Power outage
Two power outages are slated for Saturday on Fort Clayton: 8-9 a.m. Buildings 39, 49, 55, 100, 102-109, 126-128; 9-10 a.m. areas 100 (except Buildings 100-109, 126-128) areas 200 and 300, Buildings 3055-3061, the Valencia Recreation Center and the Swimming Pool. For more information call 285-5708.

Commissary closures
The DeCA Corozal Commissary and the Howard Commissary will be closed April 2 in observance of Good Friday. Regular operating hours will resume April 3. For more information call 285-5405.

One more time
Pages B4 and B11: The Lettermen will perform 7 p.m. Saturday at the Howard Base Theater and 8-10 p.m. Sunday at Clayton's Jarman Field. And don't miss another Party in the Park (part II) starting at 4 p.m. March 26 at Fort Clayton's Jarman Field featuring former Bad Company lead singer Brian Howe.

Fuel tank at Howard has new destination
story by Staff Sgt. John B. Dendy IV
24th Wing Public Affairs Office
HOWARD AFB – Airmen in Panama are redeploying a fuel tank that serviced U-2 aircraft without missing a mission.

The days of U-2 support from Howard are over. Fuel in the tank was reclaimed Tuesday, and the tank will be salvaged to the United Kingdom, where it will support U-2 requirements in the European theater, said Master Sgt. Leonel Williams of the 24th Fuels Management Flight. "The front dike wall will come down to get the tank out," Williams said. "The tank will go to RAF Fairford, by way of Panama and Lake Charles, La."

Erasmo Diaz and Manuel Caballero joined fellow squadron members Staff Sgt. Larry Moore and Senior Airmen Andrew LaFauci in the removal effort. "It doesn't leave us without a job at Howard," Moore cautioned. "We've got plenty of tanks to pickle."

The self-contained U-2 tank is the largest transportable tank Howard has: 43-feet long, 12-feet wide and 13-feet tall. The metal tank's inner surfaces were coated with epoxy to withstand the corrosive power of the U-2 fuel known as Jet Fuel Thermally Stable. When the U-2 support requirement ended, the airmen got directions to remove it from the base.

"We helped put it in," Diaz said from on-scene. "It was easy. We installed filter separators, among other modifications to improve the system."

The work on the tank was completed by special Air Force Civil Engineer experts who remember the 20,000-gallon capacity tank from the hour it arrived at the airfield in Panama in the early 1990s. "We got directions to remove it from the base."

See Tank on Page 3.

Training one last time
Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, Ky., take part in a waterborne training exercise that is ongoing at Fort Sherman's Jungle Operations Training Battalion. These soldiers are members of the last unit taking part in such training at the JOTB, who's mission terminates March 27. Check out next week's Tropic Times issue to see how these soldiers performed during the training.
General presents stripes to Airman
24th Wing airman promoted through STEP program

story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Rick Burnham

24th Wing Public Affairs Office

HOWARD — Joe Bagdon has seen it all before. While assigned to the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley Air Force Base, Va., the New York native had witnessed the events leading up to a Stripes For Exceptional Performers promotion “more than once.”

And on several occasions, the new stripes were given out by Gen. Richard Hawley, Air Combat Command commander.

So when the general, during his trip to Howard April 9-10, stopped by the Military Personnel Flight where Bagdon serves as the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Relocations Flight, the technical sergeant knew something was up, though he didn’t know just what it was.

It was a set of master sergeant stripes, courtesy of Hawley and the STEP program.

The general presented the new chevrons to Bagdon before a small group of personnel specialists, in addition to Col. Gregory L. Trebon, 24th Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. George Martinez, acting command chief master sergeant.

Later, the newly appointed senior NCO said he was unaware of the STEP prior to receiving it. “I’ve seen enough of these to know that something was up,” he said, “although I really didn’t occur to me that it was a STEP.”

After handing out an ACC coin to Bagdon, the general commented that he had one more thing to give the sergeant, reaching into his uniform pockets as he spoke.

“That’s when it occurred to me that it was a STEP promotion,” Bagdon said.


The sergeant said receiving the stripe was exciting. He also added that he was “looking forward to the new challenges that come with being a master sergeant.”

Clarification

On page C3 in last week’s Tropic Times, the published Overseas Housing Allowance figures for Fort Buchanan and Roosevelt Roads were misleading.

Those numbers actually reflected the rental ceilings (a combination of the Basic Allowance for Housing and OHA) by rank in both areas. They did not include the utility factor and the numbers published only reflected amounts soldiers with dependents would receive. Because OHA rates for Puerto Rico are expected to change after April 1, please see the April 9 issue of the Tropic Times for a complete listing (with and without dependent rate) and explanation of the housing allowances in Puerto Rico.

Volunteer of the Week

FORT CLAYTON (Installation Volunteer Coordinator’s Office) — Raquel Peluyera is the U.S. Army South Volunteer of the Week.

Peluyera is a parent volunteer at Curundu Elementary School. She also serves as coach and team Mom for soccer and basketball. Her major accomplishment is helping teachers with their work. She said what she likes most about volunteering are making new friends, developing ideas, and helping others.

Her most rewarding experience as a volunteer is seeing children smile.
Howard Job Fair slated for April 14

Story by Rich Fitzgerald, Civilian Personnel Office

Howard AFB - If you recently went to the Army to work up your resume and perfected your skills in “selling yourself" to better your chances at employment. Now you have another opportunity to help “sell yourself” through the Air Force sponsored job fair on April 14.

Remember, your focus should be: “My next job is getting my next job.” You have the ability to sell your training, knowledge and skills to your next employer. You have the confidence needed. You have proven yourself in a bilingual environment of complex proportions. Any employer will be well-served by hiring you. You can make a positive contribution to their bottom line. You can move up within their organization by doing for them what you have done so well for us.

What does it take to effectively sell yourself?

First, take an accurate, realistic inventory of your marketable skills. Write them down. Study them. Turn “nos” into your sales pitch. You can make a positive contribution to their bottom view. Ask yourself after each interview: “What should I have done differently, how could I have said/presented it better?’’

Then use these “lessons learned” in the next interview. Keep a written record of these insights and review them before your interviews.

Sixth, keep your word. If you say you will get back to the company, or send them something, do it – even if you have accepted another job offer.

All of the above can be summarized in this way: approach the job market in a diligent, professional manner that ensures a high probability of success.

This is supported by the following facts.

Second, take advantage of the Family Support Center to work up your resume and perfect your presentation skills.

Third, study what the company you want to work for does. By researching their business, you will be able to tell (sell) them on how your joining them can help them get the job done better/cheaper. If you have training, performance and/or suggestion awards in their specialty, you can establish a concrete link with them.

Fourth, adopt a positive attitude. This is essential if you are to attract a new employer.

Fifth, do not get discouraged if you hear a few “nos.” Hang in there. Each job interview can put you in a better position for the next one. Learn from each interview. Ask yourself after each is concluded: “What should I have done differently, how could I have said/presented it better?’’

This is supported by the following facts.

These insights can be summarized in this way: apply these ten key points to your next job search and you will be able to do a better job of taking advantage of every opportunity that comes your way. Here are the key points.

1. Take an accurate, realistic inventory of your marketable skills. Draw them down. Study them. Turn “no” replies into your sales pitch.

2. Include buzzwords from your profession to show that you are knowledgeable about important concepts.

3. Separate achievements from responsibilities for each position.

4. Don’t include personal information about your age, health, etc.

5. Make sure your resume lists an ACAP Center, 3rd floor, Building 128 on Fort Clayton or call us at 288-9277.

6. Use white space, bullets, capital letters and boldface type to highlight important points.

7. Re-check your resume several times for punctuation, grammar and spelling errors.

8. File your resume at the ACAP Center.

9. Separate achievements from responsibilities for each position.

10. Include buzzwords from your profession to show that you are knowledgeable about important concepts.

For a successful job search, the individual must assume an “Internal focus Zone” or “Summary of Qualifications.” They should recognize their own responsibility for reaching their objectives and overcome barriers to attain their goals.

A good resume used well is perhaps the most important tool in a job hunter’s kit bag. To construct and use your resume effectively, consider these essential rules:

1. Make sure your resume lists an ACAP Center.

2. Put your most important and valuable data near the top of your resume in what is called “The Host View.”

3. Use verbs which convey action, leadership and results to describe your experience.

4. Include buzzwords from your profession to show that you are knowledgeable about important concepts.

5. Separate achievements from responsibilities for each position.

6. Don’t include personal information about your age, health, etc.

7. Use white space, bullets, capital letters and boldface type to highlight important points.

8. Re-check your resume several times for punctuation, grammar and spelling errors.

9. Be sure your paper and printing choices give your resume a high quality appearance.

10. When you’re satisfied that you’ve written a good resume, keep a copy with you at all times.

To build a marketable resume and to improve your interviewing techniques, come visit the ACAP Center, 3rd floor, Building 128 on Fort Clayton or call us at 288-9277.
**Consider making an advance directive**

by Col. T. J. O'Neill

commander, 24th Medical Group

HOWARD AFB — Would your wishes be followed if you had a stroke while driving to work? Would your personal desires concerning your medical treatment be carried out if for some reason you were suddenly rendered unable to express those desires?

The questions sound awful and threatening, and most of us don't want to think much about them. However, every one of us, regardless of age, could suddenly have an accident that would leave you “not competent” to decide issues of our medical care. Who would then decide for us?

“Advance directives” exist to ensure that our loved ones are not caught between differing laws and family controversies. If you have an advance directive made out — one at home where your family or significant others can find it, and the other in your military medical record — you are more in control of what happens to you.

Advance directives are not just for those who are old, or who have a chronic disease, or who are facing a major operation or procedure where a disabling outcome is a possibility. They are for everybody above the age of 18.

There are different kinds of advance directives. Living wills describe in general terms how you want your care conducted in certain situations. Durable powers of attorney decide on your medical treatment.

