

Congrats to Robins' promotees

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Camellia Garden Memorial Service honors 63

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'Pitmaster' to compete at AF level

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ROBINS REV-UP

May 30, 2014 Vol. 59 No.21

NEWS

YOU CAN USE

Job fairs today

Team Robins will host two job fairs today. A civilian career fair will be in the Heritage Club Ballroom from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is open to people with base access only. All Team Robins members and eligible family members may attend. Bring resumes and come dressed to interview. A military career fair will be at the Horizon Event Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is open to base-access personnel only. Visit <http://adobe.ly/NfWeRi> to register. Hundreds of jobs are available.

Airman's Attic

The Airman's Attic, in Bldg. 660 has a surplus of donated goods in need of a good home. As a result, the Attic will open its doors Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to all ranks (Officer, Enlisted Active, Guard, Retired, Reserve) with a valid I.D. card.

Dash for Trash Update

Dash for Trash, a 60-day initiative, which runs through June 14, is aimed at helping the Robins workforce and the planet by gathering and disposing of unwanted materials and hazardous wastes. The total refuse collection and disposal for April was 445 tons, 66 tons more than the average of the last 10 months. The wood recycling for the month equaled 87.2 tons, an increase of 18.3 tons over the average of the past 10 months. The Construction and Demolition waste for C&D call-ins for the month was 10.5 tons, a 6.4 tonnage increase over the last 10 months. Recyclables (paper, cardboard, cans, glass, etc.) totaled 68 tons, a 7.8 ton increase over the previous 10 month average. All totaled, Dash for Trash produced an increase for April above the average refuse and recycling amounts of approximately 98.5 tons. Participating personnel are asked to quantify and categorize any obsolete materials in their workplaces and refer to a list of contacts, which can be found on the Robins home page at www.robins.af.mil, for assistance in discarding the rubble.

Conference Center closure

The Robins Conference Center will be closed June 7 through 29 to have the roof replaced. The center's staff will contact all affected organizations and offer them the opportunity to reschedule at a later date or to provide a list of alternative sites which may be available during this time frame. Closure is a must due to safety concerns where falling debris could occur during demolition and installation.

IDS desktop icon puts help a click away

BY HOLLY LOGAN-ARRINGTON
holly.logan-arrington@us.af.mil

Getting assistance from Robins' helping agencies will soon be as easy as clicking on a computer desktop icon. The "You Matter" icon is expected to appear on most base computer screens today. Computer users who don't receive the icon, or who want to view it from off base can still get access by visiting www.robins.af.mil and clicking on the icon. The icon provides one-click access to a list of agencies including the services they offer and contact information



for each. Capt. Mindy Davis, 78th Medical Group Mental Health Clinic clinical social worker, said the icon is an image of the widely popular "You Matter" Georgia license plate. "We wanted to provide an online resource for the base community to seek

information about human services assistance," she said. "This online directory provides an easier way for Team Robins to access help when it's needed." The directory also contains direct links to websites or brochures including points of contact and hours of operation, Davis said. "Not only will this tool save time and effort for leadership and supervisors who seek assistance for their people, but it will be an effective way for individuals seeking assistance to locate the proper helping agency directly," she said. "This

► see **HELP**, 6

MAKING THE MOLD



Above, Chad Lemoine, 573rd Composites Shop plastic worker, operates the base's new plastic thermo forming machine in Bldg. 670.

Below, a platform lowers and raises an F-15 glare shield sample that will be used for new instrumentation in an F-15 flight deck.

New machine to save time, money

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

The 573rd Commodities Maintenance Squadron now possesses a brand new plastic thermo forming machine in Bldg. 670 that will enhance the composites shop's future capabilities. The \$28,500 machine arrived at Robins several weeks ago. While the machine is still being prepared for use, F-15 glare shield samples have already been produced, highlighting exciting possibilities for the future of manufacturing here. "This will not only save a lot of time, but also money," said Chad Lemoine, 573rd Composites Shop plastic worker. "We'll be able to get a lot of use out of this. As long as there's a mold, you can make anything you want." Once a 3-D mold is created of an aircraft part, a plastic sheet made of Lexan or Plexiglas, for example, are placed over the



mold on the machine's tray. A heating element is then rolled over the top, and a vacuum conforms the plastic to the mold. It can form parts measuring up to 4 by 8 feet. An aircraft glare shield, for example, can be produced and trimmed in as little as 30 minutes. Its addition to the production line will not only enable Robins to produce more composite parts in-house that are currently manufactured by private industry, but will also bring in new workload for the facility.

