

16th MXS opens long awaited paint booth



Photo by Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis

Master Sgt. Adam Adair, 16th Maintenance Squadron, paints a piece of an aircraft in the newly constructed aerospace paint booth at Eglin Air Force Base.

Courtesy of the 16th Maintenance Squadron

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – After several years, construction on an operational aerospace paint booth for the 16th Maintenance Squadron, located at Eglin Air Force Base, is complete.

To celebrate the booth becoming operational, Col. Raymond Killgore, 16th Special Operations Wing vice commander, officiated the ribbon cutting ceremony March 21, which was held in Building 422, next to the McKinley Climatic Laboratory hangar.

“This is truly a first-rate facility,” said Colonel Killgore. “Your efforts have no-doubt provided the additional and essential capabilities needed to ensure we maintain the highest state of readiness.”

Years ago, the 16th MXS determined the need for a new aerospace paint booth due to a lack of 24-hour availability to topcoat aircraft repairs, assemblies and support equipment.

At the time, personnel had to coordinate use of either the 46th Test Wing paint hangar, the 33rd Maintenance Squadron paint facilities or travel to Hurlburt Field to use its facilities.

Aircraft Structural Maintenance Manager, Master Sgt. Adam Adair, inherited the paint booth project after being assigned to the 16th MXS in March 2000.

Before the booth went into operation, several issues needed to be resolved.

Sergeant Adair related that the squadron had to fix airflow problems along with a serious operational flaw in the booth structure itself.

“This was a major learning experience because I didn’t have any previous knowledge or experience planning and installing an environmentally compliant aerospace paint booth,” Sergeant Adair said. “It took us about two years of intense effort to get this booth into full compliance with the Eglin Title V/Aerospace National Emissions Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants.”

To assist with the environmental aspects was Eglin’s Air Quality Program Manager, John Wolfe, who provided oversight for the project and ensured compliance with all federal, state and local environmental requirements.

However, another obstacle arose when Master Sgt. Luke Campbell, 719th MXS air reserve technician, and Sergeant Adair noticed a large gap above the filter banks, between the wall and filters.

“We realized if any painting had occurred, a large amount of hazardous air pollutants would have bypassed the top of the filters and been emitted straight into the atmosphere,” Sergeant Adair said.

To correct the problem, Sergeant Campbell designed, fabricated and installed angled cover plates, which garnered praise by Ron Joseph, an environ-

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Air command, staff college students conduct exercise

By Capt. Danny Cooper
Air Force C2TIG Public Affairs

Students from the Air Force’s Air Command and Staff College took part in exercise Pacific Warrior, conducted by the Air Force Command and Control Training and Innovation Group here May 3-9.

Pacific Warrior is an elective class in the ACSC curriculum that exposes students to the full range of conducting combat at the operational level.

The scenario they use is the same one used in many Blue Flag exercises. It divides the western United States into three imaginary countries with their own governments, militaries and political agendas.

“It’s not necessarily realistic politically, but it provides us the opportunity to add as much military capability as necessary – in an unclassified scenario – to meet the exercise goals,” said Lt. Col. Joe Turnage, 505th Exercise Control Squadron Commander. “This allows us to make the war more challenging, depending

on the performance of the students.”

At the beginning of the semester, the students received the background materials from the AFC2TIG along with a joint task force course of action. Students then spent the remainder of the semester planning an air operations course of action and air operations plan to help achieve the JTF goals.

The final portion of the course is a deployment to

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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

AFSOC marks 13 years as major command May 22

By Lt. Gen. Paul V. Hester
AFSOC commander

In just 13 short years, Air Force Special Operations Command has been tried and tested.

Across the Air Force and around the globe, each of you has shown a resilient commitment to preserving peace worldwide and service to our Nation.

We have accomplished much in the short five months of 2003. As the "Quiet Professionals" your contributions have been remarkable and I continue to be amazed by your ingenuity, strength and honor. I applaud your commitment to ensuring freedom and peace worldwide, and pulling together in times of tragedy and rejoicing in times of triumph.

My admiration also extends to our dedicated families. You have been unfaltering throughout the many deployments, the long-hours and the time away from home. Your faith and support sustains us.

As we celebrate our 13th year as a major command, let us give thanks and remembrance to those who now fight and those who have given the ultimate price for this nation. Let their strength always be our guide. Happy Anniversary AFSOC!

Armed Forces Day message from the AFSOC commander

By Lt. Gen. Paul V. Hester
AFSOC commander

Recent images of the American Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines that have flooded the media waves are virtually inescapable...and for good reason.

Each year on the third Saturday of May, America honors you – the men and women of our Armed Forces.

It's a day to remind all Americans of the service and sacrifice of the few that then benefits every citizen. Most recently, you have been the backbone in America's global war on terrorism. You've deployed to the farthest corners of the world, fought in the heaviest battles and given comfort and support to those you do not know. In the midst of it all, you remained optimistic, steadfast and faithful with great clarity in why you are fighting.

On May 17, the nation salutes you. Your dedication and deeds have earned the honor and respect and gratitude of your fellow Americans. I'm very proud to serve with you.

Attitude – you own it, control it

Lt. Col. Naomi Lawless
27th Medical Operations Squadron

CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – Each of us has something that no one can control or take away from us: our attitude.

Our attitude is the soul of our being. It can change how we look at ourselves, how we look at our environment, how we act and how others perceive us. Attitude can affect our health, our goals, and how we deal with successes and failures.

Attitude is the difference between just existing in life and passing one day at time, or delighting in life and savoring every moment. Why do most of us neglect to develop this life-changing tool?

You own your attitude, so you can control it. The first step is to acknowledge that you can take charge of your attitude.

Second, determine what your attitude is now. If you could overhear a conver-

sation by people describing your attitude, what would they say?

If the result of this reflection leads to a plan to make changes, perhaps the following tip will help. Read some books on attitude. "The Power of Positive Thinking" by Norman Vincent Peale and "Attitude is Everything" by Keith Harrell are my favorites.

Here are some pearls of wisdom from these authors:

○Program your attitude with positive internal dialogue. Remember what they say in the computer world, "garbage in, garbage out." The next time you make a negative statement, counter that with a positive one. For example, list what you would count as a blessing.

○Change your perspective. The grass is not always greener on the other side.

Not knowing what your purpose in life is can lead to a negative attitude, and while being in the Air Force or associated with the Air Force may not be your ultimate goal, for the time, you

can focus today on your purpose in defending the Constitution of the United States.

Owning your attitude is easier said than done. After all, we're just human and get buffeted daily with events that can bring us down. Some hints to staying motivated are rest, exercise and diet. Set aside time with your family and a set of positive friends.

○Volunteer to help others, remembering that you have been the recipient of help at one time and that you will be blessed when you pass this along.

○Reflect on your specialness. What have you done that was recognized? What is it that you do well?

○Feed your spirit daily with motivational tapes and books.

