

A lieutenant with the 16th Special Operations Squadron, leads the way as he and other Hurlburt Field volunteers assist with a Habitat for Humanity construction project Feb. 7 in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. For more information on this story, see Page 3.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Davis

BX voted 'best customer service'

By Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

The Hurlburt Field Base Exchange was voted as the "best in customer service satisfaction" in the Air Force, Jan. 16

The vote is a result of acquiring the highest cumulative score on customer feedback surveys during 2003.

"Seventy percent customer satisfaction is what's known as the corporate goal," said Dani Hebert, store manager. "The overall average of all stores was 75 percent - we received 85 percent."

Ms. Hebert said the exchange's small size helps customer service.

"As small as we are, we can't offer as much as some of the larger exchanges, so we go above and beyond," she said. "We'll go to a different exchange to get items, or do a special order, or whatever it takes to get merchandise and make the customer happy."

About 400 surveys were conducted at Hurlburt Field alone last year. Ms. Hebert said the store is responding to feedback from the surveys, and many changes are taking place.

"We had a lot of feedback regarding clothing and electronics," said Ms. Hebert. "We're going to expand those sections, and we've added \$17,000 in sporting goods."

Ms. Hebert also reminded people that the Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base exchanges are two different stores, and that each may have different sales or programs going on at once.

Exchange hours are: Monday - Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hall of Honor dedicated to Commando heritage

By Master Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller
AFSOC Public Affairs

The triumphs and tragedies played out around the globe by Air Commandos and Rescue Warriors is the focus of the Hall of Honor, a stretch of passageway within the headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command building, here.

The AFSOC commander officially dedicated the Hall of Honor, recently, as a "small, but fitting tribute to the service and sacrifice of the men and women who built the legacy and history of our command," said Lt. Gen. Paul Hester.

The centerpiece for the Hall of Honor begins at the headquarters' entrance, with an encased wood heraldry. The device was commissioned shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, to honor the airmen from AFSOC who paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, said General Hester.

"The heraldry is dedicated to the men and women who have died in defense of our nation while supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom," said the general. "When the day comes that our president declares an end to the Global War on Terrorism, we will gladly retire this heraldry. Until then, it's only fitting that every time anyone who visits or

works in this building enters the main doors, the first thing they see is the tribute to our fallen Air Commandos and Rescue Warriors." The actual Hall of Honor begins just off to the right of the heraldry, with a quote inspired by William Shakespeare's play, Henry V.

"...then shall their names be familiar in our mouths as household words - GENERALS MANOR, ADERHOLT AND KIGHT, COLONEL KITTINGER, CHIEF FISK AND SrA CUNNINGHAM - and in our flowing cups be forever remembered."

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News



Force integration
Reserve, active-duty servicemembers create unique unit
Page 18

Feature



Tales of valor
How three airmen earned decorations for their bravery
Page 14

Wing event

16th SOW dining-out

A 16th Special Operations Wing dining-out is scheduled for 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 Carney. For more information or to report unit scheduling conflicts, call Maj. Leslie Higer at 884-7350.

Weather

Weekend forecast

Today - isolated showers, High 57 Low 39
Saturday - isolated showers, High 58 Low 52
Sunday - partly cloudy, High 55 Low 43



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

Don't ignore retreat

Comment: I'm TDY from the 352nd Special Operations Group, RAF Mildenhall. I was on my way from the base library and heard retreat blowing at 5 p.m. I was standing next to the road in front of the Joint Special Operations University, and came to attention and saluted the national anthem. I was amazed at the number of cars that passed by, looked at me and continued on. Being overseas I have very rarely seen this type of thing happen.

Reply: Thank you for your comment. As you know the United States flag is symbolic of our country and the principles for which it stands. The national anthem is a declaration of reverence and loyalty to the United States, with the flag as an emblem.

All personnel are reminded that according to AFMAN 36-2203, "Drill and Ceremonies," personnel in uniform will come to attention, face the flag, and salute during retreat. When the flag isn't visible, uniformed personnel will face the music and salute. People in civilian clothing will follow the same guidelines, however, salute by standing at attention and placing the right hand over the heart.

Males wearing hats will remove it with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder with the right hand over the heart. When in vehicles during retreat, the driver will bring the moving vehicle to a stop at the first note of the national anthem or To the Colors. Personnel in vehicles, including the driver, will remain seated at attention. Again, thank you for your input.

Tennis, anyone?

Comment: I was wondering, why are there no backboards at the tennis courts? Considering it's sometimes difficult to find a tennis partner, I was wondering if anyone had considered installing one.

Reply: We appreciate your interest in our outdoor fitness activities and are happy to report that we do in fact have a single play and warm-up area in place. It's the concrete structure located just east of the tennis courts, and has plenty of room available for you to work on your game. We've also looked into adding practice walls along the fence which surrounds the courts, but determined the winds along the gulf coast are just too strong, and could pose a potential safety hazard. We hope you check out our existing practice area.

CSAF urges visits to hospitalized veterans

Master Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – The Air Force chief of staff is urging airmen to share personal Valentine's Day wishes with hospitalized veterans.

"I strongly encourage airmen across the country to spend a few minutes visiting with our hospitalized veterans during Valentine's week," Gen. John Jumper said. "One of the most memorable, meaningful and fulfilling experiences you'll ever have is to meet (veterans) and hear their personal stories."

Airmen of all ranks at bases in the United States have participated since Monday and will continue until Sunday in the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans by visiting their local Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, outpatient clinics, nursing homes and other veterans' facilities.

"Our great nation is richly blessed with ordinary citizens who, without asking, became heroes because they were willing to make a personal sacrifice to protect and defend the freedoms and security we enjoy today," General Jumper said. "This is an

endearing and heartfelt way to say 'we care' and 'thank you' to those hospitalized veterans who have served and sacrificed to keep our nation free."

About 50 airmen, including members of the Air Force Band, traveled to the Baltimore VA Medical Center Tuesday, according to Wendy Varhegyi, chief of community relations at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.

"I think it's a wonderful way to reach out to our veterans," she said.

National Salute Week is planned each year to coincide with Valentine's Day because of that date's tradition of sharing and caring, Ms. Varhegyi said. However, honoring the nation's vets shouldn't be confined to just certain days.

