

Weather heroes receive new facility

By Paige Hughes
Air Force Weather Agency Public Affairs

The Air Force Combat Weather Center opened a new 8,235 square foot facility at Hurlburt Field, Fla., Sept. 23 with a ribbon cutting ceremony officiated by Col. Thomas Stickford, Air Force director of weather.

The new facility incorporates office space, a warehouse facility and training rooms into a single structure, providing substantially more workspace for the 32 members assigned to the unit. For more than 20 years, AFCWC has been involved in examining emerging technologies, innovative ideas and warfighter weather requirements to determine the most promising improvements for Air Force Weather operations.

"This is a great organization, filled with unsung heroes who impact and influence our warfighters every day," said Colonel Stickford. "Their impact is global, providing support across the Department of Defense and in particular, the U.S. Army."

The 59,000 square foot equipment yard provides adequate space for tactical and fixed equipment to be set up simultaneously, with plenty of room to replicate 'true' field conditions for testing, training and evaluation.

"I have a great appreciation for what Air Force Weather contributes to support the warfighter," said Lt. Col. John Shattuck, AFCWC commander. "I want the field – those using the equipment – to feel confident that the equipment will work the way they need it to work."

AFCWC is credited with providing "Just-In-Time-Training" on tactical equipment in

See **WEATHER**, Page 6



Photo by 1st Lt. Gabe Johnson

Airman Michael Cleary, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron structural maintainer, uses the new plastic media blasting chamber to remove nonskid from an MH-53 floor. The used particles are vacuumed through the grating in the floor to be reused.

New facility streamlines mission

By 1st Lt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

The 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron opened a new 39,256-square-foot corrosion control facility Wednesday, bringing to Hurlburt Field the latest in aircraft maintenance and environmental protection technology.

The \$7.2 million facility serves as paint and body shop for America's Special Operations aircraft. It has the capability to house and maintain all types of equipment, from the smallest generator to the largest aircraft stationed at Hurlburt Field.

"This is the biggest leap in the maintenance arena that we've made in the last 10 years," said Maj. Mike Christian, 16th EMS commander. "We're going to have planes looking the way they were meant to look. Not only will it combat corrosion, but freshly painted planes will give aircrews and crewchiefs a new pride in their aircraft."

With every facet of corrosion control located in the

same facility, structural maintainers can almost double their efficiency, while minimizing the impact on the environment due to an elaborate air filtration system.

"We used to have to carry our equipment to different buildings to get the job done, said Corrosion Control Superintendent Master Sgt. Kevin McDaniel. "We'd have to coordinate with Eglin to use their hangar to paint aircraft, and it was too small. The aircraft tails would stick outside the hangar so we'd just paint from the tail forward. Later we'd have to go back and touch up the tail at the outdoor wash rack at Hurlburt. Now we can do it all in one place and we keep the paint from escaping outside."

According to Sergeant McDaniel, the hangar has a three-stage air filtration system. The first stage catches all the dust and large particles in the air; the second stage catches the finer particles; and the third stage, made of a network of vacuum bags, catches anything that the first two stages don't catch.

See **CORROSION**, Page 6

CFC

Participation	100%	In the first two weeks of the CFC campaign, base members have donated \$162,343
45% Goal	75%	
28% Current	50%	
	25%	

Feature

Joint exercise
CCTs conduct training with Marine Corps
Page 10

Sports

MSG run
16th Mission Support Group prepares for new fitness program
Page 15

Weather

Weekend forecast

Today – mostly sunny, partly cloudy, High 79 Low 58

Saturday – mostly sunny, partly cloudy, High 81 Low 59

Sunday – partly cloudy, chance of rain in the evening, High 79 Low 59

www.hurlburt.af.mil/monly/weather/5day

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



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Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the **COMMANDO** is 4 p.m. Wednesday, the week prior to publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced and all submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call for questions.

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Clear crosswalk

Comment: I have a concern with the crosswalk just west of the traffic light near the main base exchange, commissary and medical clinic. With the crosswalk being located 40 to 50 yards past the stop light, it appears to present a potential hazard for the people driving

down the road, especially considering the amount of traffic flow through this area.

To avoid any potential accidents, I really feel that the crosswalk should be removed and the people who desire to cross should be required to do so at a designated traffic light crosswalk.

Reply: Thank you for bringing this to

our attention. The safety of our people is of fundamental importance.

The potential hazard this situation presents hasn't gone unnoticed by base officials. Our civil engineers have been working to remove this crosswalk and just recently received approval to do so. You should see it removed within the next 30 days.

AFSOC welcomes CSAR units

By Lt. Gen. Paul Hester
AFSOC commander

In less than a week, the Air Force Special Operations Command patch will adorn the uniforms of nearly 7,000 additional airmen, as we welcome Air Force Combat Search and Rescue forces to the AFSOC family.



Lt. Gen. Paul Hester

With the addition of CSAR units based in the continental United States,

we welcome a team of selfless professionals dedicated to a credo "That Others May Live."

Air Commandos have long worked side-by-side with many of these professionals – in peacetime and combat operations. HH-60 crews have flown our Special Tactics teams into battle, while HC-130s have provided the fuel to get them there.

The Pararescuemen and Combat Rescue Officers have worked seamlessly with our Special Operators in direct actions and exercise scenarios.

This history of teamwork is one of the powerful reasons behind the realignment. Our forces use similar weapon

systems, training and operating concepts to conduct personnel recovery missions. Placing these important missions under one organization will help us better care for our missions and the proud airmen that make them happen.

Although only CSAR units based in CONUS will realign, our objective is to improve the mission, training, equipment and career opportunities for the entire Air Force CSAR community. Ultimately, the goal is to enhance Air Force CSAR capabilities.

From an aircrew perspective, when you punch out over "bad guy territory,"

See **CSAR**, Page 8

Centennial of flight

Where do you start cataloging the Air Force's role in the development of powered flight? Aircraft? Flight techniques? Equipment? People?

Or, perhaps, it's all of these. Maybe the history of powered flight and the Air Force are so deeply intertwined that separating the two is pointless. Maybe we're better off reflecting on those significant milestones – those "famous firsts" – that have become the stuff of legend and part and parcel to the human flying experience. The best way to look forward, it seems, is to look back:

1916 – Military reconnaissance flights begin over Mexico during Gen.

