

Dec. 17, 1903

Gulf Defender



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Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

Dec. 19, 2003

In brief

Bus schedule for base's Centennial of Flight celebration

Shuttle buses will be available at 12:30 p.m. today for transportation to "Hangar 43." Pickup locations are: Bldgs. 662, 1279/1282, 1465 and 1550. At 3 p.m. buses will transport people from "Hangar 43" to Flag Park or parking areas.

2004 open house dates, lead performers announced

The 2004 Tyndall Air Force Base open house is officially set for March 27-28, and the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels will be the featured aerial demonstration team for both days of the event.

Maj. Joel "Joker" Carey is the project officer, and the open house office can now be reached at 283-9726 or 283-9150.

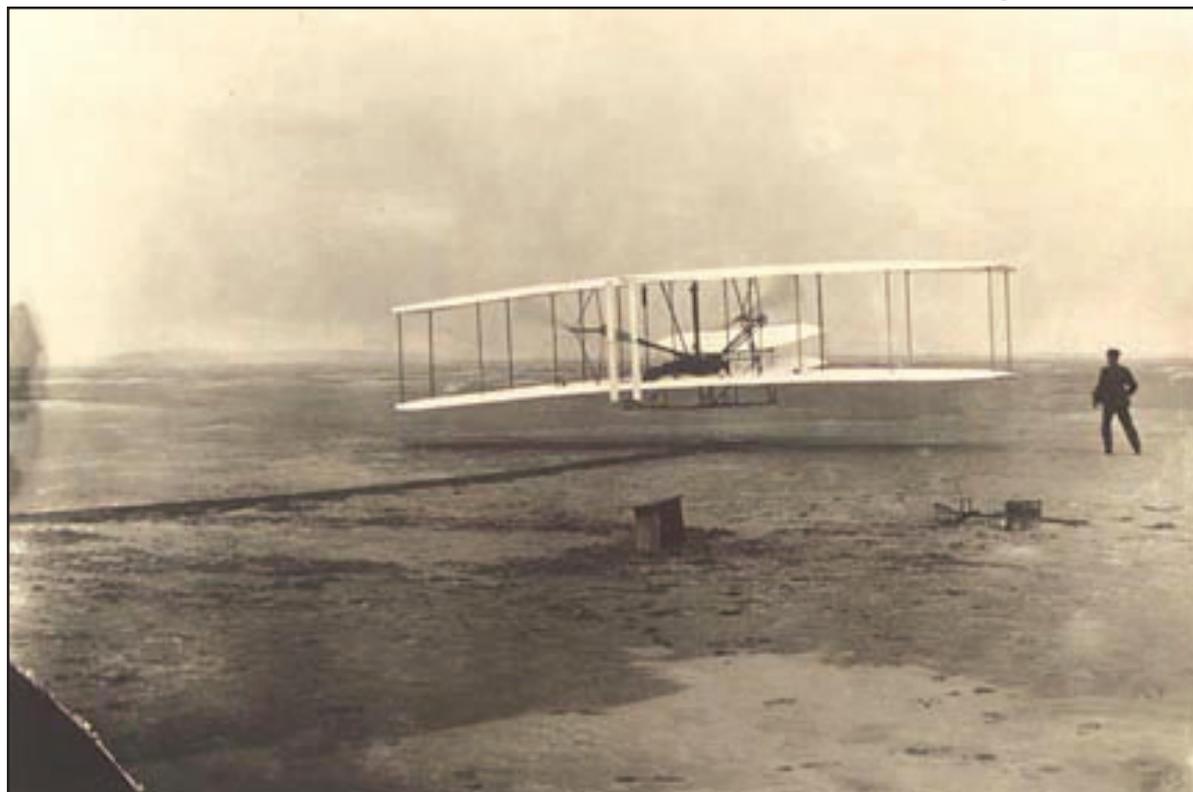
Commissary program boosts Special Olympics

Tyndall AFB commissary shoppers will continue to have coupons savings on many Proctor & Gamble items until Jan. 15. Proctor & Gamble will, in turn, donate a portion of the coupon savings to this year's Special Olympics, up to \$80,000.

To help with the promotion, Special Olympians will be at the Commissary from 9-11 a.m. Jan. 6, handing out coupons, flyers, free cake and punch. Also, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 10 the commissary staff will be giving away free hot dogs, soda and chips to shoppers for donates to the Special Olympics.

This year's Regional Special Olympics will be held March 19 in Marianna.

Tyndall joins America in Celebrating 100 Years of Powered Flight



World's first powered flight gets airborne at Kitty Hawk, N.C., Dec. 17, 1903.

Library of Congress

AF leaders celebrate Centennial of Flight

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The following is a joint message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper:

"It was the most significant 12 seconds of the last 100 years.

"On Dec. 17, 1903, two bicycle builders from Ohio, Orville and Wilbur Wright, launched the world on a path to the heavens when their rudimentary airplane of wire, wood and canvas wings lifted off a windy, grassy hill at Kitty Hawk.

Since their marvelous achievement, aviation has enabled our expansion, enhanced our commerce and expanded our communication. Military aviation developed quickly after that first flight. The names and exploits of our airpower pioneers are melded into our nation's history: Rickenbacker, Mitchell, Doolittle, Davis, Cochran and Yeager, to name just a few.

"While our past is storied, our present and future remain as boundless and adventurous as the Wright Brothers' dream. Because of our great airmen in today's Air Force, we have

This month in aviation history

1903 — Wright brothers' first flight

1918 — First trans continental flight took place Dec. 4 - 22 in four JN-4's from San Diego, Calif., to Jacksonville, Fla.

1925 — Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell found guilty in his court martial

1935 — First flight of the DC-3, a.k.a. C-47

1944 — Bong's 40th kill

1947 — XB-47 first flight

1948 — Original Wright Flyer donated to Smithsonian

1950 — Lt. Col. Bruce Hinton got the first MiG-15 kill

1957 — First successful launch of Atlas missile

1963 — First C-141 flight

1990 — YF-22 flown to 60 degrees angle of attack

1993 — First operational B-2 delivered to Whiteman Air Force Base

Tyndall's Centennial of Flight events today:

-- Squadron heritage booths, 1-3 p.m., "Hangar 43."

-- F/A-22, F-15 and other aircraft displays, "Hangar 43"

-- Ceremony, 100th anniversary of powered flight, 1:30 p.m., "Hangar 43"

-- Flag Park wreath-laying ceremony; four-ship fly by with QF-4, E-9 and two F-15s.

●SEE FLIGHT PAGE 3

Training the best air dominance team for America

View from the Top: An extraordinary 2003

GEN. DON COOK

Commander of Air Education and Training Command

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) — As we close out another very eventful year, I thought it appropriate I share some thoughts with you regarding the command's performance this past year.

I'm proud to report the men and women of Air Education and Training Command met the goal in providing well-trained, combat-ready airmen for our Air Force. We all know the future security environment remains uncertain. But I am very confident that because of the outstanding work each



General Cook

substantial contribution represents about 1,000 people deployed at any given time.

At present, we have nearly 2,000 people deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Among those numbers are AETC security forces, commu-

nications specialists, transportation engineers and emergency medical care professionals to name only a few. Our airmen, many of them instructors in their respective career fields, are committed to expeditionary operations and are doing their jobs exceedingly well.

AETC continues to be engaged in operations in Iraq, as well as Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Since the shocking events of 9-11, AETC has deployed more than 9,300 people in direct support of the war on terrorism. Considering our education and training mission and our small pool of 22,000 deployable positions, this

of you has done, and will continue to do, the First Command will ensure our Air Force is ready with the right people, the right skills and the right training to address any contingency.

A short e-mail written by an AETC instructor nurse who was crewed with two new medical technicians serves to illustrate the point.

"We flew our first mission the other day," the nurse wrote. "We picked up a 26-year old security policeman with an AK-47 gunshot wound in the abdomen — a lot of internal injuries. Met him at the back of the C-130 with engines running. Took off standing up while resuscitating him. He looked good by the time we landed. A fairly routine mission, post severe trauma resuscitation — no big deal!"

The nurse's e-mail is representative of just how well our people have done and continue to do. Though an instructor, it was like second nature to this nurse and the med-tech

●SEE TOP PAGE 6

Tyndall people bring historic success in 2003

BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW

325th Fighter Wing commander



With 2003 now in its closing days, I want to thank all of you for the extraordinary accomplishments that you have all been part of

this year. This historic year saw the arrival of our first and second F/A-22 Raptors, the wing earned an "excellent" rating for our performance during the Operational Readiness Inspection, all while continuing to be a force provider, deploying more than 100 airmen at any given time. You all have really proven your dedication to the AETC credo "training focused... AEF committed."

We aren't able to look over our shoulder at 2003 for long however, as Team Tyndall will host the AETC Commander's Conference Jan. 12-14. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our base's outstanding capabilities in front of all AETC leadership. Thank you for all the hard work that the various agencies have put toward making our base shine and keep up the good work!



"You all have really proven your dedication to the AETC credo 'training focused ... AEF committed.'"

BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW

325th Fighter Wing commander

Soon after the commander's conference, preparations for the next Gulf Coast Salute will be in full swing. We will open our gates to the public March 27-28 to show northwest Florida our capabilities and professionalism.

In 2004 we can expect our Air Expeditionary Force commitments to continue, with the wing being called on to serve in deployed roles across the globe. Although the pace will continue to be hectic, I encourage you to apply the principles of Operational Risk Management in the decisions you make all year long. Let's all make every effort to have a safe and successful 2004.

Looking to the weeks ahead, I want to wish you all a very safe and happy holiday season. In order to give everyone the greatest opportunity to spend time with family, Dec. 26 will be a wing down-day for military and civilian personnel. Jan. 2 will be a down-day for military personnel. Supervisors should exercise a liberal-leave policy for civilian employees that day.

The downtime is intended to give you the most time with family, while allowing necessary time to return to station. It is my holiday wish that everyone exercises the very highest level of caution while traveling and celebrating in the coming weeks.

●SEE SUCCESS PAGE 5

Action Line

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

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

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

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

Larry D. New

BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW

325th Fighter Wing commander

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chaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office. Photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

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

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

Life is too precious

LT. GEN. JOHN D. HOPPER JR.