Program supports crucial services for base

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

A contract was awarded May 22 to Good Vocations of Macon to cover the next five years of custodial service for a maximum value of \$24.5 million. At Robins, custodial services are performed by individuals with disabilities who have trained for the job skills needed to successfully do their work inside buildings across the installation. "We look forward to continuing a successful partnership with them in the future," said Scott Hastings, 78th Civil Engineer Squadron director. According to Chris Finley, Good Vocations director of contract services, 80 percent of its employees have some type of disability, whether it be physical or mental. It's all about providing meaningful work for individuals and having the satisfaction of a job and paycheck. "This program takes these employees off of government subsidies in a lot of cases and gives them self-worth. It helps financially and emotionally, and enables them to become tax-paying members of our community," Finley said. Good Vocations is a not-for-profit organization managed by Goodwill Industries of Middle Georgia and the Central Savannah River Area. The Goodwill subsidiary currently employs about 130 people across the

► see **SERVICE**, 6

DLA SERVICES STILL TAKING IT IN, DISHING IT OUT AFTER MERGER

BY BRIAN SHREVE
Robins Public Affairs

The Robins DLA Disposition/Distribution Services houses a little bit of everything – somewhat of a military "picker's" one-stop paradise. And now the Defense Logistics Agency looks for these organizations to become more efficient in its duties of getting rid of excess government property following the recent merger of Disposition and Distribution finalized May 3, according to Danny Snow, DLA Disposition Services area manager. Formerly the work of Disposition – the receipt, stock and issue function has been turned over to Distribution, along with 15 of the former's employees, though they still work in the

same facility. Snow said the merger would save costs in equipment and staffing through attrition once the current employees retire. "It made sense to merge them," said Snow. "You had warehouse employees who drive forklifts, load and unload trucks, and do input in both places, all the same skill sets." Since the merger, Disposition Services consists solely of 22 office employees responsible for customer interface with all warehouse functions falling under Distribution. But regardless of name, the organization's role of disposing of property purchased with government funds remains a thriving part of Robins. The 35-acre compound includes a back lot containing about 100 military

vehicles and other large property. It also includes a warehouse full of everything from aircraft parts to exercise machines, lawn-care equipment and miscellaneous thingamabobs that even the warehouse's examiners and identifiers have to ponder while sorting. "Everything but live animals," said Snow, a 37-year veteran at DLA. Robins handles about 140,000 line items a year, though a single item can consist of thousands of the same item, such as materials that have been rendered obsolete or a situation in which the government is overstocked with certain equipment. The most received property – representing about 40 percent – is clothing,



U.S. Air Force photo by MISUZU ALLEN
Ronald Hill, DRMO warehouse distribution material examiner and identifier, sorts out the miscellaneous items May 21.

► see **DLA**, 6

Second Front



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

When a building is demolished at Robins, very little waste is allowed to be taken to landfills. This pile of rubble – what was formerly Bldg. 792 – began demolition March 1. The area will be graded and grassed, said James Bearden, 78th Civil Engineer Group. All projects are required to comply with Green Procurement and Pollution Prevention Programs – a mandatory component of the Air Force Pollution Prevention Program. Robins participates in a recycling program for the metal products, and all masonry and concrete materials are also taken to an approved off-base recycling yard.

Microsoft Lync 2010 to replace Office Communicator

During the June-July timeframe, Air Force Space Command will begin the process of replacing the current Robins Microsoft Office Communicator – Instant Messenger client to the next generation tool known as MS Lync.

This upgrade will expand instant messaging and collaboration capability across the Air Force. The MS Office Communicator – Instant Messenger client will continue to function normally until the full cutover to the new MS Lync

has been implemented.

Due to domain compatibility issues there are no provisions for moving contacts between the old Communicator and new MS Lync, therefore users will be required to rebuild their contact list. In most cases this will be their E-mail for Career address (first.last@us.af.mil).

