



COMMANDO

Any Time Any Place

Daily Newsletter Vol. 1, Issue 2

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Sept. 20, 2004

Hurlburt evacuees return to base, continue with recovery operations

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

After being evacuated from the base for a week, Hurlburt Field members returned to work this morning to continue with base recovery efforts after Hurricane Ivan.

The hurricane swept through Hurlburt early Thursday morning causing wind damage to roofs, downed trees, and a loss of power.

The immediate response by the base's recovery team is bringing operations back to normal as quickly as possible and now that all military and mission-essential civilians have returned to duty, things will move along even faster.

In coordination with the 96th Air Base Wing commander, administrative leave or evacuation status, as applicable, will terminate at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21, for all Hurlburt Field assigned non-mission essential Department of Defense civilian personnel. All personnel must report for normal duty Wednesday, Sept. 22.

Although operations are coming along, people should keep in mind that some facilities and services will not be available right away or may be open on a limited basis.

"As more facilities get up and running, we'll push that information out to the base as soon as possible," said Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander. "Our goal is to bring the base back to normal operational status as rapidly as we can, but making sure we do it in a safe and efficient manner."

Agencies address claims, travel voucher procedures

Claims resulting from Hurricane Ivan will be handled at the Deployment Control Center (DCC) beginning Wednesday, Sept. 22, and will continue each day after that from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. These claims WILL NOT be accepted at the legal office.

As you begin to assess your home and personal property and determine whether you wish to make a claim, you must keep certain things in mind. First, if you live off

base, the Air Force will not pay for any damage to your personal property. This includes food spoilage. For financial help, you will need to turn to your insurance company, or if you do not have insurance, then the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Air Force MAY provide coverage to you if your vehicle was located on base during the storm, but only if your vehicle was on base "incident to service." This means that if you own two

cars, evacuated with only one of them, and put the other car on base so that the Air Force would cover it, you are probably out of luck. If, however, your vehicle was parked on base because you were evacuated to Patrick AFB, Fla., as part of the recovery team, then you will probably be covered.

Second, if you live on base, you MUST

See **CLAIMS**, Page 2



Photo by Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis

Members from the 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron gather trees and branches in a pile outside of their facility. Base personnel returned to duty this morning after a week-long evacuation to safe havens due to Hurricane Ivan which ripped through the installation Sept. 16. Units from all across the base are continuing with base recovery efforts.

People may notice longer lines at certain facilities, so having patience will make it easier on everyone to adjust to this situation while things are getting back to normal.

All units across the base are pitching in to help with base recovery along with assistance from outside agencies.

"Everyone should be focusing their combined efforts on recovery operations," Colonel Mannon said. "The base won't be the same as it was over night, but with everyone working together it shouldn't take long."

A listing of open facilities/services can be found on Page 2 .

Commander's Column



Col. O.G. Mannon
16th SOW/CC

To ensure your safe return to Hurlburt Field Military Family Housing following the Hurricane Ivan evacuation, all residents are advised that recovery efforts in and around MFH are ongoing and will continue for some time. These efforts include removal of storm debris and downed trees, as well as assessment and repair of structural damage to homes.

Residents may assist in the general clean up of their homes and yards. Debris should be gathered and piled along access roads and piled in "like" piles, i.e...metal/tin pile, branches/leaves pile, etc. Trash should be bagged and trash bags stacked next to roads for pick-up. **Anything potentially hazardous (i.e... downed power lines, drooping ceilings, etc) should be avoided, cordoned off, and the civil engineer squadron should be notified via the survival recovery center (SRC) 884-1154 (until further notice).** If possible, to facilitate claims processing residents should photograph damaged household items/goods prior to clean-up.

Only CE personnel/authorized contractors are permitted to use

chainsaws/like equipment to remove downed trees. Residents are generally advised to exercise extreme caution and avoid trees/wooded areas in MFH until removal efforts are complete. Additionally, the Community Park and all neighborhood playgrounds are off-limits until CE personnel can assess and/or repair any damage to playground equipment. Additionally, the hurricane washed up potentially hazardous debris—residents are strongly cautioned to restrict movement of family members/children to swept paved areas. Residents will be notified when these areas are safe to use.

For the immediate future CE will concentrate its efforts on major damages and repairs; residents should anticipate delays in processing routine housing maintenance requests. We ask all residents for their patience as we work to recover from Hurricane Ivan and return Hurlburt Field to world-class status. Please contact the military family housing office at 884-7505, if you have any questions or require further information.