Vice Commander of Air Education and Training Command

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) — As the festive holiday season quickly approaches, my family and I, like most people, look forward with anticipation to the fellowship of sharing with each other all this special season has to offer. But I am also aware, concerned, and saddened that during such a cheerful time, there are some in our Air Force family who succumb to feelings of loneliness, hopelessness, and that their lives are inconsequential. These feelings can be triggered by any number of circumstances, but the emotional stress it causes is sometimes the catalyst that drives people to intentionally hurt themselves.

As a family, we all must be concerned about this. We are collectively responsible for the health and well being of all our Air Force family members. When one of our own has lost connectivity to our family we have a moral obligation to do all we can to nurture them and help them overcome feelings of despair. But above all else, we must help them understand that harming themselves is not the answer.

If you are aware of someone who is experiencing feelings of depression or loneliness, especially during this time of year, it is paramount you take them under your wing and make sure they know they are not alone.



General Hopper

There are people to go to such as life skills support centers, family, friends, chaplains, mental health professionals, family support, child and youth services, health and wellness centers and family advocacy. These teammates are nearby with the professional capabilities and a commitment to help. But making the choice and the conscious effort to connect with those who can help is often the toughest job. That's why all of us must stay engaged with our people over the upcoming holiday season, and remain vigilant to any signs of loneliness or depression that could result in suicidal behavior.

Every person in our Air Force family is invaluable to the Air Force mission. We could not be the world's most respected air and space force we are today without each and every one of you. Each individual's value as a person is unique and precious. We must cherish that and ensure all our people understand the singular worth they have.

In the spirit of this special season, I ask you to take special care of each other. I ask that if a situation warrants it, you make the hard choice and take the responsibility to prevent any loss to our Air Force family. My family joins me in wishing each of you the very best this season has to offer. Stay safe, stay engaged and please take care of each other!

● **FROM FLIGHT PAGE 1**

developed, operated, and exploited advanced weapons systems and technologies — from sensors and aircraft to lasers and satellites — enabling us to own the ultimate high ground and dominate any battlespace.

“The Centennial of Flight is as much about our future as it is about our past. We commend you for all that you do every day to promote this heritage and provide our nation with the finest air and space force in the world.

“We're proud to serve alongside you as we continue to discover ways to slip the surly bonds and deliver peace and freedom for our nation.”

Terror war continues, Rumsfeld says, despite Saddam's capture

DONNA MILES
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — While the Iraqi people were liberated “in fact” in April, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said here today that the Dec. 13 capture of Saddam Hussein liberated them “in spirit.”

“When the coalition liberated Iraq, we told the Iraqi people that he would not be returning, except as a prisoner to face justice,” the secretary told Pentagon reporters. “And the U.S. forces have now delivered on that promise.”

While not minimizing the significance of the former Iraqi dictator's capture, Secretary Rumsfeld was quick to emphasize that it is just one additional step forward in the global war on terror.

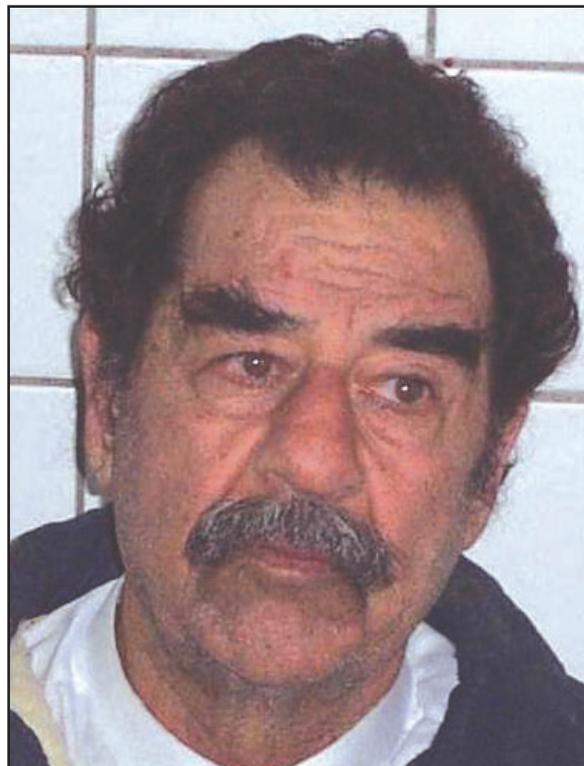
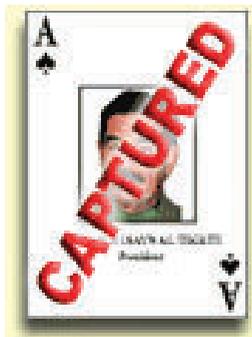
“The global war on terror continues,”

he said. “The war on terror is not about one man, and it is not about one country.

“As the president has said, we remember the lessons of Sept. 11, the day when more than 3,000 innocent people were killed here at home,” Secretary Rumsfeld said. “And we still face terrorists — terrorists in Iraq, Afghanistan and across the world — who seek to harm our people.”

Secretary Rumsfeld said the war on terror will continue until all those forces are defeated. “Challenges remain,” he said. “But the coalition forces will see the mission through.”

Turning to other progress in the war on terror, the secretary pointed to today's dedication and opening of the highway linking Kandahar and Kabul in Afghanistan. Another highway linking Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif is



U.S. Army photo

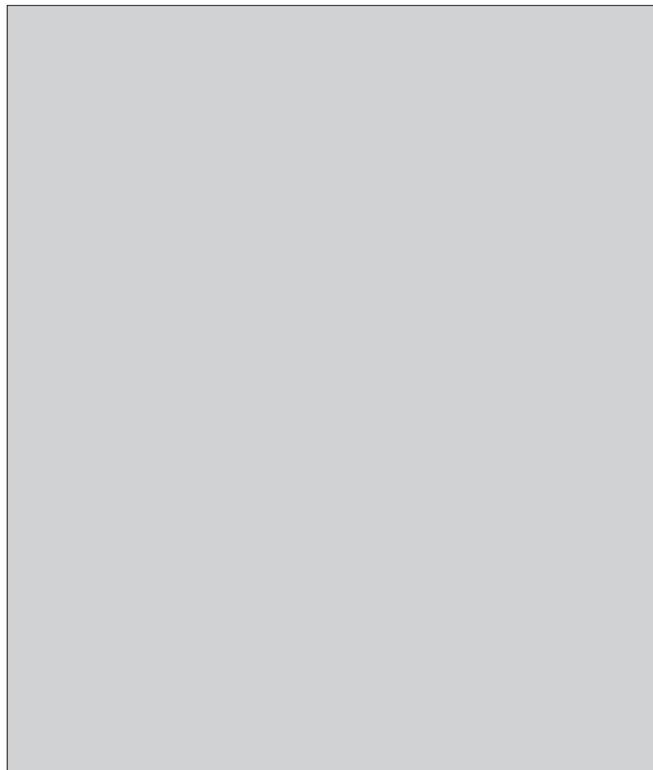
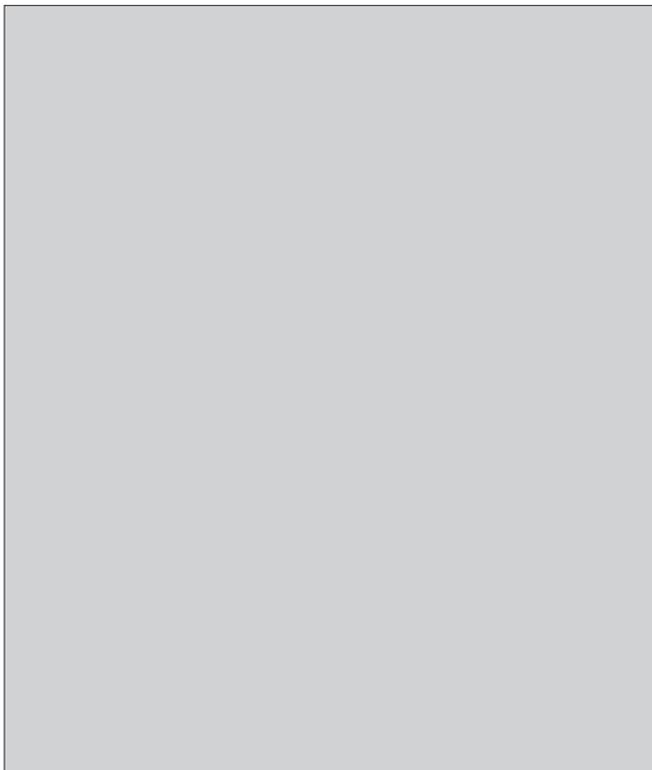
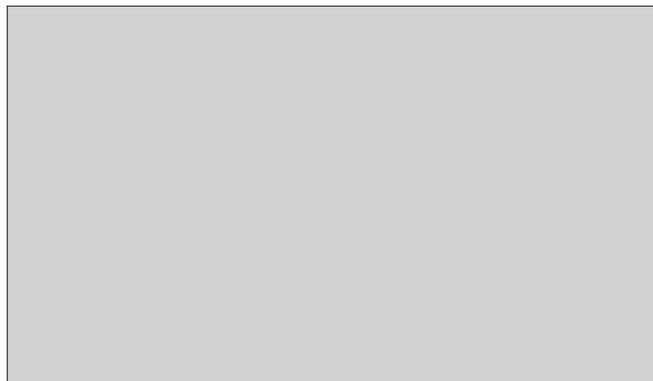
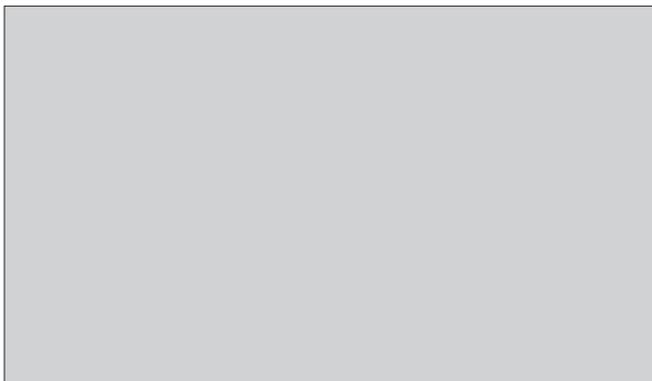
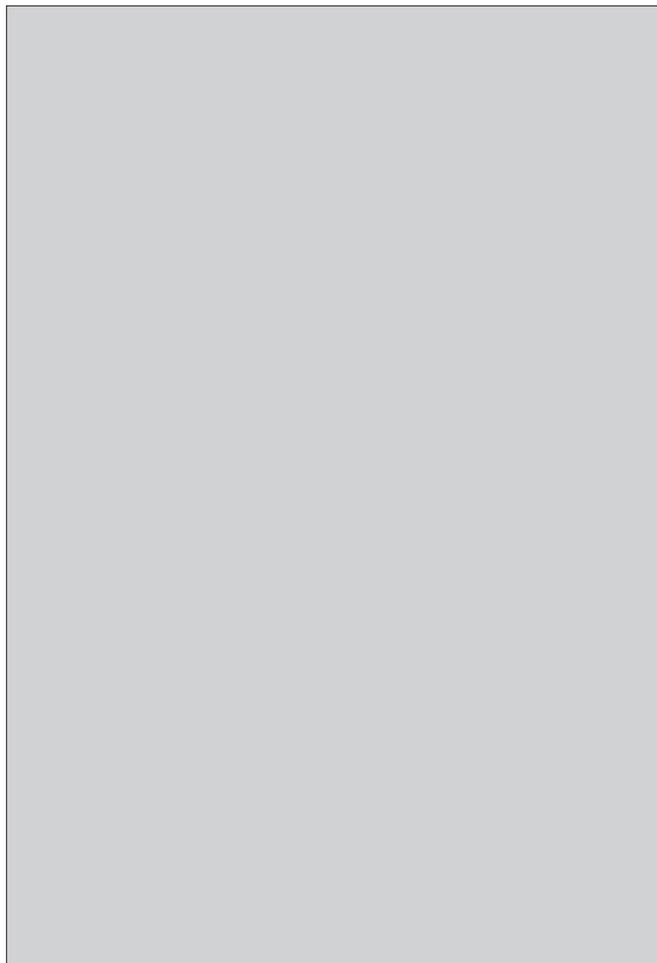
Saddam Hussein shown in captivity after his beard was shaved to confirm his identity.

