



## Keeping things straight

Page 2

## Special Olympics at Robins

Page 6



## OFFICE SPACE ... outside

Page 8

# ROBINS REV-UP

August 24, 2012 Vol. 57 No.34

## Litchfield: AFSC will work to become cost-effective

**TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, OKLA.** – Despite “budget confusion” in the Department of Defense, the new Air Force Sustainment Center is determined to “provide readiness at less cost,” Lt. Gen. Bruce Litchfield, the AFSC commander, vowed Aug. 14.

“We’re going to be cost-effective and provide our nation the capability it needs.” The general made that pledge to 431 contractors, subcontractors, and small-business owners who attended the annual “Tinker and the Primes” conference held in the Reed Center in Midwest City.

Robins is part of the Air Force Sustainment Center, which is headquartered at Tinker and includes Hill Air Force Base in Utah and a wing at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

AFSC is a \$16 billion operation with 32,000 personnel, Litchfield said.

“I promised mission-ready weapons systems at reduced cost (when I assumed command of AFSC),” the general said. “We’re in uncertain times and don’t know where the bottom of the budget is. But we’re not waiting around to find out.”

Two factors are exerting pressure on the DoD today, he said.

One is the war in Afghanistan. The other factor is budget ambiguity.

“Our final budget for fiscal 2013 is not anticipated for at least six months,” he added.

Looming over everything is the threat of sequestration: \$1.2 trillion in across-the-board federal government budget cuts over a 10-year period, divided equally between security and non-security programs. Unless Congress agrees to an alternative proposal, it’s scheduled to go into effect Jan. 2. Sequestration would



U.S. Air Force photos by MARGO WRIGHT

Lt. Gen. Bruce Litchfield, Air Force Sustainment Center commander, speaks to a crowd of business representatives from across the country Tuesday during the annual Tinker and the Primes event at the Midwest City Reed Center.

**“Some of the weapons systems we’re supporting are 50 years old and will be around for another 30 years. So, we’re familiar with them.”**

Lt. Gen. Bruce Litchfield  
Air Force Sustainment Center commander

carve \$600 billion from the DoD over a decade, on top of the \$480 billion in reductions already mandated. Even if sequestration doesn’t happen, one could anticipate “something between zero and \$600 billion” in additional budget reductions, he added.

Regardless of what Congress does, “We have to be ready ... prepared for the future,” he said.

The general acknowledged the critical partnership between the military and private sector, but challenged contractors, too.

“Some of the weapons systems we’re supporting are 50 years old and will be around for another 30 years,” he said. “So, we’re familiar with them.”

Acquisition and production lead time is “way too long for some of these systems,” he added.

The general also spoke about repair parts.

“Counterfeit parts manufactured by unscrupulous contractors must stop,” he said. “They put lives in danger.”

Quality “has to be a premium,” he said.

## New shift schedule set for AMXG

BY JENNY GORDON  
jenny.gordon.ctr@robins.af.mil

Beginning Monday, the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group will implement the 3rd phase of change to a 7 a.m. duty day start time. This is the final phase of shift transitions which have occurred over the last several months.

The change will better accommodate employees with

special hardship needs, as well as balance work mission requirements and improve economy of operations.

AMXG leadership is coordinating efforts to align gate guards at installation entry points, as well as to maintain access to and availability of meals at satellite cafeterias.

AMXG Employees should contact their supervisor if they have questions or concerns.



U.S. Air Force file photo by SUE SAPP

Robins firefighters respond during an Operational Readiness Inspection exercise.

## Operational changes will not affect fire emergency service

Planned operational changes in Robins’ Fire Emergency Services will not affect the division’s ability to respond to emergencies.

The changes will also not alter other services the division provides, said Forest Johnson, Robins’ Fire Chief.

In addition to maintaining three fire stations, the services the division provides include conducting fire safety training for employees and residents, reviewing plans for new construction, and performing more than 500 inspections a year of buildings and other facilities on base.

On Sunday, Robins’ FES will begin using a concept of operations that has been in place at almost all Air Force bases since 2007. That concept allows for lower numbers of workers required on duty, which provides units greater

flexibility to better manage their personnel.

Johnson said the changes do not mean the FES here will automatically schedule fewer workers on a shift; it simply will allow Robins’ FES more flexibility to make adjustments when employees are absent or away from the job for other unforeseen reasons.

“Our objective has always been and will remain to have the right number of trained personnel available for safe and effective operations,” he said.

