

Best base award goes to Hurlburt Field

by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

The Second Annual Air Force Times Best Base Award was recently bestowed upon Hurlburt Field.

An Air Force Times news release stated that the award is unique and particularly meaningful because it's selected via input from airmen – the readership of the newspaper. This award recognizes a superior Air Force base by those who actually live and work there or have been stationed there in the past.

"We're very proud to win this award because we work very hard to take care of our people," said Col. Raymond Killgore, 16th Special Operations Wing vice commander. "Hurlburt Field has a very good retention rate and we think it has a lot to do with the focus and effort we put into taking care of our own."

As the best base award winner, Hurlburt Field is being recognized as the Air Force base achieving the highest quality of life in living conditions, community spirit and support for servicemembers and their families in the past year.

Donna Peterson, with the Air Force Times, said Hurlburt Field was also recognized as the best base for singles, best base for recreation and the base that has the highest overall quality of life.

"We have a great base right here on the Emerald Coast in the panhandle, and the beaches are obviously some of the most beautiful in the world, but it's the people that make it truly great," said Col. Killgore. "Day in and day out, our Air Commandos remain the foundation of our success. It's our people that truly distinguish Hurlburt Field as the "best base" in the Air Force."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

One of several quality of life projects being constructed on base is the improvement in road conditions. Contractors (above) work on Independence Road near the east gate to expand it from two lanes to four.

Installation Excellence – everyone has a part

Hurlburt Field was chosen as one of the top three installations in the Air Force and will compete for the second consecutive year for the Commander-in-Chief's 2003 Installation Excellence Award.

The Installation Excellence selection board is scheduled to arrive Feb. 12 and inspect the base Feb. 13 and 14. To prepare for the visit, base members should concentrate on accomplishing the following items:

All Hurlburt Field people:

- Ensure facilities are in top condition. Pay close attention to things like landscaping and trash.
- Clean work areas and break rooms.

Facility managers and building custodians:

- Gather any excess material, old furniture not being used and turn it into the Demilitarization Reutilization

Management Office (DRMO) at Eglin Air Force Base.

- Ensure all light fixtures are in working order, including exit signs.

Housing residents:

- Keep yards and areas around housing units neat and clean.

To help make Hurlburt Field the best installation, the family support center is sponsoring "Simply the Best," Feb. 8 from 8 a.m. to noon. "Simply the Best" is a day that the base community is being asked to clean up common areas and the housing areas. The base clean-up effort will be followed by a picnic at the new community park pavilion.

For more information or to volunteer for the base clean up, call Shannon Skoula-Clark at 884-1533.

News



Air Force Cross

Air Force Chief of Staff awards Air Force Cross to Tech. Sgt. John Chapman
Page 3

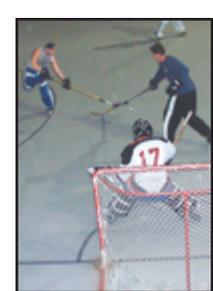
Feature



Virtual MPF

Virtual MPF is available online for members use
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Sports



Street hockey

Base members make do without ice
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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.



Courtesy photo

Col. Frank Kisner, 16th Special Operations Wing commander (right), stands at a dedication to Tech. Sgt. John Chapman at a forward deployed location. Sergeant Chapman was posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross for actions

Heartfelt thank you

Comment: On Dec. 9, a member of the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron suffered a personal loss due to a vehicle accident on Hurlburt Field Road.

Mrs. Kyrstal Tighe, spouse of Airman 1st Class Lucas Tighe, sustained life-threatening injuries and despite all efforts by paramedics and the Fort Walton Beach Medical Center, she passed away at 5:22 p.m. that evening.

On behalf of Airman Tighe and Mrs. Tighe, their family members and the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, we would like to thank the men and women of Hurlburt Field for their generous donations and emotional support.

We extend a special heartfelt thank you to the 16th Special Operations Wing Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Alicea, Hurlburt Field's First Sergeant Council, Mr. Neil Howard, 16th Services Squadron, and the billet-office for their outstanding support

for Airman Tighe and his out-of-town family members. The outpouring of care and thoughtfulness displayed by the wing was truly remarkable!

Reply: Thank you for your comment. Hurlburt Field is more than just a community, it's a close-knit family and the loss of anyone in that family affects us all.

I extend my thanks as well to all that have provided support to Airman 1st Class Lucas Tighe and his family during this time of need.

Leaders should be fit, fair, firm

by Chief Master Sgt.
Chris Dobbins
11th Air Force Command Chief

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska – "Chief, I've got a question..."

These five words have become a very common introductory remark as I traverse the many shops, offices and flight-lines of our great Aerospace Force.

While many of the questions concern deployments, pay, assignments and quality of life issues, more and more I'm getting, "Do you have any advice for today's young supervisors?"

I must admit that I didn't blow away the recruiting office with my ASVAB scores, MIT never offered me a scholarship, and I'm fairly confident the Air Force Academy will never select me for a permanent professor position. But this, to me, is one of the easier questions I've ever had to answer.

I simply call it the "3-F" approach: be fit, be fair and be firm.

Be fit! It's called a "profession of arms" for a reason. At anytime, we could be called upon to do our nation's will. Granted, some jobs require greater levels of fitness than others, but everybody who serves in our Air Force has a responsibility to maintain their personal fitness so

we may answer that call.

