



16th Special Operations Wing

Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Sept. 14, 2001

Mission continues despite attacks

by Staff Sgt. William J. Seabrook Jr.
Public Affairs

The Pentagon was the target Tuesday of a terrorist attack, which followed other terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City.

Workers inside the Defense Department headquarters in Arlington, Va., estimated that a blast occurred around 9:30 a.m. EDT, which shook the building and produced a billowing gray-black smoke plume that could be seen for miles.

The aircraft crash at the Pentagon followed two others minutes earlier at the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Both 110-story buildings later collapsed. Authorities said they believed all three planes involved had been hijacked by terrorists.

Back at the Pentagon, gray-black smoke billowed as an Air Force fighter jets circled overhead, on patrol for another airliner reportedly flying in the area. No airliner was intercepted.

Part of the building hit collapsed; firefighters continued to battle the flames. The building was evacuated, as were other federal buildings in the Capitol, including the White House.

Hurlburt Field is currently in Force Protection Condition "Charlie," a heightened level of security, to ensure the security of the base and its people. Due to the security measures, drivers experienced traffic congestion at both U.S. Highway 98 and the East entry gates Wednesday, and to a lesser extent Thursday.

"We implemented prudent security measures at the direction of our senior military leaders," said Col. Lyle Koenig, 16th Special Operations Wing commander.



Photo by REUTERS/Larry Downing
A 20th Special Operations Squadron MH-53 Pave Low prepares to land on the Pentagon helo pad Wednesday. Several Hurlburt Field helicopters that were deployed to another location, were called upon to help in the crisis. Pave Low helicopters, the Air Force's most sophisticated helicopter, have been used for humanitarian missions to save Haitians, French crewmen, Asians, Africans, Kurds and now Americans in our own country.

"We'll continue to do whatever's necessary to help Americans abroad as well as keep our people safe and our base secure."

Drivers are encouraged to remain patient and allow additional travel time to reach the base. Individual units are also

being encouraged to stagger reporting times to help alleviate this problem.

"We need everyone to remain calm, patient and focused during this time," said Colonel Koenig. "I understand the situation is inconvenient and can be frustrating, but it's absolutely necessary to en-

sure our security while continuing the operation of this base and our primary mission."

All Hurlburt Field facilities including the commissary, base exchange, clinic,

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News



Attack reaction

Base people stunned, outraged by terrorist attacks
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First sergeants

Shirts do more for their units than airmen know
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Tae Kwon Do tykes

Little kickers go to junior olympics
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VIEWPOINTS

Stay focused, mission ready

by **Lyle Koenig**
16th Special Operations Wing
commander

Over the past few days, our country has changed. The very freedom we have vowed to protect was compromised by four horrific terrorist attacks. It's time for our nation and our community, civilian and military, to pull together and

renew our faith in our nation.

The 16th Special Operations Wing and the people of Hurlburt Field are poised, ready and proud to defend our great country when called upon.

Stay calm, focused and alert. We'll be there when asked to support our fellow Americans.

We'll do it and I'm confident we'll do it well. I'm incredibly proud of each of you and honored to be part of this team. God Bless America!

Child holds faith as nation mourns

by **Tech. Sgt. Ginger Schreitmuller**
AFSOC Public Affairs

At the end of a very long day, I cried. After a day of horrific tragedy, mixed with fear and anger, I cried.

Though touched by the senseless loss of innocent lives, it was not the images on the news that brought the tears. The tears flowed from the words of my daughter.

As my two children and I tried to settle down last night, we talked about what had happened. They had seen the news coverage at school and their teachers tried to explain it in terms young ones can understand. We talked about how sad it was and why we should be grateful.

Tucking my daughter securely in her

bed, she offered up her nightly prayers. She prayed for all the mommies and daddies, all the brothers and sisters, who would never go home again.

Then she added a final request.

"Please God, let everyone in America remember the flag song."

She began, softly at first, to sing the National Anthem – a song we often use as a lullaby. Without missing a note or a word, she sang. I made it through the first line, but could not hold back the tears.

Just moments before President Bush told Americans, told the world, that terrorist could shake the foundation of the biggest buildings but they would never touch the foundation of America. With true faith and love, my daughter proved the president's words true.

Secretary Roche, General Jumper call for support, prayers

WASHINGTON – In the aftermath of the cowardly attack on our homeland Tuesday, we are extremely proud of the service and contributions of America's Air Force men and women. Our vigilance and response was quick and purposeful, potentially limiting the extent of this terrible tragedy.

For example, we proactively provided expeditionary medical support in direct support of the New York City attack. We delivered 1,600 units of blood and deployed 400 medics to McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., now serving as the medical support hub. Additionally, more than 1,800 Air Force medics are on standby, ready to respond when required. Air Force medical people here are providing on-scene care to the fire-fighting and rescue operations continuing at the Pentagon.

As we respond, watch, and wait, many of us are looking for ways to help. It is time for action. We implore you to visit your local Red Cross and on-base blood donor facilities and give blood.

Finally and most importantly, our ardent prayers go out on behalf of the hundreds of families of our fellow comrades in arms, public servants, and citizens who have perished during this tragedy.

May we, as members of the United States Air Force, take the opportunity to serve our Nation in any way. America's Air Force is on your wing and ready.



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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

The flag still flies

A U.S. flag was placed outside the Pentagon after a hijacked commercial jetliner crashed into one section of the building on Tuesday. The Pentagon crash followed an attack on the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Firefighters from surrounding communities aided in fighting the Pentagon fire.

FBI hotline

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has established a toll-free telephone number for anyone with information regarding the incidents Tuesday in New York City and the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. People with information should call 1-866-483-5137. To report information to local authorities, call the Air Force Office of Special Investigations at 884-6102.

NEWS

Emotions run high after terrorist attack

by 2nd Lt. Rosemary Heiss
Public Affairs

After events many Americans are calling the most horrendous display of evil the country has ever experienced, base people are continuing their jobs with quiet resolve and reverence for the lives lost in terrorist attacks Tuesday.

Donna Robinson-Teter, a family support consultant with the 16th Mission Support Squadron, used to work at the Pentagon, and her daughter works five miles from there now.

"I got a knot in the pit of my stomach because it hit so close to home for those of us that have friends and families in that area."

Maj. Troy Taylor, a Marine on temporary duty in the local area, assigned to Camp Lejeune, N.C., who works for the Office of Counsel for the Marine Corps, almost lost his leaders who had offices on the fourth floor of the portion of the Pentagon struck by the airliner.

