

GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 63, No. 15

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

April 23, 2004

In brief

Change of command ceremony

Lt. Col. David Uzzell, 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron commander, will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Reid Reasor at 2 p.m. today during a change of command ceremony in Hangar 4. A reception will follow at the Officers' Club. For more information, contact Capt. Jeff Barnes at 283-8108. Team Tyndall is invited to attend.

Quarterly awards lunch

The Wing First Quarter Awards Luncheon will be held 11 a.m. April 30 at the Pelican Reef Enlisted Club. The cost is \$9 for members and \$11 for non-members. The menu offers sliced roasted beef or chef salad.

Finance early closure

The 325th Comptroller Squadron will close at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday for an official function. In case of an emergency, contact pager 914-1082 or 914-1207.

Inside

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● Motorcycle safety initiative ... **Page 9**



Steve Wallace

82nd ATRS goes retro

Lt. Col. Jerry Kerby, 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron commander, pilots a newly-painted QF-4 Phantom II, sporting a '90s-era "Grey Ghost" scheme with sharks teeth, past one of the "older" QF-4s here Friday. The 82nd ATRS will receive a total of six re-painted QF-4s with paint schemes reflecting decades of the jet's service.

Leaders approve new civilian personnel plan

K.L. VANTRAN
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Defense Department senior leaders approved the plans for the new national security personnel system, an official announced April 14.

Secretary of the Navy Gordon England, who heads the project, made the announcement.

The system, authorized by the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, will introduce changes in the way the department hires, pays, promotes, disciplines and fires its civilian employees.

Six teams of about 25 to 30 people, representing various

agencies within the department, spent several weeks reviewing the system, said Secretary England at a meeting with reporters in the Pentagon. Representatives from the Office of Personnel Management and Office of Management and Budget also participated. The teams received briefings from Department of Homeland Security and General Accounting Office officials.

Earlier this month, Secretary England and David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, sent a letter to the department's civilian employees on the progress of the system.

"The task before us is to de-

sign a transformed system for the department's 700,000 civilian employees that supports our national security mission while treating workers fairly and protecting their rights," the letter stated. "We want to ensure that all stakeholders in the new system — including civilian employees (and) managers ... have an opportunity to provide their thoughts, ideas, views and concerns."

The consensus for the journey ahead, Secretary England said, includes a full partnership with the OPM.

"They're working with us, providing assistance and expertise, in developing regulations which

are to be signed by the defense secretary and the director of OPM," he said.

"We look forward to this effort," said George Nesterchuk, OPM's senior adviser to the director for the Department of Defense. "It will take awhile, but we're going to do it right. The inclusion of employees and key stakeholders is vital to the success of this effort."

While the system is mission-first, it is also employee-centric, and Secretary England said he encourages input from employees. Mechanisms such as Web pages and town meetings will not

● **SEE PERSONNEL PAGE 9**

Three new books added to Air Force reading list

GEN. JOHN JUMPER

Air Force Chief of Staff

The collective abilities of our active, guard, reserve, and civilian Airmen provide our Air Force a full spectrum of capabilities that are second to none. To sustain our dominance and understand the world in which we operate, we must develop a wider perspective and an appreciation of views other than our own. I encourage each of you to make time for professional reading as part of your continuing development as Airmen.

As our Air Force continues to adapt to new and enduring challenges across the spectrum of conflict, I intend to adapt my Reading List as well. This year, I added three new books that offer insight into on-going conflicts and furnish organizational and leadership success

stories. Although I may not endorse all views or interpretations of selections on my Reading List, I have found them informative and thought provoking. Here's a brief explanation

“To sustain our dominance and understand the world in which we operate, we must develop a wider perspective and an appreciation of views other than our own.”

GEN. JOHN JUMPER
Air Force Chief of Staff



of the three new additions:

An Army at Dawn, by Rick Atkinson, provides a superb historical assessment of the invasion and ensuing war in North Africa in 1942-1943. This book combines in-depth insight into Allied campaign planning, strategy,

and tactics directed at ejecting the German Army from North Africa. The leadership traits and wartime relationships of Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley, Montgomery, and Rommel

are thoroughly chronicled, and are instructive to leaders in the 21st Century.

Of Paradise and Power, by Robert Kagan, examines the past and present geopolitical dissimilarities between Europe and the United States, providing an understanding of diplo-

macy in the post-Cold War world. This book offers a thought-provoking post September 11th appraisal of America's preparedness to respond to strategic challenges around the world.

The Age of Sacred Terror, by Steven Simon and Dan Benjamin, illustrates the intellectual foundation of radical Islam and offers an in-depth analysis into the beliefs of those responsible for waging a Jihad against the West. This book also provides a revealing description on the different understandings of Islam and its ancient and deep-rooted history. As in the past, these books will be made available through our institutional schools at Air University and our Air Force libraries.

The complete reading list is at www.af.mil/csafreading/.

View from the top: AFAF shows commitment to caring

GEN. DON COOK

Commander of Air Education and Training Command

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) — The men and women serving in Air Education and Training Command are renowned for their commitment to excellence in everything we do. We are also recognized for our commitment to caring.

Time and again, you and your fellow teammates in the First Command

“Your contribution directly benefits everyone in the Air Force family, and no one knows when they will need to outreach to AFAF through their first sergeant, commander, supervisor or friend.”

GEN. DON COOK

Commander of Air Education and Training Command



have demonstrated uncommon generosity and have taken every opportunity to help others in need, especially those in our Air Force family through your generous contributions to the Air Force Assistance Fund.

This service-wide campaign is designed to help airmen and their families with emergency assistance, education grants, volunteer childcare, community enhancement programs and assisted living for our veterans and their widowed spouses.

●SEE AFAF PAGE 7

Excellence critical to Air Force, Tyndall culture

BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW

325th Fighter Wing commander

Team Tyndall is comprised of exceptional people, and this week I have the pleasure of recognizing two Airmen who were recently recognized at the Air Force and command levels.

Tech. Sgt. Lisa Graves, 325th Mission Support Squadron career enhancements superintendent, received Air Force-level honors by being named Outstanding Air Force Personnel Manager of the Year in the Base-Level Personnel category. Sergeant Graves has done some tremendous things for her squadron and Team Tyndall. Congratulations, Lisa, on a job-well-done.

Additionally, Lt. Col. Greg Parsons, 325th Services Squadron commander, was recognized by Air Education and Training Command as the

AETC Services Field Grade Officer of the Year. Colonel Parsons has gone above and beyond ensuring the services squadron is meeting the needs of Team Tyndall. Also, this year, not only has he led an outstanding services team to best in command recognition, but he also led a forward-deployed services unit as well. Congratulations, Greg, and thank you for all you are doing for Team Tyndall and the Air Force.

I take great pride in being able to recognize our Airmen and civilians for the work they do day in and day out. Seeing the increasing number of Team Tyndall Airmen and civilians continuously recognized at the command level and higher, cements my belief that there is no team in the Air Force like Team Tyndall. I encourage

●SEE EXCELLENCE PAGE 7

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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or patron.

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

The deadline for article submissions to the Gulf Defender is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/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.