It's one thing to carry one of our wounded warriors off the battlefield. We shouldn't have to carry them to the region because of their poor fitness. Unfortunately, we have some who don't understand this important personal responsibility.

Supervisors, here are a couple of things to remember. The gym doesn't require an "open area #7" on your restricted area badge for access – use it! There are 24 hours in the day. Spend one of them improving your fitness. Twenty-three hours should be plenty to accomplish most everything else.

If you are not maintaining your own fitness, how can you expect it of your troops? Lead by example. Be fit.

Be Fair! There is nothing more divisive to a shop, office, flight or organization than double standards and preferential treatment, perceived or otherwise. As a supervisor, you simply cannot afford to allow an unfair environment to exist.

To some degree, we've all experienced the work environment where "the boss" has his favorites, and gives the great shifts to "Airman Do No Wrong" while giving "Airman What's His Name" weekend duty so "the gang" can go skiing, camping or the like.

This isn't a successful formula for unit harmony or mission accomplishment. Call me crazy, but I don't subscribe to the belief that everyone is "created" equal. If that were the case, you would see the name "Dobbins" next to "Woods" every week at the top of the PGA leader board. However, I do believe that everyone should be "treated" equal, and that is where you, the supervisor, come in. Be fair.

Be Firm! Everyone has their own personal comfort level when it comes to implementing and enforcing standards, but being firm can sometimes be the most difficult for supervisors, both new and experienced, to practice.

Being firm equates to being honest in many instances, and sometimes we as supervisors have to step up and make the tough calls.

One of the most difficult tasks you will ever have as a supervisor is being honest with subordinates who are not meeting standards. The answer is simple, but many times the action is not. Be firm.

That is the 3-F approach. By applying these practices across your supervisory spectrum you will be promoting a profession of arms environment that your people will understand, appreciate and ultimately, with time, emulate. (AFPN)



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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

Combat Controller awarded Air Force Cross

by 2nd Lt. Gabe Johnson
AFSOC Public Affairs

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. –

The Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper presented the service's highest honor, the Air Force Cross, posthumously to a Special Operator killed during Operation Enduring Freedom, at a ceremony Jan. 10.

Tech. Sgt. John Chapman's widow, his mother and his father accepted the medals on his behalf. Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray also attended the ceremony, held in a hangar filled with family and Special Operators from all services.

During an operation over the eastern highlands of Afghanistan, March 4, 2002, Navy SEAL Petty Officer Neal Roberts fell from a MH-47 Chinook helicopter. Determined to leave no man behind, Sergeant Chapman and a Special Operations team went in to recover the

SEAL and became involved in an intense firefight with al-Qaeda forces. Sergeant Chapman lost his life on the mission.

"His conduct culminated in his selfless decision to place his own life in jeopardy to save fellow warriors, and thus by his sacrifice, we the living are called upon to adhere daily to those values this country cherishes," Secretary Roche said of Chapman in his ceremony address.

According to his friends and family he was a dedicated Combat Controller who always put family first.

In a letter Sergeant Chapman's father wrote to his son's unit, the 24th Special Tactics Squadron, he said, "John is proud to be a part of you and if you could ask him right now he would tell you what he did was for his family, friends and the teams he worked with. Most of what he did, he did for his country."

"It's amazing to know what my brother did. He was always so humble about it," said Kevin Chapman, John Chapman's brother. "Pride is the biggest



Photo by Pamela Kehres

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper presents the Air Force Cross to Tech. Sgt. John Chapman's family at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. Sergeant Chapman was awarded the service's highest honor posthumously for his actions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

emotion I felt today."

Sergeant Chapman is only the third Air Force enlisted member to be honored with the Air Force Cross since the end of the Vietnam War.

Comedian donates \$1 million to enlisted foundation

by Cathy Landroche
Deputy director, marketing

BOB HOPE VILLAGE, SHALIMAR, Fla. –

Bob and Dolores Hope have donated \$1 million to the Air Force Enlisted Foundation to build a facility here to honor retired Col. Robert W. Gates, a pilot on many of the comedian's USO jaunts across the globe.

During a groundbreaking ceremony Jan. 6 for the Bob Gates Welcome Center/Auditorium, Kelly Hope spoke of his father's friendship with the former commander. "Colonel Gates has been a dear and good friend for 60 years plus. He was more

than my father's pilot; he's been his closest friend, confidant and fishing buddy. At home, whenever Colonel Gates' name is mentioned, my father always smiles."

And although his famous father couldn't be at the event, the younger Hope said his father was here in spirit and Bob Hope Village was one of the things of which he was most proud.

More than 100 people turned out for the event, including Rocky McPherson, Executive Director, Florida Department of Veteran's Affairs, representing Gov. Jeb Bush.

Mr. McPherson read a letter from the governor, which stated in part: "On behalf of the state of Florida, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Bob and Dolores Hope for

their continued support of the Air Force Enlisted Foundation – and most recent contribution of \$1 million for a new welcome center and auditorium at Bob Hope Village in Shalimar, Fla. I'm also grateful to the Air Force Enlisted Foundation for your service and commitment on behalf of Florida's veterans and their families. I offer my sincere appreciation for all you do for our state."

"I'm so grateful for this honor," said Colonel Gates. "The (variety) shows we had here raised money and the publicity enabled us to get the money to build this (village)." From 1977 to 1995, the Hopes visited the Fort Walton Beach area 10 times, bringing with them celebrities for star-studded variety shows. Many corporate sponsors such as United Technologies jumped on the bandwagon to donate to the tailor-made facility for widows of Air Force enlisted members.



