



Courtesy graphic

This artist's rendition illustrates how the area between the 16th SOW headquarters and AFSOC headquarters will look when construction is completed in May 2005. This view of AFSOC headquarters from the family support center shows a pedestrian mall in place of the road existing there now.

Construction modernizes Hurlburt Field

By 1st Lt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

Construction projects at Hurlburt Field are noticeably taking on a high level of activity in 2004, a base priority secondary only to the organization, training and equipping of Air Commandos.

This year, the base will undergo construction and revitalization worth \$130 million as part of the Department of Defense's long-term initiative to build up Special Operations Forces, and Hurlburt Field's initiative to upgrade and expand facilities to accommodate a growing population.

"Airmen and DOD civilians assigned to Hurlburt Field are going to see many additions to the

base in 2004 that will increase force protection and provide state-of-the-art facilities," said Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander. "These projects will eventually ensure their safety, raise their quality of life and enhance their work environments."

Areas surrounding the 16th SOW headquarters building are currently under a \$4.8 million project to demolish parking lots and roadways for construction of new lots and roads that will alleviate force protection concerns.

According to Lt. Col. Jeff Pitchford, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, the new configuration of parking lots and roads will provide controlled park-

ing areas, better lighting, 200 extra spaces, and greater security for 16th SOW and Air Force Special Operations Command headquarters buildings, all scheduled for completion by May 2005.

"The construction is inconvenient at times," said Colonel Pitchford, "but the end product will be a safer, more efficient environment for the AFSOC and 16th SOW missions."

Another major project is the new consolidated communications facility under construction near the 16th Security Forces Squadron. The 16th Communications Squadron, currently spread across the base in various facilities, will

See **CONSTRUCTION**, Page 10

Hurlburt Field honors quarterly award winners

By Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

Hurlburt Field honored its October through December quarterly award winners during a breakfast ceremony at The Soundside Jan. 28.

Award ceremonies, held each quarter, recognize outstanding accomplishments of base members. This quarter's award winners are as follows:

Company Grade Officer

Capt. **Paul Link**, a critical care nurse with the 16th Medical Support Squadron (no photo available), established a first-of-its kind digitized photo

See **AWARDS**, Page 3

2004 AFAF begins in March

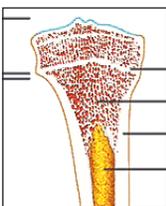
The Air Force Assistance Fund kicks off March 1 and will run through April 9.

Organizations supported by AFAF contributions include: the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation, the Air Force Enlisted Village, the Air Force Aid Society National Headquarters and the Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund.

These organizations help Air Force people with aid in an emergency, with educational needs, or to have a secure retirement home for widows or widowers of Air Force members in need of financial assistance.

For more information, e-mail 1st Lt. Nicole Marshall at nicole.marshall@hurlburt.af.mil or 1st Lt. Darin Wheeler at darin.wheeler@hurlburt.af.mil.

News



No bones about it

Hurlburt Field hosts bone marrow drive Feb. 13

Page 8

Feature



16th SOW

A look behind the scenes of the people at the wing command section

Page 14

Wing event

16th SOW dining-out

A 16th Special Operations Wing dining-out is scheduled at 6 p.m. May 8, at the Emerald Coast Conference Center. The event will pay tribute to the anniversary of Desert One and honor the memory of the mission's fallen heroes. The event's guest speaker will be retired Col. John Caaney. For more information or to report unit scheduling conflicts, call Maj. Leslie Higer at 884-7350.

Weather

Weekend forecast

Today – isolated showers, High 61 Low 53

Saturday – Partly cloudy, High 55 Low 45

Sunday – scattered showers, High 52 Low 30

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



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Traffic light torment

Comment: I would like to make a comment about the new traffic lights that have been installed on base. I'm finding that they impede traffic flow more than help it during the hours of 2-11:30 p.m. I'm often stopped at these lights and no other traffic is traveling in either direction except myself and a few other folks.

There's no need for the traffic light for one, and second they should be adjusted where they are more vehicle/movement friendly so we can get through this base

without having to stop when it is not needed.

Response: Thanks for bringing this up. This light is currently programmed on a default setting until we can work with the county traffic engineers to see how the traffic is flowing and adjust the settings accordingly. In addition, we've received funding from AFSOC to install motion sensors on the lights at the intersection of Independence Road and Cody Avenue, just inside the main gate. You'll see those improvements soon and traffic should be flowing a lot smoother as a result. Thanks for your patience.

Why we pause to celebrate African American history

By Brig. Gen. Henry Taylor
Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – Every February, we pause to celebrate African American History Month. A question that eventually comes up each year is "why is it important to recognize African American history?"

As I pondered that question a while back, I was reminded of a quote from the book, "The Most Important Thing I Know." The book is a compilation of inspiring thoughts and words by some of the great leaders in the world.

In the introduction, the author states, "People need to hear messages that honor the dignity of human potential." The annual pause to reflect on African American history gives us a chance to honor the dignity of the human potential and to identify the shoulders on which we stand.

There are many types of histories: we all have personal histories, our military has an institutional history, and every race has a history. I would like to share some personal and institutional histories to show the shoulders on which I stand, as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force.

I spent most of my time growing up in Charleston, S.C., living with my maternal grandmother. I spent many nights in front of a big, wood burning stove listening to her tell stories and learning the ways of the world.

When my grandmother died, we took her to White Hall, S.C., and buried her where we always buried our folks.

It wasn't until someone studied our family history that I learned the rest of the story about that burial place. It

was a plot of land that was set aside to bury the slaves who worked at a place called Heyward Plantation. We've been burying the descendants of those slaves there ever since.

I can walk down that row and go back nearly 200 years of my personal history; I walk down that row and I see the names of the people on whose shoulders I stand. We don't have an Air Force general officer on that row – yet. But, one of these days, my children will be able to walk back 200 years of their history and turn around and walk from servitude to service.

