



Airman Battle Uniform: Rumor Control

By Capt. Shilo Weir
Chief, Public Affairs

Airmen continue to have questions about the Airman Battle Uniform and, in an effort to clear up confusion surrounding the uniform's availability, officials from the Air Force's uniforms and recognition branch continue to deliver answers as soon as they are available.

The Air Force announced this week that the Army Air Force Exchange Service is working to expedite the distribution of ABUs to Air Force Military Clothing Sales Store facilities.

The Defense Supply Center Philadelphia transferred a selected amount of ABUs to AAFES to relieve some of their backlog. The sizes and quantities provided by DSCP ready for release are limited.

In the planned distribution, men's and women's ABU caps, coats and trousers will be shipped to 10 state-side bases including Barksdale, Seymour Johnson, Edwards, Bolling, Eglin, Nellis, Mt. Home, Travis, Whiteman and Grand Forks.

The plan also includes a second distribution of men's ABU coats, trousers and caps to 13 bases in Europe and the Pacific: Adana, Yokota, Spangdahlem, Misawa, Lakenheath, Osan, Kunsan, Kadena, Guam, Eilson, Lajes Field, Aviano and Alconbury.

In addition to announcing this distribution plan, the Air Force has licensed six manufacturers to produce and sell commercial versions of the ABU to meet the high demand for the new uniforms. These ABUs are identical in quality to the AAFES uniforms. DSCP tests and approves the quality of uniforms made by all official suppliers, and licensed commercial versions are made to the same specifications.

Propper International, American Apparel, Bethel Industries, National Industries for the Blind, National Industries for the Severely Handicapped and Tama Manufacturing produce authorized ABUs that can be purchased

by Lajes Airmen on-line with their personal funds.

The uniforms legally manufactured by Propper International and the other five licensed sources are identical to those sold through AAFES with one exception – the ABU sold through AAFES is manufactured in the United States and those sold commercially through licensed manufacturers are not.

Airmen are cautioned, however, when buying commercial ABUs, to ensure they are made by one of the licensed sources. Lt. Col. Shawna Morrill, chief of the Air Force's uniforms and recognition branch, said in an interview with Air Force Times, that an Airman "... needs to be a savvy consumer and make sure it's a viable uniform." There have been isolated reports of substandard knock-off uniforms produced illegally by unauthorized manufacturers.

"If there is a problem with the (commercially-made) uniform, the Air Force can't do anything to help you," Colonel Morrill said. "You are on your own. You still have to have the right number of uniforms."

The primary focus of ABU distribution thus far has been making them available for Airmen deploying to the Middle East. About 66,000 ABUs were distributed in September to Airmen deploying with AEF 9/10, which took up most of the available inventory.

Although there is no information on when ABUs will regularly fill the shelves at



Tech. Sgt. Michael Shortsleeves, 65th Communications Squadron, personal wireless communication system NCOIC, sports the new Airman Battle Uniform. More personnel at Lajes are starting to wear the new ABU. The mandatory wear date is 2011. (Photo by Senior Airman Taylor Marr)

all AAFES clothing sales stores, Airmen are reminded that the mandatory wear date for the new uniform has not changed from 2011.

The number of Airmen seen donning the new Airman Battle Uniform increases everyday and for those who feel they want the new uniform now, the best way to avoid a fake ABU is to buy only through AAFES and licensed commercial manufacturers such as Propper.

ABU Consumer Facts

- ✓ Airmen are allowed to purchase with their own money and wear commercial versions of the ABU, but the Air Force can't help if the uniform is substandard.
- ✓ Manufacturers licensed by the Air Force to produce ABUs are:

Propper International
American Apparel
Bethel Industries
National Industries for the Blind
National Industries for the Severely Handicapped
Tama Manufacturing

- Any other brand is a knockoff and should be avoided.
- ✓ The only uniforms that units may buy with government funds are those sold through AAFES.
- ✓ Clothing allowances count as personal funds and may be used to purchase commercial ABUs.
- ✓ About 25,000 ABUs will be available in the majority of AAFES stores beginning in mid-November.