Photo by Cathy Landroche

Command Chief Master Sgt. James Pate, Air Armament Center, Eglin Air Force Base; Maj. Gen. Robert Chedister, AAC commander; retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Binnicker, President and CEO Air Force Enlisted Foundation; retired Col. Robert Gates; Kelly Hope; Monsignor Michael Cherup, St. Mary's Catholic Church; and Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Alicea, 16th Special Operations Wing command chief, break ground on the Bob Gates Welcome Center, Jan. 6 at Bob Hope Village, Shalimar, Fla.

Spotlight on ...



Bradley Nelms

Rank/Duty Title: Senior Airman/Radio operator

Organization: 16th Communications Squadron

Hometown: Lubbock, Texas

Hobbies: Family, basketball, softball, football and working at a recording studio

Contribution to the mission:

Airman Nelms is an integral part of Hurlburt Field's tactical communications mission. He's responsible for installing and operating mission critical command and control tactical radio systems in any environment in support of Special Operations aircraft worldwide.

He's responsible for training and preparing 68 people for real world deployments and has already served two deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Airman Nelms is described by superiors and co-workers as being "the epitome of Air Force Special Operations Command's Quiet Professional".

(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.)

See WELCOME, Page 8

AIR FORCE NEWS

Air Force begins smallpox vaccines

by Master Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – The Air Force chief of staff has directed the immediate implementation of the smallpox vaccination program.

In a Jan. 6 policy memorandum to major command commanders, Gen. John Jumper outlined details of the commanders' force protection program against the deadly biological warfare agent.

The first Air Force people to be vaccinated will be medical people and designated forces that constitute specific mission-critical capabilities.

The identified medics include Smallpox Epidemiological Response Team members at Brooks City-Base, Texas, those responsible for administering the vaccine to other airmen, and base-level smallpox medical team members (medics who have been selected to treat anyone who contracts the disease).

According to the Air Force smallpox vaccination implementation plan, some civilian employees and contractors will also be vaccinated.

Although vaccinations will begin immediately, the program's director said airmen would be vaccinated in stages.

"It's expected that up to 30 percent of the people receiving the vaccine will have minor reactions that result in the loss of one or more duty days," said Brig. Gen. Robert Smolen, director of nuclear and counter-proliferation.

According to medical officials, the smallpox vaccine

is a "live virus" vaccine that uses vaccinia virus. People cannot contract smallpox from the vaccine.

"Smallpox vaccine has some well-recognized side effects," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Kelly Woodward, chief of preventive medicine at the Air Force Medical Operations Agency. "Many people can expect to have minor side effects, such as feeling achy, low-grade fever, headache and itching at the injection site. Those are minor reactions and resolve on their own."

In rare cases, Colonel Woodward said, the virus may erupt widely over the body instead of remaining confined to the vaccination site.

Public education is one of the plan's major components. Recipients must be informed about the vaccine and its contraindications before inoculation.

People getting the vaccine will receive a briefing on expected reactions, adverse events, and how to access health care for medical concerns.

"Education of commanders, individuals and families is imperative to ensure the success of this program," General Jumper wrote in the memo.

As a minimum, people will receive a copy of the smallpox vaccine trifold (available under the "Educational Products" icon at the Department of Defense smallpox Web site, www.vaccines.army.mil).

People may get information at mass briefings or commanders' calls. Local health care professionals can also provide smallpox information.

According to the plan, recipients will be screened before inoculation. The screening form is available under the "Forms" icon at the DOD smallpox Web site.

Anyone who answers "yes" or "unsure" to a question on the form will not receive the vaccine until they have received further medical evaluation.

The Air Force is taking the extra screening precautions because the smallpox vaccine has unique contraindications, or reasons to avoid it, Colonel Woodward said.

"Contraindications in either the individual receiving the vaccine or the person's household contacts will preclude a non-emergency vaccination," he said. "It's important that people receiving the vaccine take the time to consider the medical condition of others in their household as they go through the screening process."

Certain dermatological conditions, such as eczema and atopic dermatitis, increase the risk of complications from the smallpox vaccine.

Those with a history of dermatological conditions should make sure to point them out during the screening process, Colonel Woodward said.

Other medical criteria that preclude vaccination include pregnancy, nursing mothers and HIV infection.

While the plan calls for people to be vaccinated before deploying to high-threat areas, non-vaccination does not necessarily preclude mobilization, General Smolen said, since the vaccine may be successfully administered up to four days after exposure.

Smallpox vaccinations are given in a single dose, usually in the nondominant deltoid muscle (left upper arm for right-handed people, and vice versa).

Revaccination is recommended every 10 years. (AFPN)

U.S. increasing troops in gulf; war still not inevitable

by Kathleen Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The U.S. military is building up forces in the Persian Gulf, but that is not a sign war with Iraq is inevitable, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Jan. 7.

Secretary Rumsfeld and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Richard Myers refused to discuss specific numbers of troops in or headed to the region. Longstanding military policy prohibits such releases.

Both men told reporters at a Pentagon briefing that the forces are being moved to the gulf to give the president as many options as possible in dealing with Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

"We want to ensure that we are prepared to provide the president as much flex-

ibility as possible," General Myers said.

Still, Secretary Rumsfeld added, none of this means war cannot be averted. He said that President Bush "is determined to see what takes place" regarding Iraq. Recent international attention on the country has already led to some positive signs, he added.