African Americans have served in every American war, starting with the Revolutionary War. As a matter of fact, military service has been a powerful weapon in the pursuit of social improvement for individuals and African Americans as a group.

In 1866, Congress established an army to take on the challenges of the westward expansion of the country. Parts of that army were the 9th and 10th cavalries and the 24th and 25th infantries. These units were comprised of African American soldiers who later gained fame as the "buffalo soldiers."

In 1876, the 10th cavalry received an officer named Henry Flipper. He was the first African American to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. During his four years at West Point, he was given the silent treatment.

So, Flipper stated that he and other African American cadets wanted "to be left alone to (their) own resources for study and improvement, for enjoyment in whatever way (they) chose to seek it ... (they) cared not for social recognition. (They) didn't expect it."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson

Col. Raymond Killgore, 16th Special Operations Wing vice commander, signs the African American History Month proclamation Jan. 28, declaring February as African American History Month for the wing.

It's this example of self-determination that I stand on. Flipper persevered at West Point; he endured unfair treatment on active duty that eventually led to his discharge from the Army; and he went on to a successful career in mining and surveying.

In January 1941, the Army announced the formation of its first all black air corps unit, the 99th Pursuit Squadron. These men became fighter pilots. An army airfield in Tuskegee, Ala., became the center for training these black pilots, and they became known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

These airmen never lost a bomber they were escorting to enemy fire. They fought for the right to fly. They fought for the right to deploy to Europe. And they fought for the right to engage in combat. I proudly stand on the shoulders of the courage of the men who are called Tuskegee Airmen.

The dignity of the human spirit and human potential are really the true lessons of history. It can be a lesson that allows each one of us to see the shoulders on which we stand.

(AFNS)

Hurlburt Field DUI Tracker

Jan. 1 – Total DUIs for
Jan. 29: 2003: 53
No DUIs

Days since last
DUI: 55

Total DUIs this
year to date: 0

**Airmen Against
Drunk Driving
Don't Drink and
Drive.**

Call 884-8844
Potential saves
this year: 46

Medical group is excellent

Courtesy of the 16th Medical Group

The final results are in – the 16th Medical Group received an overall “excellent” rating on a combined military-civilian inspection conducted here in December.

A nine-member team from Headquarters, Air Force Inspection Agency and a two-member team from the Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations thoroughly evaluated all aspects of the medical group.

The week of intense scrutiny included a review of Air Force checklists and interview sessions with unit members. Also, included was a meeting with members of the Hurlburt Field community to assess their satisfac-

tion with the medical care they receive at the medical clinic.

The inspection team stated in its report, “The 16th Medical Group is superbly meeting the needs of a base where the operational tempo could hardly be higher. Beneficiaries expressed probably the highest satisfaction with accessibility and quality of care seen this year.”

“I am extremely proud of what our ‘Commando medics’ accomplish for our customers each and every day,” said Colonel Kevin Pollard, 16th Medical Group commander. “The results of this inspection, coming on the heels of the medical group’s selection as the Air Force Surgeon General’s 2002 outstanding medical facility, confirm that the men and women of the medical group are living up to our vision – ‘To provide exceptional preventive and curative health services for our warfighters and their families.’”

Six areas in the clinic were specifi-

cally cited for outstanding performance.

In addition, the inspection team identified two Air Force Benchmark Practices in the Demand Reduction Program.

Lt. Col. Linda Busch, behavioral health flight commander, noted, “It’s rare for one benchmark program to be identified at a behavioral health facility; to have had two benchmark practices identified is almost unheard of. This recognition definitely reflects the superb efforts of our entire drug demand reduction staff.”

The inspection team also recognized three outstanding performers: Capt. Craig Keyes, resource management office; Master Sgt. Dan Arnold, family practice clinic; and Ned Reynolds, credentials/quality office.

“As expected, some opportunities for improvement were identified,” Colonel Pollard said. “I am confident that we can use them to build on our already excellent programs.”

AWARDS, Continued from Page 1

allowance standard, which eliminated misidentification of patients. After learning about logistics methods, he made changes that resulted in more than \$60,000 of equipment getting approved.

While deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Captain Link set up surgical and medical transport assets and within four hours of his arrival was ready to receive patients.

Also while deployed, the captain assisted with trauma procedures for 10 critically wounded American soldiers and 15 Afghani nationals – all lives were saved.

Civilian GS 9-12

While deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, **Robert Metzger**, 16th Communications Squadron, was the first civilian to fill the role of Chief, Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component, communications network section. With only one other technician assigned, he supported more than 900 Special Ops personnel at eight different locations in seven countries by providing full network service.

In addition, Mr. Metzger ensured better than 99 percent network uptime for command and control services.

Civilian GS 1-8

A technical writer and editor for the 605th Test and Evaluation Squadron, **Sylvia Hill** gives 110 percent daily to ensure her unit exceeds all professional expectations of its customers. She

consistently improves her unit’s ability to produce clear and concise command and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance data, directly contributing to her unit’s reputation of excellence.

Ms. Hill has co-authored numerous plans and reports, verifying technical and editorial quality, while streamlining dissemination by posting her finished products on the Web.

Wage Grade Civilian

Phillip Koerber, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron (no photo available), has demonstrated superb performance as Hurlburt Field’s lead locksmith, bringing 100 percent accountability for 20,434 keys, cores and safe locks. He has expertly managed the base’s multi-level master key system, supporting more than 900 facilities.

A competent and conscientious performer, Mr. Koerber completed 550 service calls on time without hiring contractor assistance, and maintains a 100 percent on-time completion rate for emergency and routine job orders.

Senior NCO

Senior Master Sgt. **Carlos Rodriguez**, maintenance superintendent for the 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, easily guided a 950-person squadron during his lengthy deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He posted super results, leading Air Force Special Operations Command’s biggest squadron through its greatest workload in support of wartime reconstruction and redeployments.

In addition to looking after the care and feeding of his 80 troops, Sergeant Rodriguez led the generation of two aircraft in direct support of Operation Red Dawn.

