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Put Your Hands Together for ...

- JSTARS named Airborne Battle Management Crew of the Year
- AFLCMC Annual Engineering Awards

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ROBINS REV-UP

'Team Robins - Performing to Our Potential'

'Making Tomorrow Better than Today'

March 27, 2015 Vol. 60 No. 12

Women patriots of the Flight line

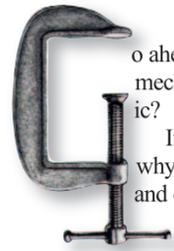
No boundaries for dedication, hard work and heart



U.S. Air Force photo by ED ASPERA

Patricia Brock, 561st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft mechanic, said, "When I'm helping to check the aircraft, it's like I'm flying and landing the jet myself. My job is interesting, challenging and different."

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



Go ahead, ask the question. Do you see yourself as a mechanic who is female? Or a female who is a mechanic?

If you've never asked, it then begs the question of why should it matter? After all, in our land of freedom and opportunity, the necessary education and tools are open to all.

Recall the World War II images of Rosie the Riveter, the iconic representation of the American woman who worked in factories, shipyards and across the munitions industry to help win the war. The fact they were women didn't matter - there was a need and they filled it.

Call them modern-day Rosies, and nearly 75 years later there are women who continue to support the warfighter.

WHAT TO KNOW

This article is part two in a two-part series celebrating some of the huge contributions women have made to U.S. war efforts. This week we are focusing on women currently working on the flight line at Robins to ensure aircraft are returned to the warfighter.

At the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex, the repair, modification and overhaul of powerful weapons systems supports one of the Air Force's core capabilities: rapid global mobility.

In the aircraft maintenance field, Robins employs a total of 186 women who fall under the occupational series/job category of aircraft electricians, aircraft mechanics, aircraft pneudraulic systems mechanics and sheet metal mechanics. That's out of a workforce of more than 2,200 in just those fields alone.

► see **WARFIGHTERS**, 4

Air Force Assistance Fund drive under way

BY JENNY GORDON
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The Air Force Assistance Fund campaign runs through May 1.

"The Air Force Assistance Fund provides an opportunity to help our fellow Airmen when they need it most," said Capt. Jaleesa Council, AFAF installation project officer.

AFAF is an annual effort to raise funds that support active duty personnel, retirees, reservists, Guard and dependents. Those charities include: The Gen. and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation; Air Force Enlisted Village; Blue Skies of Texas; and Air Force Aid Society.

Unit project officers and key workers will be visiting work centers to share information and answer questions.

Unit Points of contact

- 461st ACW - Master Sgt. Luis Robeldo, 241-1999
- AFRC - Staff Sgt. Robyn Alexander, 497-0049
- 638th SCMG - Master Sgt. Katherine Burcar, 472-4909
- AFSC EN- 2nd Lt. Tyler Wallis, 468-0542
- 5th CCG - Master Sgt. Killiam Peters, 472-1424
- WR-ALC - Capt. Matthew MacDonald, 497-7008
- AFLCMC - Master Sgt. Khristian Kirchofer, 468-5154
- 339th FLTS - Master Sgt. Kevin Spano 472-2625
- Campaign officers: Capt. Jaleesa Council at 497-3429 and 1st Lt. Jessica Richmond 472-7377

F-15 production machine forges ahead

BY JENNY GORDON
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It took about six months to clear a backorder of 48 F-15 ramps. By working together as a team, the process in fact sped up as the shop defined its own goal of producing 20 ramps per month in order to clear out that backorder.

"That's a big achievement for us. Embracing Art of the Possible has helped us to reach that goal," said Amanda Foster, F-15 Ramp Shop production supervisor.

The shop, tucked away inside the cavernous Bldg. 140, currently has a crew of

"Mechanics feel more responsible. The flow process is better. Anytime we have any constraints, or obstacles, they are identified by ownership and all parties are held accountable."

Amanda Foster
F-15 Ramp Shop production supervisor

12 mechanics, almost half the number it began with months ago.

Still the production machine forged ahead.

Left and right ramps aid with air intake on a jet engine. They are overhauled in an 11-day flow process.

Four gates include teardown and inspections; build-up; sealant application; and final inspections.

Repairs are identified first by thorough non-destructive inspection techniques.

At that stage parts are ordered, so once build-up begins there's no waiting

and work continues.

Art of the Possible has been met with the goal of maintaining the culture that led them to this most recent success, according to Foster.

After all, the important keys to achieving that success - according to Air Force Sustainment Center Commander Gen. Bruce Litchfield's electronic book by the same name - include: effectively leading, building an organizational team that believes and the methods it takes to reach 'Road to' goals; effectively influencing and developing a circle of networks across the enterprise needed for success;

► see **MACHINE**, 2

FRIDAY FLYBY: Sexual Assault Awareness month events announced, Page 2

Base veterinary clinic closed

Due to an unexpected staff vacancy the Robins Veterinary Clinic is closed until further notice. The Army Veterinary Service is working to restore full service as soon as possible.

The clinic understands that pets are family too; please do not hesitate to seek care in the local community for urgent pet health concerns.

Limited support staff will be available during the closure. For more information, call the clinic at (478) 327-8448.

Celebrating Diversity: Women's History Month

Coral Wong Pietsch was a brigadier general in the United States Army Reserve. She was also the first Asian American woman to reach the rank of brigadier general in the United States Army.

Commissioned into the Judge Advocate General Corps in 1974, she was assigned to Eighth Army in Korea then to Fort Shafter, Hawaii, completing her active duty requirement, and transferring to the Army Reserves.

On Nov. 1, 2011, President Obama nominated her to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. She was confirmed by the Senate as the newest judge of the Court of Appeals on May 24, 2012.



Coral Wong Pietsch

Weekend Weather

Friday
63/38



Saturday
57/34



Sunday
60/42



"Slow Down!"

SECOND FRONT

Sexual Assault Awareness Month kicks off Wednesday

BY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATOR OFFICE

The Department of Defense recognizes April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. It's a time to focus on awareness and sexual violence prevention. The 2015 theme is Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know Your Part. Do Your Part.

"Eliminating sexual assault requires every service member be a steadfast participant in creating an appropriate culture and upholding military core values," Under Secretary of Defense Jessica Wright said. Sexual assault is one of the most under reported crimes in society. It's DOD's goal to have all victims of sexual assault report using the unrestricted or restricted reporting options.

