

# Robins Remembers Sept. 11

"I was at work here at Robins when I heard of the attacks. At first it almost didn't seem real. After the events, I noticed a greater sense of patriotism. People bonded together, and we effectively became stronger. I hope that we will never forget as time goes on."

— Janet Herndon, Team Chief,  
Air Force Audit Agency



"I was at home watching television as the events took place. It was just two weeks before I was scheduled to go to boot camp for the Navy. The events encouraged me even further to want to join the U.S. military."

— Chanae Lacy, Lead Dental Assistant,  
78 Medical Group



"I was preparing for work while stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, N.M. I watched the events unfold on TV in disbelief. At that time I had never been deployed. After the events of 9/11, I was deployed many times which meant time away from family."

— Master Sgt. Spencer Anderson, Aircrew Flight  
Equipment, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center



To read more personal accounts or to post your own, visit the Robins Facebook page.



September 13, 2013 Vol. 58 No. 35

## Final C-17 enters AF inventory



U.S. Air Force file photo by ED ASPERA

A C-17 from McGuire Air Force Base lands at Robins enroute to Programmed Depot Maintenance here.

BY JENNY GORDON  
jenny.snider.ctr@us.af.mil

The Air Force received its final C-17 Globemaster III – the 223rd aircraft – during ceremonies Thursday at Joint Base Charleston.

The last new cargo jet, built in Boeing's Long Beach, Calif., facility, was delivered this week to the South Carolina base's 437th Airlift Wing and 315th Airlift Wing.

Although this will be the final one sent to the Air Force, overall there were 256 C-17s delivered, including those to foreign military customers.

Foreign Military Sales partners from several countries will eventually have a footprint at Robins' C-17 Combined Program Office.

Robins has partnered with Boeing on C-17 sustainment since 2000, when the first plane was inducted here for Programmed Depot Maintenance. Since then, 364 planes (this number reflects repeat customers) have undergone heavy maintenance, which occurs every five years, and mandatory product improvement changes.

The Air Force awarded the contract for the plane in 1981, and the first C-17 flew in 1991.

Together with Boeing's San Antonio depot, Robins has shared the C-17 workload for a number of years.

"We've been expecting this for a long time," said Col. David Morgan, C-17 Globemaster Division chief, of the final delivery. "The change in the climate will now be from production and sustainment, to all-sustainment. We at the Robins program office have been concentrating on sustainment for a long time, so this won't be a big change."

Interestingly, the estimated number of C-17s to be delivered fell close to

► see C-17, 9

## AF Birthday ticket sales nearing end

Tickets for the 66th Air Force Birthday celebration are on sale through Monday.

The event will begin with a social hour at 6 p.m. on Sept. 21 at the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight Hangar.

Ticket prices are \$35 for E-7 and above, all officers and GS-09 and above; and \$20 for E-6 and below, all WG, and GS-07 and below. Cash or check only.

Dress for military is mess dress or semi formal; and civilians, formal attire.

Guest speaker will be Carl Swearingen, a University of Georgia Air Force ROTC cadet, who was commissioned as an Air Force second lieutenant in 1968. He served on active duty as an Air Intelligence Officer in Cam Ranh Bay and Saigon, South Vietnam, and at Homestead Air Force Base, Fla.

The menu for the evening will be beef brisket and chicken Miami with wild rice, green beans, water, tea, coffee. Dessert will be peach cobbler, ice cream and birthday cake.

### POCs for ticket sales:

- Capt. Gerald Martinez  
AFLCMC/WLM
- Master Sgt. Margie Brooks  
638th SCMG
- Master Sgt. Jason Maine  
HQ/AFRC
- 1st Lt. Tyrone Snowden  
5th CCG
- Capt. Christopher Jones  
WR-ALC
- Capt. Jennifer Dykstra  
461st ACW
- Master Sgt. Dawninella Horton  
116th ACW
- Master Sgt. Angeliqe Barnes  
78th ABW
- Staff Sgt. Jeannie Hartman  
78th ABW/WSA
- Capt. Kristen Torma  
DLA
- Urania McCormick  
AFSC-OL
- Master Sgt. Louis Brown  
Army
- Maj. Dameon Green  
USMC

Free childcare is available for children 5 to 12 years of age at the Robins Youth Activities Center from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. the night of the ball.

