



Combat Airlifter



TESTING READINESS

pages 5-10

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Joshua Horton, 19th Civil Engineer Squadron exercise participant, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, April 7. ROCKI 19-06 combined Little Rock Air Force Base's semi-annual exercise with Green Flag Little Rock, which enabled Airmen to experience comprehensive scenarios to realistically capture the range of requirements necessary to provide tactical airlift to joint and international partners.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN RHETT ISBELL

18TH AF COMMANDER TALKS

READINESS AND SQUADRON VITALITY

When Maj. Gen. Sam Barrett took the reins of the 18th Air Force last summer, he outlined full-spectrum readiness and squadron vitality as two focus areas for the command.

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COMBAT AIRLIFTER OF THE WEEK

Maj. Jason Furcron, 327th Airlift Squadron assistant operations officer and evaluator pilot, has been selected as this week's Combat Airlifter.

PAGE 2



DROP ZONE

The 17-day long ROCKI 19-06 was a beneficial exercise to the overall readiness of Team Little Rock.

PAGE 12

18th AF Commander Maj Gen Barrett Talks Readiness and Squadron Vitality

By Maj. Ryan DeCamp
18th Air Force Public Affairs

When Maj Gen Sam Barrett took the reins of 18th Air Force last summer, he outlined full-spectrum readiness and squadron vitality as two focus areas for the command.

“Full-spectrum readiness highlights the need to be ready for anything,” Barrett said. “Our Air Force has been engaged in steady-state operations since the early 1990s. However, defending America in the future may involve threats such as advanced air defenses, cyber warfare, or chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear effects, so we need to prepare for a wide range of possibilities. We are refining our tactics based on what we’ve seen in the Middle East and on what near-peer adversaries may bring to the table.”

He said squadron vitality allows Airmen to focus on the mission, support their teammates, and have fun in the process, which creates a cohesive team that meets challenges head on. That atmosphere subsequently supports military families and improves retention.

“We are adding Airmen to help meet mission needs and support our squadrons,” he continued. “We have roughly 321,000 active-duty Airmen today and expect to grow to 350,000 by the middle of the next decade.”

The ‘Air Force We Need’ plan, as outlined by Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson last fall, called for increasing operational squadrons by more than 20 percent and adding another airlift squadron and 14 tanker squadrons by 2030.

The goal is to build well-manned and healthy squadrons to bring out the best in each Airman, helping

each find innovative ways to accomplish the mission.

The two priorities—full-spectrum readiness and squadron vitality—help create healthy squadrons and are equally important, according to Barrett.

“We provide Rapid Global Mobility (RGM) around the world, and we can best do that when our readiness levels are high,” he said. “The healthier squadrons are, the higher readiness levels will be. Plus, healthy squadrons help support families when loved ones are called away from home. This provides peace of mind for Airmen, allowing them to focus on the mission and give our collective team the best opportunity for success. The demand for global mobility takes us to every continent on earth. We need healthy, prepared squadrons, but we don’t want to overwork our teams.”

Senior leaders are addressing concerns about how overworked teams affect families—again, in line with the ‘Air Force We Need’ plan to increase the number of operational squadrons and the number of Airmen.

“We must overcome those challenges and remain ready now and in the future. Here at 18th AF, we have begun to see the effects of how senior leaders addressed manpower concerns. The Air Force added about 10,000 active-duty Airmen the last three years, and the recent budget should fund another 4,700 Airmen, many of whom will support the RGM mission.

“This budget invests in key areas—Airmen, readiness, nuclear deterrence, and air superiority, among others. It funds additional KC-46 aircraft and more research into technologies that help our operational mission down the road.”

Barrett looks forward to continue bringing KC-46s into the fold, as McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas,

received the service’s first Pegasus January 25.

“In 2018, the Mobility team refueled over 103,000 aircraft,” he continued. “To put that in perspective, that is enough to have provided fuel to every serviceable aircraft on the planet nearly four times. The KC-46 will help us continue fueling joint and international partners. The steps we’re taking will ensure we remain the greatest Air Force on earth while helping Airmen gain balance in their lives.”

Additionally, Barrett encouraged every Airman to make safety a priority.