Johnson went on to say that while Robins’ FES “responded to 712 fire and emergency-related events in 2011, and exceeded the Air Force goal for response times on all types of emergencies” he expects his team “to once again exceed that (response time) goal.”

### NEWS

#### YOU CAN USE

##### Hannah Road closure

Hannah Road will be closed, beginning Sunday, 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.

##### Active Duty flu shots available

The 78th Medical Group Immunization Clinic in Bldg. 700 has flu vaccines available for active duty members.

The deadline for active duty members to receive the vaccine is Oct. 1.

Expectant mothers should consult with their physicians prior to receiving their vaccination.

Vaccinations are available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the first and third Thursday of the month from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

For more, call 497-7921.

## Military Mentoring Programs

BY JENNY GORDON  
jenny.gordon.ctr@robins.af.mil

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to help every child reach his or her potential through one-on-one relationships with mentors. This is done through community and school-based programs throughout the country.

One of the organization’s newest initiatives is a military mentoring program which seeks to identify children with a military connection – whether active duty, Reserve or National Guard – and pair them with an adult mentor. The program will focus on children between the ages of nine through 15 and have one or both parents in the military.

“We are actively looking for military children to participate in this program in Houston County,” said Patti Conley, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Heart of Georgia director of program services.



U.S. Air Force file photo by SUE SAPP

Anna Recendez, a student at Lindsey Elementary, spends time with her mentor Rena Laster at a Raising Educational Achievement for Children (REACH) program picnic at Robins. Mentors visit their students at school once per week and spend an hour helping them with their studies. People interested in becoming a mentor should contact Lesley Darley, Robins’ School Liaison, at 497-7692.

“I definitely think there’s a need for this. We want to get the word out to parents that this is available to their child,” added Lesley Darley, Robins’ School Liaison.

Although BBBS seeks to

and adjusting well in school. Every child can participate.

This newest program of BBBS realizes the unique challenges experienced by military kids when faced with parent deployments, separations, frequent relocations, and more. The base Youth Center will serve as a community site where mentors and children can meet after school hours.

Another BBBS program, REACH, or Raising Education Achievement for Children in Houston County, has enjoyed success from mentors at Robins since 1997. In what began with one school and a handful of volunteers from the contracting division, has turned into a partnership with six schools that enjoy mentors actively visiting students. They include Linwood, Lindsey, Pearl Stephens, Parkwood and Westside elementary schools, and Huntington Middle School in Warner Robins.

nurture children who may be struggling at school or home, and who need extra attention with academic or social issues, the military mentoring program welcomes children who are even maintaining straight ‘A’s

► see REACH, 8

# Page Two

## ERGO KEEPS COMPLEX WORKERS STRAIGHT

BY JENNY GORDON

jenny.gordon.ctr@robins.af.mil

Helping workers to better understand how they perform their daily tasks is one role of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex's Ergonomic Program.

But, improving overall quality of life in the workplace could be its most direct and lasting benefit.

"Ergonomics is about making the work fit the individual," said Eric Fowler, ergonomic technician. "A lot of times what we do – whether working at a desk or on an aircraft – is position ourselves to the work. Our goal whether we're doing an office or an industrial assessment, is to get workers in the right position to eliminate or reduce any type of health issues or ergonomic risk."

A small and busy team of ergonomic professionals perform daily workplace assessments in about 147 office buildings and industrial shops in the complex – representing more than 8,400 people.

Their ultimate goal is to find solutions to assist employees, whether they sit at a desk, lay on their backs under an airplane part, or repeatedly stand and sit in a maintenance shop.

When a technician visits an office site, an assessment can take about 20 minutes of observation. Techs look for such things as seating, keyboard and mouse positioning, how workers view a document (if it's laying flat on a table, etc.), and take into account risks associat-



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

**Denzel Montgomery, talks with Sally Watts, C-130 sheet metal mechanic, about the use of a sit stand, which allows workers to stand but relieves pressure from the back and legs.**

ed with the work performed.

There have been many success stories over the years which have eliminated ergonomic risk in various shops. In the C-5 Tire Shop, for example, back injuries years ago had been associated with the lifting of heavy tires.

The use of a lifting device has now greatly reduced any associated risks to injury.

It takes a lot of coordination and communication among mechanics, supervisors, safety personnel, engineers and others to understand and problem



solve before a final solution is made, which involves understanding workplace processes.

The Ergonomic Program team recently had an opportunity to showcase what they do, as Brig. Gen. Cedric George,

complex commander, visited the F-15 Canopy Shop Aug. 17.

