



# GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 62, No. 12

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

March 28, 2003

## In brief

### Volunteer of the Year

Mrs. Bobby Buck, a volunteer at the 325th Medical Group, has been recognized as the wing volunteer of the year for 2002.

Mrs. Buck has been a volunteer with the medical group for 16 years.

During the past year, Mrs. Buck volunteered two to three times per week in the cardiopulmonary and internal medicine clinics.

Her primary duties were to check-in patients, check vital signs, perform heart monitoring and EKGs and chaperone for physicians during exams.

### Privacy Act information protection

Under Florida's Freedom of Information Act rules, the Department of Motor Vehicles may sell an individual's driver's license information (e.g., name, date of birth, Social Security Number, phone number, home address, medical disabilities, etc.) for \$10.

If you would like to block your information, go to [www.hsmv.state.fl.us/](http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us/) and click on online driver license check. If your license is valid, instructions will be provided on how to block your personal information.

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Lisa Carroll

## To support and defend

Lt. Col. Richard McSpadden, Thunderbirds commander, administers the Oath of Enlistment to (front row, from left) Master Sgt. Shaun Johnson, 325th OSS, Tech. Sgt. Sabina Giddens, Air Force Recruiting Service, Tech. Sgt. Terrell Vinson, 325th CS, Tech. Sgt. Keith Thompson, 325th MXG, Master Sgt. Lorna Banks, 325th ADS, (back row, from left) Master Sgt. Michael Sumpter, 325th MOS, Master Sgt. John Fields, 325th CS, Master Sgt. Christopher Humiston, 325th OSS, Master Sgt. Daniel Hatem, 95th FS, Staff Sgt. Tonisha Layne, 325th FW and Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Mihal, NCO Academy, during a re-enlistment ceremony held at this year's Gulf Coast Salute. This year's Gulf Coast Salute is featured on Page 8.

# Air Force implements stop-loss

**STAFF SGT. A.J. BOSKER**  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – The assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs has authorized the use of stop-loss to retain specific skills needed to meet national security objectives. Effective May 2, 43 officer and 56 enlisted specialties will be affected by stop-loss nationwide.

Stop-loss is affecting approximately 130 enlisted members and 30 officers assigned to Tyndall Air Force Base, according to Senior Master Sgt. Mike Feeney, 325th Fighter Wing Mili-

tary Personnel Flight superintendent.

“Most of the personnel affected are in already stressed career fields,” Sergeant Feeney said.

“We do not take this action lightly,” said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche. “Stop-loss is designed to preserve critical skills essential to supporting the global war on terrorism, while ensuring we’re prepared to meet other contingencies.”

“We’ve implemented stop-loss to ensure we have the necessary skilled personnel to conduct operations,” said Air Force

Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper. “We’ll use it only as long as necessary to accomplish our mission.”

Stop-loss is being implemented across the active duty, Air Force Ready Reserve and Air National Guard for the affected career fields in the ranks of airman through colonel, according to Maj. Teresa Forest, chief of Air Force retirements and separation policy at the Pentagon.

Both the secretary and chief of staff are acutely aware that the Air Force is an all-volunteer force and that this action, while essential to meeting the service’s

worldwide obligations, is inconsistent with the fundamental principles of voluntary service.

“We take stop-loss seriously and are working hard to ensure the lives of our airmen, their families and their civilian employers are not disrupted any longer than is necessary to meet our national commitments,” General Jumper said.

Therefore, a waiver process will be implemented for those people with unique circumstances.

According to Sergeant Feeney, there are waiver provi-

●SEE STOP-LOSS PAGE 4

# Gulf Coast Salute 2003 a success

**BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW**

325th Fighter Wing commander



It was a busy weekend for Tyndall Air Force Base. I want to thank Team Tyndall for your

tremendous support and dedication and for representing the base so well at Gulf Coast Salute 2003. More than 34,000 people were able to come out to the base and meet the men and women charged with our nation's defense and learn more about the capabilities of their Air Force and the military as a whole.

Events like the Gulf Coast Salute ensure our relationship with the local community remains one of the best, if not the best, in the Air Force. With all that is going on in the world today, it would have been easy not to host an open house, but now it is more critical than ever to make sure the community understands its military.

It takes a lot of people and count-



**“While no doubt the military aircraft and equipment were impressive, it is our people who left the most lasting and favorable impression on our guests.”**

**BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW**

325th Fighter Wing commander

less hours to coordinate and set up the many aerial acts, static displays, information booths and other activities, and then when it's all over, get back to operations, but Team Tyndall accomplished all of these activities in fine fashion. I'm proud of the way the base responded to the tragic accident involving former Air Force veteran and aerobatic performer, Chris Smisson. The week prior to the open house we conducted a major accident-response exercise to prepare in the event a tragedy such as this occurred. The Tyndall response

team responded professionally and represented the base with dignity, providing a great deal of comfort and reassurance to other air show spectators as well as Chris Smisson's family and friends.

His team believed that Chris would have wanted the air show to continue and when Sunday's line up of activities resumed, the spectators were not disappointed as the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and the other aerial acts performed a magnificent show.

●SEE AIR SHOW PAGE 11

## Action Line

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

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

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

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

**BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW**

325th Fighter Wing commander

# Civilians provide crucial support in national defense

**JIMMY HELTON**

14th Logistics Readiness Squadron

**COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. (AFPN)** — When we talk about building leaders, we must address the total force. Today's military is a rich blend of active-duty, Guard, Reserve, civilian civil service and contractors supporting military operations.

The civilian workforce is a crucial link in national defense. The Department of Defense employs more than 800,000 civilians around the world. One quarter of the total DOD workforce is made up of civilians developing and maintaining sophisticated systems, managing complex programs and handling the feeding, housing and paying of mem-

bers.

Many civilians are subjected to the same risks as military members, and several thousand civilians deployed during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Any future war will take all of the military commitment, meaning the civilian workforce will be called into harm's way.

The civilian workforce is extremely talented. Nearly 80,000 hold advanced degrees and more than 250,000 have at least a bachelor's degree. Here, more than 47 percent of the workforce consists of civil service or civilian contractors. To get ready for the 21st century, we must plan now to produce future civilian leaders.

The Air Force will demand civilian lead-

ers be both technically and managerially adept, well-educated and possess broad and diverse experience. Development and training at career milestones is essential to achieving this objective. We must instill the same institutional commitment and responsibility in civilian employees as in military people.

The responsibility for identifying candidates for appropriate development rests with commanders and managers. The force is very capable; however, there is concern that 45 percent of the civilian workforce is eligible for retirement in five years.

The civilian force is rich in terms of experience — one of its greatest strengths. And it is important to manage the force to sustain this experience level. A unified mili-

tary-civilian team is essential to the mission.

A mass exodus of the civilian sector would leave a giant "skills gap" in the workforce. We must start mentoring, educating and training young workforce members to perform as well as their predecessors. We must also consider training military people who may one day serve as civilian employees.

Successful companies know their workforce is their most important asset, and so they use education and professional development programs to attract and retain quality people. Invest your leadership abilities, time, resources and dollars in the personal and professional development of your civilian workforce for tomorrow's Air Force.

## Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

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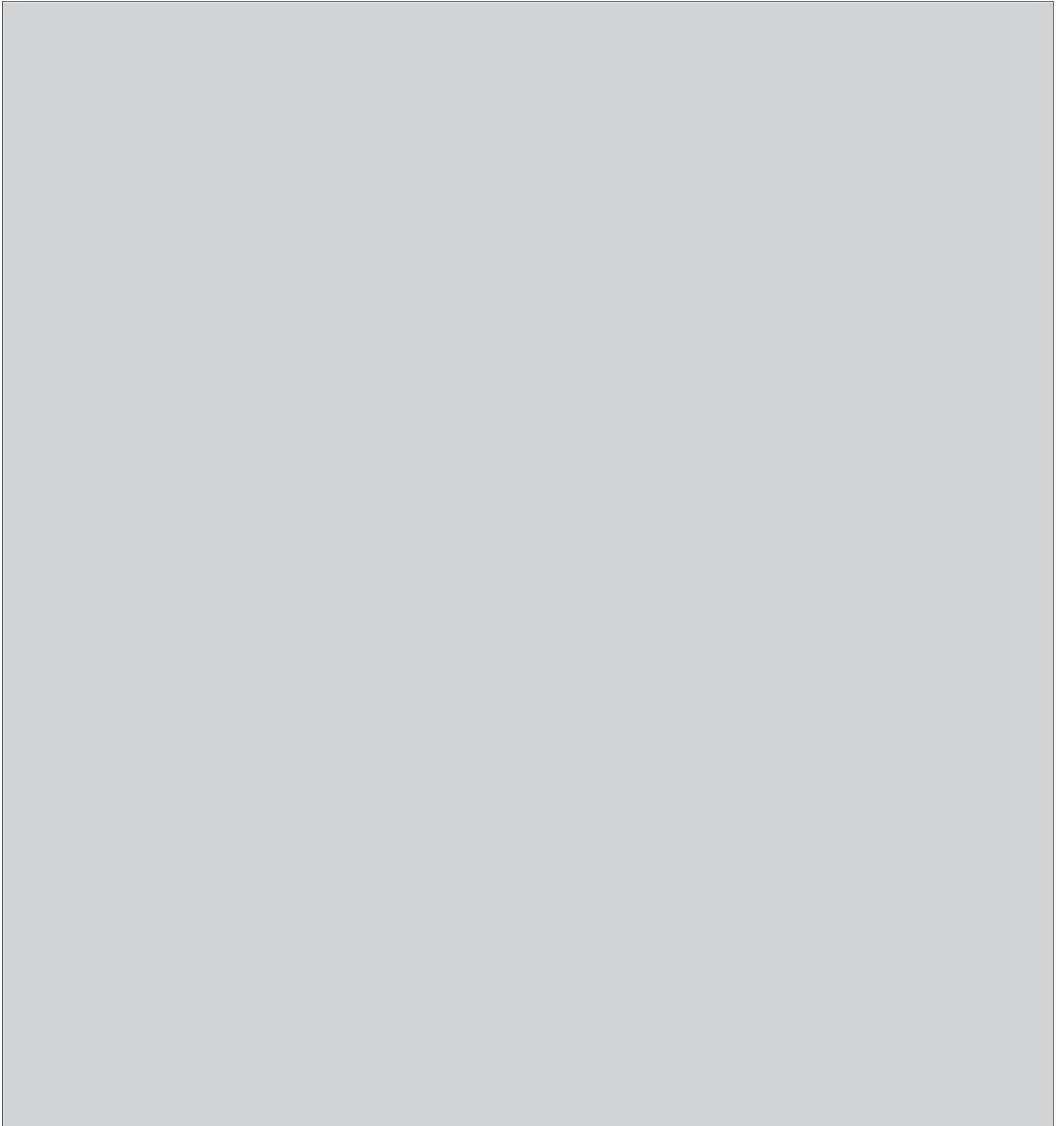
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For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.



# E-8 promotion rates up; critical skills even higher

STAFF SGT. A.J. BOSKER

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – The Air Force selected 1,612 of 15,831 eligible master sergeants for promotion March 19 under a familiar critical skills program that for the first time is being applied to E-8 and E-9 promotion cycles.

Under the Chronic Critical Skills program, officials identified 25 career fields to be classified as “critical” skills for the 03E8 promotion cycle. While the overall selection rate for this cycle, 10.18 percent, is the highest seen across the board since 1987, the move pushed average selection percentages, depending on the multiplier applied, to anywhere from 9.64 to 30.88 percent.

“We’re now including E-8 and E-9s because of critical senior noncommissioned officer shortages in these AFSCs that are seriously impacting mission readiness,” said Chief Master Sgt. Carol Dockery, chief of enlisted promotions and evaluation at the Pentagon.

The effort to expand the CCS program to the two highest enlisted ranks began during the 03E8 central evaluation board and final approval came only days ago, officials said.

To get there, those competing for promotion in designated AFSCs are assigned a higher selection rate, 1.2 times the Air Force average, Chief Dockery said.

For example, an AFSC with a 15 percent selection rate would receive an 18 percent promotion rate when placed on the CCS list.

“Now, more than ever, it’s absolutely essential that we balance our enlisted force structure to meet our expeditionary force requirements,” said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray. “We must continue to use the CCS skills program and all other available tools, such as selective re-

## Tyndall’s senior master sergeant selects

**Martin Austin**, 43rd Fighter Squadron

**Lorna Banks**, 325th Aeromedical Dental Squadron

**Daniel Blood**, 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

**Rodger Brown**, Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency

**David Cook**, AFCESA

**Dale Hansen**, 325th Maintenance Operations Squadron

**Mark Hepner**, AFCESA

**Jeffrey Kahapea**, 325th Medical Support Squadron

**Connie Lantz**, 325th Security

Forces Squadron

**Alfredo Lopez III**, 325th SFS

**Mark Massey**, 325th Maintenance Squadron

**Andre Pare**, 832nd RED HORSE Squadron

**Karim Pasha**, 325th Air Control Squadron

**Daryl Shines**, 325th MXS

**Jeffrey Shinsky**, 325th AMXS

**Cynthia Siples**, 325th Mission Support Group

**Diane Thrift**, 325th Services Squadron

**Ronald Ward**, 325th MXS

enlistment bonuses, incentive pays and retraining, if we are to achieve balance in our force.”

Senior NCOs in AFSCs manned at or below 70 percent with less than 25 people eligible for promotion received a multiplier of 3.0; those manned at or below 70 percent with more than 25 people eligible for promotion received a multiplier of 1.4; and those manned above 70 percent but less than 90 percent received a multiplier of 1.2.

Future CCS skills will be announced prior to the central evaluation board for each promotion cycle.