Build a movie library that will inspire you, others

By Angie Erickson
Volunteer Contributor

When was the last time you walked out of a theater and felt really inspired and good about what you had just spent the last two hours watching? A movie that you knew you just had to let people know that they should see?

I don't know about you, but I have become very disappointed with the movies being produced these days, that I rarely bother to watch new releases. I had gotten in the habit of buying movies in order to build a movie library, but found that I was tossing them in the trash can because of their violent nature and sexual content – and in most cases within the first 15 minutes! And those were movies that were well reviewed by critics!

While I might not be a film critic, I am a mom who enjoys movies. But before I decide to invest my family's time and money I now do a little research in order to be a wise consumer of entertainment.

In my pursuit to find movies that my entire family can watch, I have found trusted on-line sites with unbiased reviews and experienced wonderful history lessons — finding Hollywood film legends that not only sought to make wholesome, quality movies, but were awesome American patriots!

One such fine example was writer, producer and director Frank Capra, who not only served a short time in the U.S. Army, but went on to produce eight WWII documentaries to inform our public of the threat of Adolph Hitler. He also gave us great movies like "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town," "It Happened One Night," "You Can't Take It with You," and many other heartwarming and sentimental pictures.

However, the movie that he is best remembered for, his favorite film and mine, "It's a Wonderful Life," continues to be a holiday favorite today. Why? Because Capra preferred to make movies that were optimistic and uplifting, positive and wholesome. His greatest desire was to enrich the lives of his viewers and it was evident in his creative works, especially in his casting – knowing how to pick just the right actor for the role.

One of Capra's favorite actor's that he frequently used was another military hero – Jimmy Stewart. Stewart enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1941, putting his acting career on hold to fly 25 bomber missions over enemy territory during World War II. He rose to the rank of colonel, carrying such decorations as the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Croix de Guerre.

After the war he rose to the rank of brigadier general in the Air Force Reserves, but before retiring from the military in 1968 he flew combat duty missions in the Vietnam War.

Hopefully everyone knows the works of Hollywood "Walk of Famer's" like Stewart, John Wayne, Bing Crosby and Bob Hope – not only world-class entertainers, but some of the greatest USO supporters. As a veteran and a military spouse, this sort of "Hollywood news" matters to me so I check out the USO homepage from time to time so I can see who, among today's entertainers, are taking time out of their busy schedules in support of our men and women in uniform.

Another great resource is The American Film Institute. After celebrating the 100th anniversary of film, they created several top 100 lists covering movies in American cinema. While I don't agree with some of their modern movies choices, I know that I can expect to enjoy dozens of movies, from their lists of movies created in the 1930s through the 1950s — offering less violence, sex, horror and rude humor.

While my own movie library has VHSs of black and white legendary films, I put together a top 10 list of my favorite DVDs that I know will inspire you, that will have you cheering for the underdog and will make you feel joy. Be prepared to laugh, cheer and cry when you watch the following: *Cinderella Man*, *Dreamer*, *Invincible*, *My Dog Skip*, *SEABISCUIT*, *Sense & Sensibility*, *Simon Birch*, *The Patriot*, *The Ultimate Gift*, and *Where the Red Fern Grows*.

My Holiday Picks include *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Elf*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Last Holiday* and *White Christmas*

The next time you go to the movies or go to purchase a new release, consider this: Entertainment is a major component of our lives so it seems to only make sense that we fill our hearts and minds with movies that inspire, are positive, wholesome and are family friendly! After all you can't get those two hours back, and once opened cannot be returned!

There are several great Web sites to read reviews, news and the latest director and actor interviews for families to use as a tool.

Technology has given us so many advantages, especially when it comes to movie-making so let's use it to build a movie library that will inspire and add value to our lives!

535-4240

actionline@lajes.af.mil

The Commander's Line is your link to me for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work

problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution.

