# COMMANDO

Any Time Any Place

Vol. 53, Issue 10 | 16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla. | March 11, 2005

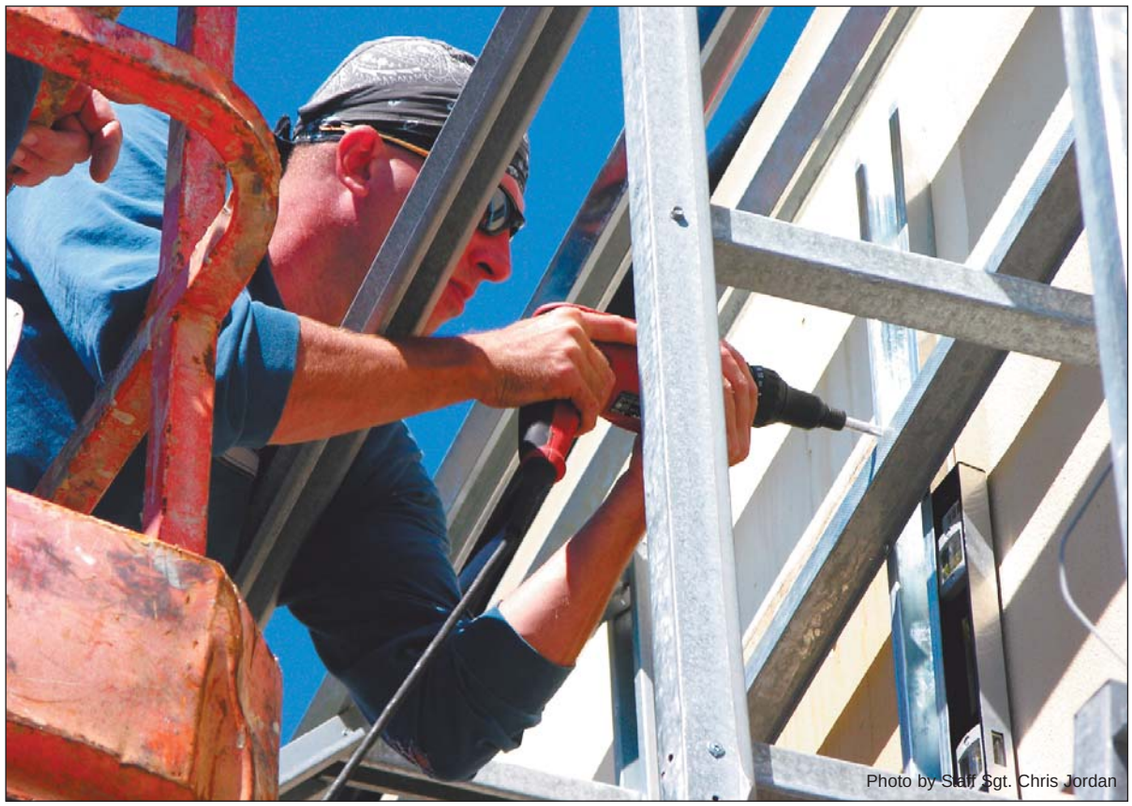



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Jordan

***Changing phases***

**Chad Ankenbrand, contractor, prepares to install a new overhang at the mini-mall Tuesday. The new overhang is three times the strength of the overhang that was damaged during Hurricane Ivan, Sept. 16, 2004. See the complete story about continuing recovery operations on Page 4.**

# Education center receives kudos from CCAF

**By Senior Airman Heidi Davis**
*Public Affairs*

In recognition of their outstanding achievements in developing Air Force human resources, the staff at the Hurlburt Field Education Services Center was awarded the 2004 Community College of the Air Force Recognition Award.

Each year, the CCAF Education Services Advisory Panel recognizes two education centers –one for producing the largest percentage of graduates and the other for the largest number of graduates.

In 2004, the base education services center produced the largest number of CCAF graduates – 240 Airmen earned Associate of Applied Science degrees – representing 3.9 percent of the assigned enlisted population during the calendar year.

"It's a huge accomplishment," said Lt. Gen. Michael Wooley,AFSOC commander, "and makes the Air Force Special Operations Command family of warrior Airmen extremely proud."

As a unit of AFSOC, the Hurlburt Field Education Center competed against the education centers at 11th Wing, Moody Air Force Base, Ga., the U.S. Air Force Academy and the Air Intelligence Agency.

"We extend our appreciation and congratulations to the base education center staff for their outstanding performance and commitment to education excellence," said Lt. Gen. John Regni, Air University commander.

# Hurlburt Field pilot set to receive top safety award

**By Master Sgt. Kevin Owen**
*19th Special Operations Squadron*

One of Hurlburt Field's own has been tapped to receive one of the most prestigious Air Force Safety Awards.

Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, will present Capt. Steven Edwards with the 2004 Koren Kolligian Jr. Trophy during a ceremony at the Pentagon May 6.

Captain Edwards, a flight commander and MH-53 helicopter pilot assigned to the 20th Special Operations Squadron, will receive the top safety award for saving aircraft and crew members after surviving enemy fire during an Operation Iraqi Freedom mission.

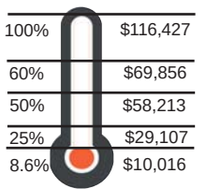
MH-53 PAVE LOW helicopters had flown countless missions since the start of the operation virtually without incident. Unfortunately, on April 12, 2004, in the deserts of central Iraq, a rocket propelled grenade struck Captain Edwards' helicopter causing severe damage to the windscreen and decimating its flight control instruments. The impact of the strike caused serious injuries to Captain Edwards, his copilot and flight engineer.

Faced with uncertain damage to the aircraft and injuries, he was forced to set down in enemy territory. With the lives of his crew and himself at stake, Captain Edwards instantly overcame the initial shock of injury.

"I remember my first thoughts after the initial explosion were of a fallen comrade and of my family," he said.

*See **AWARD,** Page 6*

## *2005 Air Force Assistance Fund*




Two and a half weeks into the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign, Hurlburt Field has raised more than $10,000, and has reached two percent participation.