NCO

Staff Sgt. **Stefanie Cramer**, a general-purpose vehicle craftsman with the 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron, processed 100 vehicle maintenance work orders with a 97 percent quality pass rate, while boosting the completion rate of 0-24 hour jobs up to 60 percent.

The team leader of six people as NCO in-charge of minor maintenance during her supervisor’s absence, Sergeant Cramer helped sustain ground transportation for more than 1,000 passengers, 150 short tons of cargo and 20 distinguished visitors.

Airman

Truly committed to excellence in all we do, Airman 1st Class **Jason Simmons**, 16th Medical Operations Squadron, earned the Health Services Inspection Professional Performer award. He fashioned more than 300 smallpox kits, helping to decrease the workload of immunizations personnel, and aided in 10 real-world deployments.

A sharp patient advocate, Airman Simmons responded to an anaphylactic reaction in one patient, performed an initial assessment of a seizure patient while taking steps to save his life, stabilized a fractured leg, sutured two patients with major lacerations, and much more.

2005 BRAC process begins

By K.L. Vantran
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Base commanders in the United States, and its territories and possessions have been asked to gather data on their installations in preparation for the 2005 round of base realignments and closures, said Department of Defense officials recently.

The fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the DOD to pursue one BRAC round in 2005.

The department will use BRAC to eliminate unnecessary infrastructure and to increase military capability and effectiveness, officials said.

Formal data calls ensure the department collects and uses the most current data on installations throughout the BRAC analysis. This data call is one of many steps in the BRAC process, officials explained. Others will be added as needed.

Since each installation will take part in these data calls, officials said that doesn't mean the DOD is considering the installation for closure or realignment. Questions and data associated with the data calls will be available to the public once the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission receives them.

The department published draft-selection criteria in the Dec. 23 Federal Register for public comment; comments were due by Jan. 28. The list of BRAC recommendations will be submitted to the independent BRAC commission by May 16, 2005.

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-501, as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year

2002) requires closure and realignment recommendations be based on published criteria that make military value the primary consideration.

Military value criteria include:

- Current and future mission capabilities and the impact on operational readiness of DOD's total force, including the impact on joint warfighting, training and readiness

- The availability and condition of land, facilities and associated airspace (including training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval or air forces throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas and staging areas for the use of the armed forces in homeland defense missions) at both existing and potential receiving locations

- The ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization and future total-force requirements at both existing and potential receiving locations to support operations and training

- The cost of operations and the manpower implications.

Other considerations include:

- The extent and timing of potential costs and savings, including the number of years – beginning with the date of completion of the closure or realignment – for the savings to exceed the costs

- The economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations, and the ability of both the existing and potential receiving communities' infrastructure to support forces, missions and personnel

- The environmental impact, including the impact of costs related to potential environmental restoration, waste management and environmental compliance activities

February is African American History Month



Lonnie Johnson

The Super Soaker was invented in 1988, under the original name of the "Power Drencher." Invented by Lonnie Johnson, an aerospace engineer from Los Angeles, the Power Drencher was the first water blaster to incorporate air pressure into its design. Three years later, when Mr. Johnson received his patent, the Power Drencher was renamed "Super Soaker," and a nation-wide advertising campaign was launched.

News Briefs

Local News

FCOMP meeting

The Eglin Air Force Base 2004 African-American Heritage committee is sponsoring the Emerald Coast Air Force Cadet Officer Mentor Action Program at 11 a.m., Thursday at the Eglin Officer's club. The meeting is open to all officers, enlisted personnel and civilians. Bill Kassman, Eglin Education Office, will speak on officer commissioning programs available to the enlisted personnel. Following Mr. Kassman's presentation is a panel discussion with prior service officers who have participated in the available commissioning programs. For more information, call Maj. Thomas Mitchell at 882-4831.

JSOU course

The Joint Special Operations University invites all personnel to attend the Russia-Eurasia Orientation Course, March 1-5. The course will focus on Afghanistan, Pakistan and the former

Soviet Central Asia republics. The course is designed for personnel preparing to deploy to the region, those who work with individuals from this region, and those with a professional or analytical interest in Central Asia.

Attendees will be provided non-technical education on the cultural, historical, political, economic, social, religious and security dynamics of Central Asia. Speakers will include members of the Special Operations Force community, senior-level state department personnel and prominent scholars. For more information, call Maj. Andrea La Force at 884-6793 or Joyce Weber at 884-4731 or visit <https://www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/tenantunits/jsou/>.

Air Force News

2,000 airmen to war

Airmen vulnerable to deploy as part of the Silver Air and Space Expeditionary Force, but not originally asked to go, could end up going after all.

Nearly 2,000 airmen in the support areas of engineers, firefighters, air traffic control, security forces, medical, communications and transportation will be called upon to help the Air Force meet the joint-sourcing challenge in support of the war on terrorism. Most airmen could expect a 90-day deployment.

Hold off embroidering AF logo

Airmen are being asked to wait a few weeks before having their lightweight blue jackets embroidered with the Air Force logo. Air Force clothing office officials are revising the technical software provided to vendors to ensure a high-quality, consistent appearance.

Camera phones warning

Cellular phones with integral digital cameras aren't authorized for use or possession within any Air Force facility processing classified information. If a phone with a camera capability is discovered in a secure area, it'll be confiscated for review.

Regional Supply Squadron makes its way to AFSOC

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

After more than a year in the initial operation stages, Air Force Special Operations Command will establish its own fully operational Regional Supply Squadron.

The Regional Supply Squadron is a team of supply chain information managers, who allow the processing of high priority weapons systems, which directly impact and support Special Operations Forces either in-garrison or deployed from a centralized location.

"The primary goal of the Regional Supply Squadron is to support the warfighter wherever the fight takes them," said Chief Master Sgt. Theodore Rivera, AFSOC Regional Supply Squadron. "The same people who support you while at home station will also assist you in a deployed environment. This is valuable because we've established and maintained strong working relationships with our wholesale counterparts. We know the intricacies of supply chain management from a SOF perspective."

