

# GULF DEFENDER



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Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

March 29, 2002

## In brief

### AAFES Easter hours

The following Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities will be closed on Sunday in observance of Easter: Service station – retail section (pay at the pump will be available), Shoal Point Shoppette, Burger King, General Nutrition Center, barber shop. All other facilities will operate using normal Sunday hours.

### Vehicle parking

All vehicles in the Tyndall Military housing area will be parked in authorized spaces – carpools, 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, parking will be on the side 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. Housing inspectors will also issue discrepancy notices for parking on the grass.

## Inside



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Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely

## Tyndall goes 'prime-time'

**A two-ship of 95th Fighter Squadron F-15 Eagles climbs above CBS cameraman Leon Melas as he films the action at Tyndall Air Force Base for the series *American Fighter Pilot*. The show, which highlights the training of three U.S. Air Force pilots as they progress through the F-15 course here, premieres at 7 p.m. tonight. Check out Pages 8 and 9 for more.**

## Total Force tanker support key to F-22 test success

**LEIGH ANNE BIERSTINE**

Air Force Flight Test Center public affairs

Deploying around the world in support of various Air Force operations is nothing new for tanker crews stationed at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind. But Last October, crews from the 434th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom embarked on a new mission — supporting F-22 flight-testing at Edwards.

While the F-22 Combined Test Force receives support from tanker crews across the country, crews from Grissom have become a constant at Edwards. They have deployed one or two KC-135Rs to the base almost every week since early October to refuel the F-22 during test missions. In all, the crews have flown more than 400 hours in support of the Raptor and are considered regulars at the 418th Flight Test Squadron. The squadron manages all of Edwards' business effort tankers, which fly in and out of the base to support various flight tests.

● SEE F-22 PAGE 4

## U.S. keeps watch over Afghan Khost region

**LINDA D. KOZARYN**  
American Forces Press Service

U.S. military officials are carefully watching the Khost area in Afghanistan where al Qaeda and former Taliban fighters may be regrouping.

"The Khost area is a tense situation. It remains a dangerous place," Air Force Brig. Gen. John W. Rosa told reporters at the Pentagon recently. U.S. forces continue surveillance and intelligence gathering in that area, he said.

The Joint Staff spokesman gave no details about the intelligence U.S. officials have. "We continue to observe, but to start to characterize at this point in time what we're seeing, I think, is a bit premature," he said.

Pentagon spokeswoman Torie Clarke said U.S. officials expect and anticipate encounters with more pockets of resistance. Al Qaeda and Taliban forces have been in a regrouping mode, she said, "so we fully expect it and it's one of the reasons we're still there."

The primary U.S. mission in Afghanistan now is finding Taliban and al Qaeda pockets of resistance, the general said.

U.S. forces have flown over 150 sorties over Afghanistan with no direct enemy contact, he said. Some have been intelligence gathering, surveillance and reconnaissance missions, General Rosa said, and others include close-air support standby in case of enemy resistance.

"Obviously, you'd like to have them in one big cluster and be able to mount an attack and

do as much damage as you can," he said. "When they get in smaller clusters, it makes it a bigger challenge to locate them, to track them, and for each one of those small pockets, you have to develop a plan of attack. It makes it a little more tense from our perspective."

U.S. forces continue to clean up the Afghan area involved in Operation Anaconda, General Rosa added. Troops are searching caves and finding books, writings, ammunition and other equipment.

"When we use the word 'cave,' the big deep cave comes to mind," General Rosa said. "Some of these are smaller facilities — ammunition storage facilities. To the naked eye, it looks like a crack or a crevice in the mountain."

# Team Tyndall goes prime-time tonight

**BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM F. HODGKINS**

325th Fighter Wing commander



It was a busy weekend for Team Tyndall. I want to congratulate and thank each of you for your tremendous dedication and representing the base so well at Gulf Coast Salute 2002. Nearly 65,000 people were able to come out to the base and enjoy the festivities.

Events like the Gulf Coast Salute ensure our relationship with the local community remains one of the best, if not the best, in the Air Force.

We all know that Bay County and its surrounding communities have shared a lasting friendship with Tyndall, and let me tell you, accomplishing the mission without strong community support is impossible. It would have been easy not to have an open house. However, our community neighbors are worth it. You only have to look back, following the attack on America, as countless Bay County residents rallied around us asking how they could help. Businesses raised funds for



**“Hosting Gulf Coast Salute and providing folks an opportunity to learn a little bit more about the military’s and Tyndall’s missions was well worth the effort.”**

**BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM F. HODGKINS**

325th Fighter Wing commander

victims and others continue to show support. The Bay County Leadership Bay class of 2002, for example, is even building a Bay County Sept. 11 memorial to honor America’s heroism, resolve and patriotism. Does Bay County appreciate its military? You bet. As you can see, hosting Gulf Coast Salute and providing folks an opportunity to learn a little bit more about the military’s and Tyndall’s various missions was well worth the effort and very much appreciated.

It takes lots of people and countless hours to coordinate the many aerial acts, activities, aircraft and booths that were on display. Setting up, moving airplanes, and then when it’s

all over, getting back to normal operations is no easy task. However, all the pieces came together and a first-class event was the end result. This feat is amazing considering we had a little more than 90 days to plan and execute the event.

I’d like to thank Maj. Barry “Yak” Luff, the 325th Fighter Wing open house project officer, for leading the way and delivering in fine fashion. Thanks to everyone on the open house committee and all of you who had a role in making this event a resounding success, especially our security forces and ready augmentee professionals. They did a fantas-

●SEE THANKS PAGE 3

## 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

# Looking in through the out door

## Four years’ worth of reflections and thoughts from a military journalist

**SENIOR AIRMAN RUSSELL CROWE**

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Most of you have never heard of me. And no, before you ask, I’m not the actor or the Gladiator or the guy who didn’t win at the Oscars Sunday. I am, or more appropriately have been, your newspaper editor over the last year and a half. I’ve had the pleasure of working with and meeting so many great people and being a part of so many team efforts since I signed up for this gig four years ago. From Kosovo to Bosnia, Camaroon to Italy and Baltimore to Panama City, I’ve been able to see first-hand what makes our Air Force so great. Having been in a job where I was allowed to glimpse and sometimes even enter into so many of YOUR worlds, from dedicated crew chiefs turning wrenches on the flightline and medical technicians prepping for an emergency brain surgery to explosive ordnance disposal airmen suit-

ing up, I’ve been fortunate enough to meet and be allowed to enter your lives – thank you for letting us tell the Air Force and the world what great work you do.

