TEAMWORK LEADERSHIP
ANY TIME ANY PLACE
COMMANDO

Vol. 51, Issue 47 | 16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla. | Nov. 28, 2003

'Flushing' out brake problems means $10,000

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Philip Arnts

The Air Force Innovative Development through Employee Awareness Program awarded a large check to a Hurlburt Field service member for an idea that would decrease the number of brake failures and save the 16th Special Operations Wing approximately $415,000 in the first year.

Master Sgt. Phillip Arnts, 16th Maintenance Squadron, received a $10,000 reward for a spray outfit that he designed to flush buildup out of T-56 engine propeller brakes.

"I've been in the Air Force for 15 years," said Sergeant Arnts, "and there's never been adequate propeller brake flush equipment available. The only tool I've ever seen is a modified fire extinguisher, and it didn't work very well."

Due to the lack of flushing equipment, aircraft with reduction gearbox propeller brake failures had to be sent to the 16th Component Maintenance Squadron for repair. Sergeant Arnts said because the brakes couldn't be flushed, the only option was to replace the reduction gearbox. This is the equivalent of replacing an entire toilet because the toilet ring cracked.

In an effort to improve C-130 propeller brake functions and save the Air Force

*See **$10,000**, Page 7*

MH-53 crashes, 3 Hurlburt airmen killed

Three Hurlburt Field airmen were killed Sunday when an MH-53 assigned to the 20th Special Operations Squadron crashed near Kabul, Afghanistan, about 9:40 a.m. Central Standard Time.

Tech. Sgt. William Kerwood, flight engineer; Tech. Sgt. Howard Walters, aerial Gunner; and Staff Sgt. Thomas Walkup, Jr., flight engineer, were among the deceased.

The pilot, Maj. Steven Plumhoff, 58th Special Operations Wing at Kirtland AFB, N.M., was also killed in the crash. Two other 20th SOS crewmembers aboard the aircraft sustained injuries. The names of the injured are not released due to security and privacy reasons.

"The entire 16th Special Operations Wing is experiencing great sorrow over the loss we've suffered," said Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander. "We extend our deepest sympathies to the family, friends and fellow Air Commandos who gave their lives in honorable service."

The cause of the crash is under investigation. The base will hold a private memorial service in honor of the fallen airmen.

Courtesy photo

MH-53 PAVE LOW helicopters conduct training missions in the local area.

New IG postures base for inspection

By Capt. Tom Knowles
Public Affairs

With less than two weeks remaining until the Air Force Special Operations Command Inspector General's Unit Compliance Inspection, the 16th Special Operations Wing announced the appointment of Lt. Col. Gary Reynolds as the new Inspector General, effective Dec. 13. The outgoing IG, Col. Michael Koster will be accepting an assignment as the 37th Airlift Wing Inspector General at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

"It's an honor to be given this opportunity," said Colonel Reynolds. "I strongly support the mission of the inspector general, and I look forward to maintaining the highest levels of trust and confidence in our wing and DoD leadership and upholding the integrity of our system."

The primary charge of the IG office is to sustain a credible Air Force IG system by ensuring the existence of responsive complaint investigations and Fraud Waste and Abuse programs characterized by objectivity, integrity and impartiality. The IG ensures the concerns of all complainants and the best interests of the Air Force are addressed through objective fact-finding. Additionally the IG is charged with inspecting assigned units for compliance and capability.

Colonel Reynolds received his commission through the Brigham Young University Reserve Officer Training Corps where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Law Enforcement Administration.

Lt. Col. Gary Reynolds
16th SOW Inspector General

A navigator by trade with 4,000+ flying hours, he began his career in 1984 as a C-130E navigator assigned to the 36th Tactical Airlift Squadron, McChord Air Force Base. Most recently, he was assigned to the 8th Special Operations Squadron, located at nearby Duke Field, as the director of operations and wing safety officer. During this time he also logged over 380 combat flying hours in the

*See **INSPECTION**, Page 7*

News

Tree-lighting ceremony

The Hurlburt Field tree-lighting ceremony is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. at the Airpark, Thursday. All of Hurlburt Field is invited to the ceremony, where Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, along with the youngest airman on base, will illuminate the base holiday tree.

Feature

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Airman Leadership School prepares future leaders

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Sports

Hockey for kids

Hurlburt Field hosts first-ever youth hockey league

Page 11

Weather

Weekend forecast

Today – partly cloudy, High 64 Low 42

Saturday – sunny, High 65 Low 48

Sunday – sunny, High 66 Low 50

www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/weather/5day

VIEWPOINTS

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the ***COMMANDO****. I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you, and perhaps improve their process.*

However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.

Col. O.G. Mannon

AFSOC CC offers personal thanks

By Lt. Gen. Paul Hester
AFSOC commander

As family and friends gather together to celebrate all the good things in life this Thanksgiving, I offer my personal thanks to the dedication of our Air Commandos and Air Rescue Warriors serving faithfully around the globe.

Many of our Airmen will gather at the family table, yet many more will share the same traditional meal but instead with their deployed military "family" in a place far from home. For all those who serve everyday, we are most grateful. Our appreciation is ten-fold for those serving far from our nation's shores this holiday.

No group shoulders the burden of our missions more than our spouses and children. Sadly, our year has felt the heartache for our friends who "gave their last full measure." Their memory is never replaced nor is the spirit of their "service before self" ever lost. For their families and for us, last year's Thanksgiving can't be repeated, but this year we'll give thanks for their service, their sacrifice and the freedoms they fought to preserve. Keep them in your prayers.

Never lose sight of those things that bring a smile to your face – laughter, children, good friends, good memories and our great nation. Thank you for all you do every day, under extreme stress and circumstances, and always with unmatched commitment. Our nation is in your debt and most thankful for your service.

