

Volunteers earn base recognition



Courtesy photo

Volunteers from the Company Grade Officer Council cut a piece of siding to be put on a new house as part of their assistance to Habitat for Humanity.

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Hurlburt Field recognized more than 600 volunteers from approximately 13 base organizations during the Volunteer Appreciation ceremony held at the Soundside, April 11.

The volunteers were recognized for their outstanding hours of service for the base and the surrounding community.

In the past year the volunteers have donated more than 57,000 hours of service, which has saved the base over \$600,000 and the surrounding community over \$1 million.

The ceremony was opened by Col. Raymond Killgore, 16th Special Operations Wing vice commander, who lent a few words of appreciation to the volunteers.

“What you do each day is more than the credit you get for it and the thanks you receive,” he said. “Your involvement on base and in the community is a great tribute, and we appreciate the support you provide for us.”

In order to recognize each individual and base organization for the time and energy they had contributed to the community in the past year, Senior Master Sgt. Gary Carlson, Commando Pride Airmen Center and Shannon Skoula-

Clark, family support center, gave a brief summary of each volunteer’s areas of service, which was accompanied by a slide presentation prepared by Janis Wood, FSC.

A few examples of the various volunteer services include: the Airman’s Attic provides donated items to airmen in need; the Company Grade Officers Council assist Habitat for Humanity and the Waterfront Rescue Mission; the Munch and Mend team at the base chapel mends torn uniforms or sews on patches and name tags free of charge once a month; and the teen center provides various sports programs, mentoring services and organized youth-related activities.

The ceremony, which was attended by more than 200 people, also recognized those volunteers that went above and beyond to serve others. Each winner was given a certificate of appreciation from Colonel Killgore and a pin from Helen Kisner, 16th SOW commander’s wife.

Six of the 27 nominated volunteers received the Angel Award, which recognizes the accomplishments and unselfishness of people, who offer their time and talents without expecting reward or thanks.

The winners of the Angel Award were: Master Sgt. Robert Brown,

See AWARDS, Page 12

Stop-Loss policy affects deployed airmen

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Even though Air Force officials have identified 99 career fields affected by Stop-Loss, all airmen currently deployed are affected as well.

Responding to erroneous news reports and some confusion in the ranks, officials are re-emphasizing how Stop-Loss affects deployed airmen.

Stop-Loss is keeping all deployed airmen “in place” until they return from

deployment, said Lt. Col. Rich Binger, chief of separations at the Air Force Personnel Center.

“There is no ‘stop movement,’” he said. “Assignment flow is not affected directly by Stop-Loss.”

“But people deployed won’t be allowed to rotate home, so they can voluntarily separate or retire from the service. They’ll have to wait until their deployment is over,” the colonel said.

For airmen returning from deployment, only those within the targeted career fields will remain in Stop-Loss status.

A waiver process is in place through local military personnel flights or deployed personnel units, officials said.

The program, effective May 2, was enacted to ensure the Air Force had enough people in needed specialties to meet current mission requirements.

To ensure only people needed to meet mission requirements are affected, officials will conduct periodic reviews as necessary.

For more information about Stop-Loss, people can call Tech. Sgt. Catina Johnson-Roscoe at 884-5370. The Air Force Personnel Center’s Stop-Loss Control Center can also be reached at (210) 565-2374 or DSN 665-2374 to answer any questions. **(AFPN)**

VIEWPOINTS

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions on 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. Frank Kisner,
16th SOW commander

Fear, anxiety sometimes come in little packages

By Nancy Jo Doubrava-Dull
92nd Air Refueling Wing
Family Support Center

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. – “Mommy, why is there war?” “Daddy, why are there terrorists?”

Tough questions, yes. Impossible questions to answer, not necessarily.

Our children are growing up in a different world than we did. Messages of terror can travel the Internet around the world in seconds. Rogue nations with weapons of mass destruction are the norm rather than the exception.

What's a parent to do when little ones start asking these kinds of questions.

First, they shouldn't panic. Second, they need to tailor their answers to a child's developmental stage and age.

For example, my daughter was just shy of four years old when her father was called back to active duty for Operations Desert Storm and Shield. She asked me the same tough questions children are asking now.

I told her gently, sometimes adults act like bullies and take things that don't

belong to them. So, soldiers, airmen and sailors – like daddy – have to go make those bullies behave and give back what they took.

The next question wasn't nearly as clear-cut: “Mommy, didn't Saddam's mommy teach him not to take things that don't belong to him?”

My answer was, “Yes, baby, but sometimes adults forget or don't follow lessons they learned as children.”

Yes, out of the mouths of babes.

Children don't have the ability to understand war in the same way adults do. Because their experience set is smaller, they can only conceive war as something that will happen in their neighborhood, to their family, at their school and play areas.

Parents should reassure children that there are many people working to protect us, and generally, we are safe in our homes, schools and at play.

Children tend to look for simple answers. When explaining war, people might want to make a distinction between dropping a few bombs and a long-term war.

If children avoid talking about war, it

doesn't necessarily mean they aren't thinking about it. But parents shouldn't give them too much information, or they risk information overload.

Limit media exposure, especially for younger children. Older children and teens might watch the news with their parents and discuss what they're seeing.