"We hope that scheduled events such as this will jump-start people to volunteer in our veteran's facilities throughout the year," Ms. Varhegyi said.

Participation is simple, Ms. Varhegyi said. "All that's required is the willingness to share a little time. Visits to veterans' facilities usually involve simply talking with them and shaking their hands. It's about spending a few minutes with each



Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

veteran, sharing some kind words, and with this event, delivering balloons and valentine cards."

Ms. Varhegyi said the veterans appreciate seeing military members in uniform and love to share stories with those who can relate and understand what they have sacrificed. The chief of staff agreed.

"This will be time well spent and deeply appreciated by our veterans and their families," General Jumper said.



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Hurlburt Field DUI Tracker

Feb. 6-12:

1 DUI
16th Aircraft
Maintenance
Squadron

Days since last
DUI: 4

Total DUIs this
year to date: 5

Total DUIs for
2003: 53

Airmen Against
Drunk Driving
Don't Drink and
Drive.

Call 884-8844
Potential saves
this year: 51



Photo by Senior Airman Ebony Pierre

Securing stripes

An NCO with the 16th Communications Squadron, sews stripes on an airman's Battle-Dress Uniform during the Hurlburt Field Chapel's Munch & Mend, Monday. This free service, held the second Monday of the month, includes dinner and minor sewing repairs to one clean article of clothing. For more information, call the chapel at 884-7795.

Spotlight on ...

Marsha Johnson

Rank/Duty Title: Senior airman/Missions systems journeyman

Organization: 16th Component Maintenance Squadron

Hometown: Manchester, Tenn.

Hobbies: Softball, scuba diving, self-improvement and going to the beach

Contribution to the mission: Airman Johnson continually leads her peers at progression and duty performance in the mission systems shop.

Her technical abilities led to her selection above 40 peers to provide a month-long manning assist to the 193rd Special Operations Wing, Air National Guard, in Harrisburg, Penn.

Her efforts in repopulation on an EC-130 aircraft recovered from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base's "boneyard" aided in its rapid return to service.

Airman Johnson's drive, dedication to the mission and personality make her a pleasure to work with.

(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.)

Base volunteers help local community

By Vanessa Adame
Public Affairs

While many people were still sleeping, more than 50 Hurlburt Field men and women representing over 16 base organizations were hard at work donating their Saturday morning to a variety of local area volunteer projects.

Among the charitable organizations benefiting from their service was Habitat for Humanity, which builds homes for needy families courtesy of volunteer labor and donated materials. Airmen recently assisted the organization by building a house in Fort Walton Beach, making it possible for a less fortunate family to own their own home.

Volunteering for the organization has been a great experience according to Master Sgt. Paula Jackson, 16th

Communications Squadron.

Like many that volunteered, this was Sergeant Jackson's first time picking up a paintbrush. It didn't seem to matter that Saturday was her only day of the week to sleep in.

"It's just a sense of knowing that somebody is going to have a new home and we were a part in making it possible," she said.

While many were busy constructing homes, others spent their week-ends volunteering at Bob Hope Village, home to hundreds of enlisted widows. Through their efforts, the retiree community is kept well maintained, and the residents are grateful for the help airmen provide.

On the last Saturday of every other month, members of the Airman's Council spend much of their morning raking leaves, cleaning gutters,

pulling weeds and even rearranging furniture for the residents. Like many others, Airman 1st Class Sirena Simms has volunteered at the facility for more than two years.

"I enjoy volunteering," said Airman Simms. "I consider it giving back. I know they or their families served in the Air Force, so it's my way of saying 'thank you.'"

"Hurlburt and Eglin volunteers play a big role in maintaining both Bob Hope and Teresa Village," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Richard Young, deputy CEO of the Air Force Enlisted Foundation, the foundation supporting both communities. "Our volunteers save us close to \$100,000 a year."

Many residents look forward to the arrival of the "honey-doers," as

See **VOLUNTEERS**, Page 6

Mandatory motorcycle safety briefing



There will be a mandatory Motorcycle Mentorship Concept of Operations safety briefing for all Hurlburt Field motorcycle riders at the base theater March 1 from noon to 1:30 p.m. A motorcycle rally ride to Eglin's Beach Club will follow directly after the briefing for all interested riders. The rally ride is optional, but highly encouraged. Snacks will be served at the beach club. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. David Sharon at 884-6463.

Supplemental E-6 promotions

The following people were selected for promotion to technical sergeant in the February In-System Supplemental Promotion:



Valentine's Day brings 'candy fever'

By Bonnie Powell
Special to American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – When St. Valentine was beheaded for marrying soldiers to their sweethearts, his last thought was probably not, "Wow, someday lovers will give each other candy because of me."

Legend has it the pagan fertility festival, Lupercalia, was renamed Valentine's Day in honor of Saint Valentine, a priest in Rome during the beginning of Christianity.

At the time, Emperor Claudius II forbade his soldiers to marry, believing as married men they would want to stay home with their families rather than fight his wars.

Saint Valentine defied the emperor's decree and secretly married the couples. He was eventually arrested, imprisoned and put to death.

But, how did people start giving candy for

Valentine's Day? No one can really say, but it's one of the few times of the year people give themselves "permission" to indulge.

According to John Sidell, candy buyer for the Defense Commissary Agency, candy sales are up – three to four percent this year. And now, he said, is the time to get great deals on candy in the commissary.

If you're tired of the traditional box of chocolates and samplers for your sweetie, there are other options available. There's "love bites," "love bears," heart-shaped chocolate crunch and a candy for the slightly jaded called "Love's a Jungle."

Valentine's Day candy involves more than just sweethearts giving to sweethearts, Mr. Mahanes said.

The big markets are also sharing and snacking: around the house and parent-to-children, as well as casual giving at the office and in the classroom.

Look who's talking:
What's the nicest thing someone has ever done for you on Valentine's Day?

Famous African American inventions

Norbert Rillieux revolutionized the sugar industry by inventing a refining process that reduced the time, cost, and safety risk involved in producing sugar from cane and beets.



cane and beets were crude, back-breaking and dangerous, requiring slaves to ladle boiling cane juice from one kettle to another to produce a dark sugar.

