

GULF DEFENDER

WING MISSION: TRAIN THE WORLD'S BEST AIR SUPERIORITY TEAM FOR THE AIR FORCE
WING VISION: TEAM TYNDALL - TAKING AMERICA'S PREMIER AIR SUPERIORITY TRAINING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Vol. 61, No. 4

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

Feb. 1, 2002

National Guard chief visits 1st Air Force, CONR

Top guardsman takes up-close look at Operation Noble Eagle and 1st AF's role in the mission

MASTER SGT. ROGER W. TIBBETTS

1st Air Force public affairs

Chief of the National Guard Bureau Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis visited 1st Air Force and the Continental United States NORAD Region last week, meeting with Air National Guard members at the CONRA Air Operations Center.

General Davis, a presidential appointee, is responsible for forming and developing policy, plans and programs for the Army and Air National Guard. He is also the senior National Guard officer, serving as the Army and Air Force's official channel of communication with state governors and adjutants general.

The NGB chief's visit included senior operations briefings and an up-close look at Operation Noble Eagle and the important role the Guard is playing in the mission's continued success.

"We've got a large number of people involved in NORAD and homeland defense," said General Davis. "A grand total of about 20,000, both Army Guard and Air Guard,

who are directly involved in Noble Eagle."

General Davis says the Guard is not only actively involved with the NORAD air defense mission, it is busy with the logistics of communications and maintenance of systems used to accomplish the mission. On the Army side, we are working many of the nation's airport and key facilities' security issues, he said.

"Most folks who have traveled lately have seen our Guard members out in airports as an armed, visible presence," the general said. "In addition to that we are guarding a number of priority facilities, biological facilities, chemical and nuclear, as well as some bridges and tunnels."

The manning and supplying of Operation Noble Eagle are not the only primary concerns at NGB, he said.

"The Guard has deployed people and equipment to support Enduring Freedom, with about 20,000 Guard members involved in the ongoing mission," he added.

Although his focus is the procurement of funds and equipment for the National

●SEE 1ST AF PAGE 10



Steve Wallace

Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, Chief, National Guard Bureau, observes air traffic along the coast of Florida with Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rivera, a tracking technician with the Southeast Air Defense Sector. General Davis was at Tyndall touring 1st Air Force/CONR and SEADS.

1st FS members visit Luke for dissimilar air combat training

AIRMAN SUSAN MCQUEARY

56th Fighter Wing public affairs

Seventy-three members from the 1st Fighter Squadron at Tyndall Air Force Base came to Luke Jan. 7 through 18 for dissimilar air combat training.

Thirteen pilots and 60 maintenance members from the 1st FS and members from the 61st FS Top Dogs participated in DACT.

"We're providing a different platform and aircraft for the F-16 pilots to look at," said Maj. Andrew Bradson, 1st FS instructor pilot. "We're giving exposure to air-

"We're here to support Luke's mission. We learn from one another from feedback."

MAJ. ANDREW BRADSON
1st Fighter Squadron instructor pilot

craft with different capabilities, different strengths and weaknesses."

DACT enables Luke pilots to train against another type of aircraft in combat scenarios, and Tyndall pilots are given the same opportunity.

Additionally, Luke pilots visit Tyndall as well as various other bases to support their programs.

"This gives us an excellent opportunity to practice maneuvering," Major Bradson said. "We're here to support Luke's mission. We learn from one another from feedback."

DACT is used for the basic training courses as well as the transition and instructor courses.

"We benefit because we get to fly against a different type of aircraft," said Capt. Mark Jennings, 61st FS train-

●SEE TRAINING PAGE 4

Team Tyndall named outstanding unit

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM F. HODGKINS

325th Fighter Wing commander



This week began with an early high note as we hosted the first official visit Monday of the new **Military Affairs Committee**

chairman **Hugh Roche** and his wife, Carla. I'm pleased to say they enjoyed the grand tour of Tyndall Air Force Base and their formal introduction to the people and mission of the Checkertail Clan. Special thanks to everyone who helped host this important event. The Roches definitely went away convinced that the people of Team Tyndall are a class act.

We hit another high note as we honored the 325th Fighter Wing's top performers for the fourth quarter of 2001 on Tuesday. I'm pleased to announce the following quarterly award winners: **Airman 1st Class Homero Gonzalez**, Honor Guard Member of the Quarter; **A1C George Little**, 95th Fighter Squadron, Airman of the Quarter; **Tech. Sgt. Tanya Hart**, Detachment 1,



"Take a little time and give some blood. All types are needed and you never know when you might be the one needing the 'gift of life.'"

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM F. HODGKINS

325th Fighter Wing commander

325th Fighter Wing (Pensacola), NCO of the Quarter; **Master Sgt. Anthony Scuvotti**, 1st Fighter Squadron, Senior NCO of the Quarter; and **Capt. Mark Sotallaro**, 325th Maintenance Squadron, Company Grade Officer of the Quarter. Congratulations to all of you for demonstrating your outstanding professionalism!

Speaking of class acts, I hope you can attend our **2001 Team Tyndall Annual Awards Banquet**, which takes place Feb. 9 at the Pelican Reef Enlisted Club. Today is the final day to sign up, so be sure to get with your unit first sergeant to purchase

tickets. Tickets are \$15 for members and \$18 for nonmembers. The uniform is mess dress or semi-formal, and the evening gets under way with a 6 p.m. social, followed by a 6:30 p.m. dinner. This will be a great opportunity to honor our outstanding performers for 2001, and I strongly encourage you all to support this once a year, special event.

I want to pass along my thanks to **Gulf Coast Community College baseball coach Darren Mezaroski and his staff** for putting on their free clinic Saturday at the

●SEE AWARDS PAGE 5

Action Line

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

Action Line calls are recorded and staffed through the proper agency. The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers. If you're not satisfied with the response or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the office of inspections, 283-4646. Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM F. HODGKINS

325th Fighter Wing commander

Tax tips

Miscellaneous deductions

There are several deductions that you or your spouse may qualify for if you itemize this year on your tax returns. However, these deductions only result in a tax break to the extent that your miscellaneous expenses exceed 2 percent of your adjusted gross income. Three miscellaneous deductions to consider are: itemized deductions for costs incurred while searching for employment; tax preparation costs; and professional dues.

Job search expenses: Did you and your family PCS to Tyndall in the year 2001? Did your spouse seek employment in the area after you arrived? If so, the expenses incurred in searching for a new job may be deductible.

Tax preparation costs: You can deduct tax preparation costs in the year that you paid them. For instance, tax preparation costs incurred in 2001 for filing your 2000 tax return is deductible on your 2001 tax return. Deductible expenses include fees paid for tax software programs, tax publications and any fees you paid to have your return filed electronically.

Professional dues: You may be able to deduct the costs of any dues paid to professional societies if it directly relates to your military position. For example, an Air Force electrical engineer can deduct dues paid to the American Society of Electrical Engineers. However, dues paid to the officers' club or the enlisted club are not deductible expenses. For more information on these and other deductions pick up a copy of IRS Publication 529, *Miscellaneous Deductions* or go to the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov.

Driving drunk changes families, careers forever

RICHARD ZOWIE

12th Flying Training Wing public affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — What seemed like a normal Sunday afternoon in Athens, Ga., turned into a tragic day for my family. My cousin, Randy Burris, was in his neighbor's front yard talking with a woman who was walking her daughter in a stroller.

Hearing a car approach from behind, Randy glanced over his shoulder and saw the vehicle speeding out of control. It rounded the corner, left the roadway and headed straight toward them.

The woman was unable to get the baby and stroller over a rut in the yard, so Randy pushed the mother out of the vehicle's path and grabbed the stroller just in time to minimize the impact on the stroller and baby.

The woman and baby escaped without serious injury, but the car struck Randy. He died two days later. The driver was cited for driving under the influence, driving without a license or insurance, driving too fast for conditions, leaving

the scene of the accident and felony vehicular homicide. He must now live the rest of his life knowing his senseless actions ripped a precious life from a family.

Unfortunately, Randy's death isn't an isolated incident. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 16,653 Americans were killed in crashes involving alcohol in 2000. This accounted for nearly 40 percent of all automobile fatalities that year, a 2 percent increase from 1999.

The traffic safety administration further reported that about three out of every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives.

Even more disturbing, the safety administration also discovered that among the drunk-driving fatalities in 1999, nearly two alcohol-related traffic deaths occurred per hour, 48 per day and 303 per week. To put this on a more alarming level, these deaths were the equivalent of two jetliners crashing every week.

