

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

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Translating transformation into capabilities

JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — “To my mind, the ‘T’ in ‘Transformation’ stands for time,” Air Force Maj. Gen. Daniel “Fig” Leaf said during an interview. General Leaf, director of operational requirements at Air Force headquarters, said the U.S. military already can decide and act more quickly than anyone else, but it must continue to maintain this edge to fight the war on terrorism.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the U.S. military must capitalize on its asymmetrical advantages as it transforms to meet the threats of the 21st century. The abilities to assess intelligence and to pass it to the commander who needs it and can act on it are among the American military’s greatest asymmetrical advantages.

Secretary Rumsfeld said maintaining this edge may mean building new, more-capable equipment or combining existing systems in new ways. But what is most important in transformation, he said, is a culture of innovation, a willingness on the part of commanders and subordinates to take risks and try new methods and ideas.

Afghanistan is a proving ground of some of these concepts. Secretary Rumsfeld has continually pointed to Army Special Forces and Air Force combat controllers calling in

●SEE CHANGE PAGE 15



Senior Airman Mark Kuhta

Engineer inspection

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Lombard, training manager of the base fire department at Aviano Air Base, Italy, shows a chemical sample testing kit to Col. Bruce Barthold, commander of the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency. Firefighters from both the base and the nearby city of Pordenone ran a training exercise at Aviano to practice and demonstrate joint cooperational skills and readiness with the members of the inspection team from Tyndall.

Three operations airmen take home 19th AF awards

STAFF SGT. ROEL UTLEY

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Three Team Tyndall members assigned to the 325th Operations Group won annual 19th Air Force accolades for outstanding performance last year. One award winner has since completed a permanent change of station to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Capt. Max Marosko III, formerly of the 2nd Fighter Squadron who is now stationed at Nellis, won the 19th Air Force Fighter Instructor Pilot of the Year award. Capt. James Warf III, assigned to the 325th Air Control Squadron, earned the 19th Air Force Air Battle Manager Instructor of the Year award. Also assigned to the 325th

ACS, Staff Sgt. Eric Hamilton was awarded the 19th Air Force Weapons Controller Instructor of the Year.

Captain Marosko’s accomplishments during his tenure here included selection to become one of only a dozen officers assigned as F-15C weapons school instructors. According to his nomination, the

captain used his “uncanny ability to simplify complicated concepts” to develop a comprehensive, building-block plan to maximize learning and “found” extra sorties to train. He is also credited with personally producing 10 top-quality instructor pilots who maintained 100-percent dis-

●SEE AWARDS PAGE 15

Keep safety in mind as spring begins

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM F. HODGKINS
325th Fighter Wing commander



I want to begin by thanking the 325th Fighter Wing Safety Office staff and all our unit safety representa-

tives for leading us through a very successful safety down day Feb. 15. Your efforts in this program went a long way to help us refocus on all aspects of personal risk management. I also want to thank all Team Tyndall members for taking an active role and making the most of this important event.

This safety day really came at a great time for Air Force folks living in Florida. As springtime temperatures are beginning to move in, we'll soon be getting more and more opportunities to take part in all kinds of outdoor recreation – especially water recreation activities.

Geographically speaking, we're blessed with ample opportunities to enjoy freshwater and saltwater fishing and boating, not to mention swimming, scuba diving, water skiing or other water-borne activities. So now is clearly the time to consider and apply these principles of personal risk manage-



“We're blessed with ample opportunities to enjoy fishing and boating, not to mention swimming, scuba diving, water skiing or other water-borne activities.”

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM F. HODGKINS
325th Fighter Wing commander

ment.

As most of you saw in the mass briefings last week, personal risk management isn't rocket science. When you get right down to it, it is really all about using common sense in all your activities – especially when you're off duty. I urge all of you to consider the risks involved in all of your activities, and please, if you're not sure, check with your unit safety representative or the wing safety office before you go out. They will be glad to help you and we won't have to face the loss of a single member of Team Tyndall due to a mishap.

Last week we had the pleasure of announcing the promotions of 11 Central Line, Judge Advocate General, Chaplain, Nurse Corps and Biomedical Sci-

ences Corps officers. This week, I'm happy to tell you the promotion announcements are continuing. I hope you'll all join me in congratulating Col. (sel) Tim McCauley, our new O-6 selectee. He has truly reached a special milestone in his Air Force career. Tim, we wish you the best of success in all your responsibilities and endeavors as you proudly wear the eagles and continue to serve as a member of the Air Force team.

Before I close, I want to announce the kickoff of this year's Air Force Assistance Fund campaign takes place Monday. (Please check out the story on Page 5.) I can't overemphasize the importance of this charitable program. After all, the proceeds directly benefit you

●SEE SAFE 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

Question: In November, I called the Action Line to see if we could hunt at the west end of the base during Charlie and Bravo using bow and arrows. Eglin AFB allows archery weapons during THREATCON Charlie. Now that we're in Bravo, we're still not able to hunt on the west end, and the east end has reached its deer quota. So, I'm calling back again to see if we can work around this.

Answer: For security reasons, Tyndall ceases base hunting activities on the installation's west range during Force Protection Condition Bravo (or higher). This procedure is in place to ensure appropriate security for our personnel living in base housing and those working on the support side of the base. This issue was reviewed in light of the prolonged period we have been in FPCON Bravo, and it was my decision not to change our base hunting guidelines for our west end. We should not fall into a "trap" of comparing security postures and measures between bases, as each has unique security aspects to be considered.

Children's dental health promoted in February

CAPT. (DR.) BRENT J. BRADLEY
314th Aeromedical Dental Squadron

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. (AETCNS)—February is National Children's Dental Health Month, and the Department of Defense has made the TRICARE Dental Program administered by United Concordia available to family members.

Once enrolled, the TDP covers 100 percent of diagnostic and preventive services and provides cost sharing for most other dental treatments, such as fillings, mouth guards, crowns and bridges, braces, root canals and extractions.

Covering preventive services 100 percent should encourage members to visit the dentist regularly. Unfortunately, many

adults and children, even with insurance, do not get regular dental checkups.

Children are at the mercy of their parents to make and take them to dental appointments. If the parents do not put a high priority on oral health, neither will their children. As a result, many children miss out on valuable preventive services like sealants, fluoride applications, mouth guards, cleanings, nutritional counseling and oral-hygiene instructions.

All of these preventive services are quick and painless. Making prevention a priority will save time, money and more extensive dental treatment in the future.

For more information about the TDP, call United Concordia at (888)622-2256 or go online to www.ucci.com.