By putting it in a safe place known to your significant others and in your medical record, you have made your medical care your decision. Don't leave it up to chance!
Kudos
Special thanks

Dear Editor,
We would like to express our sincere thanks to every- one in the DCSINT and GTE offices. Their caring thoughts and helpful favors were greatly appreciated during the trauma and recovery of our recent automobile accident.

Many others in the community went out of their way to assist us in one way or another. Kudos to the following:

- Mr. Larry Floyd and Mr. David Stinson at International de Seguros Clayton 6 Ambulance crew; Deanna at Budget Rent-A- Car; Deidamia Novaro at Carlson Wagonlit Travel; Des- Haney, Lt and Marine at Fort Clayton’s Dental and Medical clinics; Mr. Lombardo at the International Law Office; Teresa Guardia from DCSIM; and a very special thank you to Michelle Cajjar and Candace Quinn from DCSINT Programs whose assistance and TLC were immeasurable.

John and Penny Henderson and “Sammie”

Many thanks for the waiver

Dear Editor,
On Saturday, Feb. 13, we shipped our dog “Gig,” although the rest of our family is leaving in May or June. “Gig” and I flew Space A from Howard AFB via Soto Cano to Charleston, S.C. I wish to like to thank the many people involved in making this trip a success.

Our flight was handled by Lt. Col. Greg Heftesto, of the 24th Logistics Group, for working the 100-pound waiver for Space A transport planes. For our 180-pound mastiff, this option would not have been possible without that waiver. To Monica Dues, pet liaison for the TSB, for her diligence, efficiency and total commitment to researching and communica- ting the many issues bearing on pet movement. Her support and caring atti- tude was unwavering.

Thanks to Capt. (Dr.) Todd Thompson, of the Army Veterinary Treatment Facility, for his complete dedication and support to our pets and their families. Going over and above his ba- sic duties, he referred us to a wonderful vet in Colum- bia, S.C. who in turn referred us to an excellent kennel facility. Without Dr. Thomas’s help in this search, we would have had no idea of where to find a quality facility and care.

I also want to thank Col. Richard Thomas, TSB Com- mander, for his true concern for our pets and commit- ment to help us with their safe transport to our next des- tinations. His direct, straightforward approach to this issue has motivated many of us to plan ahead and send our pets early.

The many details involved in shipping our dog in- cluded requesting an EML waiver from SOUTHCOM. At the last minute, and with her usual efficiency and know-how attitude, Jacqueline Hoffman, 24th Logistics Group secretary, drafted a waiver request letter, which was submitted and approved the same day. Without her encouragement and knowledge of these procedures, we would not have even known to pursue this waiver. Vicki Rodriguez of the 24th Medical Group orderly room was also an important contact for me, faxing paperwork to Miami, securing the neces- sary travel inventory, and preparing the EML orders for our category 4 travel status, all in a very short turn around time.

Finally, I wish to thank the terrific stuff of the Howard PAX Terminal, who always received my inquiries with helpful, clear answers and professional manner. Ms. Broughton, PAX Terminal superintendent, was terrific, not only answering my questions but in giving ad- ditional helpful advice on loading and shipping my dog. Lt. Herman Payne, of- ficer-in-charge of the PAX Terminal, was readily avail- able for questions at the Clayton Town Hall Meet- ing and at the terminal. I can’t remember all of their names, but thanks to the terminal personnel who were on hand the day we traveled.

Of course, another integral part of our successful journey was the crew of the C-5, a Reserve unit out of San Antonio, Texas. They were superb! They checked on him during the flight and made sure that he was comfortable. It is an understatement to say that we From our daughters Denise, Penelope, Tabitha and Penny Henderson and “Sammie”

Thanks co-workers and friends

Dear Editor,
I am taking this time and making the opportunity to express my “Heart Felt” thanks to so many wonderful people.

On March 9, I had an emergency medical situation occurring at work at Corenal Building 741, requiring im- mediate attention. This was unfortunately the second occurrence in less than six months.

I want to express the appreciation I hold for the fast action and quick response of my co-workers and friends. Kudos to the Military Police personnel, the emergency medical technicians from the 24th Medical Group and the Emer- gency Cares Clinic at San Fernando Hospital. Professionals all.

I mean to not exclude any deserving persons, but es-pecially want to thank Larry Sellers, Staff Sgt. JoeBeddow and Capt. K. L. Jatczak. I also extend a long over- due thanks to SPC. Sharon Gonzales, Miguel Vazquez and Darin Weaver.

The USARSO Command should be proud of our many top-quality professionals as I am. To me, it is such an honor to be associated with USARSO, 56th Sig- nal Battalion, Corenal Technical Control Center.

Again, I am grateful for the many caring, compas- sionate, concerned and helpful people. Your many in- quiries, phone calls, and heartfelt words of encour-agement and best wishes and aid to my family are truly endorsed.

For those, so very generous to offer their hard earned sick leave, I am indebted. Thanks will never be enough from me. See you at work in the near future.

Dennis Richtenehber

Thanks clinics

Dear Editor,
After three-and-a-half years in Panama, it’s now time to leave, and shame on me if I don’t take a moment to say thank you to the Howard and Clayton Medical Group. You have consistently cared for our family through various illnesses in a most professional and caring man-ner.

Whether it was DR. Pedriatric, X-ray, whatever, you were always there for us with a smile, kind word and the medical attention needed. You answered questions courteously and unambiguously. Your service during this treat- ment was always done with respect. In 24-plus years association with the military hospitals, you have been the best. We’ll miss you.

Calvin and Dianne Brown
Making things happen...

Above, Sgt. Holden ground-guides Spc. Kendrick as he clears the ground for the construction of the basketball court. On the right, Sgt. Hurdle, left, and Sgt. Francis, weld 10" American C-Channel for roof support. The soldiers from Joint Task Force 518th are continuing their humanitarian support to the Commonwealth of Dominica. By April 16, the Joint Task Force will redeploy a majority of its personnel. They will leave a good and memorable impression on the Dominicans. They have deployed with the intent to provide support, and they are accomplishing the mission.
story and photos by 2nd Lt. Tamika Briggs

Join Task Force 518th public affairs officer

The soldiers from Joint Task Force 518th are continuing their humanitarian support to the Commonwealth of Dominica.

This mission should not come as a surprise to anyone. A couple of weeks ago, you should have read about the outstanding work conducted by the Task Force.

The soldiers are from the 518th Engineer Company, 5th Battalion (Light), 87th Infantry; Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 5th/87th Infantry; 245th Support Battalion; and 252nd Signal Company, 63rd Signal Battalion, Fort Gordon, Ga.

Also part of the Task Force are A CO, 8th Engineer Support Battalion (Marines); Underwater Construction Team 1 and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 (Navy Seabees), and the 5th Medical Group (Airmen).

The Marines’ project was completed on March 10. They constructed a basement floor, installed windows and a door, stabilized the bleachers and constructed a retaining wall.

The Dominicans also contributed to the project. They manually excavated the basement, constructed and stuccoed CMU walls, and installed security bars on the windows. The other projects are still in progress, and coming along strong.

The task force has received numerous visits from their chain of command. Lt. Col. Charles L. Taylor, 5th/87th commander, has had a chance to visit with the soldiers. He was very pleased with the task force’s performance. Maj. Gen. Philip R. Kensinger Jr., U.S. Army South commanding general, and Col. Richard Thomas, Theater Support Brigade commander, are scheduled to visit also. They will have the opportunity to see the hard work and effort put out by the soldiers.

The soldiers of the Task Force are enjoying their time in Dominica. They have gone on several MWR trips such as the Emerald Pool, Trafalgar Falls and The Boiling Lake (the largest of its kind in the world).

They have also had the opportunity to spend time with the nationals. They conducted an Organizational Day of sports with a barbecue for all exercise participants, with participation from the Dominicans.

The soldiers learned to play a traditional game of the West Indies — “Cricket.” Soldiers commented on how much they enjoyed learning and experiencing the culture.

For some, it wasn’t their first time. Sgt. Thaddeus Bull explained his new experience, “I didn’t have any idea of how to play. I heard of the game, but didn’t know what it was. It was really fun. I enjoyed it a lot.”

Sgt. Spencer Howell, somewhat familiar with the game stated, “That was fun. I’ve been around it a lot, but I never really took the opportunity to learn.”

In the near future, the soldiers will have other opportunities to experience the beauty of the “Nature Island of the Caribbean.”

By April 16, 1999, the Joint Task Force will redeploy a majority of its personnel. They will leave a good and memorable impression on the Dominicans. They have deployed with the intent to provide support, and they have done that, thus far.

The JTF hopes that when the Dominicans utilize their new facilities, they will always remember the hard work and long hours from JTF 518th.

The Dominicans are very pleased and grateful for the assistance provided by the task force. They observe the JTF patiently at the site each day, waiting to use the facility.
Pre-retirement briefing

The AG pre-retirement briefing is scheduled for 9 a.m. - noon today in the BOSS screening room at the Valenzuela Recruitment Center on Fort Clayton. Personnel planning to retire within the next six months are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 288-6417.

USAOSO “Hasta Luego”

The next “Hasta Luego” reception for soldiers departing U.S. Army South in April, May and June is scheduled for 3 p.m. today at the Fort Clayton Community Club. For more information, call Caroline Hall at 288-9269/9255.

Education grant

The deadline for applying for the Air Force Aid Society’s Education Grant is today. The grant is for $1,500.

640th bazaar

The 640th Air Mobility Support Squadron is sponsoring a bazaar today - Sunday at the Howard Parade Field, and is in need of vendors for the event. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Franklin Arevalo at 285-5117.

Management orientation

The Directorate of Civilian Personnel, Training and Development Division is offering the mandatory Civilian Personnel Management Orientation 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Thursday at the Command Training Facility, Building 6523, Corozal. The orientation is mandatory for all military field grade officers and civilian managers who supervise civilian personnel. This is the first Management Orientation to be offered at Panama. A DD Form 1556 can be faxed to 285-4646 and original delivered by Monday. For more information, call Tina Scheffer at 285-5161.