When victims access medical and mental health care, they're likely to have better recoveries.

Sexual assault is a readiness issue. Our mission not only involves national defense, but the defense and safety of the Americans who voluntarily risk their lives for our country.

Sexual assault can destroy unit cohesion and is inconsistent with military good order, discipline and conduct. The impact that sexual assault has on a victim can be devastating and, without treatment, can have a lasting negative effect on a person's health and resilience.

Sexual assault prevention is everyone's duty. Every Airman must understand the importance of safely intervening and preventing the crime of sexual assault.

All Sexual Assault Awareness Month events are free and are open to all Airmen at Robins.

► Wednesday through April 30: Traveling Line of Courage is a silent exhibit of self-expression of the violence which plagues our community. The T-shirts, created by survivors and others affected by sexual assault, will be displayed on a clothesline as testament to the problem of violence.

► Wednesday: Parking Lot Blitz. SARC volunteers will distribute sexual assault education and prevention materials throughout various parking lots on the base.

► April 7, 14, 21, 28: Teal Tuesday. Wear teal to

show support for survivors and promote awareness.

► April 10 and 20: from 1 to 3 p.m. Survivor Jar Painting – Take the Lid off "IT" – Bldg. 301 Fitness Center Annex; April 15 and 22 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Bldg. 707, SARC Office.

► April 15 and 22: Survivor T-Shirt Painting, Bldg. 707 4 to 6:30 p.m.. Sign up by calling 478-327-7272. An outlet for anyone affected by sexual violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt.

► April 17: 5K Color Run-A-Mile in Their Shoes. Run or walk a mile to raise awareness and show support for those affected by sexual violence. Check-in at Bldg. 826 HAWC parking lot at 8 a.m. The run will begin at 8:25 a.m. Registration is not required.

► April 24: Courage Walk. The Courage Walk is a time to honor the strength and courage of survivors of sexual violence. The walk will begin in between the parking lots of Bldgs. 300 and 301.

The SARC office is located in Bldg. 707. The SARC or a SAPR Victim Advocate may be reached 24/7 by calling DSN 497-7272 or commercial (478) 327-7272.



U.S. Air Force photos by ED ASPERA

Above, Gary Hall, 572nd Commodities Maintenance Squadron sheet metal mechanic, reinstalls an interior screen after removing foreign objects from inside of an F-15 Intake Ramp.

Below, Randall Harvey, 572nd Commodities Maintenance Squadron sheet metal mechanic, applies sealant to the leading edge of an F-15 Diffuser Ramp.

MACHINE

Continued from 1

and effectively executing continuous process improvement, which requires a disciplined approach to reacting to data and focusing the organization.

How does this idea translate to the shop floor?

"Mechanics feel more responsible," said Foster. "The flow process is better. Anytime we have any constraints, or obstacles, they are identified by ownership and all parties are held accountable. Therefore, turnover occurs in a shorter period of time and customer demands are met on a more consistent monthly basis."

Matt Baker, 572nd CMMXS sheet metal mechanic, agreed.

"There's more accountability," he said. "Even the paperwork has changed, covering everything that needs to be done. You are more accountable for what you work."

Teamwork is paramount.

"While everyone has their own way of how things are done, people put all of that aside in order to achieve monthly production



goals," said Foster. "They own the process now."

In contrast to the old way of doing business, one worker would stay with a ramp through each of the four gates from tear-down to final inspection. Now the asset moves down the production line, instead of the worker, further increasing productivity.

"No matter what obstacles have been thrown at us, we haven't missed a beat. The way we do things now will stay because it works," she said.

Helping agencies icon

Computer users have access to a Helping Agencies Icon on their desktop. Those who want to view it from off base, can access the icon at www.robins.af.mil.

The icon provides Team Robins members one-click access to a list of helping agencies including the services they offer and contact information for each. The list also contains direct links to a number of associated websites and brochures.

Air Force Summer camps

Applications are now available for the 2015 Air Force Summer Camps. Youth interested in applying for Teen Leadership Camp, Teen Aviation Camp or Space Camps must complete an electronic summer camp nomination registration form and submit the application to Marvin Hawkins, Youth Programs director, by April 3.

Interviews will be scheduled for each applicant, and their applications will be forwarded for consideration.

All lodging, meals and program costs will be centrally funded at no cost to participants. Airline or personal vehicle travel cost is the responsibility of attendees.

The Air Force Teen Leadership Camp is a five-day residential program which provides a glimpse of what university life is like while developing leadership skills. The camp will be July 13 through 17 in San Antonio, Texas.

The intent of the Air Force Teen Aviation Camp and tours is to help attendees determine if aviation or the Air Force Academy is a career choice. The aviation camp will be June 6 through 11 at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Air Force Space Camp allows attendees to experience, imagine, and interact through Space Shuttle mission simulations and tours of the center.

Space Camp will be July 26 through 31 at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, Ala.

Final selections for Aviation Camp spaces will be announced by May 1. Final selections for Space Camp and Teen Leadership camp spaces will be announced by May 13.

To download an application, visit www.myairforcelife.com and click on youth programs at the bottom of the page.

Scholarship Programs accepting applications

The Robins Chiefs Group is accepting applications for its academic scholarship program.

An applicant must be an enlisted military member, active duty, reserve, National Guard or retired, or the dependent of an enlisted military



This Guy!

member – active duty, reserve, National Guard, retired, or deceased – assigned to or retired from Robins Air Force Base. Any enlisted rank or branch of service is eligible.

For more info or to download an application, visit www.robinschiefsgroup.org. All applications must be postmarked no later than May 1.

The Robins Company Grade Officers Council is also accepting academic scholarship applications.

This \$250 scholarship will be awarded based on demonstrated academic achievement and an interest in continuing education at a four-year college or university.

Only students whose parents or legal guardians work at Robins – active duty, national guard, reserve or civil service – may apply. Students must have earned at least a 3.0 grade point average. The deadline is April 10.

The scholarship will be disbursed in June. In addition to the application form, students must submit a transcript, letter of recommendation and an essay.

Completed applications must be sent to robins.cgoc.scholar@us.af.mil.

For more information, email robins.cgoc.scholar@us.af.mil or contact Capt. Nicholas Edvarchuk at (478) 327-7982 or DSN 497-7982.

