



COMMANDO

Any Time Any Place

Vol. 52, Issue 13

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

April 2, 2004

An NCO with 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, gets fitted for the new uniform by Dana Jonas, contractor, March 23 at the deployment control center.



Photo by Airman James Dickens

New uniform of our very own

By Airman James Dickens
Public Affairs

Airmen from all around Hurlburt Field showed up at the deployment control center to get fitted for the new Air Force battle dress and physical training uniforms March 23, which began a six-month long wear test.

Hurlburt Field is one of only eight bases that's getting the opportunity to test new uniforms, said Keith Staffan, who works for the Air Force Clothing Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Of the service members who showed up to the fitting, 44 were chosen to actually wear and test the uniforms during the test period, said Senior Master Sgt. Gregory

Nabors, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

"The Air Force Clothing Office selected the people to test the uniform based on who it fits the best," said Sergeant Nabors.

New cargo pockets with extra compartments for tools and maps, new belts and an elastic waistband are some additions that Master Sgt. Stephen Howell, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, one of the wear test participants, thinks is a useful addition.

"The new uniforms have a lot of new features that I like compared to the uniforms we wear now," he said. "Also the black Henley shirt worn under the BDU top looks professional and is very comfortable."

Sergeant Howell said it would be

nice just washing, drying and putting on the uniform without the added ironing or dry cleaning that's usually done now.

When Sergeant Nabors was asked what he thought about the new uniforms he mentioned a few features that added comfort and convenience.

"I like everything; the color, the light weight, low maintenance and upkeep, and we finally got a boot we can walk in that doesn't hurt our feet," said Sergeant Nabors.

But the thing most people liked about the new uniform is the fact that it's the Air Force's very own.

For more information about the new uniforms and Hurlburt Field's wear test, call Sergeant Nabors at 884-7374.

New IG says practice, planning are paying off

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

The scenarios may change, but the wing's ability to survive and operate during the ATSO exercise here March 25 remained the same.

This exercise was just one in a series of exercises that the wing has conducted in preparation for the Air Force Special Operations Command final inspection Monday.

The key to doing well during the inspection is practice and planning, according to Col. Steve Laushine, who's been appointed as the new 16th Special Operations Wing Inspector General.

"The installation's leadership is gaining the confidence in implementing the Air Force's new Counter Chemical Warfare concept of operations to successfully survive and operate in a nuclear, biological and chemical environment and lead the wing to victory," the colonel said.

The exercises are designed to test and evaluate the wing's ability to survive, operate and carry out the mission despite periods of chemical or conven-



Col. Steve Laushine
16th SOW
Inspector General

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AFAF

AFAF deadline approaching

As the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign comes to a close April 9, Hurlburt Field personnel are encouraged to send in their last minute donation forms. As of now, the base has raised \$79,956 which is 73 percent of the \$110,667 goal. For more information, contact your unit AFAF representative.

Less sleep



Consent to search

Base pass holders subject to vehicle searches

All personnel are reminded that placing a base sticker/pass on your vehicle signifies consent to a vehicle search while on base.

Weather

Weekend forecast

Today – partly cloudy, High 72 Low 52
Saturday – partly cloudy, High 75 Low 57
Sunday – isolated storms, High 77 Low 64



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

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. O.G. Mannon

Keeping tabs on DUIs

Comment: Perhaps it would be possible to expand the "Driving Under the Influence" tracker to keep a running tally of each squadron on base. Possibly giving a quarterly or annual prize to the squadron with the best DUI record.

Reply: Thank you for your input. I am always open to suggestions, especially when it comes to eliminating DUIs. I

recently initiated a policy which grants a down day to those groups that go 60 consecutive days without any member receiving a DUI. While your suggestion does not directly align with this policy, it did spark another idea. Instead of keeping a running tally of how many DUIs a group/squadron has received, we've started tracking each group's respective progress by including a running tally of consecutive days each has gone without incurring a DUI. I would like to think we would have come up with this idea on our own, but your suggestion definitely got us there quicker. Thanks again.

Shaping the U.S. Air Force

By Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

Over the last decade, we've seen a dramatic change in our security environment.

We reduced our active duty force by nearly 40 percent, while remaining engaged around the world at levels higher than at any time during the Cold War.

To accommodate the changing world, we've completely transformed our Air Force, from one that dealt with the Soviet and North Korean threats into an agile Air Expeditionary Force, capable of rapidly responding anywhere, with tailored forces ready to deal with any contingency. But, for the past two years, we've exceeded our mandated active duty end strength of 359,000.

While this is a temporary situation fueled by the Global War on Terrorism, we now need a plan to return to the authorized levels. By the end of 2005, we should reduce the size of our active force by 16,000 people, and reshape the force to correct existing skill imbalances and account for a new range of missions in the GWOT.

We were given some latitude on how quickly we came down to the legal end strength limit of 359,000. Recruiting has traditionally not been a problem for the Air Force, but a robust economy late in the 1990s had us falling short of recruiting goals for the first time since 1979. As a result, we took in thousands of people using skill mix assumptions that are no longer applicable to the demands of

the GWOT. We now have several career fields over-manned, while suffering shortages in others. Our task now is to reduce the force while also fixing this skill mix imbalance.

