

## Marine training scheduled, traffic delays expected

By Capt. Tom Knowles  
Public Affairs

At least twice daily, thousands of people jump in their automobiles and brave the hectic U.S. Highway 98 traffic during their commute to the base. Of course, despite the occasional hair-raising close calls, roadside pile-up and associated congestion...it could be worse.

For instance, you could be "commuting" from your home aboard a Naval amphibious ship, speeding through the Gulf of Mexico and Santa Rosa Sound only to find yourself conducting a beach assault upon reaching the shore.

On Dec. 12, Marines assigned to the Camp Lejeune, N.C. based 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit will do just that, as part of U.S. Marine Corps training designed to prepare them for their upcoming

See **MARINES**, Page 6



Courtesy photo

**A Landing Craft Air Cushioned approaches the shore with its cargo of U.S. Marines and their vehicles during a beach assault exercise.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Davis

**Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, speaks to families and friends of the crewmembers who died when their MH-53 PAVE LOW helicopter crashed in Afghanistan Nov. 23. The base community held a memorial service Wednesday in the corrosion control facility.**

## Community remembers fallen heroes

Families and friends of the crewmembers who died when their MH-53 PAVE LOW helicopter crashed in Afghanistan, Nov. 23, paid their respects Wednesday during a memorial service at the corrosion control facility.

An enormous American flag displayed behind the stage set the tone for the patriotic ceremony that remembered the lives of the three 20th Special Operations Squadron members: Master Sgt. William Kerwood, flight engineer; Tech. Sgt. Howard Walters, aerial gunner; and Staff Sgt. Thomas Walkup Jr., flight engineer.

The pilot, Maj. Steven Plumhoff, 58th Special Operations Wing, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., was also remembered at the ceremony.

Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, although new to the base, said he felt as though he knew the crewmembers personally.

"As a recent Hurlburt Field arrival, I didn't have the opportunity to meet them," Colonel Mannon said, "but as I learn more about them, I realize that I did know them very well. They are just like the individuals seated here today - they are great Americans."

The commander went on to say the crewmembers were

the best and the brightest that America had to offer and it was a privilege to serve with them.

"As we remember them today, let's remember their smiles, the practical jokes and the sacrifices they made on a daily basis," Colonel Mannon said. "We were blessed with their time with us and humbled by their sacrifices and dedication. We will not let their flames die."

Paying tribute to their lives was the purpose of this gathering, said Lt. Col. Richard Williams, 20th SOS commander.

"It's incredibly moving to see such a crowd gathered here to pay tribute, celebrate their lives and honor the service of our fallen comrades," Colonel Williams said. "They were true Special Operations Warriors. They faced the challenges of being a PAVE LOW crewmember with confidence and energy and were proud of our mission. There was no question that they loved what they did."

After words from the wing chaplain, a solo bagpipe paid tribute with Amazing Grace.

Families, friends and fellow airmen were invited to stay and talk with one another and visit displays of photos and symbolic aircrew equipment that adorned center stage.

### News

#### Safety Briefing

There will be a mandatory safety briefing for all 16th SOW active-duty personnel Tuesday at the corrosion control facility. Associate units are encouraged to attend. Guest speaker is Capt. Pete Collins. Briefing times are 6 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 3 p.m. For more information, call 884-5243.

### Feature



#### Comex

16th CS conducts communication exercise  
Page 10

### Sports



#### Football playoffs

Teams battle it out during playoffs week  
Page 15

### Weather

#### Weekend forecast

**Today** - partly cloudy, High 61 Low 48  
**Saturday** - sunny, High 57 Low 36  
**Sunday** - sunny, High 59 Low 35

[www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/weather/5day](http://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](mailto:commando@hurlburt.af.mil).



Col. O.G. Mannon



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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photography unless otherwise indicated. The COMMANDO staff may include or exclude articles based upon the news value determined by the staff, impact on the wing's mission, and the space allotted for editorial content by the publisher.

### 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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# Better to be safe - than sorry

Courtesy of 16th SOW Safety Office

How many times have you heard this statement when talking to friends who've been pulled over by law enforcement officials? "I only had a couple of drinks."

For the 50 people assigned to Hurlburt Field who've been charged with DUIs this year, this comment was probably used in their conversations also.

How many drinks does it take to make a person legally intoxicated? Everyone has seen the standard chart that shows body weight and alcohol consumption per hour and how that equates to a blood level content of being legally drunk. The simple answer to the burning question of "Are you OK to drive?" is this: One drink is one too many if you're planning to drive.

Here's a few simple tips:

Have a plan. Before leaving the house with a bunch of friends appoint a designated driver. Take turns being the DD and it will keep you out of trouble. This is the easiest way to go out, have a good time and not have to worry about how you're getting home.

Let's say, however, you're just going out for the evening by yourself and you end up at a party. Now it's 3 a.m. and time to go home. What should you do? The answer is quite simple. One of the most underutilized resources on base is just a phone call away. Airmen Against Drunk Driving is standing by to bring you safely back home. Their phone number is 598-1302. To date, 91 airmen have used this free ride home and made the right decision without any repercussions.

In response to the DUI trend, Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, has designated a special mandatory briefing for all Hurlburt Field personnel Tuesday at the corrosion control facility. Briefing times are 6 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 3 p.m. Commanders and supervisors should make every effort to arrange work schedules so everyone can attend.

The wing safety staff is proud to announce the guest speaker will be retired Mississippi Highway Patrol Capt. Pete Collins.

Having traveled more than 9 million miles and spoken to more than 17 million people, Captain Collins brings his message through a unique blend of laughter and tears on the tragic decision of drinking and driving. Don't miss this powerful message.

Seating will be at a premium so come early and bring a friend.

## AADD needs volunteers



Drivers are needed for both one-day events and weekend duty.

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

## Centennial of Flight

Dr. James G. Roche, secretary of the Air Force

"As we approach the historic 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' achievement at Kitty Hawk, we recognize that in the history of humankind, we have rarely witnessed a more powerful innovation that changed global society more rapidly or dramatically. These 100 years of

powered flight have redefined the way we fight our wars; revolutionized travel and commerce; pioneered the development of ground-breaking technologies; and helped shape a world in which the our nation's safety and prosperity would be accompanied by breathtaking scientific and technical prowess. Powered flight is, and will continue to be, one of humankind's most significant accomplishments."