All E-6/GS-7 and below Air Force Ball ticket holders are eligible for this free service.

Spaces are limited to the first 48 children.

To reserve a spot, see your unit first shirt or contact Pam Brewer at DSN 497-7826, or by email at pamela.brewer@robins.af.mil.



U.S. Air Force file photo by ED ASPERA

Two Marine aircrews and their UH-1N Huey helicopters from Robins will be part of a three-month mission along the West African coast.

## Robins Marine squadron joins African mission

BY JENNY GORDON  
jenny.snider.ctr@us.af.mil

Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773 – the Marine Corps Reserves' only attack helicopter squadron – stationed at Robins is providing two UH-1N Huey Helicopters and crews for a three-month mission along the West African coast.

"This is a great opportunity to demonstrate the flexibility and capabilities of not only the platforms we fly in the Red Dogs, but also as Marines," said Lt. Col. Kyle Burrell, HMLA-773 commanding officer. "In particular, this detachment showcases the services we can provide as a Reserve force in any climate or place."

Known as the Africa Partnership Station – a program of U.S. Africa Command – it is a series of activities designed to build maritime safety and

security in Africa through working with African and international partners.

It combines military engagements among partnership nations such as Holland, Spain and the United Kingdom.

HMLA-773 falls under the command of Marine Aircraft Group 49, also at Robins, and is part of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. Both units relocated to Robins in June 2010, from Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, Ga.

The Robins unit is one of three in HMLA-773; the others are located in Louisiana and New Jersey.

The "Red Dogs" squadron includes AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopters and UH-1N Huey utility helicopters, which perform close support functions both overseas and stateside. Both are maintained and fly at Robins.

## HEROES: Quick-acting Guardsmen save life

BY MASTER SGT. ROGER PARSONS

116th Air Control Wing Public Affairs

What should have been a routine flight to McCarran International Airport, Las Vegas, turned into a lifesaving opportunity for three members of the 116th Security Forces Squadron



Ross

headed to a pre-deployment training exercise at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., Aug. 22.

Security forces personnel were traveling on a commercial flight when a passenger passed out and showed no signs of life.

As the daughter of the passenger frantically tried to revive her mother, three Airmen from the 116th SFS stepped in to help.



Andrews

Tech. Sgts. Tim White and Dominick Andrews, with the 116th Air Control Wing, Georgia Air National Guard, lifted the daughter out of the way and immediately began performing CPR on her mother.

At the same time, Master Sgt. Richard Ross assisted a flight attendant in retrieving an oxygen tank and ensured the Airmen performing CPR had everything they needed.

"I have not seen or heard such clear authority in action since I was in the Army a number of years ago," said Allen Jones, son-in-law of the passenger being treated.

Shortly after starting CPR procedures, the mother responded to the treatment and regained consciousness. White and Andrews continued to monitor their patient and

► see GUARDSMEN, 10

## AIR FORCE CORE MISSIONS

Airmen bring to the Nation's military portfolio five interdependent and integrated core missions which have endured since President Truman originally assigned airpower roles and missions to the Air Force in 1947.

Although the way we do them will constantly evolve, the Air Force will continue to perform these missions so our military can respond quickly and appropriately to unpredictable threats and challenges.

Today, we call our core missions: (1) *air and space superiority*; (2) *intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance*; (3) *rapid global mobility*; (4) *global strike*; and (5) *command and control*.

Through those core missions, the Air Force provides Global Vigilance, Global Reach and Global Power for America. Each core mission is, in its own right, vitally important to the defense of our national interests; however, no single core mission functions independently. Airpower is

maximized when Airmen leverage its unique characteristics – speed, range, flexibility, precision, lethality and persistence – to harness the integrated power of air, space and cyber forces. The Air Force is effective because its operations are synchronized to provide an array of options, giving America the ability to respond quickly anywhere in the world.