SOW CC reflects on holidays past, present

By Col. O.G. Mannon
16th SOW commander

Thanksgiving has always been a special time of the year for me. The memories from times past range from drinking hot cocoa as a youngster at sunrise services, to hunting as a teenager, to spending time with my Air Force family in uncounted places with difficult-to-pronounce names.

As an adult, there was time to consider the holiday's origins and the importance of our celebrations. The trials and tribulations of our ancestors at Plymouth are well known. They benchmarked the level of difficulties experienced throughout our nation's ancestry as we struggled to grow as a country.

Since the horrendous attacks of 9/11, our nation has engaged in combat operations defending our way of life. The men and women of Hurlburt Field have been on the "Tip of the Spear" in that effort from the start.

Your efforts, those of our military members, civilians, families and surrounding communities, have met with resounding success, but not without sacrifice.

We've experienced losses in the past, including this week as one of our aircraft crashed during combat operations. We don't know all of the circumstances, but a board of investigating officers was appointed to examine the incident.

Our hearts and prayers go out to the families of the service members involved. As the Hurlburt family faces this latest tragedy, we'll draw strength from each other, and we'll ensure compassionate caring is our watchword.

I also encourage each of you to reflect on Thanksgiving, giving thanks in your own private way. Reflect on freedoms guaranteed to Americans, the graciousness we experience daily, and for the unsurpassed patriots we serve with each day who routinely achieve extraordinary results.

Barb and I wish Grace and blessings to each of you as we toil together in the defense of our country. Be Safe!

SECAF, CSAF send holiday message

By Dr. James Roche,
Secretary of the Air Force, and
Gen. John Jumper,
Air Force Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON – Thanksgiving is a wonderful national tradition that provides a special opportunity to recount our blessings as Americans.

Today, we have much for which to be thankful. We serve a free and peace-loving nation that appreciates what we do to preserve our security. Our total force of more than 700,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian airmen is blessed with world-class capability and training that has been tested and proven on the battlefield.

We are a force of professional airmen, forged in combat, but dedicated to the pursuit of peace and security, and situated on an unshakeable foundation: our integrity, excellence and the privilege of serving a cause greater than our own self interests.

For your service and support of those bedrock principles, we offer our sincere and humble thanks. You are the strength and power that symbolizes America's Air Force – the world's greatest air and space power.

On this Thanksgiving day we are thankful for each of you who serve. **(AFPN)**

COMMANDO

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Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the *COMMANDO* is 4 p.m. Wednesday, the week prior to publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced and all submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call for questions.

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Hurlburt Field DUI Tracker

Nov. 15 – Nov. 28:
1 DUI
16th Component Maintenance Squadron
Days since last DUI: **13**
Total DUIs this year to date: **50**

Total DUIs for 2002: **47**
Airmen Against Drunk Driving
Don't Drink and Drive.
Call 598-1302
Potential saves this year: **88**

News

Photo by Senior Airman Sam Taylor

Sharp and sharper

Senior Airman Raphael Escoto, an honor guard member from the 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron, judges the Wetumpka High School, Ala., Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps color guard team at Eason Hangar, Saturday. Ten drill teams came from all over the South for the Hurlburt Field Honor Guard's ninth annual JROTC competition. Teams were judged on open ranks inspection, regulation drill, freestyle drill, color guard and an individual drill down. Wetumpka JROTC was this year's overall winning team. For information about joining the Hurlburt Field Honor Guard, call 884-5330.

Thanksgiving for unconventional troops

By 1st Lt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

There will be no football games, no balloon float parades and no snoozing on the family room couch for Air Commandos deployed around the world this Thanksgiving, but there will be a traditional holiday meal served by the members of the 16th Services Squadron.

Hurlburt Field airmen deployed in support of the global war on terrorism this holiday season will not have to scour through boxes of Meals, Ready-to-Eat to find the "Turkey with Savory Vegetables" packet, no matter how bare bones their tent city may be.

"We understand how important a traditional Thanksgiving meal is to our deployed troops," said Lt. Col. Chris Wright, 16th Services Squadron commander. "No matter how expeditionary the deployment, we are equipped to prepare hot turkey dinners with all of the trimmings. It's a big morale boost for those deployed."

The rule of thumb for planning a turkey dinner is 1.25 lbs of turkey per dinner guest. According to the Air Force Food Services Agency, the Air Force is sending 54 tons of turkey to airmen deployed worldwide.

Also headed to deployed airmen are 14 tons of roast beef, four tons of ham, two tons of stuffing, four tons of mashed potatoes, 1.3 tons of cranberry sauce, 3.5 tons of yams, 1.6 tons of corn on the cob, and 2.3 tons of peas with mushrooms.

According to Tech Sgt. John Collins, 16th SVS Commando Flight Kitchen manager, the biggest challenge for services troops is to contend with logistical problems.

"We had to get all the food in on time two days before Thanksgiving," said Sergeant Collins, who was forward deployed during Thanksgiving last year. "You have to start cooking a meal that size 24 to 48 hours before you serve it. The ordering process and the planning were really instrumental in making the meal.

"A lot of our food comes in boxes. Three 20-pound boxes of assorted foods make up what can be considered a 'meal kit' that can feed 50 people. It has meat, vegetables, starch, fruit and desserts. You have one team of people opening the boxes and separating the food, you have another group of people cutting the metal packaging containing the food, and you have another group preparing it."

Once the food is delivered, the services team begins to take on the challenge of preparing it without the benefit of hardened facilities.

Courtesy photo

16th Services Squadron airmen prepare a meal at a forward-deployed location.

"Of course our kitchen wasn't as modern as one we'd have in-garrison, so it takes even more time to prepare the meal. At a tent city dining facility we lack freezer space and storage space to name a couple problems, so we have to improvise a lot more out there. We overcame a lot of obstacles to put out a good meal out there," said the sergeant.

