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ROBINS REV-UP

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Health and welfare inspection takes on team approach



Butikofer

It started at 1 a.m. last Friday. Without fanfare, first sergeants, senior leaders and dorm residents cooperated across the board to do what was necessary – even in the middle of the night.

It was a dorm sweep to ensure the safety, security, health, welfare, morale and quality of life of Robins Airmen.

But what made this one more special was

a charge Col. Mitchel Butikofer, Installation commander, had given to base leaders and key staff just a week prior in a quickly called meeting to inform them of an Air Force-directed health and welfare inspection.

Butikofer explained that over the course of that week there would be inspections across all work and public areas on base. He further said that while this was an Air Force

initiative, the Marines, Army, DLA and other DOD components were welcome to join in. They agreed on the spot.

“This is very critical to Air Force leadership,” said Butikofer. “This is very critical to all of us. The health and welfare environment must be so that everyone is treated

► see INSPECTION, 7



U.S. Air Force photo by ED ASPERA

Staff Sgt. Neil Smith (left) and Tech. Sgt. Nicolas Evans (right), Metals Technology Shop, survey their welds on the final of three support stands to elevate an SR-71 aircraft at the Museum of Aviation.

116th, 461st maintainers help with restoration project

BY JENNY GORDON
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Currently located in the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar, elevation stands sit ready to be painted and prepped for display of an SR-71 aircraft.

Having a hand in the creation of the elevation stands were machinists and welders from the 116th and 461st Maintenance Squadrons metals technology sections, as well as 573rd Commodities Maintenance Group.

“It has been a great opportunity for us,” said Master Sgt. Ricky Stallings, 461st Maintenance Squadron Metals Technology Section chief. “Everyone in the shop had a hand in it. We don't always have the opportunity to work on such heavy duty material.”

The project took about two months to complete from machining and welding the parts needed to transporting the final stands to the museum.

The stands, which weigh from

500 to 1,000 pounds, will give the aircraft the appearance of landing or taking off once displayed. When ready, the plane will be slowly lifted underneath by using airbags powered by a low pressure/high volume compressor. The entire process should take a day with about 27 people assisting.

“It will literally lift the aircraft right off the ground rather than using jacks. We'll then slide the pedestals in there and lower it back down,” said Master Sgt. John Paolozzi, 461st maintenance flight chief.

For many in his shop it will also provide a good training opportunity as many have never performed an actual airbag aircraft lift. Mainly their training involves simulating the airbag lift for aircraft crash recovery.

Lt. Col. Jerry Gallegos, 461st Maintenance Squadron commander, added that through a team effort, the museum would be getting quality workmanship which visitors will

► see PROJECT, 7



Courtesy photo

Above, Ralph Hood, 573rd Component Maintenance Group, uses an oxygen and acetylene track torch to ensure accurate, straight cuts.

JSTARS expands missions across the globe

116TH ACW
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Team Joint STARS proved once again their value as a strategic national asset by flying in five unified combatant commands in 13 days during November.

The Homeland Defense, Counter Terrorism, Counter Insurgency, and Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance missions – strategically planned at the national level – served customers in all military branches with the Coast Guard, law enforcement agencies and coalition partners.

“Flying this many operational missions in such a short time period is not the norm,” said Col. Dean Worley, 461st Air Control Wing commander. “This combination can only be done with extremely well-trained operations and maintenance personnel.”

Recently logging more than 80,000 combat hours in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, Odyssey Dawn and Unified Protector, the men and women of Joint STARS were uniquely prepared for November's broad mission set.

“As Team JSTARS continues to excel, combatant commanders around the globe have taken notice and recognized the value of the weapons platform,” said Worley. “With budget constraints being felt throughout the military, the Air Force's premier Command and Control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance asset is being called more often to more locations because we give American taxpayers more bang for the buck.”

While maintaining an aging fleet of 16 Boeing 707-300 aircraft, Team JSTARS Airmen and Soldiers are poised to continue providing a ready and relevant military force to combatant commanders around the globe.

