

Army National Guard augments security forces

by Airman 1st Class Heidi Sawyer
Public Affairs

Hurlburt Field welcomed the arrival of over 70 Army National Guard members, Feb. 11 as part of a joint Army and Air Force agreement, designed to reinforce Air Force security at bases throughout the United States. The soldiers will be directly assigned to the 16th Security Forces Squadron where they'll primarily assist the base with entry control and flightline force protection duties.

The soldiers, mobilized from the 146th Signal Battalion Company, Jacksonville, Fla., are among over 8,000 Army National Guard and Reservists affected by the agreement, over 600 of which are assigned to Air Force bases throughout Florida. According to 16th Security Forces Squadron personnel, they're expected to augment the squadron for a minimum of one year.

Before arriving at Hurlburt Field, the soldiers engaged in security law enforcement training for two weeks at Fort Stewart, Ga., to help them prepare for their upcoming duties. Once they arrived on base, their training continued with a five-day Air Force specific security forces training program designed and supervised by Staff Sgt. Carlos Rosa and Tech. Sgt. Brian Teets, both 16th SFS.

"Over the past 17 months, (Air Force) Guard and Reserve security forces have shouldered the burden of additional security forces requirements at Hurlburt Field and deployed locations," said Maj. Mike Reiner, 16th SFS commander. "They did an incredible job and will be missed. Now as the (Air Force) Guard and Reserve demobilize, they pass the baton to the Army National Guard.

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Courtesy photo

Senior Airman Tony Witherspoon, 16th Services Squadron, serves slices of roast to a Reef dining facility patron. The dining facility will be competing for the John L. Hennessy Award Monday and Tuesday.

Commandos prepare to "sizzle" evaluators

by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

Once again the 16th Services Squadron will compete for the prestigious John L. Hennessy Trophy.

The award is presented to the Air Force installation in single and multiple facility categories having the best food services program in the Air Force.

Evaluators are scheduled to arrive Sunday and conduct their inspections of the Reef and Oasis dining facilities Monday and Tuesday.

"Our people are really pumped up – you can feel the excitement in the air," said William Mickler, 16th Services Squadron food services officer. "Everyone is so enthusiastic. Every time a guest walks into the kitchen, our folks are running over to tell them about our job and how they fit into our food service team."

The evaluators will consider the dining facilities quality of programs, productivity and initiatives, customer satisfaction and customer service, leadership and

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Excellent tour

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Sports



Commandos take on Tigers

Hurlburt Field Commandos battle it out with Tyndall Tigers

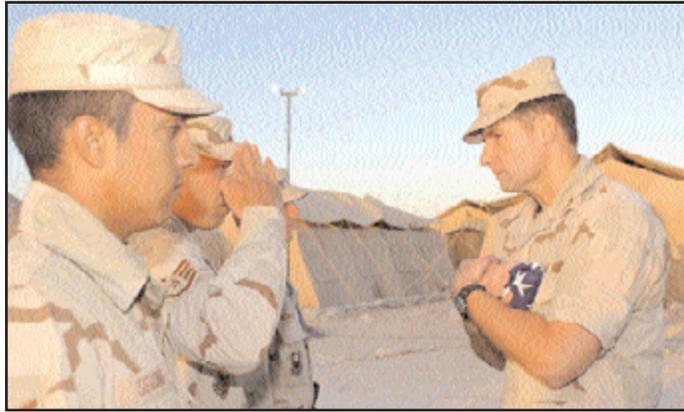
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VIEWPOINTS

Open Line

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

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**. I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you, and perhaps improve their process. However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



Col. Frank Kisner, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, is presented the flag at a ceremony honoring Tech. Sgt. John Chapman, a Combat Controller who was killed in action.

Ways to protect yourself, loved ones

by Chief Master Sgt. Philip Withers

16th SOW Information Operations

As to be expected, with on-going world events and the active participation of the U.S. military in these events, there's been and will continue to be a keen interest by the media and other sources to obtain information on the extent of our involvement here at Hurlburt Field.

This information includes those we've deployed and where they're deployed, to include their names, specific dates and locations.

Some of the things you can do to help protect yourself, unit members and their dependents are:

○First, never give out the names of personnel deploying with you or from your unit or any Department of Defense unit...even if it is only their first name. This information is not for public release.

○Second, never give out specific dates of troop movements. This includes standard Air Expeditionary Force rotations and contingencies.

○Third, never provide a copy of official deployment orders to anyone requiring proof of your spouse's deployment, even in exchange for services with the best of intentions.