John Pershing's effort to capture Pancho Villa, marking the first time an aircraft is used to gather information.

1918 – The age of air-to-air combat begins when an American Expeditionary Force bi-plane shoots down enemy aircraft for the first time over the battlefields of World War I in France.

1921 – Aircraft under command of Col. William Mitchell sink three captured German warships during bombing tests.

1923 – More bombing of German warships as the Army continues testing airpower.



Look who's talking: What's your motivation for not using illegal drugs?

Article submissions for the **Commando** should be sent to

commando@hurlburt.af.mil

Classified advertisements must be brought to the Public Affairs office in Building 90210, Room 326. The deadline for submissions is 4 p.m. Friday one week prior to publication.

NEWS

National Guard escapes Isabel

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

Crewmembers with the 193rd Special Operations Wing bunkered down on Hurlburt Field Sept. 16 – 19 after evacuating from Harrisburg International Airport, Pa., due to Hurricane Isabel.

One of the largest units in the Air National Guard, the 193rd SOW flies the EC-130 Commando Solo, the only psychological operations aircraft in the Air Force.

“We broadcast information by television and radio signals (AM/FM and VHF/UHF),” said Staff Sgt. Daryl Strick, 193rd SOW crew chief. “We also conduct psychological operations, which involve the informational leaflet drops.”

The 193rd joined the Air Force Special Operations Command in 1990 and their mission remained the same – to conduct information operations, psychological operations, civil affairs broadcasts and military communications bands.

The Commando Solos have deployed to locations around the world in support

of national objectives and were among the first in theater for Operation Enduring Freedom.

A few crewmembers from the Guard unit were recently a little closer to home because of some training they were conducting here, and other crews followed shortly thereafter due to the hurricane heading toward the east coast, Sergeant Strick explained.

Although Hurricane Isabel caused significant damage to parts of the east coast, members of the 193rd were able to return home just a few days after arriving to Hurlburt Field.

The crewmembers brought C-130s which they referred to as “Slicks,” which are used to carry cargo and conduct training. The EC-130s are used for actual missions and are equipped differently and have different capabilities, the crewmembers explained.

Some of the Commando Solo’s missions include support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Desert Thunder and most recently Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Senior Airman Sam Taylor

Crewmembers with the Pennsylvania Air National Guard’s 193rd Special Operations Wing, prepare to head back to their home station after a brief visit to Hurlburt Field due to Hurricane Isabel.

Army detachment gets blue farewell

By Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

As a farewell, an hour-long deployment ceremony was held Saturday at the chapel annex for the U.S. Army Reserve 2nd Battlefield Coordination Detachment, which holds its monthly drills at the Command and Control Training and Innovation Group here.

The only Army Reserve unit of its kind, the 2nd BCD was mobilized for a six-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, to replace one of its three active-duty sister detachments.

“We’ve gotten great support from the people here, from medical, to lodging, to transportation,” said Col. Dave Estes, 2nd BCD commander.

That support was given up to the last minute, with the American Red Cross, TRICARE and other agencies on hand at the three-hour family gathering prior to the farewell ceremony, said Colonel Estes.

While in the field, the team will work with an Air Operations Center to make sure the Air Space above the battlefield is deconflicted between Army and Air Force weapon systems.

“We’re the ones who make sure Army targets are ‘serviced’ on the Air Tasking Order, and ensure the Air Force knows what the Army’s doing on the ground,” said Colonel Estes. “The air above a battlefield is a busy place.”

The unit is compiled of Army members from all over the south, said Colonel Estes, and each one was ready for the trip.

“We have a good mission,” said the colonel. “Everybody who’s going wants to go, and is ready to do their job.”

Spotlight on ...

Traci Buechler

Rank/Duty Title: Staff Sgt./Pharmacy craftsman

Organization: 16th Medical Support Squadron

Hometown: Lumberton, N.C.

Hobbies: Horseback riding, softball and swimming

Contribution to the mission:

Sergeant Buechler serves as the 16th MDSS pharmacy vault custodian. She’s responsible for security and tracking disposition of 65 controlled substances.

She ensures strict compliance with all Air Force and Drug Enforcement Agency regulations.

She researched and procured \$256,000 in state of the art equipment to upgrade the outdated telephone refill system and improved prescription processing.

Sergeant Buechler’s leadership and guidance were instrumental in the pharmacy’s contribution to the 16th Medical Group’s selection as the Air Force Surgeon General’s Medical Group of the Year for 2002.

She was recently selected as the Hurlburt Field Chief’s Group Sharp Award winner.

(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.)

AIR FORCE NEWS

New ribbon recognizes deployed members

By Master Sgt. Randy L. Mitchell
Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER – Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche has approved award of the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon to recognize service members' support of air expeditionary force deployments.

The AFESR will be awarded to Air Force active-duty, Reserve and Guard personnel who completed a contingency deployment after Oct. 1, 1999, according to officials.

"Deployed status is defined as deployment on contingency, exercise, deployment orders or members sourced in direct support, in-theater or out, of expeditionary operations with an overnight (stay) away from home station,"

said Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Simmons, superintendent of the awards and decorations section.

To qualify for the award, individuals must have deployed for 45 consecutive days or 90 non-consecutive days in a deployed status.

"People will continue accumulating contingency temporary duty days until they reach 90 days. Every consecutive 45 days, regardless of TDY length, counts toward an additional ribbon. Any contingency deployment qualifies regardless of the duty, destination or location of the temporary duty – including those within the continental United States," Sergeant Simmons said.

Permanent party personnel overseas aren't eligible for the ribbon, unless they're forward-deployed on a contingency deployment, according to Sergeant Simmons. Those deployed on an overseas short tour may be

eligible to receive both the AFESR and the Overseas Short Tour Ribbon.

According to Sergeant Simmons, to receive the OSTR award, the individual should report to their serving military personnel flight once they return from deployment to validate entitlement to the ribbon. The individual must present a copy of their deployment orders and completed travel voucher; any citations or certificates received while deployed may also help prove entitlement.

"If the special order doesn't identify the TDY as a contingency deployment, the current squadron commander may validate AFESR entitlement by evaluating the request and verifying any supporting documentation," Sergeant Simmons said.

For more information, call awards and decorations at 884-5401.