Publisher, psychologist and author of motivational books J. Martin Kohe once said, "The greatest power that a person possesses is the power to choose." You own your attitude; choose to make it work for you, not against you. (AFNS)



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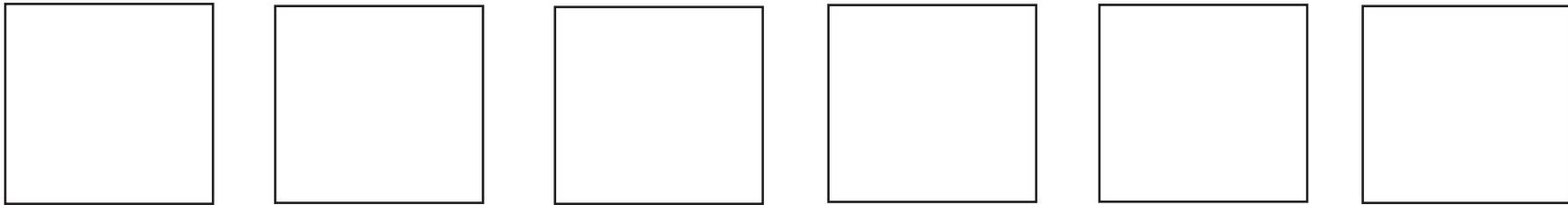
NEWS



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carrie Hinson

Home sweet home

A group of Hurlbert Field members, who were deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom returned May 9. The members were greeted by friends, families and co-workers.



Hurlbert Field recognizes quarterly award winners

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

Hurlbert Field honored the January through March quarterly award winners during two separate ceremonies held at the Soundside.

Awards were presented to the enlisted recipients during a breakfast April 23 and the company grade officer and civilians at a luncheon April 29.

The quarterly ceremonies recognize outstanding accomplishments of base members.

The first quarter award winners are as follows:

Company Grade Officer

Capt. Stephen Goodman, 16th Communications Squadron information systems flight commander, was selected to lead a nine person team in support of a classified operation.

He had hands on involvement with all assets of base setup including life support, force protection, logistics and host nation liaison duties.

Captain Goodman provided the only secure communications for multiple services for more than three weeks in support of Operation Desert Spring by providing communication service to all Special Operations Forces and base operations.

Civilian GS 9-12

Margie Richbourg, 16th Medical Support Squadron health systems specialist, is the point-person on all TRICARE/managed care issues.

She saved the clinic more than \$100,000 by scrutinizing all patient and non-medical attendant travel orders.

Ms. Richbourg ensured more than 75 activated Army National Guard Reservists and their families were assigned a physician and briefed on TRICARE medical/dental benefits.

Civilian GS 1-8

Deborah Eppler is a contract specialist with the 16th Contracting Squadron. With just six months of experience she assumed responsibility of the flight's four largest contracts from deployed members valued at \$6.5 million.

Ms. Eppler coordinated reassignment of contractor resources and schedule adjustments when renovations to the wing command section became disruptive and advanced completion by two weeks.

She ensured the completion of high-priority paving projects after an equipment shortage stalled contractor's progress by prioritizing work and phasing schedules.

Wage Grade Civilian

William Gore, 16th Services Squadron tractor operator supervisor, is single handedly responsible for the supervision of more than 75 inmates.

Mr. Gore is involved with all aspects of facility appearance and served as the 16th Mission Support Group's facility monitor and maintainer for the Installation Excellence Team's visit.

He saved the base more than \$100,000 by initiating a self-help project to reconstruct the rifle and pistol range into a state-of-the-art environmentally compliant complex.

Senior NCO

Master Sgt. Teressa Hunsberger, 16th Services Squadron food service superintendent, led 55 people in

preparation for the Hennessy team evaluation.

She manages a \$1.4 million contract and the Air Force's only buffet meal menu.

Sergeant Hunsberger secured \$50,000 then upgraded aging serving lines and added new waterfalls.

She also teamed up with the 16th Medical Group to host a health fair and nutrition education expo.

NCO

Staff Sgt. Jason Caszatt, 16th Medical Support Squadron NCO in charge of resource management, provided exemplary direct supervision to two airmen, assisting them with being selected as senior airman below-the-zone and AFSOC annual award winners.

He fills the element's master sergeant slot by overseeing six major medical group programs.

Sergeant Caszatt managed the day-to-day operation budget of \$3.2 million and assisted the resource advisor with 65 accounts.

Airman

Senior Airman Adena Walker, 16th Medical Operations Squadron aerospace medical services apprentice, managed 60 patient appointments daily for seven weeks during the absence of the medical team NCO in charge.

Airman Walker performed eye irrigation on a patient exposed to toxic chemicals and her prompt intervention saved the member's eyesight.

She also treated a patient with severe dehydration by providing life saving fluids, which prevented the patient from going into irreversible shock.

(Editor's note: Photo of Capt. Stephen Goodman was not available.)

AIR FORCE NEWS

Air Force eases Stop-Loss restrictions: AFSCs released

WASHINGTON – Air Force personnel officials announced Wednesday the release of more than half of the Air Force specialty codes restricted from retirement or separation May 2 under the Stop-Loss program.

Following a review of operational requirements, 31 officer and 20 enlisted career fields were released from Stop-Loss, the officials said.

The officer career fields released are: 11BX, 11EX, 11FX, 11HX, 11KX, 12BX, 12EX, 12FX, 12KX, 12RX, 12TX, 13BX, 13DXA, 13DXB, 32EX, 43EX, 43HX, 43TX, 44EX, 44MX, 45AX, 45BX, 45SX, 46FX, 46MX, 46NXE, 46SX, 48AX, 48GX, 48RX and 51JX.

The enlisted career fields released are: 1C2XX, 1C4XX, 1S0XX, 1T1XX, 3E000, 3E0X2, 3E4X1, 3E4X2, 3E5X1, 3E7X1, 3E8X1, 3E9X1, 3H0X1, 3N0XX, 4A1XX, 4A2XX, 4B0XX, 4E0XX, 4H0XX and 5J0X1.

The Air Force announced Stop-Loss, a Defense Department program designed to retain members of the armed forces beyond their established dates of separation or retirement, for 99 specialties and deployed airmen on March 13. The move was aimed at ensuring personnel levels were adequate to meet upcoming contingencies.

“It wasn’t an action that we took lightly,” said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche. “It was designed to preserve Air Force skills essential to supporting the global war on terrorism and operations in Iraq.”

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper pointed out that service officials have always said they would use Stop-Loss only as long as necessary to accomplish the mission.

“We’ve re-evaluated our requirements and are releasing these AFSCs because Stop-Loss is inconsistent with the fundamental principles of voluntary

service,” General Jumper said.

“A number of different factors went into the review process,” said Major Forest, chief of Air Force retirements and separation policy at the Pentagon. “We had to consider the balance between the active duty and Air Reserve Component, as well as, the need to remain responsive to changing events worldwide.”

Deployed active-duty, Guard and Reserve airmen whose specialties are released from Stop-Loss won’t be allowed to retire or separate until their deployment is completed, Major Forest said. Air Reserve Component airmen who are mobilized, but not deployed, will be demobilized according to ARC policy.

The actual “termination” of Stop-Loss has yet to be determined because Air Force officials and combatant commanders still need certain skills to directly support the war in Iraq, Major Forest said. (AFPN)

Military health care hot topic at DACOWITS’ base visits

By Gerry Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – TRICARE, the U.S. military’s health care system, is much improved, but some beneficiaries still have difficulty understanding and accessing the system.

That’s one message the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services delivered May 8 to Charles Able, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, during two days of committee business meetings here.

The DACOWITS’ chairwoman, retired Marine Lt. Gen. Carol Mutter, noted during the meetings that the advisory committee had recently visited some stateside military installations, with overseas trips planned as well.