○The Air Force has also identified other potential vulnerabilities regarding protection of our personnel, including:

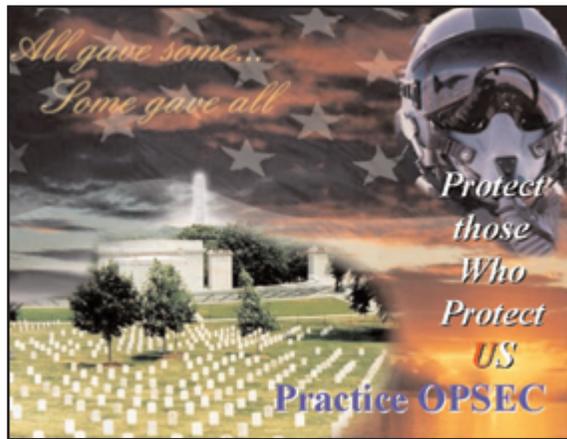
- Web sites that ask for overseas mailing addresses

- Publicly available sign-up sheets for phone cards or other goods to be sent overseas

- Well-meaning local community efforts to send homemade goods or materials anonymously to APO address-

es for military members

In addition, DOD postal officials, concerned about the vulnerability of the military mail system to attack, recently suspended all 'any servicemember' mail. Those programs, according to DoD officials, were eliminated because they have created an avenue to introduce biological, chemical or explosive materials into the military mail system, putting people in danger. At the same time, the programs left the sources of such material virtually untraceable.



In the past, many well-intended programs worked well, but today the same programs open us up to attacks from unknown sources. We have to take as many safeguards as we can to protect our mail system.

If someone does approach you (or your spouse) about when you're leaving, who's going, or addresses where they can send goods and materials to our servicemembers (even if they have the best of intentions - including schools and church groups) the best thing to do is redirect them to service organizations such as the Red Cross, The Air Force Aid Society or the USO at the following

Web sites: www.redcross.org;

www.afas.org; and www.uso.org.

If they would like to write letters, please direct them to the online Web site which posts messages that all servicemembers can read at www.anyservice-member.navy.mil.

Family members who have your specific address can still mail packages to their family member. People still can mail cookies, cards, books and care packages, provided they have a specific service member's name and address.

However, family members should never give this mailing address to neighbors or community groups in their local communities. If a family member's club/organization wants to send you something, have the organization give the package to the family, and the family members can address the package and send it.

If you or anyone in your family is contacted by media, please inform the public affairs office at 884-7464.

If you or anyone in your family is approached by a suspicious individual requesting information, or observe a suspicious activity,

report the incident to the security forces squadron at 884-6423 or the Air Force Office of Special Investigation at 884-6102.

For additional help or answers to questions, contact your unit's security manager or operations security program manager. Additionally, the 16th Special Operations Wing Information Operations Office is available to assist in any way we can; you can contact us at 884-6020 or 884-3442.

Help us, help you, protect your deployed love ones by reading and following the above information. Their job is hard enough, let's not make it harder.



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Production

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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To place a free non-business classified ad in the **COMMANDO**, customers must come to Building 90210, Room 326. Customers type their ads into a computer system located in the Public Affairs office.

NEWS

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We look forward to integrating these soldiers into our security team.”

Most of the training the soldiers received was related specifically to the security forces career field, differing very little between the branches of service.

“During these five days, the soldiers were trained in search and seizures and entry control procedures,” said 1st Lt. Tara Opielowski, 16th SFS

Sergeants Rosa and Teets also led the soldiers through a Weapons Safety/M-16 review course for reinforcement training purposes. During this time, they performed functional checks on the weapon, such as loading, unloading and clearing the barrel.

In addition to their on-the-job training, they were familiarized with the organization of the 16th Special Operations Wing, the 16th SFS and the area surrounding the flight line, according to the training program schedule.

Col. Raymond Killgore, 16th SOW vice commander, told the soldiers upon their arrival to the base, “What you bring to the fight is a sense of security for this post and its mission, and for the family members that work and live in this facility.”

Army Private William Baggett, 146th Signal Battalion Company, said the training he received from the base was very beneficial and feels very confident in his ability to perform the mission.

“We searched vehicles, challenged people in restricted areas and were tested on our reactions if we encountered a bomb threat.”

From observing the soldiers during their training session,



Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

Private Kimberly Kelsey, Bravo Company, Ellyson Field, Pensacola, Fla., checks identification cards at the main gate Wednesday. Private Kelsey is one of several Army National Guard members recently assigned to the base to assist the 16th Security Forces Squadron with security duties.

Lieutenant Opielowski described their overall attitude as “positive, willing and motivated to be here.” She continued to say that she has yet to hear a single complaint from any of them.

Private Baggett expressed his gratitude to the 16th SFS commander and the base for the positive reception he has received since arriving. “I have been treated very well here. The (dining) and lodging facilities are especially nice – we’re used to staying in tents.”

Before the soldiers officially assumed their duties on Monday, Colonel Killgore extended some motivational words of encouragement.

“You’re part of this family. You’ll have the resources of the (16th SFS) and this wing supporting you,” the commander told the soldiers. “I appreciate what you are doing, and Hurlburt Field is grateful for your arrival and willingness to help out our security forces.”

Spotlight on ...



Laura Price

Rank/Duty Title: Staff Sergeant/Dental Craftsman

Organization: 16th Medical Operations Squadron

Hometown: Elizabethton, Tenn.

Hobbies: Exercising

Contribution to the mission:

Sergeant Price manages the Air Force Dental Readiness Assurance Program for Hurlburt Field.