Mechanics demonstrated the use of a unique project that was installed just two weeks ago.

A prototype of an air water system was designed using a dental syringe with the help of Staff Sgt. Jason Stobaugh, a biomedical equipment technician in the 78th Medical Group.

The end product has been met with much fanfare in the way work is conducted. It's already made a difference in the shop's work processes.

In the past, a worker would fill up a spray bottle – which in itself took time as these are repeatedly

used throughout a work day – and spray the aircraft canopy as it was being sanded and buffed.

A new Pumpless Air Water System, the first of three to be installed in the shop, has helped to alleviate repetitive motion from squeezing the bottle trigger, and saved time and several other steps. Materials such as cloth wipes will also be eliminated since the new system, which resembles what a dentist uses in an office, includes an air dry hose.

"It's amazing that you can come up with an idea, and the ergonomic folks run with it," said Michael Daley, F-15 Canopy Shop sheet metal mechanic. "We come up with ideas, tell them, and now we

have what we need. I feel good knowing as a mechanic that there are people who care about the way we do our jobs."

"We identified an ergonomic risk – and we realized that the application would work," said Fowler. "It's important for us to find a solution – and get it to the workers as quickly as possible," said Fowler.

The shop, like many others across the complex, has also been assisted through the years with such helpful tools as ergonomic chairs, step-stands, a ZeroG mechanical arm to maneuver tools and parts, and more.

This has been a success story for all involved, and just shows how working a simple idea can lead to a well-designed system. But the work must continue until the next great invention.

So far this year, ergonomic staff members have performed 635 assessments throughout the complex. They have a long waiting list of more to do.

Workplace assessments are conducted on a regular basis throughout the complex in offices and production areas.

"We hear feedback all the time on the difference we're making just by educating workers on simple adjustments," said Belinda Brown, ergonomic program manager.

### What to Know

To learn more about ergonomics or to request an ergonomic assessment, email [402mxw.ergonomics@robins.af.mil](mailto:402mxw.ergonomics@robins.af.mil).

# AIR FORCE



## Air National Guard helicopter crews join California wildfire fight

Air National Guardsmen from the 129th Rescue Wing have been demonstrating their dynamic life-saving capabilities by fighting fires in California since Aug. 12.

Two HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters and aircrews are battling the Jawbone Complex Fire in Kern County, outside Bakersfield in Southern California. The aircrews are currently based out of the Tehachapi Municipal Airport in Tehachapi, Calif.

In the first three days of fighting the Jawbone Complex Fire, 129th aircrews had performed more than 120 bucket drops for a total of 58,000 gallons of water dropped. Each bucket drop is about 500 gallons.

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

## Herky bird war hero

Those who drive past Linear Air Park at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, drive by a decorated combat veteran – a C-130A to be exact.

This Herky bird's story starts Dec. 19, 1956, when Registration No. 55-0023 was assigned to the 463rd Troop Carrier Wing at Ardmore Air Force Base, Okla.

"This was the first production C-130 ever delivered to the Air Force, but it was actually available for duty Sept. 13, 1956," said Richard "Doc" Warner, Dyess Air Force Base and Linear Air Park curator.

The distinction of being the first C-130 is notable; however, it's a medal that hangs just outside the cockpit entryway that denotes a certain crewmember's respect and admiration for the aircraft.

With the Vietnam conflict in full swing in the 1960s, the Vietcong regularly used the Ho Chi Minh Trail to move personnel and vital supplies, under the cover of darkness, from Laos into South Vietnam.

The ability to stop or significantly disrupt these war supplies from reaching South Vietnam was a top priority for the United States.

To find out more, visit [www.acc.af.mil](http://www.acc.af.mil).

## SecAF shares AF, DoD energy goals at summit

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley presented a keynote address on the Department of Defense's energy initiatives at the 2012 National Clean Energy Summit in early August.

The fifth annual summit gathered leaders from government, business, non-profit organizations and academia to discuss the transformation of the nation's energy infrastructure and economy. Each year, the collaboration helps influence the develop-



U.S. Air Force photo by AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DANIEL HUGHES

## Cut it out

Senior Airman Andrew Higginbotham uses a concrete saw to cut out a piece of curb during the construction of a parking lot Aug. 15, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The parking lot will be a general parking lot for work centers around the area. Higginbotham is a 99th Civil Engineer Squadron heavy equipment and pavements journeyman.

ment of new national energy policies and efforts toward building a cleaner energy economy.

