



Courtesy graphic

This artist's conception of a proposed design for Hurlburt Field's new front gate shows the extra lanes that will help alleviate traffic congestion while keeping Force Protection at top levels.

New gate to improve traffic flow, security

By Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

Hurlburt Field has a new front gate design in the works that should help alleviate traffic congestion while maintaining top-notch Force Protection.

Tentatively scheduled for fiscal year 2006, the gate concept will increase inbound routes to three high-volume lanes and a separate visitor lane, while increasing visitor center parking.

Combined with a state-planned, future interstate-style overpass for U.S. Highway 98, the new gate will also feature improved security measures designed to improve traffic flow, said Tim Hoffman, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron base development chief.

"Smart gate" technology, active

barriers and provisions for restricted flow during heightened Force Protection Conditions will help keep the base secure, while improved vehicle inspection areas and a commercial truck holding area will also help streamline incoming traffic, he said.

"The bottom line is that the new gate will meet all the latest Force Protection standards while improving traffic flow," said Mr. Hoffman. "As with other improvements under construction all over base, this is a piece of a puzzle we're putting together that, when finished, will create a better, more efficient Hurlburt Field."

The \$6.6 million gate project also includes upgrades for the Soundside gate and should help make main gate operations less manpower intensive.

While this project will greatly reduce congestion on U.S. Highway 98, it isn't expected to eliminate it completely.

"A common misconception is that traffic delays at the main gate are the entire problem," said Mr. Hoffman. "This is only a piece of the problem. For example, school busses also cause a major delay heading east on U.S. Highway 98, stopping every quarter-mile to pick up children."

In the meantime, Mr. Hoffman said carpooling to work can greatly improve traffic flow.

"Very few cars coming on base in the morning have more than one occupant," he said. "If 20 percent of the people coming to work car-pooled with a coworker, we could significantly reduce morning delays."

Putting an end to trend in DUIs

By Col. O.G. Mannon
16th SOW commander

It's with great disappointment and concern that I report a recent and alarming increase in the number of Hurlburt Field active-duty DUI offenders, both on and off-base.

Most recently we've seen nine of our people charged with DUI during a period of 11 day's, the latest which occurred Thursday.

Folks, this is unacceptable. Doing so not only puts the offender's life at risk, but also endangers the lives and well-being of others. Not only that, but the consequences of being caught are extremely high. If you don't kill yourself, or someone else, you'll be subject to numerous offenses and punishments which may include loss of money, driving privileges, rank or possibly the end of an Air Force career.

Off-base offenses of this nature are also disappointing because they reflect poorly on the outstanding calibre of the men and women assigned to Hurlburt Field and the United States Air Force as a whole.

I'm aware that those involved in these incidents represent a small fraction of the base populous. However, if there is even one airman engaged in this illegal conduct, it's one too many.

Let me be perfectly clear; this type of activity will not be tolerated. I demand that our people be held to the highest standards and I will personally hold DUI offenders accountable for

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Base community planner presented Air Force award

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Recycling center

Turning Hurlburt Field's trash into treasure

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Wing event

16th SOW dining-out

A 16th Special Operations Wing dining-out is being planned for 6 p.m. May 8. To report unit scheduling conflicts, call Maj. Leslie Higer at 884-7350.

Weather

Weekend forecast

Today – cloudy,
High 66 Low 45

Saturday – isolated showers,
High 62 Low 47

Sunday – partly cloudy,
High 55 Low 40

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

Expanding Retreat coverage

Comment: We've had several articles in the paper regarding respecting Retreat. The marquees at the entrances also remind everyone about Retreat at 5 p.m. However, I think the problem of drivers not stopping during Retreat may be due to the fact that unless you happen to be in the vicinity of the wing headquarters building, you can't hear the music.

Is there a way to install more speakers, turn the volume up or use the giant voice system to correct the situation?

Reply: We agree the current base public address system provides very poor coverage during Revielle and Retreat. The 16th Communications Squadron is currently upgrading the Base Alert and Warning System to enable us to play music and alert messages. The upgrade also includes installation of five additional sites to provide coverage where none previously existed.

The new sites will be located adjacent to the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, near the base gas station, next to the base marina, outside the Ammo compound, and near the intersection of Cruz and RED HORSE Roads. Installation began Feb. 13 and should be completed not later than March 1.

Keep yourself armed against terrorism

By 1st Lt. Carie Seydel
Air Force OSI

As America began to comprehend the impact of terror, a question was whispered. "How could this happen?"

One day in September has changed us. Now, we better understand the impact of terrorism.

America has launched a counter-attack on terrorism. In a world where e-mail and mobile phones are terrorists' tools, electronic surveillance has become essential to national security.

But, this assault doesn't come without a price. Two days after the national tragedies, the Senate unanimously approved an amendment allowing nationwide "traps and traces" to capture telephone and electronic message information with the approval of a judge.

Combating the threat of destruction is real. But at a local level, there are some simple security precautions that can reduce the risk of terrorist activity.