If you experience problems during the migration, submit a trouble ticket through the Enterprise Service Desk at DSN 468-4357 Option 1 or Commercial (478) 926-4357 Option 1.

– 78th Communications Squadron

Robins energy project updates

►**Solar farm project:** In a program known as Enhanced Use Leasing, Robins is partnering with New Generation, Inc., to develop a solar farm on more than 50 acres at a proposed site off Marchbanks Drive on the base’s south side. New Generation will partner with Georgia Power to build and manage a 10 megawatt solar farm. The lease will be finalized this summer; completion of the solar array will be January 2015.

►**Energy contract savings:** The Base Energy Office will be applying an Energy Saving Performance contract to 40 facilities, central plants and dorms. Selection of a contractor will be made this summer with an estimated \$80 million contract to be financed for 25 years. ESPCs are contracting vehicles that leverage third-party funds to identify and implement energy saving measures.

►**Utility energy savings:** Robins is currently pursuing a compressed air UESC with Georgia Power, which are contracts that allow utility companies to provide federal customers with comprehensive energy and water efficiency improvements and demand reduction services. Compressed air is an important commodity used in many maintenance operations here.

►**Saving energy:** Following this April’s Earth Day activities, involving the theme of “Energy Conservation at Work and Home,” Georgia Power and Fort Valley State University partnered with the energy office to provide free energy conservation booklets and compact fluorescent light bulbs with the goal of engaging employees in one-on-one conversations about wise energy consumption.

– By Jenny Gordon

Congratulations Robins promotees

Majors

78th ABW
Carolyn Whittington

AFRC
Faith Eudy
Patrick Simmons
Sharon Spudic
Young Yim

461st ACW
Arlene Dolphin
Jason Gaddis

Master sergeants

Brandon Johnson
Joseph McNally
Jose Padilla Jr.
Luis Robledo III
Jeremy Shores
Gary Spencer Jr
Kewana Williams
Hollye Williamson
AFRC
Shanda De Anda
Terrence Dixon
WR-ALC
Julian Nettles
5th CCG
Candace Benson
Casey Hylton

Lynetta Jackson
Mark Johnson
Joseph Menendez
Sami Naja
Wayne Sutherland
AFSC
Shane Cummins
AFLCMC
Aaron Bickel
Roger Englehart
Michael Lott
330th CTS
Dean Howell
Russell Ticer
409th SCMS
Trenekia Johnson

Robins military justice actions

Nonjudicial punishment, pursuant to Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice, provides commanders an essential and prompt means of maintaining good order and discipline and also promotes positive behavior changes in service members without the stigma of a court-martial conviction. The punishments are determined based on the individual facts and circumstances of each case.

The following Airmen received Nonjudicial Punishment in April:

►A 461st Maintenance Group airman first class operated a vehicle while drunk in violation of Article 111. The Airman also fled from law enforcement at excessive speeds and failed to obey traffic signals, putting lives at risk, in violation of Article 134. For those offenses, the Airman received a reduction to the rank of airman, a suspended forfeiture of \$385 pay and a reprimand.

►A 330th Combat Training Squadron senior airman operated a vehicle while drunk in violation of Article 111. For this offense, the senior airman received a suspended reduction to airman first class, forfeitures of \$700 pay per month for two months, with \$350 pay per



month for two months suspended, and a reprimand.

►A 5th Combat Communications Support Squadron senior airman operated a vehicle while drunk in violation of Article 111. For this offense, the senior airman received a reduction to airman first class, suspended forfeitures of \$1,017 pay per month for two months, 14 days extra duty and a reprimand.

►A 52nd Combat Communications Squadron staff sergeant misused his government travel card in violation of Article 92 and lied about being aware of charges on his GTC in violation of Article 107. For these offenses, the sergeant received a suspended reduction to senior airman, 15 days extra duty and a reprimand.

►A 461st Maintenance Squadron airman first class

wrongfully used marijuana in violation of Article 112a. For this offense, the Airman received a reduction to the rank of airman, suspended forfeitures of \$500 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

►A 78th Security Forces Squadron senior airman wrongfully used marijuana in violation of Article 112a. For this offense, the senior airman received a reduction to airman first class and a reprimand.