**Editor's note: This is the third entry of a nine-part series from Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark Welsh's office.**

# Page Two



## AFSC *Leadership* VISITS *Team Robins*



U.S. Air Force photos by TOMMIE HORTON



(Far left) Lt. Gen. Bruce Litchfield, Air Force Sustainment Center commander, conducts a commander's call at the base theater as (above, left to right) Brig. Gen. Cedric George, Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex commander; Col. Christopher Hill, Installation commander; William Swigert, AFSC Personnel Directorate director; and Jose Aragon, AFSC Financial Management and Comptroller director; listen. Litchfield drove home the message that Robins has the capability to conduct its mission better than anyone else, and stressed that working smarter doesn't necessarily mean working faster. (Left) Chief Master Sgt. Sandra LePine, 78th Air Base Wing Command chief, and Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Vegas, AFSC command chief, were also at the commander's call. Litchfield, Swigert and Aragon toured several locations across the installation and each spoke to different organizations on a variety of topics.

# THE AIR FORCE

NEWS FROM AROUND

## Guidance on fiscal 2014 Military Tuition Assistance changes

Air Force's new management controls and system upgrades to Military Tuition Assistance were created to ensure Airmen's on-and-off-duty education and training is complementary and not duplicative. The new TA program will become effective on Oct. 1, and will apply to all Airmen who are currently taking, or will be applying for, courses starting on or after that date.

The Air Force will require Airmen to take a more proactive approach to managing their course selections and Military TA towards the achievement of specific academic goals. To ensure the program's success, Airmen will be required to complete updated training prior to requesting Military TA and will be notified via the Air Force Virtual Education Center and Air Force Portal when they may begin applying for courses starting on or after Oct. 1.

There are four main changes to program eligibility:

- ▶ Supervisors are now required to approve all Military TA requests;
- ▶ Military TA will automatically be denied for Airmen with Unfavorable Information Files, failed Physical Training tests, referral Enlisted or Officer Performance Reports or on a Control Roster;
- ▶ Foreign language courses are only approved as part of a degree or if on the approved shortage list;
- ▶ Military TA cannot be used for multiple degrees at the same level.

In addition to eligibility changes, there have been multiple administrative changes in how Airmen have incurred a Military TA debt for unsatisfactory completion of their course(s).

Military TA limits will remain the same as they were before. Airmen who meet the new eligibility criteria can receive up to \$4,500 per fiscal year and a maximum of \$250 per semester hour (or quarter hour equivalent) inclusive of tuition and allowable fees.

Supervisors (military and civilians who directly supervise military Airmen) will now become an integral part of the Military TA program.

Supervisor involvement provides an opportunity for leaders to become more involved in the professional development of their Airmen and provide a chance for mentoring. Supervisors will need to work with their Airmen to ensure their educational goals are achievable without impacting the mission.

Additionally, students will be required to keep their supervisor's email address updated in AFVEC so supervisors can be notified as necessary.

The Robins Education Office is here to help provide educational support to Robins Airmen. Airmen are encouraged to contact the office to help



U.S. Air Force photo by SENIOR AIRMAN DENNIS SLOAN

## The daily grind

Airman 1st Class William Williams, a 437th Maintenance Squadron aircraft metals technology journeyman, grinds a piece of steel tube Aug. 7, at Joint Base Charleston, S.C. The sheet metal is used to simulate steel work on a C-17 Globemaster III wing.

answer TA questions and get up-to-date information regarding the new process. Training information can also be found on the AFVEC website: [www.my.af.mil/afvec](http://www.my.af.mil/afvec).

The Robins Education Office is located in Bldg. 905, Suite 113. Please call 497-7304 or email [education@robins.af.mil](mailto:education@robins.af.mil) for more information.

## B-2 undergoes comm upgrade BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. (AFNS) –

After a 20-year wait, the B-2 Spirit will receive a significant new communications upgrade.