He was born in New Orleans to a French mother, and educated in France, where he majored in engineering and served as an instructor.

Returning to New Orleans, Mr. Rillieux noted that methods for refining sugar from

So, Mr. Rillieux designed an evaporating pan, which enclosed a series of condensing coils in vacuum chambers. His system took much of the hand labor out of refining, saved fuel because the juice boiled at lower temperatures and produced a superior product.

Base events celebrate Black History Month

The following are a list of Hurlburt Field sponsored events honoring Black History Month beginning today through Feb. 20. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Lisa Mays at 884-4735.

Hip Hop Discussion – Today, Wednesday and Feb. 20, 3:30 p.m. at the youth center

Heritage Luncheon – Tuesday, 11 a.m. at the Soundside Club.

African American Story Time/Puppet Show – Tuesday and Thursday, 3 p.m. at the child development center and youth center

Secret Story of Quilts – Thursday, 11:30 a.m. in the base library conference room

African Drummers – Thursday, 12:30 p.m. at the base theater

News Briefs

Local News

AF career options

To learn about career-related programs and issues, contact Career Assistance Advisors Master Sgt. Andrew Hollis and Mayra Casanova at 884-4438/3912 or visit the career assistance office in Building 90210, Room 234. For more information, e-mail andrew.hollis@hurlburt.af.mil or mayra.casanova@hurlburt.af.mil.

Foreign language courses

Air Force Special Operations Command now offers foreign language courses in Spanish, French, Indonesian, Russian, Arabic and Persian Farsi for military personnel who have a requirement to maintain language skills.

The language laboratory has computers and software available for use in the study of: Spanish,

French, Russian, Arabic, Korean, Portuguese, German, Indonesian, Polish and Thai. Laboratory hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays thru Fridays. For more information, call Roxanna Slater at 243-5698.

Housing privatization meeting

Two meetings will be held to solicit comments on the proposed implementation of Military Family Housing Privatization Tuesday from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at The Soundside and Thursday from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at OWCC. For more information, call Mike Spaits at 621-3391.

CCAF graduate deadline

The Community College of the Air Force close-out date for April 2004 graduates is Feb. 27. After this date, credits toward a CCAF degree won't be accepted. For more information, call the education office at 884-6724.



Air Force News

Shaping the force

Fiscal year 2004 force shaping programs comprise several initiatives intended to move the Air Force's total active-duty population closer to authorized levels.

The goal is to let 16,500 airmen separate or retire who normally might have stayed without repeating the across-the-board cuts of the early 1990s.

Under the FY 04 Force Shaping programs:

■Twenty-nine officer and 33 enlisted shortage career fields are excluded

■Many airmen will be allowed to transfer via Palace Chase to the Guard or Reserve

■The Air Force Personnel Center has central approval authority to review applications and ensure compliance with manning needs

■Military personnel flights will accept applications for force shaping programs through March 12



Special OPERATORS

The AFSOC 2003 Operational Award recipient is:

Capt. **Joseph Michalek**, 20th Special Operations Squadron,
Daedalian Exceptional Pilot Award

The AFSOC 2003 Career Assistance Advisor of the Year:

Master Sgt. **Andrew Hollis**, 16th Special Operations Wing

The following Hurlburt Field squadrons are winners of the
2003 Air Force Special Operations Command awards:

16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron – Equipment
Maintenance, category 2

16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron – Rotary
Maintenance, category 3

16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron – Medium Aircraft,
category 5

16th Maintenance Operations Squadron – Maintenance
Operations Squadron, category 8

16th Communications Squadron – Communications-
Electronics (large), category 9

VOLUNTEERS, Continued from Page 3

they're affectionately referred to by village residents. After the arrival date has been announced, and the list posted, residents usually act quickly to add their tasks to the "to-do" list. From programming VCR's to sweeping patios, there's never a shortage of things to do.

"The last time I was there, I helped an elderly lady set up her bed," said Master Sgt. Charles Parish, 18th Flight Test Squadron, whose family also volunteers at Bob Hope Village. "It gives us a chance to give back to our community. It's just the little things, even if it's just conversation ... it lets them know that they haven't been forgotten."

"We're really thankful for the help," said Dave Cartledge, Bob Hope Village administrative assistant. "If we didn't have volunteers, there's no way in the world could we accomplish this."

Volunteer opportunities

The Hurlburt Field Airman's Council is hosting a clean-up day at Bob Hope Village Feb. 28 at 9 a.m. To volunteer, e-mail Airman 1st Class Mary Kizzee at mary.kizzee@hurlburt.af.mil.

Those who'd like to donate funds may do so through the Air Force Assistance Fund, which helps provide support to Air Force families in need of financial assistance, education or other emergency assistance.

The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation, Air Force Enlisted Village, the Air Force Aid Society National Headquarters and the Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund all benefit from AFAF.

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

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Retiree News

Tricare For Life

If a person is eligible for Tricare For Life and decides to keep other health insurance, they should beware that TFL, by law, can't pay until all other insurance and Medicare has paid. Since Medicare is primary, they can use 99 percent of the providers that participate in Medicare. Those who have OHI and want to cancel must call (888) 999-6455 and provide an OHI cancellation date.

National Children's Dental Health Month

Baby-bottle cavities can develop when a child is allowed to use a bottle inappropriately.

These cavities may affect a large number of the teeth, can be quite large and may progress extremely rapidly.

Children are often given a bottle of milk or a sugar-laden beverage to walk around with for extended periods or to fall asleep with. These liquids can pool around the teeth for prolonged intervals and lead to severe tooth decay.

Baby-bottle cavities, however, are preventable.

- Don't allow a child to fall asleep unattended with a bottle or allow them to use a bottle for extended time periods while awake

- Only allow milk or sweet drinks at mealtime

- Give plain water at all other times

- Brush children's teeth every day for them

If you believe your child may have a problem due to baby-bottle cavities, see your family dentist as soon as possible.

**NATL NEWSPAPER/SPRINT
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544089
4 X 10.50**



HALL, Continued from Page 1

The names listed on the wall highlight some of those whose efforts as Air Commandos and Rescue Warriors have left a lasting impact on the AFSOC family, said General Hester.