"Because of the emphasis that (President Bush, Congress and the United Nations) have put on this problem, we are seeing that Iraq is allowing inspectors in and behaving in a manner that's somewhat different from that which it's been behaving in over the preceding years," Secretary Rumsfeld said.

The secretary said the United States has received offers of support from many other nations.

Secretary Rumsfeld once again suggested Saddam Hussein could avoid military action by simply leaving Iraq. (AFPN)

Look who's talking: If you could be someone else for one day, who would you be and why?



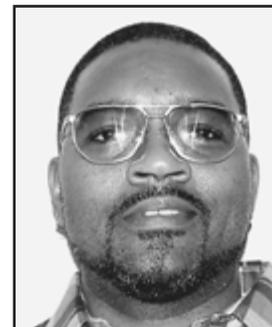
"I would be Tech. Sgt. Margie Lusher because she's a hardcore supervisor."

**Airman
Maria Montano**
16th Logistics
Readiness Squadron



"Trisha Yearwood, because it's always been a dream of mine to be a country singer. She seems to have it all."

Jennifer Williams
Family member



"A five-year-old, because I would be old enough to enjoy life without worrying about worldly issues."

Fabian Thomas
16th Mission Support
Squadron

Bowling center gets 'striking' new look

by Airman 1st Class
Heidi Sawyer
Public Affairs

Renovations for the Hurlburt Lanes bowling center had been in the planning since 1993. Since the beginning of 2002, the center has had two major upgrades in equipment and cosmetics. After completing the second upgrade, the center once again re-opened its doors Tuesday.

"The first renovation last summer, was mostly for cosmetic purposes," said Mimi Lambert, bowling center manager since 1983.

Old ceiling tiles and strips were replaced, and a new air conditioning system was installed. The center also replaced wall coverings, furniture and pins, Ms. Lambert informed.

Ms. Lambert said she's visited several bowling centers elsewhere and has noticed a large difference in the activity of bowling.

"Bowling used to be 85 percent league and 15 percent public play. Now it seems as if that percentage has almost reversed," she said.

After being told that the bowling center had 30 days to use their allotted money for 2002 or lose it, Ms. Lambert contacted the AMF, Inc., with more renovation ideas.

"We were trying to gear our bowling plans to the trend (of other bowling centers)," Ms. Lambert said.

The first priority for the center was the replacement of the pin-setters. "We think those were the original (ones), which makes them approximately 40 years old," Ms. Lambert said.

The center also added new ball returns, ball lifters, approaches and overlays. Ms. Lambert also decided to replace the old scoring system with one that can be controlled by both the bowlers and by the employees at the front counter.

To accompany the new system, the center installed new

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See BOWLING, Page 9

Tax center offers tips for deployed members

by **Capt. Andrew Armstrong**
16th SOW Legal Office

While April 15th is the deadline for filing income tax returns for most of the country, it's not necessarily the deadline for deployed service-members.

Members who serve in a Combat Zone (CZ) or Qualified Hazardous Duty Area (QHDA) during the tax season are allowed additional time to take care of tax matters.

The deadline for most tax-related actions with the Internal Revenue Service, such as the filing of the past year's tax return, is automatically extended 180 days from the last day the taxpayer is in a

CZ or QHDA. In addition, the deadline is further extended by the number of days remaining in the tax season at the time the member entered a CZ or QHDA.

The IRS also allows for your tax return to be filed by someone else in the event you're deployed, provided that person has a power of attorney dealing with tax issues. Such special powers of attorney can be obtained from the base legal office, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The base tax center will be open starting, Jan. 27th, to assist in filing your 2002 income tax returns. For more information, call the base tax center at 884-7542/7544.

Inspector General

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Toastmasters open Hurlburt Field franchise

by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

Many people say the best way to overcome a fear is to face it head on. Unfortunately, the fear of speaking in public, perhaps the most common phobia people experience, provides few chances for practice.

However, the Toastmasters club, which is like "a support group for those who wish to be better speakers and leaders," may not only help people overcome this fear, it can bring members to excel at public speaking said Marty Mears, vice president of Public Relations for the Emerald Coast Toastmasters who meet at Eglin Air Force Base.

"Toastmasters is forming a new club at Hurlburt Field," said Mr. Mears. "The mission of a Toastmasters club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn fosters self-confidence and personal growth."

Since its founding in 1924, Toastmasters International has helped

four million men and women develop their public speaking skills and become confident communicators at work, at home, even at parties, said Mr. Mears.

Headquartered in Southern California, the organization now has



approximately 200,000 members and 9,000 clubs in 70 countries.

"Toastmasters has helped thousands of people achieve more in all aspects of their lives," said Mr. Mears. "Using the speaking and leadership skills developed in Toastmasters, people have become more active in business, churches and service and charity organizations."

Toastmasters members become able to organize activities, conduct meetings and speak in public as their organiza-

tion's representative, said Mr. Mears. "Some even become active in local, state or national government," he said.

The educational program is the heart of a Toastmasters club, Mr. Mears said. It's divided into two tracks – a communication track and a leadership track.

The communication track is the major part of the system.

"Almost all new members join Toastmasters for the benefits of the (communication) track," said Mr. Mears. But some people become involved in the leadership track. The tracks aren't mutually exclusive, and people may participate in both tracks at the same time if desired, he said.