**Funds goal:** $116,427 **Participation goal:** 75%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**Weather forecast**

Today – Isolated showers; High 65, Low 49
Saturday – Partly cloudy; High 69 Low 56
Sunday – Partly cloudy; High 72, Low 54

# Viewpoints

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, call 884-OPEN (6736) or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil. Be sure to include 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 a phone call.

However, 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.

**Col. O.G. Mannon**

Photo by Airman 1st Class Ali Flisek

## *Honoring women*

**Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, signs a poster proclaiming March as Women's History Month. For more information on events and activities celebrating Women's History Month, call Tech. Sgt. Janet DeSalle at 884-5770.**

# Hurlburt Field tuition assistance discontinued

Due to recent funding shortages, tuition assistance will be discontinued for all Hurlburt Field military students. In the meantime, base officials will make every effort to reinstate tuition assistance as soon as fiscally possible. This policy is effective immediately and will remain in effect until further notice.

Once funding is received, military students pursuing a course of study during a term of 10 weeks or less will receive tuition assistance for a maximum of six semester hours. Students pursuing a course of study during a term longer than 10 weeks will receive tuition assistance for a maximum of nine semester hours. Any student wishing to receive tuition assistance for more semester hours than those identified above must submit a request for waiver, with full justification, outlining the reason those limits should be exceeded. Some of the reasons to request additional credits are: temporary duty, work schedule, class schedule cycle, commissioning plans, retirement, separation from the Air Force and graduation.

This isn't an all-inclusive list. Updates will be posted in the Air Force Virtual Education Center at https://afvec.langley.af.mil/Pages/home.aspx. Any questions regarding the new policy should be directed to the education services officer at 884-6724.

# Reach out to family, friends affected by suicide

**By Col. Lela Holden**
*Office of the AF Surgeon General*

**BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C.** –I'm speaking for my friend. Im speaking for her because she won't speak for herself. The pain and conflict surrounding her husband's suicide several months ago drags on her spirit and her voice.

She's given me permission to speak for her. The message is simple. First, let me provide some important details that offer context without violating her privacy. My friend is active duty Air Force. Her husband was also active duty, but left the service. They are both over 40.

On the day he killed himself, he used the gun he insisted on having in the house. And he used that gun impulsively. She doesn't believe he intended to kill himself the day he pulled the trigger in a fit of anger. She experienced his suicide within the context of the intense efforts on the part of the Air Force to reduce suicides. Certainly there are few goals more worthy.

She went to extensive lengths to try to help him, but ultimately she couldn't prevent this tragic act. His problems had been many years in the making, and he had sought medical help. There's surely some guilt in living with this tragedy, but to all those who subtly look at her and ask, "Couldn'tyou have done more?" the answer is no. She needed then –and needs now– support and compassion, not pity. But most of all, she needs more than silence. She has been astonished that so many who knew both of them have been unable to simply say: "I'm sorry for your loss." This condolence and compassion would've come if he had dropped dead of a heart attack.

Her loss and grief are no less intense because of the method by which he died. She lost her husband much sooner than she expected in the natural course of life. This is one of the painful mysteries of this life: none of us can ultimately say why things happen. To acknowledge her loss and pain is the compassionate thing to do. She's astonished that so many say nothing. So, to all of us who want to do the right thing related to suicide, to reach out to those at risk, let's not forget the ones left behind when these tragedies occur. Spouses, friends, supervisors, mental health professionals who tried to help, all who are left behind need to hear that ultimately they did not kill Joe, Pete, or Mary. Joe, Pete or Mary killed himself. And we need to reach out to those left behind and say something simple, sincere, and helpful: "I know this is a difficult time for you. I'm very sorry for your loss." There are many things we can't do that we "can" do.

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Free classified advertisements are available to Department of Defense military members, DOD civilians and retirees and their family members only. Advertisements are for the one-time sale of personal property only and will run only once per submission. Advertisements for businesses or income producing activities may not be printed. All advertisements must be manually typed into the advertising database computer located in the public affairs office in Building 90210, Suite 326. Mailed, faxed, e-mailed, phoned-in ads, etc. won't be accepted. All ads will run on a space available basis only. Submission of an advertisement doesn't guarantee its appearance in the COMMANDO. The COMMANDO staff reserves the right to edit or refuse classified advertisements due to inappropriate content, space considerations or other reasons deemed necessary. Paid advertisements may be submitted to the Daily News at 863-1111. This is the only way to guarantee an advertisement will run in the COMMANDO.

**Production**

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photography unless otherwise indicated. The COMMANDO staff may include or exclude articles based upon the news value determined by the staff, impact on the wing's mission, and the space allotted for editorial content by the publisher.

**Submitting articles**

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is 4 p.m. Wednesday for briefs 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. All submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call for questions.

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## DUI Tracker

**Feb. 4 – March 10:** *0 DUI*
**This year:** *4*
**DUIs for 2004:** *42*
**Last DUI:** *16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron, March 5*

*Don't Drink and Drive. Call AADD at 884-8844*

**Potential saves this year:***88*

| | |
|---|---|
| 16th OG...18 | 16th MSG...**50** |
| 16th MXG...**4** | 16th MDG..**84** |

Individual groups get a down day for 60 consecutive days without a DUI. Totals are current as of March 10.

# Base gears up for Special Operations family day

**By Master Sgt. Kevin Owen**
*19th Special Operations Squadron*

Organizers are making final preparations for the first ever SOF Family Fest next week.

The event was organized as a way to introduce Special Operations Forces to families and friends of personnel assigned to Hurlburt Field, Duke Field and the AFSOC units at Eglin Air Force Base, according to Senior Master Sgt. Steve Haggett, SOF Family Fest Project Director.

The family day, scheduled for March 19, is a combination of the annual 16th Services Squadron Family Fest and a new event designed as an orientation and education day for families to get to know the Special Operations community and the role they play in the Air Force.

Not to be compared to an air show, this event will feature mostly static displays.

The highlight of the day will be a MC-130 Combat Shadow refueling flyby conducted with two helicopters at noon. A fast-roping demonstration performed by SOF members will immediately follow the flyby.

Numerous aircraft and static displays will be set up along the flightline including the CV-22 Osprey and the Navy's Special Boat Unit.