"When we ask our service members to step, sail or fly into harm's way, we have a duty to provide the tools and the resources they need for successful operations," said Donley. "Having assured access to reliable supplies of energy, and the ability to protect and deliver sufficient energy to meet mis-

sion essential requirements, is critical." For further details, visit [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

## AFPC officials streamline PCS orders process

Air Force Personnel Center officials at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas have centralized how Permanent Change of Station orders are processed, validated and authenticated.

Since Oct. 2011, the Total Force Service Center-San Antonio has been managing the PCS orders process and has authenticated more than 82,000 orders and 19,000 amendments. Before October, the PCS orders and authentication program was managed by base-level military personnel sections and force support squadrons.

"We centralized the PCS orders process because it saved money for the Air Force," said Master Sgt. Melissa Ross, TFSC-SA assignments section manager. "By managing the process here, we are able to catch a lot of mistakes that base-level MPSs weren't catching. We are also saving man hours as well because we don't have to do as many amendments to correct entitlement mistakes on PCS orders."

Today, MPSs approve PCS orders while TFSC-SA representatives validate and authenticate them. The entire process now takes two to three days and Airmen are getting their PCS orders about 120 days before their projected departure dates, which is 30 days faster than when the process was managed at base-level MPSs. The TFSC-SA is also taking on these additional responsibilities with no additional manpower or funding.

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

— compiled by Holly Logan-Arrington

## Air Force Week

A member of the Air Force Drill Team walks through twirling rifles during a performance at Air Force Week 2012 in New York City. The opening ceremony Aug. 19 at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum marked the start of Air Force Week – three days of events aimed at showcasing the Air Force's to a large, influential audience.



U.S. Air Force photo by SENIOR AIRMAN ANDREW LEE



U.S. Air Force photos by VAL GEMPIS

Above, Staff Sgt. Caleb Gibson uses patient simulator equipment to check monitors. Gibson is a biomedical equipment technician assigned to the Medical Logistics Flight of the 779th Medical Support Squadron.

Below, Staff Sgt. Erick Bartels, also a biomedical equipment technician, uses an infusion pump to check the flow of liquid in IV bag lines.



## Behind-the-scenes look at saving lives

BY VAL GEMPIS

Air Force News Service

**JOINT BASE ANDREWS-NAVAL AIR FACILITY WASHINGTON, Md. (AFNS)** – It was his first deployment to Afghanistan, and to make matters worse, he was assigned to one of the busiest trauma centers in the region.

Staff Sgt. Caleb Gibson felt a sense of shock, pride and satisfaction as he watched U.S. military medical personnel treat wounded troops.

"It was shocking to see the extent of injuries in there. But at the same time, I felt pride and satisfaction because the medical equipment that was helping these people stay alive belonged to me," Gibson said.

Gibson is a biomedical equipment technician assigned to the Medical Logistics Flight of the 779th Medical Support Squadron at Joint Base Andrews, Md. The unit's mission is to equip and provide medical forces for Air and Space Expeditionary Force deployments and homeland operations. They also support

aeromedical evacuation aircraft returning sick or wounded patients from Southwest Asia to the U.S.

An integral part of their operation is to ensure Patient Movement Items are working properly.

Those include ventilators, defibrillators, respirators, monitors and oxygen analyzers. The items are maintained by a team of Airmen and civilians at a warehouse at Andrews.

Gibson said his time in Afghanistan made him realize just how important his job is.

At his home unit, PMI equipment can sit on shelves for weeks or months until needed. At Bagram Air Base, its used daily. "Seeing it used on our troops was tough, but it really hit home that you're making a difference. It gives you a different perspective when you see blood on them," he added.

"Our job is to provide the best possible healthcare to our warriors. They've done their part for our country; it's our turn to provide lifesaving care and get them home as soon as possible," said Maj. James

Camilleri, 779th MLF commander.

He said the equipment is vital to sustaining the increasing high survivability rates of wounded service members once they reach the Theatre Aeromedical Evacuation System.

The Air Force maintains and trains its own biomedical equipment repair technicians.

The Airmen here service and maintain about 2,000 pieces of PMI equipment worth more than \$19 million.

They also handle about 200 pieces monthly returned from Southwest Asia.

Staff Sgt. Erick Bartels is also a biomedical equipment technician who has deployed to Kuwait and Iraq and added that there's no room for error when maintaining this equipment. "They have to be precise. A drug delivery machine that's not calibrated correctly can kill someone," he added.