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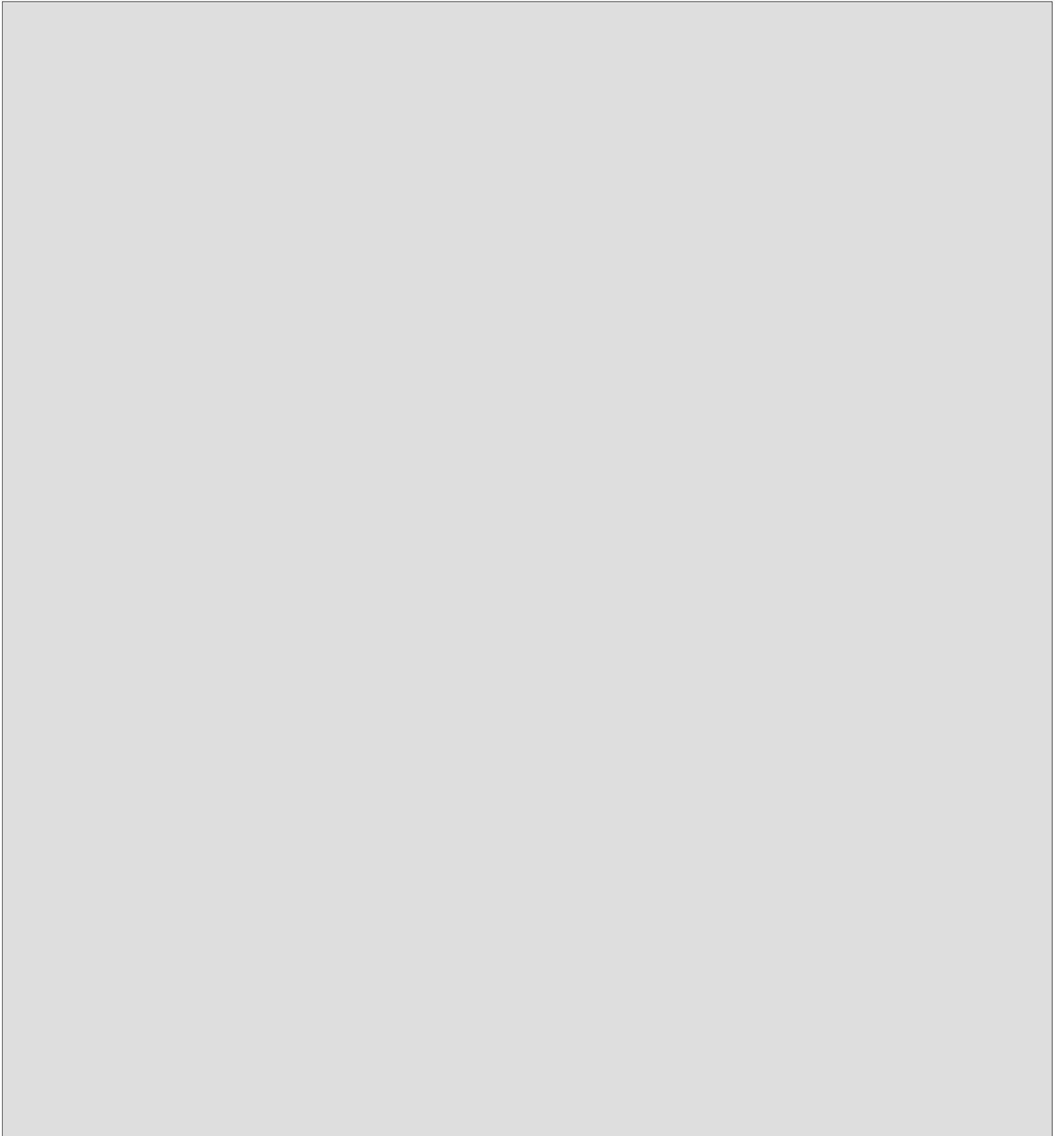
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The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to 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.



Raptor 4007 lands at Edwards, boosts F-22 test capability

COURTESY OF THE F-22 COMBINED
TEST FORCE

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The F-22 Combined Test Force expanded the Raptor's operational capability once again as it certified the aircraft for hot pit refueling operations Jan. 25. After nearly five months of research, training and demonstrations, certification will allow the Raptor to be refueled on the ground while the engines are operating.

According to 1st Lt. Roy Recker, chief of F-22 Logistics Test and Evaluation, the new certification is a first for the F-22 program and expands the current operational capability of the platform.

Most often, hot pit refueling is done on a parking pad, adjacent to the aircraft runways, Lieutenant Recker said. After hot refueling, the F-22 can return to the skies to continue expanding the flight and avionics envelope.

Hot refueling is not a new concept, said Lieutenant Recker.

"Many fighter units employ hot refueling operations in conjunction with rearming and reloading ordnance, also known as an integrated combat turn," he said. "Together, integrated combat turns and hot refueling get the airplane back in the air in minimum time."

The Raptor was initially scheduled



Kevin Robertson

Raptor 4005 pulls into the hot pit refueling area on Pad 7 at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., recently. A crew is shown pumping fuel into the Raptor. On the sidelines, base and command-level safety representatives wait to certify the F-22 for hot refueling operations – a first for the F-22 flight test program.

for integrated combat turn certification after April of 2003 during the Dedicated Initial Operational Test and Evaluation phase of testing. However, hot pit refueling tests have been brought forward in the test schedule as an initiative to add flexibility in test execution when tanker support may not be available, he said.

"When tankers are down for maintenance or sometimes not available because of real-world operational requirements, hot pit refueling allows for multiple sorties per test mission,"

he said. "Although test missions with airborne tanker support are more efficient, hot pit refueling between several sorties will go a long way toward providing the needed flight hours per test mission."

For the F-22 test force, earning the hot pit refueling certification meant meeting three phases of requirements. In the first phase, the physical location of the hot refueling operation is certified to ensure it meets ground safety and fire department

●SEE RAPTOR PAGE 6

Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign kicks off Monday

2ND LT. BRIAN P. MORAN

Air Force Assistance Fund installation project officer

The 2002 Air Force Assistance Fund (AFAF) Campaign is set to begin Feb. 25 and will run up until March 29. The kickoff breakfast, starting at 7:30 a.m. at the NCO Club, will mark the first day of the campaign and all are welcome to attend. Please see your first sergeant to sign up.

Air Force personnel conduct this campaign with all proceeds directly benefiting our own Air Force community. Over the next five weeks you will have the opportunity to help by contributing to one or more of the following four funds: the Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund (AFV), the Air Force Aid Society (AFAS), the Air Force Enlisted Foundation (AFEF) and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation (LEMAY).

AFV provides financial support to widows and widowers of Air Force officers. This foundation was created by the Air Force Officers' Wives' Clubs to ensure that widows have a home regardless of their financial situation. It has evolved into support for the Wilford Hall Medical Center Bone Marrow Transplant Program as well as providing four services for active-duty officers and families: the Active Duty Surviving Spouse Program, the Dependent Parent Program, the Active Duty Health Care Center Services Programs and the Future Residency Program.

AFAS is the official charity of the Air Force. Its charter provides financial assistance to active-duty members and their

families during emergencies. Qualified members receive interest-free loans or grants for things like food, rent, utilities, medical and dental care and funeral costs. In addition, AFAS manages an education fund, which has provided 44,000 grants since 1988 as well as supported numerous other worthwhile community initiatives.

AFEF was founded to resolve the problem of widows and dependents of Air Force enlisted personnel living in poverty. Your contributions provide rent stability for widows, free transportation to hospitals, base exchanges, etc., 24-hour security, medical emergency alerting, free maintenance for the housing units and in-house medical care if needed.

LEMAY was started to help widows of Air Force officers, but now has expanded its charter to include care for spouses of active-duty or retired Air Force personnel regardless of rank. Monthly supplemental grants are provided for food, rent, utilities and health care.

Please take the opportunity to contribute to one of these wonderful organizations. You can do so in two ways: by redeemable means (cash, check, money order, cashier's check, endorsed traveler's checks, etc.) or by using PDP where your monthly contributions will be deducted automatically from your pay beginning June 1 by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). If you have any questions regarding AFAF, please contact your organization's representative.