“Our maintainers from 116th and 461st Maintenance Groups have a tremendous sense of pride, dedication, and commitment which I've witnessed time and time again,” said Col. Mike Gaspar, 116th Maintenance Group commander. “The successes of Team JSTARS are a direct result of those men and women ensuring we launch every tasked mission.”

Virtual paint system provides unique training tool

BY JENNY GORDON
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There is a proper technique when it comes to painting an aircraft.

One tool that will assist beginners and long-time painters here is a virtual paint system known as the STAR4D, or Spray Technique Analysis and Research for Defense, a training program developed by the University of Northern Iowa.

Think of it as a virtual paint system, or a really cool Nintendo Wii that comes equipped with spray guns and live sound from a nearby computer.

Todd Lavender with the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex

Environmental and Ergonomics Office, explained that a training program, complete with simulation exercises and classroom training, will be up and running in the new year.

“The system works by allowing you to put different shapes on a screen, which calculates a score based on how much overspray you have on that shape,” said Lavender. “You spray, and it looks like you're doing a good job, but then you flip on the diagnostic side and it will tell you where you are spraying heavy or light.”

“It will help gauge whether you're doing a good job or not,” he added.

STAR4D enables painters to basically stand before a projection screen,

hold a spray gun, and through use of a laser guide, paint shapes on the screen as you would while on the job.

Troy Harmon, who has been painting aircraft at Robins for more than 20 years, trained on the system and said it taught him that he needed to back away more and slow down.

“It shows you that you're not as good as you think you are when it comes to painting,” said Harmon, 402nd Maintenance Support Squadron Corrosion Flight work lead. “Our technique is we cross-coat, keeping the gun perpendicular to the surface with nice, easy flowing strokes.”

“I learned that I wasn't as consistent as I thought. It will be a very good learning tool,” he said.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Troy Harmon, 402nd Maintenance Support Squadron Corrosion Flight, demonstrates the virtual paint system to David Tudor, 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group. The equipment is used to train painters and is complete with simulation exercises.

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Team JSTARS trainer still going strong after a decade

BY JENNY GORDON

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The Team Joint STARS Mission Maintenance Trainer not only trains air crew members in a simulated and technically-sophisticated environment, but also keeps them safe as they are tested and evaluated before deploying worldwide.

“It’s a great tool for us to practice wartime techniques without putting our people in harm’s way,” said Col. Mark Weber, 116th Operations Group commander.

The Joint STARS trainer has made its home at Robins for more than 10 years.

“What is significant today is we have trained in it for over 40,000 hours,” explained Weber. “In the last two years alone, we have had absolutely no failure – a 100 percent mission-capable rate to send people in there without fear of it failing.”

Surpassing that 40,000 hours’ worth of simulated training in the last two years is a significant milestone in the history of JSTARS, added Weber.

The Air Force’s E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, Joint STARS, is an airborne battle management, command and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platform that includes a crew of 21; 18 crew members run the radar and communication systems onboard that can basically see huge areas of the earth.

“The trainer gives us the ability to put those 18 people into a simulated environment, running the exact same equipment they would utilize on a plane,” continued Weber. “What it allows us to also do is test and practice for wars that we’re not even conducting today, but may conduct tomorrow. We can test techniques we think may be employed in future generations of warfare.”

While Joint STARS planes are fighting on multiple fronts across the globe, the trainer back home allows the mission to continue without missing a beat.

“That is what we do. We pro-



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

Maj. Sean, 116th Operations Group, and Maj. Melody, 461st Operations Support Squadron, monitor data at an operator work station in the Joint STARS mission simulator Dec. 13. Team JSTARS reached a milestone logging more than 40,000 training hours in the mission simulator during the past 10 years. (Full identity of crew members withheld for security reasons.)

tect other people through a robust C2ISR platform,” he noted.

Up to 18 crew members can use the training system at any given time. Over the years, 3,500 people have learned how to employ Joint STARS, an ever-evolving process much dif-

ferent today than it was a decade ago.