Guardsmen, Reservists essential to war effort

By Donna Miles
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON – National Guard and Reserve forces "have been absolutely essential" to the war on terrorism, the commander of U.S. Central Command told the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The commander's comments came during a Sept. 24 hearing about the fiscal 2004 supplemental funding re-request for Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We couldn't get the job done without them," Army Gen. John Abizaid said. "It isn't a matter of 'nice to have,' it's a matter of 'must have.'"

But Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the committee that such heavy reliance on the Reserve components – which have a large percentage of the military's combat service support

capabilities – "doesn't posture us very well for the 21st-century security environment we're going into."

General Myers said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has ordered a rebalancing of the force to provide a better mix of capabilities between the active and Reserve components.

The Defense Department's goal is to accomplish the rebalancing within the next two years.

About 170,000 Guard and Reserve members are currently on active duty, down from a high of 223,000 during major combat operations in Iraq, General Myers said. The number could drop more if a third multinational division joins Operation Iraqi Freedom.

However, if no additional multinational division materializes, General Myers said, planners might have to use other

options to keep manning on track in Iraq, including the possibility

"We couldn't get the job done without them. It isn't a matter of 'nice to have,' it's a matter of 'must have.'"

~ Army Gen. John Abizaid

of more Reserve component call-ups. Other options, General Myers said, involve increasing the number of active-duty troops committed to the operation or, ideally, getting enough Iraqis trained so they can assume a larger role in their defense.

Meanwhile, U.S. troops serving in or being deployed to Iraq "should expect to spend one year in Iraq," General Myers said, whether they're on active duty or in the Reserve components.

Defense Department policy has been to issue one-year mobilization orders to the Reserve components, although service secretaries have the authority to extend that period.

Current U.S. Army policy, for example, is that mobilized Reserve component troops will spend up to 12 months in theater, in addition to active-duty time spent to train up, ship out and demobilize at the end of their tours.

And when Reserve-component troops are called to active duty, General Myers and Secretary Rumsfeld agree they need more notice than many have been getting.

General Myers said Reserve-component units to be called to active duty for the next rotation have already been alerted and are preparing for their missions. The war on terror demands that the military make maximum use of all its assets. (AFPN)

System integrates military pay, personnel

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – A new Web-based system will integrate all of the services' military personnel and pay systems, Department of Defense officials announced Sept. 29.

The Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System will provide "one-stop shopping" for service members when it's fully implemented. The new system will be more accurate and make it easier for active-duty

and Reserve-component service members to check on their records, officials said. It'll use commercial, off-the-shelf technology.

David Chu, defense undersecretary for personnel and readiness, said that although the drive for the system preceded the current administration, it is very much in the spirit of transformation promulgated by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. The system will absorb the 79 "legacy" systems into one Web-based system accessible to all who need to view those records, including the service-

members themselves.

The system will provide better, more accurate and more timely information for service members and warfighters, officials said. It'll allow combatant commanders "to have much better visibility over what is ultimately the most important resource they have: their people," Mr. Chu said.

The system will create a single record of service that'll follow each service member, even after they leave the military, officials said. (AFPN)

News Briefs

West Nile Virus poses threat

Mosquitoes carrying the West Nile Virus have been captured at some Air Force bases.

All affected bases are working to contain the problem, and all bases are taking precautions to guard against outbreaks.

While only one percent of those who contract the virus may become seriously ill, the best treatment is the prevention of mosquito bites.

For more information about the West Nile Virus, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm.

AFPC gives tips for success

Officials at the Air Force Personnel Center have released a list of things airmen should focus on to give themselves the best possible chance for promotion.

They advise airmen to start preparing for promotion early, not get lax in study habits and ensure study materials are current.

For more tips to success in the Weighted Airman Promotion System, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/pubaffairs/release/2003/09/EnIPromo.htm.

Climate survey kick-off

The 2003 AF Climate Survey kicks off tomorrow, with this year's theme being "Speak Today, Shape Tomorrow." The survey gives people an opportunity to tell Air Force leaders how their organization is doing.

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Base fire dept hosts Fire Prevention Week

Courtesy of the
16th CES Fire Department

The Hurlburt Field Fire Department announced that National Fire Prevention Week will be observed from Sunday through Oct. 11.

The fire department's fire protection flight conducts fire prevention and safety programs throughout the year, assisting base and local communities to protect themselves from fire. This concern for safety is highlighted during Fire Prevention Week.

The week marks the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, which sprang up Oct. 9, 1871. On that day, a tremendous fire destroyed 17,430 buildings at a cost of \$168 million.

After this tragedy, fire prevention codes were written requiring safer construction. In observation of NFPW, the fol-

lowing activities are scheduled:
Saturday – Annual fire truck parade through all of base housing

Sunday through Tuesday
 Fire prevention displays will be located at the base exchange, shopette and minimall. Specials at the base exchange on fire safety items will be promoted in October. Also, Sparkey, the fire-dog, will greet people at the security gates, with fire safety messages, and the fire department will be performing fire-house tours for local school-age children.

Oct. 11 – The fire department will be at the Santa Rosa Mall participating in a fire prevention extravaganza.

For real time fire emergencies, dial 911. For more information about fire prevention and safety, visit one of the fire prevention displays from Sunday to Tuesday.

DCAO program resolves TRICARE-related bills

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 accounts.

Once contacted by a TRICARE beneficiary, the DCAO will intercede with all agencies involved – including key military offices, providers, managed care contractor, and even debt collection agencies when appropriate – to help resolve collection issues arising from claims.

Those who have overdue bills that have been sent to a collection agency are urged to call the local TRICARE Service Center or the debt collection assistance officer, Tech. Sgt. Ervin Benton at the Hurlburt Field Medical Clinic TRICARE office at 881-5177 for assistance. For more information, visit the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/dcao. This site lists the DCAOs for each region and MTF.



Watch for our children

CORROSION, Continued from Page 1

"Hurlburt Field's new state-of-the-art corrosion control facility is a testimony that environmental issues are at the forefront of all operations," said Andrea Bishop, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental engineer. "The features of the new facility will reduce pollution, decrease fugitive emissions of volatile organic compounds up to 99 percent,



Photo by 1st Lt. Gabe Johnson

Structural maintainers with the 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, inspect a 16th Special Operations Wing C-130 from inside the new corrosion control facility.

enhance worker health and safety and create less hazardous waste. The impressive capability of this facility sets the environmental standard for all painting operations and ensures 100 percent compliance with all local, state and federal regulations."

