

GULF DEFENDER



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July 5, 2002

In brief

Lost, found

The 325th Security Forces Squadron's lost and found has jewelry, watches, keys, wallets, pagers, bikes, glasses and automatic teller machine cards in their inventory. Anyone who has lost property can call 283-2497 during normal duty hours.

Vehicle parking

All vehicles in the Tyndall military housing area will be parked in authorized spaces – carports, garages or paved parking areas. On-street parking is permitted only on the side of the street opposite the fire hydrants, with four exceptions. On Eagle Drive between Beacon Beach Road and Phantom Street, permitted parking is on the side of the street with even house numbers; on Dart Avenue parking will be on the odd side; on Falcon Street the even side; and where parking spaces are designated. Motor homes, camping trailers, campers, boats and boat trailers will be parked in the Recreational Vehicle Storage Area when not in use.

Inoperative vehicles may not be parked in any family housing area. All major repairs, such as sanding and painting, are not allowed in the housing area.

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Lisa Carroll

Super soaker

Brig. Gen. William Hodgkins, 325th Fighter Wing commander, gets soaked by his wife, Martha, and Fire Chief Marcus Broxton after the general's 'fini' flight Monday. The wing change of command is scheduled for 10 a.m. July 12 in Hangar 2.

Tyndall pilot earns seat in Thunderbird formation

MELISSA HARTLE
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

He's a U.S. Air Force captain, F-15C instructor pilot, U.S. Air Force Academy graduate, Squadron Officer School distinguished graduate and earned his master's degree with a 4.0 grade point average. He's received numerous military performance awards, is happily married to his high school sweetheart and he has two "awesome" children. This small-town Alabama native is virtually a poster boy for the U.S. Air Force.

In fact, that's exactly what Capt. Chris Stricklin, 1st Fighter Squadron instructor pilot, will be in a few short months.

Captain Stricklin was recently selected to fly with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, the service's premier aerial demonstration team.

"I'm overwhelmed," Captain Stricklin said, "It hasn't quite sunk in yet because everything has happened so fast."

Captain Stricklin and his family have had only

five weeks to prepare for their transition to the Thunderbirds team and to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Despite the short notice, Captain Stricklin said they are ready, especially since this has been a job he has prepared for from the time he entered the Air Force in 1994.

"I knew I wanted to fly from the time I could walk," he said. "As I grew older I started researching the military and decided the Air Force would allow me to reach my goal. I went to the Air Force Academy determined to fly fighters. Then I made it to the F-15 and started looking from there where I wanted to go next. That's when I decided I wanted to try out for the Thunderbirds."

While Captain Stricklin is excited about the opportunities he will have with the Thunderbirds, it is the chance to tell the Air Force story that attracted him to want to be part of the team.

"Being able to go out and talk to young people about Air Force opportunities is the biggest part of the Thunderbirds that swayed me to want to



Melissa Hartle

Capt. Chris Stricklin

do this," Captain Stricklin said. "I love the Air Force. I love being in it and I want to tell other people how great it is."

Such opportunities will be vast for Captain Stricklin since the Thunderbirds perform an average of 70 aerial demonstrations at 40 locations throughout the world during their eight-month demonstration season.

The Thunderbird's mission includes recruiting and retention, enhancing public relations and building troop morale. Pilots selected for the

●SEE T-BIRD PAGE 6

Tyndall celebrations highlight week

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM F. HODGKINS

325th Fighter Wing commander



This has been a week filled with good news! I would like to start off by congratulating our 230 new technical and master sergeant se-

lects. All of your hard work has paid off, and I know you must be proud of your accomplishments. I wish you all the success in the world as you assume greater levels of responsibility and continue to serve our Air Force. Another congratulations is in order for Capt. Chris "Elroy" Stricklin, who was recently selected to join the Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team. We're proud of you, Chris! This is an ideal opportunity for you to tell the Air Force story and touch many lives. The best of luck to you and your family!

We have a few more changes of command on the horizon. Lt. Col. Patrick Marshall, the current director of operations with the 1st Fighter Squadron, will take the top chair of the squadron at 3:01 p.m. Thursday in Hangar 2. Colonel Marshall



"As you and your family take advantage of this four-day weekend, please remember to be responsible, especially if alcohol is part of your celebration."

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM F. HODGKINS

325th Fighter Wing commander

will assume command from American Fighter Pilot television star Lt. Col. David "Bean" Freaney, who will be attending the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C. with his wife, Pam, and their son, Kyle. Bean, we appreciate your leadership and dedication to Team Tyndall. The 325th Fighter Wing and Hollywood will miss your many talents.

In addition, Maj. David Kennedy and his wife, Robin, will join Team Tyndall from Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Major Kennedy will replace Major Scott Savoie as the 325th Contracting Squadron commander at 9 a.m. Thursday at the Officer's

Club. Major Savoie and his wife, Suzanne, will head to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Scott, your outstanding contributions to Team Tyndall will not soon be forgotten. Thanks for all you've done!

We have a lot to celebrate this week, and we have a four-day weekend to do it! As you and your family enjoy the holiday, please remember to be responsible, especially if alcohol is part of your celebration. Drinking and driving is not tolerated, and it can bring your summer fun to a screeching halt.

Let's ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend.

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

Leading through a loss; commander shares insight

LT. COL. JIM AYERS

1st Airlift Squadron commander

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. (AFP) — These are the top 10 things I learned when one of my troops committed suicide:

1. There is no checklist. There are checklists for mortuary affairs, casualty notification teams and others but none that I found for commanders. It will seem like you're feeling your way in a pitch-black room searching for a light switch. You were given command because you are a leader. Trust your instincts.

2. Completed suicides are usually those you never see coming. My troop was bright, motivated, gregarious. She had a plan for her future. Some of her closest friends on the planet included people in our squadron. We all had suicide-prevention training. None of us foresaw this.

3. This will be a defining moment in your tenure in command. Your squadron, your boss, your boss' boss,

your peers, will take their cue from you. "How can we help?" "How is the squadron doing?" People above and below you in the chain of command will want you to lead. Now, more than ever, your squadron will need leadership.

4. Be accessible. Be visible. Be in touch. Forget your e-mail (OK, forget all e-mail except for those from the boss). Spend unannounced quality time in all your work sections. Don't just ask, "How ya doin'?" in the hallway. They won't tell you. Grab folks by the arm and make them talk, one-on-one. Spend focused time with those three or four folks who were closest to the victim. I had mini-commander's calls every other day for about two weeks where we talked about the investigation, memorial service plans, funeral plans, the family's visit, etc.

5. The events immediately following a suicide will happen at the speed of light. Dealing with the family, talking to the OSI, working with mortuary affairs, notifying the squadron (don't forget those TDY and those who

have recently PCS'd), sending personnel to the funeral, planning a memorial service (do it as soon as you can, our collective healing process began at the memorial service). Dealing with the suicide aftermath became my number one responsibility. I cleared my calendar, handed my inbox and all flying issues to the director of operations, asked for extensions on all suspenses. Get in front and stay in front of the post suicide events or they will spiral out of your control.

6. There's a lot of help out there — use it. Your first sergeant and operations officer should know everything you know. You must all be consistent with the message to the squadron. Squadron chaplains are worth their weight in gold, but you need to give chaplains opportunities to forge relationships with folks long before a crisis. Make sure you're including them in everything. I learned a new acronym, CISM, which is the Critical Incident Stress Management team. These mental health pros are

●SEE SUICIDE PAGE 3

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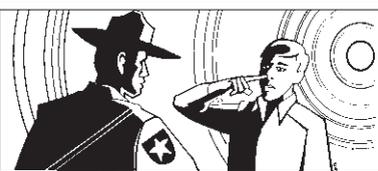
The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or 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*.

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Thinking of getting out?

THINK AGAIN!

Make sure you've got all the facts first! Contact **Chief Master Sgt. Ron Georgia**, 325th Fighter Wing career assistance adviser, at **283-2222** for information on your career and its future.