Also through simulation, the trainer can connect to other mission trainers across the country, whether linking up with F-16 fighters, A-10s, or B-1 bombers, for example, of which Joint STARS plays a vital role.

Debriefing following simulation exercises are also important as players from across the country learn from one another in order to enhance advanced warfighting techniques.

“Our mission trainer is extremely capable,” Weber said.

Northrop Grumman is responsible for maintaining the software onboard the Joint STARS plane as well as the mission trainer.

“Our partners at Northrop Grumman have given us an extremely reliable system – bottom line,” he said. “They are technically proficient at what they do and they’ve given us exceptional capability.”

Over the last 10 years, Joint STARS has logged more than 80,000 hours in a combat environment and has been airborne for more than nine straight years. Couple that while being ‘airborne simulated’ for four solid years, and air crew members have been up in the skies at some point for 13 years.

“That is incredible. You could not match that level of capability anywhere else,” he said.

Tops in Blue set for Jan. 12

Tops in Blue, an all active-duty Air Force unit made up of talented amateur performers selected for their entertainment skills, will showcase its talent Jan. 12 at the Warner Robins Civic Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Showtime is 7 p.m. The show is free to the public.

Major Al Reilly (now a retired colonel) created the Air Force Worldwide Talent Contest in 1953 to recognize talented airmen in various categories. He then selected the top talent from the competition and produced a show with a troupe of the best Air Force entertainers which ultimately became known as Tops in Blue.



AIR FORCE

NEWS FROM AROUND

Lt. Gen. Clarke nominated as Air National Guard director

Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, commander of the Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region - 1st Air Force, has been nominated by President Barack Obama to be the next Air National Guard director.

If confirmed by the Senate, Clarke will replace Lt. Gen. Harry "Bud" Wyatt III., who is retiring in January. Wyatt has led the Air National Guard since February 2009.

Wyatt said Clarke, if confirmed, is the right person at the right time.

As Air Guard director, Clarke will be responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, plans and programs affecting more than 106,000 Air Guard members in more than 88 flying wings and 200 geographically-separated units throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

To learn more, visit www.af.mil.

DOD prepares for potential sequestration

The Office of Management and Budget has instructed the Department of Defense to pursue internal planning to meet required budget cuts if sequestration goes into effect Jan. 3.

"We are at the very start of this process," said Dr. George Little, acting assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, during a Pentagon press availability Washington, Dec. 5. "We don't have all the details firmed up. Naturally, we hope very much that sequestration will be avoided and we don't enter that phase."

Sequestration is a mechanism enacted by Congress that will initiate severe across-the-government budget cuts if Congress and the president are unable to pass a budget that meets the requirements of the Budget Control Act of 2011.

For the DOD, sequestration would cut the defense budget by \$500 billion over the next 10 years. These cuts would be in addition to the nearly \$500 billion in cuts, during the same time frame, already directed by the 2011 BCA.

Officials have already been considering possible effects of sequestration, including communicating impacts to the DOD workforce.

"Our focus has been on examining the potential impacts of sequestration," Little said. "We know what the potential impacts might be, and that helps us create a baseline for what we need to plan against."

To learn more, visit www.af.mil.

AFMC, union leaders focus on early communication at annual meeting

Leaders of the Air Force's largest civilian employee and the military's largest employee union reaffirmed a

Secure and dominate

Pararescuemen with the 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron secure the area after being lowered from an HH-60 Pave Hawk during a mission in Afghanistan. The Aerospace Sustainment Directorate's Special Operation Forces/Personnel Recovery helicopter team here works daily to ensure the mission readiness of the Air Force's helicopter fleet around the world.



U.S. Air Force photo by STAFF SGT. JONATHAN SNYDER

strong partnership at their annual meeting as they sat down to discuss workforce issues at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger, commander of Air Force Materiel Command, and J. David Cox, national president of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, joined other command and union officials for an afternoon of briefings and discussions focused on the importance of involving the union ahead of and during implementation of changes, such as the command's recent 5-Center restructure.

