

CDC named best Air Force-wide

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

The awards just keep coming and Hurlburt Field's Child Development Center joins the list after being named best Air Force Child Development Program of the Year for 2003.

The award recognizes the program demonstrating the best leadership, management, customer focus and operational results during the past year.

The 16th Mission Support Group commander said he isn't surprised the CDC earned this honor.

"Ask any of our CDC family team members and they'll tell you every day they're part of the best CDC in the Air Force," said Col. Hubert Griffin, 16th MSG commander. "It's just finally been documented and recognized by the Air Force. Our child development center family share themselves with our base children and make everyone's world a much better place to live. We're proud that they've finally received the recognition they justly deserve, but we all know they've been the number one CDC in the Air Force for quite some time."

Lori Anderson, 16th Services Squadron family member support flight chief, credits several people for their hard work and dedication, but she believes the main reason the CDC was selected is due to the leadership and vision of Donna Love, the CDC director.

"She's a true child advocate who bases every decision on what's best for the children," Ms. Anderson said. "She came to this

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Carrie Hinson

Four Air Force Special Operators were presented Silver Stars by the Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche during a ceremony July 3. The airmen were among the Air Force Special Operators who were presented awards for their heroic actions during Operation Enduring Freedom.

SecAF presents OEF awards to Commandos

By Tech. Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller
AFSOC Public Affairs

On the eve of celebrating America's independence, the Secretary of the Air Force presented medals to Air Force Special Operators for their roles in preserving freedom.

Dr. James Roche joined Lt. Gen. Paul Hester, Air Force Special Operations Command commander, in an awards ceremony at the Freedom Hangar here July 3 to recognize the contribution of 30 Air Commandos in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

"These men before you do not think of themselves as heroes," said General

Hester during the ceremony. "There is no doubt their actions were indeed heroic."

Secretary Roche and General Hester presented four Silver Stars, 13 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 12 Bronze Stars with Valor and a Purple Heart to Air Force Special Operators from across the command.

"I am proud to stand before you, among the Quiet Professionals of Air Force Special Operations Command," said the secretary. "You have executed high-risk missions, night and day, in any environment. You are nothing short of remarkable – you and the capabilities you deliver have been the emerging linchpin for the joint warfighting team."

The secretary applauded the award recipients as a proud representation of all Air Force Special Operators.

"Since the onset of our nation's global war on terrorism, you have shown an unwavering commitment to mission success," he said. "Though the future road is uncertain, the brave airmen before us – and all they represent – instill confidence in the fact America will prevail."

Standing near a wooden tribute dedicated to the seven Air Commandos who were killed supporting the war on terrorism, Secretary Roche reminded the audience crowded into the hangar that freedom comes at a price.

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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 SOW commander

Know how to use boat flares

By Tech. Sgt. George Meeker
16th SOW Safety Office

How many boaters know how to use their boat flares?

While many flares may look similar, their firing mechanisms and instructions vary. Reading the instructions can be challenging in a stressful situation, especially after dark. Throw in a bouncing boat, or worse yet an injured boater struggling in the water to fire off a flare for the first time – well, you get the picture.

Frank Amodeo, an executive at Orion, a major manufacturer of visual distress signals, discussed the high-stress factor that normally accompanies a real flare use situation. He has instructed couples on how to use a distress flare in a classroom environment, and even though both individuals indicated that they understood how to use the device, when they faced the class to demonstrate their new knowledge, they became flustered. If facing people made them nervous, imagine the stress level during an actual on-the-water crisis. That's why it's so important for boaters and crewmembers to not only know their flares, but be comfortable with them. If you don't, things can easily turn into chaos in an emergency.

Case in point, last boating season, a Grand Haven Coast Guard crew responded to a vessel in distress. The coxswain

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What will I get out of it?

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Imagine getting a phone call at 1:30 a.m. and then again at 3:30 a.m. on the weekend asking you to drive across town because the person on the other line is intoxicated and needs a ride home. Believe it or not, this is a real-life scenario. As a volunteer for the Airmen Against Drunk Driving program, the phone calls are not uncommon.

AADD is just one volunteer opportunity for airmen to get involved with and look out for their wingmen. It's not a glamorous activity – you don't get 'thank you' gifts or base wide recognition every time one more intoxicated person is taken off the street. But is that the reason you're doing it in the first place?

Unfortunately, volunteers aren't rewarded with special recognition every time they serve. With service, does come reward, but not always in the form of public recognition, Air Force coins or monetary gifts.

Instead of asking, "What will I get out of it," you should be asking, "How can I help; Who can I help; and When do you need my help?"

In other words, don't go into a volunteer situation with the wrong attitude, or you'll miss the personal benefits. Sure, maybe you won't get a pat on the back from your commander – or maybe you will – but the people you help will certainly appreciate

the extra assistance.

Throughout the base are many unsung volunteers. From the goodness of their hearts, they give their time, talents and assistance to help fellow airmen accomplish their mission and make a difference in the community.

However, the base can always use more helping hands. Rewards and recognition are never guaranteed, but the sense of pride you can receive from knowing your time helped make a difference, is a reward in itself.

From the words of John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." On that same note, but closer to home: don't ask what Hurlburt Field can do for you; ask what you can do for Hurlburt Field.

Although you aren't always given the recognition or appreciation for the things you do on base, it's not to say you don't deserve it. But, if you want to volunteer, you have to be willing to give without necessarily receiving.

If you don't know where to get started, here are a few organizations always looking for volunteers: AADD, Airman's Council, Habitat for Humanity and Bob Hope Retirement Village.