A few things to keep in mind when traveling:

■ When going outside the United States, identify high threat locations through your local office of special

investigations prior to departure.

■ Restrict distribution of your itinerary to those who have a need to know.

■ Don't use military rank when making reservations.

■ Eliminate military-related addresses or emblems on luggage.

■ Keep luggage locked and controlled at all times.

■ Make copies of essential documents (passport, identification and leave or temporary duty paperwork) and disperse them throughout your luggage.

■ Dress in casual civilian clothes and keep a low profile when traveling.

■ Immediately report unattended luggage or suspicious activity to airline or security personnel.

When driving, it's also necessary to minimize vulnerability. These tips apply to military members and their families:

■ Keep your vehicle maintained and the gas tank at least half full.

■ Know alternate routes to routine locations and use them randomly.

■ Park in a secure lot or open, well-lit area.

■ Exercise caution, with keys in hand, when approaching your vehicle.

■ Lock doors upon entering your car.

■ Ensure someone knows your

departure and arrival time.

■ Know where "safe havens" like police and fire stations, hospitals and embassies are located.

Don't assume you're safe because you're in a building. On the job, prepare for emergencies and brief the plan to all staff members:

■ Keep emergency data cards on all personnel.

■ Avoid marked parking spaces – they could make vehicles a target.

■ Immediately report unattended packages or suspicious activity to security forces.

■ Don't provide personal information over the phone.

■ Have a staff evacuation plan and meeting location identified.

■ In anti-terrorism briefings, we're told to report suspicious packages and to be aware of our surroundings. Never have these precautions been more real. Strangers, suspicious activities and unattended items could become disastrous if left unreported.

Anti-terrorism is everyone's responsibility. Report suspicious activities to AFOSI Detachment 309 at 884-6102, or the 16th Security Forces Squadron Law Enforcement desk at 884-7777.

Message from Col. Frank Kisner



Col. Frank Kisner
43rd Airlift Wing,
commander

In a message sent to the 16th Special Operations Wing this week, Col. Frank Kisner, 43rd Air Wing commander and former 16th SOW commander, and his wife Helen, expressed their feelings of "respect, pride, and enjoy-

ment" they had during their time at Hurlburt Field and "service with all the great Air Commandos -- both current and past."

Colonel Kisner served as the 16th SOW commander from June, 2002 to October, 2003.

"Nothing good in life is ever achieved without good people

working for the common good – as our Nation extols – 'United We Stand!' they wrote. "Thanks for the camaraderie, esprit d'corps, and quiet professionalism in mutual sacrifice for the continued freedom of our great Nation. Warmest regards, and thanks for everything."



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Submitting articles

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

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Hurlburt Field DUI Tracker

Feb. 13-19:

2 DUIs
16th Equipment
Maintenance
Squadron

Days since last
DUI: 1

Total DUIs this
year to date: 9

Total DUIs for
2003: 53

Airmen Against
Drunk Driving
Don't Drink and
Drive.

Call 884-8844

Potential saves
this year: 63

Public comments on housing privatization

By 1st Lt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

Local Air Force leaders and housing privatization project managers met with approximately 60 community members at a public scoping meeting held at Hurlburt Field's Soundside Club Tuesday to discuss the potential effects of military housing privatization on the community.

"This public scoping meeting serves as the first of several formal opportunities to solicit public input in review of the Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base military family housing privatization proposal," said Mike Spaits, Air Armament Center environmental public affairs specialist. "We will present the public with as many opportunities as possible in order to hear all sides and all issues."

Inputs from the public will be included in the project's Environmental Impact Statement, which analyzes the extent to which the construction involved with housing privatization will impact the environment and the community's resources.

The EIS examines issues ranging from wildlife concerns, to the potential for noise pollution, to socioeconomic impacts.

The proposed plan involves a num-

ber of alternatives, including the demolition of approximately 2,500 houses at both installations and the construction of new housing at government-owned sites located between the two installations.

The plan follows suit with many other Air Force bases and sister service installations moving toward housing privatization; where private sector alternatives provide military families access to safe, quality, affordable, well-maintained housing in a community where they will choose to live at a cost that does not exceed members' basic allowance for housing.

"I don't see any downside to this plan," said Fort Walton Beach Mayor Glenda Glover. "My only concern is that the houses built for our airmen and their families are quality homes. It's especially important that families are taken care of because their loved ones are gone so long."

Other members of the community voiced concerns about issues ranging from threatened species to diminishing property value.

"The proposed housing for the Poquito Bayou area will encroach right up to our subdivision," said James Nabors, from Longwood subdivision in Shalimar. "When a high density is created in an area we get con-

cerned about the impact on the environment, on roads and schools. Land value is going down."

"We'd like to see good base housing built in an area that won't affect other neighborhoods, and if they do build here I hope they consider inserting buffers between the housing and other neighborhoods," said Mr. Nabors.

"All reasonable comments will receive full consideration and will be addressed in the final EIS," said Mr. Spaits, "and we will make sure that anyone who wants to be heard has that chance."

As part of the EIS process, anyone can submit questions, comments, and concerns for consideration via e-mail to Julia.Cantrell@Brooks.af.mil.