**Think
before
you
drink.**

●FROM SUICIDE PAGE 2

trained to help in just these types of scenarios. They were an invaluable source of information. They knew what we were going through before we went through it.

7. Get the troops involved. I grew up Baptist. My mom always made a casserole when someone died. It made her feel like she was helping. Your troops will want to contribute. I asked the section closest to my troop to plan her memorial service. They threw themselves into it with all their heart and energy. The service was phenomenal, the process was therapeutic.

8. Take care of the troop's family. Pick your best officer to liaison with the family. Anticipate the family's needs and questions. They'll want to travel to your location. They'll want to meet with the police or Air Force Office of Special Investigations. They'll want to meet with their loved one's closest friends in the squadron. Pick your second best officer to be the summary courts officer (deals with personal effects, household goods shipment, correspondence with creditors, claims against the estate, etc.) and release them from any other duties but this. The Air Force encourages non-squadron members for this task but we wanted it ourselves. We wanted seamless support to the family. Your troops will appreciate the efforts to honor the family; it helps them feel good about the unit again. And more importantly, honoring the family is the right thing.

9. People will want answers (there usually aren't any). People will assess blame (morale can nosedive if you let it). I personally believe suicide is a completely irrational event. As rational people, the survivors all want rational answers to this irrational event. We couldn't connect the dots.

There's a fine line and inevitable progression between the search for answers and the search for blame. We knew about the professional issues and before her death; we thought them to be minor (aircraft upgrades, new duties within the squadron, a pending leave request, etc.). In the days following the suicide, people began pointing fingers at her supervisors, the operations superintendent, the first sergeant and me, looking to place blame.

In reality, my troop was dealing with personal issues many of us never knew about until after her death. More often than not, the heaviest bricks in our basket come from personal relationships not professional ones.

I tried to head off the "blame game" by talking about the rational/irrational dichotomy, telling them the squadron wasn't at fault any more than one of them was at fault, and by telling them as much as I could about our troop while protecting her privacy. Honesty works great.

10. You can't help others if you're a wreck. You need someone to talk to. For me, it was my wife. She was a great supporter throughout all this. Don't forget to eat and exercise. It sounds silly now, but you will forget these basics: "I can handle this, I'll tough this out." It's OK to go for a jog. Don't feel guilty. The week after my troop's death was my hardest in command and close to my hardest ever in the Air Force. You need to stay focused at all times but it's OK for your troops to see you cry without losing your composure. It lets them know you hurt right along with them.

Most of my lessons learned are directed at dealing with the aftermath of a successful suicide. What about preventing one? Well, I'm not going to quote statistical research to you, but this is my theory based on a sampling of one event, one horrible event.

The first intercessory step of prevention (and the most critical) happens on a personal level by friends, squadron mates and loved ones who know the potential victim best.

Prevention probably won't happen because a supervisor notices a change in the troop's demeanor; most won't. It won't happen because the potential victim starts asking buddies if he or she can give them the car and other worldly possessions; most won't. We are a small squadron, 120 folks. We fly around the world and share meals in every town from Tel Aviv to Moscow.

We know each other pretty well, and it still happened to us. Do everything you can to encourage abiding friendships within the squadron. Make your unit as warm and hospitable as you can. Let them feel they're a part of something special. Then meddle, cajole, nitpick and encourage your supervisors to do the same.

Let your folks know the supervisors want and need to know what's going on in their lives. The troops need to believe they have someplace of authority to turn for answers. The bottom line is you're going to rely on your troop having a close friend in your unit and hope that close friend will come to your shirt and say, "Do you have a minute? I need to talk to you about Staff Sgt. Jonesy." I'm convinced this is how prevention will happen.

F-22 deemed cornerstone of 21st century air dominance

STAFF SGT. A.J. BOSKER

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's F-22 Raptor will be the cornerstone of air dominance on any 21st century battlefield, according to Maj. Gen. John D.W. Corley, mission area director of global power programs at the Pentagon.

"The F-22's combination of stealth, supercruise, maneuverability and its integrated avionics, coupled with improved supportability, represents a tremendous revolution in capabilities," General Corley said.

It will be these capabilities that allow the Raptor to easily defeat the advanced, next-generation enemy on the surface and in the air, he said.

This is an important facet of the Air Force's global strike task force concept of operations, General Corley said. The global strike task force is designed to give combatant commanders a



Judson Brohmer

The Air Force's new superiority fighter will dominate the future air combat arena by integrating advanced avionics, stealth and supercruise.

"kick-down-the-door" capability to establish a foothold in enemy territory regardless of the threat.

"No other aircraft but the F-22 can give us this capability," General Corley said.

Air Force officials continue to carefully monitor the Raptor's development and are happy with what they have seen, General Corley said. They are still projecting initial operational capability of the aircraft to begin in December 2005, with the first squadron at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

"The F-22 is doing amazingly well," said Dr. Marvin R. Sambur, assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition at the Pentagon. "It has met or exceeded all of the required key performance parameters, such as its stealth, supercruise and flight capabilities."

From an acquisition point of view, the problems that have been encountered are very small for a program of this magnitude, Doctor Sambur said.

"None of them have been 'show stoppers,'" he said.

"(All of the problems) that I have seen (reported) in the media are problems that we have fixed or know we will be able to fix."

Two challenges facing the Raptor, besides defense funding competition, are the fin-buffeting issue and the stability of its integrated avionics.

The F-22 is not the first U.S. aircraft to experience stress on its vertical stabilizers. Similar problems occurred with the F-15 Eagle and F-18 Hornet, both of which have dual vertical stabilizers.

General Corley said the

vertical fins of the Raptor were experiencing higher than anticipated stresses during certain aerial maneuvers.

"We've done extensive work to understand the issue — part of the normal development process — and have developed a range of solutions," General Corley said.

These solutions include changing the aerodynamic properties of the aircraft, strengthening the vertical fins, and changing the flight control logic of the Raptor to reduce the stress on the tail.

"We have already incorporated structural fixes on the production aircraft," General Corley said. "The ultimate solution likely will be a combination of our options. However, whatever the final solution turns out to be, it will maintain the F-22's revolutionary stealth capabilities."

The glitches experienced in the Raptor's avionics software led to it not being as stable as the Air Force would

like, Doctor Sambur said.

"We're working with an update package now and expect that the next two updates will take care of any remaining problems," he said.

According to Doctor Sambur, the small number of problems encountered in the F-22's development is in itself a success story.

"Everyone acknowledges that the F-22 is a fantastic plane," he said. "It does amazing things and is necessary to overcome the integrated air defense system threats we'll face in the future."

The biggest debate about the F-22 is not whether to cancel the program but, instead, how many of the aircraft the Air Force should buy, he said.

"The Raptor, when deployed, will give us more than an edge over our enemies," Doctor Sambur said. "It will give us an unfair advantage over any adversary."

BBC crew films Tyndall associate units

STAFF SGT. SCOTT FARLEY

1st Air Force public affairs

A British Broadcasting Corporation film crew visited the Southeast Air Defense Sector and Continental United States NORAD Region area operations center and the 148th Fighter Wing Alert Detachment at Tyndall on June 24.

The New York City based crew shot footage of a scramble at the alert detachment, operations at the area operation centers and interviewed Maj. Gen. Larry K. Arnold for a Sept. 11 documentary.

