

## Promotion test change impacts deploying airmen

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** - Commanders of technical and master sergeants facing short notice deployments now have greater flexibility as to when their troops test for promotion.

New overseas manning requirements and the freezing of the Air Expeditionary Force cycle prompted officials to adapt new procedures for deploying airmen.

In the past, the number of airmen receiving deployment orders while in their testing window was small, said Ken Schwartz, chief of the test management section. They were generally required to test before departing, providing they had access to study materials for at least 60 days.

"This cycle, we gave commanders a little more flexibility to say whether a person should test before or after their deployment," he said. "It seemed like the right thing to do to keep WAPS testing in sync with the acceleration of the AEF rhythm."

Now, noncommissioned officers in the current test window, receiving short notice orders, can have their commander delay testing if circumstances warrant, said Mr. Schwartz. Those who delay their testing will test out of cycle when they return.

Officials are also considering the merits of applying this change to those testing for staff sergeant May 1-31. However, no decision has been made.

For more information visit the career enhancements section at the MPF or contact Staff Sgt. Marisa Davis at 884-5402. Also, you can visit the enlisted promotions homepage at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom/>. (AFPN)



Photo by 1st Lt. David Ware

Members of the Hurlburt Field Honor Guard perform a drill demonstration at the 2002 annual awards banquet held in the Freedom Hangar Feb. 21.

## Hurlburt Field honors yearly award winners

by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson  
*Public Affairs*

Eleven Hurlburt Field members were recognized Feb. 21, during the 2002 annual awards banquet held in the Freedom Hangar.

More than 400 people looked on as Col. Raymond Killgore, 16th Special Operations Wing vice commander and Chief Master Sgt. David Force, 16th Mission Support Group superintendent, presented each winner with a plaque and hearty congratulations.

The following people are the 2002 Hurlburt Field Annual Award winners:

**Company Grade Officer**

**Capt. Stephanie Bronson**, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron engineering flight chief, directed 156 RED HORSE technicians/engineers in a fast track construction project. She managed \$28 million in a military construction budget and procured equipment, materials and tools.

Captain Bronson designed the layout of a two million square foot ramp and 3,000 feet of taxiway to expedite aircraft movement.

She's also self-taught on airfield criteria and muni-

**See AWARDS, Page 3**

**Feature**

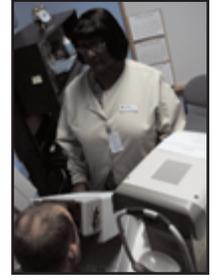


### Toys for tots

353rd Maintenance Squadron makes heartfelt donation

Page 6

**Feature**



### Helpful volunteers

Medical clinic volunteers provide staff assistance

Page 10

**Sports**



### Over 40 basketball

LRS dominates Over 40 championship game

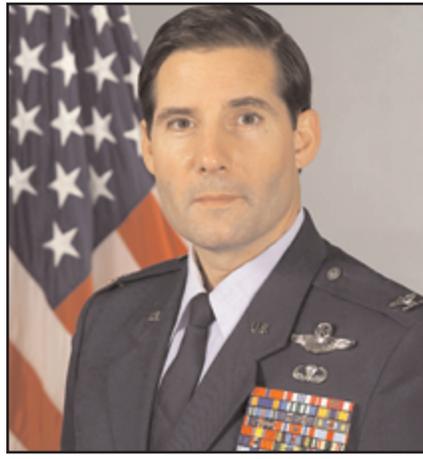
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# VIEWPOINTS

## 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](mailto:commando@hurlburt.af.mil).



**Col. Frank Kisner,**  
**16th SOW commander**

tion, we're unable to support such a measure.

To reduce delays and inconveniences associated with "peak time" traffic, the base has taken a number of measures to expedite the flow of traffic. Unfortunately, despite our best intentions, base commuters will still inevitably experience some delays associated with the increased security measures.

It's important for everyone to understand that the measures are in place to ensure the safety and security of our base and the people who live and work

here. Having said this, we ask that everyone take this into consideration and plan accordingly by allowing for extra time when coming onto the base during peak hours.

## Gate congestion

**Comment:** My concern is the traffic congestion at the back gate. To reduce the delays we're currently experiencing, would it be possible to open the heritage

gate at peak times for entry-only traffic? Thank you.

**Reply:** We appreciate your suggestion, however, due to increased security forces manning requirements associated with the current Force Protection condi-

# Why I joined the military

by **Master Sgt. Richard Burrell**  
**9th Medical Group**

**BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.** – I know you've been asked the question, "Why did you join the military?" I have, and just recently thought about my answer.

To be quite frank, my initial reason for joining the military was selfish. I enlisted Aug. 15, 1985, because I was unsure what I wanted to do with my life. I believed the military would provide me a healthy environment in which to decide.

Take a moment and think back about why you joined the military. I'll bet that most people joined for egocentric reasons similar to mine.

Perhaps you joined the military for the educational benefits. Your plan is to serve four to six years, and then go to college on the Montgomery G.I. Bill when you separate. Maybe your plan is to go to college while in the service, using the benefits of tuition assistance.

Perhaps you wanted to get out of your old hometown. You may have seen the mili-

tary as a ticket to help you leave.

Some of you may have been born with a travel bug and wanted to see the world. What better or cheaper way than to join the service and volunteer for overseas duty?