One area that has affected our end strength is Stop Loss – a program we used in 2002 and 2003 to stop people from separating. When Stop Loss was lifted, many of those Airmen who intended to separate elected to stay. Other policies associated with the GWOT also influenced our end strength. We swelled the force by implementing programs that brought prior-service members and Air Force Reserve volunteers on active duty to fill known critical skill shortages.

Perhaps the most significant factor affecting our strength is retention. Our goal for first term-enlisted retention is 55 percent, but at the end of fiscal 2003, it was 61 percent. Imminent Danger Pay, Hardship Duty Pay, Combat Zone Tax Exclusion, Family Separation Allowance and a host of others, plus bonuses we pay to ensure we retain critical skills, add up to an attractive compensation package that turned the tide toward staying in uniform.

We've set new targets for recruiting, from 37,000 this year to 35,600 in fiscal 2005 and 34,500 in fiscal 2006. Part of our force shaping will be done by retraining and shifting experienced people from over-staffed career fields.

These efforts will be combined with several additional force shaping tools to get to our authorized manpower levels and get the right skills in the right places. We'll include ini-

tiatives such as restricting reenlistment in over-age career fields, voluntary transfers to the Reserves, shortening service commitments, limiting officer continuation for those deferred for promotion, commissioning Reserves Officer Training Corps cadets direct to the Reserves, limiting reclassification of those eliminated from technical school, rolling back separation dates, and officer and enlisted retraining.

I recently returned from the Area of Responsibility where I met people who'd been deployed for more than 200 days. They take great pride in the job they're doing, but we're being unfair to them and their families. Our goal is to give every qualified Airman who wants to stay in the Air Force the opportunity to do so.

Saddam Hussein buried his airplanes in the sand rather than face your Air Force. That's respect, and you earn it every day.

Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. James Roche and I are honored to serve with you. We'll continue to remain closely engaged on these issues to ensure that we reshape the force into one that's suited for the 21st century while sustaining the standards of excellence and morale that are emblematic of the world's greatest Air Force.



Gen.
John Jumper
Air Force Chief
of Staff

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Submitting articles

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DUI Tracker

March 26-April 1: 0 DUIs

This year: 20

DUIs for 2003: 54

Last DUI: 16th

Maintenance Squadron

Airmen Against Drunk Driving

Don't Drink and Drive. Call 884-8844

Potential saves this year: 175

16th OG46 16th MSG42
16th MXG11 16th MDG46

As of Feb. 15, individual groups get a down day for 60 consecutive days without a DUI. Totals are current as of April 1.



AADD helps curb drunk driving

By Tech. Sgt. James Eddington
16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

The AADD program has had some dramatic changes over the last four months, although the basic principle of the program remains.

Our primary responsibility is to provide a safe, confidential ride home to all military persons who are impaired and shouldn't drive.

This was achieved early on with just two volunteer drivers one male and one female in addition to a phone dispatch person. The program was being utilized with an average pick-up of two to three people per weekend.

Quickly, we realized the number of drivers would need to be changed, as there weren't backups in case one couldn't make it; so, we added two backup drivers.

The next change to the program was one of the biggest yet. We moved the program to 24-hour seven days a week operation. This required us to increase the number of weekly volunteers by four per week, and our equipment needs increased as each driver is supplied with a cell phone courtesy of the wing. Once established, the command post agreed to take over the phone dispatch responsibilities.

Now, a lot of people may think this is a way to track the caller, but that's not the case. The command post has agreed not to use the caller identification function.

Also, the command post is manned 24/7, and they installed a dedicated line just for AADD. In the past, if the first link in the chain was broken, so was everything else.

After a couple of months, the program really started to take off, transporting between 10 to 15 people per week. The demand for our services continued to increase.

The next expansion came from J.R. Rockers, which requested AADD vol-

ATSO, Continued from Page 1

tional attacks.

"During these exercises wing leadership has proven their ability to react to unplanned situations such as aircraft dispersal and chemical/conventional attacks," Colonel Laushine said. "I'm confident that the wing will do exceptionally well during the AFSOC inspection next week."

As the new IG, Colonel Laushine, a Westford, Mass. native will ensure the IG office sustains a credible Air Force IG system by ensuring the existence of responsive complaint investigations and Fraud Waste and Abuse programs



Photo by Senior Airman Sam Taylor

An airman with the 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, signs the Airman Against Drunk Driving contract of commitment March 26, as his peers, who also signed the contract, look on.

unteers to be available Fridays from 4 p.m. to closing. In exchange, the Rockers staff provides them with a free meal and a game card to help pass the time.

But, no matter how much AADD has increased we still haven't been able to have a significant impact on the number of driving under the influence incidents.

The wing safety office suggested and implemented an initiative called the Contract of Commitment. This contract is for E-5's and below who are at least 21 years old.

The contract consists of six individuals agreeing to not let each other drink and drive for a period of six months. They also agree to provide a ride home for any member of the contract, should they need it to prevent them from drinking and driving.

If the individuals can make it the entire six months without a DUI,

they'll get a day off, courtesy of the 16th Special Operations Wing commander. However, if just one person that signed the contract gets a DUI, all six will have to volunteer for 24 hours of additional duty to be performed in support of Hurlburt Field DUI prevention programs. Also, tasks will include – but aren't limited to – speaking to newcomers and base units and driving for the AADD program.

The first step to not drinking and driving should be to have a plan for getting home before going out. If you can't get a designated driver, count on taking a cab. If all else fails, call AADD.