●SEE DRIVE PAGE 10

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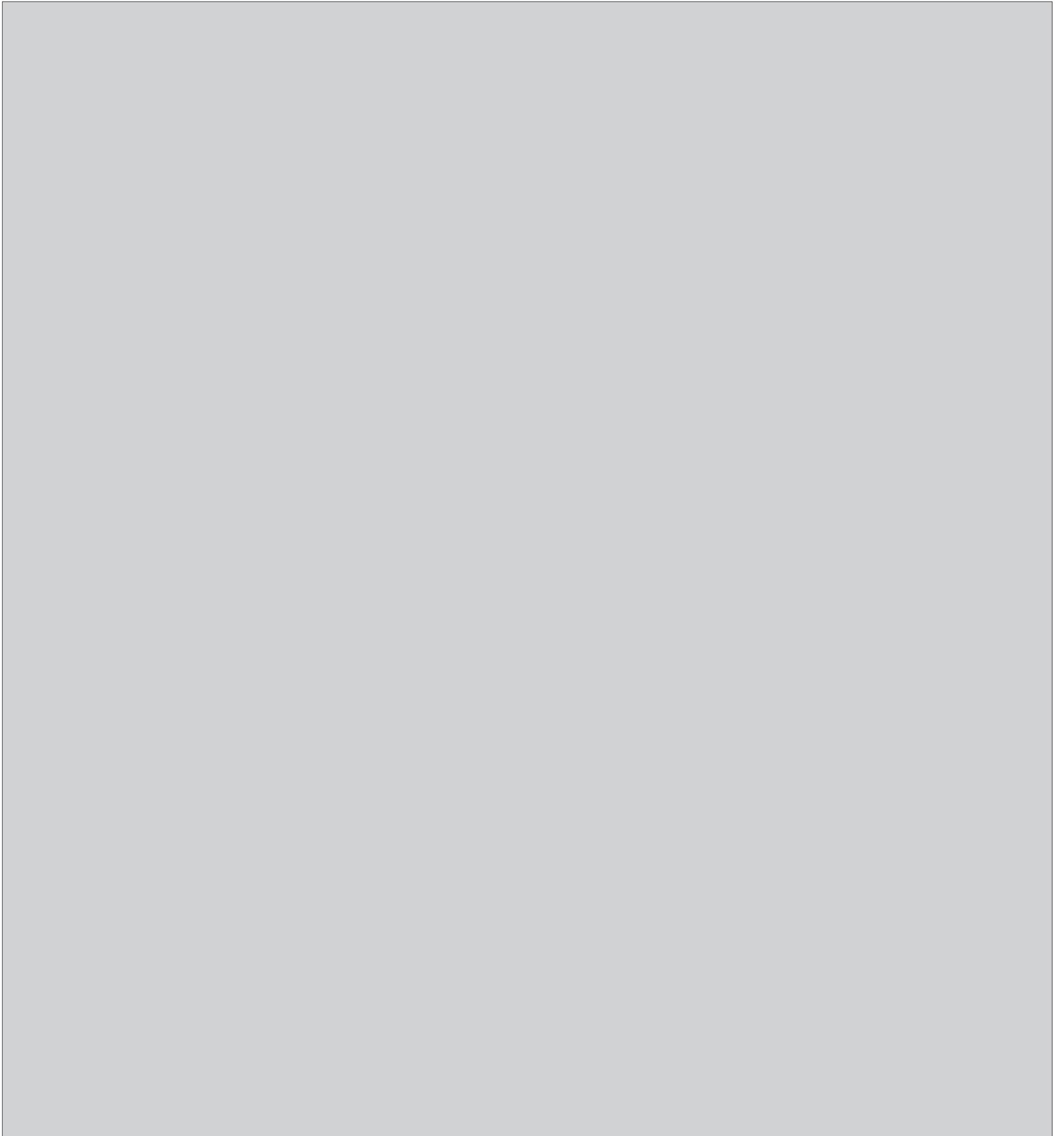
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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office at Tyndall. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or emailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.





Courtesy photo

Name this photo!

Name this photo and win a free meal from the services squadron! Submit caption entries to 2nd Lt. Cecil Woolard at the 325th Safety office. E-mail them in or call him at 283-4231.

New MAC chairman sees base, mission

STAFF SGT. ROEL UTLEY
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Bay County's new Military Affairs Committee chairman visited Tyndall Monday to learn more about Team Tyndall and the 325th Fighter Wing mission.

Hugh Roche, who recently retired as vice president and general manager of WMBB-TV, toured several base agencies and talked with airmen from various units to get an overview of how Tyndall does business.

"I was very impressed with the entire operation and especially with the people at Tyndall," Mr. Roche said. "Not only the management team, but the bright young airmen and how much responsibility falls on them."

Other Tyndall aspects that struck

Mr. Roche despite previous visits here, were the size and comprehensiveness of the base and its facilities. He was also impressed by the services available to Team Tyndall and the quality and quantity of training conducted here. "(Tyndall) is like a small city. You have all the components. I never realized that," Mr. Roche said.

Mr. Roche became chairman of the Military Affairs Committee at the beginning of the year and will serve in the position until December. As MAC chairman, Mr. Roche heads a 250-plus member committee dedicated to maintaining and improving relations between Bay County and the Tyndall communities.

Mr. Roche plans to be proactive

●SEE ROCHE PAGE 11

●FROM TRAINING PAGE 1

ing chief. "We use them for intercept rides, air combat maneuvering and air combat training."

Instructor pilots from Tyndall usually come to Luke for each class, primarily in support of the basic training course.

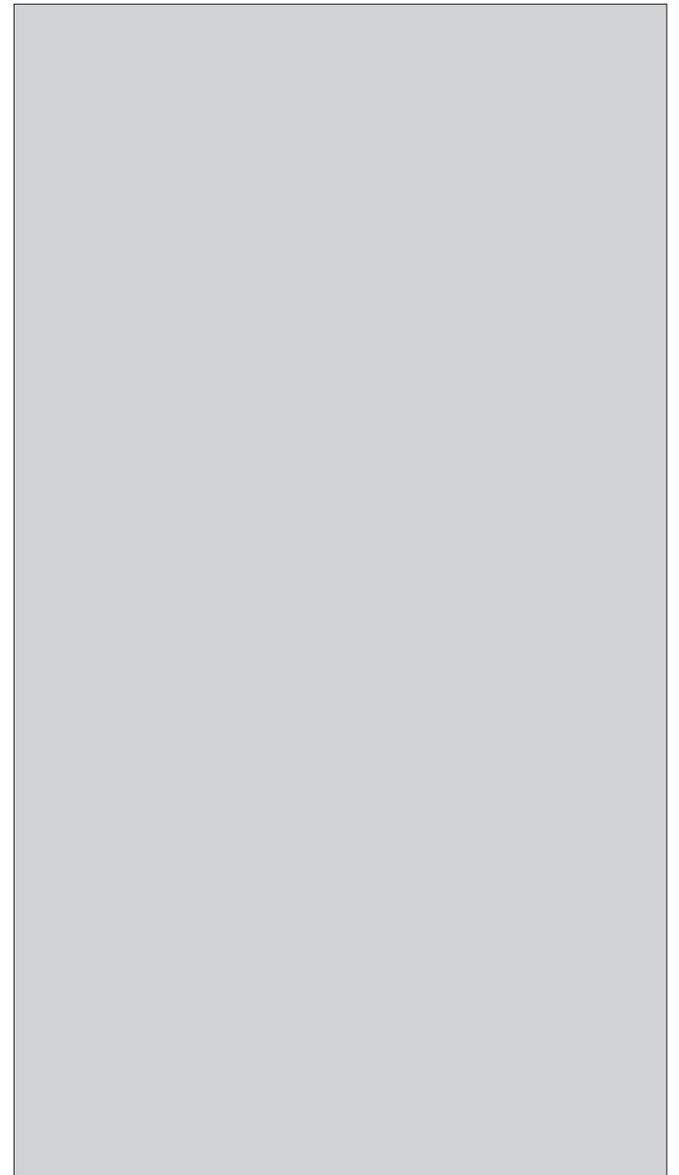
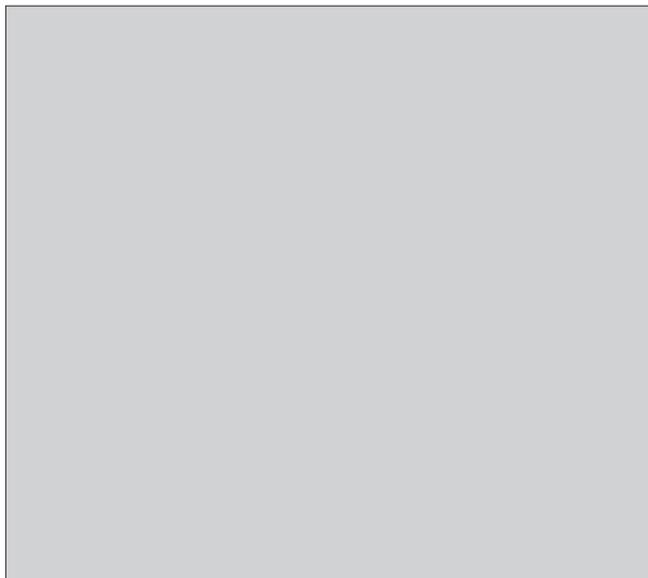
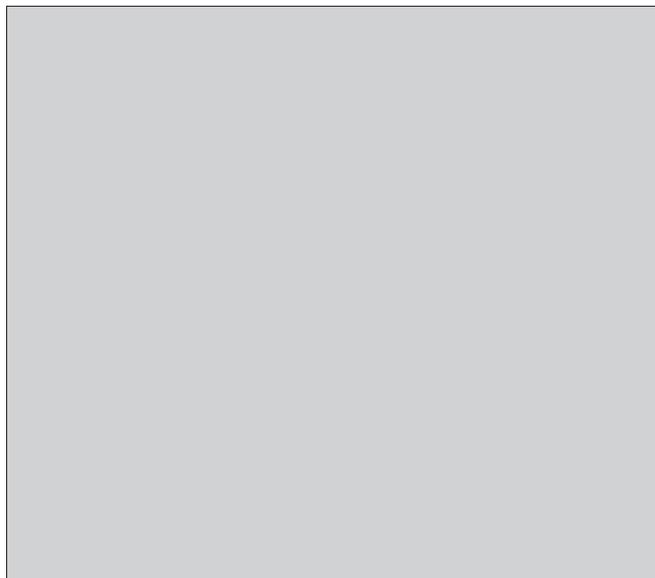
The students who participate are nearing the end of their training.