Brig. Gen. "Heinie" Aderholt, Lt. Gen. Leroy Manor and Col. Joe Kittinger are considered by many to be founding fathers of Air Force Special Operations. Brig. Gen. Richard Kight and Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Fisk are key figures within the rescue community. Senior Airman Jason Cunningham, a Pararescueman, was killed during Enduring Freedom while supporting Operation Anaconda.

Generals Aderholt and Manor were among the honored guests attending the dedication ceremony of the Hall of Honor.

The walls along the hallway display tributes to events and people throughout the AFSOC lineage, said General Hester. It has taken nearly a year to bring the Hall of Honor to its current stage, thanks mainly to the efforts of Capt. Jason Delamater, Master Sgt. Dave Goehringer and Carlotta Holley who helped design and create the displays.

"Everywhere you look on Hurlburt Field, there are honors dedicated to the command's people," General Hester said. "The streets that line the base are named after fallen comrades; the Air Park at our front gate pays homage to the people, missions and aircraft that encompass our heritage; buildings throughout the installation are named after Air Commandos who helped make this command what it is today," he said. "It was important to have a continuation of that respect, by highlighting some of those heroes within this building."

The Hall of Honor contains displays dedicated to Operation Rice Bowl, the attempt in 1980, to rescue American hostages from the embassy in Tehran, Iran and Task Force Normandy, the mission by four MH-53J PAVE LOW helicopters to lead eight U.S. Army Apache helicopters into Iraq for the first mission of Operation Desert Storm.

Other tributes include a wall honoring the command's enlisted people who earned honors in the Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year program, as well as an adjoining wall highlighting the current AFSOC Annual Award Winners.

A corner glass display at the end of the Hall of Honor encases a large steel sword recognizing the four general officers, who have been selected by the AFSOC Enlisted Corps for induction into the command's Order of the Sword.

Across from the glass case is a presentation board listing the honorees from across the command to earn the MacKay Trophy, the Colonel James Jabarra Airmanship Award and the Lance P. Sijan U.S. Air Force Leadership Award.

The center attraction of the hallway is a small recessed area recognizing the seven AFSOC airmen who have earned the Medal of Honor.

"These displays are only the beginning," said General Hester. "We will continue to add to these lists of our airmen and civilians from across AFSOC who earn accolades for their superior service. Our hope is that this hallway will remind visitors of the important contributions to preserving freedom AFSOC men and women have made throughout the years.

"It should also increase the understanding of the significant role the command has played in supporting national security objectives. We want to help preserve the AFSOC heritage and ensure we teach the lessons of yesterday to the citizens of tomorrow," he said.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Andy Kin

A lieutenant colonel with Air Force Special Operations Command (left), briefs honored guests about the Operation Rice Bowl display in an Air Force Special Operations Command headquarters building hallway during the dedication ceremony of the Hall of Honor, here.

**HOLIDAY BUILDERS
COMM/MORRO BAY/1
541656
3 X 7.50**

Have you recently been promoted, received an award or arrived on base?

Fill out a
Hometown News Release

For more information, call Public Affairs at 884-7464



President's Day holiday hours

The following facility hours will be in effect Monday in observance of President's Day.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Gator Lakes Golf Course | 6:30 a.m. - dusk | Wood Skills | Closed Wednesday |
| Hurlburt Lanes Bowling Center | Closed | Multi-Crafts | |
| Spare Time Grill (Hurlburt Lanes) | Closed | Closed Saturday through Wednesday | |
| J.R. Rockers | Closed | Outdoor Recreation Center | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. |
| Soundside Club | Closed | Pool | Closed |
| Velocity Subs | Closed | Marina | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. |
| Child development center | Closed | Paintball Fields | Closed |
| Community center | Closed | Aderholt Fitness Center | 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. |
| Teen center | Closed | Commando Fitness Center | Closed |
| Youth Center Open Recreation | Closed | Library | Closed |
| School Age Program | Closed | The Oasis | Closed |
| ITT Ticket Sales | Closed | The Reef | |
| ITT Leisure Travel Sales | Closed | B 6 to 8:30 a.m., L 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., D 4 to 6:30 p.m. | |
| Frame Skills | Closed Tuesday | Commissary | Closed |
| Auto Skills | Closed | Base Exchange | 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. |



AADD

Airmen Against Drunk Driving is a 24 hours, seven days a week alternative to drinking and driving. This program offers a free, confidential ride home. Call 884-8844.

Fill out tax forms the smart way

By Tom Snyder
Hurlburt Field financial advisor

It's been said the only thing certain is death and taxes.

Even if a person's salary doesn't change, one's tax bill is likely to change because of new deductions being added or old deductions being lost.

In addition, the number of eligible deductions may change, and a marriage or divorce may change one's filing status.



By utilizing leave and earnings statement and a new W-4, people can use the form to adjust the amount

of money to be withheld from their pay. By adjusting wage withholding, they may maximize the amount of money they take home each paycheck – without risking tax underpayment penalties.

Also, a common mistake is thinking the number of withholding allowances claimed is limited to the actual number of exemptions. By not claiming the proper withholding tax from checks, people are giving the IRS an interest-free loan.

For example, an E-5 with six years service claiming S-0 (single/no dependents) will pay about \$255 per month in federal taxes. If this E-5 is married with 2 children and his wife doesn't work, he wouldn't have to pay any federal taxes. Rather than receive a \$3,000 plus refund next February, he could use this money to pay off any debt he has incurred.

The man should instead consider the refund an investment. If the airman has a \$3,500 credit card bill at 12-percent interest, and he pays \$75 per month, it would take five years and four months (64 payments) to pay off the debt and cost \$1,238 in interest. If he changed his W-4 to married with four dependents and applied the \$255 to the credit card bill, it would be paid off in 12 months and cost \$219 in interest – a \$1019 savings.

This is also beneficial for debt-free individuals. This money could be earning between four and 42 percent if invested in the Thrift Savings Plan or toward the purchase of a Roth IRA.

The family support center has a self-help form to assist individuals in calculating monthly federal taxes.