If children have trouble coping, parents should seek professional help for them. There are school counselors, counselors at life skills and skilled providers at family advocacy, who can assist parents in helping their children cope with this brave new world.

In order for parents to take care of their children, they must take care of themselves.

War can be a tremendous stressor. Talk with friends and take advantage of every opportunity to network with others whose loved ones are deployed. Beyond “misery loves company,” sharing fears and challenges with others going through the same thing helps normalize feelings.

For an easy way to network with others, consult with the staff of the family support center. at 884-5441. (AFPN)



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○Never discuss sensitive information on a cellular phone. Inform the person that the phone is vulnerable to monitoring.

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○Avoid using your cell phone within several miles of the airport, stadium, mall or other heavy traffic locations. These are areas where radio hobbyists use scanners for random monitoring.

○If your cell service company offers personal identification numbers (PIN), consider using one.



NEWS

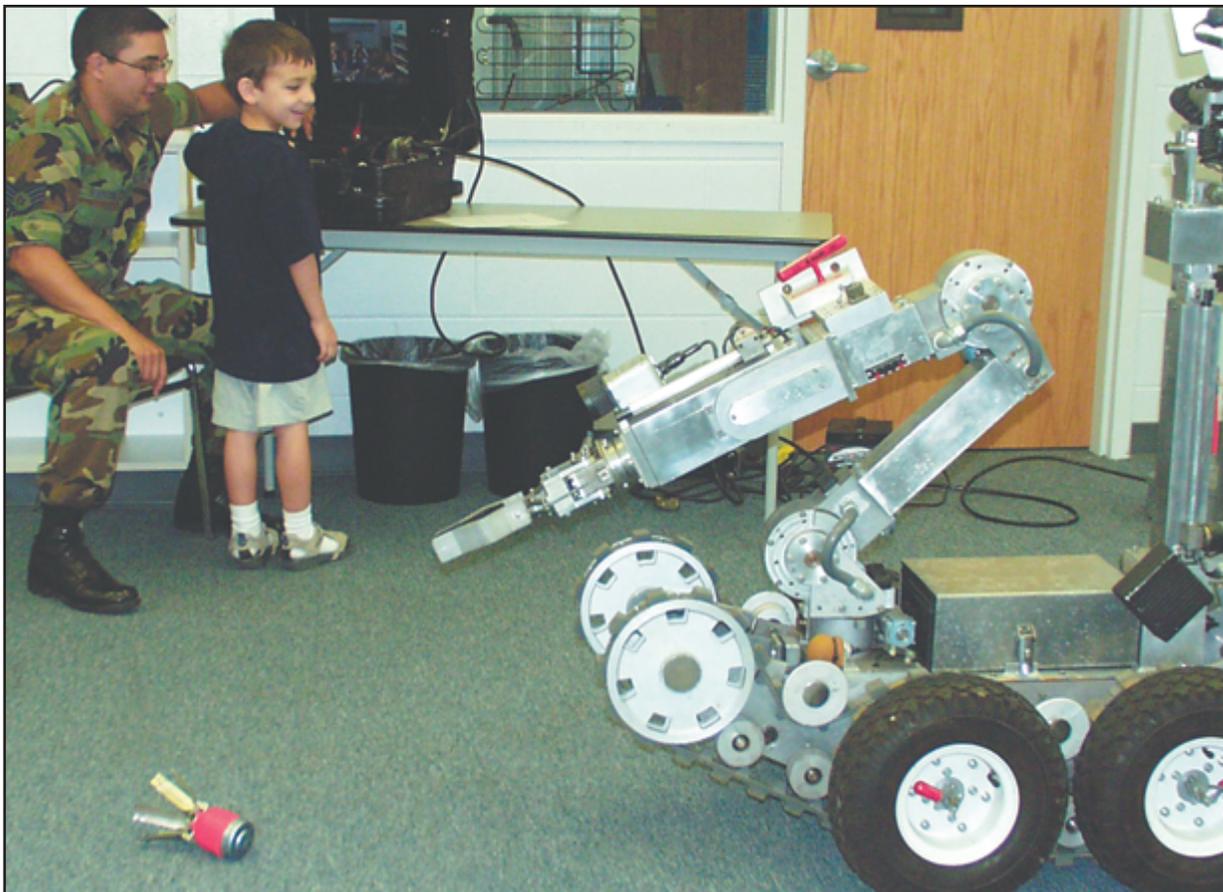


Photo by Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis

Explosive robot

A Staff Sgt. with the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, Explosive Ordnance Disposal flight, demonstrates how to operate the EOD robot during a visit to Holley-Navarre Primary School March 27. The sergeant showed the children several types of explosives and told them what to do if they found one on the ground. EOD specializes in identifying, neutralizing and disposing foreign and domestic hazardous material.

16th HMXS airmen extend helping hands

By Airman 1st Class
Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Throughout the month of March, members of the 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron donated more than 3,500 hours of their time and energy to assist non-profit organizations in the surrounding communities.

As part of a new extended and in-depth training program time was allotted for the unit to give back to the community.

"We've always been actively involved in the community," said Staff Sgt. James Hardy, 16th HMXS. "The opportunity (to help) was there, so we took advantage of it and will continue to help as long as the mission will allow us."