Remember, the drivers are volunteers; they don't get reimbursed for their mileage or time. So, if you find yourself using AADD, thank the person that's possibly saving your future or even your life by giving you a choice.

He went on to attend undergradu-

ate helicopter training at Ft. Rucker, Ala., and received his wings in 1981. Since then, Colonel Laushine has accumulated more than 3,400 flying hours.

Before becoming the 16th SOW IG, the colonel was assigned to Special Operations Command South, Puerto Rico, as the deputy commanding officer and chief of staff.

The colonel, who's been stationed at Hurlburt Field twice before said, "I'm extremely excited to be back and I look forward to working with the wing again."

Spotlight on ...

Henry Rodriguez

Rank/Duty Title: Staff Sergeant/assistant NCO in-charge

Organization: 19th Special Operations Squadron

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

Hobbies: Sports, fishing, computers

Contribution to the mission:

Sergeant Rodriguez monitors flight physicals, physiological training and aircrew qualification requirements for 46 permanent parties and more than 200 students.

He analyzes management reports, identifies problem areas and trends while initiating remedial action. He also analyzes reports and aircrew resource data and relates the information collected to aircrew/parachutist training profiles and aircrew flying hour usage.

Sergeant Rodriguez, a hand-selected workgroup manager, installs hardware, software and operates client/server devices.

Additional duties also include squadron fitness monitor, vehicle control officer and most recently volunteering many hours as a wing tax advisor.

(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.)

New tax breaks introduced for military personnel, families

Military personnel and their families can benefit from several new tax breaks, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

The Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 allows, among other things, certain benefits and gains to be excluded from income on the federal income tax return. Reporting a lower income reduces the amount of taxes owed.

■Death Benefits

For deaths occurring after Sept. 10, 2001, the new law doubles the benefit paid to survivors of deceased Armed Forces members from \$6,000 to \$12,000 and makes that entire amount tax-free. Previously, only \$3,000 was tax-free, and the remaining \$3,000 was taxable.

Recipients who have already paid tax on benefits received for deaths after Sept. 10, 2001, may file an amended return on IRS Form 1040X, "Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return."

On the return, they should reduce their adjusted gross income by the \$3,000 they had previously reported as taxable on a federal income tax return and put the words "Military Family Tax Relief Act" in red at the top of the amended return to speed processing. Those who receive death benefits in 2003 and future years won't have to report them on their tax returns.

■Home Sales

For homes sold after May 6, 1997, a taxpayer on qualified official extended duty in the U.S. Armed, Uniformed or Foreign Services may suspend for up to 10 years of such duty time the running of the 5-year ownership-and-use period before the sale of a residence.

This applies when the duty station is at least 50 miles from the residence — or while the person is residing under orders in government housing — for a period of more than 90 days or for an indefinite period. This election, which is an option for the taxpayer, applies to only one property at a time.

Although taxpayers normally have only three years to file an amended return, qualifying taxpayers who sold a residence before 2001 have until Nov. 10, 2004, to amend their returns for this purpose. Taxpayers amending a return to use this provision should put "Military Family Tax Relief Act" in red in the top margin of Form 1040X.

■National Guard and Reserve deductions for overnight travel expenses

For tax years after 2002, Reservists who stay overnight more than 100 miles away from home while in service (e.g., for a drill or meeting) may deduct unreimbursed travel expenses (transportation, meals and lodging) as an above-the-line deduction. The deduction is limited to the rates for

such expenses authorized for federal employees, including per diem in lieu of subsistence.

For 2003, taxpayers will use Form 2106, "Employee Business Expenses," or 2106-EZ, "Unreimbursed Employee Business Expenses," to figure the deduction amount. They should carry it as a "write-in" to Form 1040, line 33, putting the letters "RC" and the amount on the dotted line and including this subtraction in the entry for line 33.

■Combat zone extensions expanded to contingency operations

The various extensions granted to combat zone participants to file returns or pay taxes would also apply to those serving in Contingency Operations, as designated by the Secretary of Defense. This is effective for any acts whose deadline hasn't expired before Nov. 11, 2003.

Department of Defense Homeowners Assistance Program

Payments made after Nov. 11, 2003, under this program to offset the adverse effects on housing values of military base realignments or closures will be excludable from income as a fringe benefit.

■Dependent care assistance program

For tax years after 2002, dependent care assistance programs for military personnel are excludable from income.

■Military academy attendees

For tax years after 2002, the 10 percent tax on payments from a qualified tuition program or Coverdell Education Savings Account that aren't used for educational expenses doesn't apply to attendees of the U.S. military, naval, Air Force, Coast Guard or Merchant Marine academies, to the extent the payments don't exceed the costs of advanced education.

If a taxpayer no longer has copies of his or her previous tax returns, the taxpayer may use Form 4506, "Request for Copy of Tax Return," to order an earlier year's tax return, or Form 4506-T, "Request for a Transcript of Tax Return."

The IRS charges \$39 for each return requested, but charges nothing for a transcript. IRS forms are available on the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov, or by calling toll-free (800) TAX-FORM.

More information on the Military Family Relief Act of 2003 and other tax issues affecting the military can be found on the IRS Web site on the "1040 Central" page and in IRS Publication 3, "Armed Forces Tax Guide," also available on this Web site or by calling (800) 829-3676.

Airmen can make an appointment at the base tax center for assistance by calling 884-7542 or 7544. Tax center hours are Mondays and Fridays 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesdays 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Look who's talking:

 How did you spend your tax return?

