



Weathering the storm

Page 3

Library gets new books, dvds

Page 13



Dani's Delicious Dish turns one

Page 10

ROBINS REV-UP

'Team Robins - Performing to Our Potential'

'Making Tomorrow Better than Today'

May 8, 2015 Vol. 60 No. 18

Going the DISTANCE



Globemaster III hits major milestone, flies 3,000,000 hours

BY JENNY GORDON
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The Air Force's C-17 Globemaster fleet celebrated a milestone this week – reaching 3 million flying hours, a significant feat considering the first aircraft was delivered to Joint Base Charleston, S.C., over 20 years ago.

Officials from Robins, flight crews and distinguished visitors from JBC met at each base earlier this week in a display of partnership and collaboration to celebrate the accomplishments of the men and women who've played a part in making the aircraft a success across the globe.

"In the relatively short lifetime of the fleet, when you look across all of the Air Force's weapon systems, that's a pretty big milestone," said Col. Amanda Myers, C-17 System Program Office director. "This signifies all the work that the C-17 has done, what the operators have been able to do with this aircraft, and all the capabilities it has brought to our Department of Defense."

Robins is home to the Air Force's C-17 System Program Office, and the 562nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, whose 625 personnel are responsible for the heavy maintenance and overhaul of the aircraft.

The C-17 SPO at Robins – with personnel colocated at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio – includes foreign military sales and Boeing representatives responsible for the sustainment, modification, maintenance and overall service of the entire fleet.

"We've challenged our employees to build something better, and I will tell you with the C-17 we've



Top right, retired Maj. Gen. Robert McMahon, Boeing director of field operations, listens as Col. Amanda Myers, C-17 System Program Office director, addresses a crowd and local media prior to the C-17's departure to Joint Base Charleston S.C. The flight marked the 3 millionth flying hour for the airframe. Above, a crewmember performs preflight checks prior to departure.

U.S. Air Force photos by TOMMIE HORTON

accomplished just that – the world's premier airlifter," said retired Maj. Gen. Robert McMahon, Boeing director of field operations and former Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander. "But as important as the airplane is, it's really all about the people. We in Boeing are proud of those that design and built this airplane, those that today maintain and sustain this aircraft, both in the U.S. Air Force and in our eight international partners, as well as within the SPO and the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex."

Although the Air Force received its final C-17

Globemaster III in 2013 – its 223rd aircraft, which was delivered to JBC that September – Robins will continue to manage and maintain the fleet for decades to come.

"Our role here is still very significant for the lifetime of the aircraft," said Myers. "The C-17 Program Office will be responsible for the operational safety, suitability and effectiveness of the fleet, with everything we do fitting into that realm. As aircraft get into a sustainment phase and start to age, that will

▶ see DISTANCE, 4

Redesignation last step in realignment for Robins unit

BY JENNY GORDON
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During a redesignation ceremony May 1, members of the 53rd Air Traffic Control Squadron embraced a new name, continuing a new chapter at Robins.

"The redesignation was the final action needed to realign our squadron in both mission and purpose," said Lt. Col. Matthew "Pudge" Davis, 53rd ATCS commander. "As one of my old com-

manders used to say, 'Words have meaning.' We are now called what we actually do.

"The Airmen can now take pride in their name, and carry forward a legacy of success and promise to a new generation of Airmen who are the 53rd Air Traffic Control Squadron."

The squadron was formerly the 53rd Combat Communications Squadron, aligned under the 5th Combat Communications Group in Air Force Space Command.

The new squadron is now aligned with the 461st Air Control Wing and Air Combat Command.

Realignment efforts began in 2014, and included the deactivation of the 54th CBCS, with all of its air traffic control personnel sent to the 53rd CBCS.

The 53rd ATCS also moved to its new headquarters in Bldg. 1364, with 138 Airmen supporting mobile air traffic control support from a variety of career fields, including air traffic control, radar maintenance and airfield maintenance.



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

FRIDAY FLYBY: 116th Air Control Wing participates in maritime exercise, Page 3

Focus on Fall Protection

During fiscal years 2010 through 14, falls were responsible for 7,671 Air Force injuries, including three fatalities, resulting in 44,000 lost work days at a cost of more than \$30 million.

Throughout the two-week focus – now through May 15 – Air Force ground safety professionals are reminding active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilians, and family members of the dangers of preventable falls. For more information about fall protection visit www.afsec.af.mil/groundsafetydivision/fallprotection.asp and Team Robins Safety Page.



Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month is an annual celebration of achievements by Asian Americans and the central role they have played in U.S. history.

Eric Shinseki is a retired Army general who served as the seventh United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs from 2009 to 2014. His final Army post was as the 34th Chief of Staff of the Army from 1999 to 2003. He is a veteran of two combat tours in Vietnam, in which he was awarded three Bronze Stars for valor and two Purple Hearts. He was the first Asian-American four-star general.