Bank closure

The Community Bank will be open March 29 and closed March 30-31 for the Easter Holidays. Also, due to the treaty-related drawdown, bank services are due to change as follows: Currently - no new accounts are being opened, no new loans are being granted and no new certificates of deposit are being opened; April 30 - Howard customer service facilities close; Fort Kobbe mobile van closes; Fort Sherman banking facilities close and the Fort Sherman ATM closes; August 27 - Corozal and all remaining ATMs close. For more information, call 285-4005.

Howard Thrift Shop closes

The Howard Thrift Shop’s last day of business is March 29. All consigned items must be picked up by the consignee before 1:30 p.m. on that day. Those items that are not reclaimed are automatically donated. Consignment checks for March sales must be picked up on April 8 at the Thrift Shop. The store is open 8 - 1:30 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 285-5133.

24th EFS termination ceremony

The 24th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron major termi- nation ceremony will begin at 8 a.m. April 1 in front of Howard base operations. For more information, call Maj. Miguel A. Reses at 284-3348.

Right Start briefing

The new Right Start briefing is at the Mountain View Chapel on the first and third Thursdays with the following forecast dates: April 1 and 15, May 6 and 20, and June 3 and 17. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Diana Miller at 284-3508/3241.

Range closure

The Howard fire range briefing is April 1. Service mem- bers who require weapon qualification prior to PCS should contact their unit scheduler immediately. Call 284-4811 for details.

Mammography stops

Effective April 1, the 24th Medical Group will no longer offer mammography services. Anyone who is due for a mammogram after March 30 should make an appointment with their primary care manager.

AUSA Scholarships

The Isham Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army will be granting two scholarships for academic achievement to high school seniors. A key requirement is that the student’s sponsor must be a USAOSO member. Applications can be picked up at the Counselor’s Office at Balanced High School. The deadline for submission of applica- tions is April 16. Applications should be sent to Lisa Norris, PSC-94 Box 3022, Fort Clayton, APO AA 30004. For more information, call Lisa Norris at 285-6983.

AMC flight schedule

All flights listed are subject to change because of cancellations, additions or priority mission requirements. Check with the Passenger Service Section for updated information on flights by calling 284-4206/3608.

Travel tips

Pet tips — Pets may now be shipped space-available to CONUS. There is, however, a fee. For more information, call the Howard ABF Passenger Service at 284-5702.

West Point Founders Day

The annual West Point Founders Day dinner for West Point graduates and guests is scheduled for 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. April 10. The dinner is a no-host, semi-formal affair at a restaur- ant in Panama City. For more information, contact Capt. David Abramchuk at 284-9255 during duty hours or 284-6671 after duty hours.

Flying board selections

The next Undergraduate Flying Training selection board will review applications for pilot and navigator training April 20. For more information, call 284-3003.

The final series of DCP training

The Directorate of Civilian Personnel urges all USAOSO civilians to take advantage of classes offered at the Coralie Training Center. There are many courses to choose from in- cluding Job Searching, Starting a Business in the U.S. or Panama, Marketing, Productivity, Problem Solving, Retirement Planning and more. Classes are offered in both English and Spanish. Training is ongoing until April 30 in Building 6523. For more information, see your training coordinator, or call 285-5159.

CWO selection board

A selection board convenes May 4 to consider eligible chief warrant officers on the active duty list for promotion to CW2, CW4 and CW5. For more information, call the Officers Records Section at 288-4656.

USAWC distance education

The United States Army War College, Department of Dis- tance Education, is offering a distance education course titled “The Defense Strategy Course” 99-2. The course dates are May 19 - Nov. 10. Fifty active field grade officers can be ac- cepted for this course. Please contact Ms. Casey Talfer, DSN 221-3158 or COMM (703)325-3138. Army War College FAX is Phyllis Matthews or Phyllis Libby, DSN 224-4714 or COMM (770)245-4714. For more information, call the Officer Records Section at 288-4656/4321.

FSC selection board

A Department of the Army selection board will convene June 2 to consider soldiers for promotion to sergeant first class. All staff sergeants with a date of rank on June 30, 1997, and earlier, and a basic active service date between June 30, 1980, and May 31, 1993, must physically update and review their record and notify the CONUS personal qualification records. For more information about PQR reviews, call 288-6406/5850. For more information about photographers, call 288-7240/0650. For more information about NCOERs, call 288-7050/6652.

Pens pose peril

The 24th Medical Group is recalling all “the Putting Preven- tion into Practice” pens. The pens have a dangerous defect causing the top along with the spring to pop off and go shoot- ing across the room without the user doing anything of the ordinary. Please return the pens to the Primary Care Clinics on Howard or Fort Clayton. The pens are very shiny with black trim and white lettering.

Ration inspections

Air Force units storing rations (Meals Ready-to-Eat and survival rations, etc.) should notify the Public Health Flight to ensure inspections are completed prior to expiration and that a Dis- continued, active-duty and family members can take the Clayton-Howard shuttle and transfer to the Howard-town- down facilities shuttle. Call 284-6977 for details.

Shuttle information

The Howard Express Shuttle services customers 6 a.m. - 8 a.m. with stops at Furlan Housing, Four Gateway bus stops, Passenger Terminal, Tradewinds Dining Hall, Mountain View Chapel, Howard Theater and Howard Commissary. The shuttle starts and ends at the Howard Commissary every 15 minutes. For details call 284-5457. The Army’s Coralie PX shuttle operates hourly Monday-Friday from 5 a.m. - 6 p.m. with stops at Howard’s Main Gate, Commissary, Post Office and Passenger Terminal. For details call 285-9575. Since the shuttle from Fort Clayton to downtown referral facilities is dis- continued, active-duty and family members can take the Clayton-Howard shuttle and transfer to the Howard-town- down facilities shuttle. Call 284-6977 for details.

More money for meals

The dining facility is closed to non-meal-card holders for the lunch meal. As a result, non-meal card holders will now re- ceive Rations-In-Kind not available for the lunch meal. Each member receiving Basic Allowance for Subsistence will now receive an additional 32 cents per day. If you are TDY or on leave, however, BAS will revert back to the standard rate. This change is expected to be reported and “paid” at the end of each month. For more information, contact the 24th Comptroller Squadron at 284-9406/10144548902 or visit their website at www.mil.finance.mil/squadron/CFTS/userpage- c.htm).
Clayton hosts 3-on-3 hoops

Pedro Miguel team dominates tourney, final score 15-2

story and photos by
Sgt. Paul Bouchard
Tropic Times Editor

FORT CLAYTON –Back in December, three soldiers, Sgt. Randall Bivins, Sgt. Lexie Tabias and Sgt. Kenya Callkins, came up with an idea of hosting a 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

That idea came to fruition Saturday on two basketball courts adjacent to Fort Clayton’s Big Bobo. Sixteen teams signed up for the tourney where players had to be 16 years of age or older.

Bivins said part of the idea of having such a tournament was to have “something different in sports; something to break the monotony.”

Besides exciting hoop play, the event also featured food, beverages, a DJ and T-shirts for sale.

The rules for the tourney were as follows: Games last 20 minutes; teams are allowed two timeouts per games; the tourney is single-elimination; and anyone can play as long as they are 16 years of age.

A team made up of Panamanians (team name Pedro Miguel) dominated the competition. They won the championship match by a score of 15-2 over second-place finisher Panama.

Pedro Miguel center Pierre Brown had numerous blocked shots and four slam dunks (three of which were alley-ops) in the final game.

When asked to sum up his thoughts on the tourney Bivins responded, “I’m pleased with the turnout and the play. We might have another tournament like this in the near future.”

Above, point guard Anthony Pearcy drives to the hoop during the championship game. Left, Pedro Miguel center Pierre Brown slams home two points, one of four of his powerful dunks during the championship.
Cayuco time is here

Here is the schedule for the 1999 Boy Scouts of America Ocean-to-Ocean Cayuco Race:

March 26
1:00 pm All crews report at Cristobal Yacht Club.
2:00 pm Cayuco captain’s meeting.
3:00 pm Begin launching cayucos.
3:30 pm Race starts
4:15 pm Finish at Aids to Navigation Landing, north end Gatoon Locks.

March 27
6:00 am All crews report to boat ramp at south end of Gatoon Locks
6:30 am Cayuco captain’s briefing
6:45 am Begin launching cayucos
7:30 am Race starts
10:30 am First cayucos arrive at Gamboa - Beacon 93

March 28
6:45 am All crews report to Gamboa Airstrip - Beacon 89
7:00 am Captain’s briefing
7:15 am Begin launching cayucos
7:45 am Race starts - 3rd Leg
8:00 am First cayucos pass Beacon 93
8:30 am Race Starts - 3rd Leg con’t
9:45 am First cayucos arrive at Las Cruces Landing
11:45 am Cayucos move to starting line of final leg
12:15 pm Final Leg Starts - Miraflores Southeast - Diablo Point
12:30 pm First cayuco crosses finish line at Diablo Public Ramp
6:30 pm Award & Trophy presentations - Curundu Middle School Cafeteria

Upcoming runs
A 21K run organized by the Isthmus Road Runners is scheduled for 6 a.m. Sunday, starting at Pedro Miguel. The Panama Armed Forces Running Association is sponsoring 2.3 and 5-mile runs 7 a.m. April 24 starting at the Fort Clayton Pedestrian Gate.

USARSO Softball Stats

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Air Force Softball Stats

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DEH hosts Organization Day

‘Good morale booster’ is a day of fun for organization’s employees.

story and photos by Sgt. Paul Bouchard
Tropic Times Editor

COROZAL – The Directorate of Engineering and Housing held its annual Organization Day in typical fun fashion March 12 at its softball field in Corozal. The day’s events included sports such as 3-on-3 basketball, soccer and softball, a dominoes tournament, food and beverages, music entertainment and the raffling off of prizes.

“Organization Day is one day a year for our employees to have lunch and beverages and to play sports and take part in various activities,” said Lt. Col. Patrick L. Staffieri, the DEH director. “It’s a good morale booster.”