Special Operations airmen are "quiet professionals," who're rarely able to be recognized publically for heroism. So, don't be afraid to give your time even if you become a "quiet volunteer?"

Centennial of flight

Centennial of flight – 159 days away
Pioneers of flight:

Eilmer of Malmesbury
By Dr. Richard Hallion

The first known serious flight attempt in world history occurred about a thousand years before the Wright brothers, in western England. Then, a young Benedictine monk leapt with a crude pair of cloth wings from a watchtower of a

church abbey at the beginning of the eleventh

century. This monk, known to history as Eilmer of Malmesbury, covered a furlong – a distance of approximately 600 feet – before landing heavily and breaking both legs. Afterwards, he remarked that the cause of his crash was that "he had forgotten to provide himself with a tail."

We know of Eilmer's attempt through the writings of a historian, William of Malmesbury, who mentions the flight in

passing. Of more interest to William was that Eilmer, late in his life, was the first person to spot a comet, which people then credited as being an omen of the Norman invasion of England by William the Conqueror.



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NEWS



Photo courtesy of the 10th Special Forces Group

General capture

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM – Special Operations Forces escort a retired Iraqi general to an awaiting MH-53 PAVE LOW at a forward location. The general was transported to a location where he was debriefed regarding Saddam Hussein's forces.

Spotlight on ...

William McLaren III

Rank/Duty Title:

Master sergeant/logistics plans superintendent

Organization:

16th Maintenance Squadron

Hometown:

Yonkers, N.Y.

Hobbies:

Spending time with family, computers, martial arts

and weight lifting

Contribution to the mission:

As his unit's newest senior NCO, Sergeant McLaren pinned on his rank June 1.

The sergeant is his commander's immediate expert on all matters regarding unit deployment and mobility issues. On duty on a 24/7 basis to execute short-notice taskings, he provides direct deployment support to active-duty and Reserve members under the Reserve association concept.

In support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Sergeant McLaren coordinated airlift requirements for more than 110,000 pounds of cargo and 45 people. For Operation Enduring Freedom, he has directly managed the deployments of more than 240 people and 150,000 pounds of cargo since Sept. 11, 2001.

(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.)

353rd SOG NCO earns Air Force honors

By Master Sgt. Michael Farris
353rd SOG Public Affairs

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan – It's Staff Sgt. Stephen Garrett's job to ensure members of the 353rd Special Operations Group get through the countless deployments by preventing disease and injury in austere environments.

For his effort in 2002, he earned the Air Force Col. Cleveland Parker Award, an annual honor conferred on the Air Force's top public health noncommissioned officer.

"In a way, I'm lucky to be in a target-rich environment," Sergeant Garrett said. "There are a lot of critters and bugs in this part of the world that can knock you down."

Sergeant Garrett, assigned to the 353rd Operations Support Squadron, researches disease threats in nations where the group deploys and prepares comprehensive intelligence products for the deployed commander. Threats such as malaria, dengue fever, SARS and tuberculosis are examples of diseases he investigates.

While deployed, Sergeant Garrett studies insect populations to determine the risk level. By trapping and collecting



Photo by Master Sgt. Michael Farris

Staff Sgt. Stephen Garrett, 353rd Operations Support Squadron, checks a water sample. The sergeant earned honors as the Air Force's top public health NCO of the year.

vector specimen (usually mosquitoes and rodents), he can determine what types of disease threats there are, where they're concentrated, and make recommendations on how to abate the threat.

"I also educate local food service

workers on preparation practices that put our uniformed troops at risk," he said. "The last thing our deployed warriors need is a food borne illness outbreak. I'm trained in epidemiology, but I'd rather cut illness off at the pass before it can get to that point."

Sergeant Garrett traveled to Zamboanga, Philippines, during Operation Enduring Freedom – Philippines as part of the initial package and cleared the environment before the main deployment arrived.

Typically public health workers don't practice patient care; Sergeant Garrett is not typical. He's uniquely trained as one of a few public health workers in the Air Force who're also emergency medical technicians.

Arriving at Kadena in 2001, Sergeant Garrett was the first public health craftsman assigned to the unit and built his program from scratch.

"It was a great experience because I was forced to apply training in every aspect of my job. I had to buy equipment, create schedules and policies and set up my office from zero," he said.

As part of his public health duties, he's also the resident expert on nuclear-biological-chemical decontamination of injured war fighters. **(AFSOC NEWS)**

AIR FORCE NEWS

AAFES waiting on certified uniform fabric

DALLAS – Delays in getting certified fabric have backed up production of selected Air Force and Army optional uniforms.

Those items include Air Force polyester/wool blend shirts and blouses, polyester slacks and skirts, mess dress uniforms and officer service coats sold through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. The shortages are expected to continue through fall, AAFES officials said.

Lengthened delivery times on certified fabrics have caused the shortage. Burlington Industries, the sole certified manufacturer of nearly every fabric used in military uniforms, has been reorganizing under Chapter 11 during the past year.

As part of their reorganization plan, they've become a "made-to-order" supplier, causing fabric-delivery times

to increase from five-to-six weeks to six months or more. There's now a four-to-five month gap in the pipeline, officials said.

Uniforms produced by Army and Air Force-certified manufacturers with certified fabrics are the only uniforms sold in military clothing sales stores.

AAFES isn't authorized to use other fabrics or purchase optional uniforms from companies that don't meet approved supplier requirements, AAFES officials said.

AAFES officials continue to work with the Air Force and Army clothing and textile offices to find additional manufacturers to supply certified fabric, officials said.

