



# GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 62, No. 7

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

Feb. 21, 2003

## In brief

### Welcome Army

Team Tyndall welcomes the Florida Army National Guard's 146th Signal Battalion, A Company, headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla. While here, the soldiers will be assigned to the 325th Security Forces Squadron.

### Tops in Blue

Tickets for Tops in Blue 2003, to be held 7:30 p.m. Sunday in the Marina Civic Center, will be available 11 a.m. today in the community activities center. Due to limited seating, a maximum of four tickets per person will be available. An identification card is required. For more information, call the community activities center, 283-2495.

### Black History Month luncheon

A luncheon to celebrate Black History Month 2003 is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the enlisted club. The guest speaker is Pastor Delwynn Williams, St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Panama City.

The cost for the luncheon is \$10 and the menu includes Southern fried chicken, black-eyed peas, collard greens, yams, cornbread, coffee and tea.

Call Master Sgt. Waldlena Schmidt at 283-6378 for tickets or more information.

## Inside

● Annual award winners announced ... **Page 4**

● Tyndall takes Valentine's Day to vets ... **Page 8**

● Tyndall Tigers basketball champs... **Page 13**

# Twister tears through Tyndall

**CAPT. CHRIS KARNS**  
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

A tornado with winds in excess of 100 miles per hour touched down at Tyndall Air Force Base at 4:05 a.m. Sunday, causing about \$250,000 in damage.

The tornado arrived without warning and although the base sustained no damage to the airfield or the wing's high-valued assets — namely its people and aircraft — Mother Nature did leave her mark on the base.

A 1st Air Force administrative building was heavily damaged by the tornado, forcing people assigned to the unit to relocate. The tornado inflicted minor damage on about 10 buildings, including the Southeast Air Defense Sector Air Operations Center and the Continental U.S. NORAD Region Compound. Damage included a number of trees that were destroyed or de-limbed by its force. Also, about 35 vehicles, many with imploded glass, and one that was catapulted into the administrative building, sustained significant damage as did a few electrical-power lines. However, due to backup power sources, there was no disruption to the mission.

For a few Team Tyndall members, another day on the job definitely took an unexpected twist.

"The wind picked up and it sounded like a train sounds when it's running down the track," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Belluccio, 325th Security Forces Squadron sentry, who was caught in the middle of the storm's wrath. "I couldn't see outside the window of the eight foot by eight foot



Capt. Chris Karns

**Tyndall members start recovery efforts after a tornado touched ground at about 4 a.m. Sunday causing \$250,000 worth of damage to 10 facilities and more than 30 vehicles in the area. No one was injured and operations were uninterrupted.**

building I was in. I went to open the door and looked back toward the flightline and it was swirling around like a wall of water and debris. My initial instinct was to stay at my post and take cover because I had no idea if the building was going to crush in on me."

Sergeant Belluccio was fortunate because 10 yards from his location, a contractor's trailer was completely destroyed.

"If [the tornado] had hit an unsecured post directly, somebody could have gotten killed," Sergeant Belluccio said. "Cars were turned around, turned upside-

down, power poles were snapped down, windows were busted out all from the pressure of the wind."

Sergeant Belluccio made the first-response call and also warned another security forces sentry near the SEADS and CONR air operations center to take cover because the tornado appeared to be headed his way.

"I was caught in chaos for a second, and my initial response was to call out to post 14 and tell him to take cover," Sergeant Belluccio said. "The tornado was the size of the SEADS complex."

Following the response call, the

325th Civil Engineer Squadron Emergency Response Forces sprang into action to assess the damage and initiate cleanup efforts. The Tyndall Fire Department responded to the scene first, arriving only three minutes after fire alarms went off in several buildings. However, Mother Nature was not cooperating as the weather and wind delayed their entry onto the scene by about 10 minutes.

"Because of strong winds, the [fire department chief] held people short of the scene until the

●SEE TORNADO PAGE 9

# Star performers, response recognized

**BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW**

325th Fighter Wing commander



The severe weather that hit us this past weekend could have been much worse, in terms of damage to facilities and threat to

lives. Fortunately, the tornado struck the north side of the base during non-duty hours and no one was hurt. Unfortunately, it did cause damage to several facilities and vehicles. The initial response by fire department, security and civil engineer forces was simply outstanding and Maj. Gen. Craig McKinley, 1st Air Force commander, passes his appreciation to all involved. I'd like to add my thanks and commend each person who took part in the response, recovery and clean-up efforts for their quick action and professionalism. It truly was a textbook example of teamwork and epitomized what Team Tyndall is all about.

Severe weather, such as this, can occur anytime, and this time we were lucky. I urge everyone to review plans for severe weather response, know where to go in your facility



**“Severe weather, such as this, can occur anytime, and this time we were lucky. I urge everyone to review plans for severe weather response, know where to go in your facility for shelter and the actions to take in an emergency.”**

**BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW**

325th Fighter Wing commander

for shelter and the actions to take in an emergency. Don't forget to share this information with family members too. As the weather continues to change with spring approaching in the Florida Panhandle, we will be susceptible to severe thunderstorms and one can never be too prepared.

Just a few hours prior to the tornado, we were celebrating the accomplishments of another group of outstanding performers... Team Tyndall's annual award winners. Last year was chock full of accomplishments and milestones. The 2002 award recipients represent the best of the best in each category and truly deserve this distinction. So, please join me in congratulating these professionals

when you see them around the base. The 2002 winners are: Staff Sgt. Christopher Tuck, Team Tyndall Airman of the Year; Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Konkol Jr., Team Tyndall NCO of the Year; Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Abbott, Team Tyndall Senior NCO of the Year; Capt. Lisa Bader, Team Tyndall Company Grade Officer of the Year; Senior Master Sgt. Tracy Lawsen, Team Tyndall First Sergeant of the Year; Melissa Sanders, Team Tyndall Civilian of the Year, Category 1 GS/WG-03 thru GS/WG-08; Christine Watkins, Category 2 GS/WG-09 thru GS/WG-13; Staff Sgt. Darrell Gary, Team Tyndall Honor Guard Member of the Year;

●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.

*Larry D. New*

**BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW**

325th Fighter Wing commander

# Compliance with standards not optional

**MAJ. WILLIAM CANNON**

71st Security Forces Squadron commander

**VANCE AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. (AFP)** — A few weeks ago, I was involved in a rather candid conversation with a senior NCO regarding standards, performance expectations and ratings, and the effects and aftermath of non-judicial punishment, among other things.

During our discussion, I was told that I was, with all due respect, perhaps a bit too narrow-minded and maybe too much “my way or the highway” regarding these issues.

Since he said it as if it were a bad thing, I assumed he meant it as constructive criticism and have subsequently given his words a great deal of thought regarding my perspective on these issues, including the first time I heard the phrase “my way or the highway.”

That first time was in December 1981, during my first assignment as a young airman at Minot Air Force Base,

N.D., in the Strategic Air Command, when a technical sergeant, now a retired chief master sergeant, informed me, “There is the Air Force way, the SAC way and my way” and “It's my way or the highway.”

He was also fond of the phrase “outstanding or outprocessing.” At that time, we didn't have mandatory performance feedback sessions and computerized forms on which to document feedback, but I received all I needed: “These are the standards and noncompliance is unacceptable.”

Twenty-one years later, my response to people who ask me how I'm doing is usually “outstanding” because of my early military socialization under the supervision of this NCO where outprocessing was the only other option. Based on that, I guess it is possible I may occasionally exhibit a “my way or the highway” attitude with regard to these issues.