Shinseki

"Be Resilient – Focus on the good stuff."

Weekend Weather

Friday 85/62



Saturday 87/63



Sunday 86/66



SECOND FRONT

From the war room to the board room

A recently-issued Department of Defense policy now allows active duty service members to participate in internship and apprenticeship programs during the last six months of their service.

As a result of the new policy, Georgia Tech-Savannah is expanding its Veterans Education Training and Transition, or VET2, program to include active duty military members.

“On a basic level, the goal of the program is to help veterans find good jobs after leaving the military,” said James Wilburn, military academic program director for Georgia Tech Professional Education. “While there’s no shortage of resources to help ease service members’ transitions, they often tend to be spread out and difficult to access. Georgia Tech can prove to be a one-stop shop for veterans, helping them understand the difference between the military and civilian workplaces and giving them the keys to be successful in their post-military lives.”

The program – among the first of its kind in the nation – is a fully-funded program, and there are no costs for service members.

The four-week program ties professional education with job experience by partnering active, transitioning and recently separated service members with an employer to receive classroom and online instruction.

After completing a week of academic training, veterans have the chance to show their skills in a three-week

**WHAT TO KNOW**

For information on the VET2 program and others, stop by the Airman and Family Readiness Center in Bldg. 794.

You may also call (478) 926-1256, or visit between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

placement opportunity with an employer. At the end of the course, participants not only earn a professional certificate, but will also be well positioned for landing a civilian job.

The Robins Transition Assistance Program receives information on opportunities for transitioning personnel.

“Service members who will be separating or retiring are highly encouraged to start planning early, two years for retirees and one year for separatees,” said Julie Thompson, Airman and Family Readiness consultant here. “We can provide information on the transition process, as well as information on the VET2 program and other employment and educational opportunities.

The center offers a Discovery Center where personnel can review employment listings and gather helpful transition literature.”

“While the VET2 program is a competitive one – we have a 16 percent selection rate – participating veterans definitely reap the rewards,” said Wilburn. “To date, all of our veterans have been offered employment as a result of the program.”

In spite of their higher unemployment rate, veterans bring sought-after characteristics to the civilian workforce, such as can-do attitudes, global perspectives, punctuality, the ability to remain calm under pressure and proven leadership skills. In addition, applicants to the VET2 program have skillsets in logistics and transportation, information technology and computing, combat arms security, human resources and administration, maintenance and repair, and aviation, among others.

“Georgia Tech has been providing experiential learning opportunities to students for 100 years, so it only makes sense to bring those unique benefits to both the service member and employer,” said Wilburn. “Service members receive education and experience for their resume and the opportunity to network with cohort members and the employer.

“The employer gains a decreased cost of hiring and onboarding, an extended interview process, a strategic partnership with Georgia Tech and possibly a reliable and dependable employee,” he added.



U.S. Air Force photo by TOMMIE HORTON

Meet the new boss

Lynda Rutledge, a member of the Senior Executive Service and Air Force Life Cycle Management Center Program executive officer and director for the Agile Combat Support Directorate, visited Robins last week for the first time since taking her new position. During the stop she held a PEO call and visited some of the AFLCMC work sites. Rutledge directs one of Air Force Materiel Command’s most diverse systems directorates with over 1,600 military, civilian and contractor personnel charged with executing an annual budget in excess of \$5.1 billion.

IG True or false

Let’s test your knowledge of the Inspector General Complaint Resolution Program. The following questions are based on common misconceptions about the IG.

Q: The IG will solve your problem quicker than the chain of command, or the appropriate agency.

A: False. The quickest way to solve most problems/issues is to use your chain of command or the appropriate agency.

Q: The best way to solve your problem is to contact as many agencies as you can at the same time.

A: False. This is the best way to increase the amount of time it will take to solve your problem. “Shot gunning” your complaint to various agencies at the same time will muddy the waters and could even result in you receiving no answer at all.

Q: Start your complaint at the lowest possible level.

A: True. IAW AFI 90-301 Inspector General Complaints Resolution, you should start your complaint at the lowest possible level appropriate for the circumstances. This gives those closest to the issue a chance to address it.

AFI 90-301, Chapter 2, and the IG Complaint Guide contain detailed procedures for making an IG complaint. For a free copy of the guide or for more information about the IG Complaint Resolution Program, call Col. Jeffery Glass or Tony Congi at (478) 926-5111 or 468-5111.

Robins Cyber Readiness

Robins will welcome a team from the Defense Information Systems Agency as part of a Command Cyber Readiness Inspection Monday through May 15 to assess Robins’ compliance with cyber security directives and orders.

All employees have a part in cyber security and in ensuring we’re inspection ready at all times. Read and adhere to the daily pop-ups on your computer screens. Never leave your CAC unattended. Mark and protect classified material. Keep classified information on the classified network.