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

PENTAGON
FEDERAL CREDIT
COMM RHP/3.49% A
542306
3 X 8.00

Air Force has guidelines for conducting fundraisers

By Capt. Robert Anderson
16th SOW Legal Office

Everyone has heard the phrase, "There is no such thing as a free lunch." Still, that doesn't stop most people from hoping to have a cheaper lunch, dining-out or holiday party.

As a result, groups on and around Hurlburt Field often hold fundraisers to defray the cost of social functions. However, due to our status as military members and federal employees, there are a number of rules that must be followed when raising funds.

Failing to comply with the rules and regulations regarding fundraising can result in serious consequences, including criminal penalties.

Air Force units don't raise funds. The military forces of the United States don't raise money to pay for programs or equipment by selling cookies or washing cars. According to the Constitution, congress is responsible for providing all finan-

cial support to the military, and it doesn't like the idea of the military getting money from any other source.

Therefore, when you participate in a fundraiser, you're doing so – not as a member of the Air Force – but as an individual in your private capacity. Whether your group is a recognized private organization on base or simply an unofficial activity, it isn't a federal entity.

Private organizations operate on Air Force installations with the written consent of the installation commander. An "unofficial activity" is a small operation, such as a unit coffee fund, unit flower fund or unit esprit-de-corps fund which has assets that don't exceed a monthly average of \$1,000 over a three-month period.

If an unofficial activity's assets exceed this amount, the activity must become a formal private organization. Regardless of whether the entity is a PO or an unofficial activity, the rules regarding fundraising must be followed.

When raising funds, your organization must furnish its own equipment, supplies and other materials. Unit funds or equipment can't be used to support fundraising activities or events.

However, it may be permissible to allow some distribution of unofficial information on government systems as a matter of convenience to the military member and to improve unit morale.

Such communication should be extremely limited and should only serve to inform the member that there's a particular activity that they want to participate in. It shouldn't be used to generate support or raise funds for an activity or group.

Also, Air Force employees may not engage in fundraising for a PO or unofficial activity on government time. If participating in a fundraiser during a duty day, the member must take leave or use a special pass granted to by a commander.

Due to our status as federal employees, there are also important

guidelines regarding whom we can solicit for donations and how we solicit them. Most importantly, DOD employees can't solicit donations from persons or entities that do business or seek to do business with the Department of Defense.

Therefore, when soliciting donations, your organization must explicitly state that the donations are for a PO and not for Hurlburt Field or the U.S. Air Force. Even though, as mentioned above, you won't be fundraising in an official capacity, it's important to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

Because there are other restrictions on how funds may be raised on base, all fund raisers must be personally approved by the 16th Services Squadron commander.

To ensure your fundraiser is approved on time, it should be submitted to 16th SVS at least two weeks before your proposed fundraising event.

For more information, call 884-6274.

Week in History

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

Feb. 11, 1913 – The first Bill to establish a separate Aviation Corps failed to pass.

Feb. 9, 1934 – All domestic airmail contracts were canceled, and the Army is ordered to fly mail.

Feb. 14, 1939 – The XB-15 flew a mercy mission from Virginia to Chile in 29 hours and 53 minutes.

Feb. 8, 1965 – The U.S. Air Force performed its first retaliatory air strike in North Vietnam. A North American F-100 Super Sabre flew cover for attacking South Vietnamese fighter aircraft, suppressing ground fire in the target area.

Feb. 12, 1973 – A U.S. Air Force C-141 landed in Hanoi to pick up the first returning prisoners of war.

Feb. 10, 1994 – Lt. Jeannie Flynn, the first woman selected for U.S. Air Force combat pilot training, completed training in an F-15E Eagle.

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Team effort saves American lives, earns medals

By 1st Lt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

Executing high-risk airdrop missions, engaging swarming enemies, evading countless airborne threats, accomplishing presidential objectives – these are examples of how 16th Special Operations Wing aircrew members contribute to the war on terrorism and reasons why they're highly decorated airmen.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche presented Air Force Special Operations airmen with four Silver Stars, 15 Distinguished Flying Crosses and one Purple Heart for their actions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom at a ceremony recently in the corrosion control facility here.

Capt. Benjamin Maitre, Capt. Terry Sears and Tech. Sgt. Charles Swanson were among the 20 medal recipients who say their stories reflect how all AFSOC airmen react in combat.

"When I initially found out that I had received the award, I was surprised, then honored," said Captain Maitre, an MC-130H aircraft commander who received the Silver Star for a critical airdrop mission over Afghanistan Feb. 21, 2002. "If I could, I'd cut it up into seven pieces and give one to each of my crewmembers – it was a team effort that got the mission done."

According to the award citation, Captain Maitre



Photo by Airman 1st Class Andy Kin

Capt. Benjamin Maitre, 16th Operations Group MC-130H aircraft commander, conducts a pre-flight check in the cockpit of an MC-130H. Captain Maitre received a Silver Star for a critical airdrop over Afghanistan.

and his crew of seven flew their Combat Talon II through jagged terrain and numerous threats to airdrop resupply bundles to Army Special Forces on the ground during Operation Anaconda.

"What made this mission fairly unique was that it had to be done within critical time constraints, while the level of resistance we encountered was significantly more than had been previously seen in that phase of the operation," Captain Maitre said.

Despite encountering intense fire from numerous anti-aircraft artillery sites minutes before and after their time-over-target, Captain Maitre and his crew executed a flawless airdrop.

"We were engaged by several sites," Captain Maitre said. "The fire seemed sporadic at times, but the volume increased in certain areas.

"The copilot and I had a forward field of vision, so I was getting calls from the loadmasters in the back on what they were seeing, while the other crewmembers were keeping us aware of the terrain and other threats," the captain said. "Crew communication was critical in identifying hostile fire, and we maneuvered the airplane accordingly."

The award citation credits Captain Maitre for making an airdrop that allowed ground forces to flush terrorists from their hideouts, while saving his aircraft and crew.

Aircrews flew equally critical missions over the night skies of Iraq approximately one year later.

Captain Sears, an AC-130U navigator, received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his lead role in capturing Iraq's Al Faw peninsula March 20, 2003, securing the area for the arrival of a ground assault force and accomplishing one of seven presidential objectives of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"There were numerous Special Operations Forces on the ground, and they specifically requested a

Gunship for aerial surveillance of the area," said Captain Sears.