In the meantime, military clothing sales store workers are moving merchandise to different stores to meet the immediate needs of military members. (AFPN)

Congress not forsaking the POW/MIA

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. – The quest to account for missing service men from the Vietnam, Korean, Cold Wars and World War II "is unwavering, untiring and won't fail," said Jerry Jennings, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for prisoner of war and missing personnel affairs and director of the defense POW and missing in action office, during the 34th annual National League of Families conclave June 27.

The war against terrorism, including Afghanistan and Iraq, won't diminish the nation's efforts to

account for the missing from past conflicts, said Mr. Jennings.

He said that Congress has made clear that the manpower and the budget of (the POW/MIA office) won't be touched.

The office has more than 600 people of different specialties working every day around the world to account for the more than 88,000 Americans missing from all conflicts, Mr. Jennings said.

"In another new initiative, I've invited senior policy-level representatives from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to attend POW/MIA consultations in Bangkok, Thailand, in October," Mr. Jennings said.

Mr. Jennings foresees the countries exchanging ideas, fostering greater cooperation and ultimately getting information about the missing.

"American veterans organizations have already offered support for this initiative," he said.

He said efforts are underway to allow declassification of some Russian military records from the Vietnam War era.

"In recent months, the Russians have provided us with excerpts of classified materials that we're correlating with our own records relating to American loss incidents," Mr. Jennings concluded.

AF revises selective reenlistment bonuses

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Putting incentives where they're needed most, the Air Force recently revised reenlistment bonuses, adding or increasing 40 career field zones and decreasing or removing 100.

The criteria used for determining which enlisted skills receive an SRB includes current and projected skill and total manning levels; reenlistment rates and category of enlistment, career field force structure changes, and inputs from functional career field managers. SRBs are authorized in 0.5 increments (or, multiples) and in three reenlistment zones for personnel with between 17 months and 14 years of service.

The revised AFSC listing of SRB skills includes 12

Zone A (17 months to 6 years of service), 14 Zone B (6-10 years of service), and seven Zone C (10-14 years of service) multiplier increases; two Zone A, four Zone B, and one Zone C addition, and 38 Zone A, 20 Zone B and five Zone C multiplier decreases from the previous list published in January 2002.

Ten Zone A, 15 Zone B and 12 Zone C SRBs were deleted; two new AFSCs were added and 10 AFSCs were deleted in either Zones A, B, C or some combination.

For more information about the Selective Re-enlistment Bonus Program or a complete listing of affected AFSCs, visit the Air Force Personnel Center Web site www.afpc.randolph.af.mil. (AFPC)

News Briefs

Avoid becoming a statistic during the 101 critical days

Six of the 10 safety-related deaths in the AF during this year's 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign were motorcycle riders.

While the trend in motorcycle accidents involving airmen is alarming, it's important to remember the potential for deaths involving four-wheeled vehicles and work-related mishaps as well.

People returning from deployment may be especially vulnerable. In the 101 critical days following combat operations in the 1991 Gulf War, the Air Force lost 42 airmen to needless mishaps – twice the average of summer mishaps for the previous five years.

To avoid becoming an accident victim:

- Always assess the risk; look at all risk factors
- Make smart decisions based on the risk assessment
- Take the Air Force motorcycle safety training course
- Always wear a seat belt while operating a motor vehicle

All-Volunteer Force improves Air Force quality

The United States celebrated the 30th anniversary of the All-Volunteer Force July 1. Up until it was established in 1973, the United States depended on the involuntary draft, a system which required draftees to spend two years in active military service.

In the late 1960s, the draft came under intense scrutiny. The American public viewed the draft with growing dissatisfaction and a sense of inequity. As a result, the Secretary of Defense established the All-Volunteer Force, which Congress approved in 1973.

The all-voluntary military force:

- Resulted in people having to stay in uniform longer
- Called for the military to focus on improving training, education and quality of life
- Necessitated the development of the recruiting force

Look who's talking: What's a childhood dream or goal that you've accomplished?

"I dreamed of having a healthy, loving family. I also dreamed of being successful in whatever I did."

"I dreamed of becoming a heavy equipment operator, and now I am doing that for the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron."

"I wanted to go to California, and I did it!"

Airmen reach out to AF widows

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Twelve volunteers from the 16th Special Operations Wing Plans and Programs office recently adopted one of the four wings at Bob Hope Village, Shalimar, to extend helping hands to the residing enlisted widows.

"Gathering everyone from the office was a good boost for morale and a great teambuilding opportunity," said Master Sgt. Daniel McMullan, 16th SOW/XP, village volunteer.

Arriving at 8 a.m. and working until noon, the crew tackled six enlisted widows' "honey-do lists," which required several maintenance projects the women were unable to do themselves.

Some of the projects included: repairing broken furniture and wall units; painting; moving heavy boxes; rebuilding a wishing well; cleaning closets; installing a weather vane; hanging curtain rods; and running telephone lines.

However, the most immediate need for all the village residents was a thorough gutter cleaning. Because of the massive amount of rainfall in the area, the village gutters had filled with sticks, leaves, and other rubbish and had clogged the drainage system.

"The rubbish had fallen into the walkway, and the sidewalks had become slippery," Sergeant McMullan said. "Staff Sgt. John Weaver and Tech. Sgt. Greg Smith climbed on the roof and cleaned out the gutters with hoses. When they had finished, Master Sgt. Mick Cook installed new gutter guards provided by the village."

Although the airmen did a large amount of manual labor in those four hours, they also spent time fellowshiping with the widows eating lunch and sampling desserts.

"Sometimes they just need someone to talk to or listen to them – so that's what we did," Sergeant Smith said.