"The F-15 performs differently than the F-16," Captain Jennings said. "It's bigger and easier to see. It's a good (combat) simulator for the basic course students."



Staff Sgt. Christopher Matthews

Staff Sgt. William Legett and Airman 1st Class Bret Tyler, 1st Fighter Squadron, make adjustments to an F-15 at Luke for DACT training.



●FROM AWARDS PAGE 2

Tyndall AFB Youth Center ball fields. They definitely hit a home run by helping our Little Leaguers ages 9 and older learn valuable skills that will help them win as well as have a lot of fun along the way.

The American Red Cross will be holding a base-wide blood drive from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday at the Community Activities Center. Take a little time and give some blood. All types are needed and you never know when you might be the one needing the "gift of life."

The **Military Training Instructor recruiting team** visits Tyndall at 9 a.m. Thursday in Building 662. If you think

you'd like to use your military expertise to help shape tomorrow's Air Force, take time and check out the briefing.

Last but not least, **Super Bowl Weekend** is upon us. If you haven't made plans already, you should consider viewing Sunday's big game from the Community Activities Center's pizza pub. The CAC action kicks off at 4 p.m. Let the staff take care of the food and beverages, so you can kick back and watch the New England Patriots' "Brady Bunch" take on the St. Louis Rams and their "Greatest Show on Turf."

Enjoy! And may the best team win ... in overtime.

Stay safe, and have a great week!



Courtesy photo

Galaxy-sized gulp

A C-5 Galaxy crew from the 22nd Airlift Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., took on the task of loading a Navy small water area twin-hull boat, for transport in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Club members get chance to win Caribbean cruises

COURTESY AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND SERVICES

Beginning today, Air Force club members throughout the AETC command will have an opportunity to win weekly and grand prizes during the Cupid's Caribbean Cruise promotion.

"The Air Education and Training Command appreciates people who are club members," said Bob Carlberg, HQ AETC Services Chief of Programs. "To show our gratitude, we have arranged a special program in February to coordinate with Valentine's Day."

The Cupid's Caribbean Cruise program will give away \$100 from AETC to an enlisted club member and an officer club member at each base each Friday from Feb. 8 to March 1. In conjunction with this, the Tyndall clubs will be giving away lunch and dinner coupons at the same time. Six enlisted semifinalists and six officer semifinalists will be selected and forwarded to AETC for the final grand prize drawing.

"At the end of the program, two of the semifinalists from across the command will win Caribbean cruises to share with that special person in their heart," Mr. Carlberg said.

●SEE CRUISE PAGE 11

Air Force releases some specialties from stop-loss

24 officer and 40 enlisted career fields affected

MASTER SGT. RICK BURNHAM

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force personnel officials have developed a plan that will mean the end of stop-loss restrictions on a number of career fields as early as March. The stop-loss “exit plan” includes 24 officer and 40 enlisted career fields, and is based on the strategies of operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle, personnel officials said.

It is the result of a planned “90-day review,” officials at the Pentagon said. An initial 30-day review, conducted in early November, resulted in the continuation of stop-loss restrictions on all Air Force specialties. Stop-loss measures were instituted by the Air

Force on Oct. 2 to ensure personnel levels were adequate to prosecute the war. Subsequent reviews will take place at 60-day intervals.

The officer career fields released from stop-loss restrictions include: 13S, 21A, 21M, 21S, 35B, 36P, 38M, 42B, 42E, 43A, 43D, 43M, 44D, 44H, 44J, 44Z, 46G, 47B, 47D, 48E, 65A, 65F, 65W and 84H.

Enlisted career fields released from stop-loss restrictions include: 1C6XX, 1S0XX, 1T0X1, 2A000, 2A0X1, 2A1X1, 2A1X2, 2A1X3, 2A300, 2A3X1, 2A3X2, 2A3X3, 2A4X1, 2A4X2, 2A5X3, 2A6X3, 2A7X4,

2M0XX, 2P0XX, 2R0XX, 2R1XX, 2T3X5, 2T3X7, 2W0XX, 2W1XX, 2W2XX, 3A0XX, 3C0X2, 3C3X1, 3H0XX, 3N0XX, 3N1XX, 3N2XX, 3U0XX, 4J0XX, 6FXXX, 8FXXX, 8MXXX, 9DXXX and 9E000.

A number of different factors went into the process of deciding which career fields could be released, officials said.

“We had to consider the balance between the active duty and the air reserve component, as well as the need to remain flexible to changing events worldwide,” said Lt.

Col. Jan Middleton, chief of promotion, evaluation and separation policy at the Pentagon. “In addition, homeland defense is still being shaped and defined. So, there were a lot of factors to consider in the decision-making process.”

The plan will give the Air Force an effective and reason-

able approach to easing stop-loss restrictions, Colonel Middleton said.

“We feel this plan gives the Air Force an easily executable strategy,” she said. “The actual ‘termination’ of stop-loss is still to be determined — we still need to retain those personnel directly needed to support the war. But this will begin the glide slope toward that end.”

More career fields will likely be released in the future based on input from different levels around the Air Force, she said.

Those people with retirement or separa-

●SEE STOP-LOSS PAGE 7



Stop-loss restrictions eased

GEN. JOHN P. JUMPER

Air Force chief of staff

Since Sept. 11, the lives of people have been affected in many ways. Our nation is at war. Our homeland was attacked. Secretary Roche and I thank each of you for your dedicated service as we continue to fight the war on terrorism.

“Due to the combined effects of operations

“We understand the many sacrifices Air Force men and women, as well as their families, make and will continue to face in the future.”

GEN. JOHN JUMPER

Air Force chief of staff

Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, the Air Force implemented stop-loss, and people who were planning to separate or retire had to significantly alter their plans. While the future remains uncertain, operational requirements now allow us to release 24 officer and 40 enlisted specialties from stop-loss.

Clearly, we still need experienced people, and we want all, active duty, Reserve, Air National Guard and civilians, to consider remaining in the Air Force to help our nation wage the war against terrorism. The Air Force will maintain retention as a high priority and we have seen considerable gains recently in the area of compensation. Anyone who earlier made a decision to leave is encouraged to discuss with their commander/supervisor the possibility of now staying in the Air Force.