## Hurlburt Field DUI Tracker

Nov. 15 – Dec. 5: <b>1 DUI</b>	Total DUIs for 2002: <b>47</b>
16th Component Maintenance Squadron Days since last DUI: <b>20</b>	<b>Airmen Against Drunk Driving Don't Drink and Drive. Call 598-1302</b>
Total DUIs this year to date: <b>50</b>	Potential saves this year: <b>91</b>

# NEWS

## Base members become 'stars of the season'

By Amy Oliver  
Public Affairs

The City of Fort Walton Beach held its annual holiday parade Monday evening which saw dozens of

Hurlburt Field personnel participate in the event. The theme for this year's event was "The Holiday Stars of the Season."

The parade is held every year on the first Monday of December at 6:30 p.m., and grows larger each year. This year, 126 floats took two hours to complete the route from First Street at Eglin Parkway north to Uptown Station.

Folks lined both sides of Eglin Parkway waiting to catch a glimpse of the floats and some candy too. Candy flew in fistfuls to the waiting bags and pockets of eager children.

The Hurlburt Field Honor Guard, who won the award for the Best Military Marching Unit, carried their flags and M-1 rifles with bayonets. They followed immediately after the police and fire vehicles who opened the parade.

Colonel O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operation Wing commander, took the opportunity to introduce himself to the community as the new base commander in a Humvee provided by the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron's Explosive Ordinance Disposal unit.

"It was exhilarating to see the camaraderie among this community," said Colonel Mannon. "I was surprised by the large turn-out and overwhelming enthusiasm as the spectators greeted us all along the route. I was honored to be a part of such a festive event, and the opportunity to thank this community for their continued support of our military community."

The city's Mayor and parade Grand Marshal, Glenda Glover, echoed Colonel Mannon's gratitude by inviting local military personnel to ride aboard her float.

"We did it as a gesture of thanks," said Mayor Glover,

"because we really do appreciate all the military does for this community."

Approximately 60 military from Hurlburt, Eglin and Fort Benning rode on or walked alongside the mayor's float.

"We are truly blessed to have the military here," said Mayor Glover.

Scores of local high school and middle school marching bands also participated in the parade, and countless scouting groups, church groups, sporting teams, civic organizations, elected officials, and local businesses decorated floats adhering to the parade's theme and showered spectators with pounds of candy, beads, cups, and all sorts of trinkets.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Davis

**The Hurlburt Field Honor Guard demonstrate their precision during the annual Fort Walton Beach parade. The elite honor guard won an award for the Best Military Marching Unit.**

## Spotlight on ...

### Ricardo Chavez

**Rank/Duty Title:** Airman 1st Class/Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Journeyman

**Organization:** 16th Civil Engineer Squadron

**Hometown:** El Paso, Texas

**Hobbies:** Working out, going to school and martial arts

**Contribution to the mission:**

Airman Chavez installs, operates and maintains \$160 million worth of HVAC and refrigeration equipment base wide to provide comfort to more than 8,800 people.

He's been assigned to the HVAC career field for 1 1/2 years and has shown an aptitude and desire to learn that is unparalleled.

Airman Chavez is instrumental in almost every large installation of HVAC equipment since being assigned to Hurlburt Field.

He's accumulated an impressive collection of letters of appreciation and accolades for his outstanding work ethic.

*(Editor's Note: The COMMANDO highlights airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job, and should receive day-to-day recognition. Supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information on nominating an individual for the "Spotlight on..." column.)*

## New uniform wear test selection to begin



Photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

**BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. – Airmen with the 11th Communications Squadron, try out the Air Force test utility uniform. Airmen from a cross section of Air Force career fields will provide feedback on the fit, durability and functionality of the proposed ensemble. (AFP)**

Hurlburt Field has been selected as one of the nine bases to participate in a six-

month wear test of a newly developed utility uniform beginning March 22.

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force directed the Air Force Uniform Board to design a uniform that fits better, is more comfortable to wear, improve the ease of care, reduce the overall costs to airmen and be Air Force distinctive.

The Air Force and Marine Corps adopted the Army Battle Dress Uniform in the early 1980s to save money using what was in stock and readily available to outfit the force.

Recently, the Marine Corps developed and adopted their own BDUs to improve the camo effectiveness and add a permanent press treatment eliminating the need for commercial cleaning.

The Army completed a wear test of the current BDU with an added permanent press treatment and six women sized uniforms. They wanted a combat uniform for future soldiers with unique requirements for their ground forces.

The Navy is currently at the proposal stage of developing a new utility uniform as well.

In July 2002, an Integrated Processing Team made up of various career fields and technical advisors went to work and pre-

sented 12 different color schemes using the Tiger Stripe pattern.

One of the biggest complaints about the current BDUs has been the fit. BDUs come in limited sizes with a six-inch difference between the sizes. The Air Force has developed both men and women sizes, (men 32, 34, 36...) (Women 8, 10, 12...) in the utility uniform.

In June 2003 testing of the new utility uniform was approved. Woodland and desert color schemes have also been developed for future use as needed but only the distinctive Air Force blue will be fit and wear tested.

Senior Master Sgt. Greg Nabors, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Master Sgts. Ronald Specker, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and Michael Roberts, 16th Medical Operations Squadron are the POCs for Hurlburt Field. They'll be working with the first sergeants to select wear participants. For more information about the selection process, contact your unit first sergeant.

Websites will be available when the wear test starts for everyone to voice their opinions about the new utility uniform.

CSAF stresses feedback is the key to the success of this uniform.

# First female pipeline flight engineer to CSAR unit

By Capt. Belinda Petersen  
347th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

**MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.** – A female flight engineer assigned to the 41st Rescue Squadron, here, has the distinction of being a first for the HH-60 Pave Hawk unit and the Air Force.

Airman 1st Class Melody Boates is the first active-duty, non-prior service female flight engineer for the HH-60 Pave Hawk.

In the past, first-term airmen could not be flight engineers. Flight engineers came into the career field from other specialties in the service. Now, qualified first-term airmen can go directly to that field from basic training.

Airman Boates is also the first fully-qualified female flight engineer for Moody. It's the female part of the title that will give her the most recognition, but this is the area that she least wants the visibility on.

"I'm not here to prove anything," she said. "I was given this assignment and this aircraft based on my qualifications. I'm here to do the best I can and to be a part of the team."

Being a part of the team was her reason for joining the Air Force. At 27 years old, with almost two years of college completed, Airman Boates said she knew joining the Air Force would be something

worthwhile and challenging.

When she talked with an Air Force recruiter, she was told the flight engineer career field had just opened up for first-term airmen. She was interested in the position, particularly for the helicopters.

After successfully passing all the required tests and courses, Airman Boates was accepted to the flight engineer career field for the HH-60.

"There were no special treatments for anyone. Everyone was required to meet the standards in every task. I truly felt accepted," said Airman Boates.