For example, to assist one particular resident, who had been in the area for only six months, the crew gave her directions to several businesses in the local area to help her meet her daily needs.

"It felt good to give something not just for the Air Force community, but for the people that needed it," Sergeant Cook said.

Although the base has adopted a few Bob Hope Village wings, there are still several residents in need of assistance.

"If several organizations adopted a wing, we could make a huge impact on the residents there," Sergeant Smith said. "Besides, it's overdue that we as enlisted members return the favor for the sacrifices they've made."

As "foster parents" of the wing, the 16th SOW/XP office plans to visit residents each quarter to provide for them in any way they can.

For more information about volunteering with Bob Hope Village, visit www.afenlistedwidows.org.

FLARES, Continued from Page 2

directed the distressed captain to fire off a flare. He did, but unfortunately he fired it into his overhead canopy. The live flare ricocheted onto the deck and hissed around his feet.

Hey, it can happen to anyone – even the Coast Guard. On board a Coast Guard 41-foot utility boat conducting pyrotechnic signal drills, an inexperienced seaman fired off an Mk 127 parachute flare into the cabin of another nearby Coast Guard boat also participating in the drill. My intention isn't to imply that the Coast Guard is careless with their pyrotechnics – rather, it's to show that visual distress signals demand your utmost attention and knowledge, especially under stressful conditions.

You can accomplish this by reviewing the instructions that accompany your Coast Guard-approved flares. Take some time while sitting around your moorings, especially if you have family and friends aboard, to discuss the instructions, and how each of you would help each other with signaling duties in an emergency. What you learn might surprise you. But, what you don't know about your flares might surprise you even more.

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Boys fight hamburger fire to save base housing

By Don Savidge
16th CES fire prevention educator

The evening of June 22 was like any other at the Simmons residence, on Tupelo Circle in Hurlburt Field family housing.

But for two basketball-playing boys, the night held more excitement than shooting a few hoops.

Shortly before 7 p.m., Charlotte Simmons was preparing a hamburger dinner when she realized it was time to pick up her husband Jason, from work.

While the two boys, Brenten, 12, and Preston, 6, played basketball in the driveway and Mrs. Simmons' 14-year-old daughter, Melissa, played games in her bedroom with two friends, she turned off the front burner of her electric stove, slid the pan of hamburgers to the rear burner and was on her way, pausing to tell Melissa she was going to pick-up her

father and say goodbye to the boys on her way out of the driveway.

Things weren't as ordinary as they seemed.

While the Simmons children were playing, the house began to fill with black smoke. Mrs. Simmons had mistakenly turned the rear burner on, instead of turning the front burner off, and the pan of hamburgers soon heated until it was melting the faceplate of the stove, and flames were beginning to spread.

When Melissa heard the smoke detector and ran to the kitchen to investigate, she found heat and smoke filling the room. Immediately, she called for the assistance of her brothers.

Without hesitation, Brenten and Preston decided to fight the fire with a portable extinguisher, while Melissa evacuated her friends and the family dog, Maverick.

Brenten pulled the pin out of the

extinguisher, aimed the nozzle and squeezed the discharge handle. Within seconds the flames were controlled, then extinguished. By now Melissa had evacuated everyone from the home.

The quick, decisive actions of Brenten and Preston saved a \$111,000 housing unit from certain destruction and limited fire damage to the stove, which was covered under manufacturer warranty.

"I wanted to save my house," said Brenten, after the fire. "It was very smoky, but I knew the extinguisher was in the pantry. My dad taught me how to use the extinguisher, so I did. It was scary, and exciting!"

Jason Simmons used his firefighting background to train the entire family in the use of portable fire extinguishers, while Mrs. Simmons had attended the Fire Prevention Housing Briefing, where she was trained in the use and inspection

of her portable extinguisher.

This fire illustrates the importance of fire prevention and fire extinguisher training. The key element in saving the house was education of the family members living in it.

Prior to this incident the Simmons family made sure their portable fire extinguisher was serviceable and ready for use, and showed everyone its exact location.

Every member of the Hurlburt Field community should be confident in their ability to operate portable extinguishers, and in the proper use and activation of the 911 fire reporting system.

All fires must be reported to the Hurlburt Field Fire Department regardless of size, along with the person responsible for extinguishing the fire.

Fire extinguisher training is held at the base fire department, next to the control tower, Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

CDC, Continued from Page 1

job four years ago with a commitment of providing world class child care in a world class child development center. She expects no less and accepts no less. The CDC has even adopted her motto, 'when you stop getting better, you stop being good.'

The dedicated staff continues to prove their commitment to the children and the CDC by ensuring all the needs of the children are taken care of by creating an environment so the children can learn and achieve.

With the help of staff members, parents and several base organizations, the CDC

was able to create a one of a kind schoolyard habitat that laid the foundation for early learning in ecology, botany, biology and zoology.

Parents also developed a "Reverse Field Trip" program by organizing visits to the CDC from the local zoo, fire department, dental clinic and Native American dancers, which offered the children hands on learning without leaving the base.

"This award isn't just for the CDC," Ms. Love said, "it's an award for the entire base. It takes the support of everyone - parents, volunteers, fire department, public health, safety, civil engineers, medical group, youth center, family child care, base leadership and a host of other sup-

porters to achieve this type of recognition. We all feel very grateful and lucky to be working at a base that recognizes the value of quality care for young children."

This Air Force-level award recognizes the tremendous work the CDC staff accomplished over the last year, according to Lt. Col. Chris Wright, 16th SVS commander.