The following conviction was received in May:

►A Team Robins service member was convicted on May 21 for being absent without leave for 21 days in violation of Article 86, Uniform Code of Military Justice. The defendant, a 78th Medical Support Squadron senior airman, was sentenced to 14 days confinement and reduced to airman basic in a summary court-martial convened by Col. Chris Hill, Installation commander. The one-day trial consisted of a summary court-martial officer, a commander on base, who accepted a plea of guilty to the AWOL charge and specification and deliberated on the sentence after receiving evidence and hearing argument by trial counsel and defense counsel.

– Courtesy 78th Air Base Wing Legal Office

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month profile

Capt. Diane Perez

52nd Combat Communications Squadron

Hometown:San Antonio, Texas

What is your heritage?
Filipino, Chinese and Spanish

What does your heritage mean to you? My heritage is unique and very special because it helps me define my cultural identity. As an American, it means I can share my culture with my fellow Americans.

Do you have a favorite cultural event you like to celebrate? I don’t have a specific favorite cultural event but I do



love when we gather with family and friends. My mom makes Filipino food and we sing karaoke and dance.

Who do you think has been the most influential Asian-Pacific American and why? The most influential Asian-Pacific American I know is my dad. He sacrificed so much for my mom and sisters and is very successful. He gave me the extra push I needed and always believes in me.

AIRMAN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING –
335-5218;
335-5236;
335-5238

Around the Air Force

Eligible officers may apply for advanced degree, experience programs
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, TEXAS (AFNS) – Eligible active duty officers interested in 2015 advanced academic degree and experience broadening opportunities can now apply for various developmental programs, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced.

Some officers may also be eligible to apply for instructor pipeline programs with the U.S. Air Force Academy and Air Force Institute of Technology. “The Advanced Academic Degree and Special Experience Exchange Duties program helps us deliberately develop Airmen by focusing on the right education, training and experience at the right time in their careers,” said Sophia Barnard, with the AFPC staff and special duty assignments branch. “It also helps us foster warfighting competencies in world-class leaders.”

To read more, visit www.af.mil.

Behavioral health consultation now available in primary care clinics
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, TEXAS (AFNS) – Airmen, dependents and veterans now have access to behavioral health services through their primary care manager at any military treatment facility, according to Air Force Medical Operations Agency officials.

The Behavioral Health Optimization Program was developed to employ internal behavioral health consultants, psychologists and social workers, into primary care clinics, said Maj. Matthew Nielsen, the chief of BHOP.

“The program helps to fight the mental health stigma,” he said. “A lot of patients aren’t willing to go to the mental health clinic, but a lot of people are willing to discuss their concerns during primary care visits.” In fact, research suggests that more than 50 percent of all behavioral health disorders are treated in primary care exclusively, and 67 percent of people who may have behavioral health problems do not get treatment at all.

To read more, visit www.af.mil.

Diversity and force management go hand-in-hand
WASHINGTON (AFNS) – Force management and diversity were the two main talking points for Lt. Gen. Sam Cox, the deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services, during his recent presentation at the Air Force Association monthly breakfast.

“We’re going to see a force size that’s about the same as when we became a separate service in 1947,” Cox said. “So, by fiscal 2015, it’s 310,900 active-duty personnel.”

He explained the basic force management programs for volunteer separation and early retirement currently underway, highlighting the fact recruiting is being impacted by 4 percent. “Back in 2005, we cut accessions by 39 percent, and we realized that was not a good thing to do,” Cox explained. “We don’t want to do that again, so that’s why we limited this. It’s a measured approach, so we don’t have this huge



U.S. Air Force photo by AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JORDAN CASTELAN

bathtub that goes through the entire system.”

To read more, visit www.af.mil.

Lackland Network Support Squadron tests new virtual helpdesk app
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, TEXAS (AFNS) – The personnel at the 690th Network Support Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Kelly Field Annex are working hard to put an end to long periods of telephone waiting time with a new product called the Virtual Enterprise Service Desk.

The product, also known as vESD, is a client-based application that serves as a communication platform between the Air Force Enterprise Service Desk and all 850,000 plus users in the Air Force network. Currently, the product is going through a trial period and is expected to be released in October 2014. The ESD provides computer related support to all Air Force military and civilian personnel. The 690th NSS is responsible for establishing, operating and maintaining the ESD.