"It was gut wrenching that I didn't know whether or not my colleagues or boss were dead or alive. The plane hit the

Pentagon between the second and third deck – directly beneath the office on the fourth floor. I was relieved to find out that [they] made it out okay. They were within 15 seconds of the fourth deck giving way. This was a no-kidding act of war that hasn't happened with in the last 50 to 60 years. This isn't a war against poverty, war against drugs or something like that. This is a real war."

A family member Dana Birlingmair, has a friend whose husband works in the Pentagon. She was given some telephone numbers to call for information about him, but said she couldn't call them.

"I was too afraid to call – afraid of what I'd hear," she said.

Even for people who

weren't directly connected to people in the World Trade Center or the Pentagon, the sentiment was much the same.

Second Lt. Matthew Heintzelman, 16th Mission Support Squadron, described his personal response as "unbearable grief."

"When I saw that first tower come down, I don't know if I ever felt anything like that. You know how many people's lives were ended when that building collapsed. It was unexplainable."

"I saw some pretty hairy things in the Gulf War but nothing like this," said the prior-enlisted service lieutenant.

Lieutenant Heintzelman continued that though the tragedy touched lives here, it isn't stopping the forward motion of his unit.

"Yes it effected our lives," describing the reaction of many people in his flight "but it hasn't weakened our resolve or stopped us from doing our jobs."



Photo by Senior Airman James Davis

Staff Sgt. Jason Slevin, 16th Security Forces Squadron, eyes the front gate traffic over a Humvee-mounted M-60 machine gun during a perimeter patrol Wednesday.

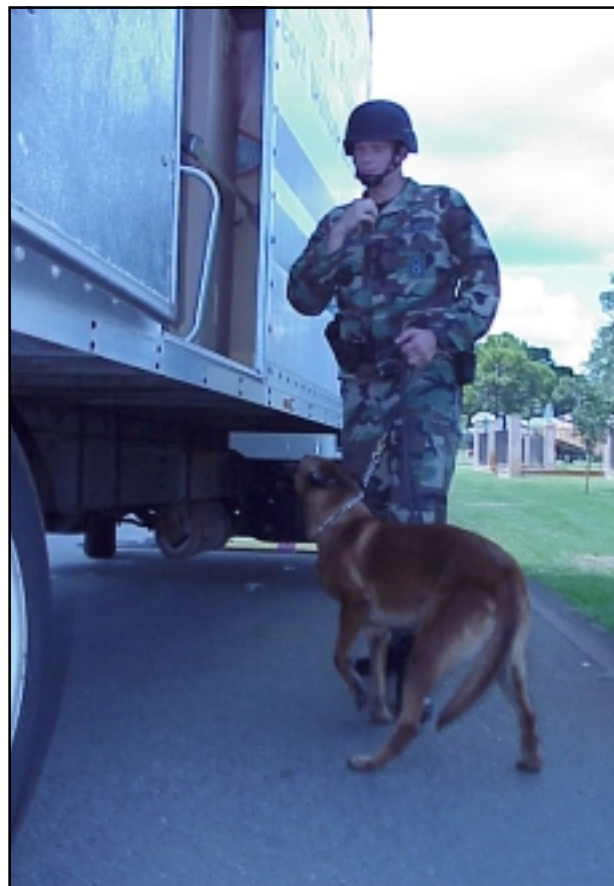


Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

Senior Airman Joseph Hawkins, and Sonja, a Military Working Dog with bomb-sniffing skills, 16th Security Forces Squadron, inspect a delivery truck at the front gate Tuesday.

Some members of the wing have received additional tasks, such as the 16th Security Forces Squadron. They are providing additional security at all base entry points, which produced traffic slow downs outside the gate.

Col. James Cox, 16th Support Group commander, said there's a way to help them do their job.

"The single most important thing everyone can do to speed up the gate process is to have their I.D. card out and ready to be shown to the gate guards, not in their wallet where they have to dig it out of their pocket," he said.

Though security forces members have been called to increase their measures, they've received great community support, according to Maj. Kenneth Andersen, 16th SFS commander.

"In a situation like this, you really see everyone come together as a whole," he said. "As far as the security of the installation, the Okaloosa Sheriff's office, Fort Walton Beach Police Department and Florida Highway Patrol have worked in concert with base security forces as a team. That goes to show you that a community united against a common enemy refuses to be defeated."

Senior Airman Ron Nevison, a 4th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, recapped his experience Tuesday and the response he saw to the tragedy.

"Everyone in the [Commando] hangar watched it all happen," Airman Nevison

said. "When we heard about it, we all scrambled to find a TV. Initially, I felt shell-shocked. It seemed surreal – like a movie. When the tower fell, I did a triple-take. Everyone's angry. I want the United States to do something about it. I want retribution for the country."

Airman 1st Class Lia Henry, 823rd RED HORSE, resounded the shock felt by airman Nevison.

"I was shocked. I couldn't believe that someone would do that to the United States and kill all those people. I couldn't believe they could pull it off."

One 16th Special Operations Wing member responsible for warning people of such events, was also surprised they could "pull it off."

"When I first saw this on TV, it was unbelievable to me," said Senior Master Sgt. Phillip Whithers, 16th SOW information security officer.

"Never in my wildest imagination did I think something like this would happen. The coordination, planning and security this group used to pull off something this complex is mind numbing. I'm still having trouble dealing with the reality of this event. It seems extremely surreal and unbelievable."

Airman Nevison summed up what many people are feeling in spite of Tuesday's tragedy. "Everyone around the base is proud to be an American right now. Sometimes it takes a tragedy to bring everyone together."

AIR FORCE NEWS

Air Force responds to terrorist attacks

WASHINGTON – The Air Force is working around the clock to coordinate relief to victims of terrorist attacks that took place Tuesday.

Secretary of the Air Force James Roche contacted the Federal Emergency Management Agency immediately following the first reports of these attacks and offered maximum Air Force assets including personnel and equipment.

The Air Force is mobilizing medical critical care units, aeromedical evacuation teams, and critical incident stress management experts and other airlift assets in support of the president's activation of the National Disaster Medical System.

Expeditionary medical support teams are mobilized in response to the disasters. Teams from Langley Air Force Base, Va.; Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio; Keesler AFB, Miss.; Lackland AFB, Texas; and Travis AFB, Calif., are being positioned at various staging facilities.

These teams comprise portable hospitals composed of surgical teams, critical care specialists and public health teams, and other specialties.