Robins Earth Day photo contest extended

Environmental Management invites you to participate in the inaugural Robins Earth Day Photo Contest – now extended through April 12.

We're looking for photographs displaying our natural inhabitants while highlighting our interactions with the local flora and fauna on base.

Consider visiting the parks, hiking trails and lakes to capture the winning photos for this year's contest.

For full rules and an entry form visit www.robins.af.mil.



CONSERVE ENERGY
USE YOUR WITS
NOT YOUR WATTS



An E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System sits on a taxiway at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. The JSTARS mission is to provide ground commanders with intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance air power.



JSTARS dominates as agile Airborne Battle Management Crew of the Year

BY CAPT. PAMELA STAUFFER

116th ACW Public Affairs

A 116th Air Control Wing squadron was chosen as the National Guard Bureau-level Airborne Battle Management Crew of the Year for 2014 by the Air Force Association.

Professionalism, superior knowledge and agile technical skills in airborne battle management, command and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance during missions in Iraq were the drivers behind the 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron's Crew 8 award nomination.

"In today's operational environment, the skill of aircrew members coupled with flexibility is critical to mission success," said Col. John Verhage, 116th Operations Group commander. "They had to rapidly adapt to an ever-changing battlefield situation."

The crew's nomination focused on their accomplishments while flying in the Central Command area of operations.

"Their response to changes in the air tasking order ensured successful close air support and air interdiction missions, which directly contributed to bombs on target, on time," said Verhage.

The judging categories for the Guard-level ABM crew award were: Outstanding Crew Accomplishments with Significant Results; Major Mission Accomplishments; and Contributions to Battle Management during tactical operations.

"The women and men of Crew 8 brought stability and calm confidence to the area of operations," said an evaluator senior director technician with the crew.

The 128th is among nine categories of battle management winners advancing to compete in the Air Force level competition. The national winners are formally recognized at the National Aerospace Award ceremony scheduled later this year.

"These individuals epitomize the professionalism and dedication required for mission success," said Col. Brian Lehew, Command and Control, ISR Division chief.

The "Put your hands together for ..." feature is a new monthly installment to the Robins Rev-Up.

Due to the overwhelming number of awards people at Robins receive, we just aren't able to cover them all. This feature is our way of ensuring we give credit where we can.

The installment will run in the last issue published each month.

To have an award included in the feature, submit a brief write up of the award and the people who have earned it. Photos may be submitted, but space is limited. Submissions should be sent as a word document; photos should be .jpgs. For more information, contact Geoff Janes at vance.janes@us.af.mil or Lanorris Askew at lanorris.askew_ctr@us.af.mil. Either can be reached by phone at 468-6386.

AFLCMC Annual Engineering Awards

The Air Force Life Cycle Management Center Annual Engineering Awards ceremony was conducted Feb. 12. The awards are presented annually to recognize the outstanding contributions of scientists, engineers and technical teams to the center's mission. The employees selected from Robins will go on to compete at the Air Force Materiel Command level in the spring. The winners are:

C-130 Bleed Air Duct Team: James Roberts; Mike Murphy; Matt Kilmer and James Sipe

Jr. Military: 1st Lt Justin Baysden

Dr. Chester G. Jones Memorial Award: Carol Hernandez

Technical Management Team Award: Gregory Sutton, Sr.

448th SCMW 2014 Annual Award winners

The 448th Supply Chain Management Wing recently announced its annual award winners.

Robins winners include:

Civilian Cat II (Supervisory):

Lauren Dixon, 638th Supply Chain Management Group.

The 448th SCMW, headquartered at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., consists of 2,800 personnel at four geographically separated locations including the 638th SCMG here.

Family of the Year:

The Warren family, 638th

Supply Chain Management Group.

Glenwood Warren is an Inventory

Management supervisor, 409th

Supply Chain Management

Squadron, Armament Inventory

Management Section and Michele Warren is a Logistics Management

specialist, 409th SCMS, C-130 Logistics Section. This award honors

the significant contributions of families. Eligibility extends to married couples with or without children and single-parents whose contributions to their unit, Air Force, and the local community best exemplify the highest ideals and positive image of the Air Force.

78th Logistics Readiness Squadron Awards

The following 78th LRS Airmen were named AFMC Base-Level Enlisted Logistics Readiness Award winners:

2014 AFMC LOG-R Airman of the Year: Senior Airman Christopher Turner

2014 AFMC Logistics Plans NCO of the Year: Staff Sgt. Amanda Richardson

2014 AFMC Air Transportation Airman of the Year - Senior Airman Efre Roberts

Congratulations to the following 2015 General Thomas P. Gerrity Logistics Award winners for outstanding contributions to logistics readiness missions.

AFMC Gerrity Unit Level Award: 78th LRS

AFMC Gerrity Individual Level Award: Major Jeremy Pankoski, 78th LRS. Pankoski will go on to compete at the Air Force level.

Professional Maintenance Certificate Program

Congratulations to the following Robins members who achieved certification in the Professional Maintenance Certificate Program:

Ellen Griffith, Detres Stone, Jimmy Russell, Leo Honore, Charles

Ray, Warren Walden, Jodale Blanding, Antonio Cleveland, Gregory

Collins, William Day, Chad Foles, Katherine James, Sherri Luck,

David Restucher, Steven Ryan, Alva Shell, David Shoemaker,

Antonio Smith, Vincent Stone, Marcella Ivory, Jeanne Boutwell,

Christopher Carr, Gregory Gates, Lawrence Henry, William Hurst,

Cynthia James, Larence Johnson, Wesley Kersey, Carl Nelson,

Richard Nelson and Danny Smith.

AF-level Manpower Personnel and Service award

Lauren Griffin has been named the 2014 Air Force Manpower, Personnel and Service Annual Award Technician of the Year, installation level.

As the 78th Force Support Squadron recreation specialist in charge for three years, Griffin's primary duties included running and maintaining the Heritage Pool throughout the summer, planning and executing all trips including Outdoor Adventures, Single Airman Program and RecOn program, as well as overseeing the day to day operations of Outdoor Recreation including financials, inventory, equipment status, employee schedules, payroll, etc.

The standout has recently changed careers and now serves as a contracting specialist after receiving her master's degree in business administration from Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville.

"I want to give joint credit for winning this award to my team at Outdoor Recreation and the Arts and Crafts



Center, she said. "I could never have done anything I did without a great team supporting me and helping me every step of the way."