“This tool helps modernize cyber operations across the Air Force,” said Lt. Col. Mark Reith, 690th NSS unit commander. “It brings the Air Force into industry standards and allows us to use our precious human resources more effectively.”

To read more, visit www.af.mil.

Risk management central to Critical Days of Summer
KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. (AFNS) – The 2014 Critical Days of Summer, May 23 through Sept. 2, focuses on risk management for summer activities. This year’s theme, “Risk: Double checks, not second thoughts,” reminds Airmen to be responsible wingmen and to take care of themselves, their families and their teammates.

Last year’s observance ended with the deaths of 21 Airmen. There have been 27 fatalities this fiscal year as of May 15. According to Bill Parsons, the Air

Crystal clear

Maj. Jeff Bliss, right, and Capt. Brett Polage, 37th Airlift Squadron pilots, wash the windows of a C-130J Super Hercules at Riga International Airport, Latvia, after air dropping American and Lithuanian paratroopers over Lithuania. Pilots and loadmasters from the 37th AS, alongside an 86th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron flying crew chief, spent four days across three Baltic countries assisting in personnel drops of allied partners and American service members.



U.S. Air Force photo by STAFF SGT. ADAM GRANT

Sea rescue

A 55th Rescue Squadron HH-60G Pavehawk helicopter hovers May 5 above a skiff to assist critically burned sailors 600 nautical miles off the Pacific Coast of Mexico. The pararescuemen transported the injured sailors to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, where they were transferred to a HC-130J Combat King II that flew them to the University of California regional burn unit.

Force chief of ground safety, every Airman has a role in reversing that trend with a summer of zero fatalities. “We can achieve that goal by using all the risk management techniques available, including activity planning and being responsible wingmen,” Parsons said.

To read more, visit www.af.mil.

Perspective

The emotionless leader: trusted and respected by Airmen

BY CHIEF MASTER SGT. TIMOTHY BROWN
65th Communications Squadron

LAJES FIELD, Azores (AFNS) – “I don’t want to hurt her career.”

“He’s the best NCO I’ve got. I don’t want to see him lose a stripe.”

How many times have you heard someone in a leadership position make statements such as these when contemplating disciplinary actions when an Airman or NCO makes a terrible decision? Whether due to an individual getting a DUI, failing multiple PT tests or abusing the government credit card, more often than not, emotions creep into the ramification decision making process. To make effective judgments, leaders must put personal emotions aside and make the tough decision to discipline an Airman. When leaders make the tough call, they maintain good order and discipline, earn trust and respect, and uphold our core values.

While our core values are ingrained into our way of life, what they mean may differ slightly from Airman to Airman. Typically when asked what ‘service before self’ means, Airmen give the proverbial answer, “well, I put my Air Force job before my personal desires.” While that is partially true, ‘ser-

vice before self’ also means making decisions that are in the Air Force’s best interest instead of making decisions that ease emotional pain. Our core values are more than the minimum standards by which we live; they assist us in getting the mission accomplished. To achieve that mission, we must develop our Airmen, not coddle them.

Leaders strive to enrich and mentor their Airmen at every turn. Guidance is provided by using “good order and discipline,” but when leaders allow emotions to slip into disciplinary decisions, good order dissipates.

According to Freek Vermeulen, author and associate professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship at the London Business School, “it’s common for smart leaders to make bad decisions – and most of the time, emotions are to blame.” When decisions are made based on one’s own personal feelings instead of basing them on the facts at hand, good order and discipline is lost. For example, when an Airman makes a grave choice and breaks a law, should his or her lapse in judgment adversely affect their career? Typically, squadron leadership makes that call. If subordinates see punitive decisions that are influenced more by emotions than facts, good order and discipline will become strained and confi-

dence in leadership abilities will be lost.

To be a trusted and respected leader in today’s Air Force, one must understand that in a 'glass house' every decision and overall leadership ability is constantly scrutinized by Airmen. Some decisions are small and innocuous, while others are more important: they affect lives and families. Inevitably, leadership mistakes are made along the way. One of the easiest ways to gain respect is to remain consistent when making decisions and remove any personal biases when making the tough calls.