"This is a great opportunity for frank and open discussion on topics that are important to both management and the union," Wolfenbarger said. "As the Partnership Council's vision says, the dialogue we share in this forum will help us take care of the people who in turn take care of the mission."

To learn more, visit www.afmc.af.mil.

Transition GPS gives Airmen roadmap to success

A new roadmap to help ease Airmen into civilian life is in full swing, providing assistance that will help those separating to be as competitive in the civilian world as they are in the military, according to the assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs.

Daniel Ginsberg addressed only the second class under the new Transition Goals Plans Success or Transition GPS, during the start of a week-long class in the Pentagon.

Ginsberg told the group that the initiative, which took effect Nov. 21, began when President Barack Obama set a goal to ensure all service members are "career ready" when they leave the military.

The new program is mandatory and extends classes from three days to five. The new program provides



U.S. Air Force photo by VAL GEMPIS

All clear

Tech. Sgt. Chris Pickett inspects the engine intake of an F-16 Fighting Falcon during exercise Green Flag-West 13-02 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Pickett is a crew chief assigned to the 187th Fighter Wing, Alabama Air National Guard.

pre-separation counseling, along with a military-to-civilian skills review, a Veterans Affairs benefits briefing, financial planning support, sessions to help develop job search skills and individual transition plan preparation. To learn more, visit www.af.mil.

Perspectives

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Holidays – a time to be thankful

For many, gathering with friends and family for the holidays often leads to discussions of the things we are thankful for. As you think about the blessings you've enjoyed in the past year, I ask that you also remember the men and women who defend our freedom, one of the greatest gifts of all.

Today the Air Force has more than 32,000 Airmen - military and civilian -- deployed to preserve the gifts of independence, freedom and democracy.

Within Air Force Materiel Command, more than 1,000 members are deployed this holiday season. I am, as always, humbled by their service and sacrifice.

I am also grateful to the rest of our AFMC team carrying out the mission at home. Thanks to your hard work and dedication this year, across our five centers, we have successfully accomplished all of our

critical missions – Science and Technology, Life Cycle Management, Developmental Test and Evaluation, and Sustainment. You should all be proud of what

we've accomplished this year, and I know we will see even more success in 2013.

As a final note, I encourage you to keep safety in mind this winter. This time of year brings increased risks and hazards, especially on the roads. By applying risk management as you make your holiday plans, you help ensure a safe season for yourself and your family.

Wolf and I wish you all a joyous holiday and a happy new year. We are proud to serve with you in the world's most respected Air Force.

– By Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger
Air Force Materiel Command
commander



Wolfenbarger

Enjoy family, fellowship, friends

The holiday season is a time for celebration and sharing with others. It's only fitting that we culminate the year with good wishes for everyone. As we prepare to celebrate this season, we can take the time to appreciate all we have done here at Robins. I know you should be proud of your myriad of accomplishments this past year.

It is an honor to work with you and be a part of the Robins team. I am proud and thankful for your tireless efforts. Appreciation for your sacrifices is sometimes unspoken. However, your dedicated service and contributions are indeed recognized at all levels. I extend my heartfelt thanks for your devotion to duty. Thank you for your skill and professionalism, your commitment and hard work. I commend you for your patriotism and your concern for the military members who guard our freedom.

This holiday season, I challenge each of you to take time out from your busy schedules to remember those who are less fortunate than you. Carry the light of hope

by giving of yourself to others. Share the gifts of love and fellowship with family and friends. And be sure to relax, enjoy the season and return refreshed and ready for the exciting challenges and tremendous opportunities ahead of us.

Your safety and health is paramount to all of us. Please remember that this joyous time of year brings increased risks and hazards, especially on the roads.

For those traveling the highways, plan your trips to include adequate rest before starting and along the way. Additionally, be prepared for weather delays and changing road conditions and adjust accordingly.

Better to be late than not to arrive at all. Always wear your seatbelt, and never drink and drive. As you make your holiday plans, ensure a safe season for yourself and your family.