The cycle 03E8 Senior Master Sergeant Evaluation Board met Jan. 22 to Feb. 7. The average total score of selectees during the cycle was 669.10 points. Average selectee score breakdowns are:

- 36 points, time in grade
- 21.01 points, time in service
- 135 points, performance reports

- 20.08 points for decorations
- 68.83 points for U.S. Air Force Supervisory Examination
- 388.17 points for evaluation board score

In addition, the average selectee has 5.04 years time in grade and 19.99 years time in service.

Those selected for promotion to senior master sergeant automatically receive a school quota for the Senior NCO Academy. In addition, 357 non-selects are scheduled to attend with a list of 720 alternates, officials said.

Senior master sergeant selectees will be promoted beginning in April. The complete list of promotion and Senior NCO Academy selections will be posted on the AFPC Web site by Saturday at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom).

(Staff Sgt. Matt Miller, Air Force Personnel Center, contributed to this article.)

### ● FROM STOP-LOSS PAGE 1

sions built into the stop-loss program that allow affected personnel to be released.

“All waivers must be funneled through the members’ chain of command and routed through the 325th Fighter Wing commander to the commander of Air Education Training Command. MAJCOM commanders are the approval or disapproval authority,” Sergeant Feeny said.

“We are doing our best to minimize this disruption,” Secretary Roche said. “And we will look at unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis and do all we can to offer appropriate relief.”

“We understand the individual sacrifices that our airmen and their families will be making,” General Jumper said. “We appreciate their unwavering support and dedication to our nation.”

For more information about stop-loss, people at Tyndall can contact the relocations office in the MPF office at DSN 523-8388 or 523-8261. People can also contact the Air Force Personnel Center’s Stop-Loss Control Center at (210) 565-2374 or DSN 665-2374, or visit the AFPC Web site at: [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/stoploss03.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/stoploss03.htm).

(Compiled by 325th Fighter Wing public affairs.)

# AF loses role model and friend

**CHIEF MASTER SGT. OF THE AIR FORCE GERALD MURRAY**

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** —

The passing of former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Tom Barnes is a tremendous loss to his family, to our Air Force and the nation.

Historically, he will be remembered as the first African-American Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, but a closer look at his life reveals a man with a deep passion for his family, his service and the men and women of the enlisted force.

He grew up in our Air Force at a time when racial issues were at their height, and throughout his career, senior leaders turned to him to diffuse tense situations. His ability to communicate with people, coupled with his experience as an NCO and as an African-American, gave him the unique ability to understand the issues and



**CHIEF MASTER SGT. OF THE AIR FORCE TOM BARNES**  
1930 - 2003

Fourth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

work toward solutions.

As a technical expert in his field of

hydraulics and later as a flight engineer, he gained the respect and admiration of peers, subordinates and superiors, and became the person people went to for answers.

His experience in racial relations, technical expertise and experience in both the Korean War and Vietnam clearly made him the right person to become the fourth chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

His leadership paved the way for the enlisted force of the mid-1970s to begin its rise above many challenges — post-Vietnam issues, racial tensions, low standards, and drug and alcohol abuse.

Following his retirement, he continued to lead and mentor, through many speaking engagements and visits with our airmen.

The Air Force is better today because of Chief Barnes' dedicated service. His passion, leadership and friendship will be greatly missed.

## Survey to help servicemembers, families

**STAFF SGT. C. TODD LOPEZ**

Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** — A survey designed to gauge the Air Force's success in building communities is set for distribution in early April.

The 2003 Community Assessment Survey will be sent out servicewide, said the Air Force's director of family advocacy research and the project officer for the survey. He added that the Air Force will use the survey results to learn how to help its people better.

"We want to find out what people really need and what would help them make their communities and their lives in the Air Force better," Maj. Jim Whitworth said. "The assessment goes out to active-duty members and to their spouses as well as some Reserve members

and spouses."

Variations of the assessment have been conducted once every 24 to 30 months since 1993. This year, the total number of people who will be asked to take the assessment is around 1,800 at each of 85 Air Force installations worldwide. Those taking the survey will be randomly chosen, and the survey is completely anonymous.

Questions on the assessment, Major Whitworth said, cover basic needs by asking about "key areas necessary for building strong communities."

"These areas include a person's sense of community, family adaptation, safety, spiritual well-being, health and well-being, economic well-being and preparedness," he said.

Questions on the as-

essment ask about the availability of community resources and about how connected, or a part of the community, people feel they are. For example, one question asks if people feel there are enough places on their installation to spend time with co-workers after duty hours. Another asks about relationships with supervisors.

Assessment results, Major Whitworth said, will not fall on deaf ears. In fact, bases have used past results to make changes in the services they provide on base and even in the services and options available to people off base.

"There was one (installation) where they identified that spouse employment was a real problem," Major Whitworth said. "The spouses had indi-

cated on the community assessment that there were just no jobs, and so the base leadership was able to target that issue. The installation was able to get some businesses to relocate to (its) installation and as a result there was a 15 percent increase in spouse employment from one assessment to the next."

Major Whitworth said the key to the success of the assessments is that Air Force leaders will be better able to help their people help themselves.

"We've found the most powerful way to help people is to help their informal networks — to help people to establish more and better friendships, to help them to get to know their neighbors and get involved in their community," Major Whitworth

●SEE SURVEY PAGE 7

# Tyndall clinic changes appointment-scheduling system

The 325th Medical Group has changed the way it schedules appointments. The new system, called Advanced Access, has been tested in several large civilian clinics in recent years and has been shown to be a better way to manage primary care medical clinics.

Some patients have already experienced the Advanced Access system since it was implemented Oct. 1. The average wait time for a routine appointment has decreased from more than nine days to less than two days, while the average wait time for an acute appointment remained at less than one-third of a day.

Gone are the days when patients had to call two weeks in advance of when they *thought* they might need an appointment. Patients still need to plan ahead to some degree, however. To help patients understand how best to benefit from this new service, these tips are recommended:

- Call on whatever day you wish, but plan

ahead enough to be available on the day you call.

- Don't follow the crowd. The heaviest call volumes come between 7-10 a.m. during the first two or three days of the week and the first day after a holiday weekend. Of course, patients should call whenever they need medical attention, but be aware that if you can plan ahead for your visit, your chances of getting your choice of appointments will be greatly enhanced if you can call during non-peak times.

- Avoid, if at all possible, walking in to the clinic to be seen without calling for an appointment. Walk-ins place a strain on the schedule and decrease the staff's ability to

see patients who had appointments.

- Arrive early for appointments, which means the patient should arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time. This point cannot be stressed enough. Arriving late not only postpones your visit, but it adversely affects all visits after yours. So,

be considerate and make every effort to arrive at least 15 minutes early.

- Use the "Take Care of Yourself Handbook," the Health Care Information Line and Nurse Telephone Triage appropriately. This is important because several appointments are used for problems that can usually be managed just as effectively at home (such as the common cold). These visits subtract from the supply available for other problems. The "Take Care of

Yourself Handbook" is an excellent resource for home diagnosis and treatment of such problems and it is written in straightforward language. The TRICARE Service Center and the Health Plans Management Office can provide you with a copy if your family does not already have one. Two other options available for discussing home health-care advice are the Health Care Information Line and the Nurse Telephone Triage line. Both can be accessed by calling the medical group's appointment line at 283-2778.