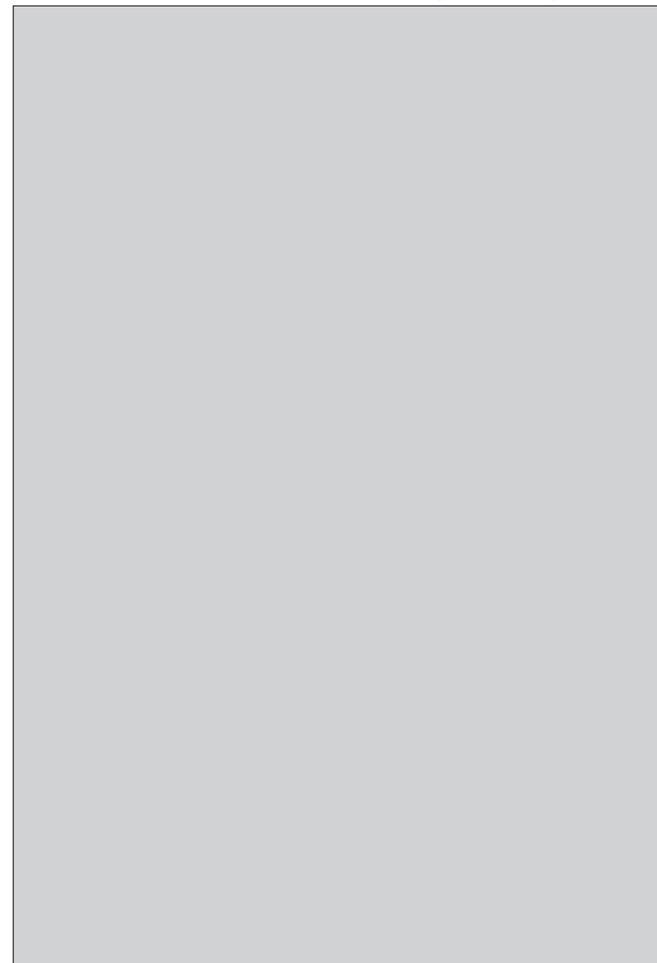
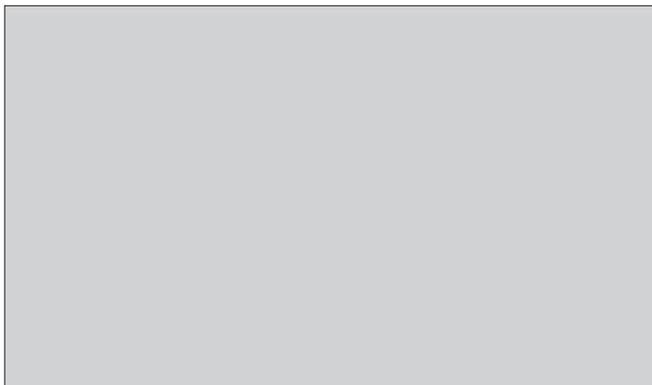
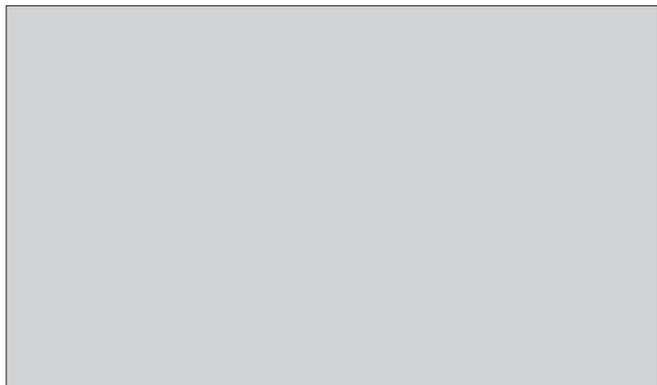
"America Under Fire" is the working title of the The Learning Channel co-production that takes a look at how

the events of Sept. 11, 2001 unfolded from key locations other than New York City and Washington, D.C.

"We want to give a sense of the immediacy of that day with the different view the military has (compared) to civilian," said BBC producer, Andy Blackman. "We want to recreate a feeling of what happened that day."

Mr. Blackman said the documentary will revisit and recreate the events of the day without hindsight as they unfolded from different military locations.

The program is scheduled to air on the BBC and an American television network during the week of Sept. 11.



DOD to restart anthrax vaccinations

SGT. 1ST CLASS KATHLEEN T. RHEM
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Department officials announced Monday they are restarting a modified Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program now that the vaccine provider has passed Food and Drug Administration scrutiny.

Only servicemembers, essential civilians and contractor personnel going to or serving in high-threat areas will receive the vaccine, said Dr. Bill Winkenwerder, assistant defense secretary for health affairs. This is because half the contractor's vaccine production will be stockpiled for civilian use.

"We recognize there is a domestic need for access to the vaccine," Doctor Winkenwerder said during a news conference at the Pentagon. "In collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Homeland Security, we are reserving a portion of the anthrax vaccine for stockpiling ... to use in the event of a domestic emergency."

In 1998, the Department of Defense began a plan to vaccinate all military members against the deadly, potential biological weapon. The program was pared down several times in the intervening years as the sole provider of the vaccine shut down its factory for renovations and then had problems gaining FDA approval of its production process.

Vaccine shortages eventually caused the DOD to vaccinate only limited numbers of servicemembers serving in "designated special mission units."

The contractor, Bioport of Lansing, Mich., gained FDA approval of its renovated facility in January and is now ready to begin providing additional stocks of the vaccine to the DOD.

Doctor Winkenwerder said the new policy is "more targeted" than the previous plan to vaccinate the total force. He said the numbers of servicemembers and essential civilians vaccinated will jump, but he would not say how high. Nor would he say what areas of the world are considered "higher threat."

"We will identify those areas to the servicemembers before they are deployed to those areas, but we don't intend to talk publicly about that as we describe the policy to the rest of the country, to the media," Doctor Winkenwerder said during an earlier interview with

American Forces Press Service. "And the reason is, we don't intend to give our adversaries an indication of exactly who and when and where we've immunized people. We would like that to be a further deterrent to anybody who might think about using anthrax as a weapon."

The doctor said DOD medical officials hope to start vaccinating targeted servicemembers 45 days before they deploy. The anthrax vaccine requires six shots over an 18-month period for maximum immunity, but a relatively high level of immunity is reached after the first three shots, he explained.

Doctor Winkenwerder and Vice Adm. Gordon Holder, director of logistics on the Joint Staff, said the vaccination program may return to total-force coverage if vaccine availability improves and if the biological threat changes.

Individuals who started the six-shot series under the previous guidelines will resume the series where they left off.

Others who started the shots previously but are not currently covered un-

Winkenwerder dismissed widespread claims that the vaccine isn't safe or effective. He cited a study released March 6 by the Institute of Medicine that found the vaccine to be "effective protection against anthrax, including inhalation anthrax."

"The Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences — a very august, prominent body — has said in a very large, in a very important, comprehensive report that the vaccine is safe and effective," Doctor Winkenwerder said earlier. Several other studies by reputable independent agencies have released similar conclusions.

Even though it is scaled back, the vaccination program will remain mandatory for troops in areas covered by the policy. Doctor Winkenwerder said this is no different from any number of other vaccines and "medical interventions" that are mandatory for military people based on where they are serving.

The Defense Department is working with HHS to develop a new anthrax vaccine that would require fewer shots

"I think the attacks last fall brought home the point that this is a real threat and that it's possible to manufacture this kind of bioweapon, and it's not altogether difficult to disseminate it."

DR. BILL WINKENWERDER

Assistant defense secretary for health affairs

der the new program will receive the rest of their shots "later into 2002, possibly as late as 2003, and that's because the supply of the vaccine is limited," Doctor Winkenwerder said.

He insisted there is no danger in stopping and restarting the series of shots. "Protection lasts months to years at some levels," he said.

Under the previous program, 525,000 servicemembers have received a total of 2.1 million doses of the vaccine. Contrary to widespread media reports of servicemembers refusing to be vaccinated, even at the cost of their careers, Doctor Winkenwerder said the true number is relatively small compared to the number of doses administered. The DOD has no formal method of counting refusals, but service chiefs report 441 servicemembers have refused to be vaccinated. He said there have been no deaths linked to the vaccine.

In the earlier interview, Doctor

and be made using a different, easier method, said William F. Raub, deputy director of public health preparedness at HHS. The two departments are also examining the current vaccine to see if its protocol can be changed.