When asked about the most rewarding part of her training, she said, it was working together as a team to accomplish the mission.

"We must communicate with each other at all times in the aircraft and watch each others' backs, regardless of who you are: pilot, crew chief or flight engineer," she said.

After a year of training with 47 credit hours toward her Community College of the Air Force degree under her belt, Airman Boates is excited about being part of the 41st RQS.



Photo by Angelica Delgado

**Airmen Tanya Howard (left) and Melody Boates conduct pre-flight inspections on a UH-1 Huey helicopter at the 58th Special Operations Wing, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.**

She said she is ready for the challenges ahead and wants this experience to make her a better person.

"We couldn't be more pleased to have Airman Boates at Moody," said Master Sgt. Derrick Harris, the squadron's first sergeant. "I know she'll be a great asset to her flight and squadron. I've heard great things coming from her technical school peers and instructors, and am anxious to get her moving forward with her upgrade training and getting her settled in so she can get to work accomplishing the mission she has been training so hard for." (AFSOC News)

## Air Force has two new ribbons: ASCM, AFESR

Air Force members are now eligible for two new ribbons: Air and Space Campaign Medal and the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon.

The ASCM is awarded to members of the U.S. Air Force who supported a significant U.S. military operation on or after March 24, 1999.

Military operations that qualify for the ASCM include: ALLIED FORCE, JOINT GUARDIAN, ALLIED HARBOR, SUSTAIN/SHINING HOPE, NOBLE ANVIL, Kosovo Task Force Hawk, Saber, Falcon and Hunter.

Members who provided

direct support for 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days to one of these operations can qualify for the ASCM.

A subsequent award is denoted with a service star. Members who are eligible should report to the awards and decorations unit in the military personnel flight with supporting documentation.

Documentation needed for verification can be travel vouchers, orders, enlisted performance reports/officer performance reports or decorations.

The AFESR is awarded to Air Force active-duty, Reserve,

and Guard personnel who completed a contingency deployment on or after Oct. 1, 1999.

To qualify for the AFESR, individuals must have deployed for 45 consecutive days or 90 nonconsecutive days. Only one AFESR per deployment is authorized provided that the required deployment days are met and regardless of the number of consecutive days over 45 or nonconsecutive days over 90.

Upon completing a contingency deployment, members should report to their commander's support staff with supporting documentation to vali-

date their entitlement.

An Air Force Form 104 will be completed for inclusion into the members' records in April 2004, which is when a code for Military Personnel Data System will be available for the AFESR.

CSSs are asked to hold documentation in suspense copies of the AF Forms 104 to use for update at that time. The AFESR ribbon will not be available in AAFES channels until the summer of 2004.

For more information, please call Arcia Whitfield at the Awards and Decorations Unit at 884-5401.

## Military pay entitlements for deployed troops

In an overseas deployment memo, dated Sept. 25, Combat Zone Tax Relief was declared for military personnel serving in Egypt for the period of March 19 through April 20.

Based on the language of the memo, all members serving in Egypt during that period were determined to be in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. All military personnel who served in Egypt during the above period are eligible for all combat zone-related tax benefits due to their service in direct support of military operations in the Arabian Peninsula combat zone,

as designated by executive order 12744.

In another OSD memo, also dated Sept. 25, CZTR was declared for military personnel, serving in Jordan, who are in direct support of OIF. The effective date for Jordan is March 19. However, unlike the declaration for Egypt, in order to be eligible for CZTR for Jordan, the member's contingency exercise deployment orders must start, "direct support of OIF."

Those who meet the requirements listed above need to update their military pay record at the 16th Comptroller Squadron.

## News Briefs

### Foreign gifts need reporting

**AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER** – Officials want to remind airmen that gifts received from foreign governments valued at more than \$285 must be reported.

Failure to report gifts within 60 days of receipt can result in a U.S. District Court penalty equal to the fair market value of the gift plus \$5,000, according to Frank Posey of the judge advocate's office here.

All Air Force people, including civilians and family members, need to know that according to the law, any gift received from a foreign government is technically U.S. property, he said.

"High value items are usually sent to the General Services Administration's vaults," said Nancy Gaisford, chief of the special trophies and awards section here, "but people can get permission to keep their gifts on official display or even purchase them back from the GSA."

### New system opens doors

President George Bush recently signed the 2004 Defense Authorization Bill, which allows the Department of Defense to set up a National Security Personnel System for the civilian workforce. Under the new system:

○Civilian employees will be able to more effectively contribute to the DoD mission and have that contribution rewarded appropriately.

○Unions will find continuous communication on key concerns, as they collaborate with management and a third-party to resolve differences.

○The next generation of employees will get into DoD faster and will have wider opportunities for professional growth, organizational contributions and increasing responsibilities.

**MARINES,***Continued from Page 1*

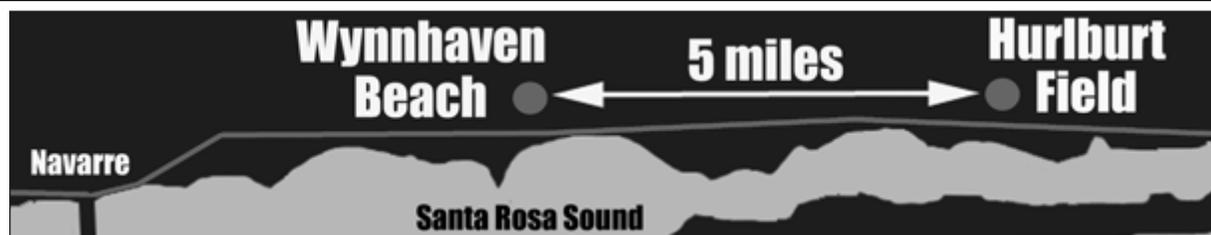
ing six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

“The 22nd MEU is scheduled to deploy early next year aboard the amphibious ships USS Wasp, Shreveport and Whidbey Island as part of the USS Wasp Expeditionary Strike Group,” said Capt. Eric Dent, 22nd MEU public affairs officer.

A MEU is a fully integrated mobile air and ground force composed of about 2,200 Marines embarked aboard several Naval amphibious ships.

Their mission is to provide geographic combatant commanders with a forward deployed, rapid-response force capable of conducting conventional amphibious and selected maritime Special Operations at night or under adverse weather conditions. It consists of a command element, a reinforced infantry battalion, a composite helicopter squadron and a MEU service support group.

Traveling from amphibious ships positioned in the Gulf of Mexico aboard Landing Craft Air Cushion vehicles (an 88 foot long type of hover craft) packed with Humvees, trucks, tanks and artillery, Marines will make their way through the Destin East Pass for access to Choctawhatchee Bay and Santa Rosa Sound en route to Wynnhaven Beach, Friday morning.