Services troops deploy with a containerized kitchen; a four-piece module that expands and fits together to construct a field kitchen, a prep area, a salad area, and a pots and pans area.

Understand Force Development

Spread the word briefings will be conducted Dec. 4, noon to 2 p.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the base theater for all Hurlburt Field officers to discuss the new Force Development concept. (At this time, briefings are for officers only and not required for enlisted/civilian personnel.)

For an overview of Air Force Force Development, read the Oct. 7, 2003, CSAF Sight Picture. Log on to www.af.mil/lib/sight/Total_Force_ Development.pdf

Marine Corps training to close Hwy 98

U.S. Highway 98 will experience three road closures approximately five miles west of Hurlburt Field at the Wynnhaven Beach area Dec. 12 and 17, due to U.S. Marine Corps Expeditionary training being conducted at Eglin Air Force Base to ensure combat readiness.

The closures are expected to last up to 30 minutes in duration and will occur between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., to allow Amphibious Assault Vehicles and Abrams tanks to cross Highway 98 enroute to the Eglin AFB range.

Marines are expected to cross back Dec. 17 during the same time period. Motorists traveling on this portion of Highway 98 during this time frame should add an hour to their travel plans.

Motorists are encouraged to be attentive to Okaloosa County Sheriff's electronic signboards along Highway 98 and local news outlets for further information on any potential delays.

News

Drunk driver kills airman's father

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips
39th Air Base Group Public Affairs

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey – At 14, most people are not normally faced with a lifetime of pondering the aftermath of mixing together enormous amounts of alcohol, one out-of-control drunk and a weapon on wheels gunned at more than 100 mph.

However, one leader here faces just that. "At 43, the signs (of my father's death by a drunk driver) are still there," said Col. Michael Arnold, 39th Air Base Group deputy commander. "My children don't have a grandfather, and I didn't get the chance to know him."

His father was killed 29 years ago in a vehicle accident. that played out like a bad chase scene from a movie. Only it was real. Sirens blaring, the police chased a drunk driver several miles down the wrong way on Interstate 285 outside Atlanta. The driver suddenly crossed up an entrance ramp, drove through a stoplight and barreled down an exit ramp.

Colonel Arnold's father was headed up the same exit ramp. The two vehicles collided head-on. The resulting impact instantaneously killed his father and took the life of the drunk driver's passenger. Miraculously, although paralyzed, the driver lived.

"Three families' lives were disrupted because of one night of drinking," Colonel Arnold said.

When the call about his father's death came, Colonel Arnold was sitting at the breakfast bar in the family's apartment. He remembered his mother answered the phone in the kitchen and did not utter a word. When she hung up, she turned to him and said, "Something happened. The highway patrol is coming to the house."

When they arrived, his mother was stunned into silence and remained that way for a long time. After the funeral, Colonel Arnold said he would often find her sitting very still in the living room staring into space for long periods of time.

He was in shock as well. As a young teen, Colonel Arnold suddenly became the man of the house. His mom became a single parent struggling to make ends meet, and he did not have any siblings to rely on. He confessed life was difficult without a father to show him the way. He even learned how to play basketball from a book. No one was there to teach him.

"When I played football in high school, I would look up in the stands, but unlike all the other kids I didn't have parents cheering me on," Colonel Arnold said. "I always wondered why it had to be that way."

Quickly, the shock of his father's death was replaced with anger. Years later, he said he resolved to see the good in an ugly situation.

Colonel Arnold said he has decided not to be a victim and uses his experiences to engage airmen in conversations about driving under the influence – discussions that might save their lives, the lives of loved ones or strangers.

"I tell people about the real, no foolin' cost of a DUI," Colonel Arnold said. "DUIs happen infrequently enough that in everyday life people are detached from the issue. You have to keep talking about the tragedy.

"If you drink and drive, and nothing happens, you're lucky. If it goes bad, the consequences are all out of proportion to the excitement of one night of drinking," said the husband and father of four.

Colonel Arnold said he believes in the power of learning from others' mistakes. It's why he spent countless commander's calls explaining the price to everyone impacted by the ripple effect of drinking and driving. For him, it means he cannot share life's joys and sorrows with his father.

"I missed the opportunity to say, 'Hey dad, I made colonel,' or 'I'm going to Turkey (for a permanent change of station),' or 'Dad, the boys are driving me crazy. What can I do?'" Colonel Arnold said.

So, he said, he keeps telling the story about his father, hoping that it will keep people from turning the ignition key and smashing their vehicle into someone else's father, grandmother, brother, child or best friend.

"When you get into a car drunk, you have no idea how it will turn out," Colonel Arnold said. "Most of the time, you'll make it home without an incident. That gives people a false sense of security. Because when it turns bad, it's a catastrophe. "The time to think about drinking and driving is before the first drink." **(AFPN)**

AADD needs volunteers

Drivers are needed for both one-day events and weekend duties. Help your fellow airman avoid becoming a statistic.

For more information, e-mail Tech. Sgt. James Eddington at james.eddington@hurlburt.af.mil, Staff Sgt. Maurice Plummer at maurice.plummer@hurlburt.af.mil or Senior Airman Ray Bailey at ray.bailey@hurlburt.af.mil.

'One click, one call' for pay, personnel issues

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – A one-stop customer service phone number and Web page are up and running, linking several call centers and online resources Air Force people use when managing personnel and pay information.