To minimize the loss of paint during the process, the facility will employ an electrostatic paint system, which increases efficiency, said Sergeant McDaniel. An electrostatic paint gun sprays positively charged paint particles at negatively charged metal ensuring 85 percent of the paint will coat the desired area. Older methods ensured 65 percent at best.

When stripping old paint from aircraft parts, the new facility saves structural maintainers hours of physical labor.

"One of the best upgrades from what we used to have is the blasting room," said Sergeant McDaniel. "It's basically a sand blaster, but instead of sand it uses plastic media to take the paint off airplane parts.

"In the advanced composites section, we can repair damage done to fiberglass body parts on MH-53s, and we're even equipped to repair more complex composite materials like the material on the CV-22 when that comes on line," said Sergeant McDaniel.

"It's an exciting time to be part of the 16th EMS," said Staff Sgt. Michael Huilker, aircraft structural maintainer. "Because of the introduction of this facility we get to establish a new process that will be used by structural maintainers at Hurlburt Field for years to come."

WEATHER, Continued from Page 1

support of 150 Air National Guard and Reserve members deploying to Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Additionally, they tested equipment and software and created a user set-up guide, assisting in the successful fielding of a First-In Weather System to 75 deployed combat weather teams in direct support of the global war on terrorism.

The efforts of the men and women at AFCWC translate into cost savings for the Air Force. One recent test of tactical weather equipment has the potential for saving nearly \$750,000.

Additional savings add up by ensuring software and hardware perform correctly the first time out, which will avoid costly corrections to redistribute systems that were deployed with problems.

The success of the unit is greatly reliant on the ability to adequately conduct their mission. For this reason, previous AFCWC commanders worked with base leaders to construct a larger facility.

"It's impossible for a project of this size to work without the help and support of the Hurlburt Field community," said Colonel Shattuck.

"This new building will provide the combat weather center the means to continue their outstanding contributions to improving the weather warfighting capabilities of the Air Force combat weather teams," said Colonel Stickford.

The AFCWC is located in Building 91024. The weather center is a subordinate unit of Air Force Weather Agency, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.



Photo by Airman Andy Kin

Tech. Sgt. Ralph Wright (right) and Staff Sgt. Jason McGimsey, Air Force Combat Weather Center, verify the Automated Tactical Observation System is in working order outside their new facility, which opened Sept. 23.

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Cody Avenue gets closer to completion

While a large portion of Cody Avenue is now drivable there's still plenty of construction work to be done, according to base officials.

The construction on Cody Avenue is a part of the base's Upgrade Road Access project. The goal of this \$5.7 million project is to realign and widen the two primary roads into Hurlburt Field, according to Capt. Teresa Lord, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron. The second primary road being Independence Avenue that received upgrades earlier this year.

"Currently we are looking at the demolition of Lukasik and Simpson," said Captain Lord. "The demolition is needed so we can build the new intersection of Lukasik and Simpson. What you'll be seeing in the near future will be the storm drains and conflict boxes being put in along Lukasik. Then you'll be seeing the grading and fill to prepare for the curbing. The lines will be put in place with the survey crew and then the curbs will be formed."

In addition, along the sides of Cody there's on-going landscaping work. The contractor will also be forming a marching pad in front of the Airman Leadership School.

While some of the fine touches will still be going on, the base expects the bulk of the work, to include paving, to be completed by Nov. 7. Simpson Avenue is planned to be repaved Oct. 10 and reopened shortly after.

The Upgrade Road Access project was originally scheduled for completion in May. Weather played a critical role in the delay of finishing the project, according to Captain Lord. Another factor was in part to all of the utility modifications and relocations.

Fill out a Hometown News Release for more information, call 884-7464

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CSAR, Continued from Page 2

you keep your faith in God and country, and the training these guys possess. I remember reading a story about Hammer 34, the F-16 pilot shot down over Kosovo during Operation Allied Force. He said the biggest morale boost for pilots downed in enemy territory was knowing that someone was going to rescue them. He remembers shortly after being pulled inside the MH-60 Pave Hawk, the Pararescueman on the mission shouted over the communications system for the pilot to take off, "PC (Precious Cargo) is on-board."

We need to continue to look for ways to enhance our capabilities and strengthen our people, so that we meet our mission and bring home the "precious cargo," our fellow airmen, we're chartered to serve. This realignment brings together like forces, equipment and training opportunities for a more effective and efficient

personnel recovery program.

During the next few months, as the AFSOC family assimilates new members, we'll have a few growing pains – a natural result of any change. For bearings, I ask each of you to pause and reflect on the AFSOC patch on your uniform.

The winged dagger which graces the center of the patch reflects this command's commitment to military preparedness, and the swift and silent mobilization of forces. The yellow hilt of the dagger symbolizes the excellence of our people. These valuable principles, readiness and excellence, should be the cadence of our march forward – together, as one team. These qualities have been at the heart of our success to date in the global war on terrorism and will form the foundation for our success as we continue to serve America and her airmen in the years ahead.

To our Air Force CSAR teammates: Welcome to the family. We're proud to have you aboard!

Looking for a civilian job?

Deputy Director of the Office Placement Service for the Military Officers Association of America, Dick Crampton, an expert on transitioning from the military to civilian employment, will be at the Hurlburt Field Base Theater Oct. 28, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. to talk to officers, enlisted military members and spouses about "marketing yourself for a second career."

In this free 2 ½ hour presentation, Mr. Crampton speaks to

the audience about the realities of competition in the civilian job market, the perceptions civilian employers have of military people, a plan for job searching, tips for strengthening resumes, networking plans, preparing for and conducting a successful interview, and salary negotiations and benefit packages.

The lecture is presented annually at more than 150 U.S. military bases worldwide. It's up-to-date, hard-hitting, and

sharply focused. It has a reputation as a "must attend" for those three years or less from separation or retirement.

Military members and their spouses are invited to attend the free lecture. While there, they may ask questions and will also receive a free copy of the publication, "Marketing Yourself for a Second Career."

If you would like to attend, call the family support center, transition assistance office, at 884-6281.

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Call-to-service enlistee swears in

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The first person to enlist under the National Call to Service program swore in Oct. 1 during a ceremony at the Military Entrance Processing Station in San Antonio.

