

Civilian retires after 50 years of service

By Tech. Sgt. William Seabrook
Public Affairs

While most people consider thirty-years of federal service quite an achievement and a successful career, one 16th Special Operations Wing administrative assistant had almost doubled that time upon officially retiring from the Air Force Aug. 31 with more than 50 years of service.



Thelton "Penny" Roberson

Thelton "Penny" Roberson, originally entered civil service in July 1952 and was assigned to Eglin Air Force Base as a clerk-stenographer. Back then computers were science fiction and if someone wanted a copy of something they either used carbon paper or re-transcribed the entire document.

Throughout her career she held various assignments at Eglin Air Force Base until 1977 when she came to Hurlburt Field and began to work for the Public Affairs division. In 1986 she took an assignment at Comiso Air Station, Italy where she worked until 1991 before returning to Hurlburt Field's 16th SOW Public Affairs office.

During her years with the 16th SOW she has become a fixture in the Public Affairs office, using her people skills to put countless customers and callers at ease.

She actually credits the people as being one of the secrets to her longevity.

"I've always liked the work," she said. "However, through the years it's the people who I've worked with and helped who've real-

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Davis

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray, shoots a .50-caliber machine gun during an MH-53 PAVE LOW helicopter flight over the Eglin Firing Range, Monday. Chief Murray visited Hurlburt Field Sunday through Tuesday.

CMSAF holds enlisted call

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

Hundreds of enlisted airmen gathered outside The Soundside Club Tuesday to hear Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray, speak about issues affecting and relating to the enlisted force.

Chief Murray addressed the crowd of airmen, NCOs and senior NCOs after a brief introduction by Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Alicea, 16th Special Operations Wing command chief.

The 14th CMSAF expressed how amazed he was with Hurlburt Field members and the remarkable things being done here.

"I keep hearing that Hurlburt Field is the best base in the Air Force

and how great it is to be part of Special Operations," Chief Murray said. "I wish we could bottle up that attitude and pass it around the entire Air Force."

That positive attitude was apparent when the chief got first hand experience while flying with the 20th Special Operations Squadron and the 4th Special Operations Squadron Monday night.

Although the chief appreciates what the crews do, "I'll stick with my day job," he said jokingly.

A job that takes him on the road more than 200 days out of the year, visiting different bases and finding out what issues are on the minds and hearts of enlisted members and relaying them back to the senior leadership in Washington D.C.

"If there's anything you want me to take back to D.C. to the chief of staff and the secretary of the Air Force, please let me know," Chief Murray said.

But before he opened it up for questions, the chief touched on several topics ranging from new dormitories to pay raises to deployments.

"I'm amazed at how you balance deployments, family and community activities," the chief said. "I can see the mission being accomplished on one side and families still being taken care of on the other."

Hurlburt Field has decreased its number of deployed members, Chief Murray explained, and he's hoping that number will continue to go down

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Eglin, Hurlburt Field size each other up for league play
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Weather

Weekend forecast
Today - isolated showers, High 88 Low 71
Saturday - partly cloudy, High 89 Low 71
Sunday - partly cloudy, High 89 Low 70
www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/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

Exit route review

Comment: I'd like to address a concern I have with the "right turn only" sign at the Eglin Federal Credit Union in the base exchange parking lot. At that intersection you can either turn left and have less than 100 yards to the parking lot intersection and on to the main road, or you can go right, passing roughly 40

parking spaces, driving through the pedestrian "warning" zone and then back up another 40 parking spaces to get out. The parking lot is one of the most accident-prone areas on base, and combined with high walking traffic, it seems to me that we've chosen the most hazardous route. There has to be another way to minimize these safety concerns and maintain a good traffic flow.

Reply: Great observations – thanks. As a result of your suggestion, a work order has been submitted to the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron to slightly modify the parking lot, creating a two-way access from Liemanis Avenue (the main road) to the Eglin Federal Credit Union driveway. The work should be completed by Oct. 17. Thanks for pointing this situation out to us.

Force protection is everyone's business

By Gen. Lance Lord
Air Force Space Command commander

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – Attacks on our homeland on Sept. 11, 2001, brought home to Americans that the United States isn't an island free from attack.

Terrorism can be brought home in a very big way. As servicemembers, we know the risks around the world. Khobar Towers and the USS Cole will forever be burned in our memories.

We must continue to take aggressive steps to protect our people and their fam-

ily members, operations and facilities around the globe.

Force protection is achieved using our total force security forces team – active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve – working side-by-side to protect our people and resources. But all members of the chain of command are responsible for force protection.

"Every person is a sensor," and we need you to report any and all suspicious activity to the proper authorities.

Challenge unknown personnel in your work areas and look at their badges.

Protect unauthorized access to your com-

puter. Close safes and properly dispose of printed information to ensure areas are secure at the end of the duty day.

There are times when force protection will cause delays and frustration. I appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to balance protection with mission accomplishment.

With your help and continued diligence, we'll remain the best air and space force on the planet. Our people and our mission will be safe and secure – there is no higher priority.

Remember, we're all part of the force protection team. **(AFPN)**

Centennial of flight legends

Native Americans have an especially rich mythic tradition. Mojave tribes worshipped Mastamho, a warrior who transformed himself into an eagle. Stories abound of the Great Thunderbird, the Wakinyan Tanka, who attacked the enemies of his human friends from high altitude, by hurling precision lightning bolts – just as the Air Force today uses height, reach, and speed, combined with precision attack, to confound our own enemies. The Thunderbird is commemo-

rated in Native American culture by elaborately costumed and intricate eagle dances and carvings, and in the Air Force by the bold markings of its aerial demonstration team.