Input can also be mailed to the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence and AFCEE/ISM, 3300 Sydney Brooks Rd., Brooks City-base, TX 78235-5112.

All input must be received by March 23 to be addressed in the Draft EIS, however, comments on this proposal will be accepted after that date.

For more information about Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base military family housing privatization initiatives, visit <http://jllpsc.com>.

Community planner wins Air Force accolades

By 1st Lt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

A supervisory community planner from the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron is the 2003 Air Force Outstanding Individual Community Planner of the Year.

Tim Hoffman, an architect by trade, was recognized by the Air Force for "leading the transformation of Hurlburt Field into a premier Air Force installation," according to his award citation.

Over the course of 2003, Mr. Hoffman developed construction and revitalization projects worth more than \$260 million, while finding innovative ways to cut construction time and costs.

"Anyone who has worked with Tim knows that Hurlburt Field is what it is because of his vision," said Lt. Col. Jeff Pitchford, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. "He has done an exceptional job in planning this base and making sure the facility needs of the people working here are being met."

Construction has been a common sight on base in recent years because 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. Every project is carefully planned, zoned and coordinated by Mr. Hoffman.

"I realize that even though I've put a lot of hard work into my job, there are people out there who have done much harder work Air Force wide," he said. "I'm honored to be placed in the same category with them."

Since November 1987, Mr. Hoffman has shaped Hurlburt Field's landscape and landmark facilities. He needs only to drive around the base to see the results of his work.

"It's a very nice feeling to see something completed that my contemporaries and I came up with years ago," said Mr. Hoffman. "Now we look back and say, 'I remember when that was a piece of paper.'"

Mr. Hoffman's favorite completed projects include the new \$1.5 million Community Park and the base's helicopter operations facilities located on the east side apron.

Mr. Hoffman also serves on the Okaloosa County Comprehensive Planning Committee, and the Okaloosa/Walton Transportation Planning Organization.

Spotlight on ...



Claudine Duran

Rank/Duty Title: Staff sergeant/Information systems craftsman

Organization: 16th Operations Support Squadron
Hometown: Lake Charles, La.
Hobbies: Swimming, spending time with family

Contribution to the mission: Sergeant Duran is an invaluable asset to the 16th OSS, and she's always the first to accept any additional duties.

During a 50 percent decrease in commander's support staff manning, she self-taught and expertly managed several orderly room programs, many of which were out of her career field, including becoming the squadron dental and physical health assessment monitor. In addition, she's the squadron telephone control officer.

Lauded for her abilities as a workgroup manager, Sergeant Duran single-handedly replaced 10 outdated workstations in the 16th OSS Current Operations section. She was also instrumental in creating a squadron award archive, and revamped a lagging commander's support staff file plan to comply with Air Force guidelines.

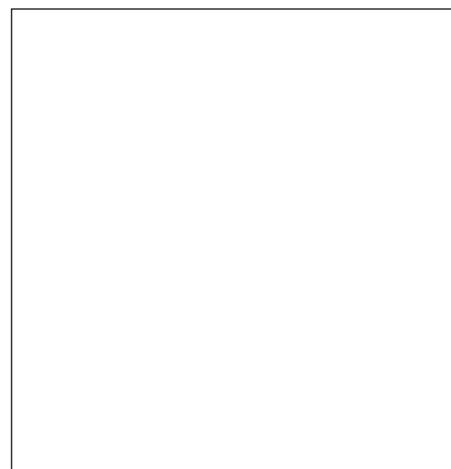


Photo by 1st Lt. Gabe Johnson

Tim Hoffman, Air Force Outstanding Individual Community Planner of the Year, and Lt. Col. Jeff Pitchford, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, discuss a projected base construction project.

When Mr. Hoffman isn't planning communities, he spends his free time as a Gulf Breeze City Council member, volunteer firefighter, emergency medical technician and a father of three with one on the way.

"This recognition for Tim is long overdue," said Colonel Pitchford. "His work will be seen around the base for years to come."

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.

EOD flight chief awarded for leadership

By Airman 1st Class
Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Air Force officials recently selected a superintendent from the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron for the Chief Master Sergeant Larry R. Daniels Award for 2003.

Master Sgt. Daniel Jessup, Explosive Ordnance Flight chief, was recognized as the Outstanding Civil Engineer Military Superintendent for his leadership in the areas of job performance, management abilities, technical competence, initiative and resourcefulness.

"I was surprised when I received the notification call at home because there were a lot of outstanding senior NCOs from other commands up for the award," said Sergeant Jessup.

According to his nomination package, Sergeant Jessup manages the training and daily operations of 22 enlisted personnel assigned to explosive ordnance disposal in support of joint Special Operations worldwide.

"Sergeant Jessup stepped in as a flight chief and made an immediate impact," said Lt. Col. Jeff Pitchford, 16th CES commander. "The flight has never run better. He's a superior senior NCO."