Advanced Access doesn't affect the current policy regarding active-duty sick call. Changing to Advanced Access not only offers the medical group a chance to manage the primary care clinics in a more efficient manner, it also promises to increase patients' access to care and satisfaction levels.

For more information, call 283-2778.  
(Courtesy 325th Medical Group)



## Law gives medical benefit to stop-lossed airmen

MAJ. JOHN THOMAS

Air Force Personnel Center public affairs

**AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER**—A previously overlooked provision of law allows up to four months of TRICARE transitional health-care benefits for military members separating from the service after having been retained under stop-loss.

Transitional health benefits will apply to any military member separating after the current and any future stop-loss actions, according to officials.

Due to an administrative oversight, more than 5,000 airmen once retained on active duty under the October 2001 to August 2002 stop-loss in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and

Noble Eagle did not get word of the benefit which was part of the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act, officials said.

Letters sent to those former airmen

**“It'll make it easier for individuals to transition after they've made that extra sacrifice of being stop-lossed.”**

LT. GEN. RICHARD “TEX” BROWN  
Deputy Chief of Staff for personnel

who were unaware of the health-care benefit tell them they can file for reimbursement of medical expenses in-

curred during the 60- to 120-day period after they left the service — but not insurance premiums they may have paid, said Judith Warner, chief of the career assistance and relocation office.

According to the law, benefits begin on an individual's official date of separation and cannot be adjusted. Individuals who served more than six years on active duty are entitled to 120 days of coverage. Those with fewer than six years are entitled to 60 days of coverage.

“It's only for a short time but this is a nice benefit, when you look at it,” said Lt. Gen. Richard “Tex” Brown, deputy

●SEE LAW PAGE 15

### Thinking of getting out?

**T H I N K  
A G A I N !**

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.



Tech. Sgt. Paula Allen-Gibbs

### And this is ...

Tech. Sgt. Steven Egolf, a member of the NCO Academy Class 03-3 Falcon Flight, shows Waneda Hodges, a resident of Bay Crest Nursing Center, a photo of his children. All 15 members of the flight led by Tech. Sgt. Barb Wood, NCOA instructor, visited the local nursing home Tuesday to talk with the people there, most of whom are either veterans or have family members currently serving in the armed forces. The residents were happy to see the AF members and shared many stories and much praise for the group.

## Checkertail Salute



Lisa Carroll

Sergeant Nixon is awarded the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award by Brig. Gen. Larry New, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Sergeant Nixon for being hand-picked as the fighter wing staff unit deployment monitor and effectively managing 60 wing staff members. He completely overhauled all of their mobility folders ensuring contents were up-to-date.

**Staff Sgt. Tommy Nixon**

**Duty title:** Wing plans/inspector general information manager

**Unit:** 325th Fighter Wing

**Time on station:** 1 year

**Time in service:** 6 years

**Hometown:** Philadelphia, Pa.

**Hobbies:** Basketball, bowling and remote-controlled cars

**Goals:** Grow old with my wife and be a good example for my children

**Favorite thing about Tyndall:** Working with great people and the beach

**Pet peeves:** Bad customer service

**Favorite book:** "Where the Red Fern Grows"

**Favorite movie:** "Coming to America"

*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.*

### ● FROM SURVEY PAGE 5

said.

For example, he said, an Air Force community in Germany used the survey to help alleviate the isolation of younger, enlisted families who lived in apartment-style homes.

"What the team did was to set up picnics and other activities in the stairways and in the hallways of those apartment buildings," he said. "That solution helped create more friendships among the people who lived there."

Active-duty people will be notified by e-mail, while spouses will be notified by postal mail. Airmen can complete the assessment on a designated Web site, while spouses have the option of completing it on paper. The ef-

fectiveness of the assessment depends totally on participants' willingness to accurately complete it, Major Whitworth said. It is designed to take less than 20 minutes to complete.

"Our goal is to make improvements in building stronger communities without guessing, so we need to know people's thoughts and needs," he said. "If people don't tell us what they need or identify areas where we can improve or what the problems are, it will be much harder to reach our goal. We urge all active-duty and family members who receive these assessments to take the time to complete the assessment and to help us strengthen our Air Force communities. This assessment is their chance to do that."

# Gulf Coast Salute 2003 air show, open house

Team Tyndall celebrated 100 years of powered flight by hosting this year's Gulf Coast Salute. More than 34,000 people attended the two-day event that featured aircraft performances and displays spanning more than 70 years of aviation.



Lisa Carroll

The U.S. Navy F-14 demonstration team from Naval Air Station Oceana, Va., puts a Tomcat through its paces, performing several high-speed maneuvers.



Lisa Carroll

The Thunderbirds performed a practice show Friday for local area children.



2nd Lt. Albert Bosco

An F-117 Nighthawk from Holloman AFB, N.M., flies overhead, allowing the crowd to witness the capabilities that helped bring victory in Desert Storm.



Lisa Carroll

Lt. Col. Richard McSpadden, Thunderbirds commander, presents a coin to Staff Sgt. Tonisha Layne, Military Equal Opportunity advisor, during her re-enlistment ceremony.



2nd Lt. Albert Bosco

Cadet 3rd Class Krysta Peltzer, A U.S. Air Force Academy falconer, lets Aine and Josiah Majors pet one of the academy's falcons. The academy sends its birds to educational and public relations events.



The Thunderbirds lined up, stacked vertically behind their F-16s. The Thunderbirds highlight



The Tyndall Honor Guard, along with m... present the colors during the opening ce...



Lisa Carroll

vertically, for a picture-perfect view of  
nted Gulf Coast Salute 2003.



Lisa Carroll

A four-ship formation of T-6 Texans flies overhead. These aircraft were primary trainers for pilots during the World War II era.



Lisa Carroll

members of the Navy and Coast Guard,  
eremony of this year's Gulf Coast Salute.



Lisa Carroll

Capt. Kevin Coleman, a 95th Fighter Squadron pilot, gives his 15-month-old daughter, Karoleena, a head start on flying.



Lisa Carroll

An F-86 Sabre and F-15 Eagle fly side by side for the Heritage Flight during this year's Gulf Coast Salute. The flight represented the technology of today and yesteryear.



Lisa Carroll

Thunderbird 5 (bottom) and Thunderbird 6 (top) demonstrate their signature Calypso pass, one of the more difficult solo maneuvers performed.



Lisa Carroll

Lt. Col. Richard McSpadden, Thunderbirds commander, meets the crowd and takes a moment to sign autographs for some airshow attendees.



Lisa Carroll

## Collecting evidence

Members of the search and recovery team identify and plot items found after a simulated aircraft accident during Crown Special 03-02. The exercise was conducted to test Team Tyndall's response in the event of an aircraft accident. Response team measures were tested during Gulf Coast Salute 2003 when an actual crash occurred.



## President authorizes two new medals

**WASHINGTON (AFP)** — A presidential executive order signed March 12 authorizes the Department of Defense to create two new military medals for service in the global war on terrorism.

