

## Special Hurricane Frances issue

Due to Hurricane Frances, the Sept. 10 paper was delayed until Sept. 13. The *Missileer* will resume its weekly Friday edition on Sept. 17, barring interference from Hurricane Ivan.



Cape's ecosystem takes hit from Frances

3



Emotions high as base lowers, raises flag

6



Photo gallery of recovery, damage to installations

8



Photo by 1st Lt. Elizabeth Kreft

Staff Sgt. Scott Miller, left, and Staff Sgt. Michael McCabe carry pieces of the 45th Civil Engineer Structures' welding shop at Patrick Air Force Base, which was leveled by Hurricane Frances. An aircraft-washing station on Patrick was also demolished by the Category 2 hurricane.

# Recovery begins

**By Sue Walden**  
45th SW Public Affairs

Hurricane Frances waged war on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Patrick Air Force Base leaving widespread structural damage adding up to potentially tens of millions of dollars but the mission intact and the workforce safe.

Col. Mark Owen, 45th Space Wing commander, gave the "all clear" order Tuesday for members of the workforce, families living in military family housing and Airmen living in dormitories on Patrick to return.

They evacuated Sept. 2.

The 45th SW command and control element evacuated to MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., and the 116-member Hurricane Response Team, took shelter at Malabar Tracking Annex and Army National Guard Armory in Melbourne. The teams waited for Brevard County's all clear before returning to Patrick. HRT consists primarily of personnel from the 45th Security Forces and Civil Engineer Squadrons (See Page 4 for more on the HRT.)

"The wing's first priority was to create a safe environment - to make sure

the power was on, water and sewage were working correctly for the incoming population and the HRT," said Col. Owen. "The HRT came in, did assessments, cleared debris and made it safe for everyone else."

The wing's next priority was making sure Patrick's airfield was open for business for the wing mission and for the community. As a matter of fact, the first plane to fly in to the airfield was Federal Emergency Management Agency's rapid needs assessment team

See RECOVERY, Page 3



## From the Top

By Col. Mark Owen  
45th SW commander

Welcome home! Hurricane Frances made it a busy week for all of us.

I would like to thank the men and women of the 45th Space Wing and all of our mission partners who planned and executed getting our people and our bases ready for Hurricane Ivan. Thanks to your dedication and hard work we managed to get through the storm without any of our people being lost or injured. While we sustained widespread damage, the early prognosis is there is no apparent impact to our ability to conduct our missions or take care of our people.

I am extremely proud of the way you responded to this natural disaster. In the short time I have been here, you have shown me that your resilient spirit is second to none. We are now in the recovery and reconstitution phases of this disaster and I am confident we will execute those phases in the same outstanding manner as the planning and initial recovery phases. America's premier Gateway to Space could not be in better hands.

Our infrastructure took some hits,

but I believe we are ready to conduct our primary missions of processing and launching space launch vehicles, running the Eastern Range and providing Airmen for air expeditionary forces. Fortunately, the three space launch vehicles stacked on pads at the Cape and our local Eastern Range instrumentation appear to have weathered the storm well. We still have lots of work to do in terms of getting systems turned on and checked out, but so far the Eastern range looks good.

The heart of our mission is our people. Without you, we could not launch satellites that provide unparalleled advantages to our warfighters or probes that explore our universe. A natural disaster like this could seriously derail our mission and set this nation back as a space power. Many of us had to evacuate due to the storm and many sustained severe damage to homes and personal property. That is why we are doing everything we can to take care of you and yours – the members of our Air Force family – in the aftermath of this monstrous storm.

Repair teams are busily making fixes to our military family housing units. Our legal team is busy processing personal property claims. Our comptroller folks are ensuring that those who evacuated and filed vouchers are being compensated. Our chaplains and mental health professionals are ready to talk to any of you who need spiritual or emotional support. We are also working to further ensure your safety. Damage assessment and clean-up teams are still canvassing our bases to ensure

that all potential hazards are identified and taken care of. Once we get the assessments and cost estimates done, we will be working with higher headquarters to make repairs and acquire replacements ASAP.

As commander, my most sacred responsibility is taking care of my people. Period. So, your safety and well being are my top priorities. That is why I waited until Tuesday afternoon to issue the "all clear" order. In many ways, I know it was an inconvenience for many of you not to be able to return your homes and dormitories sooner, but I had to make sure the base and our housing areas were as safe as reasonably possible before allowing you back. I ask that you understand that my primary motivation in not rushing the "all clear" order was providing the best possible environment for the safe return of our military families and the young Airmen who live in our dorms.