**Robins Police Week**

The following events are scheduled on base and in the local community in celebration of National Police Week: **Static Display and K9 Demonstration**

The 78th Security Forces Squadron will host a law enforcement exhibit Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon in the parking lot of the Base Exchange here.

The 78th SFS Combat Arms Training and Maintenance and Military Working Dogs sections will be holding demonstrations. For information, contact Master Sgt. Paul Zavitz at 468-6410 or Officer Mark Campbell at 472-1988.

5K Run/Walk

A 5K run/walk will be Saturday at 8:30 a.m. starting at the Base Exchange parking lot where registration will begin at 8 a.m. There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for both females and males.

For information or to register, contact

Master Sgt. Paul Zavitz at 468-6410 or Officer Mark Campbell at 472-1988.

Reveille

Reveille Monday at 7 a.m. will officially commence the 2015 National Police Week at Robins and in the local community at the flag pole in front of the Warner Robins Police Department.

Candlelight Vigil

A memorial service for all the law enforcement officers in the state of Georgia, Air Force Office of Special Investigations and Security Forces members who have given their lives in the line of duty over the past year will be held Monday at the Southside Baptist Church from 6 to 8 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Chief Brett Evans of the Warner Robins Police Department. For details, contact Staff Sgt. Philip Arras at 472-1971.

Shoot Out Competition

A shoot out competition will be Tuesday and Thursday at the Perry Firing Range from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event is open to military and civilian law enforcement and civilians who provide their own weapon and ammo.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Ladonna Winston at 468-3051.

CPTS closure

The 78th Comptroller Squadron will be closed on May 15 for wingman day. For emergencies, call Senior Master Sgt. Stephanie Rumley at (478) 334-8039.

Military Caregiver PEER forum

The next Military Caregiver PEER Forum will be conducted May 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 707, SARC conference room.

For more information, call the Military Family Life Counselor at (478) 538-1732; PEER support coordinator at (706) 302-0160 or visit <http://warriorcare.dodlive.mil/caregiver-resources> for additional information.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

DIVER DOWN

JSTARS provides maritime overwatch
for Emerald Warrior exerciseBY 116TH AIR CONTROL WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The E-8C Joint Stars provided real-time maritime overwatch to personnel on the water during a lost diver simulation in April.

Flying off the Gulf Coast, JSTARS' unique wide-area, all-weather, surface surveillance radar and on-board communications suite allowed aircrew to send maritime data to U.S. Special Operations Forces, conventional forces, interagency and partner nation participants.

"(Exercise Emerald Warrior) allowed JSTARS to build relationships with U.S. forces, allied partners and civil authorities," said a 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron mission crew commander.

Flown by 116th Air Control Wing Air National Guard members – along with Soldiers from the 138th Military Intelligence Company – the aircrew used the platform's command and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance competencies to show the aircraft's exclusive capabilities.

"Our participation in Emerald Warrior allowed us to train and grow our knowledge base for real-world scenarios we may encounter," said the mission crew commander.

Emerald Warrior is an annual two-week joint exercise engineered to prepare military forces to assist interagency partners protecting the homeland from foreign and domestic enemies.



U.S. Air Force photo by 116TH AIR CONTROL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A 116th Air Control Wing aircrew member swaps out imagery discs aboard the E-8C Joint STARS aircraft. During Exercise Emerald Warrior, 116th Air Control Wing Airmen and 138th Military Intelligence Company Soldiers provided real-time maritime overwatch to joint and allied forces during a lost diver scenario. Names of aircrew members withheld for security purposes.

SKYWARN training preps Robins members to weather the storm

BY ANGELA WOOLEN

angela.woolen.ctr@us.af.mil

If there's some kind of weird weather in your neighborhood, and it don't look good, who do you call?

Well, it isn't Ghostbusters.

Attendees at the April 30 SKYWARN Spotter Class here learned who to call and when to call them.

The training was part of a program to help the Warner Robins community as well as Robins when severe weather strikes the area, said Roddy Nixon Jr., 78th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight lead forecaster and training officer.

Dan Darbe, senior meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Peachtree City, taught the audience what to look for when severe weather is heading this way.

"The reports we get from the ground are so important," Darbe said. The Doppler radar can only report so much, consequently eyewitness reports from people who are trained as storm spotters are invaluable to the NWS in putting up watches and warnings.

The things spotters report to the NWS are tornadoes, funnel clouds, wall clouds, hail, damaging winds, flooding, winter weather and lightning.

In Darbe's experience, hail most often leads to a tornado forming. In

reporting hail, spotters are encouraged to use coins to describe the size. Some of the more unusual sizing comparisons the NWS has received for hail are quail eggs and the size of a cat's head.

The key to surviving a tornado, Darbe said, is preparation. The NWS is only able to give a few minutes warning that a tornado has formed. He suggests people who are in mobile homes leave and find a safer location.

"Fifty percent of all tornado deaths occur in mobile homes," he said.