This year, General Mutter pointed out, DACOWITS is focused on examining three areas: women’s health care, particularly obstetrics-gynecology; military women’s retention issues; and military deployment issues.

Things were better than they used to be regarding TRICARE, DACOWITS members emphasized to Mr. Able. However, they added, there appeared to be commu-

nication problems among beneficiaries – chiefly involving junior enlisted families – with understanding the types of services the system offered and how to access them.

However, Mr. Able emphasized, the military’s health care system, which is patterned after civilian-sector health maintenance organizations, “is the only nationwide managed care system that exists.” Therefore, he continued, TRICARE’s sheer size and myriad rules make it “tough to navigate” for many beneficiaries.

“Not only does it have all the rules that go with running a good managed care system,” he pointed out, “but has all the rules of government attached to it as well.”

This can make understanding TRICARE “tough,” Mr. Able remarked. However, customer-service improvements would likely be implemented, since a new set of TRICARE contracts is being readied.

Increased emphasis would be put on “customer orientation” for the TRICARE system, Mr. Able said. He also told committee members that the Department of Defense wants “to optimize” business at its military hospitals and clinics.

Military health care professionals

“need to do as much ... work as they can (in military facilities),” Mr. Able explained, “so that they’re ready to go do that kind of work ... if they have to deploy to (places like) Iraq or Afghanistan.”

Currently, about one-third of military health care is accomplished “in-house” at military medical facilities, Mr. Able pointed out.

DoD isn’t standing still in improving the quality of health care for military beneficiaries and their families – to include obstetrics-gynecological patients, Dr. David Tornberg, deputy assistant secretary of defense (Health Affairs) for clinical and program policy, noted during a February interview with the American Forces Press Service.

Obstetrics beneficiaries have asked for a variety of benefits and changes, Dr. Tornberg remarked. He noted that DoD has listened to and is now acting upon those concerns.

For example, Dr. Tornberg explained, mothers-to-be will see the same group of providers consistently over the course of a nine-month pregnancy. This, he pointed out, should improve the comfort level of prospective mothers.

Also, the OB appointment-making process will be made more efficient, and

patients’ access to gynecological specialists will be improved, he said.

And Dr. Tornberg’s supervisor, Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, told Pentagon reporters April 29 that DoD is transforming its military health care system to make it more efficient and responsive to the needs of beneficiaries. This, he noted, involves evaluating the quality and performance of military health care via a “scorecard” system.

“We looked at the thrust of why we do what we do and what we wanted to do to improve the system,” Dr. Winkenwerder explained.

He pointed out that the new program contains 25-30 separate initiatives designed to improve and promote quality of care and customer satisfaction, military medical readiness, and efficient use of resources.

Another concern that cropped up during DACOWITS’ military installation visits was the availability and cost of childcare for service member families, committee members told Mr. Able. He said that DoD has requested supplemental funding from Congress to expand military childcare center hours to offset some of the costs. (DoD)

Look who’s talking: If you could relive a period of time in your life, what would it be?

“I would go back to third grade when it was so easy to find a girlfriend. All I had to do was pass a note that read, ‘Do you like me? Circle yes or no.’”

“I would go back to when I was four years old and in Disney World for the first time. I saw Mickey Mouse in a parade while I was on my dad’s shoulders. It was like a commercial.”

“I would have to choose my high school years. I would make them more exciting and would be friendlier to everyone, too.”

PAINT,*Continued from Page 1*

mental compliance and aerospace paint operations expert.

The final issues to be resolved were the purchase and installation of a supplied air breathing/shop air compressor system, and getting the fire suppression alarm system wired from the paint booth to the fire station alarm control panel.

"This project has had many

EXERCISE,*Continued from Page 1*

Hurlburt Field and the AFC2TIG campus, where the students actually conduct the air campaign while manning the positions of the combat operations division of an air operations center.

In the AOC they're exposed to the full spectrum of AOC activities, including time-critical targeting, Special Operations, space operations and joint service air operations.

The training the students receive is the perfect compliment to the academic portion of ACSC.

"This exercise exposes the students to a very realistic depiction of air and space employment that we simply don't have the ability to do at the Air University," said Lt. Col. Rich Herr, course director for Pacific Warrior. "We can teach the publications, we can teach the joint doctrine and we can teach the case studies, but the AFC2TIG provides the facilities and the 'know how,' so we can actually do it."

The students selected to participate in Pacific Warrior have a new perspective from having completed the exercise.

"At the end of the day, 44 warriors will better understand the value of the AOC and have more of an ability to maximize its potential as a weapon system," said Maj. Dan Ourada, an F-117 pilot and ACSC student, who acted as the AOC director for the exercise. "The AOC brings infinite flexibility to the actual prosecution of an air campaign. We can combine time, timing and timeliness to produce the exact effects the joint commander needs for success."

There's an additional benefit to the training the students receive, according to Colonel Herr. The students trained here will return to act as "in-unit" experts for the individual seminars when they participate in the end of course mini exercise at Maxwell Air Force Base, Texas.

Exercises like Pacific Warrior also provide the AFC2TIG an opportunity to not only facilitate an exercise, but also display its own capabilities.

"Pacific Warrior is the perfect example of the synergy the AFC2TIG brings to the table," said Keith Coleman, exercise project officer. "The 505th ECS provided the exercise planners, models, simulations and the exercise control; the 505th Operations Squadron provided the process and procedure training, using experts from the Operational Command Training Program and their 'over-the-shoulder' approach; the Command and Control Warrior School provided systems training; and the 505th Systems Squadron provided the network. It was a team effort from beginning to end, for the AFC2TIG and the students."

According to Colonel Turnage, the success of the exercise will help it grow.

"The commander of Air Education and Training Command and the commandant of ACSC hold Pacific Warrior up as the example for the rest of Air University to emulate," said Colonel Turnage. "The course grew from last year to this year and next year we expect it to grow to approximately 85 students."

Air Command and Staff College is a professional military education course instructing mid-career officers to lead in developing, advancing, and applying air and space power across the spectrum of service, joint and combined military operations.

hurdles to overcome along the way, but my people made it happen," said Maj. Barry Dovin, 16th MXS commander. "It's nice to bring closure to a project that has had so many complex issues to resolve."

"Start to finish, this process was somewhat painful, stressful and exasperating," Sergeant Adair concluded, "but all that was part of an overall enormously positive experience, with a great sense of accomplishment."

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Photo by Staff Sergeant Jerry Morrison

Radio operator

Operation Iraqi Freedom - A radio operator on an MC-130P transport aircraft assigned to the 67th Special Operations Squadron, enters special key information to the aircraft's radios prior to engine startup at an undisclosed deployed location.

Yard of the Month competition begins

It's that time of the year again. Spring has sprung, flowers are in full bloom, the grass is green and family housing is gearing up for this year's Yard of the Month competition. The first competition begins June 1 and continues through September.

Awards will be presented at the Yard of the Month winner's house the preceding month. Here are a few suggestions that can help people win the competition:

- Keep grass mowed and raked to present a well-manicured appearance.
- Sidewalks, driveways and street curbs edged and dead grass removed.
- Shrubs well shaped and trimmed three to four feet.
- Carport, patio and entryway neat and well kept in appearance (not used for storage of appliances, household goods, boxes, work benches and so forth).
- Pets leashed so as not to interfere with neighbors' use of sidewalks kept in a clean, sanitary condition.
- Trash can stored in designated area or the back of the house.