From there, they'll conduct an amphibious landing at Wynnhaven Beach (five miles west of Hurlburt Field), staging vehicles and equipment before moving across Highway 98 between 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. to access the Eglin range for ground based portions of the scheduled training evolution.

“The ground based portion will include live-fire and maneuver exercises during the evolution,” said Captain Dent. “The remainder of the Expeditionary Strike Group, consisting of two cruisers, a destroyer and attack submarine, will conduct training at sea.”

As Marines cross Highway 98, Okaloosa County Sheriff officials will briefly stop traffic on Highway 98 near Wynnhaven Beach at various times.

Motorists are encouraged to be attentive to Okaloosa County Sheriff's electronic signboards posted along the highway and local news outlets for the latest information on delays.”

“Upon completion of the training Dec. 17, Marines

will cross back over Highway 98 during the same time period and location,” said Captain Dent. “Highway 98 commuters should plan on long delays throughout both days.”

Even more important is the necessity for all to be patient, safe and exercise defensive driving skills when driving in this area. Motorists are encouraged to be especially alert, slow down and exercise caution.

The training aboard Eglin range has been coordinated with federal, state, and local officials, and all appropriate environmental agencies to ensure a minimal impact on the communities surrounding the base.

For more information on the scheduled training, contact Capt. Eric Dent or Gunnery Sgt. Keith Milks at 910-451-0428 (office) or 910-526-9547 (cell).

For more information about the 22nd MEU check out: <http://www.22meu.usmc.mil/>.

*(Editors note: The 22nd MEU Public Affairs office contributed to this report.)*

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## CDC scores through roof

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

The 16th Civil Engineer Squadron recently had two airmen turn in flawless Career Development Course final tests – the only perfect CDC scores in the Fire Department unit in the past four and a half years.

Airman 1st Class Charles Lanier was the first of the two to receive a 100 percent on his test. Shortly after, Airman Joshua Hammer turned in his perfect test.

Both of the airmen's supervisors – though surprised by the perfect scores – expected the airmen to score well on the test.

"Airman Lanier has proven himself to be an extraordinary airman and a priceless investment for the Air Force," said Senior Airman Bobbie Liveoak, Airman Lanier's supervisor. "He's proven that he can accomplish any task big or small because of his 'can-do' attitude and great work ethic."

Although each airman was given guidance and periodical monitoring by their supervisors throughout their course of volume testing, the airmen were ultimately responsible for how well they scored.

"I inform airmen on what they need to do," said Staff Sgt. Erick Pound, Airman Hammer's supervisor. "The rest is up to them."

Sergeant Pound explained the vitality of building "a department capable of protecting base assets and personnel."

"Without this information, our members would be ill-prepared to mitigate emergency incidents," Sergeant Pound said.

"The mastery of this information demonstrates that the airmen are ready to aid the base populous when their services are needed," he said.

Both were awarded a three-day pass by the base and congratulations from Lt. Col. Jeffrey Pitchford, 16th CES commander.

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## Customs and courtesies

Military customs and courtesies are proven traditions that explain what should and should not be done in many situations. They go beyond basic politeness; they play an extremely important role in building morale, esprit de corps, discipline, and mission effectiveness. Customs and courtesies ensure proper respect for the chain of command and build the foundation for self-discipline.

### *Types of U.S. Flags*

The Air Force authorizes the use of five U.S. flag types: base, all-purpose, ceremonial, organizational, and aircraft and automobile. The first two are displayed on stationary flagstuffs.

○*The U.S. Base Flag* is displayed in fair weather from reveille to retreat. On special patriotic occasions, the flag may be displayed all night if properly illuminated.

○*The U.S. All-Purpose Flag* comes in two materials:

A flag of lightweight nylon bunting material replaces the base flag during inclement weather and is used for outdoor display with flags of friendly nations in foreign dignitary arrival ceremonies. A flag of rayon bunting material is used for outdoor display with flags of friendly foreign nations in arrival ceremonies or to indicate joint occupancy of a building by two or more countries.

○*The U.S. Ceremonial Flag* is carried by a color guard during ceremonies when two or more squadrons participate representing a group, wing, NAF, MAJCOM, or the Department of the Air Force. It is carried only on occasions when the Air Force ceremonial flag or another flag of the same size is necessary or appropriate.

○*The U.S. Organizational Flag* is carried on all other occasions.

○*Aircraft and Automobile Flags or Plates* are used on the vehicles of the president, vice president, the secretary of defense, the secretary of the Air Force, the chief of the joint chiefs of staff, the chief of staff of the Air Force and general officers. Or if they're traveling by air, a distinguishing metal plate or placard may be displayed in a window of the aircraft. When they travel by automobile, either a distinguishing flag is attached to the automobile hood, or a metal plate is displayed near the license plate. In addition to the above individuals, Air Force commanders at the wing level or above and other persons as designated by major command commanders may have distinguishing metal plates displayed on their automobiles.

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## Eglin unveils addition for primary care services

Courtesy of the 96th Medical Group

The 96th Medical Group unveiled its new 72,000 square-foot clinic addition during a public ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday.

An open house and health fair inside the new clinic addition followed the ceremony.

"The 96th Medical Group is pleased to provide a facility commensurate with what Eglin Air Force Base beneficiaries expect and deserve: an aesthetically pleasing environment and comfortable accommodations, complemented by modern equipment, improved patient flow and enhanced privacy," said Maj. Dean Borsos, 96th Medical Support Squadron.

The clinic edition is part of the hospital's \$38 million medical Military Construction project. The addition will house the family health, family practice residency and pediatric clinics on the first floor, with the flight medicine clinic, force health management, public health, dermatology and the OB/GYN clinic on the second floor.

These clinics will be moving into their new location through Dec. 20, beginning with the family practice clinic. The opening of this new facility completes the first of six construction phases; construction will now focus on alterations and life-safety upgrades to the existing infrastructure.

Patient-friendly signs are posted to assist in identifying rooms for staff members and customers using a numbering, naming and Braille convention that will standardize the entire facility once the project is complete. All facilities and signs will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

In addition to being outfitted with new equipment in all exam and treatment rooms, the clinic addition enhances patient flow from check-in to treatment.

"The new OB/Gyn area has a conference room for patient education in the clinic setting that will be more convenient for childbirth classes," said Maj. Angela Calderon, 96th Medical Surgical Squadron.

Col. Andrew Marchiando, 96th Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander, said he foresees operational enhancements resulting from the new work accommodations.