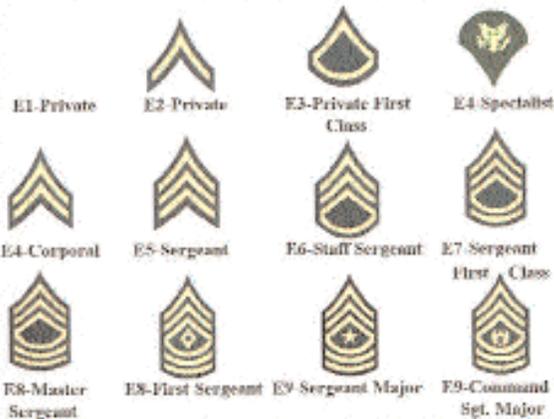
She works closely with the 33 unit health monitors to schedule more than 700 dental exams monthly.

Her efforts led to a significant increase in appointment utilization and directly contributed to keeping more than 90 percent of Hurlburt Field personnel dentally worldwide qualified.

She’s established herself as a consummate team player, willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done.

(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.)

U.S. Army Enlisted Ranks



While the pride and professionalism of our security forces members remain the same, you may have noticed that some of their rank insignia has changed to Army chevrons. This reference guide has been provided to assist with identifying the “new rank.” Go Army! Welcome to Hurlburt Field!

AWARD, Continued from Page 1

management support, and base support.

They’ll review recipes, sanitation, record keeping, storeroom procedures, readiness and training, quality assurance and preparation techniques.

The dining facility staff is gearing up to win the award again to prove that both

facilities go above and beyond, Mr. Mickler said. “It just proves that this year has not been a waste, and our food team has worked hard to provide new programs to the Hurlburt Field Commandos.”

Programs implemented include, but are not limited to the following: Steak Tuesday at the Oasis, where steaks are prepared just the way the customer likes; the Airman Appreciation Meal which saw more than 450 people in attendance;

and Monotony Meals at the Reef, which are theme meals that take the customer away from the normal everyday meal.

Other Hennessy Award competitors are: Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; Dyess AFB, Texas; Vandenberg AFB, Calif.; Travis AFB, Calif.; Osan AB, Korea; Eglin AFB, Fla.; and Ramstein AB, Germany.

The services squadron has earned the award four times since 1997 and is hoping to make it five after next week.

AIR FORCE NEWS

Pentagon monitoring deployment health care

by Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Defense Department officials have changed the way they will track and assess the health care given to military people before, during and after deployments, a senior Pentagon health official said Feb. 11.

The DOD's new strategy emphasizes health care surveillance of deployed people, said Dr. Michael Kilpatrick, deputy director of the Deployment Health Support Directorate at the Pentagon.

Officials, he said, want no repeat of 1991 Gulf War health care problems, referring to widespread instances reported of deployed people returning home with incomplete and poorly maintained medical records and improperly monitored illnesses.

Doctor Kilpatrick said DOD officials are concerned with taking care of the health of military people and their families. "To do that optimally, we need to provide preventive care," he said. "And if a servicemember becomes ill or is injured, we need to provide treatment for (him or her)."

After a deployment, he added, people need to know that DOD will provide them with care for any medical problem they may develop.

This strategy is designed to help the department track servicemembers' diseases and injuries and to provide them comprehensive follow-up treatment for deployment-related health conditions, he said.

Doctor Kilpatrick directs the DOD effort to protect the health of deployed servicemembers. He said there was no unique screening being done before deployment during the Gulf War. "If you were on active duty, you were generally assumed to be deployable," he said.

Now, he said, Defense Department officials plan to see that force health is closely monitored through a series of medical assessments before and after deployment and that health concerns are documented and closely monitored.

Doctor Kilpatrick said the pre- and post-deployment health assessment is a short series of questions that look to see if troops are physically and psychologically prepared to deploy. The forms can be found on DOD's deployment Web site at www.deploymentlink.osd.mil.

he assessment is "an opportunity for them to bring up any medical conditions that occurred to them in the last several months or in the period since their last physical examination. It's a quick check to make sure they are ready to go," he said.

The health assessments are done on paper and checked by a physician "to see if there are any changes in servicemembers' health or condition that may require attention before or after they deploy," Doctor Kilpatrick said. Later, the forms are sent to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where they are scanned electronically and retained for analysis.

Defense Department officials established three deployment health centers, one each for health surveillance, health care and health research. They focus on the prevention, treatment and understanding of deployment-related health concerns. Two centers are at Walter

Reed; the third is at the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego.

The department will improve deployment-related medical record keeping through its Composite Health Care System II and the Theater Medical Information Program, which is still being tested.

Doctor Kilpatrick said the two systems will collect immunization data and computerized medical files currently being gathered on deployed military people from all the services in order to document deployment-related health problems.

He said special forces soldiers deployed to remote areas can now use handheld computers to gather and store medical data on soldiers and later transmit the data to their headquarters.

Still, pre- and post-deployment health assessments and electronic record keeping are only part of the force protection strategy. Doctor Kilpatrick said broader initiatives to protect deployed people are expected and more research is being done.