Checkertail Salute

Airman 1st Class Thomas Haessly



2nd Lt. Albert Bosco

Airman Haessly receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Col. Doug Cochran, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Airman Haessly, who has performed more than 30 minimum proficiency requirement loadings and quarterly evaluations resulting in a 100 percent pass rate. He has also accomplished more than 50 scheduled weapons maintenance tasks, and his quick response to an AIM-9 malfunction resulted in an effective pilot training sortie. He also volunteers for various activities and organizations.

Duty title: 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft armament systems specialist.

Time on station: One year

Time in service: 1.5 years

Hometown: Madison, Wis.

Hobbies: Running, cars, watching television

Goals: Currently trying to get into the Air Force Academy

Favorite thing about Tyndall: Its location

Favorite book: 33-1-2

Proudest moment in the military: Graduating basic training

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.

Online system reduces trips to education office

STAFF SGT. TODD LOPEZ

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Four features now available under the Air Force's virtual education system give Airmen more control of their academic pursuits.

The Air Force Virtual Education Center is a Web-based system available to the total force that allows Airmen to do many of the things online that once required a trip to a base education office.

Airmen with accounts on the virtual center can now update personal data through the system, including rank, duty phone, and e-mail and postal mailing addresses.

New features allow users to view a complete history of their enrollment in courses taken using tuition assistance. Users will also be able to access a list of notifications concerning missing

grades and payment suspenses, and they can check Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) and College-Level Examination Program test results (CLEP.)

The virtual center came online in early 2003 and was designed to streamline the process of participating in off-duty education, said Jim Sweizer, Air Force chief of voluntary education.

"The system is taking all the things we used to do in the old days on paper and trying to move them into the virtual world," he said. "This is part of a customer service transformation."

The center's development is in line with similar developments in the civilian world. Being able to

make payments online or to conduct business without leaving your home is something Airmen are familiar with and demand, Mr. Sweizer said.

"This is about convenience," he

center's tight integration with the Community College of the Air Force, Mr. Sweizer said.

"Airmen can view their CCAF academic progress reports on the system," he said. "That process

used to take six to eight weeks when done with a paper request ...

Today, (students) can go on the (virtual center) and immediately see what

they need to complete their coursework."

The center also makes it easier for Airmen to have their CCAF transcripts sent to other universities. Mr. Sweizer said the CCAF sends out as many as 65,000 transcripts a year to various schools.

"It was also a paper intensive process in the past," he said.

Sending out a transcript from CCAF to another school could have taken as many as six weeks when it was done entirely through paper mail and handwritten forms. With the virtual center, he said, the Air Force has reduced that process time to 24 hours.

While the virtual center does not currently allow Airmen to apply for tuition assistance online, officials said it soon will. In fact, application for tuition assistance will be a focal point on the site.

"The primary reason an Airman visits the education center is to start or continue college," Mr. Sweizer said. "The key component of that is tuition assistance. We fully fund tuition ... the goal is to have them sit at a computer and be able to apply for tuition assistance in the virtual world."

From a military computer, Airmen can sign up for an account at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>.

“Airmen can view their CCAF academic progress reports on the system ... that process used to take six to eight weeks when done with a paper request.”

JIM SWEIZER

Air Force chief of voluntary education.

said. "Today you can pay bills in one place instead of running around to all locations, and that is a timesaver for consumers. In the Air Force, the better customer service you can provide, the better it is for the student. (The virtual center) is about better customer service."

One of the most apparent benefits to customer service is the

Save
for
Your
Future

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

Phone card gifts make it easy for Americans to show deployed troops they care

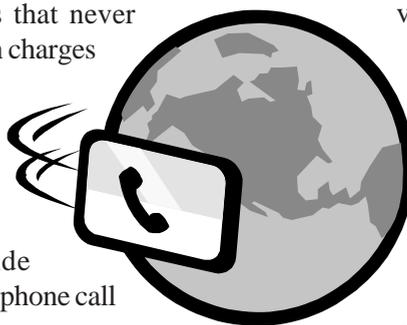
DALLAS — Any American can now help troops in contingency operations telephone call home. The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is now authorized to sell prepaid calling cards to any individual or organization that wishes to purchase cards for troops who are deployed.

Up until now, those wishing to lend a helping hand had no other alternative but to purchase other retailer's prepaid cards that, in many cases, were not designed for affordable international calling. Now, anyone (even those not in the military) can help troops in contingency operations call home from one of the many AAFES call centers in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Many of the prepaid cards available to the general public from retailers other than AAFES offer much higher rates and connection charges. For service members to

receive the best calling rates from OIF/OEF, senders should take advantage of the savings and purchase the Military Exchange 550 Unit Prepaid Card, as it offers the best value when calling home with minutes that never expire and no hidden charges or connection fees. And senders don't even need to know the names or address of deployed personnel to provide the great benefit of a phone call home.

Helping service members stay in touch with friends and family has never been easier. Anyone can log on to www.aafes.com and click the "help our troops call home" link. From there, those wishing to pay for troops to call home can



send a prepaid calling card to an individual at his or her deployed address or to "any service member" deployed or hospitalized. AAFES will coordinate distribution of donated cards addressed to "any service member" via the American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society or the Fisher House Foundation.

AAFES currently operates 31 call centers in Iraq, 19 in Kuwait and four in Afghanistan. All of these locations stay busy playing a critical role in keeping the lines of communication open between deployed troops and their loved ones.

AAFES officials hailed the Department of Defense's foresight in allowing it to offer phone cards to the general public. "A phone call home can make a soldier's day,"

said AAFES Chief of Communications Lt. Col. Debra Pressley. "This initiative allows any American to make a direct impact on the morale of deployed troops around the world. We hope everyone takes advantage of this opportunity to purchase a phone card that will make a connection between the front lines and the home front."

In addition to the ability to send phone cards, individuals and organizations can further extend support to deployed troops with a "Gift From the Homefront" gift certificate. This innovative initiative allows anyone to help deployed troops purchase merchandise in one of 54 contingency stores. "Gifts from the Homefront" can also be purchased 24 hours a day by logging on to www.aafes.com or by calling (877) 770-4438, seven days a week, every day of the year.

National Infant Immunization Week starts Monday

Vaccinating children is the focus of this year's National Infant Immunization Week. This year's theme is "Vaccination: an Act of Love. Love Them. Protect Them. Immunize Them".

Timely vaccinations are very important in preventing potentially serious diseases in infants and children. Parents play a vital role in the protection of their children.

Statistics have shown by the age of two some children are not fully immunized to protect them from 12 preventable diseases.

Additionally, there are approximately one million two-year-olds who are missing more than one of the recommended vaccines.

Statistics also show that because of increased vaccination efforts in the United States, the majority of vaccine-preventable diseases have decreased approximately 99percent from peak pre-vaccine levels. However, there are still many children who are not being vaccinated on time.

For more information about children immunization status, contact the Immunization Clinic at 283-7570 or visit www.cdc.gov/nip/recs/child-schedule.pdf.