The first meeting is Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Classroom G of the Hurlburt Field Education Center. This meeting will be a demonstration meeting to show prospective members how a club meeting is conducted and what the Toastmasters program can do for them.

For more information, call Marty Mears at 884-1815, or e-mail marty.mears@hurlburt.af.mil. Also visit the Toastmasters International Web site at www.toastmasters.org.

WELCOME,

Continued from Page 3

"This (village) started with a dream. But we're not going to stop there. The next thing we're going to build is the assisted living facility so the residents can stay here with their friends forever," he said, referring to the project the Foundation has been working on for several years – raising funds to build an assisted living facility on the Bob Hope Village campus.

Turning to Kelly Hope, Colonel Gates said, "Thank you to your family and your mom and dad for this wonderful honor."

Colonel Gates, who served in World War II, the Korean Conflict and Vietnam, had a long and distinguished military career, concluding as commander, 1st Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla. After retiring, he served as Mayor of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and as a real estate broker. The 83-year-old continues to work in the real estate business today.

The 6,500 square foot welcome center will be built next to the Dolores Hope All Faiths Chapel, with a formal garden – the "Garden of Hope" – between the two buildings. The new facility will house an auditorium, meeting rooms and a small kitchen. Completion is scheduled for October 2003.

Airspace dominance for the 21st Century



"The nation that does not command the air will face deadly odds. Armies and navies to operate successfully must have air cover."
General Douglas MacArthur



"The enemies' air superiority has a very grave effect on our movements. There's simply no answer to it."
Field Marshal Rommel's observation during the Normandy invasion

"Air dominance provides both the freedom from attack and the freedom to attack. It is the key to winning wars while minimizing the loss of America's most precious resource—its sons and daughters."
General Michael E. Ryan
Air Force Chief of Staff

Air Force News Service



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BOWLING,

Continued from Page 5

monitors in front of the renovated lanes.

To keep the atmosphere family friendly, the center made the facility smoke-free in September. "It's bright, it's cheerful, it's clean," Ms. Lambert said.

With the purchase of new glowing bowling balls and bowling shoes, to accompany the previously purchased black-light responsive furniture, wall coverings and pins, the center opens its doors for "extreme bowling" every Saturday from 8 p.m. to midnight.

For sports fans of all ages, eight new 27-inch televisions will be installed by the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron in the near future to accompany the already installed upgraded sound system.

The center also made additions outside with a new canopy and lighting over the patio. "It will be a nice place for karaoke, squadron parties, or children's parties during the summer months," Ms. Lambert said.

"There are lots of people to thank. (The renovations) couldn't have happened without people chipping in to help," Ms. Lambert said. The center was closed five and a half months last year for the construction and remodeling.

"The new bowling alley is tremendous," said Col. Frank Kisner, 16th Special Operations Wing commander after reviewing the renovations made in July. "We've upgraded the facility and brought it back on line. Now we've got a world-class facility. A lot of folks are excited about coming here."

Aspiring journalist

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

The staff is always looking for stories concerning a new unit program or a human interest story highlighting a Hurlburt Field member.

To submit a story or a story idea, call the COMMANDO editor at 884-6097 or e-mail your suggestion to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.

FEATURE

The
Virtual

MPF

As any supervisor knows, personnel actions don't stand still because of deployments or temporary duty assignments. Records need updates, permanent changes of station come up and retirements get closer. Airmen from the 16th Special Operations Wing are on duty around the world, but it doesn't stop them from contacting their military personnel flight. Commanders and

front-line supervisors have a responsibility to educate their troops on what the MPF can do for them, and that education should include the use of the Virtual MPF. Via the Internet, the vMPF now allows anyone to interact with his or her military records the way the 16th Special Operations Wing operates – Any Time, Any Place. The vMPF can be accessed directly at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/km/vMPF_Portal/vMPF_Portal.htm.

Assignments

- Assignment counseling
- Assignment notification briefings
- Overseas returnee counseling
- Assignment applications
- Circuitous travel
- Isolated continental United States assignment application
- Dependents Remaining Overseas Application
- DEROS management
- Designated Location Move application
- Early Return of Dependents application
- Exceptional Family Member Program application
- Join spouse application
- Out-processing
- Permissive permanent change of station
- Report no later than date change request
- Sole surviving son or daughter assignment restriction
- Voluntary stabilized base assignment

Assignments

Many of the briefings and applications people are required to complete for assignment actions are now on the vMPF. Applications for exceptional family member programs, humanitarian assignments and join spouse assignments are just a few of the options available. If people need to change their report no later than date, there's an option for that, too. While not everyone will be able to use these options, supervisors should know they're available. For more information, call Master Sgt. Lee Jones at 884-2695.

Career Enhancements

While this link will expand in the future, officers eligible for promotion have a link to review their promotion eligibility data and learn about the officer selection brief. Enlisted personnel can retrieve data verification RIPs and weighted airman promotion system score notices. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. William Hammel at 884-5874.

Customer Service

Various military and civilian institutions require a Proof of Service Letter. You can print one here automatically. This link will also give you information and applications used for changing your name with the Social Security Administration or getting another Social Security Card. For more information, call Master Sgt. Inez Reyes at 884-2886.