What we don't know is how many of these legends and myths reflect actual attempts to fly. But it's not unreasonable to expect that some do. After all, it's only a step, although big, from constructing an elaborate eagle costume for a ceremonial dance to having the courage to leap with it into the air.



Look who's talking: What advice would you give to airmen entering the service?



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Address information

U.S. MAIL: **COMMANDO**,
131 Bartley St. Ste. 326,
Hurlburt Field, FL 32544-5271
E-MAIL: commando@hurlburt.af.mil
TELEPHONE: (850) 884-7464
FAX: (850) 884-6093

COMMANDO Editorial Staff:

Col. Frank Kisner
Commander

Capt. Thomas Knowles
Chief, Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Darrell Brewer
NCOIC

Tech. Sgt. William Seabrook Jr.
Chief, Internal Information

Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Editor

Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Staff writer

Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Staff writer

16th Communications Squadron
Photography

Northwest Florida Daily News
Production support

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

commando@hurlburt.af.mil

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NEWS

CMSAF pays visit to Hurlburt Field

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

The chief master sergeant of the Air Force traveled to Hurlburt Field for a short visit from Sunday to Tuesday, in order to orient himself with the Air Force Special Operations mission and answer questions from the local airmen.

During his visit, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray, the 14th CMSAF, was escorted throughout the base to visit a number of squadrons and base leaders. Among his stops, he visited the Airman Leadership School and the Commando Pride Airman's Center.

One of the purposes for Chief Murray's visit was to answer questions that might be on the minds of the Special Operations airmen. During a question and answer session, the chief gave the following answers on many current Air Force topics.

Q: What is your vision as the chief master sergeant of the Air Force?

A: "I envision an Air Force that stays on the paths of continuous improvement to meet the challenges of an evolving force. I see an Air Force that embraces three core competencies...technology to war fighting, integrating operations and developing airmen. However, of those three, the development of the airmen, is extremely important because it will determine how we will continue to prepare our people for the future."

Q: How do you feel about the changes made to the Air Force's current fitness program?

A: "As an expeditionary force, our people deploy to envi-



Photo by Airman Andy Kin

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray speaks to an Airman Leadership School class Monday.

ronments requiring long hours in sometimes extreme temperatures and conditions. Being physically fit allows them to do their mission better and maintain their health. It's up to the senior NCOs and leadership to lead airmen in physical fitness activities that will help us become a more fit force. It has to be about people helping people."

Q: How do you feel about the Air Force's quality of life?

A: "(I define the quality of life as a combination of pay, benefits and housing standards.) We've had greater improvements in compensation in the past three years than in my 26 years in

See **VISIT**, Page 8

Air Park ceremony honors POW/MIA

By Capt. Tom Knowles
Public Affairs

A former prisoner of war who spent more than five years in captivity was honored Sept. 19 at a POW/MIA remembrance ceremony here.

The event, which honored former POW and retired Air Force Col. Howard Hill, recognized his "selfless sacrifices" to the nation for enduring some of the most horrible conditions imaginable during his captivity from Dec. 16, 1967 to March 14, 1973.

Colonel Hill, an F-4 pilot during the war, was downed by enemy fire by an attacking Mig-21 while on his 70th combat mission over North Vietnam on Dec. 16, 1967. Captured immediately, he became a prisoner of war in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" until repatriated during Operation Homecoming.

During his comments to more than 300 servicemembers in attendance, Colonel Hill emphasized the importance of our nation's commitment to all warriors and their families, present and past, to resolve the fate of our POW/MIAs, and return them, alive or dead, with honor.

This had not always been the case, Colonel Hill explained. Not until the Vietnam war, when many family mem-

bers led a grass roots effort to bring awareness to the issue, did our country begin to take steps to become actively engaged in the cause.

"The families banded together and were involved in prompting public awareness of the issue," Colonel Hill said.

Since that time a number of events and people have been instrumental in promoting further awareness and accountability for POW/MIA matters, Colonel Hill explained.

"Upon taking office, former president Ronald Reagan elevated the issue to one of national prominence and stated the country would dedicate resources to ensure the fullest possible accounting," Colonel Hill said.

Amongst some of the initiatives implemented were recovery efforts, designed to identify the remains of missing service members and ensure repatriation and the fullest possible accounting of those who died serving our nation.

Keeping with the spirit of awareness, POW/MIA recognition day was also established to honor the men and women in uniform that paid a higher price in the name of duty and remind us, as the beneficiaries of the freedom we continue to enjoy, to never forget their service.



Photo by Airman Andy Kin

The flag is lowered at the Air Park Sept. 19 during a POW/MIA remembrance ceremony here.

"There's no other country in the world that has a POW/MIA recognition day," said Hill. "There's no other country in the world that's going to the extent we do to try and bring closure to these issues and to these families. The fact that the United States government truly cares about its people...that's uniquely American."

Emphasizing the nation's commitment to the families with loved one's still unaccounted, Colonel Hill said they're not forgotten. "We still owe them the fullest possible accounting. They gave us their loved ones, they entrusted them to us, we owe them that."

Spotlight on ...

Leila Chanid

Rank/Duty Title:

Airman/information management apprentice

Organization: Command and Control Warrior School

Hometown: Dothan, Ala.

Hobbies: Going to church, reading, swimming and singing

Contribution to the mission:

A new member of C2WS, Airman Chanid joined the Air Force in November of 2002, and finished her information management apprentice training in March.

She's a positive and energetic member of her unit, who's always greeting new students with a smile and a helping hand.