nearing completion, with progress being made on other portions of the “ring road” in Afghanistan, Secretary Rumsfeld said.

“Although it is certainly less dramatic news than the capture of Saddam Hussein, this is important,” Secretary Rumsfeld said. “It will facilitate commerce, it will attract foreign investment, it should improve revenues for the central government, it should improve security of the people of the country — while helping to unify the country by linking the various regions to the capital.”

Secretary Rumsfeld said this is another indication that “Afghanistan, like Iraq, is making progress on the path to self-government and self-reliance.”

Have a safe and happy holiday. Don't drink and drive. Plan ahead for a designated driver.



● **FROM SUCCESS PAGE 2**

Never drink and drive, not only does your family need you, but Team Tyndall needs you back safe and sound. If you're planning to drink, plan to use a designated driver or one of the many programs offered such as Airmen Against Drunk Driving. There

are programs available on base to get you home safely with no fear of retribution, so don't be afraid to use them!

To everyone at Team Tyndall, my wife, Diane, my children Cara and Ryan and I wish you the very happiest and safest of holidays.

TRICARE Dental Program monthly premiums to increase

BETH YOSLER

United Concordia

TRICARE Dental Program enrollees will notice an increase in their monthly premiums beginning January 2004. The new rates are effective on February 1, 2004; however, since premiums are collected one month in advance, TDP enrollees will notice the change in their January 2004 billing statement, payroll allotment or deduction.

The new monthly premium rate for eligible family members of active duty, and Reservists on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days, will be \$9.07 for a single enrollment and \$22.66 for a family enrollment.

Premiums for members of the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve (Special Mobilization Category) will be \$9.07 for a single enrollment.

Members of the Individual Ready Reserve

(other than Special Mobilization Category), their eligible family members, and the eligible family members of the Selected Reserve (not on active duty) will pay a new monthly rate of \$22.68 for a single enrollment and \$56.66 for a family enrollment.

Tom Harbold, United Concordia's TDP senior vice president said, "Despite the 2004 premium increase, the TDP continues to provide excellent value for members of the military community."

Additional information about 2004 rates is available on United Concordia's Website, www.ucci.com, or by phoning the TDP enrollment and billing department at 1-888-622-2256.

United Concordia Companies, Inc., headquartered in Harrisburg, Pa., is the fifth-largest dental insurer in the country with more than six million members worldwide.

Civilians should see pay increase

MAJ. JOHN THOMAS

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — While a civil service pay bill awaits congressional action, Air Force civilian employees should see an average 2-percent increase in their January paychecks.

Air Force Personnel Center officials here said a 2-percent increase for general schedule employees will go into

effect automatically and that they are ready to process an expected total 4.1-percent pay increase if and when it passes Congress. The additional 2.1-percent average pay increase would be retroactive to the effective date, which should be Jan. 11, officials said.

Officials here plan to work quickly to ensure individual personnel records are updated as soon as possible, they said.

● **SEE PAY PAGE 7**

● FROM TOP PAGE 2

team — they did what they were trained to do. In doing so, they saved the life of an American soldier. Other teams like them have treated more than 350 critically hurt soldiers and airmen and medically evacuated nearly 2,500 injured with an unprecedented low mortality rate of less than 1 percent.

The men and women of AETC have played a significant role in the war on terrorism on the home front as well. Our intelligence schoolhouse at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas, now translates and exploits captured terrorists documents. Our instructors are working side-by-side with students to decipher and analyze real-world intelligence, thereby providing invaluable experience for the students.

What our airmen were able to accomplish during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom would not have been possible if not for America's ability and drive to exploit technology and spur innovation.

Among the extraordinary events we witnessed this past year, two come to mind as defining moments in our Air Force: the centennial observance of manned flight and the introduction of the F/A-22 fighter into our training inventory.

These events share a common thread in America's history: Our enthusiasm and willingness to exploit technology and innovation to guard the freedom generations of Americans have sacrificed so much to secure for our nation. For our Air Force, the seminal event that triggered the past century of rapid technological advancement began with the courage and bravery of the Wright brothers. This year's observance of the Centennial of Flight celebrates and honors those who made it possible for us to employ the awesome air and space power of today.

What began with a 12-second flight in the Wright's Flyer

Number 1 on Dec. 17, 1903, has grown exponentially during the past century into America's unsurpassed commercial aerospace industry and the equally unsurpassed global air and space defensive power of the U.S. Air Force.

It is fitting, as we celebrate the deeds of those early air pioneers, we also mark the dawn of an exciting era in AETC and the Air Force with the introduction of the first operational F/A-22 Raptor into our training curriculum at the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

The command's first F/A-22 was delivered Sept. 26. Since then, we've received our second aircraft and expect to receive one additional aircraft every four to six weeks. The F/A-22 is an order of magnitude leap in offensive and defensive airpower. With its first look, first shot, first kill capability, the F/A-22 is a national asset engineered to guarantee soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, and our allies and coalition partners, the great advantage of freedom from air attack, freedom to attack and freedom to return home safely. The F/A-22 is essential to America's national defense strategy and will guarantee America's military air dominance well into the future.

We have started our F/A-22 maintenance training and expect to launch the Raptor pilot training program this spring when enough aircraft are on hand. The mission-ready aviators and maintainers we produce will represent a new era in airpower — an era that begins on the heels of our nation's observance of 100 years of powered flight.

We are never far from our heritage as a flying and fighting force because aviation development is still a relatively modern phenomenon. To go from getting an airplane off the ground for the very first time to the tremendous capabilities the Raptor represents in less than 100 years is truly amazing.

Yet as great as the technological advances are, we have become the world's most powerful air and space fighting force because of our people — past and present. Whether it is engaging fully in the war on terrorism, preparing F/A-22 aircrews and maintainers or teaching a new recruit to march for the first time, the

men and women of AETC remain linked to our heritage and focused on the future innovations, technologies and techniques that will sustain us as the best Air Force in the world.