In addition to his daily duties as a flight chief, Sergeant Jessup has deployed for Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, in which, he resolved 146 in-flight



Master Sgt.
Daniel Jessup

emergencies, 24 suspicious package/K-9 alerts and 40 unsafe ordnance responses. He also provided training for the Army Patriot Battalion – integrating the Army into a single Air Force system, according to his nomination package.

Furthermore, Sergeant Jessup's management capabilities have helped him direct forces during critical war operations that supported three major coalition air combat operations, flawlessly organize/equip teams supporting six combat airframes and provide expert EOD support to Pararescue teams during live-fire grenade training.

"He's a sought after professional who never fails to deliver," said Colonel Pitchford. "He sets the example and passes on extensive knowledge."

For these reasons, Sergeant Jessup was requested by name to forward deploy with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing in taking Jalibah SE in Iraq, where he cleared runways, taxiways, a bivouac area, ammunition storage sites, and forward arming and refueling points on G-Day (start day of ground war), said Colonel Pitchford.

Sergeant Jessup's initiative has led to the integration of joint

forces on multinational levels as he crafted and led a team of eight airmen, five U.S. Marines and three British EOD troops.

His oversight and sound leadership was crucial in communicating with other base agencies to develop a base recovery after-attack plan for aircraft operating surfaces in the event of a Tactical Ballistic Missile/Terrorist attack.

"He never rests on success – in the field, at home or in the local community," said Colonel Pitchford. "Sergeant Jessup looks to new heights using his creativity, ingenuity and knowledge to move mountains, making things work better."

Using various resources, Sergeant Jessup has overseen and approved procedures to safely remove and destroy ordnance allowing a \$318,000 fuel area construction site to be completed on time in support of OEF/OIF combat operations, according to his nomination package.

Sergeant Jessup has also developed and had two new explosive range workstations built to provide a safe work and training area.

"Take time for training, give clear goals and expectations, then trust your fellow NCOs and airmen," said Sergeant Jessup regarding his work philosophy that has carried him thus far. "Finally, allow yourself to be amazed at their drive and motivation to do the job right the first time."

Air Force ready for 2005 BRAC

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – The Department of Defense published in the Federal Register Feb. 12 the criteria that will be used in selecting installations for the 2005 round of base realignment and closure.

Air Force Director of Installations, Environment and Logistics, Nelson Gibbs, spoke that same morning to the House Appropriations Committee subcommittee on military construction about the state of the Air Force's BRAC program.

"Air Force professionals at all levels have made great progress to prepare for BRAC 2005," Mr. Gibbs told the committee in his prepared testimony.

That preparation, Mr. Gibbs said, involved the creation of an Air Force office for basing and infrastructure analysis to act as the focal point for Air Force BRAC 2005 efforts. The major commands followed suit, creating their own offices to support the process, he said.

"Today, there are (more than) 150 full and part-time Air Force professionals engaged in preparing for BRAC 2005," Mr. Gibbs said.

Lessons learned from previous rounds of BRAC will help the Air Force better deal with property that may be affected by the BRAC 2005 round, Mr. Gibbs said.

"The Air Force has made significant progress in transitioning the installations identified for closure or realignment in previous rounds of BRAC," he said. "Turning to BRAC's past, the Air Force continues to work with local reuse authorities and other property recipients at each realigned and closed base from the four previous rounds of BRAC to transfer property."

Most importantly, Mr. Gibbs said, the Air Force will be better prepared through the BRAC 2005 process to deed property faster than in previous BRAC rounds.

The Air Force is currently in the process of disposing of more than 87,000 acres at 32 locations, Mr. Gibbs said.

He also told committee members that despite what may be said on the Internet, referring to a fake story that has been circulating for some weeks, no decisions have been made as to what bases will be closed or realigned.

"No one can know the department of the Air Force's basing structure requirements for the 21st century until the BRAC 2005 process is finished," Mr. Gibbs said. "(Air Force officials affirm)... that regardless of what may have been published on the World Wide Web, there's no Air Force BRAC list."

Mr. Gibbs said the final list of base closure recommendations won't be available until after May 2005.

News Briefs

Local News CCAF deadline

The Community College of the Air Force closeout date for April 2004 graduates is Feb. 27. After this date, credits toward a CCAF degree won't be accepted. People within one or two classes of graduation should consider testing under the College Level Examination Program.

CLEP testing times are: Mondays, 11 a.m.; Tuesdays, 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and Thursdays, 8 a.m. Seating is limited – students should call as soon as they're ready to test.

Also, those who have already completed the requirements for a CCAF degree need to have transcripts forwarded directly to the CCAF. For more information, call the education office at 884-6724.

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 through Fridays. For more information, call Roxanna Slater at 243-5698.

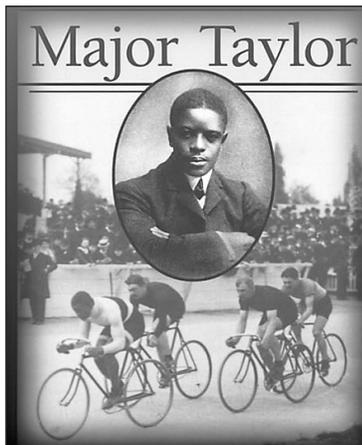


Air Force News Core values

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force recently discussed character as the foundation of Air Force core values and accomplishing the mission. Every airman has the responsibility, on and off duty, to reflect and enforce the Air Force core values of: Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do.