However, I'll caveat my concession by saying that un-

derstanding and complying with the standards should be everyone's way and we should live our core values “24/7.” Some disagree with my view since I've had at least one person tell me what he did and whom he did it with off-duty was a private matter and none of the Air Force's business.

However, in this case, I'm fairly confident that my narrow-minded, “my way or the highway” opinion is aligned with the Air Force standard. If you turn to page 91 in the Promotion Fitness Examination Study Guide, you'll read, “A Way of Life. Air Force members are subject to duty 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays. If so directed by a competent authority, they must report for duty at any hour, at any location, and remain as long as necessary to get the job done. The Air Force mission necessitates more restrictive rules and standards than are normally found in civilian life. Individuals not living up to

●SEE STANDARDS PAGE 3

## Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Larry New ..... 325th FW commander  
 Capt. Chris Karns ..... chief, 325th FW public affairs  
 Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely ..... chief, internal information  
 Staff Sgt. Roel Utley ..... editor  
 2nd Lt. Albert Bosco ..... staff reporter  
 2nd Lt. Ryan Fitzgerald ..... staff reporter  
 Teresa Nooney ..... News Herald staffer

The *Gulf Defender* is published by the *Panama City News Herald*, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Gulf Defender* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, the Department of the Air Force or the *Panama City News Herald* of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the pur-

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.

● **FROM THANKS PAGE 2**

and Jim Hill, Volunteer of the Year.

Team Tyndall award winners know that staying involved in their units and in the local area is an important part of success, and one such opportunity for involvement is just around the corner, the Gulf Coast Salute 2003 Air Show and Open House. March 22 and 23 you, your families, and the entire community will be treated to a first-class show by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, our very own F-15 Eagles and many aircraft, both from our current Air Force inventory and those representing the Department of Defense's history and heritage. Both days promise to be filled with fun for the whole family. Spread the word to your friends, neighbors and visitors to our community. It's our opportunity to show our appreciation to the American public, demonstrate our outstanding airpower and various capabilities. It also allows the public to meet the men and women of our Armed Forces and gain a greater understanding of the Team Tyndall and Department of Defense missions.

We also have a unique opportunity to share

our base and community with our fellow servicemembers in the Army National Guard. This week Team Tyndall welcomed the men and women of the 146th Signal Battalion, headquartered at Jacksonville, Fla., as they begin operations supporting the 325th Security Forces Squadron. Together, as a joint team, our U.S. Air Force Security Forces and the Army National Guard will work to keep Team Tyndall safe and secure. We look forward to working with our fellow servicemembers and sharing one of the best bases to live, work and play.

This weekend, we will also get to share Air Force style entertainment with our local community as the Tops in Blue concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Marina Civic Center. This is a great opportunity to see a first-class group of Air Force ambassadors perform and entertain. Tickets are available today at the community activities center and Marina Civic Center. Come out, enjoy the event, share the Air Force pride these performers are here to display, and have a great weekend!

● **FROM STANDARDS PAGE 2**

the high standards will not be retained in the Air Force.”

Even our newest airmen understand this and upon completion of a special first-term airman's transition program, pledge to conduct themselves at all times so as to bring credit upon the Air Force, to fulfill their responsibilities and display professionalism at all times, and to set an example for all to follow. I find it very uplifting to watch these young men and women as they proudly repeat The Airman's Creed, and find myself even more passionate about the Air Force way of life — my way of life, a great way of life.

Our conduct then, fulfilling our responsibilities and displaying professionalism at all times, is integrally connected to the success of our mission and should remain above reproach. We can tolerate mistakes and even learn valuable lessons from them as long as we conduct ourselves at all times so as to bring credit upon the Air Force.

Misconduct and criminal acts are not tolerated by military members and counterproductive to accomplishing our mission.

Driving under the influence, failure to obey a lawful order, indecent language, indecent exposure, indecent acts, assault, dereliction of duty, failure to go, incapacitation for the performance of duty, underage drinking, public intoxication, contributing to the delinquency of a minor and aggravated assault have no place in our way of life. These must

be dealt with appropriately.

Just in case you're wondering, I didn't just pick these crimes out of the Uniform Code of Military Justice; these were the incidents that led to 27 Article 15 actions at Vance AFB last year, an extremely troublesome statistic, especially considering the number of additional incidents of misconduct that didn't rise to the level of non-judicial punishment.

Unfortunately, we have a tendency to focus on the negative aspects due to the number of incidents, the time spent on corrective and administrative actions, and the time spent searching for prevention rather than cure.

But we must accentuate the positive and remain focused on the mission and the people who accomplish it. Despite these incidents and the issues that led to the discussion I had with that senior NCO regarding my narrow-mindedness and my “my way or the highway” attitude, our Air Force is composed of warriors who exhibit integrity in their actions and control over their lives.

Our efforts play a significant role in ensuring national security, and that is why President Bush could tell the world that, “Once again, we are called upon to defend the safety of our people, and the hopes of all mankind, and we accept this responsibility.” That is why the Air Force is indeed a great way of life.

*(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)*

# Tyndall honors top performers during annual banquet

**2ND LT. RYAN FITZGERALD**

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Team Tyndall celebrated the success of its top performers Saturday during the base's annual awards banquet held at the Pelican Reef Enlisted Club.

*Among those hailed were:*

**Staff Sgt. Darell Gary, Team Tyndall Honor Guard member of the Year.** Sergeant Gary always "wants to do whatever he can, whenever he can to help out the team," said Staff Sgt. Adam Sparks, non-commissioned officer in charge of the honor guard. "He's just awesome," Sergeant Sparks added.

**Staff Sgt. Christopher Tuck, 325th Fighter Wing and Team Tyndall Airman of the Year.** Sergeant Tuck is a contracting specialist assigned to the 325th Contracting Squadron. His flawless handling of more than \$100 million worth of contracts, along with a stellar performance during a deployment separated him from the field, said Maj. David Kennedy, 325th Contracting Squadron commander. Sergeant Tuck continues a family tradition of excellence, as his wife, Billie Tuck was the 2001 Airman of the Year.

**Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Konkol Jr., 325th Fighter Wing and Team Tyndall Non-commissioned Officer of the Year.** Sergeant Konkol is a contracting specialist assigned to the 325th Contracting Squadron, who orchestrated Tyndall's consolidated computer buy program. The program saved Tyndall nearly \$750,000, one of many accomplishments that earned him recognition, according to Major Kennedy.

**Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Abbott, Associate Unit and Team Tyndall Senior Non-commissioned Officer of the Year.** "Senior Master Sgt. Abbott transformed the engineer assistant career field by expanding training in, access to, and use of geospatial technologies for expeditionary engineering, and was the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency's nominee for the Air Force-level Maj. Gen. William D. Gilbert Award recognizing superior civil engineer staff action officers," said Col. Bruce Barthold, AFCESA commander.

**Capt. Lisa Bader, 325th Fighter Wing and Team Tyndall Company Grade Officer of the Year.** Captain Bader distinguished herself by training more than 3,500 Tyndall personnel about child and spousal abuse report-

ing. Her efforts helped to improve early identification by 15 percent, according to Lt. Col. Dennis Oakes, 325th Medical Operations Squadron commander. Captain Bader works as the base family advocacy officer.

**Senior Master Sgt. Tracy Lawson, 325th Fighter Wing and Team Tyndall First Sergeant of the Year.** Sergeant Lawson is "first shirt" for the operations group. He managed more than 400 personnel assigned to the group, doing the work normally assigned to two first sergeants, an accomplishment highlighted in his nomination. He was also a key adviser to commanders during the wing's 2002 reorganization.