"Some went in my Individual Retirement Account, the rest for my wife."

"I bought a six-puck clutch for my car — it was worth it."

"I used the money to help purchase a new home."

News Briefs

Local News

Loadmaster reunion

All loadmasters are welcomed to attend the Professional Loadmaster Associations 2004 Gathering of Loadmasters May 23-27 at the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort in Atlantic City, N.J. For more information, call J.P. Salisbury at (609) 893-0363 or e-mail jpandbarb@comcast.net, call Tom Kenny at (609) 754-4403 or e-mail thomas.kenny@mcguire.af.mil. Also, visit www.loadmasters.com.

USAFSOS African course

The U.S. Air Force Special Operations School hosts a Sub Saharan Africa Orientation course Monday through April 9 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Any base personnel interested in attending should report to USAFSOS, Building 90503, between 7 and 8 a.m. Monday for in-processing. Classified lectures will be held Thursday; a SECRET clearance is required. For more information, call Capt. Apryl Cymbal at 884-4472 or e-mail apryl.cymbal@hurlburt.af.mil, or call Dann Mattiza at 884-5749 or e-mail dann.mattiza@hurlburt.af.mil.

The latest consumer credit trap

By Tom Snyder
Financial advisor

Universal default is a new problem consumers are facing more often than ever before. The universal default clause is one of those fine print items buried in many, if not most, credit card agreements.

It comes into play when a consumer, who otherwise has excellent credit (and also a high credit score), suddenly has a negative item appear on their credit report.

When negatives begin to appear on a report, the "universal default" clause is often invoked.

Essentially it means if they're in default with one lender, they're in default with other lenders. The result is that the low interest rates enjoyed at the onset of a credit relationship with a lender will soar and, in more than a few cases, they may double or triple.

Creditors and lenders are now more closely monitoring credit reports of their current clients for signs of trouble especially with other lenders.

Missing or being late on a payment can be costly if it makes it onto a credit report. It's now much more than a \$30 or \$40 late payment fee because not only does it trigger higher fees and interest charges, it'll also lower credit scores.

One late payment could drop one's score 20 to 30 points.

For more information, call Tom Snyder at 884-6100.

Officials announce retiree employment program

WASHINGTON – Department of Defense officials implemented a new policy March 22 allowing defense managers to hire civil-service retirees needed in critical positions without offsetting their retirement pay, a measure which was required under a previous law. A similar provision was previously implemented for military retirees.

Until enactment of this stand-alone provision, authorized by the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, DOD civil-service retirees had their pay reduced by the amount of their pension. This benefit applies to only to persons hired on or after Nov. 24.

“This tool will help us address the challenges of a ‘retirement-driven talent drain’ as our current generation of dedicated civil servants becomes eligible to retire,” said David Chu, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The policy has a number of restrictions and requirements. For example, a retiree can only be hired into hard-to-fill positions where the retiree has unique or specialized skills or qualifications. A retiree can’t be re-employed in his or her previous job position unless someone above the hiring official approves and certifies the critical conditions.

In addition, a retiree may be hired for up to one year as a mentor to less experienced employees or to provide continuity during critical organizational transitions.

Before any retiree can be hired, the position must be offered to qualified defense workers who’ve lost their jobs through no fault of their own. For executive-level positions, only the secretaries of the military departments or heads of defense agencies and field activities may appoint annuitants to such positions. **(AFPN)**

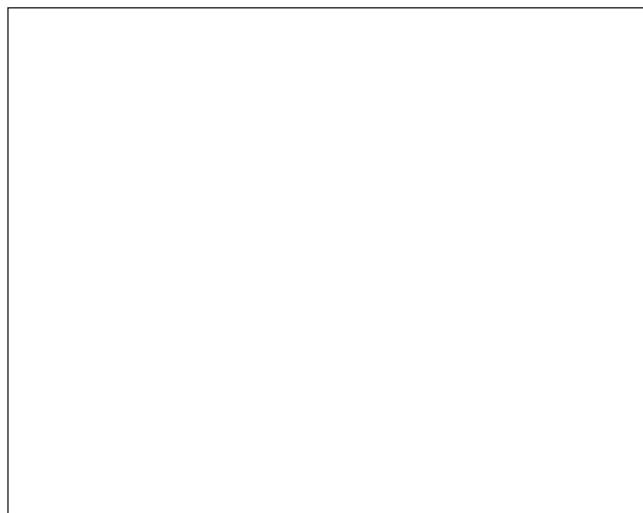


Photo by Vanessa Adame

Flying high

McKenna, 2, daughter of Staff Sgt. Daniel Whalen, 19th Special Operations Squadron, swings at the community park Monday. The Hurlburt Field Community Park has recently undergone many upgrades, including the addition of new batting cages and an interactive water fountain currently under construction.

**DIAMOND 1 (CO-OP)
COMM/RHP/CINGULA
546503
5 X 6.00**

Operations security encompasses all operational information

By Senior Master Sgt. Charles Gurski
16th SOW
Information Operations

In Special Operations, our ability to survive and operate depends largely on a good security program, which is more than just protecting classified information.

It involves making people aware of how seemingly harmless day-to-day operational information when combined with other bits of harmless information can compromise vital operational interests, known as operations security.

According to Master Sgt. Mick Cook, installation OPSEC officer, "OPSEC is a process to identify information critical to the wing's success, recognizing an adversary's ability to collect this information, and then formulating a method or procedure to protect that information."

