partner with joint and coalition teammates in support of operations worldwide, modernizing the Air Force's air and space inventories, and care for Airmen and families. Schwartz's wife, Suzie, was also recognized for her devotion to Airmen and family support programs.

"The Air Force has afforded us an honorable and rewarding journey for the entirety of our adult lives," Schwartz said.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP  
**Judy Dienst unpacks office materials Aug. 6 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Dienst is the American Red Cross volunteer coordinator for Robins.**

## Robins Red Cross office now open for business

The Red Cross now has an office on base, and not only is it here to help, it's looking for a few good service members to volunteer.

"We're very excited for this opportunity," said LaTravius Smith, Red Cross emergency services director. "We look forward to being in the middle of the military community, where we can easily communicate the Red Cross mission and engage with service members and their family members."

She said service members can not only find out about programs they may be eligible for, but also look for opportunities to

### WHAT TO KNOW

The new office is located in Bldg. 794. For more information on volunteering or services provided, call 497-3375.

give back through volunteer service.

The new office is in the Airman and Family Readiness Center, Bldg. 794.

Initially, the Red Cross will staff the office with one volunteer on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They will evaluate the need after that and scale those hours up or down.



### Robins Air Force Base on Facebook

Check out Robins on Facebook Get regular news updates and other base information. Visit [www.robins.af.mil](http://www.robins.af.mil) and click on the Facebook link.



Positive workplace relationships enable everyone to perform at their very best

# AIR FORCE



## AF selective re-enlistment bonus list, changes

Deleted re-enlistment bonuses will take effect Saturday. Air Force officials last month released the fiscal year 2012 mid-year selective re-enlistment bonus list, along with some changes to the program.

In addition to a rebalance in overall payments, the Air Force identified 53 Air Force specialties, down from 78, to receive bonuses.

Based on the semiannual program review that began in March, officials published the latest list, which includes Airmen in special operations, explosive ordnance disposal, tactical air control, cryptological language, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, to name a few.

The Air Force also reduced overall payments across most career fields and enlistment zones, and eliminated bonuses for Zone E re-enlistees or those in the 18-20 year range.

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

## Forest Service requests more aircraft for firefighting operations

More forest fires in the western United States have prompted the U.S. Forest Service to call in two additional C-130 Hercules aircraft equipped with the Mobile Airborne Fire Fighting System.

The aircraft arrived Tuesday from the Wyoming Air National Guard's 153rd Airlift Wing in Cheyenne, Wyo., officials said.

"This has been an interesting fire season for us," said Air Force Col. Jerry Champlin, 153rd Air Expeditionary Group commander. "Our operations have waxed and waned since we were activated June 25. Our aircraft are heavily engaged, and having two additional MAFFS will definitely help."

Under the modified request for assistance, the 153rd Airlift Wing's two C-130s will join Air Force Reserve Command C-130s from the 302nd Airlift Wing operating from Boise Air Terminal in Idaho. A C-130 from the California Air National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing and another from the North Carolina Air National Guard's 145th Airlift Wing will operate from McClellan Air Tanker Base in Sacramento, Calif.

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

## N.C. ANG, Botswana Defense Force find common ground on C-130 Hercules

The C-130 Hercules is a versatile aircraft that serves several different roles, depending on need and location.

In addition to missions like transport, airdrop, airlift support, resupply and natural disaster relief, the C-130 can also be configured for aeromedical evacuation missions.

As part of the MEDLITE 12 exercise, members of



U.S. Air Force photo by NICOLE SIKORSKI

## The Airman and the Aardvark

Staff Sgt. Shon Nguyen, 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron aircraft equipment specialist, paints an Aardvark F-111 for a static display at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. This particular Aardvark F-111 flew with the 20th Fighter Wing from 1970 to 1993, deploying on 21 missions during Operation Desert Storm.

the North Carolina Air National Guard are working hand-in-hand with the Botswana Defense Force to bring the aeromedical evacuation capability to Botswana.