The Virtual Record of Emergency Data

Say goodbye to the Department of Defense Form 93 and hello to vRED, the Virtual Record of Emergency Data. Beginning soon, Hurlburt Field servicemembers will be required to use vMPF to update their vRED. This document is critical in making timely casualty notifications and the Air Force's ability to properly distribute death benefits. All personnel are able to access the vMPF any time from any computer to update their form. Transition to vRED begins on Jan. 27; commander support staffs have been given schedules. For more information, call Vince Filipi at 884-5280.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

Airman Matthew Latiolais, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron, receives help at the 16th Mission Support Squadron, Military Personnel Flight help desk from Master Sgt. Inez Reyes, 16th MSS.

Retirements

- Initial retirement briefing
- Department of Defense Form 214 worksheet
- Entitlement counseling
- High year of tenure extension request
- Retirement pre-application checklist
- Retirement application

Retirements and Separations

Various separation briefings and applications can be started without setting foot in the MPF. Retirements/separation on the vMPF is the tool to use to answer questions concerning separation from the military. People can turn in a complete checklist and application to the MPF. Retirements/separations section after reviewing the site. The DOD Form 214 worksheet allows you to preview this vital document. The traditional processes of out-processing are also going virtual. For more information, call Master Sgt. Geraldine King at 884-5370.

Reenlistments

- Age 55 HYT waiver for extension or re-enlistment
- Best interest of the Air Force extension
- Re-enlistment eligibility
- Selective re-enlistment bonus calculator
- Transaction reporting and control briefing

Employment

- Duty/employment history inquiry
- Retraining application status inquiry

Customer Service

- Proof of service letter
- Social Security number application counseling

Personal Information

Exactly what information does the Air Force Personnel Center have on people in their database? Wonder no more – it's all included in the data verification brief, available on vMPF. This huge link allows people to review their duty history, assignment history, performance reports and promotion data. The individual link displays personal information such as home addresses, duty phones, etc. People can update these items from vMPF as well. To find out which awards and decorations are authorized for wear, the awards and decorations link will provide people with a customized picture of what their own ribbon rack should look like. Aeronautical rating and hours flown can be reviewed using the aircrew data link. Keeping an eye on Professional Military Education, degree information, and foreign language proficiency is a snap with the education and training link. Finally, the service link shows service data and allows people to review any active duty service commitments they may have.

Reenlistments

Available online are age 55 HYT waivers, best interest of the Air Force extensions, an SRB calculator and online TRAC briefings. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Marissa Davis at 884-2701.

Employment

People can follow the status of their retraining packages if it's been more than 15 days since it was turned in to the MPF. For more information, call Master Sgt. Michael Williams at 884-2702.

Tracking pay problems just got easier

Until now, members with pay problems had to call the MPF or finance to check on the status of their case. AFPC has announced a new module that's been added to the vMPF. Members now have access to check the same case management system used by finance, AFPC, and the MPF. On the vMPF home page is a link under the help section called "case management system." The vMPF displays a list of all open cases including the date entered, type of problem, description of the case and status of the case. By clicking on another icon within each case, people can see a list of which agencies the case has gone through including when it was assigned to that agency. Cases requiring MPF or finance action are normally resolved in 15 days and either closed or forwarded to the appropriate agency. For their part, the MPF internally manages each case on a weekly basis and is able to answer any further questions people may have.

LIFESTYLE

Military

NCOA meeting

The Hurlburt Field Commando Non-commissioned Officer Association chapter holds its monthly meeting on Jan. 25 at 6 p.m. in J.R. Rockersí Daytona Room. Each member is requested to attend and bring a friend or another member. Topics to be discussed are upcoming base and community events and other general discussions on membership. Along with the monthly meeting the chapter is currently undergoing a membership recall to get past local area members back in the association. For more information, call Master Sgt. Bob Love at 884-4995 or retired Chief Master Sgt. John Greer at 939-6659.

NH Guard openings

The following are part-time New Hampshire Air Guard vacancies at Pease Air National Guard Base. For more information, call DSN 852-3502 or (800) 257-9368.

AFSCs: 1COX2; 1C1X1; 2A5X1G; 2A6X1A; 2A6X4; 2A6X5; 2A6X6; 2A7X1; 2A7X2; 2A7X3; 2A7X4; 2E0X1; 2E1X2; 2E1X3; 2E6X3; 2F0X1; 2R1X1; 2S0X1; 2S0X2; 2T0X1; 2T1X1; 2T3X1; 3A0X1; 3E0X1; 3E0X2; 3E1X1; 3E2X1; 3E4X1; 3E4X2; 3E4X3; 3E5X1; 3E7X1; 3E9X1; 3P0X1; 3S0X1; 4A1X1; 4E0X1; 4F0X1; 4N0X1; 4T0X1; 4Y0X1; 5J0X1; 6E0X1.

New York Air Guard

The 109th Airlift Wing, in Scotia, N.Y., home of the C-130 ski-birds, has traditional Air National Guard vacancies available in the following career fields. For more information, call Master Sgt. Wesley Ryerson at DSN 344-2456 or 1-800-524-5070 or e-mail Wesley.Ryerson@nyscot.af.mil.

AFSCs: 1A1X1, 2A5X1, 2A5X3, 2A6X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X5, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2A7X3, 2E1X3, 2E6X3, 2F0X1, 2S0X1, 2T251, 3C0X1, 3E0X1, 3E1X1, 3E2X1, 3E4X1, 3E7X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 4A0X1, 4A2X1, 4E0X1, 4N0X1, and 6F0X1, as well as full-time active duty opportunity in the following AFSC: 2A5X1.