"A streamlined configuration improving staff efficiency and enhancing teamwork between providers and medical technicians is what will get us there," Colonel Marchiando said.

To access care, call the 96th MG central appointments telephone number at 883-8600, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Courtesy photo

**Eglin Air Force Base's new 96th Medical Group clinic addition**

## Look who's new in pink and blue...

### Girls

**Madison Taylor Brown** was born Oct. 6 to Staff Sgt. Travis and Kelly Brown, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron.

**Emily Marie Edwards** was born Oct. 15 to Capts. Michael and Denise Edwards, 14th Weapons Squadron and 18th Flight Test Squadron.

**Alyssa Ray Rodriguez** was born Oct. 17 to Staff Sgt. Stephanie and Senior Airman Ricardo Rodriguez, 16th Communications Squadron.

**Riley Elizabeth Thibodeau** was born Oct. 18 to Senior Airman Jason and Rhiannon Thibodeau, 16th CES.

**Adrianna Victoria Tudruj** was born Oct. 27 to Senior Airman Bartlomiej and Ewelina Tudruj, 16th Maintenance Squadron.

**Hannah Jean Westlake** was born Oct. 29 to Senior Airman Edgar and Lisa Westlake,

16th Component Maintenance Squadron.

**Katriona Orrae Embler** was born Nov. 13 to Senior Airman David and Nichole Embler, 16th CMS.

### Boys

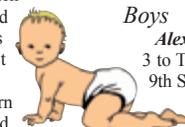
**Alexander David Cleveland** was born Oct. 3 to Tech. Sgt. Michael and Lois Cleveland, 9th Special Operations Squadron.

**Blake Spicer Ramsey** was born Oct. 5 to Staff Sgt. Andrew and Stacy Ramsey, 16th CES.

**Camron Ryan Hansen** was born Oct. 12 to Airman Andrew and Rebecca Hansen, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron.

**Aiden Emmanuel Jimenez** was born Oct. 13 to Staff Sgt. Emmanuel and Monica Jimenez, 20th Special Operations Squadron.

**Anthony William Buchanan** was born Nov. 3 to Airman 1st Class John and Brindy Buchanan, 16th EMS.



## FEATURE

# 16th CS COMEX preps for deployment

Courtesy of the 16th Communications Squadron

As a way to expose new troops to its operational deployment process and exercise equipment before an upcoming joint exercise, the 16th Communications Squadron recently conducted a two-week Communications Exercise here.

The first week of the COMEX was spent reviewing background procedures and performing the pre-deployment checks necessary for getting a communications package and its associated personnel out the door.

The second week was spent integrating all deployable elements of the squadron and exposing them to an environment based on real-world demands experienced in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, said 2nd Lt. Adrienne DeWitt, 16th CS.

"We simulated a deployment order and specific mission taskings that stimulated different squadron flights to prepare equipment and personnel to satisfy the tasking," said Lieutenant DeWitt.

Everyone from radio operators and maintainers, the theater deployable communications section, power production technicians, video and still photographers mobilized for the simulated deployment.

Finally, work group managers augmented the TDC and provided a capable customer service interface.

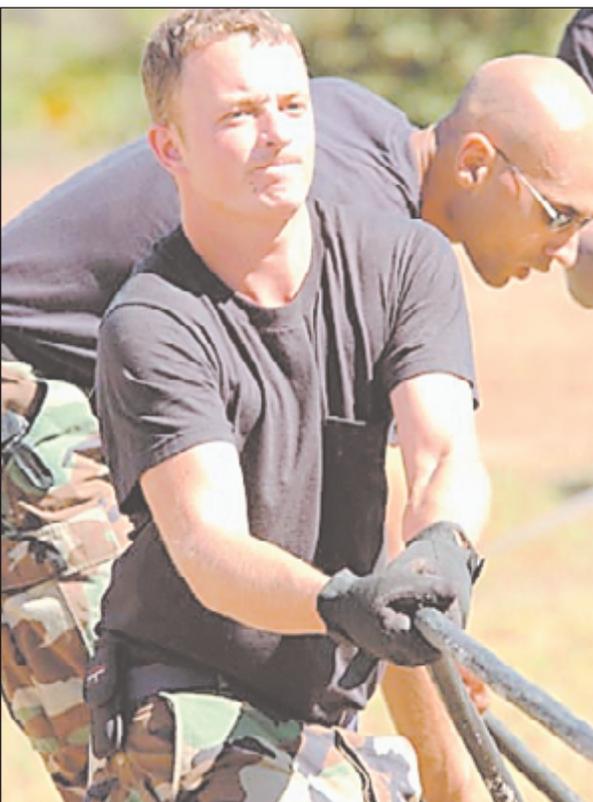
"The entire team provided impressive command and control assets capable of supporting a 150-person operation at a deployed site," said Lieutenant DeWitt.

Once equipment was inspected and packed up, the team went through a mock deployment process. This included a mobility book and a mobility bag inspec-



Photos by Staff Sgt. Carrie Hinson

**Members of the Tactical Communications Radio Workcenter, 16th Communications Squadron, set up equipment at Hurlburt Field's Permanent Exercise Facility to provide radio communications for all their users during EXERCISE Cutting Edge.**



**An airman with the 16th CS, pulls on a 60 amp cable to clear a pathway for others at Hurlburt Field's Permanent Exercise Facility.**

tion. All safety gear was inventoried and made available to deploying members.

Oct. 14 was the simulated deployment date, and equipment and personnel were transported to the Permanent Exercise Facility here. As equipment began to arrive, the team was tasked with setting up and activating the site. This included setting up tents, antennas, a satellite dish, generators and radio modules. The team also ran 2,000 feet of cables into a building where simulated users were residing.

"The team provided command and control capability to the site for four days, with people working 14 hours a day to guarantee realistic training and ensure preparedness," said the lieutenant.

Other events included a Special Operations mission simulation in which radio operators provided flight-following capabilities for the site commander.

"The visual information flight took numerous photos and shot hours of video footage showing the implementation, operation and maintenance of equipment by different members of the 16th CS," said Lieutenant DeWitt.

"The TDC linked up with a satellite and provided Internet, e-mail and phone capabilities throughout the simulated austere location. Workgroup managers helped load software for virtual users, ran cables all over the building, and helped to set up network accounts for all of the simulated staff and operators. The coordination and aggressive timeline effectively resembled actual deployed operations," he said.

As hoped, the exercise allowed personnel who were

new to the squadron an opportunity to see what a real deployment is like before actually going TDY, she said.

"Additionally, it gave experienced members some hands-on time to work with the equipment and to prepare it for any upcoming missions. It challenged everyone and established a new standard for multi-discipline COMEXs."