In arriving at the decision to release

these specialties from stop-loss, we thoroughly reviewed specific mission requirements and inputs from the major commands, the air reserve component and headquarters staffs. Information regarding those specialties to be released will be forthcoming in subsequent implementation messages from the deputy chief of

staff for personnel and the Air Force Personnel Center.

Because this is a very

dynamic situation, we will continue to review the stop-loss program every 60 days, and if world events change significantly, we will re-evaluate stop-loss decisions immediately. Those personnel not released from stop-loss at this time will remain under previously established provisions and may continue to apply for separation or retirement through the waiver process. We will make every effort to ensure people choosing to leave the service have the maximum flexibility in making the transition to civilian life.

We understand the many sacrifices Air Force men and women, as well as their families, make and will continue to face in the future. These sacrifices are a necessary price to ensure we meet the national security requirements of our great nation. We fully appreciate your unwavering support and dedicated service.

●FROM STOP-LOSS PAGE 6

tion dates already established in the personnel system will be allowed to retire or separate beginning in March, following an established "admin period" during February. People who are deployed in support of operations Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom or related operations, and Reserve and Guard component people who are involuntarily on active duty (partial mobilization) or voluntarily on active duty in support of operations Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom or related operations, will not be released until they return from deployment or are demobilized.

Officials at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, will provide each active-duty military personnel flight with a list of those people to get the actions started. Air National Guard and Reserve people should contact their respective military personnel flights to begin release procedures. Each squadron commander will be responsible for approving the actual release date.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Charlie Carr, 325th Military Personnel Flight separations and retirement section at 283-2244.

Sandstrom takes command of 19AF

RALPH MONSON

12th Flying Training Wing public affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) — Maj. Gen. James E. Sandstrom became the 18th commander of 19th Air Force Jan. 24.

General Sandstrom succeeds Maj. Gen. Steven R. Polk, who has been nominated for promotion to lieutenant general and reassignment as the vice commander of Pacific Air Forces.

Gen. Don Cook, commander of Air Education and Training Command, presided over the 10 a.m. ceremony in Hangar 4.

During the ceremony, the AETC commander praised General Polk for his leadership in guiding 19th Air Force and said he expects the command to continue to produce the world's best aviators under General Sandstrom.

General Cook said General Polk's vision and leadership have added richness and fullness to the heritage of 19th Air Force.

"From overseeing the stand-up of the Air Force's newest trainer, the T-6 Texan II, to paving the way for the Air Force's newest fighter, the F-22, General Polk has left an indelible mark on the pages of 19th Air Force's history," General Cook said.

The AETC commander said it is clear General Sandstrom has the skill and talent to lead 19th Air Force, and it will continue to prosper under his leadership.

General Cook also advised the new 19th Air Force commander to "focus on the needs of tomorrow, to look beyond the present to the unknown emerging threats and challenges of the future."

In relinquishing command, General Polk directly credited the more than 31,000 men and women of 19th Air Force for the command's success in training more than 19,000 students an-



Charlie Perez

Gen. Don Cook, commander of Air Education and Training Command, passes the 19th Air Force flag to new commander Maj. Gen. James Sandstrom Jan. 24. Chief Master Sgt. Herbert Williams, 19th AF command chief master sergeant, stands ready to receive the flag.

nually at 25 units throughout the United States.

"You are great warriors," said General Polk of 19th Air Force. "It has been great to see you develop a sense of teamwork and family. I thank you sincerely for your hard work and dedication and all you do each day for your country."

Upon accepting command, General Sandstrom told the men and women of 19th Air Force they have an awful lot to be proud of and that their many ac-

complishments speak for themselves.

"The fruits of your labors of the past two and one-half years are in full view for the world to see as we take on this new war on terrorism," General Sandstrom said. "Starting today we will move forward together — moving forward as a total force team to make 19th Air Force even better," he said. "We will continue to produce the world's finest aircrews for our nation's great Air Force and Navy, as well as our friends and allies."

Mardi Gras 2000

The story behind the party



A brief history of the often-misconstrued purpose, poise and grandeur of Mardi Gras

SENIOR AIRMAN RUSSELL CROWE

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Laissez les bon temps rouler!
— Let the good times roll!

While it's one of the nation's biggest parties, the true origins of Mardi Gras are often shrouded by the hoopla surrounding it. 'Carnival,' as it was originally known, isn't a festival of sin. Despite the fact its primary location is New Orleans, or "Sin City," the event is actually religious.

Hard to believe? Thousands of people attend the event each year, although most participants have no idea what they're celebrating. Let *The Gulf Defender* give you a brief history lesson so you can understand as well as enjoy the festivities.

A little history

The observance of Mardi Gras before the Lenten period (a Christian symbolic penitence from Ash Wednesday to Easter) is not new. It originated in second century Rome when the fast of the 40 days of Lent was preceded by a feast of several days during which time participants delivered themselves up to voluntary madness, put on masks and clothed themselves like specters.

Mardi Gras first came to the United States through its French heritage on Shrove Tuesday in 1699. Pierre LeMoyne Sieur d'Iberville, a famous French explorer, and his party stopped to rest beside a small bayou about 12 miles from the mouth of the Mississippi. While no one knows exactly what occurred that day, he named that slow-moving stream Bayou Mardi Gras.

For almost 30 years nothing else was known of Mardi Gras until



Courtesy photo

d'Iberville's brother's city, La Nouvelle Orleans, started holding informal revelries in their plantations and mansions because its upper class society was longing for times remi-

niscent of their glory days in France.

These modest celebrations continued through the sale of Louisiana to the Spanish in 1766, when Don Antonio de Ulloa took possession of the

French colony. The Spanish allowed these yearly excesses for only a short time before they outlawed the event.

When the French retook control of Louisiana, the celebration was again

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fast facts!

! Mardi Gras means “Fat Tuesday” and is celebrated on that day of the week. The date can fall between Feb. 3 and March 9. Mardi Gras is always 47 days before Easter Sunday.

! Official colors: purple, green, and gold. These colors were chosen in 1872 by the King of Carnival, Rex. Purple represents justice, green stands for faith, gold stands for power.

! Mardi Gras season begins about

two weeks before Fat Tuesday. During those two weeks, parades can be viewed nightly and on weekends.

! Parades are put on by carnival krewes (or organizations). Every year, each krewe picks a king and a queen who reign for that parade. The floats are decorated to depict different themes. The floats are pulled by tractors. Most parades have at least 15 floats.

! People who belong to the krewe

ride on the floats. They throw beads, doubloons, cups and trinkets to the crowd.

! Following the parade, the krewe usually has a ball presenting their king and queen, and their royal court. The royal court includes maids, dukes, pages, captains and jesters.

! The food of Mardi Gras, king cakes, are like cinnamon rolls but

twisted into a large oval. The tops are covered with white icing, then sprinkled with sugar dyed purple, green and gold. Hidden inside the king cake is a plastic baby about the size of an almond. Tradition has it that the person who finds the baby in the king cake is the next queen or king and must

host the next king cake party.



Krewe of Archers grace the streets of St. Andrews

2ND LT. SERENA CUSTIS
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

The Krewe of Archers, comprised of 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron members, will bring an element of American pride to the St. Andrews Mardi Gras parade this weekend.

This will be the second year the Archers (Archer is a nickname for 83rd squadron members) take part in the parade, displaying their float with the theme “proud men and women who serve in the United States military.” The star feature of the float will be the AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile, with the squadron’s crest on the side. Squadron members who built the float say the parade has not only become a part of Archer tradition, it has become an Archer standard.

Staff Sgt. Scot Gutierrez, a missile analyst in the 83rd FWS, helped build the parade floats both years. He said, “Having events like this brings us together so we can get to know each other better. It’s just a time to get together and have fun.”

The 83rd FWS is a community-involved squadron, according to the squadron commander’s secretary, Dawn O’Neal. She said, “Participating in the parade allows us to spend enjoyable off-duty time with fellow co-workers while letting the local community know that the 83rd FWS is at Tyndall. Our missile displayed on the float shows the local community a unique piece of weaponry they might not otherwise get to see.”

The 83rd FWS evaluates tactical fighter weapons systems as a part of the Air Force’s only air-to-air Weapon System Evaluation program. The squadron tests all parts of the weapon system—the man, machine and missile. Using F-15, F-16 and A-10 aircraft, the unit fires more than 350 live air-to-air missiles a year against target drones that simulate the maneuvers of enemy aircraft in challenging tactical scenarios.

The 83rd FWS has earned two Distinguished Unit Citations, four Outstanding Unit Awards and several campaign streamers, including one for participation in the Normandy Invasion.