A single phone number and a companion Web site now make it easier for Air Force active-duty and reserve component military, as well as U.S. appropriated fund civilian employees to find what they need quickly, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

Customers can find answers to questions by calling toll free (800) 616-3775 or visiting www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst. Until now the burden has been on Air Force people to determine which agency handles a particular issue before contacting customer service by phone or on the Web. Customers will be able to access any of the following support services by using the new number and Web site:

❍Air Force Contact Center for general military personnel inquiries, including discrimination and sexual harassment concerns and assistance in navigating the virtual military personnel flight application

❍Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver for Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel inquiries

❍Defense Finance and Accounting Service's Cleveland Contact Center for Air Force military pay inquiries and assistance with the myPay application

❍AFPC Technical Assistance Center for technical support for applications such as vMPF, assignment management system, AFPC Secure and PC-III

❍AFPC Recruiting Service Center for civilian appropriated fund job opportunities

❍AFPC Benefits and Entitlements Service Team for civilian appropriated-fund benefits and entitlements

Several of the linked call centers reside at the personnel center, where leaders have been facilitating the consolidation of Air Force customer-service operations.

Customers calling from international locations and hearing-impaired employees should continue to dial the number they currently use to access support for personnel or pay matters, officials said. **(AFPN)**

News Briefs

Flag retirement ceremony here

The base community is invited to attend a flag retirement ceremony hosted by the Hurlburt Field Top 3 at 4 p.m., Thursday near the Enlisted Hooch.

The ceremony will honorably dispose of faded and unserviceable American Flags according to the U.S. Flag Code, American Flags, procedures.

The ceremony involves burning the flags and then burying the ashes and grommets. Though the Hurlburt Field Top 3 has collected American Flags for disposal at this ceremony, other American Flags in disrepair will be collected at the event for retirement at a later date.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Spence at 884-6415. **(AFSOC News)**

SOCSOUTH to relocate

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – U.S. Special Operations Command announced that Special Operations Command, South will move from Roosevelt Roads Naval Base, Puerto Rico, to a new headquarters site at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., within a year.

Gen. Bryan Brown, commander of the USSOCOM, made the decision this week. He selected Homestead ARB over other possible relocation sites based on its lower cost and higher mission effectiveness.

Also, the new location in southern Florida is near Miami, where USSOUTHCOM is located.

SOCSOUTH is the subordinate unified command that provides command and control over Special Operations Forces operating in the U.S. Southern Command area of operations throughout Central and South America. **(AFSOC News)**

INSPECTION,

Continued from Page 1

MC-130 Talon I while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

And while the job of Inspector General may be a sharp contrast to flying combat missions in Afghanistan, it could prove itself to be no less challenging. Among the initial challenges is continuing to prepare the wing for an upcoming Air Force Special Operations Command Inspector General UCI, scheduled Monday until Dec. 12.

"While here, the team will examine common core compliance areas and special interest items to ensure the wing is abiding by law, executive orders, and DoD directives," said Maj. Barbara Mercer, 16th Special Operations Wing deputy inspector general, chief of inspections. "Additionally, the team will oversee the wing developing, evaluating and responding to a HAZMAT (hazardous material) Major Accident Response Exercise."

The visiting inspector general team is composed of 58 inspectors and functional experts from across the command. By evaluating the same areas evaluated across the wing during quarterly unit self-inspections, they'll rate the wing staff and other support agencies as either in compliance, in compliance with exception, or not in compliance. Throughout the inspection, the IG office encourages the wing to be cognizant of proper protocol, and extend appropriate customs and courtesies. Also, be alert, enthusiastic, and above all, prepared. The last time the headquarters inspected the wing was during a UCI in December, 2000.

"This inspection is an opportunity for us to show off our wing and validate our compliance with Air Force Instructions, checklists and technical orders," said Colonel Reynolds. "Lets do our best to make it reflective of the professionalism and excellence which epitomizes the Air Commando legacy."

Questions regarding the UCI or the Wing Inspector General program should be directed to Major Mercer or Colonel Reynolds at 884-3241.

UCI tips for ensuring success

❍Know your guiding directives and ensure they are current.

❍Be aware of safety, security, operations security and communications security programs.

❍Know where support documents are located and don't be apprehensive about allowing inspectors to view them.

❍Check bulletin boards for current information – out-of-date and erroneous material should be removed and replaced when applicable.

❍Dialogue with the UCI inspector. Be forthcoming – if you don't know the answer, say so and offer to look it up. Ask for hints for success – most inspectors want to help you succeed; it makes their job easier and more enjoyable.

❍Think about your best practices and polish them to impress.

❍Build a notebook with checklist answers and corresponding documentation – be sure all documentation is in the book or easily referenced.

Holiday cooking: *keeping food safe*

Courtesy of the 16th Medical Group

The holiday season is finally here, and many people will partake in a festive celebrations with delightful foods.

Because of the large amount of foods prepared and consumed during the holiday season, it's important to be safe by following basic food safety steps.

Preparation: When preparing food, wash hands and food contact surfaces often. Bacteria can spread to food products from hands, knives, sponges and cutting boards. Cross-contamination occurs when bacteria spreads from one food product to another. This is especially true for raw meat products, poultry and seafood. These products must be separated from ready-to-eat foods such as pastries and salads.

Cooking: Cook foods to the proper temperatures. Foods should be cooked at a high enough temperature and for a long enough time to kill any harmful bacteria that could cause a food-borne illness. Here are a few examples of proper cooking temperatures:

❍Poultry – 165° F or greater for at least 15 seconds

❍Pork or ground beef – 155° F or greater for at least 15 seconds

❍Beef, not ground – 145° F or greater for at least 15 seconds

❍Leftover foods – 165° F for at least 15 seconds

These are the minimum temperatures (as measured by a meat thermometer) that all parts of the food, including internal parts, should be cooked or heated in order to kill the bacteria that cause food-borne illness.

Chilling: Refrigerate foods promptly to prevent harmful bacteria from growing. Cut larger food items into smaller portions so they cool quicker. After eating a holiday meal, a good rule-of-thumb is to have all leftovers put away within one hour of serving. Room temperature is the perfect setting for bacteria to multiply.

Turkeys: A few special precautions must be taken when cooking turkeys. Frozen turkeys must be completely thawed before cooking. Do not thaw on the kitchen counter. When thawing in the refrigerator, allow 24 hours for every five pounds of turkey. If time is limited, turkeys may be thawed by submerging them in cold water that's changed frequently.