"We fight and win as teams," he said. "If a team of people are in an environment deployed in a military situation, I think the commander as well as all the individuals want to know we are all protected."

The anthrax attacks on the U.S. East Coast last fall may have silenced some critics. "I think the attacks last fall brought home the point that this is a real threat and that it's possible to manufacture this kind of bioweapon, and it's not altogether difficult to disseminate it," Doctor Winkenwerder said. "This is something that's not just in people's imagination. It is real."

(AFPS reporter Jim Garamone contributed to this report.)

Educators gain insight into ROTC program benefits

2ND LT. RYAN FITZGERALD
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Educators got a first-hand look at the Air Force June 26-27 when the Distinguished Educators group, a collection of influential leaders from universities across the nation visited here.

The visit was a whirlwind tour of the base and provided a venue to better understand the Air Force, its training and way of life.

The educators' visit familiarized leaders in the academic arena with the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, which faces various recruiting challenges at college campuses in many parts of the country. These challenges make tours such as the one here critical, said Col. Charles Sherburne, Air Force ROTC director of operations. "We're trying to increase awareness of the ROTC program, and there's no better way to do that than to bring these educators down here to show them the Air Force from a hands-on perspective."

On the first day of the visit, educators toured facilities used for ROTC training and were able to observe officer recruits in a training environment. The second day, the group got an inside look at wing assets such as life support and the altitude chamber, where they were able to "pressure breathe" and try out a virtual-reality equipped parachute harness. The

visitors also received mission briefings and were able to observe an engine test run in the "hush house" and see an F-15 up-close.

The visit was a success according to Col. Sherburne, "Overall, the feedback we've received says that they [the educators] were thrilled with the visit."

A highlight of the tour came when the educators were able to have an open-forum discussion with young officers, many of whom are products of the schools the educators represented. Both the educators and the officers said the experience was a good one. "It was a great panel, very informative," said Dr. Robert Shelton, executive vice chancellor and provost for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"I loved the chance to tell people about the Air Force and about our jobs. There are so many misconceptions out there, and to be able to tell our side of the story was really great," said 2nd Lt. Carrie Schaad, an aerospace physiologist and panel member.

The success of the tour left ROTC officials looking forward to continuing a positive relationship with the schools represented at the tour. "Our hope is that the educators will return to their universities and continue to support the Air Force ROTC program," said Colonel Sherburne.

● **FROM T-BIRD PAGE 1** team must not only be skilled and qualified to fly, but also represent the excellence and professionalism found throughout the Air Force. The selection process is competitive. Captain Stricklin was one of only four pilots selected from approximately 38 applicants this year for the team.

"It's extremely competitive—probably the most competitive thing I've done in my life," he said. "Although the application process is stressful, it's worth it. It's a huge responsibility and an honor to be able to represent the Air Force in this way and I look forward to it."

He credits hard work, love for his job and the support of

his wife, Terri, for his selection to the team. "My wife is so amazing," he said. "She is extremely supportive and I really wouldn't be in this position if it weren't for her. The Thunderbirds didn't just pick me for the job, they picked the both of us."

And according to Lt. Col. David Freaney, 1st Fighter Squadron commander, the Thunderbirds picked the right person for the job. "Captain Stricklin has been a leading-edge instructor in the 1st Fighter Squadron for the last three years. He quickly went from being the youngest flight commander in the 325th Operations Group to being personally selected by the group commander to be the

assistant chief of standardization and evaluation, a position normally reserved for more seasoned pilots," Colonel Freaney said.

Captain Stricklin will leave for Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., next week to begin a 10-week training stint in the F-16C Fighting Falcon and then he will join the Thunderbirds team at Nellis AFB for aerial demonstration training until the demonstration season begins in mid-March.

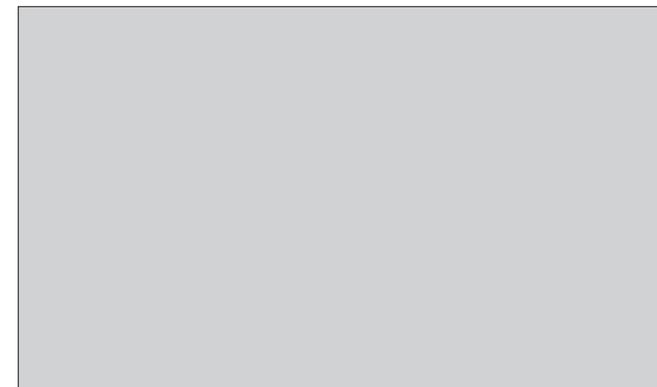
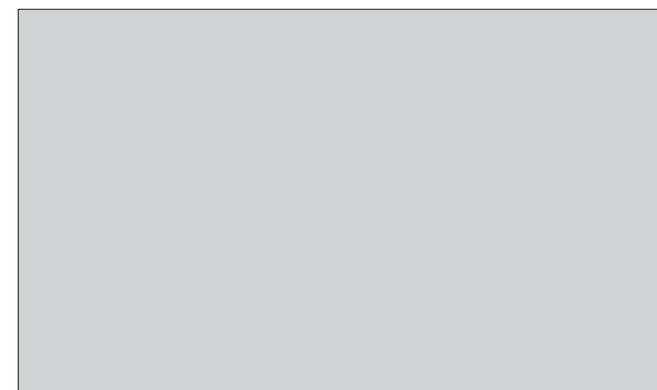
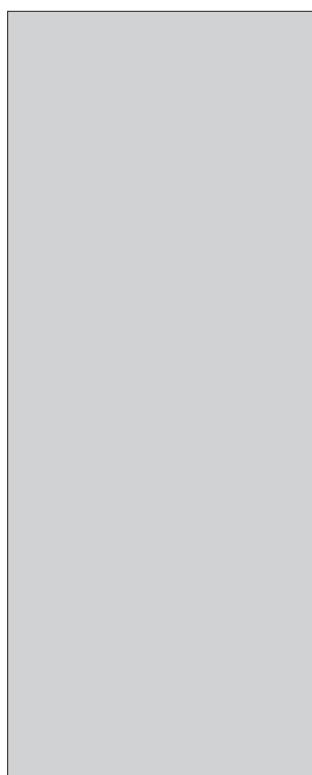
After his two-year assignment with the Thunderbirds, Captain Stricklin plans to stay with the Air Force and make it a career.

"It truly is a great way of life," Captain Strickland said.



Capt. Patricia Teran-Matthews

David Ormsbee, vice president for enrollment management at Cedarville University, tries a virtual-reality parachute harness with the help of Staff Sgt. Chris Hoggarth during a tour.



DOD to increase oversight on charge cards

JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is moving aggressively to tighten up oversight of issued purchase and travel cards, Department of Defense Comptroller Dov Zakheim said today.

Mr. Zakheim briefed reporters on the findings of a three-month study on the department's charge card program. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld ordered the review following reports of misuse and fraud.

Mr. Zakheim said the overall instance of misuse or fraud within the department is probably lower than that experienced by private sector companies. He emphasized the majority of cardholders "play by the rules."

But there have been egregious examples of card misuse and outright fraud within the department, he acknowledged. The department must take steps to educate users about the cards, enforce laws and regulations against misuse and look at other ways of conducting business, he said.

Mr. Zakheim said it is important the department "not throw out the baby with the bathwater." The charge card program saves money, manpower and time and is enormously beneficial to the DOD, he said.

"For the government, ev-

ery time a purchase card is used, you save about \$20," he said. "The reason you do is because you're saving time. You can take a purchase card, go out, buy what you need and get it. In the old days, you had to staff it, and it would take two to four weeks. Time is money."

Still, he noted, the department wants to make the system as "pristine" as possible.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz issued a June 21 memo that re-emphasized the importance of the program—and also detailed two things. First, agency heads must report to Mr. Zakheim by July 15 with what they have done to deal with current cases of abuse, misuse and delinquencies. Second, Secretary Wolfowitz directed the DOD inspector general to coordinate audits and investigations of the charge card programs.

