



# COMMANDO

Any Time Any Place

Daily Newsletter Vol. 1, Issue 1

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Sept. 19, 2004

## Hurlburt recovers aircraft, establishes reporting time

By Capt. Tom Knowles  
Public Affairs

More than 30 aircraft assigned to Hurlburt Field safely returned to the base today after having evacuated to Ft. Campbell Ky. Sept. 13 to escape the path of Hurricane Ivan. Meanwhile, recovery team members continued to make great strides in their efforts to recover the base and bring it back up to operational status.

"We're working hard to rapidly return the base to normal operations," said Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander. "Every base agency is fully engaged to ensure this happens in the safest and most expeditious manner."

While recovery team members were busy whipping the base into shape, Colonel Mannon took additional steps to kick recovery operations into high gear by requiring all military personnel and mission essential Department of Defense civil service personnel to report for work at 8 a.m. Monday. Upon reporting to work, all assigned 16th Special Operations Wing personnel will focus their combined efforts on recovery operations.

In coordination with the 96th Air Base Wing commander,



Photo by Airman 1st Class Kimberly Gilligan

**A combat controller with the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron, performs air traffic control duties on Hurlburt Field's airfield. Aircraft returned today after being deployed almost a week due to Hurricane Ivan.**

administrative leave or evacuation status, as applicable, will terminate at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2004 for all Hurlburt Field assigned non-mission essential Department of Defense civilian personnel. All personnel must report for normal duty Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2004.

Individual supervisors should also be contacted if specific personnel status is unknown.

## Finance, legal claims and family support provide assistance

Beginning Monday, Sept. 20, 2004, the Family Assistance Center (FAC), located next to the 16th Special Operations Wing Headquarters Building, will be opening its doors to offer limited family support services. There, you will be able to contact family support personnel, the American Red Cross, and Air Force Aid, among other services. In addition, a phone bank will be set up with free long distance calling cards so you can contact family out of the local area.

Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2004,

both finance and the legal claims office will open processing stations at the DCC. Additional services will be available at the DCC including family support, the chaplain, and representatives from some major insurance companies. For these processing stations, the DCC will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Before coming to the DCC, however, make sure you have the required documents for your legal claims and you've been cleared BY YOUR SQUADRON COMMANDER to file your travel vouchers.

Each unit is required to compile a list of all military and DOD civil service personnel who evacuated to include their dependents. Please contact your unit to provide required information. Once your unit has submitted this list, you will be notified to process through the processing stations at the DCC. All evacuation entitlement travel voucher settlements will be handled at this location. To expedite processing, the following information is

See **CLAIMS**, Page 3

# Hurlburt Field terminates evacuation orders

As of 2 p.m. Saturday, the "All Clear" was issued for Hurlburt Field, meaning mission essential activities may resume. Dependent and non-mission essential civilian personnel are also authorized to return to the local area.

All 16th Special Operations Wing military and Department of Defense civil service personnel are directed to report to the local area not later than 11:59 p.m. today. Upon returning to the local area, all personnel will report to their squadron commander or functional equivalent for instructions regarding specific reporting to duty requirements. Failures to comply with this order will result in actions under the UCMJ.

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, 2004 for all Hurlburt Field assigned non-mission essential Department of Defense civilian personnel. All personnel must report for normal duty Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2004.

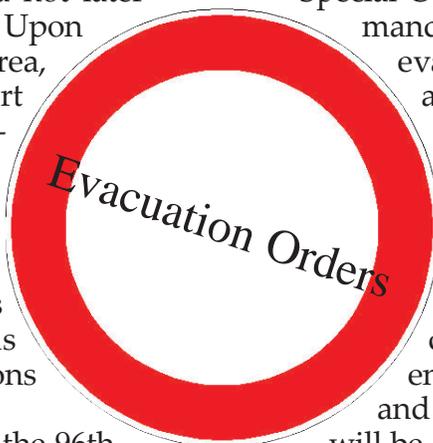
While dependents are welcome to return, it's important for them to realize that local conditions are not ideal. Both power and water services are not completely re-established throughout the local area and may not be restored within the next 3 weeks. Additionally, the 3-county damage area is significant, and there

are limited shelter facilities/hotel vacancies available to support you if your primary residence is uninhabitable. With this in mind, we want to provide family members with maximum flexibility when considering their return plans. Dependents are authorized to remain in their respective safe haven area until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2004 when the 16th