I also ask that you continue to make safety a priority and keep taking care of each other. There is a still lot of work to do, and we will do it well because military communities tend to overcome adversity well and quickly. The storm has brought us closer together by enhancing our senses of unity and purpose. Being good neighbors is what will help us continue to get through this together. As we continue to be in hurricane season I urge you to stay prepared and ready.

Again, thanks for your cooperation and your fantastic efforts before, during and after Frances. I'm proud to serve on this team. Go Sharks!

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2 p.m. the Friday before publication.

## ACTION LINE

### 494-6550

The Action Line is your direct link to the 45th Space Wing commander, Col. Mark Owen, and provides a valuable source of information on ways to make Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station better places to work and live.

The best way to get something fixed is to identify the problem to supervisors and first sergeants.

If you can't get your problem resolved through the agencies, contact the Action Line: e-mail, Commander'sline@patrick.af.mil or click global at Commander's Line – Patrick AFB; recorded message, 494-6550; mail, 45SW/PA 1201 Edward H. White II St, Ste C-130, Patrick AFB FL 32925-3237; fax, 494-7302. Address all correspondence "Attn: Action Line."

When directing an issue to the Action Line, callers must indicate to whom they've previously addressed the issue.

**45th Mission Support Group**  
Col. Edwin Swedberg  
494-6607

**45th Civil Engineer Squadron**  
Jack Gibson  
494-4041

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Caroline Jamba  
494-2593

**Pelican Coast**  
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777-8282

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Lt. Col. Mark McCullohs  
494-8081

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494-8100

**Ground Safety**  
Chris Olesnevich  
494-4023

**Inspector General**  
Lt. Col. Frank Miles  
494-4373



# Frances slaps Cape's ecosystem

By Sue Walden

45th SW Public Affairs

It's enough just to think about the rockets during a hurricane ... and then there's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station's natural and historical assets.

The Cape's delicate ecosystem was disturbed, understandably, by slow-moving Hurricane Frances - a Category 2 hurricane.

Hundreds of dead birds littered the beaches, as well as a dolphin and pygmy sperm whale killed by the storm. Five sheerwater birds were transported to the Florida Wildlife Hospital for treatment.

Though sea turtle nesting season is nearly over, Hurricane Frances gave a debilitating blow to the already ailing season. "Some of the new hatchlings probably drowned with the swells that went as high as 37 feet," said Don George, 45th Civil Engineer Environmental Flight natural and cultural resource manager. After hatching the turtles crawl into the ocean they swim out to a sargassum seaweed line that runs parallel to the shore. There, the hatchlings float on the line and eat the seaweed.

Loggerhead turtle nesting numbers have been down this year throughout the state. "Twenty or 30 years from now, there will be a dip in nesting numbers," he said. The Cape's environmental team marked one out of every 13 nests this season, but only found seven marked nests after the hurricane threw hundreds of feet of water and sand onto the beach. Other

animals, such as the southeastern beach mouse, prepared for the hurricane by seeking shelter. The beach mouse is a threatened species indigenous to the Cape. "Those guys knew something was coming because we found them really far from the beach," he said. Days later animals slowly emerged from the woods and low brush - and that produces another problem, according to Mr. George, because some turtle predators are very hungry.

The beach lines looked different after the hurricane - some parts had erosion, others had more sand. "It seemed to be a trade off," said Sonny Witt, 45th Mission Support Group, Detachment 1 deputy commander. Fresh sand engulfed areas hundreds of yards from the ocean where Frances violently threw ocean waves.

"See here," Mr. Witt pointed while assessing hurricane damage at the beach, "the ocean came in and just flattened that dune." Some wooden walkways on the beach looked battered with planks missing, or sand half covering them.

Along with thousands of shells, including whole sand dollars, debris washed up. "Looks like we need another beach clean-up here soon," said Mr. Witt, as he picked up a piece of metal. A small fishing boat registered in the Bahamas also washed ashore at the Cape.

The Cape lighthouse lost some paint from the stinging sand wash. "It's still standing and that light is still flashing its heart out," said Mr. Witt, who is fond of the lighthouse and takes a



Photo by Sue Walden

**A pygmy sperm whale washes up on a Cape Canaveral Air Force Station beach from the hurricane. Hundreds of birds also died in the storm.**

great interest in the Cape's history. "This hurricane is nothing compared to what this lighthouse has seen." A hurricane in 1928, which centered southeast of the Cape, cost 1,800 lives and is recorded as the second deadliest hurricane in U.S. history.