Many other recommendations are in the report, Mr. Zakheim said. Some require approval and coordination with other agencies or changes in laws, he said.

Other ideas, however, could be implemented immediately. For one, Mr. Zakheim said the agencies within the department must do a better job of training people on the do's and don'ts of purchase and travel cards.

Another step that can be

taken now is for agencies to review their regulations, directives and instructions for ambiguities and to try to fix or remove them.

The department will also immediately cancel 100,000 expired travel cards and review another 300,000 for possible cancellation that have been inactive for a year.

The report recommends cutting the oversight that agency program coordinators maintain now. These coordinators may be responsible for more than 1,000 cardholders. Mr. Zakheim said the best number is no more than 300.

Other aspects remain to be worked out. One is enforcement. "Now, normally, prosecution is done by the local U.S. Attorney's office," Mr. Zakheim said. "But everybody's resource-constrained, including U.S. Attorney's offices, so not everybody can be prosecuted. And the question is, well, how do you pursue and how do you prosecute fraud? Are there any other options out there? The answer is, yes."

The Justice Department's Public Integrity Section will prosecute. Defense will look at pursuing cases in state and local courts provided they can get jurisdiction. Finally, the DOD may pursue these cases as civil suits rather than as criminal ones.

Finally, commanders and

supervisors must take action in charge card cases. If they do not, they may be held liable.

The department will also step up charge card monitoring. Mr. Zakheim said the department would set up computer programs that look for certain indicators of fraudulent use. The technique, called automatic data mining, triggers a closer check.

"Have you ever been to an airport and they made you take your shoes off?" Mr. Zakheim asked the reporters. "OK? One of the reasons they'll make you take your shoes off is you arrived late. It's an indicator. ... Suppose you had a ticket and then you changed it at the last second. Different destination. Off go the shoes."

The purchase-card and travel-card world uses indicators, too, he continued, and so some people figuratively are told to remove their shoes.

Mr. Zakheim said charge card reform is just beginning. He said the processes will evolve as consultations occur with various agencies within the DOD and without. The department will also examine alternatives such as debit cards and the stored-value card—like the prepaid phone cards people buy almost anywhere in the world.

"We're attacking this on all fronts," Mr. Zakheim said.

Leadership Line



“Eventually, you have to say that it is time for a new dynamic, it's time for a change. The Palestinian people themselves need a leadership that will not simply stoke their grievances, but that will actually deal with the problems of their daily lives.”

DR. CONDOLEEZZA RICE
National Security Advisor

An inside look at the continuing



Photos by Marcia Robertson

Linda Hunt, 325th Services Squadron second head cook, stays busy preparing meatballs for lunch at Berg-Liles.



Elive Davenport, 325th Services Squadron second head cook, marinates chicken.



Antonio Brown Sr., 325th Services Squadron executive chef, grills chicken to perfection.

MARCIA A. ROBERTSON

325th Services Squadron marketing

On Independence Day in 1942, a BT-13A plane crashed in the waters off Tyndall Field. Staff Sgts. Karl Berg of Long Beach, Calif., and John H. Liles Jr. of Bailey, N.C., died in the accident. The deaths of these two pilots from the Army Air Force Gunnery School marked the first flying fatality here. Today, the enlisted dining facility bears their names in recognition of their place in the base's history.

And while flying planes may seem far removed from supplying food, the staff at Berg-Liles is committed to service — just as the facility's namesakes were — as they provide daily meals to the backbone of a 21st century Air Force.

"We serve about 550 people a day," said Master Sgt. Diane Thrift, 325th Services Squadron food service superintendent. "We offer meals four times a day, starting with breakfast at [5:30 a.m.]. We close the midnight meal at [12:30 a.m.] and then we start all over again. Someone is here around the clock."

To some, the dining facility is the chow hall — a place to get a lot of food for a little money; a place where quantity often outweighed quality. But the days of grumpy cooks slinging hash are gone. Today, Berg-Liles, like other dining halls throughout the Air Force, operates a modern facility, adheres to current nutritional standards, and utilizes computer technology to accomplish its mission.

"We operate on the Corporate Food System," Sergeant Thrift said. "CFS is a 14-day menu

plan which is s...
It follows the...
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product availa...
on any given d...
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"It's like fa...
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Wilson, 325th...
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long.

"We get deli...
from regional...
"Our budget ru...



Airmen 1st Class Derick Reisman and Ryan Skinner, 325th M... technicians, enjoy lunch at Berg-Liles.

ure service of Berg-Liles Dining Hall

standardized across the Air Force. The USDA guidelines. While we make minor changes because of availability, ordinarily what we serve today is the same item that is being served by other dining hall on that par-

ould the menu selection be consistent with the Air Force, but the taste of food would be as well. Although 95 items are available at Berg-Liles are used at all the bases on the CFS use the same in their meal preparation.

fast-food which tastes the same as fast-food elsewhere," said Staff Sgt. J'Vonnie Williams, 325th Services Squadron food service manager. "Our food should taste the same as base."

has changed the way the Berg-Liles obtains supplies. As each purchase is made, the computer program logs information on each food item.

computer builds a memory of what is needed, Staff Sgt. Wilson explained. "It is so important to order a steak, it not only depends on the steak itself, but also any ingredients that went on it."

information, the computer program tells what items will be needed in the future because the facility uses so much food, nothing sits on the shelf very long.

reorders two to three times a week from vendors," said Sergeant Wilson. "Orders range between \$10,000 and \$15,000



Maintenance Squadron avionics

a week, sometimes as much as \$20,000."

While the Corporate Food System has given the food service personnel more tools with which to operate more efficiently, the computer doesn't know everything. For example, it doesn't realize the ROTC cadets are only here temporarily.

"We have a greater number of cadets this summer, about 400 per encampment so that's a total of 1,200 extra bodies to feed," said Sergeant Thrift. "We serve them three meals a day, seven days a week so the work really adds up."

Because the dining facility uses more food while they are here, the computer thinks that much food should be ordered even after they leave.

"We get impacted by groups like ROTC," Sergeant Wilson said. "Fortunately, we can manually override the system if we need to."

The ROTC encampments affect Berg-Liles beyond the fluctuations in inventory, however. Getting that many extra people through the serving lines quickly is a challenge, but adjustments have been made to help with the situation.

"Ordinarily, we have two lines plus a snack line going at lunch," Sergeant Thrift continued. "This summer, we have one combination lunch line and snack line for our regular customers. People can expect a longer wait, but we've tried to alleviate some of that by working with the NCO Academy to have their students come a bit earlier."

Like every other area of the military, Berg-Liles has been touched by the September 11th bombings.

"We normally have about 30 contract employees," Sergeant Thrift said. "Since 9-11, we've upped that number to 65 because so many of our people have been deployed."

Patrons are encouraged to give the dining facility feedback. Comments cards are available and if a concern does arise, individuals should contact the food service staff.

"People need to let us know when there is a problem," Sergeant Thrift emphasized. "We can't fix it if we don't know about it. We really want our customers to be happy with the facility and we'll work hard to ensure that happens."

As a service to its customers, Berg-Liles operates a daily menu listing which can be heard by dialing 283-2312. For more information about the dining facility, call the food service staff at 283-2377.



Runchuan Milford, 325th Services Squadron salad attendant, puts the finishing touches on the Berg-Liles salad bar before the lunch crowd arrives.



Prapasri Little, 325th Services Squadron cashier, uses the Corporate Food System computer as Tech. Sgt. Maria Knowles, AFROTC, Det. 157, pays for her lunch.

Foreign Area Officer program creates 'global officers'

MASTER SGT. RON TULL

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force officers who can speak a foreign language have an opportunity to make a difference on the world stage through the foreign area officer program.

While some may think of FAOs as attachés, the program is much broader, according to Capt. Chon Kim, who heads the regional program team for North and Southeast Asia.