"It recognizes the superb support of the many AFSOC (Air Force Special Operations Command), 16th SOW (Special Operations Wing) organizations and the active parents who help take care of our children every day," Colonel Wright said. "This award truly defines the meaning of One Team, One Fight!"



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson

Children play at the Hurlburt Field Child Development Center.

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"As we gather to honor these men today, let us not forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice," said the secretary. "Thomas Jefferson reminded us that 'The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.' The spirits (of our all our fallen comrades) are with us today."

Following the ceremony, one award recipient said the honor is not in the medal but in serving.

"Earning a medal is not something any of us strives to do," said Tech. Sgt. James Hotaling, an Air Force Reservist who earned the Bronze Star with Valor for actions during Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan. "When the bullets are flying, it's a test of how you and your training will answer. If you look around in this

room you can see every Special Operator knows the answer and rose to the challenge."

Silver Star

The Silver Star is awarded by all branches of the Armed Forces to any person who, while serving in any capacity, is cited for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly forces against an opposing Armed Force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Distinguished Flying Cross

The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to any officer or enlisted man of the Armed Forces of the United States who shall have distinguished himself in

actual combat in support of operations by "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight, subsequent to Nov. 11, 1918."

Bronze Star with Valor

The Bronze Star is awarded to a person in any branch of the military service who, while serving in any capacity with the Armed Forces of the United States on or after Dec. 7, 1941, shall have distinguished himself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. A bronze "V" on the ribbon denotes combat service.

Purple Heart

The Purple Heart is conferred on any person wounded in action while serving with the Armed Forces of the United States.

FEATURE

Nation's birthday celebrated early

By Airman 1st Class
Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Despite the sporadic rainfalls, more than 12,000 people gathered at the Soundside July 3 to participate in the festivities in honor of the nation's birthday.

From 2 to 11 p.m., military personnel, family and friends poured in from all over the community to enjoy a day of food, fun and entertainment sponsored by the 16th Services Squadron, and made possible by the Special Operations Forces.

"It took the entire base to put on an event of this caliber successfully," said Melanie Wilson, 16th SVS marketing director.

Throughout the cloudy afternoon, guests roamed the area in search of funnel cakes, ice cream and a variety of other treats provided by 31 squadrons and a few private organizations.

When guests weren't indulging in the scrumptious delicacies, they were playing games, petting animals and or being entertained by the guest bands and disc jockeys.

For the children, there were several inflatable rides, including the moonwalk, the caterpillar crawl and the huge 40-foot high slide. Other popular attractions included the climbing wall,

the basketball challenge and the rings of fun.

Guests of all ages enjoyed the petting zoo, where they could feed goats, chickens, rabbits and miniature horses. The children were also able to take short pony rides.

While some guests chose to meander and explore various game booths, some chose to participate in the event contests.

For the younger children, there was a hula-hooping contest, and the adults participated in a dance contest. Both contest winners were awarded a floppy, stars and stripes, "Uncle Sam," top hat.

Although most of the activities were everyday carnival features, the Cardboard Boat Regatta is a Hurlburt Field original. At 6 p.m., 21 participants lugged their man-made vessels to the water's edge as hundreds gathered on the dock and grassy nulls.

"This was the largest turn-out we've had for the boat regatta," said Jerry Romano, 16th SVS.

Some of the results are as follows: the 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron took the overall win; the 16th SVS summer lifeguards were awarded for the ugliest boat; the 18th Flight Test Squadron was awarded the most unique boat; and the 16th

SVS' boat sank first.

To complete the Independence Day event, the Hurlburt Field Honor Guard presented the Colors, while Airman 1st Class Ted Sim, 16th Communications Squadron, sang the National Anthem.

Next was the Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show, hosted by Lee LeCaptain and Fred Saykly, four-time log rolling champions. There were two bleachers packed with guests and small crowds on either side awaiting the ax throwing contest, the sawing competition and the log rolling competition between the commanders.

With a mixture of comedy and crowd participation, the lumberjack show was a sure crowd pleaser, and Col. Raymond Killgore, 16th Special Operations Wing vice commander, was named the log rolling champion.

To finish off the day's events was a spectacular fireworks display with crowds gathered all over the beach, the dock and grassy areas.

"This has been the best 4th of July ever," said Tara Sawyer, Sound of Independence visitor. "Usually my family travels to Fort Belvoir, Va., for the festivities, but today's events topped all those other years."



Photos by Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis

Children compete for first place in the hula hoop contest for children six years-old and under.



The Blinders (above) entertain guests with a variety of different genres of music. Children feed the goats at the Sound of Independence petting zoo (below).



Lee LeCaptain (left) and Fred Saykly entertain the crowd with a sawing competition during the Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show.

Base Protestant youth branch out to serve

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Seven Special Operations Youth and five adults from the Hurlburt Field Chapel ventured out to Ward 8 district in Selma, Ala., June 8 – 14 to participate in a national work camp with other youth groups all over the country and Japan as well.

More than 170 youth and 50 adults – from around the United States and Canada – teamed together to meet the needs of the poorest district in Selma.

The Deep South Workcamp, which was sponsored locally by the Jonathan Daniels Community Development Corporation, was an attempt by the city to improve current living conditions of the residents.

Selma residents applied to have improvements done to their homes and were chosen based on the need and their yearly income.

Most of the residents are elderly seniors, who live on a minimal income, according to Monica McCain, Hurlburt Chapel adult leader.

The chapel youth saw the need for volunteers and responded to the call.

However, in order for the SOY to participate in the event, it would cost each of them \$365. To help relieve the cost of the trip, they sold "stock certificates" for \$10 each.