With the help of Staff Sgt. Jason Bucy, Sergeant Hardy coordinated with the various organizations to schedule volunteer opportunities for the squadron.

"We started asking for volunteers (within the squadron) for various

events and were overwhelmed with the response," Sergeant Hardy said.

At any given community service opportunity, 15 to 20 airmen of all ranks were ready to give back to the community.

The various organizations, including: the American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, the Okaloosa Coalition and the Navarre Youth Sports Association heartedly welcomed the extra helping hands.

The squadron added valuable assistance in: improving community conditions for the needy; providing extras for the youth sports programs; and informing the public on important issues.

While working with Habitat for Humanity the airmen were able to help construct several homes for people in need and assist in preparing sites for future homes. The Okaloosa Coalition was able to prepare additional rooms for victims in need, and Harvest Vineyard Ministries was able to build and repair living quarters for the mission.

The youth of the community also appreciate the work of the airmen for the clean up done to local playgrounds as well as their assistance to the Navarre Youth Sports Association, in order to complete three major additions to the Navarre Sports Complex: new water lines were established for the water fountains; new roofs were added onto the dugouts; and new pitcher mounds were put into place.

Not only did the squadron assist in manual labor service projects, but they also informed the community on a variety of issues. They helped the American Red Cross pass out pamphlets to local businesses concerning anti-terrorism and information packets to the public, which offered safety measures to take in severe weather conditions.

"The time and effort that the individuals have put into the task have made a world of difference for those in need," Sergeant Hardy said. "I can't say enough about the men and women of the 16th HMXS for their contributions in the community."

Special Tactics Combat Controller remembered

A staff sergeant assigned to the 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Pope Air Force Base, N.C., was killed in combat April 8.

Staff Sgt. Scott D. Sather, an Air Force Combat Controller, was 29 years old.

"I offer my condolences to Sergeant Sather's family, friends and team mates," said Lt. Gen. Paul Hester, AFSOC commander. "His ultimate sacrifice for our great nation is a constant reminder of the service and dedication of the men and women in uniform to a cherished principle - Freedom. Our sorrow is great, but the fight remains unresolved. We bow our heads in silence for the loss of this young man, and we know Scott would ask us to hold our heads high and bring freedom to the Iraqi people."

Sergeant Sather was from Clio, Michigan. He joined the Air Force in 1992 and had been stationed at Pope since 1999. His previous assignments include the Special Tactics Squadrons at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., RAF Mildenhall, England, and RAF Alconbury, England.

"Our hearts and prayers are with his family, friends and teammates during this time," said Chief Master Sgt. Bob Martens, the AFSOC command chief. "The loss of one of our own is tragic. The loss of this airman in combat is even more tragic. Scott's death is felt deeply in our Special Tactics community, as well as the Air Commando and Air Force families. We will all remember Scott as an honorable young man and an outstanding airman. Today's loss is huge; our future victories bitter-sweet."

Sergeant Sather's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, four Air Force Achievement Medals, an Air Medal and the Joint Service Achievement Medal.

No information is currently available on a memorial service for Sergeant Sather.



AIR FORCE NEWS

Combat search, rescue team saves two soldiers

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM – A U.S. Air Force combat search and rescue team saved the lives of two critically wounded U.S. Army Special Operations soldiers April 7 about five miles south of Baghdad, despite severe weather conditions.

The soldiers were transferred to a hospital in Kuwait, and given a 95 percent chance of survival, due to the joint efforts of the Air Force, Army and Special Operations Forces.

After contacting the Joint Search and Rescue Center at a desert air base in the Arabian Gulf region, the Special Operations Command Rescue Coordination Center coordinated and executed the emergency evacuation of the Special Operations ground troops.

Two HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters and two A-10 Thunderbolt IIs launched from an air base in southern Iraq, and an HC-130P King refueler launched from another air base in the region.

Two A-10s that were already airborne on a separate mission, were also sent by the JSRC to help cover the helicopters.

Additionally, U.S. Army helicopters from another nearby base were put on alert status, in case backup firepower was needed during the evacuation.

As the team flew to the evacuation site, the aircrew of the Pave Hawk helicopters learned the soldiers were in critical condition.

So, the crew coordinated with a Special Operations MC-130E Combat Talon I to meet them at An Najaf, 75 miles south of Baghdad, to set up a patient transfer transload from the helicopters to the aircraft.

The MC-130E had a flight surgeon and two medical technicians on board, who were trained to treat and stabilize the wounded en route to an advanced medical facility.

Everyone involved in the operation was able to overcome the blowing sand and dust, which allowed about a half-mile of visibility and a flying ceiling of only 3,500 feet, to recover the wounded soldiers and transfer them to the MC-130E at An Najaf.

The names of the wounded aren't being released at this time pending notification of next of kin. (AFPN)

New process disburses enlistment bonuses quicker for airmen

By Staff Sgt. Matt Miller
Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

New recruits, waiting months for signing bonuses that were promised to them by their recruiters, are now getting them within days thanks to a completely revamped process, which is run by a few motivated non-commissioned officers and dedicated civilian employees.

"It's a tremendous success story," said Master Sgt. Robert Tullgren, superintendent of Enlisted Accessions and Special Bonuses here.

"New recruits are getting the right welcome to the Air Force. This is a service that does its best to take care of our people and live up to our promises," Sergeant Tullgren continued.