The unit’s motto is, “Find any potential weapons problems now during peacetime, vice waiting for unacceptable results in combat.” Weapons reliability information gathered from the firings are used by senior Air Force leaders in making key decisions in building combat and contingency plans throughout the world.

The squadron is part of the 53rd Wing, headquartered at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. The wing takes pride in testing every weapon used today during the war on terrorism.



Courtesy photo

Thousands of people from all across the country come to New Orleans to celebrate Mardi Gras.



Courtesy photo

83rd FWS airmen participate in last year’s Mardi Gras festivities.

Legal office offers tax help, guidance to all airmen

2ND LT. DEREK MOORE
325th Staff Judge Advocate office

It's tax time again! Luckily, the Tyndall Air Force Base Volunteer Income Tax Assistance center is ready and willing to provide valuable service free of charge. The staff of IRS-trained VITA representatives will render tax services from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today through April 15, every Tuesday-Friday. The tax center is located in the Marsh room of the Tyndall Community Activities Cen-

ter. Take the first step toward saving money this year by contacting your unit tax adviser to make preparations for a visit. You will need to obtain a 2001 taxpayer information sheet from them and complete it before your visit. In addition to items mentioned on the information sheet, you will need to bring the following; military ID, power of attorney (if necessary), receipts for deductible expenses and schedule c for base home-daycare providers. Appointment visits may be scheduled by calling 283-

8913 or you may simply walk in for service between 1-3 p.m. Unfortunately, with the exception of base home daycare providers, the VITA tax center cannot offer assistance to private business owners or rental property owners. Free electronic filing, electronic payment, fast refunds and a convenient location are great reasons to let the tax center file your 2001 tax return. Why pay for tax services being offered for free? Take advantage and let the VITA tax center assist you with your tax preparations.

●FROM DRIVE PAGE 2

In addition to the guilt surviving drunk drivers must bear, military people caught driving while intoxicated can face career-ending and damaging punishment.

"The disposition is the commander's decision," said Maj. Stephen Kelly, deputy staff judge advocate for the 12th Flying Training Wing. "Our recommendation will be driven by the facts of the situation and the individual involved."

For a DWI offense, the punishment ranges from Article 15 nonjudicial punishment to a general court martial. If there's no personal injury, the maximum sentence in a general court martial is a bad conduct discharge or a dismissal from

the service if the member is an officer. For enlisted members, it may also include forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for six months, reduction to E-1 for enlisted personnel and a fine.

If death results, the person could be charged with involuntary manslaughter, which could include a maximum sentence of confinement for 10 years.

With these cold consequences to consider, if you choose to drink, it's imperative that you plan for another way home.

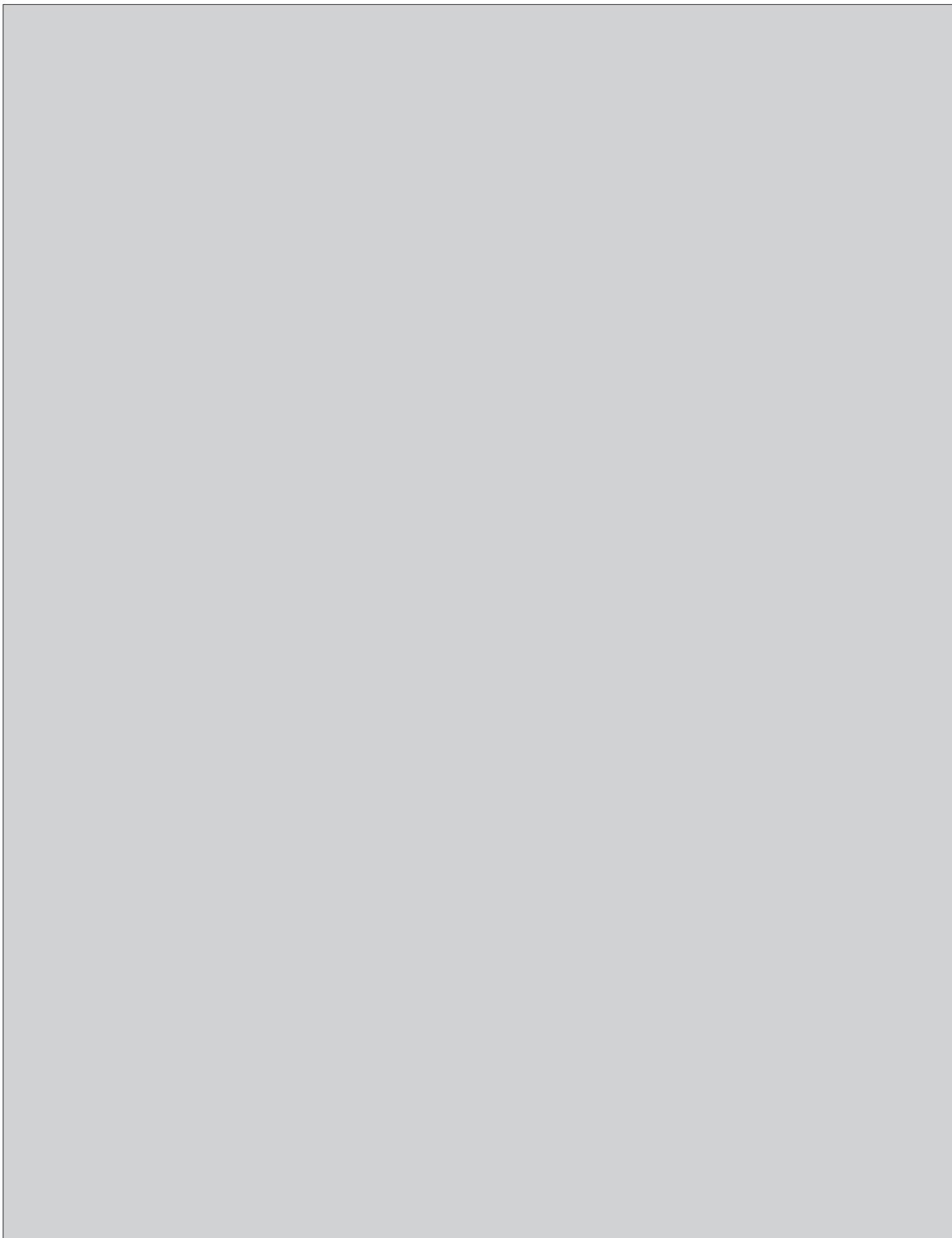
If there's one thing I pray for, it's the endurance of Randy's legacy. That legacy is about a man laying down his life for a child and about the irreversible effects of drunk driving.

●FROM 1ST AF PAGE 1

Guard and its support of both Operation Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, General Davis is concerned for the people who make the job happen for the Guard.

"I'm down here at Tyndall at the invitation of Maj. Gen. Larry Arnold and wanted to come here and see what the people at 1st Air Force were doing, and get a brief update on the mission from their perspective," he said. "As well as to meet some of the people and say thanks for the great job they do."

General Davis stressed that with an all-volunteer force you can't say thanks enough to people for what they do.



●FROM ROCHE PAGE 4

in supporting Tyndall and will serve as a liaison between Tyndall and the local business community. There are several projects Mr. Roche has identified as well as some that were suggested by Tyndall members during his visit.

Talking with Tyndall members brought back memories for the former Navy medical corpsman. "I had a great opportunity to sit down with many people and talk about things that could enhance the quality of their time in Panama City," Mr. Roche said.

As a member of the Military Affairs Committee for about 11 years, Mr. Roche said "(The MAC) will be working to make Panama City the best (assignment in a military member's) career so hopefully they will want to choose Panama City as their home upon retirement."

Concluding his whirlwind tour, Mr. Roche stated that "Bay County appreciates Tyndall and its involvement in our community." He also said that he looks forward to serving as chairman of the Military Affairs Committee.



Staff Sgt. Roel Utley

Hugh Roche checks out a M-249 while visiting security forces.



Steve Zapka

A lethal hit

Behind the controls of Raptor 4005, Col. Chris Seat, director of the F-22 Combined Test Force at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., fires a guided AIM-120 Advanced-Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile and destroys a subscale drone over a test range at Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, Calif. This latest missile test on Jan. 24 demonstrates the Raptor's look-down, shoot-down capability, which allows it to target, track and destroy a target that is pulling away. The combined test force at Edwards is currently testing six F-22s. Since the start of testing nearly four years ago, the F-22 test program has flown more than 1,628 hours and completed more than 729 flight test sorties.