The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal will recognize servicemembers who participate in an expedition to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. It is limited to those who deploy as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal will recognize service in military operations to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. It is limited to Operation Noble Eagle and to those servicemembers who provide support to Operation Enduring Freedom from outside the area of eligibility designated for the expeditionary medal.

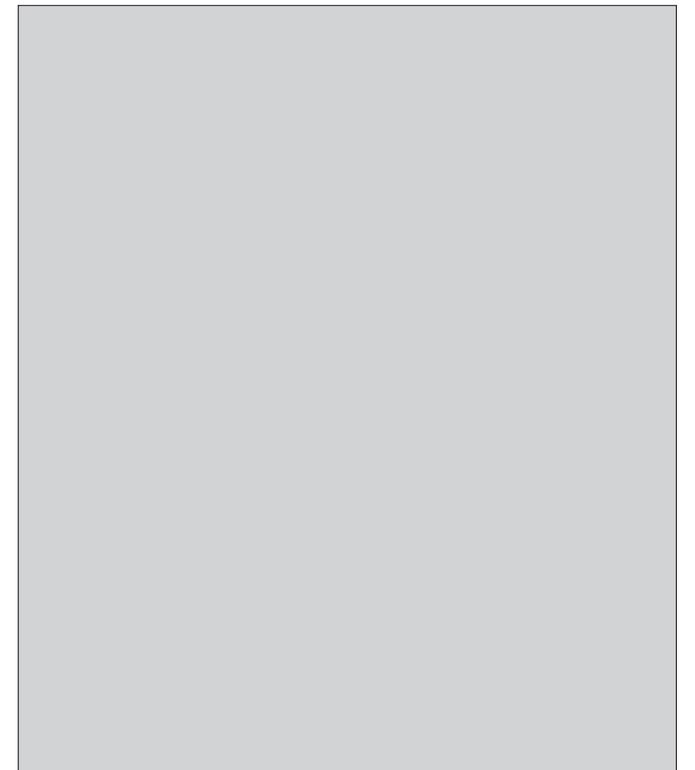
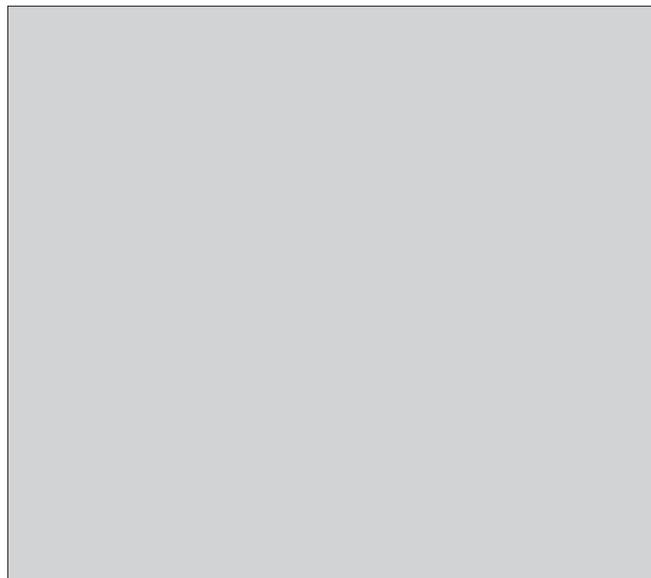
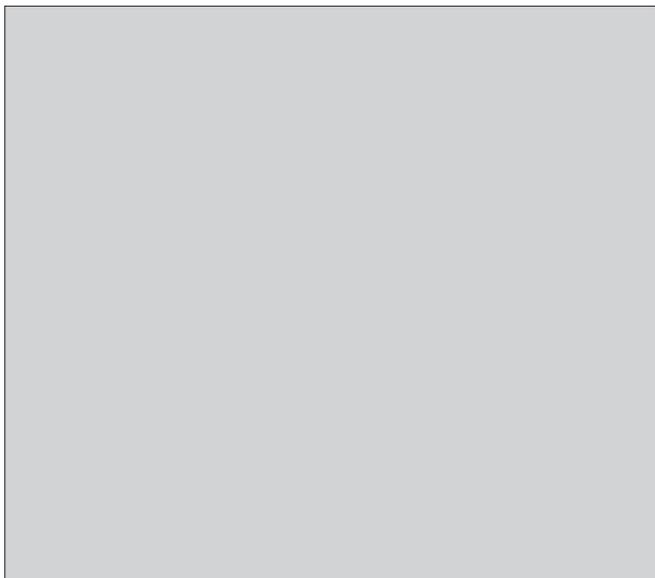
The medals were recommended by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

Specific eligibility for the medals will be established by DOD awards policy officials. The combatant commander has the authority to award the medals to units and people deployed within his theater for approved operations. Each service department will prescribe the appropriate regulations for processing and wearing the medals.

Members of the U.S. armed forces and Coast Guard are eligible for the medals, including Reserve and National Guard members activated to support approved operations. Civilians, foreign nationals and foreign military are not eligible.

It will take up to 12 months to produce and stock the medals in supply systems, officials said.

Future authorizations for these medals can be approved by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff if the war on terrorism expands.



# Preventative tips to control mold

**2ND LT. SCOTT BOYLE**

325th Aeromedical Dental Squadron bioenvironmental engineer

With spring upon us, the weather is changing and people are enjoying all the wonderful outdoor diversions coastal Florida has to offer. Meanwhile, as we're at the beach, an all too familiar and not too desirable acquaintance is beginning to rear its ugly head in workplaces and homes across the area. Yes folks, mold season has arrived. The heat and humidity of summer provides an excellent breeding ground for this wretched fungi, but with a little information, its effects on human health can be assessed and its growth contained.

Mold, or mildew, is essentially a description of fungi growing on surfaces or other materials. These fungi are found naturally in both indoor and outdoor environments, and can potentially thrive anywhere moisture and oxygen are present. While it is impossible to eliminate all mold growth from the indoor environment,

it can be effectively controlled by minimizing indoor moisture.

If visible mold is discovered within the home or office, most questions posed concern potential health effects. Fortunately, for the vast majority of the population, mold exposure does not result in any adverse health effects, and in general, healthy individuals with normal immune systems have a very high resistance to molds.

