

GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 63, No. 12

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

April 2, 2004

In brief

Time change

Be sure to set your clock ahead one hour by Sunday 2 a.m. to return to Central Daylight Time for the spring and summer.

Holy Week/Easter Schedule

Catholic Worship Opportunities in Chapel Two

Holy Thursday Mass

7 p.m. April 8

Good Friday Service

3 p.m. April 9

Easter Vigil

10 p.m. April 10

Easter Mass

9:30 a.m. April 11

Protestant Worship Opportunities

Maundy Thursday

5 p.m. April 8 Chapel One

Good Friday Service

5 p.m. April 9

Chapel One

Easter Sunrise Service

6 a.m. April 11 (to be announced)

Liturgical Easter Service

9:30 a.m. April 11 Chapel One

General Protestant Easter Service

11 a.m. April 11 Chapel Two

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● Families may get extended tour ... **Page 4**

● Gulf Coast Salute 2004 highlights... **Page 8**

● Commissary saves shoppers 30 percent ... **Page 11**



Lisa Carroll

Clean sweep

Team Tyndall members run down one of the base's runways during the FOD run/walk Monday. The event, sponsored by the 325th Fighter Wing, was held to clean up the flightline after this year's Gulf Coast Salute.

Air Force announces new SRB list

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Bluesuiters will see significant changes in the newly released selective re-enlistment bonus list resulting from solid retention rates, Pentagon officials said.

Following the selective re-enlistment review board, the Air Force has published the latest SRB list which contains 62 Air Force specialties.

"The SRB program is a retention tool the Air Force uses as an incentive to help keep the right people in the right jobs to accomplish our mission," said Senior Master Sgt. Maria Cornelia, chief of retention and bonus programs at Air Force headquarters here.

"During this period of improved retention, it is prudent to make adjustments," she said. "Airmen should remember that SRBs are not an entitlement and must be ad-

The new list of bonuses is posted at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/Reenlistments/reenlistments.htm.



justed to meet Air Force needs." All enlisted skills were reviewed, including reporting and special-duty identifiers, officials said.

The criteria used for determining which enlisted skills will receive an SRB include current and projected manning levels, re-en-

listment trends, career-field force structure changes and inputs from individual career-field managers. SRBs are authorized in 0.5 increments, or multiples, and in

three re-enlistment zones for people with between 17 months and 14 years of service.

Zone A, which applies to Airmen re-enlisting between 17 months and six years of service, incurred nine increases, 19 reductions and 86 removals. Zone B, which applies to Airmen re-en-

listing between six and 10 years of service, had eight increases, 18 reductions and 80 removals. Zone C, which applies to Airmen re-enlisting between 10 and 14 years of service, saw one increase, four decreases and 32 removals.

Additions and multiple increases are effective March 30. The SRB multiple decreases and deletions are effective April 30.

The new list of bonuses is posted at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/Reenlistments/reenlistments.htm.

For more information, contact local military personnel flight re-enlistment offices.

CSAF spells Airman with a capital "A"

GEN. JOHN JUMPER

Air Force Chief of Staff

I am an Airman.

Note that's with a capital "A." It's just one letter at the beginning of the word, but it signifies a great deal. The reason it is capitalized is simple: Airmen in the United States Air Force are the heart and soul of our unique fighting force, and should be identified by a proper noun.

As young children, when we began to read, we learned a capital letter at the front of a word signified something special or important — like our own name, our hometown, and our country.

And this was reinforced through our education and professional life. When we see a capital letter, our minds au-

tomatically emphasize that word, and we bestow an increased importance on that person, place, or thing. It is time

to formally add our profession to that list of important and special nouns. You may have seen or heard something about my guidance to capitalize the word "Airman."

"Our Air Force is the finest air and space force in the world because of the generations of professional Airmen that have devoted their lives to dominating the skies."

GEN. JOHN JUMPER

Air Force Chief of Staff



It is appropriate to do so, in recog-

inition of our rich history, and to emphasize our unparalleled role in the defense of America.

Our Air Force is the finest air and space force in the world because of the generations of professional Airmen that have devoted their lives to dominating the skies.

ognizes their historic achievements and signifies our unique contributions to fighting and winning America's wars. It shows we've earned the respect a proper name imparts.

For 38 years of my life, I've been proud to wear the uniform of the United States Air Force.

And, whether you've worn it as long as I have or just recently joined our team, I know we all feel the same sense of pride.

Regardless of the uniform we wear, the specialty we hold, the badge over our pocket, and whether we are active duty, guard, reserve, or civilian, first and foremost, we are Airmen.

We are one Air Force and we are Airmen.

Team Tyndall makes Gulf Coast Salute 2004 a resounding success



BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW

325th Fighter Wing commander

I want to begin by thanking everyone for making this year's Gulf Coast Salute an overwhelming success. The weather was absolutely perfect for all of

the activities, and about 37,000 people came to see what is unique to Tyndall, the Air Force and our sister services. Of course, highlights included the two-ship F/A-22 flyby, F-15 demonstration team and the Blue Angels, in addition to the numerous aircraft on display for folks to get a closer look at.

Also, our younger audience seemed to have fun with all of the activities that were available to them. I heard rave reviews.

As I walked around the flightline both days, I could tell everyone was enjoying themselves. Airshows are important in that they allow the public to get to know us a little better and see some of what we do on a daily basis, but this year's event was even more significant since we were able to showcase not only our mission, and that of the Air Force, but that of

our sister services as well.

I know all of Team Tyndall worked very hard to make sure the airshow was not only successful, but also safe.

Maj. Joel Carey, this year's chairman, and the rest of his staff did a fine job lining up aerial demonstrations and static displays and activities for our guests. Joker, thanks for all of your hard work. A job well done also goes out to our security forces and other airshow support personnel who endured warm weather and long days to ensure all enjoyed themselves. It takes a team effort to put on an event of this magnitude and it was extremely well done.

I'd also like to thank the participants of the FOD run/walk on Monday, making sure the flightline is free of any stray objects such as trash or any other foreign objects that can damage an aircraft. Job well done!

Every day I am reminded of the caliber of people who serve as part of Team Tyndall. With that said, I want to take a moment to recognize teams who have

●SEE SUCCESS 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

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The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PA, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed 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 SUCCESS PAGE 2

really gone above and beyond and were recently recognized for their accomplishments.

First, our Public Affairs team recently received recognition as being named the Air Force's Best Large Wing Public Affairs Office. Congratulations to Capt. Chris Karns, 325th Fighter Wing chief of public affairs, and the rest of his dynamic staff for what they do in telling the Team Tyndall and Air Force story each and every day. This is a phenomenal team accomplishment and a Tyndall first.

Also, congratulations to Lt. Col. Greg Parsons and the 325th Services Squadron who received

command-level recognition by winning Air Education and Training Command's Eubank Award.

The services squadron definitely provides the women and men of Team Tyndall with the highest quality service in numerous areas and they are definitely deserving of this honor.

For more on the services squadron's award, see page 5.

Finally, as we roll into the weekend, I want to remind everyone that Sunday marks Daylight Savings Time and we will set our

clocks ahead one hour beginning midnight Sunday.

Thanks again for all of your effort. Have a fun and safe weekend, and I'll see you next week.



“I know all of Team Tyndall worked very hard to make sure the airshow was not only successful, but also safe.”

BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW
325th Fighter Wing commander

Air Force seeks to eliminate inadequate housing

STAFF SGT. TODD LOPEZ

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force senior leaders spoke with members of Congress on March 30 about the service's requests for military construction funding in the fiscal 2005 budget.

In testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee subcommittee on military construction, the Air Force civil engineer, Maj. Gen. L. Dean Fox, told senators the commitments reflected in the budget request are similar to those of the previous year.

Air Force officials requested \$2.6 billion for total-force military construction and military-family housing and an additional \$2.2 billion for sustainment, restoration and modernization funds. The total Air Force budget request is more than \$4.8 billion.

According to prepared testimony, the Air Force's budget request is higher than the previous year — that

●SEE HOUSING PAGE 16

Families of high school seniors may get to extend current tour

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER - Some Air Force families with a child entering the senior year of high school may get to stay additional time at their current duty stations thanks to a new policy announced this month.

"In today's environment of deployments and high operations tempo, it's important that we alleviate stress on families wherever we can," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray. "This initiative is designed to do that."

"This is a policy we think increases the quality of life for Air Force families," said Roger Blanchard, Air Force assistant deputy chief of staff for personnel.

"The intent is to decrease turbulence and increase stability for military families," he said.

The High School Seniors Assignment Deferment Program allows senior master sergeants and below, and officers up through the rank of lieutenant colonel, to apply for

a one-year assignment deferment. Back-to-back deferments may be possible and military-married-to-military spouses may also apply.