Benn Haunan, the DEH deputy director, added, “The significance of this event is that this day is where our employees will see each other on an organization social basis for the last time.”

Staffieri said roughly 400 employees and 1,200 contractors work at DEH.

Staffieri also presented Certificates of Appreciation to the event’s volunteers and plaques to members of the winning sports teams.

DEH employees plot their strategies in one of the day’s popular activities, a game of dominoes. The DEH Organization Day also included sporting events (basketball, soccer and softball), food to include chorizo and steak barbecue, seafood and a fish fry, music by DJ Gumbs and his Fans Disco and a Samba Group, and door prizes. Each year the Directorate of Engineering and Housing hosts an Organization Day for its roughly 400 employees and their family members. DEH Director Lt. Col. Patrick L. Staffieri presented certificates to the volunteers who organized the event and plaques to the winning sports teams.

The DEH Organization Day included a 3-on-3 single elimination basketball tournament. Here, a Magic player gets ready to drive to the bucket against the defense of the Sonics. The Sonics won the championship in a close game, 19-17, over the Magic.

What’s an Organization Day without some tunes. The DJ for the festivities was DJ Gumbs and his Fans Disco.

The food for the event included steak barbecue and traditional Panamanian dishes.

The Samba Band Academicos do Samba play their special blend of music as part of the musical entertainment.

Lt. Col. Patrick L. Staffieri presents Marisol Picota with a Certificate of Appreciation for her work on the event’s planning committee.

Organization Day Planning Committee
Janet Weade
Patrice Hogan
Marisol Picota
Rosa Tejada
Norman Richards
Alex Brathwaite
Anna Opel
Aurora Rodriguez, coordinator
118th MP Co. soldiers help perform force protection

118th Military Police Company (Airborne)
FORT CLAYTON — The new faces greeting you at the gates of Fort Sherman, Fort Clayton and Fort Kobe belong to the soldiers of the 118th Military Police Company (Airborne). On March 2, the 118th Military Police Company (Airborne) relieved the 66th Military Police Company of force protection operations around the USARSO community.

The 66th Military Police Company recently returned to Fort Lewis, Wash., after serving six months with USARSO. The 118th Military Police Company (Airborne), stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., falls under the 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne). The red beret these military police wear is part of their uniform, signifying they are members of an airborne unit.

The paratroopers of the 118th will perform force protection operations through the month of August. Third platoon of the 118th relieved the 66th on Fort Sherman performing the same mission. Once Fort Sherman closes, the platoon will supplement the law enforcement mission on the Pacific side. Fourth Platoon is deployed to Soto Cano Air Base in Honduras as part of the Joint Security Force. Some of the missions the soldiers will perform include manning the gates, mobile and walking patrols, surveillance operations, and protective service. In addition, the soldiers will continue to train on individual and squad level tasks.

First Sgt. Brian Lambert stated, “This deployment provides our soldiers the challenge of performing their law enforcement mission in a diverse culture.”

The 118th MP Co. has a long history of serving in this theater. In 1966, the company defended the CV-2 Air Force Corps headquarters in rebellion in the Dominican Republic. During the invasion of Grenada in 1983, the company was responsible for the speedy evacuation of students from St. George’s University, running the prisoner of war detention facility, and the evacuation of the Soviet Embassy. In 1989, the unit deployed to Haiti in support of Operation Uphold Democracy and again in 1995 in support of the United Nations Mission. June 1 marks the mission termination of the 534th Military Police Company.

Soldiers from the 118th MP Co., (Airborne) out of Fort Bragg, N.C., are assisting with force protection operations at Fort Sherman, Clayton and Kobe through the month of August.

After this date, the 118th assume the force protection mission with supplements from rotational National Guard and Army Reserve units. Although the number of personnel working and residing on Fort Clayton continues to decrease, the number of Military Police patrols will remain the same.

News

Congress debates military pay

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) - A raise in pay next year for military members seems pending — the question is, how much?

Congress is currently examining options for service-wide pay raises and a revamped retirement system proposed in President Bill Clinton’s FY 2000 defense budget, according to a Department of Defense official. The president’s proposal includes a 4.4-percent across-the-board raise for service members and DoD civilian employees. The Senate has recommended a 4.4- and 4.8-percent across-the-board raises exceed anticipated private-sector pay hikes and estimated inflation rates, officials said.

By law, Congress must approve any proposed changes in military pay or retirement compensation, according to DoD officials. According to the official, the Senate has generally approved across-the-board military/DoD civilian raises for next year, but the House has only been conditionally approved. The additional 4.4- and 4.8-percent across-the-board raises exceed anticipated private-sector pay hikes and estimated inflation rates, officials said.

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The additional compensation would be targeted primarily to mid-level noncommissioned and commissioned officers, and would generally reward performance over length of service, according to DoD compensation officials.

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Metro employees ‘eat’ official travel costs

Officials say people are still unaware of April 1998 DoD policy change

by Staff Sgt. Amy Hickey

AMC News Service Editor

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. – Since the Defense Department amended its policy on official travel nearly a year ago, its Office of Hearing and Appeals has received and denied hundreds of appeals from federal employees who were denied tickets for official travel.

The “rules,” which are actually Defense Department directives, specify that when arranging travel, all government employees — military or civilian — must use a commercial ticket office contracted by the government; as an in-house travel office such as a base travel management center; or a General Services Administration travel management center.

Though the rules have been in place since January 1995, they were rarely enforced, said Master Sgt. Milton Lawrence, chief of customer service for the finance office here.

That changed in April 1998, when the Defense Department amended the policy to stipulate that travelers who arranged transportation through non-authorized ticketing agency were not authorized reimbursement, he said.

“The only exception is if unusual circumstances exist, or if the non-availability of a non-authorized agency,” Lawrence said.

“Non-availability doesn’t mean the base travel office is closed for the day. It means that there isn’t a government-approved travel office located in the general area.”

Though the DoD policy change has been in effect nearly a year, Lawrence said many people still haven’t caught on.

Why did the Defense Department suddenly decide to get tough on these “offenders?”

Air Force changes force structure

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force officials recently announced changes in the service’s force structure affecting the operating locations of people, aircraft and units across the United States.

These changes result from mission changes, adjustments for efficiency, congressional directives and implementation of the expeditionary concept.

Included in this announcement are changes to manpower authorizations required to implement the EAF concept, anticipated to become operational by Jan. 1, 2000. EAF is a fundamental and evolutionary change for the Air Force.

It is a shift to an expeditionary mindset and a vision for how the service will organize, train, equip and sustain airpower forces to meet the requirements of the national military strategy and the challenges of a changing global security environment.

Also included in the report was news that MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., will gain 75 military positions in fiscal 1999 due to the "drawdown of U.S. forces in Panama and the relocation of the commandorg mission."

The additional manpower authorizations associated with the EAF will help relieve tempes concerns associated with deployment commitments by providing additional authorizations for the forces that will be brought to the strength of the Air Force’s deployment taskings.

Also included in the force structure announcement are significant changes affecting the Air Force Research Laboratory.

As the Air Force evolves to an expeditionary airpower force, according to the announcement, it must place more emphasis on space.

Prior to making any decisions concerning a major movement of forces, the Air Force will fully comply with the spirit and requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The additional compensation would be targeted primarily to mid-level noncommissioned and commissioned officers, and would generally reward performance over length of service, according to DoD compensation officials.

"It’s simply a matter of economics," Lawrence said.

"The government has contracts with several airlines to provide reduced rates for official travel, and it pays for these special rates." Lawrence said he believes many people are trying to save the government money when they book their own flights (advanced super-saver fares can often be lower than the government rates), but they are in effect creating a breach of contract.

"I recently received a request for reimbursement from a captain whose father died for Northwest Airlines," he said. "He decided to purchase his tickets for an upcoming TDY directly from the airline so he could take advantage of his family member’s discount and save the Air Force some money.

Even though the captain “saved” the Air Force almost $200, he still will most likely not be reimbursed the $80 he spent on the tickets because he did not purchase the tickets through any approved agency.

Lawrence said many people have had a hard time adjusting to the policy because in their words, “it just isn’t common sense,” but they should keep in mind that contracted fares offer them protection.

For instance, if travelers need to change their tickets, there are no fees involved and they are protected from any processing fees.

"I’ve seen many employees who purchased their tickets in advance at a discount rate, only to have their trip canceled," he said.

"And guess what? They can’t return their tickets or get their money back because they didn’t buy the tickets from a government-approved agency.”

To make sure people don’t wind up paying the transportation costs for official travel, Lawrence said they should always contact their local travel management office or commercial ticket office before purchasing airline tickets.

"The only exception is if unusual circumstances exist, or if the non-availability of a non-authorized agency," Lawrence said.

"Non-availability doesn’t mean the base travel office is closed for the day. It means that there isn’t a government-approved travel office located in the general area.”

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Prior to making any decisions concerning a major movement of forces, the Air Force will fully comply with the spirit and requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.
The girls out in the audience give the 79th Army Show Band their sign of approval at the David International Fair.

It’s ‘The End of An Era’

story and photos by Sgt. Tywanna Gordon
Tropic Times assistant editor

“No pares. Sigue, sigue.” Translated, that’s “Don’t stop. Keep going, keep going.” That’s exactly what the crowd screamed out while the 79th Army Show Band gave their last performance Saturday and Sunday at the David International Fair in the Province of Chiriqui.

For years, the Show Band has performed at several fairs throughout Panama and their fans know them by name.

“I have lived here for 48 years and I always come to the David Fair just to see the Army perform,” Tony Bibbo said.

“It’s a great treat to see the band perform. They play everything from salsa to merengue to típico. What the band has done is fostered a good international relationship between the two countries. My wife and I will miss them when they leave.”

The band gave two performances Saturday and Sunday night. They were joined by a local singer, Betty Guerra, Sunday night and the crowd loved it. They were also televised on Television Canal 2, a local station in David.