Or perhaps you were seeking job security. You were looking for a stable occupation that offered yearly increases in salary and paid for your training.

Deciding to join the military and becoming an airman are distinct decisions with very different factors.

When I refer to becoming an airman, I am comparing the internal, conscious commitment to join a common brotherhood and in doing so, forego a commitment to self.

I became an airman because my squadron commander gave me responsibility that exceeded my confidence. He believed I was capable of things that I did

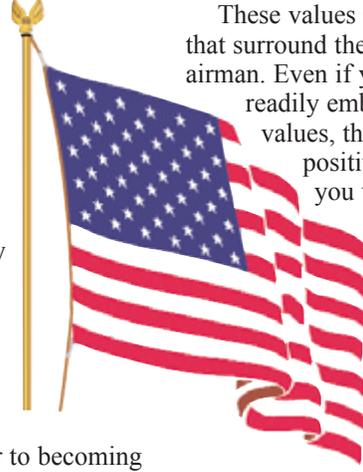
not believe I could do. My desire to not let him down motivated me to accept the challenges he proposed.

I became an airman because Air Force values surrounded my daily life. Hardly a day goes by that I don't hear the words integrity, excellence and service before self.

These values are qualities that surround the life of an airman. Even if you do not readily embrace these values, they have a positive impact on you through time and continued exposure.

I am an airman because I began to faithfully attend quarterly awards functions. It is motivating to see so many highly competent and motivated airmen in the wing performing spectacular tasks. Another realization derived from these ceremonies is the strong unified ties we share with the local community.

I am an airman because, whenever invited, I attend



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# NEWS

## AWARDS, Continued from Page 1

tions quantity distance requirements.

### Company Grade Officer

**Capt. Timothy Childress**, 16th Special Operations Wing executive officer, is a combat decorated flight commander and team leader with the 6th Special Operations Squadron.

He's the Central Asian flight commander for the one of a kind Combat Aviation Advisory Squadron.

As the wing executive officer, Captain Childress was the wing and vice commander's point man on time critical/sensitive issues including promotions, assignments and discharges by ensuring all matters were discreetly and professionally processed.

### Civilian GS 9-12

**Maria Fox**, 16th Contracting Squadron, program manager of government purchase card program, managed a \$24 million program with 1,400 cardholders and billing officials.

Ms. Fox went through three Air Force and Department of Defense audits with no findings and was applauded by auditors for her stellar program.

She redesigned the entire billing official inspection process to ensure surveillance requirements were met. She conducted special training for new billing officials and was one of only six Air Force bases that met the deadline.

### Civilian GS 1 – 8

**Rhonda Gritsavage**, 16th SOW, wing executive editor, ensures wing personnel and their accomplishments are displayed in the best light by helping them earn promotions, awards and decorations.

Ms. Gritsavage processed more than 1,000 Operation Enduring Freedom decorations. She provides command section expertise by reviewing and tracking submissions at the wing level.

### Wage Grade Civilian

**James Volkenand**, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, infrastructure superintendent, responded to several after hour power outages due to damage from lightning storms. He personally repaired primary jumpers that were open on an overhead electrical distribution system. His immediate response prevented the failure of the base LAN and SIPRNET networks.

Mr. Volkenand developed a positive working relationship with base contractors while locating underground utility lines and minimized interruptions to base operations.

### First Sergeant

**Master Sgt. John Brinkley**, 4th Special Operations Squadron, first sergeant, led 280 active-duty members in the largest flying squadron with the highest ops tempo in Air Force Special Operations Command. He advised the squadron commander on enlisted health, welfare, morale and discipline issues during most critical period in squadron's history.

Sergeant Brinkley tackled tough issues of discipline and guidance for personnel in crisis by being fair and compassionate. He helped squadron members put finances in order, overcome marital problems and succeed in training efforts.

### Assistant First Sergeant

**Master Sgt. John Fritz**, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, production superintend-

ent, led AFSOC's largest squadron of 875 personnel as the first sergeant for 110 days. He was the commander's key advisor by providing fair and consistent advise on quality of life and all personnel issues

Sergeant Fritz was selected above 230 senior NCOs to hold the position as first sergeant. He continually proved himself under the most diverse and difficult circumstances by ensuring fairness on 17 Driving Under the Influence cases, 32 non-judicial cases and more than 50 letters of reprimand.

### Senior NCO

**Master Sgt. Danny Compton**, 16th Medical Support Squadron, NCO in charge laboratory services element, helped earn the laboratory accreditation with distinction by the College of American Pathologists. He spearheaded superior quality patient testing and smashed the CAP proficiency testing standard of 80 percent by achieving a 99 percent accuracy rate on 700 tests.

Sergeant Compton initiated a customer satisfaction survey that focused on wait time, service, access to and standard of care provided. The surveys documented the service, convenience and quality of care as excellent.

### NCO

**Tech. Sgt. Erika Mathis**, 16th Medical Operations Squadron, NCO in charge clinical operations, managed the largest flight in the medical group for more than four months during the absence of the NCO in charge. She expertly handled duties of a senior NCO by overseeing the daily operations of 39 enlisted, 17 officers and two civilian staff members.