Other entertainment such as children's activities, games, cultural dancing and music performances by the Air Force's rock band, the Night Hawks, will take place at various times throughout the day.

Free bottled water will be available at concession areas. Food and drinks will be also available for purchase.

Parking at the flightline will be limited. Organizers encourage event goers to use the shuttles that will be provided throughout the day. Visitors can board the shuttles at the commissary/base exchange parking lot, JR Rockers, the base chapel and at the 16th Special Operations Wing Headquarters building.

The SOF Family Fest is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### *Things to know before you go....*

Event: SOF Family Fest
Date: March 19, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Location: Flightline
Open to base personnel and their guests

### *Items authorized for event:*

Cameras, lawnchairs, strollers, sunscreen, cash for concession items

### *Items not authorized for event:*

The following items will not be allowed at event: Backpacks, coolers, outside food

# General honored for leadership during retirement ceremony

**By Vanessa Adame**
*Public Affairs*

Dozens of community leaders and coworkers bid their formal goodbyes to one of Hurlburt Field's top leaders last week.

The retirement ceremony was held March 4 at Freedom Hangar in honor of Maj. Gen. Richard Comer, Office of Coalition Coordination, Headquarters U.S. Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

Gen. Paul Hester, commander Pacific Air Forces at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, led the ceremony which culminated nearly 32 years of Air Force service for General Comer, a command pilot with more than 3,400 flying hours.

"There's a story every second in Rich Comer's life," General Hester said. "It's his life as a leader that burns brightest in our memory."

General Hester praised the general for "leading and inspiring" his troops and comrades, although General Comer attributed his good work and leadership to the service members who work alongside him who don't always get recognized for their hard work.

"Thank you for making all of us feel so good about being with you," General Hester told General Comer. "We will remember—but we'll always miss you and Stephanie in our Air Force."

Aside from receiving a certificate of appreciation from the Armed Forces, General Comer was also presented with the Distinguished Service Medal for his exceptional meritorious service.

After a lighthearted and witty speech, General Comer thanked the most important person in his life for her devoted support.

"Thank you for being the 'MVP' of all my life," he told his wife.

General Comer will officially retire in May.

# *Club launches program, help defray vision cost*

**By 1st Lt. Nathan Broshear**
*505th CCW Public Affairs*

Military members and their dependents have long enjoyed a healthcare system that's the envy of our civilian peers, but one detail in Tricare has some dependent children squinting while parents struggle to make ends meet.

"Tricare doesn't pay for children's eyeglasses," explained Keri Mueller, a board member of the Hurlburt Spouses' Club.

After the club identified this need, they created the Children's Eyeglass Program to help with the high cost of prescription eye wear. The program is open to dependents of active duty military members assigned to Hurlburt Field up to age 18. The intent is to help families who may require financial assistance to cover the cost of prescription glasses for their children.

Although there are no rank restrictions to meet, members must demonstrate a financial need to qualify for the program.

"It's a very simple form and the program is completely confidential,"explained Mrs. Mueller.

Each child is eligible for one pair of eyeglasses per year. Families with multiple children can also apply for each sibling. After forms are submitted, families can expect funds within a couple of days.

While the goal of the program is to help as many families as possible, the Hurlburt Spouses' Club must constantly raise funds to keep providing glasses.

"We're always looking for donations to help sustain the program," said Mrs. Mueller. "It's a very meaningful program and the more money we have, the more children we can help."

Applications are available at the child development center, the family support center and at the base exchange's optical shop.

For more information about the program, call Mrs. Mueller at (850) 939-8983.

# Longer deployment set for joint staff positions

**WASHINGTON** — In an effort to provide stability and allow for long-term relationship building with host governments, the Air Force is designating some positions in the United States Central Command Area of Responsibility as 365-day extended deployments.

The new tour lengths currently affect about 150 key and critical joint task force staff positions.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper directed the extended tours in response to requests from joint task force commanders seeking continuity in selected positions. These key positions are an integral part of combatant commander's mission and the Air Expeditionary Force structure. The selected positions will be converted from current AEF slots.

"The positions will span a wide spectrum of AF career fields with a mix of enlisted and officer positions," said Lt. Col. James Davis, Air Force chief of assignment classification, retirements and separation policy.

The Air Force Personnel Center will find people to fill most of the slots. Colonel Davis said selections would be made over the spring and summer assignment cycles with all in place by August. If there aren't enough volunteers, AFPC will use short tour criteria to fill the slots.

Although these deployments may appear to be remote tours, they are not Permanent Change of Station moves.

The positions will fall under the category of "Indeterminate Length" Temporary Duty assignments. That category allows for certain entitlements to apply that aren't available for standard temporary assignments.

Family members may also be eligible for standard short-tour benefits. Members may also have the option of returning to their former assignment, if there's a suitable vacancy.

Airmen serving the 365-day TDYs will receive short tour credit and be exempt from AEF or other contingency deployments for six months after their return home. Most of the positions will earn joint duty credit depending on the length of rotation.

# Air Commando living history series continues on base

**By Maj. Robert Hecht**
*505th Training Squadron*

Looking back it seems so natural to depict the forward air controllers who operated in Laos as Air Force renegades or cowboys with a natural disdain for playing by the rules during the Vietnam conflict.

Their long hair, mustaches, blue jeans and complete disregard for all uniformity certainly indicates this is the case. But the lengths at which these men went to cloak their identities pales in comparison to their contributions during the conflict.

Enlisted "Butterfly" Forward Air Controllers and their officer successors, "The Ravens," provided outstanding support to a variety of covert operations in Laos, with many paying the ultimate price.

The birth of the Butterfly Forward Air Controller program began with former CSAF Gen. Curtis Lemay's Jungle Jim Program in 1961. The program sought "independent-minded" volunteers from the Combat Control career field, especially parachute qualified enlisted controllers, to train in unconventional warfare.

The program was initially designed to train these controllers to parachute into austere locations and conduct typical combat controller operations such as setting up assault or parachute landing zones for follow on forces.