“The RGM team launches an aircraft every 2.8 minutes. Airmen make that possible, and we need them at their best physically and mentally. We work in dynamic, changing environments. Healthy personnel and vibrant squadrons help divide the mission demand equally and create balance that reduces the chance for safety issues in demanding situations. For every Airman and aircraft to operate safely, we must take care of our people and resources. When we focus on safety, readiness improves—helping us respond to any threat.”

In closing, Barrett shared his confidence for the future.

“The United States is a superpower because we can touch any corner of the globe,” he said. “RGM makes that possible, whether we are responding to crises or moving patients, cargo, or fuel. We do not know where or when the next conflict will occur, but we will be ready. Vibrant, healthy squadrons support readiness and our families, who, in turn, support our ability to be ready and complete the mission. That teamwork gives us the best opportunity for success.”

EDITORIAL POLICY

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COMBAT AIRLIFTER OF THE WEEK



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY CAPT. ASHLEY WALKER, 913TH AIRLIFT GROUP

NAME AND RANK
Maj. Jason Furcron
UNIT
327th Airlift Squadron
DUTY TITLE
Assistant operations officer/evaluator pilot
HOMETOWN
Goldsboro, North Carolina

TIME IN SERVICE
15 years
TIME AT LITTLE ROCK
3 years
HOBBIES
Building arcade-style videogame consoles, camping, spending time with friends and family

AIR FORCE CORE VALUE PORTRAYED
Service Before Self
HOW DOES THE INDIVIDUAL PORTRAY THE CORE VALUE?
Maj. Furcron has always taken the difficult jobs when nobody else would, such as volunteering for an air-advisory tour with the Afghan air force. Maj. Furcron also took on four additional duties when the rest of the squadron deployed.



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LRAFB takes readiness training cross-country

By 19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 19th Airlift Wing removed their protective gear for the last time this week after completing a joint, semi-annual, multi-phase readiness exercise – ROCKI 19-06 – which ran in conjunction with exercise Green Flag Little Rock, March 27-April 17, 2019.

Over 600 Team Little Rock Airmen were joined by participants from; the 114th Field Artillery Regiment; the 60th Air Mobility Wing; the 317th Airlift Wing; the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division; the 43rd Air Mobility Operations Group; the 512th Contingency Response Squadron; the 621st Contingency Response Squadron; as well as members from the Tunisian Armed Forces.

Overall, the exercise involved more than 6,000 combined participants working together to simulate a complex training scenario.

“Combining this exercise with Green Flag Little Rock gives our Airmen an opportunity to train in a realistic, joint environment,” said Lt. Col. Dan Hilferty, 34th Combat Training Squadron director of operations. “These exercises ensure our nation’s peace by forging Mobility Airmen who are a lethal fighting force, ready for war.”

While most of Team Little Rock’s focus was on the ground at Little Rock AFB, many of the exercise participants were spread around the south-central region of the U.S., operating out of various airfields, landing zones, and drop zones, as well as the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

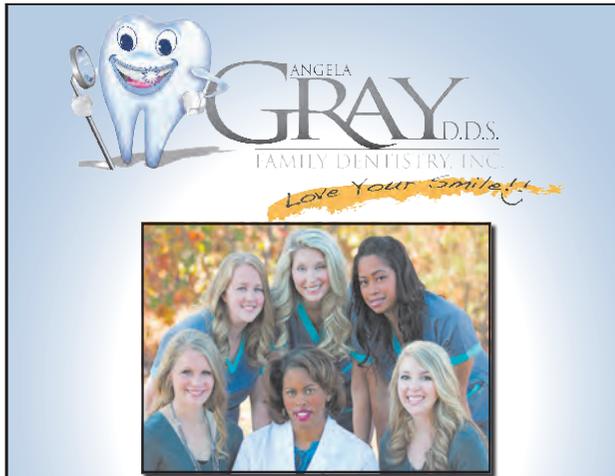
“The footprint of this operation is absolutely massive,” Hilferty said. “The exercise spanned four states, two services, four wings and 17 days.”

The Little Rock-specific portion of the exercise was set up in two distinct phases: first, test the ability of the 19th AW to generate and deploy forces, and once in a simulated deployed environment, assess the ability to project combat airlift to achieve desired effects in the face of aggressive opposition.