The first increment of the Common Very Low Frequency Receiver, or CVR, program was designed to be a successor to the very low frequency communication system originally slated to be included with the B-2's communication package. The original system was deferred in 1992 because of budget constraints.

"CVR Increment 1 will provide the B-2 aircrew another, more reliable means to receive presidential force direction via emergency action messages," said Gary Doolittle, Air Force Global Strike Command B-2 requirements.

Currently, the B-2 uses an ultra-high frequency communications system to fill that role. However, the Military Strategic Tactical and Relay, MILSTAR, satellites that facilitate that form of communication are approaching the end of their operational life.

The upgraded communication system would allow the B-2 to receive Very Low Frequency signals bounced off of lower levels of the atmosphere, bypassing the satellite relay. That would ensure the B-2 remains a viable nuclear platform until such time as a replacement for current satellite communications can be deployed.

The CVR Increment 1 program reached its mile-



U.S. Air Force photo by TECH. SGT. MARK R. W. ORDERS-WOEMPNER

## Providing cover

Senior Airman Krystal Collier, a 434th Security Forces Squadron fire team member at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., secures a landing zone for a Marine CH-46 Sea Knight during a joint mass-casualty exercise.

stone B on July 23, which authorized the program to enter the Engineering and Manufacturing Development Phase and award Engineering Manufacturing Development contracts.

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

## Doolittle Raiders' Final Toast Ceremony set for Nov. 9 at AF National Museum

BY ROB BARDUA

National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

**DAYTON, OHIO** – The Air Force will host the famed Doolittle Tokyo Raiders' final toast to their fallen comrades during an invitation-only ceremony Nov. 9, at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

On April 18, 1942, 80 men achieved the unimaginable when they took off from an aircraft carrier on a top secret mission to bomb Japan. Led by Lt. Col. James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle, these men came to be known as the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders. Today, just four of the men survive: Lt. Col. Richard E. Cole, co-pilot of Crew No. 1; Lt. Col. Robert L. Hite, co-pilot of Crew No. 16; Lt. Col. Edward J. Saylor, engineer-gunner of Crew No. 15; and Staff Sgt. David J. Thatcher, engineer-gunner of Crew No. 7. At press time, all four Raiders were planning to attend the event.

According to Museum Director retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Jack Hudson, the Doolittle Raid was an extremely important event in the development of American air power because it marked the first combat use of strategic bombardment by the U.S. Army Air Forces during



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

### Members of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders celebrate at an earlier reunion.

World War II.

"While the attack itself caused little actual damage to Japanese war industry, the psychological impact on the Japanese military and the American public proved to be immense," said Hudson. "The Air Force has drawn upon the Doolittle Raiders for inspiration ever since, and we are deeply honored that they have chosen

to have this final ceremony at our national museum."

In 1959 the city of Tucson, Ariz., presented the Doolittle Raiders with a set of silver goblets, each bearing the name of one of the 80 men who flew on the mission. At each of their past reunions, the surviving Raiders would conduct their solemn "Goblet Ceremony." After toast-

ing the Raiders who died since their last meeting, they would then turn the deceased men's goblets upside down. The event will mark their final toast.

Among those scheduled to attend the ceremony to pay tribute to the Raiders are Air Force Acting Secretary Eric Fanning and Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III.

The public will also have an opportunity to celebrate these World War II aviation heroes through events that include a wreath-laying ceremony at the Doolittle Raiders memorial and a flyover of B-25 aircraft.

The Air Force Museum Theatre is also planning to show Doolittle Raider and World War II-themed films. More details will be announced as the event nears at [www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/doolittle.asp](http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/doolittle.asp).

The National Museum of the United States Air Force, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, is the service's national institution for preserving and presenting the Air Force story. Each year, more than one million visitors come to the museum to learn about the mission, history and capabilities of America's Air Force.

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

## ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER  
Col. Christopher Hill

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They should be e-mailed to [lanorris.askew@us.af.mil](mailto:lanorris.askew@us.af.mil) and [vance.janes@us.af.mil](mailto:vance.janes@us.af.mil)

Submissions should be of broad interest to the base populace. For information, call Lanorris Askew at 472-0806.