Leslie and I wish all of you a most memorable holiday season, and a happy New Year.

– By Col. Mitchel Butikofer,
Installation commander



Butikofer

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 and 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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On the Fly

Robins cited in jobs-focused defense initiative

Robins was mentioned when Gov. Nathan Deal recently announced a comprehensive assessment of economic development opportunities at Georgia's military base establishments and their surrounding communities as part of his ongoing effort to grow Georgia's economy through job creation. The new Governor's Defense Initiative will be operated through the Georgia Department of Economic Development and spearheaded by William L. Ball, former U.S. Secretary of the Navy under President Ronald Reagan. T. Rogers Wade, former president of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation, will be executive director of the new initiative.

Georgia's military presence, which includes three Army bases, two Air Force bases, a Navy base

and a Marine base, ranks among the top five in the nation. These installations together generate approximately \$20 billion in economic impact, including salaries, contracts and revenue generated. With this massive presence, the state ranks fifth in the United States for total Department of Defense military, civilian direct-hire, reserve and National Guard employment.

Robins Air Force Base alone, home of Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex, the 78th Air Base Wing, and more than 60 other units that make up a vital part of the Air Force team, employing a workforce of about 25,000 civilians, contractors and military members.

— This is an excerpt from a press release from the office of Governor Nathan Deal.

Eleventh Street just north of Bldg. 660 will be closed until at least Dec. 28.

It will be closed for the scheduled demolition of an awning on the north side of Bldg. 660.

The entrances behind the base commissary and the entrance into Bldg. 963 will not be affected. Signs will be posted to redirect traffic.

For more information, or to report potential problems caused by the closure, contact Ray Tuten at 497-2941.

The pedestrian bridge crossing First Street will be closed through Dec. 28.

The closure is required to allow a 778th Civil Engineer Squadron contractor to apply new non-slip surfaces on the steps.

During the closure, flight line employees will cross First Street to access or leave the flight line.

Electronic signs, barricades, light all units and crossing guards will be provided for the duration of the closure.

The following leave recipients have been approved through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program:

Christen Matthews of AFRC. POC is Jan Brister, who can be reached at 497-1323.

Ray Hunter of AFRC. POC is Jan Brister, who can be reached at 497-1323.

Rhonda Michael of DLA-AWC. POC is Lori Anderson, who can be reached at 497-9254.

To have a leave recipient listed here, email lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil.

Space permitting, submissions will run for two weeks.

Robins and Mercer University are offering a new program

which includes Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Organizational Leadership.

Partnership benefits include 10 percent reduction in standard tuition rates and no application fees. The new bachelors degree program offered at Mercer's Macon campus will be able to use these reduced tuition rates beginning with the October semester. The final information sessions will be Jan. 9 at the following on base locations:

►7:30 a.m. - Bldg. 941, Professional Development Center Auditorium

►9 a.m. - Bldg. 2051, Coats Hall, 635 Blunk Drive

►11 a.m. - Bldg. 301,

Engineering Conference Room, (located near snack bar or follow signs near door 460, NE entrance of building).

For more information on either degree program or information session, contact Amanda Bentley or Stephen Jenkins, at CCPSadmissions@mercerc.edu or 478-301-6417 or Laurie Alexander at Laurie.Alexander@robins.af.mil or 497-8591.

Mercer University is offering a test preparation course for the Millers Analogy Test

for those interested in beginning the on-base Master of Science degree in the Organizational Leadership program in March. This 3-session course will help maximize your score on the MAT by providing expert instruction, analytical methods, and plenty of practice.

Dates and times:

►Jan. 7 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

►Jan. 14 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

►Jan. 16 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

All sessions will be in Bldg. 905, Room 245. Cost is \$90 (textbook cost not included)

Registration and payment deadline is Jan. 2.

For more information, email CCPSadmissions@mercerc.edu or call 478-301-6089.

NORAD to track Santa's flight

Team Robins families can track Santa Claus on his world-wide journey Christmas Eve with the help of the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

The official NORAD Santa tracker website, <http://www.noradsanta.org>, will provide updates on Santa's location using the GPS satellite systems, radar satellites, Santa cams and fighter jets escorts.