The plan includes improving health risk communication and medical intelligence; providing environmental risk assessments to commanders on the battlefield; giving medical threat briefings; and distributing pocket-sized health guides to deployed people. Doctor Kilpatrick's staff also created deployment-focused Web sites, such as DeploymentLINK.

"We've learned a great deal from deployments over the past 12 years since the Gulf War, and we intend to use those lessons to benefit those who serve today," Doctor Kilpatrick said. "That's what this program is all about." (AFPN)

Air Force gets new race, ethnic categories

by 1st Lt. Brandon Lingle
AFPC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Airmen are now able to claim more than one race in their official personnel files because of a change in how the Air Force records racial information.

Some airmen's race designations will automatically be changed to fit the new categories as part of the data conversion. The new choices are part of a government-wide effort to standardize race information.

"Everyone should take a minute to ensure their race preference is correct," said Colonel Gary Smith, chief of the field activities division.

In the past, airmen could select only one race preference, said Senior Master Sgt. Richard Knudson, superintendent of the military equal opportunity branch. Now, they'll be able to select any number of five newly designated race groups.

The revamped choices are American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Black or African American; Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; and White.

The easiest way for members to view and update their racial designation is on the Virtual Military Personnel Flight by clicking the "vMPF" button at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>. Race choices and descriptions of the new categories are located on the "personal information" page under the "records review" link, he said.

"Most people's current race selections will smoothly transfer into the new categories," said Sergeant Knudson.

But some categories will automatical-

ly be re-designated. "Asian/Pacific Islander" will be converted to the "Asian" category, plus the former "other" and "unknown" options will be switched to the new "declined to respond" category.

The federal guidelines also call for a new "Hispanic and Latino" ethnic category, he said. Now all airmen will be asked whether or not they are of Hispanic or Latino descent.

More information is available by calling the Air Force Contact Center at (866) 229-7074 or by visiting MPF. (AFPN)

Look who's talking: What are the wisest words you've ever been given?



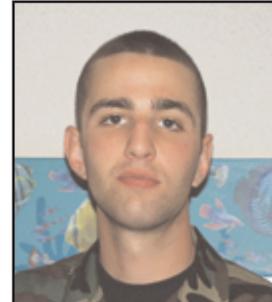
"Don't count the days, make the days count."

**Airman 1st Class
Joey Laybon**
15th Aircraft
Maintenance Unit



"Worrying is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do but it doesn't get you anywhere."

**Airman 1st Class
Chad Westerheide**
16th Aircraft
Maintenance Squadron



"Try your hardest in everything you do. You never know what moment might be your last."

**Airman Basic
Mitchell Meyer**
Detachment 1, 334th
Training Squadron

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DMS 3.0 Gold: The new alternative to messaging

by Staff Sgt. Petina Allen
 16th Communications Squadron

The Defense Messaging System version 3.0 is projected to replace the Automated Digital Network (AUTODIN) at Hurlburt Field by March 31.

The AUTODIN has been instrumental to the Department of Defense's message trafficking system for over forty years however, its period of useful service is coming to an end.

It will be replaced by DMS, which is definitely not new to the DOD, but has finally evolved enough to replace an antiquated system that has been in use for decades.

DMS is as user friendly as sending e-mail through Microsoft Exchange. No more traversing to the base communications center to pick up classified messages, they will all be delivered via a more flexible, secure, and available system.

The installation upgrades for the base are currently in progress and Hurlburt Field will terminate its AUTODIN system, along with many other Air Force

bases once the upgrades are complete.

By Sept. 1, the entire Air Force will be operating with a fully capable Defense Messaging System.

If a unit neglects to obtain a DMS account, that unit will be unable to send and receive signed and encrypted command and control messages. Some units on the base already have established accounts, or receive messages through their command section mailbox.

Receiving messages this way will still be an alternative to having an individual account, and is feasible without a high rate of message traffic. If a unit has a need for an account, however, the first step would be to contact the DMS office. The timeline for establishing an account, whether it's non-classified (NIPR), or secret (SIPR) is, on average, one week. Currently, there are a limited number of DMS accounts on Hurlburt Field. For additional information and assistance, please contact Staff Sgt. Mike Romalin at 884-4417 or Senior Airman John Davis at 884-4680.

Base Tax Center

The tax center will be in operation from
Jan. 27 to April 15, Mondays,
Wednesdays and Fridays
8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesdays and
Thursdays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., in
Building 90205. Call
884-7542/7544 for an appointment.

Aspiring journalist

The COMMANDO welcomes submissions from aspiring Hurlburt Field journalist who want to take a shot at writing a story.

The staff is always looking for stories concerning a base news or a human interest story highlighting a Hurlburt Field member.

To submit a story or a story idea, call the COMMANDO editor at 884-7464 or e-mail commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



Treatment tips for tooth trauma

by Maj. Susan Franssen
16th Medical Group

Many dental injuries occur from age 2 to 5 years old, with the most common place being in the home. Children are learning to walk and run which makes falls common. One-third of dental injuries involve baby teeth. Usually a tooth will break or be bumped out of position.