"We had some initial engagements. But, as the night progressed, the guys on the ground were securing assets, and enemy positions and vehicles started popping up," Captain Sears said. "We worked real-time with the guys on the ground to engage."

Captain Sears' award citation credits him with coordinating surgically accurate fire and evasive maneuvers, while making important inputs to avoid restricted Iranian airspace.

An MC-130P loadmaster was recognized with a Distinguished Flying Cross for an important role as a member of a Combat Shadow crew, flying a high-risk mission over Iraq.

Sergeant Swanson and his crew were flying a low-level covert air-refueling mission near Baghdad April 2, 2003, when his aircraft came under attack.

"We had already broken off from the helicopters we were refueling and heading home, when the other loadmaster aboard called a threat from his side," Sergeant Swanson said. "I then saw a threat come up on my side."

When the aircraft came under direct fire from three surface-to-air missiles, Sergeant Swanson made the right calls.

According to the award citation, Sergeant Swanson kept visual contact with the threats and other aircraft in the formation despite abrupt maneuvering and blinding defensive flares.

"When we took the second one, the other aircraft's left scanner noticed it too. He called a maneuver that had us going toward each other, and that's when I started calling out the position of the other aircraft," said Sergeant Swanson.

The successful mission marked the deepest penetration of a well-defined enemy airspace ever attempted by the MC-130P.

The success of Air Force Special Operators is reflected by the honors they've received, and according to them, success is a team effort.

"Many aircrews flew that same sort of mission, and every AFSOC airman plays a crucial role in completing a successful sortie," said Captain Maitre.

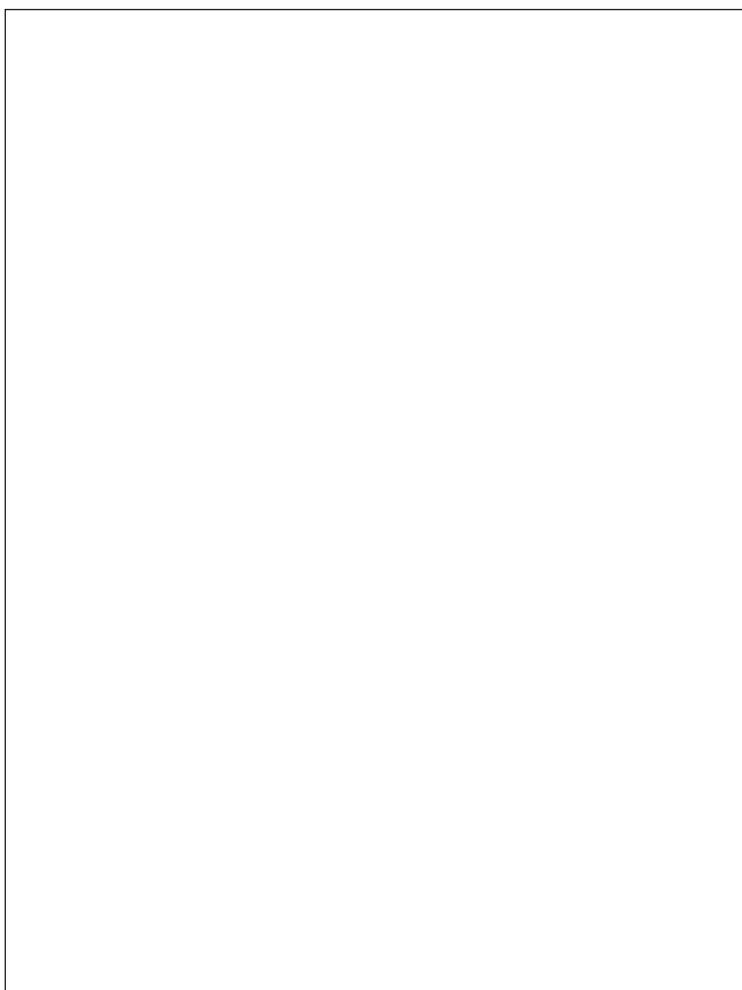


Photo by Larry Kirk

Tech. Sgt. Charles Swanson, 9th Special Operations Squadron MC-130P loadmaster surveys the area outside his aircraft. Sergeant Swanson was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his role in a high-risk flying mission over Iraq.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Andy Kin

Capt. Terry Sears, 4th Special Operations Squadron, stands in front of an AC-130U Spooky Gunship. Captain Sears was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his lead role as a Gunship navigator in Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Dress and Appearance:

Occupational Badge

Badges listed in AFI 36-2923 are directly related to an awarded Air Force Specialty Code and time in that AFSC.

Officers wear the basic badge after graduating from technical school (or after attaining a fully qualified AFSC when technical school isn't required), the senior badge after seven years in the specialty and the master badge after 15 years in the specialty. Officers who are prior enlisted and serving in the same career field as their previous enlisted time can include that time.

Enlisted are authorized to wear the basic badge after completing technical school, the senior badge after award of the seven-skill level, and the master badge as a master sergeant or above with five years in the specialty from award of the seven-skill level.

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AF has new medal, ribbon

Air Force members may be eligible to receive either the Air and Space Campaign Medal or the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon for their service in deployed locations.

The ASCM is awarded to members of the U.S. Air Force who supported a significant military operation on or after Mar. 24, 1999.

Military Operations that qualify for the ASCM are Operations Allied Force, Joint Guardian, Allied Harbor, Sustain/Shining Hope, Noble Anvil, Kosovo Task Force Hawk, Saber, Falcon, and Hunter.

Members must have provided direct support for 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days to qualify for the ASCM. A subsequent award is denoted with a service star.

Members who are eligible should report to the awards and decorations unit in the military personnel flight with supporting documentation. Documentation needed for verification can be travel vouchers, orders, enlisted performance reports/officer performance reports or decorations.

The AFESR is awarded to Air Force active-duty, Reserve and Guard personnel who completed a contingency deployment on or after Oct. 1, 1999.

To qualify for the AFESR, individuals must have deployed for 45 consecutive days or 90 nonconsecutive days. An AFESR is awarded for every consecutive 45 days.