Each person who bought a certificate became a stockholder for the trip. In doing so, the person promised to support, encourage and pray for the youth while

they were away.

Donations from the Sunday morning chapel services also assisted in the costs. With the needed money raised, the youth set off on their 240-mile trip to Selma.

Once all participants arrived, they were divided into work groups with a specific job for each person.

The various youth groups were intermingled with the purpose of everyone learning new skills and forming new friendships.

"It was an interesting set-up, but quite effective," Ms. McCain said.

All campers worked steadily each day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the blistering heat to make repairs to 30 houses, impacting 125 family members.

In addition, they provided the community with \$40,000 worth of business by buying the needed supplies from local merchants within the Selma community.

"The teens who have graced our town (this week) are a dream come true for some fortunate local home dwellers," said a local in the Selma Times-Journal.

Several of the projects completed throughout the week included: sheetrock; replacing shingles on rooftops; exterior and interior painting.

The youth also: built outside porches, step rails and handicap ramps outside; put up drywall; trimmed trees; and built kitchen counters.

In all, the SOY worked approximately 430 service hours.

While all the SOY participated in the housing repairs, they were each given

additional duties to ensure the readiness of the group.

A few examples include: organizing supplies; monitoring lunch and water supplies; bringing a devotional to lunch; or updating the staff on morale issues and the completion of the work.

"The house repairs were strenuous, and that kind of labor was a first for many of the children – and some of the adults as well," Ms. McCain said.

"The key for us was a willingness to serve and learn," she continued.

The community recognized the servant attitudes of the youth and came out in full force to welcome them, Ms. McCain said.

Throughout the week, they showed their gratitude by: joining the youth in their nightly worship services; organizing a picnic for them at the YMCA at the expense of the city.

The community also hosted a lunch at the community center, where they provided music, food and fellowship.

"Thanks for blessing us with your presence and at the same time, helping our residents," said a local in the Selma Times-Journal.

After returning from the trip, the youth gave a slide presentation to the church in joint service June 27.

Both the youth and the leaders gave many testimonies of how the trip impacted their view on service to others.

The youth are now planning for the next annual mission trip to another state-side location, Mexico or Puerto Rico.



Courtesy photo

Monica McCain (bottom) steadies the ladder as a Hurlburt Field Special Operations youth paints a house in Selma, Ala.

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



Girls

Megan Grace Chandler was born March 1, daughter of Staff Sgt. Jeffrey and Nicole Chandler, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Morgan Ryleigh Hoar was born June 11, daughter of Tech. Sgt. David and Lynn Hoar, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron

Abigail Paige Brown was born June 12, daughter of Staff Sgt. Richard and Stacy Brown, 16th Communications Squadron

Charis Brooke Seligman was born June 15, daughter of Capt. Charles and Stacey Seligman, 16th Special Operations Wing Hurlburt Field Chapel

Boys

Camren Orlando Moreno was born June 14, son of Senior Airman Sanita and Alfredo Moreno, 16th Medical Operations Squadron

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LIFESTYLE

Military

AFC2TIG change of command

The Air Force Command and Control Training and Innovation Group holds a change of command ceremony Wednesday at 9 a.m. at the Hurlburt Field Air Park. During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Andrew Mueller will assume command from Col. Kevin Dunleavy. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held at the Soundside. For more information, call Capt. Danny Cooper at 881-9042.

AFCWC change of command

The Air Force Combat Weather Center invites everyone to attend a change of command ceremony at 9 a.m. July 28 at the AFCWC Hangar, where Lt. Col. John Shattuck will assume command of the AFCWC from Lt. Col. Michael Hemler. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Melissa Lewis at 881-2500.

NCOA meeting

Hurlburt Field's Noncommissioned Officer Association Chapter holds its monthly meeting July 26 at 6 p.m. at J.R. Rockers' Daytona Room. Members are invited to attend and bring a friend. Topics to be covered include: upcoming base/community events and general discussions on membership and the chapter focus. Also, the chapter is currently undergoing membership recall to bring back past and local members. For more information, call Master Sgt. Bob Love at 884-4995, or retired Chief Master Sgt. John Greer at 939-6659.

NY Air Guard

The 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, N.Y., home of the C-130 ski-birds, has traditional Guard vacancies in the following career fields: 2A3X3, 2A5X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2A7X3, 2E1X3, 2F0X1, 2T0X1, 2T1X1, 3E0X1, 3E3X1, 3E4X1, 3E9X1, 3S0X1, 3S1X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 4A0X1, 4A2X1, and 6F0X1, as well as, full-time active-duty opportunities in 2A5X1.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Wes Ryerson, 109 AW/DPR, at DSN 344-2456, e-mail wesley.ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil or call 1-800-524-5070.

AFSA meeting

The Air Force Sergeant's Association Chapter 567 holds a general membership meeting Thursday at 3 p.m. at J.R. Rockers. For more information, call Bernadette Garces at 884-7633.

SNCO induction ceremony

The Hurlburt Field Chiefs Group and the Hurlburt Field Top 3 Council co-sponsor the 2003 Senior Noncommissioned Officers Induction Ceremony Aug. 8 at 2 p.m. at the Soundside. Reservations should be made no later than July 28 by calling Master Sgt. Paula Jackson at 884-1233 or e-mailing paula.jackson@hurlburt.af.mil, or Tech. Sgt. Margie Lusher at 884-6910 or by e-mailing margie.lusher@hurlburt.af.mil.

SrAs and NCOs needed

The Air Force is looking for sharp senior airmen and Noncommissioned officers to cross-train into the Manpower and Organization career field, 3U0X1. If you're available to cross-train and are interested in a

challenging, high visibility and rewarding career in an area of Human Resource Management, e-mail ramon.rogado@hurlburt.af.mil.