Even with the changes, officials said the mission comes first and will be the overriding



"In today's environment of deployments and high operations tempo, it's important that we alleviate stress on families wherever we can."

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

ing factor in granting deferments.

"This policy does not mean that every airman with a high school senior will remain in place," said Chief Murray. "Deferments will be approved where possible. As in all situations, however, the needs of the Air Force will come first."

"Requests will be consid-

ered on a case-by-case basis," said Col. Kathleen Grabowski, chief of assignment programs and procedures here. "The goal is to approve as many requests as mission needs allow without being unfair, but the reality is

that some requests won't be possible due to Air Force needs," she said. To be eligible, the rising senior in high school must be a dependent of and living with the Airman requesting the deferment, and must be enrolled in the dependent enrollment system called DEERS, she said.

Officers will need to apply before being put on assign-

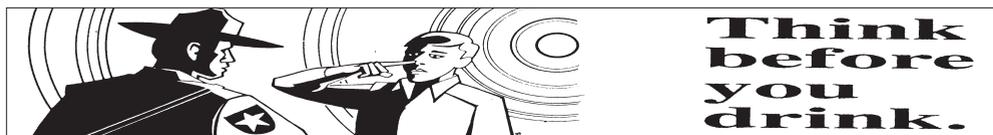
ment while enlisted people will not apply until after being matched to an assignment, said the Master Sgt. Letty Inabinet, superintendent of assignment procedures. Applications are available at military personnel flights and commander support staffs.

Officials estimate that annually 20-25 percent of officers and senior non-commissioned officers have children entering their senior year of high school and perhaps one third of those could be eligible for assignment in a given year, officials said.

"It's a benefit to families if teenagers can attend the senior prom and graduate with their established friends," said Mr. Blanchard.

The policy makes official what was already being done informally whenever possible in the past, said Colonel Grabowski. In some cases assignments teams were already successfully working with Airmen to allow families stability when children were coming up on graduation, she said.

The Air Force Contact Center offers information about this and other personnel programs all day, every day by calling toll free (800) 616-3775 or online at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.



**Think
before
you
drink.**

Checkertail Salute



Steve Wallace

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

The Checkertail Clan salutes Sergeant Ramirez, a senior technician for the primary care optimization team/element. She has coordinated a medical group schedule for newcomers' bi-weekly medical inprocessing. She also spearheaded the 2003 influenza program and developed a clinic continuity binder for "one-stop" shop preventative health assessments and revamped the education briefing.

Staff Sgt. Lorilee Ramirez

Duty title: Medical service craftsman

Time on station: Two years

Time in service: 14 years

Hometown: Laredo, Texas

Hobbies: Dancing, spending time with my children, fishing

Goals: Retiring from the military, obtaining a bachelor's degree, travel to Europe and Hawaii

Favorite thing about Tyndall: Beautiful beaches, this is where I met my fiance

Pet peeves: People who don't pay attention to detail and are not fair

Favorite movie: Grease

Proudest moment in the military: Having had my mother travel from Texas to Florida, my best friend travel from Africa to Florida and my children here to witness my re-enlistment as a bugler played the national anthem.

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.

What's a SPECAT assignment guide?

SENIOR MASTER SGT. JEFF KAHAPEA

325th Fighter Wing career assistance advisor

Q. I'm trying to broaden my experience, and I heard Special Duty Assignments are a great way to gain that experience. How can I get information concerning possible job options in various special duty assignments? What's a good source of information to guide me if I want to explore these opportunities?

A. A great source of information can be found online in the SPECAT (Special Category) Assignment Guide at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/procedures/specat.htm. Although it does not advertise special duty assignments, (that's the function of the EQUAL-Plus), it does provide detailed guidance on eligibility requirements and application procedures for more than 50 unique job opportunities including professional military education instructor, recruiter, military training instructor/military training leader, technical training instructor, first sergeant, USAF Honor Guard, and much more. Sound interesting? Log on today and learn more about your future.

For more information or to make an appointment, call Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Kahapea at 283-2222 – you will be surprised at the opportunities that await you.

Parental stress management:

A few ways to help prevent child abuse and neglect

(Editor's note: April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Family advocacy has provided these tips to help prevent child abuse.)



• Be a nurturing parent.

Parents who educate themselves about their children's developmental process are more likely to have reasonable expectations about what their child can and can't do. It is also good for the parent to know what it is like in their child's "shoes," to make them feel special and loved; spending time with them by playing, reading and communicating are good ways to make this happen. Parents should remember that children have different perspectives of the world according to their age, development and friends.

• Help a friend, neighbor or relative.

Airmen who have children and extra-curricular activities could possibly need assis-

tance with their responsibilities. Other Airmen should be on the lookout for signs of struggle in these members and offer help or information on services that are available, such as the New Parent Support Program held with family advocacy at 283-7511 or the family life coordinator at the Family Support Center at 283-4204. The chapel is also a source to suggest as well as first sergeants who have links on and off base.

• Help yourself.

When stress piles up on a parent, they should take a time out to make sure they don't take out stress on their child. Know where to turn to for help with stress management facilities, such as the Life Skills Development Center at 283-7511 and the chapel at 283-2925. These units can help a person who feels overwhelmed manage and deal with undue stress.



• Know what to do when your baby cries

Because babies cry instead of talk to communicate their needs, it may be difficult to pinpoint ex-



actly what they need. There are places a parent can turn when their baby won't stop crying, such as an on-call provider at (800) 700-8646, or even a neighbor, friend or family member. Parents should remember that shaking babies, especially out of frustration, can lead to severe injury or even death. For more information on how to handle children, parents can call 283-7511 and ask about the "Prep for Parenting" portion of the New Parent Support Program.

• Get involved.

Parents can advocate for services to strengthen and support families in the Tyndall community and in the Bay County area. Volunteering, as well as asking community leaders, elected officials, health and social service agencies, and schools and churches to develop services for families, will help support and educate the community. An educational volunteer support group at Tyndall is the Moms,



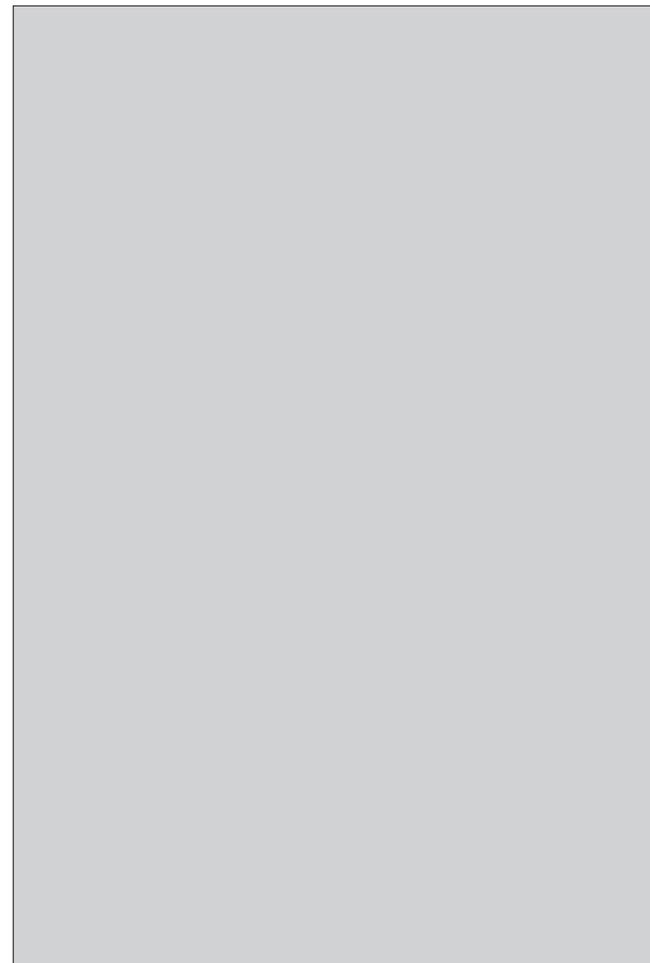
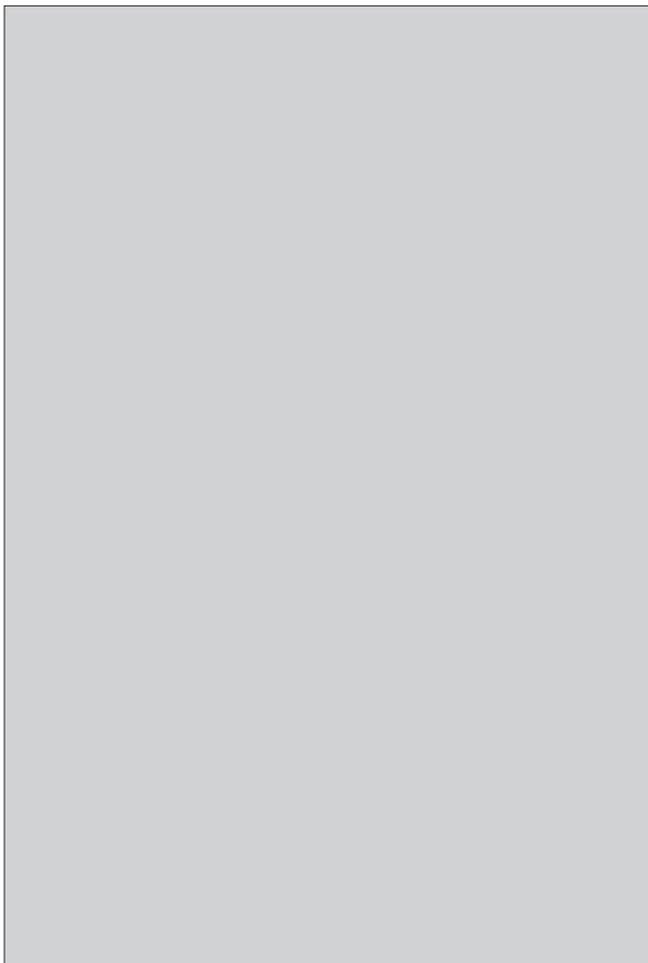
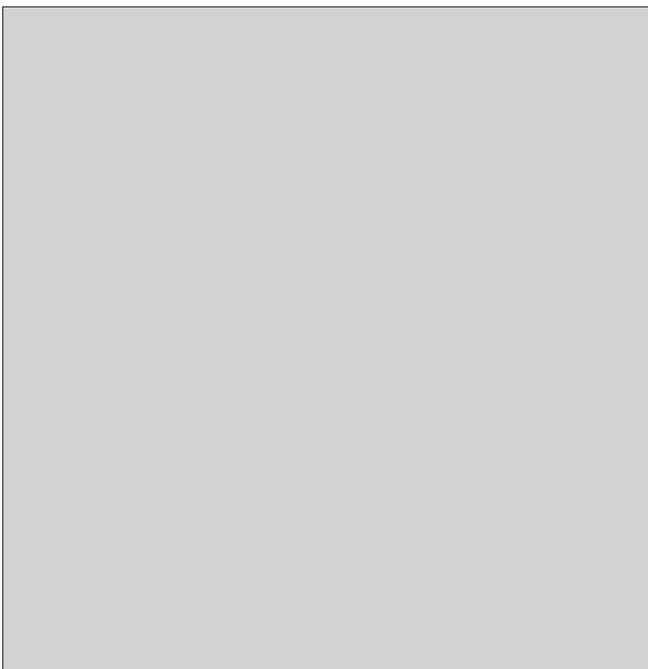
Pops and Tots group that meets at the Community Activities Center. It is a group that helps parents address issues and offers a variety of educational speakers that can help Airmen with parental issues. For more in-