AFMC's 2014 Annual Excellence Award winner

Theron Jones, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center Operations, Mobility and Vehicles Branch director, has been named the Civilian Category III winner of the Air Force Materiel Command Annual Excellence Awards.

The awards ceremony was conducted March 10 and 11 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Sixty-one Airmen from throughout AFMC's headquarters, centers and wings were nominated



to compete in nine separate categories – airman, non-commissioned officer, senior NCO, first sergeant, company grade officer, field grade officer, civilian category

I, civilian category II and civilian category III.

Jones distinguished himself by expertly leading a diverse team of 48 personnel encompassing 14 different integrated product teams while managing a portfolio of \$450 million. Additionally, he presided over the Secretary of the Air Force's Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle streamlining initiative, where he created a \$120 million fleet structure to modernize outdated equipment.

Going for VPP Gold

As organizations continue to participate in Robins' Voluntary Protection Program Safe Site Challenge, several were recently awarded with Gold recognition for their efforts.

Congratulations to the following organizations

which were recently presented Gold banners:

- ▶78th ABW/SC Communication Squadron Records
- ▶Small Business Office
- ▶561st AMXS Corrosion Control
- ▶78th ABW/CEG, Power Production

WARFIGHTERS

Continued from 1

Overall there are more than 3,400 personnel in the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group.

The demands of the flight line are tough, with long hours and physically demanding work, according to Col. Jennifer Hammerstedt, 402nd AMXG commander.

“Women are definitely the minority on the flight line; however, I have to admit, I don’t even notice gender when I’m out walking around the group,” she said. “When I stop to think about it, I do recognize the atypical career choice many of our female technicians have made. To me every civilian Airman who raises their hand to serve our Air Force at Robins commits to the same thing – generating airpower for our Air Force.”

WEIGHING AIRPLANES FOR A LIVING

Scoring well on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test while in high school, Barbara Greer never thought she’d enjoy a career in aircraft maintenance.

She completed basic training in the Marine Corps, and became the second female to be trained as an aircraft jet engine mechanic at technical training school in Millington, Tenn.

After serving four years, she worked in civil service at Fort Benning, Ga., working on helicopters, and became the first female aircraft mechanic hired.

Greer, 53, moved to Robins in 2001, where these days the Ellaville native is the lead C-130 weight and balance technician for the 402nd AMXG.

She’s ultimately responsible for ensuring the aircraft is ready to go before functional test on the flight line. It’s a job she takes seriously. By the end of fiscal 2015, she will have weighed and balanced 46 aircraft.

She shared the story of when she first joined the Marines at 17, how she had been afraid to speak up about a job. She didn’t want to make a mistake, plus the pilot intimidated her.

She learned later something had gone wrong with the aircraft. Although the error wasn’t hers, it taught her a valuable lesson. No matter what, she would speak up.

“That happened to me some 40 years ago, and because of that it gave me the confidence to not be afraid anymore,” she said. “If I’m not sure that everything is right with an aircraft, I won’t give it over to the pilots.”

As part of a weight and balance check, an aircraft’s inventory must be checked, a process that takes the most time. Then it’s time to jack the aircraft up, in this case one weighing 80,000 pounds.

Jacks will be placed at three points under the plane, after which it’s lifted 2 to 3 inches above the floor. Ensuring an aircraft’s center of gravity is correct is crucial.

“We want this plane to be as level as we can get it, especially with our cargo planes since these will load people and equipment. You want the center of gravity to be close to perfect,” she said.

Greer said she doesn’t know very many women who

work in her field, but credits everyone who came before her to help get where she is today.

“At the end of the day I’m more about just getting a job done,” she said.

JUST LIKE DAD

When Samantha Hurst, 26, moved to Warner Robins after graduating from Ramstein American High School in Germany, she had an idea of what she wanted to do.

She has fond memories of helping her dad build things – or rather taking over projects – so naturally she wanted to work with her hands.

Her dad, retired Chief Master Sgt. David “Opie” Hurst, is a C-130 Functional Test Flight chief; and mom works in the commissary. Nearly four years ago, Samantha came onboard too, today working as an aircraft mechanic on F-15s in the 561st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

“I didn’t know what to expect, but I love it. It’s interesting work and something different all the time,” she said.

She’s one of a handful of female aircraft mechanics at Robins in a field mostly occupied by men. According to the latest figures from the Directorate of Personnel, there are 10 female aircraft mechanics; 572 are male.

“It’s pretty cool being part of a select few,” she said.

Other than that she doesn’t see much difference in how the same work gets done. She’s a meticulous worker, pays attention to detail, works great with coworkers and brings something a little extra, the same sentiments shared by coworkers.

She was in the Air National Guard for a time, then attended Middle Georgia Technical College where she completed a sheet metal certificate program.

She took part in a Wage Grade Training Program offered by the complex, which hired its first group of targeted employees in 2011.

The formal two-year training program was aimed toward aircraft and sheet metal mechanics, with several hundred hired to fulfill a depletion of experienced mechanics at the time.

Trainees began at the WG-5 level, and once they became proficient in their respective aircraft work areas,

they were promoted on until reaching WG-10. She recalled being the only female in her graduating class, which combined on-the-job training and class instruction.

“If you enjoy working with your hands and putting pride in your work – this can be for you,” she said. “I knew I’d always be turning wrenches ... I see myself as a mechanic who is a woman. I mean, we’re all mechanics out here.”

RUNNING WIRES

A San Antonio, Texas, native, Sarah Collazo had planned to enter nursing, but life happened.

She moved to Georgia with her family when dad, Edward Collazo, got a job at Robins. He’s a sheet metal mechanic with the 559th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

After completing a co-op program at Middle Georgia College and graduating from Georgia Military College, Collazo, 30, also began her career at Robins in 2011.

Although she never saw herself working on military aircraft, working with her hands wasn’t new. She grew up working on cars with dad. She started out with elec-



U.S. Air Force photos by ED ASPERA

Nearly four years ago, Samantha Hurst came onboard working as an aircraft mechanic on F-15s in the 561st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

tronic warfare components, troubleshooting line repairable units, but later moved across base.

She sees her work with running wires, disassembling, repairing, modifying and installing electronics systems and electrical components on C-17s as rewarding. There’s bragging rights to be had in the family since her brother also works in maintenance.

“I love seeing the final product when we’re done,” said Collazo, an aircraft electrician with the 562nd AMXS.