Brig. Gen. Edward Rice Jr., Air Force Recruiting Service commander, administered the oath of enlistment to Hector Baretto from Ingleside, Texas. Baretto is the first person to take advantage of the Air Force's 15-month active-duty enlistment.

"This is a very important day for both Hector and the U.S. Air Force," General Rice said. "Hector is joining 37,000 people who will 'cross into the blue' this year by enlisting in the Air Force. He is making the Air Force stronger, and he is providing himself with the opportunity to do many good things."

"I'm glad I am now in the Air Force," Baretto said. "I'm a little nervous, but this is exciting – I'm looking forward to going to basic training. I think I have made a good choice."

Baretto will be trained in the security forces career field.

National Call to Service is a congressionally mandated program passed as part of the 2003 National Defense Authorization Act. The program's enlistees comprise 1 percent of the Air Force fiscal 2004 goal of 37,000

enlisted accessions. They incur the same eight-year military service obligation as traditional four- and six-year enlistees.

"This program gives folks a chance to serve who normally wouldn't because of longer enlistment terms," General Rice said. "We're excited about this program because some people, after seeing Air Force benefits, will decide to extend on active duty beyond their 15-month enlistment. Those that leave at the end of their term will carry their service with them and become natural ambassadors in their communities."

The 15-month active-duty enlistment period begins after the completion of basic and technical training. The initial enlistment is followed by either a 24-month active-duty extension or selected regular Reserve duty. The recruit chooses how he or she spends the remainder of the military service obligation – active duty, selective regular Reserve, inactive Ready Reserve or other national service programs designated by the secretary of defense.

The recruits will serve in one of 29 career specialties and receive one of three incentives that include a \$5,000 bonus, \$10,000 in college-loan repayment or education benefits mirroring the Montgomery GI Bill program, officials said. **(AFPN)**

Greeting service begins

SAN ANTONIO – The Army and Air Force Hometown News Service is offering its free print holiday greeting program to servicemembers worldwide. The program, now in its fourth year, will be open for submissions until Nov. 25.

An important change for this year's program is open access to the program by individual servicemembers.

The print greeting program is a fully electronic Internet program that allows any servicemember to send a formatted holiday greeting to relatives through the Hometown News Service here. After processing, the HNS staff e-mails the greetings to newspapers serving the relatives' community. The program is free to both the servicemember and their community newspaper.

"We have more than 1,000 hometown newspapers signed up for newspaper holiday greetings, and they each cover several ZIP code areas," said Gerry Proctor, HNS chief of marketing. "Each form can generate several releases. The greetings are distributed according to ZIP codes and state. When the servicemember puts in their ZIP code ... the computer ... distributes a release for every subscribing newspaper covering that area."

Program information and forms are accessible on HometownLink at <http://hn.afnews.af.mil> from any government computer system. **(AFPN)**

FEATURE

Airmen, Marines join for exercise

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Hurlburt Field recently hosted a group of U.S. Marines to train in a four-day joint exercise with live-fire training.

The 23rd Special Tactics Squadron here joined with the Helicopter Marines Light Attack Squadron 773 from the Marine Reserve unit at Naval Air Station Atlanta, to perform training for both the Combat Controllers and the Marines.

Escorting the HMLA to the Eglin firing range, the 23rd STS proceeded with its Advanced Skills Training exercise.

For the combined training, the Combat Controllers performed call-for-fire missions, while the AH-1W Super Cobra and UH-1N Twin Huey helicopters answered with fire power.

In order to simulate real-world situations, the call-for-fire exercises were performed in both daylight and night-time hours.

Marine detachments from Atlanta and the Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans participated in the exercise.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Davis

A U.S. Marine gives the AH-1W Cobra helicopter pilot the go-ahead to start a training flight here.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Davis

Lou Robinson guides an AH-1W Cobra attack helicopter to a deck landing aboard the Helicopter Landing Trainer Baylander (IX-514) while underway in Pensacola Bay.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Davis

An AH-1W Cobra attack helicopter approaches the deck of Helicopter Landing Trainer Baylander (IX-514).

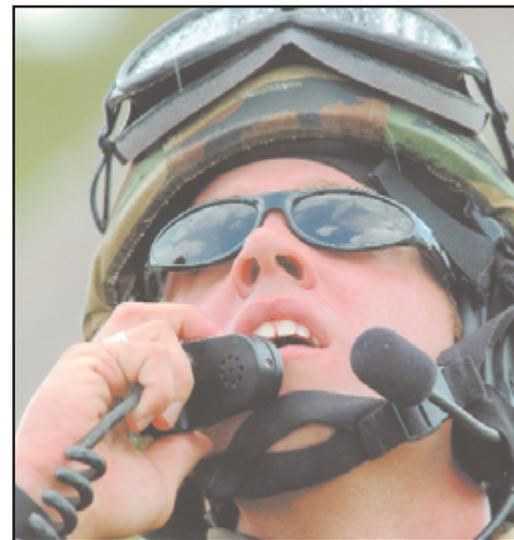


Photo by Staff Sgt. Carrie Hinson

An NCO with the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron, communicates to Marine air-crews on a mobile radio while performing a call-for-fire.

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2 X 4.00**

**ARMED FORCES COMM
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2 X 7.00**

AT training: a requirement for all

**Courtesy of the 16th
Special Operations Wing
Force Protection Office**

Level I Antiterrorism Awareness Training is required for every military service member, Department of Defense employee and local national hired by the DOD, regardless of rank.

The Air Force also offers this training to contractor employees, but under terms and conditions as specified in the respective contracts.

Family members ages 14 and older (or younger at discretion of the DOD sponsor) traveling beyond the continental United States on official business (i.e. an accompanied permanent change-of-station move), shall receive training as part of their pre-departure requirements. Commanders should encourage family members to receive the training prior to any travel outside CONUS, such as leave.

The requirements for this training are as follows:

- Annually to all OCONUS-based DoD personnel, including those who are eligible for OCONUS deployment

- Annually to all active uniformed CONUS-based members of the commander-in-chiefs and services

- DOD personnel deploying OCONUS, within three months of deployment

- Annually to all CONUS-based DOD personnel, regardless of duty status, if the CONUS Terrorism Threat Level is promulgated above moderate

Awareness training may be done by any level two certified personnel or per DOD-sponsored computer-based training and/or distance learning by visiting www.at-awareness.org/index.html.