Editor's note:

To read the full story, visit [www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123314729](http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123314729)

## ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER  
Col. Mitchel Butikofer

## HOW TO CONTACT US

Robins Public Affairs  
620 Ninth Street, Bldg. 905  
Robins AFB, GA 31098  
468-2137  
Fax 468-9597

## 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.

The Robins Rev-Up is published by The Telegraph, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Robins Air

Force Base, Ga.

This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Robins Rev-Up are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, or Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force, or The Telegraph.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical or mental handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

## EDITORIAL STAFF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR  
**Rick Brewer**

INTERNAL INFORMATION CHIEF  
**Geoff Janes**

EDITOR  
**Lanorris Askew**

STAFF WRITERS  
**Jenny Gordon**  
**Holly Logan-Arrington**

PHOTOGRAPHER  
**Sue Sapp**

# On the Fly

## Outdoor fitness track closes for resurfacing

The outdoor track will be closed Sept. 3 for 30 days. Lanes one and two have indentions which pose a safety hazard and will be repaired during that time.

The track and infield will not be available for fitness assessments or sporting events. Signs will be posted at the Fitness Center detailing a temporary 1.5 mile route around the old housing area. This route is approved for official Air Force fitness assessments and will be the route for official testing while the track is being repaired.



## Microsoft Office 2010 coming to all base computers

To comply with Air Force directives, the 78th Air Base Wing Communications Squadron is preparing to deploy Microsoft Office 2010 (Word, Outlook, Excel, etc.), starting Monday. It will which replace Microsoft Office 2007.

The base Education and Training Flight is equipped to provide training in Microsoft Office 2010, if needed. To schedule a class, please contact your unit training manager.

Employees can also become acquainted with Office 2010 by clicking the “Blue Star” on the computer desktop, scrolling down to “Office 2010 Training”, clicking on the “Interactive Training” folder, and selecting a link to view the training videos.

For further assistance, contact the Help Desk at 468-4357 (HELP).

## Prop shop picks up FOD award

The Propeller Build-Up Shop, part of the 572nd Commodities Maintenance Squadron’s A Flight, was recognized Monday with the 402nd Maintenance Wing’s Foreign Object Damage Prevention Award for the third quarter of 2012.

The shop performs many important functions in support of the legacy Air Force and Navy C-130 fleets. Technicians perform final assembly, static balance and hydraulic testing of the C-130 propeller, the last steps before the freshly-overhauled propellers are returned to the war fighter. They also perform intermediate level repair of C-130 propellers and controls in support of C-130s undergoing programmed depot maintenance, including overhauling and repairing other vital C-130 propeller components such as the deicer, bulkhead, and low-pitch stops.

The FOD prevention award is not new to the flight, with shops within the flight having won the award three of the last four quarters.



**The Special Olympics Georgia Masters Bowling Tournament** will begin with an opening ceremony and torch lighting today at 7:30 p.m. at the Galleria Conference Center in Centerville.

The games will run Friday until Sunday at the Robins Bowling Center.

More than 1,000 athletes, coaches and families from across the state, as well as local mayors, council members, Robins senior leaders and other dignitaries will be in attendance.

**The 4th Annual “Feds Feed Families” Food Drive runs through Wednesday.**

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).

**The Munitions Operations Office will be closed Sept. 10 through 14** for a semi-annual inventory of the munitions stockpile.

Only emergency issue requests, submitted in writing and approved by a group commander, will be accepted during this time.

## Et cetera

**To have a leave recipient listed here**, email Lanorris Askew at [lanor-](mailto:lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil)

[ris.askew@robins.af.mil](mailto:ris.askew@robins.af.mil). Submissions will run for two weeks.

To assist in **reducing alcohol-related incidents**, the 78th Force Support Squadron is offering a designated driver program at the Heritage Club and Pizza Depot.

For groups of two or more, designated drivers will receive free fountain soft drinks, fruit juices or non-alcoholic frozen drinks.

To learn more, call 468-2670.

Also, Airmen Against Drunk Driving provides rides free of charge to any Robins DoD ID Card holder. Coverage is from Perry to Macon.

For a free, anonymous ride, call 472-0013.

### 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)**



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

# OFFICE SPACE

## 51st Combat Communications Squadron showcases capabilities

BY JENNY GORDON  
jenny.gordon.ctr@robins.af.mil

Members of the 51st Combat Communications Squadron have deployed just a few feet outside their normal work space in Bldg. 963.