AFAF contacts

Installation Project Officer: **2nd Lt. Brian P. Moran, 283-4945**

Assistant IPO, Associate Units: **Capt. Tim Jones, 283-3002**

Assistant IPO, 325 FW: **Master Sgt. Scott Porter, 283-3238**

Group Representatives:

Operations Group: **1st Lt. Roger South, 283-3564**

Logistics Group: **Master Sgt. Joe Ohl, 283-4945**

Medical Group: **Capt. Angela Cooley, 283-7024**

Support Group: **1st Lt. Chris Ackert, 283-4322**

325 FW: **Staff Sgt. Traci Christman, 283-4682**

Weapons Evaluation Group: **Master Sgt. Glen Hoffund, 283-4641**

1st Air Force: **Master Sgt. Christ Campbell, 283-3703**

SEADS: **Staff Sgt. Christie Watson, 283-5719**

● **FROM SAFE PAGE 2**
and your Air Force. If you've ever needed financial assistance during an emergency, you may have already benefited in the form of an interest-free loan. That's just one of countless ways

your AFAF donation can help.

Your organization's AFAF representative can give you all the information you need to make an informed decision about contributing to this extremely worthy cause.

Apply now for AF Teen Aviation Camp

COURTESY OF THE TYNDALL YOUTH CENTER

Are you interested in attending college at the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) in beautiful Colorado Springs, or do you know someone who is?

The Air Force Services Agency, in conjunction with USAFA, will conduct its third Air Force Teen Aviation Camp for students who will be sophomores or juniors in high school during the 2003-2004 school year. This program is for eligible youth program participants (see AFI 34-262) who are interested in attending the Air Force Academy or making the Air Force a career.

Teen participants will arrive in Colorado Springs and USAFA on Saturday, June 1. Throughout the next five days, attendees will participate in classroom sessions which will introduce them to the principles of flying. A wide variety of outdoor activities such as land and water

survival, flight simulation and ropes-challenge courses will be conducted as well. Attendees will return home on Friday, June 7.

All lodging, meals and activity fees will be funded at no cost to the attendees. However, travel costs to and from Colorado Springs are the responsibility of the participants.

Interested teens should contact the teen center or youth center for further details and to acquire an application package. The application package includes a camp application form, USAFA familiarization exam and youth director interview form. Completed packages must be submitted to the teen center or youth center no later than March 19 for processing through the major command. The Air Force Services Agency staff, based on application submissions, will make final selections. Selections will be announced on or about April 22.



Lisa Carroll

NCO Academy parade

Chief Master Sgt. Anderson Edwards, Tyndall NCO Academy commandant, presents the professionalism streamer to E Squadron during the last retreat and pass-in-review ceremony for NCOA class 02-2, Feb. 14. The Tyndall NCO Academy prepares noncommissioned officers for positions of increased responsibility by broadening their leadership and supervisory skills as well as expanding their perspective of the military profession.

●FROM RAPTOR PAGE 4
requirements, Lieutenant Recker said.

The second phase certifies that the maintenance, fire department and fuels personnel involved in the operation have been properly and safely trained. They must attend academic classes, pass written tests and do multiple "dry run" refueling scenarios, said Lieutenant Recker.

The third and final phase certifies the aircraft is in the proper configuration to be refueled while the engines are running.

In addition, aircraft that operate in hot pit refueling areas also undergo a cursory check, upon landing. This check serves as a brief, but thorough, safety check to ensure the aircraft is ready to be refueled and can return to the air.

"The aircraft and operator benefit from two different crews giving the plane these quick inspections before, during and after hot refueling operations," he said. "Our recent demonstrations prove that the plane, people and plane are ready for hot pit refueling."



Courtesy photo

Whoa, boy!

An Air Force combat controller from Air Force Special Operations Command rides horseback with the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan. Combat controllers provided air traffic control support for aircraft supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Life-long fluoride use helps prevent cavities

STAFF SGT. RENEE Y. TODD
325th Aeromedical Dental Squadron

It is no secret that fluoride prevents cavities. Fluoride has been added to the water supply since 1945 and can be found in most popular toothpastes. However, most of the studies done on the effectiveness of fluoride were done prior to 1980. Recently, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) published a report more clearly specifying the exact methods and practices for health-care professionals and the public to follow in order to fully reap the benefits of fluoride use.

Fluoride reduces the incidence of dental caries (cavities) and slows or reverses the progression of areas that could potentially become decayed. Although great oral hygiene and diet control coupled with the application of pit and fissure sealants aid in guarding against cavities, fluoride use is still regarded as the major factor in the decline in frequency of dental caries in the U.S. According to public health statistics, from 1971-1974 there was a 90.4

percent prevalence rate of dental caries in children ages 12-17 years as opposed to a 67 percent prevalence rate from 1988-1991. Although caries are still a significant worry, education and implementation of better health practices has led to their decline, as has more widespread introduction of fluoride into the public water supply.

How does fluoride aid in controlling dental caries? According to the study, frequent exposure to small amounts of fluoride each day is the most effective way to reduce the risk of cavities. To accomplish this, drink fluoridated water and brush twice a day with a toothpaste containing fluoride. If bottled water is the primary source of drinking water, make sure it contains fluoride.

Some individuals are more at risk for developing caries. Individuals with a low socioeconomic status, those who fail to receive routine dental care, and those who have no access to dental services or insurance are considered high

●SEE FLUORIDE PAGE 10

Feature

Don't forget Fido and Fluffy when PCSing overseas

MARCIA A. ROBERTSON

325th Services Squadron marketing

So, you've got orders. Maybe you're heading somewhere tropical like Hawaii or history-filled like Great Britain. You've made your appointment with TMO and you've checked through the out-processing list. It's two days and counting before you get on the plane when you suddenly remember, "Hey, I need to take care of the pets!" You drop everything and rush to the vet clinic to get the critters squared away so they can move when you do. You're sure it should only take a second and the whole family, including the four-legged members, will be ready to leave. That is not going to happen.

"People can run into some real nightmares by waiting until the last minute to get their pets ready for an overseas PCS," said Capt. Angie Parham, United States Army, 325th Services Squadron veterinarian. "Ideally, you should allow six months to get everything taken care of. Four months would probably be enough time, but you'll be scrambling with anything less than that."

This lengthy period is necessary because other countries, as well as Hawaii, have varying regulations regarding the entrance of pets into their jurisdictions. Certain tests must be performed within certain time frames in order to satisfy these requirements.

"Since each country is different, we look up the regulations every time," Captain Parham said. "The laws can change and no one in that country is going to call us here at Tyndall to tell us about it."

Most of the concern focuses on the health of dogs and cats, and particular emphasis is placed on the spread of rabies. While rabies occurs in the United States, some countries do not have the disease and want to remain rabies-free.

For certain pets, the threat of disease is low. Gerbils and hamsters, for example, are not a primary concern because neither has a high potential to spread an illness since these



Photos by Marcia Robertson

Capt. Angie Parham, U.S. Army, 325th Services Squadron veterinarian, talks with Ron and Gaby Fairbanks about the care of their puppy, Coalie.

pets are usually kept in small cages within the home.

"If a gerbil or hamster were to somehow contact rabies, it would likely die before spreading the infection," she said.

Sometimes the problem with relocating a pet occurs when the overseas tour is completed.

"Getting a bird out of the United States is usually not a problem," Captain Parham said. "Coming back in is another matter. This country is extremely picky about disease and illegal smuggling."

To avoid as many problems as possible, an individual should contact the vet clinic as soon as he or she receives notice of an overseas assignment. Depending on the destination, the vet clinic may draw blood from the pet for a FAVN test. This determines if there are rabies antibodies in the blood. If a FAVN test is required, it usually must be administered not less than 90 days prior to entry into the country.

"These overseas areas want to make absolutely certain that animals with rabies aren't getting into the countries," Captain Parham stressed. "The three-month time period helps make sure the animal isn't harboring the disease."