With the standup of AFSOC's RSS, there are now five MAJCOM Regional Supply Squadrons in existence – Air Combat Command, Air Mobility Command, U.S. Air Forces Europe and Pacific Air Forces.

"Before AFSOC stood up their own RSS, these services were provided through the ACCRSS," Chief Rivera said. "Although they are very good at what they do, they are unfamiliar with our modified weapons systems, assigned different people based on availability and had to establish that rapport with the wholesale item managers. Once we assumed those duties for our forces the shift in workload eliminated manual passing of information and provided mission-impacting information faster and more accurately to the deployed units. This is a significant advantage when making maintenance and flying decisions."

AFSOC RSS currently supports Hurlburt Field, Moody Air Force Base, Ga., and priority requirements for AFSOC units at Nellis AFB, Nev., Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz., 16th Maintenance Squadron and 919th Special Operations Wing at Eglin AFB, as well as AFSOC deployed units.

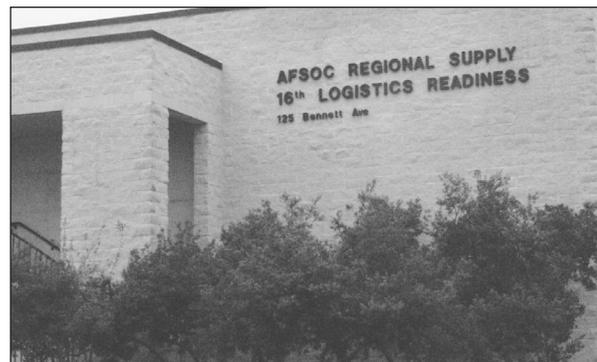


Photo by Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis

The Air Force Special Operations Command Regional Supply Squadron is located in Building 90710 on the second floor with the Logistics Readiness Squadron.

There are approximately 60 members assigned to the RSS with more people projected once the unit absorbs weapons systems management lead command responsibility, according to the chief.

Date and time for the formal unit activation ceremony will be announced at a later date.

February is National Children's Dental Health Month

Dental sealants help prevent tooth decay. Some teeth, especially the back ones, have deep grooves on the chewing surface. Toothbrush bristles cannot remove all the plaque or bacteria that may become trapped in these areas.

A plastic material called a sealant can be placed into these grooves. This acts as a barrier, protecting the teeth from the bacterial acids that lead to cavities. Sealants hold up well under normal chewing and can last for years before a reapplication is needed. Patients of all ages may need sealants, so ask your dentist whether you or your children could benefit from them.

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Don't just share love, share the gift of life

By Airman 1st Class Nelson Gutierrez
25th Information Operations Squadron

Each year, an estimated 30,800 children and adults in the United States are diagnosed with fatal blood diseases such as leukemia, and aplastic anemia. For many, a bone marrow transplant may make the difference between life and death.

By registering as a bone marrow donor, during the base's bone marrow registration drive, Hurlburt Field can do its part to potentially make a difference in giving the gift of life. The event, open to all base military and civilians is scheduled for Feb. 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. between the base exchange and commissary.

"I'd encourage everyone to consider becoming registered bone marrow donors," said Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Alicea, 16th Special Operations Wing command chief. "It's a small sacrifice to make, and the end result can be greater than one might imagine. By doing so, you're actually providing hope for

someone who might not otherwise have a chance to live."

In order to become a registered bone marrow donor, volunteers must:

- Sign a consent form (DOD Form DD2576) to be listed on the Department of Defense and the National Marrow Donor Program registry and provide additional personal information, including a brief medical questionnaire

- Have a small blood sample – about two tablespoons – taken from one of their arms

Once registered as a potential volunteer marrow donor, the donor's marrow type is determined and entered into the DOD and NMDP registry. Then, the blood is tested at the Navy Human Leukocyte Antigen testing laboratory to determine their marrow matching type.

Once registered in the NMDP computer, marrow transplant medical teams throughout the United States and the world can search the NMDP file to determine if the donor's HLA type matches the HLA type of a patient who needs a transplant.

If the HLA type matches the patient seeking a transplant, the donor is contacted by a donor coordinator from the C.W. Bill Young/DOD Marrow Donor Center. If the individual wishes to continue,

they'll sign an additional consent form. If they're a member of the military, their commanding officer also signs the consent to continue, so the commander is aware of the relatively high chance (about one in 10) that the individual will donate marrow.

A second sample of blood is then taken to confirm a match. If the donor wishes to proceed, they'll be brought to a hospital for a physical exam and additional health testing. Upon completion of the examination, a donation date is scheduled. If they're active-duty military, command approval is also obtained.

Marrow is extracted from the back of the pelvic bone using a special needle and syringe in an NMDP-approved collection center.

The donor will likely experience some soreness for about one week as the marrow naturally replenishes itself.

"Last year, we lost a couple of community members because they didn't have marrow donors, Chief Alicea said. "Today, we still have active-duty members on this installation that could potentially benefit from your willingness to get involved."

For more information, call Airman 1st Class Nelson Gutierrez at 884-1975.

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COMM/FAR FORWARD
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5 X 7.00**

Hurlburt Field events celebrate African American heritage

The following are just a few of the proposed events Hurlburt Field will host during African American Heritage Month to bring awareness and reflection to the base community:

- Lunch Hour Book Club, "The Secret Story of Quilts," every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Hurlburt Field Library
- African American Story telling for Kids, date and time to be announced
- African American History Luncheon, Feb. 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Soundside
- African Drummers, Feb. 19, 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the base theater
- Essay Contest, submissions due by Feb. 20
- Women of Heritage Conference, Feb. 20 and 21, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Chester Pruitt Gym, in Fort Walton Beach
- 1970s and 1980s Dance and Fashion Show, to be announced

CONSTRUCTION, Continued from Page 1

soon be housed in a \$4.2 million building bringing all the squadron's components under one roof.

The east side of Hurlburt Field, virtually uninhabited less than 15 years ago, is catching up with the west side said the colonel.