Making life-changing decisions is often the hardest part of being a leader. To soften the blow to your own psyche, always do what's right, not what "feels" right. Often times, when a hard line is taken, the offender is less likely to repeat the act and others in the unit are less likely to make the same bad decision.

Therefore, when making uncomfortable decisions, put personal emotions aside, uphold our core values, maintain good order and discipline and become the trusted and respected leader you strive to be. The next time one of those phrases creep into your mind, remember you didn’t make the bad decision, the Airman did.

ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER
Col. Christopher Hill

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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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In the Spotlight



U.S. Air Force photo by ED ASPERA

The Robins Air Force Base Honor Guard fire a salute during the Camellia Garden Memorial Ceremony May 22.

Robins pays tribute to deceased family, friends at Camellia Garden Ceremony

The annual Camellia Garden Memorial Service paid tribute to 63 deceased members of Team Robins May 22 in the tranquil garden across from the Horizons Event Center.

Tony Baumann, Contracting director, delivered the memorial address, the base honor guard fired a salute and taps was played. The service is a 38-year tradition rooted in a partnership between the base, the Middle Georgia Camellia Society and the Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce. The three teamed in 1976 to establish and dedicate the garden. At the garden's entrance, a brick and mortar wall displays gold plaques with the names of deceased military and civilian members from Robins who were honored in past ceremonies.



U.S. Air Force photo by MISUZU ALLEN

Robins Honor Guard members present the flag during the service.



U.S. Air Force photo by MISUZU ALLEN

The presentation of the colors began the observance.



U.S. Air Force photo by RAY CRAYTON

Friends and family of Team Robins members who have lost their lives during the past year pay their respects.

HELP

Continued from 1

tool will be used as a primary means for educating key leaders on helping agencies and installation resources. This effort saves the installation more than \$8,000 in yearly production costs and allows for immediate access to the newest, most accurate information.”

The icon’s concept was a collaborative effort among the 78th

Communications Directorate, Installation Public Affairs and Davis.

Lesley Darley, 78th Air Base Wing Community Support coordinator, said the tool enables people to take care of themselves and others.

“In addition to receiving contact information and general information in regards to assistance available on the installation, an additional link has been added (to the directory page) that provides a step-by-step guide to assisting personnel in distress,” she said.

SERVICE

Continued from 1

base with 10 supervisors.

Various contracts have been awarded throughout the years, dating to 1987 when the first was awarded for custodial services in eight buildings. Employees currently provide services in about 300 buildings, working three different shifts of Mondays through Fridays; weekends and holidays; and night shifts performing floor maintenance duties.

With the new contract, employees will now be able to respond to emergency

calls around the clock in the case of flooding, water remediation, building cleanup and more.

“This will be a big benefit to us and also for the base to have a one-stop call,” said Finley.

Good Vocations and Goodwill, in conjunction with SourceAmerica and the AbilityOne Program, provide individuals with disabilities access to employment through training and placement with jobs through contracts at Robins as well as at Fort Gordon, Ga., according to a Goodwill 2013 annual report. Both bases also employ personnel who stock shelves at its commissaries.



U.S. Air Force photo by **MISUZU ALLEN**

Military vehicles are stored outside the DRMO warehouse.

DLA

Continued from 1

a majority of it coming from the Army as Robins is the central hub of Forts Benning, Stewart and several other military installations.

In most cases, the clothing is automatically destroyed for national security purposes.

Once it is received and inventoried, property is discarded by a set pattern, Snow said.

There is a 42-day screening cycle with materials given back to the military first based on need, then federal agencies and then the state – strictly in that order.

Whatever property is left is sold to the public via the Internet using an online-bidding system.

Since 1998, DLA has used Global Liquidators, a private contractor that buys the property and then sells it to the public, with the government retaining 78 percent of the profits.



U.S. Air Force photo by JENNIFER TRIBBLE
Snapping turtles can lay up to 50 eggs in one nesting each spring. They incubate for two to three months. Many adult turtles found on base are from 30 to 40 pounds.