One of the first volunteers and instructors was Capt. Lemuel Egleston. Captain Egleston took the initiative to take the combat controller's training one dramatic step further. He appropriated instructors from the Air to Ground Operations School to teach his controllers techniques for calling in fighter and bomber airstrikes.

In Captain Egleston's first group of controllers was then Master Sgt. Charles Jones, an experienced combat controller with over 250 parachute jumps and a 12 year career that could be traced back to the Korean conflict. Sergeant Jones was deployed to Laos in 1966. Since U.S. military involvement was limited to U.S. Embassy personnel and only responsible to the U.S. Ambassador to Laos, U.S. military personnel going to Laos took on assumed identities or occupations. Stripped of all military identification and carrying papers that identified him as an employee of a civilian agency, "Mr. Jones" went to work to solve a problem that uniquely fit his talents.

The Ho Chi Minh Trail, which often violated Laotian sovereignty, proved to be a problematic target for strike pilots. Terrain, weather conditions and accurately identifying a target while operating a high-speed aircraft proved very difficult.

Demonstrating initiative and ignoring AF regulations, "Mr. Jones" sought the assistance of the CIA's clandestine Air America, which operated a variety of aircraft perfect for providing the link between fast moving strike aircraft and targets on the ground. Using the call-sign Butterfly 44, "Mr. Jones" and subsequent Butterflies provided excellent support to operations aimed at interdicting the Ho Chi Minh Trail, as well as supporting Gen Vang Pao's irregular forces engaged in a bloody border fight against North Vietnamese forces.

The Butterflies provided air to ground control for a variety of American, South Vietnamese, Thai and Laotian air operations. Often a Laotian or Thai interpreter accompanied the controllers sitting behind them in the cockpit, listening and providing the linguistic link to foreign pilots. After more than 400 combat missions and paving the way for future FAC operations, Butterfly 44 left Laos.

Sergeant Jones and his fellow Butterflies never elicited any curiosity from the CIA crews or flights he controlled about his abilities or rank. Using well established procedures, strike pilots naturally thought they were being controlled by experienced rated aircrew.

This little secret lasted until a meeting between 7th Air Force commander, Gen. William Momyer and Air Commander leader, then Col. Heine Aderholt. General Momyer reportedly went six feet up and hit the ceiling when Colonel Aderholt told him that enlisted personnel were FAC'ing strikes from Air America aircraft in Laos.

Thus ended the enlisted Butterfly FAC program and began the officer-only Raven FAC program. The end of the Butterflies didn't mean the end of FAC operations in Laos.

Recognized as an extremely effective operation, General Momyer simply replaced enlisted FACs with rated aircrew. The follow-on Ravens were certainly the beneficiaries of the Butterflies successes.

The legacy of the Butterflies and the Ravens is distinguished with stories of heroism and sacrifice by brave men who took the fight to the enemy in an unconventional manner. The Butterfly and Raven FACs demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism, devotion to duty and what it took to be an Air Commando.

## Living History Lecture Series

The third installment of the "Through the Eyes of a Commando" living history lecture series is set for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the U.S. Air Force Special Operations School. Speakers for the evening are retired Lt. Col. Jerry Klingaman and retired Chief Warrant Officer 3rd Class Dr. Charlie Jones. The series topic is "Butterfly and Raven Forward Air Controllers." For more information, call 1Lt. Shannon Ouder 884-3823.

# Special Duty Assignment team to visit Hurlburt Field

If you've ever wanted to have the opportunity to recruit sharp individuals into the Air Force as an AF recruiter, or mold civilians into Airmen as an Air Force military training instructor, the Air Education and Training Command Special Duty Briefing Team can answer any questions you may have concerning these challenging and rewarding careers.

The team will brief on all aspects of special-duty opportunities at 1 p.m. Tuesday in Building 91259 (20th Special Operations Squadron auditorium). Spouses are highly encouraged to attend. E-3s with more than 24 months time in service through E-7s with less than 17 years total active federal military service are invited to attend the briefing and are eligible to apply for these special-duty assignments.

The team can expedite the processing of an applicant's special-duty application if they bring it with them to the briefing.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the AETC special-duty application, call Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Hollis, 16th Special Operations Wing career advisor, at 884-3912.

# Base closer to recovery after hurricane

**By Staff Sgt. Chris Jordan**
*Public Affairs*

It's been six months since Hurricane Ivan swept through the area and created widespread damage to Hurlburt Field facilities. Throughout that time, the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron has been diligently working toward getting the base back in shape.

Since the onset of recovery operations, approximately 95 percent of military housing, including Soundside Manor and Commando Village, have repaired or replaced roofs and interiors. These areas also received the main concentration of relief immediately following the hurricane.

The child development center renovations are expected to be complete around May 1, after roof repairs and the installation of a new air conditioning system.

The Soundside Marina is currently being worked on, with piers and walkways expected to be completed around mid-May. The FamCamp is open for business, while members of the 16th CES are repairing the nature trail and other projects around the camp.

Other projects underway are the base theater and mini-mall. The theater, currently closed, is scheduled to be finished at the end of March and is getting roof repairs, new lighting and a new air conditioning system. The mini-mall is having its front overhang replaced to three times the strength it was before the hurricane.

Operationally, the 16th CES has finished repairs to the aircraft wash rack, and will be working on repairing roof damages to aircraft hangars. Also on the horizon is the replacement of windows in the Air Force Special Operations Command and 16th Special Operations Wing's headquarters building.

The construction is being completed to ensure greater stability and endurance to withstand future hurricane seasons.

Future projects include repairing the base exchange roof, which isn't expected to cause any closures, and replanting trees throughout the base. In the meantime, they'll work to repair remaining damages and ask for everyone's patience.

# Air Force maintains contact with missing service members families

**By Tech. Sgt. James Brabenec**
*AFPC Public Affairs*

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** – Wearing a nametag with the name of his brother, Raymond Kelly, a 74-year-old veteran, personifies the families of missing service members and their continued efforts to find closure for the loss of their loved ones.

In 1951, Airman 1st Class James Kelly's aircraft crashed in North Korea during the Korean War, and ever since, Mr. Kelly has searched for answers about his brother's disappearance.