Sergeant Mathis' clinical knowledge and management skills led to her selection as the medical group's Population Health Director, a position normally held by an officer or the medical provider. She was the number one choice out of more than 30 medical staff members.

### Airman

**Senior Airman Jason Blodzinski**, 23rd Special Tactics Squadron, combat control journeyman, was awarded the Bronze Star with valor for his support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Airman Blodzinski was requested by name to augment the Sea, Air and Land team during their OEF rotation.

He's an articulate spokesman who represents a professional Air Force image. Airman Blodzinski was selected to brief Florida and New Jersey delegates on Special Tactics OEF accomplishments.

### Airman

**Senior Airman Tara Findley**, 4th SOS, load-master and mission scheduler, demonstrated outstanding organizational and planning skills as the deployed combat mission planner. She identified critical obstacles affecting combat mission profiles and developed 30 combat mission aircrew packages.

Airman Findley was commended for her professionalism while demonstrating the AC-130U's unique operating capabilities to a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

*(Editors note: There are two people in the Airman and Company Grade Officer categories because members from tenant units were also recognized at the banquet and will be forwarded through their respective major commands. Some photos of the award winners were not available.)*

## Spotlight on ...



**Ashley Loiselle**

**Rank/Duty Title:** Senior Airman/Status of Resources and Training System Technician  
**Organization:** Air Force Special Operations Command  
**Hometown:** Jeffersonville, N.Y.

**Contribution to the mission:**  
Airman Loiselle assists all AFSOC active-duty units on resource and training reporting up to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Her guidance provides U.S. Special Operations Command and the JCS with data on AFSOC readiness and war-fighting capabilities.

Airman Loiselle applies her technical skills to meet the needs of a fast pace day-to-day operation by ensuring a smooth flow of communication from Headquarters Air Force through AFSOC down to the the squadron level and back.

Her positive attitude and friendly smile make working with her a pleasure.

*(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.)*



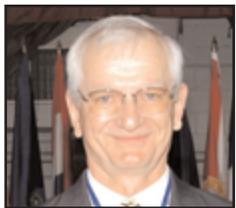
**Capt.  
Stephanie Bronson**



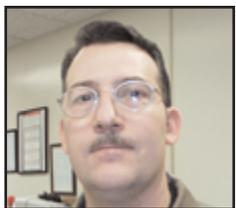
**Maria Fox**



**Rhonda  
Gritsavage**



**James  
Volkenand**



**Master Sgt.  
Danny Compton**



**Tech. Sgt.  
Erika Mathis**



**Senior Airman  
Tara Findley**

# AIR FORCE NEWS

## Ground pounders

Operation Enduring Freedom – Air Force heavy equipment operators from the 823rd Red Horse Squadron compact gravel while building a taxiway at a forward-deployed location. Squadron airmen are working around-the-clock to build a taxiway and support ramps more than a mile long to increase capacity for heavy aircraft. (AFPN)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Hanner

## Cost for SGLI reduced; coverage remains the same

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** – The amount it costs military members for Service Members' Group Life Insurance and Family Member SGLI will be automatically reduced starting July 1.

Decreased mortality rates allow for the reductions of 1.5 cents per \$1,000 of coverage for military members and as much as a 42 percent decrease for spouse coverage.

The premium for military members with \$250,000 of coverage will decrease from \$20 per month to \$16.25.

"The Veterans Administration had a surplus

partly because of the low number of claims, and they've decided to pass this surplus on to the service member," said Scott Hand, chief of Air Force casualty operations.

"This is a great deal for Air Force people. The price for a little peace of mind has just gone down."

SGLI is the life insurance currently available to all members of the uniformed services. It is purchased by the Veterans Administration from a commercial life insurance company.

Members on active duty, active duty for training or inactive duty for training, and mem-

bers of the ready reserve are eligible for insurance through this program. SGLI is available for the member in \$10,000 increments up to a maximum of \$250,000.

"We have more than 700 people at Hurlburt Field who've declined SGLI coverage or elected reduced coverage," said Vince Filpi, 16th Mission Support Squadron, military personnel flight customer support chief and primary casualty assistance representative at Hurlburt Field.

"Some made this decision because they believe they don't need life insurance, others

because they were misinformed by an insurance agent eager to sell them an insurance policy.

Hopefully, the decreased premiums for SGLI will energize military members to take a hard look at their life insurance options."

Service members who carry any amount of coverage are also given \$10,000 of coverage for each dependent child at no cost.

Those who decline SGLI coverage are not eligible for the dependent child coverage.

"Where else can you get free life insurance for your children?" said Mr. Hand. Similar to SGLI is the FSGLI for spouses

of up to \$100,000. Participation in the FSGLI program is voluntary and cannot exceed the amount of coverage the military member carries.

People can have coverage restored, increased or reduced by visiting the MPF customer service counter and filling out the proper paper work.