As I begin packing my bags and I walk away from this week’s Gulf Defender, my last, I can look back and see that as a team, we’ve accomplished some amazing things – air shows, open houses, community involvement, Habitat for Humanity, national television programs, supporting the war on terror and all the while continuing to train the greatest fighter pilots in the world. If anyone ever tells you that something can’t be done – look no further than what you have accomplished here – and that’s just what we’ve run in our paper.

If you’ve picked up a Gulf Defender lately, you probably noticed that we’ve changed a lot of things – we think for the better. We rebuilt the front-page banner, we tried

to cover more local sports, we added in-depth sections that spell out who, what, when and where – and we did it all because you asked. This is YOUR paper and I want to thank each and every one of YOU for picking it up. I have appreciated your candor in letting me know about mistakes, good articles and things you just had on your mind. Without you, this paper could not be a quality product. I thank you for reading us each week and for taking the time to let us know what you think.

The Marines say ‘Once a Marine, Always a Marine,’ and I think it’s a shame the Air Force doesn’t have a similar moniker. So from me, I’d like to say that it has been a pleasure, an honor and a downright rewarding experience. I hope that you continue to check out the Gulf Defender, to do the daunting task required to fight and win America’s wars, to take care of you and your families and preserve the umbrella of freedom that all Americans live under. Remember, once an airman, always an airman — we’ll see you on down the line.

### Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

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# Mentorship gives everyone chance for growth, progression

**CHIEF MASTER SGT. BILL MCNEW**

10th Air Base Wing superintendent

**T**here is no question, I would not be a chief today if it weren't for my first mentor in the Air Force.

The year was 1986. I was stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz. I was a young technical sergeant without a plan, somewhat stagnant, and not really concerned with where I'd be in five, 10, or 15 years. The group superintendent, a chief, took an interest in me and gave me direction.

He stressed the importance of professional military education and obtained a short-notice slot at the Military Airlift Command NCO Academy for me. He stressed the importance of continuing my off-duty education and obtaining a bachelor's degree. Finally, he told me what it would take for me to continually get promoted. His guidance changed my life forever — the true value of mentorship!

I have always felt that mentorship is not a program, it's a responsibility. Since the inception of the Air Force in September 1947, people have helped others become successful through mentorship.

Most supervisors have heard the term

mentorship or maybe they think they have been doing it all along as part of their good supervision. Ask any airman if he or she has a mentor. You may be surprised by the answer.

Take a moment and think of individuals who have helped you achieve success. Who was the one person you would go to when you had questions concerning promotion, off-duty education, upgrade training, professional military education, assignment possibilities or whether you should stay in the Air Force?

Mentoring is necessary to ensure those who eventually assume leadership roles have the skills needed to successfully complete the mission. Mentorship and supervision are ideal when used together. Mentorship provides an opportunity to make positive differences, enhance relationships and accomplish mission goals and objectives. A mentor should help establish goals and be there to help the mentored achieve those goals, identify the individual's strengths, weaknesses, likes and dislikes. A mentor helps capitalize on strengths and improve weak areas.

To be a mentor, set an example for oth-

●SEE MENTOR PAGE 4

## ●FROM THANKS PAGE 2

tic job of keeping everyone safe, accomplishing a tough job with positive, professional attitudes. There is no doubt in my mind that we have the best cops in the command.

All eyes were on Tyndall this weekend, and we put on a world-class air show. So many of you turned out to help make Gulf Coast Salute 2002 happen and I can't thank you enough for how positively and professionally you did your jobs. My profound thanks to all of you who gave up countless hours in the planning and execution of this year's open house/air show — well done!

Another event that couldn't have succeeded without the hard work of countless folks is the *American Fighter Pilot* television series. Today marks the premiere of *American Fighter Pilot*. It airs on CBS at 7 p.m. While the series highlights one aspect of our mission, it takes a total team effort to accomplish just about everything we do in the Air Force, especially in the business of producing mission-capable F-15C pilots. There are many unsung heroes who work long, tough hours to make sure iron gets airborne and our pilots return home safely. While this series may not highlight all of the hard work and dedicated team effort required to accomplish Tyndall's various missions, the entire Team Tyndall efforts are appreciated and invaluable to our success.

Again, thanks Team Tyndall for all your hard work and for furthering the 325th Fighter Wing's reputation as a first-class organization with world-class people.

●FROM F-22 PAGE 1

According to Lt. Col. Eddie Cabrera, commander of the F-22 Flight Test Squadron at Edwards, the support his team is getting from Grissom is another example of a Total Force win-win.

"These dedicated reservists from Grissom are providing the aerial refueling support we need to keep the F-22 flight test program and timelines on track," Colonel Cabrera said.

Even though the Grissom unit is pushing its maximum capacity supporting real-world events, supporting the F-22 remains a priority, said Master Sgt. Larry Santine, a boom operator with the 74th Air Refueling Squadron at Grissom.

"We are doing everything we can to help them move forward with their testing," he said. "We'll do whatever it takes to continue our support."

Like many of the almost 50 maintenance and operations crewmembers from Grissom, Sergeant Santine has been a constant at Edwards since the support missions began. Leaving Indiana on Monday, spending the week at Edwards and returning home each Friday has become a way of life. Most of the tanker crews are reservists who were activated after the Sept. 11 bombing of the World Trade Center.