Documentation of the training should be done as follows:

- The military personnel

flight outbound assignments section will document training for individuals and their family members 14 years or older who are relocating due to an OCONUS PCS on the relocation checklist. The checklist will include this training requirement in their relocation-processing letter. Training must be completed prior to final out-processing.

- Unit deployment managers shall document training for individuals projected for temporary duty OCONUS. UDMs will ensure individuals receive the training prior to deployment.

- Unit ancillary training managers will document training with the date of completion in the Military Modernization Personnel Data System.

- Unit training managers shall document training through normal ancillary records when documentation through the PCS/TDY checklist or MILPDS isn't possible.

New finance changes may affect you

**Courtesy of the
16th Comptroller Squadron**

Here are a few recent financial changes that might affect you:

Travel Accruals – What's a travel accrual? It's an incremental travel voucher that reimburses the member for expenses incurred on a temporary duty assignment after 30 days, when the TDY is 45 days or more.

The accrual will calculate per diem based on nightly lodging costs and meal rates, plus any authorized reimbursable expenses. Travelers must split disburse their government travel card balance, and the rest (if any) will be sent to their checking/savings account. Accruals are a great tool for preventing GTC delinquencies, and keeping enough money to endure the TDY.

To file travel accrual on-line, log-on to the virtual military personnel flight Web site and click on "Accrual Travel Voucher" at the bottom right-hand corner. Then, type important TDY information; make sure to keep itinerary information unclassified. Requests will be sent instantly to the 16th Comptroller Squadron and will be processed within 72 hours.

Family Separation Allowance and Hostile Fire Pay – FSA and HFP will revert to the old rates, which were effective Oct. 1 (\$100 a month for FSA and \$150 a month for HFP). If new legislation passes in the Fiscal Year 2004 Authorization Bill, the higher rates might be reinstated retroactively. Since we'll most likely not have an authorization bill for another two or three months, it's not likely any new legislation will be in effect until January 2004, pending congressional action.

October asks, what *is* energy?

**Courtesy of the
16th Civil Engineer Squadron**

October is Energy Awareness Month, but what exactly is energy? Energy is the ability to do work.

It comes in different forms – heat (thermal), light (radiant), mechanical, electrical, chemical, and nuclear energy.

There are two types of energy – stored (potential) energy and working (kinetic) energy. All forms of energy are stored in different ways in the energy sources that we use every day.

These sources are divided into two groups – renewable (an energy source that we can use over and over again) and nonrenewable (an

energy source that we are using up and cannot recreate in a short period of time).

Renewable energy sources include solar energy, which comes from the sun and can be turned into electricity and heat. Wind, geothermal energy from inside the earth, biomass from plants, and hydropower from water are also renewable energy sources.

However, we get most of our energy from nonrenewable energy sources called fossil fuels – oil, natural gas, and coal. They are called fossil fuels because they were formed over millions and millions of years by heat from the Earth's core and pressure from rock and soil on the remains (or "fossils") of dead plants and animals.

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**NATL NEWSPAPER/SPRINT
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Hurlburt Happenings

Military

AFA awards dinner

The Hurlburt Field Chapter of the Air Force Association is holding its annual awards dinner Oct. 16 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Soundside Club to honor its selection as the Air Force Association Unit of the Year. The guest speaker will be Lt. Gen. Norty Schwartz, Joint Chiefs of Staff J3. Dinner will be a southern style buffet for \$18.60. Dress is jacket and open collar for the men, and ladies are encouraged to dress appropriately. All reservations must be made by Oct. 13, by calling Don Tyler at 884-2807 or by e-mailing donald.tyler@hurlburt.af.mil.

HOSC costume party

The Hurlburt Officers' Spouses' Club will host a costume party Oct. 16 from 6 to 9 p.m. at J.R. Rockers. The menu will be chicken cordon bleu served with Caribbean vegetables, wild rice pilaf, rolls and Martha's Cobbler for dessert. The alternate menu is a grilled chicken Caesar salad. Guests who bring a donation, such as cat/dog food, old towels or blankets for the Panhandle Animal Welfare Society will receive an extra door prize ticket. Childcare will be available at the Hurlburt Field Youth Center from 5:45 to 9:15 p.m. The cost will be \$3/hour per child or \$5/hour total for two or more children. Reservations for dinner and childcare must be made by Oct. 13. To make reservations, call Betsy Treloar at 936-5306.

AFPC survey

The Air Force Personnel Center's goal is to simplify personnel processes. That's why they're seeking input/ideas from the field on how the center can make personnel-related activities easier for commanders and supervisors, without major staffing efforts. E-mail all suggestions – big or small – to Senior Master Sgt. Brian Johnston at brian.johnston@hurlburt.af.mil, using "AFPC Survey" as the subject. All submissions must be made by Oct. 10.

Airman Appreciation Day

The Hurlburt Field Airman's Council is hosting an Airman Appreciation Day Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hurlburt Field Community Park for all airmen at Hurlburt Field. There'll be a burger burn and refreshments prepared by the FOCUS 56 group here. Later in the afternoon, there'll be a paintball challenge between the airmen and the NCOs. For more information, e-mail Airman 1st Class Mary Kizzee at mary.kizzee@hurlburt.af.mil.

PSYOP display

The U.S. Air Force Special Operations School invites Hurlburt Field personnel to view a U.S. Army Psychological Operations equipment display Wednesday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the MG James Dozier DIT range located next to the Small Arms range. The Special Operations Media System Version B is a ground-based radio/television broadcast platform, maintained and operated by the 4th Psychological Operations Group, Fort Bragg, N.C. For more information, call Lt. Col. Cheryl Scaglione at 884-6717 or e-mail cheryl.scaglione@hurlburt.af.mil, or call Frank Reidy at 884-7956 or e-mail francis.reidy@hurlburt.af.mil.

Cadet mentor program

All Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base personnel are invited to the Air Force Cadet Officer Mentor Action

Program Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Eglin Officers' club. Lt. Col. Jerome Akerson will discuss professional education and training. For more information, call 1st Lt. Jessica Phelps at 882-5418.