Upon completing a contingency deployment, members should report to their commander's support staff with supporting documentation to validate their entitlement. An AF Form 104 will be completed for inclusion into the members' records in April 2004, which is when a code for Military Personnel Data System will be available for the AFESR.

Commander support staffs are asked to hold documentation in suspense copies of the AF Form 104 to use for update at that time.

For more information, call Arcia Whitfield at 884-5401.

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Community

ERAU registration

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University will hold Spring II term registration beginning Tuesday through March 12 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays thru Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Classes run from March 15 through May 15. ERAU office will be closed Feb. 23-27. For more information, call 581-2106.

Volunteer recognition

The annual volunteer appreciation ceremony will be held April 23 from 9 to 11 a.m. at The Soundside. Any group, volunteer agency or individual may nominate volunteers for the Angel or Volunteer Excellence Awards to be recognized for their contributions. Nomination packages are available at the family support center. Completed packages must be submitted no later than March 26 to be included in the ceremony. For more information, call Heather Gerlach at 884-1533.

Black History Month Luncheon

A luncheon honoring Black History Month will be held Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Soundside. The guest speaker will be Army Brig. Gen. Remo Butler, chief of staff and director of the Center for Command Support, U.S. Special Operations Command. For more information, call Bernice Kellogg at 884-5441; Arnetta Welcome at 884-6691 or Tech. Sgt. Lisa Mays at 884-4735.

Munitions storage closure

Munitions storage will be closed March 1 through 12 to conduct a 100 percent semi-annual inventory IAW AFI 21-201, 21.3.1. All munitions supply points must ensure all requests for issue, turn-in and pick-up are submitted to Munitions Operations no later than noon Tuesday. Only emergency issue requests signed by the group commander IAW AFI 21-201, 21.2.3 will be accepted during the inventory. For more information, call munitions operations at 884-2747/2004.

Clinic closure

The 16th Medical Group will be closed Monday in observance of President's Day. The Eglin Air Force Base emergency room will be open.

Finance closure

The 16th Comptroller Squadron will close at 2 p.m. Feb. 20 for an official function. In case of emergency, call 803-3324.

Local concert

The Psalmist, a rhythm gospel music group, will perform Sunday in downtown Fort Walton at the landing for "Sunday in the Park." Music includes portions of jazz, pop, contemporary, funk and worship styles. To listen to a sample of the group's music, visit www.nldtc.org. For more information, call Lisa Chia at 932-9257.

Focus 56 meeting

The Hurlburt Focus 56 will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the deployment control center auditorium. All staff sergeant selects and technical sergeants are invited to attend. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Herbert Passmore at 884-2946 or James Laudermilk at 884-5731.

HOSC monthly meeting

The Hurlburt Officers' Spouses' Club will hold its monthly meeting Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at The Soundside. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. Cost is \$10 for members; \$12 for non-members. Childcare will be provided for \$3 per hour per child or \$5 per hour for two or more children. Reservations must be made by Monday. For more information, call Betsy Treloar at 936-5306.

Rodeo team

The Professional Armed Forces Rodeo Association will hold a meeting Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Mama Rosa's located at 1826 Lewis Turner Boulevard. Riders are needed in bareback, saddle bronc, bull riding, calf roping, team roping, break-away roping, steer wrestling and barrel racing. For more information, 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 non-aircraft related organizations, call 884-3531/7862/767 or fax 884-3525 for 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 881-4101 or fax 881-4102.

Base tax assistance

The base tax center, located in Building 90229, is available to assist 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

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 struggling to get a start in their lives by providing 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'd like to volunteer call Heather Gerlach at 884-1533.

Air Force TV and Radio News



To check out Air Force TV or Radio News visit: <http://af.feed-room.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



Catholic Mass
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.
Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday
Religious Education: September–May
Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (praise & worship),
11:30 a.m. (traditional),
12:45 p.m. (Gospel)

Religious Education: August – May
Youth and Singles groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center

Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

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 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 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.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday and Saturday – (PG-13) *Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*, starring Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen – Hobbits Frodo and Sam push into Mordor to destroy the ring of power. Traveling with them is the deceitful Gollum, who brings them to the heart of Mount Doom. The warrior Aragorn, revealed to be the lost King of Gondor, travels to Minas Tirith with an army of undead soldiers and the remaining members of the fellowship to rescue the ancient city from Lord Sauron's grasp.

Sunday – (R) *House of Sand and Fog*, starring Jennifer Connelly and Ben Kingsley – Massoud, despite a pretense of continued affluence, is barely making ends meet until he sees his opportunity in the auction of a house being sold for back taxes. It's a terrible mistake. The house has been improperly seized from its rightful owner, and she decides to fight to recover her home at any cost.

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



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, 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, e-mail J.P. Salisbury at jpdandbarb@comcast.com

Give Parents a Break

Give Parents a Break offers eligible parents a few hours break once a month through the child development center. Spouses of active-duty members who are TDY or on a remote assignment qualify for the program. For more information, call family childcare at 884-2893.

Classes

FSC classes

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

Transition Assistance Program – Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.; Wednesday, 7:20 a.m.

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

Employment Orientation – Tuesday, 1 p.m.

Single Parents Luncheon – Feb. 20, noon

Third Annual Valentine's Spouses Spa Day – Feb. 20, 5 p.m.

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 job seeking, 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 health and wellness center classes, call 884-4292. All classes are free of charge and held in Building 90232, Classroom A.

Lean on Me – Tuesday, 10 a.m.

Healthy Living Workshop – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1 p.m.

Body Composition Improvement Program Follow-up – Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.

Body Composition Improvement Program – Wednesday, 10 a.m.; Thursday, 9:30 a.m.

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

Healthy Weight for Kids – Thursday, 4 p.m.

One Team – One Fight: *Force integration melds experience, vitality*

By Sandra Henry
919th SOW Public Affairs

In February 2000, members from two active-duty squadrons from the 16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field said goodbye to their buddies and joined their Reserve counterparts at Duke Field's 919th Special Operations Wing.

The 26-mile move and merger of forces created the first Air Force active-associate unit; active-duty people work alongside Reservists at a Reserve location, flying and maintaining Reserve-owned aircraft.