●SEE CHILD PAGE 7



Lisa Carroll

Leah Volkman, 4, Heather Ward, 15, Chris Ward, 16, Calla Phillips, 1, pin a ribbon on Brig. Gen. Larry New, 325th Fighter Wing commander, to start Child abuse prevention month, which began Thursday.

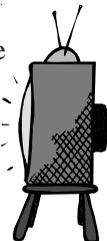


● FROM CHILD PAGE 6

information on this program, call Laurie Campbell at 286-6501 or e-mail TyndallTots@yahoo.com.

● **Protect children from violence on television, at play and at home.**

When children watch violence on television or video games, especially at an early age, it teaches them that aggression is a good way to handle frustration and solve problems. Monitoring



and keeping a child away from TV violence is a good way to keep this from happening, as well as explaining the difference between the acting on television and real-life solutions. Communication is the key.

● **Report suspected abuse or neglect.**

If anyone suspects a child has been or is at risk of being harmed, the Florida Abuse Hotline is 1-800-96ABUSE.

For more information about child abuse prevention, call the family advocacy office at 283-7511.

Services captures AETC Eubank honors for second straight year

STEVE RIDDLE
325th Services Squadron publicist

For the second year in a row, the 325th Services Squadron has been named best in Air Education and Training Command, and will now go on to compete at the Air Force level for the Eugene L. Eubank Services Award.

Three evaluators from AETC headquarters came to Tyndall in early March for a three-day visit, part of a command-wide tour that looked at base services facilities. After studying the findings from these base visits, Tyndall was again chosen to represent the AETC for this

year's competition. A team of evaluators from Air Force Headquarters will arrive here in June to judge for the Eubank Award.

According to Lt. Col. Gregory Parsons, 325th Services Squadron commander, the evaluators were impressed with new programs and services the squadron offered, the increase in participation of some traditional events, and the fact that 70 percent of the squadron's active duty personnel were deployed at various times last year. He added receiving the nomination to represent AETC in the Air Force level Eubank Award competition is even more amazing since many key personnel, including himself and the squadron's enlisted supervisor Senior Master Sgt. Vyanne Roush, were just arriving back from a four month deployment while the team was here.

"When you have that kind of ops tempo, where so much of the military is gone and you have to rely on contract support, at some point to be recognized for what you do is good for the folks," Colonel Parsons said. "The fact that the squadron is always planning ahead was what helped make it possible to win the award."

sible to win the award."

Additionally, having so many new or improved programs that led to huge increases in participation showed that the squadron was dedicated more than ever to providing Tyndall personnel the best quality of life possible.

Among the squadron's achievements in 2003 were increases in participation by as much as 50 percent for some programs as

well as the expansion of services offered to military members and their families in others.

Alma Hooks, director of the Tyndall Youth Center, cited the quality of past events as a main

reason for increased participation in the center's activities.

"We provided nice family programs with lots of nice prizes, and they've been lots of fun for the kids," Ms. Hooks said.

The youth center's 2003 Fall Festival had a 30 percent increase in participation, last year's Big Bunny Easter Program enjoyed a 25 percent increase, and 40 percent more showed up for the Pancake Breakfast with Santa.

Another hallmark to the squadron's award was the increase in activities and services available through the Outdoor Recreation Center and the Information, Travel and Tickets program.

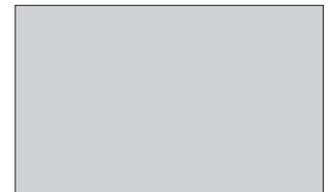
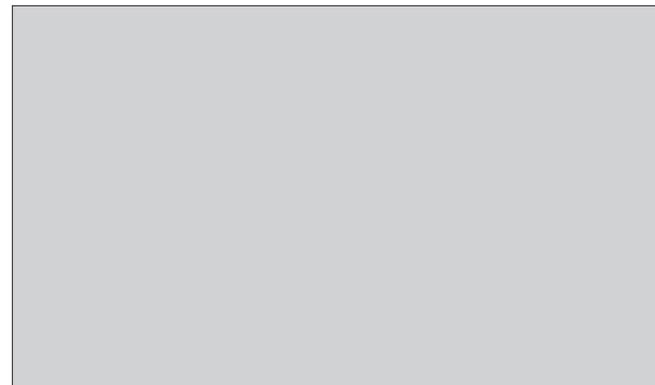
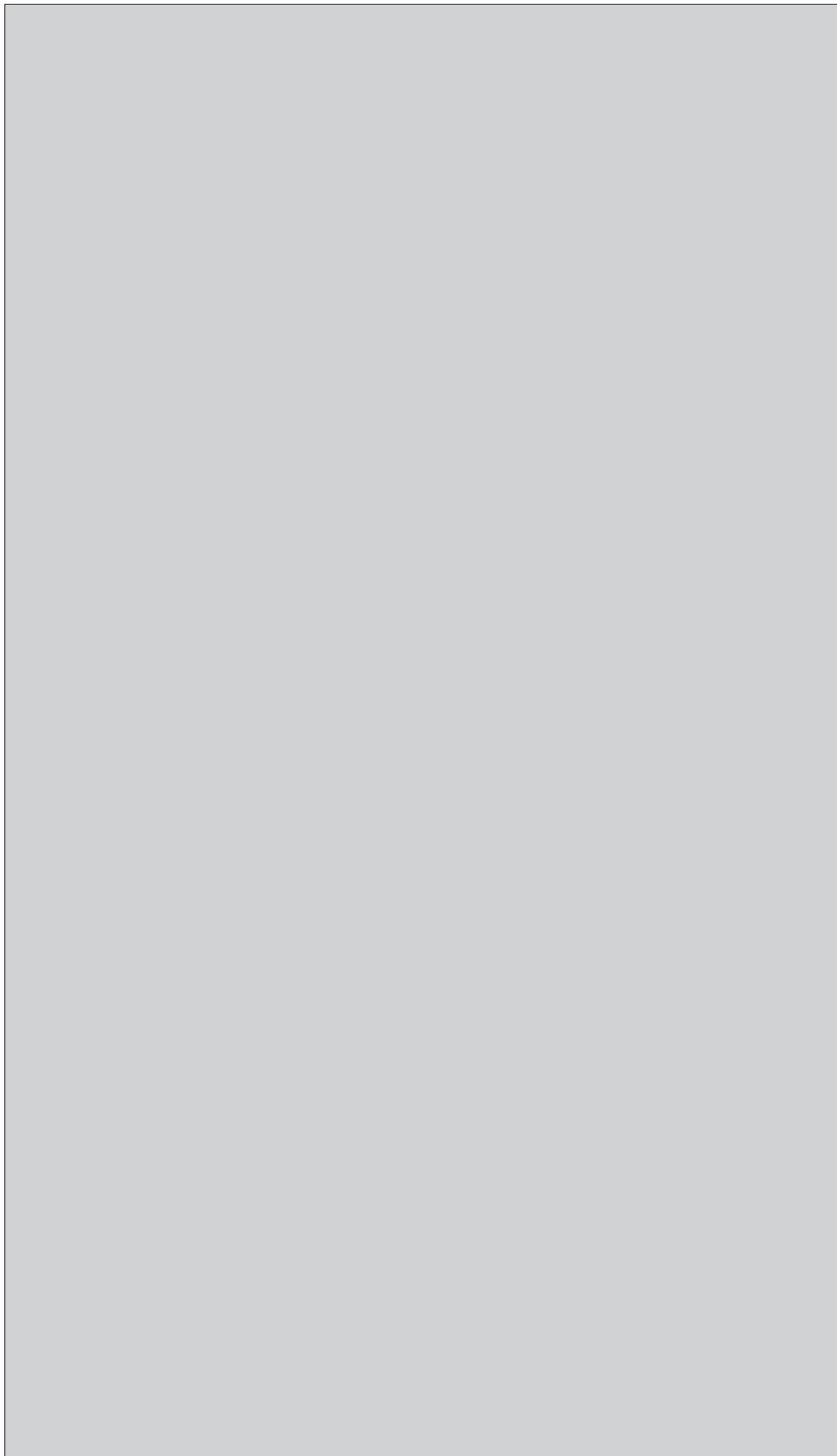
In 2003, the Outdoor Recreation Center enjoyed a 50 percent increase in program usage, and has since added many new programs.