(Courtesy of 325th Medical Group)



Back to basics

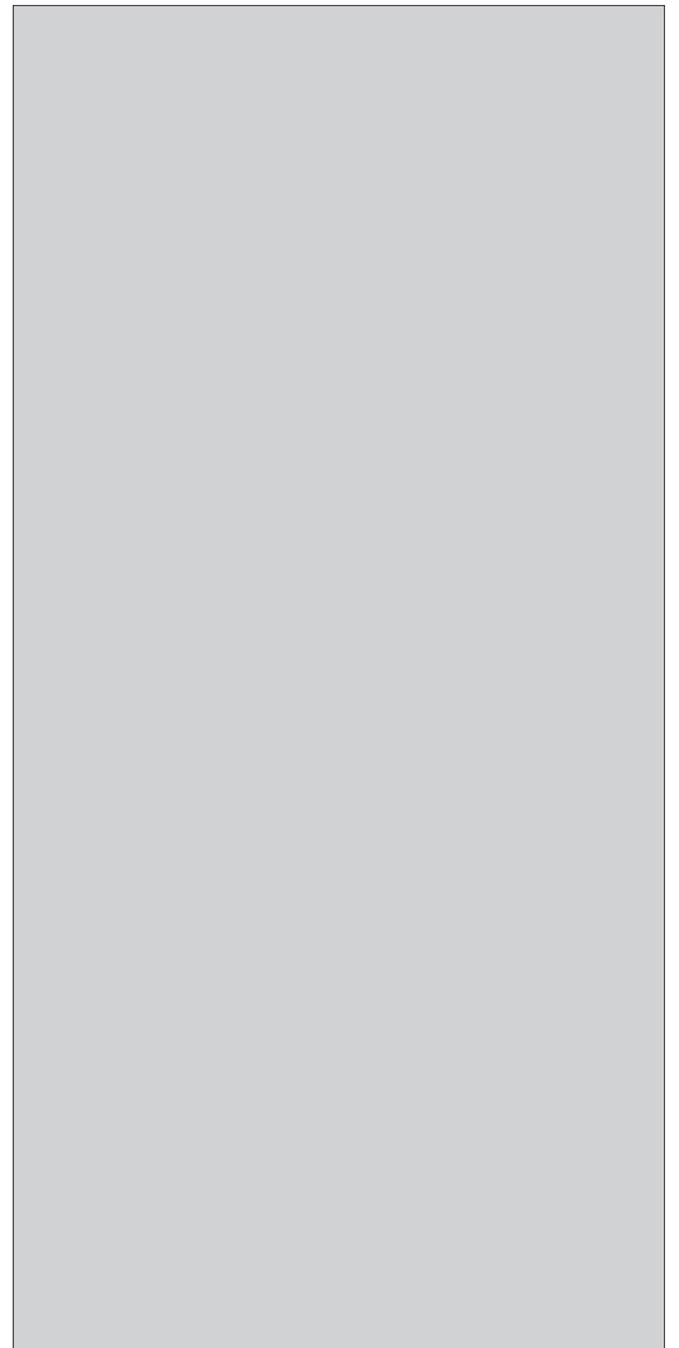
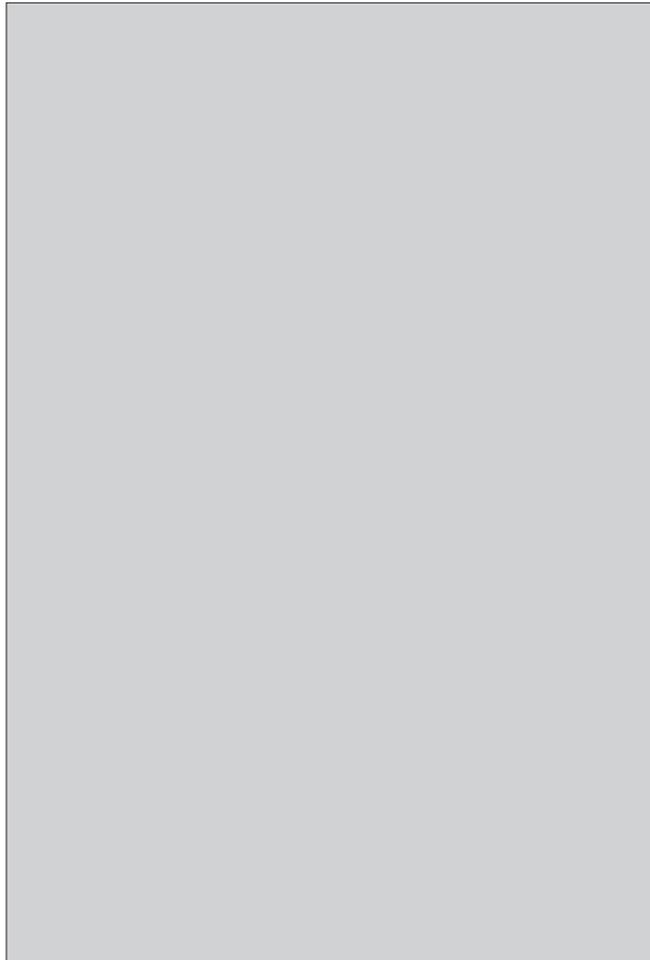
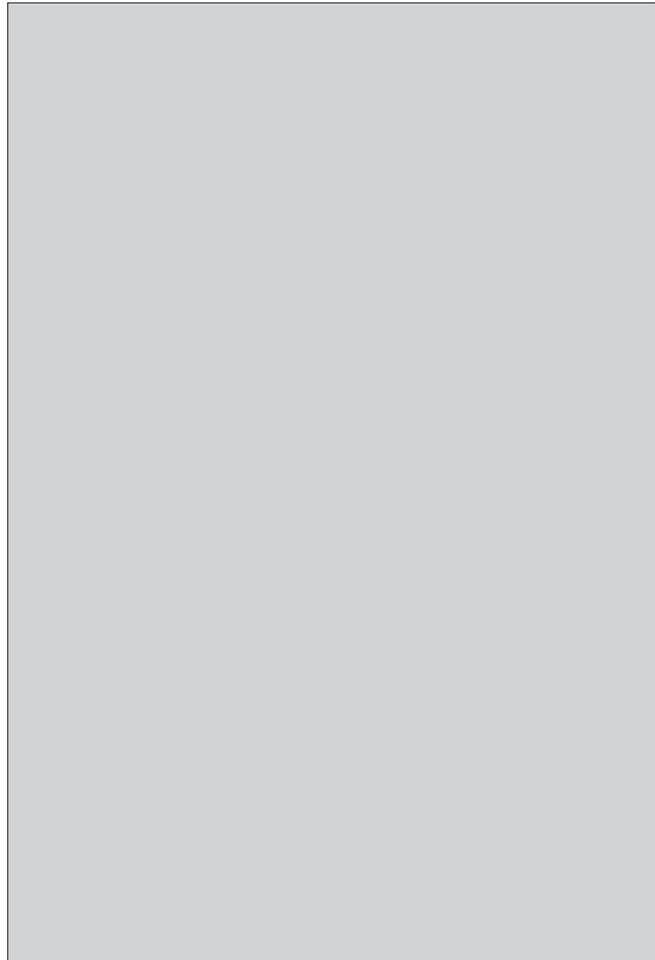
Q. What is the proper wear of the flight dress uniform, or flight suit?

A. According to the Air Force instruction governing uniform wear and the Air Education and Training Command supplement, flight suit front zippers will be closed to approximately three inches from the neckline. All other zippers will be completely closed. The only exception is when the flight cap is placed in a bottom pocket of the flight suit. That zipper is not required to be zipped.

Also, the sleeves of the flight suit may not be pushed or rolled up.

Back to basics is a column highlighting proper military customs and courtesies.