The self-help store has Bermuda seed, topsoil, pine straw and various other items for use. Seeded lawns can be watered on both even and odd days for 30 days.

Remember, the Hurlburt Field housing area is one of the best, and this is due to the outstanding efforts and hard work of its residents. The housing office is ready to place the winning sign in your front yard.



Photo by Senior Airman Sam Taylor

Italian stallion

Tech. Sgt. David Hahn, 5th Special Operations Squadron, accepts the keys to a "cherry" 1981 Triumph TR7 convertible. Sergeant Hahn won the roadster with one ticket bought in a Moose Lodge chapter 2193 charity raffle.

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

Girls

Aubrey Belle Totherow, born April 15 to Staff Sgt. John and Melissa Totherow, 4th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Boys

Drake Allen Turnipseed, born March 9 to Staff Sgt. Frederick and Kathleen Turnipseed, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Zachary Taylor Leeth, born April 2 to Senior Airman Timothy and Crystal Leeth, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Justin Tyler Everest, born April 3 to Staff Sgt. Andrew and Paula Everest, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Conner James Peck, born April 16 to Staff Sgt. James and Krista Peck, 16th Security Forces Squadron



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2003 APA Heritage Month National Theme: 'Salute to Liberty'

**By U.S. Navy Master Chief
Dennis Burns**
*Research Directorate Project
Coordinator*

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – The history of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month dates back to June of 1977, when Congressmen Frank Horton (Republican-NY) and Norman Mineta (Democrat-Calif.) introduced House Resolution 540 into the House of Representatives.

House Resolution 540 called for the president to proclaim the first week in May as APA Heritage Week. In May of 1990, President George W. Bush signed a proclamation expanding the weeklong celebration

into an entire month. Two years after that, October 23, 1992, the 102nd Congress unanimously approved, and President George W. Bush signed into law House Resolution 5572, permanently designating the month of May as APA Heritage Month.

The Asian Pacific American Heritage Council was formed in 1979 to bring together existing Asian Pacific ethnic organizations. The common denominator amongst the various Asian communities was pride in their distinct Asian heritage and a desire to increase public awareness of their diversity by becoming socially pro-active, according to APAHC, News and Events, n.d.

The APAHC chose "Salute to Liberty" as the 2003 APA Heritage Month national theme.

Today, well-known American corporations support several annual events promoting Asian Pacific diversity among the general public.

To celebrate APA Heritage Month at Hurlburt Field, the APA Heritage committee has planned activities on-base to educate the men and women of the Commando community about the Asian Pacific culture.

The base activities are as follows:

- Health Fair Screening** – Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Hurlburt Field Base Exchange
- Asian Pacific Ethnic Show/Food Tasting** – Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., base theater
- Youth Center Story Time/Art Display** – May 28, 3 to 4 p.m., Hurlburt Field Youth Center

For more information, e-mail ramon.rogado@hurlburt.af.mil or helen.cason@hurlburt.af.mil.

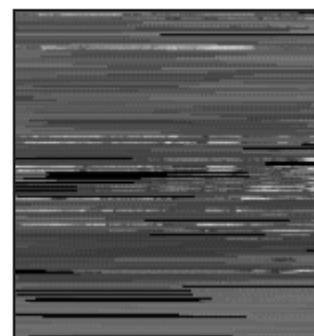


Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott McCord
Col. Raymond Killgore, 16th Special Operations Wing vice commander, signs the Asian Pacific American Heritage proclamation document.

Post-deployment

The 16th Special Operations Wing has established a comprehensive in-processing program at the Deployment Control Center Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. During this time: mobility bags can be turned in, medical surveys can be completed, and travel vouchers can be filed.

In-processing is a mandatory requirement, so no compensatory time off or leave may be taken until the in-processing list is completed. Only in extreme circumstances may group commanders excuse a member from this requirement, and even then it must

- be requested in writing.
- The following post-deployment requirements are effective immediately:
 - All personnel will in-process within 72 hours of their arrival at their home station
 - All mobility bags will be inventoried, accounted for, and turned in
 - All personnel will complete their post-deployment medical evaluation
 - Government travel vouchers will be filed
 - Units will create checklists to identify individual requirements to become recurrent in critical areas

Debt Collection Assistance

**Courtesy of the
16th Medical Group**

The Department of Defense now offers a Debt Collection Assistance Officer program to help TRICARE beneficiaries resolve their TRICARE-related bills that have been turned over to a collection agency.

Under this program, an assistance officer located at each military treatment facility and TRICARE lead agent office, will be the single point of contact for TRICARE beneficiaries who need assistance with their overdue TRICARE accounts.

Once contacted by a TRICARE beneficiary, the DCAO will intercede with all

agencies involved, including: key military offices, providers, managed care contractors, and even debt collection agencies when appropriate, to help resolve collection issues arising from TRICARE claims.

If you have overdue TRICARE bills that have been sent to a collection agency, we urge you to contact the local TRICARE Service Center.

You may also contact the debt collection assistance officer, Tech. Sgt. Ervin Benton at the Hurlburt Field Medical Clinic TRICARE office, 881-5177, for assistance.

For more information about TRICARE, visit www.tricare.osd.mil/dcao, which lists the DCAOs and MTFs for each region.

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

**CD
WILLIAMSON/
KARATE
CS/CHARAC-
TER FOR
522184
1 X 4.00**

**RIVIERA FITNESS SPA
CS/#1
525319
2 X 5.00**

**BLUEWATER BAY DENTAL
CS/WE LOVE CHILD
522110
2 X 5.00**

**WORD OF FAITH MIN-
ISTRIES
COMMANDO/WORSHIP**

**WRIGHT
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

**SUN PLAZA
THEATRE
COMM**

**ACCESS MORTGAGE CORP
COMM RHP/BRINGIN
523701
2 X 2.00**

**NICEVILLE CHRISTIAN
COMMANDO/YOU'RE
522861
2 X 2.00**

**MIKE'S MUSIC INC
COMM/RHP GIBSON
523721
2 X 2.50**

**ACADEMY UNIFORMS.COM
CS/RHP/QUALITY S
523805
2 X 2.50**

**CHICK-FIL-A
COMM RHP/FREE CH
523712
2 X 5.00**

**CHARTER OAK FIREARMS
COMMANDO/GENERIC
522117
2 X 5.00**



The U.S. Air Force symbol honors the heritage of our past and represents the promise of our future. The stylized wings represent the stripes of our strength - the enlisted men and women of our force. They're drawn with great angularity to emphasize our swiftness and power, and they're divided into six sections which represent our core competencies - aerospace superiority, global attack, rapid global mobility, precision engagement, information superiority, and agile combat support.

The lower half is a sphere, a star and three diamonds. The sphere within the star represents the globe. It's to remind us of our obligation to secure our nation's freedom with global vigilance, reach and power. The globe also reminds us of our challenge as an expeditionary force to respond rapidly to crisis and to provide decisive aerospace power worldwide.

The star has several meanings, starting with the five points, which represent the components of our one force and family - our active duty, civilians, Guard, Reserve and retirees. It represents space as the high ground of our nation's aerospace force. It also represents our officer corps - central to our combat leadership.

The three diamonds surrounding the star represent our core values - integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do.

The elements come together to form one symbol that presents two powerful images - an eagle, which is the symbol of our nation, and a medal, which represents valor in service to our nation.