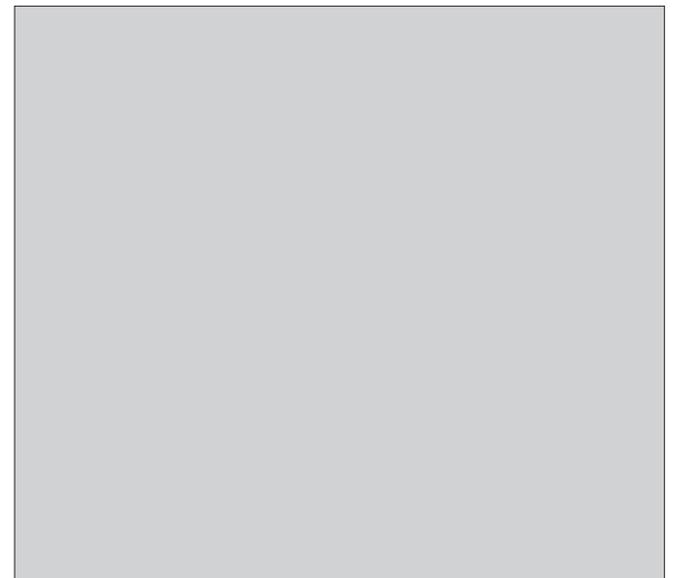
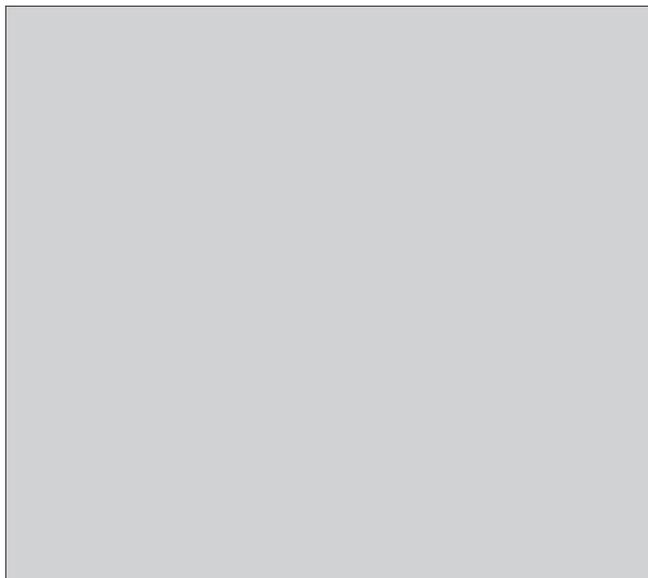
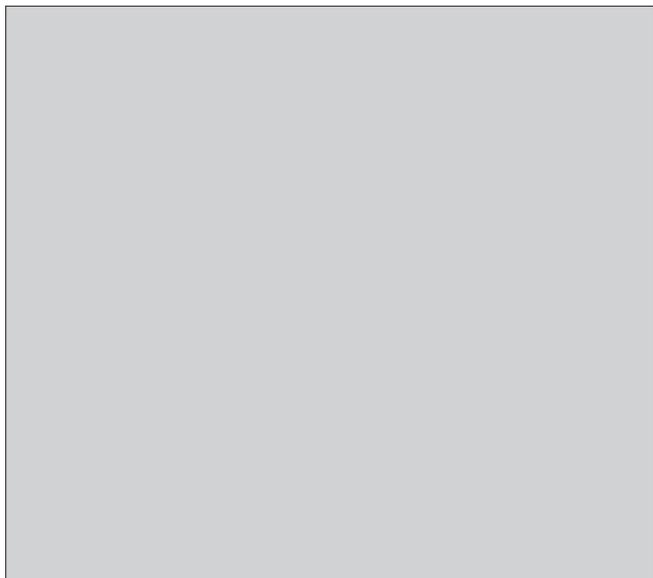
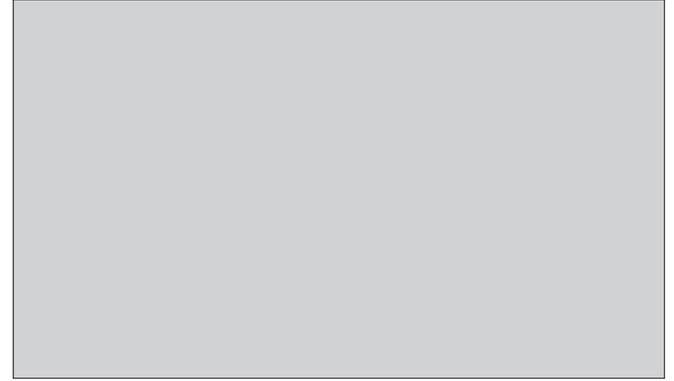
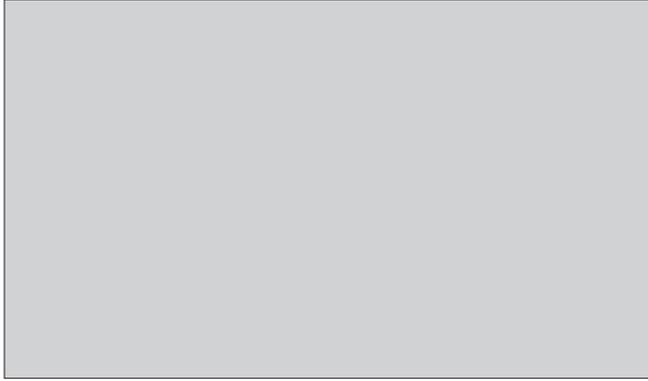
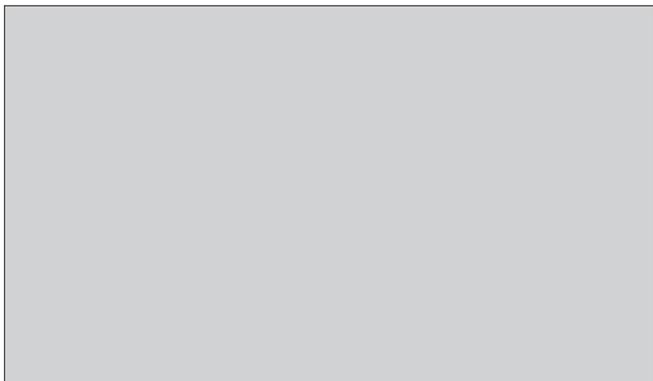
Thank you for the tremendous job each of you has done this past year for our command, for our Air Force and for our nation. As you prepare to celebrate this special season, I ask you to keep our colleagues who remain deployed in harm's way in your thoughts and prayers.

The men and women serving at the headquarters join Diane and me in wishing you and your family the very best during this holiday season. Enjoy time with your families and friends, but be safe. We need you on our team as we embark on what I anticipate will be another eventful year in 2004.

“It is fitting, as we celebrate the deeds of those early air pioneers, we also mark the dawn of an exciting era in AETC and the Air Force with the introduction of the first operational F/A-22 Raptor into our training curriculum at the 325th Fighter Wing.”

GEN. DON COOK

Commander of Air Education and Training Command



● **FROM PAY PAGE 5**

"If the proposed increase in pay goes through, we're prepared to facilitate the change as soon as we get the go-ahead from DOD," said Charles Huerta, director of civilian personnel operations at the center. After that he said he expects people will see the increase, as well as any back pay, within two pay-checks after the change is processed.

"This is not the first time this has happened, so we're confident we know how to update records accurately and fairly quickly," Mr. Huerta said.

Answers about individual civilian personnel records are available by calling (800) 616-3775 weekdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST. Hearing-impaired employees may call the TDD line at (800) 382-0893, or commercial 565-2276 within San Antonio. Overseas employees will first dial the AT&T toll-free direct access number for the country that they are in, and then (800) 997-2378. *(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)*

Checkertail Salute



Steve Wallace

Sergeant Harrell is awarded the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award by Col. Doug Cochran, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Sergeant Harrell, who was recognized for his outstanding service as additional duty first sergeant. While deployed to Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., he quickly arranged funds and transportation home for a fellow deployed member whose brother was killed in a motorcycle accident. He was cited as instrumental to the 95th Aircraft Maintenance Unit's outstanding rating in the 2003 Operational Readiness Inspection.

Master Sgt. Michael Harrell

Duty title: Additional duty first sergeant

Unit: 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Time on station: Five years

Time in service: 23 years, nine months

Hometown: Rome, Ga.

Hobbies: Fishing, hunting and camping

Goals: To really make a difference

Favorite book: "The Old Man and the Boy" by Robert Roark

Favorite movie: "No Time for Sergeants"

Favorite thing about Tyndall: The people here

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

BX employee leads way to brighter Christmas for many Tyndall families

TECH. SGT. ROY UTLEY

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Christmas shopping for some may begin two weeks before Christmas. For others, Christmas shopping may start as early as September. But for one member of the Team Tyndall family, holiday shopping starts the day after Christmas for the following year's observance.

Lurlene Gordey, a computer technician at the Tyndall base exchange, has been the focal point for a six-year old program that helps the base chapel's Angel Tree program get toys to families who could use a little more Christmas cheer at this time of year. Working with the base chapel staff, Ms. Gordey has raised funds, bought toys and had them wrapped to brighten the holidays for more than 170 Tyndall children this year.

"I'm not quite sure how this all started. I think that six or seven years ago, a chaplain came to our (general manager) and asked how the two could work together to make (the Angel Tree Program) work," Ms. Gordey said. The Angel Tree program allows base chapel attendants to purchase gifts anonymously for less fortunate military family members.

"We have enjoyed working with many people with big hearts who have been willing to share their bounty at the Christmas season."

LURLENE GORDY
Christmas benefit organizer

First sergeants then distribute the toys to members in their units who could use the assistance. Setting the project in motion has led to a team effort by all the employees at the base exchange

and branch exchanges, such as the shoppettes.

Starting in April each year, people will donate food items to hold luncheons and other fund-raising events to purchase toys according to Ms. Gordey. "Every payday, we have a luncheon, like a hamburger plate, and all the proceeds from the sales goes to buy toys." Other means of income to fund the toy drive come from various sources, such as one employees motorcycle club. The local Boy Scouts, Troop 388, helped wrap the presents this year.

Cash in hand, Ms. Gordey started putting toys on lay-a-way as they went on sale. "I had 13 lay-a-ways this past year. Not all at one time," Ms. Gordey said. As they get a list of children from the chapel, the group sorts presents that are age and gender appropriate. Once wrapped, the toys will be delivered to the chapel staff for distribution.

According to Ms. Gordey, each child will be able to receive two to three gifts they normally wouldn't receive.

"Our chapel staff has been involved in Angel Tree at several locations," said Chaplain (Capt.) Rob



Far left, Lurlene Gordy and several fellow BX volunteers prepare Christmas gift donations for distribution to Tyndall families in need.

mas season. Ms. Gordey and the BX staff are an enigma. Not only do they share their hearts during the Christmas season, they pour out their hearts all year long in this ministry.

This year, they guaranteed that our Tyndall family will have bright smiles on Christmas

Sugg, 325th Fighter Wing chaplain. "We have enjoyed working with many people with big hearts who have been willing to share their bounty at the Christ-

morning.

"We join the rest of the Tyndall Chapel in wishing God's richest blessings on each of them."



Steve Wallace

Happy birthday, chief!

The first Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, Paul Airey, cuts his 80th birthday cake Dec. 12 at the Tyndall enlisted club as Col. Doug Cochran, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander, and Sam Parish, the eighth CMSAF, observe. Chief Airey, who resides in Bay County, continues to be a highly active supporter of, and participant in, the life of Team Tyndall and the entire Air Force community.

A touch of home for the holidays

*Cookie Drive donations, volunteers
bring Christmas cheer to dorm residents*



Tech. Sgt. Mark Garton, 325th Maintenance Operations Squadron, loads donated cookies on a cart Monday behind the commissary.



Staff Sgt. Julie Jewett, 325th MOS, picks up a Tyndall member's cookie donations.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely



Master Sgt. Carianne Melnick, 325th MOS first sergeant, transports a full cart of cookies into the commissary where other volunteers prepare them for delivery. She and Resa Cochran were lead organizers of the event.



Thanks to generous donations from Tyndall's "cookiebakers," it didn't take long for a small mountain of holiday goodies to pile up.



Team Tyndall spouses volunteer their time to sort and individually wrap cookies which were later delivered directly to the rooms of dorm residents.