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# Load 'em up Move 'em out

U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

Senior Airmen Edwin Chapman (left) and Nathaniel Osborn, 52nd Combat Communications Squadron cyber transport systems technicians, load equipment to be transported with them for a two-week exercise in which the 52nd CBCS will embed with the 712th Air Support Operations Squadron at Ft. Hood, Texas.

## Army conducts first training onsite

BY JENNY GORDON

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Light cloud cover, bright sunlight and the constant humming of pesky mosquitoes and locusts under a canopy of dense foliage couldn't keep members of the Army's 138th Military Intelligence Co. from proficiency training in the field.

In an area behind PAVE PAWS on the southeastern end of base, three training stations were set up, each reflecting a core skill set maintained through the Army – land navigation, first aid and survival skills.

The 138th MI, a detachment of the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, support the mission of the Air Force's Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System; they're one of a number of non-Air Force organizations at Robins.

Due to the drawdown overseas, their numbers here currently stand at about 79.

Their soldiers train and fly with Air Force E-8C aircrews from the 116th and 461st Air Control wings, working together in areas of mission planning and flight coordination.

The training event conducted Sept. 6 included 38 members, the most at any time for this initial collective training. Capt. Donald Bell, in charge of training, said that in the future there will be quarterly events to not only bring everyone together as needed, but to conduct refresher training unique to the Army.

"This is all a learning experience, as much for the staff as for the participants," said Bell. "While we do a lot of planning and operations, we don't do this level



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

Soldiers with the Army's 138th Military Intelligence Co. practice medical training while taking cover under enemy attack.

of training collectively very much."

Before the sun came up, soldiers were ready at 6 a.m. to gear up for the 3.5-mile road march to the training location.

But it was no regular hike. Leaving the fitness facil-

ity, each strapped on a 35-pound rucksack that contained everything they'd need until departure time in the early afternoon.

Once on site, each soldier spent about 90 minutes rotating stations.

At the medical station, an instructor spoke about how to properly lift an injured person onto a stretcher, while giving clear direction, as well as how to tend to the injured and take cover while being fired at by an enemy.

Survival skills took members into a patch of woods where they built man-made shelters using ponchos or natural resources. Various specially-tied knots were demonstrated, which each help to hold materials in place.

Land navigation sent teams into the woods to find and plot designated destination points on a map. The course ran no longer than 55 minutes. Reading maps is a skill taught in basic training, and an essential one since many use it to connect the dots while flying.

These areas highlight what is taught while at Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape, or SERE, training for both Army and Air Force crews who fly. Should an aircraft go down in a territory, whether in a desert, arctic or tropical environment, the skills are needed to survive.

It's yet another distinct aspect at Robins for members of the 138th MI – Army-trained soldiers who learn survival skills in any climate on earth, but also go along for the ride high above it all aboard Air Force JSTARS.

"I'd say this is probably the most unique assignment for an imagery analyst," said Bell.

# On the Fly

**Military Academy Day 2013** will be conducted Saturday at the Museum of Aviation.

The event, which will feature representatives from all five service academies including the Air Force Academy, Military Academy, Coast Guard Academy, Naval Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, is open to all interested high school students and parents.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the event begins 10 a.m. For more information, call Alice Johnson at 229-396-5175.

**The Robins POW/MIA Memorial Organization** will host a recognition ceremony Thursday at 3 p.m. in the Museum of Aviation's Hangar 1.

Retired Lt. Col. Crawford Hicks – a World War II B-17 pilot who was a German prisoner of war prisoner held captive in a German Stalag for 11 months during World War II – will be the guest speaker.

A 24-hour Vigil Run will kick off the recognition beginning at 3 p.m. Wednesday at the Museum of Aviation. Organizations can sign up now for time slots. This is the time to honor the memory of thousands of our nation's heroes who did not return home. This could also be a great team-building event.