"Last couple of months seem like *Groundhog Day*," he said. "I get home Friday, do laundry and relax a little, and then get back on the tanker to Edwards."

He admits the back and forth trips are taxing, but the sense of accomplishment makes it all worthwhile.

"We have done so much flying, and that has made it possible for the F-22 to get a lot of testing done," Sergeant Santine said. "Being a part of a new airplane and making a difference in its development keeps us coming back."

Lt. Col. Brad Knapp, commander of the 74th Air Refueling Squadron, one of two KC-135 squadrons at Grissom, said supporting the F-22 test force has been a great morale-builder for the unit.

The first Grissom crews to come to Edwards built continuity files that outlined the ranges and the fundamentals of the refueling missions. According to Sergeant Santine, the information was shared with follow-on crews so the flow of refueling missions would not be disrupted.

In addition to the continuity of the Grissom tanker support is the flexibility the crews offer the F-22 test force. When takeoff times are moved up or slipped, the crews simply adjust.

"We know these are high-priority missions and we look at them that way," he said. "So when their mission changes, we change with it."

During most missions, the tanker crews offer more than fuel. Sergeant Santine added that during refueling he always checks over the Raptor to see if anything looks "out of place."

"I'm sure they would know if there was something wrong," he said. "But we try to look over aircraft just in case."

The 434th Refueling Wing plans to continue supporting the F-22 Combined Test Force at Edwards for as long as their real-world schedule permits, he said.

●FROM MENTOR PAGE 3

ers to follow. In doing so, you earn respect and trust. Next, make yourself available. Be visible. Once you've established a relationship and begun mentoring, ask yourself from time to time if you are guiding, helping and preparing the person you're mentoring for the future.

Mentorship is a responsibility. However, mentors become better communicators, gain valued interpersonal experience, enhance working relationships and achieve mission objectives in the process. They also help to foster a great working environment, motivate employees, and create relationships where open and honest communication is a goal.

The very essence of mentoring is to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

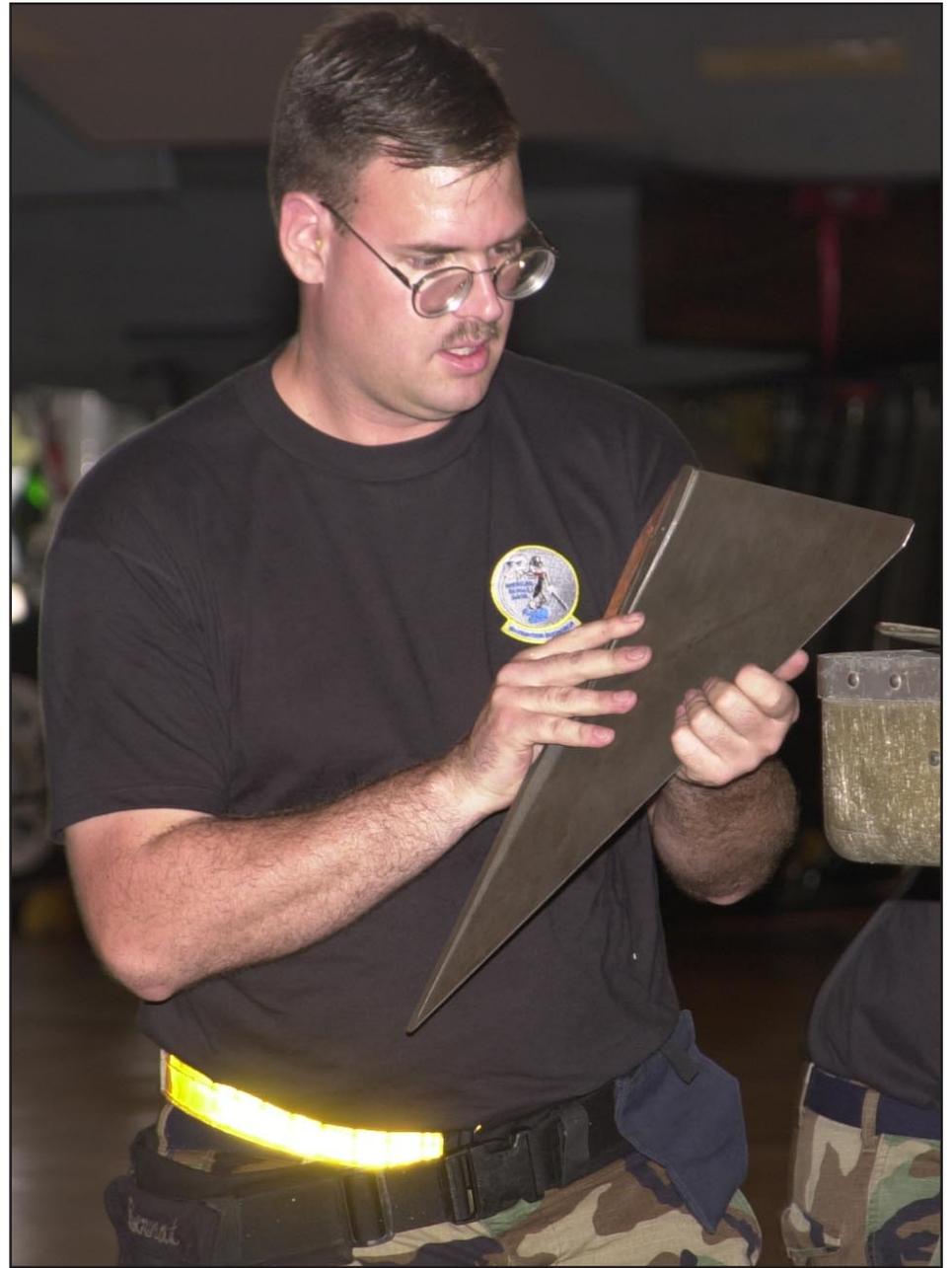
**"Ask any airman if he or she has a mentor. You may be surprised by the answer."**

**CHIEF MASTER SGT. BILL MCNEW**  
10th Air Base Wing superintendent



Kevin Robertson

**Aircrews from the 434th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., are providing key support to F-22 Raptor flight-testing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.**



Steve Wallace

## Turkey Shoot

Staff Sgt. Stephen Bernat, 2nd Fighter Squadron, inspects a CATM-7 fin during a weapons load competition during the Turkey Shoot. The Turkey Shoot is a competition that pits the three fighter training squadrons, the 1st, 2nd and 95th Fighter Squadrons, against each other. Check out next week's paper for an in-depth article and a list of the winners.