"Because of great teamwork, what was taking four to seven months now takes us about four to seven minutes to process," Sergeant Tullgren said. "Initial Enlistment Bonuses are getting into the hands of new recruits, and this is good news for our young airmen."

Initial enlistment bonuses are important in attracting new recruits to the Air Force, then steering them toward the career fields that most need to be filled, according to Master Sgt. Tim Clark, recruiting service liaison at Air Force Personnel Center.

Airmen were expecting bonus payments within 90 days of arrival at the first duty station.

However, problems were caused by Military Personnel Data System challenges and long administrative delays in authorizing payments. At one point last year a backlog of more than 8,000 airmen were awaiting payments, according to Sergeant Tullgren.

A team that crossed several agencies inside and outside the Air Force was given the mission of fixing the complex problems. In order to do so, the team was given latitude to not just improve, but to change processes if needed, Sergeant Tullgren said.

"This is a credible example of teamwork across operational boundaries," said Maj. Gen. Tom O'Riordan, the center's commander.

"They reduced a backlog of 8,000 cases down to zero and dramatically reduced the time it was taking to get the bonus into the accounts of recruits—documented results that address a problem in the field," the general said.

The team identified long- and short-term solutions to resolve problems and validate the program. The result led to immediate reengineering of the contract process, developing computer processing solutions, and dedicating manpower to eliminate the backlog of payments, Sergeant Tullgren said.

Anyone needing help resolving an IEB problem can contact a local Military Personnel Flight office. (AFPC)

Spitting incident reminds airmen to stay safe

By Staff Sgt. J. LaVoie
56th Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. – The wife of a military member here received an unexpected message recently from an anti-war protester.

Jessica Resendez, who was wearing a sweatsuit printed with an Air Force emblem, was walking through a shopping center parking lot, when a woman grabbed her sleeve and asked if she was in the military.

After Ms. Resendez explained that she was the wife of an airman, the woman spat at the ground near her feet and said, "This is what I think of your military."

"She was looking at me with the most hate I've ever seen," Ms. Resendez said. "I looked at her and said 'How dare you.' It was all I could say. I walked back to my car and cried."

Airmen need to be prepared for these incidents, especially when wearing their uniform or clothing printed with Air Force symbols, according to an agent

at an Air Force Office of Special Investigations here.

"With current world events, varying views of the public, and higher stress levels, one should always be cautious and vigilant of their surroundings," said Special Agent William Pillai, acting commander of Air Force OSI Detachment 421.

"People confronted with a similar situation should walk away," Agent Pillai said.

"They shouldn't argue with the individual or allow the situation to become violent," he continued. (AFPN)

Look who's talking: If you were to issue a new postage stamp, who would you put on it and why?

"I would put (British Prime Minister) Tony Blair on the stamp because of the support he has shown our country."

"I would choose (Federal Reserve Chairman) Alan Greenspan because of his diligence in maintaining the economy so well the last two decades. He's truly the 'Father of Economics.'"

"I would choose to put the Army's 3rd Infantry Division patch on the stamp to honor those who have fought and died."

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16th MDG provides voice for patients

**By Airman 1st Class
Heidi Davis
Public Affairs**

The 16th Medical Group recruited a patient advocate for the Hurlburt Field Medical Clinic in February 2003 to address issues and concerns that clinic patients may have.

Capt. Kathryn Shaw said she volunteered for the chief 16th MDG patient advocate position because she believed in providing great customer service to patients. As the overall patient advocate for the clinic, Captain Shaw coordinates resolutions to concerns between sections and aids commanders, by researching and resolving concerns on their behalf.

"We do our best to resolve any concern that a patient may have," Captain Shaw said. "We value our patients immensely and want all of them to leave impressed with the care they received."

All patients who visit the clinic have availability to specific patient advocate services within each section of the clinic, Captain Shaw said. A patient advocate's available to answer any questions or concerns regarding: access to care, appointment wait time, quality/standard of care or customer service.

Patients are also encouraged to fill out customer comment cards located within each section, that provides feedback to patient advocates regarding the clinic's quality of service.

Comment card boxes are checked regularly, so patients are encouraged to leave a contact number for any issues that need to be addressed by a patient advocate. The cards can

either address issues that envelop several sections of the clinic simultaneously, or provide positive feedback regarding service received by specific caregivers.

"Positive comments regarding specific members are recognized in section meetings and often at a squadron commander's call," Captain Shaw said.

If an issue can't be resolved with the section patient advocate or section chain of command, a patient can request to speak to the chief of the section.

If they're still not thoroughly satisfied, Captain Shaw, as the 16th MDG patient advocate, will facilitate between the sections to work toward a resolution.

"The most important aspect of being a patient advocate is the great feeling you get when you have eased a patient's concerns," said Captain Shaw.

In order to resolve conflicts efficiently and communicate with customers effectively, patient advocates receive training in: customer service, patient confidentiality, patient rights, human relations, diversity, effective communication and conflict resolution.

For more information regarding patient advocate services, call Captain Shaw at 881-5166.