One of our biggest concerns is garbage. The old adage "One man's trash is another man's treasure" is especially true in Special Operations.

"We are tasked to check recycle bins, trash cans and dumpsters periodically," Sergeant Cook said. "We find privacy act material, recall rosters, travel itineraries and many other items containing sensitive but unclassified and 'for official use only' information.

"This type information and information from your unit's Critical Information Lists should be recycled by shredding with the appropriate shredder. Units should be using the one-quarter inch shredders for SBU/FOUO material for recycling," he said.

Shredders with smaller variations of shredding width are reserved for shredding classified information only and can't be recycled.

Trash certainly isn't the only OPSEC concern – there's also electronic mail, work phones, cell phones, pagers, and conversations between peers, spouses, friends and casual acquaintances.

"People have to understand we live in the age of information, and information is now a bona fide weapon of our adversaries," Sergeant Cook said. "We exchange so much information on a daily basis that we need to be more vigilant than ever before about what we're sending out.

"Just because something seems insignificant to us, doesn't mean it's insignificant to the enemy," he said.

In order to protect critical information, it must first be identified. Commanders and unit OPSEC program managers should have CILs available for each of their units and posted in the work areas.

"This is the framework behind protecting information prior to e-mailing, faxing or discussing it over the phone. It'll also give people a reference as to what should be protected and/or shredded," Sergeant Cook said.

"We have also developed an educational handout for our Hurlburt Field families. It gives family members a better understanding of the importance of protecting operational information they may be privy to about their loved ones."

We'll soon publish the "OPSEC Guide for the Deployer." This guide will be a quick reference guide to remind our warriors of the do's and don'ts of operations security while deployed and upon their return.

The concept of OPSEC is not a new one. Awareness is the key – our people must understand the importance of the information they possess. OPSEC is everybody's business.

Share A Ride takes Airmen from 'a' to 'b'

Hurlburt Field will soon be providing rides for Airmen on base who don't have transportation with the help of Share A Ride signs posted on the east and west side of base.

Signs will soon be popping up in a few strategic locations on base. If you see someone waiting by one, they're in need of a ride from one side of the base to the other.



Photo by Airman James Dickens

Airmen prepare signs for the Share A Ride program to be implemented soon.

Hurlburt Field Airman have voiced a need in several forums that they would like a means to get back and forth from the west and east sides of base for

clinic or military personnel flight appointments or base exchange/commissary runs on the weekends.

The program is designed to fill a void since bus shuttle runs during the week didn't have the usage to justify continuing them, and we are prohibited from weekend shuttle runs because they aren't duty related.

Therefore, it's up to base personnel to recognize the need and volunteer a ride for the waiting Airmen.

Signs will be located at four – possibly five – locations on base.

These include: on Independence Road near the Hurlburt Field Air Park, on Tully Avenue between the Burger King and Terry Street intersection, on Lielmanis Avenue by the middle parking lot exit between the base exchange/commissary and possibly one in the west side dorm area.

For more information about the Share A Ride program, call Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Dillon at 884-4444.

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Your military equal opportunity office

Responsive to the mission, sensitive to the people

Capt. William Woodall
16th SOW Military Equal Opportunity chief

The Air Force best performs its missions in an environment that fosters fair treatment for its people.

It must conduct its affairs free from unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment and provide equal opportunity and treatment for all members irrespective of color, national origin, race, religion, or sex, except as prescribed by statute or policy.

Each Air Force member has the right to participate in and benefit from programs and activities in which they're qualified, and shall only be evaluated on their individual merit, fitness and capability.

It's a fact that when members are discriminated against or sexually harassed, the mission is jeopardized.

The military equal opportunity office is one of the installation commander's staff agencies charged with carrying out Air Force policy.

MEO assists the installation commander in ensuring members are treated fairly and can work in an environment free from unlawful discrimination and sexual

harassment on their installation.

In order to accomplish this, MEO has been given several key responsibilities.

The MEO office is responsible for clarifying allegations of unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment filed by military members and their dependents (if not related to Department of Defense employment).

Along with clarifying discrimination complaints, the MEO office provides many other services.

These services include: conducting equal opportunity incident clarifications, and maintaining close contact with commanders to inform them of problems that may adversely affect their members' behavior, health, duty performance or mission.

MEO also conducts a vast array of equal opportunity and treatment/ human relations education such as First Duty Station, newcomer's orientation, commander's calls, and specially requested briefings.

To help commanders assess their human relations climate within their organization, MEO conducts Unit Climate Assessments.

The UCA provides squadron members the opportunity to voice their perceptions of their unit anonymously back to their commander.

When necessary, inquiry officers and commanders utilize MEO as subject matter experts when they deal with equal opportu-

It's a fact that when members are discriminated against or sexually harassed, the mission is jeopardized.

nity and treatment issues within their unit.

Finally, to maintain close liaison with on and off-base agencies and establishments, MEO serves as advisors on several councils, special emphasis groups and cultural observance committees.

Bottom line, MEO is there to help you — the individual, the supervisor and the commander accomplish Hurlburt Field's critical mission.

For more information, call MEO at 884-7888/6844/2631 or stop by the office in Building 90210, Suite 241.

Hurlburt Field hosts Earth Day celebration



Hurlburt Field will celebrate Earth Day April 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Soundside entrance to the Grace Brown Nature Trail.