Special Operations Wing commander will terminate the evacuation order and all evacuation entitlements will cease. If family members return to the local area before Sept. 21, 2004, their evacuation entitlements will cease upon your re-entry to the local area and any costs incurred will be at their own expense.

If they remain in their respective safe haven after Sept. 21, 2004, evacuation entitlements will cease at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2004 and any costs incurred will be at their own expense.

In the meantime, we will make every effort to keep the Maxwell Webpage, [www.maxwell.af.mil](http://www.maxwell.af.mil), and the Air Force Personnel Center hotline, 1-800-435-9941, updated with the most current information. However, the Hurlburt Field based reception team has ceased operations at the Maxwell location as of 1 p.m. CDT today. This supersedes the previous guidance released at 12:30 a.m. Saturday.



## Damage reporting

Members who reside in family housing should call 884-1154/3064 if there is damage to your home.

## Commander's Column



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

First let me say how thankful I am that our Air Force family at Hurlburt Field made it through Hurricane Ivan without any injuries. The storm is being said to have been the worst hurricane to ever hit the Florida Panhandle. Although the storm has passed, the work of rebuilding our facilities, homes and lives has just begun.

As we begin this task, I want each of you to keep safety in the forefront of your mind while conducting recovery operations to get things back in order. Just remember, facilities can be replaced, you cannot!

### Think Safety!

- When entering any building or home use precaution, items may be loose
- Stop lights are down, so 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.

## American Red Cross Safety tips



### Begin assessing your home

- Is it safe and secure
- Check inside, outside and foundation
- Are utilities on?
- What is damaged?
- What can be saved?
- What can be cleaned?
- Can you stay in your home?
- Can you cook and store food safely?

### Identify your available resources

- Call your insurance agent
- Call your landlord or property manager
- Check with friends and family in the area for possible immediate help if needed

### If you cannot stay in your home

- Pack a few changes of clothing, bedding, essential medications and toiletries
- Kennel your pets or take them to a safe place
- Arrange to stay with family, friends, or in a recovery shelter
- Contact family members to let them know where you are and that you're OK

Call the Red Cross at 866-GET-INFO (438-5636) to find the nearest shelter location

# Commissary open for business

The Hurlburt Field commissary is open for business as of today. While the commissary is scheduled to be open throughout the week, future hours of operation have not been determined at this time. Commissary patrons should direct questions regarding hours of operation, available items, etc. to 881-2150.

Commissary patrons are limited to U.S. military personnel, retirees and their families only.

All commissary baggers must report to duty immediately. All other commissary personnel, unless otherwise contacted by the commissary staff, must report to their supervisor immediately for duty instructions.

## CLAIMS, Continued from Page 1

required: completed travel voucher (available at processing station), copy of any advance payment paperwork, receipts for hotels, and receipts for any authorized expense over \$75.

For claims, you will need to file your claim with the base you live on, NOT the base where you work. If you live off base, you're not eligible to file a claim for loss of personal property or food spoilage, but you may be eligible to file a claim for damage to your car if it was parked on base while fulfilling official duties.

There are three types of claims. For each claim, you will need to complete DD Forms 1842 and 1844 (both of which will be available at the DCC), and a Power of Attorney, if applicable. You will need the additional information for each type of claim: 1) **Food Spoilage** - an itemized list of lost food. 2) **Vehicle Damage** - The first thing you need to do is contact your insurance company. Once you have done that you will need: a copy of your vehicle registration, a copy of your insurance declaration, and a minimum of 1 (preferable 2) repair estimates. Your claim, if approved, will cover a portion or all of your deductible. 3) **Personal Property** - Again, the first thing you need to do is contact your insurance company. Once you have done that you will need: a breakdown of payment from your private insurance company, and a repair or replacement estimate for items over \$100. Each claim will be looked at on a case-by-case basis, and to help the claims process, you should take pictures of your damaged property.