Preparing for deployment includes family care plan

2ND LT. AMBER MILLERCHIP
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) — If you are called up in the next 24 hours, do you have short- and long-term plans for your family's care? Who is going to pay the bills? What about unexpected repairs? Does your spouse know who to call and what rates are acceptable?

These are just some of the items people overlook in the rush of a deployment.

In today's Air Force, deployments, temporary duty and overseas remote assignments are a normal and expected part of every airman's job, said Chief Master Sergeant Dean Hall, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command first sergeant.

Despite prior knowledge, many airmen fail to meet their family's needs during these circumstances because of poor planning. Most problems families face are preventable, either with the right form or with a detailed plan of action. These may include a family care plan, a power of attorney and a budget plan.

"If you don't have a viable family care plan developed, you are not ready to deploy," said Master Sgt. Todd Remington, installation personal family readiness coordinator at Randolph AFB, Texas. "Family and personal readiness is having a family care plan in place and having your finances in order."

According to Air Force Instruction 36-2908, all Air Force members with families will have family care arrangements that reasonably cover all situations, both short and long term. This allows minor dependants a smooth transfer to a previously chosen caregiver or temporary

guardian.

Although a written plan, documented on an Air Force Form 357, is only required for single parents, dual military couples with family members and members with

only responsible for family members for a specified timeframe when the long-term caregiver is not available.

In addition to caregivers, people must choose a temporary custodian for im-

power of attorney, which is the only legal aspect of the family care plan process. A general power of attorney allows someone to conduct business in another person's name, allows the caregiver access to medical care for children, enrollment in school and other activities in caring for the children.

Sergeant Remington recommends special powers of attorneys versus a general since general ones are not accepted by many businesses and differ for each state. Special powers of attorney are tailored for specific needs, such as a pending permanent change of station, a home purchase and childcare. Whether a spouse or a caregiver, a special power of attorney is a finance office requirement for anyone to conduct financial transactions and inquire about military pay records on another person's behalf. For further guidance, Tyndall people can get free advice at the base legal office. The telephone number is 283-4861.

"Learn what you need before you leave," Sergeant Remington said. "For instance, ask your bank about special forms and make sure whoever is taking care of your bills has all the necessary paperwork."

He stressed the efficiency and ease of automatic bill paying.

Arrangements must also be made for caregivers to have access to adequate funds to support family members for immediate needs and increased allotments for future needs. A joint savings or checking account for this purpose is a possibility for travel for the caregiver or family members, home maintenance and relocation expenses.



Master Sgt. Keith Reed

A medic checks the smallpox shot site of an Air Force member at a deployed location. Military members can take the sting out of deployment separations for their families and themselves by working out a thorough family care program and by taking advantage of the many support programs available through agencies, such as the family support center.

civilian spouses who have unique family situations, it is highly recommended for anyone with a child to develop a plan, Chief Hall said.

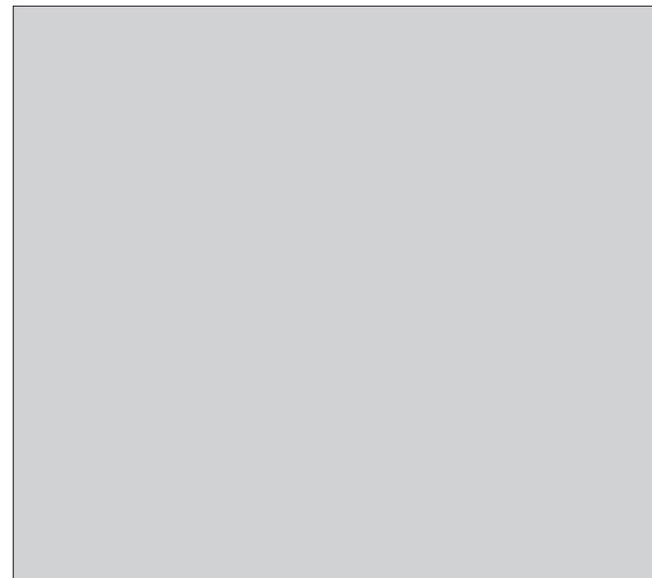
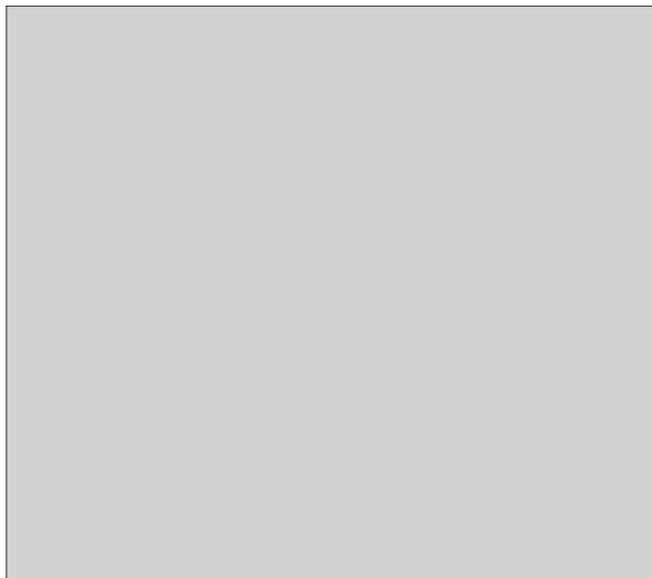
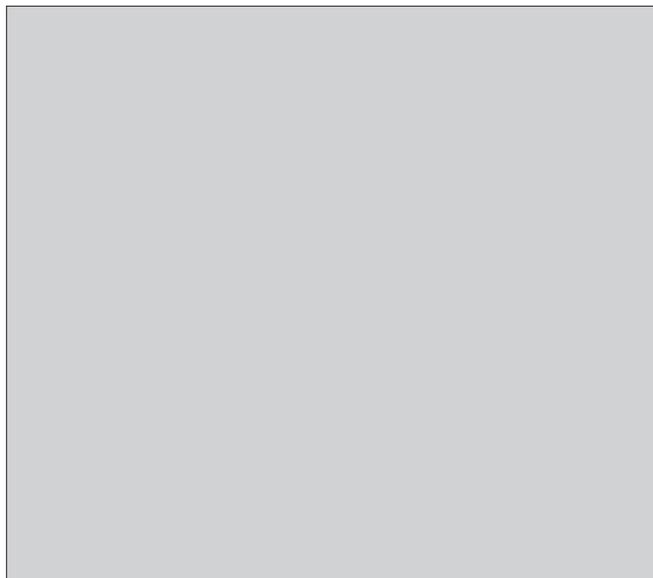
There are several things to consider in developing a family care plan. First, people must delegate long- and short-term caregivers. Long-term caregivers are able to care for family members for the entire length of time the Air Force member is required to be absent from the family. Whereas short-term caregivers are

diate relief in emergency situations such as death or incapacitation. In the case of death, the custodian is responsible for the children until the service member's will can be executed or a court can appoint a legal guardian when there is no will.

Both the temporary designee and the short-term caregiver must live in the local area to ensure immediate care of family members.

Designated caregivers need tools to provide proper care. One such tool is a

●SEE PLAN PAGE 11



● FROM PLAN PAGE 10

This also requires examining the family budget, Sergeant Remington said. Things to keep in mind are changes to family expenses. People should consider additional or decreased income due to the deployment or lost income from an additional job.

To help the caregiver during this time, they must have access to the closest base exchange, commissary and medical care. They need to have the children's TRICARE information, school records and medical records.

Further logistical details should be incorporated into the plan such as special medical needs, favorite toys and foods, and directions to home, school and church. When the plan is executed, schools or other organizations must also be kept in the loop.

Although it is mandatory to annually review the Air Force Form 357, Chief Hall suggests frequently reviewing the actual suitability and workability of a service member's family care plan. For example, if the original designees listed are the service member's parents, if deployed today, are they still capable of fulfilling that duty?

The service member really needs to be involved in this planning phase, Sergeant Remington said. It isn't just simply filling out paperwork and checking a block.

"Don't pencil whip it, and if you try and do the paperwork necessary for a care plan on the mobility line, you are foolish. The legal folks are going to ask questions you aren't going to think about beforehand," Sergeant Remington said. "You owe it to your spouse and children to put a lot of consideration into (the plan) and do it with care."

People who want help with family care responsibilities should visit the base family support center.

Help during deployments

The Air Force offers several support programs for family members while the service member is deployed. The family support center provides information and resources to help families during this time.

Hearts Apart morale calls

This program allows service members to keep in touch with their spouses while separated. Spouses are able to make one free 15-minute call per week directly to the service member from the comfort of their own home. Single members and civil service members are also eligible for this program. Length of phone calls vary from base to base. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Aundra Christon at 283-4856.

Personal Financial Management Program

This program offers a variety of financial information ranging from learning how to balance a checkbook, financial strategies to credit management. For more information, call Michael Coyle 283-4717.

Car Care Because We Care

This Air Force Aid program helps ensure that a reliable vehicle is available to family members during deployment or remote tours with a free vehicle oil change and safety and maintenance inspection from the base service station. This is an Air Force Aid program. For more information, call 283-4204.

Video phone

Allows family and service members to both talk and visually see each other. 24-hour notice is preferred. For more information, call Sergeant Christon at 283-4856.