"We've added new programs like our horseback riding and grooming classes and free shuttles to Shell Island," explained Julie Ballaro, Community Support Flight chief. "We also increased participation in our ITT pro-

"The fact that the squadron is always planning ahead was what helped make it possible to win the award."

LT. COL. GREGORY PARSONS
325th Services Squadron commander

●SEE EUBANK PAGE 16





2nd Lt. Albert Bosco

The headlining act of the Gulf Coast Salute 2004, the Navy Blue Angels, perform a high speed pass with minimum separation during the show Saturday.



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell



2nd Lt. Albert Bosco

Above: Local Gulf Coast Salute visitors build a bird feeder at the Home Depot interactive display in the Kiddie Hangar during the open house. Left: A U.S. Coast Guard HH-65 helicopter demonstrates search and rescue operations.



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

The U.S. Navy Blue Angels crew chiefs rush to get their equipment after marshaling out each jet during the beginning of the Blue Angels performance. The crew chiefs are essential to the maintenance of the jets as well as an appealing part of the show.



Showcasing America's defenders

The Tyndall flight line was abuzz with Hornets as an F/A-22 Raptor, one of the first assigned to the 325th Fighter Wing, flew in the foreground, for a flyby performance March 28 during the Gulf Coast Salute 2004 at an air show on the East Coast.

CHRISTINE SULLIVAN

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Beautifully sunny skies prevailed as people of all ages were entertained and awed by the 2004 Gulf Coast Salute open house and air show held here March 27 and 28.

"Showcasing America's Defenders: Five Forces, One Mission," was this year's theme. Aerial demonstrations, static displays on the ground and service members in uniform provided a visual display of that theme all weekend.

"This open house gave our community the perfect opportunity to see what the Air Force and the military are all about. It demonstrated what our capabilities really are in protecting America's freedoms and national interests," said Brig. Gen. Larry New, 325th Fighter Wing commander. "Most importantly, our friends in and around Bay County got to meet our greatest asset — our service members in uniform."

Shuttle buses transported approximately 37,000 visitors to and from the weekend's events held on the flightline

area for the public free of charge. Tyndall Air Force Base held several aerial events headlined by the Navy's Blue Angels, who performed their astonishing precision maneuvers each afternoon.

"They (the Blue Angels) were very happy with the hospital and the Tyndall and the large number of community members who showed up," said Maj. Matthew Williams, Blue Angels coordinator with the 325th Fighter Wing Operations Squadron.

The Blue Angels' F-18 Hornets were joined by several military demonstration teams and civilian flying teams. The U.S. Army Spawford Operations Command parachutists performed "Black Daggers," an F-15 demonstration, low-level precision maneuvers by the "Red Eagles" and an aerial demonstration. Also, the Blue Angels' enthusiasts and new fans attended the weekend's flybys high above Tyndall's own F/A-22 Raptor.

"We enjoyed being able

"My daughter and I loved the event and now she's seriously considering a military career because of the wonderful welcome we received and the professionalism shown here at the open house. We'll definitely be back again next year!"

KAREN MESSING
Panama City Beach citizen



Lisa Carroll

...ned to the 43rd Fighter Squadron here, known as the "American Hornets," takes off, with ...uring the Gulf Coast Salute air show and open house. It was the first Raptor appearance

...e of charge. ...osted all-day ...y the U.S. ...o performed ...on aerobatics

the Raptor, our newest capability to the Bay County community," said General New. "It was a great way to highlight our mission of training members of the world's best air dominance team."

Other aerial events included an F-15 Eagle demonstration performed by the U.S. Air Force F-15 demonstration team, a flyby of the F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighter and a heritage flight consisting of an F-15 Eagle and P-51D Mustang.

Not all of the fun to be had at the Gulf Coast Salute was in the air. Young children were able to cool off inside the hangar with activities such as moon walks, pedal planes and other activities. Older "children" were able to experience the latest in Air Force technology with an interactive exhibit called "Cross into the Blue" which includes a state-of-the-art movie theater, an interactive F-16 Fighting Falcon static display, a special operations virtual-reality parachute jump and a spatial disorientation simulator that allows people to feel what it's like to fly.

Crowds also enjoyed performances by a jet-powered Chevy truck and various displays that included the B-1 Lancer, F-16 Fighting Falcon, F/A-18 Hornet, a U.S. Navy hovercraft and MiG aircraft, among others. Ricky Rudd's Air Force-sponsored NASCAR #21 Ford Taurus race car was also on display as was a monster truck that was available for rides and a favorite among the young attendees.

Food, games and plenty of attractions rounded out the weekend's events to make this year's Gulf Coast Salute a memorable one for many military members, civilians and their families.

"This year's air show was amazing and everyone was so friendly. I'm proud to be living in a community with such great military members," said Karen Messing of Panama City Beach. "My daughter and I loved the event and now she's seriously considering a military career because of the wonderful welcome we received and the professionalism shown here at the open house. We'll definitely be back again next year!"



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

The Army Special Operations Command parachute team, "The Black Daggers," performs a three-man formation to demonstrate the team's war-time capabilities.



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

Above: The USAF F-15 demonstration team's Eagle flies beside a World War II-era P-51D Mustang during this year's Heritage Flight. Right: Maj. Michael Hoepfner, 43rd Fighter Squadron F/A-22 instructor pilot, signs memorabilia for visiting children after the airshow Sunday.



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

Spectators feast their eyes on the engine and body of NASCAR veteran driver Ricky Rudd's Wood Brothers' No. 21 Motorcraft Racing/U.S. Air Force Ford Taurus race car.

Military Affairs Committee chairman shares views, reflects on visit

CHRISTINE SULLIVAN
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

The community that surrounds Tyndall Air Force Base is important to the 325th Fighter Wing command and Team Tyndall as a whole.

Bay County and the Chamber of Commerce have been key supporters of Tyndall and this important relationship built over the decades continues to grow. One crucial aspect of the chamber's support is in the Military Affairs Committee also known as the MAC. They dedicate themselves to strengthening the relationship between Bay County's civilian and military communities, and its chairperson plays a vital role in ensuring those connections remain strong.

The Bay County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee chairperson, Joey Ginn, recently took a tour to learn more about the base, its people and its various missions. And, in a follow-up interview, reflected on Tyndall's role in national defense.

"Tyndall not only plays a very important role in protecting our country, the base also has a huge economic impact on our community," Mr. Ginn said. "Not only the

payroll of the active duty military, but also retired military, civilian personnel and related companies that work on base positively impact this area when they buy goods and services in Bay County. Military personnel are also great community partners, participating with charitable and civic organizations."