DRUNK DRIVERS  *are not survivors!*



● FROM AFAP PAGE 2

AFAP gives airmen the opportunity to directly help other airmen by contributing to four charitable organizations that benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired Air Force people and their families, including surviving spouses. The organizations are the Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Village, Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund, and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

In 2003, the Air Force's contributions totaled \$5.1 million, 122 percent of the Air Force goal. This year's goal of \$5.2 million was set to ensure these charities have the necessary funds to continue supporting our Air Force family during such hardships as deployment, illness and death. Last year, AETC contributed more than \$1 million to the AFAP campaign. During the same year, people in AETC received more than \$2 million of assistance in one form or another.

As we near the end of this year's AFAP campaign, I am very proud the people of our command have again so willingly and generously participated in this very worthwhile opportunity to help others. I realize some of our wings have already closed out their individual campaigns for this year, but we still have a few weeks to go before the campaign officially ends May 7. Opportunities exist for all our people to participate if they so desire. Thus far, during this year's campaign about 30 percent of those eligible to participate have done so.

The decision to contribute to the AFAP is an individual choice, but I ask that you remember this campaign is where we help our own and to favorably consider taking an opportunity to participate in this very worthwhile endeavor. Your contribution directly benefits everyone in the Air Force family, and no one knows when they will need to outreach to AFAP through their first sergeant, commander, supervisor or friend.

● FROM EXCELLENCE PAGE 2

everyone to follow our award winners' examples of the hard work and dedication that makes our Air Force so great, and strive for excellence in all you do.

While I'm on the topic of excellence, I want to talk about this particular core value for a moment. Displaying and epitomizing excellence means going above and beyond the status quo, maintaining a team focus and constantly keeping an eye out for ways to improve. To achieve excellence, an individual must not only excel on the job and in the community but in various other facets, such as physical fitness, adhering to customs and courtesies and ensuring appropriate uniform appearance.

It is critical as Air Force members the fundamentals are mas-

tered when it comes to uniform appearance, and customs and courtesies. A sharp salute from a security forces professional when entering the gate or from an Airman on the street can elicit feelings of pride in others and set



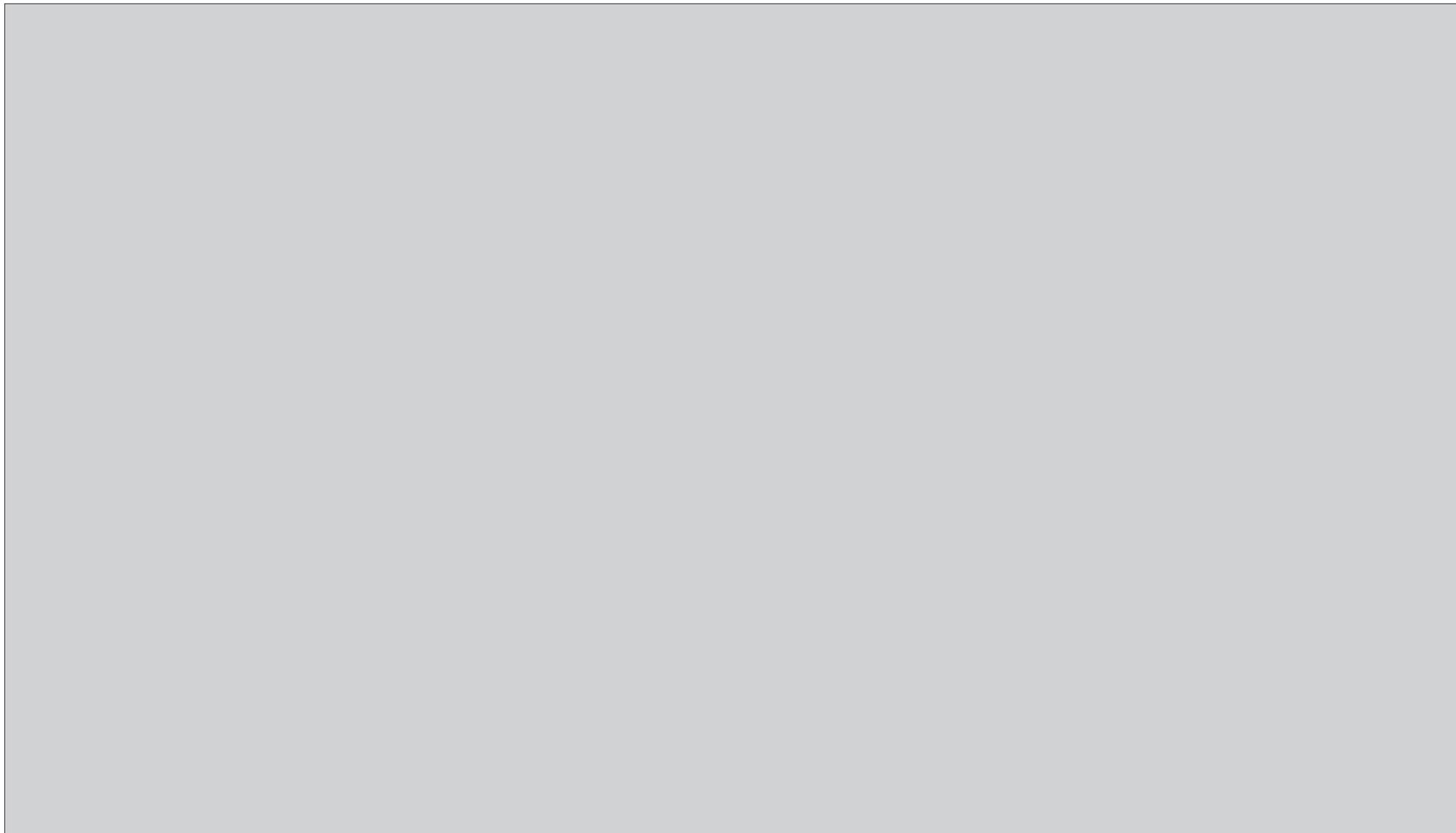
“It is critical as Air Force members the fundamentals are mastered when it comes to uniform appearance, and customs and courtesies.”

BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW
325th Fighter Wing commander

a positive tone for the day. Saluting is a time-honored tradition and an appropriate greeting among members in the profession of arms. Conversely, when an individual forgets to practice these traditions, it can send a negative message. Remember, a salute is not a one-way exchange. I understand that sometimes folks have a lot on their

mind, but this is basic Air Force customs and courtesies, and something we all must practice. Similarly, if a staff car warranting a salute passes, the appropriate response is to render a salute and wait until the car passes or a salute is returned. I realize commanders drive different types of vehicles, but attention to detail and situational awareness are critical aspects of mission success. It is critical everyone observes and practices these fundamentals and time-honored traditions as well as ensure our standards and values remain at the highest level to maintain and strengthen our reputation as the world's greatest Air Force.

Thank you for all you do for our Air Force. Have a great weekend, and I'll see all of you next week.



Red Team: Protecting Team Tyndall

Anti-terrorism tactics and techniques now part of security forces training

CHRISTINE SULLIVAN
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Attacks on Khobar Towers, the United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, the U.S.S. Cole in Yemen, and New York's World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001, are events that clearly demonstrate the potential vulnerability of our nation's military and Department of Defense personnel and mission-related facilities.

The DOD defines terrorism as "the unlawful use or threatened use of force or violence against individuals or property to coerce or intimidate governments or societies, often to achieve political, religious or ideological objectives."