Defense Department officials provided some of those answers during a regional family member update in San Antonio near here Feb. 26. The families received the latest information on their nearly 100 cases of missing servicemembers from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Included in that number were about 30 family members of missing Airmen, who met with Air Force Personnel Center missing persons branch Airmen from here.

Two of the attendees, Jennifer Romero and Deanna Lisle, said this was their first family member update. The daughters expressed their appreciation for efforts to find their father, 1st Lt. Clyde Campbell.

The A-1J Skyraider pilot crashed while on a close-air support mission in Laos on March 1969.

"Having come to this update, it's incredible to see what people are doing to... bring home people like our father," Ms. Romero said.

During her one-on-one session, she learned that Army Maj. Gen. Montague Winfield, commander of the Joint Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Accounting Command, is in Laos asking about her case and two others.

The one-on-one sessions give AFPC Airmen a chance to meet with family members, answer questions and take down requests for more information that requires additional research.

"Accounting for our missing service members is truly a mission of heart," said Jim Russell, missing persons branch chief. "For AFPC's missing persons team members, the opportunity to meet with families for the individual sessions just reinforces that viewpoint.

"All you have to do is look at a family member's facial expression (and) you immediately know what this means to them," he said. "Our main purpose is to be there as a liaison between the families and the Air Force and U.S. government. Through this work, we answer questions and (pass) information to and from the families to keep everyone up to date on efforts to account for their loved ones."

Throughout the day, DOD experts provided information on specific activities to locate those missing from the Korean and Vietnam wars. Detailed maps showed POW camps, battle locations and any other possible sites of Americans.

Family members also received briefings on the latest artifact analysis and DNA testing capabilities to help experts in the identification process. Other experts spoke about ongoing talks with North Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese officials to open up access to recovery locations within the former war zones.

Sometimes those talks produce rapid results, such as discussions between U.S. and Chinese officials in 2003 that allowed a DOD team to locate and investigate the crash site of Capt. Troy Cope's F-86 Sabre that was shot down in September 1952.

"The DOD team found the crash site through the assistance of a person who witnessed my uncle's crash 52 years ago. It's hard to believe a witness would turn up after all this time," said Chris Cope, nephew of Captain Cope.

A DOD recovery team returned in May 2004 and began the detailed process to unearth and document each item of the crash site. Rather than wait at home for news of the recovery, Mr. Cope flew to China to witness firsthand the recovery team's progress.

Having realized the closure all these families seek, Mr. Cope, along with other family members is planning a ceremony to welcome home his uncle and a funeral before Captain Cope's burial at the Dallas-Ft. Worth National Cemetery over the Memorial Day weekend. **(AFPC)**

## *AWARD,Continued from Page 1*

Despite the seriousness of the injuries to his crew and himself, he utilized his extraordinary piloting skills and airframe knowledge. Instinctively, he took control of the helicopter from the injured copilot and brought the helicopter to a safe and level flight profile despite having limited control and lacking flight instruments. He landed approximately one mile from the attack. A second MH-53 helicopter rescued the crew minutes before Iraqi forces arrived.

Captain Edwards' actions define Airmanship and are a testament to the high caliber of the service members assigned to Hurlburt Field.

The Koren Kolligian Jr.Trophy award was established in 1958 and is presented each year in memory of an Air Force pilot who was declared missing in the line of duty when his T-33 Shooting Star aircraft disappeared off the California coast in September 1955.

The trophy, a symbolic representation of an Air Force jet pilot surmounting a marble base, was established to recognize outstanding feats of Airmanship by aircrew members who by extraordinary skill, exceptional alertness, ingenuity or proficiency, averted accidents or minimized the seriousness of the accidents in terms of injury, loss of life, aircraft damage or property damage.

The trophy is the only Air Force individual safety award personally presented by the Air Force Chief of Staff.

CENTURY 21/ISLAND VIEW
CS/JULIE
567071
2 X 2.00

H&R BLOCK/NAVARRE
CS/RHP/SAVE FOR
572601
2 X 4.00

MILITARY MEDIA
CS/EXPAND WOMAN
572412
2 X 5.00

HISTORIAN'S NOTEBOOK:

# U.S. reaches out to Algeria,combats terrorism

**Dr. John Dabrowski**
*16th SOW History Office*

In February 2004 I was mobilized as a reservist (Colonel, USAR) for a one-year active duty tour with the Army to Headquarters, U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. I was further detailed to the USEUCOM History Office as a historical officer where I worked numerous projects at the direction of the USEUCOM Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. John Sylvester. In the spring, I was asked to assist the USEUCOM Deputy Commander's Action Group in putting together academic lessons in preparation for the Deputy Commander's (Gen Charles Wald, USAF) upcoming visit to Algeria in July, 2004. Along with an officer from the DCAG, Lt. Col. Ken Young, USAF, we prepared a field study phase which consisted of four preliminary study sessions that covered the Algerian War for Independence (1954-61), and the Algerian Civil War (1994-present) for General Wald and his staff directors, all whom held either general officer/flag officer rank.

After our party's arrival in Algiers on July 17 we were formally welcomed by the acting Algerian Chief of Joint Staff and commander of Ground Forces, Maj. Gen. Ahmed Gaid-Salah. To add to the sense of history of our visit, our party was quartered at the historic St. Georges Hotel, where Gen. Eisenhower was billeted after the North African landings in 1942. The first day of our visit consisted of briefings on Algeria's war for independence from the French, which culminated with the Battle of Algiers (1957-58), and the organization of the secret National Liberation Army.

On July 18, our group was hosted by Maj. Gen. Cherif Fodil, Commander of the 1st Military Region Command, at the command's complex in Blida, Algeria. General Fodil's briefing covered in detail the Algerian efforts during the current civil war including analysis of centers of gravity, overviews of the makeup of the Armed Islamic Group/Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat and other fundamental Islamist terror organizations, discussions of tactics, techniques and procedures, strategic insight to a national counter terrorism effort, and preview of the battle site to be visited. The briefing, discussions, and conclusions addressed by General Fodil included analytical detail at the strategic operational and tactical levels.