Team Little Rock Airmen arrived at the simulated, deployed location – called Camp Cunningham in the exercise, but known colloquially as Camp Warlord – April 5, where they were first confronted with the task of setting up operations and communications in recently-updated cabins.

“Our facilities – specifically the cabins – at Camp Warlord have been upgraded with the help of citizen

See Readiness, 6



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Readiness

Continued from page 5

Airmen from the 189th Airlift Wing here at Little Rock Air Force Base,” said Lt. Col. Michael Stefanovic, 19th Civil Engineer Squadron commander and exercise participant. “These improved facilities make for better, more realistic training for our Airmen.”

Once established in the exercise area at Camp Warlord, Airmen encountered a wide range of wartime scenarios including ground and air assaults, explosives, communication failures, and insider threats.

“While securing a forward operating location against an opposing force, our Airmen have to be prepared to respond to a broad spectrum of threats,” said Col. Gerald Donohue, 19th AW commander. “And in the middle of that, they still have to accomplish our mission, which is to project and sustain agile combat airlift.”

Down the road from Camp Warlord, Airmen were busy preparing to do just that by loading, maintaining and preparing C-130Js for combat operations. Over the course of the exercise, 88 missions produced 260 total flights in which 470 tons of cargo were delivered to landing zones – 85 pallets and 39 vehicles. Additionally, 31 air drops delivered 26 tons of cargo from the skies.

By combining the Little Rock AFB’s semi-annual exercise with GFLR, Airmen were able to experience a comprehensive scenario that realistically captured the range of requirements to be able to provide tactical airlift to joint and international partners.

“Our Airmen participating in the ROCKI are ultimately supporting Soldiers down in Louisiana by generating combat airlift through Green Flag Little Rock operations,” said U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Amanda Fitzpatrick, 19th AW Inspector General superintendent.

Over the course of the 17-day exercise, participants worked to deter adversarial aggression and adjust

operations to ensure continued mission accomplishment, which required constant, open communications between different agencies and rapid response to emerging threats and contingencies, all guided by a complex training plan.

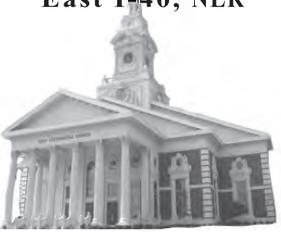
“Our team of planners, including the inspector general’s office, the 34th CTS and our intelligence team, worked to make this a comprehensive training event where people learn and can grow,” Fitzpatrick said.

Semi-annual readiness training allows Team Little Rock Airmen to maintain their combat edge by practicing and honing skills that make them more effective at providing agile combat airlift, regardless of the location or conditions.

“While this exercise gave our Airmen the chance to practice critical skills in a deployed environment, it’s really so much more than that,” Donohue said. “The big picture is that we showed how, when confronted with problem sets, we made the right adjustments to be able to continue to project airpower to where it was needed.”