Additionally, the Air Force is assisting with the distribution of blood supplies to the locations where they are most needed. Locations of the staging centers are not releasable at this time due to security concerns. (AFPN)

Pentagon recovery operations continue

WASHINGTON – Search and rescue operations at the Pentagon, led by as many as 200 Arlington County firefighters and police, assisted by emergency response teams from a number of other jurisdictions, continued Wednesday.

The area of the Pentagon where the aircraft struck and burned sustained massive damage. When the aircraft crashed into the building, it reportedly was carrying several thousand gallons of jet fuel, which caused an intense fire in the immediate crash area. Anyone who might have survived the initial impact and collapse could not have survived the fire that followed, Department of Defense officials said.

Reconnaissance efforts conducted overnight indicate there are no survivors in the immediate collapsed area, officials said. Officials also said listening devices that they have been able to get in the rubble haven't detected any signs of life.

Rescue authorities are planning to use a wrecking ball in the collapsed section of the Pentagon to clear away unstable

rubble so search and rescue teams can safely begin their search efforts in adjacent areas.

Stabilizing the building at this point will allow full search and rescue operations and

ensure the safety of the teams as they go about their business. This decision was reached after joint consultations with county, state, federal and military authorities. (AFPN)



Photo by Paul Disney, USA

Local firefighters battle the blaze set by a plane crash at the Pentagon Tuesday.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Gary Coppage
A U.S. Army helicopter flies near the site of a suspected terrorist attack on the Pentagon Tuesday.

No panic during Pentagon evacuation

WASHINGTON – Personnel who left the Pentagon after a terrorist attack said the evacuation of the building early Tuesday was remarkably calm.

One Army lieutenant colonel who worked near the building segment hit by the plane said everyone in his office was gathered around the television watching coverage of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City when the plane crashed into the Pentagon.

"We felt a thump and saw the flash," said the colonel. "All of us and others gathered and went toward the site. We couldn't get close."

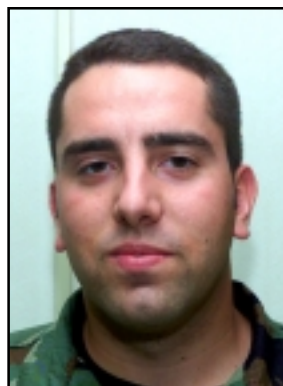
The colonel said all the people in his section evacuated and met outside the building.

"There was no panic," he said. "Most people went in a calm and orderly way."

He said it wasn't until after he and his co-workers left the building that they realized the extent of the damage.

The Pentagon was built in 1941 out of reinforced concrete. It's laid out in five concentric pentagonal "rings," the "E" being the outermost and "A" the innermost. The jet cut the building like a knife. It didn't penetrate all the way into the center courtyard, but did reach the "B" ring. (AFPN)

Look who's talking: What was your initial reaction when you heard about the terrorist attacks?



"I felt upset, yet I wasn't too surprised. This kind of attack shocked everyone. I just can't wait to waste these bastards."

**Airman 1st Class
Aaron Gooch**
16th Civil Engineer
Squadron



"Fact is stranger than fiction."

Maj. Brad Hawkins
Joint Special
Operations University



"My first reaction was of frustration and a realization that this will get a lot worse before it gets better. Then I thought of President Truman and his decision to use nuclear weapons."

**Master Sgt.
Michael Thomas**
16th Aircraft
Generation Squadron

ATTACK,

Continued from Page 1

fitness center, pharmacy and barbershop remain open with normal operating hours. However, people are still being asked to limit their travel to base unless they have a real need to be there, said Maj. Kenneth Andersen, 16th Security Force Squadron commander.

“If you have a valid military vehicle decal and a valid identification card you’ll be allowed on base,” said Major Andersen. “However, if you don’t have a real need to be on base it would really help with congestion if you could time your visit so it doesn’t coincide with peak traffic times.”

For people who are concerned about loved ones who may have been involved in this attack, the Air Force has activated a toll-free telephone service at the Air Force news agency in San Antonio.

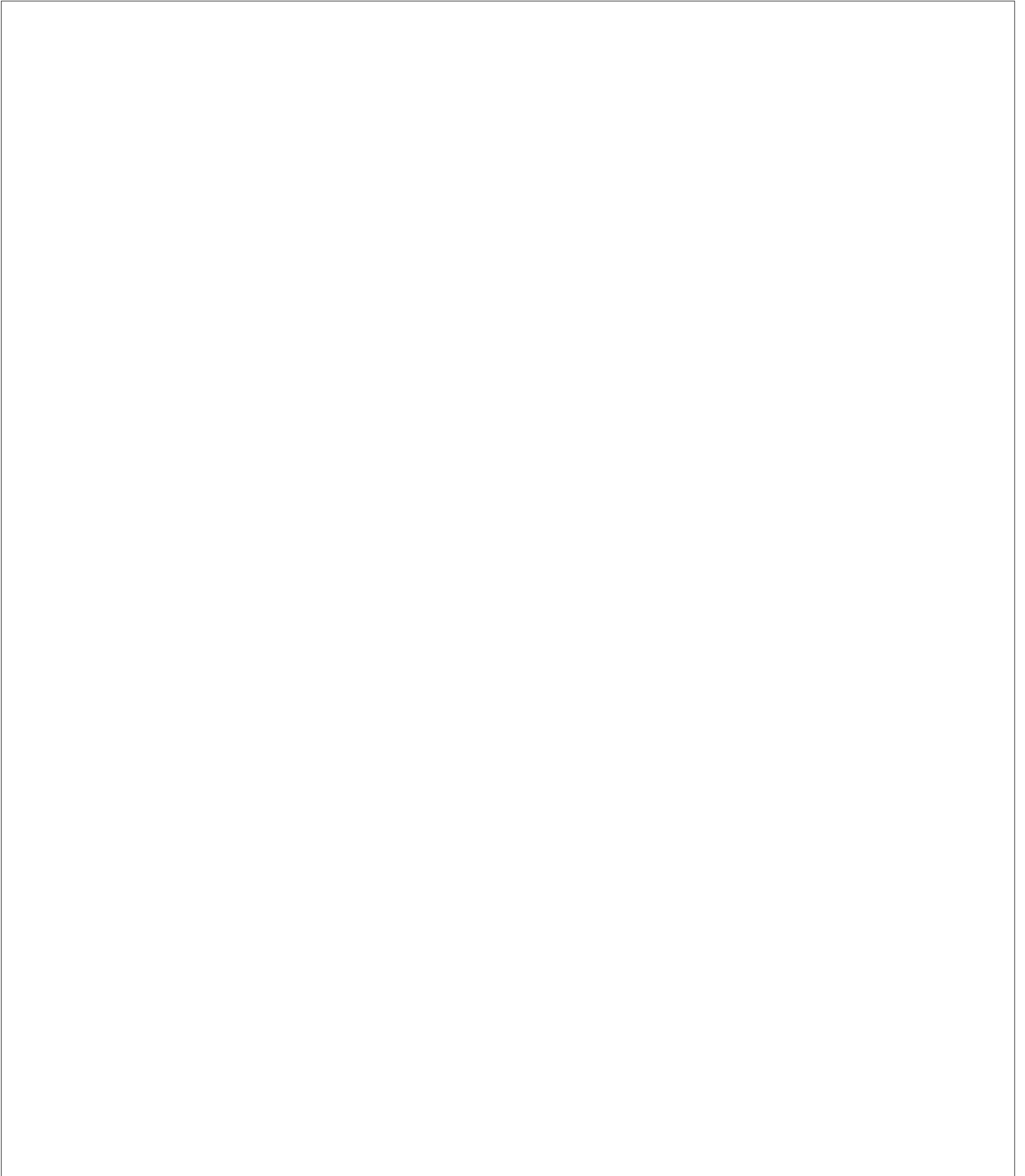
The Air Force hot line number is (800) 253-9276. Lines will be staffed continuously until further notice to answer general questions from family members.