Teeth can also be displaced forward, backward or up into the gums. If this happens to a baby tooth, the underlying adult tooth can be affected. Although rare, once a permanent tooth erupts it can be somewhat discolored or misshapen.

Traumatized baby teeth may change color – gray, brown, yellow or pink. This is similar to when a bruise develops from a bump on an arm or leg. The tooth may remain dark, expe-

rience no problem whatsoever or it may develop an abscess. Parents should watch for swelling, tenderness, looseness, or the formation of a “pimple” on the gum above the tooth. If any of these develop, take the child to the dentist.

Trauma typically occurs at playgrounds and sporting events. If a tooth is knocked completely out, the care begins immediately, long before the patient arrives at the dental office.

Steps to follow for an avulsion (knocked out tooth) include:

○Contact a dental office or emergency room.

○Avoid handling the root of the tooth (the part that would be covered by the gums). This will prevent damage to the cells that are on the root.

○Hold the tooth by the crown (the part you would normally see) and gently rinse it in tap water.

○Gently rinse the mouth out with water

○First choice is to put the tooth back into the socket

○Second choice is to utilize a “Save-A-Tooth” kit – available at some athletic events, stores and pharmacies. These kits have a special liquid, which is ideal for this situation.

○Third choice is transporting the tooth in milk.

○Last choices are placing the tooth in saliva or water.

Time is the most important element if a tooth is knocked out. There is a much greater chance for success if the patient sees a dentist within the first hour – the sooner the better.

For any type of dental injury, your family dentist should be consulted. Other information can be found at the American Dental Association’s Web site at www.ada.org.

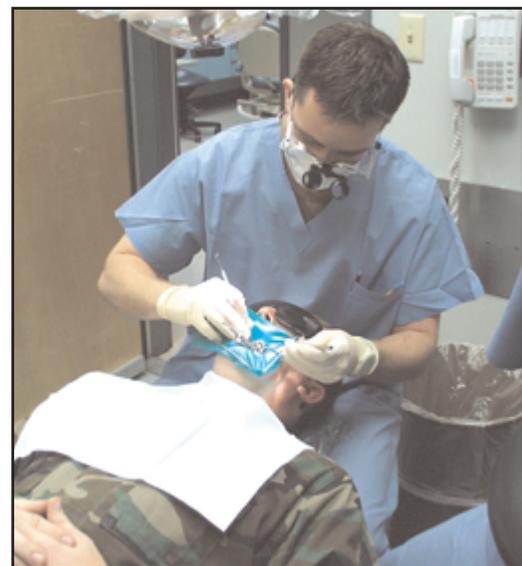


Photo by Airman 1st Class Heidi Sayer

Capt. Eric Haney, 16th Medical Group, works on a patient’s tooth at the Hurlburt Field clinic Thursday.

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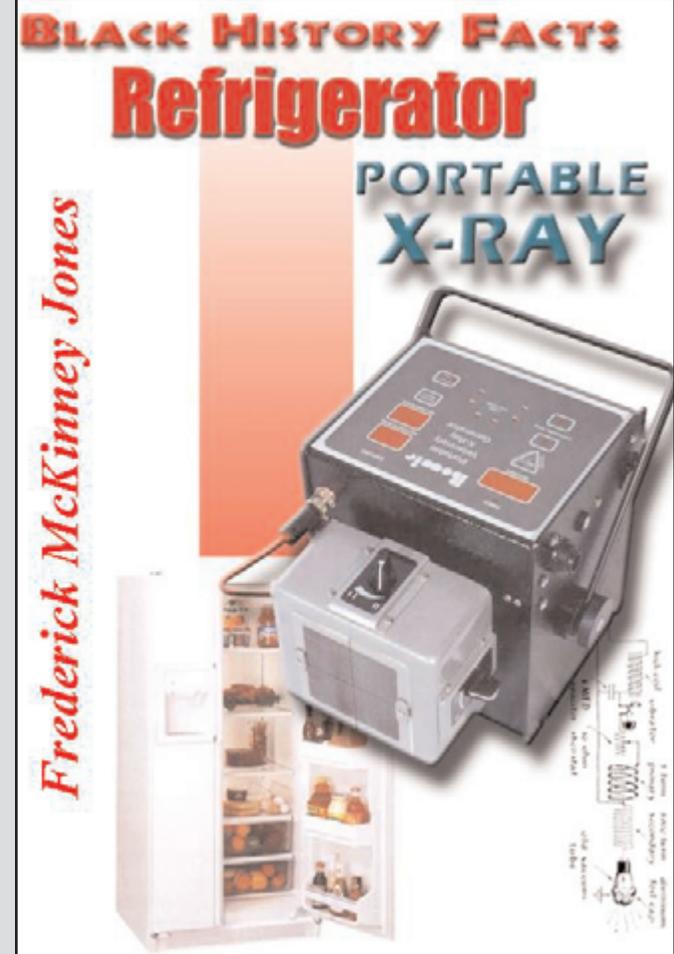
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February is African
 American History Month



Courtesy graphic

Did you know?