Since her arrival, she's meticulously in-processed more than 600 students into the school, expediting their transition into the curriculum. She also builds and manages the "Commander's Roster," enabling squadron leadership to have vital student information on hand.

Professional and dedicated, she's also an avid supporter of base activities, such as Airmen Against Drunk Driving.

(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

Rescue simulation

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Michael Darin (left) and Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Malloy (right) provide simulated first aid to Senior Airman Kristy Riseden during a recent search and rescue training exercise. Sergeant Darin and Sergeant Malloy are both Pararescuemen with the 101st Expeditionary Rescue Squadron. (AFP)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brian Ferguson

News Briefs

Sexual assault not tolerated

For nearly 50 years, the mission of the Air Force Academy has been to train and educate future leaders of our armed forces.

The Air Force is committed to ensuring the culture at the academy reflects the core values and high standards we expect from each of our members. From the beginning, the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force emphasized that the academy would offer a safe environment for all our cadets.

Our goal is to provide an environment free from sexual assault, while ensuring that if a sexual assault does occur: the crime will be reported; the victim will be supported; and justice will be done. The Air Force recognizes the importance of striking a proper balance between society's need to protect itself through the appropriate prosecution of criminals and protecting the rights of and providing support to victims of sexual assault.

The Air Force is committed to holding people accountable for their misconduct. This is an important issue, and we'll closely examine the recommendations of the "Panel to Review Sexual Misconduct Allegations at the Air Force Academy."

Air Force leaders launch climate survey

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Air Force leaders at all levels want to know, "How is my organization doing?" The 2003 Air Force Climate Survey begins Oct. 1 to answer this question with the help of Air Force people.

Their participation in the survey is critical, said senior leaders.

"Leadership must be made aware of what's really going on out there," said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche. "By taking a few brief moments to fill out this survey, you can help your leaders understand your concerns and ultimately better serve you and our nation's interests."

Previous surveys included active-duty airmen and appropriated-fund civilians. This year, the survey will also include the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, non-appropriated fund civilians and students in a temporary-duty status.

"We want to make sure all members of the Air Force team have an opportunity to participate," said Lori Marcum, the survey's team leader. "Leaders at all levels use the Air Force Climate Survey to target areas for improvement.

"In order to create positive changes within an organization, (leaders) must know where to begin. This survey provides everyone an opportunity to speak out about strengths and areas for improvement in their organization," Ms. Marcum said.

The survey runs through Nov. 23 and can be completed online at <http://afclimatesurvey.af.mil> anytime during the survey period, from either a government computer (dot-mil) or personal computer (dot-com).

Because Air Force leaders expect candid feedback, the survey team has taken extraordinary measures to ensure privacy, by using advanced information-masking software.

Anonymity continues to be a key factor of the survey, officials said.

Results will be released in early 2004, said Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff.

"The U.S. Air Force is the finest in the world, a great place to serve and raise our families," he said. "We share a commitment to make it better."

Survey participation has climbed from 39 percent in 1997 and 36 percent in 1999, to more than 65 percent of active-duty airmen

and civilians in the 2002 survey.

For more information about the Air Force Climate Survey, call 2nd Lt. Charlotte Smart at 884-4034, or Master Sgt. James West at 884-6848. (AFP)

The 2003 Air Force Climate Survey will cover 13 factors that measure work experience:

*Job
Resources
Core values
Leadership
Supervision
Training and development
Teamwork
Participation and involvement
Recognition
Unit flexibility
General satisfaction
Unit performance outcomes
Job enhancement*

PRC is airmen's POC during natural disasters

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER – With the 2003 hurricane season in full swing, officials here are reminding airmen that the Personnel Readiness Center here can assist them when natural disasters strike.

In the event Air Force personnel are evacuated or communications are impaired, the PRC acts as a central point of contact to pass on information from an installation's commander to his or her people – even as individuals evacuate with their families, and may be separated from their units.

The PRC is charged with coordinating an Air Force response to emergencies and natural disasters, with 24-hour operations during crisis situations.

In emergencies, members can reach the PRC toll free at 1-800-435-9941, DSN

665-2020 or 665-3483 or commercial (210) 565-2020/3483.

"Evacuated members are encouraged to contact us and provide their safe haven address, phone, etc....," said Master Sgt. Stephen Shortland, NCO in-charge of readiness operations here. "We're then able to give the members any update we have about their home station – information such as hurricane conditions, evacuation status and instructions regarding their return to duty."

To aid in the accountability of Air Force people, the PRC creates database files for all personnel assigned to an installation threatened by a natural disaster and updates the data with the member's location, emergency number and other pertinent information when the member calls the PRC.

RETIRES,**Continued from Page 1 —**

ly made this job worthwhile. I find that most people are nice deep down and if you're nice to them they'll be nice back."

During her retirement ceremony, Sept. 19, the wing commander talked of her dedication to the Hurlburt Field mission and its personnel.

"She has always been here for us with a kind word and knowledgeable advice," said Col. Frank Kisner, 16th SOW Wing commander. "She has a special way of putting people at ease and helping them find solutions to their problems."

When asked how difficult it was keeping up with the changing workplace over the years, Ms. Roberson said she tried to be flexible and go with the flow.

However, she proved her commitment to do more than just keep up, when she earned her bachelors degree in Psychology from Saint Leo College in 1982 and her masters degree in Counseling and Human development from Troy State University in 1984.

"Being able to complete my education is just one of the benefits I've derived from my years of

service," she said. "I've also been able to travel the world and work with a great bunch of people."

Those people include six public affairs officers during her time in the 16th SOW.