Tornadoes aren't the No. 1 killer though. That honor belongs to flash floods. Just one cubic yard of water weighs nearly a ton and 12 inches of water can carry a car downstream.

"It can definitely wipe out a road," Darbe said.

Lightning is the No. 3 killer. More than 400 people are struck each year.

"Lightning can strike up to 15 miles away from the storm. If you hear thunder, you're close enough to get struck," said Darbe.

So, if you see a cloud that is organized and has a persistent rotation, it might not be a demon from another dimension; more likely it's a tornado forming.

Other indicators are a wall cloud that descends from the cloud, and if its rotation is rain-free at its base.



Seventy people attended the first SKYWARN Spotter Class April 30. Attendees can now officially report severe weather occurrences directly to the National Weather Service in Peachtree City. That will help warning verification as well as decrease over-warning of weather phenomena when certain criteria is not met. The reports by newly-certified "storm spotters" greatly enhance the effectiveness of the overall meteorological watch and warning programs.



DISTANCE

Continued from 1

become more important to make sure we understand what the aircraft is doing, and how it responds to the environments we put it in.

“There’s still quite a bit of work going on to make sure we keep it performing at the level it is today, and that it can provide the same level of service and mission capabilities that everyone has come to expect,” she said.

Among the C-17 modification work performed by the 562nd AMXS at Robins, there’s the Globemaster Reach Improvement Program which brings aircraft up to a standard configuration; the On Board Inert Gas Generation II System; installing extended range fuel tanks to provide

additional fuel capability and range; the Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures System; and a complete overhaul and maintenance package that occurs every five years.

Earlier this year, maintainers with the 562nd accomplished a complex avionics and weather radar modernization package on a C-17, with the final aircraft completed as part of a long and steady program known as BLOCK 16.

About a 30-minute flight from Warner Robins, Charleston is home to a host of mission partners, including the reserve flying wing, the 315th Airlift Wing; and the 437th AW, an active-duty flying wing which flies and maintains one of the largest fleets of C-17 aircraft in the Air Force.

Notably, the 437th AW’s 17th Airlift Squadron became the first operational squadron to take delivery of the first C-17 in June 1993.

“It’s perfectly appropriate for the ceremony to be here today,” said Col. John Lamontagne, 437th AW commander. “Today is a great opportunity to recognize three million hours across the fleet. There have been a lot of firsts ... and this airplane has done some amazing things.”

The Air Force’s newest, most flexible cargo aircraft continues missions across the globe – most recently humanitarian assistance to aid earth-

JUST HOW MUCH CAN FIT INSIDE?

The C-17 Globemaster III will accommodate 102 troops; 48 litter and 54 ambulatory patients and attendants; or 170,900 pounds of cargo. The crew consists of two flight crew members and a loadmaster.

Humanitarian Operations



Nepal Earthquake – 2015



Ebola Response - 2014



Tomodachi Earthquake and Tsunami– 2011



Hurricane Katrina – 2005

Combat Operations



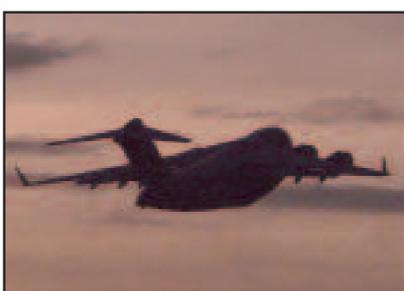
Odyssey Dawn – March 2011



Iraqi Freedom – 2003



Enduring Freedom – 2001



Joint Endeavor – 1996

C-17 Globemaster III Specs



First flight	Sept. 15, 1991
Length	173 feet 11 inches
Height	55 feet 1 inch
Wingspan	169 feet 10 inches
Weight	277,000 pounds
Maximum takeoff gross weight	585,000 pounds
Power plant	Four Pratt & Whitney 40,500-pound thrust engines
Range	2,762 miles
Cruise speed	0.77 Mach (586 mph)
Service ceiling	45,000 feet

GLOBAL REACH

By February 2014, Boeing had delivered 260 C-17s, including 223 to the U.S. Air Force, and a total of 37 to Kuwait, Australia, Canada, India, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the 12-member Strategic Airlift Capability initiative of NATO and Partnership for Peace nations.