Change of command ceremony

The 16th Operations Group invites all base members to a change of command ceremony, where Col. Randy O'Boyle will relinquish command and Col. Brian Greenshields will assume command. The ceremony is Monday at 9 a.m., on the flightline north of the 4th Special Operations Squadron. In case of inclement weather the ceremony will be held in Eason Hangar. Dress is uniform of the day for military and casual for civilians.

Community

ACA reunion

The Air Commando Association/Special Operations annual reunion is held Oct. 10 – 12 in Fort Walton Beach. For more information, call 581-0099, fax 581-8988, e-mail hqaca@aircommando.net or visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~aircommando1/>.

Vehicle decals

The Hurlburt Field Pass and Registration Office now has 6,000 vehicle decals that will be issued on a "first come, first served" basis Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The pass and registration office is located in Building 90210. The Visitor Control Center hours are 6 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.

New commissary hours

As of Sept. 28, the Hurlburt Field Commissary will be operating from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Also, the commissary will be closed Oct. 13 for Columbus Day, but will reopen Oct. 14 at 9 a.m.

Mullet festival

The 27th Annual Boggy Bayou Mullet Festival is Oct. 17 – 19 at the intersection of U.S. Highway 85 North and College Boulevard. Admission is \$5, children under 12 years of age are free. The Jazz Ensemble from the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve will perform Oct. 17 and 18. On the children's stage, there'll be an array of clown shows, magic shows and cartoon characters. For detailed information about the day's entertainment and activities, visit www.niceville.org and the link to the mullet festival.

Bocce tournament

Resources for Human Development, Inc., a non-profit, state-funded organization, will be celebrating the grand opening of their new thrift store Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The tournament will begin at 1 p.m. and 4-man teams will compete for prizes, while enjoying free food, fun and drinks. The cost per team is a \$40 donation. The thrift store is located at 210 Cypress Street, and the bocce court is located at 625 Lovejoy Road. To sign up for the tournament, call 862-6340.

Clinic closure

The 16th Medical Group will be closed Oct. 10 and 13 in observance of Columbus Day. Eglin Air Force Base's emergency room will be available during the clinic closure.

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.

Qur'ian: Saturday, 6 p.m.

At the movies

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

Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday – (PG) "Freaky Friday," starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan – Ellen and her daughter, Annabel wish they could exchange bodies, so the other could see what it's like – somehow, it happens.

Saturday – (PG-13) "Uptown Girls," starring Brittany Murphy and Dakota Fanning – Molly's the host of the New York social scene until her inheritance is stolen by her accountant. As her party comes to an abrupt end, she's forced to do something she's never done before – get a job. Molly lands a position as nanny to Ray, the daughter of a high-powered music executive.

Sunday – (PG-13) "Bend It Like Beckham," starring Jonathon Rhys-Meyers and Parminder Nagra – A young Indian girl dreams of playing professional soccer, but must hide it from her traditional parents. Hilarity ensues when her sister's wedding falls on the day of an important soccer match.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday – (PG-13) "S.W.A.T.," starring Samuel L. Jackson and LL Cool J – After weeks of rigorous physical training, the new team is quickly thrown into action when a notorious drug lord offers a \$100 million reward to anyone who can free him from police custody. While accompanying the drug lord out of Los Angeles into the hands of the federal agents, the S.W.A.T. team is pursued by a ruthless and well-armed band of reward seekers.

Saturday – (R) "Freddy Vs. Jason," starring Robert Englund and Ken Kirzinger – Freddy Krueger is in hell – literally. While there, he resurrects Jason. Jason is the perfect means for Freddy to once again instill fear on Elm Street, creating a window of opportunity for him to emerge from his purgatory. Freddy then tricks Jason into journeying to Springwood to start a new reign of terror.

Sunday – (R) "Open Range," starring Kevin Costner and Annette Bening – The four cattle herders and "freegazers," living in the final years of the Wild West, eventually team up to rid a burgeoning remote town, Harmonville, from the machinations of a ruthlessly evil rancher, Baxter, who forms a sort of "outlaw state," where he makes the laws and rules and enforces them using scare-tactics and brute force.

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

Benefit sale

Teresa Village, located at 350 Woodrow Street in Fort Walton Beach, will host a benefit sale for the Air Force Enlisted Village, a non-profit organization providing housing and services to widows and spouses of retired Air Force enlisted members, Oct. 11 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call Cathy Landroche at 651-3766.

Bike, car and truck show

Hurlburt Field will be hosting the 2003 Commando Cruise In Bike, Car and Truck Show Oct. 13 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Soundside parking lot. The show is limited to the first 250 cars/trucks and 50 motorcycles.

Pre-registration is \$20 and \$25 on the day of the event. There will be \$750 cash awards and trophies for the winners, and music, fun and food for everyone. For more information, call Trisha Barrett at 884-6948.

Craft show

The Shalimar United Methodist Church hosts its 7th Annual Holly Fair Craft Show Oct. 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. There'll be over 50 artists and crafters offering a variety of artwork and handcrafted items for sale.

There'll also be homemade bakery goods, including cakes, cookies, breads, jams and jellies for purchase. Lunch will be available in the Holly Berry Tea Room from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with light snacks available elsewhere. For more information, call Fleta Keith at 651-0106.

Poster/essay contests

In celebration of the Month of the Military Family,

there'll be a poster contest for elementary students and an essay contest for middle school and high school students on the topic, "What Being A Military Family Means to Me." The contest is open to all children and youth of active-duty, Reservist and retired-military families. The submission deadline is Oct. 23. For more information, call 678-2323.

Chapel positions available

The Hurlburt Field Chapel is now accepting sealed bids for the positions of 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. Worship Services Worship and Choir Director, 12:45 p.m. Gospel Service Choir Director and 12:45 p.m. Gospel Service Accompanist.

A statement of work for these positions may be obtained at the chapel from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Bids must be submitted by noon Oct. 10. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Carol Mesarchik or Chaplain Pat McCain at 884-7795.

16th CPTS closure

The 16th Comptroller Squadron finance office will be closed today for an official end-of-the-year function. Call 803-3324 for emergencies.

Talent show auditions

Hurlburt Field is looking for its most talented amateurs to participate in the Sixth Annual Family and Teen Talent Contest. Auditions are scheduled for Oct. 27, 28 and 30 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the base theater; the talent show is scheduled for Nov. 30.

