

## Service members get creative at new skills shop

Katie Newton, public affairs

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Oct. 17, 2012, to celebrate the new Consolidated Arts and Crafts/Auto Hobby Complex in the Kitty Hawk area of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The \$8.9 million project was designed and constructed by the Air Force Services Agency and the Louisville District Corps of Engineers that combined two older facilities into one consolidated modern facility. This unique facility houses the arts and crafts center, which includes silk screening and wood working, auto shop, and a touch-free car wash. Non-appropriated fund revenues, rather than taxpayer dollars, paid for the project.

“This facility offers the Wright-Patterson community a one-stop shop,” said Clayton Hayes, Louisville District project manager. “The arts and crafts center is a great place to participate in an ongoing hobby, or learn a new craft or skill. Each shop offers custom work as well as do-it-yourself capability—both basic and advanced skills are taught in all classes.”

The facility offers services and classes in woodworking, framing and matting, stained glass, painting, basket weaving, porcelain doll making and rubber stamping. The building also has a frame shop, multi-craft classrooms, graphics shop, silk screening setup, and a retail area.

“The silkscreen machine has already been very beneficial as it was put to the



Bob Bayham

The new Consolidated Arts and Crafts/Auto Hobby Complex opened its doors in August to the 88th Force Support Squadron at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

test for the production of t-shirts for the Air Force marathon this summer,” said Hayes. “In the past, large orders such as this would have been contracted out.”

The auto shop is equipped for tune-ups, wheel balancing and alignment, engine analysis, brake repair and painting with staff on site to offer technical assistance if needed.

The car wash facility sits adjacent to the main building, with two hand-wash bays and an automatic touch-free car wash.

The contractor, Monarch Construction

Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, constructed the 38,000 square-foot facility in a little more than a year so the 88th Force Support Squadron could occupy the facility August 21, 2012.

“The facility was a long time in the making with several years of design behind it, but it was ultimately completed early and under budget,” said Hayes. “Upon meeting and talking with the employees of the facility during the ribbon cutting ceremony, they were all very enthusiastic and impressed with the way the building turned out.”



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The new skill shop offers different spaces for a variety of crafts and hobbies ranging from woodworking to basket weaving.