Community

Spec Ops course

The Joint Special Operations University invites all personnel who're new, returning or professionally affiliated with the U.S. Special Operations Command to attend the Introduction to Special Operations Course July 22 ñ 25 here. During the course, ISOC will provide military and civilian members with a joint understanding of SOF, to include: the structure, assets and capabilities. It presents first-hand accounts of direct action SOF missions and lessons learned, to include pro and con observations. There will be several guest speakers who'll give an in-depth analysis of Special Operations missions.

For information on seating availability, call Joyce Weber at 884-4731. If you don't have reservations and would like to attend, contact your unit-training manager and arrive at 7 a.m. for space available seating ñ ifirst come, first served. For more information about ISOC, visit www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/usafsos, or call 1st Lt. James Rigsbee at 884-6861.

CCAF transcript policy change

The Community College of the Air Force will no longer accept AF Forms 2099 from active-duty, Guard or Reserve service members. Instead, students can order transcripts at the Air Force Virtual Education Center at www.afvec.langley.af.mil/afvec. However, separated or retired individuals who are using Veterans Association education offices may continue to submit the forms, but it needs to be accompanied by a written request.

Also, civilian transcripts will only be accepted directly from civilian institutions. This will help eliminate lost transcripts and allow students more control over the process by checking the AFVEC Web site to confirm their transcripts were received and follow up with their education counselor if necessary. For more information, call the education office at 884-6724.

Munch and Mend

The Hurlburt Chapel hosts Munch and Mend Monday, where service members can enjoy a free home-cooked meal while having minor repairs or stripes, name tags or patches sewn on one article of clean clothing. For more information, call Bill White at 884-7371, or Jimmie Thomas at 881-3344.

Tools for School

Sharing and Caring, Inc. is currently preparing for the 2003-2004 iTools for Schools' drive, which provides school supplies for children in the community whose families can't afford the required items. The community can participate through a donation of school supplies or through monetary means. Donations can be brought to the Sharing and Caring office, located at 104 Bullock Avenue in Niceville. The items can also be picked up.

The drive ends July 31, and the items will be distributed Aug. 2. If a student is in need of supplies, they can register at the Sharing and Caring office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call Sharing and Caring at 678-8459, or Delle Diamon at 897-1565.

Hurlburt Field Chapel 884-7795



Catholic Mass

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

Protestant Services

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

Religious Education: August ñ May
Youth and Singles groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center

Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

Jum'ah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'ian: 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 ñ (PG-13) iBruce Almighty,i starring Jim Carrey and Jennifer Aniston ñ Bruce Nolan is discontented with almost everything in life ñ despite his popularity and the love of his girlfriend Grace. At the end of the worst day in his life, Bruce angrily ridicules and rages against God, and God responds. He appears in human form, and endowing Bruce with all of His divine powers, challenges him to take on the big job and try to do it better.

Saturday ñ (PG-13) iThe In-Laws,i starring Albert Brooks and Michael Douglas ñ In this riotous remake of the 1979 comedy, iThe In-Laws,i prospective fathers-in-law Steve and Jerry meet for the first time to celebrate their children's upcoming marriage. After the cake hits the fan, Steve and Jerry discover that they can truly be an effective team.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday and Sunday ñ (PG-13) iThe Italian Job,i starring Mark Wahlberg and Edward Norton ñ Charlie was pleased after pulling off an amazing gold bullion heist from a heavily guarded palazzo in Venice, Italy. The plan was flawless; the job was executed perfectly; and the escape was clean. The only threat Charlie didn't see coming was that a member of his own crew could be a double-crosser. Now the job isn't about the payoff, it's about payback!

Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m. ñ (G) iFinding Nemo,i animated film ñ Marlin desperately searches the sea for his missing son, Nemo. Little Nemo finds himself in a dentist's fish tank in Sydney, Australia, along with other underwater captives. As Nemo works with his new friends on a plan to escape, Marlin swims closer, but he'll need more than just fins to get into the dentist's office.

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

UWF SBDC workshops

The University of West Florida Small Business Development Center at the Pensacola and Fort Walton Beach locations releases its third quarter workshop schedule. Workshop topics include, but aren't limited to: steps to starting a business; writing business plans; marketing; and record keeping. All workshops are available to the entrepreneurial-minded for a nominal fee.

To make reservations, call 850-595-5480 for the Pensacola location, or 863-6543 for the Fort Walton Beach location. For more information, visit www.sbdc.uwf.edu.

Part Day Enrichment Program

Registration for the child development center's two-days-a-week Part Day Enrichment Program is now until Aug. 15. The program is set for every Tuesday and Thursday, beginning Sept. 2. For more information, call Gwen Gregory at 884-6664.

Education fair

The Fourth Annual Education Fair is Aug. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hurlburt Field Education Building. College representatives from on and off base will be on hand to answer your questions. There'll be door prizes, refreshments and an abundance of educational information. For more information, call Tracy Deming at 581-9840, or e-mail ithurlburt@fwb.gulf.net.

Lawn watering

The Hurlburt Field Housing Office reminds residents to refrain from watering their lawns during wet weather conditions.

BCAA fashion show

The Black Cultural Awareness Association sponsors a fashion show Aug. 9 at Eglin Air Force Base's NCO club. Social hour begins at 7 p.m., and the fashion show starts at 8 p.m. The cost is \$10 and includes hor d'oeuvres. For more information or to purchase tickets call:

Felecia Brake at 882-3148, ext. 603; Pam Hasberry at 882-4136; Ruby Dunson at 882-6518; Staff Sgt. Charles Gray at 884-7523.