Construction at the medical-dental clinic will finish in December with the completion of a new two-story addition to existing facilities and a new parking lot.

Down the street from the clinic on Loop Road, construction of a new \$6 million dining facility and an \$8 million dormitory nears completion.

In June, airmen who work on the east side of the base will be able to take advantage of the new dining facility which will also house a fitness center. In November, 144 of them will be able to move into new apartment-style dormitories, the first of their kind in the Air Force.

The commissary expansion project worth more than \$6 million is currently underway and is scheduled for completion in March.

"Improving the quality of life for our airmen is something we are always striving to do," said Colonel Pitchford, "Our people come first in everything we do."

South of Independence Road near the main gate, construction will begin on a \$19.4 million communications system complex to replace the Command and Control Innovation and Training Group.

The Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants Offloading Terminal, an off-loading platform and underground pipeline that pumps aircraft fuel from barges on the sound to the storage facility on the flightline, will be replaced this year with a more modern, efficient pipeline addressing environmental concerns.

Both of these projects are scheduled to begin this summer.

The 2004 construction plan also involves many smaller-scale projects to include completion of an interactive water fountain at the Community Park, building a \$1.7 million addition to the youth center, repairs to Eason Hangar and numerous other projects.

The growth seen in recent history is an indication of the growth schedule for the next decade.

"It only seems like 2004 will be a 'banner year' for construction on Hurlburt," said Colonel Pitchford, "but it's really another step in a constant process to ensure the base meets the needs of the mission and the people who make it happen."

Buckle up, Florida it s the law

Florida law is very specific about how its passengers should be belted, who should be properly restrained and the consequences for failing to obey the Florida safety belt law.

All front seat occupants must be buckled up, regardless of age. Children ages 6 to 15 must be belted in either the front or back seat of the vehicle. The driver is responsible for passengers under 16 years who aren't buckled up; passengers 16 years of age or older may be individually fined.

All children under six

years must be properly restrained while riding in any car, truck or van on Florida's roads - no matter where they are sitting in the vehicle. Children through age three must be secured in a separate carrier or a vehicle manufacturer's integrated child safety seat. For children ages 4 and 5, a separate carrier, integrated child safety seat or safety belt may be used.

The cost to a violator for not wearing a safety belt in Florida is \$30 and any legal assessments up to an additional \$30. The cost to a vio-

lator for not following child safety belt laws is \$60, any other legal assessments up to an additional \$30 and three points on their driver's license record.

Research shows that when a driver is unbuckled, 70 percent of the time, children in that vehicle won't be buckled either. A child unrestrained in a 30-mile-per-hour crash is equivalent to a child falling from a three-story building.

For more information on the Florida safety belt requirements, visit <http://www.floridadrivers.com/ind ex.php>.

**BODY-B-HEALTHY
COMM/HEALTH FOOD
543864
3 X 2.50**

**RHINO LININGS OF OKALOOSA
COMM/RHP/#4 TONN
542254
3 X 5.00**

Navy pilot Lt. Devon Jones (left) runs toward a Pararescueman and the safety of an MH-53J PAVE LOW several hours after his F-14 was shot down. This was the first successful rescue attempt of Desert Storm.



Courtesy photo

Special Tactics shine in Persian Gulf War

By Master Sgt. L.B. St. Amant
720th Special Tactics Group historian

In 1990 and 1991, a multinational force joined together to "draw a line in the sand."

It began, Aug. 2, 1990, when the Iraqi military occupied Kuwait, and the Iraqi president claimed it as a province; the international community immediately demanded that Iraq withdraw its forces.

To halt further aggression, President George H.W. Bush deployed U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia in an operation dubbed Desert Shield. Pararescuemen and Combat Controllers from the 1720th Special Tactics Group (now 720th STG) were among the first American military members to deploy.

Initially, Special Tactics units were assigned to Combat Search and Rescue missions in the event Saddam Hussein crossed into Saudi Arabia or failed to heed international warning and leave Kuwait.

PJs and controllers continued to arrive in theater, and the new arrivals helped to develop and implement a variety of training, assumed responsibility for security of their compound and established nearly all basic service for airfield operations at King Fahd International Airport, Saudi Arabia.

Controllers created forward arming and refueling points - known as FARP - with coalition forces and installed remote navigational beacons along Iraq's borders, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to aid aircraft navigation should diplomatic efforts fail.

Meanwhile, the PJs developed the CSAR plan that would become the foundation for all future rescue plans in U.S. Central Command, testing in full-scale exercises that included aircrew evasion training. During FARP exercises, PJs doubled as aerial gunners and medical aircrew members, while developing casualty collection and patient transfer techniques.

On Jan. 17, 1991, a helicopter task force left King Fahd, on a mission to destroy Iraqi radar sites, launched and recovered by controllers on board. Scores of aircraft flew through this opening to dismantle Iraq's military.

After the strike, controllers managed the initial air flow, clearing two Army airborne units and more than 800 AC-130 transports into forward staging areas. They moved into Iraq with coalition forces, paving the way for close air support missions.

Combat Controllers arrived in Kuwait City with coalition teams, established and coordinated air support for ground commanders and occupied the city's airport with U.S. Marines, who provided air traffic control for arriving coalition aircraft.

PJs serving on CSAR crews recovered two pilots shot down in Iraq, including the United States' first successful combat rescue of a pilot since the Vietnam War. They also augmented a battalion aid station and served as front-line combat medics during the advance on Kuwait.

During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Special Tactics established airfield operations and conducted more than 85 assault-zone surveys.

Retiree grave marker requests now easier

By revising VA Form 40-1330, the Veteran's Association has made it easier for retirees to request a grave marker. The new form includes updated information and allows for better communication between the VA and veterans' families.

New laws have made government markers available for use on veterans' graves that were already marked with privately furnished headstones. For more information or for a marker application, call (800) 697-6947 or visit www.cem.va.gov.