While the first floor of the building undergoes HVAC renovations during the next several months, the squadron of about 150 personnel will work in temporary work centers.

The squadron, which falls under the 5th Combat Communications Group, is trained to respond at a moment's notice to not only any military tasking in the world but natural disasters and other contingencies around the globe.

Just like they do when deployed, they were up and running air, power and more in no time.

Three small Alaskan tents were set up in less than two days at the rear of the building, where personnel were working to establish satellite communications and other systems. Getting the tents set up even allowed many Airmen to utilize their skills for the first time, and experience what it may be like in a combat-ready environment.

"This is a mini deployment for some of them," said Master Sgt. Olivia Samuels, Cyber Networks Flight chief.



Main photo, L-R, Senior Airmen John Adams, Kevin Summers and Egan Dales work with a multiband terminal set up in a tent behind Bldg. 963. Above, The 51st Combat Communications Squadron has set up temporary work centers in and around Bldg. 963, including three tents with A/C, generators, etc.

Office furniture was moved out from first floor rooms and into a bay area, and network and phones were extended via cables into the tents. Subflooring was also installed, using pallets from the nearby commissary.

"It is a unique experience because you have everything in place to create a small city," said Tech Sgt. Jay Pirnie, 51st CBCS radio frequency transmission systems supervisor. "But when you do it four feet from your own door, it makes things pretty interesting."

The temporary move has also

allowed the squadron, spread out inside the nearby building, to be closer together and see comrades on a more regular basis. While the surroundings may be a bit different, work continues as it would inside.

"The biggest thing was to move out of the office so that the renovations could occur," continued Pirnie. "With that we lost a lot of real estate; however, with all of this in the tents now, it has increased the amount of tenacity that we've got to do to move satellite dishes out of the bay and continue our training."



Senior Airmen Lecola Mungo and John Adams set up an antenna.



Senior Airman Cody Scarborough, back, fixes a cable, while Airman 1st Class Charles Haas works with equipment management systems in a tent behind Bldg. 963.

## REACH

Continued from 1

REACH is a school-based program where volunteers are matched with children from one of these schools, they meet at the schools once a week for 45 minutes. Mentors can spend time talking with a child, reading, helping him or her with academics, and simply getting to know one another.

Volunteers are asked to make a one-year commitment to the program.

Conley, who has worked with BBBS for 16 years, has seen children blossom when paired with a caring mentor.

"It's amazing," she said. "I have teachers who stop me in the hallway and tell me the dif-



U.S. Air Force file photo by SUE SAPP Trinity Walker, a student at Parkwood Elementary, and her mentor Chinita Webb smile for the camera.

ference it has made with a child in a matter of weeks."

Surveys from children, mentors, teachers and parents show that participation in the program has increased students' self-confidence, trust in teachers and adults, and resulted in higher grades and a more

positive attitude at school.

"We find that a lot more of the children stay in school longer, and that teenage pregnancy is delayed, for example. There are just a lot of good outcomes," she said.

There is now excused absence for tutorial education and mentoring for Robins workers. Employees can be granted 45 minutes of excused absence to participate in mentoring, to be used in conjunction with their lunch period.

For questions about enrolling your child in the military mentoring program or to become a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters, contact Darley at 327-7692 or email lesley.darley@robins.af.mil.

## BEFORE THE RUN

- Warm up before and stretch after running*
- Remove headphones when crossing the street*
- Wear loose, light colored clothing and proper shoes*
- Know your limits. Start with a short run and build on it over time*
- Stay hydrated and avoid drinks with high sugar concentrations*
- Run when it's cooler whenever possible; heat is an issue even if you're not in direct sun*

## Out of the Blue: Prosecuting Sexual Assault

*(Editor's note: The following was adapted from an article at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil) by Col. Don Christensen, chief of the Air Force's Government Trial and Appellate Counsel).*

Most sexual assaults committed by Airmen are "blue on blue," or Airmen victimizing other Airmen.

These undisciplined Airmen reject the Wingman concept we prize in the Air Force. They also represent a direct threat to unit morale, good order and discipline, and degrade combat readiness.

However, with the combined efforts of commanders, law enforcement personnel, and our team of prosecutors, they will be held accountable.