“There are approximately 200 FAO positions, mostly field grade level, worldwide, and an increasing number of contingency (temporary duty) positions requiring officers with FAO skills,” he said.

Some FAOs are assigned to major commands in the states as political military affairs officers, while others participate in officer exchange programs or work in security assistance, Captain Kim said.

Language is just the first part of becoming an FAO. The applicant will also need “global skills,” according to Lt. Col. Mike Nolta, chief of the FAO program.

“With today’s global mission requirements, all officers should possess some global skills,” Colonel Nolta said. “Possessing global skills means having knowledge of important international issues that shape U.S. policy and an appreciation of how cultural differences play an important role in accomplishing our political and military objectives around the world. FAOs have in-depth regional expertise that includes strong language proficiency coupled with an extensive understanding their country and region of focus.”

A number of FAOs come from two groups: heritage speakers and native speakers. A heritage speaker is an American who learned a foreign language because it was spoken in his or her household growing up. A native speaker is a person who was born and raised in a

foreign country.

Captain Kim, a native speaker, came to the United States from Kwanju, South Korea, when he was 16 to live on his sister’s farm in Kentucky. He did not know a word of English then, but was fluent by the time he graduated from Air Force ROTC at the University of Louisville.

He was commissioned and assigned as a civil engineer to Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. Captain Kim was then assigned to Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, and followed that with an assignment to Osan AB, South Korea.

In his Korean assignments, he used his language skills to translate between his commander and host nation representatives on building projects. He also used his skills to translate contracts from English to Korean and from Korean to English.

“The Air Force would have found a way to do this without me, but it was much easier because I knew the civil engineering terminology involved,” Captain Kim said.

It was during his last assignment that Captain Kim applied for the FAO program and was assigned state-side as an FAO mentor because of his expertise. He said he looks forward to returning to Korea in a joint command position where he will be directly involved in the day-to-day interface between the U.S. military and its South Korean counterpart.

There are many officers who are neither heritage nor native speakers; they are self-taught. Some were assigned overseas and made the effort to learn the local language, while others learned a foreign language for college credit.

“Being self-taught shows a lot of initiative, and that’s the kind of officer we’re looking for,” Captain Kim said.

To help officers develop language skills, the FAO pro-

gram office created the Language and Area Studies Immersion Program. The 30-day in-country training program, which is open to all officers, builds language skills while also focusing on geo-political issues and local customs. Many officers take the course for a particular country while en route to an assignment there.

To be considered for the immersion or FAO program, an officer must demonstrate a certain level of proficiency on the Defense Language Proficiency Test. The test measures reading and listening comprehension of a foreign language.

The FAO Web site explains how the test is scored and has an interactive message board where program managers answer questions about the FAO and associated programs.

The FAO Air Force specialty code, 16F, is a secondary duty designation. An officer’s primary duty career field manager determines the officer’s availability to the program. A FAO tour is generally three years in length.

Captain Kim said the FAO program is made up of volunteers, and while the office does not recruit, it does reach out to Air Force ROTC programs and the U.S. Air Force Academy to encourage cadets to take an interest in foreign studies and language.

“We hope to plant the seed that will make them consider the FAO program in their future plans,” Captain Kim said.

Kids need supervision for safe summer

2ND LT. KEVIN TUTTLE
56th Fighter Wing public affairs

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. (AFPN) — Summer is the season when families take vacations, children enjoy their time off from school and everyone tries to stay cool in the hot weather.

Unfortunately, some children will drown this summer.

According to the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, drowning is the greatest summertime risk for children 14 and younger. Two-thirds of childhood drownings oc-

cur May through August, making summertime the most dangerous time of year for children.

Children 4 and younger have the highest drowning death rate of all, two to three times greater than other age groups. Children 4 and younger account for 80 percent of home drownings.

To get relief from the summer heat, people retreat to pools, local lakes and other bodies of water. These events are great, as long as children receive constant supervision, according to safety officials.

“Never take your eyes off of children around water...period,” said Roger Cox, 56th Fighter Wing ground safety manager. “Whether it’s a bucket of water or your bathtub at home, it only takes an inch of water for an infant to drown. Kids should always be supervised by an adult around water.”

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, 75 percent of drowning victims were missing for five minutes or less. For every child who drowns, four children

are hospitalized for near-drowning. One third of those children will suffer significant neurological damage.

“There is no reason another child needs to be lost to drowning this summer,” Mr. Cox said. “Supervise your children and send them back to school this fall to discuss their summer vacations with their classmates. Don’t let your child be the one to not come back to school.”

(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)

TRICARE travel reimbursable

SGT. 1ST CLASS KATHLEEN T. RHEM
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Travel expenses incurred while seeking specialty care are reimbursable in certain circumstances under new TRICARE rules.

Nonactive-duty TRICARE Prime beneficiaries can be reimbursed for “reasonable travel expenses” when they are required to travel more than 100 miles from their primary care manager’s office, according to TRICARE officials. This benefit is retroactive to Oct. 30, 2000.

The new rules also allow a nonmedical attendant to accompany the nonactive-duty patient. This is retroactive to Dec. 28, 2001.

Specifics must be met for reimbursement:

— The primary care provider must refer the patient for the specialty care.

— The travel distance for specialty care must be at least 100 miles from the primary

care manager’s office, regardless of the distance from the patient’s home.

— To qualify for reimbursement for a non-medical attendant’s expenses, the patient’s primary care manager must indicate the attendant is necessary. The attendant also must be a parent, guardian or other family member 21 or older, TRICARE officials said.

Expenses for lodging and meals will be reimbursed up to the government per diem rate for the location of the specialty care. Receipts are required for amounts more than \$75.

Travel reimbursement is handled by each service, so the program may vary slightly among services, TRICARE officials said. They recommend patients with questions or seeking reimbursement contact their local TRICARE beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator. To locate the nearest coordinator, visit www.tricare.osd.mil/beneficiary/beneficiary/BCACDirectory.htm.

Policy requires medical records be kept at military facility

In a continuing effort to provide patients with quality service, the 325th Medical Group requests that patients return any outpatient medical record in their possession immediately to outpatient records. The upkeep and maintenance of medical records at the military treatment facility is the key to appropriate medical care as well as legal and administrative proceedings.

Medical records are the property of the United States Government and must be available for the following reasons: 1) To provide a communication link to health-care providers for the continuity of patient care; 2) To provide information to health-care

providers for quality assurance, evaluation, and improvement of treatment methods; 3) To be used as evidence of treatment and justifications for reimbursement claims to third party payers; 4) To be used as legal evidence for patients, physicians and to facility.

If a patient desires a copy of their outpatient medical record for their personal file, he or she will need to fill out a request for release of medical information, and a medical staff member will make copies. The first 100 pages are free, however, there will be a charge of 15 cents per page for the remainder. Due to a huge increase in demand for copying

records, patients must submit their request at least 30 duty days prior to receiving their copies.

Medical information from health records will not be released to any person or agency without written consent of the patient concerned or their legal representative. This includes radiology and laboratory results. In order to obtain consent for the Release of Outpatient Medical Records form, patients are asked to go to the Tyndall Family Practice Clinic and complete the form. For more information about this policy, call the medical group records manager at 283-7750.

(Courtesy 325th Medical Group)

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

Gulf Guide

**in the
Tyndall community**

JULY

FRI
5

Housing office closure

The 325th Civil Engineer Squadron housing office is closed today in observance of family day. The office will reopen 7:30 a.m. Monday.

MON
8

'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
9

TSP briefings

Military Thrift Savings Plan briefings will be held at various times Tuesday in the family support center classroom. For more information or to make a reservation for one of the 30-minute briefings, call the family support center, 283-4204.

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
10

Hispanic heritage meeting

Tyndall's Hispanic Heritage Committee's meeting will be 2 p.m. Wednesday in the NCO Academy's conference room. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Ray Coriano, 283-3238.