Don’t be alarmed if you think you’ve missed the last of their performances. The 79th Army Band will give a dry season concert March 28 and April 25, 6 p.m. at the Goethals Monument in Balboa. For more information, call 288-5718.

Sgt. Scott Elliot provides the smooth salsa sounds on the baritone saxophone.

1st Sgt. Luis E. Branch keeps the crowd going.

Sgt. Arturo Flores handles percussion and Spc. Joshylin Heffernan handles the drums.

People of all generations enjoy the band.
Air Force

Outdoor Recreation: 284-6107

Tours depart from Howard Theater. Parana Puri Indian village tour 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday and March 28, $22. Take a caiaque ride along the Chagres River to visit the unique Parana Puri Indian community and experience their social lifestyle and witness their primitive customs dating back 500 years. Bring a sack lunch and don't forget the camera.

Peacock Bass fishing 5 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday, $25. Be prepared to catch a boat load of fish while peacock bass fishing near Arenalona Village on Gatun Lake. Bring your own fishing gear, lunch and refreshments. Transportation, boat with guide, bait, ice and coolers for fish and fish cleaning are provided.

Barro Colorado Island tour 6:30 a.m. 3 p.m. Monday, $65. See Mother Nature at her best on this boat tour of Barro Colorado, home to one of the Smithsonian Institute's Tropical Research Centers. The untamed island is in Gatun Lake and is overflowing with beautiful tropical plants and animals. Fee includes transportation and box lunch.

Italian dining in Panama City 6-10 p.m. Wednesday, $7. Come join us and enjoy dinner the Italian way.

Ecological Canal tour 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thursday, $60. Don't miss this unique tour of the Las Americas Inter-oceanic National Park. Includes a boat ride along the Panama Canal and Gatun Lake, a visit to a Choco Indian village, barbecue meal, drink and a tour guide. Don't forget your camera.

Chagres River canoeing and barbeque 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. March 27, $20. You'll love the thrill of this canoe trip down the beautiful, mighty Chagres River. Cost includes transportation, guide, canoes, safety equipment and a delicious barbecue lunch. Bring sunscreen, hat, snacks and drinks for the river trip.

El Valle horseback riding trip 7 a.m. 4 p.m. March 27, $24. Ride a horse and explore the countryside in El Valle, the beautiful mountain valley located in the interior of Panama. El Valle's lush vegetation, colorful flowers, waterfalls, ancient Indian petroglyphs and cooler temperatures make it one of Panama's popular tourist attractions. Cost includes transportation, horses and guide. Bring your own lunch or dine at a local restaurant.

El Rio Mar Beach trip 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. March 28, $14/person. Spend the afternoon on one of Panama's finest beaches. Don't miss it and bring your camera.

Army

Outdoor Recreation Center: 288-7352/453

Reservations for outings are under way at Building 178, Fort Clayton.

Horseback riding at Cermeño Saturday.

Fishing in Gatun Lake - Saturday. El Valle canopy tour Sunday.

Kayaking ocean adventure Sunday.

The Mamoni overnight trip is available. Includes a two-hour drive into Chepo and a three-hour horseback ride. Enjoy typical food, rustic sleeping accommodations and activities. Not meant for the mild at heart. For more information, call the center.

Arts and crafts

Air Force

Howard Skills Development Center: 284-6361

The center accepts commercial credit cards.

Registration and payment are required before attending classes. Classes will be cancelled 24 hours prior if minimum participation is not met.

Ceramic instruction available: Tuesday 9 a.m. - noon Saturdays and Monday 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. Friday.

Clay Flower making I: 284-6107

Advance registration required. Fee is $20.

Beaded earrings: noon - 4 p.m. Saturday.

Woodworking qualification class:

9:30 a.m. - noon Saturdays.

Framing instruction: 6:30 - 9 p.m. Thursday.

Call for details.

Guitar construction: 7 - 9 p.m. Thursday.

Fort Clayton Ceramics Shop: 288-4360

Ceramic instruction available: Learn the fine art of ceramics. Classes are offered at all levels.

Beginner's ceramic painting: 6 - 8 p.m. Thursdays. Fee is $25.

Ceramic class: 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Saturdays.

Ceramic instruction for pouring: 2 - 3 p.m. Wednesday.

Pastel chalk technique: 4 - 5 p.m. Wednesdays. $10 plus supplies.

Eye painting: 7 p.m. Wednesday. $5.

Dry brush technique: 2 - 3 p.m. Thursdays.

Airbrush classes: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Fridays. $5.

Advance registration required for the following courses:

Clay Flowing sessions: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sundays. $15. Four sessions. Join us at the center and don't miss the wonderful clay flow!

Learn to apply Fiesta Color: 2 - 4 p.m. Sundays. $20. Four sessions.

Rec center news

Air Force

Howard Community Center: 284-6107

The center is located on the Ground Floor of Building 707. New hours: 7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. Mondays - Fridays, noon - 6 p.m. Saturdays, closed Sundays and holidays and noon - 6 p.m. down days.

Jewelry show and sale 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fridays. You don't have to go off base to shop fine jewelry.

Souvenir vendors bazaar 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturdays. We bring the vendors to you at Howard Parade Field; come by and see for yourself.

Howard Skills Development Center: 284-6361

The Balloon Shop is located in the Skills Development Center, Building 711. Check our daily specials and make someone smile. The Skills Development Center now has the Balloon Shop and Pack-N-Wrap with gifts, balloons and wrappings for shipping for all occasions.

Outdoor Adventures: 284-6107

Rent Howard bohios and pools for private parties or squadron functions. If you wish to serve alcohol, you must submit a letter of request to the 24th Support Group deputy commander at least four working days before the event.

Howard AFB Sports and Recreation Rental Center: 284-1027/3209

Check out the wide variety of equipment for rent, camping, fishing and boating, home entertainment, home improvement, outdoor, picnic & party, sports and cooking equipment for a minimal fee daily, weekend and weekly rental.

PCing! If so, get $5 off weekly and monthly rentals on TVs, VCRs and TV/VCR combos. Must be accompanied by orders. Rent a moun- tain bike for a month or week and receive a free water bottle.

Army

Valent Recreation Center: 288-6500

Private tours for 10 - 15 people can be arranged. Advance reservation and payment required for any tours listed or other local tours. The center also provides music non-stop Saturdays on two beach tours: El Palmar Beach Saturdays and Rio Mar Beach Sundays. Don't miss it. For more information, call the center.

Carmon Wagonlit offers the lowest military air fares, hotel, car rental dis- counts and more. Service also includes: Special weekday rates at Gorgona beachfront cabins; Chica Parrandera on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and partial Canal Trans- sit for more information, call 288-7077.
Atlantic news

Costa Rica trip

Army
- Ocean Breeze Recreation Center: 289-6699

Upcoming trip to Costa Rica is March 26. Now is the time to plan and reserve your vacation. Take a four-hour drive to Arenal Volcano, a beautiful place to be. While you're there, experience one of the tours to volcanoes, the rain forest or water rafting. The weather is mild compared to Panama. You may even need a sweater in some parts of the country. For more information on available trips contact the Ocean Breeze Recreation centers at the above number or your local travel agencies. Optional tours available.
- Sherman Rental Center: 289-6104

Motorboat operator’s safety classes are held 10 a.m. Saturdays, a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. call the center.

Air Force
- Howard Community Center: 284-6161

For more information, call 284-6161.

Special events

Party in the Park

Fort Clayton

The Directorate of Community Activities is hosting Party in the Park III, March 26 at Fort Clayton’s Jarman Field. The festivities begin at 4 p.m. with face painting, clown with balloons, inflatables, rides, snow cones, cotton candy, popcorn and join us at 8 p.m for the presentation of local and international groups. For more information, call 288-7309.

Last Blast Fun Run

Howard Hangar #1

Howard Air Force Base is hosting the Last Blast Fun Run at 6:30 a.m. March 27. Come join us and bring your family and friends for this early run. The Fitness Center will offer free T-shirts for the first 100 to finish. Enjoy the 25 cent hamburgers and hotdogs, volley ball and horseshoe tournament, kids games and rides at the Flightline from noon - 8 p.m.

End of an Era Concert

Balboa Goethals Monument

The 79th Army Band is hosting the Last Blast Fun Run 6 p.m. March 28 at the Goethals Monum ent in Balboa. Come join us and enjoy variety rhythm of the extraordinary band. Bring your family and friends and don’t forget your lawn chairs, blankets, beverages and snacks. For more information, call 288-5718/5550.

Shops and classes

Air Conditioning
- Howard Community Center: 284-3370

Heating and cooling equipment, $30/person, minimum of six people required. For more information, call 288-3370.

Army
- Howard Wood Skills Center: 284-4510

For wood shop needs, please contact the Howard Wood Shop.

Water Aerobics

Open-water dive classes begin Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sundays and closed Mondays and holidays.

Enrollee lot: Planning to sell your car? Contact Auto Skills at Howard.

Services: Towing 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Tuesdays - Thursdays, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Fridays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturdays and closed Mondays and holidays.


Shop features work area boys, electric lift, instructions and classes.

Electric engine analysis 4 - 9 p.m. Mondays.

Air conditioning maintenance 2 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Noon - 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Wheel alignment 3 - 9 p.m. Monday, Thursdays and Fridays.

Brake repair classes 1 - 3:30 p.m. Fridays.

Fort Sherman Auto Shop Building 153:

Hours of operation: noon - 4 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays and Tuesdays, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturdays and holidays.

The shop has four bays with one engine lift, tire-changing equipment, engine hoist, a compressor to remove shocks and various other equipment.

Valent Recreation Center: 288-6565

New hours of operation: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, noon - 9 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Spanish classes available. Fee includes manual. For more information, call the center.

Spanish classes available. Fee includes manual. For more information, call the center.

 Intermediate English classes 10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Intermediate English classes Monday and Wednesday.

Spanish headstart class, eight week course, meets twice a week.

Intermediate Army

- Ocean Breeze Recreation Center: 289-6699

Motorboat operator's safety classes are held 10 a.m. Saturdays, a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. call the center.