We recently posted significant

Air Force sexual assault prosecutions at [www.afjag.af.mil/sexualassaultprosecution/index.asp](http://www.afjag.af.mil/sexualassaultprosecution/index.asp). A quick review of this list shows we prosecute sexual offenders anywhere they're found. From reviewing the cases, you can also see sexual assault in the Air Force carries substantial penalties.

Our team of prosecutors is better than any you will see in the civilian community or on TV. I have 17 highly-skilled senior trial prosecutors, selected from among hundreds of judge advocates for their top notch trial skills. Seven of my senior trial prosecutors have been identified as "Special Victim Unit" prosecutors, due to their training and experience in combating sexual assault. They

are dedicated to bringing justice to victims of sexual assault and ensuring commanders are able to appropriately hold offenders accountable.

In the typical case we prosecute, the accused Airman exploits his victim's intoxicated state to commit the sexual assault. Prosecuting this kind of case is one of our core specialties.

The Air Force has done a great job training Airmen about respecting and not sexually abusing their fellow Airmen. Training can reach many Airmen who might be tempted to commit this crime.

For those not persuaded by training, my team – the Senior Trial Prosecutors/Special Victims Unit – stands at the ready to vindicate the victims.



**U.S. AIR FORCE**  
**EagleEyes**  
 WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.

**DON'T BE DIM**

save \$ with energy efficient light bulbs

**BEFORE THE SWIM**

- Always swim with a wingman**
- Avoid drinking alcohol before or during any water activity**
- Select swimming sites that have on-duty lifeguards**
- Do not use air-filled or foam toys in place of personal flotation devices; they are not designed to keep swimmers safe**
- Supervise children**
- Learn CPR**

**During the 101 Critical Days of Summer Have fun, be safe!**

# Knowing where to request records saves time, money

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas** – In an effort to save time and money, the master personnel records branch staff at the Air Force Personnel Center wants retirees and former Airmen to know the correct procedures for requesting medical and personnel record information.

“Knowing the correct procedures can not only cut down on the requestor’s wait time, it can also cut the routing time and our workload,” said Capt. Darren James, branch operations officer.

For Airmen who retired on or after Oct. 1, 2004, they can request copies of records such as a DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), performance reports and other information by writing to AFPC/DPSIRP, 550 C St. West, Suite 19, Randolph AFB TX, 78150; faxing 210-565-4021; or visiting the eBenefits website at [www.eBenefits.va.gov](http://www.eBenefits.va.gov).

People requesting their own records need to send a completed Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records, or a letter that includes their name, full Social Security number, contact information, specific record requested, and a signature. People requesting a deceased relative’s record need to provide the above information, plus their relationship to the former Airman so next-of-kin relationship can be verified. Proof of death must also be furnished.

Veterans who retired before Oct. 1, 2004 must visit the National Personnel Records Center website at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/> for record request instructions. People requesting the record of a deceased relative who retired before Oct. 1, 2004 may now use the NPRC website to order a copy of the military records.

Regardless of the request procedures used, processing can take time. Response time for records requests sent to NPRC varies and depends upon records availability and workload. NPRC receives approximately 4,000 to 5,000 requests per day. Officials at NPRC ask that people do not send a follow-up request before 90 days have elapsed as it may cause further delays.

Veterans who retired after Oct. 1, 2004 can access certain records online by registering for a premium account on [www.eBenefits.va.gov](http://www.eBenefits.va.gov). Click the register button at the top of the home page and follow the instructions provided to obtain a premium account. The website is managed by Veterans Affairs and may not be inclusive for all retirees.

“Requests processed through AFPC normally take 5 to 10 business days however, manning cuts across the Air Force have made it challenging for us to provide timely customer service to our veterans; so we are using technology to our benefit,” said James. “There are definitely time and money savings associated when veterans access their records through the eBenefits website. The immediate savings we’ve seen by using eBenefits cuts the processing time tremendously from the current 5 to 10 business days to 24 to 48 hours.”

Medical and dental records for all Airmen who retired before May 1994 are stored permanently at NPRC (see link above). Medical and dental records for Airmen who retired or separated after May 1994 are maintained by the Veterans Administration Service Medical Records Center at 888-533-4558.

**For more information on records requests, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.**



## HYT changes take effect in 2013

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - RANDOLPH, Texas** – High year of tenure changes announced in December will go into effect in September 2013, according to Air Force Personnel Center officials.

Changes affect senior airmen, staff sergeants and technical sergeants, said Lt. Col. Tara White, AFPC retirements and separations chief, explaining that HYT refers to the maximum number of years enlisted Airmen in each grade may remain on active duty.