"It's been a real privilege to serve with someone so devoted and committed to our country," said Capt. Thomas Knowles, the current 16th SOW Public Affairs director. "She's truly honored our nation and the Air Force with a level of devotion and commitment achieved by few others and serves as an inspiration for everyone to follow."

Colonel Kisner echoed those sentiments. "She has not only been a dedicated and loyal servant to her country but she's proved herself to be a true patriot," he said. "Her efforts haven't gone unnoticed and she will be truly missed."

However, Ms. Roberson downplays her achievement saying it really doesn't even seem like it's been 50 years.

"Time has really flown by," she said. "While my career has had its ups and downs, I can't imagine doing anything else all these years. I'm thankful to the Air Force for allowing me to support our brave Americans all these years."

CALL,**Continued from Page 1 —**

as the war on terrorism continues.

"The Air Force as a whole is going through some changes to balance out the force," the chief said.

One of those changes includes recruiting new airmen into the service with a 15-month enlistment. The chief briefly explained how it works – the new airmen will have a 15-month active-duty commitment after they complete technical school. After their 15-months is up they can either extend on active duty or join the Reserve.

"The focus here was simply to bring more people into the Air Force," Chief Murray explained.

The new airmen will have a few different incentive packages to choose from upon their enlistment – either a cash payment, a student loan payment, or the GI Bill.

The chief also explained how a targeted pay raise is being looked at for the enlisted force ranging from a two percent pay raise for airmen basic to a six and a half percent raise for senior NCOs.

During the question and answer period, one question for the chief was, how new aircraft being assigned to Special Operations would affect maintenance.

"We'll go through a conversion period as we've done in the past," Chief Murray said. "But, basically we'll have manning standards to follow and it won't be any different. The new aircraft will phase in, and the old ones will



Photo by Senior Airman Ebony Pierre

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray speaks at his enlisted call at The Soundside, Tuesday.

eventually phase out."

Another airmen asked the chief about the Air Force considering an E-10 pay grade.

"The idea of an E-10 is something that had been brought up before," the chief explained, "but, after looking into it, there aren't any benefits to doing it. So, instead of having another pay grade, I'd prefer to have pay compensation for the E-9s on down."

Before heading off, the CMSAF helped one NCO in particular become one step closer to making E-9, as he step promoted then Staff Sgt. Aaron McCoy, 4th SOS, loadmaster, to the new rank of technical sergeant. Further adding to the surprise, Sergeant McCoy was then joined by his expectant wife Christina and Lt. Col. Seth Junkins, 4th SOS commander, who assisted in tacking on his new set of stripes after his list of accomplishments were read.

Air Force birthday celebrated at Community Park

By Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

A big crowd was on hand for Hurlburt Field's celebration of the Air Force's 56th anniversary Sept. 18, with a cake-cutting ceremony at the Community Park.

Ceremoniously used to make the first cut, a sword was held by the newest officer and enlisted member on base; 2nd Lt. Jammy Eaton, 20th Special Operations Squadron; and Airman Greg Iverson, Det.1, 334th Training Squadron, both representing the Air Force's future.

Joining them, and representing the Air Force's heritage and history, were Hurlburt Field's most senior officer and NCO; Lt. Gen. Paul Hester, Air Force Special Operations Command commander; and Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Alicea, 16th Special Operations Wing command chief.

VISIT, Continued from Page 3

the service. The Air Force has seen higher pay raises; has 100 percent tuition assistance for an education; health benefits through TRICARE that allow airmen and dependents to use off-base services if needed; provided housing and new housing is being built through privatization efforts to increase the square footage; and the BAH is also projected to reach 100 percent (equivalent to the cost of living in the local area) by 2005. Airmen have never been busier since the Vietnam War. They certainly deserve the gain in benefits for their service."

Q: How do you feel about the quality of work put forth by the Special Operations airmen?

A: "There are so many heroes here. Special Operations Forces have clearly been leaders in the war on terrorism – constantly deploying, maintaining aircraft and safety records and mission accomplishments that rival any other service. Their performance is spectacular."

Q: What do you see for the future of Special Operations?

A: "As of Oct. 1, Special Operations will be picking up all the air rescue missions coming out of the Air Combat Command. Moody Air Force Base, (Ga.) will be the new wing belonging to the Air Force Special Operations Command. That puts the command growing from 12,000 to 20,000 people, which will bring more people to AFSOC. It'll bring new challenges and a new dimension, but that's a positive thing. There'll be some aircraft changes and some units here, as well, as we continue to look to improve and help those who are in Special Ops."

Chief Murray wrapped up his question and answer session with a few personal words about the Special Operations airmen at Hurlburt Field.

"The word "special" can't be understated with what Special Ops does. Great people and a great command here."



Photo by Senior Airman Ebony Pierre

(left to right) Lt. Gen. Paul Hester, Air Force Special Operations Command commander, 2nd Lt. Jammy Eaton, 20th Special Operations Squadron, Airman Greg Iverson, Det.1, 334th Training Squadron, and Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Alicea, 16th Special Operations Wing command chief, cut Hurlburt Field's Air Force birthday cake at the Community Park, Sept. 18, in celebration of the Air Force's 56th birthday.

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U.N. building bombed, Pararescue to rescue

By Chief Master Sgt. Ernie Evans
720th Special Tactics Group

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Within two hours of the recent attack on the U.N. headquarters building, three Air Force Pararescue teams were on scene providing life-saving medical care, command and control, and communications relays.

A portion of the U.N. headquarters was destroyed when a suicide bomber drove a concrete truck through the gates of the building and detonated 700 to 1,000 pounds of explosives.