Using this method, allow 30 minutes thaw time for each pound of turkey. A turkey must be cooked until it reaches 180° F as measured by a meat thermometer in the center of the thickest part of the thigh or breast.

Remember, you can't see, taste or smell bacteria that cause a food-borne illness. Following these simple food safety tips can ensure holiday meals are safe for everyone. For more information about food safety, call the 16th Medical Group Public Health office at 881-5625.

K&G CREATIONS
COMM/MOISSANITE
534766
3 X 5.00

$10,000,

Continued from Page 1

thousands of dollars, Sergeant Arnts began the research and development process for his invention.

"I kept bugging our equipment custodian to find out when the spray outfit we had on order would arrive," Sergeant Arnts said. "I found out later that the tank had been on order for more than two years. So, I decided to do my own research to find out why it hadn't arrived, only to discover that the part hadn't been available or manufactured for years."

So, Sergeant Arnts went to work building a new flush tank to add to the technical order list. Although the part itself wasn't hard to design, finding a stainless steel tank to meet the requirements was.

However, after finding the tank in a dairy sector and other parts from around town, Sergeant Arnts completed the outfit in approximately four months. His invention, which costs approximately $800 in supplies, will allow turboprop technicians in all Air Force C-130 units a faster, more efficient means to flush reduction gearbox propeller brakes.

After having his design approved by the Air Force, Sergeant Arnts said he plans to make more submissions in the future when the opportunity presents itself.

"I was pretty excited when I found out the Air Force approved my design," Sergeant Arnts said. "However, since I haven't had much luck with awards and bonuses, I only expected a few hundred dollars for my suggestion."

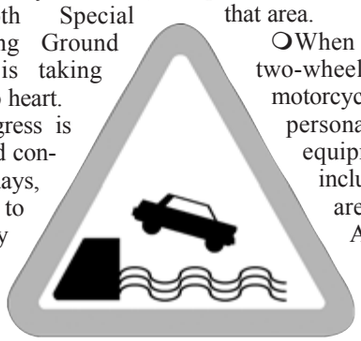
Because of submissions from Sergeant Arnts and 59 other people, the IDEA program here has distributed $53,000 and saved the government more than $713,000 this past fiscal year.

For more information about the Air Force IDEA program, call Brenda Smith at 884-6805.

Wing ground safety update: *Traffic issues*

By BJ Prevett
16th SOW Ground Safety Manager

Traffic issues top the list of concerns of safety-minded Hurlburt Field family members, and the 16th Special Operations Wing Ground Safety Office is taking those concerns to heart.



Work in progress is the norm for road construction these days, and there's more to come. Safety works with 16th Civil Engineer Squadron traffic engineers very closely, monitoring and adjusting speed limits as needed to provide safe and efficient traffic flow.

Also, the 16th CES has requested funding for a traffic study to standardize Hurlburt Field's speed limits.

❍As a result of a motorcycle/pick-up mishap near the base exchange, the phone has been ringing off the hook with all kinds of suggested ways to make that area a safer place for humans and vehicles to co-exist.

Phase two of the road project in this area should be a traffic light and turn lanes, with all the trimmings (controlled crosswalks). This project is now programmed for fiscal year 2005, and wing safety is attempting to secure earlier funding. In the meantime, other courses of action will be evaluated and necessary changes will be made to improve people's chances of having a positive emotional experience next time they visit that area.

❍When it comes to two-wheeled vehicles, motorcycle training and personal protective equipment, which includes a helmet, are required by Air Force Instruction 91-207. Bottom line, if someone's a military member and rides a motorcycle on or off base, on or off duty, they must complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation course. To enroll for the course, call wing safety at 884-2610.

❍Crosswalks are an agenda item for the traffic-coordinating group. The safety office plans to re-evaluate crosswalk needs and adjust as needed. A consistent, basewide policy is safety's goal.

❍Using a cell phone while driving, according to some studies, is more hazardous than drinking and driving. People need to pull over and separate talking and driving.

For more information on safety issues, call the ground safety office at 884-2610.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis

ZOOM, ZOOM

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Elliott, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, rides his motorcycle during the first motorcycle safety course ever taught on the new motorcycle pad, located across from the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron here. The course, mandatory for all active-duty motorcycle riders, was once held at Eglin Air Force Base before Hurlburt Field completed the new facility a few months back. To sign up for the motorcycle safety course, call the 16th Special Operations Wing Ground Safety Office at 884-2614.

Centennial of Flight

In December 1928, Sir Hubert Wilkins and Carl Ben Eielson took off from Deception Island, one of Antarctic's most remote islands, and made the first successful airplane flight over the continent.

In less than a year's time, Sir Wilkins and Mr. Eielson had become the first people to fly over both polar regions.

At approximately the same time that they were soaring over Graham Land, U.S. Navy Commander Richard Byrd was establishing a massive permanent base camp called "Little America" on the Ross Ice Shelf of Antarctica.

While Sir Wilkins and Mr. Eielson had only a small team and a few sponsors, Commander Byrd was leading the largest, privately sponsored polar expedition up to that point with more than 80 men, four ships, and three separate airplanes – a Ford Trimotor named the Floyd Bennett (in honor of the man who had flown him to the North Pole, but who had recently died of pneumonia), a Fokker, and a Fairchild.

From the early 20th century to the present day, aircraft have played an important role in Antarctica's exploration.

Scientists and professional adventurers have traditionally relied on them to help with their work, but now lay people are also using them to explore the region.