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Medical Health Fitness Tips

Are you ready to take off the layers of winter clothing? The thought of unveiling those pounds may have you running for a weight loss regimen. Before you choose a weight loss program, focus on some key strategies to success: make your goal healthier living; decrease meal portions; make better food choices; eat a variety of foods to meet nutritional needs; get physically active for at least 30 minutes a day; and remember, losing weight can be easy. The difficulty is maintaining weight loss, but if you make gradual changes in your lifestyle, it will be easier to maintain your weight loss.

Tricare may change for some families

By Staff Sgt. Chad Padgett
U.S. Air Forces in Europe
Public Affairs

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany – With Operation Iraqi Freedom in full swing, deployments have become common for military members stationed at overseas locations, which can affect health care for family members.

Health care's available for eligible family members, whether they choose to stay overseas or decide to temporarily return home, said Capt. Timothy Hoiden, Tricare Europe deputy director of remote sites health care.

However, the type of benefit available may change for those who return home.

Normally, family members who accompany military members overseas are enrolled in Tricare Overseas Prime.

"When the military member deploys, the spouses can remain in TOP if they stay in the overseas area or return to the states for 60 days or less," said Captain Hoiden.

"While family members are

in the states, they'll be able to get all of the same benefits provided by TOP," Captain Hoiden continued.

"However, if dependents plan on staying longer than 60 days, they would change over to Tricare Standard," he added.

If the family members are moving to an area away from a military installation, the Tricare Europe office recommends disenrolling from TOP and instead, using Tricare Standard or Extra.

"The Tricare office is going to continue helping families the best way we can," said Captain Hoiden. "That's what we're here for."

Family members can inform Tricare of their decision by calling (888) 777-8343 and selecting the appropriate overseas region, or by informing their overseas Tricare service center before their departure.

"It's very important that family members who're going back to the (United States) update their address in the DEERS system," said Hoiden.

For more information on Tricare Overseas Prime, visit www.europe.tricare.osd.mil. (AFPN)

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Courtesy photo

'Admirable' visit

The Surgeon General of the United States Vice Admiral (Dr.) Richard Carmona visited the Joint Special Operations University, as a guest speaker, during a recent Joint Special Operations Medical Officer Orientation Course. The admiral is the 17th U.S. surgeon general.

A 'gift of groceries' for military families



FORT LEE, Va. – Deployments are on the rise, Guard and Reserve personnel are being activated by the thousands, and the upheaval in the lives of military families can involve economic as well as emotional needs. Sometimes the need's long term, such as the loss of a higher paying civilian paycheck; however, at times, the need could be temporary, such as a deployment that takes place before family finances are in order.

More than ever, average Americans are jumping in to help military families by providing donated services, money and now – groceries.

For over 135 years, military families have been able to put commissary shopping on the top of their list of the most valued military benefits.

But for the first time, the average American can help military families with the "Gift of Groceries," a gift certificate program that allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates through www.commissaries.com.

The certificates can be donated to military families through charitable organizations or given directly to military friends and family. However, only authorized shoppers can spend them at any of the nearly 280 commissaries serving the U.S. armed services worldwide.

"Commissaries can save shoppers an average of 30 percent or more, so it's a valuable benefit for members of our armed forces, their families and retirees," said Maj. Gen. Michael Wiedemer, Defense Commissary Agency director. "The gift certificate program started out as a customer service, but it seems to be evolving into much more."

Since the program began in the fall of 2002, worldwide charities, such as the Air Force Aid Society, the USO and the Fisher House Foundation, have agreed to accept donated certificates for military families in need. "We want to support military families through Operation Homefront," said Linda Jo Reynolds, assistant to Pastor Leo Giovinetti at Mission Valley Christian Fellowship.

Operation Homefront is a San Diego-area effort to support local military families.

Radio station KOGO and Cinchouse, a local nonprofit organization of military spouses, are spearheading Operation Homefront.

"We heard they were accepting grocery certificates," said Ms. Reynolds. "So we thought since it was for the military, why not donate commissary gift certificates?" The fellowship donation was \$25,000.

"You would need about \$35,000 to purchase an equivalent amount of groceries at a retail store," said Patrick Nixon, DeCA deputy director. "That kind of additional purchasing power's what the commissary benefit is all about for military families."

The Fisher House Foundation was recently added to the list of major charities that accept donated certificates. The foundation operates 31 "homes away from home" to accommodate family members tending to hospitalized loved ones at major military medical facilities worldwide. Each house has a large, modern kitchen and space to store groceries.

"Families often face additional, unexpected expenses when a relative's hospitalized," said Ken Fisher, foundation vice chairman. "Being able to provide them with commissary gift certificates lessens their stress, enabling them to give full attention to their loved one."

The gift certificate program's made possible through a business agreement with CertifiChecks Inc., at no cost to DeCA or the federal government.

A standard charge covers the costs of handling, printing, and mailing of up to 20 certificates – as long as all are going to the same address. Additional charges may apply for bulk orders or special delivery. When a purchaser selects to donate certificates, CertifiChecks sends the donated certificate to the designated charity.

For more information, call the Commissary at 881-2138, or visit the CertifiChecks Web site at www.certifiChecks.com. (DeCA)

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FEATURE

Maintainers host first base car show

By Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

Glossy paint and gleaming rims were everywhere at the 16th Maintenance Group's car show, held in the Santa Rosa Mall parking lot Saturday.