**Melissa Sanders, 325th Fighter Wing and Team Tyndall Civilian, Category I of the Year.** Ms. Sanders is "the glue that binds the squadron," said Major Kennedy. She is the squadron commander's secretary and the only administrative person assigned to support 70 people in the unit.

**Christine Watkins, 325th Fighter Wing and Team Tyndall Civilian, Category II of the Year.** Ms. Watkins is chief, accounting liaison for the 325th Comptroller

●SEE AWARDS PAGE 15

# Army National Guard provides security service at Tyndall

**2ND LT. ALBERT BOSCO**

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Over the past year, the operational tempo of the United States military has increased and the men and women of Team Tyndall are seeing the effects. Due to the increased necessity to support various mission requirements, Tyndall members have found themselves in high demand. And the 325th Security Forces Squadron is no different.

"The Air Force has three missions: homeland defense, wartime tasking and supporting the Air Expeditionary Force rotation," explained Senior Master Sgt. Dan Barber, 325th

SFS superintendent. "Sending people to support all of these deployments leaves us short on manpower and we need people to protect our assets."

In an effort to return the security forces squadron to more of a normal duty schedule after spending the better part of two years working 12 to 14 hour shifts, the men and women of the squadron are getting some relief.

Sunday, more than 60 soldiers from the Florida Army National Guard's 146th Signal Battalion, headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla., arrived here, and for the next year,

these troops are expected to play an integral part in supporting Tyndall's force-protection mission.

The Army troops were brought to Tyndall in an effort to relieve some of the stressors endured not only by the security forces troops, but also airmen in other career fields who have been called upon to augment the security forces squadron.

"We're here to support Tyndall and provide force protection for [the base]," said 2nd Lt. Vernon Pinkney, A Company executive officer, 146th Signal Battalion, Army National Guard.

●SEE ARMY PAGE 11



Lisa Carroll

**Col. Douglas Cochran, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander, welcomes Army National Guard members upon their arrival Sunday.**

## Caption contest



Submit an entry for this month's safety caption contest and win a free lunch from the 325th Services Squadron. Send your caption to 2nd Lt. Brian Smart at 283-4231 or e-mail him at [brian.smart@tyndall.af.mil](mailto:brian.smart@tyndall.af.mil).

## Thinking of getting out?

**THINK AGAIN!**

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

## Supervisors must keep workers safe

**TECH. SGT. MICHAEL GRIFFITH**

325th Fighter Wing safety office

Supervisors are not only responsible for the quantity and quality of the work performed by their subordinates, they are also responsible for their safety.

To ensure their workers' safety, supervisors are required to conduct periodic safety inspections of their workplace.

These inspections should include, but are not limited to, a check of personal work habits as well as a check of the work area to identify, repair or replace defective tools and equipment. Supervisors should check for adequacy of housekeeping, illumination, ventilation; serviceability and availability of safety equipment; equipment arrangement; fire hazards; and any other potential risks. Doing so keeps the workplace safe and allows successful mission accomplishment.

Most information needed to conduct inspections is available in technical data, operating instructions, Air Force Occupational Safety and Health Standards and Job Safety Analyses. This information will complement training received in technical schools, professional military education and other courses.

When supervisors are knowledgeable of safety require-

ments, they can better identify problems in the workplace. Good checklists will prove invaluable in this effort. Local safety, fire protection and health staffs may be of assistance when developing work center checklists.

One of the most effective ways you can prevent mishaps is by observing your workers. Let your workers know that you are watching them to avoid the appearance of spying on them. As you witness the manner in which work is being done, whether in an industrial shop or an administrative office, determine if the workers are following safety requirements. If a safety problem is identified, correct it and explain your concern to the worker. Observe all workers, no matter the experience level. Sometimes, experienced employees may take shortcuts that could put themselves or others at risk. Finally, as you inspect, observe and correct potential hazards, don't forget to add your observations to the safety training program. Then, get the word out to all workers.

If a problem or deficiency is found, supervisors are responsible for ensuring it is corrected. A supervisor's responsibility doesn't end when a problem is identified. The problem is fixed only when all corrective actions are accomplished and are working properly.

## This week in history

**Feb. 28, 1947** An F-82B set a record by flying non-stop from Hawaii to New York in 14 hours and 33 minutes.

**Feb. 20, 1948** The Strategic Air Command receives its first B-50 Superfortress bomber. Equipped for in-flight refueling, the B-50 is an improved version of the B-29 with larger engines and a taller tail fin and rudder.

**Feb. 27, 1958** Missile Director William Holaday

approves the U.S. Air Force's Minuteman Project, a program for building 5,000-mile-range solid-fuel ballistic missiles launched from underground installations.

**Feb. 27, 1971** The U.S. Air Force launches Operation Haylift in response to urgent pleas from farmers in blizzard-swept Kansas and drops 35,000 bales (nearly a million pounds) of hay for 275,000 cattle stranded in deep snow.

Save for Your Future **U.S. SAVINGS BONDS**

# CMSAF discusses mobility issues

**TECH. SGT. ROBERT BURGESS**  
97th Air Mobility Wing public affairs

**ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. (AFPN)** — Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray visited recently and discussed mobility issues affecting airmen worldwide.

For seven months, Chief Murray said he has focused on bringing balance to the force as the enlisted adviser to Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper and Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche. At the forefront is the air and space expeditionary force.

“We need to continue to find as many ways as we can to get every airman in the deployment pool to increase stability in the AEF process,” he said.

To keep the Air Force strong, not everyone can deploy, Chief Murray added.

“If you’re sitting in a missile field out in the Northwest, you’re certainly not going to deploy,” he said. “At the same time, we realize those troops already spend a third or more of their time away from their families.”

Finding ways to reduce the number of critically manned and stressed career fields in the Air Force is also a part of the plan to balance the force. He cited the security forces career field as an example.

“Across the world we have contracted to bring as many as 13,000 Army personnel to work with our security forces,” the chief said. “They will be with us for the coming years as we continue to build the security forces back up.”

Keeping people in the force and providing them a good quality of life is also critical in maintaining the manning and readiness to carry out the expeditionary mission. The chief addressed the new high-year-of-tenure policy as helping with retention.

“The change occurred because we are a retention-based force,” he said. “We looked at it from the standpoint of, ‘Why are most of our people asked to leave the service between their late 30s and early to mid-40s — when they are at the prime of their life — when they still have so much to offer?’”

Concerning incentives, the chief said the Air Force is better off today than when he enlisted in 1977. He did not think so in 1996, though, when he almost left the Air Force after 20 years of service.

“I almost left the service five years ago, because I didn’t like some of the things that I saw — like getting a 20-hour notice to deploy back to the desert for the third time,” he said. “They weren’t paying me enough to do that, and that was as a chief. I know if they weren’t paying a chief master sergeant enough, they certainly weren’t paying the rest of the enlisted force enough.”

After deciding to give the Air Force five more years, he said some things that had seemed far beyond the horizon came to fruition.

“Four years ago, the pay table was revamped, and two years ago we set up a targeted pay raise, paying our mid-grade enlisted force as much as a 10 percent increase,” he said.

Young airmen may not agree with

targeted pay raises, Chief Murray said.

“With the exception of certain career fields, our civilian counterparts’ pay is similar to what an E-1 through E-4 earns in the Air Force,” he said. “However, from E-5 through E-8, we’re still below compared to what a civilian would make on the outside with an equivalent education level.”

Chief Murray said when young airmen view the pay scale, he wants them to know it is right compared to what would be available on the outside. He said he also believes it gives those young airmen motivation to advance as they look up that pay scale.