When asked what his definition of terrorism is, Lt. Col. Scott Enold, 325th Security Forces Squadron commander explained.

"Generally speaking, terrorists are extremists who believe they are participants in a dynamic social, religious or political process," he said. "They believe they cannot achieve their desired changes through peaceful means and must resort to violence."

Because transnational terrorist threats have become occurrences that are all too-frequent, preparation and prevention have become more aggressive at Tyndall AFB with the implementation of the Commander's Force Protection Red Team under the direction of Brig. Gen. Larry New, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

"Force protection is ultimately a command responsibility. However, it is a responsibility that begins with every troop in the military and demands a new mind-set as to how each of us goes about our daily business," said Colonel

In a memo addressed to the commanders of all major commands last year, Gen. Robert Foglesong, vice chief of staff of the Air Force, attached a concept of operations to guide the Commanders' Force Protection Red Teams.

"Tyndall has its share of deployed troops conducting contingency operations, and many of them are in high-threat areas. We cannot, and must not, become complacent and repetitious in our defensive measures at home and while deployed."

LT. COL. SCOTT ENOLD
325th Security Forces Squadron commander

Enold. "Force protection is not just when the bullets are flying and the mortar rounds are falling, but all the time."

Members of the SFS are taking an active role in this new program, aimed at supplementing traditional antiterrorism measures and evaluations in identifying Tyndall's potential vulnerabilities.

"The SFS leadership is responsible for forming a team composed of not only security forces, but other career fields as well," said Colonel Enold. "They use the 'honest-broker' approach for this assessment program."

"This is not part of an assessment in a punitive sense of the word," said 1st Lt. Walter Sorensen, SFS anti-terrorism officer. "The program is designed to educate and, if need be, identify potential areas of concern that are not discovered during a vulnerability assessment."

The team's purpose is to identify installation vulnerabilities based on likely terrorist threats. In turn, they recommend various solutions to the installation commander.

General Foglesong said the intent is to define an effective commander-directed approach to help find and execute the most effective and efficient means to protect the base. He outlined the Red Team concept as an independent and threat-based effort designed to help develop realistic, effects-based ways to protect Air Force operations and assets.

In the CONOPS, prepared by Lt. Col. John Schauffert, chief of the Air Force Vulnerability Assessment Branch Force Protection division, it says the ability to accurately evaluate installation anti-terrorism countermeasures or an installation's ability to respond to the

consequences of a possible terrorist attack is an imprecise science, short of an actual terrorist event.

The Red Team concept involves creating a venue through which a "near" actual event can be replicated. From that scenario comes the development of more viable countermeasures that prevent or mitigate the effects of a terrorist act.

This concept is not new. The U.S. Army has successfully employed the program as a matter of policy at the major command level for more than three years. The same principal is also the basis under which Red Flag training is undertaken, according to Lieutenant Sorensen.

The formation of a "Red Cell," from which the Red Team idea is based, was originally a U.S. Navy counterterrorist unit made up of elite Sea Air Land members, also known as SEALs. They teamed up with Marine Force Reconnaissance in the mid-1980s to test the security of U.S. Navy bases and conduct covert antiterrorism missions around the world.

Those who live and work at Tyndall will now benefit from that initial testing and training.

"Tyndall has its share of deployed troops conducting contingency operations, and many of them are in high-threat areas," said Colonel Enold. "We cannot, and must not, become complacent and repetitious in our defensive measures at home and while deployed."

**Anti-
terrorism:
Everyone's
responsibility**

• **Force Protection Condition (FPCON) is a system used to identify and make recommendations for responses to terrorist threats against U.S. personnel and facilities.**

• **Remove registration decals**

from vehicle windshields when selling, disposing of personal vehicles or no longer employed by a DOD agency.

• **Turn in decals to Pass and Registration located on the second floor of Bldg. 662.**



Illustration by Tech Sgt. Cody Vance



United States Air Force

Retiree Activities Newsletter

Tyndall AFB, Florida

April 2004

What's inside

325th Fighter Wing commander thanks volunteers for their continued service

Brig. Gen. Larry New offers praise for volunteer efforts and Tyndall's retiree community – Page 1.

New TRICARE formulary rule

Officials published their final rule April 1 regarding pharmacy prescription costs. The new rule goes into effect May – Page 2.

Penalty waiver procedures reviewed

Will retirees eligible for TRICARE for Life be penalized for not enrolling in Medicare Part B at age 65? – Page 4.

Tyndall pharmacy changes

Prescription services have changed as of April 15 at the Tyndall pharmacy – Page 3.

Dependency/Indemnity Compensation changes

Remarried spouses can now receive new benefits through VA – Page 4.

Space-A travel extended

Officials have extended space-available travel privileges to retired service members – Page 4.

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Volunteers big part of Team Tyndall family, local community

BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW
325th Fighter Wing commander

Volunteers are an important part of our team here at Tyndall, and I want to take a moment to thank all of our volunteers, many of whom are retirees, for the many hours they have provided to assist Team Tyndall as well as our community and families. It is inspiring to see folks who have dedicated their lives to the service of our great nation and find the time to continue to remain involved in bettering our community and the lives of others through volunteer efforts.

As Tyndall continues to conduct its mission of training the world's best air dominance team and supports contingencies across the globe, the services our volunteers provide are critical to our ability to carry out our mission. Volunteers spend thousands of hours supporting our troops through the clinic, chapel and various other organizations both on base and in the local community. Many of our volunteers support numerous worthy

causes that are in the business of helping others. Taking the time to help those in need is certainly a noble cause, and I am proud of our volunteers for their continued service. In 2003, more than 600 volunteers volunteered greater than 75,000 hours of their time, saving Tyndall more than \$1.2 million.

This year, I had the honor of recognizing some of our volunteers for their contributions. Theresa Cochran was named Volunteer of the Year, Category I, for her service to the Tyndall Thrift Shop, and Senior Airman Vesta Anderson, was named Volunteer of the Year, Category II, for her efforts as president of the Tyndall Active Airman's Association. Also, Patricia Byrne and Bob Thedford received Volunteer Excellence awards for their efforts. This year's other nominees were Kenny Crowe, Shantelle Dedicke, Ron Raabe, Michael Stephens, Master Sgt. Brian Hampton, Airman 1st Class Dennis Maldonado and Staff Sgt. John

Phinisey. Congratulations to you all!

Of course, one of the driving forces behind our robust volunteer community is the Retiree Activities Office. Retired Lt. Col. Ed Bultmann and his staff have done a phenomenal job ensuring our retiree population is receiving important information, ensuring their quality of life remains high and they can, in turn, ensure quality of life for the rest of Team Tyndall remains high. Your service to Team Tyndall and the Air Force does not go unnoticed. We look forward to your honest feedback so we can continue to support your needs as valued members of our base and local community.

Thank you to those who are already volunteering. Your continued support of Team Tyndall and your willingness to make a difference in the lives of our Airmen, civilians and their families makes a huge difference! We appreciate your selfless contributions and continued service to our nation.

New TRICARE for Life claims processor

All beneficiaries who are eligible for TRICARE For Life, including those under age 65 and dual-eligible for TRICARE and Medicare, will soon receive a letter from Wisconsin Physicians Service, the new TRICARE For Life claims processor.

The phase in for WPS as the new centralized claims processor for all

TRICARE regions started April 1. Included are approximately 1.7 million TRICARE for Life beneficiaries in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, and other territories.