Thirty-six lustrous vehicles and three unique motorcycles were on display at the show, which was held to raise money for the annual "Maintenance Group Bash," a large awards presentation event May 1.

Winners were chosen on a "people's choice" voting system, where each entrant received seven tickets to pass out to vehicles they thought should win, said Senior Master Sgt. Mark Fleming, 16th MXG, one of the organizers of the show.

First place winners received trophies in seven categories and four areas: imports, General Motors, motorcycles, low-riders, Ford, truck/sport utility vehicles and Mopar. The four areas all vehicles could win were: loudest sound system, best paint, best setup, and the granddaddy award – best of show.

Best of show went to Army Staff Sgt. Johnny Medina, assigned with the 6th Ranger Training Battalion at Camp James E. Rudder for his entry of a fully-customized Suzuki TL1000R motorcycle.

"The show went really well for being such short-notice," said Staff Sgt. Aaron Frazier, 16th Maintenance Squadron, a main organizer of the show. "We had to scramble for a new location at the last minute, and the (Santa Rosa) mall was generous enough to let us use their parking lot."



Photos by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

Army Staff Sgt. Johnny Medina, stationed with the 6th Ranger Training Battalion at Camp James E. Rudder, won Best of Show, the top prize at the 16th Maintenance Group's car show, Saturday.



Staff Sgt. Dennis Walker, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron (above), shows off his custom 1997 Chevrolet S-10. The truck is equipped with an airbag suspension system that allows him to control the height of each wheel independently. (left) Staff Sgt. Jay Santos, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, discusses the finer points of the twin-turbo, 265 horse-power rotary engine of his 1994 Mazda RX-7 with Senior Airman Wiley Smith, 16th AMXS.

Radio supports troops

The local radio station TK101 invites Hurlburt Field members to stop by J.R. Rockers Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to record a special greeting for a friend/loved one currently stationed or deployed overseas.

The greetings will be incorporated into a two-hour live music/greetings broadcast, scheduled to air Thursday from 11 a.m.

to 1 p.m. Central Standard Time, in 56 countries via the Armed Forces Radio Network, WYCL-FM Cool 107 and WTKX-FM TK101.

The broadcast will be commercial-free and also feature great American Rock music and wishes of support from several rock artists and local celebrities.

Public Affairs will be on-hand for the event. For more information call 884-7464.

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AWARDS,

Continued from Page 1

Jay DeGraw, Vickie Gesheidle, Tabitha Johnston, Michelle Pratt and Airman 1st Class Sirrena Simms.

Four of the six nominated received the Volunteer Excellence Award, which recognizes the extended volunteer efforts of Air Force family members, retirees and civilians. It reflects the volunteer's leadership, responsibility, initiative and extensive volunteer activities.

The winners of the VEA were: Jay DeGraw, James Hartwell, the Munch and Mend team and John Rice.

Ms. Skoula-Clark closed the ceremony with a few words of encouragement to the volunteers.

"The time and talent you give to the agencies make Hurlburt Field simply the best," she said. "Your efforts don't go unnoticed, and you're all our heroes."

LIFESTYLE

Military

Superintendent position

The Hurlburt Field Family Support Center superintendent position will become available July 2003. The 3-year controlled tour requirements include: an applicant with a grade of E-7 or above; knowledge of financial and resource management; and workgroup manager skills. Those interested in applying must submit: a military resume; the last three Evaluation Performance Reports; and a letter of recommendation from their current commander to Sue Breed, director of the FSC, by April 30. For more information, call 884-5441.

NCOA meeting

The Hurlburt Field's Commando Noncommissioned Officer Association holds its monthly meeting April 26 at 6 p.m. in J.R. Rocker's Daytona Room. This month's topics of discussion will be upcoming base/community events, the membership drive and the chapter's focus. In addition to the monthly meeting, the NCOA is currently undergoing a membership recall to invite back all past and local area members. For more information, call Master Sgt. Bob Love at 884-4995, or retired Chief Master Sgt. John Greer at 939-6659.

NCMA meeting

The National Contract Management Association holds its next luncheon meeting Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Eglin Enlisted Club. The guest speaker will be Cheryl Nilsson, director of contracts for Tybrin Corporation, with a short presentation entitled, "What a Difference a Day Makes" Colonel to Contractor: What I know now that would have been nice to know then." For more information or to make reservations, call Cheryl Owens at 882-0243, or Jillian Pate at 882-4686, ext. 318.

AF uniform change proposal

Today is the last day proposals for the upcoming Air Force Uniform Board will be accepted. Inputs should provide a detailed description of the proposed change or uniform problem with a specific, workable solution that has tangible benefits. They must also be: in the proper format; endorsed by the unit commander; and submitted to 16th Mission Support Squadron customer support section. For more information about submitting a proposal, call Vincent Filpi at 884-5280.

Community

April CARE events

April is historically recognized as the Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month. Commando Agencies Reaching Everyone, a subcommittee of the 16th Special Operations Wing Community Action Information Board, has organized several activities for the month to raise community awareness of child abuse and to provide special activities for military children and their families. The following have been scheduled for next week:

¡Fight for Your Marriage! seminar ñ Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., base chapel

Pre-School Storyhour ¡Kite Flying Fun! ñ Thursday, 10 a.m., base library

For more information regarding any of these scheduled events, call Cathy Holmes, Family Advocacy Outreach, at 884-4936.