Famous African American athletes



Marshall "Major" Taylor, "the fastest bicycle rider in the world," was a superlative athlete with a graceful style and amazing suppleness and speed.

The Indianapolis, Ind. native worked in bicycle shops as a youth. During his free time, he performed bicycle stunts wearing a military uniform.

For that reason, Mr. Taylor was given the nickname "Major." While performing stunts one day,

Mr. Taylor met ex-champion Louis "Birdie" Munger, who recognized and encouraged his natural talent.

With Mr. Munger as his coach, Mr. Taylor turned professional in 1896. Between 1898 and 1899, he established numerous world records over short distances; in 1899, he won the World Sprint Championship in Montreal, becoming the second black athlete to win a world title.

Mr. Taylor won the American Sprint Championship in 1900, and in 1901, defeated every European champion during a phenomenally successful European tour.

After returning to Paris for five more seasons of racing and spending two winters in Australia, Mr. Taylor retired from racing in 1910.

Week in History

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

Feb. 17, 1912 – The first pilot physical examination requirements were published by the Army.

Feb. 18, 1918 – The 103rd Pursuit Squadron was formed with members of the Lafayette Escadrille.

Feb. 19, 1936 – Brig. Gen. William "Billy" Mitchell died in New York City.

Feb. 20, 1948 – The Strategic Air Command received its first B-50 Superfortress bomber. Equipped for in-flight refueling, the B-50 is an improved version of the B-29, having larger engines and a taller tail fin and rudder.

National Children's Dental Health Month: 'Thumb-sucking – so what?'

Children often suck thumbs, fingers and pacifiers. This "non-nutritive" sucking is very natural during the first two years of a child's life.

However, parents should pay close attention. Beyond the age of two, persistent thumb and/or finger-sucking or pacifier use could lead to problems with teeth and jaw alignment.

Although, if this practice seems to gradually diminish over time, the child will most likely stop.

All toddlers with such habits should be evaluated by a family dentist. Early detection and action may prevent long-term tooth complications.



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Officials update enlistment test norms

WASHINGTON – Department of Defense officials recently announced new norms for the enlistment test, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, would be implemented this summer.

The ASVAB is a multiple aptitude test battery originally designed to predict training and job performance in military occupations. Since its introduction in 1948, the enlistment test norms have been updated approximately three times.

The updated ASVAB will reflect more current norms based on the 1997 Profile of American Youth, a national probability sample of 18- to 23-year-olds in 1997. Implementation of these norms will allow DOD officials to compare the cognitive ability levels of today's military applicants and recruits with those of contemporary youth. Effective July 1, new ASVAB norms will be implemented with two goals: To represent accurately the aptitude of those enlisting in the military and to treat all applicants fairly.

This includes all who take the test before July 1 and have valid test scores; they will be grand-

fathered under an appropriate transition policy.

An individual ASVAB test score by itself has no inherent meaning. Test scores of military applicants are compared with the scores of a representative sample weighted to reflect all recruitment-age men and women.

Consequently, Enlistment decisions are based on the relative performance of the applicant compared with the youth population from which the applicant was recruited.

These reference group scores are called norms. The current ASVAB norms were developed in 1980, and no longer accurately reflect the aptitude of today's youth.

Over the past 20 years, aptitude levels in the United States have increased. Scores on educational achievement tests such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress are higher, high school and college attendance rates have increased and youth demographics have shifted.

The country has experienced an explosion in technology development and application. **(AFPN)**

Air University makes distance-learning upgrades

Courtesy of the Hurlburt Field Education Center

Air University recently released a new version for Air Command and Staff College distance learning.

The 4.0 program provides eligible candidates, all majors or major selects of any service component and civil service civilians GS-11 and above, an opportunity to complete the intermediate-level professional military education course or attend ACSC seminars.

Completion of the program will be reflected in the member's personnel record as "nonresident," whether they complete the distance-learning program via seminar or correspondence. Enrollment for Version 4.0 begins Jan. 1.

After enrollment, students can create an account on the ACSC Web site at <https://acscdl.maxwell.af.mil>, to access reading materials. It's each student's responsibility to schedule tests and complete all requirements within the 18-month enrollment.

For more information call Evans Ramsey, base education office ACSC representative, at 884-6724.

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DUI, Continued from Page 1

their actions. You may be saying, "This discussion doesn't apply to me." "I'm not the problem. I have the character required to do the right thing and not drink and drive." If you're one of these people I'm proud of you, but I need your assistance to help others from making poor decisions. When you see a situation developing where one of your fellow airmen may be placing themselves in a position of jeopardy, do something to help them.

Regardless of the situation, I expect you to take care of each other and help any airman you come into contact with to avoid circumstances that might lead to bad outcomes. We're all one team, and as such we need to look out for one another and take action when appropriate. This is not optional behavior; it's what I expect from everyone.