**CONSUMER FINANCIAL
SERV
COMM/RHP SUMMER
523707
2 X 3.00**

**SPIFFY WIN-
DOW TINT
CS CLS/MILI-
TARY
522122
1 X 3.00**

**96TH SERVICE SQUADRON
COMMANDO FRONT/G
522946
3 X 8.00**

Expo douses military members with discounts

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

Nearly 80 vendors from five states were represented at the Travel Expedition 2003 and Fish Fry April 30 at the Soundside Club to offer military members and their families discounts to several businesses in the surrounding areas.

"This year's Travel Expedition was by far the largest Hurlburt Field has entertained to date," said Melanie Wilson, 16th Services Squadron marketing director.

To show appreciation to military members and their families, local and non-local businesses offered several discounted rates on hotel rooms, amusement park admissions and dinner show costs to attendees at the expo.

Representatives eagerly welcomed nearly 1,000 patrons, as they handed visitors several brochures of information and anything from candy, stickers and pens/pencils to calling cards, flags and plastic beach balls.

Visitors were also given several opportunities to register for free hotel stays or dinner cruises.

With such a collaboration of businesses, visitors were able to receive several sources of information regarding Georgia's, Mississippi's, Tennessee's, Alabama's and Florida's local attractions, lodging and dining locations as well as several unique areas of entertainment

for that particular state.

However, the most appealing contest was the travel expo treasure chest. As each person walked through the Soundside doors, they were handed a bag and a travel expo passport. Each time they visited a booth, the vendor would stamp the passport.

After receiving 48 stamps, visitors took their book to the giveaway table. Once it was confirmed that each box had been stamped, they chose a key from a basket, and attempted to unlock the treasure chest, which contained prizes such as an all-expense paid cruise or even a weekend getaway.

"Sixty lucky winners went home with more than \$10,000 in prizes, donated by our generous vendors," Ms. Wilson said.

With several discounts from top representatives including, Disney World, Busch Gardens and Universal Studios, as well as local business vendors, guests weren't too disappointed if their key wasn't the right fit for the chest.

After quenching the visitors' hunger for entertainment, the travel expo provided a fish fry to satisfy their physical hunger.

For \$5, guests could take a break from 'traveling' to relax in the outdoor picnic area, as they enjoyed fresh fish and fries.

"We were concerned that deployments may affect this year's turnout," Ms. Wilson said, "but were pleasantly surprised when it surpassed our expectations."



24-Hour Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline

Hurlburt Field
884-6322
Wing IG office
884-5534
Air Force
(800) 538-8429
***Department of
Defense***
(800) 424-9098

LIFESTYLE

Military

AFSA meeting

Chapter 567 of the Air Force Sergeants Association holds a membership meeting Wednesday at 3 p.m. at J.R. Rockers. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Bernadette Garces at 884-7633.

NY Air National Guard

The 109th Airlift Wing, in Scotia, NY ñ home of the C-130 iSkybirdsî ñ has traditional Guard vacancies in the following career fields: 1A2X1, 1C0X2, 1C3X1, 1N0X1, 2A5X1, 2A5X3, 2A6X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X5, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2A7X3, 2E1X3, 2E6X3, 2F0X1, 2S0X1, 2T0X1, 2T251, 3E0X1, 3E3X1, 3E4X1, 3E7X1, 3E9X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 4A0X1, 4A1X1, 4A2X1, 4E0X1, 4N0X1, 4T0X1 and 4Y0X1, as well as, full-time active-duty opportunities for 2A5X3 and 8R000.

The National Guard also has an ongoing need for full-time aerospace maintenance specialists in support of its U.S. Antarctic mission. For more information, call 344-2456, 1-800-524-5070, or e-mail Master Sgt. Wes Ryerson at Wesley.ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil.

Community

Mandatory/voluntary briefings

All officers and enlisted personnel separating within the next six months are required to attend the Mandatory Separations/Palace Front briefing Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the first floor testing room in Building 90210.

Also, first-term airmen with half of their enlistment completed, officers with at least half of their active-duty service completed and career airmen are encouraged to attend the Early Out/Palace Chase briefing Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the recruiting office, also in Building 90210. For more information on either of the briefings, call Master Sgt. John Tillie at 884-2656.

Health fair

The Hurlburt Field Asian Pacific American Heritage committee, with the support of the Health and Wellness Center, invites the public to a health fair Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hurlburt Field Base Exchange. During the fair, blood pressure and cholesterol screenings will be performed. For more information, e-mail rosemarie.palting@hurlburt.af.mil.

APA Heritage Month event

In observance of National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the APAH committee invites military members and their families to attend the free Asian Pacific Show/Food Tasting Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the base theater. For more information, e-mail helen.cason@hurlburt.af.mil or ramon.rogado@hurlburt.af.mil.

Medical clinic changes

In order to reduce wait time for patients, the Hurlburt Field Medical Clinic will no longer be accepting walk-ins. As of Monday, anyone who needs to have a medical assessment or contact their primary care manager, a

nurse or other provider should call central appointments at 883-8600 or 884-7882, Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Also, Monday through Friday between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. weekends and holidays, any calls to the clinic will be redirected to an answering service.

Volunteer Resource Program

The Volunteer Resource Program is offering valuable training for people seeking volunteer work at agencies of special interest. Benefits include: eight hours a week or 32 hours a month of childcare, paid for by the Air Force Aid Society, for all volunteers working on base or using a family childcare provider; a letter of recommendation for volunteers completing 100 hours or six months of service; and valuable work training.

For more information or to schedule a training session, call the VRP Coordinator, Shannon Skoula-Clark at 884-1533, or visit the family support center.

AFSOC picnic

The Air Force Special Operations Command holds its annual picnic May 30 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Community Park. The Community Park parking lot will be blocked off as well as the east entrance to the child development center. Parking lots at the Hurlburt Chapel, the Base Tax Center and J.R. Rockers will be the approved areas for parking. For more information, call Master Sgt. Janet Stafford at 884-2659.

Book signing

The base library hosts a book signing with retired Army Chief Warrant Officer Michael Durant Wednesday from noon to 3 p.m. His book, iIn the Company of Heroes,î retells the story of how the Black Hawk helicopter he was riding in, was shot down in Somalia in 1993. For more information, call 884-3820.

Childcare provider orientation

The Hurlburt Field Family Childcare Center hosts a free Childcare Provider Orientation through today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the community center. Participant qualifications include: residence in base housing, a license to provide care on base quarters, and training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid. Application packages are available at the FCC. For more information, call Carol Carter at 884-2968.

Commissary closing

The Hurlburt Field Commissary will be closed May 26 in observance of Memorial Day, but will reopen May 27 at 9 a.m. with normal business hours.

VA Work-Study Program

Positions are open at Hurlburt Field for all eligible veterans to participate in the Veterans Administration Work-Study Program, which is designed to provide part-time employment opportunities to veterans. Eligible veterans must be using VA educational benefits to earn a college, professional or vocational degree during a three-fourths or full-time program. Job availability varies, but all positions involve assisting other veterans.

Benefits include: either federal or state minimum wages - whichever is higher; no income tax or social security pay deductions; and flexible work hours, which won't exceed 25 per week.

For more information, call the transition assistance office at 884-6280/6281.

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

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qurian: Saturday, 6 p.m.