Although doctrinal similarities between the U.S. and Algerian doctrine were evident during the briefing, General Fodil carefully illustrated that while the U.S. can learn some relevant lessons from Algeria to improve prosecution of the Global War on Terrorism, not all the lessons are directly transferable. The insight to the GWOT problem illustrated sophisticated understandings of the U.S. by the Algerians.

General Fodil motorcaded our group to battle areas in the mountains south of Blida, part of the Little Atlas Mountain chain. During a harrowing climb up a 946-meter mountain with a swayback road (a vertical altitude change of over 900 meters from the alluvial plain on which the city of Blida sits), the staff gained great appreciation for the rugged terrain in which the Algerian army and government elected to engage the GIA and GSPC. The road to the summit was guarded every 200 meters or so by either police, military or gendarme forces to ensure our security.At the summit, General Fodil outlined a culminating battle, known as the Chrea battle area, where eight Algerian infantry battalions and a paratroop unit broke the back of the terrorists. The overall numbers provided by the Algerians described a decrease in active terrorists from over 10,000 in the early 1990s, to just under 400 today.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Ali Flisek

**Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander (left) presents Dr. John Dabrowski, 16 SOW historian and U.S. Army Reserve Colonel, with a Joint Service Commendation Medal during Wednesday's wing staff meeting for recent deployed service with Headquarters, U.S. European Command.**

The Algerians today are treating the remaining terrorists not as Islamic fundamentalist inspired revolutionaries but as insurgents. General Fodil implied the insurgent lacks the religious fervor of Islamists. General Fodil also outlined the relationship between the GIA/GSPC and al-Qaeda, and stated that the relationship had been greatly disrupted, if not destroyed, by the actions of the Algerian military.

For many years, Algeria had the status of a Soviet client state; it received massive economic and military aid from the former Soviet Union, and its officers trained in the U.S.S.R. With the demise of the Cold War, and the ongoing war on terrorism, the U.S. and Algeria no longer find themselves at opposite sides of the table. It's in the interest of both nations to cooperate in the GWOT, and this visit, which was probably the first of its kind by a senior representative from USEUCOM, proved that Algeria was ripe for increased U.S. support and engagement efforts. The visit enabled the USEUCOM senior staff to establish relationships with the Algerian military leadership in a less formal atmosphere.

On a personal note, it was my chance as a senior army officer, to observe first-hand the interaction of the command's regional approach to Africa and establishing a relationship with a nation formerly known for its hostility toward the U.S. As the U.S. continues to prosecute the GWOT,it will need to cultivate diplomatic and military relations with nations such as Algeria, which only decades ago, were considered hostile.

The trip enabled the USEUCOM senior leadership to learn from Algeria's experiences at the strategic, operational, and tactical level, a lesson that the U.S. must study if it is to successfully win the war on terrorism.

# *TRICARE Retiree Dental Program provides value*

For more than six years, the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program has been helping Uniformed Services retirees–including retired members of the Guard and Reserve–and their families meet their dental health care needs. The TRDP provides its enrollees–now numbering over 810,000–with a comprehensive scope of benefits, including coverage for crowns, bridges, dentures, orthodontics and dental accidents as well as for routine cleanings and exams, fillings, root canals, gum treatment and oral surgery.

Service under the TRDP is available in all 50 United States as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Canada. Enrollees in the TRDP can receive care from any licensed dentist of their choice within the service area. However, they can realize even greater savings by choosing to receive their dental care from one of the thousands of DeltaSelect USA and DeltaPreferred Option USA dentists.

Delta Dental of California has been administering the TRDP contract since 1998 and in May 2003 was awarded a new contract with the Department of Defense to continue serving as the TRDP administrator into 2008.

Under the terms of the renewed contract, the TRDP continues to offer the same great scope of benefits, as well as an increase in the annual maximum and lifetime orthodontic maximum, to $1,200 each; a family deductible cap of $150 annually; an enrollment commitment of only 12-months; a waiting period of only 12-months for coverage of crowns, bridges, dentures and orthodontics at 50% of the program allowable amount; and an expanded network of dentists in over 81,000 locations nationwide.

"We're excited about the impact the enhancements that went into effect with the contract renewal have had on the program. These enhancements have made the TRDP an even greater value to our current and potential enrollees," says Tom McDavid, director of Federal Marketing and Communications for Delta Dental.

"Since the program began in 1998, not only have we far exceeded our initial enrollment projections, but we have retained a large percentage of our original enrollee base–which means that enrollees are satisfied with the TRDP and using their program benefits."

To receive a complete enrollment package or for more information about the TRDP, visit the Web site at www.trdp.org, or call Delta toll-free at (888) 838-8737.

# Military

## Membership meeting

Chapter 567, Air Force Sergeants Association, will hold a general membership meeting at 3:30 p.m. Thursday at the enlisted hooch. For more information, call Master Sgt. Mary Gowin at 884-7821 or Senior Master Sgt. Bill Ogden at 884-4957.

## JSOU course

The Joint Special Operations University invites all Special Operations personnel to attend the Asia-Pacific Orientation Course March 21-25. The course provides non-technical education on the cultural, historical, political, economical, social, religious and security dynamics of the Asia-Pacific region. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. March 21. For more information, call Capt. Jae Sim at 884-1858.

## NCOA meeting

Hurlburt Field's Commando Noncommissioned Officer Association, Chapter #44 and Auxiliary #248 are holding their monthly meeting March 26 at 6 p.m. in J.R. Rockers' Destination Room. Each member is requested to attend and bring a friend or another member. For more information, call Master Sgt. Bob Love at 884-2695 or Master Sgt. Charles Glotzbach at 884-7964.

# Community

## Clinic closure

The 16th Medical Group will close Wednesday at 11 a.m. for training. However, normal clinic operations will be in effect until 11 a.m. The Eglin Air Force Base emergency room will be open for any emergency needs.

## POW speaking engagement

A retired Air Force officer, who spent six years in Vietnam's most infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison camp, will talk about this life-changing experience at a special event hosted by the Mary Esther office of First Command Financial Planning March 30 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Soundside club. In this story of survival, bravery, teamwork and patriotism, Barry Bridger will share how the prisoner-of-war experience has helped him assess what's truly important in his life. To make reservations or for more information, call Samantha Berens at 581-5000.