If all goes well with the FAVN test,

the next hurdle is getting a health certificate. This can often be a complicated process. The health certificate must be issued not more than 10 days prior to the time a pet needs to be in the overseas area. Additionally, the certificate must be stamped by the United States Department of Agriculture. Usually, this means sending the material overnight to that department or experiencing a delay in being able to take the pet overseas. However, because the USDA grants prior approval to veterinarians on military installations, using the Tyndall vet clinic can speed this process along.

Having all the paperwork in order reduces the chance of your pet being quarantined upon arrival at the new assignment. However, that possibility is not eliminated. For example, some locations will require quarantine even with a FAVN test although the time in quarantine might be lessened from four months to 30 days.

People should also be aware that some countries have recently begun prohibiting certain dog breeds from entering their areas. Germany, for example, no longer allows pit bulls into the country. The vet clinic can provide assistance with getting information about such breed restrictions.

The key point is that no matter what the requirements are in the United States, the receiving country makes the rules.

"If a country required you to dye your pet green, we'd have no control over it," Captain Parham said. "The reason they are so vigilant is that they have to live with what you bring in."

For more information about PCSing with your pet, contact the vet clinic at 283-2434.



Lori Simpson, 325th Services Squadron vet clinic technician, gives Tess, a mixed chow, a shot while her owner, Lois Smith, looks on.

Officers' Spouses Club; more than meets the eye

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

Major Schala Duckett received a baby spoon from members of the Officers Wives Club (OWC) when she was born in 1964. Her mother was a member of the organization, and now she is also a member of the former OWC, now called the Officers' Spouses Club (OSC).

"I'm proud to be a military spouse," Major Duckett said. "I was a member of OSC even when I was active duty myself. I like what the organization does for the community, as well as what it does for its members socially."

Over time, the OSC has become an integral part of military life. It was established to promote interaction among officers'

spouses through various social activities. But surprisingly to some, the OSC is not just a social club. It is an organization that reaches out to the community with its time and money.

Major Duckett, the OSC publicity coordinator, has been a member for five years. She said, "I want people to know that we're not just a bunch of officers' wives getting together for lunch once a month. I'm proud of all we have done for our base and community, and I believe we have the potential to do a lot more."

Among the many community service projects that the OSC takes on is raising funds for dependent and spouse scholarships. Last year, the OSC gave away \$10,000 in scholarships to students, most of whom were dependents in their senior year of high

school. These recipients were dependents of both active duty and retired officer or enlisted members living in the Tyndall area.

The spouse scholarships were given to spouses of active-duty members stationed at Tyndall who were working toward their associate's degrees.

In addition to raising funds for scholarships, the OSC donates money to Bay County schools, providing essentials such as computer software, science equipment and books for various departments. The organization also donates time and manpower to the Tyndall community with other organizations like the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Tyndall Chapel and Girls Incorporated. The OSC gives a helping hand to the child development center, the youth center, Airman's Attic, 1st Sergeants Food Locker and sev-

eral other places as well.

The primary source of funding for these charitable donations is revenue from the thrift shop; however, the group is gearing up for one of its largest fundraisers, "An Evening of Art" art auction. Proceeds from the auction will go to the OSC Charitable Organization, which provides welfare donations and scholarships to Tyndall and the surrounding community. It will be held at the Tyndall Officer's Club this evening at 6 p.m. Admission is free and all are welcome.

The OSC is also nearing the end of its dependent and spouse scholarship drive. Applications are due no later than Feb. 28. For more information about how to join the OSC, how to obtain scholarship information, or for more details about the art auction, contact Major Duckett at 866-8688.

Lawyer? State trooper? How about 'armament specialist?'

LINDA D. KOZARYN
American Forces Press Service

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, N.J. — Senior Airman Betsy Diaz thought about being a lawyer, or maybe a state trooper. At the moment, she's not sure what she wants to be.

At age 20, that's not such a bad thing. Especially since Senior Airman Diaz is making the most of her time while she decides.

Two years ago, this Egg Harbor Township native joined the New Jersey Air National Guard to "try something different" and find a challenge.

"I wanted to make something of myself," she said. "I wanted to go to college and this was a way to pay for it. The Guard offers great benefits in that way."

Airman Diaz chose to become an armament specialist, a field she found interesting. Assigned to the 177th Fighter Wing, her job involves configuring fighter aircraft weapon systems and loading munitions.

At first, she served one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer. Then she landed a civilian job as a National Guard technician. On Sept. 11, 2001, her status as a civilian employee and part-time guardsman changed to full-time active duty.



Master Sgt. Thomas Louis

Senior Airman Betsy Diaz and Tech. Sgt. Edward G. Robinson of the 177th Aircraft Generation, Squadron New Jersey Air National Guard, install an explosive device which is part of the chaff/flare countermeasure system on an F-16C aircraft.

The 177th currently flies combat air patrols over New York City, on the lookout for bogies seven days a week. Just as the wing's mission changed on Sept. 11, Airman Diaz's role intensified dramatically in the wake of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. On that day, Airman Diaz and her colleagues were waiting to arm the unit's F-16C fighter jets for routine missions.

"It was weird. Our jets were on their way out to the flightline and, all of a sudden, they turned around," she recalled. "They called us on the radio and told us we had to come in. Then they told us what happened."

What had started as a drill with practice bombs had become the real thing. "We had to reconfigure our aircraft," Airman Diaz said. "We started putting on live missiles."

Everyone was in shock, she noted. People were excited. Things got hectic.

"I personally tried not to pay attention to it because I didn't want it to affect me while I was working," she said. "I just wanted to continue on my everyday mission. I didn't want to think about what actually happened."

The guardsmen quickly meshed into a team, she said. "It was amaz-

ing how everyone just got together and there was no one arguing. Everybody got straight, did what they had to do, and everything was set. We did it really fast and really smooth. It just went great."

Airman Diaz said she was prepared to serve full-time, if needed. "I don't mind it at all," she said. "I love my job. This is what I enlisted to do."

"Everyone thinks, 'Oh, you're just a guardsman, you're never going to be doing anything,'" she said. "And that's true when it's one weekend a month. But now, it's the real deal, what we've been training to do every day. You sign the papers. You chose to do it. No one made you do it."

The Guard, she said, has given her a new perspective on world events and her role in life. "I'm only 20 years old and I can say, 'Wow! I did this. I did this for my country and not just for myself.'"

Airman Diaz said she plans to stay in the Guard because of the opportunities it offers. She noted that the military isn't as rigid as some people think. Being "flexible and patient" is key to success, she said, and compared to the other armed services, being in a Guard unit has its benefits.

"You're close to home," she said. "It's just like having another job."

Hopper: Role models, education key to success

MASTER SGT. MICHAEL BRIGGS

Air Education and Training Command public affairs

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AETCNS) — Pointing out the real-life example of an American hero in attendance, the vice commander of Air Education and Training Command talked about the value of role models and education during an African-American History Month commemoration Feb. 8 at a Memphis high school.

Lt. Gen. John D. Hopper Jr. cited the accomplishments of retired Lt. Col. Lee Archer and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen to tell the predominantly African-American audience of about 500 Westwood High School students that nothing could keep them from fulfilling their dreams.

Despite the prejudice they endured, the Tuskegee aviators of the all-African-American World War II fighter unit achieved unprecedented results, such as never having lost a bomber under their escort during the war. Colonel Archer also earned notoriety as being the only Tuskegee ace with five confirmed enemy shoot-downs.

“Even though it was disguised as a chance to show that African-Americans could not fly airplanes, Colonel Archer and many of his friends proved themselves not only as great Americans, but as great American aviators,” the general said.