The introductory letter contains contact information and frequently asked questions on TRICARE for Life, WPS and the au-

tomated claims processing system that services all TRICARE for Life beneficiaries.

TRICARE officials said the new contract integrates the services previously provided by each of the regional managed care support contractors, providing a single source for claims processing, customer service and ad-

ministrative claims services. The WPS TRICARE for Life contract is part of the Department of Defense's next generation of contracts and is designed to optimize the delivery of claims and associated customer services.

"The new single claims

●SEE TRICARE PAGE 4A

Officials emphasize need to update records in DEERS

Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) officials emphasized this week the importance of updating records when personal eligibility information changes, and noted several ways to make the changes. Eligibility changes include changes

in military career status and family status such as marriage, divorce, birth and adoption.

Beneficiaries may update their DEERS address, telephone number and e-mail address through several methods.

* DEERS Web site at

www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/index.jsp. It's quick and easy, and the best time to update is during non-peak hours.

* Visit a local personnel office that has a uniformed service ID card facility. To locate the nearest ID card facility, visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/. Call ahead for hours of operation and for instructions to update a record for someone who is housebound.

* Fax address changes to (831) 655-8317.

* Call the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office Telephone Center at (800) 538-

9552 or for the deaf (TTY/TDD): (866) 363-2883. Hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Pacific time), Monday through Friday, except federal holidays.

* Mail the changed information to the DSO, attn: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771.

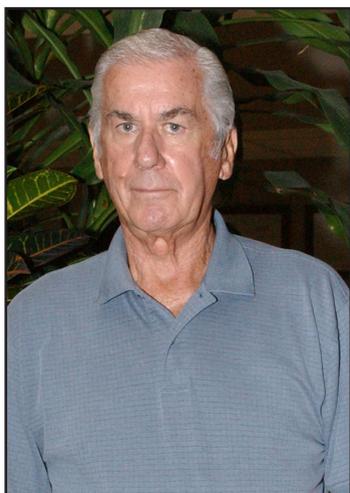
When updating Information other than addresses, beneficiaries need to provide important pieces of documentation, such as marriage, birth, or death certificates; DD 214s; DD 1172s; etc. Beneficiaries should contact the nearest military ID card fa-

cility to find out what documents are needed. Once beneficiaries have the necessary documents, they can present them at the ID card facility, or send a letter or fax to the DSO at the address and number noted above. Former spouses who never re-married should note they are now listed in DEERS under their own Social Security number and not that of the sponsor.

For more information and links to related sites, visit www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm

(Courtesy of Air Force Retiree News Service)

Director's Corner



**RETIRED LT. COL.
EDWARD BULTMAN**
Retiree Activities director

Every year new state and federal rules and legislation are proposed which affect the entitlements and welfare of retirees.

There are many national veteran organizations that propose and review these actions on our behalf, and our membership in these organizations increases their influence with the rule makers.

It is equally important that we communicate our opinions directly to those governmental representatives and agencies making the decisions. Letters, postcards, and even e-mail can have a significant effect in the decision making process.

Deaths, illnesses and vacation schedules are still causing some difficulties in staffing the Tyndall Retiree Activities Office. We can keep the office open five days a week only when everyone is well and available.

It would greatly ease our staffing job if we had a few standbys ready to fill in when emergencies arise. If you are interested, please contact our office.

The training required is minimal, and we can work you with our staff until you feel comfortable with the duties. It is also a great way to keep up to date on changes affecting your retirement.

The Tyndall Retiree Activities Office is located in on Suwannee Road in Bldg. 662, Suite 245, 445 Suwannee Road, Tyndall Air Force Base. The office phone is (850) 283-2737. A satellite office is located at the National Guard Armory, 1225 Easterwood Drive, Tallahassee, FL. The SRAO phone number is (850) 574-9094.

The Tyndall RAO also maintains a retiree Web page on the Tyndall Web site at www.tyndall.af.mil/325FW/RAO.htm, and publishes a newsletter twice a year.

TRICARE uniform formulary final rule published

The Uniform Formulary's final rule was published April 1, according to the TRICARE Management Activity. This was in accordance with the requirement established in the fiscal year 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, Section 701, "Pharmacy Benefits Program." The final rule, effective May 3, establishes the process for determining the formulary status for prescription drugs into one of three cost-share tiers based upon their relative clinical and cost effectiveness.

Once the new structure is fully implemented, prescription drugs on the current Military Health System formulary will be categorized as generic, formulary (brand-name), or non-formulary. Prescription drugs will be evaluated based on their relative clinical and cost effectiveness when compared with other drugs in the same therapeutic class. The process will be guided by the Department of Defense Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, comprised of physicians and pharmacists. This committee will receive input from a Beneficiary Advisory Panel representing the general interests of all DoD beneficiaries.

TMA officials said the Uniform Formulary final rule does not change the TRICARE prescription drug benefit. The benefit includes the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved drugs and medicines that by U.S. law require a physician's or other authorized provider's prescription. It does not include prescription drugs which are used in medical treatments or procedures which are expressly excluded from the TRICARE benefit by statute or regulation. The list of prescription drugs which are categorized as non-for-

mulary will be published when the final determinations are made.

"The military treatment facility remains the best value for all users of the TRICARE pharmacy program," said Col. William Davies, director, DOD Pharmacy Programs. "By having prescriptions filled at the MTF, TRICARE beneficiaries eliminate their out-of-pocket costs."

In the future, prescriptions filled by the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy will cost \$3 for up to a 90-day supply of a generic medication, \$9 for up to a 90-day supply of a brand-name formulary medication, and \$22 for up to a 90-day supply of a non-formulary medication. Prescriptions filled using a retail network pharmacy will cost \$3 for up to a 30-day supply of a generic medication, \$9 for a 30-day supply of a brand-name formulary medication and \$22 for up to a 30-day supply of a non-formulary medication.

Beneficiaries choosing to fill prescriptions using a non-network pharmacy will pay either \$9 or 20 percent of the total cost of the prescription, whichever amount is greater, for both generic and brand-name formulary medications; and \$22 or 20 percent, whichever amount is greater, for up to a 30-day supply of non-formulary medications. Applicable deductibles for non-network pharmacy use must first be met.

Up-to-date information on the TRICARE Pharmacy Program will be available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy. TMA will announce the implementation schedule as the information becomes available.

(Courtesy of AF Retiree News Service)

*The Tyndall Retirees Activities Office Newsletter is published as an insert to the **Gulf Defender**. Articles appearing in this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the Department of the Air Force or Tyndall AFB. While editorial effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information herein, no absolute guarantee of accuracy can be given or assumed. Editor: Retired Lt. Col. Edward Bultmann, RAO director, 283-2737. Design and layout: 2nd Lt. Albert Bosco, 325th Fighter Wing chief of internal information, 283-2983.*

Agencies work to determine penalty waiver procedures

The TRICARE Management Activity is currently working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to determine actions eligible beneficiaries need to take to prevent (or remove) penalties if they didn't enroll in Medicare Part B at age 65.

As provided by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, uniformed services beneficiaries who would be eligible for TRICARE for Life, but are not enrolled in Part B, may enroll without penalty during a special enrollment period through Dec. 31, 2004.

The special enrollment period will be

announced via Medicare on the TRICARE Web site www.tricare.osd.mil and publicized widely.

