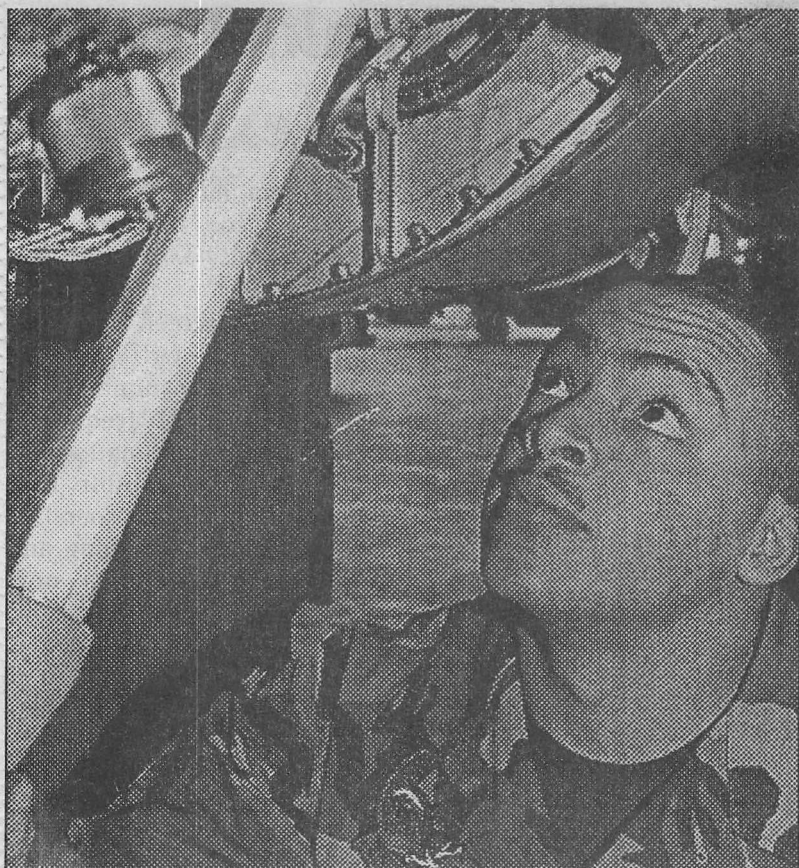


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**Air Force Senior Airman Jaison W. Gibson III inspects the electronics system on a fighter aircraft. He's stationed at Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa.**

## Winnsboro airman has another view of 'paradise'

When the son of a Winnsboro woman tries to write home to family and friends, a picture is often painted of Okinawa as a lush, tropical paradise far removed from home.

But for Air Force Senior Airman Jaison W. Gibson III, son of Gwendolyn Gibson of Winnsboro, there is another picture of life in Okinawa that few family and friends back home hear about.

Gibson, a 1993 graduate of Fairfield Central High School, is a member of the largest combat unit in the Air Force and a part of a global mission.

Gibson, an electro-environmental specialist with the 67th Fighter Squadron, and his fellow airmen support more than 80 aircraft and a mission that places them at the heart of nearly every military operation in the Pacific region.

"My job is to physically and visually inspect aircraft wiring and electrical systems and components," said Gibson. "I also inspect aircraft air conditioning and all associated air systems."

"My electronics unit delivers in-depth inspection on aircraft to ensure the safety and total function capabilities of the aircraft," Gibson said.

Although the workweek is typically hectic for the 20,000 American service members stationed at Kadena, living on a subtropical island has its benefits. With a unique blend of predominantly Japanese, Chinese and American lifestyles, Okinawa offers experiences that range from the beaches to the blossom festivals to ancient temples.

While some find life on this oriental island adventurous, others are less sure about this overseas experience.

"Living on Okinawa is a good way to learn about other cultures and to observe an alternate lifestyle," Gibson said.

An island paradise, a frigid tundra or a barren desert - as a member of the Air Force, almost anyplace in the world could become home for Gibson.

"My wife, Danica, and I have two sons and we're both enjoying our time serving in the military. The Air Force gives me a sense of security, so I'm planning on staying in the service for a long time," said Gibson.

"Living in Kadena has been fun so far, but I can't wait to get home so our kids can be with their grandparents," he said.