Though the Cape's ecosystem is delicate, it has a way of bouncing back from Mother's Nature's wrath, such as the two (and maybe three) hurricanes she's throwing at this area like baseballs in the World Series - that's what nature is all about.

## RECOVERY, from Page 1

with resources for the region on Tuesday. "It's fundamentally important to me that we not only provide a safe environment for our people, but also are there to help out the community especially during a crisis such as this hurricane," Col. Owen said.

He's very proud of the HRT team. "Being new to the wing, I'm overwhelmed by the devotion and the dedication of the HRT," he said. "Each member shows such an amount of caring for the Air Force family. They made sure we were ready to safely open our doors at Patrick."

Simultaneously, assessment teams made up of contractors, civilians and military personnel surveyed the damage at the Cape. Both installations sustained severe to minor damage. Most of it consisted of blown down signs, uprooted trees, water intrusion into buildings and wind damage to roofs. At Patrick, the welding shop and an aircraft-washing facility were



Photo by Sue Walden

**Cape facility managers point out their areas of concern on a map after assessing damage to their buildings Wednesday.**

demolished. At the Cape, the hangar door was blown off of the Delta Maintenance and Checkout Facility at the Cape. Examples of other damage at the Cape included panels blown off of hangars and the Solid Motor Assembly Building, and part of the roof peeled back at Hangar AE.

Hurricane Frances spared the

rockets, hardware, gantries and the Cape and Patrick's runways. Lt. Col. James Ross, 45th Mission Support Group's Detachment 1 commander, credits this to careful preparation. "Though the hurricane exercises are no match for the real thing, it's because of our exercises that we did so well," he said. "When (Mother Nature) threw us a curve

we adapted our plans, prepared well and weathered through it, said Col. Ross, who is responsible for the Cape's infrastructure.

According to Lt. Col. Peter Broll, 45th Weather Squadron, Hurricane Frances' wind speeds at the Cape and Patrick were reported at sustained winds of 58 knots with gusts to 83 knots, but the system failed during the storm well before the storm peak on the Cape.

Teams at the Cape had three priorities in mind before they could open their doors. The first was safety - making sure buildings and work areas were habitable; the second was assuring mission capability and the third priority was re-establishing the base infrastructure, according to Col. Ross. "One thing that's kept me going is knowing the men and women in uniform around the world are depending on our space capabilities."

Patrick and the Cape teams are ready for the possibility of Hurricane Ivan, which at press time, is menacingly churning its way toward Florida.

## Response team shows skill under pressure

By 1st Lt. Elizabeth Kreft

45 SW Public Affairs

Many say two heads are better than one. In the case of military versus weather, one team bested two hurricanes, and is preparing to head off a third.

The 45th Space Wing Hurricane Response Team is the first response and initial repair squad for the assets at Patrick Air Force Base.

When weather forces the rest of the base inhabitants to evacuate, the members of the HRT make it their goal to prepare the base for recovery operations.

This team has already prepared and executed response actions for Hurricanes Charley and Frances, and is currently making updated response plans for potential Hurricane Ivan input. But with team members ranging from electricians to bioenvironmental engineers, the HRT stands ready to resolve nearly any issues.

"Our job is to secure the base, assess facility damage and bring utilities back online," said Maj. Shannon O'Boyle, 45th Civil Engineer Squadron commander and HRT commander for Hurricane Frances.

"We have to make sure that dangerous electrical wires and other immediate issues are handled so the rest of the repair teams can do their work and get there rest of the base up and running."

Directly following a hurricane, the HRT will return to the base from their secure facilities either at Malabar Tracking Annex or the Army National Guard armory and begin reconstruction efforts by assessing immediate problems such as power outages and water or sewage problems.

"The only problem with well-laid plans for response and repair is the hurricane never follows our plans," said Master Sgt. John Garner, 45th CES infrastructure shop superintendent and HRT noncommissioned officer in charge. He joked about the unpredictable nature of the damage, but was very serious about the quick and calculated response that this team gave.

"In this situation our people responded with tenacity and patience that made the difference," said Sgt. Garner. "We had to make some deviations to the regular plan of action, but the quick thinking of the team members made the entire experience run smoothly."

The efforts of the team after Frances not only ran smoothly, but also saved the base several thousand dollars of possible fines from the county by ensuring no sewage spilled into the Banana River during repair operations on a damaged drainage facility.