Her advice to young women looking to enter the maintenance field is not to be intimidated.

“Know that you’ve got to be dedicated to the work,” she said. “Come in knowing you’re playing your part to support a warfighter.”

Having the mechanical knowledge, communication with your team members, and knowledge of the safety issues that surround you daily are key.

“This field is different, I never thought I’d be doing it,” she admitted. “It may be different working with more men, but hey, we’re just as capable. Women are a very essential part of the work force. We were able then, and we are able now to be vital assets to the mission.”

PROUD TO BUILD

Formerly working with C-130s, every day involves a new set of problems to solve for Patricia Brock, now an aircraft mechanic with the 561st AMXS.

About 10 years ago she worked on C-130s in Greenville, S.C., was amazed at the wiring work being done, and saw it as a unique job of which she wanted to be a part.

She’s worked in factories, and for nine years worked at a Lockheed Martin sub-assembly plant building wire harnesses and installing electronics later put into submarines.

“No two jets are the same. Even though they might have the same components, they don’t fit exactly the same,” said the 52-year-old Americus, Ga. native, who has worked at Robins for five years. “I enjoy the challenge, and knowing that a pilot is using the jet I’ve had a part in, and keeping our nation safe.”

The work requires a little elbow grease, but that doesn’t stop Brock from getting a chic and polished French manicure every now and then. If they break, they break.

She’s easy to spot, acrylic nails included, with a ponytail tucked neatly under a hat that reads “Corvette”.

“When I’m helping to check the aircraft, it’s like I’m flying and landing the jet myself,” she said. “My job is interesting, challenging and different because it takes real skill to say that I’m actually putting a military jet together with my bare hands. I feel I can contribute in a way no other person can.”

There are days when she might be reading technical orders or troubleshooting an issue. Other days can include installing general circuit breaker panels, connecting a wing harness back to a center wing box and leading edge or working the fuel pit.

Her best accomplishment to date?

“I’m most proud showing that a woman like myself can do the same work as a man, and that she can handle it with her head held just as high,” she said.

Yet no matter what - you have to be willing to give 100 percent.

“Lives depend on you to do the best job possible. Always be proud of what you are building,” she said.



“If I’m not sure that everything is right with an aircraft, I won’t give it over to the pilots.”

Barbara Greer
402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group



Sarah Collazo, an aircraft electrician with the 562nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, sees her work with running wires, disassembling, repairing, modifying and installing electronics systems and electrical components on C-17s as rewarding.

ROBINS REV-UP

COMMANDER
Col. Christopher Hill

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They should be e-mailed to lanorris.askew.ctr@us.af.mil and 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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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICE

Georgia is home to more than 234,000 Vietnam War veterans, and the state seeks to honor them with a new program to be unveiled next week.

Hosted by the Georgia Department of Veterans Service, “Vietnam Veterans Day in Georgia: A Salute to Georgia’s Vietnam Veterans” will be conducted at 10 a.m. Monday, in the North Wing of the State Capitol Building in Atlanta.

Distinguished guests include Governor Nathan Deal and retired Army Lt. Gen. Claude Kicklighter, director of the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Commemorations.

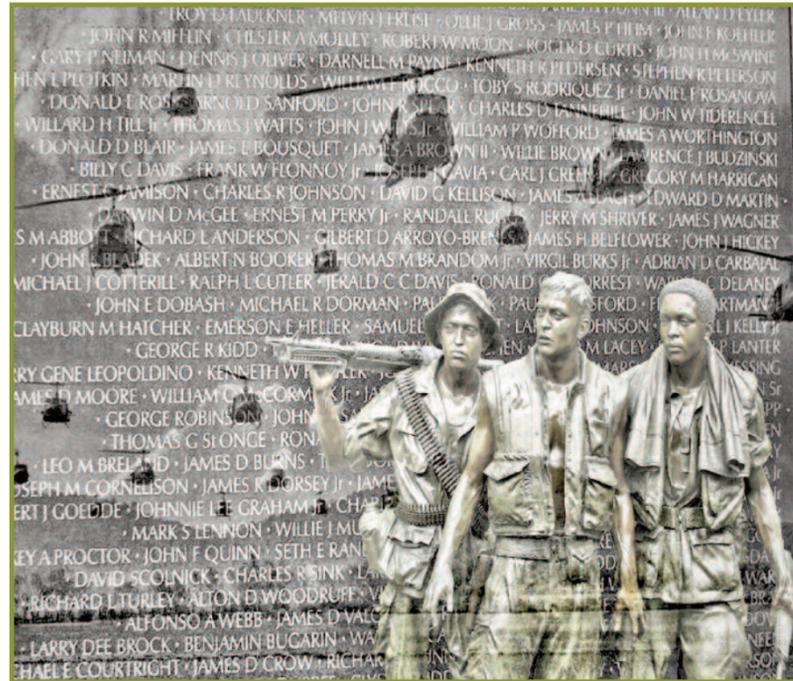
The culmination of the event will be the unveiling of Georgia’s Certificate of Honor program for Vietnam War veterans.

Gov. Deal will formally award the first certificates to representatives from several Georgia veterans service organizations, and details will be announced for how every Georgia Vietnam War veteran may receive a personalized certificate through the new program.

Program details will be published afterward at the GDVS website, veterans.georgia.gov.

“So many Vietnam War veterans were never properly thanked for their service to our country,” said GDVS Commissioner Pete Wheeler. “They risked their lives on our behalf, and the least of what we owe them is respect and gratitude. With this Certificate of Honor program, the State of Georgia acknowledges and respects the service of every Vietnam veteran.”

The ceremony and certificate program are part of Georgia’s ongoing efforts to recognize Vietnam veterans during the 50th anniversary commemoration of the war.



U.S. Air Force photo illustration by CLAUDE LAZZARA

So many Vietnam War veterans were never properly thanked for their service to our country. They risked their lives on our behalf, and the least of what we owe them is respect and gratitude.

Pete Wheeler

Georgia Department of Veterans Service commissioner

ration of the war.

This ceremony is the fourth in a series honoring the service of Vietnam veterans during the 50th anniversary of the war.

As an official Commemorative Partner of the U.S. Department of Defense in the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration, the State of Georgia will be hosting commemorative events through Nov. 11, 2025.