The attack devastated the building, causing total collapse of the northwest wing and destroying the lobby structure.

The Pararescuemen, assigned to the 304th Rescue Squadron at Portland International Airport, Ore., were among the first medical teams on scene. They extricated one of the most critically injured people from the rubble.

According to the team chief, it was a precarious situation raising the injured from the bomb crater.

“The building was very unstable,” said Chief Master Sgt. Ian Nesbit. “The electricity was still on, with live wires hanging all around and jagged metal everywhere.”

“In fact (our guys) identified unsafe conditions in numerous areas where U.S. Army (teams) were working and halted operations, preventing further injuries to the rescuers themselves,” he said.

The trauma surgeon who received the critically injured credited the Pararescuemen with saving the man’s life. According to official reports, “...the Pararescuemen were the deciding factor in the man’s survival.”

The blast killed 23 people, resulted in more than 100 people injured and entrapped multiple

critically wounded survivors inside the rubble.

According to Chief Nesbit, the Pararescuemen have been in Baghdad since the end of June.

Shortly after arriving, they identified shortfalls in the overall disaster plan and were asked to join the disaster response team.

After working on procedures and plans for a mass casualty response, the Pararescuemen had only recently exercised a similar scenario.

“The Pararescuemen from the 304th RQS are the only recovery asset in the Iraqi area of operations who maintain specialized equipment and provide the capability known as confined space rescue,” said Chief Nesbit.

The chief said the rescue operations at the U.N. building provided a combat-validation for several Pararescue core tasks – including setting up a triage center, searching collapsed areas, using their man-portable heavy extrication equipment to free trapped survivors and using technical rope systems to get injured people out of the building rubble.

“Our team provided command and control on scene, including coordination between HH-60 helicopter flights, multiple U.S. Army medevac air assets, and ground search personnel from the U.S. Army’s 3rd Infantry Division, other government agencies, U.N. employees and civilians.

“We were able to establish secure communications from the scene, relaying situation reports to operations center and made a final thorough search of the building, to ensure all survivors were extracted,” said Chief Nesbit.

The 304th RQS will become a command asset when the Air Force CSAR mission transfers to the Air Force Special Operations Command, Oct. 1. **(AFSOC NEWS)**



Pararescuemen and U.S. Army soldiers use a rope system to extract a critically injured man from the rubble of the U.N. building.
 Courtesy photo

Top 10: Dress and Appearance Violations, AFI 36-2903

- 10) Earrings, jewelry and nail polish
- 9) Cell phones and pagers
- 8) Attaché case, gym bags and backpacks
- 7) Mess dress and semi-formal uniform
- 6) Footwear (pumps, low-quarters and combat boots)
- 5) BDUs and undergarments (t-shirts, blousing and patches)
- 4) Outer-garments (light, blue jackets and sweaters)
- 3) Glasses and sunglasses
- 2) Headgear (inside/outside guidelines and organizational ball caps)
- 1) Hair length and sideburns

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SPORTS

Be fit, be safe

By 16th SOW Public Affairs

With the new Air Force fitness program on the horizon, several units are hitting the pavement in an effort to meet the new standards.

Some of the physical conditioning being done by base members may occur in the early morning hours before sunrise or in the evening after sunset. These conditions may present an unsafe environment for anyone who's not wearing the proper equipment.

Drivers at night or early mornings are rarely on the lookout for runners and physical training formations, so you need to advertise your presence as vividly as possible and run against traffic so you can observe approaching vehicles.

Wear light-colored or reflective clothing and run on sidewalks instead of streets to prevent interference with traffic.

Many brands of walking shoes have reflective material on the heels, and track-suits, bibs and rain suits can now be purchased with reflective strips.

Reflective belts are also extremely useful as they are easily noticed by drivers, and can be worn with little or no discomfort.

The worst type of clothing to wear while training in the dark is a blue, black or navy tracksuit or T-shirt, which renders the walker virtually invisible to traffic.

Further, when running on base it's important for everyone to understand the base regulations pertaining to the issue.

According to *AFOSH STD 91-501, 14.6.10*: Personnel exposed to a traffic environment or flight line operations during hours of darkness or periods of reduced visibility will be provided and use reflective accessories or will use organizational clothing with sewn-on reflective tape (red or orange reflective colors provide better contrast in a snow or white environment). Security police operations are exempt from this requirement at the option of the local security police commanders in coordination with the installation ground safety staff.

People should also be aware that wearing listening devices is unauthorized.

According to *AFI 31-204, Hurlburt Field Supplement 1*: Paragraph A2.86. Wearing of Headsets. No person shall operate a motor vehicle, skate, jog, walk, or bicycle, while wearing a headset, head-phone, or other listening device, other than a hearing aid or instrument for the improvement of defective hearing while on the road. This does not apply to emergency equipment.

Although physical conditioning is important, it's also important to be safe, while trying to be fit.



Photos by Senior Airman Sam Taylor

Shane Thomas, 16th Communications Squadron (left), sneaks the ball past an Eglin Air Force Base soccer player during a scrimmage here, Tuesday. (right) A player for the Hurlburt Field Commandos slams the ball skyward.

Soccer scrimmage Hurlburt Field, Eglin get rivalry off right

The Hurlburt Field varsity soccer team battled the Eglin Air Force Base team to a 1-1 draw during a soccer scrimmage here Tuesday.

Eglin scored its goal early in the game, while the Commandos' Chris Huntington, 16th Component Maintenance Squadron, evened it up towards the end.

The 1 1/2-hour game was played to get a feel for how each team's per-

forming, before beginning play in the local soccer league in early October.