For more information, call Mr. Filpi or Master Sgt. Inez Reyes at 884-5321, or visit the Department of Veterans Affairs SGLI Web site at [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov), or the Air Force Personnel Center casualty Web site at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/casualty>. (AFPC)

## Look who's talking: What were your thoughts the first night of Basic Military Training?



*"Oh my word, this is going to be a long 6 1/2 weeks! What if I laugh at the Military Training Instructor?"*

**Airman Kenneth Farrar**  
Det. 1, 334th Training Squadron



*"What possessed me to join the Air Force?"*

**Airman 1st Class Roddy Raveendran**  
16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



*"This isn't too shocking. It's pretty much like I expected it to be."*

**Airman 1st Class James Rhodus**  
16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

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## ***IHS program comes to Hurlburt Field***

by Airman 1st Class  
**Heidi Sawyer**  
*Public Affairs*

In June 2002, the 6th Special Operations Squadron received its first International Health Specialist to assist the medical field in opening doors in foreign countries by leveraging both medicine and cultural skills.

Staff Sgt. Dagmara Robinson, who applied for the position in March 2002, works with the 6th SOS in medical readiness – coordinating, planning and ensuring the airmen are medically qualified to deploy.

Sergeant Robinson has been a medic in the military for 10 years, and has been trained in clinical and emergency medicine as well as women's health.

"IHSs are qualified and experienced medical people who possess a second language capability and regional expertise for effective interaction with international military and non-military organizations delivering healthcare services abroad," Sergeant Robinson said.

Those who are applying for the IHS program are appointed as mission specialists, team members or Special Experience Identifiers; Sergeant Robinson is a SEI.

SEIs and team members are utilized at a staff level or at readiness platforms to develop, plan and implement the IHS program. SEIs are also used as future resources for any training needed within the unit or to assist on short-term deployment missions.

Mission specialists are used

for the lengthier international deployment missions because they possess higher levels of expertise and language proficiency.

"Medicine crosses all cultural boundaries, and requests from other nations working with the 6th SOS continue to include assistance in medical specific items," Sergeant Robinson said.

Col. Jane Ward, IHS program director, said that the program was developed from the Air Force's Foreign Area Officer program, which was designed to increase the language and regional skills of all Air Force officers.

The IHS program takes the FAO program a step farther to include medicinal training and the use of a total force model, with both officers and enlisted personnel from active duty, Guard and Reserve, the colonel said.

The IHS medical component was added to the FAO program to provide "specific medical planning and operations and expertise in peacetime engagements, crisis response, deterrence and contingency operations, and war winning operations," Colonel Ward explained.

The base hopes to bring in five more IHSs within the year to include a flight surgeon, a medical service corps officer, a public health technician, a bioenvironmental technician and a medical service journeyman, Sergeant Robinson said.

For more information about the IHS program, interested applicants can visit the IHS Web site at [www.afms.mil/afihs](http://www.afms.mil/afihs).

## **Aspiring journalists**

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 base news or a human interest story highlighting a Hurlburt Field member.

To submit a story or story idea, call the COMMANDO editor at 884-7464 or e-mail [commando@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:commando@hurlburt.af.mil).



# Kids have a ball following Philippine exercise

by Master Sgt Michael Farris  
353rd Special Operations Group Public Affairs

**CLARK AIR BASE, Republic of the Philippines** – The left-handed nine-iron was a little tattered around the edges, showed a few scars and had been discarded by someone who had no more use for it. Remarkably, it had a lot in common with the 10-year-old boy who was delighted to be its new owner.

It didn't matter that Jerome Espinoza had never stepped foot on a golf course. The orphaned boy from central Philippines was happy to receive the club as part of the 353rd Maintenance Squadron's donation to the Clarkview Christian Center near the sprawling airpark.

Tons of clothes and toys were handed over to Pastor Thomas Tioaquen, who oversees the center and two similar organizations nearby.

"These kids have very little and are incredibly resourceful," Pastor Tioaquen said. "If they find a rock and a piece of string, they'll make a toy."

For the near future, that resourcefulness won't be required as piles of new basketballs, volleyballs,

books, encyclopedias and a mountain of clothes were delivered to the center that caters to some 60 children, ages 1 to 16.

In a goodwill effort, members of the 353rd MXS also emptied their pockets to hire a dentist, two doctors and a nurse to visit the center for a full day. According to Chief Master Sgt. Perry Pettiford, a few maintainers collected \$316.35, which provided 165 children with various medicines, dental fillings and general health check-ups.

"It's amazing how much good you can do with just a few resources," Chief Pettiford said.

These donations are the latest installment of the squadron's Clothing Connection – which makes contributions to orphanages, community centers, senior's homes and churches throughout the Pacific. The Clothing Connection receives contributions from various sources throughout the Kadena Air Base community.

Chief Pettiford and a handful of co-workers also paid \$720 to dig a well and install a hand-pump in Marcos village near the base. They built a reservoir, toilets and installed 200 feet of pipe.

According to Lt. Col. William Davis, 353rd

Maintenance Squadron Commander, the water will improve the lives of more than 500 villagers.

"Until now, water had been hand-carried from a contaminated stream several hundred yards from the village, Colonel Davis said."