ROBINS REV-UP

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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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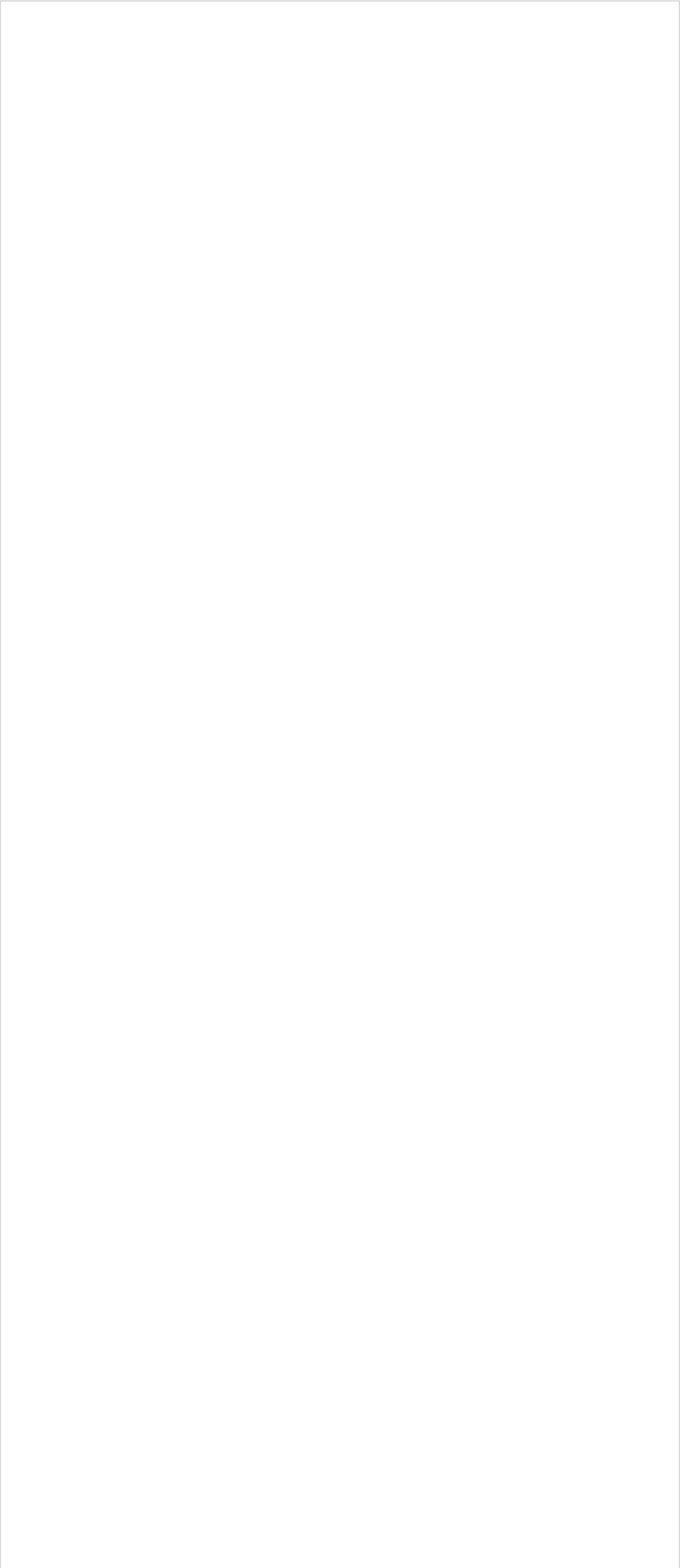
THINK OPSEC!
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AROUND THE AIR FORCE

May is Asian American, Pacific Islander Heritage Month

BY DR. ROBERT KANE

Air University, director of history

In 1978, Congress established Asian-Pacific American Heritage Week to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans to U.S. history and culture. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush extended the celebration to the entire month.

On Oct. 23, 1992, Congress officially designated May of each year as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month to recognize the achievements and contributions of Americans of Asian or Pacific Islander ancestry to the rich heritage and cultural fabric of the U.S.

The theme for 2015 is “Many Cultures, One Voice: Promote Equality and Inclusion.”

Congress selected May for this celebration because it includes the anniversaries of the arrival in the U.S. of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the first transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, partially by the labor of thousands of Chinese immigrants

The term “Asia-Pacific Islands” includes the continent of Asia; the Pacific island groups of Melanesia,



Micronesia and Polynesia; the island groups of the Western and Central Pacific, such as the Philippines and the Marianas; and Hawaii, the 50th state of the U.S.

About 5 percent of the population of the U.S. is of Asian or Pacific Islander descent.

Perhaps the most well-known Air Force member of Asian-Pacific Islander ancestry is Ellison Onizuka. Born in 1946 in Hawaii, he entered the Air Force in January 1970 and flew a variety of aircraft, eventually logging more than 1,700 flying hours. In January 1978, he became an astronaut candidate for NASA.

Onizuka flew his first space shuttle mission aboard the

Discovery in January 1985. He was a mission specialist aboard the orbiter Challenger when it exploded a little over one minute after launch from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, on Jan. 28, 1986. Congress posthumously promoted him colonel, and the Air Force renamed Sunnyvale Air Force Station, California, after Onizuka on Jan. 26, 1994. The Air Force officially closed the installation in September 2011.