At the movies

Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday ñ (PG-13) iThe Core,î starring Aaron Eckhart and Hilary Swank ñ Geophysicist Dr. Josh Keyes discovers that an unknown force has caused the earth's inner core to stop rotating, and the atmosphere comes apart at the seams with catastrophic consequences. Dr. Keyes, and a team of the world's most gifted scientists, travel into the earth's core to detonate a device that will reactivate the core.

Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m. ñ (G) iPiglet's Big Movie,î an animated film ñ Piglet's friends begin a honey harvest, ñ and he's told that he's too small to help. When he disappears, the others use his scrapbook as a map to try and find him.

Sunday ñ (R) iGangs of New York,î starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Daniel Day-Lewis ñ As the nation's own survival was being tested by the ongoing Civil War of 1863, a vast and dangerous underworld was born in New York City. Also, a fatherless son searches for honor and courage to remake his life.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday ñ (PG) iWhat A Girl Wants,î starring Amanda Bynes and Collin Firth ñ Daphne, a spirited young American girl, travels to London in search of her long-lost father, who's an influential aristocratic politician. As Daphne attempts to prove that love can conquer all, her impulsive behavior creates uproar in high society, where her unique style threatens to undermine the relationship she has waited her whole life to experience.

Saturday ñ (R) iA Man Apart,î starring Vin Diesel and Larenz Tate ñ A mysterious man, known only as Diablo, takes over a powerful drug cartel when the former boss goes to prison. That former drug lord then teams up with a DEA agent and his partner to try to take down Diablo.

Sunday ñ (PG-13) iChicago,î starring Renee Zellweger and Catherine Zeta-Jones ñ Roxie's one wish is to follow in the golden footsteps of vaudeville performer Velma Kelly. She gets her wish, but some very wrong steps land both the star and starlet in prison for separate murder charges.

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

Public notification

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Hurlburt Field announces – for public review and comment – the amendment of the Draft Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for RCS 02-16, “Construction of a new Air Force Special Operations Command Squadron Operations Facility,” to Draft Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact/Finding of No Practical Alternative.

This amendment has been issued because the construction project location has been shown to conflict with wetlands identified on current U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wetland designation maps. The affected wetlands have been filled in under another construction project and under a fill permit from the USACOE, but the maps still show a conflict. Although the wetland designation maps still show wetlands at the construction site, this project will have no adverse impacts to designated wetlands.

Copies of the original EA and FONSI along with the amended EA and FONSI/FONPA may be reviewed at the Fort Walton Beach Library. Copies will be available for review through May 27 and comments must be received by that date to be considered.

For more information or to comment on these proposed actions, call Ronald Nasca, AFSOC/CEV (850) 884-5984 or fax (850) 884-5982.

Salute Savings

U.S. Airways recently introduced Salute Savings, a roundtrip plane ticket discount program for active-duty and Reserve military members and their immediate families. Fares start as low as \$79 each way and are valid for tickets purchased through Dec. 31, for travel completed by Feb. 12, 2004. Tickets are non-refundable and must be purchased at least three days in advance of departure. Seats are limited, and certain restrictions apply, to include: a minimum of one Saturday night stay, and a maximum 30-day stay.

Camping discount

The Navarre Beach Campground, located at 9201 Navarre Parkway, Navarre, offers active-duty service members a 10 percent discount on all camping rates. Facilities include recreational vehicle sites, tent sites and cabin rentals. For more information or to make a reservation, call 939-2188.

Contract positions

The Hurlburt Field Commando Support Center has two part-time contract positions open at the education office, including distance learning and test proctor positions. Qualifications for the positions and bid packages may be picked up today at the 16th Contracting Squadron, located on Tully Street in Building 90339. For more information, call Monica Wood at 884-3272.

ERAU summer registration

Registration for the Summer 2003 term at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University will be held through May 23 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 8 a.m. to noon on Fridays in Building 90220. Add/Drop dates for classes are May 26 - May 30, and class dates are May 26 through July 26. For more information, call the ERAU office, located in the Hurlburt Field Education Building, at 581-2106.

Operation Salute

Anheuser-Busch is offering free single-day admission into its SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place parks for active-duty, active Reservists, U.S. Coastguard and National Guard military members, and as many as four of their direct dependents, in their promotional program, Operation Salute. The offer, which is also extended to all coalition forces serving with Operation Iraqi Freedom, begins May 23 and lasts through Nov. 11.

Passes may be used at: Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and Williamsburg, SeaWorld Orlando, San Diego and San Antonio; and Sesame Place, Langhorne, Pa.

Classes

FSC Classes:

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

Kids Smooth Move – Tuesday, 4 p.m.; reservations are required, call 884-5441.

Commando Welcome Spouse – Wednesday, 9 a.m.

HAWC Classes:

Eating 4 Health – Monday, 4 p.m.

Eat Heart Healthy – Tuesday, 11 a.m.

Lean On Me – Tuesday, 3 p.m.

Diabetic Nutrition – Thursday, 10 a.m.

Moms, Pops and Tots

Moms, Pops and Tots is an informal format for parents and their young children to meet other parents, while they observe the interaction between the children. Some structured activities are planned on a monthly basis, which include occasional outings away from the Hurlburt Field Family Support Center. Meetings are every Tuesday for children birth to two years old, and every Wednesday for children ages two to four.

Commando Welcome Spouse

The Commando Welcome Spouse orientation includes a bus tour of Hurlburt Field and the local community and a free lunch at the beach. Childcare is also free at the child development center if space permits. Casual dress attire is encouraged. Call the CDC at 884-6937 to make reservations for childcare.

Kids Smooth Move

Kids Smooth Move is for children ages six to 12, and addresses issues related to military moves and making friends, through the use of fun activities and videos.

**RHINO LININGS
CS/RHP/#5 WE ALS
524015
3 X 5.00**

**SLEEP DISORDER
COMM/SNORING?
523614
2 X 5.00**



AFSOC honors awa

Top airmen, civilians named

By Tech. Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller
AFSOC Public Affairs

Reading the awards packages for the Air Force Special Operations Command's top airmen and civilians of the year, you can easily see the command's active support of America's Global War on Terrorism.

According to Lt. Gen. Paul Hester, AFSOC commander, that untiring dedication to the mission is reflected wherever Special Operators are found. Because so many are still deployed and have not yet returned home is the main reason for canceling this year's Outstanding Airmen and Civilian awards ceremony.

"The operations tempo around the military, especially within AFSOC, has been fast-paced and committed," said General Hester. "With so many of our forces actively supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, away from their

families, I didn't want to further burden the families and command by holding our normal celebration at this time. In addition to those fighting the war overseas, those who've stayed at home stations have taken on additional responsibilities and workloads as well. Consequently, we will return to our normal 'Gala Celebrations' next year."

The AFSOC command chief said canceling the events does not lessen the recognition of the eight award winners.

"The Special Operations community has always stood out and been recognized for it's incredible support to the nation," said AFSOC Command Chief Master Sgt. Bob Martens. "Despite the applause from around the globe, across our nation and throughout the military, we don't do what we do for public praise. Air Force Special Operators take on the mission because they're dedicated.

"We will continue to recognize the contributions of all our people, and especially those eight individuals whose actions truly reflect the caliber of the AFSOC team," said the chief. "Not holding a recognition ceremony doesn't take away from how proud we are of their actions, nor does it diminish the fact they're the best of the best."

The command's airman, NCO and senior NCO of the year will represent AFSOC in the Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year program. The command's first sergeant of the year goes forward to the Air Force First Sergeant of the Year program sponsored by the Air Force Sergeants Association.