"Mostly we were just sizing each other up...and sizing ourselves up," said assistant coach Kevin Ray, 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron.

"We were experimenting with different combinations of players. We'll definitely have a really good team this year once we polish our skills and begin to merge as a team."



Intramural 3-on-3 basketball, horseshoes champions

	3-on-3 basketball (Intramural)	3-on-3 basketball (Over-30)	Horseshoes (Intramural)
1st	16th AMXS	AFSOC	AFSOC
2nd	16th LRS(1)	16th SVS	16th CES (2)
3rd	16th CES (1)	AFC2TIG	

For more information about Hurlburt Field sports programs, contact your unit sports representative.



Courtesy photo

Air Force Special Operations Command defeated the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron to become champions of Hurlburt Field's first intramural horseshoes league.

Sports shorts

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 night 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 "JC" at 882-6128 or e-mail john.colletta@eglin.af.mil.

Flag football

Squadron intramural flag football begins Wednesday. People interested in playing should contact their unit sports representative.

Hurlburt Happenings

Military

Hurlburt Top 3

The Hurlburt Top 3 invites all senior NCOs and master sergeant selects assigned to Hurlburt Field to join them for their monthly meeting Thursday at 3 p.m. at the Enlisted Hooch. For more information, call Master Sgt. John Brinkley at 884-8422, or Master Sgt. David Ceurvels at 884-8443.

Focus 56 scholarships

All applications for the Focus 56 Junior Enlisted Scholarship Program must be submitted no later than noon Tuesday. All staff and technical sergeants assigned to Hurlburt Field are encouraged to apply for one of the two \$100 scholarships. To obtain an application or for more information, call Staff Sgt. Mary Williams at 884-2308, or Tech. Sgt. Timothy Gray at 884-4708.

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.

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/>.

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.

Toastmasters meeting

Anyone interested in joining the Hurlburt Field Toastmasters club can attend the Wednesday meeting at noon in Building 90220, Classroom J. The club assists individuals in improving and developing their speaking, listening and leadership skills, through a mutually supportive and positive learning environment that fosters self-confidence and personal growth. For more information, call Marty Mears at 881-9130, or e-mail marty.mears@hurlburt.af.mil.

Community

Mullet festival

The 27th Annual Boggy Bayou Mullet Festival will take place Oct. 17 – 19 at the intersection of U.S.

Highway 85 North and College Boulevard. Admission is \$5, but children under 12 years of age are free. The Jazz Ensemble from the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve will be performing 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 that provides services for developmentally challenged individuals, has completed its new thrift store and will be celebrating the grand opening Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the RHD will be selling hot dogs, chips and drinks for \$2.

At 1 p.m., the bocce tournament will begin 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.

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 posters and essays will be displayed during Armed Forces Appreciation Days, Nov. 7 – 11 at the Okaloosa County Fairgrounds. Winners will be recognized at the Niceville-Valpraiso-Bay Area Chamber of Commerce's second Wednesday Coffee held in November. The submission deadline is Oct. 23. For more information, call 678-2323.

TLCB reunion

The Sixth Annual Thailand, Laos, Cambodia Brotherhood Organization Reunion will be held Thursday through Oct. 5 in Fort Walton Beach. The meeting headquarters is at the Radisson Beach Resort.

During the stay, guests will take tours to the local bases Oct. 3. The TLC Brotherhood will conduct a Roll-Call Memorial Service at the Hurlburt Field Memorial Air Park Oct. 4 at 2 p.m., where the 1,800 names of perished TLC veterans will be read. Wrapping up the reunion will be a memorial service Oct. 5 at 11 a.m. at Eglin Air Force Base's Air Armament Museum, to remember the deceased members of the organization.

To register for the reunion, e-mail thinkp69@cox.net or call Ed Miller at 243-1602 or Woody Freeman at 729-8081. For more information, visit the TLC Web page at www.tlc-brotherhood.org.

16th EMS ribbon cutting

The 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron invites all base members to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the grand opening of the new corrosion control facility. The ceremony is Wednesday at 10 a.m., at Building 90225. Dress is uniform of the day for military and casual for civilians. For more information, call 884-6499/5563.

16th CPTS closure

The 16th Comptroller Squadron finance office will be closed Oct. 3 for an official end-of-the-year function. Call 803-3324 for emergencies.

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'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

At the movies

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

Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday and Sunday – (R) "American Wedding," starring Jason Biggs and Alyson Hannigan – Jim and Michelle have decided to tie the knot. Jim's friends Finch and Kevin are on hand to help with preparations, but the trio soon gets an unwanted fourth wheel in the form of the eternally obnoxious Stifler. Meanwhile, the question is, 'how many things will go wrong before Jim and Michelle walk down the aisle?'

Saturday – (R) "Gigli," starring Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez – Gigli is ordered to kidnap the psychologically challenged younger brother of a powerful federal prosecutor. When plans go awry, Gigli's boss sends in Ricki – a gorgeous, free-spirited female gangster with her own set of orders – to assist with the kidnapping. But, Gigli starts falling for the decidedly unavailable Ricki.

Eglin 882-1066

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. Complications arise as Ellen worries about Annabel getting too close to her future stepfather, while Annabel must fake knowing her mom's job as a doctor.

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.

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

First aid and safety course

The Okaloosa/Walton American Red Cross invites individuals and families to attend the Community First Aid and Safety Course Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Crestview. The course trains individuals to respond appropriately to injuries, sudden illness, and cardiac or respiratory emergencies. Interested parties should pre-pay and pre-register at the Okaloosa County branch of the American Red Cross, located at 2018 Lewis Turner Blvd., Suite E, Fort Walton Beach. For more information, call 314-0316/0069, or e-mail bonadonnac@usa.redcross.org.