In sharing his own life experiences,



Master Sgt. Michael Briggs

Lt. Gen. John D. Hopper Jr. meets members of the Westwood High School Army ROTC detachment Feb. 8 following his remarks at an African-American History Month commemoration in Memphis, Tenn.

the general urged the students to choose role models who can serve as positive examples for them to follow.

“Almost 40 years ago, I sat just about where all of you sit right now,” he said. “I was going to high school in Clarksville, which in those days was still pretty much a segregated school. All of my classmates were African-American, and we were trying to figure out exactly what we were going to do (in life).

“One of the things someone told me at the time was that you should have some heroes — somebody you aspire to be like or who has certain qualities you’d like to imitate. In that particular setting, and I believe to this day, the people who were the first heroes to me were my teachers.”

The positive attitudes young people can develop by emulating role models provide the foundation for success, General Hopper told the stu-

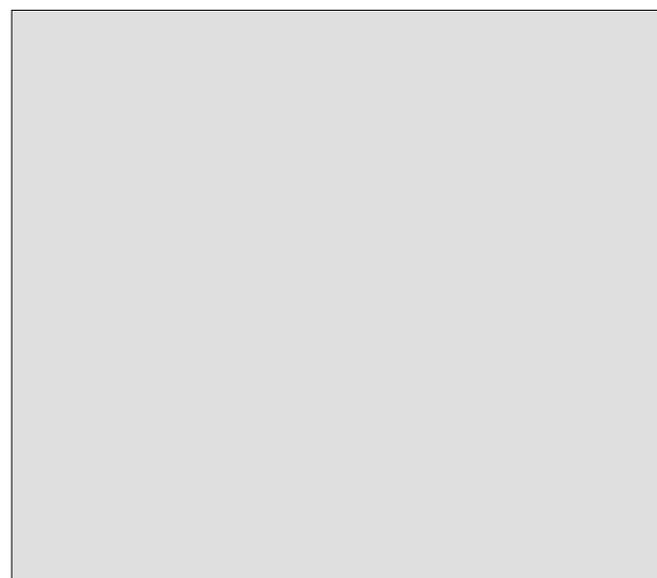
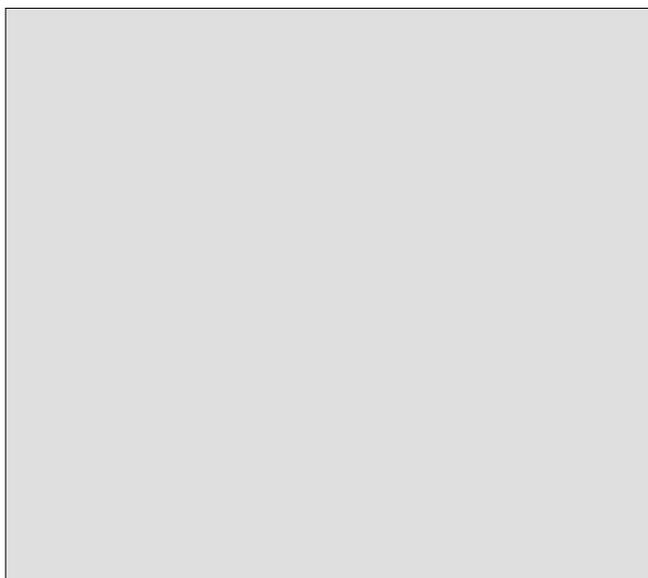
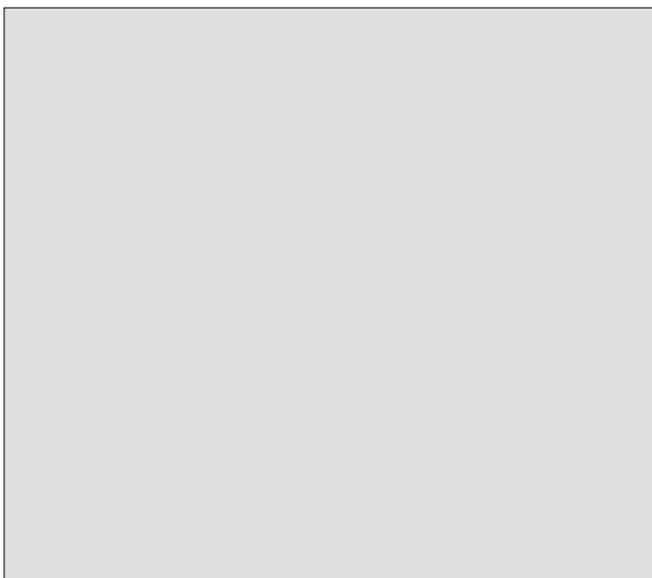
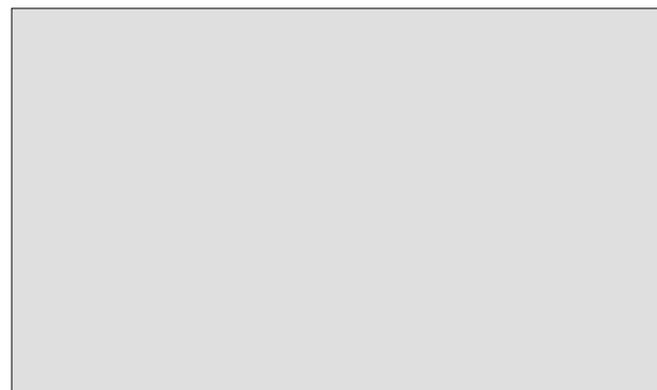
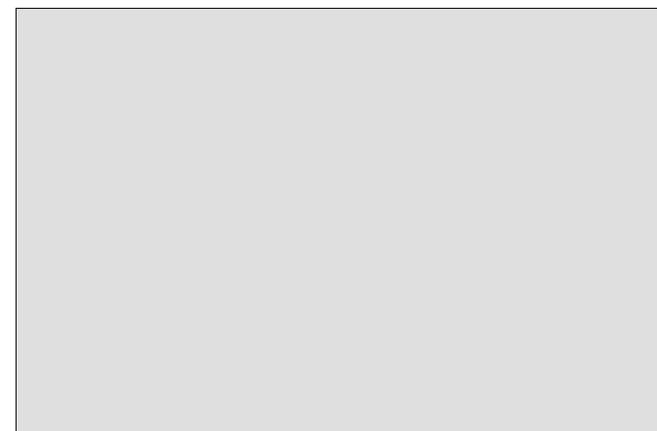
●SEE HOPPER PAGE 11

●FROM FLUORIDE PAGE 7

risk. Additionally, individuals who have impaired or poor oral hygiene, decreased salivary flow, exposed root surfaces, orthodontic appliances, and those who have a diet high in refined carbohydrates are also considered high risk for decay.

These individuals need a fluoride regimen above and beyond what is normally recommended. Children and adults found to be at high risk for dental caries might benefit from supplementary exposure to fluoride, which can be found in fluoride mouthrinse, dietary supplements and professionally applied products.

Simply stated – **Fluoride is the key to preventing cavities.** Although not a miracle treatment, when used safely and in conjunction with good oral hygiene practices and dietary recommendations it has proven paramount in the improved dental health of Americans.





Courtesy photo

Bunny bash gets cash crop

Children make bunny ears at the Tyndall Youth Center's 2001 Big Bunny Egg Hunt. Brig. Gen. William Hodgkins recently accepted a check for \$500 for the youth center from Master Sgt. Waldlena Schmidt and Staff Sgt. Rhonda McMichaels on behalf of the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency. The agency received the check for manning a bike station during the Janus Ironman competition in November.