"I'm truly proud of the accomplishment of all our people," said General Hester. "I'm especially pleased to congratulate these eight Air Commandos for representing the command as the best among the best."

issues. However, before the captain took over duties as an executive officer he was assigned to the 6th SOS as the Central Asian Flight commander.

During his tour with the 6th, Captain Childress was in charge of a 15-person flight responsible for foreign internal defense, unconventional warfare and coalition support in Central Asia.

With a flight made up of 12 different Air Force Specialty Codes, the captain said, "I was basically responsible for AFSOC's engagement with the militaries of Central Asia."

Captain Childress ensured that a \$45,000 language-training budget was put to good use by providing the entire flight with mission critical training, according to his award package.

The combat decorated flight commander and team leader for the Air Force's only Combat Aviation Advisory Squadron, also received recognition from the U.S. Secretary of State for his diplomacy efforts in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Capt. Tim Childress

Company grade officer

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

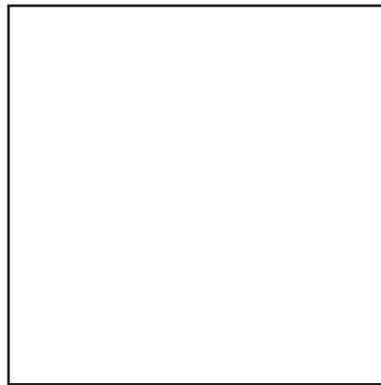
A former executive officer with the 16th Special Operations Wing is the Air Force Special Operations Command Company Grade Officer of the Year for 2002.

Capt. Tim Childress was assigned to Hurlburt Field from January 1999 to January 2003.

The Atlanta, Ga., native credits his award selection to the people he's worked with over the years.

"The credit for this award really goes to the 6th Special Operations Squadron and the 16th SOW command section," he said. "They're by far the greatest group of people that anyone could ever work with."

As an executive officer the captain dealt with everything from performance reports, decorations, coordinating the commander's schedule of events and even protocol



Regina Green

Civilian, GS 1-8

By Master Sgt. Michael Farris
353rd SOG public affairs

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan – Regina Green, secretary to the 353rd Special Operations Group commander, was recently named Air Force Special Operations Command Civilian of the Year (GS 1-8) for 2002.

When the Batcats asked Mrs. Green to "double-time," she knew what to expect – she's married to a Marine. For several weeks in late 2002, she worked as secretary to both the 1st Special Operations Squadron and 353rd Special Operations Group.

"While my replacement was being hired in the 1st, those were some hectic weeks," Mrs. Green said. "I was learning a new job at the 353rd, trying to keep up with the 1st and finally had to train my replacement."

This baptism-by-fire prepared her for her new duties.

"At the squadron level, I knew what to expect," she said. "It's a fairly small closely-knit

Gordon Crafton

Civilian, GS 9-12

By Master Sgt. Michael Farris
353rd Special Operations Group public affairs

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan – Gordon Crafton, 353rd Maintenance Squadron, was recently named the 2002 Air Force Special Operations Command Civilian of the Year (GS 9-12).

While his title is a mouthful: Air Force Engineering and Technical Services representative (AFETS), he's the resident expert in the SOG's electronic warfare arena. He provides technical expertise, training and assistance to the 19-member EW shop.

Mr. Crafton retired as a senior master sergeant 20 years ago. After a two-year break, he signed on with the civil service – doing essentially the same job he had while in uniform. In October 2004, he'll have 20 years with civil service and plans to return to his last job at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

He first stepped into the electronic warfare field in 1963, working on B-52s.

"At that time, fighters didn't have electronic counter measures," he said. "And the bombers were only configured to defeat MiG 15s, 17s, some SAMs and triple A. Today a myriad of planes are capable of defeating 100s of threats from all over the world."

It's his job to ensure the group's MC-130s are up to the task of defeating enemy threats.

"Years ago, electronic warfare equipment was made up of a series of vacuum tubes. Now it's all computerized," he said. "And the systems are continually being upgraded.

"My job is important to me, but the work I do in my church affects many more people," he said. "They're both very fulfilling."

Mr. Crafton and his wife Marline have four sons and a daughter.



James Volkenand

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

A civilian employee at the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron was recently awarded the 2002 Wage Grade Air Force Special Operations Command Civilian of the Year.

"I was extremely thankful and proud," award winner James Volkenand said. "I know the competition was stiff, so it was a good feeling to know someone thought enough of my performance to submit the package."

In 1985, the Beaver Creek, Ohio native was hired at Hurlburt Field as the high voltage foreman, and in 2002, was promoted to general maintenance and operations supervisor at the 16th CES, making him responsible for all utilities on base.

"I work with a great staff of highly qualified section foremen and management that's willing to recognize individual's accomplishments and encourage them to succeed," Mr. Volkenand said.

Mr. Volkenand's quick response to identify utility faults

rd winners for 2002



Master Sgt. John Brinkley *First sergeant*

By Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

The 4th Special Operations Squadron first sergeant has been named the best in Air Force Special Operations Command for 2002.

In addition, Master Sgt. John Brinkley was named AFSOC's 2002 Lance P. Sijan Award nominee, and was highlighted as Hurlburt Field's first sergeant of the quarter for January through March 2002.

"It's a privilege just to wear the Air Force uniform and to serve in the 16th Special Operations Wing," said Sergeant Brinkley. "Then, for AFSOC to select me for such an

award is a great honor."

According to his nomination package, the sergeant led 280 active-duty members in the largest flying squadron with the highest operations tempo in AFSOC, during the most critical time in the squadron's history.

This is an outstanding accomplishment for Sergeant Brinkley," said Lt. Col. Seth Junkins, 4th SOS commander. "AFSOC chose wisely when they selected him for this award. Not only is he an outstanding first sergeant, but a superior senior NCO."

Colonel Junkins said the sergeant is known for his fair, even discipline and his ability to calmly handle any situation.

Master Sgt. Vincent Lamonica *Senior NCO*

By Tech. Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller
AFSOC Public Affairs

A master sergeant assigned to the 720th Special Tactics Group is the Air Force Special Operations Command Senior NCO of the Year. Master Sgt. Vincent Lamonica was informed of his selection while deployed as part of a Joint Task Force in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was preparing for a daily meeting when his commander presented him with the good news.

"I was honored when I heard the news," said the Air Force Combat Controller. "There are a lot of great people doing a lot of great things, and to be honored in this way was overwhelming."

He was at an isolated location in the midst of a war, but his teammates still surrounded him with congratulations.

"Having my teammates with me was quite an honor," said Sergeant Lamonica. "These are people who're doing some incredible things. I was humbled to be surrounded by their support."

With mission first, the celebration didn't last long as Sergeant Lamonica and his team continued the tasks at hand – supporting the liberation of the Iraqi people.

"It was five minutes of congratulations, then back to work," he said.

Being deployed is nothing new for the 15-year Air Force veteran. He has deployed for Operations Desert Storm, Provide Transition,

"He constantly mentors my young enlisted troops and offers sound advice to my junior officers," the colonel said. "He's a tremendous asset to the squadron, and an absolutely outstanding first sergeant."

Restore Hope and Enduring Freedom. During Enduring Freedom, he earned three combat jump stars including one for taking part in the first Air Force military freefall combat jump in history.

"Stepping out of the plane, we knew we were making history," he said.