AFA membership drive

The Hurlburt Field Chapter of the Air Force Association hosts its annual membership drive May 1-30, Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the base mini-mall. Membership is open to all Air Force personnel, to include civilian employees.

Membership benefits include: low-cost life insurance; a subscription to the Air Force Magazine; and the opportunity to work with other facets of the Air Force and local community. For more information, call Dick Schaller, chapter president, at 651-3443.

Helmets to Hardhats

¡Helmets to Hardhats! is a non-profit program that opens a pipeline between military service and America's construction industry jobs. The program is used by employers, contractors and trades to find ñ among the nation's separating service members or Guard and Reserve forces ñ mature, stable and dependable workers. Positions available include: bricklayers, carpenters, cement masons, electricians, operating engineers, painters, plumber/pipefitters, ironworkers, insulators, roofers and those possessing an entire range of construction skills. For more information, visit the program's Web site at www.helmetstohardhats.org.

Electronics recycling day

Residents and business owners can bring old computers, televisions and other electronics to the Electronics Amnesty Day April 26 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Okaloosa County Fairgrounds to be recycled. Items to be collected include: computer components, monitors, keyboards, copiers, fax machines, televisions, VCRs, stereos and telephones. For more information, call Jim Reece at 651-7395.

Couple's class offered

The Hurlburt Field Base Chapel begins a new class, "Defending the Military Marriage" April 27 at 10 a.m. in the conference room of the base chapel. The class will focus on improving communication, getting control of finances and other issues facing married couples. For more information, call Major Adams at 884-4537.

Prayer breakfast

In observance of the National Day of Prayer, Hurlburt Field invites military members and their families to attend the Wing Commander's Prayer Breakfast at the Soundside May 1 at 7 a.m. The guest speaker for the breakfast is Col. Brian Van Sickle, the United States Special Operations Command chaplain.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$2.00 and can be purchased from the first sergeants or the base chapel. For more information, call Chaplain, Capt. Jeff Cooper at 884-7795.

Commissary closing

The Hurlburt Field Commissary will be closed Sunday and Monday in observance of the Easter holiday. It will re-open under normal business hours Tuesday at 9 a.m. The Eglin Air Force Base Commissary will be open Sunday under normal business hours.

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 ñ May
Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (praise & worship), 11:30 a.m. (traditional), 12:45 p.m. (Gospel)

Religious Education: August ñ 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

Jumua: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: 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 ñ (PG-13) *¡Gods and Generals!* starring Bruce Boxleitner and Billy Campbell ñ Thomas *¡Stonewall!* Jackson, the famous Confederate general, along with Gen. Robert E. Lee, must weigh the mighty consequences of his actions, as each battle costs the lives of thousands of men. Over on the Union side, there's Col. Joshua Chamberlain, who, like General Jackson and General Lee, is fond of making long, poetic speeches to his troops. Beginning with the start of the war and ending with General Jackson's death, the film chronicles the three main battles leading up to Gettysburg.

Saturday ñ (R) *¡Cradle 2 Grave!* starring DMX and Jet Li ñ When an international criminal kidnaps the daughter of a gang leader as part of a diamond heist, it causes a city's police department to engage in an intensive search aided by the father's gangsters.

Sunday ñ (R) *¡The Life of David Gale!* starring Kevin Spacey and Laura Linney ñ Dr. David Gale, a Texan professor and advocate for the elimination of the death penalty, is falsely accused and convicted of the rape and murder of another activist, Constance Harraway. Ironically, he ends up on the state's notorious death row himself.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday ñ (PG-13) *¡Daredevil!* starring Ben Affleck and Michael Clarke Duncan ñ Matt Murdock is the son of a boxer who gets killed by petty criminals for refusing to take a dive. Matt's father's death drives him to fight crime, despite a childhood accident that robbed him of his sight.

Saturday ñ (R) *¡Old School!* starring Luke Wilson and Will Ferrell ñ Three guys in their early 30s ñ Mitch, Frank and Beanie try to relive their old college glory days, by moving into a large house near their old campus. They inadvertently form an unofficial fraternity, ñ where students can enjoy all the riches of the partying lifestyle without the commitment that comes with having to abide by the university's fraternity rules.

Sunday ñ (R) *¡The Hunted!* starring Tommy Lee Jones and Benicio del Toro ñ Tommy Lee Jones, an FBI deep-woods tracker captures an assassin, who makes a sport of killing deer hunters. When the killer escapes in the city, Jones must team up with another agent to hunt down the thrill killer before he starts to hunt them.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled playdates.)

Community

Hurlburt Field Toastmasters

The Hurlburt Field Toastmasters Club holds meetings Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in classroom G in the Hurlburt Field Education Center (Building 90220) for those interested in joining. The Toastmasters assist individuals in developing speaking, listening and leadership skills in a mutually supportive and positive learning environment. For more information, call Heath Talley at 884-7230 or e-mail heath.talley@hurlburt.af.mil.

New traffic route

Inbound traffic at the East Gate entrance of the base is now being re-directed to Golf Course Road and onto Brims Road. Traffic flow will proceed back to normal at the intersection of Independence Road, Loop Road and Brims Road. The outbound traffic won't be affected. For more information, call 1st Lt. Teresa Lord, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, at 884-4489.