For more information about the services available at the Family Assistance Center contact them at 884-5441. Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2004, and continuing until Friday, Sept. 24, 2004, mass informational briefings will be held at the base theater at numerous times during the day to inform you about the claims and finance process. Times will be posted by close of business Monday.

### 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.

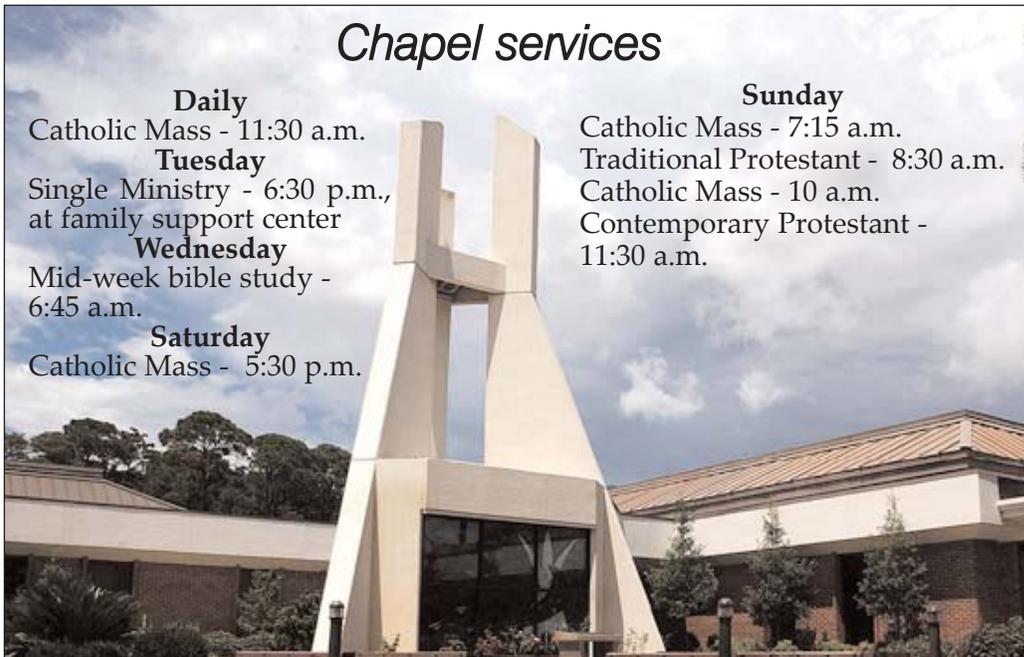
#### Sunday

Catholic Mass - 7:15 a.m.

Traditional Protestant - 8:30 a.m.

Catholic Mass - 10 a.m.

Contemporary Protestant -  
11:30 a.m.



## Public Health Home Tips

### Water:

- Do not drink tap water until notified it is safe to do so. Testing results should be available by 1500 hrs today (results will be emailed to everyone and posted on the marquee)!
- Run taps for ten to fifteen minutes to flush system. If you are experiencing loss in pressure, please try again later. Too many open faucets can affect pressure.
- Boiling water or use of bottled water is recommended for use in food preparation and teeth brushing until tap water is confirmed potable (cleared to drink).
- When washing dishes, use a sanitizing step to your normal procedure; Fill a pot of water (big enough to fit your dishes) or sink and add 2 table spoons (2 caps full) of chlorine (bleach) to one gallon of water. Submerge your dishes after the wash cycle for 20 seconds, this will destroy any germs from your food contact surfaces. Change solution when you can no longer see the bottom of pot/sink or can't smell chlorine in water. This sanitizing solution can be used to sanitize all surfaces in your home. A spray bottle and paper towels will work wonders.
- Water can be used for bathing, clothes washing or pet water.