After the initial damage assessments, the team begins post-hurricane restoration efforts by following a specific "critical facilities" repair list. Starting with mission-essential buildings and assets like the airfield and command headquarters, the HRT prepares the base for the regular military operators to return to work and keep the mission on track.

"This was certainly an interesting week, but overall it was a good challenge for myself and our team," said Maj. O'Boyle. "These kinds of experiences always lead to better knowledge of what we can do for the future, and how we can better prepare for another hurricane."

The team will deploy again during Hurricane Ivan if they are so directed.

# Families in Pelican Coast receiving assistance

**By Airman 1st Class Shaun Emery**  
*45th SW Public Affairs*

Base officials are working with Florida Power and Light and Patrick family housing to remedy provide Pelican Coast relief as quickly as possible.

Many military families have been living without power since Hurricane Frances roared through last weekend.

"When the 45th Space Wing turned over South Housing to privatization we gave up responsibility for repairing damage to the area," said Jack Gibson, 45th Civil Engineer Squadron, deputy range-base commander. "But we know that many of our military families are suffering, so we have stayed directly in touch with FPL and PFH."

According to Mr. Gibson, Pelican Coast suffered some of the worst damage in the area. Every fuse on transformers in the area is blown, and eight poles are knocked down, along with substantial tree damage.

FPL assessed the damage and its teams are working to restore power.

"Power is expected to be restored no later than Saturday," said Mr. Gibson. "As long as the area

isn't affected by Hurricane Ivan."

To aid in the recovery process, FPL brought in 30 extra power crews and 10 extra tree crews from other states, explained Mr. Gibson.

Power outages are not the only problems facing residents of Pelican Coast. Because many residents didn't return until late last week, much of the less apparent damage is now being reported, said Mr. Gibson.

According to Mr. Gibson, the damage is being fixed based on priority.

Power lines have been moved out of the streets and crews have begun repairing roofs. Once houses are dry, repairs to interiors can be started.

"The residents of Pelican Coast are not in a good situation," said Mr. Gibson. "They need to continue to stay vigilant. FPL and PFH are working to get power restored and things back to normal."

The family support center is available for counseling and general information and referral. Those needing assistance or have any questions or concerns, contact the Family Support Center at 321-494-5675 or 5676.

## Important contact numbers

- \* Federal Emergency Management Agency: 1-800-621-3362 TTY:1-800-462-7585
- \* State of Florida Emergency Information 24-hour hotline: Call for road information, airports, etc: 1-800-342-3557
- \* State Volunteer and Donations Hotline: 1-800-354-3571
- \* Elder Affairs: 1-800-963-5337
- \* Florida Power and Light: 1-800-468-8243
- \* Department of Financial Services Insurance Claim Hotline: 1-800-227-8676
- \* Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline: 1-800-646-0444
- \* Agricultural and Consumer Services Price Gouging Hotline: 1-800-435-7352
- \* Agency for Workforce Innovation Unemployment Claims: 1-800-204-2418
- \* Salvation Army Donation Helpline: 1-800-725-2769
- \* American Red Cross: 1-800-435-7669
- \* FEMA: 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)

# Emotions surge at flag lowering, raising

**By Ken Warren**  
*45th SW Public Affairs*

The U.S. flag was raised on the base flagpole Wednesday, symbolizing the triumphant return of Airmen to Patrick Air Force Base in the aftermath of Hurricane Frances.

When the base was evacuated Sept. 2, one of the last contingents to leave the base ceremoniously lowered and folded the flag. Col. Mark Owen, 45th SW commander, was among those participating in the flag lowering ceremony.

He kept the flag when he, and members of the command and control element, departed for MacDill AFB, Fla., to ride out the storm.

The commander said he decided to do the ceremony because he had Hurricane Andrew on his mind.

"The reports we were getting on Hurricane Frances suggested the possibility of a monstrous storm. Our concerns were very real about the survival of this base. I didn't know if we were going to have a flagpole to put the flag back on," he said.

"Taking the flag down was an emotional event for us. Putting it back up was equally emotional, but it symbolized that we're back in business. That's very important to our Airmen and our families," Col. Owen said.

Airman 1st Class Alison Wagner, a 45th SW command post controller, was on the flag detail for both the lowering and raising of the flag. She said she was nervous about Hurricane Frances because she had lived through Hurricane Andrew in 1992, but felt a sense of strength and pride while participating in both ceremonies.

"Raising the flag was inspirational. It helped me realize that things are getting back to normal. We've got our base back," said Airman Wagner.

Forty-fifth SW Command Chief Master Sgt. Tony Manson was also among those present for both flag ceremonies.