Fight for Your Marriage

The Hurlburt Field Base Chapel is offering a free, one-day Fight for Your Marriage seminar Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for all military beneficiaries. The seminar will focus on: developing better communication skills; resolving conflict without violence; and enhancing fun, friendship and commitment. For more information or to register for the event, call 884-4936.

NCPTF briefings

Officer Bill Cain from the National Crime Prevention Task Force hosts an encore presentation of his standing room only briefings from November 2002. The 16th Special Operations Wing will sponsor the six briefings May 12 and 13 in the base theater. Briefing

times will be: May 12 at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; May 13 at 7 a.m., 10 a.m., and 2 p.m. The briefings will cover topics concerning safety and increasing situational awareness. Spouses and mature dependents are welcome, but seating is limited to a "first come, first served" basis. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Gary Gist at 884-2614.

Single parents luncheon

All Hurlburt Field single parents are invited to attend the monthly Single Parents Lunchtime Get Together Tuesday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the family support center. The meeting is an opportunity to learn about resources on base and discuss single parent living, while enjoying a free lunch. For more information, call 884-6800.

Southern Illinois University

Registration for Southern Illinois University's summer term will continue through May 2. The university offers a bachelor of science in industrial technology, which requires 16 courses or 48 credit hours. University courses are offered on alternating weekends from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning May 3. For more information, call Tracy Deming at 581-9840 or e-mail ithurlburt@fwb.gulf.net. Those interested can also visit the base education building.

Utility Relief Program

Service members, who are Fort Walton Beach utility customers and deploying, can request to be put on deployment status. This request will allow military customers to terminate water, sewer and garbage services without losing their utility deposit. It also eliminates connection fees upon returning from overseas. For more information or to temporarily terminate services, call the customer service division at 833-9500.

APA Heritage Month

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, and

the APA Club along with the military equal opportunity office is seeking military and civilian volunteers to assist in organizing, preparing and supporting programs for the observance period. The committee meets Tuesdays from noon to 1 p.m. in the MEO classroom in Building 90210, Room 244. For more information about APA Heritage Month, e-mail Chief Master Sgt. Ramon Rogado at ramon.rogado@hurlburt.af.mil, or call Staff Sgt. Bill White at 884-5879.

YMCA Military Sundays

In respect of all military members serving during the war, the Fort Walton Family YMCA welcomes active-duty military and their families to enjoy the center's facilities free every Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Services available include: an indoor pool, a weight room, basketball courts, a sauna and a steam room.

Also, May 9 there will be lock-ins from 8 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. for family members ages 5-12. Snacks, crafts, swimming and games will be provided. Participants will need to bring: a sleeping bag; pillow; towel; and swimsuit. For more information, call 863-9622.

Classes

FSC Classes:

Employment Orientation – Monday, 9 a.m.; Wednesday, 1 p.m.

Sponsorship Training – Monday, 1 p.m.

TAP – Tuesday, 7:20 a.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, 7:30 a.m.

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

HAWC classes:

Eating Heart Healthy – Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Prenatal Nutrition – Tuesday, 4 p.m.

BLUEWATER BAY DENTAL
COMMANDO/WE LOVE
521025
2 X 5.00

RHINO LININGS
CS/RHP/#1 TONNEA
522310
3 X 5.00

SPORTS

Tee ballers swing into action



By Tech. Sgt.
Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

They may be tiny in size but the Angels and the Braves Tee Ball teams had tons of fun during their game here Tuesday.

The two teams are part of the Hurlburt Field Youth Center's sports program.

The Braves, which were the home team, took to the field first allowing the Angels first chance at bat.

Unlike regular baseball, in tee ball each child is given the opportunity to bat and run around all the bases, explained Coby True, 373rd Training Squadron, and Braves coach. "Tee Ball is the child's first experience with baseball, so every player bats in an inning," he said. "This lets us teach the basic fundamentals of the game while keeping all the players interested."

The children, who range from ages four to six, might have a little trouble staying interested in the game, but they seem to enjoy the time they spend on the field hitting, running and chasing balls.

"They have a blast out there," True said. "Their expressions when they're on

the field say it all."

For the most part the children are well behaved and listen to instruction very well, True explained. "Sometimes you get what I call a 'magnet ball' where all the kids chase it at the same time. But, as they learn the rules and positions it doesn't happen as often."

Each season is a little different when it comes to coaching the kids, said Randy Tyndall, 16th Communications Squadron, and Angels coach. "The kids all have different personalities, so you have to be pretty flexible with instruction techniques," he said. "For the most part, the children are very cooperative and it's not tough at all."

The games, which last about an hour, go through two innings and afford each child at least two chances to bat.

"At the end of each game I ask the question, 'Did everyone have fun?'" Tyndall said. "And the response is always an overwhelming yes."

True encourages anyone who's never watched a tee ball game to come out to the field and witness the children play.

For dates and times of games, call the youth center at 884-6355.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson

Christine Palmer, with the Braves (top left) takes a big swing at the ball during Tuesday's game against the Angels. (left) A Braves shortstop tries to tag an Angels runner as he makes his way to third base. (above) The two teams and coaches shake hands after their two inning game.