Clinic closures

The 16th Medical Group will close today at 11 a.m. for an official function. Normal clinic operations will occur from 7 to 11 a.m. Eglin Air Force Base's emergency room will be available during the closure, if necessary. Normal clinic hours will resume Monday.

OWCC fall registration

Registration for the fall semester at Okaloosa-Walton Community College begins Monday and Tuesday at OWCC centers here and at Eglin Air Force Base for active-duty military and base employees. Returning OWCC students may enroll by Internet starting July 21. New students may enroll online beginning July 28. For more information, call OWCC at 729-6922.

OU careers available

Base personnel interested in a career in human resource management and organizational development can pursue a Master of Human Relations degree with the University of Oklahoma here. A flexible class format allows students to complete an entire class in only one week. For more information, call the OU office at 581-3000, or e-mail aphurlburt@ou.edu.

Hearts Aparts picnic

Hurlburt Field hosts the Hearts Apart Deployed/Remote picnic for the base Hearts Apart families Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hurlburt Field Picnic Area. Families are invited to a free lunch of hotdogs, watermelon and drinks. There will also be music, games, face painting, balloon animals, prizes and more. Those attending are encouraged to bring a covered dish of beans, chips, vegetables or dessert to share with others. For more information or to sign up, call the family support center at 884-5441.

Classes

FSC classes:

For more information, call 884-5441.
Employment Orientation – Monday, 9 a.m.; Wednesday, 1 p.m.
Sponsorship Training – Monday, 1 p.m.
Moms, Pops and Tots – Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.
Résumé Workshop – Tuesday, 5 p.m.
Bundles for Babies – Wednesday, 1 p.m.
Kids Smooth Move – Wednesday, 4 p.m.
Personal Family Readiness – Thursday, 9 a.m.

HAWC classes:

For more information, call 884-4292.
Fitness for Weight Management – Thursday, 8 a.m.
Diabetic Nutrition Follow-Up – Thursday, 1 p.m.
Lean On Me – Thursday, 3 p.m.

Kids Smooth Move

Kids Smooth Move is a class for children ages six to twelve years old. Through a combination of fun activities and videos, children discuss topics like: adjusting to new base assignments; how to make friends; staying in touch with current friends; dealing with feelings; and preparing for the next move.

Employment Orientation

The Employment Orientation is designed to introduce people to local jobs available, books, videos, computer/printer rooms, résumé assistance and everything to assist in finding a job or career.

Personal Family Readiness

Personal Family Readiness is offered to individuals and couples preparing for expected or unexpected temporary duty assignments, deployments and remote tours.

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SPORTS

CE steam-rolls AFSOC, medics 7-2

'If' game determines 2003 Hurlburt Field soccer champions

By Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

The 16th Civil Engineer Squadron intramural team bulldozed the Air Force Special Operations Command/16th Medical Group team 7-2 Wednesday, which forced an "if" game the next day to find out who holds the base soccer crown.

As CE's last chance to take their second soccer top title in a row, the team played the one-hour game hard and fast, paralyzing the medics and AFSOC.

David Mendoza started the massacre for CE, scoring the first goal. A second goal by Paul Rosado gave CE a 2-0 lead until halftime.

Back on the field, Rudi Dipas began his team's offensive with a goal for AFSOC and the medics.

Rosado would have none of it, and took the ball to the goal for CE. One minute later, CE's Nick Banks joined the fun, kicking a ball that rolled off an AFSOC/medic player's head into the goal, for a 4-1 CE lead.

With 10 minutes left in the game and his team falling behind, Dipas answered with another quick goal for AFSOC/medics.

Supercharged CE kicked it into overdrive in the final minutes, with Banks slamming two more goals home, heaping a 6-2 lead. Rosado added the final jeer,



Photos by Senior Airman Sam Taylor

Timothy Gibson, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron (red jersey), battles for the ball Wednesday.

scoring a penalty kick seconds before the endgame whistle.

"The victory of this game gave us another chance to prove who the real champs are," said Rick Chavez, CE coach.

See next week's **COMMANDO** for the results of Thursday's championship match.



Paul Rosado, 16th CES (jumping), soars up to head-butt the ball, giving his team control.

Safe at first

Brian Hellard, Det. 1, 334th Training Squadron (left), runs to first base as Ken France, 16th Component Maintenance Squadron, tries unsuccessfully to tag him out during game one of the over-30 softball championship. Det. 1 won the game 14-7, forcing an "if" game for the championship Thursday.

See next week's **COMMANDO** for the results of Thursday's final game.



Photo by Senior Airman Sam Taylor

2002 Commando Trophy awarded to most athletic units

Col. Frank Kisner, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, awarded the 2002 Commander's Commando Trophy July 2 to the large and small squadrons that performed best in Hurlburt Field sports and fitness programs:

Large squadron –
16th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Small Squadron –
25th Information Operations Squadron

For more information on the Commando Trophy program, call the main fitness center at 884-6884.

Sports shorts

13K relay re-run

The main fitness center is hosting a four-person 13K squadron relay July 18 at 8:30 a.m. Teams must have three males and one female, and runners must be 18 years or older.

Teams must register by Thursday. For more information, call the fitness center at 884-6884.

Youth sports

Registration for youth soccer, flag football and cheerleading continues through Aug. 1. Players and people interested in coaching can sign up at the youth center weekdays, from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$42 for one player, or \$84 for two or more players. Practice begins in late August. For more information, call Jim Harriott at 884-6355.