Tech. Sgt. Erika Mathis *NCO*

By Tech. Sgt. William Seabrook Jr.
Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Erika Mathis, 16th Medical Group, has been named as one of the Air Force Special Operations Command Outstanding Airmen of the year for 2002.

"I felt honored that my unit thought enough of me to submit me for this award," she said. "However, when I found out I won, it was totally unexpected because I know the caliber of people I was competing against."

Among her many achievements during the last year she was named the 16th MDG Population Health Director, a position normally held by a medical provider or officer, and completed her Registered Nursing degree.

"Besides winning this award, completing my RN degree was probably the accomplishment I'm most proud of during the last year," Sergeant Mathis said. "It's something I've worked

extremely hard at and it's taken me 17 years to complete."

The sergeant, who's originally from Lima, Peru, believes the support of those around her helped her to achieve this accomplishment.

"First of all I would thank God who made this all possible," Sergeant Mathis said. "I would also like to thank my squadron commander, flight commander and Senior Master Sgts. Patrick O'Neal and Stephanie Scott for their guidance and support. If it hadn't been for the support of my family – my husband and my sons and the sacrifices they've made, I would've never made it to where I am today."

Staff Sgt. Jason Blodzinski *Airman*

By 1st Lt. Gabe Johnson
AFSOC Public Affairs

A Combat Controller from the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron is the Air Force Special Operations Command Airman of the Year.

Staff Sgt. Jason Blodzinski, who was a senior airman during the award period, joined the Air Force six years ago to be a Combat Controller.

Since 1998, the New York native has been stationed at Hurlburt Field, and in that time he became a preeminent Special Operations tactical expert.

"Sergeant Blodzinski made outstanding contributions to Operation Enduring Freedom," said Lt. Col. Pat Pihana, commander of the 23rd STS.

While in Afghanistan, the sergeant was attached to Army and Navy Special Operations Forces. On more than one occasion he provided expertise in calling precision air strikes on enemy positions while under fire.

He was a key player during the establishment of a remote airfield, and provided an effective interface between air and ground forces,

according to Colonel Pihana.

"We in the 23rd STS take great pride in his selection as AFSOC's top airman. His superb leadership and job performance earned Jason this recognition," said Colonel Pihana.

"I was very humbled when I was informed I had been selected to represent the command," said the 27-year-old controller, who was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom when he heard the news.

"It's a great honor to receive this award," said the sergeant. "The Air Force is full of outstanding airmen and I've always been very impressed with those who have been selected to represent this command in past years."

Commandos pulverize Pratt's 14-9



Keri Jordan, Air Force Special Operations Command, catches the ball at first for an out.

By Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

The Hurlburt Field women's varsity softball team bulldozed the Pratt's Lawn Service team 14-9 at the Fort Walton Beach Fairgrounds ball field Monday.

It was an even start for both teams, with the score tied 3-3 by the 4th inning in the seven-inning game.

Pratt's won the last game, and for the Commandos, it was pay-

back time, said coach Terry Sweat, 16th Communications Squadron.

"They beat us good last time, and we owed them," he said.

The Commandos poured on the pain, and by the bottom of the 5th inning, the score was an embarrassing 13-4.

Determined not to go down easily, Pratt's energized the field, running in five players and surging to a 13-9 score before the Commandos could snag a third out. Up to bat for the last time, the Commandos ran in one player to inch up the lead.

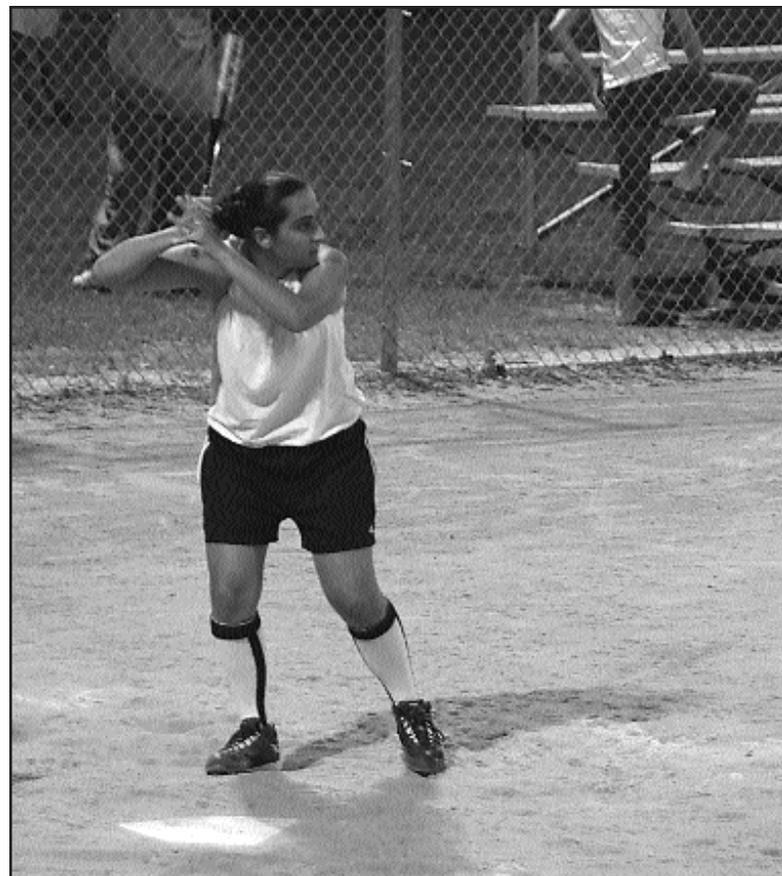
At the top of the final inning, Pratt's came up to bat for it's last

chance to pull ahead, but the stoked Commandos polished them off before a run was scored, clinching the win.

"We played a really good game," said Barbara Mendez, 16th Mission Support Squadron. "That's what you call Commando pride - one team, one fight!"

Coach Sweat said both teams are equally strong.

"We've beaten them in tournaments, and they've beaten us," he said. "It's who comes out with the best game. We have a good team, and the players are right-on. We're going to do very well in the military tournaments."



Photos by Senior Airman Sam Taylor

Jessica Oliver, 16th Maintenance Operations Squadron (left), sprints to first base at a softball game at the Fort Walton Beach Fairgrounds ball field Monday. (above) Barbara Mendez, 16th Mission Support Squadron, steels herself for a swing.

Sports briefs

Cheerleading clinic

People ages 6 and above can register through May 22 for a cheerleading clinic at the youth center. Registration fee is \$16 and includes a T-shirt and ribbon. The clinic includes cheerleading basics, cheers and a dance routine. Start date is scheduled for July 12 at the youth center auditorium from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 884-6355 or Coach Robin Poling at 936-1444.

VFW charity golf tournament

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7674 host their annual Charity Golf Tournament at Shalimar Pointe Golf Course June 1 at 7:30 a.m. The tournament is open to all golfers on a first-come, first-serve basis. Cash prizes will be awarded to first, second and third-place golfers. The entrance fee is \$50. Refreshments will be served on the course, along with a multitude of other prizes and gifts. For more information, call Larry

Taylor at 376-9667, Donna Clites at 581-7924 or the VFW Post 7674 at 244-3834.

Intramural golf registration

Hurlburt Field intramural golf registration is going on now. The league begins play June 5 and meets each Thursday. Teams are required to have at least eight people to avoid forfeited matches. For more information, contact unit sports representatives.