For additional local questions please contact the 16th SOW Public Affairs office at 884-7464. *(Air Force Press Service contributed to this report)*



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

Fire fighters struggle to contain a spreading fire after a hijacked commercial jetliner crashed into the Pentagon, Tuesday. The Pentagon attack followed an attack on the twin towers of the New York World Trade Center in what’s being called the worst terrorist attack in history.



Hurlburt Field Talon crews get extra training in Argentina

PALOMAR AIR BASE, Argentina – Senior Airman Aaron Hansen zipped his flight jacket and put his radio headset around his neck. Then the loadmaster ran from the airport terminal toward the MC-130H Combat Talon II sitting on the flight line.

Minutes later the Talon's engines cranked up and the big-nosed aircraft took off from the airport in Salta, Argentina and winged its way toward the Argentine capital of Buenos Aires about 800 miles to the south.

Once airborne, Airman Hansen settled in for the three-hour flight. It was his first trip to Argentina and soon his thoughts wandered about what he would do that evening in Buenos Aires.

"Coming to Argentina has been a great training opportunity because I'm training somewhere other than at home," said Airman Hansen, 15th Special Operations Squadron.

Airman Hansen is part of a group of 49 Hurlburt Field airmen and two Talon aircraft operating out of the base here. It's home to the 1st Squadron, 1st Aerial Brigade – the Argentine air force's



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lance Cheung

(left): Capt. Luis Debonopaula, a navigator, and (center) Capt. Ken Mershow, electronic warfare officer, both with the 15th Special Operations Squadron, describe the navigational system unique to the MC-130H Combat Talon II to Argentine Air Force 1st Lt. Daniel Maspero.

main C-130 Hercules base, located about a 30-minute drive away from downtown Buenos Aires.

The squadron is getting in some extra training on this trip. It deployed to support Cabañas 2001, a multinational peacekeeping exercise taking place in Salta. The exercise began Aug. 22 and ended Tuesday.

Cabañas is the biggest joint nation exercise held in Latin America. Besides some 570 troops from the United States, there're also participants from exercise host Argentina and Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. Mexico and Columbia here sent observers.

Talon aircrews are flying paratroop and supply airdrop missions as part of the exercise. They are also flying sorties to insert troops into isolated areas. When time permits, they are flying unilateral training missions with the Argentine air force, or mission-

essential tasks the airmen must know for worldwide deployment.

It's that part of the trip that gives the aircrews a chance for some truly diverse training, said Lt. Col. Frank Fields, 16th Special Operations Wing mission commander. Because flying in the Andes Mountains is serious business.

"These mountains can throw some severe weather conditions at you," he said. Crews are getting to fly low-level, nighttime terrain-following sorties. They're also donning night vision goggles to practice night landings and airdrops.

Argentine aircrews also benefit from the exercise.

"We fly the same kind of airplane, but American C-130s have many modifications we don't have," said 1st Lt. Daniel Maspero, "so we learn something just getting on the airplane." (AFPN)

Skaters await green light

by Airman 1st Class
Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

Hurlburt Field has a new attraction in the park behind the Child Development Center.

A newly constructed skate park is going through the final phases of construction, with the addition of some final creature features.

“At its completion it will be the best designed and constructed skate park in the Florida panhandle,” said Del Mucci, Hurlburt Field Youth Director. “Already kids of all ages can be seen hanging out in the skate park area, just waiting for the day when the gates are opened to the base community.”

If the guidelines are followed and rules adhered to, the park will be a relatively safe and enjoyable venue for recreation, he said.

“It’s important for parents and youth alike to be aware that strict adherence to the rules and code of etiquette will make this an enjoyable experience while minimizing the risk of serious injury,” said Mr. Mucci. “However, this is a high-risk activity, with the potential for serious injuries.”

Parents should ensure their children are safe skaters. However, children aren’t the only ones waiting for the park to open. There are many proficient airman skaters who await the grand opening with bated breath.

It was a great idea to build a skate park on Hurlburt Field,” said Airman 1st Class John Peck, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, and a 5-year skateboarding vet-



Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

The new skate park, located behind the Hurlburt Field Youth Center, opens soon and will be free to base people.

eran. “It’s a great place for skaters and rollerbladers to go and have a good time without running rampant around base. Skateboarding gets a bad rap, and this could show some of the positive aspects of the sport.”

One positive aspect of skating is the creativity it allows, said Airman Peck. On top of that, it works your legs and cardiovascular system, and helps build all-around physical fitness.

Anyone can enjoy the skate park, as it will be an open area, and usage will be free of charge. There may be no attendant on duty so park management strongly suggest that everyone use the buddy system when using this area. They also suggest that youth under 13 years of age be accompanied by their parents.

“We as a community, will determine the use and personality of this recreation area by the involve-

ment we show to our youth,” said Mr. Mucci. “Involvement by parents and oversight of their children’s recreational pursuits will enhance their enjoyment of the park and establish good etiquette. We don’t want a hang-out that spawns illicit behaviors, and that will come if we’re not involved.”