The MAC welcomes military members and their families, hosts events in support of high-level visitors and sponsors Tyndall quarterly and annual awards, and is partnering with Tyndall to stand up an honorary commander program.

"The Bay County community support and our Military Affairs Committee here are absolutely superb," said Brig. Gen. Larry New, 325th Fighter Wing commander. "Community support is at the heart of our quality of life and the MAC and its chairperson play a critical role in mission accomplishment. No community does a finer job of making us feel wel-

come and part of the community than Bay County."

During his Tyndall immersion, Mr. Ginn also met some of the active-duty members and civilians responsible for accomplishing Team Tyndall missions.

"The men and women I met are a great group of people that energetically and enthusiastically do their job day in and day out," Mr. Ginn said.

"General New is like the mayor of a small town with a tremendous amount of responsibility. I certainly have a better appreciation of why they call it 'Team Tyndall.'"

Following the various mission briefings, Mr. Ginn was able to get up-close and personal with one of Tyndall's primary missions – training F-15 Eagle pilots. He received an orientation flight in the F-15 Eagle with General New at the controls.

"The flight was an adventure of a lifetime. I felt very

honored that General New agreed to fly," Mr. Ginn said. "I have a new appreciation for the physical shape these pilots must be in to fly these planes. It was very interesting to learn how the plane can react and perform — they are amazing machines."

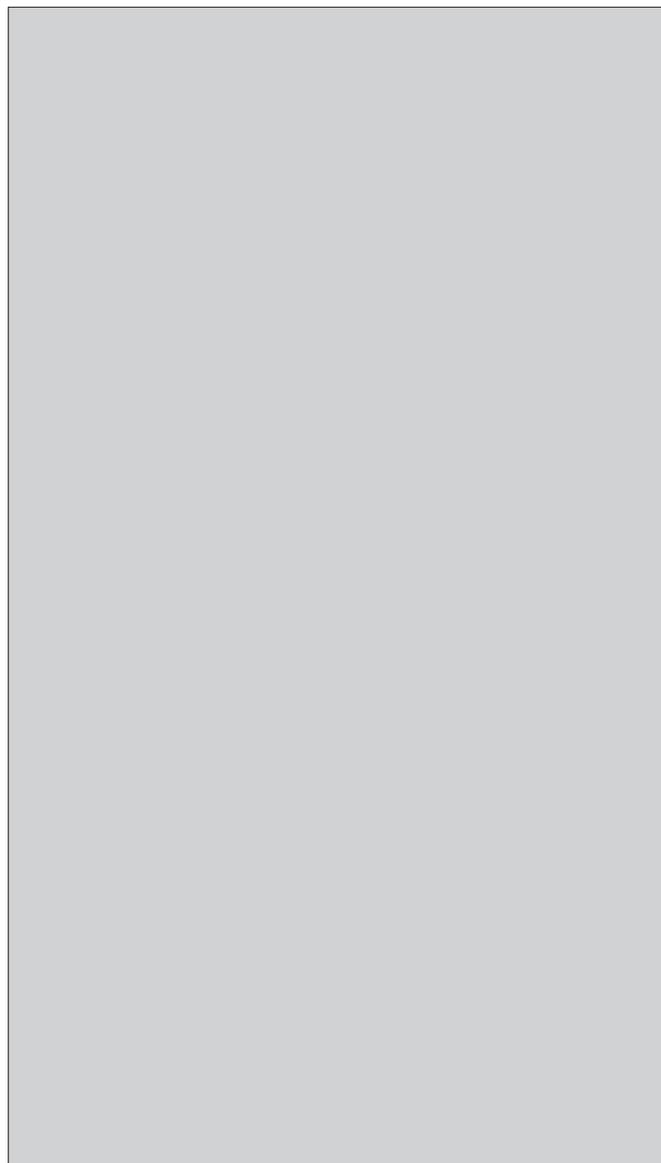
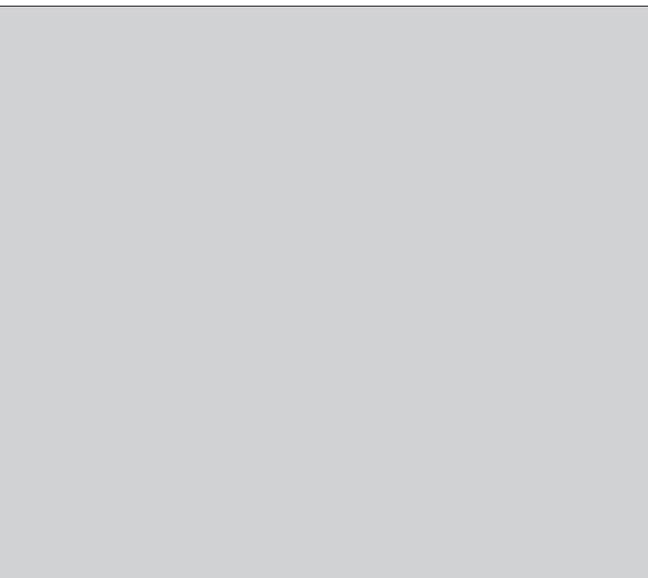
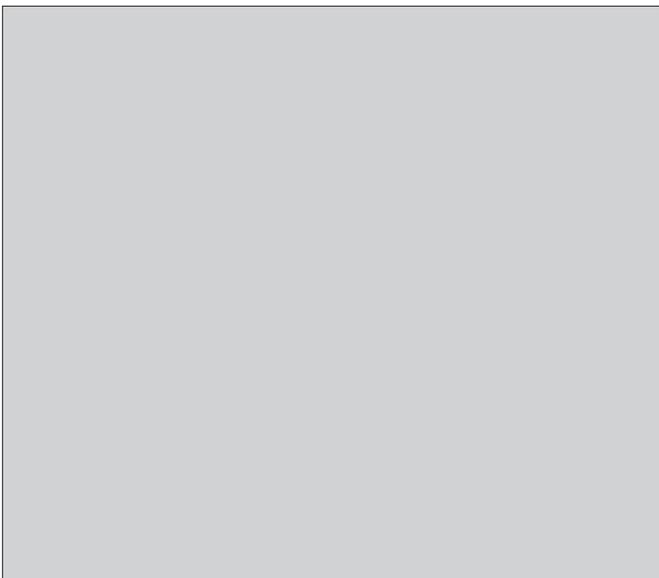
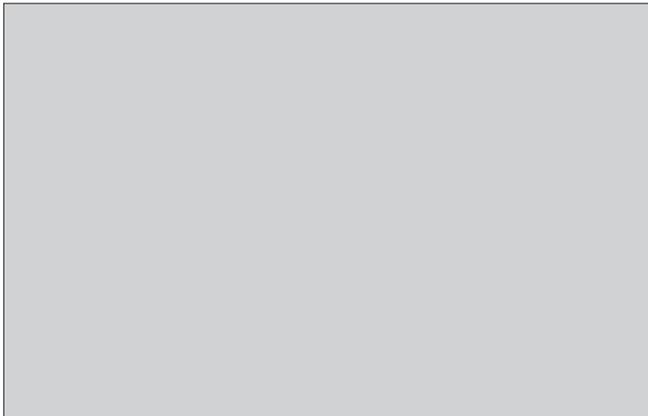
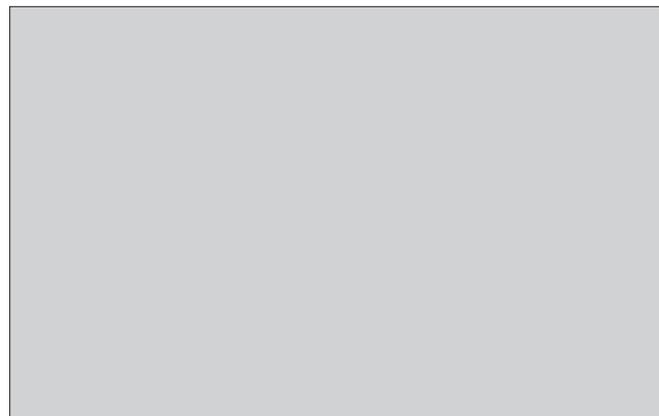
Mr. Ginn is no stranger to the military and its culture. He was born in Canada where his father was stationed with the Coast Guard. He is currently the president of Vision Bank, FSB and last year's Bay County Chamber of Commerce board chairman.

"I think the most important aspect of this job is our support of Tyndall, the Navy base, the Coast Guard station and the missions they serve in protecting our country and citizens."

"Everyone here went out of their way to make me feel welcome and made my wife and son feel very special," Mr. Ginn said. "I asked my 6-year-old son, Hunter, the following day if he enjoyed visiting the base and he said it was the best day of his life — I think that sums it up for us both."