The website also features Christmas-themed games, videos and background information on Santa based on research from almost six decades of tracking him.

NORAD uses radar to detect Santa's initial take off from the North Pole. From there, satellites orbiting 22,300 miles above the Earth's surface take over using sensors that allow them to detect the unique heat signature of Rudolph's glowing red nose.

Santa cams, originally installed in 1998 at strategic locations along Santa's known route, are high-speed digital cameras. NORAD only uses the cameras once a year to capture images of Santa and his famous reindeer.

American and Canadian fighter aircraft intercept and welcome Santa when he crosses into North American air space.

Since 1955, the North American Aerospace Defense Command, formerly known as the Continental Air Defense Command, has tracked Santa on his



Christmas Eve route thanks to a mistake in an advertisement by a Sears store in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The advertisement meant to list a phone number for a Santa hotline, but due to a misprint the number advertised was actually the direct line to the commander of the Continental Air Defense Command.

Instead of hanging up the phone when the first child called, Air Force Col. Harry Shoup, the director of operations at the time, gave an update to the caller on Santa's location.

Since then, NORAD personnel volunteer their time answering phone calls, responding to emails and tracking Santa's movements throughout December.

Check on the NORAD Tracks Santa website for information on tracking Santa using mobile phones apps, YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Services activities

All FSS facilities will be closed on Monday with the exception of:

- ▶ Bowling Center 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ▶ Fairways Grille 7 to 10 a.m.
- ▶ Fitness Center 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ▶ Flight Line Kitchen 24 hours
- ▶ Golf Course 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ▶ Indoor Pool 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ▶ Lodging 24 hours
- ▶ Wynn Dining normal hours of operation

All FSS facilities will be closed on Christmas Day with the exception of:

- ▶ Flight Line Kitchen 24 hours
- ▶ Lodging 24 hours
- ▶ Wynn Dining normal hours of operation

All FSS facilities will be closed on Jan. 1 with the exception of:

- ▶ Fitness Center 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - ▶ Golf Course 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - ▶ Indoor Pool 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - ▶ Flight Line Kitchen 24 hours
 - ▶ Lodging 24 hours
 - ▶ Wynn Dining normal hours of operation
- * For a complete list of FSS hours, visit <http://www.robinsfss.com>.

Commissary

- ▶ Open Monday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ▶ Closed Tuesday
- ▶ Open Dec. 31 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ▶ Closed Jan. 1

Exchange Main Store

- ▶ Open Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ▶ Closed Tuesday
- ▶ Open Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ▶ Open Jan. 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Service Station

- ▶ Open Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- ▶ Closed Tuesday
- ▶ Open Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- ▶ Open Jan. 1 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Shoppette/Class Six

- ▶ Open Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ▶ Closed Tuesday
- ▶ Open Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- ▶ Closed Jan. 1

Military Clothing Store

- ▶ Closed Monday, Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1
- For more Robins Xchange holiday hours visit <http://www.shopmyexchange.com>



Toy tips to help keep children safe

With the holiday season in full swing you are undoubtedly scanning the catalogs and sale ads for new toys for your children or someone you love. Far from your mind are the possible dangers that toys pose to young children. Approximately 20 children aged 14 years and younger die each year from toy-related incidents, with choking being the leading the cause of injury to those less than 3 years old. To ensure a safe and happy holiday for your family consider the following tips:

- ▶ Make recommendations to friends and family members about appropriate gifts for your child.
- ▶ Avoid toys for young children that have magnets or batteries that could possibly be swallowed.
- ▶ Inspect toys before purchasing and follow age recommendation on packaging.
- ▶ Don't give toys with small parts to young children.
- ▶ Give appropriate safety equipment with sporting goods, like a helmet and pads.
- ▶ Check with Consumer Product Safety to see if the toy has been recalled or is safe (<http://www.cpsc.gov>)

The holidays are time of merriment and joy, so be sure and keep yourself and your family safe in order to enjoy the holidays to the fullest.