Uniformed services beneficiaries who enrolled in Medicare Part B in 2001 through 2004 and are subject to a premium surcharge for late enrollment in Part B can get those surcharges eliminated by demonstrating that they are covered under TRICARE.

The elimination of surcharges has been effective since Jan. 1, but the Department of Health and Human Services will need to work out pro-

cedures to be followed.

Once CMS has determined exactly what eligible beneficiaries need to do, TRICARE Management Activity will update its site with that information.

The changes made by the Act have been effective since Jan. 1, meaning TFL beneficiaries will be reimbursed for premium penalties paid for

months on or after January 2004. There will be no rebates made for Medi-

care Part B premium penalties for months after Jan. 1, 2001 through Dec. 31, 2003.

If you do not want to pay the premium penalties you can wait until the special enrollment period is determined.

Those enrolling in Part B during the GEP must wait until July for coverage to be effective. Coverage for those enrolling in the special enrollment period will be effective the first day of the month following the enrollment month; therefore it may be better to wait for the special enrollment period.

(Courtesy of Air Force Retiree News Service)



Tyndall pharmacy announces changes in prescription service

Due to concerns over future safety, quality of care and standardization, on March 15, the Tyndall Air Force Base Pharmacy discontinued service provided to the Third Party Prescription Courier Service in Tallahassee.

Refills will be honored through April 15, after which time beneficiaries can obtain their medications through one of the following venues: They may come in person for prescriptions through the Tyndall pharmacy; they may access their benefit through either the TRICARE National Mail Order Pharmacy toll-free, (866) 363-8667; or use the TRICARE Retail Network Pharmacies in the local Tallahassee area.

The most economic option to avoid travel is to use the

TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy. At a cost of \$3 for up to a 90 day supply of generic medication and \$9 for brand name, the medication is delivered right to your door.

On April 1, 2001, the National Defense Authorization Act provided an equitable prescription benefit allowing all beneficiaries, including those over 65 to access both the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy and the TRICARE Retail Network Pharmacies.

The implementation of this new benefit has resulted in the phase out of courier services at Air Force bases across the nation.

Patrick AFB, recently discontinued its service leaving Tyndall the only Air Force pharmacy supporting a courier.

Given the availability of a robust new benefit for the over-65 beneficiary population, and concerns over future safety, Tyndall elected to discontinue support of the courier.

The 325th Medical Group is committed to working with the retiree office in Tallahassee to assure a smooth transition.

Effective Tuesday, all new civilian prescription operations moved from the satellite pharmacy in the Base Exchange to the 325th Medical Group's clinic Main Pharmacy.

The satellite pharmacy will continue to fill refill prescriptions, but all new civilian and military prescriptions will be filled at the main pharmacy in the medical clinic.

(Courtesy of 325th Medical Group)

Retiree Spotlight Paul Lippincott



2nd Lt. Albert Bosco

Office: Retiree Activities Office

Years in Panama City area: Seven years

Years in the military: 22.5 years

Hometown: Zephyrhills

Favorite assignment: Serving as executive officer to the chief of staff and vice commander, 5th Air Force, Fuchu Air Station, Japan

Greatest aspect of your job: Helping retirees and future retirees

Why do you volunteer: To give back to the service that has given me so much

Favorite book: "Going Downtown" by Jack Broughton

Hobbies and activities: Military Officers' Association treasurer, Exchange Club member, Tyndall Retiree Activities Office member, church

Contact information

Tricare Gulf South(4) and Southeast(5) Regions: (800) 444-5445, or visit www.tricare.osd.mil

Tricare for life: (888) 363-5433, or visit www.tricare.osd.mil/tfl

Tricare mail order pharmacy: (866) 363-2273, or visit www.tricare.osd.mil/tmop

Express Scripts: (866) 363-8667, or visit www.express-scripts.com

DEERS eligibility: (800) 538-9552, or visit www.tricare.osd.mil/deers

Retiree dental plan: (888) 838-8737, or visit www.ddpdelta.org

Long-term care insurance: (800) 582-3337, or visit www.ltcfeds.com

Florida Veterans Web site: www.floridavets.org

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (800) 321-1080

National Personnel Records Center: (314) 801-0800, or visit www.vetrecs.archives.gov

●FROM TRICARE PAGE 1A processing vehicle will deliver customer-friendly service and improve beneficiaries' satisfaction," said Rear Adm. Richard Mayo, deputy director of TRICARE Management Activity. "We will employ commercial best practices and an effective management approach to provide the necessary services through this world-class claims processing system."

TFL claims processing is currently in a state of transition. The outgoing regional claims processor will continue to process claims for services beneficiaries receive until WPS TFL is implemented in the beneficiary's state.

For information about current claims processors and to find out what region a beneficiary is in, see www.tricare.osd.mil/main/chart.html. The Southeast & Gulfsouth Regions 3/4 include Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee and are scheduled for phasing about Aug. 1.

Because the Medicare program is administered on a state-by-state basis, WPS TFL will be implemented by state. In cases when parts of a state are included under two separate regions, WPS TFL will be implemented when the largest part of a state is scheduled to be implemented. A complete list of states' phase-in dates will soon be available on

www.tricare.osd.mil.

On the above implementation dates, beneficiaries who are under age 65 and are eligible for both Medicare and TRICARE due to disability or end-stage renal disease will no longer need to directly file claims to a managed care support contractor. All claims filed with Medicare for these dual-eligible beneficiaries will go to WPS TFL.

Wisconsin Physician's Service has agreements with each Medicare carrier allowing Medicare to directly submit claims to WPS TFL once implemented in the state. If the provider currently submits claims electronically on the beneficiary's behalf to Medicare, Medicare will now submit this claim directly to WPS TFL. Beneficiaries will receive an Explanation of Benefits from WPS TFL once processing has been completed.

Once implemented in a region, beneficiaries may call WPS TFL, (866) 773-0404 or TDD (866) 773-0405 for information and/or claims processing assistance. For more information, go to www.tricare.osd.mil/faqs/default.aspx. Under "Word Search" type in "TRICARE For Life" or under the "Advanced Search" use the drop down menu, and choose category "TRICARE For Life/Dual eligible", subcategory "All" and then hit "Go".

(Courtesy of Air Force Retiree News Service)

VA survivor benefit change

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation is payable by the Department of Veterans Affairs to surviving spouses when the military member's death was due to service-connected causes. In certain other cases the spouse might be eligible, even if the death was not due to service-connected causes.

Until recently, surviving spouses who remarried lost their compensation payments if they remarried. The Veteran's Benefits Act of 2003, signed into law Dec. 15 allows surviv-

ing spouses who remarry after age 57 to keep receiving these payments if they were getting

year of the signing of the new law, or they will lose their entitlement.

**Panama City Veteran's Affairs
647 Jenks Ave.
Suite C
Panama City, FL 32401
(850) 784-4044**

the monthly payments before remarriage. Those who remarry before age 57 would continue to lose their veteran's survivors benefits. Eligible spouses must apply within one

The VA has no way of contacting those eligible for this entitlement. Surviving spouses who think they may be eligible for restoration of these payments should contact the nearest VA office for help in the application process. The VA office is located at 647 Jenks Ave., Suite C, Panama City. Call (850) 784-4044 for an appointment.