"To say we felt warmhearted is an understatement," Chief Pettiford said. "The villagers insisted we accept a few souvenirs like spears, crossbows and bow-and-arrow sets as a token of their gratitude. The smiles on their faces was enough thanks for me."(NFNS)

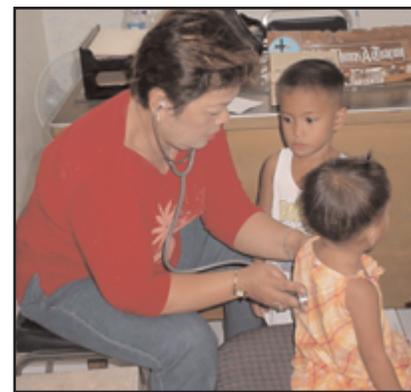


Photo by Master Sgt. Val Gempis

**A doctor examines children at the Clarkview Christian Center at Clark Air Base, Philippines.**

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# Enjoy your spring break without illicit drugs

by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson  
Public Affairs

Spring break is just around the corner and unfortunately it brings with it more drug usage as drug availability increases.

The Air Force policy on illicit drug use is unambiguous, said Jim Sanders III, 16th Medical Group, drug demand reduction manager. The wing commander's policy on substance abuse is clear-cut – zero tolerance.

"The Air Force Office of Special Investigations (Detachment 309 here) has seen more than 175 cases on military individuals involved in illegal use, possession and distribution of controlled substances during the past three years," Mr. Sanders said.

"Suppliers often target and approach military per-

sonnel especially in local clubs and bars and around live concerts or other promoted events," he said. "AFOSI reports that marijuana is still the number one drug of choice followed by cocaine in their drug investigative categories."

Another local drug problem involves GHB and rohypnol (commonly known as ruffies), which are still appearing in the local area for the purpose of "Date Rape." These cases are affecting both men and woman alike, Mr. Sanders explained.

GHB or rohypnol can be dropped into an individual's drink (known as scooping) without them knowing it. Only a few drops will render an individual semi-conscious to unconscious within 30-45 minutes. At that point they'll be at the mercy of their assailant and will be helpless to do anything about it, he said.

"Everyone is susceptible and must be aware of the location of their drinks at all times," Mr. Sanders said.

"It's best to always stay with a group of friends you can trust so if anything does happen to one of the group members someone is close by to assist. Using this strategy just makes good "Buddy Care" sense."

"Don't get into a situation that puts your military career at-risk," Mr. Sanders said.

"If you find yourself feeling uncomfortable in a situation or around certain people, or in a certain place – get out. Bottom line, don't get trapped and ruin your career."

"There are many drug free alternatives in the local community to choose from," Mr. Sanders said. "But, the best strategy is absolute refusal and not being associated with drugs by just saying No."

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# Fuels flight provides cleaner proxy fuel

by Tech. Sgt.  
Andre Nicholson  
Public Affairs

The 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Management Flight will convert diesel fuel to biodiesel fuel April 1.

The change will effect all organizations that use diesel fuel and maintain a vehicle identification link key. These organizations must have the keys recoded no later than March 31 by taking them to the fuels management flight in Building 90037. Units that don't report to the fuels management flight won't be able to utilize the biodiesel fuel pumps at the military service station.

Biodiesel fuel is the name of a cleaner burning alternative fuel. It works in any diesel engine with little or no modifications and reduces harmful emissions.

It's made by the United States from renewable resources such as soybeans and its use

decreases our dependency on foreign oil and contributes to our own economy. It's ten times less toxic than table salt and biodegrades as fast as sugar.

Biodiesel is registered as a fuel and fuel additive with the Environmental Protection Agency and meets clean diesel standards established by the California Air Resources Board.

The Energy Policy Act of 1992 and Executive Order 13149 require the Air Force to reduce fossil fuel consumption by 20 percent by the end of 2005.

The following organizations that receive mobile deliveries of diesel fuel will have no change to their current delivery status: 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, golf course, fire department, munitions storage, power production and aerospace ground equipment (AGE).

For more information, call Master Sgt. Timothy LaConte or Tech. Sgt. Cleveland Shaw at 884-7374/6528.

## Medical lodging at Fisher House akin to being home

by Airman 1st Class  
Sam Taylor  
Public Affairs

When someone from Hurlburt Field has medical problems, they may be referred to the medical facilities on Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., and family members who come for support have a better lodging option than a local motel.

While not a motel, the Fisher House of Mississippi, on Keesler AFB, is a "home away from home" for families and outpatients receiving care at the Keesler medical center or the Veterans Affairs medical center in Biloxi.

The facility provides low-cost housing, currently \$10 a night, to "all military members, retirees and their families undergoing medical treatments," said Silvia Dwyer, who works to promote the Fisher House.

The Keesler AFB Fisher House is the closest one to Hurlburt Field, and provides more than just private rooms,

she said. Accommodations for the nine families that can stay at a time also include a shared kitchen, dining rooms, living rooms and free laundry facilities.

Supported by the cost of lodging and donations, the house was built and furnished by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, philanthropists from New York, who wanted to give back to those who have fought to help keep this country free, said Mrs. Dwyer.

"You're like a big family when you stay at the Fisher House," she said. Rooms also include color televisions, cable and private phone lines. Guests can stay from one day until the person receiving medical treatment is released by their doctor.

Reservations can't be made at the Fisher house, but people should call in advance before arriving, said Mrs. Dwyer.

For more information on the Fisher House, call Mrs. Dwyer at 862-7758, or Dave Coker at (888) 294-8560.