Run times will be in 15-minute increments. Since one of the purposes of the event is team building, participants are more than welcome to bring their office, flight, section, division, family or pets. Participants may walk or run at their own pace. The goal is to keep the baton/flag moving the entire 24-hours.

For more information on the cere-

mony, contact Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Page at [shawn.page@ang.af.mil](mailto:shawn.page@ang.af.mil).

To sign up for the Vigil Run, contact Master Sgt. Wilbert Terrell, [wilbert.terrell@robins.af.mil](mailto:wilbert.terrell@robins.af.mil).

**Don't feed the alligators ...** Robins' geographic landscape is rich with diverse plant and animal life, and one of the animal species which may be spotted every now and again is the American Alligator.

"Alligators are a natural part of the environment in Middle Georgia; and therefore, folks shouldn't be alarmed if they see one," said Bob Sargent, the installation's natural resources manager and wildlife biologist.

Although sightings of the reptiles are no cause for alarm, according to Sargent it's important to remember the rules of engagement – or rather the lack of engagement.

"Federal law prohibits harassing, capturing, harming, or feeding alligators," said Sargent. "A fed alligator becomes a nuisance because it causes them to overcome their natural fear of people.

"Don't approach alligators, and remember to keep pets on leashes," he said. "Swimming in base lakes, or letting dogs swim in them, is illegal per base regulations."

Alligators are known to live in various drainage ponds east and south of the airfield and in lakes on occasion. Signs are posted that warn people not to approach or feed them, no matter how cute or interesting they may look.

If an alligator is sighted in a place on base frequented by the public – fields, ditches, and fishing lakes – contact the 78th Civil Engineer Group at 497-3974.

# Mouth guards protect your smile

BY CAPT. KEVIN NAIL  
Dentist  
**LISA SIMS**  
Registered Dental Hygienist

It's easy to take some things for granted until they're gone.

Have you ever thought about how it would feel if you lost one or two of your front teeth? Each year, thousands of teens get hurt on the playing field, the basketball court, or while skateboarding, biking or doing other activities. Blows to the face in nearly every sport can injure the teeth, lips, cheeks and tongue.

A properly fitted mouth guard is an important piece of athletic gear. You may have seen them used in contact sports such as football, boxing and ice hockey.

However, you don't have to be on the football field to benefit from a mouth guard.

New findings in sports dentistry show that even in non-contact sports such as gymnastics, rollerblading, and field hockey; mouth



guards help protect teeth.

Many experts recommend a mouth guard be worn for any recreational activity that poses a risk of injury to the mouth.

There are two types of mouth guards: the mouth-formed, boil and bite mouth guard and the custom-made mouth guard made by your dentist. Both provide protection but vary in comfort and cost.

The most effective mouth guard should have several features. It should be resilient, tear-resistant and comfortable. It should also fit properly, be durable, easy to clean, and not restrict your speech or breathing.

Generally, a mouth guard covers only the upper teeth, but in some cases, the dentist will instead make a mouth guard for the lower teeth. A dentist can suggest the right mouth guard.

Here are some suggestions for taking good care of your mouth guard:

►Before and after each use, rinse it with cold water or with an antiseptic mouth rinse, mild antimicrobial hand soap or denture tablets.

►When it's not used, place a mouth guard in a firm, perforated container. That permits air circulation and helps prevent damage.

►Avoid high temperatures, such as hot water, hot surfaces or direct sunlight, which can distort the mouth guard.

►Check it for tears, holes and poor fit. A mouth guard that's torn or in bad shape can irritate your mouth and lessen the amount of protection.

►Have regular dental checkups and bring your mouth guard along so the dentist can make sure it's still in good condition.

# VA briefings keep vets in the know

BY JENNY GORDON  
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Retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Chuck Norton, a Vietnam War veteran and active veterans advocate, has volunteered his time the last seven years to ensuring retiring or separating military members have the right tools and information to file claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Norton conducts the free briefings twice a month, along with his counterpart, retired Chief Master Sgt. Andy Rodriguez.