Separation and Reunion

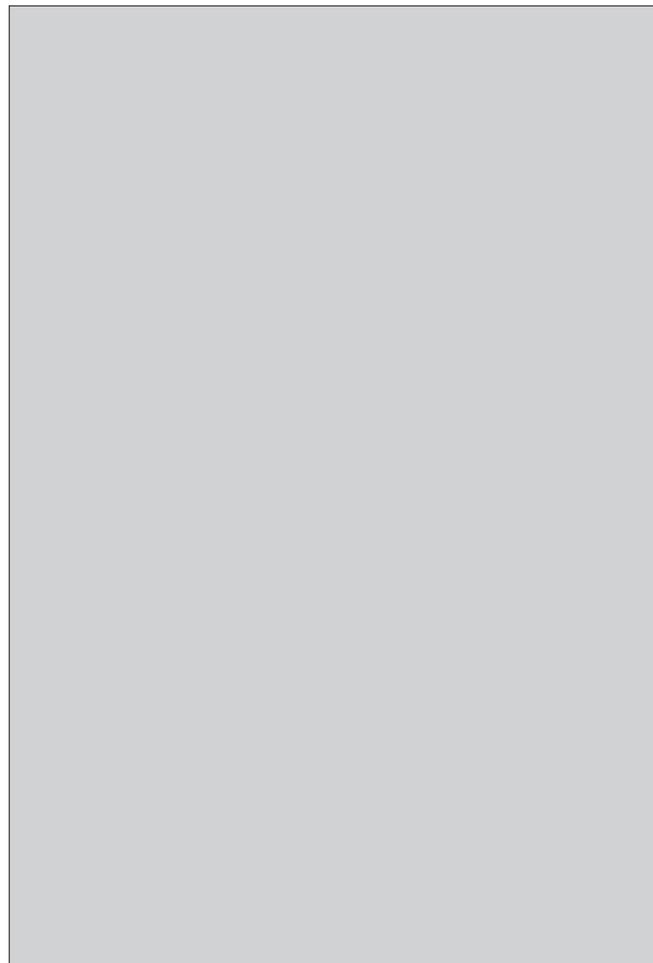
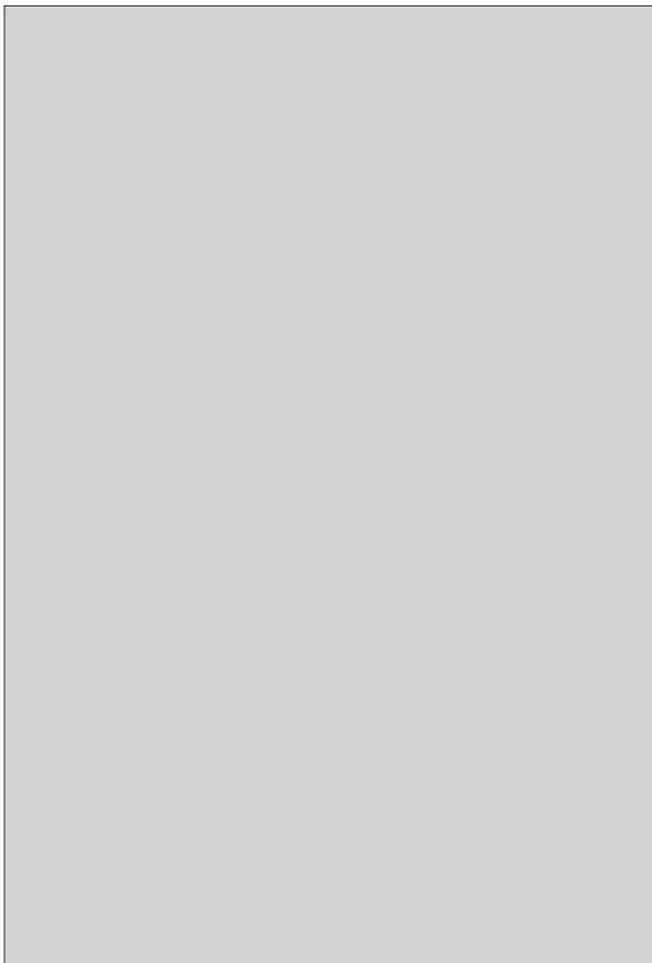
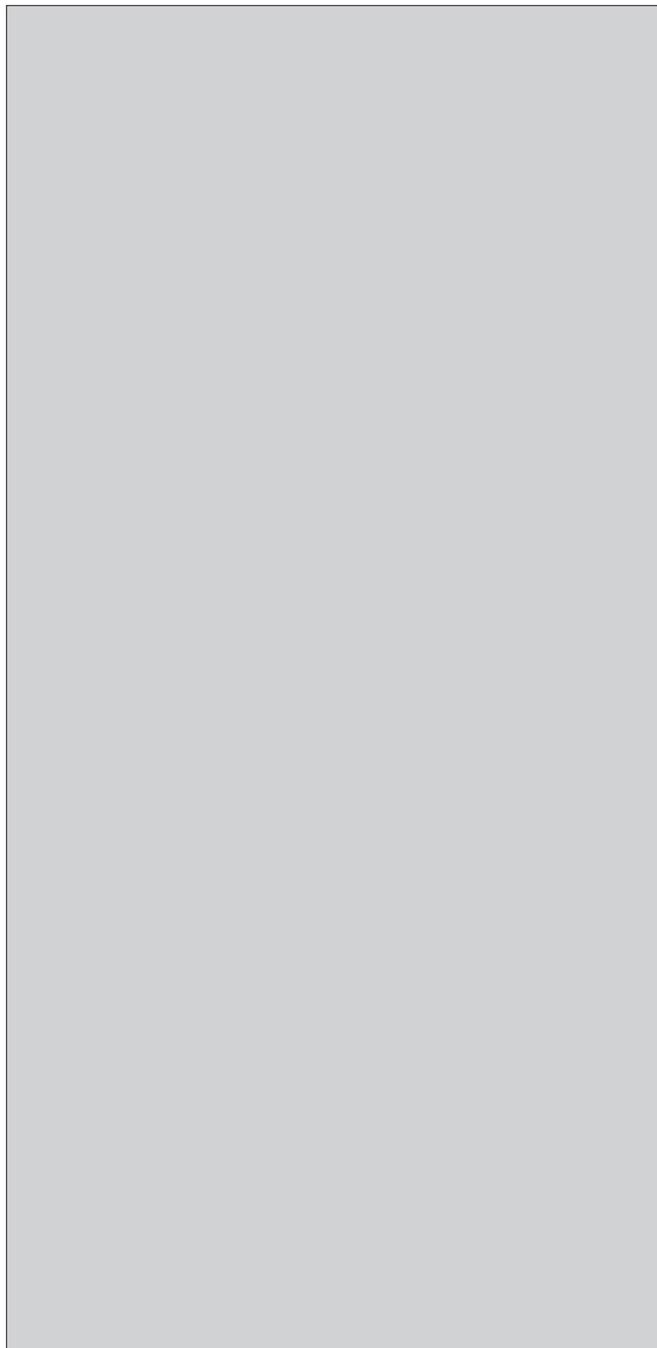
This program offers service and family members ways to cope with the stress and changes of separations and reunions. For more information, call Sergeant Christon at 283-4856 or Anita Pembleton at 283-4710.

American Red Cross

Provides emergency communications that link military members with their families back home, access to financial assistance, counseling and assistance to veterans. Information can be accessed at <http://www.redcross.org/services/afes/>. Red Cross Pan-handle chapter is located off base. Their telephone number is 763-6587.

Free help products

The family support center offers free phone cards, care packages and comfort kits to service members deployed. For more information, call 283-4856.



Your link
to what's going on

Gulf Guide

in the
Tyndall community

NOTES

Estate claims

Anyone having claims against, or indebtedness to, the estate of Staff Sgt. Brian K. McDonald, 325th Operations Support Squadron, should call 1st Lt. William Vernon, Summary Court Officer, at 283-2263 or 624-8427.

Correction

The schedule for Volunteer Income Tax Administrator training was incorrectly printed in last week's Gulf Defender. The correct schedule is 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Jan. 12 - 16 in the community activities center.

Refuse collection change

The refuse contractor will make the following changes to their schedule for the holidays.

— Homes scheduled for pickup on Thursday (Dec. 25) will be picked up on Wednesday (Dec. 24).

— Homes scheduled for pickup on Jan. 1 will be picked up on Dec. 31.

If you have any questions please contact the refuse inspectors at 283-3074 or 283-3270.

Late registration at FSU

Florida State University - Panama City Campus late registration dates are Jan. 7 - 8. Individuals can apply as a special student during this time, however the student must comply with FSU's immunization requirements.

There is a \$100 fee charged for late registration that is NOT covered by the military's Tuition Assistance program.

For more information, call Leslie McManious, FSU representative, at the education center at 283-9134.

BX extended holiday hours

The Tyndall Base Exchange extended its hours of operation today and Saturday. The hours for these two days are 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Choir performance

The Tyndall Catholic Adult & Bell Choirs will present "A Lesson in Carols" at 11:30 p.m. Dec. 24 at Chapel

Two. All are welcomed to attend. Midnight Mass will follow the program. Call 283-2925 for more information.

Antiterrorism briefings

The Office of Special Investigations will not provide Level 1 Antiterrorism briefings Dec. 25 or Jan. 1, due to the holidays.

Commissary operating schedule

Make note of the following dates regarding the commissary's operating hours during the holiday season:

Monday - Open. Santa will be available for pictures for free 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Monday. Refreshments will be available as well as a small gift from Santa for each child.

Wednesday - Closes 4 p.m.

Christmas Day and Dec. 26 - Closed

Dec. 29 - Open

New Year's Day - Closed

BX complex holiday closures

Facility	Wednesday	Thursday	Dec. 26	Dec. 27
Overhead Office	0700-1500	Closed	Closed	Closed
Main Store	0900-1800	Closed	1000-1700	0900-1900
MCSS	Closed	Closed	Closed	0900-1600
Shoal Point	1100-1700	Closed	1100-1800	1100-1800
Class Six	0900-1600	Closed	1000-1800	0800-2200
Felix Lake	0600-1900	Closed	0600-19100	0600-2100
Service Station	0900-1600	Closed	Closed	0900-1700
Wok Works	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Anthony's	1000-1600	Closed	Closed	1100-1700
Robin Hood	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Franks Kiosk	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Burger King	Closed	Closed	1000-1700	1000-1700
Barber Shop	Closed	Closed	Closed	0900-1700
Fit Line Barber Shop	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Beauty Shop	Closed	Closed	Closed	1000-1600
Laundry/Cleaners	Closed	Closed	Closed	0900-1300
Alerations	Closed	Closed	Closed	0900-1800
Alterations MCSS	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
GNC	0900-1400	Closed	1000-1700	0900-1800
Flower Shop	Closed	Closed	Closed	0900-1800
Alltel	0900-1400	Closed	Closed	0900-1730
Optical Shop	1000-1400	Closed	Closed	1000-1800
Nail Salon	1000-1500	Closed	Closed	1000-1700

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Catholic Services

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

Protestant services will be as follows: Communion service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel 1; religious education classes, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Building 1476; general Protestant service, 11 a.m., Chapel 2.