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Sports

Photo by Senior Airman Sam Taylor

Teaching the basics

Seven-year-old Alejandro (left), son of Tech. Sgt. Ron Charette, 4th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, and Chanse, 3, son of Staff Sgt. Jason Davis, 16th Maintenance Operations Squadron, practice hockey at the youth center's roller court, Nov. 20. Skill evaluations for Hurlburt Field's first youth hockey league are scheduled at 5:30 p.m. at the youth center, Monday. Children ages five through 16 are welcome, and all equipment is provided except skates. Stop by the youth center to register, or just show up at the evaluations. For more information, call Jim Harriott, youth center sports director, at 884-6355.

Photo by Senior Airman Ebony Pierre

Master Sgt. William Fletcher, 4th Special Operations Squadron, plays the bagbipes to kick off a 16th Mission Support Group run Nov. 21.

SFS boxer fights in AF tournament

By Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

A 16th Security Forces Squadron airman put up his dukes for Hurlburt Field to place at the 2003 Air Force Boxing Championships at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Nov. 7-8.

Senior Airman Deron Elias placed second in his weight class – lightweight. His final opponent before moving on to the armed forces championship was Airman 1st Class Hector Ramos, from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., one of only two airmen to win gold at the last armed forces tourney. Elias lost the bout in a decision.

"The guy I fought was a formidable opponent. He was born into boxing," said Elias. "I'm still happy where I placed. Even though I lost to him, the fact that I did well was an accomplishment."

Another Hurlburt Field airman, Airman 1st Class Ramon Castro, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, took silver in the the junior-welterweight division, but stayed longer than Elias to fight more opponents.

No stranger to boxing, as a child growing up in Philadelphia, Elias and his friends used to don socks as boxing gloves and throw down. As time went by, Elias, now 26, became the Pennsylvania state Golden Gloves junior welterweight champion in 1997, and won gold medals fighting as a lightweight in Alabama and Florida in 2002.

Boxing is a great way to keep in shape and people join the sport for many reasons, but they should work toward personal satisfaction, Elias said. "If you consider boxing, and work at it hard enough, you'll find the satisfaction you're looking for."

Elias will be satisfied when he meets his goal of going professional, he said. "I want to be the best boxer to ever put on a pair of gloves."

16th MSG runs as new fitness test approaches

By Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

About 400 members of the 16th Mission Support Group rose at 6:30 a.m. to run 2.5 miles Nov. 21, the third monthly group run to date.

An unusual addition was Master Sgt. William Fletcher, 4th Special Operations Squadron, who played the bagpipes during the run. The bagpipes added some military tradition to the event, said 1st Lt. Tara Opielowski, 16th MSG.

"Getting the whole 16th MSG out here to run once a month is great for building camaraderie, and highlights our commitment to the new Air Force fitness policy," she said.

Airmen throughout the Air Force have been filling fitness centers and "burning up" running tracks in preparation for the new fitness-testing standard set to begin Jan. 1.

"We've had a 30-percent increase in the use of our fitness centers in the last three months," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper. "I've seen squadrons out exercising in the morning as units; people running as groups with their squadron banners flying. These are the kind of results I'm looking for." The new standard includes a 1.5-mile timed run, push-ups, crunches and waistline measurement. For more information, visit http://www.af.mil/news/ USAF_Fitness_Charts.pdf.

Sports shorts

10-mile Challenge

The Hurlburt Field 10-mile Challenge endurance race begins Dec. 6 at 7 a.m. Interested runners must sign up by 4 p.m. Wednesday. For more information, call the main fitness center at 884-6884.

Rugby players wanted

The Okaloosa Islanders Rugby Football Club is looking for new players at all levels of playing experience. Training sessions are currently held every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information, call J.C. at 882-6128.

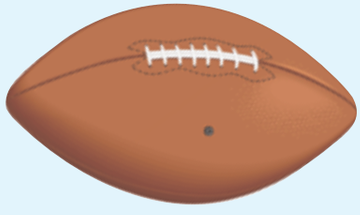
Flag football standings

As of Nov. 24

Men's league *Monday/Wednesday*	
LRS	8–1
AMXS(b)	8–1
RHS	6–3
EMS ISO	5–4
Coast Guard	5–4
SFS	5–4
CES2	4–5
25 IOS	2–7
HMXS	2–7
15 SOS	0–9

Men's league *Tuesday/Thursday*	
EMS AGE	7–2
MDG	7–2
CMS	7–2
Comm	6–3
AMXS(y)	6–3
CES1	5–4
OSS	3–6
AFC2TIG	3–6
Det. 1	1–8
Ammo	0–9

Women's League *Tuesday/Wednesday*	
AFSOC	7–0
LRS	0–7



Hurlburt Happenings

Military

Undergraduate flight training

The next undergraduate flying training board convenes at the Air Force Personnel Center March 2. This selection board will review applications for pilot and navigator only. Those officers with a date of birth after April 1, 1974, and a total federal commissioned service date after April 1, 1999, are eligible to apply.

Applicants must send the completed application, postmarked by Jan. 16, to HQ AFPC/DPAOT3, 550 C Street, West Suite 31, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4733. Applicants should advise commanders/supervisors providing the AF Form 215 of the application deadline. All applicants competing for pilot training must also complete the Basic Attributes Test. For more information on application procedures, contact the 16th Mission Support Squadron, Military Personnel Flight, at 884-5251.

NY Air Guard

The 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, N.Y., home of the C-130 ski-birds, has traditional Guard vacancies in the following career fields: 1A2X1, 1C0X2, 1C3X1, 1N0X1, 2A5X1, 2A5X3, 2A6X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X5, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2A7X3, 2E1X3, 2F0X1, 2S0X1, 2T0X1, 3C1X1, 3C3X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 4A0X1, 4A1X1, 4A2X1, 4D0X1, 4N0X1, 4P0X1, 4T0X1 and 6C0X1. There are also full-time active-duty positions available in 1T1X1, 2A5X1 and 2A7X3. For more information, call Master Sgt. Wesley Ryerson at DSN 344-2456, e-mail wesley.ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil or call 1-800-524-5070.