According to Norton, the biggest takeaway is for service members and veterans to make sure they not only have a basis for filing a valid claim, but to take advantage of knowledgeable assistance throughout the entire claims process.

"I think it's very



U.S. Air Force photo by JENNY GORDON  
**Retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Chuck Norton, right, talks with a retiree about successfully filing a claim with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs during a briefing at the Professional Development Center in Bldg. 941.**

important for veterans to know how the claims process works, and to get one-on-one assistance from the beginning up to the point that the claim is ready to go into the VA claims system," said Norton, an accredited VA claims agent. "It's extremely important for every veteran to attend at least one of these classes.

"This is my way of giving back ... of helping a fellow vet," he added.

Topics discussed include required medical documentation, medical issues, how to organize a claim, how the claims

system works, how disability percentage ratings are determined and much more.

The briefing is free to any active duty service member about to retire or separate, Guard, Reserves or honorably discharged veterans, as well as spouses and widows.

The class is independent, and not part of the separate mandatory Transition Assistance Program.

To learn more, contact Norton at ammochief22@hotmail.com with 'VA assistance' in the subject line.



U.S. Air Force photo by MISUZU ALLEN

## Feds Feed Families

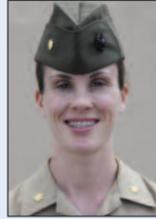
Staff Sgt. Joshua Adkins (right) and Staff Sgt. Tyler Johnson remove a box of donated food from a truck in the parking lot of the 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron Aug. 28. The Feds Feed Families campaign at Robins ended with 1,500 pounds collected across the installation. In spite of budgetary constraints due to sequestration, local contributions helped the Defense Department collect more than 1.2 million pounds of food for families in need, according to Senior Master Sgt. Arthur Cassidy Jr., 78th LRS deployment and distribution superintendent.

The Integrated Delivery System team at Robins is conducting a "Hunt the Good Stuff" campaign throughout September.

Based on one of the many skill sets being taught in the new Comprehensive Airman Fitness program, the campaign's

goal is to cultivate gratitude, and to build optimism and positive thinking.

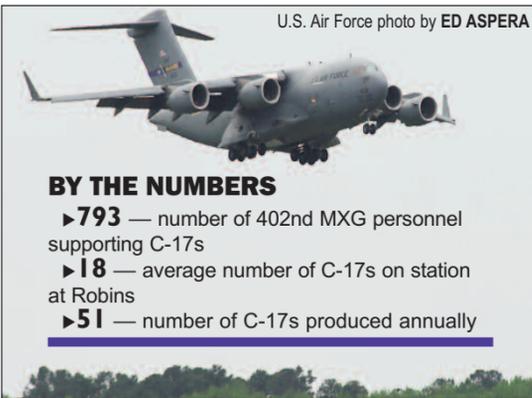
Hunting the good stuff is finding things we are thankful for each day, and encouraging everyone to focus on the positive side of life.



## What are you thankful for?

"I am thankful for each and every day I get to spend with my family."

— Maj. Melissa Roberson, 4th Marine Air Wing Reservist



### BY THE NUMBERS

- ▶ **793** — number of 402nd MXG personnel supporting C-17s
- ▶ **18** — average number of C-17s on station at Robins
- ▶ **51** — number of C-17s produced annually

## C-17

Continued from 1

this week's final number. "The original estimated plan back in the early mid-1980s was for 221 jets," said Gus Urzua, Boeing vice president who works on site at Robins. "Look how close we ended up ... that's remarkable."

Looking ahead, parts supportability will become more challenging as things move out of full-production mode, said Senior Master Sgt. Randy Thigpen, C-17 maintenance and modification section lead.

Able to take off and land (on short runways) quickly despite its size, the four-engine jet is capable of hauling 60-ton tanks, troops and medical gear across continents. It has the highest readiness rate of any cargo plane in the U.S. arsenal, said Bob Steele, the Air Force's C-17

deputy program manager.

"They're all over the world ... and they're constantly carrying out missions," he said.