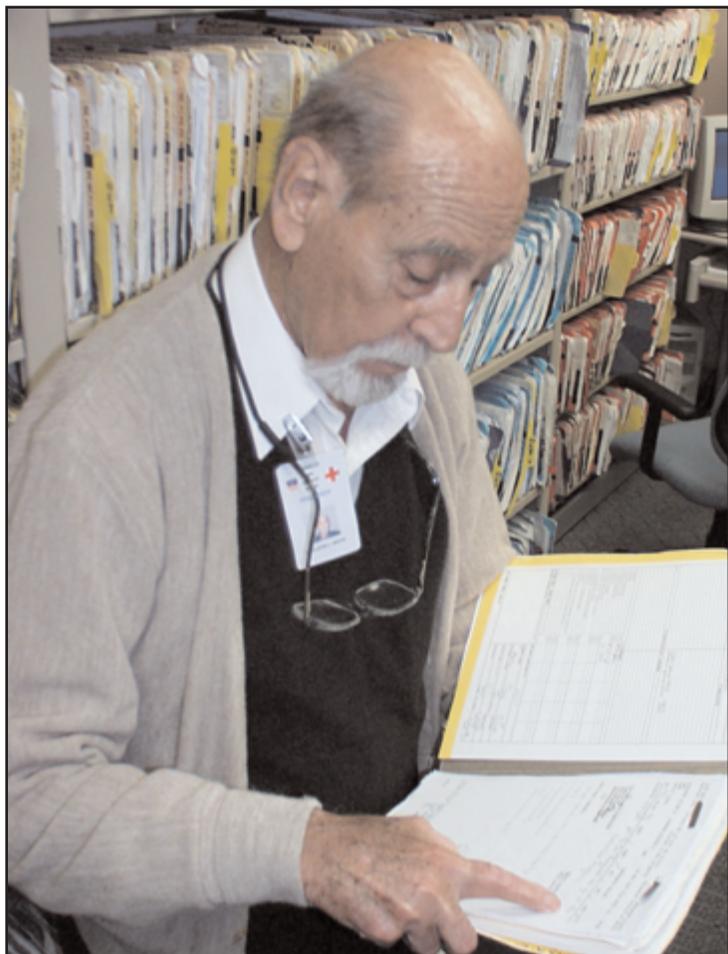
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## FEATURE



Photos by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

**Sheldon White (left), a volunteer at the flight medicine section of the Hurlburt Field clinic, gets medical records for an incoming patient. (above) Sandra Dillon, a family member who volunteers at the women's health section of the clinic, inputs test results into a computer.**

## Volunteers help keep Hurlburt healthy, ensure mission success

by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor  
*Public Affairs*

The 16th Medical Group had some help when it won its title as the best medical unit in the Air Force recently. That help came from a little known group of volunteers who make it a point to selflessly lend Hurlburt Field medical personnel a hand throughout the year.

According to Master Sgt. Danny Compton, 16th MDG volunteer coordinator, this hard charging group of behind the scenes heroes are at work supporting the mission in nearly every area of the base clinic.

"Right now we have about 40 volunteers working here," said Sergeant Compton. "A lot of people like to come out because they have spare time, and they like to use it to help others."

"Many volunteers, most of whom sign up through the Red Cross, are retired from active duty. Some are also family members and there's an occasional civilian and even active-duty member who come in to volunteer after their duty day has finished," said the sergeant. "Their hours vary from as much as an hour a week to more than 80 or more hours a month!"

The benefits to the 16th MDG are numerous, to include minimizing the

workload for a busy clinic staff and saving money.

"Last year the clinic had 46 Red Cross volunteers working at various times throughout the year," Sergeant Compton said. "This included a summer teen program. All told they worked a total of 6,924 hours with an annual cost savings of more than \$41,000."

Volunteers also benefit from gaining knowledge and experience. For example, the optometry clinic provides a certified optometry technician course in which Red Cross Volunteers can gain the education and experience to begin a new career working in the optometry field, the sergeant said.

"Working here is great," said Valerie Funderburg, an optometry clinic volunteer at the 16th MDG. "I changed career fields, and wanted to try something new - optometry. It's exciting; I'm learning things I never knew about the eye."

Sheldon White, a volunteer at the clinic for more than five years, works in the flight medicine section.

"Volunteering here makes me feel like I'm still young," said Mr. White, who was a medical corpsman in the U.S. Navy and served in the Marine Corps. He says people who're interested in medical fields and want to volunteer some time, should give it a try. "There's



**Sarah Shawn, who volunteers at the Hurlburt Field pharmacy, has been volunteering here for more than 20 years.**

lot's to be done," he said.

"Mr. White's put in more than 30 years of volunteer service (not all here, but in other locations)," said Sergeant Compton. "He probably has the most recognizable smile in the clinic."

Volunteers can help at a variety of sections in the clinic, including women's health, physical therapy, family health and more.

"We always need people to help out, and we have many places that would be more than happy to accommodate a volunteer," Sergeant Compton said. "We

really appreciate people coming in and helping out."

Col. Kevin Pollard, 16th MDG commander, readily underscores the vital contributions of his volunteers. "Our volunteers are essential members of our team, and we couldn't accomplish our mission nearly as well without them. They also serve as great role models for our Air Force core value of 'Service Before Self.'"

People interested in volunteering should call Sergeant Compton at 881-3958 or the Red Cross office at 884-6107.