“Tyndall not only plays a very important role in protecting our country, the base also has a huge economic impact on our community”

JOEY GINN
Bay County's Military Affairs Committee chairperson



Commissaries sell groceries at cost, saves most shoppers 30 percent

BONNIE POWELL

Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va - No pain, no gain is a common expression. Bargain hunters go from grocery store to grocery store seeking the best buys – but they may also end up paying more for other items that aren't on sale. A lot of pain, not much gain. Why do all that when Defense Commissary Agency commissaries sell groceries at cost, saving authorized customers an average of 30 percent or more over commercial grocery prices?

Commercial stores are profit-motivated. They can offer popular items at below cost to get customers in their store – and make it up on other items that are priced much higher.

That's how the commercial businesses work. "But commissaries are a benefit, not a business, and sometimes people lose sight of that," said Maj. Gen. Mike Wiedemer, director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "It's true we operate in a businesslike fashion, but our sole reason for being here is to deliver the benefit. Our cost is your cost."

The prices paid by commissary customers for grocery items equals the government's cost for those items. "Because we sell at cost, and the U.S. government covers the expenses associated with providing the benefit,

that allows us to achieve an overall average customer savings of 30 percent or more over commercial grocery stores," General Wiedemer said.

That's a benefit that is now worth about \$2,700 a



year to a military family of four that shops regularly at a commissary.

Like any commercial grocery store, commissaries also have unadvertised "sales" on hundreds of products on any given day, according to Tyndall's Commissary director, Michael Yaksich.

Customers can find out

what's on sale at their local commissary by accessing the savings aisle in the shopping section of DeCA's Web site: www.commissaries.com.

"Prices aren't listed, but it's a safe bet that if the items are on sale, the prices are going to be below average commissary prices and well below commercial grocery store prices," said Mr. Yaksich.

Commissary customers get an additional break by not paying any sales tax when shopping at the commissary. In some locations, that can amount to sizeable savings.

There is one cost born by customers. A 5 percent surcharge, mandated by Congress, is added at the register on the total grocery bill before coupons are deducted. "We're frequently asked about the surcharge because people feel like that's part of the cost of the groceries or some sort of profit," said General Wiedemer. "But the surcharge funds have nothing to do with making a 'profit.' The 5 percent surcharge goes right back into the military system to fund the building of new commissaries and the improvement of existing stores for our customers," he said.

Commissary customer satisfaction surveys consistently rank the commissary as the No. 1 military benefit, and military quality of life surveys consistently rank commissaries among the top two benefits, said General Wiedemer. "But yet, there still seems to be a lack of realization that at the heart of their benefit is the ability to buy groceries at cost."

"Our intention is to spread the word and make sure the Tyndall commissary benefit is being fully used by active duty, Guard and Reserve, and retired military families," said Mr. Yaksich. "It simply doesn't make sense for anyone to spend valuable time and gas running all over town to save on a few items when shopping regularly at the commissary can result in savings of 30 percent or more."



Capt. Florence Richburg

'Lucky Aces' ensure full house

From left: Airman Michael Elder, Staff Sgt. Charles Poston and Airman William Visotski, all from the 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron, along with a local volunteer, build window and door headers during a Habitat for Humanity project March 20. Maj. Gaetano Selvaggio, computer support flight commander, volunteered his flight to participate in the local Habitat for Humanity of Bay County home building project. The entire flight, which consists of military and civilian members, participated in the volunteer effort.

Events

Honor guard begins recruiting

There will be an Air Force Honor Guard Recruitment Drive 1 - 4:30 p.m. Thursday at the NCO Academy auditorium. For more information, call the Tyndall AFB Honor Guard at 283-4405.

NASCAR car visits commissary

NASCAR driver Ricky Craven's Tide/Downy-sponsored #32 race car will be on display at the Tyndall Commissary from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday. An exhibit representative, in a racing uniform, will be available to answer questions about the exhibit itself, the Tide Racing Team and the sport of stock car racing in general.

Talent show

The Tyndall Black Heritage Committee is sponsoring an annual variety show April 17 at the enlisted club. According to organizers, this is a great opportunity to showcase talents. Contact Staff Sgt. John Phinisey for more information, at 283-2663 or e-mail john.phinisey@tyndall.af.mil.

Services

Child care during PCS

Up to 20 hours of childcare in an on-base, licensed Family Child Care home can be funded by Air Force Aid with a copy of permanent change of station orders. Call the Family Support Center at 283-4204 for more information.

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop will be open on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. It will be closed on April 9 for the long Easter weekend. Call 286-5888 for business hours or further information. The Thrift Shop is located on Suwannee Drive in Bldg. 743 across from the post office.

Education

Motorcycle safety class

The next scheduled on-base motorcycle safety class (MSF ERC) for experienced riders (those with at least 90 days of street riding experience) and who own their own cycles is Thursday. Military members will need to enroll through 325th Fighter Wing Safety. Others may take the course at their own expense. For more information, call 283-4231.

SIUC classes

A Southern Illinois University of Carbondale representative will be available at the Tyndall Education Office 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 6. For more information contact Tracy Deming or Ray Nolan at 581-9840 or e-mail ithurlburt@fwb.gulf.net or visit the Web site howard.engr.siu.edu/outreach/outreach.htm.

Gulf Coast Community College

Gulf Coast Community College is now accepting applications for the summer semester. Active duty military will need to turn in a copy of their orders with the application. Schedules will be available Mon-

day, and registration at the Tyndall Center will be April 14. For more information, call 283-4332.

Scholarship opportunity

Jodi Callahan Memorial Graduate Scholarship provides a \$1,000 scholarship to an Air Force active-duty, full-time Guard or Reserve (officer or enlisted) members pursuing a masters degree in a non-technical field of study. Applications are to be post-marked no later than June 30. A two-page essay describing academic goals and how the degree one is seeking will enhance the Air Force is required. For more information, contact the education center at 283-4285.

Classifieds

1999 Z71

4x4; pewter; extended cab; 96,500 miles. For more information, call (850)819-2392

2001 KIA Sportage

"Limited Edition," Champagne in color, standard, 4Dr, only 28K miles, keyless entry alarm, automatic everything, fully loaded, safety features, maintenance kept, great sound, tinted glass, tilt/alloy rims, roof rack, excellent condition (interior/exterior), \$9,800, very affordable payments, must sell. For more information call, 276-1782 or 785-2292, best at evenings.

Household items

Whirlpool washing machine for sale, \$50, call Steve or Lesa at 769-3849 or 624-3848.

Sofa & loveseat good condition, \$800 OBO, Kodak Advantix C700 camera \$30, JVC digital video camera, \$400 OBO. Call 850-286-4951. For more information, call 286-4951.

Kenmore washer and dryer. Great condition/works great. Five years old. \$100 each or best offer. Contact Tech. Sgt. Gray or Krista at 286-4277.

Garage sale

• 3116 B Dagger Drive, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Retiree news

Self-checkout system arrives in selected commissaries

Three commissaries in Virginia, Texas and California are the first to receive self-checkout lanes and an automated coupon verification checkout system that Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) officials say increase shopper convenience and service. The self-checkouts first appeared last month in the Langley Air Force Base, Va., commissary, and have since been installed at the Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and McClellan, Calif., commissaries. Langley customer use of self-checkouts grew from 10 percent of total transactions to more than 13 percent in less than a month.

SOURCE: Air Force Retiree News Service

Chapel Schedule

Catholic services will be held at Chapel 2:

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday
Reconciliation (before Saturday Mass or by appointment)
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m.
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m.

Religious Education, 11 a.m. Sunday.

Protestant services at Chapel 1:

Communion service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel 1
Religious Education classes, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Building 1476
General Protestant service, 11 a.m., Chapel 2.

Free Classifieds

The Gulf Defender will publish free classified ads here for the one-time sale of personal property excluding real estate for active-duty military, retirees and Department of Defense civilians working on Tyndall. Submit ads to editor@tyndall.af.mil.

E' Club offers downtown entertainment, without the drive

STEVE RIDDLE

325th Services Squadron publicist

With a wide array of events planned for the weeks ahead, the Tyndall Enlisted Club is quickly becoming the place to go for evening entertainment. Hip-hop and country music parties, karaoke and comedy nights, DJs and a NASCAR party are just some of what the E' Club staff has planned.

It starts tonight at 7 p.m. when the E' Club presents the So Phatt Records Entertainers, a record company and group of recording artists from the Panama City area. According to E' Club Operations Manager Djuana Donaldson, the entertainers are contemporary rap and hip-hop artists.

Total Kaos and Uncle Head will headline the show. It will kick off with performances by Lady Stepp, Wideopen and several others. Club members get in for \$7; non-members will pay \$12.

After the first performances, there will be a freestyle rap contest.