I also encourage you to forward any suggestions to your commander's or to my Open Line at 884-OPEN (6736), regarding creative solutions to this issue. One such program, which I've recently implemented, will provide a down day to any group that goes 60 consecutive days without any member receiving a DUI.

I need your help in putting an end to this disturbing trend. I'm not trying to say don't drink, but if you do so, don't ever get behind the wheel. Make a plan to have a designated driver take you home or call Airmen Against Drunk Driving (884-8844), a first sergeant, your commander or myself to come and pick you up.

The bottom line is to think before you drink, and never drink and drive. There are too many folks who are willing to help, and we should all be looking out for every member of Team Hurlburt. Lets all do our part to make it so.



AADD

Airmen Against Drunk Driving is a 24 hour, seven day a week alternative to drinking and driving. This program offers a free, confidential ride home.

Just call 884-8844.



Tom Fujan, 16th Services Squadron, removes a tarp from a cardboard trailer after being towed in from a base facility.

Jim Vugrich, (left) helps Bill Cordell, both from the 16th SVS, empty shredded paper into bins.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Andy Kin

Recycling center: *Turning trash into treasure*

By Vanessa Adame
Public Affairs

Every day for the last 13 years, the Hurlburt Field recycling center has transformed trash into cash, generating thousands of dollars a year for quality of life programs.

In 1991, the recycling center was housed in a 1,000 square-foot building recycling only newspaper, computer paper and aluminum cans.

Recycling has become a big business since then. The facility has grown by over 14,000 square feet and expanded to include 15 employees, 11 trucks, 5 forklifts and now accepts at least 25 different recyclable materials ranging from paper to cellular phones. In 2003, the recycling facility generated an income of \$152,557 by processing over three million pounds of recyclables.

Much of the growth can be attributed to Norman Ben-Maor, known as "Recycleman" on base, who passionately kick-started the program after his arrival in 1991.

"I operate the recycling center as if it were

my business," he said. "I put my entire heart, mind, body and soul into seeing that it's successful."

Its success, supported by all base agencies, housing residents and a large portion of it by the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron's environmental flight, has produced enough money to fund annual events such as Family Fest, Egg Hunt, Super Day, the Sound of Independence and the Family Fall Festival among others. It has also provided free swimming pool use on base and helped pay for free oil changes for family members of deployed members. Although the recycling center has come a long way since its beginning, its future depends on the base community.

"We don't have a recycling program if people don't recycle," said Robin Armhold, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron pollution prevention manager. "Hurlburt Field would lose \$800,000 a year if we hired an outside agency to recycle our materials, instead of doing it ourselves," she said.

One of the newer recyclable items are cellular phones, which earn Hurlburt Field \$1.50 for each usable phone recycled. Some cellular phones dropped into recycle bins will be refurbished and given to less fortunate people around the world, said Ms. Armhold. Toner cartridges are just as profitable for the base, earning as much as \$21 per item.

"Before we could only recycle new cartridges," Ms. Armhold said. "Now that we can recycle refurbished cartridges as well, we've seen a big



Mr. Vugrich uses a forklift to bring scrap metal to an area to be sorted.

difference in the amount of cartridges being recycled."

Recycleman wants to ensure no cardboard box from a recent move or leftover paper plate from a picnic gets dumped into the wastebasket. He urges people to call the recycling center for pick-ups.

"Each time someone throws away an aluminum can, plastic bottle or a piece of cardboard, they're throwing away money," said Mr. Ben-Maor. "It's literally money that can be used for quality of life programs...there's no excuse, absolutely none."

Along with a push to require all dining facilities to install containers for glass, plastic and aluminum, the recycling center will be adding cardboard trailers at the new recreational facility/dining hall and dormitories in the near future, as well as permanently placing new recycling containers at the community park, FamCamp and ball fields across the base.

To arrange for a recycling pick-up or for more information, call 884-7577.

Don't dump that trash!

The following items can be processed by your Hurlburt Field recycling center:

- Lead-acid batteries
- Computer paper
- Newspaper
- Telephone books
- Steel cans (tin)
- Styrofoam peanuts
- Wood pallets
- Books
- All scrap metal
- Bond paper
- Junk mail
- Catalogs
- Drained oil and
- Hydraulic cans
- Brown paper bags
- Ink-jet cartridges
- All cable and wire
- Colored paper
- Magazines
- Toner cartridges
- Aluminum cans
- Moving paper and cardboard boxes
- Cardboard
- Clear, brown and green glass bottles
- Jars
- Cellular phones
- Plastic bottles (soda, milk, water, laundry and liquid soap: numbers 1 and 2 only)
- Mixed paper (cereal packaging, crackers, candy, soda)
- Paperboard
- Fax paper
- NCR paper
- File folders
- Dividers

Community

CGOC meeting

The Company Grade Officer's Council will meet today at Connie's Hooch at 3:30 p.m.