●FROM CRUISE PAGE 5

At the local level, the grand prize will be the choice of free greens fees at Pelican Point Golf Course for a year or a DVD player with free club dues for a year. As with the weekly prizes, both an enlisted winner and officer winner will be chosen. Any weekly winner will still be eligible for the grand prize cruise drawing.

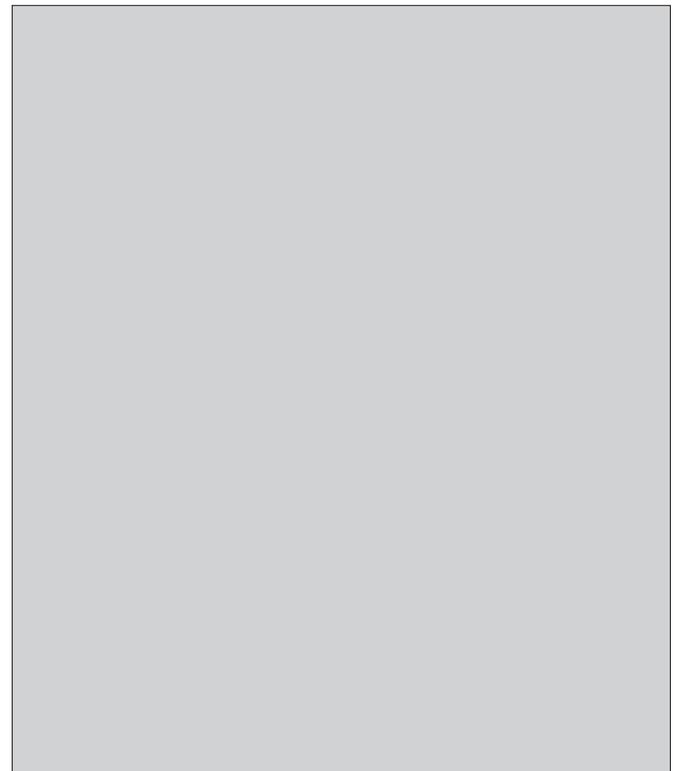
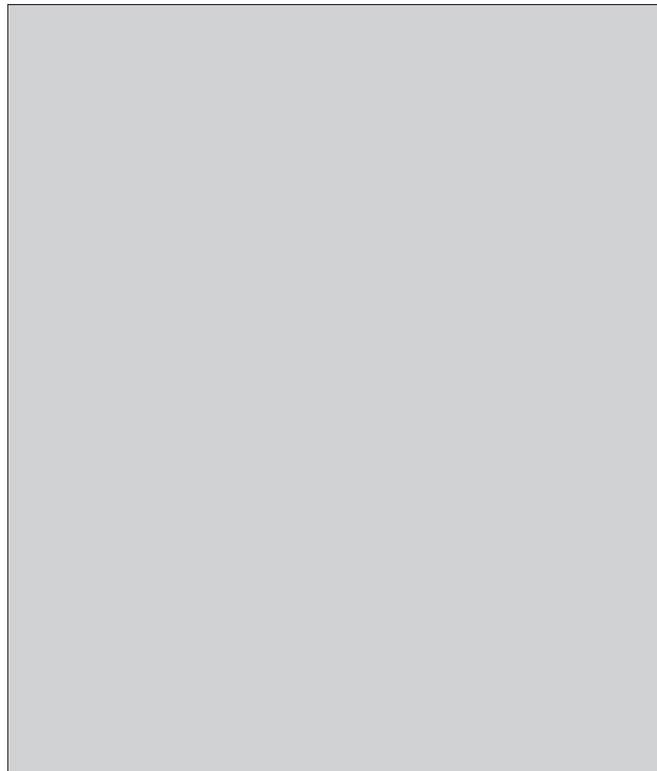
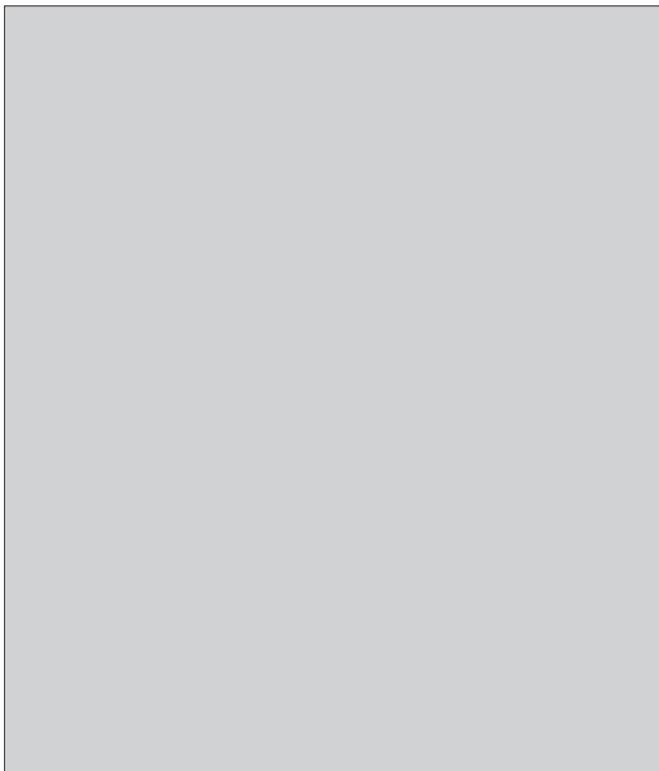
Members will receive an entry form when they make a food purchase at the club.

Members who dine at the Tyndall club for the Valentine's Day special will receive five extra entry

forms. The club will offer two seatings that evening, one at 6 p.m. and the other at 7:45 p.m.

AETC club members do not have to make a purchase to obtain an entry form. Any club member may prepare an original color sketch of the Air Force club logo as pictured on the club bill and present the sketch to the cashier along with his or her club membership card.

Since seating is limited, reservations are encouraged for Valentine's Day dinner at the club. For more information on this or the Cupid's Caribbean Cruise program, call 283-4357.



Your link
to what's going on

Gulf Guide

in the
Tyndall community

FEBRUARY

MON 4

'Moms, Pops & Tots'

The parent and child interaction play group, "Moms, Pops & Tots," for parents and their under-age-five children meets on Mondays. For more information and meeting locations, call 286-5812.

TUE 5

Coastal navigation course

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 16 basic coastal navigation course is 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Gulf Coast Community College's Student Union East building, Gibson lecture hall, Room 231.

The course ends Feb. 28. For more information, call John Clark, 271-3828, or visit the flotilla Web site at: <http://clik.to/USCGAUXFlotilla16>.

Safe boating course

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 19 boating skills and seamanship class will be 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Navy Coastal Systems Station. The course runs through March 14. For more information, call 215-2025.

Civil Air Patrol meeting

Civil Air Patrol meetings for boys and girls 12 years old and older will be held 6-8:30 p.m. every Tuesday in Building 852. The CAP offers local and national activities with a focus on educational and professional development. For more information, call Capt. Laura Palm, 283-7594, or Master Sgt. Perry Newberry, 283-4189.

WED 6

Protestant youth group

The Tyndall Chapel's Protestant Youth Group meets 5-7 p.m. Wednesdays at Chapel 2. For more information, call the Chapel 2 office, 283-2925.

THU 7

Blood drive

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday in the community activities center.

Budgeting class

A personal and family budgeting class will be 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thursday in the family support center classroom, Building 743. For more information on this brown-bag, lunch-time class or to make reservations, call the family support center, 283-4204.

CMF Bible study

Christian Military Fellowship Bible study and fellowship will be 6-7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of each month in Building 1476, across from the wellness center. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Cindy Abbott, 283-4045 or 871-5089.

THU 14

Palace Chase briefing

Palace Chase briefings for all those interested in the Palace Chase program will be 1 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month in Room 222 of Building 662. For more information, call in-service recruiter Master Sgt. Bill Beasley, 283-8384.

SAT 16

Gumbo cook-off

The 4th Annual Mexico Beach Gumbo Cook-off will be 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 16 at Sunset Park, next to the El Governor Motel in Mexico Beach. Cash prizes will include \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$100

for third place winners. Entrants wishing to be included in the judging should bring two or more gallons of their gumbo, along with containers and heating devices. The judging committee will provide electricity, tables, bowls, napkins and utensils. Gumbo from the cook-off will be sold by the bowl to raise money for Mexico Beach's Independence Day celebration. For more information, call 648-8196 or pick up an application at the Mexico Beach Community Development Council office.