He said the symbolic nature of the command element taking responsibility for the removal and return of the flag is significant in expressing the level of responsibility the command structure assumes.

"We have the ultimate responsibility for the people and resources here, and this kind of ceremony reminds each of us of that important duty," said Chief Manson. Col. Owen added, "Raising the flag is a very important symbol to our people. It says 'We're home.'"



Photo by Mike Brown, Florida Today

Senior Airman Beau Difrenna and Tech. Sgt. Carlos Torres raise the American flag during a symbolic "return to duty" ceremony Wednesday. Several members of the wing participated in the ceremony to mark the return of normal activities after Hurricane Frances halted regular operations at PAFB and CCAFS.



# Engineers keep water flowing

**By Airman 1st Class  
Shaun Emery**  
*45th SW Public Affairs*

Along with inspecting damage to Patrick Air Force Base, following Hurricane Frances, members of the hurricane recovery team, were making sure the water was safe to drink.

As part of the HRT, Senior Airman Erick Espinoza, 45th Bio-Environmental Engineer Flight technician, began taking samples of the base's water to check for any contaminants.

"Water is one of our most important resources," said Airman Espinoza.

"When there's no water it is very inconvenient as well as unsafe."

Airman Espinoza said he coordinated with members of the 45th Civil Engineer Squadron, to make sure all water lines were intact and there was no loss of water pressure.

According to Airman Espinoza, channeling information through the HRT commander was a main priority.

"We have to make sure everyone knows that the water is safe to consume," said Airman Espinoza. "It's a big deal when you realize how much people need water."



Photo by Master Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez

Phil Hyde, a plumber with the 45th Civil Engineer Squadron, helps shut off a broken waterline Monday during recovery operations. The waterline broke as a result of Hurricane Frances, which hit the base and the surrounding community.

## Message for housing residents

Trampolines are fun, but they make good missiles in hurricanes.

For safety sake, residents must follow rules if residing in North or Central Housing.

Wading pools are authorized but may not exceed six feet in diameter and 24 inches in depth. They must be set up in back yards and emptied when not in use. It is highly recommended that the resident have renters insurance with liability coverage for pools.

Trampolines are also permitted, but must be installed in the backyard. To ensure stability during bad weather and tropical storms, legs must be anchored. Residents are reminded that a hold harmless agreement and liability insurance are required and an AF Form 332 must be submitted to obtain a digging permit.

Further information can be found in the 45th Space Wing Pamphlet, 32-6003, Housing Brochure or if you have questions, please contact the Housing Office at 494-2594.



Photo by Caroline Jamba



# Repairs and recovery



Photo by 1st Lt. Elizabeth Kreft

Airman Eric Trumbull guides a high-reach man lift over Patrick's dormitories Tuesday as Airman Daniel Vera-Erao directs traffic around the machine below. The two 45th Civil Engineer structural apprentices removed and repaired roof tiles so residents could return to their rooms safely.



Photo by Sue Walden

The hurricane created a sand wash, blasting paint off the Cape lighthouse.



Photo by Sue Walden

Frances' winds sliced through the Solid Motor Assembly Building at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station tearing holes in panels from one side to the other.



Photo by 1st Lt. Elizabeth Kreft

Personnel from 45th Civil Engineer Squadron carefully remove a section of the roof from the welding shop, which was demolished by Hurricane Frances.



Photo by Sue Walden

Noah Butts, Space Gateway Support, inspects a downed traffic light on Skid Strip Road at Cape Canaveral AFS Wednesday.