The portable X-ray machine, a refrigerator for military field kitchens, and mechanical refrigeration techniques applied to railroad cars and trucks were invented by Frederick McKinney Jones. Before he started experimenting with refrigeration devices in the late 1930s, truck refrigeration units were too big and wasted space inside the truck. Mr. Jones reduced the size of the unit and began, with the help of Josep Numero, the U.S. Thermo Control Company to manufacture these automatic air coolers for trains, ships, and airplanes in order to keep food fresh. Mr. Jones also developed ways to keep the air surrounding food at a constant temperature, devices that produced special atmospheric conditions to prevent fruit from drying out or becoming overripe before reaching supermarkets, and parts for existing refrigeration equipment. Mr. Jones received over sixty patents during his lifetime, forty for refrigeration equipment.

Dress and appearance change

Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Appearance, prohibit individuals from pursuing body alterations or modifications that disfigure, deform or otherwise detract from a professional military image.

The change covers such alterations or modifications as forking or splitting tongues, filing teeth or implanting objects under the skin.

FEATURE

Installation



Senior Airman Russell McLaughlin, 16th Security Forces Squadron, holds the leash while Staff Sgt. Pedro Gonzales, 16th SFS, fends off a Hurlburt Field police dog during a demonstration for the IESB team members. (below) Staff Sgt. Daniel Kriz, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, shows Col. Darren McDew the 40mm Bofors cannon on an AC-130 Gunship.

Excellence

Hurlburt Field has been chosen as one of the top three installations in the Air Force, and is competing, for the second consecutive year, for the Commander-in-Chief's 2003 Installation Excellence Award.

The Installation Excellence Selection Board visited Hurlburt Field Feb. 12-14, with members touring many base facilities, including the

Airman 1st Class Barbara Mendez, 16th Mission Support Squadron, gives dog tags to Col. Judith Fedder, an Installation Excellence Selection Board member, while visiting the deployment control center.



Photos by 1st Lt. David Ware

Commando Pride Airman Center, dining facilities, security forces, family support center, and several 16th Special Operations Wing aircraft.

Board members included Brig. Gen. Bernard Skoch, Cols. Judith Fedder, Donald Alston, John Miller, Darren McDew and Mr. Jayson Ilic.

Results of the inspection will be released and published in the COMMANDO at a later date.



Mr. Jayson Ilic, the only Department of Defense civilian IESB team member, shoots an AK-47 while visiting the firing range during his visit here last week.

Base beautification

Airman 1st Class Chichi Lu, 16th Communications Squadron, picks up trash in front of the Hurlburt Field shoppette during a base-wide cleanup Feb 8. The cleanup was held to prepare the base for the arrival of the Installation Excellence Selection Board. Many volunteers from the base community participated in the cleanup by collecting garbage.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Heidi Sawyer

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LIFESTYLE

Military

Hurlburt Top 3

All senior NCOs and master sergeant selects assigned to Hurlburt Field are invited to attend the Hurlburt Top 3 meeting on March 6. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at 3 p.m. in the Enlisted Hooch. For more information, call Top 3 Vice President, Master Sgt. David Ceurvels at 884-8443.

FOCUS 56

All staff sergeant selects and technical sergeants assigned to Hurlburt Field are invited to join FOCUS 56 meetings every third Tuesday of the month at the deployment control center auditorium. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Timothy Gray at 884-5199 or Staff Sgt. Mary Williams at 884-2308.

Munitions in the workplace

The 16th Special Operations Wing, Weapons Safety office would like to remind people that the display of munitions (small arms, 20mm, 25mm, 40mm, etc.) are required to have a certificate of clearance for proof of inspection and verification that they are inert or empty. For more information, call 884-7496 or 884-2612.

Community

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month and the Military Equal Opportunity office is in need of volunteers to fill the positions of chairperson, vice-chairperson and treasurer. Volunteers to assist in organization, preparation and support for the month's events are also needed. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Natasha Hollomon at 884-8746.

Air National Guard Recruiter

Active duty service members who're separating from the Air Force, but wish to continue serving part-time in the Air National Guard, now have the convenience of an Air National Guard In-Service Recruiter at Hurlburt Field. Master Sgt. William Andujar can assist in locating units in members' home states and discussing state and federal benefits they're entitled to claim. For more information, contact Master Sergeant Andujar at the military personnel flight, Building 90210, or call 884-2729 to make an appointment.

CCAF progress reports

The Air Force Virtual Education Center has student services available online. Students can create their own AFVEC account and monitor their Community College of the Air Force degree progress. Personalized pages can keep students up to date on local education center news and events. For more information, visit

the AFVEC Web site at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>.

OWCC Scholarships

Applications for Okaloosa-Walton Community College scholarship awards are due by March 28 for the 2003-2004 academic year. A scholarship booklet with an application for local scholarships is available at all OWCC locations and on the college's financial aid Web site at www.owcc.edu/financialaid.