For questions or concerns, contact Public Health 478-327-8019.



INSPECTION

Continued from 1

with dignity and respect.

“It is imperative that all work environments are consistent with Air Force core values and it takes all of us as a team to do so.”

So when the twilight inspection took place, dorm residents complied with the knocks on their door, including those who did not fall under the umbrella of the Air Force.

“Overall, the inspection went well,” said Butikofer. “People were professional and our intent was met – no major issues were found. From top to bottom, I was pleased with the result and I expect the same going forward.”

AFSC commander lauds inspection results

I’m extremely proud of the Air Force Sustainment Center!

In compliance with the Air Force Chief of Staff direction, AFSC has completed our health and welfare inspections and it went extremely well. While there were some areas that needed clean up, overall no major issues were found. I want everyone to continue to focus on creating a healthy environment for all of our employees that demonstrates respect for each other. This inspection was a great opportunity to reinforce and communicate our high standards.

AFSC leadership is committed to fostering a supportive work environment. We need to set the bar high on professional standards all day, every day, at all of our locations.

I want to thank Union leadership for their help – teamwork was instrumental in conducting this inspection.

Thank you for your part in making AFSC a great place to work. Keep'em Flying!

– Lt. Gen. Bruce Litchfield,
AFSC commander

PROJECT

Continued from 1

enjoy for a long time.

“This is very heavy-gauge steel; they get to work on specific welding techniques not usually performed on an aircraft so this is additional experience that our guys get,” said Gallegos. “I’m very proud of the hard work that has been involved in this project. It is a win-win for the museum and the squadron.”

Getting the plane on the elevation stands at the museum should take place early in the new year.

“I know from looking at the finished stands that they are professionally done ... it is critical to the completion of the project,” said the museum’s Doug Monahan. “An enormous amount of hard work went into the production of these stands. The finished SR-71 project will be unique and a source of pride for everyone involved. The contribution of the engineers, machinists and welders will be appreciated by museum staff, visitors and Robins employees for many years to come.”



U.S. Air Force photo by ED ASPERA

Staff Sgt. Neil Smith (top) divides the total number of welds left with Staff Sgt. Luke Kessinger to complete the final support stand to elevate the SR-71 at the Museum of Aviation.

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

ON TAP

Boss N' Buddy

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

UPCOMING

Fit 2 Fight

Jan. 2 – Feb. 28
Mondays, Wednesdays
and Fridays
11 a.m. to noon
Fitness Center
For details,
call 468-2128.

Fairways Grille

Breakfast Special

Every day in January
stuffed french toast with
bacon or sausage and
coffee or juice \$5.95
For details,
call 923-1717.

Student Holiday

Break Special

Jan. 2
1 to 8 p.m.
Bowling Center
Bowl for \$1 a game all day
(17 years and younger)
For details,
call 468-2112.

First Friday

Jan. 4
5 to 6 p.m.
Heritage Lounge
For details,
call 472-7864.

Give Parents A Break

Jan. 4
6 to 10 p.m.
School-Age and
CDC East
For details,
call 468-2110
or 468-5805.

Maggie Valley,

Harrah's Casino Trip

Cherokee, N.C.
Feb. 1 through 3

Sign up by Jan. 4
Cost is \$870 - \$1,025
For details,
call 468-4001.

N.C. Ski Trip

Sign up by Jan. 4
Feb. 16 through 18
Cost is \$470 to \$890
For details,
call 468-4001.

Texas Hold 'Em

Jan. 5
Sign-up 1:30 p.m.
Games start 2 p.m.
Heritage Lounge
Members \$15
Guests \$20
For details,
call 472-7864.

Dept. Labor DoL/TAP

/VA Workshop
Jan. 7 to 11
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bldg. 794
For details,
call 468-1256.

Mongolian BBQ

Jan. 7 through 11
Fairways Grille
For details,
call 923-1717.

10/5K Winter Run

Jan. 11
7:30 a.m.
Fitness Center
For details,
call 468-2128.