The move was the result of a reorganization of Special Operations aircraft to better integrate the forces, improve operations and save money.

When the movement was completed, the 919th SOW had 14 MC-130E Combat Talon Is. The 8th Special Operations Squadron and the 711th Special Operations Squadron would fly them; the 716th Maintenance Squadron and the 919th Maintenance Squadron would keep them flying.

The integration of military members under the program strengthened the Air Force's overall capability for mission accomplishment, said Col. Olin Carpenter, 919th Maintenance Group commander.

It took a limited allocation of resources from two previously independent organizations and placed them under a total force utilization concept. Both active-duty and Reserve forces have benefited significantly from this total force initiative through an enhanced war readiness posture, Colonel Carpenter said.

According to Lt. Col. Doug Jantzen, 716th MXS commander, many of those Reservists have 20 to 30 years of experience troubleshooting.

"Everyone integrated so well and knew their jobs so well that you couldn't say, 'they must be Reservists, or they must be active duty,'" said Colonel Jantzen. "We didn't look at each other as active duty or Reservists – we looked at ourselves as the Talon I maintenance team. That made a huge difference in

our ability to get the airplanes in the air when we needed to."

Training together isn't a new thing on the operational side, said Lt. Col. Kenny Ray, 711th SOS commander. The 919th Operations Group has been running the formal MC-130E Talon schoolhouse since 1997, three years before the reorganization.

At the schoolhouse, 711th SOS instructors regularly train student-status 8th SOS aircrew members throughout the flying phase of their training.

Lt. Col. Doug Galipeau, 8th SOS commander, said the most obvious benefit of the integration is that his young airmen and second lieutenants have had an opportunity to fly with some very seasoned guys – Reservists who have seen combat as far back as Panama and Grenada in the 1980s.

In turn, Colonel Galipeau thinks active-duty airmen, whether old or young, bring a little flavor of big blue

technical sub-programs. Special panels will be conducted as directed to meet specific needs of the Air Force.

The application deadline is Feb. 26 and the correction cut-off date for the next selection board is March 15.

Non-Technical applicants' GPA: effective with the 0404 board, all non-technical applicants must have a minimum 3.00 GPA.

Rated Applicants' GPA: effective

with the 0405 board, rated applicants must have a minimum 2.50 GPA. Exceptions to the policy for non-technical and rated applicants will be considered for those with a total AFOQT composite score of 150 or higher. The total composite score includes academic aptitude, verbal and quantitative sub-composites.

For more information on OTS application procedures, call 884-6000.

New OTS application requirements

By Jannie Benson
16th Mission Support Squadron

The Line Officer Accessions Board Schedule has been modified for fiscal year 2004.

Four quarterly boards will be held for the Rated, Technical Degree Sponsorship Program and Critical Technical sub-programs. Two boards will be held for the Technical and Non-



Derrick Banks, 16th Mission Support Squadron, works out with a new weight-training machine at the Commando Fitness Center, Tuesday. Both Hurlburt Field fitness centers have recently upgraded their fitness equipment.

Patrons use treadmills to get a cardiovascular workout at the Commando Fitness Center. The center, along with the Aderholt Fitness Center, upgraded their cardio equipment, including treadmills, recumbent bikes, elliptical machines, upright bikes and step mills.



Photos by Senior Airman Sam Taylor

Fitness centers get equipment upgrades

By Senior Airman Adam Raisley
16th Services Squadron

It's the start of a brand new year, and the start of new physical fitness programs has created a large influx of traffic throughout each Hurlburt Field fitness center.

To accommodate for such high demands, several changes and additions have been made to both the Aderholt Fitness Center and the Commando Fitness Center, with more to come.

These continuous upgrades, although inconvenient at times, help promote the high fitness standards servicemembers are required to meet.

The Aderholt Fitness Center has received several upgrades with \$262,000 in end-of-year funding, and no expense has been spared to ensure customer satisfaction. The most recent renovation project was the placement of new rubber flooring on the second level of the facility. The old flooring was completely removed and the rubber flooring has been laid down wall to

wall, providing a clean new look.

In addition, a new sound system has been installed throughout the facility to provide a more enjoyable workout experience. The locker rooms have received a complete overhaul, including 450 new lockers and the addition of 24 benches. Lockers now offer a wider area of space and ventilated storage. The assigned locker program has been done away with, and has been replaced with a daily use program.

The cardiovascular area recently added two new step mills, along with six elliptical machines, four lifecycle treadmills, four recumbent bikes, six upright bikes and seven cross-trainers.

Nautilus circuit equipment has replaced outdated equipment and now covers every muscle group, providing a more enjoyable workout experience and allowing better space usage.

Also, a new roller hockey rink will soon be completed.

The Health and Wellness Center has

undergone renovations as well, including the placement of rubber flooring in all cardio and weight rooms. Two sets of urethane plate weights and dumbbells have been added to strength-training area as well.

With the constant high demands of Hurlburt Field airmen and family members, fitness center staffs will continue to strive to meet customer satisfaction. For questions or concerns, call Ed Vieth, fitness director, or Master Sgt. Adonis Martinez, fitness superintendent, at 884-6884. For questions relating to the Commando Fitness Center, call Master Sgt. John Lilly at 884-4412.



Ricky Uy, a Hurlburt Field family member, works on his biceps at the Commando Fitness Center, Tuesday. New sets of plate weights and dumbbells were recently added to the center.

Sports shorts

Varsity softball tryouts

Tryouts for the Hurlburt Field men's varsity softball team begin at 5 p.m. Monday, 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 let-

ters of intent as soon as possible. For more information, call the Aderholt Fitness Center at 884-6884.

Basketball volunteers

The Special Olympics 2004 Northwest Sectional Basketball Tournament will be held here and at Eglin Air Force Base Feb. 20-21, and is sponsored by the Eglin Company-Grade Officer's Council. People who wish to volunteer in any capacity should call Capt. Dawn Brudos at 882-7379, or 2nd Lt. Angela Goldbaugh at 882-7483.

Intramural golf season

Intramural golf will begin early this year, kicking off April 1. The team captain's meeting will be held Feb. 25, 3 p.m., 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 (ages 5-14) and girls softball (ages 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.