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
11

Change of commands

Maj. David Kennedy assumes command of the 325th Contracting Squadron from Maj. Scott Savoie 9 a.m. Thursday in the Tyndall Officers' Club. Also, Lt. Col. Patrick Marshall

assumes command of the 1st Fighter Squadron from Lt. Col. David Freaney at 3:01 p.m. Thursday in Hangar 2.

Cooking demonstration

A "Healthy Snacks for Kids" cooking demonstration will be noon Thursday at the health and wellness center. For more information, call 283-3826.

NOTES

Transition-assistance workshop

A three-day transition-assistance workshop for anyone leaving the military within the next 12 months will be 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. July 16-18. The workshop topics will include analyzing skills, setting personal goals, starting the job search, resume writing, interview skills, veterans benefits and much more. Spouses and Department of Defense civilians are welcome. For more information or reservations, call the family support center, 283-4204.

Co-ed volleyball league

The Bay County YMCA is starting a co-ed adult summer volleyball league. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Ray Coriano, 283-3238.

New York Air Guard positions

Traditional Air Guard positions and full-time active-duty openings exist with the 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, New York, home of the C-130 ski-birds. For more information, call Master Sgt. Wesley Ryerson, DSN 344-2456 or (800) 524-5070, or e-mail: Wesley.Ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil.

Guardian ad Litem training

The Guardian ad Litem program needs individuals to help represent the best interest of abused and neglected children. The next training session begins July 15. For more information, call the Guardian ad Litem office, 747-5180.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

The following Catholic services will be held at Chapel 2: Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday; Reconciliation, after Saturday Mass or by appointment; Saturday Mass, 5 p.m.; Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m.; religious education, 11 a.m. Sunday. Protestant services will be as follows: Communion service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel 1; general Protestant service, 11 a.m., Chapel 2.

RETIREE NEWS

Will service available

Many retirees believe that those nearest and dearest to them will automatically inherit their assets after their death. This is partially correct. Proceeds from trusts, insurance policies and accrued but unpaid military benefits will go directly to the beneficiaries that have been named. However, if you do not have a will, the rest of your property will be distributed according to state law.

Because estate disputes arise when emotions are high, they can result in long-term damage to family relationships. A will dictates not only where your money goes, it also can be used to determine who receives treasured possessions of both monetary and sentimental value. A will does not have to be complicated. It can be short and simple, as long as it clarifies your wishes. Once a will is prepared, it should be reviewed and updated if required every few years, or when a major change in your life occurs, such as divorce, death of a beneficiary or a new marriage. The absence of a will unnecessarily complicates the settlement of your estate. Making a will is considered to be one of the kindest things you can do for your family.

The Tyndall legal office can, by appointment, prepare both traditional and living wills for retirees. To find out more or to make an appointment, call the legal office, 283-4681.

Death of a Social Security beneficiary

When a person receiving Social Security benefits dies, a family member or other person responsible for the beneficiary's affairs should promptly notify Social Security of the beneficiary's death by calling the Social Security Administration toll free at (800) 772-1213. If monthly benefits were being paid via direct deposit, notify the bank or other financial institution of the beneficiary's death. Request that any funds received for the month of death and later be returned to Social Security as soon as possible. If benefits were being paid by check, do not cash any checks received for the month in which the beneficiary died or thereafter. Return the checks to Social Security as soon as possible.

One-time lump sum death benefit

A one-time payment of \$255 is payable to the surviving spouse if he or she was living with the beneficiary at the time of death, or if living apart, was receiving Social Security benefits on the beneficiary's earning record. If there is no surviving spouse, the payment is made to a child who was eligible for benefits on the beneficiary's earnings record in the month of death. The following booklets contain information about filing for benefits and can be downloaded from the Social Security Internet site at www.ssa.gov/ under their publications section: "Survivors Benefits" (publication No. 0510084) or "Social Security: Understanding the Benefits" (publication No. 05-10024). The booklets are also available at local Social Security offices or by calling (800) 772-1212.

CLASSIFIEDS

1992 Ford Thunderbird, excellent condition, automatic, V6, 103,500 miles, \$2,400 or best offer. Call for details, 286-1252.

CD player, Pioneer 200, six months old, good condition, recently cleaned, \$100. Call 624-8960.

DOD civilians, military qualify for Vacation Club benefits

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Servicemembers and Department of Defense civilians are eligible to rent condominiums in certain resorts around the world as part of a vacation club arrangement between the Army and a civilian corporation.

Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation arranged with Cendant Corp. and one of its subsidiaries, Resort Condominiums International, to offer the condos at reduced rates to active and Reserve servicemembers, military retirees, DoD civilians and any other persons eligible to use military morale, welfare and recreation services.

The deal offers condominium unit rentals for \$234 per week at selected resorts. The normal rates are \$600 to \$1,500 per week in season, according to Verlin Abbott, Cendant national vice president for the DOD and government marketing.

"I have gotten phone calls from scores of individual MWR offices talking about how great the program is — received e-mails from hundreds of places around the country from active-duty soldiers, retired military and DOD civilians, asking how to sign up," said Dan Yount, chief of Army leisure travel services. "The program has generated a lot of positive response from people."

Mr. Yount said he thinks the program is a good deal for the DOD community.

"I've stayed in some of these places at a much higher rate," he said. "It cost me \$1,000-plus. So \$234 a week for anything from a three-bedroom unit to an efficiency is a good deal. Also, these units are renovated every three years. These are great places."

More than 327 military bases currently take part in the program, which started as a test project with 18 Washington, D.C.-area military installations in November 1998. The program expanded nationwide in August 1999. Military officials recently began to promote the program overseas to take advantage of the many condominium resorts outside the United States, MWR representatives said.

Cendant/RCI manages more than 3,700 time-share resorts worldwide. The discount arrangement is possible because not all resort units are used by owners or rented all the time. The company must pay upkeep costs, but receives no revenue while units are vacant.

Mr. Abbott, a retired Army officer, said the condo rentals are made available at near-cost to military members and DOD civilians. "This way, we're able to cover expenses and the service member is getting a fun, inexpensive vacation," he said.

In the arrangement between the Army and RCI, the vacationer can get information about the Armed Forces Vacation Club from any MWR Information,



Tickets and Reservation office or Information, Tickets and Tours office, or they can get information and book reservations either online or via a toll-free telephone reservation center.

Access to club information is available by visiting the Army's "Great Travel Deals" Web site at www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/traveldeals and clicking on the Armed Forces Vacation Club logo.

In navigating the club Web site, visitors will find a list of available units and dates among the thousands of participating resorts for booking, all for \$234 for seven nights. Servicemembers or civilians can reserve a condo using a major credit card. The MWR office receives \$22 for every reservation booked.

Some restrictions apply. Confirmed vacations are not transferable. The customer purchasing the space-available voucher must check in at the resort and be at least 21 years old. Pets are not allowed at any location.

Mr. Abbott said servicemembers and civilians must be flexible with their requests. "You're not going to get Vail (Colorado) at Christmas," he said. "Gen-

erally, what's available is off-season or on relatively short notice." In fact, most vacancies aren't posted until 14 to 21 days before the scheduled date of arrival, he said.

Participating resorts have different amenities. Typically, condos feature up to three bedrooms, a living room and fully equipped full or partial kitchens. Many units have laundry facilities or such amenities as whirlpool tubs or fireplaces. Guests have access to on-site or nearby facilities, such as beaches, golf courses, tennis courts, spas, ski slopes, fishing lakes, hiking paths, horseback riding, restaurants and shops. Many resorts also provide planned adult and children's activities.

RCI is a time-share exchange company, but servicemembers and DOD civilians have no obligation to sit through sales pitches or other presentations, Mr. Yount said.

For more information on the club program and other discount travel packages and specials, check with the ITT offices or visit www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/travelresources.

Multiple-fatality accidents highlight need for safety

MASTER SGT. RON TULL
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The first weekend of summer brought with it three separate car accidents that resulted in seven Air Force people losing their lives.