In 2003, HYT was adjusted upward to retain experienced Airmen during a robust economic era.

In 2010, the Air Force began the process to normalize HYT, reducing senior airman, technical sergeant, master sergeant and senior master sergeant levels. In December 2011, the Air Force announced that HYT would continue to be adjusted in 2013.

Beginning in 2013, high year of tenure limits for senior airman will be reduced from 10 years to eight years; staff sergeant from 20 years to 15 years; and technical sergeant from 22 years to 20 years.

As a result of HYT, AFPC cancelled some assignments (see story) but those cancellations have no effect on promotion eligibility, White said. Airmen who are otherwise eligible to test for promotion will be able to test during the next cycle.

Although Airmen affected may be selected for promotion before they reach HYT, assignments are selected in most cases between 15 and 18 months in advance, and Airmen must have retain-

ability at the time of selection to ensure a last-minute assignment decision isn’t necessary.

“Normalizing HYT helps develop and maintain the right balance of experience in the Air Force,” said White. “The future of

the Air Force depends on balance in numbers, ranks, experience levels and career fields, so HYT is one way we can achieve that.”

**For more information visit the AFPS website at <http://mypers.af.mil>.**

## Mouth guards available at fitness center, dental clinic

According to the American Dental Association, an athlete is 60 times more likely to have a tooth injury when not wearing a protective mouth guard.

A mouth guard helps buffer the mouth and teeth from trauma. It's an important piece of gear that shouldn't be overlooked during sports, particularly contact sports such as football, boxing, hockey and basketball.

Additionally, mouth guards may reduce the severity and rate of concussions.

A protective mouth



# Medic's message

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

guard can also be beneficial in non-contact sports, such as skiing, snowboarding, skateboarding, soccer, and bicycling.

### CARE OF YOUR MOUTH GUARD

- ▶Rinse before and after each use;
- ▶Occasionally clean the mouth guard in cool, soapy water and rinse thoroughly (you can clean it with toothpaste and a toothbrush);
- ▶Make sure not to leave the mouth guard in the sun or in hot water after use;
- ▶Don't chew on your mouth guard;
- ▶Check for wear and replace the mouth guard when necessary;
- ▶Wear the mouth guard during practice, as well as during games.

For more information, call the 78th Dental Clinic at 497-8056.

– Courtesy 78th Dental Group

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

OUT AND ABOUT

### ON TAP

**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

### Glow-In-The-Dark Bowling

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

### Flag Football Coaches Meeting

Tuesday  
1 p.m.  
HAWC Classroom  
For details,  
call 468-2128.

### Financial Beginning (First-Term Officers)

Wednesday  
9 to 11 a.m.  
Bldg. 794  
For details, call 468-1256.

### Pre-Separation Briefings

Thursday – Retirees  
12:30 to 4 p.m.  
Bldg 794  
For details,

call 468-1256.

### UPCOMING

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

### Ropes Course

Sept. 22  
\$50 per person  
Panola Mountain  
State Park  
Register by Sept. 8  
For details,  
call 468-4001.

### ONGOING

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

### Storm Resurfacers Special

Limited time only  
Full resurface for \$17  
For details,  
call 468-2112.

### Dine N' Drive

Every day in August  
7 to 10 a.m.  
Golf Course  
AGF members \$19  
Guests \$25  
18 holes with cart and

breakfast  
For details,  
call 468-4103.

### Private Pilot Ground School

Now through Sept. 26  
\$605 per person  
Tuition assistance available for those who qualify  
For details,  
call 468-4867.

### Tennis and Soccer coaches needed

For details, call Ron Hayes at 468-2110.

### Seeking Volunteers

Wood Hobby Shop  
For details, call 468-5282.

### Golf ShootOut

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

### ITT

►South Carolina Aquarium  
Bldg. 956  
For details,  
call 468-2945.



**Time is running out!**  
Take advantage of Disney's Military Salute Program



**Expires Sept. 30, 2012**

- 4-day park hopper **\$138**
- 4-day base w/water park fun & more **\$138**
- 4-day park hopper w/water park fun & more **\$165**



For more information, call Information Tickets and Travel at 468-2945 or 926-2945

## Don't Drink and Drive



Prearrange a non-drinking wingman to be the sober driver

Call a taxi service to take you home (have taxi numbers handy)

Remember, even a slight "buzz" can significantly weaken your perceptions and abilities



Airmen Against Drunk Driving (AADD)  
Tel: 08003280178



### 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.