**CLOCK CORNER, THE
COMM/RENTAL
542069
3 X 4.00**

**EMERALD BAY
COMMANDO/GOLF SP
542404
3 X 5.00**

16th Special Operations Wing Leadership



Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander (left), receives a briefing from Staff Sgt. Rashid Gambrell, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, about their chemical detection/protection package during his visit to the squadron as Col. Benjamin Anderson, 823rd RHS commander (center), looks on.



Col. Raymond Killgore, 16th SOW vice commander, grants an interview to Michelle Nicholson, WEAR Channel 3 news reporter, about Hurlburt Field being selected as the Air Force Times 2003 Best Base Award recipient.



Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Alicea, 16th SOW command chief, throws out goodies during the 2nd Annual Mardi Gras Parade on Okaloosa Island.

View from the top 16th Special Operations Wing

The 16th Special Operations Wing Command Section consists of 15 people, whose focus is to lead the wing towards its primary mission.

Through the sections support and guidance the wing is able to organize, train and equip Air Force Special Operations forces for global employment. The wing is also able to focus on unconventional warfare, including counterinsurgency and psychological operations during low-intensity conflicts.

Providing that leadership is Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th SOW commander; Col. Raymond Killgore, 16th SOW vice commander; and Chief Master Sgt. Eddie

Alicea, 16th SOW command chief.

While the commander, vice commander and command chief, head up the section, the heart belongs to the 14 member primo support staff, who work closely with leadership maintaining schedules, processing volumes of correspondence, managing base award programs, and coordinating numerous visits from distinguished visitors.

These quiet professionals have led the wing through many ever-changing challenges and conflicts while continuing to support the men and women of Hurlburt Field; living up to the wing's motto "Any Time, Any Place."



The 16th SOW Command Section Staff



Tracy Norrad (left), executive secretary and Rhonda Gritsavage, wing editor



(Clockwise from front) Capt. Carol Blackington, Maj. David Fujimoto, Maj. Jamie Lutes, and Capt. Harry Seibert, executive officers



Jeanie Krzan and Staff Sgt. Jennifer Epperson, protocol staff



Staff Sgt. Laura Bell, Master Sgt. Kathryn Little and Tech. Sgt. Eugene Cave, information managers

Hurlburt Happenings

Community

HOSC monthly meeting

The Hurlburt Officers' Spouses' Club will hold its monthly meeting Feb. 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the Soundside Club. The annual Silver/Crystal Pewter Bingo is this month's program.

Only members in good standing may qualify for prizes. Guests are welcome, but are not eligible to win. Heavy hors d' oeuvres will be served. Cost is \$10 for members; \$12 for non-members. Childcare will also be provided for those who need it. Cost is \$3 per hour per child or \$5 per hour for 2 or more children. Reservations must be made by Feb. 16. For more information, call Betsy Treloar at 936-5306.

Munch & Mend

The base chapel invites airmen to Munch & Mend on Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. This free service includes dinner and minor sewing repairs to one clean article of clothing. For more information, call the base chapel at 884-7795.

Rodeo team

The Professional Armed Forces Rodeo Association is holding its first meeting Feb. 17 at 11 a.m. at Mama Rosa's located at 1826 Lewis Turner Blvd. Rodeo team riders are needed in bareback, saddle bronc, bull riding, calf roping, team roping, breakaway roping, steer wrestling and barrel racing. For more information on becoming a part of the rodeo team, call Sarah Edwards at 882-3819 or e-mail sarah.edwards@hurlburt.af.mil.

Supply-related concerns

The 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron customer service section, located in Building 90710, is the primary point of contact for all supply-related problems or complaints. For any non-aircraft related organizations, call 884-3531/7862/767 or fax 884-3525 to reach the customer service desk. For AC-130 maintenance units, call the flight line support section at 884-1906/5823/582 or fax 884-5828. For helicopter maintenance units, call the Helo Parts Store at 881-410 or fax 881-4102.

Clinic closure

The 16th Medical Group will close at 11 a.m. today for wing training. The Eglin Air Force Base emergency room will be open for any emergency needs.

AutoPride closure

The AutoPride facility will close for approximately 11 hours on Sunday at 7 p.m. to complete facility maintenance. The facility will reopen Monday at 6 a.m.

Black History Month events

The 919th Special Operations Wing at Duke Field kicks off Black History Month celebration events Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Teresa Franklin at 883-6550 or 543-3647.

Base tax assistance

The base tax center, located in Building 90229, is available to assist all military personnel with filing their taxes. Hours of operation are as follows:
Monday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
1040EZ forms are completed on a walk-in basis – all other tax forms by appointment only. To make an appointment, call 884-7542/7544.

Items to bring for appointments:
Military identification card, all W-2 forms, interest and dividend information, names, birthdates and social security numbers for yourself and family members, bank routing and account numbers, power of attorney, childcare expenses, deduction receipts and any other tax-related items.

2003 Annual Awards Banquet

In honor of military traditions, Hurlburt Field provides special recognition to individuals whose superior duty performance, dedication and efforts have led them to become top-notch professional military leaders.

The 2003 Annual Awards Banquet will be held Feb. 27 at 6 p.m., at the Okaloosa Island Convention Center. Cost is \$25; tickets are available for purchase through the unit first sergeants. Dress for military is semi-formal or mess dress, and civilians should wear coat and tie attire. People are asked to reference AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel. For more information, contact your unit first sergeant.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help keep the Airman's Attic open. The Airman's Attic helps those getting a start in their lives by providing a variety of household items. Hours of operation are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Mondays from 4:30 to 7 p.m. If you would like to volunteer please call Heather Gerlach at 884-1533.

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month. The military equal opportunity office invites volunteers to assist in organizing, preparing and supporting the observance period. Positions include: chairperson, vice chairperson and treasurer. For more information or to volunteer, call Staff Sgt. Natasha Hollomon at 884-8746.

Secret Story of Quilts

Come explore the tradition of quilting as it relates to the African American community during the Lunch Hour Book Club every Tuesday and Thursday during February from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the base library conference room. For more information, please call Jerrilyn Christopher at 884-5441.