●FROM HOPPER PAGE 10

dents.
 "Attitude is everything," he said. "It sets the tone for what you do, how you appear and how other people perceive you. If your attitude is one of 'can-do' and you are willing to take on challenges and opportunities, that in itself is going to get you a long way."

The right attitude combined with a commitment to education will create abundant opportunities, the general continued.

"It's hard to imagine when you're somewhere between 14 and 18 what education can do for you," General Hopper said. "The really important thing you're learning now and will learn through the next series of educational challenges you face is that education, in and of itself, is an absolutely worthy goal."

"I hope you're learning the process of learning is one that will be with you even after you've forgotten whatever your major was in high school or in college. The process of learning more about the world you live in and what the world is going to be like in the next century is the important part of the educational process. Growing to have a love of learning will be critical to the development of our country and of your own personal lives."

The world has changed dramatically in the past 100 years and the high school students of today will inherit the responsibil-

ity for running the nation in the century ahead, the general said.

"You're lucky, because you're much better prepared for that than generations were in the past, certainly (more so) than my generation," he said. "You are the next generation of Americans, and, because of that, we depend upon you a great deal. We're very confident the future of our country will be in great hands."

Minority students today still face prejudice and other obstacles, the general said, but the progress of the past has created more chances for success for those who are willing to try.

"There are still people who want to block the doors of opportunity, but those doors have been flung open so wide, that it's impossible for those small-minded people to ever block the chance of opportunity," he said. "But it still remains with each and every one of us to walk through those doors to seize the opportunity and, just like Colonel Archer and those Tuskegee Airmen who were with him, to make a difference in ourselves, to make a difference in our friends and to make a difference in our country."

For more information about African-American History Month, visit the Department of Defense Web site at www.defenselink.mil/specials/africanhistory2002/.

**Your link
to what's going on**

Gulf Guide

**in the
Tyndall community**

FEBRUARY

FRI
22

Eagle Drive water outage

The 325th Civil Engineer Squadron will conduct a water outage to replace a fire hydrant on the water distribution main line 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. today. Due to the possibility of initial water discoloration, it is recommended that clothes not be washed until the water clears. The outage will affect Eagle Drive family housing occupants in residences 2709-2716, 2718-2725 and 2727. Marina area occupants in residences 2693, 2695, 2698 and 2699 will also be affected. The fire hydrants affected will be 57, 58 and 59. For more information, call the civil engineer office, 283-4949.

Tax and investment class

A tax reform and investment strategies class is 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. today in the family support center classroom. For more information and to make a reservation, call the family support center, 283-4204.

ANG membership drive

The Emerald Coast Chapter of the Air National Guard NCO Academy Graduates Association's membership drive will continue through March 5 for all Tyndall professional military education graduates. The organization is not for Guard members only, but is designed to increase morale, esprit de corps and comradery among PME graduates. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Michael Shoemaker, 283-5521, or Master Sgt. Baynard, 283-5611.

SAT
23

Babysitters' class

A babysitters' class, conducted by the American Red Cross, will be 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday at the youth center. The class is for those aged 11-15. Participants will learn essential decision-making, care giving and first aid. The class also includes "The Babysitter's Handbook." For more information or to register, call the youth center, 283-4326, or the Red Cross, 763-6587.

Boating safely class

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 16 two-day boating safely class will be 1-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday in Gulf Coast Community College's Student Union East building, Gibson lecture hall, Room 231. An exam will be held at the end of the course. The cost is \$20 for materials. The course satisfies the requirement for those born after 1980 to operate personal watercraft. For more information, call John Clark, 271-3828, or visit the flotilla Web site at: <http://clik.to.USCGAUXFlotilla16>.

MON
25

'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.

Back-injury seminar

A back-injury seminar will be 7-9 p.m. Monday in the hospital training classroom. Dr. J.T. Caldwell, an American Red Cross instructor and local chiropractor, will discuss the causes of back pain and how to identify and reduce the risk factors of back injury. For more information or to register, call the Red Cross, 283-2770 or 763-6587.

TUE
26

Money seminar

A brown-bag lunch time seminar discussing ways to start the new year with more money will be 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesday in the family support center classroom, Building 743. For more information or to make reservations, call the family support center, 283-4204.

Enlisted opportunities briefing

An enlisted opportunities briefing will be 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Tyndall Education Office. Airmen with at least two years remaining to finish a college degree have the opportunity to apply for one of the early release programs which allows early separation from the Air Force for the purpose of finishing a college degree and participating in Air Force ROTC at an accredited college. Those completing the program will be commissioned second lieutenants with a four-year commitment. A representative from AFROTC, Detachment 017, Troy State University, will conduct the briefing. For more information, call Capt. Rob Jayme, (334) 670-3383 or e-mail: afrotc17@troyst.edu.

CPR training

A two-day first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED training class will be conducted by the American Red Cross 6-10 p.m. Tuesday and 5:30-10 p.m. Wednesday at Tyndall Air Force Base. The class is designed to give individuals the knowledge and skills needed to provide basic care due to illness and injuries until advanced medical care arrives. For more information regarding the exact class location and to register, call the Red Cross, 283-2770 or 763-6587.

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. Tim Jones, 283-8018, or Master Sgt. Perry Newberry, 283-4189.

WED
27

Home-selling seminar

A brown-bag lunch time seminar focusing on selling a home will be 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday in the family support center. For more information or for reservations, call the family support center, 283-4204.

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
28

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.

NOTES

Commissary gets magazines

The Tyndall Commissary has added magazines to their list of sale items. All stateside commissaries started carrying up to 43 titles of popular family-oriented magazines this month. Customers will find the magazines in racks located at the checkouts. For more information, call 283-4825.

Civil engineering degree

The FAMU-Florida State University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is interested in offering a master's degree in civil engineering with specialization in structural engineering at the Panama City campus of FSU. If sufficient demand is generated, the degree would most likely begin in fall 2002. The Florida Engineering Education Delivery System program provides the working engineer a way to earn a master's degree or further professional development via interactive television, the Internet and videotape. For more information, call Pat Lawson, 522-2060 or toll-free, (866) 539-7588.

RETIREE NEWS

TRICARE to identify eligibles and pay claims

TRICARE For Life, a new health benefit extended by the Department of Defense to approximately 1.5 million beneficiaries aged 65 and over, provides pharmacy benefits and TRICARE coverage secondary to Medicare. More than 3.1 million health-care claims have been paid since the program started in October 2001. Payment for some health-care claims, however, was initially denied by TRICARE for individuals recorded as being ineligible for TRICARE in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System. In many cases, these denials were based on persons who have "expired eligibility" in DEERS, meaning that their eligibility has not been re-verified in the last four years as required by DOD policy.

The DOD has announced that TRICARE claims will be paid for a limited time for TRICARE For Life beneficiaries with expired eligibility in DEERS. Claims filed beginning Oct. 1, 2001 but denied due to expired eligibility will be automatically reprocessed. Neither beneficiaries nor providers will be required to re-submit the denied claims. Beneficiaries are required, however, to ensure their eligibility is updated in DEERS by Aug. 1, 2002. After this date, claims received for beneficiaries with expired eligibility will be denied until the eligibility information is updated.

To learn how to update or re-verify eligibility for those persons 65 and older, beneficiaries who have received an Explanation of Benefits stating that they need to get a new military identification card should call (800)361-2620. For more information on TRICARE For Life, interested persons can visit the TRICARE Web site at: www.tricare.osd.mil or call the TRICARE Information Center, toll-free at (877) 363-5433.

RAO tax assistance

Volunteer income tax assistance at the Retiree Activities Office will continue 9 a.m.-noon on Wednesdays through April 10. To make an appointment, call the RAO, 283-2737.