RETIREE NEWS

Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act

President George Bush has signed the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 into law (Public Law 108-173). This legislation makes several improvements to Medicare and TRICARE that have received less publicity than the new pharmacy provisions.

In January, the law raises Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors by 1.5 percent instead of the 4.5 percent payment cut previously scheduled, and removes the \$1,590 annual caps on Medicare payments for occupational therapy and physical or speech therapies. It also authorizes an open enrollment period in 2004 to let TRICARE-For-Life beneficiaries sign up for Medicare Part B without incurring any late-enrollment penalties and ends current penalties for TFL beneficiaries who signed up for Part B since Jan. 1, 2001.

The new law would also phase in Part B premium increases for higher-income beneficiaries starting in 2007.

(SOURCE: MOAA Legislative Update, Dec. 12)

CLASSIFIEDS

1988 Supra Mariah 21' open bow ski boat, 454 (330 hp) inboard, seating for eight people, CD/stereo w/ alpine speakers, lots of extras, life jackets. NADA avg. retail \$9,600, asking \$8,500. (850) 215-8909 or e-mail caychlojo@knology.net

1996 Astro Conversion Van, TV/VCR, rear bench seat makes double bed. Excellent family vehicle. Only 64K miles. Selling below blue book, will take first \$7200. 850-249-7249.

Free to good home; 2.5-year-old male Black Labrador Retriever, neutered, housebroken, loves attention and children. Call 215-1118, leave message.

Free Classifieds

The Gulf Defender will publish free classified ads here for the one-time sale of personal property excluding real estate for active-duty military, retirees and Department of Defense civilians working on Tyndall. Ads are run on a space-available basis and must be limited to 25 words or less. Duty numbers are not allowed. Submit ads to editor@tyndall.af.mil.

Tigers lose at Robins, fall into first-place tie

The Tyndall Tigers men's varsity basketball team suffered two road losses to the host Robins Air Force Base Hawks in Southeastern Military Athletic Conference action this past weekend. Tyndall is tied for first place in the conference with Hurlburt Field, with a 9-5 conference mark.

Robins-79, Tyndall-70

In Saturday's game, Robins jumped out to an early lead that they held at the halftime intermission by an eight-point margin, 45-37. In the second half, the Tigers battled back to within three points down the stretch, but committed several critical turnovers to give the Hawks the victory.

Elvin Walker led the Tigers in scoring with 21 points, followed by Tarrance Garner with 16 points and Tommy Nixon with 12. Scott Moore and Marvin Gamble each contributed 10 points. Moore led in rebounding with 10 and Walker had six assists. Keith Ward led Robins in scoring with a game-high 27 points.

Robins-88, Tyndall-80

In the second contest, the Tyndall squad roared to a 14-0 lead in the first half. Tyndall maintained its lead at the half 45-31. In the second half, the Tigers answered each Hawks rally until four minutes remained in the contest. Then, the momentum swung to the Hawks as they turned untimely Tyndall turnovers into three-point plays to capture the lead. Robins went into a delay game which forced the Tigers to foul and sealed the victory by connecting on 7 of 8 free throws to earn the victory.

Tommy Nixon paced the Tigers in scoring with a game- and season-high 27 points, followed by KeJuan Bostick and Lance Clark with 15 points each. Tarrance Garner chipped in 10 points. Scott Moore paced the Tigers in rebounding with 12. Nixon led in assists with six. Keith Ward again led the Hawks in scoring with 25 points.

This weekend, Tyndall will host Maxwell in their final contests before the holiday break. Game times are 2 p.m. Saturday and noon Sunday.

(Courtesy Tyndall Tigers)



Dorm World challenge to reassemble pieces

STEVE RIDDLE
325th Services Squadron publicist

The third event of the Dorm World program happens tonight, when the Community Activities Center hosts the Puzzle Contest, part of AETC's ongoing Dorm World program.

Along with the puzzle contest, the CAC will hold a single-elimination 8-Ball tournament. There will also be free pizza for dorm residents, another plus from the Dorm World program.

CAC Director Jean Cole said her facility hopes to make this a memorable event during the holiday season for Tyndall's dorm residents. The entire Dorm World program, she said, is intended to make the holiday season a little better for the men and women of the AETC who have to spend it away from family.

"This is a great Air Force initiative to promote holiday activities for our

dorm residents over this festive season," she said.

The three-hour contest begins at 6 p.m. Each dorm will host a four-person team to assemble the 1,000 piece puzzles. The team with the most pieces together at the end will be declared the winner, earning first place points toward their overall Dorm World program score. The dorm that wins the entire program earns a dorm party with a DJ, free food, and T-shirts.

Another part of the program that has been going on for the past month is the volunteer hours contest. Dorm residents were able to earn points for their dorm by volunteering up to three hours of their time in a variety of ways. The number of participants and their hours will be determined at tonight's contest, and the results announced.

"Volunteer cards also need to be turned in at tonight's event," Ms. Cole explained. "Between the puzzle contest and the volunteer hours, there are a lot of points on the line tonight."

Ms. Cole will be on hand at the event to discuss plans for the final Dorm World program event, the Dorm World Challenge. There will be three contests in this final event – a tricycle race, water bucket relay, and a balance beam contest. Tonight's participants will have a say in scheduling the final event.

Going into tonight's event, Dorm 1680 leads with 11 points. Dorm 1046 is close behind with 8 points. The race for third place is even tighter, with the Quad holding a narrow edge over 1149 and 1036.

For more information, contact the CAC at 283-2495.

Most commissaries not closing

RUDI WILLIAMS
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFP) – To soothe anxiety among service members and their families about reports of the Defense Department closing commissaries, a top Department of Defense official emphasized that the department strongly supports commissaries as an important benefit of military service.

"The future of the commissary benefit is very sound, very healthy," said John Molino, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy. "The department is committed to maintain a commissary benefit."

Calling recent media coverage of the commissary issue "slanted and inaccurate," Mr. Molino said DOD officials are strongly supporting the commissary benefit.

Mr. Molino said the controversy goes back three years. Shortly after arriving



at the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld asked whether the department should be running a chain of grocery stores.

"We did a detailed analysis of whether or not there were other ways to deliver the commissary benefit," Mr. Molino said. "The conclusion was that the commissary needs to stay (as) something we do within the Department of Defense, even

though it is outside our core competency."

People tend to forget that DOD conducted a review and that Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz concluded that the commissary is not an item for privatization, Mr. Molino said.

"The leadership of the department has told us that that the commissary issue is off the table," Mr. Molino explained. "We are now fo-

cused on good management and providing the best benefit we can. We subject the commissaries to the same customer satisfaction indexes that private sector grocery stores do."

He said the commissaries' performance is much better and customers are happier than ever before. "They're happier with the selection of the groceries, and the cleanliness and the quality of the stores," he added.

Even though DOD officials are not searching for ways to close commissaries, Mr. Molino said, realistically, there might be a location that needs to be closed.

The No. 1 priority governing keeping a commissary open is the number of active-duty people assigned, which should be at least 100, he said.

"But if you don't hit that number, it doesn't always mean we'll close the commissary," Mr. Molino said.

●SEE SHOP PAGE 15



Funshine NEWS

December 19, 2003

All Ranks Lunch

at the Officers' Club

Mon.-Thurs.: \$6.95 ■ Friday: \$7.95
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Unlimited access to the daily buffet, salad bar,
fountain soda, tea & coffee!

Includes Fresh, Hot, Carved Meat
Sandwiches on Kaiser Roll

Monday	Chef's Choice
Tuesday	Italian
Wednesday	Oriental
Thursday	All American
Friday	Seafood

*Members, show your club card to receive a \$1 discount!

On Base Food Delivery

■ **Lunch Menu:** Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Limited to office deliveries (i.e. squadron addresses)

■ **Evening Menu:** Fri. & Sat. 5:30-9 p.m.

Subs & Pizzas
286-2900

Crazy Cash Give-away at the O' Club Every Friday during Social Hour.

Jackpot starts at \$100. The first member name
drawn is for the jackpot. If there is no winner
\$25 will be added to next week's
jackpot (max. \$500).

Once the name is drawn the winner
has 5 minutes to claim their prize.
If the winner fails to claim their prize
a second drawing will be held from
bar receipts for \$25.

283-4357 for details

Don't stay in your dorm room.
Come out and play...
you could win a party for your dorm.

The Dorm World

Play the Game

Puzzle Assembly

December 19, 6 p.m. at the CAC

4 person teams,
participants may tag in and out
3 hour time limit
entertainment & snacks

Call 283-2495
for details.

There will be no New Year's Eve party at the Enlisted or Officer's
Club this year. Decision based on feedback gathered
by the club advisory committees.

Leave The 2003 Holiday Designated Driver Program

Driving To Us

The program which asks club members to
volunteer to be a designated driver at various
club events throughout the holiday season, was
created in an effort to place special emphasis
on reducing alcohol related incidents during.
Program ends Jan. 5, 2004. Call the club to
see how you can help make the holidays safer.

283-4357

Also here for you: LADD

Lodging Against Drunk Drivers

Lodging has set aside rooms each Friday and Saturday night for those of you who wish to party at one of the clubs on base but who do not wish to drive home afterwards. The cost per room is \$24.50 per night. NO QUESTIONS ASKED. Rooms will also be available during the holidays for personnel who schedule their holiday parties on base. For more information, please call the reservations office at 283-4211, x3346, 3348 or 3343 to request reservations. If the squadron is paying for the rooms as a group, rather than individually, the POC may stop by the day of event to pay for the rooms, and pick up the keys. You will not be reimbursed if the rooms are not used. We at the Sand Dollar Inn wish everyone safe weekends and happy holiday and encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity.

**Enlisted Club
Tailgate Party & Chili Cookoff**
Jan. 9 Call 283-4357
for more information.

Tyndall's All Ranks Seafood Extravaganza

At the O' Club
Friday, January 9
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Snow Crab Station, Peel & Eat Shrimp Station,
Oysters on the 1/2 Shell Station, Beef Carving
Station, A Variety of Prepared Fish, Breaded
Shrimp, Scallops, Seafood Newberg, Clam
Chowder, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy,
Steamed Rice, Hush Puppies, Vegetables,
Assorted Desserts, Tea, Water, Coffee.