Vehicle inspection services 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Tuesdays - Thursdays, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Fridays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturdays and closed Mondays. Cost is $10.25. Have your vehicle inspected at the center in Building 722. Vehicles cannot be left for inspections. Call the center for details.

Air conditioning repair, brake systems, paint and repair shocks, brakes, and gauges.

Auto Craft Center:

The center is located in Buildings 178-A, B, C and Building 135, Fort Clayton.

The shop features work area boys, electric lift, instructions and classes.

Electric engine analysis 4 - 9 p.m. Mondays.

Spanish classes available. Fee includes manual. For more information, call the center.

Valent Recreation Center: 288-6565

New hours of operation: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, noon - 9 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Spanish classes available. Fee includes manual. For more information, call the center.

Intermediate English classes 10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Spanish headstart class, eight week course, meets twice a week.
employment

The Director of Civilian Personnel is accepting applications on a continuous basis for the following announcements. All interested applicants need to submit an application on Form OE-612 to the Personnel Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Regularity established from these announcements will be used to fill temporary positions.

B4B Mach 51-O General Clerical, NM-4 (Used to fill most clerical positions).*

B4B Mach 63-O Sales Store Checker, NM-3 (Intermittent wk sales).*

* Effective with this announcement and until further notice, the written test for all temporary appointments to clerical positions at grades NM-3, 4, and 5 is waived.

B4B Mach 55-O Secretary (Typing/Oﬃce Automation), NM-5, specialized experience required.

5th Signal Battalion Open Continuous Announcements

OPEN: 10-17-97 CLOSE: Will remain open until further notice.

NOTE: The announcements listed below will be used to fill recurring (temporary/permanent) vacancies within various divisions of the 5th Signal Battalion. Interested candidates should ensure that their application package is complete in order to receive proper consideration (i.e. SF-171, OE-612, Resumes, DD-214 if claiming veterans preference, SF-50, current performance appraisal).

NON-MANUAL POSITIONS:

B4B Mach 2151 Signal Telecommunication Specialist, NM-391-11

B4B Mach 2551 Telecommunication Specialist, NM-391-09

B4B Mach 3051 Telecommunication Specialist, NM-391-709

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION:

HOW TO APPLY: Submit an SF-171, OE-612 or Resume to the Personnel Information Center, JRC, Building 560, Room 102, Corozal, by 4:14 PM on the closing date of the announcement. YOUR application must include: (1) Member 4 copy of the DD-214, if claiming veteran preference, (2) copy of college transcripts or BEEC Form 54-14 (dependent education), if applicable, (3) copy of current SF-50 if you are a current federal employee, (4) copy of current federal employee and have not received an official performance rating, please submit a memo letter from your current supervisor regarding your performance).

IMPORTANT NOTE: All U.S. citizens and third country nationals applying for positions announced by this agency must attach copy of one the following documents: U.S. citizen/third country national biographical ID card, issued to civilians by agency command sponsored family members; ID-2 card; ID-3 card; provisional permit of civilian status of federal employees; and third country nationals; must attach copy of current work permit. SF-635, OF-612, completion in order to receive proper consideration (i.e. Non-member fee available. candidates should ensure that their application package is complete in order to receive proper consideration (i.e. SF-171, OE-612, Resumes, DD-214 if claiming veterans preference, SF-50, current performance appraisal).

HOW TO APPLY: Submit an SF-171, OE-612 or Resume to the Personnel Information Center, JRC, Building 560, Room 102, Corozal, by 4:14 PM on the closing date of the announcement. YOUR application must include: (1) Member 4 copy of the DD-214, if claiming veteran preference, (2) copy of college transcripts or BEEC Form 54-14 (dependent education), if applicable, (3) copy of current SF-50 if you are a current federal employee, (4) copy of current federal employee and have not received an official performance rating, please submit a memo letter from your current supervisor regarding your performance).

B4B Mach 55-O Secretary (Typing/Oﬃce Automation), NM-5, specialized experience required.

5th Signal Battalion Open Continuous Announcements

OPEN: 10-17-97 CLOSE: Will remain open until further notice.

NOTE: The announcements listed below will be used to fill recurring (temporary/permanent) vacancies within various divisions of the 5th Signal Battalion. Interested candidates should ensure that their application package is complete in order to receive proper consideration (i.e. SF-171, OE-612, Resumes, DD-214 if claiming veterans preference, SF-50, current performance appraisal).

NON-MANUAL POSITIONS:

B4B Mach 2151 Signal Telecommunication Specialist, NM-391-11

B4B Mach 2551 Telecommunication Specialist, NM-391-09

B4B Mach 3051 Telecommunication Specialist, NM-391-709

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION:

HOW TO APPLY: Submit an SF-171, OE-612 or Resume to the Personnel Information Center, JRC, Building 560, Room 102, Corozal, by 4:14 PM on the closing date of the announcement. YOUR application must include: (1) Member 4 copy of the DD-214, if claiming veteran preference, (2) copy of college transcripts or BEEC Form 54-14 (dependent education), if applicable, (3) copy of current SF-50 if you are a current federal employee, (4) copy of current federal employee and have not received an official performance rating, please submit a memo letter from your current supervisor regarding your performance).

IMPORTANT NOTE: All U.S. citizens and third country nationals applying for positions announced by this agency must attach copy of one the following documents: U.S. citizen/third country national biographical ID card, issued to civilians by agency command sponsored family members; ID-2 card; ID-3 card; provisional permit of civilian status of federal employees; and third country nationals; must attach copy of current work permit. SF-635, OF-612, completion in order to receive proper consideration (i.e. Non-member fee available. candidates should ensure that their application package is complete in order to receive proper consideration (i.e. SF-171, OE-612, Resumes, DD-214 if claiming veterans preference, SF-50, current performance appraisal).

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IMPORTANT NOTE: All U.S. citizens and third country nationals applying for positions announced by this agency must attach copy of one the following documents: U.S. citizen/third country national biographical ID card, issued to civilians by agency command sponsored family members; ID-2 card; ID-3 card; provisional permit of civilian status of federal employees; and third country nationals; must attach copy of current work permit. SF-635, OF-612, completion in order to receive proper consideration (i.e. Non-member fee available. candidates should ensure that their application package is complete in order to receive proper consideration (i.e. SF-171, OE-612, Resumes, DD-214 if claiming veterans preference, SF-50, current performance appraisal).
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Howard AFB</td>
<td>No Show</td>
<td>No Show</td>
<td>4 pm: You’ve Got Mail*</td>
<td>7 pm: At First Sight*</td>
<td>7 pm: Pay Back*</td>
<td>7 pm: John Carpenter’s Vampires</td>
<td>7 pm: Pay Back*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Clayton</td>
<td>288-7279</td>
<td>4:30 pm: Message in a Bottle</td>
<td>4 pm: You’ve Got Mail*</td>
<td>4 pm: Message in a Bottle</td>
<td>7 pm: Pay Back*</td>
<td>7 pm: At First Sight*</td>
<td>7 pm: John Carpenter’s Vampires</td>
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<td>Fort Sherman</td>
<td>289-6251</td>
<td>7 pm: Thin Red Line*</td>
<td>7 pm: The Faculty</td>
<td>7 pm: The Thin Red Line*</td>
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**Theater News**

**Now showing**

**SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW TONIGHT**

**ONE NIGHT ONLY**

**Share the laughter.**

**ROBIN WILLIAMS**

**PATCH ADAMS**

**BASED ON A TRUE STORY**

Showin Sunday at the Howard Theater.

**At First Sight**

Mira Sorvino, Val Kilmer.

When Amy falls in love with Virgil she convinces him to undergo eye surgery to restore his sight. They soon learn that all gifts come with a price and vision is comprised of a multitude of senses. **R, 2 hrs, 9 min.**

**Celebrity**

Kenneth Branagh, Melanie Griffith

Kenneth Branagh stars as Woody Allen’s alter ego, an entertainment reporter obsessed by the objects of his celebrity beat. Divorced from Judy Davis, he pursues his interests in a number of well-known faces. Melanie Griffith plays a semi-promiscuous movie star. Winona Ryder is an actress on the rise. Leonardo DiCaprio plays a tempestuous celebrity brat, and Charlize Theron is a supermodel. **R, 2 hrs.**

**John Carpenter’s Vampires**

James Woods, Sheryl Lee

James Woods leads a team of Vatican-sponsored vampire slayers in director John Carpenter’s latest fright fest. After destroying a bloodsuckers nest in New Mexico, Team Crow hosts a celebration spoiled only by the arrival of an ancient lord of darkness. Woods and the remaining survivors pursue the 600-year-old vampire through the high desert for one final confrontation. **R, 1 hr, 40 min.**

**Movie Guide Rating**

**R** Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

**PG-13** Parental guidance suggested for children under 13.

**PG** Parental guidance suggested.

**G** Suitable for general audience.

**Message in a Bottle**

Kevin Costner, Robin Wright

Walking along a deserted stretch of coastline, Robin Wright discovers a romantic letter in a bottle. Her own desire for romance motivates a search for the heartbroken author. A dedicated effort leads her to a widowed sailboat builder, played by Kevin Costner. As friendship and love develop, Costner struggles with his past and a new found passion. **PG-13, 1 hr, 56 min.**

**Patch Adams**

Robin Williams, Monica Potter

Robin Williams stars as a medical student who believes that laughter is the best medicine. While dangerous to his career prospects, his funny antics also challenge the industry to consider the healing powers of humor. Based on a true story. **PG-13, 1 hr, 55 min.**

**Pay Back**

Mel Gibson, Maria Bello

Mel Gibson plays a super-breag guy on the relentless pursuit of his stolen money. Gibson and his friend, played by Greg Henry, hit a Chinese gang together and manage to steal $140,000. Henry turns on Gibson, along with Gibson’s wife. Gibson seeks revenge against Henry and tries to outsmart the police and the vengeful Chinese gang, in order to get his own piece. **R, 1 hr, 42 min.**

**The Faculty**

Elijah Wood, Josh Hartnett

Elijah Wood suspects his high school faculty of being more than a little alien. After some investigation, Wood discovers a group of creatures (feeler) have taken on the teachers and are planning to take over his small Texas town. It’s up to Woods and a breakfast club assortment of students to stop the alien invasion. **R, 1 hr, 41 min.**

**The Thin Red Line**

Nick Nolte, John Travolta

During the battle on Guadalcanal Island in 1942-1943, an Army rifle company named C for Charlie tries to outfight and outlast a Japanese stronghold, a hill known as “210.” The taking of the stronghold is secondary to how the lives of the men are affected by their common quest. **R, 2 hrs, 20 min.**

**You’ve Got Mail**

Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan

Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan team up in the romantic comedy set in the age of e-mail. Hanks stars as an enterprising bookstore owner who owns one of the largest chains in Manhattan. Ryan plays a young woman who operates a small children’s bookstore. The two bookellers face off in real life, but unwittingly fall in love in cyberspace. **PG, 1 hr, 56 min.**

**Howard AFB**

7 pm: Blast from the Past (PG) Brendan Fraser, Alicia Silverstone

7 pm: In Dreams (R). Annette Bening, Robert Downey Jr.