They're currently providing training to about 30 personnel.

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

## Program to improve IT core services achieves key milestone

An Air Force program that will save money, energy and improve core information technology

services, such as email, has recently met a significant milestone. Hardware to consolidate four regional data processing centers into one area processing center has been delivered, installed and tested at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

More than half of the Air Force Materiel Command information technology equipment housed at Robins Air Force Base, Wright-Patterson, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and other remote processing centers is past end of life, according to Laura Ervin-Cook, program manager.

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

## Service leaders weigh in on BRAC, renewable energy

Army, Navy and Air Force officials discussed renewable energy milestones, force structure changes and the impact on military and surrounding communities affected by base realignment and closure this month in Monterey, Calif.

Katherine Hammack, assistant secretary of the Army for installations, energy and environment; Roger Natsuhara, acting assistant secretary of the Navy for energy, installations and environment; and Terry Yonkers, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and logistics, took part in a roundtable discussion at an Association of Defense Communities conference.

The service officials outlined strategies to adapt to future force structure changes and reductions in supporting infrastructure at U.S. and overseas military installations without compromising the nation's defense capabilities.

To find out more, visit [www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov).

— compiled by Holly Logan-Arrington

## Good old fashioned know-how

Airman Dalvin Troublefield performs removal and installation of the tailhook damper on an F-15 Eagle while Airman Basic Jonathan Sanchez reads off step-by-step instructions at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. They are students in the 362nd Training Squadron's Fighter, A-10 Mission Ready Airmen Course.



U.S. Air Force photo by FRANK CARTER

## New AFLCMC commander outlines way ahead

BY AMY ROLLINS  
Skywriter Staff

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio** – Lt. Gen. C.D. Moore II, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center commander, shared his vision during the first of several town hall meetings Aug. 1 at the Air Force Institute of Technology.

The center – which has 26,000 employees – was created as Air Force Materiel Command consolidated the number of its centers from 12 to five.

AFLCMC provides “cradle to grave” management of Air Force aircraft, communications, armaments, cyber and other systems. Robins is one of its major operating locations.

### AFMC mission, vision and priorities

AFLCMC falls within the structure of AFMC, and the command's mission remains the same – to deliver war-winning expeditionary capabilities to the warfighter.

### Strategic plan in development stage

The plan for AFLCMC is being built around the center's draft objectives:

- Acquire innovative and supportable warfighter solutions;
- Meet urgent operational needs through rapid materiel solutions;
- Deliver cost-effective, on-time solu-



U.S. Air Force photo by NIKI JAHNS

**Lt. Gen. C.D. Moore II, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center commander, shares this goals for the organization during a town hall meeting Aug. 1 at the Air Force Institute of Technology.**

tions to U.S. and international partners;

- Implement product support, planning and governance to balance resources, priorities and mandates;
- Strengthen workforce skill base across the AFLCMC enterprise;
- Continue focus on improvement of processes and internal controls.

“The onus is on us now to determine those specific objectives and measures that are going to show us we are making progress, to do our job more effectively and efficiently,” said Moore.

### Thoughts on rules of engagement

He confided that the organization was

not perfect on day 1; there is still work to do.

“I promise you, the planning process going forward – that we used over the last year – will continue.”

Establishing the right set of enterprise-level metrics to ensure the organization is meeting MAJCOM goals and priorities and user expectations will be important, the general said.

Growing a skilled, trained workforce will also be extremely important, and staffing adjustments will be necessary.

Most communication will be conducted through directorate and functional leaders and other direct reports, with the

chain of command used for normal, day-to-day operations.

Unity will be fundamental to the new center's success.

### AFLCMC themes

He touched on the “why” of performing the AFLCMC mission.

“What we do is important,” he said. “I tell folks the reason I've been wearing the uniform for 36 years is I believe that ... What you do is so, so important for our nation, and for the warfighter. I thank you for what you do every day.”