YARD SALES

The following yard sale is scheduled for Saturday: 2990-A Starfighter Ave. All yard sales are held between 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

Futon, wood frame, black cushion with tan cover, \$150. Chaise lounge, white with stripes, \$50. Okie Dokie stroller, \$15. Call 286-8642.

'Candy Bomber' marches with German Olympic team

STAFF SGT. JEFFORY S. MULCAHY
 Joint Task Force Olympics public affairs

SALT LAKE CITY (AFP) — Retired Air Force Col. Gail Halvorsen, also known as the Berlin Candy Bomber, carried the German Olympic team placard into Rice-Eccles Olympic Stadium during the XIX Winter Olympic opening ceremonies here Feb. 8.

"I couldn't believe they called and asked me to carry the German Olympic placard," Colonel Halvorsen said. "I thought that they had the wrong guy, but then again, I did do two tours of duty in Germany, one of those as commander at Templehof Air Base, Berlin, as well as the seven months that I participated in the Berlin Airlift.

"Who would have thought that two pieces of gum would lead to this," Colonel Halvorsen said. "Those sticks of gum changed my whole life."

This life-changing event occurred in 1948 when Halvorsen, a C-54 Skymaster pilot with the 51st Troop Carrier Wing at Rhein-Main AB, Germany, saw 30 children through a barbed-wire fence.

"They hadn't had candy in a long time," Colonel Halvorsen said. "They didn't even have enough food to eat. But what surprised me most is that they didn't ask for anything, which is highly unusual, because we got a shakedown from the kids wherever we went.

"I wanted to give them something, but I

only had two sticks of gum," Colonel Halvorsen said. "I broke the two in half and passed them to four of the kids. Many of the children didn't get a piece, but they didn't seem to mind, they just wanted to smell the wrapper."

Colonel Halvorsen returned the next day to see the children again. He told them that he would drop some candy from the plane and let them know it was him, because he would wiggle his wings. The pilot made parachutes from handkerchiefs and attached them to the candy.

"My biggest concern was that I'd get caught," said Colonel Halvorsen, who made the drops with the candy from his rations. Soon his crew was donating rations to

the cause. "On my third drop, I almost hit a newspaper guy, who got a photo of our plane and wrote a story about the incident," he said. "Both appeared on the front page of a German newspaper.

"The general saw the story and thought I had a good idea," Colonel Halvorsen said. "He gave me permission to continue with the 'project.'"

By then, word had spread and the whole base was contributing rations.

Word of the Berlin Candy Bomber reached the United States, and candy and gum companies began shipping their products to be in-

"Who would have thought that two pieces of gum would lead to this. Those sticks of gum changed my whole life."

GAIL HALVORSEN
 Berlin Airlift candy bomber



Staff Sgt. Douglas C. Brunelle

Retired Col. Gail Halvorsen, known as the Candy Bomber during the Berlin Airlift, tosses a parachute with candy to children from a C-54 Skymaster on display at the Aerospace Museum at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. Colonel Halvorsen carried the German Olympic team placard into Rice-Eccles Olympic Stadium during the XIX Winter Olympic opening ceremonies Feb. 8.

cluded in the "operation."

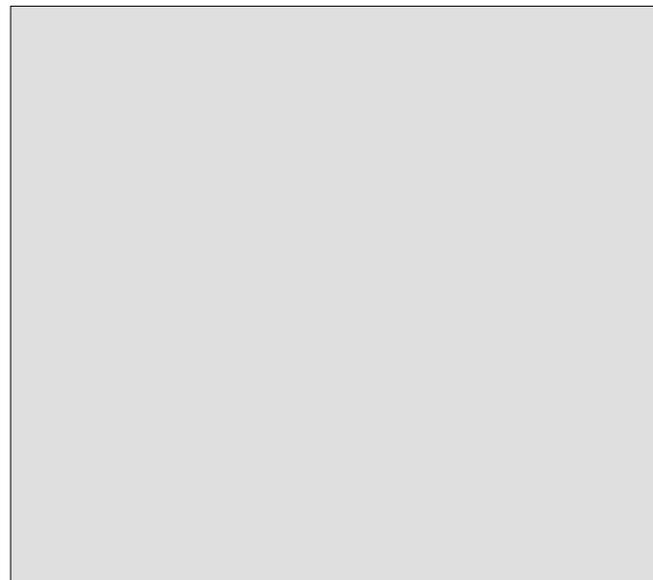
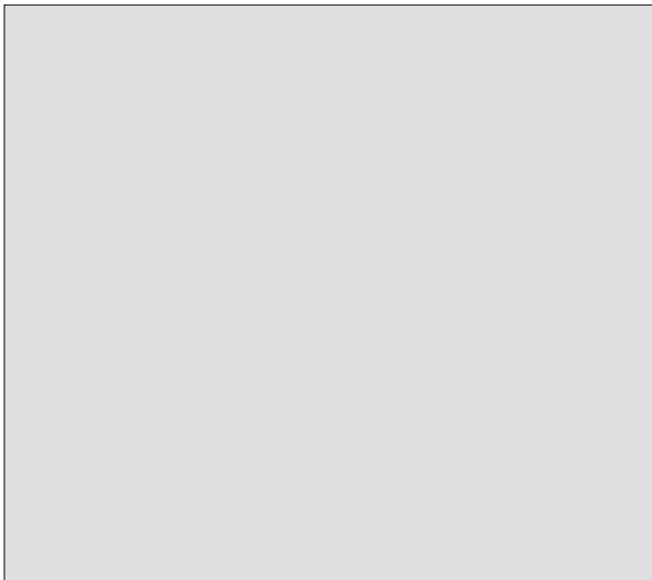
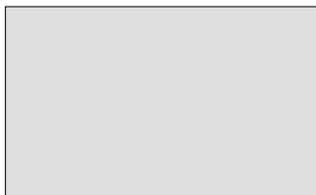
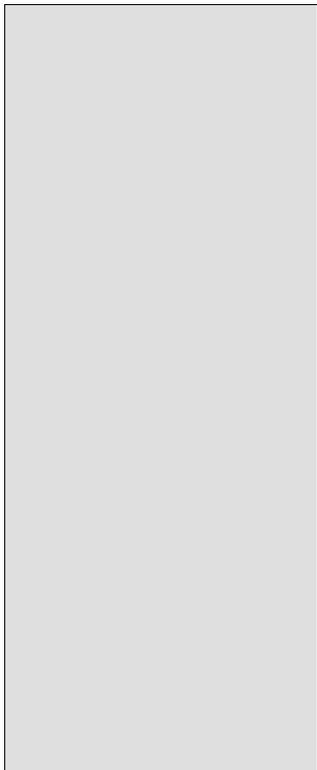
Colonel Halvorsen said he even had a "headquarters" established at a grade school state-side. Children at the school would create the parachute candy bombs, an average of 850 pounds of candy every other day. They would then take the parachutes to Westover Air Force Base, Mass., for transport to Rhein-Main AB.

"When I went back to Templehof as the commander, I received many dinner invitations from those who'd received a parachute during the airlift," said the 81 year old.

All told, Colonel Halvorsen said that they delivered between 15 to 20 tons of candy and gum.

Colonel Halvorsen is now consulting on a book and has been approached by HBO Films in Los Angeles. But he said he is concerned about the world as it is now.

"Our cities and countries are in parts," he said. "There have been tremendous changes in the world, and we're coming together as a nation, because that's what the Olympics is all about."