**Fort Clayton**

7 pm: Patch Adams (PG-13) Robin Williams, Monica Potter

7 pm: Pay Back (R) Mel Gibson, Maria Bello

**Fort Sherman**

7 pm: Varsity Blues (R) John Voight, Amy Smart

**March 26**

**Tickets are available in five price categories:**

- $1.50, $1. *First run movies $3.50 **Special Price $1.50*
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Friends: The Reunion</td>
<td>CBS</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
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*Note: The schedule is for Friends: The Reunion show.*
**SCN TV**

### Tropic Times March 19, 1998 B7

**PRIME TIME**

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<td>15 &amp; 64</td>
<td>SCN - 15</td>
<td>News</td>
<td>ARB Nghtly News</td>
<td>CBS Evening News</td>
<td>PGA Golf: Bay Hill Invitational (2nd Round)</td>
<td>NASA/Cast Kids</td>
<td>Track Series</td>
<td>BBS Newshour</td>
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<td>16 &amp; 65</td>
<td>Can't-Miss Movie: Four Seasons (TV-PG)</td>
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<td>News/Nightly News</td>
<td>CBS Evening News</td>
<td>PGA Golf: Bay Hill Invitational (3rd Round)</td>
<td>MLB Games</td>
<td>NASCAR Racing: CGT &quot;President's Cup&quot;</td>
<td>Fox Sports</td>
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<td>ARB Nghtly News</td>
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<td>SCN - 15</td>
<td>News</td>
<td>ARB Nghtly News</td>
<td>Tonight Show w/ Jay Letterman</td>
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<td>16 &amp; 65</td>
<td>Can't-Miss Movie: The Great Dumb Show (TV-PG)</td>
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**SCN Prime Time Movies & Specials**

**71ST ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS**: Will and Ryan capture the gold or will life be beautiful for Roberto Benigni? Whoopi Goldberg, who counts an Oscar among her collection, proves the third time's the charm when she returns to host the 71st Annual Academy Awards. (Awards) 8:30 p.m. Sunday.

**FOOLS RUSH IN**: After a chance encounter with a beautiful Mexican photographer, a white, middle class construction designer finds he's a daddy-to-be, and he's got a whole new set of family members to go along with it. Starring Matthew Perry and Salma Hayek. (Romantic Comedy, 1997, TV-PG) 8 p.m. Tuesday.

**SCN's VCR Alert — Recommended for videotaping**

**INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE**: A young journalist gets a horrifying glimpse into the tragic world of the undead when he agrees to interview a centuries-old bloodsucker. Based on the Gothic best seller by Ann Rice. Starring Tom Cruise, Brad Pitt, Christian Slater, and Kirsten Dunst. (Horror, 1994, TV-PG) 1:00 a.m. Thursday.

**SCN Weekend Sports**

**NCAA Basketball Tournament**: 7:30 p.m. Tonight Regional Semi-Finals Cable 15
12:30 p.m. Saturday Division II Championship Cable 14
3:00 p.m. Saturday Regional Finals Cable 14
2:00 p.m. Sunday Regional Finals Cable 14

**NBA Basketball**:
- NCAA Basketball: Noon Sunday Lakers at Magic
- CART Auto Racing: 4:00 p.m. Sunday Homestead CART Auto Race Cable 15

**PGA Golf**:
- PGA Golf: 7:00 p.m. Saturday Bay Hill Classic (3rd Round) Cable 15
Classified Ads

**Motorcycles**

- **2000 Honda VT1100 Shadow, 32,000 miles, $3,200 or best offer.**
- **1998 Yamaha VMax 1200, 27,000 miles, $3,500 or best offer.**

**Trucks & Vans**

- **1998 Ford F150 XL, 4x4, 158,000 miles, $4,000.**
- **2000 Toyota Land Cruiser, 5-speed, 62,000 miles, $7,500.**
- **2003 Ford F-150, 4x4, 111,000 miles, $7,000.**

**Miscellaneous**

- **2005 Honda Civic, low miles, $8,500.**
- **1984 Toyota Corolla, new tires, $3,500.**
- **2007 Ford Explorer, loaded, 87,000 miles, $10,000.**

**Note:** Advertising in the Classified Ads is open to all qualified sellers. For more information, call 284-8681.

**Deadline for submitting ads is 9 a.m. Monday. If Monday is a holiday, the deadline is the 1 p.m. Friday before.**

**Read instructions below, then completely fill out the ad form. Incomplete ads will not be published.**

**Wanted**

- **16"-18" rifle, reasonable price, real wood, paid for.**
- **Check engine replacement for 1998 Toyota, $300-$500.**
- **Carpet, priced for a used chair.**
- **2x4 lumber, 2" x 4", 16' long, green, $2.50.**

**Note:** Advertising in the Classified Ads is open to all qualified sellers. For more information, call 284-8681.
Embassy cookbook
The U.S. Embassy Cookbook, "Bon Appetit," goes on sale in front of the Howard Community Center on Saturday. The cookbook contains both Spanish and English translations of American and international recipes prepared by the employees of the embassy. The cookbook is $10. For more information, call Peggy McCormack at 288-7774 or Linda Birnius at 223-0085.

P.R. workshop
A "Living and Working in Puerto Rico Open Forum" is scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday and March 26. Personnel who are considering a move to Puerto Rico are invited to attend. Information will range from banking to taxes to vehicle registration. For more information, call Janice Connolly at 288-5314.

Pet news
The Corozal Veterinary Treatment Facility is hosting a Healthy Pet Clinic 8 a.m.-noon March 27 at Corozal and 8 a.m.-noon April 10 at the Howard AFB Stables. For appointments, call 285-5866/5867. In addition, the Veterinary Treatment Facility closes noon March 31 for the month of inventory. For emergencies, call the emergency room at the Howard Clinic at 288-3836.

Coupons and more coupons
The Howard Family Support Center receives hundreds of grocery coupons from U.S. organizations every week. FSC customers can come by and check-out three bags of coupons, take one sample per day and the other two within three working days. This offer is for a limited time only. For more information, call 284-5650.

MARS free calls
All military ID holders can make up to 10 phone calls. Civilian Affiliated Radio System calls to anywhere in the U.S. and Puerto Rico cost $0.50 per call. For more information, call 282-6968.

Fax service
The Coronal PX offers fax service at the customer service counter. The cost is $1 per page plus telephone charges.

DANTES exams
The Fort Clayton and Fort Kobbe Education Centers will cease DANTES and Army Personnel Testing programs at close of business March 31. For more information, call 288-9288 or 284-6017.

Dry season concerts
The 79th Army Band begins their final dry season concerts this month. All concerts take place 6 p.m. at Godthaal Monument at the base of the PCC Administration steps. The Concert Band performs March 28 and the Jazz Combo and Show Band play April 25.

Women's History
Women's History Month committee meetings take place Monday, Tuesday, and March 29 in the FSC Conference Room, Howard AFB. For more information, call 284-4601.

Salvation Army
The Salvation Army is accepting donations of clothes, books, toys and canned goods to support their various social help programs such as senior citizen homes, homeless girls homes, and poor children's feeding programs. For more information, call 262-2545.

SSSC store closed
The Self Service Supply Center store in Corozal is closed for inventory March 29-31. It will reopen for normal business April 1. For more information, call Jose A. Del Rio at 285-5414.

Volunteer Recognition
Volunteer Recognition Week is Sunday - March 27 and the following seminars will be offered Wednesday at Fort Clayton's Ventura Recreation Center: On the Move, Stress/Adapting to Change, Tips for Dressing Sharp, Flower Arranging Class, How to Display Food, Super Woman Syndrome - We Do It All. Educational Opportunities for Spouses, The Emerging Communication Process, How to Plan a Successful Property Move, and Maids, Gardeners and the Law. Volunteers have priority for these classes. For more information, call Army Community Services at 288-9035.

Spouse workshop
A spouse employment workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the Howard Family Support Center. The four-hour workshop is designed to help people bring their knowledge up to date and build job search skills. Call the Family Support Center, 284-5650, to reserve a seat.

DCP training
USARSO civilians are urged to attend DCP's final training series "Plan Now for Your Future" which takes place through April at the Corozal Command Training Center, Building 6525. Classes are in English and Spanish. For more information, call 285-5156/61.

Christian Tabernacle
Greater Grace Christian Tabernacle holds services 11 a.m. Sunday mornings in Building 708, Howard. Bible study takes place 7 p.m. Wednesdays. For more information, call 284-6296.

Girl Scouts needed
The U.S. Embassy, Panama is looking for girls ages 5-18 who are interested in getting involved with the USA Girl Scouts. Adults wanting to participate are welcomed also. For more information, call 285-4046.