He passed along a message from General Jumper concerning “face-to-face leadership.”

“It’s not about sending someone an e-mail telling them what they have to do,” he said. “‘Face-to-face’ means everybody comes in to work at the same time, so supervisors can put their eyes on people and say, ‘Are you with me today?’ We need people to have their heads in the game.”

“Too often we get the preconceptions that our leadership only cares about making the next stripe, and all they care about is looking good in front of their supervisors so they can get promoted.”

The chief said leaders need to be looked at “from the stand point of, ‘I want to be like you. I want to follow you. I trust you, and you’re going to take care of me.’”

*(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)*

# Fighting the fatigue factor

**MAJ. ALEX BONNER**  
Tyndall Aerospace Physiology

In today’s high-paced Air Force, we are encouraged to “do more with less.” The mind is often willing, but the body doesn’t always agree. Long hours, shift work and crossing time zones take their toll in the form of fatigue, and it can have a negative impact on job performance.

The most common reason for fatigue is lack of sleep. Sleep is a requirement for your body to function properly. In fact, most people need seven to nine hours of sleep each night. Drowsiness is typically a good indicator that you may not be getting enough sleep.

Consistency is one of the key factors in battling fatigue. Getting to bed at the same time every day, including weekends, is one of the most important things you can do to improve your quality of sleep. Pushing back the caffeine at least three to five hours before going to bed can also help. Caffeine may not prevent you from falling asleep, but the sleep you do get is usually restless. Likewise, alcohol is often used to unwind in the evening, but the warning flag goes up for excessive alcohol use, as it disrupts some sleep patterns resulting in fatigue.

Regular meals and exercise are also beneficial in keeping the body’s clock on time. Complex carbohydrates (pastas, cereals, breads, rice) and foods rich in tryptophan (turkey, peanut butter, cottage cheese, milk, chicken) can promote sleep. Give warm milk or chicken soup a try before going to bed.

Optimizing your sleep environment, such as setting the temperature where you like it and buying a quality, comfortable mattress, and propped pillows, will also affect your rest. Cloth light protectors over the eyes or room darkening shades may improve sleep, especially for the shift worker who is trying to sleep during the day. Ear-plugs and “white noise” makers, such as a humming fan can shut out the neighbor’s barking dogs or help to block out the sound of that F-15 on final approach.

Fatigue is a major factor in many of the aviation and ground mishaps the Air Force experiences every year. Its effects can be insidious and hard to recognize, but may have catastrophic results. Sleep — an absolute necessity for a productive life — is very easy to ignore, but is also one of the easiest biological needs to satisfy.



**Think  
before  
you  
drink.**

## Checkertail Salute



Lisa Carroll

First Lieutenant Avent is awarded the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award by Col. Douglas Cochran, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Lieutenant Avent for masterfully filling a major's position as the 1st Air Force Weather Detachment officer-in-charge after Sept. 11, 2001. With only 33 percent manning, he has maintained flawless 24-hour, seven-day-a-week weather support.

### 1st Lt. Scott Avent

**Duty title:** Senior weather officer  
**Unit:** 325th Operations Support Squadron  
**Time on station:** 1 year  
**Time in service:** 16 years  
**Hometown:** Calabasas, Calif. (30 miles northwest of Los Angeles)  
**Hobbies:** Motorcycles, cars and outdoor sports such as kayaking, fishing and jogging  
**Goals:** Live up to standards that are acceptable to God, family and self  
**Favorite thing about Tyndall:** Location, location and location  
**Pet peeves:** Not doing what you say and saying what you mean.  
**Favorite book:** "The Harley Davidson Story"  
**Favorite movie:** "Gone in 60 seconds"

*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.*

# F/A-22 undergoes tests, evaluations before delivery

**1ST LT. ERIC BADGER**  
 45th Space Wing public affairs

**LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AFPN)** — Once testing and evaluations are successfully completed on the F/A-22 Raptor, it will make its debut into the Air Force arsenal in 2005 as a replacement for the F-15 Eagle.

This announcement came from Air Force and Lockheed Martin officials during the annual Air Force Association-sponsored Air Warfare Symposium Feb. 14.

The F/A-22's operational utility is being tested and evaluated at Air Combat Command's 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. It is passing its tests with rave reviews, according to Dr. Marvin Sambur, assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition in Washington.

"The F/A-22 continues to perform superbly in all flight tests," he said. "So far it has exceeded requirements in all categories."

The F/A-22 possesses a sensor suite that allows the pilot to track, identify and shoot targets without being detected.

It has both air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities, along with improved stealth and supercruise features that allow the aircraft to cruise at supersonic speeds, undetected and without the use of afterburners, during day or night hours.

For the first time, the F/A-22 brings stealth ability into the daytime, said officials.

The new aircraft, complete with increased reliability and maintainability, is an essential asset to the nation's

warfighters in this unique time in history, said Maj. Gen. John Corley, mission area director of global power programs for the assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition.

"The F/A-22 does what no other fighter aircraft can do," he said. "An F/A-22 squadron will require less than half as much airlift as an F-15 squadron to deploy. This aircraft provides unprecedented access to enemy areas. Its extensive capabilities will allow our warfighters to dominate future battlefields throughout the 21st century."

The F/A-22 also provides increased maneuverability, lethality and survivability along with Global Positioning System-guided bombs used to penetrate deep into enemy territories, said General Corley.

Included in the enhanced technology package, the F/A-22 Raptor has the most complex software ever flown in a fighter aircraft, said Maj. Gen. Doug Pearson, Air Force Flight Test Center commander at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

Upon final buy, it is estimated that the Air Force will receive approximately 276 F/A-22 Raptors.

The first bases to receive the new aircraft include Nellis; Tyndall AFB, Fla.; and Langley AFB, Va., according to General Pearson.

"Rest assured the F/A-22 program is the Air Force's and Lockheed Martin's No. 1 priority," said Ralph Heath, executive vice president of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company and general manager of the F/A-22 Raptor program. "Together, we are totally committed to the successful completion of this project."

### Help Us Conserve



YOU HAVE  
the POWER.

There's only one way  
to come out ahead  
of the pack.

QUIT

American Heart  
Association  
WERE FIGHTING FOR  
YOUR LIFE

## Team Tyndall takes Valentine's Day to local vets

- Eight Bay County nursing homes were visited on Valentine's Day.
- 64 Team Tyndall airmen participated in bringing Valentine's Day to local veterans.
- Tyndall Elementary School children and the nursing homes provided more than 50 cards.

"Visiting the vets and making their day happier was a great experience. I think everyone should do this at least once."

**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JAMES SMITH**  
81st Test Support Squadron



A veteran reads a Valentine during Tyndall's visit to the nursing home while (from left) Senior Airman Ivelisee Acostadelrio, Airman 1st Class Shaydee Galindo and Airman Shannon Hueber look on.



The Tyndall Active Airman Association sponsored the annual 'Valentines for Vets' at a local Bay County nursing home.



2nd Lt. Elliot Leigh delivers a valentine during a recent visit to a nursing home.



Airman Acostadelrio reads a hand-made Valentine to an elderly woman.



Two Team Tyndall airmen spend some quality time with a vet during their visit.



First Lt. Demetrius Brown shares a moment with one of the nursing home residents during a 'Valentines for Vets' visit.

*Photos by Steve Wallace*



Photos by Jim Bellesbach

Tyndall members emerged after the storm to begin recovery efforts after a tornado with 100 mile per hour winds tossed around vehicles, trees and building debris.



This van was tossed into a building during the tornado. More than 30 vehicles were damaged, mostly with imploded windows.