Several slides were used to show AFLCMC's organization; a snapshot of program executive officers, other directorates and key support organizations; and a map indicating the center's various 75 locations, satellite offices, and other locations with AFLCMC representation.

### The key challenges

Key challenges Moore highlighted are: meeting mission requirements in a resource-constrained environment, with budget reductions likely; being postured to adjust to reductions; a rapidly changing world, with growing asymmetric threats; and the need to be innovative and responsive in delivery of integrated, cross-portfolio solutions.

**Editor's note: To read the full story, visit [www.wpafb.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123313592](http://www.wpafb.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123313592).**

## ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER  
Col. Mitchel Butikofer

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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.

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To report delivery issues, call 472-0802.

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# Have you requested your absentee ballot?

**BY CAPT. AMANDA RUST**  
Installation Voting Assistance Officer

There are only 81 days until Election Day on Nov. 6. Wednesday was the recommended date to send in your Federal Post Card Application in order to obtain your voting ballot on time. However, there's still time. As long as you request a ballot at least 30 days (or fewer, depending on your state) before the election, you can submit your vote using the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot.

Requesting a ballot takes less than five minutes at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). If you have questions about how to use the site, or any other voting-related questions contact your unit voting assistance officer or the

IVAO at 497-VOTE (8683), 478-327-8683), or email [robins.vote@robins.af.mil](mailto:robins.vote@robins.af.mil).

**Important Dates:**

**Sept. 27 through Oct. 4:** Absentee Voters Week.

**Oct. 6:** Recommended date for voters in Iraq, Afghanistan, ships at sea, and other locations without access to the military postal system to mail absentee ballots.

**Oct. 13:** Recommended date for voters in overseas military installations to send voted ballots in.

**Oct. 29:** Recommended date for stateside uniformed service members to mail absentee ballots.

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



## MTA Park and Ride relocates

Beginning Monday, the BiRD Park and Ride area will be relocated to the Hutchings Career Center at 2011 Riverside Drive in Macon.

The permanent move will eliminate the inconvenience and confusion for drivers and riders of the area relocating for miscellaneous reasons.

Useful landmarks for locating the Hutchings Career Center are: the traffic light at Ingleside and Riverside Dr., and the Red Lobster on Riverside Dr.

When pulling into the parking lot, look for the MTA Bus Stop sign, which will be in the upper



Courtesy photo

**The BiRD Park and Ride area is being relocated to the Hutchings Career Center at 2011 Riverside Drive in Macon.**

right hand corner of the parking lot area. There will be no change in scheduled pick up or drop off times.

If you have any questions or concerns call Jade Daniels at 478-803-2500 or email [jade@mta-mac.com](mailto:jade@mta-mac.com).

## CONTRACT

Continued from 1

supported by an innovative and long-term, enterprise scope repair contract. In the past, each of the users negotiated their own contracts, which resulted in duplication of management costs and non-standard repair costs. The new contract reduces administrative workload, enhances and stabilizes repair coverage and improves system availability. In short, the contract provides a best

value for the system's wide spectrum of customers.

Brig. Gen. Cedric George, Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex commander, said LAIRCM's importance is critical; it's proven protection against missile threats. He was especially complimentary to the IPT for their early and continuing collaboration. He emphasized that government partnership with industry provides a successful environment for both parties.

He also hailed the

contract as a powerful facilitator for further partnership growth, noting that the contract is also a giant step forward in bringing additional LAIRCM workload into the WR-ALC, and enhancing existing and developing new capabilities.

He cautioned that the work is not finished and the warfighter absolutely depends on how well the contract is executed. He exhorted the IPT to complete the work by ensuring the warfighter gets the assets he needs to accomplish the mission.



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# On the Fly

## 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)**

## CONGRATS RESERVE LT. COL PROMOTEEES

**Maurice Chen 78th Medical Group  
Carmen Pisano WR-ALC/CX  
John Woodruff WR-ALC/ CE**



## Robins youth earns seat on Teen Council

Abby Butikofer has taken her seat on the 2012 - 2014 Air Force Teen Council.