Photo by 1st Lt. Elizabeth Kreft

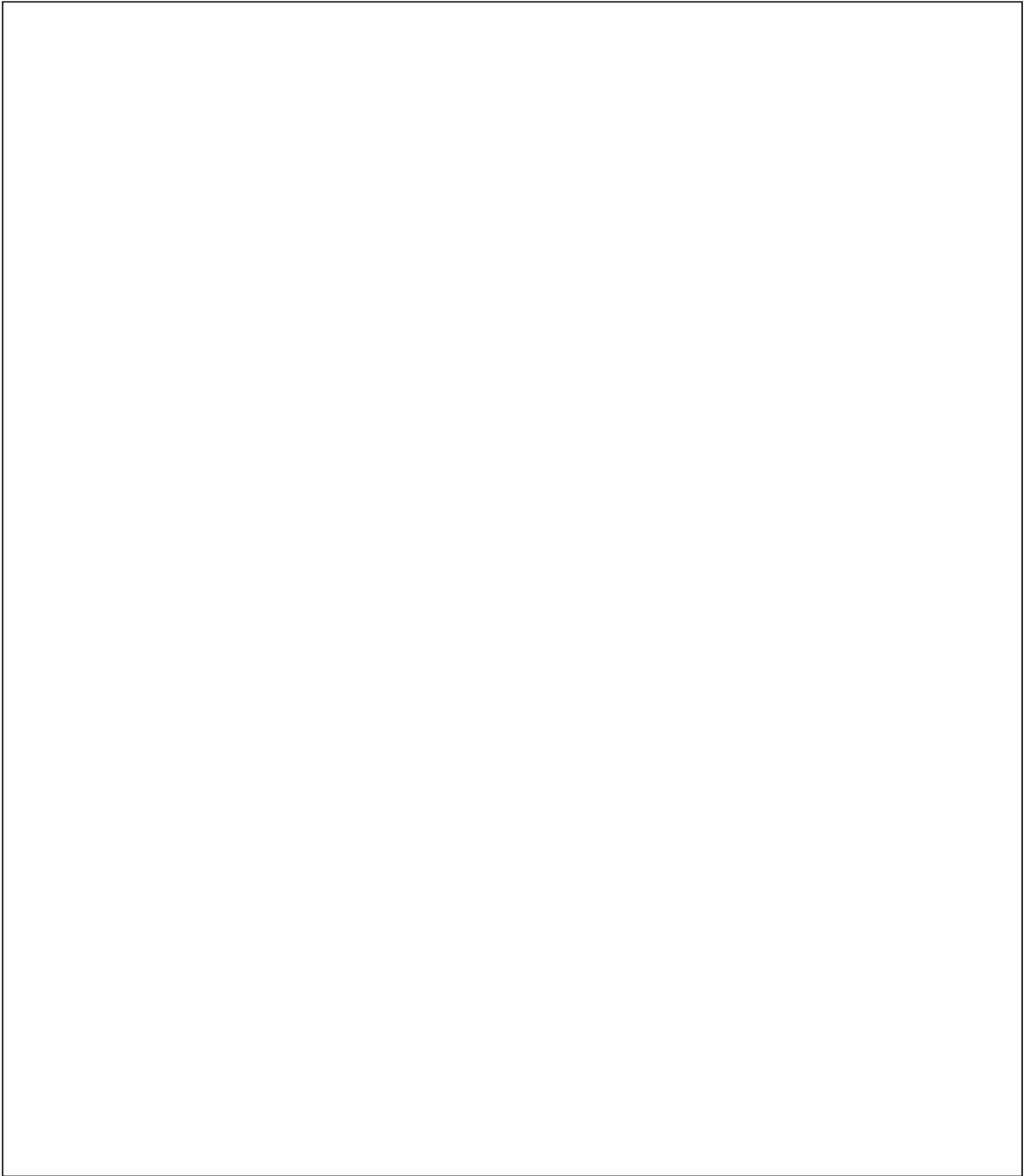
Staff Sgt. William Wheeler cuts a pipe, part of debris from the demolished welding shop. The team had to carefully break down the debris in order to clear the site for reconstruction efforts.



Photo by 1st Lt. Elizabeth Kreft

Crews remove drywall and damaged pieces of electrical wiring from a fallen roof at Patrick Air Force Base Wednesday.





# Family support offers assistance

The Family Support Center has been operating under emergency conditions as of Sept. 8.

All appointments and classes have been cancelled until further notice.

“What we’d like to get out to the Patrick Community is that you’re not alone, our FAC is here to assist all our active duty members, activated reservists and their family members,” said Master Sgt. Mercedes Morris.

Financial assistance for all branches of service (interest free loans) is being offered on an emergency basis to those who were affected by Hurricane Frances. A needs assessment will be conducted on a case-by-case basis.

The FAC will run Monday and Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and is scheduled to return to normal operations Wednesday. The Family Support Center will still provide emergency assistance as needed.

1) If you’ve received any damage to your home please contact your insurance company

2) If you’re concerned about paying the deductible on your insurance, contact FEMA (1-800-621-FEMA) or you may apply for an emergency loan through our Family Support Center (321-494-5675)

3) If you’ve bills that are due, such as car, loan, credit card payments, contact the creditor immediately and ask for a deferred payment because of Hurricane Frances. Remember to write down the name of the person you speak with.

The Family Support Center is also available for crisis/grief counseling and general information and referral. Those needing assistance or have any questions or concerns, contact the Family Support Center at 321-494-5675 or 5676.