John Russell, the Air Force's chief of ground safety at the Air Force Safety Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., said the accidents, two of which killed three Air Force members each, should serve as a startling reminder of the importance of safety.

"It's quite alarming, particularly because it's the first time that my staff can recall multiple fatality mishaps of this magnitude

in such a short time frame," Mr. Russell said.

The first mishap of the June 22 to 23 weekend was a weather-related single car accident during a storm in Jacksonville, Fla., that killed Staff Sgt. Lindsey Renee Atchison, 22, from the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing.

In the second accident, an airman and his two passengers died when their automobile hit a concrete overpass. All were stationed at Shaw AFB, S.C. They were identified as 19-year-old Airman Dijon Williams, Airman Coy Vickers, also 19, and Senior Airman George Ellis, 24.

The third accident involved a

vehicle driven by 1st Lt. George Hernandez, 25, crossing the center line of a highway near Ciudad Acuna, Mexico, and hitting a bus head-on, killing Hernandez and 1st Lts. John Raber, 24, and Scott McEwan, 25. All three were stationed at Laughlin AFB, Texas.

Preliminary indications are that excessive speed and loss of control were contributing factors in the last two.

"It's quite devastating," Mr. Russell said. "Many of the coworkers and friends are significantly impacted by these types of events. Particularly when a base or squadron has to deal with multiple fatalities at once."

While the circumstances that

create these tragedies come together in the blink of an eye, Mr. Russell said that input from the passengers could have made a difference.

"There were other opportunities in the vehicle that could have helped minimize the situation or even prevent it from occurring," he said. "Passengers can take responsibility for their safety by being another set of eyes on the road and assisting the driver."

A common factor the Air Force officials identified in off-duty accidents is the primary age group of those involved. The typical victim is male and younger than 26.

Air Force studies have found that younger members lack driv-

ing skills, caused in part by a decrease in driver education classes that were once a traditional rite of passage in high school.

Officials hope to combat this with a major overhaul of Air Force driving safety programs, including a curriculum that is customized to an individual's driving lifecycle.

As Air Force members hit the road for the Fourth of July weekend, Mr. Russell said everyone must apply their on-duty safety standards to their off-duty activities.

"It's just so unfortunate that we are losing valuable resources as a result of these types of events," he said.

Funshine NEWS

July 5, 2002

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

YES!
Membership Pays!
Here's How...

Air Force Club Scholarship Program

Entry deadline is July 15.
Contact Services Marketing at 283-4565.

Sponsored in part by:
First USA Bank of Wilmington, Delaware.
No federal endorsement of sponsor intended.

Officers Club Dues Reduced!

CGOs \$15, Retirees \$16
Dues will be reduced another \$1
if we have 100 members join.

Tyndall Officers Club All Ranks Super Sunday Brunch! July 7, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

\$6.95 Members
\$8.95 Non-members

Menu Includes:

Omelets (made to order)	Fresh Fruit
Belgian Waffles	Muffins
Sausage	Danish
Bacon	and Biscuits & Gravy
Hash Browns	

Member Appreciation Program

During this year's member rewards program, one Tyndall Club Member will win a **Family Trip to Orlando FL** and another will win a **week's stay at their choice of a world-wide resort location** and others will win **local prizes**.

When dining at your club during July, receive an entry form when your food purchase totals \$2 or more. Weekly local prizes are awarded and can be redeemed on your next visit. Prize One and Two winners will be drawn Aug. 1.

■ **Prize One:** Vacation package for two adults and two children (no more than two under 17 years of age) to Orlando FL. Prize package includes travel, four-night hotel stay, and a family package of Orlando FLEXTICKET for admission to Universal Studios, Universal's Islands of Adventure, Wet n Wild Water Park, and Sea World Orlando.

■ **Prize Two:** One-week stay at a world-wide resort location of your choice through AFVC.



No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

Soccer Registration

Soccer registration starts July 8th for ages 4-13 yrs. A copy of the child's birth certificate, shot records, and current physical must be on file to register. There are also openings still in the MLS Soccer Camp.

Information, Tickets & Travel

☎ 283-2499

Florida Caverns Tour

July 20, Cost per person is \$7.50 and includes transportation and admittance to the park. A tour of the caverns (fee not included in trip cost) and a nature trail are highlights. Sign up deadline is July 12.

Seaside Florida Tour

July 23. Play at the beach and shop the quaint stores at Seaside. Cost per person is \$5.

Service Fee

Beginning July 15th we will be implementing a service fee of \$20 per airline ticket, with a maximum charge per family of \$30. This fee is replacing the airline commissions which are no longer paid to ITT and covers our operating expenses. Downtown agencies implemented this in March. This fee is considerably less than downtown travel agencies are charging. If you are a Tyndall AF Club member fee is \$18 and family maximum is \$27.

Family Child Care

☎ 283-2266

Office Hours for FCC

Beginning June 3: Mon.-Fri.: 12:30-1:30 p.m. Other hours by appointment.

Pelican Point Golf Course

Tyndall AFB Tryouts
July 13 & 14, 20 & 21

for the
AETC Golf Championship Tournament
coming in September

Three Divisions: Men's, Seniors (over 40) & Ladies
Must be active duty to tryout.

Twilight Golf ☎ 283-4389

Twilight golf starts at 1 p.m. every day. Cost is \$15 for military and \$18 for guests.

THANK YOU!

*Tyndall Federal Credit Union
and First Command for
sponsoring Heritage Day!*

No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

Skills Development Ctr.

☎ 283-4511

Auto Hobby Shop Open Sundays
12:30-6:30 p.m.

Framing Class

Available on Thurs. 5-7 p.m. Costs \$30 which includes 8x10 frame supplies. Must preregister for class.

Altitude

with *Attitude!*

Join the Aero Club by the end of Aug. 2002 & you could win:

- \$100 flight scholarship
- SoftComm C-90 Headset
- \$84 Proficiency Flight Scholarship
- \$100 toward flight time

(awarded to pilot with most monthly hours)

Upcoming Classes

Private Pilot Ground: July 10
Commercial Instruments: July 15
Call 283-4404
for more information.

FREE AEROBICS CLASSES

Free aerobics classes are available at the Tyndall Fitness Center. The New Energy team of instructors offers a large variety of classes for the month of July.

- Cardio-Kickboxing at beginning level
- muscle fit
- advanced step
- basic step
- Butts-n-Guts
- hi-low

Work at your own fitness level, and remember to have fun!

Call 283-2631 for more information

Pool Hours

Hours:
Fitness (Lap) Swim:

Tues. 6-7:30 a.m.
Wed.-Fri.: 6-7:30 a.m.,
11-11:30 a.m., 5-6:30 p.m.

Open Swim:

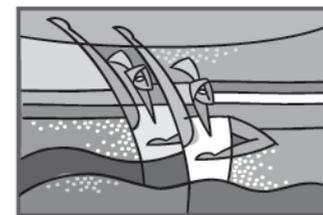
Wed.-Sun.: 11:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Fees:

- Open Swim: \$1 per person per visit
- Season Pass: \$35 per person unlimited use plus \$5 for each family member with a max. of \$50 per family.
- 30 Visit punch pass: \$20
- Fitness (Lap) Swim is free

283-3199

Water Aerobics



Aquafit: Take this fun filled, relaxed aerobics class that's moved from land to water, without feeling cheated out of an intense workout.

Aquabox: This is what you get when you mix water aerobics with a dash of kick-boxing -- an action packed, effective workout without joint stress

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays
6:30-7:30 a.m. at the Base Pool

Questions?
283-3199

Community Activity Ctr.

☎ 283-2495

CAC Odds & Ends Flea Market

July 20, 7-11 a.m. CAC back parking lot (Weather Permitting) Cost: \$5.00 per slot. Spaces are limited. Deadline for sign-up: July 17

Yoga Classes

Thurs. 6:15-7:30 p.m. (Begins Aug. 22)
Cost is \$60 per person for 5 classes.
Min. of 10 people required for class.