Market Price: \$18.95*
Children ages 6-11: \$9.95*
5 & Under: \$4.95*

*Members First!

Show your club card to receive a \$3 discount.

Holiday Hayride and Marshmallow Roast

December 20, Cost per person is one canned good,
due upon admission. Bundle up for the weather and
snuggle down in fluffy hay for this tractor drawn
hayride to see the holiday lights through Felix Lake
and Wood Manor housing. Warm up with hot
chocolate next to our marshmallow roasting campfire
at Felix Lake. Enjoy an old fashioned way to celebrate
family and friends. Reservations suggested as seating
is limited. All youth must be accompanied and
supervised by an adult. Shuttles begin at 3 p.m. and
are offered on the hour, with the last departure at 8
p.m. Wagons are loaded at the Wood Manor ballfield
parking lot and will return there at the end of the
ride. Call 283-3199 for more information.

Lodging

☎ 283-4211

Holiday "Space A" Rooms

Due to an Air Force waiver, the Sand
Dollar Inn is now taking "Space A"
reservations for Thanksgiving holiday
and the Dec. 12 to Jan. 4 Christmas and
New Year's holiday. You may book up to
an eight-day stay for Thanksgiving and
up to a 20-day stay over the Christmas
and New Year's holidays.

Vet Clinic

☎ 283-2434

New Vet

Our new Veterinarian has arrived! Come in
and see our new clinic. We have new
appointments available for vaccinations,
sick call, and even minor surgical
procedures. We are having a special
evening clinic for vaccinations on Jan. 6 and
13. We are still offering a Free Starter Kit
for puppies and kittens when they are
brought in for their booster shots. Don't
forget to continue with the Flea, Tick, and
Heartworm Preventative during the winter
months. We are offering a Free single dose
of Frontline when you purchase a 6 month
supply. We are expanding our services, so if
you have a question or are not sure if we
can be of service to you, just give us a call
and, we would be happy to help!

Family Child Care

☎ 283-2266

License Requirement

The Air Force requires persons who
care for children to be licensed to
provide care. Call for details.

Community Activity Center

☎ 283-2495

Pig Skin Picks

Forms are available at the CAC &
Sports Page Pizza Pub. Prizes will be
awarded. Ace the weekly Pig Skin Pick
and receive one free Pizza Buffet.
Sponsored in part by AA Military
Benefits Group. No federal
endorsement of sponsor intended.

Holiday Hours

Tyndall Clubs & Pizza Pub/Snack Bar
Dec. 21 - Jan. 5: Closed

Pelican Point Golf Course
Dec. 24 & 31: Closes at 3 p.m.
Dec. 25: Closed

Base Library
Dec. 16: Open: 9-11 a.m. Closed: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Dec. 17-19, 23, 30 & Jan. 2: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Dec. 24, 31: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Dec. 25-29, Jan. 1: Closed

CAC
Dec. 23, Jan. 2-3: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Dec. 24-31, Jan. 1: Closed

Bonita Bay & ITT
Closed Dec. 22, Reopen Jan. 2
Jan. 2: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bowling Center
Dec. 24: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Dec. 25: Closed

EQT
Dec 25, 26, Jan. 1, & 2: Closed

Fitness Center
Dec. 24, 31: 5 a.m.-4 p.m.
Dec. 25: Closed
Dec. 26, Jan. 1 & 2: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Graphic Impressions
Dec. 24-Jan. 5: Closed

Human Resource Office
Dec. 24-26, 31, Jan. 1 & 2: Closed

Youth Center
Dec. 24: Closes at 5 p.m.
Dec. 25-28, Jan. 1-4: Closed
Dec. 31: Closes at 6 p.m.

Skills Dev. Center
Dec. 23-Jan. 1: Closed

Vet Clinic
Dec. 25-28 and Jan. 1-4.

Start Flying Now!

For many, flying is just a dream fulfilled by a
piece of folded paper. With the help of your
Aero Club's Flight Training Center (FTC), you
can move beyond paper dreams. You may even
qualify to use VA education benefits to minimize
the cost for advanced ratings. If you are active
duty or retired military, a DoD civilian
employee, or a family member of someone who
qualifies, then you can join over one million
men and women who made their dream of flight
a reality.

Introductory Ride \$49
283-4404

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“We look at all of the factors and weigh heavily the quality-of-life implications of closing the store.”

But he quickly added that “more often than not, we leave commissaries open in isolated areas where they lose money every week. But we do that knowingly and willingly, because that’s the only way the servic members can have their commissary benefit because of the rural and isolated nature of the location.”

He said that the more remote a store is, the more likely it is to stay open. Since fiscal 2001, DOD officials have closed nine commissaries. Five were at bases that had closed. Four other stores were closed at places where the population fell and a newer, better commissary was nearby.

DOD officials do not want to close any commissary, but they will do so if one is draining the system to the point of affecting customer support throughout the system, Mr. Molino said.

Whenever a commissary is closed, an exchange service often steps in to fill the gap with an exchange market operation, the deputy undersecretary said. “The market provides the bread-and-milk kind of service you’d find at a convenience store,” Mr. Molino explained.

Saying that there are 276 commissaries worldwide, Mr. Molino said 19 have been put on a “watch list.”

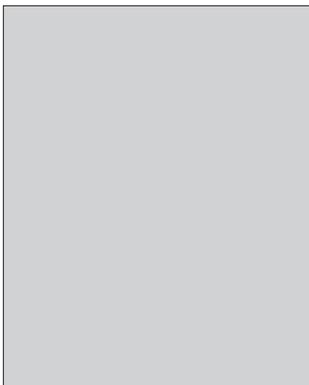
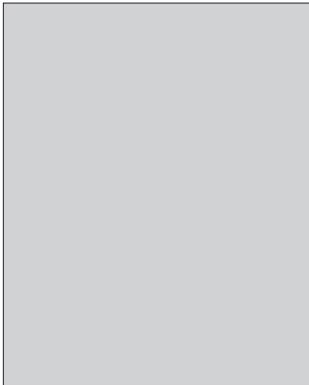
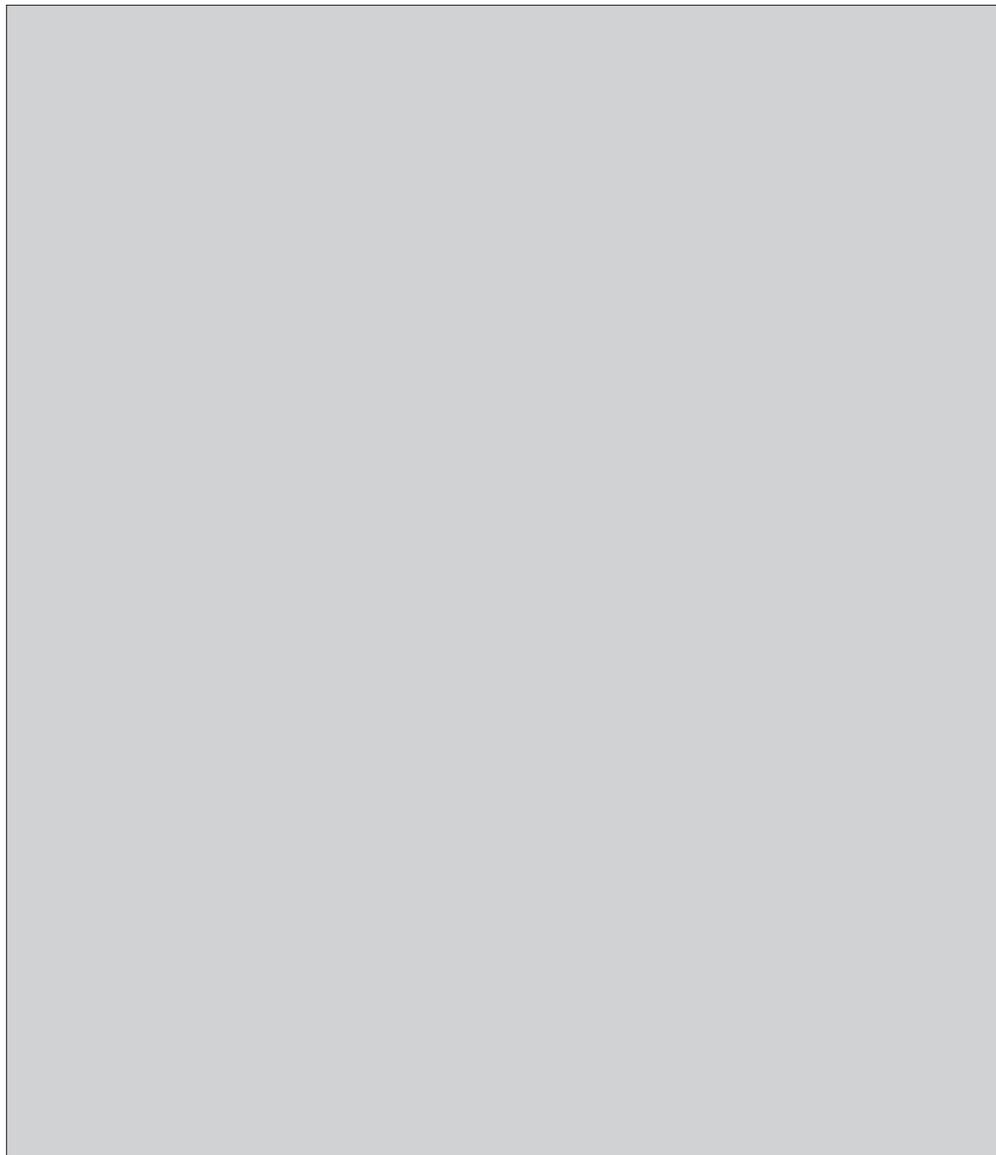
“That leaves 257 that are in good shape, operating very well and are not in danger of closing,” he said. “We look at every store every year.”

Holiday crafts

Children in the child development center do crafts for the holidays. (Right) Joey Rutherford watches Grady DeSaussure ensure his project will stick together. (Bottom right) From left, Kyle Mabry, Holly Souther, Olivia Maanao, Ms. Cheryl Melko and Shelby Edman work on gingerbread men. (Below) Michael Utley coats a paper eye with glue.



Tech. Sgt. Roel Utley



Arrive alive
The best gift this holiday season may be a designated driver. Think before you drink.