Loadmaster gathering

All loadmasters are invited to the Professional Loadmaster Association's 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.com, or call Tom Kenny at (609) 754-4403 or e-mail thomas.kenny@mcguire.af.mil.

Youth center reminder

Due to an overwhelming number of requests from military personnel, the youth center would like to remind all Hurlburt Field personnel that the soccer fields located next to J.R. Rockers are strictly for the use of the base youth sports program. For more information, please call the youth center at 884-6355.

Hurlburt Field Chapel



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
Jum'ah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.
Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.
For more information, call 884-7795

At the movies



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

Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday – (PG-13) *Something's Gotta Give*, starring Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton – Harry's world is turned upside-down when he has a heart attack while visiting his girlfriend's home. With his girlfriend having gone back to the city, Harry is left in the care of her mother, Erica and his doctor, but the two men soon find themselves competing with each other, as they both fall in love with Erica.

Saturday – (PG-13) *Paycheck*, starring Ben Affleck and Aaron Eckhart – Michael's memory is erased as a security precaution once he's completed special projects. After finishing his latest, he receives not his usual lucrative paycheck, with an envelope containing 19 items, including ticket stubs, bus tokens and other reminders he sent himself before the procedure. He's told he chose to forfeit any monetary compensation. The problem is, he can't remember a thing, since his brain was wiped clean.

Sunday – (PG-13) *Mona Lisa Smile*, starring Julia Roberts and Julia Stiles – 1953 America was a time ripe for change for women. When Katherine arrives to teach art history at Wellesley College, she finds the institution drowning in outdated mores. She takes on the establishment and deeply affects her students who in turn lead her to alter the course of her life forever.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday and Sunday – (PG) *Cheaper by the Dozen*, starring Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt – When a football coach is offered the top job at Northwest University, he sets out for Chicago with his wife and their 12 children. But when her writing career takes off, the two must balance their jobs and the chaotic task of parenting.

Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m. – (PG) *Peter Pan*, starring Jason Isaacs and Jerry Sumpter – One night in their nursery, young London siblings Wendy, John and Michael Darling encounter a strange flying boy named Peter Pan, who invites them to soar with him to Neverland. There they live among the Lost Boys without adult supervision and face down the nasty Captain Hook.

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

Classes

FSC classes

For information on the following classes call 884-5441. Reservations must be made through the FSC.

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

Resume Workshop – Monday, 1 p.m.; reservations required

Commando Welcome Spouse – Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Bundles for Babies – Wednesday, 9 a.m.; reservations required

Moms, Pops & Tots – Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Commando Heart Link – Thursday, 9 a.m.; reservations required

The Art of Listening – Friday, 11:30 a.m.; reservations required

Job Ready Class

The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast offers job preparation for high school students every Thursday beginning Feb. 19 through May 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. Learn tips on finding a job, interviewing and developing a five-year plan. Space is limited to the first 25 registered. For more information, call Rita Cummins at 862-1332 or 862-1888.

HAWC classes

To reserve a seat in the following classes, call 884-4292. All classes are free of charge and held at the Health and Wellness Center in building 90232 classroom A.

Body Composition Improvement Program class - Monday and Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

Healthy Living Workshop - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 1 p.m.

Total Fitness Enhancement - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

Eating Heart Healthy - Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Lean & Healthy Eating - Tuesday, 4 p.m.

FDA lays ephedra to rest

Courtesy of the 16th Medical Group

Much has been written in the news lately about the harmful effects of the dietary supplement ephedra, touted by some as helping weight loss, enhancing sports performance and increasing energy.

Now the Food and Drug Administration has alerted the public to its forthcoming determination that dietary supplements containing ephedra present unreasonable risk of illness or injury and should not be consumed.

The FDA has also notified manufacturing firms who market these products that it intends to issue a final rule prohibiting their sale that will be effective 60 days after its publication. This step was taken after conducting an exhaustive and highly resource-intensive investigation process, required by the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994, for banning a dietary supplement that presents a significant and unreasonable risk to human health.

The FDA is urging people to immediately stop using products that contain ephedra because of the dangers associated with the herbal supplement.

"Last year the Air Force surgeon issued a notice to Air Force personnel about the potential risk that can occur from using dietary supplements that contain ephedra and strongly discouraged their use," said Jim Sanders, the drug demand reduction manager for the 16th Special Operations Wing. "Due to health and safety concerns, (the Army Air Force Exchange Service) removed

all dietary supplements containing ephedra from its inventories and replaced them with products free of ephedra."

Last fall the American Medical Association testified before Congress about the dangers of the ephedra.

"The AMA urges the FDA to remove dietary supplements containing ephedra from the market," said AMA trustee Dr. Ron Davis. "The risk to benefit ratio for these products is unacceptable."

Air Force Surgeon General officials have "strongly advised" military members to contact their physicians or health care providers before taking dietary supplements containing the herb Ma Huang, ephedra or ephedra alkaloids.

"Ephedra is not a controlled substance, so neither possessing it nor using it violates Article 112a of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice," said Captain Todd Pennington, 16th SOW Chief of Military Justice. "However, using ephedra clearly presents a health risk, and ephedra use is prohibited in many Air Force training programs. The Air Force Surgeon General considers ephedra and other supplements to be 'over the counter' medications. Aircrew members and people on the Personnel Reliability Program are required to discuss use of medication with their military health provider prior to use. Using ephedra in violation of applicable medical and training guidance could be a violation of Article 92 (Failure to Obey Lawful Order/Dereliction of Duty) of the UCMJ."

Sports

Hurlburt Field fitness center gets four stars

By Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

Hurlburt Field's Aderholt Fitness Center was recently named a four-star facility during the Air Force Services Agency headquarters' 9th annual Air Force Fitness Program Managers Training at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla.

As a four-star ranking facility, the center excelled in four of the five categories in which it was evaluated.