## Lighters on aircraft

The Transportation Security Administration announced recently all lighters will be prohibited from sterile areas of airports and aboard aircraft to include checked baggage. This is in accordance with the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. Passengers won't be allowed to have any lighter, including butane, absorbed fuel, electric/battery-powered and novelty lighters. TSA will strictly enforce this new policy beginning April 14. A traveler may still carry up to four books of matches in his carry-on luggage, however, they'll eventually be added to the prohibited list. For more information, call the Traffic Management Office Passenger Travel Section at 884-6619 or visit www.tsa.gov.

## Housing spring cleanup

A mandatory spring cleanup will be held April 2-3 and 16-17 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The self help store will be set up at the marina parking lot, the main base store and Commando Village's RV storage lot. The store will issue 10 plants per household, topsoil/fertilizer, red rubber mulch, pine straw and grass seed. Wheel barrows, rakes and shovels will be available for sign out.

## Cable rate increases

On-base residents who have elected to establish cable services through Cox Communications Gulf Coast are reminded of the upcoming rate-changes for some services offered. Effective with customer bills being sent out April 1, the price of limited basic service (channels two to 24) will increase from $10.72 to $11.07, and the price of standard service (channels two to 70) will increase from $38.45 to $40.44. These increases result in a 3.9 percent increase for the average monthly bill. For more information, call 796-1269.

## USAF Honor Guard visit

The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Recruiting Team will visit Hurlburt Field at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Aderholt Fitness Center in an effort to provide information on who they are, why they exist and the opportunity to join their ranks if pre-determined requirements are met. During the visit, members of the recruiting team will conduct a briefing and the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team will perform.

## Lost, found items

The 16th Security Forces Investigations section has numerous items that have been returned as lost, unclaimed or abandoned property. These items include mountain bikes, a child's bike, Lokata Direction Finder, gold bracelet and a Hummingbird VHFS Marine Band Radio. If you feel any of these items belong to you, call the Security Forces Investigations section at 884-7705; must provide proof of ownership to retrieve items.

## NCMA seminar

The Northwest Florida Chapter of the National Contract Management Association is hosting its annual National Education Seminar from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday at the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort. The subject of the seminar is "Brokering Better Business Deals." The cost is $100 for NCMA members; $125 for non-members. To register or for more information, call Jan Kerbow at 882-3091.

## Tsunami relief

The school age program and Torch Club staff and members are conducting a playathon March 28 to help raise money for children and other victims affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami. Members of the Hurlburt Field community who would like to make a pledge for participating youth may stop by the youth/community center, Building 90337, or call 884-6355 on or before the date of the playathon. Proceeds will be donated to a joint Boys & Girls Club/UNICEF initiative for tsunami relief. For more information, call youth programs at 884-6355.

## Munch & Mend

Hurlburt Field Airmen can enjoy a home-cooked meal, while having stripes, patches, or name tags sewn on or repairs made to one article of clothing from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at the base chapel. For more information, call Bill White at 884-7371 or Jimmie Thomas at 315-4746.

## Bowling special

Hurlburt Lanes Bowling Center will offer St. Patrick's Day bowling specials Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If the head pin is green, and you make a strike, you win a free game. Cost is $1.25 per game, $1.25 shoe rental per person. For more information, call Hurlburt Lanes Bowling Center at 884-6941. Bowling specials are subject to lane availability.

## EOSC luncheon

The Eglin Officers' Spouses' Club will hold its monthly luncheon at the Sand Dollar Lounge Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. This month's luncheon will be filled with spring-inspiring crafts. To make reservations for the luncheon and childcare, call Eileen Workman at 314-9755 or Karen Kirk at 897-0533.

## HSC luncheon

The Hurlburt Spouses' Club will hold a luncheon at 10:30 a.m. March 24 at the Soundside club. The theme of the luncheon is a BINGO extravaganza. The menu will be hors d'oeuvres including crab stuffed mushrooms, chicken tenders, vegetable spring rolls and chicken and cheese quesadillas. There will also be dessert, coffee and tea. The cost is $11 for members; $13 for non-members. Childcare will be provided for $3/hour per child for children 12 months and older. There will be a $.50 discount per hour per additional child. Reservations for childcare must be made no later than noon March 18. For reservations, call Karin Heaton at 515-0371.

## Anger resolution seminar

The Hurlburt Field Chapel will sponsor an anger resolution seminar. The seminar traces conflicts to their root causes and gives steps of action to resolve individual anger issues.

The cost is $35 for first-time attendees and $15 for those who are alumni of this seminar; cost includes eight study reference handouts. The chapel will pay half of active-duty members' registration fees. The registration deadline is March 24; visit the chapel during the following times to register:

Tuesdays or Thursdays, 11 a.m. 12:30 p.m.

Sundays, 9:15 10:45 a.m.; 1:30 to 2 p.m.

For seminar dates and times and more information, call the chapel at 884-7795.

## Job fair

A career-information fair will be held March 24 from 9 a.m. to noon at the JobsPlus One-Stop Center, located at 409 Northeast Racetrack Road, Fort Walton Beach, for all military members and their family members. Information will be provided on interviewing techniques, résumés, dressing for success, networking and how to apply for civil service. For more information, call Kim Collins at 883-7587, ext. 230.

# Volunteer

## Airman's Attic, Loan Closet

Volunteers are needed to work at the Airman's Attic and Loan Closet. Hours for the Airman's Attic are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; hours for the Loan Closet will be Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Retirees are also encouraged to volunteer. For more information, call Terri Harshman at 884-1533.

## Women's History Month

The military equal opportunity office invites volunteers to assist in organizing, preparing and supporting events for Women's History Month, which is held throughout March. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Natasha Hollomon at 884-2631.

# Classes

## ERAU classes

Beginning March 21, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University will offer the Aviation Maintenance Technology airframe courses. Registration is ongoing through March 25. Earn your Airframe and Powerplant license, while earning an AMT certificate and earning credit toward a Bachelor's Degree in Professional Aeronautics or Technical Management. For more information, call 581-2106.

## HAWC classes

The following classes are available at the health and wellness center:

Diabetes Fitness Follow Up – Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Fitness Improvement Program – Tuesday, 1 p.m.