MON 18

Base exchange holiday hours

The following base exchange facilities will be open at the times indicated on Feb. 18, Presidents Day: main exchange, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Shoal Point Shoppette, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Class Six, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Felix Lake Shoppette, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Anthony's Pizza, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. All other facilities will be closed.

NOTES

Olympics escorts needed

Volunteer escorts are needed for the Special Olympics 7 a.m.-4 p.m. March 16. Anyone interested in volunteering may call Capt. Lori Vessels, 283-3899. For general information, call 2nd Lt. Ryan Nash, 283-2218.

Climate survey

The 2002 Air Force Chief of Staff Climate Survey will continue through March 8. For more information, visit the survey Web site at: csafsurvey.af.mil.

W-2 forms

Anyone who has not received a W-2 by Feb. 15 may go to the finance office's customer service counter and fill out a W-2 request form. The W-2 should be ready for pickup within 24 hours.

Military Mardi Gras ball

The 10th Annual Military Mardi Gras Ball will be 6 p.m. Saturday at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 64 S. Water St., downtown Mobile, Ala. For more information, call Lt. j.g. Laughlin, (251) 441-6333.

Beakman's World exhibit

The Junior Museum of Bay County's newest exhibit, Beakman's World on Tour, based on the TV show, "Beakman's World," will run through May 11. The exhibit will include sections on rain forests, the universe, the human body, dinosaurs, famous scientists and fun physics. For more information, call the museum, 769-6128.

Bar code seminar

A free bar code seminar will be 7:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Thursday at the Eglin Air Force Base Officers' Club. The Air Force Automatic Identification Technology Program Management Office sponsors these seminars to promote the use of AIT throughout the Air Force and the Department of Defense. Pre-registration is recommended. Interested military members, civilians and DOD contractors can register by e-mail at: barcode@cdotech.com, by FAX, (937) 258-1614, or by calling CDO Technologies, (937) 258-0022. Provide the location and date of the bar code seminar you wish to attend - Eglin AFB, Feb. 7 - name, rank, phone, FAX, e-mail address and ZIP code. For more

information, call the AF AIT PMO at DSN 787-4118 or (937) 257-4118 or visit their Web page, www.afmc-mil.wpafb.af.mil/HQ-AFMC/G/LSO/LOA/.

Apalachicola Chefs Sampler

The 6th Annual Forgotten Coast Chefs Sampler will be 6-9 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Fort Coombs Armory, located on 4th Street and Avenue D in Apalachicola. In addition to a wide selection of food, there will be a silent auction featuring weekend accommodation packages and gift certificates. For ticket information, call the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce office, (850) 653-9419.

Survivor benefit plan annuity

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2002, signed into law by President Bush on Dec. 28, 2001, changes who is entitled to receive an active-duty death Survivor Benefit Plan annuity. The new law provides that a SBP annuity be paid - retroactive to Sept. 10, 2001 - to the spouse, dependent children or former spouse (if court ordered) of any active-duty member who dies in the line of duty regardless of years of service. For more information on active-duty SBP coverage, visit: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/SBP/actduty.htm>.

RETIREE NEWS

Long-term care program

The Long-Term Care Insurance Program, Public Law 106, provides insurance for federal government employees, military active-duty, federal and military retirees and their family members. There will be no government subsidy, but the plan is expected to reduce rates up to approximately 20 percent below rates for individual commercial plans.

The announced dates for early enrollment and open season have been published. The early enrollment will run from March 25-May 15. This enrollment is designed only for people with extensive knowledge about long-term care and insurance. The Office of Personnel Management has pointed out that the education and marketing campaign that LTC Partners is designing will not be full swing by then. Early applicants may have to acknowledge that they are purchasing coverage without benefit of reviewing the informational materials. It is also true that early applicants will have to make premium payments directly or by bank debit since pay and annuity deduction systems will not yet have been put in place.

For most people, early enrollment is not a good idea. For those who would benefit from the educational campaign information, the open season starting July 1 is the time to apply for enrollment in the new program. The open season runs from July 1 through Dec. 31. There will be staggered 60-day enrollment periods within the open season. As plans develop, more details will be made available. OPM will post information on its Web site, www.opm.gov as soon as it is available.

The late summer/early fall 2002 open enrollment will come after insurance partners have held numerous education meetings, produced satellite broadcasts and videos, unveiled an extensive new Web site with lots of interactive tools to learn about the insurance, sent information to employees and annuitants, etc. Officials also point out that 22 states allow either a deduction from state taxes or a state tax credit for purchasing long-term care insurance. Florida is not one of the 22 states that offer tax benefits for the program. According to the Retired Officer Association, a Senate committee has endorsed a bill passed earlier by the House that would explicitly make premiums paid for Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Plan policies exempt from state taxation.

RAO volunteers needed

The Retiree Affairs Office is in need of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer at least three hours a week and help your fellow retirees, call the RAO at 283-2737 or stop by the office in Building 662, Suite 245, to talk about the job. No experience is necessary, other than that which you have now. In addition to helping others, you can stay current on programs and benefits for military retirees.

YARD SALES

The following yard sale is scheduled for Saturday: 2920-B Bomarc St. All yard sales are held between 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

BASE THEATER

Today: "The Majestic" (PG, language and mild thematic elements, 152 min.)

Saturday: "Joe Somebody" (PG, language, thematic elements and some mild violence, 98 min.)

Sunday: "The Majestic"

Thursday: "Joe Somebody"

All movies start at 7 p.m.

Hurlburt snaps Tigers' at-home win streak

COURTESY OF THE TYNDALL TIGERS

The Tyndall Tigers Men's Varsity Basketball Team had their ten-game home winning streak ended by the visiting Commandos from Hurlburt Field this past weekend as the two squads battled for first place in the Southeastern Military Athletic Conference (SEMAC). The Tigers fell 77-76 in the first contest, but rebounded to win going away 86-70 in the second game.

Hurlburt-77, Tyndall-76

In Saturday's game, the two teams engaged in a hard fought defensive struggle. At the 16:26 mark in the first half, Tyndall led Hurlburt 7-5. This would be the last time the Tigers would enjoy the lead. Hurlburt Field led 41-39 at the intermission. In the second half, the Commandos took a six-point lead 45-39, their largest lead of the game, with 18:51 remaining to be played. After a time out, the Tigers came battling back to knot the score at 45-45. Tyndall had numerous opportunities

to take the lead, but the combination of missed free throws and turnovers proved to be the Tigers' undoing as they could never get over the hump. With 17 seconds remaining to be played, Hurlburt Field led 76-74, after Commandos guard Byron Young made one out of two free throws, Tigers guard Scott Moore connected on a jump shot to bring Tyndall within one point, 77-76, with two seconds remaining. Tyndall's Lance Clark stole the ensuing inbounds pass, but failed to get off a shot before the buzzer sounded.

Mike Roy and Marcus Baucom led Tyndall in scoring with 22 and 11 points respectively. Israel Figueroa, Redd Batiste and Scott Moore all tied for team rebounding honors with 10 each and Batiste led in assists with 10, while Moore had 4 blocked shots and Roy had 5 steals. Walter Fitzgerald led Hurlburt in scoring with a game-high 24 points.

Tyndall-86, Hurlburt-70

On Sunday, the Tigers employed an aggressive full

court man-to-man defense, and forced the Commandos to play at a faster tempo. Tyndall, behind 12 Israel Figueroa points, took a 39-25 lead at the half. In the second stanza the Commandos made a late run to pull within five points, 66-61 with 6:43 remaining to be played, before the Tigers went on a 20-9 run of their own to take the 86-70 victory.

Mike Roy and Israel Figueroa led the Tigers in scoring with 19 and 17 points respectively, followed by Marcus Baucom with 12, Scott Moore with 11 and Redd Batiste and Lance Clark with 10 points each. Batiste, Moore and Figueroa again tied for rebounding honors with 11 each, Batiste and Figueroa tied in assists with five and Roy had four steals. Byron Young led Hurlburt in scoring with a game-high 21 points.

Despite their first home loss, the Tigers have been on a roll — winning 14 of their last 18 games. This weekend the Tigers are scheduled to host the Keesler Dragons. Game times will be noon and 3 p.m. Saturday. For more information, contact the fitness and sports center at 283-2631.