“Vietnam Veterans Day in Georgia:

A Salute to Georgia’s Vietnam Veterans” is hosted by the Georgia Department of Veterans Service in partnership with the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association. Program participants include the West-Atlanta Douglas Choral Society, the Georgia Army National Guard, and representatives of several Georgia veterans service organizations.

ALL IN

A DAY’S WORK

Senior Airman David Moore

UNIT: 51st Combat Communications Squadron

JOB TITLE: Cyber transport technician

TIME IN SERVICE: 2 years

HOMETOWN: Greenville, S.C.



What does your work involve at Robins? Configuring, maintaining and deploying different communication packages to deployed locations. I deal specifically with network infrastructure equipment in those packages.

How does your work contribute to the Robins mission? My work contributes to combat readiness for Robins. We are some of the first people to deploy when needed.

What do you enjoy most about your work? We have a lot of physical training, and I get to set up networks from the ground up. You gain a lot of experience and become very well rounded in communications.

What prompted your interest in your current career field? I used to work for Apple before joining the Air Force. One of my bosses there introduced me to networking, and it’s been a hobby of mine ever since.

What is an accomplishment of which you are most proud? I’m proud of obtaining my bachelor’s degree. I’ve also completed my first deployment in the Air Force this year.

AROUND THE AIR FORCE

Safeguarding your digital footprint

BY TECH. SGT. STEVE GREVER

Air Force Public Affairs Agency

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) – Social media is a great resource for Airmen and their families to share information and stay connected to relatives at home and abroad.

Although many depend on these wonderful tools, recent events have encouraged us to re-evaluate our digital footprint to ensure our personal and professional information is protected from online predators and individuals who want to do us harm.

While social media use can be entertaining and informative, it poses potential operations security weaknesses, and Air Force Instruction 1-1, Air Force Standards, provides guidance on appropriate social media use by Airmen.

OPSEC and personal privacy concerns should be paramount when using social

media. Military members have recently been threatened on social media by terrorist organizations looking for information they can use to harm military families and disrupt Air Force operations.

The following tips will make it more difficult for unwanted users to acquire your data through social media:

►Be cautious when accepting friend requests and interacting with people online. You should never accept a friend request from someone you do not know, even if they know a friend of yours.

►Don't share information you don't want to become public. Remember, once you put something out there, you can't control where it goes.

►Disable location-based social networking, or geotagging, on all social media platforms. Geotagging is the process of adding geographical identification to photographs, video, websites and text messages.



KEEPING SOCIAL MEDIA SITES SAFE

For tips on how to keep your personal social media sites secure, visit the following websites:

http://www.defense.gov/documents/WEB_Guide_to_Keeping_Your_Social_Media_Accounts_Secure_2015.pdf

<https://www.facebook.com/DeptofDefense>
(See OSD video on subject).

►Avoid posting work or personal schedules and travel itineraries, especially deployment information and return dates for yourself, a loved one or a unit.

►If you ever hesitate before clicking 'post', reconsider the content you are about to share. Our team follows the motto: When in doubt, throw it out!

►Adjust your privacy settings to ensure your posts and profile information is secured and seen only by approved audiences. This last tip applies to any social media platforms you may use, but since

Facebook is the most widely used, we want to share this detailed how-to guide on how to secure your profile.

►Practicing good OPSEC and helping family members follow these security measures is essential to protecting personal and mission-critical information on social media. If you ever feel you are being threatened or you notice vulnerable information online, be sure to alert the social media platform's help center and your local OPSEC manager for assistance.

PERSPECTIVE

Rosie the Riveter and me

BY STAFF SGT.
ALEXANDRA LONGFELLOW

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

As we recognize Women's History Month, I'm struck by the thought that heroes and role models don't have to be one single person but, in fact, can be several people.

For me, that truth is especially relevant.

During World War II, many women opted to take on male-dominated trades to support their families while their husbands fought in the war. That was a stark change from an era in which women typically held positions as housewives.

It was during this time that "Rosie the Riveter" was born. In 1942, Veronica Foster, who had in the previous year become the face of Canadian women in the war effort as "Ronnie the Bren Gun Girl," donned the red bandana and rolled up her sleeves for Canada's neighbors to the south.

"Rosie the Riveter," as she was known in the U.S., was soon the iconic image of women entering the workplace and taking up industrial jobs in support of their nation.

Originally, it was meant to represent the millions of women employed at shipyards and manufacturing plants who were developing the nation's military arsenal and assembling war supplies. The poster itself evolved into a multi-dimensional inspiration.

Even today, Rosie's signature expression and inherent strength are an inspiration to millions of Americans, myself included.

I first learned about Rosie when I was 7. My mom handed me a magazine, and I saw the bright yellow and blue background overlaid with a girl showing her muscles. I was so intrigued by the girl in the red polka-dot bandana.

From that moment on, I constantly asked my parents who she was, what she did and why she did it. I wanted to be



LONGFELLOW

exactly like her when I grew up.

I pushed myself hard in high school. During those years, we learned my mother had brain cancer, while my father's health would go from bad to worse. I needed to learn to support myself in any and every way possible. I needed to be independent. I applied myself at school, extra-curricular

activities and several different jobs.

My parents signed the papers for me to enter the Air Force at the age of 17. Three weeks after I graduated high school, I was on a plane headed to San Antonio, Texas, for basic training.

Although I don't get my hands dirty on an assembly line the way Rosie did, I still pull my hair back tight and use my hands to get the job done for our military and to provide for my family.

Every time I felt I couldn't do something, whether in BMT or at my duty station, I remembered the millions of women who rose to the challenge.

My mother passed away while I was at my first duty station and shortly after that my father passed. During those times, I kept a positive attitude. I needed to; it was who I was and who I needed to be.

– To read full commentary, visit www.af.mil/News/Commentaries/Display/tabid/271/Article/580840/rosie-the-riveter-and-me.aspx.

Office of Personnel Management needs your fingerprints

The 78th Air Base Wing Information Protection Office provides oversight and guidance for the submission of Personnel Security Investigations.

Your IP office ensures the proper application, forms and fingerprints are submitted to the Office of Personnel Management. Fingerprints must be captured and transmitted to the OPM for all initial investigations.

Having your prints is a step in taking care of our National Security.

An investigation is considered to be initial if it's the first time a person has been investigated for a position of trust or a security clearance (first secret and/or first top secret) with the government.