Youth center management is looking to establish a “skate board” – a committee that will assist with the oversight and direction of this area. The first meeting will be held Sept. 25 at 6 p.m. at the youth center, and everyone is invited.

Management will also be working to establish a network of volunteers that can assist in monitoring the facility and teaching proper techniques of skateboarding and in-line skating. Volunteers can be adult, parent or high school youth. To sign up and get involved, contact the Hurlburt Field Youth Center at 884-6355.

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Jump for joy

About 110 volunteers for the Combined Federal Campaign from Hurlburt Field enjoyed a dolphin show at the Gulfarium during the Day of Caring, Sept. 6. The Day of Caring ran from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and included training, several Gulfarium shows and a tour of local charities.

This year's goal for the base is to increase participation by 10 percent.

For more information on getting involved with the CFC, call Capt. Kevin Kosefeski at 881-2530, or 1st Lt. Jenn Ortiz at 884-4781.



FEATURE

Diamonds really are a squadron's best friend

by Staff Sgt. André Nicholson
Public Affairs

As the latest selection of staff sergeants were released, a unique group was planning a promotion celebration in honor of the promotees. This same group sponsors the Airmen Leadership School picnic, the Community College of the Air Force graduation ceremony, the dormitory appreciation picnic and the base honor guard functions to name a few. All these events appear to function daily, monthly or quarterly each year without a hitch, but who's really responsible for making it happen?

Setting up award and decoration programs, along with the other events are just a few of the duties in the day and life of a first sergeant.



Master Sgt.
Sherry
Wielgosiek

Master Sgt. Sherry Wielgosiek, 16th Helicopter Generation Squadron first sergeant, said 50 percent of her job consists of paperwork, 10 percent deals with discipline issues and the rest are referral issues to assist members with the help they need.

Sergeant Wielgosiek said she had a great first sergeant before she became one and wanted the opportunity to help people, plus she only has to report to one boss (the squadron commander), she added. However, she said, "I'm responsible for helping the entire enlisted corps in my unit."

She used to work as a Russian linguist and an information manager but has been a first sergeant for almost four years. "It's a pleasure to be a first sergeant at Hurlburt Field because I work with such great people," she said.

During her time as a first sergeant she'd like to change the perception that first sergeants are the hammer or the meanest person in the squadron. That can be accomplished by all first sergeants conducting more work center visits to get out and talk to the members in their units

and being visible around the base, she believes.

Although each unit has a mission, "My job isn't the mission of the unit. My job is to focus on the members within the unit to ensure they're able to meet the mission."

One member of her unit is Airman 1st Class Nicholas Maynard, a Pave Low helicopter mechanic. He said he appreciates his first sergeant because she encourages people and lets people know that everything will be fine. She's always there when there's no where to go, and he believes she's amazing because she eliminates any worries people might have.

Assisting members in their respective units is a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week job for the first sergeants and Master Sgt. Jeffrey Emel, 16th Security Forces Squadron first sergeant, begins his day at 6 a.m. and it may last for the next 10 to 11 hours.

One reason for his early shift is it gives him the chance to see the night shift and discuss any issues they may have or just simply say hello. It also allows him an opportunity to get much of his paperwork done, which will be virtually impossible once the duty day officially begins.

Sergeant Emel, who's been a first sergeant for three years and a prior aircraft machinist and welder, said he became a first sergeant because, "I wanted to have a bigger impact on people, and I believe I've been able to do that in this job."

His job has its ups and downs, but his favorite part of the job is during promotion time, because he likes awarding stripes to people.

He believes as a first sergeant his mission is to take care of people and ensure the unit is mission ready.

Sergeant Emel said, he'd like people to understand that first sergeants do a lot of things for their squadron and the base, that people may not know about. Their job isn't all about discipline or punishment.

He admits the job can be stressful, "but you can't take it personal. It's a delicate balance."

Keeping the stresses of the job and all the activities first sergeants are involved with takes time and training.

Chief Master Sgt. Joe Slack, 16th Aircraft Generation Squadron, has been a first sergeant for 13 years and is involved with training new first sergeants to meet the challenges of their new career field.

One thing the chief tells the first sergeants is, "If you have a better way of doing it, then do it." He doesn't limit his challenges to only the first sergeants but extends it to all Air Force members. "The Air Force you live in today, I made, and if you don't like it then change it," something he often tells the Airmen Leadership School graduates.

Thirteen years as a first sergeant has allowed Chief Slack to see and experience the changes that first sergeants have gone through over the years. He said the changes to the career field have been positive ones. "There used to be a time when they'd recruit first sergeants to go back into the units they came from. Now with the training they receive, they can go into any unit and perform their duties."

Interaction with other units is one of the most enjoyable parts of the job for him because it allows him some insight into other career fields. By dealing with different situations, and with the insight he receives, he's able to steer people in the right direction when necessary, he said. He understands there are some people that no matter what you do, can't or don't want to be helped. "The worst part of this job is seeing wasted potential. Some young people seem to direct their potential in the wrong direction, or it was never nurtured like it should've been. I wonder what they could've accomplished if they'd directed that potential in a different way," he said.

Overall he believes he makes a difference and he enjoys his job. "I'd like to come to work one day and have nothing to do," Chief Slack said of his ultimate first sergeant goal. In order for that to happen he'd have to work in a unit with no problems, and he's working on that one person at a time.



Master Sgt.
Jeffrey
Emel



Monster Mash

Members with the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron conducted a "Monster Mash" Sept. 7, which is designed to test Special Operators physically and mentally. The training incorporates Combat Control and Pararescue skills into an arduous course to ensure members can continue to perform under stress. Part of the Monster Mash requires a team of six to carry a 250-pound dummy from the 23rd STS building to the Soundside Marina.

Prison inmates address base youth

by **Capt. Carol Kanode**
Public Affairs

Think back to the time that your parents told you not to talk to strangers. Friday night parents *encouraged* their children to talk to these strangers. And they weren't just any strangers. They were prison inmates from the Federal Bureau of Prisons at the Eglin Prison Camp.

Youth aged 9 to 18 gathered in two separate locations for a Hurlburt Youth Activities event called "Take a bite out of crime, take a bite out of pizza." In two groups separated by age, base youth and parents got the opportunity to hear inmates stories. Their stories focused on prison life, ignorance about the law, spending time with the wrong crowd, committing crimes to gain popularity and more. Question and answer sessions followed.