Your chain of command should always be your first option for praise or problems — but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Line at 535-4240 or actionline@lajes.af.mil.



Col. JL Briggs

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Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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Bone Marrow Drive scheduled here Nov. 30

By Tech. Sgt. Christin Michaud
65th ABW Public Affairs

The 65th Medical Group will host a bone marrow drive for individuals interested in becoming a bone marrow donor.

The C.W. Bill Young Department of Defense Marrow Donor Program began in 1990 through an Act of Congress, explained Staff Sgt. Michael Buongiorno, Clinical Laboratory Assistant NCOIC.

The program is named after Congressman C.W. Bill Young who initiated the founding and development of the program. It's aimed directly at Department of Defense members and families.

The drive is open to active duty military, their immediate dependents and DoD civilian employees age 18-60. Once a person

is registered they are in the Marrow Registry until they turn 60. "So, unlike donating a regular unit of blood, this is a one-time event," said Sergeant Buongiorno. "If a person has already registered at a previous base, they do not need to do this again."

Becoming part of the registry is a painless and easy process. Personnel fill out a consent form and brief medical questionnaire. The technicians then take an oral swab of the potential donor.

"This part is just like the DNA swabs you see on CSI. Then we mail the swab and paperwork together back to a testing facility where information will be stored in a national registry," explained Sergeant Buongiorno.

Blood isn't drawn until an individual is identified as a possible match. "If selected as a possible match, you will be notified to report to a local lab, where the possible donor will get blood drawn for further compatibility testing," Sergeant Buongiorno said. The odds of being compatible are 1 in 12, according to the National Bone Marrow Program.

Donor's who are compatible go to the next stage in being able to help save someone's life.

Potential donors are informed about the entire bone marrow collection process and what they can expect. The procedures for the donation are paid for by the recipient, or the recipient's insurance company.

There is minor pain and some discomfort donor's experience during the process.

"If selected to donate marrow, you are under anesthesia for the procedure," explained Sergeant Buongiorno. "Some people express discomfort for a week or so after, but no long term effects."

Bone marrow replaces itself naturally after the procedure.

The discomfort is a small price to pay to be able to make the difference between life and death to someone's son, daughter, father, mother or even grandparent.

To join the national registry to become a donor, stop by the bone marrow drive, scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 30 in the Bldg. T-416 conference room.



Staff Sgt. Michael Buongiorno, from the 65th Medical Operations Squadron lab, demonstrates the swab process required to become a donor on the bone marrow donor registry on Staff Sgt. Meliza Cubacha, 65th MDOS pharmacy technician. There will be a bone marrow drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 30 in the Bldg. T-416 conference room. (Photo by Senior Airman Taylor Marr)



Newest Chief

Senior Master Sgt. Gregg Mowrer, 65th Operations Support Squadron, was presented with Chief stripes Wednesday by Col. JL Briggs, 65th Air Base Wing commander and Chief Master Sgt. Richard Lee, 65th Mission Support Group. Sergeant Mowrer was one of the 416 selected for promotion. The board considered 2,476 senior master sergeants for a 16.80 percent select rate. Last year's selection rate was 16.85 percent. (Photo by Senior Airman Taylor Marr)



Movie Schedule

Today, 7 p.m. – Sydney White (PG-13); **10 p.m.** – The Kingdom (R)
Saturday, 7 p.m. – Sydney White; **10 p.m.** – 3:10 to YUMA (R)
Sunday, 2 p.m. – Sydney White; **7 p.m.** – The Kingdom
Thursday, 7 p.m. – 3:10 to YUMA
Synopsis: Visit www.aafes.com/ems

Around Lajes

Free photo CD: The Airman & Family Readiness Center will offer free photo CDs on a first-come, first-serve basis from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday in Bldg. T-126 to U.S. ID card holders. Choose a Christmas tree or plain background for a family portrait, up to 3 shots per member. Christmas cookies and drinks will be served. Sign-ups begin at 9:45 a.m. For more information, call 535-4138.