#### ● FROM TORNADO PAGE 1

severe winds died down a little bit," said Lt. Col. Kenny Weldon, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. "That was a great call on his part because he kept [his people] out of harm's way. He made a good judgment call in a potentially life-threatening situation."

Once the fire department was on scene, the damage assessment teams and high voltage crews were next onto the front, blanketing not only the area in question but also the entire base to see what damage was inflicted.

"In a situation like this, safety and security are most important," Colonel Weldon said. "Anytime you have an event like this, you are concerned about power lines and the high voltage threat with people driving around and then you want to assess any damage to buildings that might pose a significant danger such as those with gas lines. There was a lot of damage but it was very localized with a path of no longer than 200

to 300 yards across."

After the base damage assessment, the emergency response team comprised of almost 40 military, civilian and contractor personnel, quickly began the transformation process from total disaster area to being well under way with recovery, making sure the area was safe and secure. The crews restored power, moved tree limbs, removed vehicles and repaired roof and building damage.

Besides dealing with the debris and destruction, the emergency response team faced another challenge. Asbestos, a popular fireproofing material found in 1940s and 1950s-era buildings, contaminated the 1st Air Force manpower and personnel building. Fortunately, prior planning, solid execution and a little unexpected help from Mother Nature resulted in the team quickly ensuring the safety of the area.

"We did everything by the book," Colonel Weldon said. "We had a survey of this building done recently and knew (asbes-

tos) was just in the floor tile and in some pipe insulation and it was very localized. In this case it was encapsulated. We also had the rain factor helping us out keeping the dust down.

"Everyone moved in an orderly fashion and knew what they needed to do and they coordinated very well when they got here," Colonel Weldon said. "It's been really impressive the way people have been able to come together and get this [entire recovery and clean-up process] completed as quickly as possible. There was a lot of great work by the crews on-scene working together coordinating a very complex recovery effort in a very minimal amount of time."

In the storm's aftermath, Team Tyndall personnel reflected on the devastation that might have been had the storm hit other than early on a Sunday morning in the middle of a three-day weekend.

"If people had been in this building, there would have been a threat to life," Colonel Weldon said pointing to the 1st Air Force personnel and manpower building. "The magnitude and weight of some of the material that was thrown into the wall, such as the van that was thrown into the side of the building, would have posed a significant threat."

The building's tenant and wing leadership were impressed with the base's quick response time and professionalism.

"Team Tyndall did an awesome job of support-

ing us by responding, cleaning up [the area] and getting us back up and operational with minimal impact on the mission and minimum disruption to operations, said Lt. Col. Sean Aland, 1st Air Force director of manpower and personnel, whose building was seriously damaged. "The cleanup efforts in the first six hours were nothing short of incredible."

"With no advance warning, we were very fortunate no one was injured or killed," said Brig. Gen. Larry New, 325th Fighter Wing commander. "The emergency response team personnel performed absolutely magnificently ensuring the site was quickly secured and safe. The fact that the storm occurred early in the morning when people were not walking about is an absolute blessing."



Jeff Geoghagan and Lt. Col. Sean Aland inspect the interior of one of the damaged buildings.

# Defense Department announces 2005 BRAC

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS)** — The Department of Defense has received congressional authorization for a base realignment and closure round in 2005.

The BRAC, the first since 1995, was announced in a Feb. 13 message from the office of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

Called BRAC 2005, the program is a means to achieve several goals: eliminate excess infrastructure; reshape the military; pursue jointness; optimize military readiness; and realize significant savings in support of transforming the Department of Defense, according to the message.

At a minimum, the next BRAC round must eliminate excess physical capacity. In doing so, the program helps the Defense Department reduce waste, save money and free up resources to recruit quality people, modernize equipment and infrastructure, and develop the capabilities needed to meet 21st century threats, according to the message.

Through 2001, previous BRAC actions saved the DOD \$16.7 billion, the message stated. Beyond 2001, officials estimate annual savings of about \$6.6 billion.

The Secretary of Defense has directed the BRAC 2005 process begin immediately, the message stated. After gathering information and completing a comprehensive analysis, the secretary will submit recommendations for realigning or closing bases by May 16, 2005, to the independent BRAC Commission. The commission will forward its report on the recommendations to the president by Sept. 8, 2005. The president will have until Sept. 23, 2005, to accept or reject the recommendations in their entirety. If accepted, Congress will have 45 legislative days to act on the recommendations.

The BRAC process will involve all levels of DOD from installation through major command and component or agency headquarters to the office of the secretary of defense. All bases will be considered and treated equally, according to the message.

## *Garnishment assistance for Guard, Reserve called to duty*

**CLEVELAND, Ohio (AFP)** — The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's directorate of garnishment operations is working with the Federal Office of Child Support to address issues relating to activated reservists and the payment of child support.

Rod Winn, director of garnishment operations, identified one scenario that is a concern for a significant number of activated reservists.

"A civilian (who is a reservist) who works for a private company is called up or activated. That reservist has a child support order requiring payment of child support based on the income the member makes working at the private company. Upon activation, the reservist experiences a reduction in the

amount of income he makes. If the reservist does not ask for a review and modification of the child support obligation, from the child support agency, the member can incur a large child support arrearage while serving in the reserves," he said.

To address this concern, officials developed the following guidelines for reservists and ask reservists to contact their child support agency if:

— Their income level has changed or will change. They may be eligible for the agency to review and adjust the amount of the support order.

— Their support payments are being withheld from their paycheck. The state agency can ensure the withholding is transferred to DFAS on a timely basis to prevent or minimize missed payments.

Also, they can ask their current employer to notify the state agency of their deployment and to provide all needed information.

— They have a child support hearing scheduled. The agency can try to move it up or let the court or hearing officer know their status.

— Their child support order includes health-care coverage for a child. The child is eligible for the military health coverage TRICARE. The agency may be able to assist with registering.

For information, visit Web sites [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/extinf.htm#exta](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/extinf.htm#exta) for state child support enforcement agencies, or the Defense Department at [www.jagcnet.army.mil/Legal](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/Legal) and check "Family Law Matters."

# Deployment offers tax options

## Not filing not considered one of them

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN)** — Mobilized Air Force reservists deploying overseas are not automatically excused from filing their federal income tax return, according to Air Force Reserve Command staff judge advocate officials.

Deploying reservists have four options when it comes to filing taxes. They can file before they leave, authorize a spouse or trusted friend to sign and file for them, have a non-military or non-deploying spouse sign and file a joint tax return on their behalf, or use an extension if authorized.

If reservists have not re-

ceived their Form W-2 in the mail before deploying, they can access it online by using a personal identification number via "My Pay" on the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>.

Most active-duty locations offer a tax-assistance program. Servicemembers can electronically file their returns and opt for direct deposit of any refund into their checking accounts.

If a reservist wants to allow someone else to sign and file his return, he must be absent from the United States for at least 60 days before the

due date for filing the return, be unable to sign the return because of disease or injury, or get permission from the Internal Revenue Service office in the area to have another person file on his behalf.

Reservists can authorize their agents to sign and file by using a special power of attorney or by using IRS Form 2848, which is available on the Web at [www.irs.gov/pub/irs-fill/f2848.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-fill/f2848.pdf).

If filing a joint return, a special power of attorney or IRS Form 2848 is not required. Married couples filing separate returns cannot use this option.

Deployed military people

can usually take advantage of a filing extension for service in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area. Before claiming these extensions, reservists should check with a tax preparer or a legal assistance officer to ensure that the area where they are deployed has been declared a combat zone or qualified hazardous-duty area.