The program of inmates addressing youth began ten years ago when Patty Mixon, an Eglin Prison Camp drug treatment specialist started a program called "Life talks." Archie Longley, their public information officer said, Ms. Mixon was approached by inmates who wanted to "give something back to the community." So she designed an event where prisoners could talk to drug rehabilitation groups, churches, schools, juvenile detention facilities, teen courts, health and rehabilitative services and other children and teen assemblies.

Mr. Longley said, the program is a win-win situation with a ripple effect because kids hear how their behavior

affects other people; and the talks also help the inmates remember where they've been so they don't go back again once released.

Staff Sgt. Melissa Morris, 716th Maintenance Squadron at Duke Field, brought her daughter and nephew to the event because she thought it would be an education for them to get the information from someone who experienced the consequences of doing wrong first hand. She stuck around to listen in and was pleased with what she heard. "I thought they were open and honest with [the children]. We can preach to them all day long, but to hear it first hand, I thought would be beneficial," she said.

Her daughter, 12-year-old Krystle Lapread walked

"I thought they were open and honest with [the children]. We can preach to them all day long, but to hear it first hand, I thought would be beneficial."

— Staff Sgt. Melissa Morris,
716th Maintenance Squadron

away with a lesson from the hour-long talk. "If you ever go to detention, get expelled or something like that, than you shouldn't really hang out with the people you meet because they could be doing drugs or alcohol."

Gabriel Cessant, 15-year-old son of Senior Master Sgt. Cynthia Cessant, 16th Operation Support Squadron, was glad he attended. "I can appreciate the fact that these people are coming here to talk to us about something that happened to them instead of like a police officer coming to us and saying, 'this could happen to you, that could happen to you.'"

The three inmate speakers, accompanied by Eglin Prison Camp officials, have sentences ranging from four to 19 years.

One admitted to being an alcoholic, drug addict and gang member. Another, 23, explained how he tried to fit in with the wrong groups of people from junior high school through college. One convict explained the monotony of his life behind bars, his 11 cents-an-hour job and then gave information on how both he and his brother were incarcerated and how that affected his parents.

Questions for the inmates ranged from, "If you got out today, what would you do differently?" to, "Do you have television?"

"We're trying to head you off," the convicted felons concluded the discussion after answering all questions.

Pizza for the youth ended the evening, while the inmates returned to their cells.

Silver, gold leaves grow on same family tree



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carrie Hinson

Capt. Kris O'Brien is pinned on by her husband Lt. Col. Tim O'Brien to the rank of major. Colonel O'Brien was pinned on with his new rank just moments earlier by his wife.

by 2nd Lt. Kristin Haley
Public Affairs

"If it weren't for Air Force Special Operations Command we never would have met," said the beaming new major sitting next to her newly promoted husband. Aug. 30, Maj. Kris O'Brien, logistics program manager for the Command and Control Battlelab and her husband Lt. Col. Tim O'Brien, 16th Operations Group chief of standardization and evaluation, both pinned on their respective maple and oak leaves in a ceremony at the 16th Operations Group.

"The chances must be one in a million that two military people, married to each other, of different ranks, are promoted in the same year, much less the same day," said Colonel O'Brien.

"And what's more of a coincidence is that we grew up 10 miles from each other and attended rival high schools. My dad used to coach basketball at Tim's school. But we never met until Tim evacuated to Okinawa from Clark Air Base, Philippines, after the Mt. Pinatubo eruption," she said. "I was in the 17th Special Operations Squadron at Kadena

and Tim was in the 31st SOS, at Clark AB. My dad used to coach basketball at Tim's school," said the major.

The couple married five and a half years ago in Okinawa, Japan, while she was assigned to the 18th WG and he the 353rd SOG.

"We eloped," said Major O'Brien. "One day we went to the local courthouse during our lunch period, took a number, and were handed a Japanese marriage certificate a little while later stating we were husband and wife. The next morning I was recalled

at 4 a.m. and Tim departed on temporary duty the next day." However, they've never been apart for more than three months.

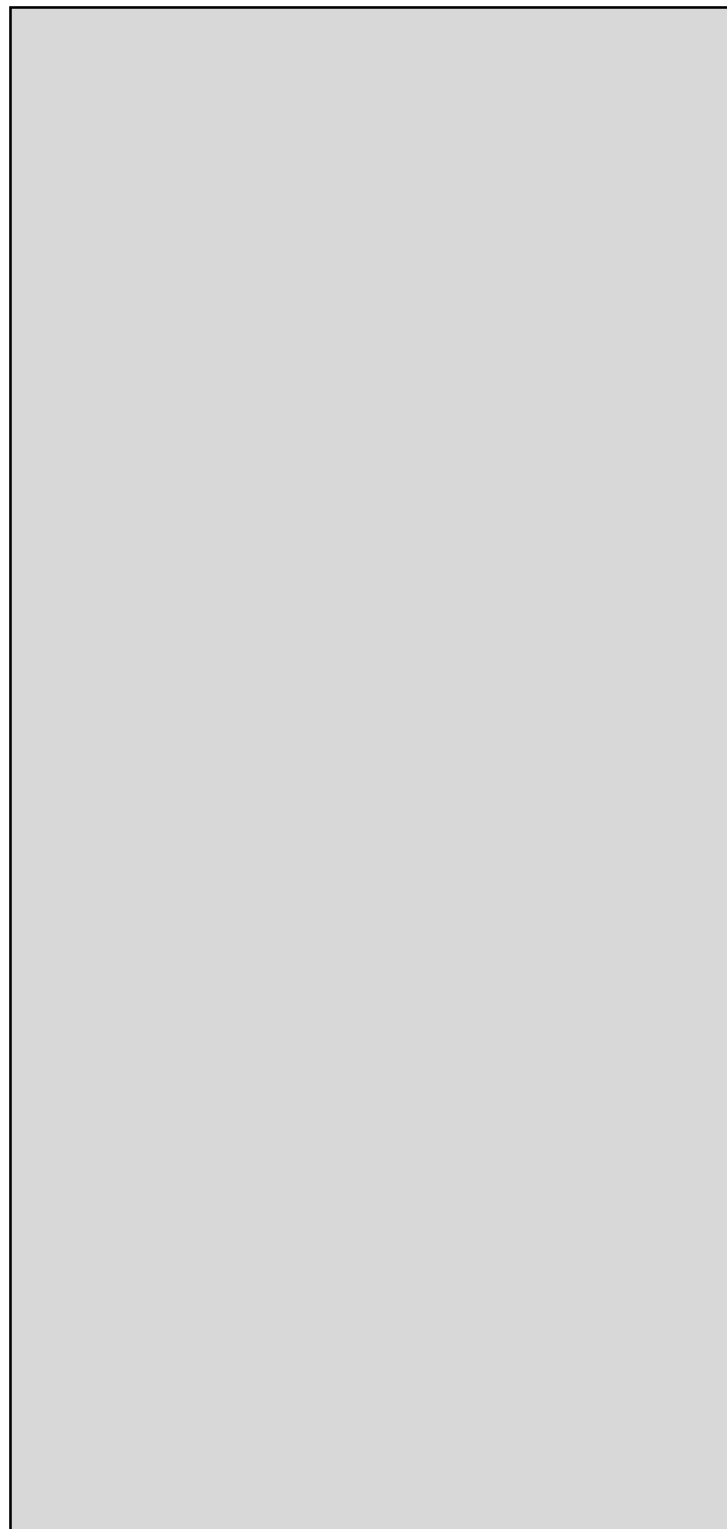
"We have made our marriage work by being proactive in looking for assignments," said the major. In fact, the couple has never received a "joint spouse" assignment and has been stationed together at Kadena AB, Japan, and in Hawaii.