# National Nutrition Month

The Gulf Defender, along with Tyndall Health and Wellness officials, celebrates National Nutrition Month

## Childhood obesity...How to halt a growing problem

**2ND LT. AMY BAKER**

Dietetic intern

Joseph, a 10-year-old fourth grader, has a daily routine. He gets up in the morning, typically skips breakfast because he is running late, and his mom drives him to school, which is five blocks away. His friend's mother takes him home after school and Joseph proceeds straight to the fridge and cupboards. It is always the same thing: one can of regular soda (the first of three), the economy-sized bag of chips and a handful of cookies. He immediately heads into the family room where he does one of two things: turns on the video games or boots up the computer. He plays or surfs for two and a half hours, until Mom rings the dinner bell for the evening meal of something quick and easy. One more tidbit of information...Joseph is 4 feet 10 inches tall and weighs nearly 175 pounds.

This scenario is not at all uncommon in the United States. The incidence of childhood obesity is on a steep incline. We are now a country where children as young as 10 years old are being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. According to the American Medical Association, the number of overweight children has increased from 6 to 12 percent over the last two decades.

Why is this happening? The sedentary lifestyles and supersized fast-food meals add up over the course of time. And where do the kids get the idea to lead lives like this? Well, it's often the behavior modeled by their own parents. Our busy lives often cause us to neglect our health by skipping

daily exercise and reaching for fast, unhealthy foods.

What many people do not realize is that the "snacks" they eat often contain as many calories or even more than a regular meal would. If you couple that with the non-calorie-expending behavior of sitting and watching TV for a couple hours, that equals weight gain after repeating the process time and time again. Of course, if an individual does this once in a while it won't hurt. Nor will it hurt if you have a light, low-fat snack and watch TV for a half hour and lead a moderately active lifestyle.

Today's society is so full of technologies that children don't remember the days when your mother booted you out of the house until supper to play tag with the neighbor kids. Food is also so abundant in this country that it wouldn't be difficult to eat too many calories with the amount of snack foods commonly kept in the pantry. It makes sense that kids who are not very physically active and are snacking too often are at high risk for becoming overweight or obese.

We can change this trend by making smarter choices and getting out and moving! If not for our own health, then for the health of our children. If mom and dad have started keeping healthier choices in the house, spend less time in front of the television, and make fitness a family event, then the children are likely to follow these healthy lifestyle patterns.

For more information, contact the nutrition clinic at 283-7552.

### Tips for the parent with an overweight or obese child

- Do not overly restrict food or encourage strict dieting as this can lead to eating disorders.
- Encourage more exercise for the whole family, such as bike rides, basketball games, camping trips with plenty of hiking, Frisbee in the yard, dog walking...
- You are the parent...limit television, video games and mindless Internet surfing.
- Keep many healthy snack options in the house, but do not eliminate all "junk foods." Instead, encourage moderate portions of these items as well as for all foods.
- If possible, have after-school snacks ready to go: a pre-portioned bowl of potato chips and an apple, or celery sticks spread with a small amount of peanut butter and a quarter cup of raisins.
- Discourage children from taking the whole bag, box or container of any food in front of the television. Have them put a serving on a plate or in a bowl.
- Have a list of chores for your child to do after school.
- Do not allow your child to skip breakfast. Have cut-up fresh fruit, hard-boiled eggs, English muffins or a serving of Carnation Instant Breakfast made with skim milk ready for them to grab on rushed mornings.
- Prepare healthier meals for the entire family. Never make one serving of a "diet food" for your overweight child while the rest of the family eats the "regular" dish.

## Today in history

- 1461** Edward IV secures his claim to the English throne in defeating Henry VI's Lancastrians at the battle of Towdon.
- 1638** A permanent European colony is established in present-day Delaware.
- 1847** U.S. troops under Gen. Winfield Scott take possession of the Mexican stronghold at Vera Cruz.
- 1867** The United States purchases Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million dollars.
- 1886** Coca-Cola goes on sale for the first time at a drug-store in Atlanta. Its inventor, Dr. John Pemberton, claims it can cure anything from hysteria to the common cold.
- 1913** The German government announces a raise in taxes in order to finance the new military budget.
- 1916** The Italians call off the fifth attack on Isonzo.
- 1936** Italy firebombs the Ethiopian city of Harar.
- 1941** The British sink five Italian warships off the Peloponnesus coast in the Mediterranean.
- 1951** The Chinese reject Gen. Douglas MacArthur's offer for a truce in Korea.
- 1966** Leonid Brezhnev becomes First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party. He denounces the American policy in Vietnam and calls it one of aggression.
- 1967** France launches its first nuclear submarine.
- 1971** Lt. William L. Calley Jr. is found guilty for his actions in the My Lai massacre.
- 1973** The last U.S. troops withdraw from South Vietnam.
- 1976** Eight Ohio National Guardsmen are indicted for shooting four Kent State students during an anti-war protest on May 4, 1970.

## Special Olympics successful thanks to volunteers

COURTESY OF THE TYNDALL  
SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMMITTEE

For over thirty years, Tyndall Air Force Base has sponsored the Area 2 Florida Special Olympics. This year, like many others in the past, was a complete success. With the weather on our side, the Area 2 games officially kicked off with over 250 athletes from Bay and Jackson Counties and 475 Tyndall volunteers present.