Photo by Sue Walden

## Beach duty

Officers Alden Kiefer, left, and Glenn Woodbury, Space Gateway Support, patrol a portion of the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station beach Wednesday as part of the Cape’s security response team.



# Finance personnel ready to assist, reimburse evacuees

**By 1st Lt. Elizabeth Kreft**  
*45 SW Public Affairs*

Finance personnel are gearing up for the onslaught of entitlement paperwork that military personnel will need to file for travel reimbursement.

Before rushing down to the finance office, each person who plans to file a compensation voucher should consider the following points to ensure speedy and thorough repayment.

To ensure the most efficient filing and fastest return for each member, the finance office will announce mass filing times for vouchers according to group. Each unit will have a specific time to file with finance personnel in either the Patrick AFB theater or the Cape Canaveral AFS cafeteria between Sept. 14-17.

Finance personnel will release the mass-filing times for each unit Monday, through the global email system.

Members, spouses and dependents 12 years or older are each entitled to 100 percent of the per diem rate for the area they evacuated to within the authorized five-state safe-haven area (Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Mississippi). If the member or family evacuated outside of the authorized area, the standard continental United States per diem rate will be used to calculate repayment (\$55 maximum rate for lodging and \$31 for meals).

Children 12 and younger are eligible for 50 percent of the per diem rate.

To properly document and substantiate a voucher, the traveler must produce the following items:

- A copy of the evacuation travel order provided by the unit orderly room
- A copy of the list of evacuated personnel (military and civil service) and dependents validated and provided by unit orderly rooms
- Receipts for lodging, commercial travel, and

any expense over \$75.

- A completed travel voucher (DD Form 1351-2\*\*). If Member and Dependents evacuated to different locations, separate travel voucher must be filed for EACH location.

- A completed routing form (FMS Form 2231\*\*) with bank account information and Electronic Funds Transfer information (i.e. bank routing and account number).

Finance personnel will send a copy of each form through the global email system.

Lt. Andrew Gmytrasiewicz, 45th Space Wing financial services flight commander emphasizes that people should take a few moments to consider each step of the filing process before they take time out of the day to visit the finance personnel. "We are ready and willing to help everyone get the money that they need, but we also need people to help us organize the information we need."



# Legal assistants help with damage claim filing

By Maj. Christopher Leavey  
45 SW Legal Office

The 45th Space Wing Claims Office is prepared to assist military members, their family members, retirees, and DoD civilians in filing claims for damage to personal property as a result of Hurricane Frances. The Military Personnel and Civilian Employees Claims Act allows for compensation for personal property damage caused by a hurricane incurred on base or otherwise incident to service.

If on-base residents have significant damage, the Claims Office 494-7723 so we can get a team out there to inspect the damage.

If an individual has private renters insurance, a claim must be filed with that company first. For those living in Pelican Coast (formerly South Housing), the landlord has a team ready to receive claims for property damage, and their representatives may be reached at 777-8282. For those living elsewhere, check renter's or homeowner's insurance to identify your rights.

In preparation for filing a claim, the claims office provides the following information and suggestions:

◆ Document, document, document. A picture or video is always the best evidence.

◆ Food may or may not be spoiled. Here on base, we experienced only a short power outage in some areas. Other areas maintained power throughout the storm. Sitting in an unopened refrigerator or freezer, most foods will remain fresh despite a power loss of up to 24 hours. If you believe your food is spoiled and intend to file a claim, do not throw it out and call the call the Claims Office immediately.

◆ Do not throw damaged items away until an insurance adjuster or a claims representative has documented the items and authorized disposal. The only exceptions are those items presenting a continuing danger (shattered glass) and spoiled food with strong supporting evidence as to its cause and condition - even then a quick call to the claims office would be a prudent measure.

◆ File soon. Technically, you have until Sept. 6, 2006 to file a claim, but don't wait. Substantiating an old claim can be very difficult.

The legal office wants to help obtain the maximum recovery each person is entitled to. Call the claims office at 494-7723 or visit us at Bldg. 562 (642 O'Malley Road) with questions. Additional claims information can be found at <https://www.patrick.af.mil/45sw/45ja/claims.htm>.