Cost of Living Allowance Living Pattern Survey: The COLA LPS is now available at <http://www.perdiem.osd.mil/oscsla/lps/portugal/>. The survey is open

to all active military members regardless if they live on or off base. Maximum participation is requested to obtain the maximum COLA authorized.

Crossroads Xtra: The Crossroads Xtra will not be published next week. The next issue is Nov. 30.

Allergy/Immunizations clinic changes: Immunizations – 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Allergy Testing – 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday (referral appointment by PCM) Allergy Injections – 10 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m. The clinic is closed every second Wednesday of each month for readiness training until 1 p.m. For more information, call 535-5076.

Family Child Care providers: FCC Providers offer free care for PCS, volunteer time, Extended Duty Mission Requirements and Returning Home Care. For more information, call first sergeants or the FCC coordinator at 535-1332.

Veterinarian on the Island: A veterinarian is scheduled to be here from Nov. 26 to Dec. 7. For appointments, call 535-3134.

Education

University of Oklahoma: Earn a Master's in Human Relations in 16-24 months from OU. The first onsite course, HR5003: Theoretical Foundations of HR, a core requirement for the degree, will be held Jan. 22-27. The deadline to enroll is Dec 24. For details, call 535-3171.

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University: Aviation Insurance – Nov. 26 to Dec. 2. For details, call 535-3375.

University of Maryland University College: The tentative Term 3 Schedule is now available. Earn a bachelor's degree in only 60 hours. Find out how with the AU ABC program. The UMUC Computer Lab is reopened today. For details, call 535-4187 or e-mail cjessop@ed.umuc.edu.

University of Phoenix: Earn a master's degree in as little as 18 months. Start in November and the application fee will be waived plus students will receive two reference manuals at no cost. Phoenix offers master's degrees in Business Administration and Education. For details, call 535-1970 or e-mail jennifer.Wells@phoenix.edu.

Central Texas College - Registration for Distance Learning ends Nov. 23 for the Dec. 10 to Feb. 8 term. For details, call 535-6722, or e-mail lajes@europe@ctcd.edu.

Lajes American School

Pick-up and Drop-off Procedures for Students: From 7 to 8 a.m. and 2 to

Armchair Quarterback

Congratulations to week 10 winner Paul Granholm. This week's You Don't Know Jack Winner is Justin Wheeler - aren't you supposed to be good with numbers?

"What did you say? I was too busy winning".

—Paul Granholm



E-mail picks to news@lajes.af.mil before kickoff Sunday. In the case of a tie, a winner will be decided by who picks the closest combined score of the Monday Night game.

3 p.m. the lane in front of the school is designated for pick-up and drop-off of students only. During these hours only school personnel may park inside the gate. No cars are to be left unattended. Parents should pull cars to the front of the line when dropping off students and not pass other cars loading or unloading students.



Be an Angel

Do you find yourself walking by the "Angel Trees" as you make your way through both of the BX stores? Don't let another opportunity pass you by to bring a smile to the face of a child this holiday season. There is only one military pay day left before the "Angel Tree" collection is taken away to provide toys, shoes and clothes for those children who are less fortunate. The Lajes Chapel Charities will collect the last donation from the boxes Dec. 14 so celebrate and contribute in this season of giving and grab a pink angel for a girl and blue angel for a boy! (Photo by Angie Erickson)

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6 p.m. Nov. 26
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Doors will open 1 hour prior or game!

For more information call the CC at 535-5216.

COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU

Classified Ads

E-mail classified ads to news@lajes.af.mil by 5 p.m. the Thursday prior to the week you need it published. Notify the Crossroads when items have been sold. Lajes personnel may also post ads at Lajesads.com. This site is not affiliated with the Crossroads.

Children's items needed: Mothers of Preschoolers need donated exersaucers, baby swings, or bouncy seats to use for child care during MOPS meetings. Our growing group of toddlers is 'toddling' all over our babies. Call Becky Heerema at 535-1440 leave message.