Funshine NEWS

February 22, 2002

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

Community Activities Center

☎ 283-2495

St. Paddy's Day Treasure Hunt
Starts March 5. Grand Prize: Playstation 2. Register by March 5.

Modeling Classes

Starts March 2 11 – 11:30 a.m.
Class is for ages 8 yrs. old and up
Cost: \$20 for a 4 week session.

Modern Dance Classes

Starts March 2, 3 yrs old to 6 yrs old:
11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. 7 yrs. old and up:
12 – 1 p.m. Cost is \$20 for a 4 week session.

Blarney Stone Contest

Starts March 1
Guess the weight of the stone; you could win an All You Can Eat Pizza Buffet for Two. One entry per person. Winner will be announced on March 15 at 5 p.m.

9-ball Tournament

March 2 at 1 p.m. Best 2 out of 3. Double elimination. Awards for 1st &

Watch for the ITT Travel Fair coming to FamCamp on March 22
Vendors representing a variety of travel destinations will be present.
Call 283-2499 for more info.

Aero Club

☎ 283-4404

Unsure About Flying?

Schedule an orientation flight and see what you have been missing. Call Bill or Vicki for more information.

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

Licensing Requirements

Base housing residents providing child care in their homes are required to be licensed by the Air Force. Contact the Family Child Care office for details.

Child Care Available

Child care is available in licensed family child care homes. Contact a licensed provider for information. Provider names are available through the CDC, Youth Center and Family Support Center as well as the Family Child Care Office.

We Have Moved!

The Family Child Care office has been relocated to building 1309. Stop by and see our new office!

Skeet & Trap

☎ 283-3855

Squadron Sports Days

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

Range Open

The Skeet range will be open Feb. 23 and 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

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.

Skills Development Ctr.

☎ 283-4511

Automotive Class

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

Framing Class

Framing classes are available on Thursdays 5-7 p.m. cost is \$30 and includes 8" x 10" frame supplies. Must prepay and register.

Bonita Bay

☎ 283-3199

We Can Help

Interested in Manatees? Let us help you plan your encounter. Stop by for helpful tips in making the most of your trip.

Information, Tickets & Travel

☎ 283-2499

Opening on Saturdays

Beginning Feb. 23, Information, Tickets and Travel will be open on Saturdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



Starts April 14, 2002

**Sunday Night • 6 p.m.
(Bowl for 16 Weeks*)**

Ball and Bag: \$8.75 per week
Accessory Package: \$5.70 per week
Bowling: Adult \$4.50, Youth \$3.00 per week

**Raptor Lanes
Bowling Center**

283-2380

*League length and cost may change once league committee has met.

Cupid's Cruise

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

Tyndall Fitness Center

MUSCLE BEACH 2002

March 30

Competition begins at 10 a.m.
Weigh-Ins begin at 8 a.m.

Register by Mar. 15, 2002

For more information
call 283-2631.

Super Sunday All Ranks Brunch!

**February 24
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
at the O' Club**

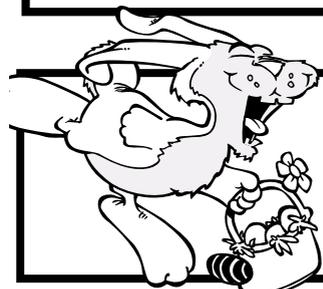
\$6.95 Members and \$8.95

Non-members

Menu Includes: Omelets made to order, Belgian waffles, sausage, bacon, hash browns, fresh fruit, muffins, Danish, and biscuits & gravy



283 4357



Tyndall Youth Programs **Big Bunny Egg Hunt • Saturday, March 30**

at the Youth Center, Bldg. 3223 on Sabre Drive. • BYOB (bring your own basket)

11 a.m. age categories 1-2 & 3-4 • 1 p.m. age categories: 5-6, & 7-8 • 3 p.m. age categories: 9-10 & 11-12

Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt (For Teens only) Age categories: 13-15 at 6:30 p.m. & 16-18 at 7:30 p.m.

Prize filled eggs will contain candy, toys, or coupons for a variety of prizes.

For more information call 283-4366.

●**FROM CHANGE PAGE 1** pinpoint air strikes while participating in a horse cavalry charge as an example of the type of flexible thinking required to transform the military.

General Leaf said the world has not seen such an offensive air-ground capability since the Allied attacks through northern France in 1944. During the breakout from the Normandy beachhead in July and the dash across France, air and ground forces worked as an offensive team unmatched until the actions around Mazar-e Sharif, he said.

During World War II, the 9th Tactical Air Force spurred innovation by placing FM radios in aircraft and air controllers in planes and on the front lines. This was not a top-down driven action. Rather it was soldiers and airmen who fielded the capability. And it worked brilliantly. The force guarded Gen. George S. Patton's left flank

as he swept across France. The air and ground worked together as an offensive arm.

"They leveraged the complementary capabilities of two different arms of military forces," General Leaf said. "They realized they could complement each other and then maintained through forward air controllers and proper equipment the degree of synchronization needed."

General Leaf said the services have done a lot of great close air support operations over the past 60 years, but since World War II they had become more a tool of the defense than the offense. He said the U.S. military was clearly on the offense during the Gulf War, but still seemed to think of the air-ground combined arms team as a defense rather than a way for forces to take the initiative.

U.S. forces in Afghanistan returned to the World War II model, he said. "I'm pretty excited about it," he said.

One key, he continued, has

been the liaison between forces.

"We've had Air Force people on the ground. You've seen them. They look an awful lot like soldiers except they have Air Force rank."

The air operations center also enjoys a joint service approach. "If you walk into that facility, you see a great representation of all the services and our partner nations," he added.

The commander at Aviano Air Base, Italy, during Operation Allied Force, General Leaf said the Army representation at the air operations center proved important even though U.S. ground forces had no part in the Kosovo campaign. "They helped give that grand combat picture of the enemy on the ground," he said.

Servicemembers "side-by-side wearing different uniforms" and offering their expertise give commanders an awareness they would not have otherwise.

●**FROM AWARDS PAGE 1** crepancy-free checkrides. Captain Marosko also mentored students daily and emphasized the "heart" of being a fighter pilot as well as the mechanics.

Captain Warf was one of only two instructors out of a 90-person pool who was qualified to teach 50 percent of the syllabus requirements for the 160-day air battle manager course, conducting and instructing more than 850 hours of F-15 intercept missions. The captain's mission-safety record is "remarkable," flying 1,000 missions without incident. Captain Warf is routinely sought to give additional training and has saved two students from elimination from the course. The captain implemented refresher training for ABM graduates by scheduling 200 additional missions annually. He also identified and corrected a deficiency in the program that miscalculated student academic grade point averages. Half of the averages were previously incorrect.

Sergeant Hamilton was handpicked to perform the duties of NCO in charge of weapons training in the largest ACS in the

Air Force. He controlled 60 air-to-air, 40 aerial refueling missions and 10 large force exercises. His accomplishments made him the first choice from the entire career field to attend the advanced weapons director school, considered a prestigious honor by those in the career field. Sergeant Hamilton is the only weapons director instructor twice selected to provide off-station instruction to 50 weapons director and air battle manager students. The instructor was identified the best of 94 instructors by the weapons director and air battle manager classes. He's received the "Outstanding Instructor" five times.

"(Sergeant Hamilton's) award is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of the personnel of the 325th ACS, validating our selection as the AETC Top Operations Squadron in 2000," said Capt. Ricardo L. Rivera, operations training officer and Sergeant Hamilton's supervisor.

"It is a great privilege to work and support quality airmen like Staff Sgt. Hamilton, one of the many reasons I chose to serve in the best Air Force in the world," Captain Rivera said.