Individuals often ask, "Why do I need to be fingerprinted when I've been doing the same job for 15, 20 and in some cases 30 years?"

One reason is a change or upgrade in position requirements resulting in a higher scope of investigation, such as a position changing from non-sensitive to non-critical sensitive.

Another question is, "Why do I have to get fingerprinted again when they are already on file?" The most current data must be available; a person may not



have had an arrest record initially and now do.

How it's done

The means for capturing fingerprints has advanced with technology. Gone are the days of getting your fingers dirty with ink.

Robins has invested in two high-tech fingerprint machines which are capable of capturing a fingerprint by simply placing a hand on the glass.

Once the prints are captured, they are electronically transmitted to OPM to match with the FBI database.

To obtain additional information regarding fingerprint requirements, please contact your unit security manager.

— 78th Air Base Wing
Information Protection Office



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

Airman's Attic gets new items

Thanks to a recent donation, the Robins Airman's Attic recently got some new stuff.

RESC board members Lisa Ratley, Kelly Israel, Andrea Trotter, and Stephanie Wade used the money to purchase new items to be distributed by the Airman's Attic.

Items purchased included dishes, silverware, pots and pans, glassware, irons

and ironing boards, and other miscellaneous items for single Airmen living in the dorms.

Several families were waiting as soon as the attic opened and each family was allowed to receive one new item, in addition to other items already present for sign out.

Editor's note: The Airman's Attic will be closed today through April 6.

Safety saves lives. Start your savings account today.

A DAY AT THE MUSEUM

GLOBAL HAWK: WORKHORSE OF RECON



The Global Hawk pictured above made its first flight in August and retired in May after flying a a little more than 7,400 hours spread over 422 missions.

BY ANGELA WOOLEN

Robins Public Affairs

The Global Hawk flies missions all around the world. One of those landed at the Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight hangar – so to speak.

The RQ-4 Global Hawk is a high-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aerial reconnaissance system designed to capture real-time information for wartime efforts as well as homeland security and disaster relief.

With its impressive 116-foot wingspan, maneuvering the aircraft into the hangar was a delicate process. Part of the stand was put on the Global Hawk before it reached the Century of Flight hangar. A crane lifted the fuselage up in the air while workers stabilized the wings before bolting them into place, said Mike Rowland, museum curator.

The longest flight recorded was 33 hours by an all-female crew. The museum's Global Hawk flew most of its missions around Iraq between 2004 and 2011.

"It's one of the workhorses over Southwest Asia," said William Mayes, sustainment logistics manager for the Global Hawk at Robins Air Force Base.

Since 2001, the Global Hawk has flown more than 1,300 hours and provided 17,000-plus images during Operation Enduring Freedom, according to a Northrop Grumman fact sheet.

The Global Hawk program received the Dr. James G. Roche Sustainment Excellence Award from the U.S. Air Force for three straight years from 2012-14 for demonstrating the most improved performance in aircraft maintenance and logistics readiness, according to Mayes.

The block-10 aircraft, located at the museum, is an

Check out the video story on the Robins Facebook page or on the official Robins website at www.robins.af.mil



empty shell devoid of its computerized parts and camera equipment.

To fly the plane, there are four pilots, two for launch and recovery, and two for mission control. The crew is set up in a Conex box to allow the team to be transported anywhere in the world. The aircraft's computer system, though, is programmed to return to the closest base if it loses contact with its pilots.

The aircraft at the museum logged more than 7,400 hours in the air.

"It was a pretty hardworking plane," said Mayes.

Alligator highlight of annual travel and recreation trade show



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

Tim Williams, dean of alligator wrestling at Gatorland in Florida, gives Shannon McCain a close up encounter with one of the facilities' attractions.

BY ANGELA WOOLEN

Robins Public Affairs

People pointed, stared and some were brave enough to get a closer look.

A live alligator, part of the Travel and Recreation Trade Show at the Heritage Ballroom on March 19, was an unplanned feature attraction.

Tim Williams, dean of alligator wrestling at Gatorland in Florida, brought the 3-year-old gator as a means to draw attention to the attraction.

"It's an opportunity for people to touch, hold and get a picture with one," said Williams, who has been wrestling gators for 40 years.

Some people gave the reptile a wide berth, gawking at the creature, while others wanted photos to show off to their coworkers.

"It was weird," said Catherine Jackson, who works for the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Support Squadron. "It felt like it wasn't real at first."

The exhibition featured 29 other vendors such as Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and Medieval Times.

The show, now in its 15th year, has grown from just five or six vendors its first year, said Melony JaLynn Hudnall, 78th Force Support Squadron community sponsor and advertising program coordinator.

As part of the event, FSS gave away trips, tickets and gift certificates for filling out forms. Several hundred people attended the event.

To find out more about FSS services, including travel and tickets, call 478-926-6559, 478-926-6662, or visit www.robinsfss.com.



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

Steve Tourangeau, BAE Systems advocate, assists Elise Rice as she tries on their Striker helmet designed for fighter pilots.

Students enjoy Dixie Crows Symposium

BY ANGELA WOOLEN

Robins Public Affairs

People stared and pointed as the red and white drone circled overhead.

At the helm was Alva Shell, 560th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron human resources supervisor, perched on the second floor of the Century of Flight hangar as his \$1,300 piece of equipment flew above the crowd.

Shell's demonstration was part of the 40th annual Dixie Crows Symposium conducted at the Museum of Aviation.

The Dixie Crows, a chapter of the American Old Crows, held technical classes, both classified and unclassified Tuesday through Thursday. Classes, such as electronic warfare trends and cyber threats were among the topics for discussion.

About 1,500 people were expected to attend the event, said Karen Brigance, president of the Dixie Crows and chief engineer for the electronic warfare division at Robins.

At the Crows N.E.S.T., novel experiments with science, students from several Houston County schools learned about Explosive Ordnance Devices, drones and robotics.

Vendors from contracting companies along with representatives from Warner

Robins Air Logistics Complex and the Air Force Reserve were there handing out brochures and networking with attendees.

Sixth through eighth-graders gathered around the 116th EOD Flight to watch demonstrations of the vehicles.

"They were telling us about the reconnaissance robot. I'm one of those science kids in school," said Marcus Cyr, age 12.

Underneath the SR-71 aircraft, sixth-grade student Ishaq Dunlap was watching a video on unmanned intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance systems of the Air Force.