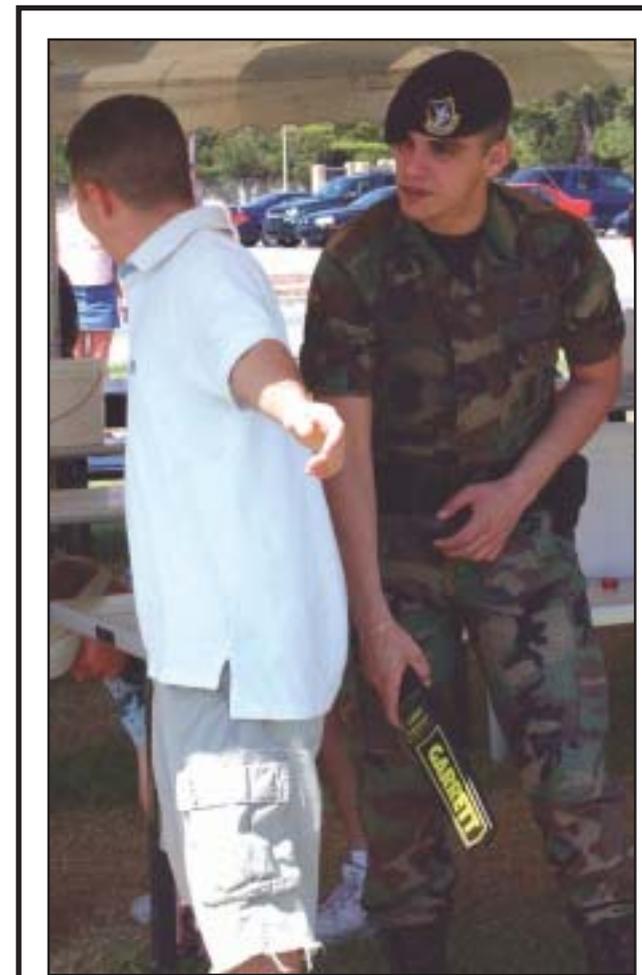
In some cases, however, mold growth can impact human health. The effect of mold can be separated into two broad categories – allergic responses and, in rare instances, disease. Allergic responses are far more common and are typically exhibited by those people susceptible to a variety of other allergies. Disease-causing molds are extremely rare opportunistic pathogens, meaning they affect persons with weakened or suppressed immune systems. Currently there is no readily available medical test for mold ex-

posure, making it very difficult for health workers to accurately assign a set of symptoms specifically to mold exposure.

Fortunately, there are several things we can do to limit mold growth in our homes and offices. First, it is necessary that all sources of moisture are eliminated and any leftover water is cleaned up. Since indoor moisture results not only from leaky walls and roofs but also from high humidity levels, it is recommended that indoor humidity levels be maintained at 60 percent or below.

If mold is colonizing an area, it should be cleaned promptly. An effective, inexpensive cleaning solution consists of one part bleach mixed with ten parts water. If the colonization is on porous material, the material should be discarded and replaced whenever feasible.

By taking the necessary precautions, we can continue to enjoy the wonderful weather as well as a clean and healthy indoor environment.



2nd Lt. Albert Bosco

## Stand still please

Senior Airman A.C. Llorens, 325th Security Forces Squadron, scans an air show attendee for prohibited objects this past weekend during Tyndall's Gulf Coast Salute.



*Every member of Team Tyndall is valuable. Play it safe, don't become a statistic.*

● **FROM AIR SHOW PAGE 2**

Our guests walked away knowing more about Tyndall, its various missions and the Air Force of today and yesteryear. While no doubt the military aircraft and equipment were impressive, it is our people who left the most lasting and favorable impression on our guests. I encouraged each of our military members to wear their uniforms, and I'll bet there wasn't one who

did who didn't have someone say something encouraging to them.

I would like to thank Maj. John Melloy, the 325th Fighter Wing open house project officer, for leading the way and for making us all proud. Thanks also to everyone on the open house committee and to all of you who played a role in making this year's Gulf Coast Salute a resounding success. I would also like to thank the security forces team

for ensuring security remained at the forefront of all our activities and for accomplishing a tough job with positive, friendly and professional attitudes.

So many people were involved in making this year's Gulf Coast Salute a success and to all those who contributed, thank you for furthering the 325th Fighter Wing's reputation as a first-class organization with world-class people.

Your link  
to what's going on

# Gulf Guide

in the  
Tyndall community

## MARCH

FRI  
28

### Enlisted Officers' Spouses' auction

The Enlisted Officers' Spouses' Club auction will be 7 p.m. today in the Tyndall Officers' Club ballroom. A preview of the fine art will start at 6 p.m. A donation of \$4 per person will be collected at the door. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be available, along with a cash bar. For more information, call Ann Monahan, (850) 609-0699.

SUN  
30

### 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.

## APRIL

TUE  
1

### Troy State ROTC visit

The Air Force ROTC staff from Troy State University will visit the Tyndall Education Center 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday. They will discuss scholarships and commissioning programs available to active-duty enlisted personnel and the associated application timeline. The TSU Air Force ROTC detachment offers a two-year commissioning program open to qualified college juniors, seniors and graduate students. For more information, call the education office, 283-4285 or 283-4286.

### Children's weight class

The health and wellness center's sensible weight 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.

### Coastal navigation course

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 16 basic coastal navigation course will be 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The classes will be held in Gulf Coast Community College's Student Union East building, Gibson lecture hall, Room 231. The course ends April 22. For more information, call John Clark, 271-3828, or visit the Flotilla Web site at: <http://clik.to./USCGAUXFlotilla16>.

WED  
2

### Medical group closures

All medical facilities, to include pharmacies and clinics, will close at noon the first Wednesday of every month for mandatory training. All clinics and pharmacies will re-open 4:30-6 p.m. for late clinic appointments. The medical group apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

### Tyndall star party

Tyndall Elementary School and the Astronomical Society of Bay County will host a star party at the school 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday. The rain date will be Thursday. The free event is an invitation for all Tyndall military personnel and their families to learn more about amateur astronomy. Astronomical society members will have their telescopes on display. Guests are invited to park in front of Tyndall Elementary School.

### 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. on Wednesdays at the community activities center, Building 1027. Parents are asked to bring a snack for their child and a toy that he or she can share with another child. For more information and cost, call Ms. Bonnie Fuller, 283-5812, or Ms. Karen Blood, 874-0292.

FRI  
4

### Change of command

A 325th Operation Support Squadron change of command will be 1:25 p.m. April 4 in Hangar 4. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony. Lt. Col. Steven Wallender will be relinquishing command to Lt. Col. Steven Schneider.

## NOTES

### Project officer needed

A project officer is needed for planning an Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration or event to be held in May. The military or civilian employee who volunteers will be appointed by the 325th Fighter Wing Military Equal Opportunity office. Anyone interested in applying may contact Staff Sgt. Darryll Woodson, 283-2739, or Staff Sgt. Tonisha Layne, 283-2751.

### Housing referral specialist

The housing flight has a dedicated housing referral specialist to meet off-base needs involving property and community issues. Anyone interested in renting, selling or purchasing property may call John Rana, 283-8105.

### Choir director position

A position is now open for a Tyndall Catholic choir director. For more information, call Nell Matchkus or Capt. Allen Martin at the contracting office, 283-8620.

### Pharmacy formularies

Many military treatment facility pharmacies have recently upgraded their formularies – or listings of medications that they carry. As a result, even though the pharmacy may not have stocked a particular medication in the past, they may now be carrying it. In most cases, the MTF formularies are posted online on each MTF Web site. For the Tyndall Clinic pharmacy, go to [www.tyndall.af.mil](http://www.tyndall.af.mil), select the 325th Fighter Wing, then the 325th Medical Group, then pharmacy.