Flight Management closure

Flight Management, located in the Aircrew Training Building, will close at noon today and Feb. 27 for training. Normal hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Self Help closure

The Self Help store will close March 17 and 18 for semi-annual inventory. The store will re-open March 19. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Ramirez or Staff Sgt. Anderson at 884-2378 or 884-7130.

NCOA meeting

Hurlburt Field's Commando Noncommissioned Officer Association Chapter is holding a meeting Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. at JR Rockers' Daytona Room. Members are invited to bring a friend. We are undergoing a membership recall to gather former and local area current members. For more information, call Master Sgt's. Bob Love at 884-4995 or Charles Glotzbach at 884-7964.

New degree program

The University of Arkansas at Hurlburt Field offers a Master of Science degree with a major in Operations Management. Registration for Term 4 starts Monday through March 9. Degree requirements can be completed in one year. For more information call 884-3844 or e-mail uafgrad3@uofa.gccox-mail.com

ERAU registration

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University is currently holding Spring II term registration 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 Monday through Friday. For more information, call 581-2106.

Home Buying/Selling Seminar

The Hurlburt Field Housing Office will host a home buying/selling seminar on March 8 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the family support center. Learn tips on how to buy and sell a home, financing, home inspections and more. Call 884-5441 to register.

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.

Finance closure

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

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:

Mondays and Fridays, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

Résumé Writing Workshop – Tuesday, 5 p.m.; reservations required call 884-6281

Smooth Move – Thursday, 9 a.m.; reservations required

Kids Smooth Move – Wednesday, 4 p.m.

Federal Employment Information & Application Procedures – Wednesday, 9 a.m.

Mapping Your Career – Monday, 1 p.m.; call 884-6281 for reservations.

HAWC classes

To reserve a seat in the following health and wellness center classes, call 884-4292. All classes are free and held in Building 90232, Classroom A.

Lean on Me – Friday, 8:30 a.m.

Lean on Me for Kids – Tuesday, 2:30 p.m.

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

Body Composition Improvement Program – Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

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

Diabetic Nutrition – Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

Prenatal Nutrition – Wednesday, 4 p.m.

Eat Heart Healthy – Thursday, 4 p.m.

Diabetic Nutrition Follow-up – Friday, 10 a.m.

Air Force TV and Radio News



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

Hurlburt Field Chapel



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

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

Jumu'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 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.

Eglin 882-1066
Friday and Sunday – (PG-13) **Chasing Liberty**, starring Mandy Moore and Matthew Good – Tired of being followed around every moment of the day, the 18-year old daughter of the president of the United States ditches her Secret Service handlers and sets out on a romantic road trip through Europe with her boyfriend Ben.

Saturday – (PG) **Disney's Teacher's Pet** – Spot is a dog who can talk and read and longs for more than a doggy life. He masquerades as a human and sneaks into school with his master Leonard, posing as fellow student Scott Leadready II. Simply pretending to be a boy isn't enough for him, he wants the real deal.

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

The origin of Special Tactics berets

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

You've seen them around Hurlburt Field: colored berets on the heads of men and women in uniform. You know the Security Forces' blue beret, but what about the other colors?

Like a lot of military items, the origin and color of berets worn by Special Tactics forces is largely untold by official histories. The stories are passed – like tribal legends – from generation to generation with little proof of their accuracy except for the integrity of the story teller. This is how the stories came to me.

The beret itself can be traced back to the British Special Air Services and the French Foreign Legion, where many modern units derived their combat doctrine. Retired combat controller Charlie Jones recalled that Capt. Lemuel Egleston introduced the blue beret to Hurlburt Field in 1961 to solidify the bonds between controllers and the green beret-wearing Special Forces they worked with in Vietnam. The base's "Air Commando bosses agreed to let Commando Combat Controllers wear them," he said. Soon all controllers wore blue berets.

In the 1970s, air policemen, now known as security forces also began wearing blue berets. Mr. Jones said "that was too much for the Combat Controllers," who argued for, and received permission to select a new

color. Retired Lt. Col. William O'Brien and retired Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Norrad were among those weighing in on the decision. They said they had trouble finding a color not already in use and chose red because it was available and looked better with the uniform combinations. The first class of combat controllers to receive red berets graduated in 1978.

Prior to 1966, Pararescuemen repeatedly tried and failed to join the ranks of forces wearing berets. Despite their heroic performance in Vietnam and as members of NASA's recovery teams, the Air Force would not approve their request. Then, fortune smiled on them. A NASA mission ended with the spaceship far from land and in danger of sinking. PJs jumped into the ocean and placed a collar around the capsule to keep it afloat until U.S. Naval ships recovered the astronaut.

According to then Pararescueman Master Sgt James Alderisio, during a follow-up appearance on the "Ed Sullivan Show," a pararescue representative and an officer assigned to Air Force Headquarters shook hands on a deal allowing PJs to wear maroon berets. On May 26, 1966, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell approved the policy.

By far, the most colorful story about Special Tactics berets comes from Combat Weathermen. According to retired combat weatherman Master Sgt. Johnny Reid, a man

named Henry Kelly was assigned to a Combat Control Team and was wearing that team's blue beret when Air Commando Combat Weather Teams were established in the early 1960s.