"After we get established at a new duty station, we begin exploring the possibilities of our next assignment," said Colonel O'Brien. "We go over all the ifs,

thens and maybes, and then work our assignment from there."

Their marriage has helped them gain a better understanding of each other's career fields as well. "I've learned to appreciate the operations side of the Air Force more by being married to a flyer and listening to his daily challenges," said Major O'Brien. "Living with it in our own house gives me a much better perspective."

"And I understand the support side of things much better and take it to work with me," said Colonel O'Brien.



LIFESTYLE

Military

Officer's call

Col. Lyle Koenig, 16th Special Operations Wing Commander, holds an initial officer's call for the wing Monday. Wing officers should be in place by 3:30 p.m. in the Commando Hangar. Tenant unit and civilian equivalents are also invited to attend. Refreshments will be available. For more information, call 1st Lt. Michelle Tasker at 884-4447.

Team leaders needed

The Commando Pride Airman Center is looking for highly motivated individuals to serve as team leaders. Duties include assisting with the daily operations of CPAC and the detail is a 120 days in length, starting in September. To qualify you must be between the ranks of senior airman and completed Airman Leadership School through technical sergeant, with impeccable dress and appearance, high moral character, a driver's license, good communication skills, computer skills and a desire to assist first term airmen. For more information, call Master Sgt. Andrew Hollis at 884-5795 or 5787.

Community

Blood donations

People interested in donating blood can do so at one of the following blood donation centers: American Red Cross, 417 NW Racetrack Road, 863-3359 and Northwest Florida Blood Center, 413 NE Racetrack Road, 862-4216.

Chapel positions

The Hurlburt Field Base Chapel has the following positions open for bid: 8:45 and 11:15 a.m. Protestant Accompanist; 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Catholic Accompanist; 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Catholic Choir Director and Catholic Parish Coordinator. The statement of work and bid submission packages can be picked up at the 16th Contracting Squadron, 350 Tully Street, Building 90339, from Tuesday through Sept. 21. Bids must be received by 2 p.m., Sept 24. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Joanne Burgess at 884-7795.

Air Force Ball

The Veteran of Foreign Wars sponsors an Air Force Ball today from 6 to 9 p.m. at the VFW post 7674 located at 213 Carol Ave. Fort Walton Beach. Dinner is \$15 per person and includes steamship round or ham and raisin sauce along with complimentary toast table wine. Guest speaker is retired Brig. Gen. Harry Aderholt. For tickets contact, Jamie Conley or Mary Pearson at 244-3834.

NCMA

The National Contract Management Association holds

a luncheon Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the Eglin Air Force Base Enlisted Club. The guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Kevin Sullivan, Vice Commander, Air Armament Center, Eglin Air Force Base.

The program is scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m. so guests should be seated by 11:15 a.m. To make reservations, call 882-3144 extension 5355 or 882-2236 extension 5256.

Patient care services

Patient care services for the 16th Medical Group will be open from 7 to 11 a.m. Wednesday. The clinic and pharmacy will close from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for medial readiness training. Regular hours resume Thursday.

Contract positions

The Hurlburt Field Base Education office is advertising three contract positions. A counseling position, distant learning and a position for test proctor. Qualifications for the positions and bid packages may be picked up at the 16th Contracting Squadron, 350 Tully Street, Building 90339, Monday through Sept. 21.

Religious services

The Eglin Air Force Base Jewish High Holy Day schedule is as follows:

Rosh Hashanah – Monday, at 7 p.m., (Oneg following), Tuesday, at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (Tashlik at Weekly Pond)

Yom Kippur – Sept. 26, at 7:30 p.m., (Kol Nidre), Sept. 27, at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Yizkor and Ne'ilah) Break the Fast

All services will be held at the Eglin AFB Chapel Center. For more information, call Bernie or Wendy Snyder at 678-2444 or the chapel at 882-2111.

Memorial service

Staff Sgt. Arla Behnke, 16th Mission Support Squadron, passed away Wednesday after a year-long battle with cancer. A memorial service will be held Tuesday at the base chapel at 11 a.m. Dress is uniform of the day. For more information, call Cynthia Turzak at 884-5341.

Native-American/Indian Heritage

November is Native-American/Indian Heritage Month. Spouses, civilians and military members who'd like to serve on the committee can attend weekly meetings. The committee is also looking for a chairperson. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Lynetta Williams at 884-8746 or Master Sgt. Bryan Osborne at 884-6844.

Cultural night

The Hispanic Heritage Committee hosts the Annual Cultural Night Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the base theater. Displays of various latin countries, dancers, musicians and food tasting will be available. Cost is free and the dress is casual or uniform of the day. For more information, call Senior Airman Laura Graser at 884-6285.



Hurlburt Field Chapel (884-7795)

Catholic Masses

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:30 and 10 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.

Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:45 a.m. (praise & worship),

11:15 a.m. (traditional),

12:30 p.m. (Gospel)

Youth and Single Groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel 1

Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of

each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

Muslim Services (882-2111)

Jum'ah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

At the movies



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

Hurlburt Field (884-7648)

Friday and Sunday – (PG-13) "Jurassic Park," starring Sam Neill and T'ea Leoni – The Lost World's Site B has been quarantined for five years. But when a boy trying to get a look at the creatures gets stranded there, a rescue mission is formed, comprising the boys divorced parents, a few mercenaries, and Dr. Grant. There has been some unpleasant developments since Dr. Grant was last there.