Deployment custodians

According to Air Force Manual 23-110, commanders have the responsibility of ensuring equipment under their control is deployed properly. Commanders and equipment custodians are to ensure appointment of deployment custodians for the equipment involved and identify the newly appointed custodians to the 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron Equipment Liaison Office (formerly base supply) for training. Training classes are held every Thursday at 2 p.m. in the LRS Building 90710.

Primary/alternate and deployed equipment custodians are required to:

- Retain responsibility for deployed equipment until the equipment is returned to home station, and/or accountability has been transferred to the gaining base/deployed location.

- Act as a single point of contact in the deploying organization about equipment matters for the losing/gaining base ELO.

- Ensure that the selection of items for deployment is coordinated with home station ELO.

- Ensure that all deployment listings/transfer documents are in their possession before actual departure.

- Record/document all equipment gains/losses that occur enroute/during/after the deployment for home station primary/alternate custodians.

- Deployed custodians/commanders ensure report of survey for equipment lost, damaged or destroyed at the deployed location and forwarded to the home station custodian for account update.

- Inventory after return from deployment and provide custodian verification of all returned assets.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Margie Lusher at 884-6910 or Staff Sgt. Gina Carr at 884-7316.

Community

Extra child care

Deploying servicemembers and their families are now entitled to 16 hours per child of extended duty childcare upon the deployed member's return. For details, people can visit www.af.mil/news/Sep2002/90902265.shtml. For more information, call Erica Charity at 884-2168.

Free spouse makeovers

Hurlburt Field spouses are invited to the second-annual Hearts Apart Valentine's Spouses Spa Day Feb. 15 at the family support center from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. During the event, spouses can enjoy the trade of local beauty consultants who will come to the FSC and provide a pedicure, lip and hand treatment, skin care regimen and a glamour makeover for free, all while spouses are served delicacies while relaxing and mingling with others. This event is limited to the first 50 spouses who sign-up. Reservations must be made by Feb. 11 by calling 884-5441. Pre-arranged childcare is strongly advised.

Recycling facility closed

Due to new construction, the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility on Ready Avenue in Fort Walton Beach is closed to local residents until March 3. For more information, call Jim Reece at 651-7395.

MLK holiday events

The following community events are in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. holiday: The annual memorial program will be held at 5:30 p.m. Sunday at the Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium. A parade assembly will be held at the same auditorium at 10:30 a.m. Monday, followed by a rally at Chester Pruitt Park. For more information, call Lewis Jennings at 862-8721.

Science fair

Judges are needed to participate in the regional science fair Feb. 4 at the Okaloosa County Fairgrounds. Volunteers with disciplines in the following areas are needed by Monday: behavioral science, biochemistry, botany, health and medicine, microbiology, zoology, chemistry, earth and space, engineering, math, computers, physics and more. To volunteer, call 2nd Lt. James Madeiros or Shirley Pigott at 882-3931.

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 and Sunday (PG-13) "The Emperor's Club," starring Kevin Kline and Steven Culp - William finds his world of tradition upended with the arrival of a new freshman, the son of a senator. Almost immediately, they become embroiled in a turbulent battle of wills with repercussions that would still be felt a quarter of a century later.

Saturday (PG-13) "The Truth About Charlie," starring Mark Wahlberg and Thandie Newton - Regina returns home from vacationing in Martinique to find that her husband Charles has been murdered. Their apartment and bank account have been completely emptied. His murder transforms into a belief that, in fact, she must learn the truth about Charlie.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday (R) "Die Another Day," starring Pierce Brosnan and Halle Berry - Bond is on the trail of new villains - the deadly megalomaniac Gustav Graves and his ruthless right-hand man, the North Korean Zao. Along the way, Bond crosses paths with Jinx and Miranda Frost, before following Graves to his lair in Iceland: a palace built entirely of ice.

Saturday (PG) "Treasure Planet," animated - The tale of fifteen-year-old Jim Hawkins, who joins the crew of an intergalactic expedition as a cabin boy aboard a glittering space galleon. Befriended by the ship's cook, a charismatic cyborg named John Silver, Jim blossoms under his guidance and shows the makings of a fine "spacer" as he and the alien crew battle supernovas.

Sunday (R) "Analyze That," starring Robert DeNiro and Lisa Kudrow - The story picks up where the original left off, with Paul Vitti being let out of prison. He again hooks up with therapist Ben Sobel, who may need more psychological help now than his mobster patient, as the burden of taking over his deceased father's practice is making him just crazy enough to have another wacky adventure with his wife and his emotionally distraught mobster companion.

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

Hap Arnold scholarship

The Air Force Aid Society's General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant program awards \$1,500 grants to: children of active duty; Air National Guard/Reservists on extended active duty; ANG performing full-time active duty; retired Reservists with 20 or more qualifying years of service; spouses (residing stateside) of active duty; Reservists on extended active duty; and surviving spouses of deceased members. For more information, call the Air Force Aid Society at 884-2949 or visit the Web site at www.afas.org.

Public meeting

Okaloosa County, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Air Force (Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base) will hold a public information meeting concerning the feasibility of constructing an interchange at the main gate of Hurlburt Field on U.S. Highway 98. The workshop will be held Thursday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Soundside. The purpose of the meeting is to present several alternative design concepts for an interchange and to obtain feedback from the public.

The interchange, if constructed, should substantially reduce delays to motorists at the intersection, reduce the likelihood of base-bound motorists blocking the through lanes on Highway 98, and expand housing opportunities for base personnel by extending the dis-

tance from the base people can live.