**Butikofer**

She represents military teenagers from 16 Air Force bases in the southeast, including those in Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida.

A junior at Warner Robins High School, she is the daughter of Installation Commander Col. Mitchel Butikofer and his wife, Leslie.

Abby attended Air Force Teen Council training in July in San Antonio, Texas, which included teens from the

Army and Navy.

AFTC is a network of teens who work to resolve issues and voice concerns to the highest levels of Air Force leadership on behalf of teens globally.

Its goals are to increase and improve communication between teens and Air Force leadership, cultivate an environment of teen civic leadership, increase relevancy of Air Force youth programs in teens' lives, and initiate change which will improve quality of life for youth and teens.

## Team Robins quarterly award winners

Congratulations to the following award winners:

AMN – Senior Airman Trisha Gilman, 78th ABW  
NCO – Tech. Sgt. Daniel Lee, 689th CCW  
SNCO – Senior Master Sgt. Robert Rose, 78th ABW

CGO – Capt. Gilberto Perez, 689th CCW

Civ Cat 1 – Kanita Keys, 402nd MXW

Civ Cat 2 – Julie Dearing, WR-ALC

Civ Cat 3 – Cynthia Scruggs, 402nd MXW

Civ Cat 4 – Gvester Brown, 78th ABW

Civ Cat 5 – Angela Merritt, WR-ALC

Civ Cat 6 – Tracey Vail, WR-ALC

## Et cetera

**The 4th Annual “Feds Feed Families”**

**Food Drive runs through Aug. 29.**

Feds Feed Families is a voluntary effort by federal employees to bring non-perishable food items to their offices for distribution to local food banks.

The 2012 goal for the Air Force is 348,000 pounds.

For more information, call 1st Lt. Alicia Harvey at 472-5553 or visit [www.fedsfeedfamilies.gov](http://www.fedsfeedfamilies.gov).

# Hot and cold



Eric Smith, 78th Civil Engineer Squadron HVAC shop, works on the control panel at the Fitness Center.

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

## HVAC SHOP KEEPS THINGS COMFORTABLE

BY JENNY GORDON

jenny.gordon.ctr@robins.af.mil

The next time you hear the soft humming of your workplace air conditioning system and see a local heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician emerging from a nearby maintenance room, go ahead and give him a big hug.

After all, it's the current team of 16 HVAC professionals from the 78th Civil Engineer Group who have been working nonstop since July to keep an estimated 2,000 pieces of space-comfort equipment operating in buildings across Robins. At the same time, the 78th CEG Industrial Mechanical Shop has been keeping an eye on the much larger equipment on the flight line industrial complex.

Roy Bowden, 78th CEG electronic industrial controls mechanic, keeps the daily lines of communication open among HVAC mechanics, whose daily routine is to multi-task among different buildings in order to catch up on preventative maintenance, respond to emergencies or assist others when needed.

"We stay pretty busy. If one of us takes a day off, it can take two days to catch up," said Bowden. "But everyone has done a great job of keeping up."

Their day is typically determined by work orders that come in, ranked from routine to urgent to emergency. It's the emergency and urgent work orders that must be taken care of as soon as possible in order to ensure mission success.

While out and about across base – many times working in uncomfortable, constrained conditions in very humid, hot temperatures – technicians perform such duties as changing air filters, cleaning out coils and draining lines, fixing hot water and chill valves, changing bearings and motors, and other related duties from an ever-growing list of tasks.

"There is never a day when we don't



Roy Bowden, 78th Civil Engineer Squadron HVAC shop supervisor, shows how shop employees can access a computer link to buildings to get readings in the Direct Digital Controls Room.

have something going on," added Bowden.

They also routinely inspect and replace belts inside air handlers, an important part of the HVAC system which is responsible for supplying the cold air that conditions our work spaces during Middle Georgia's hot summer months.