Female wrestler brings focused work ethic to mat

STAFF SGT. DAN NEELY

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Wrestling may be a brutal sport, but Jennifer Sokol doesn't seem to grapple with any concerns about getting hurt. And, as Bay County's only female high school wrestler on a boys' varsity squad, the Rutherford High School junior isn't bringing any agendas to the mat. She says she does it because she likes it and because it's a great way to stay in shape for her other sport — weightlifting (she holds the Lady Rams' school record in her weight class with a 135-pound bench press and cruised undefeated to a county championship this season).

But contrary to Jennifer's mat and weight room prowess, her physique is athletically slender — far from musclebound — and her manner is precise, calm and almost soft-spoken.

The 16-year-old daughter of Rose and Col. Joseph Sokol, 325th Support Group commander, knew of her dad's high school wrestling experiences and simply took a liking to the sport's competitive intensity.

"Wrestling sounded like a challenge, both mentally and physi-

cally, and I wanted to continue being active after weightlifting," Jennifer said. "I like the challenge of a new sport and going out and trying my hardest. I hate losing."

Even though Jennifer had already excelled as a weightlifter, her parents were uneasy when she originally broke the news about her wrestling plans.

"My mom, of course, was hesitant about me wrestling because she was worried I'd get injured, but warmed up to it after she realized I was really going to do it," said Jennifer. "I was not thrilled," said Mrs. Sokol of her daughter's announcement, especially when she learned her daughter wasn't talking about wrestling other girls.

"At first, I wasn't sure if it was a good idea, because I know how hard wrestling is," said Colonel Sokol. "I guess I was kind of non-committal in the beginning. I didn't try to discourage her, but I did try to point out all the aspects of the sport. Once I saw how motivated she was — running at 5:30 in the morning before the season started — I knew she

●SEE TOUGH PAGE 15



Capt. Chris Karns

Keep your eye on the ball

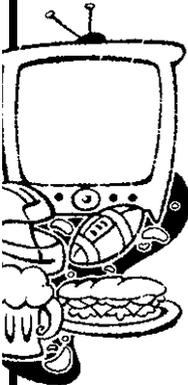
Matthew Sumpter, son of Master Sgt. Mike Sumpter, NCO Academy flight room instructor, crushes a pitch, as Gulf Coast Community College baseball coach Darren Mazerowski looks on. Gulf Coast Community College provided a clinic on the fundamentals of baseball for Tyndall Air Force Base kids. About 80 children participated in the free clinic. Registration for this year's baseball and softball season runs through Feb. 8. Youth ages 5 to 14 may register. For more information, contact the youth center at 283-4366.



Funshine NEWS

February 1, 2002

This page is produced by the 325th Services Marketing office, 283-4565.



**ALL RANKS
Super Bowl
Sunday**

at the CAC
Pizza Pub Feb. 3
4 p.m. until...

283-3222

**Watch for the ITT
Travel Fair coming to
FamCamp on
March 22, 2002**

Vendors representing a
variety of travel destinations
will be present.
Call 283-2499 for more info.

**The Marina Club
now offers Pizza on
Friday Nights, 5-8 p.m.
Carry out or Dine-In
Call 283-3059
for more information.**

Family Child Care

☎ 283-2266

Volunteers Needed

We are currently recruiting persons
who are interested in supporting our
armed forces by providing child care
for shifts or weekends. Also needed
are individuals willing to provide care
for infants and children with special
needs. Call for more information.

**Coming to the
O' Club Feb. 8**

Oyster Bar

Opens in Checkers

**Combat Bar
Opening**

4:30 p.m. in



283 4357

Cupid's Cruise

**AETC Club members,
eat at your AF Club
Feb. 1-28
for a chance
to win a cruise!**



**Library Volunteer
\$2 a Bag Book Sale**

February 7-10

283-4287

Vet Clinic

☎ 283-2434

Closed Feb. 8, 15 & 18

Skills Development Ctr.

☎ 283-4511

Special Hours

The center will be open Sunday, Feb. 3,
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Feb. 4 & 5.
The center will be closed on Feb. 19.

Woodworking Class

Make a coffee table and end tables
Feb. 2, 9 & 16; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free
Lessons! Cost of wood at 10% above
cost and use of machines at \$2.00 per
hour. Includes glue, nails, screws, etc.
Limit four students.

Automotive Class

Tire Rotation and Balancing Class
Feb. 27 from 6-7 p.m. Class is limited
to 5 students.

Ceramics Class

Feb. 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Learn to pour
your own greenware. Cost is \$15 and
includes lesson, greenware & firing.
Maximum number of students is four.
Call for more information. Must register
by Feb. 7.

Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

2002 Baseball & Softball

Registration Deadline Feb. 8

Open to all youth ages 5-14 yrs old. Early
signup is advised. Coaches needed.

USA Tennis 1-2-3

Sign-up and learn the basics in a fun,
group environment. Open to ages 6 & up.
Begins March 2 at 9 a.m. Cost is \$30.
Call Andy at 283-4366 for details.

Attention High School Students

Need money for college? Join the Youth
Employment Skills Program and gain
work experience while earning money for
college. Call Andy at 283-4366 for details.

Skeet & Trap

☎ 283-2499

Squadron Sports Days

The range is available for squadron
sports days. Prior arrangements can
be made through Wendy at 283-2499.

**Pelican Point Golf Course
Sweetheart Couples
Tournament
February 10, 2002**

Shotgun start at noon

Cost: \$20 per couple

Members pay additional cart & greens fee

Non-members pay an additional \$20

Format: 2 person best ball

Wine & Cheese tasting after play

Deadline for signups: Noon, February 8

For more information call: **283-4389**



Tyndall Fitness Center

**MUSCLE
BEACH 2002**

March 30, 2002

Competition begins at 10 a.m. Weigh-ins begin at 8 a.m.
This competition is open to all Active Duty, Reservist, DOD employees,
Government Contractors, Retirees, family members and all local residents.
Participants must be 16 yrs. of age or older.

Events Include:

- Power Lifting: Bench Press, Squat & Dead Lift
- Bench Press

Register by Mar. 15, 2002

For more information call 283-2631.




All Ranks
Valentine's Dinner
Thursday, February 14
\$31.95 per couple

Tenderloin, Lobster Tail & Glass of Wine
Seatings at 6 p.m and 7:45 p.m
Limited Seating - Reservations strongly recommended
Officers' Club • 283-4357

●FROM TOUGH PAGE 13

wanted it, then I started to encourage her.”

The Sokols said their unease quickly faded after Jennifer’s coaches took time to personally and thoroughly explain the pros and cons of their daughter’s participation in the sport.

“Later on, I knew it ultimately had to be her decision,” admitted Mrs. Sokol. “Coach Burns and Coach Griffin were very supportive. They made it clear they wouldn’t let her join without talking to us first.”



Staff Sgt. Dan Neely

During practice, Jennifer shoots for a take-down against a much heavier opponent.

From her first match, the Sokols have backed their daughter to the fullest.

“My parents have been very supportive throughout it all,” said Jennifer. Both her parents said they’ve attended all of her matches and love to cheer her on as much as any parents of student athletes.

Coaches Aaron Griffin (head coach) and Steven Burns, 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron (volunteer assistant coach), both described Jennifer’s wrestling ability as “impressive” and “surprising for a first-season wrestler.”

“She’s really impressive in the way she knows the moves and how she’s advancing every week,” said Sergeant Burns. “They (opponents) can’t believe how strong she is.”

While Jennifer has yet to win against a male varsity wrestler in a regular meet, she has defeated Rutherford boys to win her varsity spot and most recently wrestled to a regulation tie against a Crestview High School opponent before being outpointed 8-6 in sudden death.

She’s already placed third in a regional tournament for girls’ teams and soon will travel to the Florida Girls Wrestling State Tournament in Orlando.

Jennifer’s focused work ethic should make her well prepared for that event, said her coaches.

Observed during a grueling two-hour practice, Jennifer rarely chatted with teammates. Instead

she focused complete attention on her coaches as they repeatedly drilled the athletes on takedowns and pinning techniques. Several times she had to lift and perform takedowns on boys well above her 135-pound weight division.

None of the boys appeared to ease up on her in gentlemanly fashion. A few held back nothing, causing her to wince in pain, as they treated her like one of the guys during pinning drills.

Coach Griffin said he was well aware of girls attempting to wrestle at other schools, but none anywhere close to Jennifer’s success.

“Jen stuck it out,” he said. “She pushes just as hard as the guys and she’s always eager to learn more.”

“Jen has come a long way,” said Colonel Sokol. “She’s motivated and works hard, and that’s showing every match. We’re proud of her.”