The winner will receive \$150, a demo recording at the So Phatt studios, and a So Phatt Records T-shirt. Second place gets a T-shirt and compilation CD. Third

place will receive a T-shirt.

"The Freestyle Contest is improvised rap," Ms. Donaldson explained. "It will be judged by the people from So Phatt, the E' Club staff, and the crowd." After the



Enlisted Club events

- **So Phatt Records Entertainers, a local group of recording artists, performs at 7 p.m. tonight.**
- **Saturday night is country night featuring contests for free dance lessons.**
- **Two featured comedians, Bro Man and Hamburger, perform April 16.**
- **Every Thursday night is karaoke night.**
- **May 22 is the NASCAR Nextel All Star Challenge party.**

contest, the headliners will perform.

The E' Club will follow the beat of a different drummer Saturday when they host Country Music Night. For this event, club members get in free and non-members

will pay \$3. The party starts at 6 p.m. There will be a best-dressed contest, and free dance lessons will be given for the first hour.

"The United Country and Western Dance Council will be giving lessons," Ms. Donaldson said. "We'll have a country DJ playing crowd favorites, and the crowd

will also judge our best-dressed contest."

For folks who may be more interested in the NCAA Final Four basketball games being played Saturday night, the E' Club has something for them too. In the

upper deck of The Zone, the E' Club lounge, the television sets will all be tuned to the games when Georgia Tech plays Oklahoma State and Duke takes on the University of Connecticut.

The E' Club staff hasn't limited their entertainment offerings to just music and television. A couple of national comedians will come to the Enlisted Club April 16. Bro Man and Hamburger, comedians featured on several television programs, including The Bernie Mac Show, will headline this show.

"They're very lighthearted, realistic, and current topical comedians," Ms. Donaldson said. "And this event is open to all ranks."

If patrons want to be the entertainment instead of just watching, they now have the chance to strut their stuff on stage Thursday nights when DJ Debbie brings karaoke to the E' Club. It starts at 6 p.m., and on the last Thursday of every month, club members now have the chance to compete in a "Shotgun Karaoke" contest.

"In Shotgun Karaoke, each performer has a song picked randomly for them," Ms. Donaldson explained. "Each performer does their song, and then the crowd picks their favorite."

NASCAR, the premiere racing

organization in the United States, will have their biggest night of the year next month, and the Enlisted Club staff plans to have race fans pack the club to watch the race and win prizes.

The enlisted club will host a party for the NASCAR Nextel All-Star Challenge May 22. The race will feature drivers such as reigning champ Matt Kenseth, Dale Earnhart Jr., Tony Stewart and Jeff Gordon. The race is actually run in three segments, which Ms. Donaldson said would work out great for those at the club that night.

"We're going to have people pick who they think will win each segment for a chance to win prizes," Ms. Donaldson said. "We'll also have food and beverage specials that night, and possibly NASCAR trivia contests too."

Ms. Donaldson said the reason for the increased activity at the E' Club was because they felt Airmen shouldn't have to travel 45 minutes or more just to have fun.

"Our whole goal for all these enhanced entertainment programs is to keep the troops close to home," she said, "and to build more esprit de corps in the club system."

For more information on any club activities, call 283-4146.

Air Force Assistance Fund sporting events

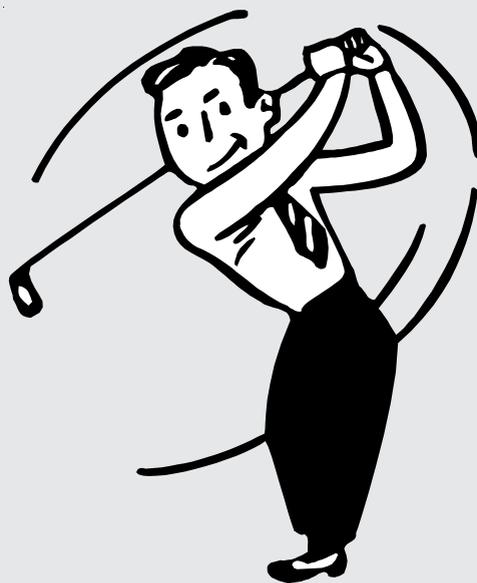
AFAF golf tourney

The Air Force Assistance Fund Golf Tournament hits the links April 16 at the Pelican Point Golf Course. There will be an 11 a.m. lunch before the noon shotgun start.

The cost is \$45 to enter, which includes green fees, cart, lunch, practice balls and prizes.

There are prizes for the ball closest to the pin on holes nine and 15; and for the longest drive on hole eight white and 14 gold.

The deadline to sign up is noon April 13. Registration starts at 10:30 a.m. April 16 at the pro shop. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Eric Shell at 283-4191.



AFAF bowling tourney

The Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign 9-pin No Tap Tournament will be at noon April 9 at Raptor Lanes.

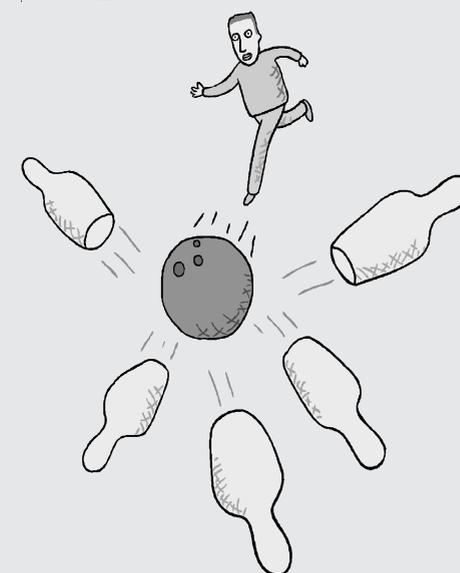
The cost is \$10 dollars per player, five players per team. The cost includes shoes and lane rental.

Strike pot tickets are sold separately.

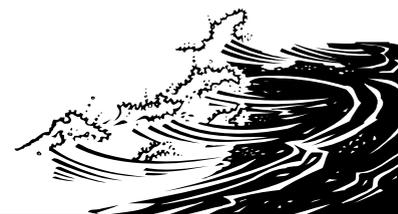
They cost 25 cents each or five for \$1. Half of the pot goes to the first strike.

For more information, or to sign up, call Master Sgt. Glenn Hoflund at 283-3303 or e-mail your name or team to glenn.hoflund@tyndall.af.mil.

Proceeds will benefit the Air Force Assistance Fund.



Funshine NEWS



April 2, 2004

www.325thservices.com

Upcoming E' Club Entertainment

Karaoke in the Zone

April 8, 15, 22, 6-10 p.m.

So Phatt Records Live Show

April 2, 7 p.m.-3 a.m.
with freestyle contest
(Must be a club member to enter contests)
\$12 non-members, \$7 members

Country Night

April 3, 7-8:30 p.m.
free country line dancing
lesson free to members,
non-members \$2

Classic Rock night

guitarist recognition night
April 10, Starting at 6 p.m.

Live Comedy Show

April 16, 7 p.m.
in the Ballroom

Security Forces Night

(National Police Week Recognition)
April 17, 7 p.m.

All-Dance Night

April 17, 7 p.m.
free dance lessons for club members,
\$2 for non-members.
Learn line dancing,
Latin, Swing and more.

Mind Moods Production

Poetry Jam
April 24, 8 p.m.

ITT Travel Expo in Ballroom

April 28, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Karaoke in the Zone

April 29, 6-10 p.m.
Featuring a Shotgun
Karaoke Contest
(members only)
Compete for prizes.



Leisure Travel

☎ 283-2864

Steamboat Springs Ski Special

April 5-11. Free skiing & riding for active duty military and family members with ID card. Contact Steamboat Central Reservations for a reservation and lodging assistance, 1-800-922-2722 or online at www.steamboat.com.

Cruise Alaska

May 31. 7-nights, fees, port & taxes, roundtrip air & transfers plus more starts at \$1820 per person. Call for additional perks and pricing.

Sporting Event Tickets

Through a joint program with Hurlburt Field, we have tickets and transportation to several sporting events such as the Kentucky Derby, NASCAR series, and baseball spring training.

Air Force Club Scholarship Program



Entry deadline
is July 15.

First place
is \$6,000

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

Applicants must be accepted by, or enrolled in, an accredited college or university graduate or undergraduate program by fall of 2004. Information packages with complete instructions and requirements are available from the business office Tyndall Officers' Club.

283-4357
for more information

Sponsored in part by:

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

Bonita Bay

☎ 283-3199

Squadron Challenge Swim Meet

April 30, Base Pool. 4 events: There will be a sports rep meeting 1 p.m. April 2 at the base library, Freestyle; Backstroke; Butterfly; and 4 person Relay team (two women and two men).

Eufaula Spring Pilgrimage

April 3, \$40 per person. Departs at 7 a.m. Deadline for sign up is March 28.