In the future, the 16th CS will conduct exercises of this scale quarterly, said Lieutenant DeWitt. Upcoming plans include deployment to different nearby exercise areas and employment of National Guard and Air Force Reserve communicators to augment teams.



**An airman with the 16th CS, connects the flexible waveguide to a USC 60A Satellite Antenna.**

# Check for unclaimed IRS checks

More than 18,250 checks worth nearly \$11 million returned to IRS: Florida taxpayers urged to update addresses by today.

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** — The Internal Revenue Service today urgently reminded Florida taxpayers they have until today to claim 10,705 undelivered checks from this summer's advance child tax credit. After the December cut-off, taxpayers cannot claim the checks until they file their tax returns next year.

These undelivered checks are among nearly 24 million issued nationwide this summer and fall for the advance child tax credit. In all, more than \$14 billion in child credit checks have been issued.

"Time is running out to get an advance child credit check," said IRS Commissioner Mark Ever-

son. "We encourage taxpayers to visit IRS.gov to see if they have an undelivered check from the advance child tax credit mail-out."

In all, the IRS got back 18,251 checks for Florida taxpayers whose income tax refund or advance child tax credit checks were undelivered and

returned to the agency.

Taxpayers need to update their addresses before the IRS can reissue the checks, which total \$11,119,819.

In addition to the child credit checks, there were another 7,589 "regular" tax refund checks, those issued to refund tax overpayments, returned to the IRS as undelivered.

These "regular" refund checks total \$6,897,630 — an average of \$909 per check.

Taxpayers without access to the Internet who think they may be missing a refund or advance child tax credit check should first check their records or contact their tax preparer before calling the IRS toll-free assistance line at 1-800-829-1040 to update their address.

Taxpayers who have moved since filing their last tax return can ensure the IRS has their correct address by filing Form 8822, *Change of Address*, with the IRS. Download the form or request it by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).



**DAVID G  
THOMPSON/GEICO  
COMM/THE CAR MIG  
538913  
2 X 7.00**

**ARMED FORCES COMM  
INC  
COMM/LEARSIEGLER  
539616  
2 X 5.00**

# 25th IOS celebrates 10th anniversary

Courtesy of the 25th Information Operations Squadron

The 25th Information Operations Squadron recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the unit's establishment as a squadron.

The celebration capped a weeklong conference gathering former unit members, commanders, operations officers, first sergeants, superintendents, civilian contractors, Department of Defense civilians and local military members with the current unit members to celebrate several years of excellence.

The anniversary marked the development of the unit from an operating location to a full-fledge squadron with three subordinate detachments. It also marked its transformation as a combat organization that earned an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor for its combat operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Located at Hurlburt Field with three subordinate detachments, the squadron is administratively subordinate to the 67th Information Operations Group, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, while being operational tasked by Air Force Special Operations Command.

The squadron's relationship with AFSOC began shortly after Operation Desert Storm, with the establishment of an Air Force Intelligence Command Liaison Office at AFSOC. Detachment 7, 693rd Intelligence Wing was established to provide support to AFSOC Operations. With the realignment of the Air Force, AFIC became AIA on Oct. 1, 1993.

On that same date, Detachment 7 became the 25th Intelligence Squadron, and in October 2000, it's name changed to the 25th IOS. The unit was "Born Under Fire" during Desert Storm and continued to deploy and fly in harm's way as full-up Air Commandos.

The squadron is a "unique and highly specialized" squadron dedicated to delivering focused intelligence to Special Operations Forces.

The squadron is a combat-ready unit, prepared to deploy on short notice to meet SOF "Any Time, Any Place" worldwide mission requirements.

The unit has fully-integrated Air Intelligence Agency capabilities into AFSOC mission planning, rehearsal and execution...truly living up to the "One Team, One Fight" team approach.

The 25th IOS had much to celebrate on its 10th anniversary — not only because of the past and its proud heritage — but also its bright future comprised of men and women ready to deploy in the Global War on Terrorism.



**BUCKLE UP  
FOR SAFETY**

## Promotion testing guidelines

### Member's responsibilities

Know your test cycle dates and Promotion Eligibility Cutoff Date

Cycle	Testing Dates	PECD
E9	1st week of September	July 31
E8	Jan. 10 - 24	Sept. 30
E6/7	Feb. 15 - March 31	Dec. 31
E5	May 1 -31	March 31

- Be prepared to test on the first day of the testing cycle.
  - Know the date, time and place of your WAPS testing appointment.
  - Make every effort to arrive for your scheduled appointment well ahead of time.
  - Maintain your specialty and military qualifications to retain testing eligibility.
  - Verify your promotion eligibility status, CAFSC, current training status and Date Initially Entered Retraining (DIERT), if applicable, before you sign for your test date. Immediately initiate any corrective action necessary through your unit training manager.
  - Obtain and study all current reference material specified for your particular promotion cycle.
  - Ensure your data verification record (DVR) is accurate. Initiate any corrective action that is appropriate. DVR changes can be verified using the virtual MPF website.
  - Review the current WAPS Catalog (updated by AFPC every August) in your unit orderly room to check availability and receipt of correct study references/material.
  - Contact your unit WAPS monitor to schedule/reschedule testing after 60 days of receipt of new study materials.
  - Members who will be unavailable during the entire testing cycle due to TDY or PCS must be prepared to test prior to departure even if the departure date is before the first day of the testing cycle. Bases are authorized to test personnel up to 10 duty days prior to the start of a testing cycle without member's concurrence. Members who decline to test early when directed to test become ineligible for promotion consideration for that test cycle.
  - Be prepared, if randomly selected, to serve as test certification or witnessing official for PFE/SKT/USAFSE sealed test booklet verification and destruction process.
- Information was extracted from AFI 36-2605.*

**SUN PLAZA  
THEATRE  
COMM**

**SOUTHERN CLASSIC GUN  
COMM RHP/FWB GUN  
539425**

**TROY STATE UNIVERSITY  
COMMANDO/SCHEDUL  
537730  
3 X 5.00**

## Commissary goes above and beyond

Commissary shoppers continue to enjoy savings of 30 percent or more over commercial grocery stores. In quality-of-life terms, this equates to annual savings worth more than \$2,500 for a family of four that regularly shops at a commissary – savings especially important to the families of young enlisted members and the thousands of Guard and Reserve troops who have been called to active duty.

**Scholarships** – Since 2001, the Scholarships for Military Children program has awarded nearly \$2.5 million in scholarships to nearly 1,500 children of active duty, retired, and National Guard and Reserve families. Applications for the 2004 program are available online at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com) or at any commissary. Completed applications must be turned in to the applicant's commissary by close of business on Feb. 18, 2004.