Warmer weather brings some of Team Robins *OUT OF THEIR SHELLS*

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

As you’re out and about on base, you may come across a few turtles on the road or on dry land. There are at least nine turtle species which dwell in lakes, ponds, streams and marsh habitats on base, according to Bob Sargent, Robins’ natural resources manager and wildlife biologist. Sometimes you may find them in the middle of a road, venturing away from water. Be mindful that it’s mating season, and their activities increase with the arrival of warm weather. “Unfortunately, turtles often get hit by cars dur-

ing warm weather months, so slow down if you see one, and be very careful if you decide to help one cross a road,” said Sargent. “Most turtles are docile and will paw the air in panic if you pick them up, but won’t harm you other than perhaps scratch you if you get too close to their claws.” While they’re rather cute animals, please be aware that snapping turtles in particular can do more damage than some might expect. “They have long tails, ridged upper shells, long necks, webbed feet and thick claws, huge heads and powerful jaws that can deliver a nasty bite,” he said. “Common snapping turtles are omnivores, eating many species of aquatic plants, but their powerful jaws allow them to capture and eat just

about any small animal found in their aquatic world.” Some turtles lay only a few eggs two or even three times per year. Snapping turtles can lay up to 50 eggs in one nesting effort each spring, said Sargent. They incubate for two to three months. Interestingly, nesting temperature in the early incubation period determines the sex of the young. If spring weather is warm and the nest is in a very sunny spot, ‘hatchlings’ will be mostly female. If cool, they will be mostly male. Remember, don’t pick one up. Many adult turtles found on base are from 30 to 40 pounds. “The only threats they face, once they reach adulthood, are from alligators and people,” he said.

Buckle up ... It’s the Law



According to Air Force Instruction 91-207, all motorists and passengers must wear seat belts when operating and/or riding in a moving vehicle. Individuals found not wearing a seat belt in a moving vehicle may be issued a ticket by the 78th Security Forces Squadron.

Out and About

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

ON TAP FTAC/Financial Monday 9 to 11 a.m. A&FRC, Bldg. 794 Course offers information, education and personal financial counseling. For details, call 468-1256.		For details, call 472-7899.			Mandatory for all retirees and separatees. For details, call 468-1256.	
		Pizza Depot Birthday Tuesday 11 a.m. Prize giveaways and free food samples For details, call 468-0188.			Interview with confidence Tuesday 1 to 3 p.m. A&FRC, Bldg. 794 Provides general information on the interview process and its importance in the job search. For details, call 468-1256.	
Comedy Night June 6 8 to 10 p.m. Heritage Club Ballroom RSVP by Monday		Pre-seperation briefing Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A&FRC, Bldg. 794				



Robins pitmaster wins AF BBQ competition

BY BRIAN SHREVE
Robins Public Affairs

Few things bring folks together like barbeque, and few people can throw down on the pit like Tech. Sgt. Todd Houghton.

Though many cooks claim to have mastered the honored craft, Houghton, a 116th aircraft structural mechanic, is not just blowing smoke, having recently been selected to compete at the regional level in the inaugural Air Force High Flyin’ BBQ Challenge.

Houghton entered the competition in April by submitting an essay explaining why his barbeque is the best. It turned out his words alone were convincing as Houghton was notified May 5 that he was one of two candidates from each of three geographic regions selected to compete this summer in an officially sanctioned local barbeque contest.

In other words, out of the entire Air Force, Houghton is already one of only six cooks left in the national competition.

The top three from this summer’s regional events will move on to the Air Force bar-



Houghton

beque finals in September in San Antonio.

Houghton began trying his luck with barbeque about 14 years ago, but it didn’t take long before he and a friend were competing in hundreds of competitions around the country; for the past four years, he and his team – Hoot-n-Anne Q – have even barbequed for the U.S. Senate, something he is set to do again in July.

For the High Flyin’ contest, Houghton’s team will consist of about four cooks, including his wife, Margaret, who has developed her own barbeque sauce.

Smoked pork, brisket, ribs – Houghton is a master of it all and surprisingly open about his methods.

“I take a commercial rub and add to it, and it’s all about the choice of wood used,” he said. “I’m not secretive but more than happy to show others who come to my house. They just have to duplicate it.”

Aside from the obvious enjoyments of devouring the finest barbeque in the military, the primary purpose of High Flyin’ is to boost morale and promote community involvement.

“I just enjoy watching people eat and enjoy,” said Houghton. “It must be good because I asked my daughter what she wanted for her birthday, and she said barbeque.”