Awards range from \$100 to \$1,200 and can be applied to tuition and fees. For more information, contact the OWCC Financial Aid Office at 729-5370.

MOAA Scholarship

The Military Officers Association of America Base/Post Scholarship program is offering \$1,000 individual scholarship grants for the 2003-2004 academic year to 100 dependents of active-duty personnel. Applications are due by March 1 at noon in order to be eligible. Winners will be randomly selected from each of the seven services. MOAA membership is not required. To apply, visit the MOAA Website at www.moaa.org and look for the iEducational Aidî listing on the opening page. For more information, e-mail the MOAA Educational Assistance department at www.edassist@moaa.org.

Enlisted-to-AFIT program

Nomination packages for those enlisted members wishing to complete resident Air Force Institute of Technology science, engineering or management graduate degrees must be mailed to Headquarters U.S. Air Force/DPLLE by March 25. The program is limited to master's degree programs offered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. For more information, visit www.AFIT.edu.

Tuition Assistance documents

Effective immediately, the education office will need the following information from students requesting tuition assistance for authorized courses: course number, course title, course start/end date, number of credit hours, course's cost per semester, quarter or contact hour, and degree plan signed by school representative. Students must ensure the courses and degree programs are accredited by the Department of Education. For more information, call the education office at 884-6724.

Commissary scholarship

The Scholarship for Military Children program deadline is today. Applications are due to the nearest commissary by close of business. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with a qualified applicant. For more information or to apply, visit the Web site at www.commissaries.com.

Dental health month

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. There will be tooth-related igoodie bagsî available at the dental clinic front desk and an informative table display in the medical group lobby throughout February.

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:

Septemberñ 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

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 ñ (PG-13) iCatch Me If You Can,î starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks ñ Frank lived a life of crime using his abilities of forgery and escape.

FBI agent, Shaye respected his abilities so much that he eventually worked out the deal that got him out of prison after just five years.

Saturday Matinee at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. ñ (G) iPinocchio,î starring Roberto Benigni and Nicoletta Braschi ñ Pinocchio, the wooden puppet, has come to life and wants to become a real boy.

Despite guidance from the Blue Fairy and the love of his father, Gepetto, his curious spirit leads him into one wild adventure after another.

Sunday ñ (PG-13) iAntwone Fisher,î starring Derek Luke and Denzel Washington ñ Antwone is ordered to see a Navy psychiatrist to learn to control the anger impulses that cause him to fight with shipmates.

His therapy inspires him to seek out the family that abandoned him as a child.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday and Sunday ñ (PG-13) iNational Security,î starring Martin Lawrence and Steve Zahn ñ Earl and Hank have only one thing in common ñ they're both L.A.P.D. rejects.

As lowly security guards, they uncover a sophisticated smuggling operation. These two unlikely partners just might save the day.

Saturday ñ (PG-13) iJust Married,î starring Ashton Kutcher and Brittany Murphy ñ Two young newlyweds find that their perfect honeymoon in Venice is turning out to be the worst one imaginable.

Can the marriage, which many of their friends and family said was a bad idea, survive the celebration?

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

Community

AF times best base events

Four members of the Air Force Times will be on base Thursday to present the best base award. They will be taken on a tour of the base while highlighting many of the services facilities that helped Hurlburt Field win the award.

Following the tour, they would like to conduct four focus groups for base members (junior and senior enlisted, and junior and senior officer) and their families to discuss how the magazine can better serve its audience. The groups are intended to be small, information-gathering sessions to help the editors accomplish this. Attendees should be people who read the Air Force Times on a regular basis. For more information, call Amy Oliver at 884-6199.

Family skate party

In celebration of African American History Month, a family skate party will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Fort Walton Beach Skating Center on Racetrack Road. Admission is \$5 per person, which includes admission and skate rental. Tickets will also be available at the door. For more information, call Airman 1st Class Kheli Burk at 881-2619 or Airman 1st Class Tremella Green at 884-6251.

Medical records review

The new Veteran's Administration's Benefits Delivered at Discharge program enables a military

member to apply for disability 60 to 180 days from his retirement/separation date. Every service member contemplating retirement or separation needs to call the transition office at 884-6280 to make an appointment for a medical records review.

Call Disabled American Veterans' Chapter 72 Senior Chapter Services Officer, Jerry Rexford Thursdays and Fridays for a medical review. To submit claims paperwork, call Veteran's Service Representative, Norman Freeman Mondays and Tuesdays.

VEAP payment due

For people converting their VEAP benefits to the "MGIB in 2001," a payment of \$2,700 is due within 18 months of the day they signed the DD Form 2366, which had to have been signed no later than Oct. 31, 2001. Payments can be made by pay reduction in any amount, a lump sum payment or a combination of both. Failure to make the payment will result in the loss of benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs. For more information, call Sherry DelCastillo at 884-6003.

Classes

OWCC Fast-Track Term

Enrollment is currently open at OWCC for an eight-week fast-track term that begins Friday. Students earn all the credit of a normal college term in a compressed period of time. Weekend classes and courses are available on both Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base. For more information, visit www.owcc.edu or contact the OWCC Hurlburt Field Center at 884-6296 or

OWCC Eglin Air Force Base at 678-1717.