The contest is open to participants ages three and up. Videotapes of the winners will be submitted to the Air

Force-level contest, in which they'll compete for U.S. Savings Bonds ranging from \$100 to \$500. For more information, call Trisha Barrett at 884-6948.

ERAU registration

Oct. 10 is the last day to register for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Winter 2003 Term. Registration can be done in Building 90220, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to noon Fridays. Add/Drop dates are Oct. 13-17, and class dates are Oct. 13-Dec. 13. For more information, call 581-2106.

Classes

FSC classes

For more information, call 884-5441.

Employment Orientation – Monday, 9 a.m. and Wednesday, 1 p.m.; reservations required

Sponsorship Training – Monday, 1 p.m.; reservations required

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

HAWC classes

For more information, call 884-4292.

Diabetic Nutrition – Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Eating Heart Healthy – Tuesday, 1 p.m.

Healthy Weight For Kids – Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.

Lean On Me – Thursday, 3 p.m.

**MAY'S SEWING
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2 X 2.00**

**ACCENT TOPS & TRAIL-
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COMM/NXT TO CROS
532642
2 X 3.00**

**FLOYDS FISH HOUSE
COMM/THIS WEEK
535178
3 X 6.00**

SPORTS

Hurlburt officer top military runner

Capt. Danny Cooper
AFC2TIG Public Affairs

An officer from the Air Force Command and Control Training and Innovation Group was the highest placing military runner in the Air Force Marathon held at Wright-Patterson AFB Sept. 20.

Second Lt. Mike Lilly, a communications officer in the 505th Systems Squadron, averaged 6 minutes, 22 seconds per mile over the 26.2 mile course to finish 6th overall and tops among the military runners with a finishing time of 2:47:02.

More than 3,300 runners from 49 states and eight foreign countries ran in the seventh Air Force Marathon.

Individual overall male winner was Hendrick Vanloon of Kleine-Brogel, Belgium, with time of 2 hours, 37 minutes and 44 seconds. Second-place male winner was Chris Juarez of San Antonio with time of 2:41:27. Taking third-place was Robert Schnell of Tucson, Ariz., with time of 2:44:58. Individual overall female winner was Jill Metzger of Ramstein Air Base, Germany, with time of 3:05:35. Second-place went to Sandy Hundley of Hilliard, Ohio, with 3:05:42. Finishing third was Kathy Flannagan of Cincinnati with 3:14:27.

The Air Force Marathon marked Lilly's 18th marathon, and he has finished 16 of them in less than 3 hours.

He ran his first marathon, the Black Hills, in 1994 and has been competing in them regularly since.

"It is awesome to run a marathon," Lilly said. "It's such an accomplishment...the ultimate endurance test."

To prepare for last month's race, Lilly logged more than 300 miles a month in both August and September.

He has also qualified for the Boston Marathon where he ran with more than 40,000 other runners in front of more than a million spectators. He has run in other Air Force Marathons and the Marine Corps Marathon where he posted his personal best time to date of 2:35:44 in September 1999. He also represented the Air Force in the Armed Forces Marathon Championships in October 2001 held simultaneously with that year's Marine Corps Marathon.

With all of the experience, Lilly really enjoys the Air Force Marathon.

"It is a really well-organized and fun race, but it's not a fast course," he said. "There are a couple good-sized hills and one of them is at mile 23 – a very tough place in the marathon!"

Being the fastest military marathoner in this race might make one complacent, but Lilly says it just motivates him.

"It was great to be the best in the military for the day and know you are one of the best, but it was only for that day and I know if it were another day it could easily be someone else. It just makes me want to train harder," he said.

Lilly has been in the Air Force 12 years. He was enlisted for more than 10 years before being accepted into Officers Training School and commissioned in May 2002.

Running marathons is really no different than life according to Lilly.

"I like to compare the marathon to obstacles in life – with the proper endurance and drive you can accomplish anything you put your mind to," he said.

(Editor's note: Sue Baker, Aeronautical Systems Center Public Affairs contributed to this article.)



Photo by 1st Lt. Tara Opielowski

16th Mission Support Group members run 2 1/2 miles Sept. 26 during the group's first formation run. MSG plans to have a formation run monthly to prepare for the new fitness program.

MSG kicks-off group run

By Capt. Tom Knowles
Public Affairs

The spirit of the Mission Support Group shattered the early morning silence with sounds of jodies and "one team, one fight for the Commando's...Hooah!" when more than 600 personnel kicked-off the group's first formation run and physical conditioning session, Sept. 26.

The inaugural event, which also included a regiment of stretching and calisthenics, finished off with a 2 1/2 mile run around the base, in an effort to build camaraderie and prepare airmen for the Air Force's new physical fitness standards set to take effect in January.

"I was really happy with the turn-out," said Col. Griff Griffin, 16th Mission Support Group commander. "From start to finish, you could hear the squadrons singing jodies and bantering back and forth shouting their mottos to see who could be the loudest. It just went together real well and turned out to be an event with a lot of great camaraderie and fun."

The formation run took participants from the main fitness center track, down Tully Avenue to

Cody Avenue and on to Red Horse Road, with all finishing at the main fitness center. And while it may have been a first for the MSG as a whole, it apparently won't be the last.

"All of the (mission support group) squadrons have been holding physical training sessions during the work-week for over a year now. However, this is the first time the group as a whole has come together for such an event," said Colonel Griffin. "This group activity will be held monthly, with the next one scheduled for Oct. 17."

With only three months left until the Air Force's new physical fitness standards take effect, the group appears to be on the right track to ensure everyone is ready for the test in January.

"Be assured that we're all taking this seriously," said Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff in a recent message addressed to the force. "We're working now on additional parts of the program that'll have information for squadron physical training, nutrition guidelines, the fitness test scoring criteria, and details on accountability of commanders and individuals. Details will be out as soon as possible. In the meantime, January is coming. Be ready."

Sports shorts

Women's flag football

Women flag football players are needed for the fall league. For more information or to sign up, call 884-6884.

Water Olympics

The Water Olympics are scheduled for Oct. 17, at 11 a.m. Squadrons can sign up through outdoor recreation, by calling 884-6939.

Rugby players wanted

The Okaloosa Islanders Rugby Football Club is looking for new players at all levels of playing experience. Training sessions are currently held every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Commando Softball Field number one, behind the main fitness center. Experience isn't necessary. For more information, call J.C. at 882-6128.