### Food:

- Your refrigerated foods have been affected by the power outage and must be inspected carefully. Potentially hazardous foods are any meat items, any meat filled items, any dairy products or high protein sources (rule of thumb - if it has to be refrigerated, it's probably a potentially hazardous food).
- Look and smell each refrigerated item:
  - Uncover/unwrap all items to inspect
  - Look for mold, discoloration, bulging containers or off odors (another rule of thumb, when it doubt throw it out).
- In the freezer:
  - Look for signs of thawing foods and cross-contamination (pork, beef, fish or chicken juices touching each other).
  - Look for changes in coloring of foods or freezer burn (ice buildup on outside of food)
  - If meat is thawed (color good, no ice forming on outside, and no slime or off odor), cook immediately even if you don't eat right away you can now refrigerate and eat later.
  - Do not refreeze food items. People will forget about distressed foods and mix them in with new food purchases.

**PLEASE USE DOUBLE BAGS WHEN DISPOSING OF FOOD ITEMS!**

*Happy Birthday*

**U.S. Air Force**

The Department of the Air Force was born Sept. 18, 1947 when the first Secretary of the Air Force, W. Stuart Symington was sworn in and the U.S. Army transferred over all air activities.

# Base weathers Hurricane Ivan, begins recovery efforts

By Capt. Tom Knowles  
Public Affairs

Hurlburt Field recovery team personnel began initial base recovery efforts Thursday, signaling that dangers related to Hurricane Ivan had passed. The recovery team, composed of a cross section of personnel and specialties, is responsible for securing the base; assessing damage caused by the storm; repairing or removing debris and beginning the process of bringing the base back up to operational status.

"The entire team is working hard to rapidly bring our people home and return the base to normal operations," said Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander. "Everyone is fully engaged to ensure this happens in the safest and most expeditious manner possible."

Most of the base's visible preliminary damage assessments consist of downed trees and wind damaged

roofs. Overall structural and water damage to base facilities is believed to be minimal. On-going assessments continue to determine the full extent of damages to the base. There were no Hurlburt Field personnel injured as a result of the storm.

Due to the threat posed by the hurricane, Hurlburt Field aircraft were evacuated to Ft. Campbell Ky. Sept. 13 as a precaution designed to safeguard valuable military assets and ensure combat readiness. That same day, Colonel Mannon directed a mandatory evacuation of all Hurlburt Field military members, civilian employees and their dependents. The category three hurricane made landfall Thursday morning near Pensacola.

"The bottom line is we didn't want anyone hurt," said Colonel Mannon. "We can replace buildings, but we can't replace our most valuable asset...our people."

Base personnel and their families were required to evacuate not later than 11:59 p.m. Sept. 14 to pre-designated safe haven states located in Georgia, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina and parts of Florida.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson

Fifty-one members of the base recovery team arrived back to Hurlburt Field Friday, after being deployed to Moody AFB, Ga. before Hurricane Ivan swept through the Florida Panhandle. The recovery team led by Lt. Col. Nancy Kunkel, 16th Maintenance Group deputy commander, is responsible for securing the base; assessing damage caused by the storm; repairing or removing debris and beginning the process of bringing the base back up to operational status.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Kimberly Gilligan

This "SeaSick" boat found its way to shore during Hurricane Ivan early in the morning on the Soundside. The boat is just one piece of debris in the large clean-up that the base and the local area have to face.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Kimberly Gilligan

This building sustained significant structural damage along with other facilities around the base.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Kimberly Gilligan

Two small aircraft located across from Hurlburt Field's Air Park were tossed on their backs as Hurricane Ivan ripped through the base in the early hours Sept. 16.

# Recovery efforts



Photos by Airman 1st Class Kimberly Gilligan

**16th Civil Engineer Squadron members (above) repair roof damage. (Left) Base members remove one of the aircraft that was flipped over in the Air Park due to Hurricane Ivan's strong winds. (Below) Fallen trees and branches are being picked up all around the base. Units throughout the base are part of the recovery effort to get the installation back up to operational status.**