**Gift Of Groceries** – Commissary gift certificates are ideally suited for inclusion in your holiday assistance or food basket programs. They can be purchased in a variety of ways online through a link at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com), or by calling toll-free 1-877-770-GIFT (4438). Last holiday season, many installation charities including first sergeant and chaplains' holiday funds, spouses clubs and many more took advantage of this service. Minimal handling fees normally charged by the third-party vendor to provide the service are waived for local charities whose purchase totals more than \$500. Restrictions on the amount of change given back and on the items purchased can be indicated on the front of the certificate at the purchaser's request.

These actions and programs are part of our continuing efforts to deliver a stronger and improved commissary benefit to our service men and women and their families worldwide.

**RHINO LININGS OF OKALOOSA  
COMM/RHP/#2 FULL  
539466  
3 X 5.00**

# 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, post-marked 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](mailto: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@almon.ang.af.mil](mailto:vonsetta.roberts@almon.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](mailto: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](mailto:brent.traicoff@302.peterson.af.mil) or call 1-800-446-9624 \*8 ext. 8095.

### 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](mailto:ramon.rogado@hurlburt.af.mil).

### HOSC luncheon

The Hurlburt Officers' Spouses' Club hosts its next luncheon Dec. 15 at 10:30 a.m. at the Soundside Club. Entertainment includes a performance of Opus I by the Niceville High School Chorus, under the direction of Mike Dye. The menu will be holiday salad, beef Wellington, duchess potatoes and dinner rolls at a cost of \$12.75 for nonmembers and \$10.75 for members. The alternate menu will be Oriental chicken salad at a cost of \$10.75 for nonmembers and \$8.75 for members. Red velvet cake is for dessert.

This month's charity focus is the Veteran's Association Hospital. Suggested items to be collected for the homeless veterans include: packages of cheese/peanut butter and crackers, tuna lunch kits, blankets, socks, underwear and any non-perishable foods.

Childcare is provided at the Hurlburt Field Childcare Center from 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$3 per hour per child or \$5 per hour for two or more children. Reservations for dinner and childcare must be made no later than noon Dec. 15. To make reservations, call Betsy Treloar at 936-5306.

### AFCOMAP

The Air Force Cadet Officer Mentor Action Program hosts its monthly meeting at the Eglin Officer's club Thursday. Col. James Ice, 96th Medical Group, will speak about career development and mentoring. For more information, call 1st Lt. Jessica Phelps at 882-5418.

### ACP program implementation

All rated officers who have completed their active duty service commitment for their initial aeronautical rating and meet fiscal year 2004 eligibility criteria may accept an Fiscal Year 2004 Aviator Continuation Pay Program agreement under terms defined on the ACP information Web site - <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/acp/>. The window for applications is Oct. 1 until Sept. 30.

Aviators should discuss ACP issues with commanders and review the ACP information Web site before referring questions to the Air Force Personnel Center. For more information, visit <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst> or call 1-800-616-3775 or DSN 665-6000.

## Community

### Legal office hours

As of Monday, the Hurlburt Field Legal Office has new legal assistance hours: from 8 to 9 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Fridays. All other legal assistance times will remain unchanged.

### Crash claims

Anyone with claims for or against the crewmembers of the MH-53 PAVE LOW that crashed in Afghanistan Nov. 23 should contact the following:

○For Tech. Sgt. William Kerwood contact 1st. Lt. Hobart McIntosh at 884-7664

○For Tech. Sgt. Howard Walters contact Capt. Benjamin Boyd at 881-2793

○For Staff Sgt. Thomas Walkup Jr. contact Maj. Mike Nelson at 884-3112

### 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.

*Qurian:* 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** - (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.

**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, Sarah risks everything to embark on a perilous journey 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. Owen wakes up one morning to discover he can understand every word Hubble says. 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.

### Eglin 882-1066

**Friday** - (R) "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre," starring Jessica Biel and Jonathan Tucker - Five 20-somethings find themselves stranded in a small Texas town, where they encounter a chainsaw-wielding maniac known as Leatherface. With no one to help them, the outsiders must find a way to escape before meeting a grisly death.

**Saturday** - (R) "Kill Bill," starring Uma Thurman and David Carradine - An assassin named the Bride is shot by her boss at her wedding; the wedding guests are also shot. The assassin survives, though, waking up exceedingly angry after a four-year coma. She decides to hunt down and kill every single one of the assassins who were responsible, saving Bill for last.

**Sunday** - (R) "In the Cut," starring Meg Ryan and Mark Ruffalo - Franny, a New York City professor, dives into a passionate, possibly dangerous affair with a police officer, who is investigating the murder of a young woman in her neighborhood.

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

## Angel Tree

The 2003 Angel Tree program runs through Dec. 12 at the Hurlburt Field Base Exchange. First sergeants can nominate anyone with children who they feel might need assistance during the holidays. The person must then fill out an application/information form which needs to be turned in to 1st Lts. Amanda Cheatham or Christine Gentry today. For more information, call Lieutenant Cheatham at 884-2897 or Lieutenant Gentry at 881-3380.

## Florosa elementary cleanup

Florosa Elementary School is looking for volunteers to assist with a fall clean-up project Saturday 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](mailto:patrick.oneal@hurlburt.af.mil).

## Tax advisors needed

Once again it's time to appoint unit tax advisors for the 2003 tax year. UTAs will be asked to work in the tax center for four hours per week from late January through April 16. It's important that the UTAs don't have extended TDYs or a PCS scheduled during this period. The IRS tax course is scheduled Jan. 5 - 9, from 8 a.m. to noon each day. Training this year will be combined with, and held at Eglin Air Force Base. Official transportation is being worked. There will be an additional four-hour computer training course held Jan. 19 - 23.

## Candlelight vigil

The Air Force Enlisted Village invites the public to share in a candlelight vigil at the Christmas Box Angel

# County invited to public hearing

Okaloosa County, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation and the U.S. Air Force (Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base) invites base members and local residents to attend a Public Hearing concerning the feasibility of constructing an interchange at the main gate to Hurlburt Field (Cody Avenue) on U.S. Highway 98.

The Hearing will be held Dec. 18, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Florosa Elementary School, 1700 Highway 98, Mary Esther, FL 32569 (2.5 miles west of Hurlburt's main gate).

The purpose of this hearing is to acquaint property owners and motorists with the proposed project. It's expected that this study will lead to subsequent design and construction phases.

The hearing is being conducted pursuant to 23 CFR 771 and the provisions of Rule Chapter 14-97, Florida Administrative Code, and Section 335.18, Florida Statutes.