This year's Earth Day theme is "Wildlife Conservation: Take a Walk on the Wild Side."

Sponsors from the Gulf Breeze Zoo, Panhandle Animal Welfare Society/Safe People Safe Pets,

Golden Retriever Rescue, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron and 16th Civil Engineer Squadron entomology department will have display booths.

More than 400 children from Holley-Navarre Intermediate, Florosa Elementary and St. Mary's Schools plan to attend.

All base members are invited to attend and enjoy the food booths during their lunch hour.

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



Eglin hosts air show open house

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Eglin Air Force Base will host the 2004 Open House and Air Show Saturday and Sunday. Gates open at 9 a.m. both days.

The event showcases the mission of Eglin, the largest Air Force base in the free world.

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and the West Coast F-15 aerial demonstrations teams plus other military and civilian aerial demonstrations teams are scheduled to perform both days.

Aircraft will be on display, representing numerous military units from Eglin and other bases.

There will also be weapons displays and entertainment during the day. Food concessions will be available.

For further information, call Eglin AFB Public Affairs at 882-3931.

Week in History

The following is a list of extraordinary events in military history that occurred several years ago this week:

March 29, 1923 — Lt. Russell Maughan set a world speed record of 236.587 miles per hour in a Curtiss R-6.

April 1, 1954 — President Dwight Eisenhower signed into law a bill creating the U.S. Air Force Academy.

April 1, 1972 — Air Training Command activates the Community College of the Air Force at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

April 3, 1967 — Paul Airey became the first chief master sergeant of the U.S. Air Force.

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Community

HOSC luncheon

The Hurlburt Officers' Spouses' Club will host a monthly luncheon April 22, 10:30 a.m., at The Soundside. HOSC will be awarding scholarships to military spouses and several graduating high school seniors. The main entrée is a mixed salad with ranch dressing and pasta primavera served with garlic bread. Cost is \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members. The alternate menu consists of beef, asparagus and broccoli salad; cost is \$8.75 for members and \$10.75 for nonmembers. Dessert is amaretto gelato. The feature charity this month is Sharing and Caring. HOSC will be collecting nonperishable pantry items.

Childcare is available for \$3 per hour per child or \$5 per hour for two or more children. Reservations for the luncheon and childcare must be made no later than noon April 19. For reservations call Jean Keith at 581-3557.

Self Help plants

The self help store will be issuing plant vouchers starting Wednesday for Hurlburt Field housing residents. Residents must visit the self help store to choose plants. Once a selection has been made, residents will need to fill out a voucher. Plants may then be picked up from Beal's Nursery on U.S. Highway 98, approximately four miles west of Hurlburt Field. For more information, visit the self help store located at Building 90327 or call 884-7130.

16th CPTS closure

The 16th Comptroller Squadron will close at 2 p.m. April 9 for an official function. For emergencies, please call 803-3324.

Housing expo

The fifth annual Affordable Housing Expo is today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. near the food court at Santa Rosa Mall. Visitors will receive information needed to purchase a home. For more information, call Cathy Ducharme at 833- 9598.

Vendors needed

Vendors are needed for Hurlburt Field's third annual Bridal Expo June 6. The event is at The Soundside from 2 to 5 p.m. For more information, call Phyllis Pettigrew at 581-3110.

Munch & Mend

All Airmen are invited to Munch & Mend April 12 at the base chapel from 5 to 7 p.m. to enjoy a free dinner while having minor repairs done on one article of clean clothing. Repairs include having stripes, patches or name tags sewn on to a military uniform. For more information, call Bill White at 884-7371 or Jimmie Thomas at 881-3344.

CCAF graduation ceremony

The Community College of the Air Force announces a graduation commencement ceremony May 5 at 8:30 a.m. at The Soundside. The Hurlburt Field Education Services Office will be minimally manned from 7 to 10:30 a.m.

Volunteers needed

The Hurlburt Field Airman's Council is seeking volunteers for a clean-up day at Bob Hope Village April 24 at 9 a.m. For more information, call Senior Airman Sirrena Simms at 884-4926 or e-mail sirrena.simms@hurlburt.af.mil.

Change of command

The 4th Special Operations Squadron is hosting a change of command ceremony Thursday at 9 a.m. at the 15th AMU Nose Dock Hanger. Lt. Col. Stephen Clark will be assuming command from Lt. Col. Seth Junkins.

Public Affairs closure

The 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs office will close Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for an official function.

Trespassing notice

The 16th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms section reminds people not to trespass on the firing ranges and impact areas located off Red Horse Road.

Trespassing is dangerous because of potential gunfire hazards including noise, live fire and being present in the impact area when firing isn't conducted. People must have clearance to enter the impact area. For more information, call 884-7520 or 884-7205.

Honoring victims of crime

In observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department and West Florida Victim Witness Services Coalition are hosting a tribute commemorating victims and survivors of crime.

The event is Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Fort Walton Beach Landing and will feature food and live music. For more information, call Mary Rominger at 651-7438 or e-mail mrominger@sheriff-okaloosa.org.

Volunteer opportunities

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has volunteer opportunities available. For more information, e-mail Capt. Carol Blackington at carol.blackington@hurlburt.af.mil.

Volunteers needed

Mary Esther Elementary School needs volunteers for the upcoming events listed below. For more information, call Senior Airman Heven Lang at 884-6312.