Saturday – (PG-13) "America's Sweethearts," starring Julia Roberts and Billy Crystal – Kiki is the devoted personal assistant and sister to megastar Gwyn Harrison. Life with her famous sister has never been easy for Kiki, but it's about to get even harder. Kiki finds she's faced with a more important concern as her life takes a romantic turn.

Friday – (R) "The Score," starring Robert De Niro and Edward Norton – An aging thief has retired to live off his riches, running a Montreal jazz lounge until he's blackmailed into doing one more heist by a young upstart. The unlikely alliance requires that Nick violate his most important rule: Always work alone.

Saturday – (PG) "Osmosis Jones," starring Bill Murray and Molly Shannon – Deep in the city of Frank (actually the body of construction worker Frank Detomello), Osmosis Jones is a white blood cell cop who has to team up with a rookie cold tablet to fight off evil viruses intent on taking over. Meanwhile out in the "real world" a doctor is trying to diagnose what's going on inside Frank's body.

Sunday – (R) "Original Sin," starring Antonio Banderas and Angelina Jolie – When Luis takes Julia as his American bride, he thinks his life in Cuba is complete. But people aren't always who they seem, and Luis' life begins to unravel. When Julia disappears with his money, Luis is forced to look into Julia's past.

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

LIFESTYLE

Classes

USAF Special Ops school

For more information on Special Operations School Courses for September, call 884-4731 or check the Web site hurlburt.af.mil/usafsos.

Cross Cultural Communications

Dynamics of International Terrorism

Joint Information Operations Senior Seminar

Joint Special Operations Air Component Course

Small Wars and Insurgencies Course – Monday through Friday

Russia, Central Europe and Central Asia Orientation Course – Monday through Friday

Middle East Orientation Course – Sept. 24 through 28.

FSC

For more information on family support center classes, call 884-5441.

Fighting for your Marriage – Saturday, at 10 a.m. and Thursday, at 6:30 p.m.

Career Focus Orientation – Monday, at 9 a.m.

Sponsorship Training – Monday, at 1 p.m.

Mapping your Career – Monday, at 1 p.m.
Transition Assistance Program – Tuesday, at 7:20 a.m., Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 a.m.

Moms, Pops and Tots – Tuesday for ages birth to 2 and Wednesday for ages 2 to 4, at 10 a.m.

Understanding Adolescents – Wednesday, at 11:30 a.m.

Readiness – Thursday, at 9 a.m.

Kids Hurricane Tips – Thursday, at 4 p.m.

Hurricane Awareness – Friday, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Sports

Basketball officials needed

Anyone interested in officiating basketball games at Eglin Air Force Base or Hurlburt Field for the youth and intramural leagues, contact Roy Spencer at 581-4587.

Bowling league

Hurlburt Field Lanes now offers lunchtime bowling. This is a two-person team league and runs for 16 weeks. Each bowler receives a lunch special, bowling and shoe rental for only \$8 per person, per week. For more information or to sign up by Wednesday, call 884-6941.

Women football

The women's football team is looking for more players and a coach. The team is open to spouses and family members 18 and older who are out of high school. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Norman Williams at 884-5879 or the fitness center at 884-6949.

Flag football

October begins men's and women's flag football. Interested members should contact their unit sports representative or the main fitness center for more information at 884-6884.

Women basketball

Varsity basketball players are needed for the women's team. Practices are held Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m. For more information, call 884-6949.

Bench Press meet

The fitness center hosts the annual Hurlburt Field Bench Press competition Sept. 22 at 9 a.m. The competition fee is \$15. Sign up sheets are available at both fitness centers and competitors should sign up by Thursday 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 884-4412 or 6684.

SPORTS

Youth get kick out of summer vacation

by **Tina Harton**
Contributing Staff Writer

Four youth from the Hurlburt Field Youth Center Tae Kwon Do program, attended the 21st Junior Olympics Tae Kwon Do Championships, held in Tampa, Fla. over the summer. The Junior Olympics are the biggest and most important tournament of the competition season.

The students, Jeff Seroka, 9 (red belt), Michael Gilreath, 15 (blue belt), Tommy Burman, 9 (blue belt) and Random Hodgeson, 7 (green belt), performed at a high level and did well. There were approximately 5,000 competitors with as many as 32 in each division. The competition was fierce and the students stepped up to the challenge. Led by Master Sgt. Stan Harton, 16th Logistics Support Squadron, wing aerospace vehicle distribution officer and Tae Kwon Do instructor, and assisted by Master Keith Young, the students can be proud of their accomplishments with all ranking in the top 10 in their

division. Sergeant Harton said, "I'm very proud of their performance, and dedication to the sport. They're an example not only for martial arts students, but their classmates as well."

One doesn't just decide to go to the Junior Olympics. They must first qualify in a state tournament, which isn't an easy feat. The four students have been practicing their skills all year for a chance to compete with the best the country has to offer. They attended their regular weekly classes in addition to extra workouts incorporated into their weekly schedules.

Along with the extra practices, they attended several tournaments and traveled with their parents and coach as far away as Dalton, Ga., and as close as Panama City, Fla. They belong to the U.S. Tae Kwon Do Union and the Amateur Athletic Union. One could say Tae Kwon Do filled their lives.

At the Junior Olympics, the students met Steven Lopez U.S. Olympic gold medalist along with the other members of the 2001 Olympic team, Juan Morano, Barbara Kunkle and Kay Poe. Also attending the 21st Junior Olympics was Trish Bare-Grounds, USTU, medical coordinator and head athletic trainer for the U.S. National Tae Kwon Do team. She assisted the students as well as the other competitors in getting ready for competition. Trish and her husband Tech. Sgt. Mark Grounds, 16th Special Operations Squadron are stationed here.

For more information on martial arts program, call the Hurlburt Field Youth Center at 884-6355.



Photos by Master Sgt. Stan Harton

(above) Tommy Burman, 9, a blue belt, spars with classmate Random Hodgeson, 7, a green belt, in the youth center Tae Kwon Do program.

(right) Students practice Tae Kwon Do techniques used during competition. (far right) Jeff Seroka, 9, a red belt, blocks a kick from Michael Gilreath, 15, blue belt.