## RETIREE NEWS

### AFRC Shades of Green reopening

Reservations are now being taken for the reopening of the Armed Forces Recreation Center Shades of Green hotel on Walt Disney World Resort in December of this year. Shades of Green was closed for expansion and complete renovation in 2002. Rates are based on rank from a low of \$70 for E-1s to \$116 for senior officers. The renovated facility will double its guest space to 586 rooms, add a new 500-space parking garage and 7,500 square feet of special-event space for reunions, weddings and other family-oriented functions. Nine rooms will conform to the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act with wider bathroom doors and roll-in showers.

Shades of Green has two heated swimming pools, a kiddie pool, play area, tennis courts, golf courses, restaurants and a free shuttle bus service to and from Disney attractions. Shades of Green is financially self-sustaining; no taxpayer dollars are used for operations. The hotel expansion was funded by a civilian commercial loan. For more details, or to make reservations, refer to [www.shadesofgreen.org](http://www.shadesofgreen.org) or [www.armymwr.com/shades/index.html](http://www.armymwr.com/shades/index.html) or call toll free (888) 593-2242.

The Army Community and Family Support Center in Alexandria, Va., operates the four Armed Forces Recreation Centers as the Defense Department's executive agent. The other three centers are the Hale Koa Hotel, [www.halekoa.com](http://www.halekoa.com), in Waikiki Beach, Honolulu, Hawaii; the Dragon Hill Lodge, [www.dragonhilllodge.com](http://www.dragonhilllodge.com), in the Yongsan area of Seoul, South Korea; and AFRC-Europe, [www.afrc europe.com](http://www.afrc europe.com), which has Bavarian resorts in Chiemsee and Garmisch, Germany. AFRCs are open to Department of Defense identification card holders in all the active and reserve components, active members of the other uniformed services, active DOD civilians assigned outside the United States, military and DOD civilian retirees and their families. Also eligible are several other smaller groups, such as Medal of Honor recipients and 100-percent disabled veterans.

## YARD SALE

There are no yard sales scheduled for Saturday.

# Fitness workouts OK after smallpox shot

WAYNE AMANN

37th Training Wing public affairs

**LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS)** — Air Force fitness center patrons who receive the smallpox vaccination got a welcome shot in the arm concerning their fitness routines thanks to some commonsense rules.

Vaccinated gym-goers can go about their workouts by simply following the precautions prominently posted in the various fitness facilities.

“The main reason for the rules is just close contact with bare skin,” said Maj. John Dice, the officer in charge of the immunizations clinic at Wilford Hall Medical Center and a physician in the Allergy and Immunology Clinic. “A vaccinated upper arm shouldn’t touch someone else or a common object like a shirt or towel, thereby transmitting the vaccine virus that sits on the skin.”

**- The only off-limits area is the sauna or steam room.** The risk of transmitting is much higher in these rooms since people are sitting close to each other wearing very little clothing.

**- A Band-Aid or bandage must cover the vac-**

**cine site.** As the first layer of protection they effectively reduce the side effects of transmitting the virus.

**- No tank tops are allowed, only long-sleeved shirts.** They provide another barrier.

**- Equipment must be wiped down after use with a solution provided by the fitness center.** Normally a 60 percent alcohol-based solution is good.

However, the virus can be inactivated by cleaning with hot, soapy water. Wiping can be done with a paper towel or common towel over any sweaty area like a chair.

“The chance of transmitting something down your arm onto equipment is fairly small, but not zero,” Major Dice cautioned. “So it’s better to inactivate anything still on there.”

**- Showers can be used.** But, how do they differ from the sauna or steam room?

“It’s not much of a risk because you’re using hundreds of gallons of hot, soapy water,” Major Dice ex-

plained. “That’s pretty good at diluting the virus down the drain. Just keep the vaccine site clear of others in the shower.”

**- When the scab falls off, normal gym usage is back.** The vaccine site will heal and form a scab, which holds a little virus. Generally it takes about three weeks for the scab to fall off, leaving normal flat skin.

“That’s your marker. That means the site’s completely healed over and there’s no virus on the skin surface,” Major Dice said. “Your arm’s back to normal.”

Local base immunizations desks and public-health offices can connect callers with those in the know who can field common questions regarding smallpox vaccination do’s and don’ts.

“People tend to worry,” Major Dice said. “Having these rules posted is a big help to us because they cut down on questions. Hopefully this story will, too.”



## Study prompts FDA action against ephedra products

G.W. POMEROY

Air Force Surgeon General public affairs

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — Acting on the release of a government-funded study, the Department of Health and Human Services announced a series of actions designed to protect Americans from potentially serious risks of dietary supplement products containing ephedra.

The results of a Rand Corporation study commissioned by the National Institutes of Health provide additional evidence that ephedra may be associated with important health risks, according to a Food and Drug Administration statement. The Rand report also finds “only limited evidence of health benefits resulting from ephedra use,” according to the statement.

Air Force Surgeon General officials have repeatedly “strongly advised” people to contact their physicians or health-care providers before taking dietary supplements containing ma huang, ephedra or ephedra alkaloids.

As a result of the study, the FDA proposed warning labels for all ephedra-containing dietary supplements. The proposed label warns about the risks of serious adverse events, including heart attack, seizure, stroke and death; cautions that the risk can increase with the dose, with strenuous ex-

ercise and with other stimulants such as caffeine; specifies certain groups (such as women who are pregnant or breast feeding) who should never use these products; and lists other conditions, such as diseases and the use of certain medications, that rule out the use of ephedrine alkaloids.

“We want to caution all Americans — particularly athletes and those who engage in strenuous activities — about using dietary

supplements that contain ephedra,” said Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy

Thompson. “There continue to be serious questions about the risks surrounding this particular dietary supplement.”

Short-term use of ephedra or ephedrine is linked with about a 2-pound per month increased weight loss, but the studies lasted only a few months, so there is no evidence of long-term benefit.

No studies exist on the efficacy of herbal ephedra-containing dietary supplements on

athletic performance. The few studies of the active ingredient, the chemical ephedrine, used small samples of mostly fit individuals, finding a modest effect on short-term performance when caffeine is included. Without caffeine, ephedra has little or no effect on athletic performance.

Use of ephedra or ephedrine with or without caffeine is associated with two to three times the risk of nausea, vomiting, psychiatric symptoms, autonomic hyperactivity and palpitations.

In one database of 16,000 health complaints by ephedra users, ephedra was linked to two deaths,

four heart attacks, nine strokes, one seizure and five psychiatric cases for which other causes were all ruled out.

“This is not the end of the story,” said Mr. Thompson after the study was made public. The FDA is “building the case for further regulatory action under the law.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Thompson advised people, especially athletes and exercise enthusiasts, not to take the herb.

**“We want to caution all Americans, particularly athletes and those who engage in strenuous activities, about using dietary supplements that contain ephedra.”**

**TOMMY THOMPSON**

Health and Human Services secretary

“I would not take this. I would not give it to my family, and I don’t know why anyone would take these products,” Mr. Thompson said. He pointed to an administration-commissioned Rand Corp. review that found ephedra does nothing to enhance sports performance and causes only temporary loss of a few pounds. “Why take the risk?”