# LIFESTYLE

## Military

### Airmen needed for manpower

The Air Force is looking for sharp senior airmen and NCOs to cross-train into the manpower and organization career field (3UOX1). People available to cross-train who're interested in a challenging, high-visibility and rewarding career in an area of human resource management, should e-mail Chief Master Sgt. Ramon Rogado at [ramon.rogado@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:ramon.rogado@hurlburt.af.mil).

### Nuclear weapon troops needed

The nuclear weapons maintenance career field has opportunities for senior master sergeants to cross-train into the 2W291 Air Force Specialty Code. Applicants must be an E-8 or an E-8 select, have a top-secret security clearance, and comply with the requirements outlined for the Personal Reliability Program in Air Force Instruction 36-2104. Training for these positions will be conducted on the job. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Daubach at (703) 695-0809 or Senior Master Sgt. Ron Dryburgh at (719) 554-5967.

### Free items from DRMO

The maximum reutilization of excess property in the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office is highly encouraged for authorized military purposes. DRMO is considered a valid source of supply, and every withdraw is subject to normal Air Force processing procedures for the commodity or type of item withdrawn. In other words, every withdraw is posted and accounted for in the Standard Base Supply System. The only real difference is that all withdrawals from DRMO are processed as free issue. For more information, call customer service at 884-6838/7676.

### FOCUS 56 meetings

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

### Munitions in the workplace

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

## Community

### Heart Link

Heart Link is a program established to strengthen military families and enhance mission readiness by increasing spouse awareness of the Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocol, support resources and services available to them. To help achieve this task, a two day class is being offered for spouses who are five years and newer to the Air Force. The program involves all members of the "Commando Agencies Reaching

Everyone" team, including the youth flight, health and wellness center, behavioral health flight, chapel, family support center, as well as TRICARE, the military personnel flight, and legal.

The first Heart Link is March 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and March 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the FSC. For more information, call the FSC at 884-5441.

### Family Fest Volunteers

Family Fest, an annual base-wide children's event, will be celebrated here March 29 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is held to celebrate Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month, as well as the opening of the youth baseball season, held at the Community Park. Many activities will be held for the entire family. More than 150 volunteers are needed to support this project. All individuals who wish to assist with this program should call Shannon Skoula-Clark at 884-1533.

### Self-help store changes hours

Due to the high operations tempo at Hurlburt Field, the self-help store is operating with minimum personnel, and has reduced its hours of operation to Monday through Friday from 8 to 11 a.m., and noon to 3 p.m. For more information, call Master Sgt. Chester Gnatek at 884-7130.

### Sod busting party

Volunteers, including family members from all around Hurlburt Field, are needed to help place sod around the new Community Park today to finish the project. Start time is 8 a.m. At 4 p.m. hotdogs and sodas will be served. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Bob Foster at 884-4549.

### HOSC luncheon

The Hurlburt Officers' Spouses' Club holds its monthly luncheon on March 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the Soundside Club. The program includes the annual spring fashion show presented by Steinmart, and highlighting makeovers from Keith & Co. There will also be nominations for all elected executive board positions. For interested people, there are also appointed positions available. For more information on appointed positions, call Holly Wicktom at 936-7598, or Angela O'Daniel at 581-6041. People interested in joining the Relay for Life team should call Kim Boyer at 897-4136, or Tina Stott at 939-0704.

Lunch will be chicken salad croissant, field greens w/candied pecans and honey mustard vinaigrette, fresh fruit with chocolate decadence cake for dessert. Cost is \$11.50, with gratuity included. Members receive a \$2 discount. Childcare will be available at the Hurlburt Field Child Development Center during the hours of 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost will be \$3 an hour per child, or \$5 an hour total for two or more children. Childcare reservations must be made no later than Tuesday. Reservations for the luncheon must be placed by Thursday. For reservations, call Marsha Babe at 678-4473, or e-mail at [HOSCReservations@COX.net](mailto:HOSCReservations@COX.net).

### CCAF progress reports

The Air Force Virtual Education Center has student services available online. Students can create their own AFVEC account and monitor their Community College of the Air Force degree progress. Personalized pages can keep students up to date on local education center news and events. For more information, visit the AFVEC Web site at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>.

### 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** – (PG-13) "A Guy Thing," starring Jason Lee and Junia Styles – Paul tells a teensy lie, which turns into a bigger lie. From his bachelor party to the wedding, soon his lies are spiraling out of control. It's amazing how much can change because of one little thing – a guy thing.

**Saturday and Sunday** – (PG) "Kangaroo Jack," starring Jerry O'Connel and Anthony Anderson – Two friends from Brooklyn are forced to deliver mob money to Australia. One of them places his red jacket on a kangaroo, and the kangaroo bounces off. They realize the mob money is in the jacket and are forced to give chase through the outback.

### Eglin 882-1066

**Friday** – (PG-13) "Darkness Falls," starring Chaney Kley and Emma Caulfield – Kyle Walsh must return home to confront his troubles past and save his childhood sweetheart Caitlin and her younger brother Michael from an unrelenting evil that has plagued the town of Darkness Falls for more than 150 years.

**Saturday** – (R) "NARC," starring Jason Patric and Ray Liotta – A narcotics cop, who happens to be a recovering drug addict, is assigned to help uncover the truth behind the murder of a young officer. He teams up with the dead officer's partner, and the cover-up they expose could destroy them both.