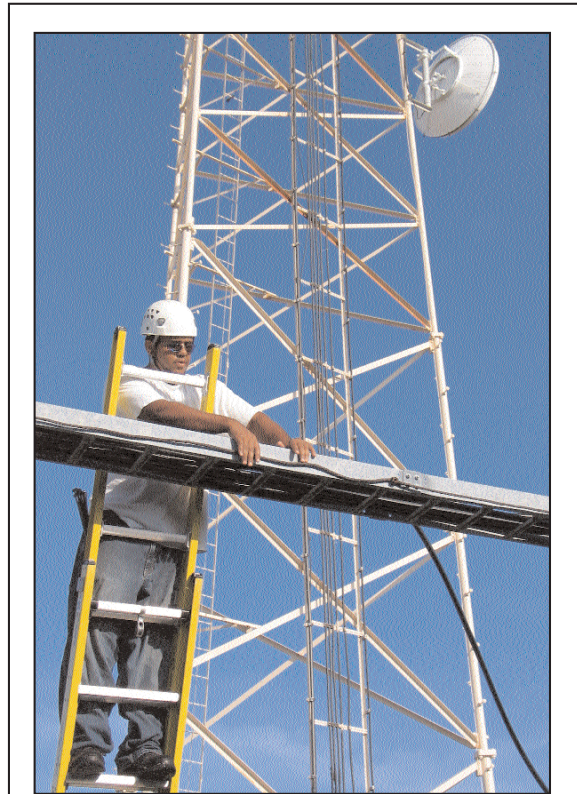


Photo by 1st Lt. Elizabeth Krefl

## All wired up

Jason Marin, an electrician with Computer Sciences Raytheon, fixes microwave cables on a communications tower at Patrick Air Force Base Tuesday.



# Mosquitoes cause more irritation after hurricane

**By Maj. William Jones**  
*45th SW Public Health Flight*

Hurricanes Charley and Frances, along with near daily afternoon thunderstorms, have left Patrick AFB and surrounding areas with significantly more standing water than usual -and as history has proven, standing water plus summertime in Florida equals mosquitoes.

Besides being a nuisance, mosquitoes can transmit a variety of diseases to humans including encephalitis, malaria, and West Nile Fever. The Florida Department of Health advises the public to be vigilant in their personal mosquito protection efforts. These should include the "Five D's" for prevention:

-Dusk and Dawn (when practical, avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood, for many species this is during the dusk and dawn hours).

-Dress (wear clothing that covers skin).

-DEET (only use mosquito repellents that contain this active ingredient) Apply to exposed skin only. The lower the percentage of DEET, the more often it will need to be re-applied. DEET is not approved for babies less than two months of age.

A good gauge of usefulness of bug repellence is 15 percent for two hours, 30 percent for 4-6 hours. Do not apply to hands or face of children. Do not apply combination DEET/sunscreen lotions to children

since it can cause overexposure of DEET with repeat applications - use separate products in accordance with labeled directions.

✓ Drainage (check your home to rid it of standing water in which mosquitoes can lay their eggs).

While some standing water sites will be easy to observe and remove, each person, homeowner or not, should consider the following steps to eliminate possible mosquito breeding sites around the home.

✓ Clean out eaves and gutters.

✓ Remove old tires or drill holes in those used in playgrounds.

✓ Turn over or remove empty plastic pots.

✓ Pick up all beverage containers and cups.

✓ Check tarps on boats or other equipment that may collect water.

✓ Replace water in birdbaths and animal feeding dishes at least once a week.

✓ Change water in plant trays, including hanging plants, at least once a week.

✓ Remove vegetation/obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent the flow of water.

For more information on the health risks associated with mosquitoes or other vermin, call the 45th Space Wing Public Health division at 494-8292.



# Hurricane Frances statistics

- ◆ 254,600 Florida Power and Light customers in Brevard County were without power initially.
- ◆ 2.5 million people evacuated; 9,656 people went to shelters.
- ◆ 1 local death blamed on the hurricane.
- ◆ Property damages have tallied to \$80 million in Brevard, as of Sept. 10.
- ◆ The hurricane clogged Port Canaveral's channel with sand preventing ships to re-enter port - costing \$1 million a day in losses to local economy.
- ◆ 68,000 telephone lines out in Central Florida.
- ◆ Sept. 18 return of power expected for all residents in the county.
- ◆ Brevard County public schools closed until Monday.
- ◆ 8 relief distribution sites set up.
- ◆ 200 traffic lights still in need of repair, as of Sept. 10.
- ◆ Motorists found gas stations closed or without gasoline in the first few days. This gave way to long lines at the pumps when the stations opened.
- ◆ The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer services received 468 complaints statewide about price-gouging - gasoline prices (164 complaints), food and drinks (71) and lumber (52), as of Sept. 9.

Source: Florida Today