"It told us about an air strike where these guys tried to run but [the cameras] kept following them until they found them," Dunlap said.

William Smith, a local engineering teacher, was with several students as they demonstrated their competition robot which took six weeks to complete.

The robotic vehicle placed seventh out of 45 teams at a competition in Perry.

Georgia Institute of Technology had a booth explaining how lasers worked.

"I like it. It is just a lot of mirrors. This seems really cool," said 11-year-old Creed Bone.

Bone added he wanted to be an engineer when he grows up.

A BETTER YOU

AFMC promotes 'Spring Into Shape' physical activity challenge

AIR FORCE MATERIAL COMMAND
WELLNESS SUPPORT CENTER

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – During April and May, Air Force Materiel Command is promoting its Spring Into Shape physical activity challenge.

Spring Into Shape is a command-wide initiative designed to promote physical activity for the AFMC workforce.

Participants will receive a free copy of the "Quick Start Walking" DVD at check-in. Civilian Health Promotion Services will conduct the challenge.

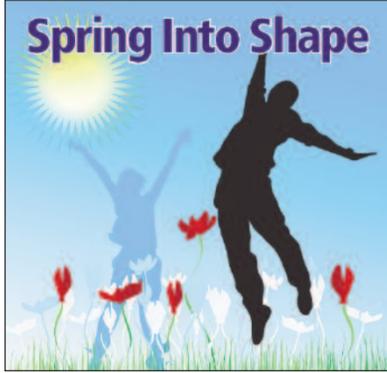
How to Participate

1) Enroll online at www.AFMCwellness.com until April 16 (appropriated fund DOD civilians need to have an up-to-date Health Risk Assessment to participate).

2) Print your SIS confirmation email to turn in at the initial check-in with the Robins CHPS staff between Monday and April 16 to finalize enrollment. You will receive the free "Quick Start Walking" DVD at this visit.

3) Perform physical activity and log your minutes on the www.AFMCwellness.com Activity Log from April 9 to May 20.

4) Attend the CHPS education class,



"Exercise Across the Lifespan."

5) To be eligible for the completion award, you will need to:

- a) Attend enrollment check-in and completion award check-out with CHPS
- b) Complete and log at least 600 total minutes (10 hours) of physical activity
- c) Attend "Exercise Across the Lifespan" class from CHPS staff.

Participants who complete the challenge requirements will receive a free copy of the "Fitness That Works" book from CHPS.

Contact your physician before beginning any physical activity program to be sure it's safe for you.

For more information, visit www.AFMCwellness.com or contact the Robins CHPS team at 497-8030.

TRICARE revises compound drug coverage

Starting May 1, Express Scripts, the TRICARE pharmacy contractor, will screen all ingredients in compound drug claims to ensure they are safe and effective, and covered by TRICARE. This screening process is like the one TRICARE already uses for other prescription drugs, but it will now apply to the ingredients in compound drugs.

Compound drugs are a combination of drug ingredients prepared by a pharmacist for a patient's individual needs. TRICARE beneficiaries taking a compound drug likely to be impacted by the change will receive a letter explaining the new screening process, and what to do.

Use of compound drugs has increased greatly in recent years. However, some

compound drug ingredients have limited or no evidence that they are safe and effective. If a compound does not pass an initial screen, the pharmacist can switch a non-approved ingredient with an approved one, or request the doctor write a new prescription. If that's not possible, the doctor may ask Express Scripts to consider other evidence by requesting a prior authorization.

The Defense Health Agency's highest priority is to provide beneficiaries safe and effective care while being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. Many compound drugs will still be covered because they include ingredients proven to be safe, and most beneficiaries will experience no delay in getting their prescriptions.

For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/CompoundDrugs.

HAPPENINGS/SERVICES

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR
27	28	29	30	31	2	3

ON TAP
Couples Movie Night
“Lucy”

Today
6:30 p.m.
Base Theater
Cost is \$2 and includes popcorn and drink.
For details, call DSN 468-2001.

In the Spotlight

Today
7 p.m.
Heritage Club
Showcase your singing, poetry reading, comedy or musical talents
For details, call DSN 472-7899.

Tips from the Pro

Tuesday
4 to 5 p.m.
Pine Oaks Golf Course
All the balls you can hit for \$5
For details, call DSN 468-4103.

Family Painting event

Thursday
6 to 8 p.m.

Arts & Crafts Center
For details, call DSN 468-5282.

UPCOMING & ONGOING
Egg Hunt

April 4
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Youth Center
Fun activities for the whole family. Free food and drinks
For details, call DSN 468-2110 or 478-926-2110.

Daddy and his Princess, Mommy and her Superhero Dance

April 10
6 to 9 p.m.
Heritage Club Ballroom
\$24 per couple in advance, \$35 at the door
Each additional child \$5 (Discount for club members)
Register by April 6.
For details, call DSN 472-7899.

Color Run

April 17

8:25 to 10 a.m.
Fitness Center
For details, call DSN 468-2128.

Afterburner March Special

Mondays through Fridays
5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Base Restaurant, Bldg. 166
Hawaiian Latte
For details, call DSN 472-7827.

2015 Air Force Club Scholarship Program

Now through May 1
Submit your essay online for a chance to win a \$1,000 or \$500 scholarship
Open to Air Force Club members and eligible dependents
For details, visit MyAirForceLife.com/Clubs.

Twilight Rates

Every day
2 to 5 p.m.
Pine Oaks Golf Course
Play 18 holes with cart for \$20 per person
For details, call DSN 468-4103.

Robins Chapel Protestant and Catholic Easter Worship Schedules

Catholic Worship Services

Monday, Thursday and Friday – Mass, noon

Thursdays - Stations of the Cross, 6 p.m.

Tuesday - Penance Service Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church

Sunday - Palm Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday - Holy Thursday Mass, 7 p.m. Adoration one hour; no noon mass

April 3 - Good Friday Liturgy, 7 p.m. Designated Offering for Peter's Pence; no noon mass

April 4 - Holy Saturday Mass, 8 p.m. Reception to follow in the annex

April 5 - Easter Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m.

Protestant Worship Services

Sunday - Palm Sunday Worship Services at 8 and 11 a.m.

April 3 - Good Friday Service, noon

April 5 - Easter Sunrise Service, 6:45 a.m. Chapel lawn.

Easter Celebration Worship Service, 11 a.m.

April 12 - Easter Cantata Worship Service, 11 a.m.