To find out what a state requires when reservists are deployed, they should consult with a tax preparer or a legal assistance officer. Some states have rules that are similar to the federal rules.

(Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

# Enlisted aviator careers open

**TECH. SGT. SCOTT LEAS**

Air Mobility Command public affairs

**SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFPN)** — Opportunities for enlisted aviators have never been better. With nine possible enlisted aviator careers, the dream of flying can quickly become a reality for Air Force people.

According to Master Sgt. Jack Baker, from Air Mobility Command's aircrew training office, an urgent need for enlisted fliers exists. More than 300 training positions are open for enlisted people in the rank of se-

nior airman to master sergeant.

"AMC has aggressively pursued recruits to retrain," said Sergeant Baker. "Considering all the fantastic opportunities available, it's hard to believe so many positions remain unfilled."

Positions are open for flight engineers, airborne communications and electronics specialists, airborne battle management systems specialists, flight attendants and airborne cryptologic linguists.

Under the CAREERS retraining program, first-term airmen assigned to units within the continental United States may

apply beginning the first duty day of the month in which they complete 35 months of their enlistment (59 months for six-year enlistees), and no later than the last duty day of the 43rd month of their current enlistment (67 months for six-year enlistees). Airmen stationed overseas may apply between the 15th and 9th month before their return date with at least 35 months of service (59 for six-year enlistees) on their return.

Interested enlisted people can contact their local military personnel flights or visit <https://amcdot.scott.af.mil/CEA>.

## ● FROM ARMY PAGE 4

"With the help of the Army Guard manpower, security forces troops at Tyndall are now free to prepare for worldwide deployments," said Maj. Scott Enold, 325th SFS commander. "This also provides more training time in war-associated events from the mission-essential tasks listing. It is an important facet of security forces."

The total team effort is nothing new to Team Tyndall. According to Sergeant Barber, there are still 17 Air Reserve Component personnel here who were mobilized following the events of Sept. 11, 2001 and the Army presence will finally allow them to return home.

While having the Army here means relief to our own security forces troops, there are added benefits explains Sergeant Barber.

"This provides a different way for us to look at force protection. Security forces troops are taught to defend assets from the base perimeter inward while the Army is taught to focus outward from the perimeter. Bringing this together can

give us a lot of information on different schools of thought regarding force protection, something that usually only happens at a deployed location."

Before the Army National Guard can augment our forces, however, base force-protection specialists will train them.

"Their training is grounded in infantry," Sergeant Barber said. "They haven't been exposed to security or law enforcement, so they are going to rely on us to spin them up."

Despite the differences in training, both the Army and Air Force troops share their excitement in coming together to support this crucial mission. In fact, according to Lieutenant Pinkney, although the call to active duty was short notice and many of the Army guardsmen were required to leave their civilian jobs, they are excited to be here and ready to do whatever is needed.

"These soldiers come to us as brothers in the profession of arms," said Major Enold. "They have great esprit de corps and bring the Army's long-standing traditions of combat and combat service support to us. It's outstanding."

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

# Gulf Guide

**in the  
Tyndall community**

## FEBRUARY

**SUN**  
**23**

### Chapel religious education

The Tyndall Chapel offers religious education 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays for Protestants and 11 a.m.-noon Sundays for Catholics. Both sessions will be held at the spiritual fitness building. For more information, call 283-2925.

**MON**  
**24**

### Anger-control workshop

The last meeting of the four-session anger-control workshop will be 10:30 a.m.-noon Monday in the family advocacy conference room in Building 1305. For more information, call family advocacy, 283-7511.

**TUE**  
**25**

### Children's weight class

The health and wellness center's sensible weigh class for children meets 3:30-4:30 p.m. every Tuesday in Room 111. For more information, call the health and wellness center, 283-3826.

### Boating skills course

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 16 boating skills and seamanship course will continue 7-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday evenings in Gulf Coast Community College's Student Union East building, Gibson lecture hall, Room 231. The course ends March 4. The cost is \$40 for the new text and workbook. The course completion certificate reduces boating insurance rates with most insurance companies and meets Florida requirements for those born after Sept. 30, 1986 to operate a vessel with 10 or more horsepower, including personal watercraft. For more information, call John Clark, 271-3828, or visit the Flotilla Web site at: <http://clik.to/USCGAUXFlotilla16>

**WED**  
**26**

### Black history luncheon

A luncheon to celebrate Black History Month will be 11:30 a.m. Wednesday in the Pelican Reef Enlisted Club. Tickets are \$10 and everyone is invited to attend. For tickets or more information, call Master Sgt. Waldlena Schmidt, 283-6378.

### Parenting workshop

The last meeting of the effective parenting workshop will be 1-3 p.m. Wednesday in Room 127 in Building 1305. For more information, call family advocacy, 283-7511.

### Protestant youth group

The Tyndall Chapel's Protestant Youth Group meets 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays in the spiritual fitness center. For more information, call the Chapel 2 office, 283-2925.

### 'Moms, Pops and Tots'

The "Powerful Parenting for Moms and Pops of Tots," group will meet from 9-10:30 a.m. Wednesdays at the community activities center, Building 1027. Parents are asked to bring a toy that their child can share with another child. For more information and cost, call Ms. Bonnie Fuller, 283-5812, or Ms. Karen Blood, 874-0292.

**THU**  
**27**

### Marriage workshop

The five-session "Married and Loving It" workshop will continue 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, March 6, 13 and 20 in the family advocacy conference room. For more information, call family advocacy, 283-7511.

### Palace Chase briefing

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

### Bible study

A weekly Bible study session offered by the Officer Christian Fellowship and Christian Military Fellowship will be 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thursdays in the community activities center. For more information, call Capt. Carma Pauli, 283-7669.

## NOTES

### CCAF spring graduation

The cutoff date to be considered in the April class for the Tyndall AFB Community College of the Air Force Spring Graduation is Feb. 28. All documentation for degree candidate submissions must be received at the CCAF on or before this date. The CCAF Spring Graduation ceremony will be 3 p.m. April 23 at the Pelican Reef Enlisted Club. For more information, call the education center, 283-4285 or 283-4286.

### OSC scholarship deadline

The application deadline for the Tyndall Officers' Spouses Club high school senior and dependent spouse scholarship

program is noon Feb. 28. Applicants are eligible if their military sponsor fits into one of the following categories: active-duty military personnel stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base; active-duty Air Force personnel, currently on unaccompanied remote assignment, whose family resides in the Tyndall area; retired, MIA or deceased Air Force personnel whose family resides in the Tyndall area. High school senior applications are available at all local high school guidance offices, and spouse applications can be picked up at the base education center. For more information, call 286-8650.

### Tyndall Running Club events

The Tyndall Running Club is looking for individuals interested in joining the club as it competes at the following races:

Navy Blue Angels Marathon and Half-Marathon – Feb. 22, Boston Marathon – April 21. For more information, call Capt. William McTernan, 286-1562, or Martin Littlefield, 283-2631.

### FEEA scholarships

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund is taking applications for 2003-2004 scholarships. To be eligible, applicants must have been a federal or postal worker for three years. Dependents of federal employees must be full-time students and have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Scholarships are open to workers and their dependents. For information and an application, go to: [www.feea.org](http://www.feea.org). Applications must be postmarked by March 28, and awards will be announced in August in time for the start of the academic year. Last year, 20 FEEA scholarships were awarded to Air Force applicants.

### Theater closure

Due to structural failure, the base theater will be closed until repairs can be made.