The Quick Turn

Bldg. 2062
Beginning Jan. 14 open
Monday through Friday
for breakfast
from 6 to 9:30 a.m.
Lunch 10:30 a.m.
to 1 p.m.
For details,
call 468-6972.

Money & Credit

Management Class

Jan. 14
1 to 3 p.m.
Bldg. 794

For details,
call 468-1256.

Red Head Pin Day

Jan. 14
1 to 8 p.m.
Bowl a strike when
red pin is in the #1 position
Game is free
For details,
call 468-2112.

Bundles for Babies

Jan. 15
8 a.m. to noon
Bldg. 794
To sign-up,
call 497-9398.

Atlanta Rocks!

Rock Climbing Trip

Sign up by Feb. 22
March 9, 2013
\$55 per person
For details,
call 468-4001.

ONGOING

Spring Soccer

Registration

Ends Jan. 15
Youth Center
For details,
call 468-2110.

Atlanta Hawks

tickets on sale

February and March game
tickets on sale at ITT
Prices depend on
location and opponent
For details,
call 468-2945.

Pizza Depot's Everyday

December Lunch Special

Fish sandwich and fries
\$5.95
For details,
call 468-0188.

Golf Shoot Out

Open to anyone with a
USGA handicap
\$2 per attempt
Qualifying tournament each
month
For details,
call 468-4103.

Robins Commissary 'reset' planned for January

The Robins commissary will close at 4 p.m. Jan. 27 while it undergoes a "reset" as part of the Defense Commissary Agency's ongoing effort to enhance the shopping experience.

"We hate to inconvenience our customers with the closure, but this is something we'll all appreciate when it's done," said Susan Edmonds, store director.

The reset is part of an agency-wide program that systematically changes how products are displayed on shelving throughout a commissary in order to better serve customer shopping patterns. The goal is to give commissaries worldwide a more customer-friendly product flow and a layout that is as consistent as possible from location to location, according to Ron McMasters, DeCA's Store Operation chief.

"Although we have to take into consideration that no two commissaries are constructed exactly alike, a customer-friendly product flow means dog food will be next to pet supplies instead of the charcoal, peanut butter is best found next to the jam, and you shouldn't have to cruise three different aisles to find all your cleaning products. It's a simple matter of making the commissary layout more sensible by 'resetting' the store," he said.

DeCA is intent on making the commissary shopping experience faster and easier – making the commissary the place to shop every day, not just on pay day. One of the priorities is to help busy, active-duty shoppers make a quick run through their commissary and get home more quickly.

"The whole idea, in a nutshell, is to



U.S. Air Force file photo by SUE SAPP

The Robins Commissary will undergo a "reset" Jan. 27 as part of the Defense Commissary Agency's ongoing effort to enhance the shopping experience.

get convenience into the shopping experience," said McMasters. Consistency is also part of the reset equation. "Why shouldn't you be able to go to different commissaries and find basically the same layout?"

"We try not to inconvenience the customers while resetting stores," said McMasters, "but we often have to close the store for a day, sometimes two, in order to tear down the shelving and move it and restock. Our customers usually like the new layout once they get used to it. Sales increases always follow a store reset and that's an indication that the user-friendly product flow is a good change."

To make changes easier for customers to follow, stores have aisle layout maps available as well as generic item locators on their Web pages. Store web pages are under the locations link at <http://www.commissaries.com> along with store hours, contact information, store news and special customer service features.

ROBINS Air Force Base Chapel



Protestant Holiday Calendar

Monday - Candle Light Service 7 p.m.
Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve Service 11 p.m.

Catholic Holiday Calendar

Monday - Children's Mass 5 p.m.
Monday - Caroling Before Mass 9:30 p.m.
Monday - Christmas Eve Mass 10 p.m.
Tuesday - Christmas Day Mass 9:30 a.m.
Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve Mass 5 p.m.
Jan. 1 - New Year's Day Mass 9:30 a.m.

For more information, call 497-3781 or 468-2821.