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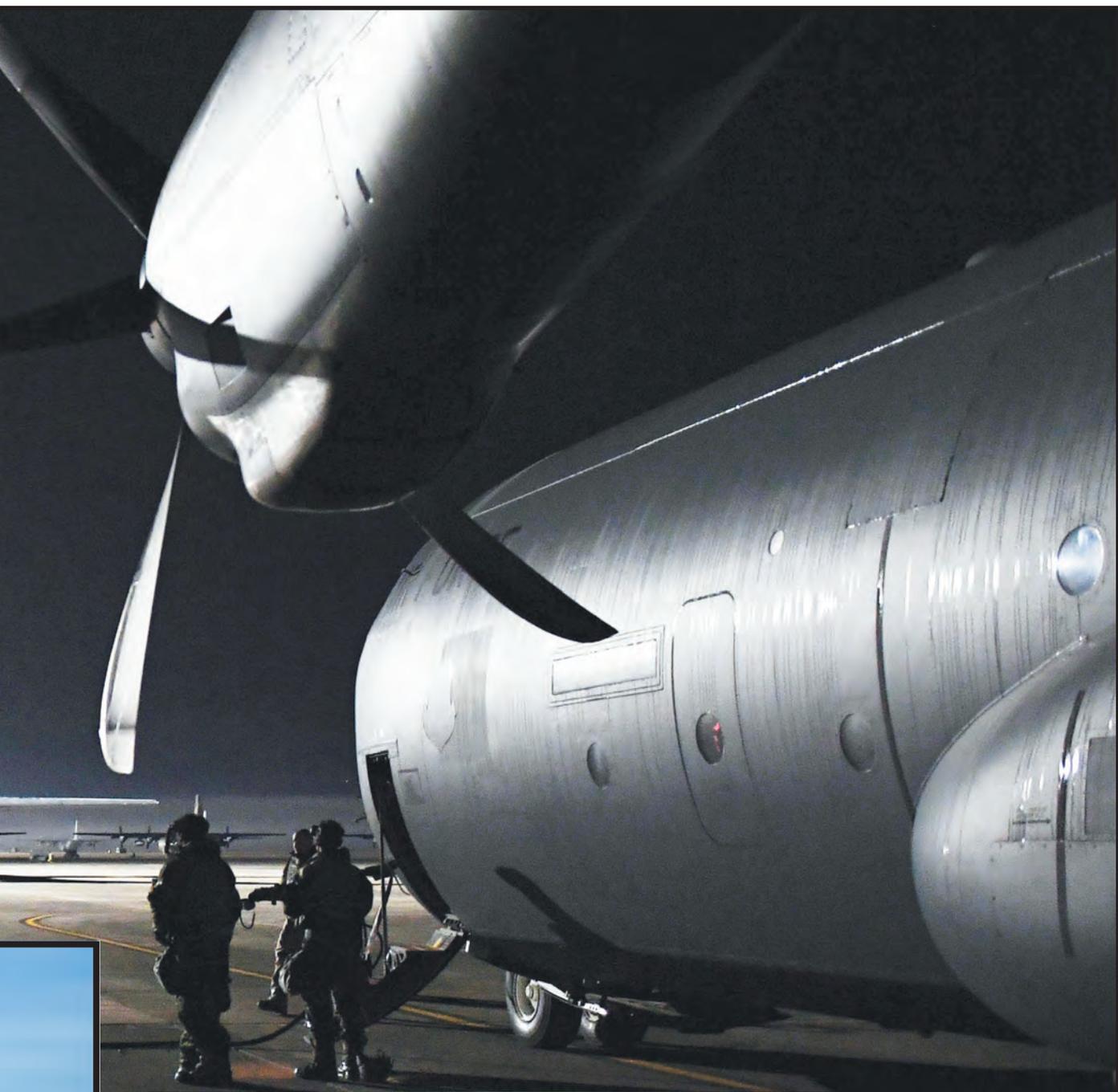


U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Jonathan Borgos-Colon, 41st Airlift Squadron instructor loadmaster, does preflight inspection on a C-130J at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, April 9, 2019. Semi-annual readiness training allows Team Little Rock Airmen to maintain their combat edge by practicing and honing skills that make them more effective at providing agile combat airlift, regardless of the location or conditions. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Rhett Isbell)



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KRISTINA

U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery Regiment, fire High Mobility Artillery Rocket (HAR) near Fort Smith, Arkansas, April 12, 2019. ROCKI 19-06 combined Little Rock Air Force Base's semi-annual readiness training with Green Flag Little Rock, which enabled Airmen to experience comprehensive scenarios that realistically simulate a wide range of requirements to be able to provide tactical airlift to joint and international partners. The joint training allowed both Airmen and Soldiers to execute realistic simulated training of rapidly deploying long-range weapons.



E. M. GRUWELL
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U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON IRVIN

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Megan Thomas Aguilar, 19th Security Forces Squadron defender, mans a M240 Machine Gun to protect against simulated ground threats at Camp Warlord on Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, April 11, 2019. Team Little Rock Airmen worked alongside Airmen from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, during a 17-day full-spectrum readiness exercise to ensure Airmen are prepared to provide agile combat airlift in a deployed environment.