■Carnival, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

■Field Day, April 22 and 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Summer hire program

The Summer hire program is accepting applications. Students must be at least 16 years old by May; must be enrolled in high school, vocational school or college and enrolled in at least a half-time course load. For more information, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afjobs or call Pat White at 884-5212.

Education survey

The Hurlburt Field Education Services Center is conducting a survey until April 30 to help determine the needs of students. The survey is available at <http://afvec.langley.af.mil/afvec>.

Air Force TV and Radio News



To check out Air Force TV or Radio News visit: <http://af.feedroom.com> or www.af.mil/news and click on TV or radio to find out what's happening around the Air Force.

Hurlburt Field Chapel



Protestant Mass
Palm Sunday Services
Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:45 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
Good Friday Service
Friday, 1p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service

April 11, 6 a.m. Soundside

Continental breakfast, base chapel, 7 a.m.

Catholic Services

Palm Sunday Services

Sunday, 7 a.m., 10 a.m.

Holy Thursday Mass

Thursday, 7 p.m.

Good Friday Services, April 9

■Stations of the Cross, noon

■Communion Service, 3 p.m.

Easter Vigil Mass, April 10, 7:30 p.m.

■Easter Mass, Sunday, April 11, 7:15 a.m., 10 a.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) *Miracle*, starring Kurt Russell and Patricia Clarkson – Based on a true story. A former Olympic winner assembles a team of underdogs and leads them to victory against an undefeated Soviet hockey team.

Saturday – (PG-13) *Against the Ropes*, starring Meg Ryan and Omar Epps – Based on the real-life story of Jackie Kallen, who became a successful boxing manager by believing in the fighting skills of Luther Shaw.

Sunday – (PG) *Catch that Kid*, starring Kristen Stewart and Corbin Bleu – Three kids set out to rob one of the world's most impenetrable banks to save an ailing father.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday – (PG-13) *50 First Dates*, starring Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore – A veterinarian at an aquarium falls in love with a girl with short-term memory loss, but he has to keep getting her to fall in love with him every time they meet.

Saturday – (PG-13) *Welcome to Mooseport*, starring Gene Hackman, Ray Romano – A former president retires to a small town, but his neighbors plead with him to fill a vacant mayoral seat. A local plumber runs against him, setting off a fierce campaign.

Sunday – (R) *Broken Lizard's Club Dread*, starring Jay Chandrasekhar, Kevin Heffernan – A non-stop party turns weird when dead bodies start turning up suddenly and everyone looks suspicious.

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

Air Commando Dining-out

The 16th Special Operations Wing is planning a dining-out May 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Emerald Coast Conference Center. The event commemorates the 24th anniversary of Desert One operations. Tickets can be purchased through unit first sergeants starting Tuesday.

Classes

FSC classes

For more information on the following family support center classes call 884-5441.

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

Employment Orientation – Monday, 9 a.m.; reservations required

Mapping your Career – Monday, 1 p.m.

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

HAWC classes

To reserve a seat in the following Health and Wellness classes, call 884-4292.

Healthy Living Workshop – Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m.; Wednesday, 1 p.m.

Body Composition Improvement Program – Tuesday, 1 p.m.

Diabetic Nutrition – Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

Eating Heart Healthy – Wednesday, 2 p.m.

Military veterans offer identity theft defense tips

WARMINSTER, Penn. – Most military personnel and their families don't realize how widespread identity theft has become, nor how personally vulnerable they are.

Nearly 10 million Americans were victimized last year, 41 percent more than the year before, at a cost to the U.S. economy of \$53 billion. Thus, making identity theft the second most reported crime to the federal government in 2003.

Those who have a military identification, driver's license, bank account or credit card are all targets for identity thieves. Personal information is the key that unlocks every aspect of an individual's life.

Unfortunately, that makes data a target for unscrupulous criminals to use one's name to obtain goods and services.

Becoming a victim of this heinous crime can result in ruined credit and destroyed lives.

An effective defense against identity theft is the best weapon to combat the risk of becoming a victim. Here are few defensive strategies:

■Don't give out personal information aimlessly: Before giving any personal information by mail, phone or through the Internet, confirm the

legitimacy of the organization.

■Be careful with mail – Mail is sensitive material. It contains personal and financial information. Install a residential mailbox with a locking mechanism or purchase a door with a mail slot.

■Guard trash – Identity thieves have been known to gather personal information from trash. Place garbage out on the morning of pickup rather than the night before. This gives dumpster divers less opportunity to go through garbage.

■Exercise caution online – Before making any purchase via computer, look for the icon of a lock in the lower right-hand corner of the browser window. If it's there, the site is secure. If not, it would be safer to find another merchant.

■Monitor credit reports – Many consumers don't realize their identity has been stolen until they're denied credit due to derogatory information on their credit reports. Register for a service that'll alert customers of any changes in their report.

For more information on identity theft, including a risk analysis survey and defensive strategies, visit www.idtdefense.com or call David Suszko at (800) 775-9296.

5X5 Daily News AD

TACP squeezes by 505th CCW 18-17

Softball tournament raises money for Commando varsity team



Jason LaBelle, 505th Command and Control Wing intramural softball team, slams the ball during a 14-team fund-raiser tournament game here, March 26.

Story and photos by Airman James Dickens
Public Affairs

The Det. 1, 334th Training Squadron intramural softball team skimmed past the 505th Command and Control Wing team 18-17 in a game during a fund-raiser tournament here, Saturday.