Until further notice, the Community Park and other neighborhood parks are off-limits as CE personnel can assess and repair any damage.

CLAIMS, Continued from Page 1

file with your insurance company BEFORE filing a claim with the legal office. The ONLY exception to this would be if your claim is for less than your deductible, in which case you will need to provide proof of insurance declaration.

Third, whether you live on-base or off-base, if you decide to file a claim you will need to provide substantiation/proof of how much it costs to either repair your property or how much your property was worth, if it was destroyed. This is the same kind of proof your insurance company will require of you and will be something along the line of a repair estimate or documented proof of what your property cost. Realize, the Air Force pays at a depreciated rate, rather than a replacement rate. This means if you bought your TV two years ago for \$300, the Air Force will not pay you \$300, but rather what your TV would be worth today. This system of reimbursement is identical to how PCS moving claims are paid.

Finally – photograph, photograph, photograph!!! Your claims will be processed more easily and more quickly if you have pictures of your damaged property. If you do not have pictures, your claim will still be processed, but it may take longer.

The legal office will do everything we can to help you file and receive your claims as quickly and painlessly as possible. Just remember that we must evaluate every claim on a case-by-case basis and we cannot prejudge a claim. The specific DD Forms you will need to fill out will be available at the DCC starting Wednesday, along with a checklist of what other forms you will need for each type of claim. **Also, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, there will be informational briefings at the base theater on the claims and finance procedures at 8 a.m., noon and 3 p.m. Members who deployed to Fort Campbell, Ky., or who were part of the deployed recovery and reception teams, must attend a briefing at the (DCC), from noon - 5 p.m., Tuesday.**

Facility hours

The following facilities will be open during these hours until further notice or otherwise posted:

Child Development Center - 6:15 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Extended Care Programs - available

Reef Dining Facility - open for breakfast, lunch and dinner

Riptide Dining Facility - open for breakfast, lunch and dinner

Riptide Fitness Center - open Tuesday

Aderholt Fitness Center - 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Library - normal hours of operation

Shopette/AutoPride - normal hours of operation

Commissary - normal hours of operation

J.R. Rockers - 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Bowling Center - Tuesday at 4 p.m. until?

Soundside - open Thursday for functions

Family Support Center - will be opening the Family Assistance Center Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Members can call 884-5441 or 877-571-7209 for more information.

Medical Clinic - will resume operations Wednesday by appointment only. Emergency services are available.

Chapel Services - **Daily** - Catholic Mass, 11:30 a.m., **Tuesday** - Single Ministry, 6:30 p.m., at family support center **Wednesday** - Mid-week bible study, 6:45 a.m., **Saturday** - Catholic Mass, 5:30 p.m., **Sunday** - Catholic Mass, 7:15 a.m., Traditional Protestant, 8:30 a.m., Catholic Mass, 10 a.m., Contemporary Protestant, 11:30 a.m.



Safety tips

- When entering any building or home use precaution, items may be loose
- If traffic lights are down, treat every intersection as a four way stop
- Watch out for downed power lines, broken glass and snakes
- Unless you're part of an official recovery operation, stay out of damaged areas
- If stopped by local authorities while traveling to and from Hurlburt Field during local curfew hours, recovery team members should identify themselves as part of the base recovery team. All others may be detained.
- On-base members can call the survival recovery center at 884-1154 to report storm damage.

Hurricane Ivan: *Picking up the pieces*

Members of Hurlburt Field, along with dozens of other communities, are cleaning up after Hurricane Ivan stormed through the base Thursday toppling trees, damaging powerlines and even overturning displayed aircraft at the Air Park.

Fortunately, electricity to Hurlburt Field homes and facilities are back up again. Water is also safe to drink, however residents just returning to base are advised to run their faucets for about 15 minutes before consuming tap water.

Military personnel and mission essential Department of Defense civil service personnel returned to work today. Non-mission essential DOD civil service personnel are required to return to work for normal duty Wednesday.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Kimberly Gilligan

Electricians from the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron (above), work to repair electricity around Hurlburt Field Saturday. (Below) This home, like many others at Commando Village, sustained considerable damage from toppled trees and high winds during the hurricane.



Airmen (above) return to Hurlburt Field from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. after the storm to find their dormitories damaged Sunday. (Below) Service members clear roadway debris.