Alabama Air National Guard

The Alabama Air National Guard units in Montgomery have the following part-time vacancies: 2A0X1, 2A3X2, 2A333, 2A6X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X3, 2A6X4, 2A6X5, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2A7X3, 2E1X1, 2E1X3, 2E1X4, 2E2X1, 2E6X3, 2F0X1, 2R0X1, 2T3X5, 2W0X1, 3E0X1, 3E0X2, 3E1X1, 3E2X1, 3E3X1, 3E4X1, 3P0X1, 3V0X3, 4A0X1, 4A1X1 and 6C0X1. For more information, call Master Sgt. Vonsetta Roberts at DSN 358-9191, commercial 334-394-7191 or 1-800-368-4481. Also, e-mail vonsetta.roberts@almont.ang.af.mil.

Maine ANG

The Maine Air National Guard has vacancies in a number of Air Force Specialty Codes. Applications for Palace Chase and Palace Front are now being accepted. Cross training is available. For more information, call Master Sgt. Patrick Crowley at DSN 476-4211 or e-mail patrick.crowley@me.ngb.army.mil.

302nd MXG opportunities

The 302nd Airlift Wing Maintenance Group at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., is looking for top quality, highly motivated traditional Reserve technicians for the following Air Force Specialty Codes: 2A5X1, 2A5X3, 2A6X1B, 2A6X2, 2A6X3 and 2A6X4. Full-time Air Reserve Technician positions are also available. For more information, call Master Sgt. Brent Traicoff at DSN 834-8095, e-mail brent.traicoff@302.peterson.af.mil or call 1-800-446-9624 *8 ext. 8095.

16th MDG public notice

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations conducts an accreditation survey of the 16th Medical Group Wednesday and Thursday. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established Joint Commission conditions under which accreditation should be awarded the organization. The survey will focus on care issues and safety of the environment in which the care is provided. The public is encouraged to submit pertinent and valid information to the Joint Commission's field representatives at the time of the survey.

Submissions must first be made in writing and submitted no later than five working days before the survey. However, public interviews regarding particular organizations may be conducted through the Joint Commission at the time of the survey. All requests should include the nature of the information to be provided at the interview and sent to:

Division of Accreditation Operations
Office of Quality Monitoring
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
One Renaissance Boulevard
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

Submissions can also be faxed to (630) 792-5636 or e-mailed to complaint@jcaho.org.

The Joint Commission will acknowledge requests in writing or by telephone to inform the organization of the request for any interview. The interviewee will then be notified by the organization with the date, time and location of the meeting.

Sub-Saharan JSOU course

The Joint Special Operations University conducts a Sub-Saharan Africa Orientation Course Monday until Dec. 5. The course provides individuals a broad overview of information on the Sub-Saharan Africa region, with emphasis on cultural, historical and political issues. Many guest speakers will address the class throughout the course. For more information or to enroll in the course, call Dann Mattiza at 884-5749 or Joyce Weber at 884-4731.

Jobs available

The Air Force is looking for sharp senior airmen and staff sergeants to cross train into the Manpower and Organization career field, 3U0X1. If you're available to cross train and are interested in a challenging, high visibility and rewarding career in an area of human resource management, e-mail ramon.rogado@hurlburt.af.mil.

Community

UO master's degrees

The University of Oklahoma at Hurlburt Field offers master's degrees in International Relations, Human Relations and Economics. Degrees can be completed in 12-18 months with flexible night and weekend courses. Students may now enroll for the Spring 2004 semester. For more information, call 581-3000.

Gift of Groceries

With the holidays fast approaching, one way friends, family and the public can show support for military families is to give commissary gift certificates as gifts, or donate them directly to military charities that assist families. As part of the Gift of Groceries program, people can purchase commissary gift certificates at www.commissaries.com or by calling 1-800-770-GIFT.

Hurlburt Field Chapel 884-7795

Catholic Mass
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.
Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday
Religious Education: September–May

Protestant Services
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (praise & worship),
11:30 a.m. (traditional),
12:45 p.m. (Gospel)
Religious Education: August – May
Youth and Singles groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)
Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center
Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center
Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.
Qurían: Saturday, 6 p.m.

At the movies

Prices are $3 for adults and $1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday and Sunday – (PG-13) "Under the Tuscan Sun," starring Diane Lane and Sandra Oh – Frances, fed up with her job and saddened by a recent divorce, goes on vacation in Italy. When she decides to stay and put down roots, she eventually finds a more rewarding life and a new chance at love.

Saturday – (PG-13) "Intolerable Cruelty," starring George Clooney and Catherine Zeta-Jones – Miles, a divorce lawyer nearing a midlife crisis, meets his match in his client's gold-digging wife, Marilyn. He's impressed by her similarly heartless ways of using marriage to fuel an expensive lifestyle, but he still defeats her in court. With Marilyn looking to get her revenge, and Miles finding himself attracted to her, the two engage in a ruthless romantic pursuit to out-swindle each other.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday – (R) "Lost in Translation," starring Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson – Bob may be a big American star, but in Tokyo, his fame's only as good as the whiskey he sells. While in Japan, he finds a kindred spirit in Charlotte, the equally lonely wife of a successful fashion photographer. Together they strike up an unusual friendship, on that provides a welcome escape from their boredom and loneliness.

Saturday – (R) "Beyond Borders," starring Angelina Jolie and Clive Owen – Sarah, a sheltered American socialite, meets Nick Callahan, a renegade doctor, his commitment to humanitarian efforts in war-torn nations moves her deeply. Driven by her passion for Nick and his life's work, Sarah risks everything to embark on a perilous journey that leads to the volatile far corners of the earth.

Sunday – (PG) "Good Boy," starring Molly Shannon and Liam Aiken – Owen adopts a scruffy mutt he names Hubble. Both boy and dog get more than they bargained for when Owen wakes up one morning to discover he can understand every word Hubble says. Owen learns that dogs came to Earth thousands of years ago to colonize and dominate the planet. Hubble has been sent by the powerful Greater Dane on a mission from the Dog Star Sirius to make sure dogs have fulfilled this destiny.