March 16 marked a monumental period for both Tyndall and the Florida Special Olympics. According to the Area 2 Games Coordinator Barbara Churchwell, "Our relationship with Tyndall has been a long-lasting one. With thirty years behind us, we always look forward to working with Tyndall every year." This year, like many others, proved why this relationship has been so special.

Despite Force Protection Bravo security measures, Tyndall's Security Forces, led by Master Sergeants Dan Trahan and Todd Matthews, spearheaded all efforts to safely transport over 1,000 people onto the base. This seemingly daunting process took only two hours, with all vehicles thoroughly searched. With security a priority, the games were running the risk of being cancelled.

According to the Tyndall games director, 2nd Lt. Ryan Nash, "It seemed like a huge problem at first, but Sergeant Trahan and company took care of business."

Those very same efforts were taken by the Special Olympics planning committee. "We knew that the success of these games did not rest entirely on our efforts. More importantly, the success of these games rested with how much the athletes enjoyed their day," he added. "It was an awesome feeling to see Tyndall respond in the same way. Because of the hard work of Captain Lori Vessels, volunteer coordinator, Tyndall showed up with more than 475 volunteers ready to partake in one very special day in these athletes' lives." Their efforts, despite the early morning chaos of matching athletes with escorts, were gleaming throughout the day.

Included with the volunteer coordination, various other committees spearheaded opening ceremonies, set-up/tear down, entertainment, awards, food, sports and computer support. Committee coordinators, such as 2nd Lt. Adam Avnent and Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Rausa have been on the committee in years past, always eager to return year after year. Sergeant Rausa, the sports coordinator, said "These games are a small part to make a difference in these kids' lives. I have done the coordination for the

athletic sporting events for over three years, each year more rewarding than the previous. You can never forget their smiles." Their smiles, starting the minute that they walk off the bus, to the start of the opening ceremonies, were never ending throughout the day.

From 2nd Lt. Jason Rooks acquiring over \$2,000 worth of food and refreshments from local volunteering agencies to 2nd Lt. Keith Benko in charge of set-up/tear down coordination, the games

●SEE EVENT PAGE 10



Capt. Chris Karns

**The Rutherford High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Honor Guard leads athletes in the parade to start off the event March 16.**

# ‘Supporting cast’

*Maintainers pack punch for CBS TV series, Tyndall pilots*

**TECH. SGT. DAN NEELY**  
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

After nearly two years of unprecedented camera coverage, the Tyndall Air Force Base air superiority training mission is being televised to millions of viewers nationwide. But while F-15C pilots from Tyndall’s 95th Fighter Squadron are the central focus, a world-class supporting cast labored 24/7, far from the camera lenses, to make all those hot flying scenes possible — the 95th FS “Boneheads” maintenance team. Without these men and women, squadron officials say, the Eagles wouldn’t fly, period.

“While the television show highlights the training of F-15C pilots, many more individuals behind the scenes work very hard to provide top-notch fighter jets and mission support to make this training possible,” said Lt. Col. Matthew Donovan, 95th FS commander. “Fighter pilots comprise only 10 percent of the 95th FS, the vast majority of my folks work extremely hard to provide everything from airworthy mission-capable aircraft, to critical life support equipment and training, to scheduling the airspace our jets fly in.”

“It takes a certain type of dedication to be an aircraft maintainer, be it crew chief, avionics specialist, electrician, weapons loader, sheet metal or engine technician,” said Capt. Dwight Minnick, 95th FS Sortie Generation



**Airman 1st Class Raphael Lugo, a 95th FS avionics specialist, checks his tool cart inventory following a maintenance procedure.**



**95th Fighter Squadron crew chiefs and specialists tend to one of their F-15C Eagles as they prepare it for a scheduled flight.**

Flight commander. “The work is often hard and the hours are long, but at the end of the day they know that their work directly contributes to the mission.”

“The maintainers in every fighter squadron on this ramp ensure our aircraft are ready to meet any challenge in our global environment,” the captain continued. “While we do have our traditional friendly squadron rivalries, we also work together as a team and produce the best maintained F-15 fleet in the Air Force.”

Despite the fact that flightsuits rather than BDUs will be in the national spotlight for eight one-hour episodes, Tyndall’s flightline wrench turners aren’t taking anything away from their high-flying teammates. All maintainers who were interviewed instead expressed as much pride in the pilots’ newfound fame as their own critical roles in supporting them.

“I’m proud ... that I have a chance to participate in this (series) and be part of the team,” said Airman 1st Class Jorge Garcia, a 95th FS avionics specialist. I think it’s going to do a lot, not just for the unit but for the Air Force in general — let the population see what goes on — I think it’s pretty exciting.”

“It makes me feel proud when those jets are able to go up because of the whole 95th team,” said Airman 1st Class Alex Aguilar, a 95th FS weapons loader.

“I think it’s great that the pilots are getting recogni-



**Airman 1st Class Jesse Myers, a student in Tyndall’s Mission F program, marshals out a Bonehead F-15. It was the first time he had ever performed a real-world marshaling procedure. 95th FS camera kept an eagle eye on Airman Myers and his fellow student. Managing the 18-day course is one of many responsibilities of 95th FS squadron maintainers, after which students immediately return to operational F-15 bases.**

tion, and they deserve it,” said Master Sgt. James Foster, 95th FS Specialist Section assistant chief. “Their job is very demanding. They’re expected in times of crisis to fly over a hostile area and protect us. But I think it’s great to note that there are literally hundreds of people

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Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely

led training mission launch.



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ly follow-on to

environment.

“You have to have the right attitude and patience to be here working on the jets and be very alert,” said Airman Garcia. “It demands a lot of patience because there are a lot of things going on out there at the same time, so

out there behind the scenes who are able to put a pilot out there and give him the confidence that he has an aircraft and equipment that are going to get him out there and bring him back safely. It doesn't happen by accident, it takes a lot of skill and a lot of sweat.”

One senior NCO said he was proud to note that the national exposure dramatically caps a long-successful run for his squadron.