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TESTING READINESS



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN RHETT ISBELL

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Troy Iversen, 19th Logistics Readiness Squadron aerial delivery supervisor, prepares parachutes for repackaging at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, April 7, 2019. ROCKI 19-06 combined Little Rock Air Force Base's semi-annual exercise with Green Flag Little Rock, which enabled Airmen to experience comprehensive scenarios to realistically capture the range of requirements necessary to provide tactical airlift to joint and international partners.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KRISTINE M. GRUWELL

Numerous pilots and loadmasters assigned to the 19th Airlift Wing simulate decontamination during a basewide readiness exercise at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas April 15. Aircrew Eye and Respiratory Protection System equipment consists of a rubber mask, multiple layers of boots and gloves, fan filter system and an audio and speaker system.

PT

Have you suffered hearing loss, or ringing in your ears due to faulty Combat earplugs?

The Minneapolis-based 3M Company manufactured combat earplugs, and has admitted that those earplugs were defective. The defect caused the earplugs to loosen in the ear, and for that reason many service members are suffering from ringing in their ears, hearing loss, and in some cases, deafness.

If you, a family member, or friend suffer from these hearing problems and used the 3M combat earplugs, please call the attorneys at Poynter Tucker. Scott Poynter is a former Air Force Judge Advocate, and has more than 13 years of military service. Clarke Tucker has dedicated many years to public service as a state legislator, and recently campaigned for Congress. Together, the attorneys at Poynter Tucker want to help service members with their legal issues, and especially so if they have suffered hearing loss or ringing in their ears from the defective 3M earplugs.



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DROP ZONE

By Col. Gerald Donohue
19th Airlift Wing Commander

Decisions. They define us because they represent the point where our experience meets our best judgement. At some point over the last 21 days, those who were a part of the ROCKI 19-06 had moments where they had to rely on their experience and judgement to get to the right answers: How do I resolve a member's issue in the PDF line? What do I do to work around an unexpected communication outage? How do I continue to defend the entry control point when there are attacks from multiple domains happening at the same time? These were likely just a few among an untold number of decision points that shaped our exercise in real time and made it that much more beneficial to our overall readiness.

We talk about readiness a lot -- as we should, given that it is a directive from our senior military leader-

ship that we be prepared to execute our mission at any time, under any conditions. But I think we run the risk of the concept devolving into some intangible, external talking point. The last three weeks have shown that's not what it is -- it's something bought and paid for by the sweat, determination and hard work of each of you, that collectively adds up to a certification of our ability to generate as a force and project Combat Airlift from a deployed location regardless of the circumstances.

Was every decision the right one? Of course not. Did the fog of war lead to some less-than-desirable outcomes? Absolutely. I don't care about that ... what I care about is that when you missed the mark, you adjusted fire and carried on. I care about the fact that, regardless of the rain, the heat, or the long hours, you continued to attack problems with the energy and vigor that should instill fear in the hearts of our

See **Knights**, 13



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON IRVIN

Airmen from the 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron load a buffer stop assembly onto a C-130J at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, April 12. Semi-annual readiness training allows Team Little Rock Airmen to maintain their combat edge by practicing and honing skills that make them more effective at providing agile combat airlift, regardless of the location or conditions.

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Knights

Continued from page 12

adversaries. And trust me, it is not lost on me the impact this has had on our community and our families. Knowing that should give you an understanding of just how critical I believe this training to be.

Now, as we stand on the other side, we can hold our heads high knowing the long-term

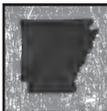
impacts of the work we did as a team will make us collectively more ready and lethal. The purpose of this training was not to demonstrate that we can do our jobs while wearing MOPP gear -- it was to prove that, in the face of unseen threats and overwhelming opposition, our ability to project airpower downrange endured. My hope is that the experience gleaned from each event that challenged you now arms you with more of the first half of the decision equation, so when the time comes for you to act in defense of our nation, your judgement will be

bolstered by the hard-earned lessons that came from the last 21 days. You have my respect, and your families have my gratitude.

For more information about other activities happening around the base, visit

www.littlerock.af.mil/TLR-Bulletin-Board, <http://www.littlerock.af.mil/Units/Airman-and-Family-Readiness/>, <https://www.rockinattherock.com/>, or download the Little Rock Air Force Base app!