The plane was key in hauling supplies to Iraq, Afghanistan and on humanitarian missions. In June it carried nearly 90,000 pounds of food to Haiti, and during Hurricane Sandy, it brought utility trucks from the West Coast to the East to help restore electricity.

"The plane's mission has evolved a lot further than its initial design," said Steele.

The life of a C-17 is 30 years; the average age of the cargo jet is nine. With the total current fleet experiencing 2.6 million flight hours, there is much work remaining at Robins to manage the C-17 program.

"Even though we're not producing C-17s anymore, we expect the 223 we have to last for a long time," said Morgan.

## GUARDSMEN

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traded seats with other passengers so they could remain in close proximity for the remainder of the flight.

“If it had not been for the action and determination of these troops it would have been a terrible situation for our family,” said Jones.

Unbeknownst to the Airmen performing CPR, a doctor on board the flight stood by, observed their actions and saw no need to inject or take any action of his own.

“This is a testament to the background and training of our personnel,” said Lt. Col. Patrick Cotter, 116th SFS commander.



Cotter went on to share how the three Traditional Guardsmen, who were

involved with saving the passenger’s life, came to the Air National Guard from the Marines, Army and the Air Force.

“These Airmen came together from different backgrounds and worked together flawlessly to save this woman’s life,” shared Cotter. “The synergistic efforts of these three are representative

of what our unit is about.”

The 116th Security Forces Squadron is the security arm of the nation’s sole E-8C Joint STARS flying operation.

Flying out of Robins, the JSTARS wing provides joint airborne command and control, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and combat support forces to meet state and national objectives.



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

## 'It's Safety, Man'

Master Sgt. Christopher Navarro, 78th Security Forces Squadron NCOIC, mans a police checkpoint this week on base. The roadblock was part of the "Safe, Secure, Protect Campaign" to deter unsafe road safety and criminal activity. Drivers were asked for their driver's license, registration, proof of insurance and CAC. Remember, SFS members routinely look for drivers not maintaining safety habits such as seatbelt, cell phone usage and more.

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR
13	14	15	16	17	18	19

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Thunder Alley

Today  
9 to 11 p.m.  
Bowling Center  
Friday Family Night  
For details,  
call 468-2112.

### NFL Game Day

Sunday  
Noon to 8 p.m.  
Heritage Lounge  
For details,  
call 472-7864.

### Money and Credit Management

Monday  
1 to 3 p.m.  
A&FRC, Bldg. 794  
Information on credit management, debt reduction, and consumer rights.  
For details,  
call 468-1256.

### FTAC/MRT

Monday  
Professional Development Center  
Bldg. 941  
For details,  
call 472-0168.

### Adult Watercolor

Monday

10 to 11:30 a.m.  
and 4 to 5:30 p.m.  
Arts & Crafts Center  
To preregister,  
call 468-5282.

### FTAC/Financial

Tuesday  
Professional Development Center  
Bldg. 941  
FTAC students learn how to manage their money and support savings.

### Bundles for Babies

Tuesday  
8 a.m. to noon  
A&FRC, Bldg. 794  
Get the facts on infant care, nutrition, practical preparation and other information.  
For details,  
call 497-9398.

### Golf tips from the Pro

Tuesday  
5 to 6 p.m.  
Pine Oaks Golf Course  
Pay \$5 for all the range balls you can hit and get free tips from the PGA head golf professional.  
For details,  
call 468-4103.

### Right Start

Wednesday  
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
A&FRC, Bldg. 794  
Mandatory briefing to welcome new military members and their families to Robins.  
For details,  
call 468-1256.

### Home School Association Meeting

Wednesday  
1 to 3 p.m.  
Youth Center Bldg. 1021  
For details,  
call 926-1795.

### Mug Night at the Heritage

Thursday  
3:30 to 9 p.m.  
Heritage Lounge  
Bring your own beer mug (20 oz. or less)  
For details,  
call 472-7864.

### Boss n Buddy

Sept. 20  
4 to 5 p.m.  
Heritage Club Lounge  
Join us for fun food, entertainment and prizes.  
For details,  
call 472-7864.

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