“We win fighter squadron of the month and for the year a lot, and that's just recognized wing-wide. Now we get to go national with a big thrust into the limelight,” said Master Sgt. Michael Exley, chief of the 95th FS Airframe Powerplant General section.

When asked if the American Fighter Pilot producers decided to pursue an American Fighter Maintainers series, maintainers said viewers would see plenty of action in a uniquely challenging

**“Before the pilot shows up at the aircraft, there have already been at least a couple hours of work that's gone into making that aircraft ready for flight. A lot of people don't realize that.”**

*Master Sgt. James Foster, 95th FS Specialist Section assistant chief*

you have to be careful not to step over any boundaries. We have a lot of running engines, and we have a lot of equipment that runs on jet fuel, so they all have their hazardous areas and problems.”

Non-flightline workers might think weather is the maintainer's biggest foe (it's a close second). But the 95th FS maintainers, especially the supervisors, were totally lockstep on this point: the often

mind-numbing process of personnel scheduling for mechanical, weather or other glitches was the biggest headache producer.

“When you have a set schedule for getting everything done, and something happens that throws it all out of whack — and you're thinking on your feet you've got to

reorganize the day — it makes the day really hectic,” said Staff Sgt. Jerry Lee, a 95th FS dedicated crew chief. “Aircraft break — we expect that and we understand that — but when schedules get changed around and times get slipped for takeoff, you have to rearrange personnel to meet the requirements for providing a launch assistant and a crew chief, and still be able to get other maintenance done on other aircraft. We don't just work on one specific airplane.”

“Basically, in our positions we make sure the right people are out there to have the aircraft ready for the pilot,” said Sergeant Foster. “Before the pilot shows up at the aircraft, there have already been at least a couple hours of work that's gone into making that aircraft ready for flight. A lot of people don't realize that. It's not just simply pulling intake covers off, strapping a pilot in and launching him out. There are a lot of servicing checks, inspections and repairs that take place.”

“Being a maintainer is a very rewarding job, not so much that they get recognition, but that it's personally rewarding to know you can maintain a multi-million dollar airplane, repair it, then have it fly,” said Sergeant Lee. “That's a lot of job satisfaction right there. It's a tough job, it's a very demanding job, but I think it's very rewarding in a personal sense.”



**Staff Sgt. David Hurst, a 95th FS dedicated crew chief, relays takeoff trim information via intercom to an F-15 pilot off camera.**

# AETC announces May safety day

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS)**—All units in Air Education and Training Command will stand down for half a day in May to encourage people to conduct their summer activities safely.

The safety down day, announced March 20 by Gen. Don Cook, AETC commander, will take place at command units in the period of May 14-24.

“We are about to enter the ‘101 critical days of summer,’ a historically high-risk period,” the general said in his announcement. “We need to continue the focus on personal risk man-

agement that was started with the (Feb. 15) Air Force chief of staff’s safety down day.

“The stand down should give every supervisor the opportunity to have ‘in-shop meetings’ to emphasize personal risk management, safety awareness and to refocus our sights as we enter this high-risk period. Driving safety should be foremost on our agendas.”

During the summer of 2001, two people in the command died in single-vehicle mishaps. Air Force-wide, 19 people died during last year’s 101 critical days.

“Thus far this year, we have lost five

members to fatal car and motorcycle crashes,” General Cook said. “These figures get my attention because they reflect people we love and cherish. We can do better than that.

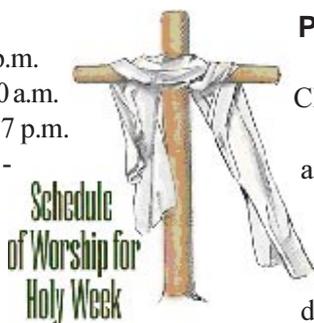
“Regretfully, I recognize that not all mishaps are preventable, but most are ... and that is where we should focus our risk management efforts.”

To view a safety video message from General Cook, click on the link on the commander’s Web site at [www.aetc.randolph.af.mil/pa/aetc-cc/](http://www.aetc.randolph.af.mil/pa/aetc-cc/).

## Easter chapel schedule

### Catholic Masses

Good Friday service- Today - 5 p.m.  
Stations of the Cross-Today - 11:30 a.m.  
Holy Saturday Mass- Saturday - 7 p.m.  
Easter Sunday Mass- Sunday - 9:30 a.m.  
Easter Egg Hunt-Following Mass  
All Catholic Masses located at Chapel Two



### Protestant Services

Good Friday/Tenebrae Service- Today - 7 p.m.- Chapel One  
Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast - Sunday- 6 a.m.- Bonita Bay  
Liturgical Easter Service- Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - Chapel One  
Easter Service and Special Presentation- Sunday - 11 a.m. - Chapel Two

### ●FROM EVENT PAGE 7

were in very capable hands. Nothing, however, could match the excitement at the awards tent. 2nd Lt. Diana Polles, awards coordinator, said, “I never knew that something as simple as a ribbon could make such a difference.” Every athlete received one, and despite the color, they eagerly showed them off for the whole world to see.

Behind-the-scenes coordination, resting with 2nd Lt. Debbie Ratliff, assistant games director, 2nd Lt. Allyne Castillo and 2nd Lts. Mary Balint and Kelly Just were equally critical. Lieutenant Castillo got the games off on the right foot with the opening ceremonies, while Lieutenants Mary Balint and Kelly Just were responsible for all computer support. According to Lieutenant Nash, “The computer support was critical. Somehow with a little time and ingenuity, Kelly and Mary were able to

create a program that has received state and soon to be national recognition.”

Most importantly, however, the efforts and hard work of the staff cannot equal the support that Tyndall has given. From over 475 military active-duty, Guard and Reserve volunteers, to the youth center facilitating the grounds, Tyndall has consistently done the “little things” that have made these games a part of our lives. The small things, such as preparing the track or transporting the bleachers, are a combination of everybody’s efforts for one outcome — the smile on that athlete’s face.