"Our program exceeded the standards because of the support our wing and Air Force Special Operations Command leadership has directed toward quality of life programs, especially sports and fitness operations," said Ed Vieth, Hurlburt Field fitness director. "In the past two years we've received more than \$625,000 worth of equipment to keep our facilities first class. However, we would not be effective without squadron sports representatives

and volunteers, who played a vital role in helping us plan, develop and carry out the fitness program."

A plaque was presented to Hurlburt Field, and other high-ranking fitness centers, by Gen. William Begert, commander, U.S. Pacific Command. The theme for this year's training in Orlando was "Fit to Fight" – emphasizing the Air Force chief of staff's new fitness program. Attendees were briefed on current information from services' and the Air Force surgeon general's perspective, as well as their roles and responsibilities to support fitness programs.

"The chief of staff, commanders and all levels of leadership are leading the way in a fitness culture change for Air Force people," said Mr. Vieth. "We're seeing a lot more unit and group workouts at the fitness centers and around the base. The emphasis is to get and stay active, and we offer the programs and exceed all the standards in intramural, varsity,

special events and fitness improvement programs, and most of these programs are free."

Hurlburt Field has more than 190 fitness equipment items, all of them less than two years old, said Mr. Vieth. One initiative scheduled for March is a 90-minute spinning/body toning class that will be targeted for people who want to be fully prepared for their annual fitness test.

"We would like all of our customers to know that our assigned military fitness personnel are available to assist people in their fitness needs," Mr. Vieth said.

For more information about Hurlburt Field fitness programs and classes, call the Aderholt Fitness Center at 884-6884, or the Health and Wellness Center at 884-4292.

(Editor's note: Margaret Treland, Air Force Services Headquarters, Fitness and Sports division, contributed to this article.)

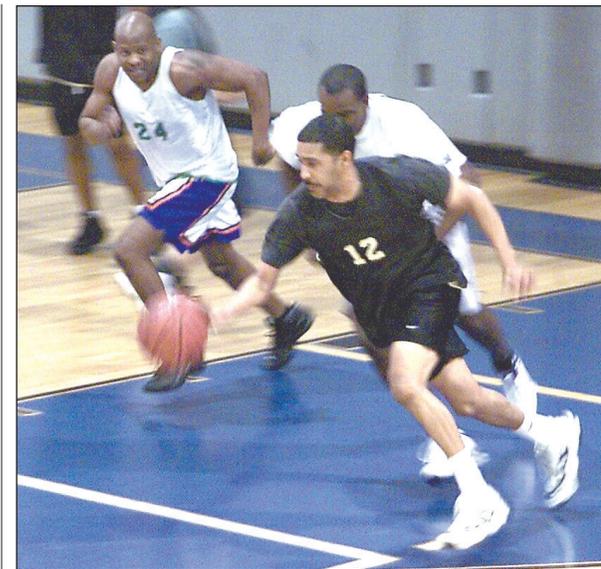


Photo by Senior Airman Sam Taylor

The 16th Services Squadron (black jersey, above) and the combined 16th Component/Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons faced off Feb. 2 to begin the intramural basketball playoffs.

Basketball playoffs begin

A game between the 16th Services Squadron and the 16th Component/Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons kicked off the Hurlburt Field intramural over-30 and over-40 basketball playoffs Feb. 2 at the Aderholt Fitness Center.

The teams were neck and neck throughout the game until a final surge in points earned the combined CMS/AMXS team a 51-46 victory.

Playoff games are held at lunch time at the fitness center. For more information about intramural sports, contact your unit sports representative.

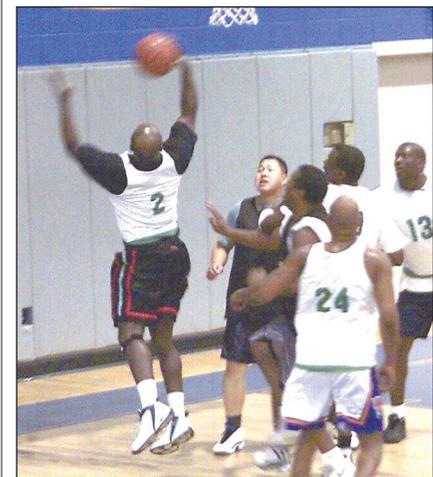


Photo by Senior Airman Sam Taylor

A player with the CMS/AMXS team snags a rebound. The team captured a 51-46 Feb. 2.



Photo by Airman Andy Kin

Chiefs, shirts lead the way

Hurlburt Field chiefs and first sergeants knock out a few push-ups during a physical training workout at the Aderholt Fitness Center, Wednesday. Fitness evaluations based on the new Air Force standards are now being conducted for units throughout the base. For more information on the standards, visit www.af.mil/news/airman/0104/fitness.html

Sports shorts

Varsity softball tryouts

Tryouts for the Hurlburt Field men's varsity softball team begin at 5 p.m. Feb. 16, at the softball fields behind the Aderholt Fitness Center. For more information, call call Tech. Sgt. Chuck Shepherd at 884-5774, or Master Sgt. Scott Bowen at 884-2358.

Fit Eagle Competition

The annual Fit Eagle Competition, a base-wide sports

battle between squadrons, will be held Feb. 20. Squadrons that wish to participate should submit their letters of intent as soon as possible. For more information, call the Aderholt Fitness Center at 884-6884.

Intramural golf season

Intramural golf will begin early this year, kicking off April 1. The team captain's meeting is at 3 p.m., Feb. 25, at Gator Lakes Golf Course.

For more information on golf or other intramural sports programs, contact your unit sports representative.

Baseball, softball

Registration for youth baseball (age 5-14) and girls softball (age 7-14) is available at the youth center. Cost is \$42 per player or \$84 for two or more family players.

Please register weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Coaches are also

needed for all age groups. Applications are available at the youth center. For more information, call 884-6355.

5K run

Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church on Fairpoint Drive in Gulf Breeze is holding its 14th Annual, Run For The World 5K run/walk/pancake breakfast at 8 a.m. Feb. 21. For more information, call John Carruth at 884-7701.