Maintaining chillers and boilers is another critical component of a work day. The cold and hot water these systems produce in turn cools and heats the air that regulates temperatures inside buildings. This can also be challenging, since many times there are several HVAC systems that condition a single building. Finding a happy balance of the various systems where everyone is comfortable is just another part of the job description.

Although it's been a hot summer, some may think these technicians get a break when temperatures drop a bit and cooling demand tapers off. But that's not true. While fall provides a bit of catch-up time, work immediately picks up when cold season arrives. That's when these professionals begin focusing on the heating side of HVAC.

Then, it starts all over again.



Eric Smith works on a motor and belt inside an air handler.



Far left, Ken Glover turns on an auxiliary light before working on an air handler.

Left, Barry White, works on wiring at the Fitness Center.

<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>MON</b>	<b>TUE</b>	<b>WED</b>	<b>THUR</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

OUT AND ABOUT

### ON TAP

**Robins Bowling Festival Commanders Tourney**  
Today  
1:30 p.m.  
Free  
For details, call 468-2112.

**Boss N' Buddy**  
Today  
4 to 5 p.m.  
Heritage Club  
Members free, Guests \$5  
For details, call 472-7864.

**Kings & Queens Tournament**  
Today  
6 p.m.  
Bowling Center  
\$15  
For details, call 468-2112.

**Friday Family Night**  
9 to 11 p.m.  
Bowling Center  
12 years and under \$5  
13 years and older \$10  
For details, call 468-2112.

**Customer Appreciation Open House**  
Saturday

11 a.m.  
Complimentary bowling and food  
Thunder Alley 9 to 11 p.m.; \$5 per person  
For details, call 468-2112.

**Youth League Early Registration**  
Saturday  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Bowling Center  
\$21 (includes t-shirt)  
For details, call 468-2112.

**Glow-In-The-Dark Bowling**  
Saturday nights  
9 to 11 p.m.  
Bowling Center  
\$10 per person  
For details, call 468-2112.

**Bundles for Babies & Passport to Parenthood**  
Tuesday  
8 a.m. to noon  
Bldg. 794  
Call 327-9398 to sign up  
For details, call 468-1256.

**Bowling Coaches meeting**  
Tuesday  
1 p.m.  
HAWC Classroom

Fitness Center  
For details, call 468-2128.

**Right Start**  
Wednesday  
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Bldg. 794  
For details, call 468-1256.

**Back to School Big Bingo**  
Wednesday  
For details, call 468-4515.

**Navigating USAJobs**  
Thursday  
9 to 10 a.m.  
Bldg. 794  
For details, call 468-1256.

**Pre-Separation Briefings**  
Thursday – Separatees  
Aug. 30 – Retirees  
12:30 to 4 p.m.  
Bldg 794  
For details, call 468-1256.

**UPCOMING**  
**Ga. State Special Olympics**  
Aug. 24 - 26  
For details, call 468-2112.

## U.S. Marine Corps Marine Aircraft Group 49 (Detachment A) and HMLA 773 Women's Equality 5K Fun Run



**When: Aug. 24**

**Registration starts at 7:30 a.m.**

**Opening remarks by**

**Col. Patricia Ross, 78th Air Base Wing vice commander  
at 8 a.m.**

**Race starts at 8:15 a.m.**

**Where: Parking lot across from the HAWC Bldg. 827**

**Why: In observance of Women's Equality Month**

**Open to all branches of service, all family members,  
and all federal employees on base.**

**Prizes will be awarded to  
the top finishers in each age group.**

**For more information,  
call Gunnery Sgt. Jason Colburn at 472-5444**



### Beef & Chicken Shish Kabob Dinner

**Aug. 24 • 6 - 8 p.m.**

**\$15.95 AGF members**

**\$17.95 guests**

Combination of beef & chicken w/green peppers, onions, mushrooms & tomatoes, citrus rice, tossed salad, glass of wine with tea, water or soda and to finish the evening, peach cobbler.