Another part of the Asian-Pacific American heritage is the Army’s 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was made up of Japanese-Americans from Hawaii and others that were held in detention camps. The detention camps were established by the U.S. government in February 1942 as a result of the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese Imperial Navy on Dec. 7, 1941, and housed 120,000 Japanese-Americans who had been living in Pacific Coast states.

To read the full story, visit <http://www.af.mil/News/Commentaries/Display/tabid/271/Article/587450/may-is-asian-american-pacific-islander-heritage-month.aspx>.



U.S. Air Force photo by SENIOR AIRMAN MATTHEW LOTZ

LOX lock leak test

Senior Airman Nicholas McGinnis, 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron fixed facilities technician, places a liquid oxygen sample in a container at Aviano Air Base, Italy. Every 90 days, petroleum, oil and lubricants Airmen inspect liquid oxygen tank locks for leaks and test the oxygen’s purity.

Air Force begins testing phase for women in combat roles

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The Air Force is conducting the physical evaluations required to explore opening the last six career fields currently closed to women.

When the law prohibiting women in ground combat roles was rescinded, 99 percent of the positions within the AF were already inclusive of women. The current study is working to open the last 1 percent, which amounts to a little more than 4,300 special operations positions.

“Ultimately, the initiative to eliminate any remaining gender-based assignment restrictions will improve our readiness and the Air Force’s ability to recruit and retain the most effective and qualified force,” said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James.

AF Safety Center sponsors Fall Protection Focus weeks

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. (AFNS) – The Air Force is observing focusing on fall

In Other News

protection.

The initiative – which runs through May 15 – is a partnership with OSHA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

During fiscal years 2010-2014, the Air Force had 7,671 injuries from falls resulting in 44,000 lost work days at a cost of more than \$30 million, which includes three fatalities. According to OSHA, during the last 10 years, more than 3,500 workers have died from falls, which remains the leading cause of death in construction, accounting for more than a third of deaths in the industry.

EAP gives GS employees counseling, more

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. (AFNS) – Personal and family problems can diminish a person’s happiness, health and ability to be their best at home or at work.

With help from the Employee Assistance Program, employees of authorized federal agencies can resolve those matters and become happier, healthier and more effective.

According to Ed Thomas, an EAP field consultant, “Working at a military installation can involve stressors that are not present in off-base workplaces. When an individual’s work is the security and defense of our nation, that increases the amount of daily stress for that person,” he said.

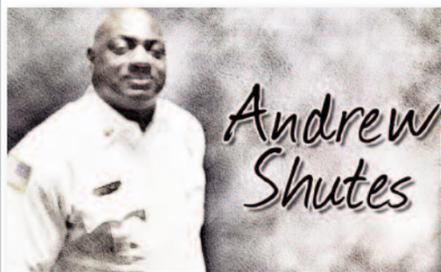
To find out more, call (800) 222-0364.

TRICARE beneficiaries being targeted by call centers

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) – The Defense Health Agency has received a significant number of concerns from TRICARE beneficiaries regarding unsolicited contact from call centers encouraging them to provide personally identifiable and health information.

TRICARE and its contractors will never call and ask for personally-identifiable or health information. Beneficiaries should be wary of unsolicited attempts by any entity asking for this information, either by phone or in person.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK



UNIT: 778th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Protection Flight

JOB TITLE: Firefighter

TIME IN SERVICE: 18 years

HOMETOWN: Humboldt, Tenn.

What does your work involve at Robins? As a firefighter, I protect life and property. I provide medical support to those in need and assist in community fire prevention awareness.

How does your work contribute to the Robins mission? We aid in fire suppression support for flight line maintenance and respond to any basewide fire and medical emergency ensuring safe operations for the base.

What do you enjoy most about your work? The brotherhood of the fire department is what I enjoy most about my job. We're a close group that looks out for one another. It takes an amazing amount of courage to risk your life to save another.

What prompted your interest in your current career field? I enjoy being able to put my life on the line for others. (Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends).

Who has been the biggest influence in your life? My father. He always put God first in all things and sacrificed so much to see his children prosper. He's the reason I'm who I am today.

U.S. Air Force photo illustration by **CLAUDE LAZZARA**

Wildland vegetation fire safety

Many people live in what's called the "urban/wildland interface" – areas where developed property butts up against wildland.

We also enjoy many outdoor recreational activities that could expose us to the dangers of wildland fires.

Wildland fire season generally runs from May through October, when high temperatures and low humidity combine to dry out vegetation.

Spring rains also contribute to the number of fires by promoting vegetation growth that dries out in the summer.

Now is the time to ensure your family disaster plan includes wildland fires.

INSTALLATION POLICIES

► Open fires and fireworks must be authorized by the installation commander.

► Don't use propane or butane barbecues or fryers within 10 feet of buildings, balconies or overhangs. Always quench hot coals with water or cover them with a non-combustible cover to prevent sparks or hot coals from being scattered by the wind.