ERAU registration

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Winter 2003 Term registration is Monday through Oct. 10 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.

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.

40 Days of Purpose

The Hurlburt Field Chapel's Protestant services will be participating in the 40 Days of Purpose Oct. 11 - Nov. 23. This nationwide seminar will involve hundreds of Protestant churches simultaneously reading "40 Days to a Purpose Driven Life" by Dr. Rick Warren.

The churches will also focus on the five paths to spiritual growth during Sunday and midweek services and

weekend and midweek small groups. The chapel's goals by the end of the 40 days are to have larger church participation, a stronger sense of church unity and personal spiritual growth.

The chapel is looking for volunteers to help support the event in one of the many areas of planning. For more information about the chapel's activities, call Chaplain Brad Green at 884-7795. For more information about the national event, visit www.purposedriven.com.

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.

Tour guides needed

The 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office is looking for outgoing people to volunteer as tour guides for the many groups who visit the base throughout the year. Civilian, military - officer or enlisted, active duty or retired - and anyone who has a government identification card and is familiar with the base is encouraged to apply. A base tour book and training on the responsibilities of being a tour guide will be provided. Those interested should call Amy Oliver at 884-6199.

Native American History Month

November is Native American History Month, and the military equal opportunity office invites volunteers to assist in organizing, preparing and supporting the observance period. Currently, there aren't any officers or appointed positions held, and the positions of chairperson, vice-chairperson and treasurer will need to be filled.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Natasha Hollomon at 884-8746.

V-MPF accrual info

Travel accrual can now be filed online by logging on to the virtual military personnel flight Web site. Click on "Accrual Travel Voucher" on the bottom right-hand corner and type temporary duty information. The request will instantly be sent to the 16th Comptroller Squadron and processed within 72 hours. E-mail notifications will be sent once the payment is made. For more information, call 1st Lt. Amanda Cheatham at 884-4053.

Panhandle job fair

The Northwest Florida Fairgrounds, located at 1958 Lewis Turner Boulevard, Fort Walton Beach, will host a job fair Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Employers from all over the United States with jobs in mechanical, engineering, technical, law enforcement, telecommunications, computers, hospitality, medical, etc. will be present at the fair. For more information, call the family support center at 884-5441.

Classes

FSC classes

For more information, call 884-5441.

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

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

Understanding Adolescents - Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.

Kids Hurricane Tips - Thursday, 4 p.m.

Hurricane Awareness - Friday, 11 a.m.

Hurricane Awareness

Hurricane Awareness teaches families what to do if a hurricane is headed this way.

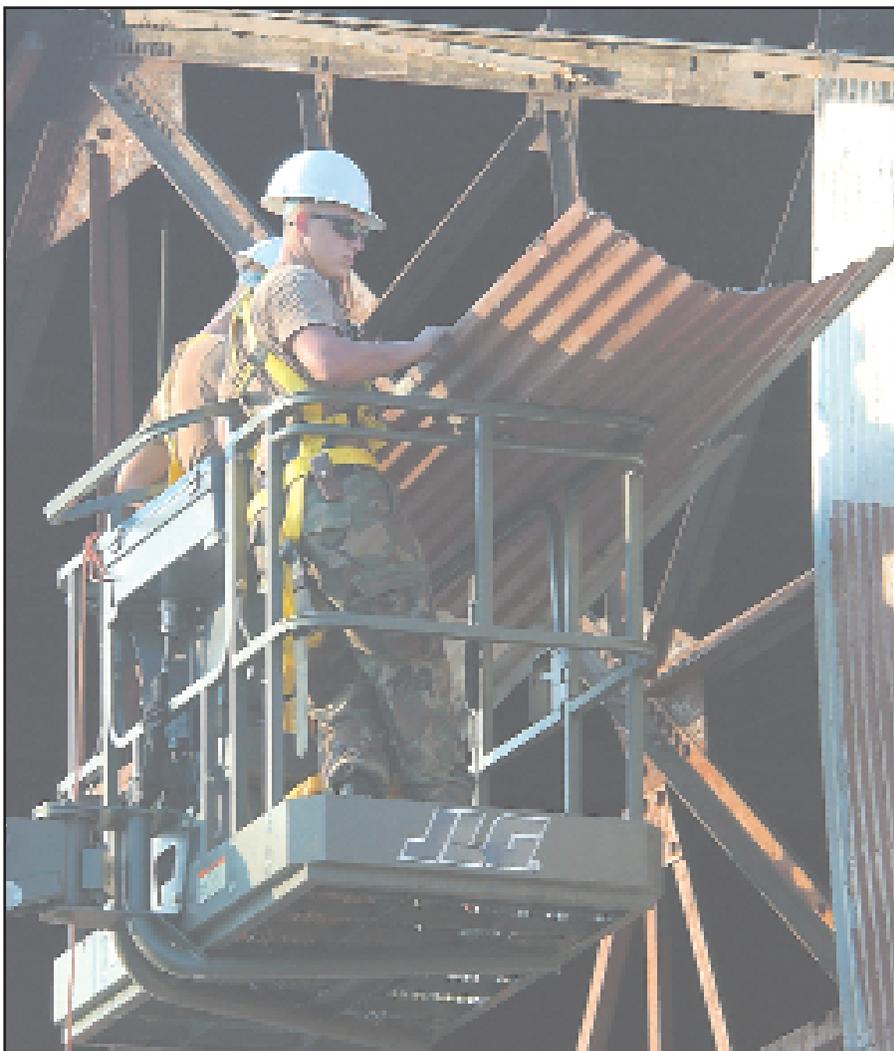
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FEATURE

Da, da-da daaa...RED HORSE to the rescue!