Layaways
Effective immediately, layaways of $200 or more, 180 day duration will cease. Layaways of 90 days will continue for all layaways of over $25, and clothing layaways for 45 days. All layaways will cease May 1. By Aug. 30 all layaways must be picked up or cancelled. For details, call 285-4121.

Spouse employment
The Howard Family Support Center offers "Spouse Employment Workshops." For more information, call 284-5650.

Pre-teen Jam
A Women's History Month Pre-teen Jam is scheduled for 7-11 p.m. March 26 at the Howard Youth Center. The event is for ages 9-12, the fee is $2.50 with a $3.50 activity card, $3.50 without. For more information, call the Howard Youth Center at 284-4700/5615.

Tool sale
The Howard Wood Shop is holding a sale 9 a.m.-noon Saturday at Building 722.

Volunteer registration
Volunteers and volunteer coordinators should ensure that all volunteer hours are registered with the Howard Family Support Center's Volunteer Program. Also, any volunteers who are PCSing in the near future are invited to come to the FSC to pick up a letter stating their volunteer hours. For more information, call Liza Fonseca at 284-5650.

Abbie Musse
The Panama Texas A&M Club is hosting the last Aggie Muster of the millennium 7 p.m. April 21 at the Club de Golf Executive on Barboa Avenue. For more information and call Lighbeth B. Lagano at 272-5146 or Teresa Arosenca at 272-1873 or 260-1523 after 5 p.m.

Wing Heritage Day
The 24th Wing Heritage Committee members are looking for easels, bulletin boards and partitions for their exhibits on for the Wing Heritage Day static display April 8 - 9 at Hangar One on Howard. Organizers also need hunting, streamers, bows and ribbons for transportation through information, call Master Sgt. Shurt Gray at 284-5067.

Relocation Center
The Relocation Assistance Center is hosting the last Monday for an information meeting. For more information, stop by Building 200, Fort Clayton, or call 288-7742.

Pet supplies
Since the Corozal Veterinary Treatment Facility approaches closure Aug. 31, the VTF is reminding pet owners to stock up on routinely used medications to last through the PCS. For more information, call 285-5866/5867 to help update their records.

Laundry service
Super Suds laundromat offers a drop-off, same day pick-up service Monday - Friday. The laundromat is located next to Burger King on Fort Clayton.

Education Center
The Fort Kobbe Education Center and Fort Clayton Learning Resource Center offer educational courses and certification. For more information, call the FKEC at 284-6310 or the PCLRC at 288-9292.

Internet class
A Relocation Internet Class will be held 9-10:30 a.m. Thursday in the Howard Family Support Center. The class is designed to help people who are PCSing in the near future with reference to the Internet. Customers can learn more about the area they will be going to before they get there. They can also gain knowledge of using the internet five five minute segments with their move. To sign-up for a class, call the FSC at 284-5650.

Free child care
Air Force staff sergeants and below can receive up to 20 free hours of child care when they are within 90 days of PCS departure from Howard Air Force Base. The Child Development Center will provide service. Members should speak with their orders to the Family Support Center to receive a certificate.
USARSO hosts National Prayer Breakfast

Hon. Simon Ferro, U.S. ambassador to Panama, addresses the National Prayer Breakfast audience March 16.

story and photo by Griselda Sterling

FORT CLAYTON—The annual National Prayer Breakfast took place Tuesday at Fort Clayton's Valenti Recreation Center with the Hon. Simon Ferro, U.S. Ambassador to Panama, as the guest speaker.

"I'm grateful, not only for this invitation to share this breakfast with all of you today, but also to take this moment together in fellowship and prayer to reflect upon our individual lives," Ferro said.

Once again, the annual and last National Breakfast Prayer in Panama was well attended by joint-service troops/soldiers and civilian employees of the USARSO family and other service components here in Panama.

"In my short time here, I have been thoroughly impressed by the professionalism and commitment that all of you demonstrate in fulfilling your military missions and in representing the very best of our country. I want to congratulate all of you for the outstanding work you are doing in fulfilling the terms of the Torrijos/Carter Treaty," Ferro said.

The ambassador also extended a special note of recognition and appreciation to the Panamanian civilian employees for their many years of loyal and dedicated service to the U.S. military. "You have represented your country well and served our military selflessly. You are truly a reflection of the very best qualities of the relationship between our nations."

Ferro concluded by saying, "Thank you all for this opportunity to share my thoughts with you this morning and to reflect through this service on the spiritual and moral beliefs which we hold dear."

Catholic congregation recognizes volunteers

Story and photo by Sgt. Paul Bouchard

FORT CLAYTON—The Catholic congregation at Fort Clayton held a Volunteer Appreciation Day Sunday at the Valenti Recreation Center to thank the more than 50 volunteers who help out with Church functions and Masses during the year.

Plaques were given to parish council members during the two-hour ceremony, and food and beverages were available for all volunteers and their family members.

Father Paul J. Bolton, the parish priest, said the volunteers play an important role for the parish.

"This is our way of thanking them and giving them a round of applause," Bolton said.

Holy Week Celebrations

Catholic

Holy Week Celebrations

Catholic

April 2 - Good Friday Service
3 p.m. - Chapel

April 3 - Easter Vigil Mass
7 p.m. - Chapel

April 4 - Easter Sunday Mass
9:30 a.m. - Chapel

Protestant

April 4 - Easter Service and Breakfast
6 a.m. - Behind Chapel/Annex

April 4 - Traditional Protestant Worship
11 a.m. - Chapel

April 4 - Gospel Worship Celebration
12:30 p.m. - Chapel

For more information on Catholic events, contact Fr. Paul J. Bolton at (202) 991-3423.

Former Bad Company lead singer performs at Clayton, Howard

FORT CLAYTON-The (DCO)—Can't get enough classic rock? You'll know the songs but you might not recognize the band.

"This is not Bad Company. It is former lead singer Brian Howe," said Howe in a phone interview from Florida. "I am doing a Bad Company show. I am doing all the hits I recorded with Bad Company and also a lot of the band's classic hits."

The original Bad Company burst onto the scene in 1973 with a high profile and a busload of radio friendly, guitar-powered rockers. Their self-titled debut album was recorded in a mere ten days and topped the charts worldwide, powered by catchy riff rock single "Can't Get Enough."

The group's first three albums sold more than a million copies apiece, but the egotistic group disbanded in 1982.

Howe, who had gotten his start singing with Ted Nugent's band in 1983, was invited to join Bad Company in 1984. The revamped Bad Company still had the Midsas touch, however, as "Dangerous Age" (1986) earned Gold Record status, and "Holy Water" (1990) and "Here Comes Trouble" (1992) each sold more than a million copies. Howe will perform 8 p.m. March 26 at Fort Clayton's Jarman Field and 3 p.m. March 27 at the Howard Parade Field.

Information in this article was taken from the July 17, 1998 edition of The Blade newspaper, Toledo, Ohio.
Dental Care Month at CES
Fourth grade students Alexandra Othon and Regan Will speak to kindergartner students about proper dental care as part of the Dental Health Month at Curundu Elementary School recently.

Golden Bus Awards
Winners of the Curundu Elementary School Golden Bus Award Program for Feb. 22 - March 5 were: the Elephant (205), the Motorcycle (705) and the Umbrella (707). We want you to work harder next week so we can have more winning buses. You can do it! Community members are encouraged to call the school to report good behavior. Each bus has a number and picture to assist observers in reporting which bus had the best-behaved students.

Send your answers through MPS to Tropic Times Unit 7145, APO AA 34004 or drop it in our box at the Fort Clayton Post Office. Be sure to write your full name and age (14-years-old and under, please) somewhere on the entry.

We'll need your entry by the Wednesday after the paper comes out, and the winner's name will be in the following week's paper. The correct response, or the response drawn from more than one correct response, have more winning buses, will win a pair of free movie passes from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. The winner will need to call Donna Kelso at 285-5770 then visit Building 164 Coroal to receive the movie passes.

Last Week's Winner: Ruben Sarino, 11

Lunch Program
March 22 - 26
Howard and Fort Kobbe Elementary Schools

Monday — Peanutbutter and jelly sandwich, celery stick, pear, cookie, milk.
Tuesday — Salami and cheese sandwich, cucumber slices, apple, cookie, milk.
Wednesday — Bologna sandwich, lettuce and tomato, banana, cookie, milk.
Thursday — Ham and cheese sandwich, tomato wedge, orange, cookie, milk.
Friday — Tuna salad sandwich, carrot stick, grapes, cookie, milk.

We want your stuff
Let us print your stories, poems, drawings or funny photos on the Youth Scene Page. Send them through MPS to Tropic Times, Unit 7145, APO AA 34004 or drop them in our box at the Fort Clayton Post Office by 9 a.m. Monday. Make sure you put a return address on your photos and artwork so we can return them. If you have any questions, call Griselda Sterling at 285-4666.

Happy B-Day

Gina Coller, 7
Mar. 18
James McCormack, 7
Mar. 18
Jeff Low, 7
Mar. 19
Sasha Divita, 9
Mar. 19
Richard Stadnert, 1
Mar. 21
Rashael Rainel, 7
Mar. 25

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Last Week's Winner: Ruben Sarino, 11

Lunch Menu
March 22 - 26
Curundu Middle and Balboa High Schools

Monday — Popeye's chicken, mashed potatoes, green peas, fruit, oatmeal and raisin cookie, milk.
Tuesday — Ravioli, garlic toast, green peas, fruit, vanilla pudding, milk.
Wednesday — Beef-a-roni, green beans, peas, vanilla pudding, milk.
Thursday — Spaghetti and meat sauce, garlic toast, corn, pineapple, strudel sticks, apple, milk.
Friday — International Day. Enjoy your lunch.

Stephen Scholman, 10
Mar. 12
James McGary, 7
Mar. 13
Gina Coller, 7
Mar. 18
James McCormack, 7
Mar. 18
Jeff Low, 7
Mar. 19
Sasha Divita, 9
Mar. 19
Richard Stadnert, 1
Mar. 21
Rashael Rainel, 7
Mar. 25