The release of the study came two weeks after the Feb. 17 high-profile death of an ephedra user, Baltimore Orioles pitcher Steve Bechler. Teammates said Bechler had taken a supplement containing ephedra in an attempt to control his weight.

In November 2002, the Air Force’s surgeon general issued a notice to airmen on the potential risks associated with dietary supplements that contain ephedra, following the death of a young airman in early November.

The Air Force surgeon general issued a revised policy covering dietary supplements containing ephedra on Sept. 5 that strongly discouraged the use of such supplements and highlighted associated risk factors.

The revised surgeon general policy was followed by a memorandum from the Air Force Services Agency, which called for services activities to remove such supplements from their resale inventories.



# Funshine NEWS



March 28, 2003

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

## Here's What's Happening at the Tyndall Officers' Club

### All Ranks Lunch

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!

### 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

### AF Club Scholarship

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 instruc-  
tions 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.

## Tyndall's All Ranks Seafood Extravaganza

At the O' Club  
Friday, April 4: 5:30-8:30 p.m.

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.

For more information call:  
**283-4357**

## 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

### Monday Night Military Family Pizza Special

Every Monday 5:30-7:30 p.m. in  
March Order One Pizza at regular  
price get second of equal or lesser  
value for half price

**286-2900**

### 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!

### Membership Night

March 29, 6 p.m. BBQ chicken,  
hamburgers, members are asked to  
bring a side dish. Call for details.

### Family Child Care

☎ 283-2266

### Base Child Care Requirements

The Air Force requires persons who  
live in base housing and care for  
children to be licensed. Contact the  
Family Child Care office for specific  
information.

### Need Child Care?

Family child care providers have a  
few openings for children above the  
age of two. Call for details.

### Volunteers Child Care

Do you volunteer? Do you need child  
care? Air Force Aid supports  
volunteers by providing child care in  
FCC homes. Contact the Family  
Support Center at 283-4204 for  
more information.

### Community Activity Ctr.

☎ 283-2495

### CAC Beginners Yoga Class

Tues. & Thurs at 4:30 p.m. in the  
ballroom. Call for details.

### Teen Center

☎ 283-0295

### Upcoming Events

March 29th: Midnight Madness

### New Policy

Effective immediately. Teens (ages 13-  
18) requesting a ride (in the teen  
center shuttle) to the Teen Center must  
have a current membership or pay the  
\$2.00 day pass before entering the  
van.

### Attention Parents

Teens who wish to participate in Teen  
Center activities must have an AF Form  
88, Youth Activities Application signed  
by their parents on file at the Center.  
The form provides emergency  
information in case of an accident or  
incident. Forms are available at the  
Teen Center and Youth Center.

### Operation Nite Hoops

Teens only! Nite Hoops basketball  
league forming. Call for details.

### Raptor Lanes Bowling Center

## Handicap

Handicap will be 80% of 200.

### Bowling Tournament

March 30 at 10 a.m.

\$16 entry fee

Open to all eligible Raptor Lanes bowlers.

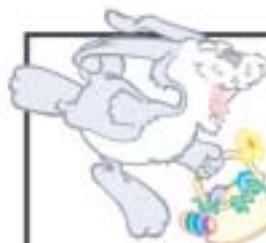
**283-2380 for more information**

### Aero Club

☎ 283-4404

### Ground Schools

Private Pilot: April 7  
Instrument & Commercial: April 8



Tyndall Youth Programs

7th Annual

### Big Bunny Egg Hunt • Saturday, April 19

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

For more information call: 283-0295

### Information, Tickets & Travel

☎ 283-2499

### Eufaula Spring Pilgrimage

April 5. Cost is \$15 and includes  
transportation. Tickets for the many  
historic homes and sites are available  
upon arrival.

### Defuniak Spring Festival

April 12. Cost is \$15. Call for details.

### Leisure Travel

Call 283-2864 for details on new  
Disney cruise specials for spring.

### Cruises Specials

The cruise lines are offering some of  
their best deals to date. Call to make  
those honeymoon or anniversary travel  
plans. Call 283-2864 for details.

### Travel Expedition 2003

Coming May 2. Over 50 vendors will be  
set up at the O Club with information on  
travel opportunities.

### Bonita Bay

☎ 283-3199

### Paintball

Paintball Fields are available for use  
dawn to dusk at no charge. Users must  
have a liability release on file at Bonita  
Bay prior to play. Rental equipment is  
not available. A chronograph may be  
signed out to verify fps on personal  
markers.

### Boat Rental Special

All boats are 1/2 price for full or half  
day rental. Safe boating course required  
prior to rental.

### Spring Flea Market

March 29. Reserve your space now.

### Skeet & Trap

☎ 283-2499 (ITT office)

### Youth Safety Class

April 5, 9-11 a.m. Space limited.  
Parents must accompany child.

### Huge Sale

Huge sale on reloading supplies.  
Prices less than cost.

## War on Iraq objectives

### □ U.S. and Coalition forces continue to focus on their mission.

- End the regime of Saddam Hussein
- Identify, isolate and eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, systems and facilities
- Capture or drive out terrorists sheltered in Iraq
- Collect intelligence on terrorist networks and on Iraq's illicit weapons of mass destruction activity
- Secure Iraq's oil fields and natural resources for the Iraqi people
- End sanctions and immediately deliver humanitarian relief and assistance
- Help the Iraqi people create a condition for a rapid transition to representative self-government that does not threaten its neighbors and is committed to the territorial integrity of Iraq

### □ Mission objectives are being achieved.

### □ The campaign is working.

*(Courtesy of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs)*



Lisa Carroll

### A final farewell

Chris Smisson, an Unlimited Airshows aerobatic pilot, died Saturday during Tyndall's Gulf Coast Salute when the Technovia SP-95 he was flying crashed during a maneuver. Tyndall condolences go out to his family and friends.

#### ● FROM LAW PAGE 6

chief of staff for personnel at the Pentagon. "Not only for now but for the future," he said.

"It'll make it easier for individuals to transition after they've made that extra sacrifice of being stop-lossed," the general said.

The Air Force learned of the law's provision when a concerned former major called to ask if stop-lossed airmen were covered, said Ms. Warner.

"We asked for a legal opinion by the AFPC and Air Staff legal offices and received an interpretation from

both that the law covered everyone impacted by stop-loss," she said.

Anyone eligible for coverage who has paid for health-care expenses out of pocket may submit a claim form (DD Form 2642) to TRICARE with a copy of the bill to be reimbursed, officials said.

The law does not affect retiring members who were held over as a result of stop-loss because they already retain a continuing entitlement to retiree health-care benefits.

Assistance is available from a benefits counselor at

military treatment facilities and from TRICARE regional offices. The worldwide TRICARE Information Center toll-free number is (888) 363-2273. Claims information and forms are available at <https://tricare.osd.mil> by clicking on "TRICARE Map" on the left-hand side of the home page and by using the "search" feature.

Individuals with additional questions can call the Air Force Personnel Center's Family Matters Operations Branch at (800) 581-9437 for assistance.

*(AFPC is located at Randolph AFB, Texas.)*