## RETIREE NEWS

### Hearing aids not covered under TRICARE

TRICARE does not cover hearing aids for retirees or their family members under any of the TRICARE programs, according to TRICARE officials. However, if the beneficiary who needs the hearing aid is a retired military member, and therefore a veteran, he or she can check with the Department of Veterans Affairs to see if the VA can help.

Additionally, some military facilities support a Retiree At-Cost Hearing Aid Purchase Program. The military treatment facility may be able to purchase the hearing aid, and then the retiree reimburses the MTF its costs. The Tyndall clinic is not equipped or staffed to provide such assistance; however, it is possible to request an appointment at the nearest military base that participates in RACHAPP – either Fort Rucker or Keesler Air Force Base. Retirees with prescriptions or referrals for hearing aids can visit the Clinic Health Plan Management Office located on the first floor of the main clinic building or call 283-7331. The management office or the nearest TRICARE service center can also answer questions regarding coverage for specific medical procedures or treatments.

## YARD SALES

There are no yard sales scheduled for Saturday.

# Tyndall Tigers Southeast Military Athletic Conference Champs

The Tyndall Tigers Men's Varsity basketball team topped off, arguably, their finest season ever by claiming the King Aerospace/SEMAC Men's Post Season Basketball Tournament title hosted by the Tigers this past weekend.

In their first game versus the Eagles, Tyndall jumped out to an early lead behind Tarrance Garner and Marvin Gamble, who scored 11 and seven points, respectively, in the first half to pace the Tigers to a 51-35 lead at the intermission. In the second half, head coach Rica Page used liberal substitutions and, 13 of the 14 Tigers got into the scoring column. The Tigers controlled the game as they led by as many as 40 points to take an easy 104-71 victory.

Tarrance Garner paced the Tigers in scoring with a team-high 19 points, followed by Scott Moore with 13. Tommy Nixon and Marvin Gamble added 11 points each. The trio of Israel Figueroa, Omar Johnson and Chris Jackson chipped in with 10 points a piece. Moore led in rebounding with 10 rebounds while Marcus Baucom and Garner led in assists with eight. Arthur Moore led Eglin in scoring with a game-high 21 points.

In their second game of the tournament the Tigers faced their arch rivals and SEMAC conference champs, the Hurlburt Field Com-

mandos. In the first half, the two squads staged a memorable battle worthy of their number one and two seeds as the lead swung back and forth with neither team enjoying more than a four-point advantage.

At the half, Tyndall held a slim 32-29 lead. In the second stanza, Tyndall began to pull away as the Tigers led 49-39 with about 11 minutes remaining. However, the Commandos refused to quit as they battled back, due to the Tigers' inability to make free throws, to trail by only two points with 11 seconds remaining. Tyndall's Omar Johnson was fouled with eight seconds left in the game and converted one out of two free throws to make the score 70-67. Hurlburt's three-point attempt at the buzzer was unsuccessful and Tyndall emerged victorious with a 84-74 victory..



Courtesy photo

**Marcus Baucom guards a Hurlburt opponent during the SEMAC post-season tournament**

mandos. Garner led in assists with five and Johnson had four steals. Walter Fitzgerald led Hurlburt in scoring with a game-high 18 points.

In the championship game of the 2003 Post Season, the undefeated Tigers faced the Hurlburt Field Commandos, who advanced through the losers bracket by defeating Keesler 73-54. Hurlburt jumped out to an early lead only to see Tyndall battle back to trim the Commando lead to 36-34 on a three-point basket by Israel Figueroa as the half-time buzzer sounded. Figueroa carried the Tigers in the first half and tallied 13 points.

Omar Johnson and Marcus Baucom scored 15 and 13 points respectively to lead the Tigers in scoring. Israel Figueroa, Scott Moore and Tarrance Garner added 10 points each. Israel Figueroa led the Tigers in rebounds with

Omar Johnson, with 23 points in the second half, paced the Tigers, who went on to win 50-38.

Omar Johnson paced the Tigers in scoring with a game and tournament-high 29 points. Israel Figueroa added 18 points, and the trio of Scott Moore, Tarrance Garner and Marcus Baucom all scored 10 points each. Figueroa again led the Tigers in rebounding with 10 rebounds. Marcus Baucom led in assists with eight. Walter Fitzgerald paced the Commandos, scoring 18 points.

Tyndall's Omar Johnson was voted the tournament's Most Valuable Player and Israel Figueroa was voted the Most Outstanding Player. They were joined on the All Tournament Team by: Arthur Moore (Eglin), Chris King (Keesler), Walter Fitzgerald and Yeta Holloway (Hurlburt) and teammate Marcus Baucom. Tyndall Tigers Head Coach Rica Page was named the tourney's Most Outstanding Coach.

The Tigers added the Post Season crown to the Martin Luther King Jr. tourney and Thanksgiving tourney titles that they had won previously, setting a SEMAC record as the only team to win all the tournaments held during a season. The Tigers won 10 out of 11 games in tournament action and finished play with a 28-7 season record.

## Skeet team holds camp

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — The Air Force international skeet team will hold a training camp and team selection match April 7 to 12 at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

After four days of training, participants will compete in a two-day match to decide who makes the team, which is part of the Air Force's shooting program.

Participants must fax an Air Force Form 303 to Staff Sgt. Guillermo Salazar, Air Force shooting program manager, at DSN 487-4739 or (210) 652-4739. Base fitness centers have the form, or it can

be downloaded from [www.e-publishing.af.mil/formfiles/af/af303/af303.xfd](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/formfiles/af/af303/af303.xfd).

The six-day camp is a permissive temporary duty, so athletes must pay all travel and lodging costs. Rooms are available at Robins' Pine Oaks Lodge. Call DSN 468-2100 or (478) 926-6685 for reservations.

For more information, call or e-mail Capt. Kevin Schiller at DSN 779-0564, [kevin.schiller@scott.af.mil](mailto:kevin.schiller@scott.af.mil); or Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Inskeep at DSN 497-5217, [kevin.inskeep@garobi.ang.af.mil](mailto:kevin.inskeep@garobi.ang.af.mil).



Lisa Carroll

### Ready ... aim ...

Members of the Tyndall Honor Guard perform a 21-gun salute during an open house Thursday to show prospective members some of the drills and courtesies the group performs during various events. To join or for more information, call Staff Sgts. Adam Sparks or Douglas Dunson at 283-4405.



# Funshine NEWS

February 21, 2003

325th Services Website: [www.325thservices.com](http://www.325thservices.com)

## Welcome to "Sunsational"



## Services

### Marina Club

☎ 283-3059

#### All-You-Can-Eat Pancakes

All-you-can-eat pancake breakfast every Sunday 7:30-10 a.m.  
Members: \$2.50, Nonmembers: \$3.50

#### 12" Bar Pizzas

After 2 p.m. Starting at \$5!

### Vet Clinic

☎ 283-2434

#### Clinic Services

Tyndall veterinary services includes dog and cat vaccines, heartworm tests and preventatives, flea control, microchipping and minor medical treatment at low cost to all active duty and retired military personnel. Office hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

**325th Service Squadron**  
Let Us Know How We Are Doing  
**283-4506**

Want to keep up with "What's Happening" at Tyndall? Send us your email and we will add you to our weekly mailing.  
[whats.happening@tyndall.af.mil](mailto:whats.happening@tyndall.af.mil)  
or call us at 283-4565

### Base Honor Guard

☎ 283-4405

#### NCOIC Needed

NCOIC needed for highly visible Base Honor Guard program. Call SSgt Sparks for details.

### Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

#### Start Smart Golf for 5-7 Yr. Olds

Teaches children and parents the basics of golf in a one-on-one environment. Runs Mar. 1, 8, 29 & Apr 5 & 12 at 9 a.m. Cost is \$35.