► Don't store grills with their propane tanks connected unless it's at least 3 feet from a building. If grills are stored inside, they need to be cold safe and the tank must be disconnected and stored in a covered and secured outdoor area.

► For military family housing occupants – ensure manufactured outdoor fire pits are at least 15 feet from structures.

HOMEOWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Homeowner responsibility is key to urban/wildland fire safety. Wildland fires move swiftly.

It's critical that property owners give the fire department a head start by creating what is called defensible space around their homes.

► Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures and remove vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles.

► Locate butane and propane tanks at

least 30 feet from any structure and maintain 10 feet of clearance.

► Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves and other debris from yards and gutters

► Remove dead branches overhanging your roof and keep branches 10 feet from chimneys.

► When clearing vegetation, use care when operating equipment such as lawnmowers. When you mow, do so in the morning when temperatures are low, the air is still and fuel is still damp with dew.

► Discard smoking materials properly. Don't throw smoking butts on the ground.

► Obtain a burn permit before burning any wood piles. (See website address in Editor's note).

► Cover chimney outlets and stovepipes with a nonflammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh.

RECREATIONAL SAFETY

► Ensure off-road vehicles, dirt bikes, etc. have proper mufflers or spark arrestors installed.

► Maintain awareness of fire danger conditions from local forestry services and obey requirements.

► Cold safe campfires. Soak with water and attend for one hour before leaving to ensure fire is out.

► Know two ways to evacuate where you're staying, your home, where you visit, camping areas, etc.

KNOW HOW TO REPORT A FIRE IF YOU SEE ONE

► From a government phone dial 911.

► From a cellular phone or off-base line dial (478) 222-2900.

► Know the local fire reporting procedures where you are staying or visiting.

Editor's note: Maintain fire hazard severity awareness and heed fire danger conditions by visiting www.gfc.state.ga.us/online-permits/index.cfm.

A BETTER YOU



U.S. Air Force photos by **TOMMIE HORTON**

Above, Dani Lebovitz, Robins Air Force Base registered dietitian nutritionist, conducts an exercise class as part of a 12-week, weight-loss program which promotes a better body and a better life. In her current position, Lebovitz teaches everything from performance nutrition to healthy pregnancy and diabetes courses.

Left, Dani Lebovitz and Paul Wenzel, “Dani’s Delicious Dish” videographer and producer, discuss the shows taped during the past year.

Mom’s Day at the Farmer’s Market

The Robins Health and Wellness Center is partnering with Houston County Kids Journey Collaborative and the International City Community Farmers Market to provide our community moms with a special day at the Market Thursday from 1 to 4 p.m. The event will include a cooking demo by Lebovitz, and a CATCH Kids play area and several local community agencies will be on hand to answer questions about eligibility and access to local resources. Additionally, you can find out and sign up for the My Market Rewards Program (First-time visitors receive \$5). Receive a free gift by presenting a copy of this announcement at the HAWC table. So come out to Perkins Field, on Watson between Maple & Mulberry St, across from Robins FCU and not only meet, talk with, and support your local farmers but get the opportunity to meet other community moms and providers of local resources. For more information, call the HAWC at 478-327-8480.

Serving up health Dani’s Delicious Dish turns a year old

BY ANGELA WOOLEN

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One of the most-watched features on the official Robins Facebook page has just passed the one-year mark.

“Dani’s Delicious Dish” premiered April 24, 2014 as a way to promote healthy living for Team Robins employees and their families and everyone who follows Robins on social media.

The award-winning show, hosted by Robins dietitian nutritionist Dani Lebovitz, has garnered praise at both the Air Force Materiel Command level as well as from outside sources like Fruits and Veggies More Matters – a health initiative between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Produce for Better Health Foundation.

Robins now carries role-model status because of its efforts to bring fruits and vegetables to more people. A show which aired in September focused on using locally grown food during the month of September to promote Fruit and Vegetables Month.

The web series also won two Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs awards – besting submissions from nine other bases. It won Best Series in the AFMC Media Contest and Most Innovative in the AFMC Communication Excellence Awards.

The weekly show averages between 3,000 and 5,000 views each time a new episode airs. The largest number of views recorded came in December for an episode which showed exercises to do while watching football, according to the show’s videographer and producer Paul Wenzel.

Wenzel, who has been behind the camera for more than 20 years, brings a sense of humor to the series that Lebovitz says she couldn’t do the show without.

“He’s goofy, and I need that,” she said about her partner in crime.

Lebovitz has cooked up dishes like vegetarian chili, fresh strawberry cupcakes and mock-tails – a version of non-alcoholic drinks for the holidays. Some episodes show cooking while others focus on helping people become more active.

“It’s about helping people and educating them,” Lebovitz said. “You remove barriers to help them live better.”

She practices what she preaches. Though she does enjoy healthy eating, Lebovitz also names cheeseburgers and pizza as her favorite foods. Her favorite healthy foods are oven-roasted vegetables drizzled with olive oil and baked in a 425-degree oven until the edges are crispy.