**Sunday** – (R) "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind," starring Sam Rockwell and Julia Roberts – Chuck Barris, Gong Show host and creator of The Newlywed Game and The Dating Game, was recruited by the CIA and trained to become a covert operative. As he basks in the glamour of two worlds, television producer by day, CIA assassin by night, his life begins to spin out of control.

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

## Community

### Plant sale

The Hurlburt Field commissary is holding a sidewalk plant sale today and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fresh plants will be sold at wholesale prices.

### Women's History Month

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

### Cody Avenue closure

Cody Avenue will be temporarily closed for about two weeks as contractors work on coupling new utility lines with old ones. This closure will be done in two more phases as follows:

#### Phase 2, Through Monday

The middle section of Cody Avenue, starting south of the library entrance up to the Simpson Avenue intersection, will be closed. Traffic will be re-routed on

Simpson Avenue. All parking lots will have to be entered through Tully Street or Lukasik Avenue.

#### Phase 3, Monday through March 17

The road section starting north of the intersection of Independence Street/Cody Avenue through the Simpson Avenue intersection will be closed. This is the critical part of the road closure. Traffic will be re-routed on Independence Street, turn left onto Terry Avenue, and then turn left onto Lukasik Avenue.

## Classes

### ERAU term registration

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Spring B term registration will be held through March 14 in the education center. Class dates are March 17 through May 17. For more information, call 581-2106.

### OWCC Scholarships

Applications for Okaloosa-Walton Community College scholarship awards are due by March 28 for the 2003-2004 academic year. A scholarship booklet with an application for local scholarships is available at all

OWCC locations and on the college's financial aid Web site at [www.owcc.edu/financialaid](http://www.owcc.edu/financialaid).

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

### Enlisted-to-AFIT program

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

### Tuition Assistance documents

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

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## SPORTS

## Services serves LRS a win

by Airman 1st Class Heidi Sawyer  
Public Affairs

The 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron, formerly known as the 16th Supply Squadron, dominated the 16th Services Squadron in the Over 40 double-elimination Basketball Championship, 61-44 Feb. 28 at Hurlburt Field's Main Fitness Center.

The undefeated LRS team set the pace from the start, getting two points on the board in the first few seconds of the game.

SVS missed three scoring opportunities in the first three minutes, but after a missed shot by LRS, Tony Anderson made a quick pass to Art Stephenson, who was ready in the key. Stephenson's shot was good, giving the team their first basket of the game.

With nine minutes left in the half, SVS had pushed up their level of play, to close the gap and even tie the score, 13-13. LRS responded with equal pressure, as the score remained fixed for a three-minute period.

"(LRS) is a good all-around team, with few weaknesses," said Kelly Williams, LRS coach.

Services was the first to break the ice, with a drive down court for the shot. However, on the next play, Stephenson fouled LRS' Larry Harmon, which gave Harmon two foul shots – both of which were good.

By the end of the first half, the players were pursuing the baskets aggressively.

SVS' Chris Myers landed a buzzer shot, when he rebounded Stephenson's missed attempt, but, LRS still led SVS at the half, 30-23.

"Services held it close in the first half, but we

were too strong for them in the second (half)," Williams said.

At the start of the second half, SVS' James Warren grabbed a loose ball from the air and towered over Anderson and Mark Williams.

LRS turned around with several 3-on-1 situations, dribbling circles around the SVS defense to widen the score gap by several more points.

Fighting with desperation to stay in the game, SVS became more aggressive on the ball. Denying the ball in the air and committing fouls on their way down, the SVS defense gave LRS unnecessary foul shot opportunities.

**"(LRS) is a good  
all-around team  
with few weaknesses."**

Kelly Williams,  
Over 40 LRS basketball team coach

With less than four minutes left in the game, SVS was trailing 37-58. Myers made one more last minute pursuit when he rebounded a missed shot by LRS, threw a pass to Warren, who laid the ball up over forward, Joe Davis.

However, due to the 15-point lead and the time running out on the clock, SVS was unable to make a successful comeback.

This was LRS' second consecutive year as Over 40 champions.

The teams further proved their domination of men's intramural basketball, when their Over 30 teams competed for the Championship Feb. 19. This time, the 16th SVS was able to defeat LRS, 67-51 for their first championship win.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

Mitchell Lewis, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron, towers over the Service's defense for two more points.



Bo Bowman, (left), drives through the key past Chris Myers, 16th Services Squadron.

## Sports Briefs

### Youth baseball and softball leagues

The youth sports program is looking for a few good players and coaches to help with the spring season. The program needs four to five, 9-10 year old baseball players and four to five, 10-14 year old girl's softball players. In order for the season to be enjoyable for the children, two or three coaches are needed for the teams. Anyone interested in participating or coaching, should call Jim Harriott, youth sports director, at 884-6938.

### Fitness center closing

Hurlburt Field's Main Fitness center will be closed from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. today due to the Fit Eagle Competition. The Health and Wellness Center will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### Dive club

Hurlburt Field scuba diving classes begin March 30. Sign-up at the Dive Club Fridays between 5 and 7 p.m. Participants must provide their own mask, snorkel, fins and booties. The course fee is \$105; books & certification, \$55. For more information, call 884-7848.