#### Target Archery

Mar. 25-28. 10 a.m. Open to youth 9-16 yrs. Learn basic archery techniques. Cost is \$30.

### Teen Center

☎ 283-0295

#### College Scholarships

■ General Henry Arnold Grant: \$1,500

Open to: High School Seniors  
[www.nces.ed.gov](http://www.nces.ed.gov), [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org)  
Deadline: March 14, 2003

■ The Military Officers Association of America: \$1,000

Open to: Military Dependents (under age of 24). Deadline: March 1, 2003

■ Scholarships for Military Children: \$1,500

[www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com)

Applications also available at Base Commissary. Must write essay: "How has being a military member influenced your educational goals?" Deadline: Feb. 21, 2003

#### Air Force Teen Aviation Camp

This camp is for sophomores and juniors who are considering the AF Academy for college or considering the Air Force as a career. Expense for travel to camp will be assumed by the participant. Lodging, meals and camp activities will be provided.

#### Teens on the Move

This one-hour workshop gives advice on the best ways to deal with leaving friends and family, and has helpful tips on adjusting to a new city and school. (Held once every three months.)

### Information, Tickets & Travel

☎ 283-2499

#### Passport to Adventure

Validate Your Passport NOW for a Chance to Win These Great Prizes:  
A Cruise for 2 on the Riviera  
A Cruise for 2 on the New England Coast  
To get your passport and information on how to play call or stop by ITT.

### 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**

### Community Activity Ctr.

☎ 283-2495

#### Ballroom Dance Lessons

Lessons begin Mar. 6, 6 p.m. in the ballroom. Cost is \$65 per couple. \$32.50 for singles (per 4 week session). Learn to Swing, Jitterbug, Waltz, and Cha-Cha in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

#### Coffee Bar Service Expanded and Hours Extended

The CAC coffee bar now offers cookies and muffins. Beginning March 4 they will expand their operating hours to 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### Jazz Dance Class

Class begins Mar. 1 at 11 a.m.  
Open to 14 yrs. and up  
Cost is \$25 per 5 week session  
6 people minimum to start class.

## Grand Opening

### Bonita Bay

#### Paintball Field

February 27, 2003  
at 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Ribbon Cutting, at 11:30 a.m.  
Refreshments & a 15 minute demonstration

#### Sponsored in part by:

WMW Paintball Supply • RKS Paintball & Panhandle Paintball

No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

**283-3199**

### Gulf Coast Salute

Concessionaire booth applications are available at the CAC - Bldg. 1027. **Don't miss out! Apply today!** Call Rudy: 283-2495

Here is a chance for your squadron, booster club or private organization to earn extra income. Official military units assigned to Tyndall AFB will have priority. All applications must be received by close of business on Feb. 21, 2003.

## tops in blue

February 23, 7:30 p.m.  
At the Marina Civic Center

Tickets will be available Feb. 21 at 11 a.m. at the CAC and Marina Civic Center. Due to limited seating, a maximum of 4 tickets per person. I.D. card is required.

Sponsored in part by: AT&T, First Command Financial Planning, Tyndall Federal Credit Union.

No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

**WIN!**

### AF Club Members

who eat at the Club or the Sports Page Pizza Pub & Grill during February and March could win a **Premier Vacation Package.** Come by for details.

### All Ranks Lunch at the O' 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*

<b>Mondays</b>	Chef's Choice
<b>Tuesdays</b>	Italian
<b>Wednesdays</b>	Oriental
<b>Thursdays</b>	All American
<b>Fridays</b>	Seafood

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

**283-4357**

### Air Force Club Scholarship Program

Six scholarships will be awarded to AF Club members or their eligible family members.

#### First place is \$6,000

Applicants must be accepted by, or enrolled in, an accredited college or university graduate or undergraduate program by fall of 2003. Information packages with complete instructions and requirements are available from the Tyndall Officers' Club business office beginning February 21.

Entry deadline is July 15.

**283-4357**

for more information.



#### Sponsored in part by:

First USA Bank, Coca Cola and Master Card.  
No federal endorsement of sponsor intended.

● FROM AWARDS PAGE 4

Squadron. She "provided professional accounting expertise to unit commanders, resource managers and program directors on the accurate management of over \$357.6 million in Tyndall and tenant unit funds," according to her nomination. Ms. Watkins was lauded in the nomination as a dynamic leader, manager and motivator.

**Jim Hill, Team Tyndall Volunteer of the Year.** Mr. Hill logged more than 480 volunteer hours for the base library, according to Catherine Tarrant, base volunteer coordinator. He was also instrumental in the library's book sales, raising nearly \$2,000.

Master Sgt. Steven Lantz took home the award for 325th Fighter Wing Senior Non-commissioned Officer of the Year. Sergeant Lantz and all of the fighter wing winners will go on to compete at the 19th Air Force Monday.

*Associate winners were:*

Airman 1st Class Justin J. Mohr, 81st Test Support Squadron; Technical Sgt. Russel B. Ratley, NCO Academy; Captain Gregory Scougall, AFCEA; Jennifer Clark, Southeast Air Defense Sector; Brian Stahl, AFCEA.

Team Tyndall salutes all of the annual award winners at the squadron, group, wing and base level for their spectacular achievements!

**IF YOU THINK YOU  
HAVE A PROBLEM  
WITH ALCOHOL,  
CALL 283-7511.  
THERE IS A  
SOLUTION.**



## NCOs given advanced degree opportunities

STAFF SGT. A.J. BOSKER

Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** — The Air Force Institute of Technology is once again offering eight noncommissioned officers the opportunity to pursue an advanced science, engineering or management degree in-residence at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The goal of the Enlisted-to-AFIT Program is to provide commanders with a diverse and renewable source of highly proficient and educated career NCOs, said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Hale, chief of Air Force enlisted professional military education at the Pentagon.

The program recognizes the important contributions that enlisted professional development has on enhancing the future total force, according to Lt. Gen. Richard "Tex" Brown III, deputy chief of staff for personnel at the Pentagon.

"In conjunction with other professional training and education programs, this advanced degree opportunity will further develop our NCOs' highly technical education and skills, leading to greater innovation and improved readiness," General Brown said.

NCOs interested in applying for the 18-month program must be at least technical sergeants with a minimum of eight years time in service, 12 months time on station and have three years retainability upon AFIT graduation. They must have completed the appropriate skill-level upgrade and resident professional military education schooling for their rank.

In addition, Chief Hale said, applicants must possess a bachelor's degree

from a regionally accredited college or university.

"Since this program is designed to provide advanced education, anyone interested in applying must have their bachelor's degree," Chief Hale said.

Besides academic transcripts, applicants also have to provide test scores from either the Graduate Record Examination or Graduate Management Admission Test, depending upon the specific AFIT degree program requirements.

"This is a great opportunity for the enlisted force," Chief Hale said.

Although not everyone can participate in this program, Chief Hale strongly encourages enlisted members not to give up on pursuing advanced education.

"There are many opportunities available for enlisted members to continue their education, and they should take advantage of them all," he said. "By becoming experts in our career fields, our contributions become more significant, and it enhances the professionalism of the enlisted corps as well."

AFIT is the Air Force's graduate school of engineering and management and its institution for technical professional continuing education. Since residence degrees were first granted in 1956, more than 15,000 graduate and 300 doctorate of philosophy degrees have been awarded.

Prospective students should contact Chief Hale at robert.hale@pentagon.af.mil for additional information on Enlisted-to-AFIT program policies, procedures, guidelines and application process information.

# DON'T

## DRINK AND DRIVE