Inspired by Mr. Kelly, Capt. Kenneth Grimes, then commander of the Combat Weather team at Hurlburt Field, presented gray berets to his men one day in 1962.

With no other authorization, the weathermen wore the new headgear until base commanders stopped the practice sometime in 1967.

In the 1970s, the Air Force stood up Special Operations Weather Teams authorizing team members the wear of "medium blue" berets, similar to those once worn by the Army's 101st Airborne Division.

Other weathermen, like Kelly before them, wore the beret color of whatever unit they were assigned to. This unauthorized practice helped build team esprit d' corps wherever the weatherman served but failed to provide one standard beret for all. In 1986, the Air Force finally authorized the "pewter gray" beret for wear by all combat weathermen.

Whatever the color of the beret, those in the Air Force who wear them have been singled out as highly trained specialists who perform duties demanding the highest of mental and physical discipline. They're routinely the "first there," placing their lives on the line "so that others may live."



Pararescue



Combat Control



Combat Weather



TACP

People may see Hurlburt Field airmen wearing the above berets. Black beret-wearing **Tactical Air Control Party** airmen, although not categorized under Air Force Special Tactics, are trained and stationed here and work closely with U.S. Army combat units, acting as liaisons to call for close air support.

**LEE PONTIAC
COMM/LOT 3
542037
5 X 4.50**

Sports shorts

Varsity softball tryouts

Tryouts for the Hurlburt Field men's varsity softball team have begun. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Chuck Shepherd at 884-5774, or Master Sgt. Scott Bowen at 884-2358.

Intramural golf season

Intramural golf will begin early this year, kicking off April 1. A 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.



Photo by Senior Airman Sam Taylor

Mat matters

Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander (right), urges on 16th SOW Command Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Alicea while counting his pushups during a physical fitness test at the main fitness center, Thursday. Fitness evaluations based on the new Air Force standards are now being conducted for units throughout the base.

AFSOC foils Services for big 63-57 win

Over 30, 40 intramural championship games Monday, Tuesday



Photos by Senior Airman Sam Taylor

A 16th Services Squadron over-40 intramural basketball player (above, right) slips past an Air Force Special Operations Command player at game, Wednesday. (right) A Services player takes a shot.

By Senior Airman
Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

The Air Force Special Operations Command over-40 intramural basketball team overcame the 16th Services Squadron team for a 63-57 win, Wednesday.

After holding the lead for most of the game, Services "just ran out of gas," said Chris Myers, a player with the team.

AFSOC over-40 coach Elvis Jackson said his quicker players took advantage of Services' fatigue.

"Services put up a good

fight, but the speed of our point guards and forwards caught them," said Jackson, who also plays as a guard on the over-30 AFSOC team.

In 2003, AFSOC lost the over-30 championship game to the 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron. At noon Tuesday, AFSOC will get a rematch with LRS1.

"We're undefeated this year," said Jackson. "We're going to win that game and have an undefeated season."

AFSOC also vies for the over-40 championship Monday at noon, versus the Chiefs team.



Air Force NASCAR revs up for new season

by Master Sgt. Charles Ramey
Air Warfare Center Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – With some of the fastest 2004 pre-season track test speeds, the Air Force-sponsored Wood Brothers Racing No. 21 NASCAR team is focused on victory in 2004.

After spending three months moving to a new home, working with a new crew chief and preparing for several new rules that accompany a new cup series, the Wood Brothers Racing team plans to deliver on the track.

"All the changes we've made over the past 53 years don't equal what we've done in the past four months," said Eddie Wood, who co-owns and manages the oldest

continuously operating team in NASCAR.

In addition to changes in location, the team has a new leader in the pits with the addition of Ben Leslie, former crew chief for Roush Racing's No. 6 car, driven by Mark Martin.

"It's an honor to represent the Air Force," Mr. Leslie said during a recent track test at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. "We have an incredible group of people who did a bunch of work in the off-season and it's paying off so far.

"Ricky (Rudd, the car's driver) is top-notch, with the talent and experience on this team, we feel like we owe it to everyone to deliver a car and support from the pits that will win at least one race and

put us in the top 10 in points," Mr. Leslie said.

The crew has already delivered, posting the fastest lap in the 2004 record book for pre-season testing at the Daytona International Speedway in January. Driver Ricky Rudd piloted the No. 21 Motorcraft/Air Force Ford Taurus through a 47.753-second/188.470-mph lap.

"We've got high expectations this year," Mr. Rudd said. "We had some good runs last year but we weren't as consistent as we needed to be. We identified early on what some of our weaknesses were and a lot of that came from the lack of the more aggressive technology coming into the sport.

"We'll shoot for every pole and



Photo by Larry McTigue

The Air Force Ford-sponsored Wood Brothers No. 21 Ford Taurus, driven by Ricky Rudd, is shown here during a practice run at Daytona International Speedway, Feb. 11.

every win we can get and see what we can do," he said. (AFPN)