Photos by Staff Sgt. Dawn Bolen

Airmen with the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla., fix a broken hangar at Langley Air Force Base, Va. Sunday, after Hurricane Isabel caused destructive wind and flood damage to the base.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ben Bloker

An NCO with the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, works to clear the large number of downed trees in Langley AFB housing, Sunday.

While they may be better known for their civil engineering feats at deployed locations throughout the world, members of the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron here, recently stayed closer to home helping a state-side base with their initial hurricane cleanup.

The 823rd RHS, deployed 46 members Sept. 19 to Langley AFB, to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel.

"We received the notification Thursday (Sept. 18)," said Maj. Ann Birchard, 823rd RHS director of operations, "and we were on the road Friday (Sept. 19) afternoon with a convoy."

The unit took members from several different departments: pavement and heavy equipment, structural, utilities, electrical and vehicle maintenance personnel.

"We helped out with the initial hurricane recovery," said Senior Master Sgt. Mark Lewis, 823rd RHS deputy chief of airfields. "We've been helping with things such as the removal of large trees and our structural folks have been doing expedient repairs, by patching things up until they can be repaired later."

While a dollar amount isn't yet available, the initial damage assessments include: 121 facilities with roof damage, 283 facilities with water damage, 223 facilities that require water to be pumped, and approximately 800 trees down on Langley's main base and another 140 trees down in Bethel Manor housing. As residents

return to their homes, damage figures may go up.

"The main base and Bethel Manor housing had damage that we're assisting base

members to help clean up," Major Birchard said. "Our job is to help out. Get in there and get the job done."

"We expected most of our damage to come from flooding, and that was exactly the case," said Col. Frank Gorenc, 1st Fighter Wing commander. "Due to our preparation, we're getting back on our feet very quickly. In addition to our own civil engineers, we are grateful to have deployed CE troops from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., and RED HORSE troops all working together on priority projects. These projects include: restoring commercial power, removing water from flooded facilities, extracting downed/damaged trees and conducting detailed facility assessments."

"Our efforts aren't just limited to CE personnel. Everyone has been helping one another and it's been another great example of Team Langley working together to get the mission done," said Colonel Gorenc. "Our young airmen, in particular, have been performing magnificently and with great spirit."

Safety is also a concern during the clean-up efforts, because personnel may be performing duties they aren't used to in addition to the hazards left by Hurricane Isabel.

"There are several potential problems we need to be aware of as we work on our base and housing areas," said Colonel Gorenc. "Among those are downed trees, flooded areas, inoperable traffic lights and a continued lack of power in some places. Our focus is to mitigate the safety hazards and to accomplish our clean-up as quickly and efficiently as we can."

RED HORSE members are going to do whatever it takes to get the job done, Sergeant Lewis explained. But, they don't anticipate being there more than two weeks.

(Editor's note: Information for this story was compiled by 1st Lt. Tina Carlsen, 1st Fighter Wing Public Affairs, Langley AFB, Va., and the 16th SOW Public Affairs office.)



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ben Bloker

Civilian contractors clear rubbish and tree limbs from the road the day after Hurricane Isabel made its way through Langley AFB, Va., Sept. 19.

Red Ribbon Week...

Time for reflection, renewed commitment

**By Senior Airman
Sam Taylor
Public Affairs**

Red Ribbon Week, the national drug awareness campaign, will be celebrated around the country Oct. 27 through 31, providing the Hurlburt Field community an opportunity to renew its commitment to a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

During the week, participants wear a small red ribbon pin to symbolize their support to be drug free.

"We should wear the red ribbon as a promise – a promise to maintain our personal commitment to do our part and keep the community drug free for the health and safety of everyone," said Jim Sanders III, 16th Medical Group Drug Demand Reduction Program manager.

The theme of this year's local campaign is "United We Stand for a Drug-Free Land," said Mr. Sanders.

The drug demand reduction office will have a display of brochures and handouts in the front lobby of the main exchange from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day during Red Ribbon Week, said Mr. Sanders. In addition, to help promote a healthy lifestyle, the health and wellness center will provide cholesterol and blood pressure screenings free of charge, and various handouts about maintaining good health will be available.

Two contests have also been organized by Sabina Honda, of the Hurlburt Field Library, including a poster contest for youth in kindergarten through

third grade and an essay contest for fourth through sixth graders.

Entry instructions for the two contests will be available at the library Wednesday. All contestants will receive certificates, and there'll be prizes given to the winning entries, said Mr. Sanders

"We'll have several age-appropriate drug awareness videos parents may check out during October," said Ms. Honda. "I urge open discussion between parents and their children after watching a film."

Mr. Sanders said that although the 101 Critical Days of Summer ended this month, people should be thinking about safety and illegal drug awareness 365 days a year.

"Those who pledge 100 percent are doing the right thing for themselves and our great nation," he said. "Saying 'no' to drugs is saying 'yes' to life. We should wear the red ribbon as a stop sign – stop drug use in its tracks."

Red Ribbon Week came about as the result of a tragic murder of a Federal Drug Enforcement Agent, Enrique Camarena, while investigating Mexican drug traffickers. His death became a catalyst for action. In response to his death, angered parents across the country began wearing red ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to provide a drug-free future for America's youth. The red ribbon is worn in honor of the blood that was shed, in honor of his life that was sacrificed for others and his service to the nation.

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