Courtesy photo

## Hide and seek

Youth center staff and volunteers prepare for last year's Big Bunny Egg Hunt. This year's hunt will be held on Saturday, March 30. Ages 1-4 will hunt at 11 a.m.; ages 5-8 at 1 p.m.; ages 9-12 at 3 p.m. Special glow-in-the-dark hunts for teens begin at 6:30 p.m. (ages 13-15) and 7:30 p.m. (ages 16-18). Contact the youth center at 283-4366 for details.

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

# Gulf Guide

**in the  
Tyndall community**

## MARCH

**SAT**  
**30**

### Blessing of the fleet

The fifth annual blessing of the fleet will be Saturday at the Panama City Marina. The event is also known as the Opening Day on the Bay. Delegates from all denominations are invited to participate in commemorating those who were lost at sea the previous year and to pray for the continued safe passage of all vessels. The ceremony on St. Andrews Bay includes all military, commercial, recreational and pleasure craft. Vessels will assemble at the range marker west of the marina along Beach Drive at 9 a.m. For more information on the day's events, call Chris Moser at the Panama City Marina, 872-7272, or event chairman Skip Cruce, 819-2999.

## APRIL

**MON**  
**1**

### 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**  
**2**

### 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**  
**3**

### 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**  
**4**

### Antiterrorism training

Mandatory antiterrorism training is provided by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations on a walk-in basis 8 a.m. every Thursday in Building 656. The training will last approximately 45 minutes. Anyone with a permanent change of station or temporary duty assignment to an overseas location who has not received Level-I Antiterrorism training within six months of their departure date is required to receive this training prior to out-processing. Out-processing checklists should be brought to the training session. Military dependents are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Special Agent Doug Hartwell, 283-3261 or 283-3262.

### CMF Bible study

Christian Military Fellowship Bible study and fellowship will be 6-7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of each month in Building 1476, across from the wellness center. For more information, call

Staff Sgt. Cindy Abbott, 283-4045 or 871-5089.

**SAT**  
**6**

### VolkSport Club walk

The Panama City VolkSport Club's 6/10/11K walk will be April 6 in the Florida State Caverns park off Highway 231 in Marianna. There is a park entrance fee of \$3.25. The walk can be started anytime between 9 a.m.-noon, but must be completed by 3 p.m. 6K walks are the equivalent of walking 3.4 miles. Good walking shoes are recommended. The walk is free to those not desiring credit, \$2 for those desiring IVV/AVA credit and \$5 for those wanting the cute bunny pin and walk credit. For more information, call DJ Moore, 871-2624, or Caroline Bagley, 234-5792.

**SUN**  
**7**

### Felix Lake Shoppette hours

Effective April 7, the Felix Lake Shoppette will be open 6 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. For more information, call 286-2400.

## NOTES

### SIUC degrees

The Southern Illinois University Carbondale at Eglin Air Force Base offers a Bachelor of Science degree in health care management. Registration for the summer term runs now through May 5, with courses offered 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on alternating weekends. For more information, call Felicity Myers, (850) 678-8533, or visit the Tyndall Education Center.

For information on SIUC's Bachelor of Science degree in industrial technology offered at Hurlburt Field, call Tracy Deming, (850) 581-9840, or call the education center, 283-4285.

### Guardian ad Litem training

The next training session for individuals interested in joining the Guardian ad Litem program will begin April 15. Guardians ad Litem represent abandoned, abused or neglected children in court. For more information, call 747-5180.

### Project officer needed

A project officer is needed for planning an Asian American-Pacific Islander Heritage Month event scheduled for May. The military or civilian employee who volunteers for the position should contact the military equal opportunity office and must be appointed by the 325th Fighter Wing commander. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Darryll Woodson, 283-2759 or 283-2751.

### Thrift shop hours

The Tyndall Thrift Shop is open 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 9 a.m.-noon the first Saturday of each month. Consignments are accepted 9:30-11 a.m. only on Wednesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call 286-5888.

### HAP approval for Altus AFB

The Homeowners Assistance Program was approved for Altus Air

Force Base, Okla. on Nov. 19, 2001 as a result of the adverse impact on the local real estate market caused by A-76 downsizing, announced Sept. 29, 1994, and the closure of the C-141 school, announced Feb. 3, 2000. HAP is a relief program that can provide financial assistance to eligible civilian and military homeowners stationed or employed at or near Altus, who owned a home within a 34-mile radius of Altus AFB prior to the announcement dates. Homeowners who recently departed the area or who will leave prior to Sept. 30, 2004 may also be eligible. For more information, call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, (800) 231-7751, and identify that the call concerns the HAP at Altus.

### 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](mailto:Wesley.Ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil).

## RETIREE NEWS

### DOD and VA medical cooperation

The Defense Department is looking to build a mutually beneficial partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs to maintain both organizations' health-care costs and improve access to quality health care. The two departments currently have eight joint ventures around the country providing coordinated health care to both VA and DOD medical care beneficiaries. The Fiscal 2003 budget request lays out several concrete short-term goals:

- Establish solid business procedures for reimbursement of services
- Improve access to health care through VA participation in TRICARE
- Examine joint opportunities in pharmaceuticals
- Make it easier for the DOD and VA to exchange health-care information
- Establish a long-range joint strategic planning activity between the two agencies

Department of Defense officials expect to be able to transmit computerized patient medical record data to the VA by Fiscal 2005. The DOD is also working to develop investigational new drug protocols and guidelines for smallpox and botulinum toxoid vaccines and pyridostigmine bromide tablets which are used to counteract the effects of nerve agents. They are also examining the use of the anthrax vaccine and antibiotics as a post-exposure preventive measure.

### RAO needs volunteers

The Retiree Activities Office is still in need of volunteers. If you have as little as three hours a week you can contribute, please call 283-2737 or stop by the office in Building 662, Room 245. The RAO is open 9 a.m.-noon Monday-Friday.