Taking to the field first, the 505th CCW smacked in a few runs, helped by a couple of errors on Det. 1's part.

The next few innings looked like a home run derby, with both teams knocking their share of balls out of the park. The battle for the lead was tussled back and forth, but the 505th CCW came up on top with a six-run lead in the final minutes of play. But for Det. 1, the game was just getting started.

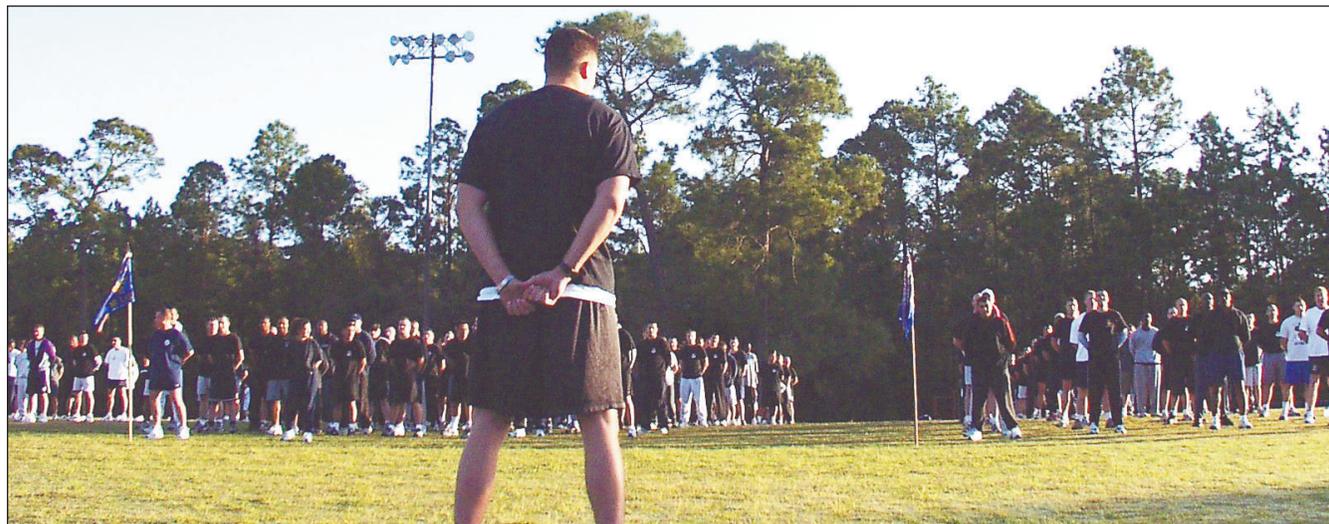
In the final inning Det. 1 came out swinging, getting a fast four runs and only one out. With the score at 16-17 in favor of the 505th, Det. 1's Adam Vizi stepped up to the plate. With one runner on base, he belted a line-

drive way over the center field wall, bringing his team the win by one point.

This was both teams' first game of the two-day, 14-team fund-raiser tournament, which raised about \$1,600 for the Hurlburt Field varsity softball team. The 96th Communications Squadron team from Eglin Air Force Base took first place overall; the 16th Component Maintenance Squadron brought home second; and the 33rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron team, also from Eglin AFB, took third.



Jim Hoy, 505th CCW, pitches to a batter from the Det. 1, 334th Training Squadron team.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Katisha Clark

Back to basics

First Lt. Ryan Fleming, 16th Contracting Squadron, leads the 16th Mission Support Group during physical training at the Aderholt Fitness Center, March 26. (below) Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, stretches before the workout.



Sports shorts

Table tennis club

The Eglin Table Tennis club meets every Monday from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Federal Prison Camp Training Facility on Range Road at Eglin Air Force Base. All table tennis enthusiasts are invited to attend. For more information, call Dennis Rackard at 882-8680.

Women's varsity softball

Players are needed for the women's varsity softball team. For more information, call the Aderholt Fitness Center at 884-6884.

AFAF golf tournament

The 2004 Air Force Assistance Golf Tournament is planned April 9 at Gator Lakes Golf Course. This is a four-man scramble format with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Entry fees are \$40

per person and include green fees, cart rental, food and range balls. Registrations must be made no later than Monday. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Robert Smith at 884-4180 or Tech. Sgt. Loretta Lorentzen at 881-4909.

5K Run/Walk

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is sponsoring a 5K run/walk April 10 at the Fort Walton Beach Landing. A children's Easter egg hunt will follow the event. For more information, call Mary Rominger at 651-7438 or e-mail mrominger@sheriff-okaloosa.org.

Bob Hope golf tournament

The first Bob Hope Memorial Charity Golf Classic is April 18-20 at Indian Bayou Golf and Country Club in Destin, Fla. Proceeds from the

event will benefit the Air Force Enlisted Village, a non-profit organization providing housing and services to widows of Air Force enlisted members. Entry fee is \$300 per team, with a \$600 first prize purse.

Golfer amenities include 36 holes of golf and cart; daily driving range privileges; limited edition gifts of appreciation; and a private Nashville music concert and social.

Entry forms are available at all Fort Walton Beach and Destin golf courses, and on the Air Force Enlisted Village Web site at www.afenlistedwidows.org, or by calling 651-3766.

Steam room renovation

The men's steam room at the Aderholt Fitness Center will be closed for renovations through May 5.