Body Composition Improvement Program – Tuesday, 2 p.m.

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

Prenatal Fitness – Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

Eating Heart Healthy – Thursday, 1 p.m.

# Vision ready is mission-ready

**Courtesy of the 16th MDG**

Hurlburt Field's Optometry Clinic is here to accommodate your mission vision requirements. It takes the individual, the unit and the clinic working as a team of professionals to meet the special mission needs of Air Force Special Operations Command and the 16th Special Operations Wing.

Here are some simple rules covering vision requirements for everyone deploying:

n Don't wear your eyeglass frame of choice to do tasks that may cause them to break. Individuals are allowed one pair of glasses per year with no exception (Department of Defense Optical Lab rules).

n Service members are required to maintain two pairs of eyeglasses and one gas mask insert for deployments. Gas mask inserts aren't required for those who have reading-only prescriptions.

n Eye exams must be current to one year.

Supervisors, help your young Airmen prepare: add vision requirements to your unit and section checklists. Ensure everyone has current, serviceable glasses and gas mask inserts on hand. Eyeglass orders are taking three to four weeks for routine orders, so don't allow them to wait until the last minute.

The ops tempo is high, and it can cause delays. Operations are at night, so your vision is slightly impaired. Don't create an unnecessary handicap; have a current exam and a new set of glasses when you leave

# 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. (Traditional worship)
11:30 a.m. (Contemporary worship)
Religious Education: August – May
Youth and Singles groups available
Jewish Services (882-2111)
Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center
Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center
Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.
For more information, call 884-7795.

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.

# At the movies

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

## The Hurlburt Field Theater is closed until further notice

For up-to-date movie schedules, call Hurlburt Field at 884-7648 or Eglin Air Force Base at 882-1066.
For movie information, visit http://www.aafes.com/ems/conus/hurlburt.htm.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE
*For a free, confidential ride home, call AADD at 884-8844.*

## HOUSE AD

**DOROTHY'S HAIR CARE CS/RHP/DOR**

**EDWARD JONES/ALLEN PRATHE CS/ALAN PRATHER 578424 1 X 3.00**

**CAYO GRANDE/LOCAL CS/RHP/COME EXPE 569792 2 X 5.00**

**JIMMY'S PAWN SHOP (COOP) CS/CLOCK 572835 2 X 5.00**

Photo by Airman 1st Class Ali Flisek

## Hoopin'

**Number 43, Hurlburt Field, brings the ball up the floor during the Hurlburt Wildcats versus Eglin Wizards game March 5 at the health and wellness center. Eglin ended up coming out on top during the game.**

# Sports Shorts

## Softball Tournament

The Hurlburt Field base softball team is hosting a double elimination tournament Saturday at the baseball fields behind the Aderholt Fitness Center. The games will start at 9 a.m. and consist of 11 teams. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Chuck Shepherd at 884-5774.

## Soccer Championhip

Everyone is invited to come and support the base soccer team in the 2005 Mueller's Cup Tournament Sunday at 1 p.m. The game will be held at the Fred Hedricks soccer fields on Jet Drive

## Golf Standings

| Team | W | L | Pct. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 505 CCW | 2 | 0 | 1.000 |
| 6 SOS | 1 | 0 | 1.000 |
| MOS | 1 | 0 | 1.000 |
| SVS | 1 | 0 | 1.000 |
| RHS | 1 | 0 | 1.000 |
| CES | 1 | 1 | .500 |
| AFSOC | 0 | 0 | .000 |
| CMS | 0 | 0 | .000 |
| 16 SOS | 0 | 1 | .000 |
| 25 IOS | 0 | 1 | .000 |
| DET 1 | 0 | 1 | .000 |
| LRS | 0 | 1 | .000 |
| COMM | 0 | 1 | .000 |
| SFS | 0 | 1 | .000 |

For more information, call the Aderholt Fitness Center at 884-6884.

## Calendar

| Sports | Meeting | Time | Season Start |
|---|---|---|---|
| Soccer | March 29 | 3 p.m. | April 11 |
| Volleyball | May 3 | 3 p.m. | May 16 |

For more information about the coaches meetings, call the Aderholt fitness center at 884-6884.

# Basketball playoff week recap

**By Airman 1st Class James Dickens**
*Public Affairs*

Ten out of the 12 teams that were above .500 during the season are battling in the 2004-2005 intramural basketball playoffs, which began Monday.

After two rounds of close action, a few powerhouse teams have stepped out in front to take the lead.

The 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron B, Air Force Special Operations Command, 16th Operation Support Squadron and the 16th Medical Group are all 1-0 after receiving byes in the first round and winning the second round.

First round play: 16th Services, 57; 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 50. 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron, 47; 16th AMXS, 43.

Second round play: 16th MDG, 55; 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, 52.

AFSOC, 56; 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron, 51.

16th AMXS B, 67; 16th SVS, 56.

16th OSS, 46; 16th LRS, 44.

16th HMXS, 79; 16th EMS 53.

16th SVS, 60; 16th AMXS, 44.

Everyone is encouraged to come out and cheer for their squadron during the games that start Monday at 5:30 p.m. at the Aderholt Fitness Center.

Other games will be Monday at 6:45 and 7:30 p.m. The championship game will be played Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call the fitness center at 884-6884.

## Intramural basketball playoffs

| Team | W | L | Pct. |
|---|---|---|---|
| AMXS B | 1 | 0 | 1.000 |
| AFSOC | 1 | 0 | 1.000 |
| OSS | 1 | 0 | 1.000 |
| MDG | 1 | 0 | 1.000 |
| LRS | 2 | 1 | .667 |
| CES | 1 | 1 | .500 |
| SVS | 0 | 1 | .000 |
| AMXS | 0 | 1 | .000 |
| HMXS | 0 | 2 | .000 |
| EMS | 0 | 2 | .000 |

The top five teams in divisions one and two are competing in the double-elimination tournament that started Monday. The top two teams in each divison received byes for the first round of action. The winner of the playoffs will be named the champions of the 2004-2005 season. For more information, call the Aderholt Fitness Center at 884-6884.