# DMAA: safe supplement or disasterous drug

BY WHITNEY WALLACE  
78th Medical Group

A rapidly beating heart, a failing liver, crashing kidneys, followed by seizures and a loss of consciousness ending in an untimely death, are just a few side effects associated with the supposed dietary supplement commonly known as DMAA.

The pharmaceutical amphetamine derivative 1,3-dimethylamylamine was initially used as a nasal decongestant in 1948 by Eli Lilly & Co., but was deemed dangerous and discontinued in the 70s.

However, it's once again on market shelves, selling as a fat burner with names such as Jack3d and Oxyelite Pro.

Given the high demands of military physical training and fitness, many service members may look to dietary supplements for increased endurance and stamina. The stimulant gives its users an extra boost of energy during workouts; however, at a great cost.

The substance may narrow blood vessels, which can increase blood



pressure and lead to shortness of breath, tightening in the chest, or even heart attack.

In 2011, the deaths of two soldiers during fitness exercises who were found to have DMAA in their blood supply sparked military attention leading to DMAA's ban in all military exchanges, commissaries, and stores.

Much debate exists as to whether or not the substance is actually a dietary supplement or a drug that must be regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Canada, as well as some sport organizations, such as the World Anti-Doping Authority, which regulates the use of drugs by Olympic athletes, have listed DMAA as a banned stimulant. As of May 7, the FDA has asked 10 manufacturers to provide safety information on the substance. Supporters

claim DMAA can be found in Asian geranium and has been used in food for more than a century. However, the DoD will continue researching its safety. Although it has declined to provide much detail about research in order to protect the results of the study.

The research should be complete by fall.

Meanwhile, consumers are being alerted to the possible ill effects of DMAA, and are advised to closely follow the directions if they use DMAA products.

The fate of DMAA remains uncertain; however, the military seeks to ensure the well-being of its members by continuing to research the safety of the substance and informing its members of potential health risks.

For more information, call the base Public Health Office at 327-8019.

## Get Your Tickets Now!



U.S. AIR FORCE

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**Sept. 15, 2012 6 - 11 p.m.**

**ROBINS AFB MUSEUM OF AVIATION  
CENTURY OF FLIGHT HANGAR**

*Keynote speaker: Lt. Gen. Andrew Busch*

**ENTERTAINMENT: THE BAND OF THE AIR FORCE RESERVE**

### Ticket Sales

Category (1) \$10 E1 - E4/ GS 9 Below	Category (2) \$20 E5 - E7/ 01- 04/ GS 10 - 13	Category (3) \$30 E8 - E9/ o5 Above
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For tickets, call Ryan Prosperie at 478-951-5000 or for more info visit [robins.af.mil](http://robins.af.mil)

### Give Parents a Break Night

Free childcare will be provided for children ages six weeks to 12 years old. For children ages five to 12 years old, contact Mandie Holovach at 327-6833; for those six weeks to 4 years, call CDC East at 926-5805.

## Text neck? Here's the cure

BY BELINDA BROWN  
WR-ALC Ergonomics  
Program manager

How much time do you spend looking down at your phone to compose and send a text message?

Is your game controller in your lap? Is your computer monitor in the correct position? Do you suffer from "text neck?"

If you have not heard the term before, it's another name for "forward head posture."

Text neck is caused by the neck being fixed forward for a prolonged period of time. Sufferers

are increasing as the use of smart phones and tablet computers become more popular.

What can you do to reduce the strain of text neck? Perform a self-assessment of your daily activities and work area, use proper posture and avoid static positions, such as sitting at your computer or work area for an extended period of

time.

If using a mobile electronic device, position it at eye level during use and replace texting with an actual phone call every so often. Most important, get up and move throughout the day.

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex Ergonomics Program is here to help reduce the

risk of text neck.

Workplace assessments are conducted in offices as well as production areas.

To learn more or to request an ergonomic assessment, email [402mxw.ergonomics@robins.af.mil](mailto:402mxw.ergonomics@robins.af.mil) or call the 78th Bioenvironmental Engineering Office at 497-7546.