Employment Orientation

Ever wonder what the job market is like in this area? Come to this class to find out about job listings, books, videos, computer/printer rooms, resume assistance and more. For more information, call 884-5441.

Mapping Your Career

Mapping Your Career is designed for anyone desiring assistance with a career choice and to assist transitioning military members one to four years before leaving the military. For more information, call 884-6281.

Single Parent Meeting

A single parent meeting is a time to share the joys and challenges of being a single parent with others. Lunch will be provided. For more information, call the family support center at 884-5441.

FSC classes

For more information on family support center classes or to sign-up, call 884-5441.

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

Sponsorship Training – Monday, 1 p.m.

Mapping your Career – Monday, 1 p.m.

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

Single Parent Meeting – Tuesday, noon

Resume Workshop – Tuesday, 5 p.m.

VA Brief at Base Theater – Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.

Kids Smooth Move – Thursday, 1 p.m.

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SPORTS

Hurlburt loses basketball crown

Loss to Tyndall ends Commandos' five-year SEMAC reign

by Master Sgt. Robert McKinney
823rd RED HORSE Squadron

In a loss that snapped a five-year run as men's post-season champions, the Hurlburt Field men's varsity basketball team lost the Southeastern Military Athletic Conference championship game 84-74 to the Tigers of Tyndall Air Force Base, Panama City, Fla., Sunday.

The Commandos faced a well-balanced, determined and prepared team in the first of two games played against the Tigers, with Tyndall leading by as many as 12 points in the second half of a well-played match.

Byron Young, 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron, sunk three three-point field goals in the last three minutes of the contest, and a tip-in by Walter Fitzgerald, 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron, provided the Commandos an opportunity to win the game.

The Commandos in-bounded the ball after the Tigers hit a free throw, and Jason Brown, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, advanced the ball across half-court to call a timeout.

With eight seconds left, a play was designed for Young to take the final shot. However, the Tigers defended the first option well, and the ball was passed to George Hines, Air Force Special Operations Command. His shot missed just before the buzzer sounded the final score: 70-67, Tigers.

Young finished with 18 points, Fitzgerald and Holloway added 17 and 14 points, respectively.

In the second game against Tyndall, the home team of the tournament, Hurlburt Field led 37-35 at halftime before falling 84-74.

The Tigers dominated the offensive and defensive boards to control the sec-

ond half. The Commandos would succumb to the inability to execute offensively, with players suffering injuries and muscle cramps in their final game.

"The team didn't establish interior play until the contest wasn't in doubt," Harmon said. "Holloway only took two shots in the championship game, scored zero points after averaging 17 points per game in the initial three contests, and that proved to be something we couldn't overcome."

Fitzgerald led the team in scoring, totaling 18 points. Reginald Jefferson, 16th Communication Squadron, and Hines scored 12 and 11 points respectively.

Before its downfall to Tyndall, the Commandos delivered a 73-61 victory over the Dragons of Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., Feb. 7-8. The team's balance of inside and outside scoring kept the Dragons from focusing on any one player during the game.

A rematch between the Dragons and Commandos highlighted Hurlburt Field's defense and made for a 73-54 victory. Co-head Coach Larry Harmon, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron, said, "Hines, Koin and Yeta played good tough defense and rebounded well to seal the win."

Despite its tournament loss to the Tigers, the Commandos garnered many post-season and tournament awards. Young, Holloway and Jefferson were voted All-SEMAC for their regular season play. Young was also voted Most Valuable Player for the 2002-2003 SEMAC season. Robert McKinney, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, was voted Coach of the Year. Fitzgerald and Holloway were voted to the post-season all-tournament team.

After the Commando's defeat, the Tigers advanced to the winners bracket



Courtesy photos

Walter Fitzgerald, 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron, takes a shot over players from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

with a 104-71 victory over the Eagles, of Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

The team would like to thank the commanders, supervisors and spouses who supported the players and con-

tributed to a successful season. It would also like to thank the 16th Services Squadron, whose continual support is vital for varsity athletics, and Chris Myers, Hurlburt Field sports director.

Sports briefs

Varsity softball tryouts

Men's Varsity softball tryouts start March 3 at 5 p.m. behind the Hurlburt Field Main Fitness Center. For more information, contact the fitness center at 884-6884 or Tech. Sgt. Chuck Shepherd at 884-5774/5759. For information about other sports programs, call the main fitness center at 884-6884.

Bowling mania

Hurlburt Lanes Bowling Center offers "50 cent Mania" Fridays from 9 to 11 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After a \$3 charge, bowlers can rent shoes, bowl and buy drinks for only 50 cents each. For more information, call the bowling center at 884-6941.

Special Olympics

The annual Okaloosa County Special Olympics Track and Field event is today at Silver Sands School (on the corner of Holmes Blvd. and Wright Parkway). Huggers and greeters are needed beginning at 8:45 a.m. until noon. People can just show up to assist, no sign-ups are required.