It's also expected to reduce the frequency of congestion-related traffic crashes occurring near the base entrance. For more information, call Danielle Slaterpryce at (850) 689-5772 or Bob Kellner at (850) 432-6800.

Trespass Notice

The 16th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms section reminds people not to trespass on the firing ranges and impact areas located off RED HORSE Road. Trespassing is dangerous because of gunfire hazards. People must have clearance to enter the range and impact area. For more information, call 884-7520 or 884-7205.

Commissary closure

The Hurlburt Field Commissary will be closed Monday and Tuesday in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The commissary will reopen Wednesday at 9 a.m.

HESC activities

The Hurlburt Enlisted Spouses Club will sponsor Games Night 6 p.m. Thursday at the family support center. Participants will be playing Bunco and encourage any enlisted spouse to join the fun – bring a finger food and a friend. For more information, call Elaina Cron, HESC president, at 581-1468.

JSOU

The next Introduction to Special Operations Course will be Tuesday through Jan. 24 at the Joint Special Operations University here. ISOC provides military and civilian members with a joint understanding of Special Operation Forces, to include current structure, available assets and general capabilities.

For information on seat availability, call Joyce Weber at 884-4731. For more information about the course call, 1st Lt. James Riggsbee at 884-6861 or visit the Web site at www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/usafsos.

Classes

Moms, Pops and Tots

An informal format for moms, pops and their young children to meet other parents and allow their children to interact with other children. Meetings are every Tuesday at the family support center for children birth to two-years-old and every Wednesday for children two to four from 10 to 11 a.m.

For more information on FSC classes or to sign-up, call 884-5441.

**SUN PLAZA
THEATRE
CS/RHP/MOV**

**WRIGHT
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

**ST SIMON'S ON THE
SOUND
CS/SERVICES**

**BACK-
WOODS/PRE-
CIOUS PUPS**

**BLUEWATER BAY DENTAL
CS/WE LOVE CHILD
514493
2 X 5.00**

**RHINO LININGS
CS/RHP/#3 TUFF S
515609
3 X 5.00**

SPORTS

Street hockey offers unique sports challenge

by Airman 1st Class
Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

Ice may be scarce in Florida, but this doesn't stop Hurlburt Field hockey players from participating in their sport of choice.

Every Sunday at 6 p.m., street hockey players gather at the base roller hockey court across from the teen center on Tully Avenue.

They play "pick-up," where anyone can show up and join a game, said Jay Santos, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, who plays goalie.

"We have people from high school all the way up," said Santos, who's been playing here for about 2 years. One player was in his early '50s.

Experience isn't a factor, said Santos — people just need to bring their safety gear and show up.

"People of any skill level can play," he said.

John Kayser, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, has been playing street hockey at the court for three years now, and says he and other players want more participation from hockey players stationed at Eglin Air Force Base, which doesn't have its own court.

"There are people who play hockey here who were playing at Eglin for two years, and they just found out about it now," said Kayser.

Players from Eglin were an important part of the Hurlburt Field Hawks ice hockey team, said John "Coach" Hauser, 16th

Communications Squadron, and former coach of the Hawks.

Hurlburt Field's ice hockey team got its roots about seven years ago, when people started skating in Commando Village. They then began playing in a parking lot near the dorms, and from there got one of the tennis courts turned into a street hockey court, said Coach Hauser.

Shortly after the court was created, Coach Hauser and his hockey players got an ice hockey team together — the Hawks — which played at the Pensacola civic center in an adult league.

Changes in funding and sponsorship killed the expensive ice hockey program, said Coach Hauser, and once again he and his fellow hockey heads went to the street court, sometimes joined by Eglin players.

"A few weeks ago a bunch of players from Eglin came over, and we had about 20 people out here," said Coach Hauser. "We had a really good game going."

Hockey players from both Hurlburt Field and Eglin are highly encouraged by all to come out and play, said Coach Hauser.

Future hockey plans include taking over the adjacent tennis court and combining the two to create one full-size court, he said.

"If we can get a nice roller court here, we can get a kid's league going to compete with the teams downtown," Coach Hauser said.

For more information on playing street hockey, call Coach Hauser at 884-0440, or e-mail john.hauser@hurlburt.af.mil.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

Jay Santos, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and street hockey goalie (foreground), defends his team's goal at a recent game here.

Sports briefs

Soccer tryouts

Soccer season begins Jan. 26 in a game against Eglin Air Force Base. Any interested people are encouraged to come to the try-outs Tuesday through Jan. 24 at 5:15 p.m. at the softball field behind the main fitness center. For more information, call Raul Martinez at 884-6366 or Yuhann Joseph at 884-3380.



Softball players needed

Men and women are needed for the Hurlburt Field

varsity softball teams. For more information, call the main fitness center at 884-6884.

Intramural paintball meeting

An intramural paintball meeting will be held at 3 p.m. today at the outdoor recreation center. The season begins Jan. 29, with a format change to three-man teams. Team captains must attend; team members' attendance is optional. For more information, call JJ Jones at 884-4097.



Fit Eagle Competition

The Fit Eagle Competition, a fitness battle between squadrons, will be held March 7 at the main fitness center. Units may enter two teams. A team captains' meeting is Feb. 5 at the center. People should contact their unit sports representative for more information.

Spring sports

Spring intramural sports begin in March and April. People interested in joining a team for soccer, softball and/or volleyball should contact their unit sports representative.