***(Editorís note:** Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled playdates.)*

Florosa elementary cleanup

Florosa Elementary School is looking for volunteers to assist with a fall clean-up project Dec. 6 from 8 a.m. to noon. Tasks to be accomplished include weeding and seeding, laying pine straw and painting. A few volunteers are asked to bring weed eaters if they have them available. Otherwise, all other equipment will be provided. Those interested in helping should call Senior Master Sgt. Patrick O'Neal at 881-3950 or e-mail patrick.oneal @hurlburt.af.mil.

SIU spring registration

Southern Illinois University is now enrolling new and preious students for the Spring 2004 semester. Accelerated courses are offered on a weekend format from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. SIU offers a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology. Prior college isn't necessary. For more information, call Tracy Deming at 581-9840 or e-mail ithurlburt@gulf.net.

AFNEWS mailing dates

The Air Force Print News reports the following dates for mailing items to and from overseas locations in time for the holidays:

Parcel airlift mail – Dec. 4

Priority and first-class letters or cards – Dec. 11

Customs forms are required on all international mail, and shipments should be properly packaged before sending them overseas. For more information, visit www.military.com.

Pass, registration hours

The pass and registration office and the visitor control center begin following new hours Monday:

Pass and registration office hours will be: Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Visitor control center hours will be Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Visitor passes and vehicle decals can be obtained at the VCC during duty hours.

NWF regional science fair

The Northwest Florida Regional Science Fair is schedule for Feb. 10–12 at the Okaloosa County Fairgrounds. Qualified judges are needed in the following disciplines: behavioral sciences, biochemistry, botany, health and medicine, microbiology, zoology, chemistry, earth and space science, engineering, mathematics, computers, physics etc. Judging will begin Feb. 12 at 5 p.m. Those who would like to volunteer should submit their name, discipline, office symbol, office mailing address, and office and home phone numbers to Shirley Pigott by calling 882-2817 or e-mail ing shirley.pigott@eglin.af.mil, or call Bill Thornton at 882-2836 or e-mail bill.thornton@eglin.af.mil. The deadline for submissions is Monday. Parents with children participating in the fair may not serve as judges.

Classes

FSC classes

For more information on the following family support center classes, call 884-5441.

Employment Orientation – Monday, 9 a.m.; reservations required

Sponsorship Training – Monday, 1 p.m.; reservations required

Transition Assistance Program – Tuesday, 7:20 a.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, 7:30 a.m.; reservations required, call 884-6281

Moms, Pops and Tots – Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Personal Family Readiness – Thursday, 9 a.m.

Family Support Center Open House – Dec. 5, 1–3 p.m.

FSC Open House

Stop by the family support center's open house to share holiday goodies, information and fun.

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FEATURE

ALS preps future Air Force leaders, NCOs

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Just as a sapling can't grow into a tree without proper nutrients and care, a leader can't grow without proper instruction and preparation. At the Airman Leadership School here, under the supervision of the ALS flight chief, an information manager and three qualified instructors, hundreds of airmen are graduating each year as trained military leaders.

"By challenging the students mentally and physically through 191 hours of course instruction in a 25-day course," said Master Sgt. Shelina Frey, ALS flight chief, "the ALS prepares senior airmen (and staff sergeant selects) for front line leadership duties and fosters a commitment to the profession of arms in the world's best aerospace fighting force!"

The students' curriculum is broken down into six areas of leadership seminars that prepare them not only as military leaders, but also as well-rounded professionals. The curriculum courses include: Profession of Arms, Leadership, Human Resource Management, Airmanship, Communication Skills and Flight Chief/Administrative Time.

Within each seminar, the students are introduced to: the roles and responsibilities of NCOs, different techniques for time management, how individual behaviors affect the team (group dynamics), team development and the roles for each member, maintaining standards through discipline and how to provide effective feedback.

The students are also given the opportunity to write various types of memorandums, including actual performance feedback, Enlisted Performance Reports and Letters of Counseling.

Outside of the classroom, open ranks uniform inspections, flag ceremonies and drill practice are instituted. During the drill practices, students are evaluated on their ability to march flights and call commands – this demonstrates the students' ability to lead and exercise authority, Sergeant Frey said.

One of the other training methods used at the school are speeches given by each student discussing their career field to the rest of the class and briefing them on the role their respective job plays in the projection of airpower and national security.

"By being placed into seminars with airmen in other Air Force Specialty Codes, the students come away with an appreciation and realistic view of the Air Force as one team," Sergeant Frey said. "The students interact and help each other understand.

Not only do the students' speeches broaden their perspective of the Air Force, but it also gives each an opportunity to consider their respective job as a vital role in the Profession of Arms.

"We have to get the students to see themselves as more than crew chiefs, firemen or personnelists," Sergeant Frey said. "They need to remember that they're airmen and not to get caught in the "nine to five" mentality."

To ensure a smooth transition from junior NCO to senior NCO, the ALS personnel adopted the Chief Mentoring Program to help bridge the communication gap between junior and senior enlisted leadership.

"Each flight is assigned a chief master sergeant from the base populace," Sergeant Frey said. "The chief will sit in on lessons to offer a fresh perspective and make themselves available to students for personal and professional needs/concerns."

With a well-rounded routine of both classroom instruction and physical training as well as mentoring from other leadership resources, the ALS has nurtured thousands of airmen in the past 35 years.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis

Staff Sgt. Mark Pitts (above), gives constructive feedback to an Airman Leadership Class after a series of student speeches.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis

ALS students (left) take a break from instruction to practice teamwork, as they joined in a round of group pushups. During one of the weekly retreat ceremonies, ALS students (below) fold the American flag.

Courtesy photo