“She’s a realistic dietitian,” Wenzel said.

Lebovitz countered with a smile, “I’m an equal opportunity eater, and I don’t discriminate.”

Counselor Connection

What to expect during civilian informal EEO complaint processing

The Equal Employment Opportunity complaint process is designed for federal employees, former employees or applicants for employment who believe they've been discriminated against based on any of the protected categories – race; color; religion; sex (including pregnancy); national origin; age (40 or older); reprisal for participating in EEO activity or opposing discrimination within the EEO purview; disability (mental or physical); or genetic information.

The complainant must contact the EO office within 45 calendar days from the date the discrimination occurred or 45 calendar days from the effective date of a personnel action.

Civilian employees must file an informal complaint before filing a formal complaint.

The purpose of the informal EEO complaint process is to give management official notice of the alleged claim, assist the individual in defining the claim and to offer an opportunity for informal resolution of the claim.

The complainant must elect between traditional EEO counseling or mediation as a method of having their informal complaint processed.

If traditional EEO counseling is elected, the complainant has the right to remain anonymous in the informal stage only.

The traditional EEO counseling period is 30 days and can be extended up to an additional 60 days. The EEO counselor

will conduct a limited inquiry into the allegations by requesting management provide a written response to the allegation and requested remedy, as well as documentation pertaining to the allegations raised.

Once a response is received, the EEO counselor may present potential remedies to both parties to facilitate a resolution.

If the complainant elects mediation, the complaint processing period is 90 days. Mediation is a meeting between parties with the help of a neutral, third party mediator to resolve issues. In order to use mediation, both the complainant and management must agree to mediate.

If a resolution is reached through traditional EEO counseling or mediation, a settlement agreement will be drafted and the EEO complaint is closed. If resolution is not reached in the informal complaint stage, the complainant will be issued their right to file a formal discrimination complaint against the agency. If the complainant elects to file a formal complaint, they must file within 15 calendar days from the date of receipt of the right to file a formal complaint.

EO is committed to fostering communication between parties enhancing unit cohesiveness, military readiness and mission accomplishment.

For questions, contact the Robins EO office at 468-2131 or commercial (478) 926-2131.

Practice OPSEC every day, everywhere.

DASH FOR TRASH

Dash For Trash continues through June 5. Is your work area cluttered with obsolete or unneeded stuff? If so, now is the time to dash into action. Inspect your workplace and surrounding areas and dispose of unnecessary items. For disposal assistance or more information, contact the appropriate POC below:

Refuse and Wood Pallets: Contact James Phillips at 497-3170 or james.phillips.11@us.af.mil.

Recyclables: Contact Darryl Mercer at 497-3976 or darryl.mercer@us.af.mil. You can bring recyclables from your workplace or home to the collection center located at Bldg. 987.

Hazardous Waste: Contact John Gullock at 468-1176 or john.gullock@us.af.mil.

Government Equipment: Wednesday is open turn-in for scrap items at DLA Disposition Services. Call prior to determine whether your items are scrap or reusable items. Reusable items will need an appointment. Every turn-in must be accompanied by a form 1348. Call David Smith at 468-3568 or Robert Omogbai at 497-5860.

HAPPENINGS/SERVICES



U.S. Air Force photos by TOMMIE HORTON

Above, Judy Tucker, Base Library technician, prepares recently-returned books to be put back on the shelves.

Below, Kathleen Roseboom, Base Library supervisor, unboxes and prepares books for cataloging.

Library adds new books, dvds to collection

BY ANGELA WOOLEN

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Since January, more than 800 new books have been added to the shelves at the Base Library in Bldg. 905.

Supervisory librarian Kathleen Roseboom has gone through old books using a process she calls 'weeding' and culled old, damaged and out-of-date books from the collection.

"We look at the age of the book, when it was written," said library technician Judy Tucker.

Tucker was behind the counter putting labels on the spines of books to be placed back on the shelves.

Roseboom first added new books to the young adult, junior reader and easy reader categories. She also has organized and re-shelved all of the sections so the books are more organized.

In the fiction section, for example, writer Stephen King's books were in different places such as science fiction and horror. Now all of the books King has written are in one place.

"We wanted to make the inventory more user friendly," Roseboom said.

The library has also added 400 new DVDs to its collection. There are also computers and printers for use as well as free Wi-Fi.

A children's section was added as part of an effort to help children be able to find titles they will enjoy.

This summer, Roseboom hopes to



hold a summer reading program called "Read and the Rhythm." If she has enough volunteers and interest, the library will hold group sessions once a week.

Books and DVDs can be accessed by active duty military members, retirees and their families, and anyone who works on base. The library is closed Sunday and Friday and is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m.

Roseboom stressed the library is not just a place for books, but it also offers a social network for people to comfortably hang out with friends.

"It's a fantastic place," she said.