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AUTOS/ACCESSORIES

2003 CORVETTE, 50th Anniversary Edition, 57,000 miles, extremely clean, like new, white exterior, camel interior, \$13,000 obo. (870) 217-1303, leave message.

(3) 17" tires, 10-ply, like new, \$200. (501) 983-1445.

1986 CHEVY van, Mark III, needs transmission, good engine, make offer. Serious inquiries only. (501) 882-2142 or 606-1314.

2-WHEEL CAR dolly, \$500. (501) 749-9882.

'90S MODEL 1/2 ton Chevy truck, runs good, V6 eng., new tires, stick shift, \$2,000. (501) 749-9882.

1949 CHEVY 1/2 Ton truck, 350 engine, excellent condition, rat rot. (501) 606-6617.

AUTOS/ACCESSORIES

2000 VOLVO S-70, runs good, cold air, 125,000 miles, clean, \$1,500. TEXT (501) 952-3937, Jax.

RADIATOR FOR 318 Dodge & Dodge engine, real 4 core, \$150. (501) 882-2142 or 606-1314, no texts.

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BLUE OX Sway Pro wt. distribution hitch, \$100; 50 amp. surge guard, \$100; X Chock tire locking chocks w/ wrench, \$40/2; slide-out stabilizers, \$30/4; Jack-in-a-box slide-out stabilizers, \$40/2; leveling blocks, \$10/10. (318) 707-3470, Cabot.

14' ALUMINUM flat bottom boat w/ motor (15 hp. Yamaha), on trailer, camo. seats, gas tank, misc. items, excellent condition, \$2,800 obo. (501) 628-7386.

SERVICES

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

BLUE OX BXW1003 Sway Pro weight distribution hitch, 1,000 lb. tongue weight, \$100. (318) 707-3470, Cabot.

2015 YAMAHA Bolt, one owner, blue & black, low miles, all highway, excellent maintenance record, \$4,600 obo. (870) 335-7370.

SL215 POLARIS Slingshot w/top, all extras, back camera, extra lights, low miles, great ride. (501) 454-7501.

PRO ANGLER, 1984 smoker craft aluminum V-bottom 16', 50 hp. Evinrude power trim motor w/trailer, \$1,500. (870) 656-3793, Cabot.

WANTED: WRECKED 4x4 to restore, must run. 982-1220.

14" TRACKER, John boat, easy load trailer, 9.9 Mercury motor, excellent condition, \$1,500. (501) 743-7077.

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POLARIS SPORTSMAN 500, 4-wheel drive, camo., low miles, under 300 hrs., like new, \$3,700 obo. Don, (501) 985-2614 or hossgantt@yahoo.com

2016 KEYSTONE Hideout 26RLS pull behind camper, garage kept, too ill to use, must sell! \$20K obo. (501) 690-8669.

TOW BAR, Stowmaster 5000, \$175. (501) 266-9703, Lonoke.

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CRAFTSMAN LT200 riding lawnmower, \$370. (501) 813-5409.

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JOHN DEERE zero-turn mower, 48" deck, 24 hp. Kawasaki engine, 110 hrs., excellent condition, \$3,200. (501) 952-3604.

DELUXE ROLLING garden scooter w/tractor seat & basket, \$45. Text scooter to (501) 231-2757, Jax.

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YOU WILL LOVE THE SPLIT FLOOR PLAN IN THIS WONDERFUL 3 BR, 2 BATH BRICK HOME w/over 1,900 sq. ft. Kitchen has stainless steel appl., quartz counter tops & breakfast bar. Master BR has WBFP/gas starter. Living rm. has cathedral ceiling w/tongue & groove, WBFP/gas starter, sunroom off the living rm. opens out to the patio & beautiful tree shaded, extra landscaped yard, 1-car garage/workshop w/electricity. This home sits on 2 lots. 26 Broadmoor Circle ~ \$189,000.



COME INSIDE & SEE WHAT THIS WONDERFUL HOME HAS TO OFFER. 3 BR, 2 bath 1634 sq. ft. You will love the open floor plan, kitchen has granite counter tops, breakfast bar & pantry. Lg. master BR w/huge walk-in closet, master bath has standup shower & garden tub. Backyard fenced for your pets. Located in a great neighborhood. 12815 Bell Flower, NLR ~ \$163,000.



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