6th Annual Travel Expedition

April 28, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.: at the Enlisted

Berg-Liles Dining Facility Spring Bling Semi-annual Birthday Meal April 23, 5 p.m.

Menu: Steak, Lobster tail, Shrimp, Twice Baked Potato, Onion Rings, Corn on the Cob, Broccoli, Sauteed Mushrooms and Onions, Shrimp Cocktail, Dinner Rolls, Ice Tea, Cake and Ice Cream
Eligibility: SIK Customer and one guest SIK customer must have had a birthday between Nov. 03 and April, 2004
If the guest is BAS, the cost of the meal is approximately \$22

Questions? Call 283-2239.

Sealed Bid NAF Vehicle Sale

1991 Chevy Astro Van CS Model
111,936 miles. Minimum Bid \$1900.00
Location: 113 Suwannee Ave.
Behind building #1129
Sold as is - Bids will be accepted
until April 2, 2004
Questions? Call 283-4794

Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

Start Smart Golf

Sign up for Start Smart Golf and work one-on-one with your child developing basic golf skills. The program runs April 3, 17, 24, & May 1 at 9 a.m. Cost is \$30.

Start Smart

Is your 3-5 yr. old ready for recreational sports leagues? Develop your child's basic baseball and soccer skills. Sign up for Start Smart today.

USA Tennis

FREE tennis anyone? Come out to the USA Tennis FREE For All and learn basics, have fun, win prizes, and meet new friends. Wed., April 21 at 3 p.m. on the Youth Center tennis courts.

All Ranks Lunch

at the Officers' Club

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

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

Includes Fresh, Hot, Carved Meat Sandwiches on Kaiser Roll

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

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

On Base Food Delivery

■ Lunch Menu: Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Limited to office deliveries (i.e. squadron addresses)

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

Subs & Pizzas
286-2900

Crazy Cash Give-away at the O' & E Clubs Fridays during Social Hour.

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

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

283-4357 for details

Golf Course Pro Shop

Can't decide what to get that special golfer? Remember the golf course pro shop offers gift certificates.

283-4389



Fitness

☎ 283-2631

Massage Therapist

Janice Walker available Tues. & Thurs.
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Call for an appointment. Cost is \$20 for a half hour or \$35 for a full hour.

Family Child Care

☎ 283-2266

Provider Class

Contact the Family Child Care office to schedule an orientation and register for the class.

The Pelican Reef Enlisted Club

Jam Productions

Presents A Laugh and Party Weekend

Friday, April 16, Doors open at 9 p.m., Showtime 10 p.m.

Starring: "Bro Man" "Hamburger"

Seen on: The Bernie Mac Show, HBO DEF Comedy Jam & BET Comic View

Advanced Tickets for Members \$15

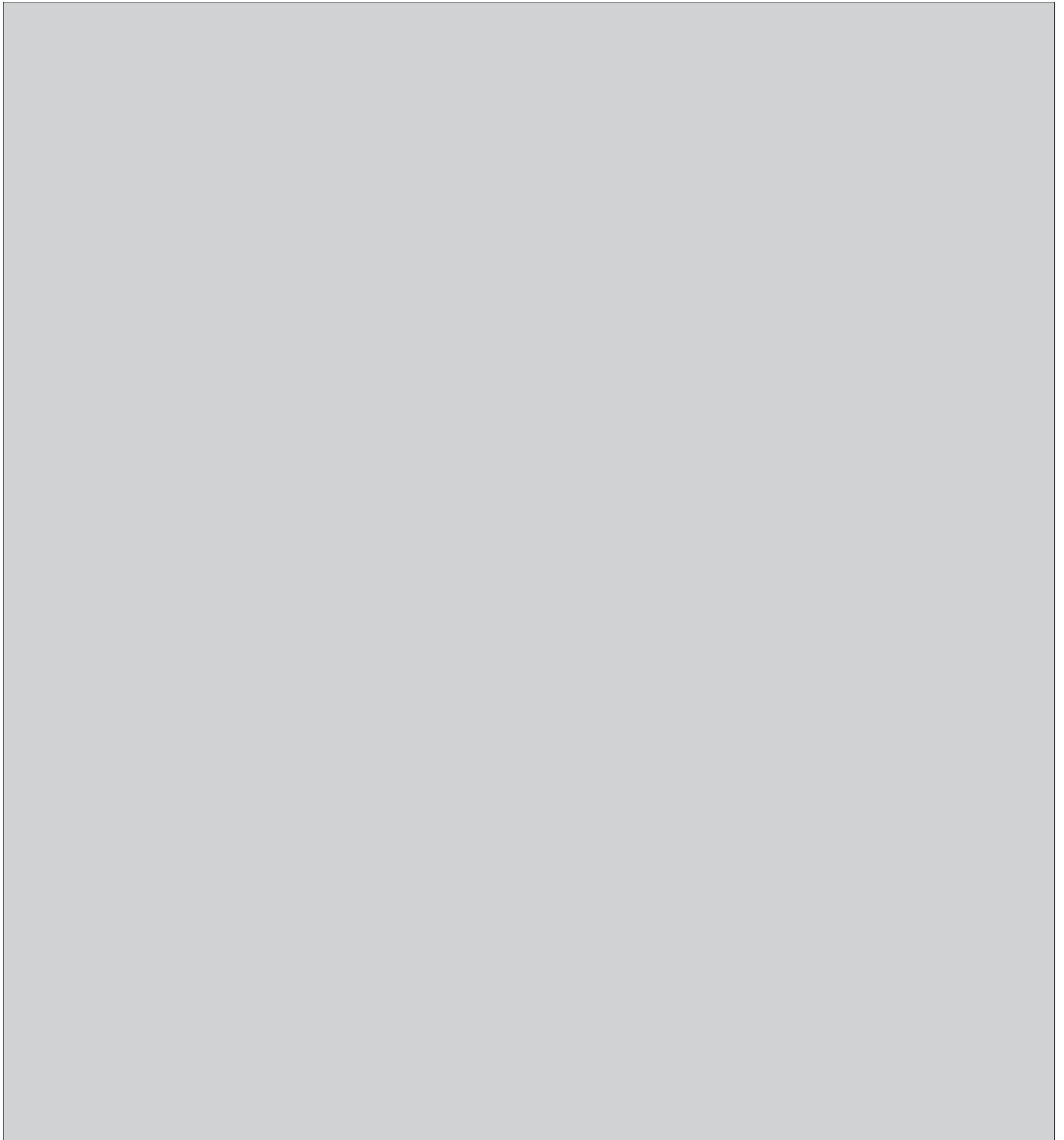
Tickets for Non-Members \$18

Day of the show for everyone \$20

A big after party will follow the show!

Tickets can be purchased at the cashier's cage!

For more information call 283-4146



● **FROM HOUSING PAGE 3** includes an increase of \$200 million for military family housing.

Air Force officials said they expect to use some of that money — a total of about \$1.6 billion — to meet its goal of eliminating all inadequate military family housing in the United States by 2008. Portions of that funding will also be used to provide more than 2,200 housing units at 16 installations, to improve more than 1,300 units at six

bases, and to support privatization of more than 6,800 units at six bases.

The privatization process means the Air Force would no longer own military family housing, but it would instead work with contractors to have housing privately owned. The Air Force then arranges to have Airmen rent or lease the units directly from the private owners. The cost for maintenance of the units falls on the shoulders of the private owners.

The assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environments and logistics, Nelson Gibbs, told the senator the Air Force was aware of the proposals and was considering it.

“We would encourage them to go even beyond the build-to-lease program and to go into what would look more similar to privatization that we do (in the United States),” Mr. Gibbs said.

Funding to continue work on the Air Force’s

dormitory master plan is also in the budget request.

“Just as we are committed to provide adequate housing for families, we have a comprehensive program to house our unaccompanied junior enlisted personnel,” General Fox said. “The Air Force is well on its way in implementing (that plan.)”

The three-phase plan involves eliminating facilities with group latrines and eliminating the deficit of dormitory rooms.

● **FROM EUBANK PAGE 7**

gram by adding theme park tours, and we’ve also added more hiking, biking and fitness programs, and built a new paintball field.” Ms. Ballaro said these changes were just part of the continued effort to give the people of Tyndall the type of activities they want to do.

Business flight facilities also made an impression on the evaluators. Raptor Lanes Bowling Center had a 24 percent increase in league play last year, the Pizza Pub Snack Bar increased sales by \$31,000, and the Tyndall Veterinary Clinic had a 35 percent increase in usage and 26 percent jump in sales.

Colonel Parsons said the real credit goes to the members of the squadron.

“The thing that impressed the evaluation team the most was the energy they saw from the squadron,” he said. “The people here are excited about the programs, and that’s something the team needed to see.”