## BASE THEATER

**Today:** "Big Fat Liar" (PG, some language, 88 min.)

**Saturday:** "Rollerball" (PG-13, violence, extreme sports action, sensuality, language, some drug references, 100 min.)

**Sunday:** "Big Fat Liar"

**Thursday:** "Super Troopers" (R, crude humor, language and comic violence, 103 min.)

All movies start at 7 p.m.

## CLASSIFIEDS

Moving, must sell 52" Magnavox TV, beautiful condition, nothing wrong. Sell for first \$900; paid \$2,200. Call Paul, 286-8035.

Free to a good home. Please find a place in your heart and home for a 2-year-old neutered and declawed cat. Orange in color and very gentle, all vaccinations current. Please call 286-4432.

# Gulf Coast Salute 2002

More than 65,000 people attended the two-day open house and airshow Saturday and Sunday. The festivities, which also included a fun-run, regatta and much more, were a chance to say thank you to the people we serve for - our friends in the civilian community.



Photos by Lisa Carroll

Above: Patty Wagstaff wows audiences with her show. Below: The Blue Angels pilots make their way to their jets as they prepare for takeoff. Right: A parajumper from the U.S. Special Operations Command jump team descends upon Tyndall.



Above: The Hawaiian Tropic jet-truck prepares to speed down the runway. Above-far right: Fat Albert, a C-130 with a jet engine, accelerates on takeoff. Above-middle: Two Blue Angels come within feet of each other during a maneuver.



# Funshine NEWS

March 29, 2002

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

## CARTOON NETWORK BOWLING CLUB

**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**  
**283-2380**

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

**Community Activity Ctr.**  
**Tae Kwon Do Class**  
 Get in shape and learn self defense.  
 283-2495

### Family Child Care

☎ 283-2266

#### Arriving or Departing?

Air Force Aid offers free child care in Family Child Care Homes. Contact the relocation personnel in the Family Support Center for your PCS certificate. A list of FCC providers is available through the FCC office in building 1309.

### Marina Club

☎ 283-3059

#### NASCAR Sundays

Enjoy NASCAR Sundays at the Marina club with food and beverage specials and door prizes. Call for details.

### Enlisted Club

☎ 283-4146

#### All Ranks Barbershop Hours

Beginning April 1 the barbershop hours will be: Mon., Tue., Thur. and Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

### Tyndall Fitness Center

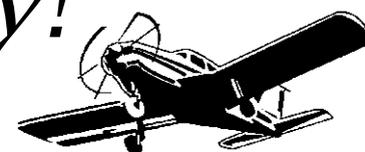
## MUSCLE BEACH 2002

**March 30**

**Come out &  
watch this event!**  
**Competition begins at 10 a.m.**  
**For more information  
call 283-2631.**

## Learn to Fly!

*with the Aero Club*



- Private Pilot Ground School begins April 8
- Commercial Instrument begins April 9

**For more information call 283-4404**

### Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

#### April is Month of the Military Child!

#### Start Smart Baseball

Is your 3-5 year old ready for organized baseball? Sign up for Start Smart Baseball and work one-on-one with your child improving basic skills. Program runs April 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 9 a.m. Cost is \$30.

### Community Activity Ctr.

☎ 283-2495

#### Modeling Classes

Starts April 6, 11-11:30 a.m. 8 yrs. old and up. Cost is \$20. For 4 week session.

### Information, Tickets & Travel

☎ 283-2499

#### Eufaula, Alabama Spring Pilgrimage April 6

Cost per person will be \$15. There are several historic homes to visit in the area and tours cost \$5 per home. Eufaula has several historic churches to visit, antique shops, a free arts show and lots of good traditional southern food to enjoy.

#### Defuniak Springs Crafts Festival April 13

Cost per person will be \$15. Space is limited so sign up early.

## All Ranks O Club Easter Buffet

**Sunday, March 31**

### Reservations Required

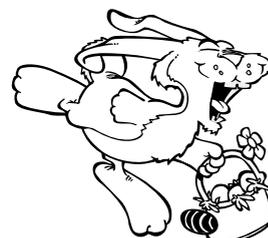
Two Seatings: make your choice for the 10:30 a.m. or 12:45 p.m. reservation times.

**Adults \$12.95 • Children 5-11 \$5.95**  
**Children 4 & under free**

#### Buffet will feature:

Carving Station w/ Steamship Round, Baked Ham and Turkey, Seasonal Vegetables, Mini Salad and Potato Bar, Omelet & Waffle Station, Home Fries, Bacon, Cream Beef w/ Biscuits, Assorted Fruits, Juices and Dessert Station.

All Ranks at the Officers'  
 Club Dining Room  
**283-4357**



## Big Bunny Egg Hunt

**Saturday, March 30**

Tyndall Youth Programs

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.**

## Communications squadron takes home intramural championship

**2ND LT. RYAN FITZGERALD**

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

**M**arch 11 marked the beginning of another reign as base intramural basketball champions for the 325th Communications Squadron.

The team from the Communications Squadron overpowered the 83rd RED HORSE Squadron (12-4) to win the crown a second year in a row. The Communications Squadron ended their season with a record of 14-2.

“Winning the base basketball championship is good for the entire squadron,” said 325th CS commander Lt. Col. Kevin Foley. “It really shows how great a team Comm is, the players and the fans who support them.”

As defending champions, the Communications Squadron team faced some serious challenges on the way to the top.

“It was a team effort, especially since everyone was out looking to beat us,” said Senior Airman Marcus Baucom.

In addition to the pressure of repeating as base champs, they faced the pressure of constant lineup changes. Their starting point guard, 1st Lt. Julia Karlstad, was sent on temporary duty in the heart of the season, then a key member of the team moved.

“Repeating was a very hard thing to do,” said Senior Airman Baucom, especially when key players leave.

“I’m very proud of the team, even when they lost some players, they found a way to put it together and win. They’re a very dedicated bunch,” Colonel Foley added.