This hearing is being held in accordance with the Section 339.155, Florida Statutes and is also consistent with the

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This Hearing is also in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment is available for public inspection through Dec. 18 at the Mary Esther Library, 100 West Hollywood Blvd.: Monday, noon - 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Potential encroachment on wetlands and floodplains will be given special consideration under Executive Orders 11990 and 11988.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend and participate in this hearing.

For more information about the hearing or the project, call Bob Kellner, P.E., at 432-6800 or Danielle Slaterpryce, Okaloosa County, at 689-5772. People with disabilities who may require special accommodations at the hearing, under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 should contact Mr. Kellner.

Statue (Angel of Hope) in the Garden of Hope at Bob Hope Village Saturday at 6 p.m. The village is located at 92 Sunset Lane, Shalimar. The statue has become a comfort to all who mourn the loss of a loved one. For more information, call Becky Brice-Nash at 651-2797.

## Munch and Mend

The Hurlburt Field Chapel hosts Munch and Mend Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. Airman may enjoy a home cooked meal, while having stripes, patches or nametags sewn on or repairs done to one article of clean of clothing. For more information, call Bill White at 884-7371 or Jimmie Thomas at 881-3344.

## 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.

## Homebuyers/sellers seminar

The Hurlburt Field Family Support Center hosts the Homebuyers/Sellers Seminar Dec. 16 from 8 to 11 a.m. Topics of discussion include: how to buy and sell a home, finding a home and pre-qualifying/financing. For more information and to make reservations for the seminar, call 884-5441.

## 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](http://www.commissaries.com) or by calling 1-800-770-GIFT.

saries.com or by calling 1-800-770-GIFT.

## Foster parents needed

Foster families are needed to care for more than 500 children in Florida's District One (Okaloosa, Walton, Escambia and Santa Rosa counties). The greatest need is in Okaloosa and Walton counties. For more information, call Lucie Wade, foster parent recruiter, at (800) 981-5437 or 833-3898.

# Classes

## Holiday services

Base members are invited to attend special holiday services at the Lighthouse of Faith Community Church located outside the old east gate at 755 Lovejoy Road. Hours are Sunday 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., and Tuesday 6 and 7 p.m. For more information, call 244-2003.

## FSC classes

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

**Employment Orientation** - Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m.; reservations required

**Résumé Writing Workshop** - Monday, 1 p.m.

**Commando Welcome Spouse** - Tuesday, 9 a.m.; reservations required

**Moms, Pops and Tots** - Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.

**Veteran's Affairs/Social Security Briefing** - Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.; reservations required, call 884-6281

**Federal Employment Information and Application Procedures** - Thursday, 9 a.m.

**Smooth Move** - Thursday, 1 p.m.; reservations required



Photo by Airman Andy Kin

## Dishin' out

Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander (center) and Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Alicea, 16th SOW command chief, serve lunch to airmen at the Reef dining facility on Thanksgiving.



## Inspector General

24 Hour Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline

**Hurlburt Field**

884-6322

**Wing IG office**

884-5534

**Air Force**

1-800-538- 8429

**Department of Defense**

1-800-424-9098

## Understanding Force Development

Force Development was designed to transform how the service will train, educate and assign people to meet mission challenges through three different

levels: tactical, operational and strategic. For more information, visit [www.af.mil/lib/sight/Total\\_Force\\_Development.pdf](http://www.af.mil/lib/sight/Total_Force_Development.pdf).

## SPORTS

# Fitness center lockers are now daily use only

Courtesy of 16th Services Squadron

To meet the overwhelming demand for lockers, the Main Fitness Center converted its locker room to "daily use" lockers only, Wednesday. The Commando Fitness Center will convert to daily use Jan. 1.

In July, Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, announced sweeping changes to the Air Force fitness program.

The focus is no longer passing a fitness test once a year. Rather, it's about changing the culture of the Air Force; having airmen prepared to deploy and fight by making fitness a daily standard. The expectation is for commanders, supervisors and front-line leaders to lead the way through unit phys-

ical training, personal involvement and by example.

The fitness staff is working hard to meet these new demands and still meet the needs of all its customers. The recently completed renovation project to the Main Fitness Center locker rooms is one such change. New lockers were added and showerheads repaired.

Although the new lockers are more spacious to accommodate uniforms, nearly 80 lockers were lost in the new design. Left with only a fraction of the lockers needed to accommodate the entire base population, the decision was made to convert all lockers back to daily use. For more information about the new policy, call the main fitness center at 884-6949.

# Playoff week sets stage for base championship

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson  
Public Affairs

Monday night football at Hurlburt Field started the week off for the double-elimination intramural flag football playoffs.

Eight teams battled it out to grasp a spot in the base championship which starts Monday.

The 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's team took on 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron/ISO team, beating them 19-0.

Sebastian Miller, 16th AMXS coach, said the team did great overall.

"We had our problems during the season, but we finally put it all together," Miller said. "I think we can win the base championship."

Miller said he's confident that their team can go all the way, and the only thing that can stop them, is themselves.

"After Monday night's game, I got a little more insight," Miller said, "because we beat the team that I thought would give us the most trouble."

Starting next week, the teams playing in the championship will be giving each other trouble as they duke it out for the coveted title.

People are encouraged to come out and support their unit teams during the championship.

## Sports short

### 10-mile Challenge

The Hurlburt Field 10-mile Challenge endurance race begins Saturday at 7 a.m. For more information, call the main fitness center at 884-6884.



Photo by Vanessa Adame

## Trotting along

Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Alicea, 16th Special Operations wing command chief (far left), Master Sgt. Kathryn Little, 16th SOW, 1st Lt. Tara Opielowski, 16th Mission Support Group, and Staff Sgt. Katisha Clark, 16th MSG, get started on the 22nd annual Turkey Trot held Nov. 26. More than 100 people participated in the 5K run that started at the main fitness center. The run was not a competition, so each runner who completed the run was given a ticket for a chance to win a prize.



Photo by Senior Airman Ebony Pierre

16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron team members (blue jerseys), take off after the hike trying to score a touchdown against 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron team members during Monday night's flag football game. 16th AMXS won the game 19-0.



## Aerobic class schedule

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday**  
Step class, 11:10 a.m. and 5 p.m.  
Spinning class, 12:15 p.m.

**Monday and Wednesday**  
Total body workout, 5 p.m.  
**Tuesday and Thursday**  
Body sculpting, 11:10 a.m., Spinning class, 5 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
Kickboxing, 6:15 p.m.

**Monday**  
Cadio Mix, 6:15 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Cardio Mix, 9:30 a.m.

For more information about classes, call 884-6949.