(Courtesy of Military Officers' Association)

Officials extend space-A travel test

The one-year test to expand space-available travel privileges to family members of active-duty and retired service members traveling within the continental United States has been extended until further notice, according to Air Mobility Command's air transportation division officials.

The extension will allow the test to continue while office of the secretary of defense officials complete their evaluation of the test.

Under the space-A test phase, the family members of active-duty and retired service members are able to travel space-A aboard military flights when accompanied by their sponsors, said John Lundebly, of the passenger policy branch. He said the test does not apply to "gray-area retirees" — guard and reserve Airmen who are retired but are not yet eligible for retired pay and benefits. He explained that in December 2000, the commander of U.S. Transportation Command outlined

the proposed test as a way to improve quality-of-life privileges for service members and their families. After reviewing the proposal, defense officials approved the one-year test period. Prior to the test, regulations prohibited family members from flying

space-available within the CONUS. This privilege was available only to active-duty and retired military people. During the test period, dependents can accompany them.

To register for space-A travel, active-duty sponsors must be on leave or a pass and remain in the status while awaiting travel and through the entire travel period, officials said. Additional space-A travel and signup information is available through the passenger policy branch Web site at public.amc.af.mil/SPACEA/spacea.htm. A list of passenger terminals and phone numbers can be found there.

(Courtesy of Air Force Retiree News Service)



VA to gain new cemeteries by 2008

With a recent authorization to establish six new national cemeteries by 2008, the Department of Veterans Affairs has begun the largest expansion of these national shrines since the Civil War.

The National Cemetery Act of 2003 authorizes VA to establish new national cemeteries to serve veterans in the areas of Bakersfield, Calif.; Birmingham, Ala.; Jacksonville; Sarasota Count; Southeastern

Pennsylvania; and Columbia-Greenville, S.C.

All six areas have veteran populations exceeding 170,000, which is the threshold VA has established for new national cemeteries. Each new cemetery will require 200 to 250 acres to serve the current and future burial needs of veterans. Development of these new national cemeteries will provide more veterans with a burial site within 75 miles of their resi-

dences.

The VA manages the country's network of national cemeteries with more than 2.5 million gravesites at 120 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, as well as in 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites.

Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices or from VA Web sites at www.va.gov or www.cem.va.gov.

Retiree news e-mail service

This service is to inform members of the Air Force retiree community — including family members — about legislation, policies and other matters affecting their rights, benefits and obligations.

TO SUBSCRIBE

Address a new e-mail

In the "to" line put (exactly as shown) list.manager@listserver.afpc.randolph.af.mil

Your e-mail address will auto-

matically appear in the "from" field.

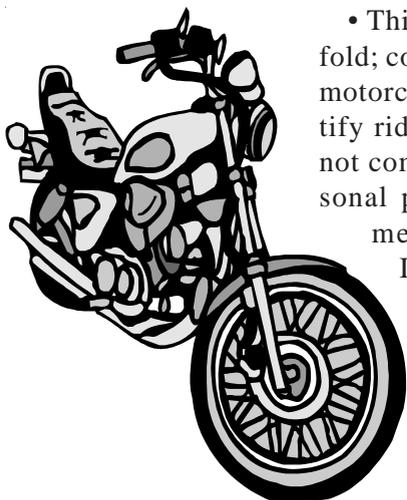
On the subject line, type in exactly as shown:

Subscribe AFRETIRE

There is no need to write anything in the body of the message.

That's all there is to it. Hit send. You will get a return message indicating that you have been subscribed as a non-digest member.

Wing Safety implements new motorcycle safety initiative



- This initiative is two fold; conduct a survey of motorcyclists, and identify riders complying or not complying with personal protective equipment requirements IAW AFI 91-207, Air Force Traffic Safety Program.

- The intent of this initiative is not to harass the motorcyclist, but

to assist the riders in identifying PPE use.

- Wing Safety personnel will randomly conduct these surveys at vehicle entry control points throughout the base.

- The base entry controller will instruct the motorcyclist to pull over, where they will contact a safety representative.

- Business cards with

the personal protective equipment requirements on the reverse side of the card will be issued to the motorcyclist.

- Also, unit safety representatives will be given these business cards to aid their traffic safety program

(Courtesy of 325th Fighter Wing safety office.)

● FROM PERSONNEL PAGE 1

only provide information to the work force, but also will allow for feedback.

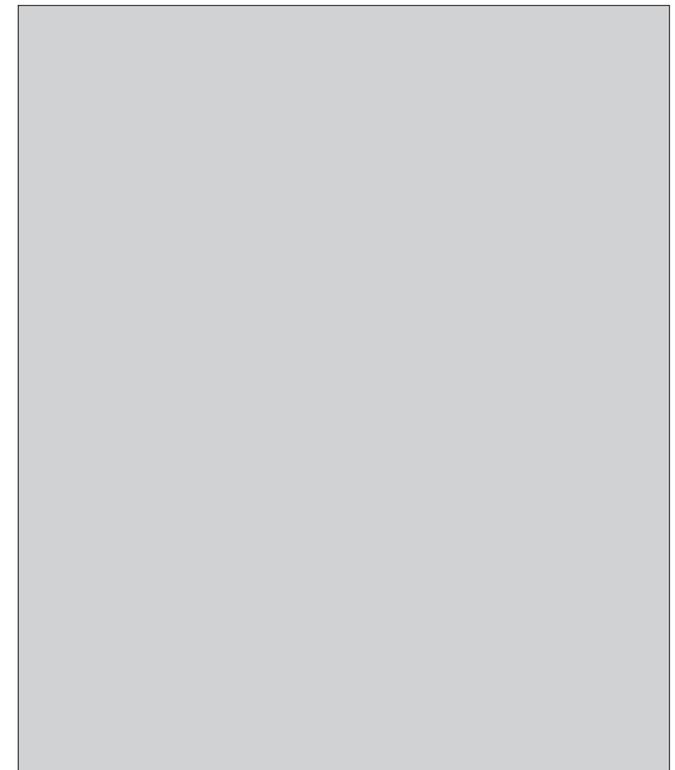
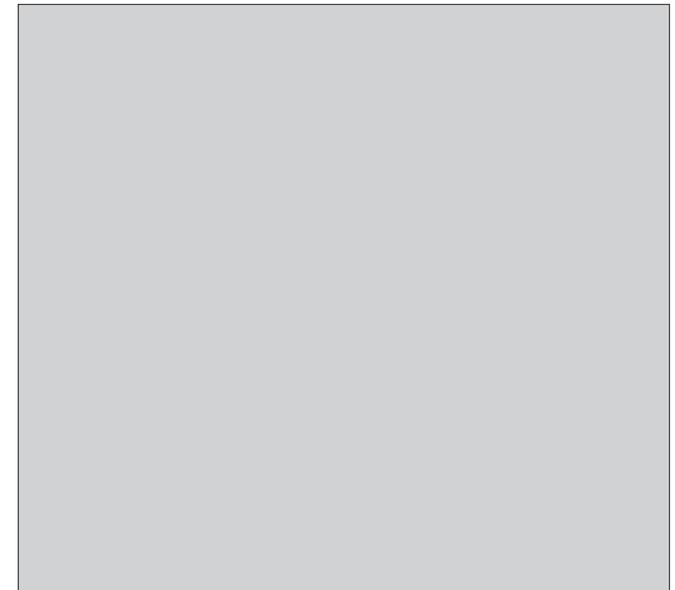
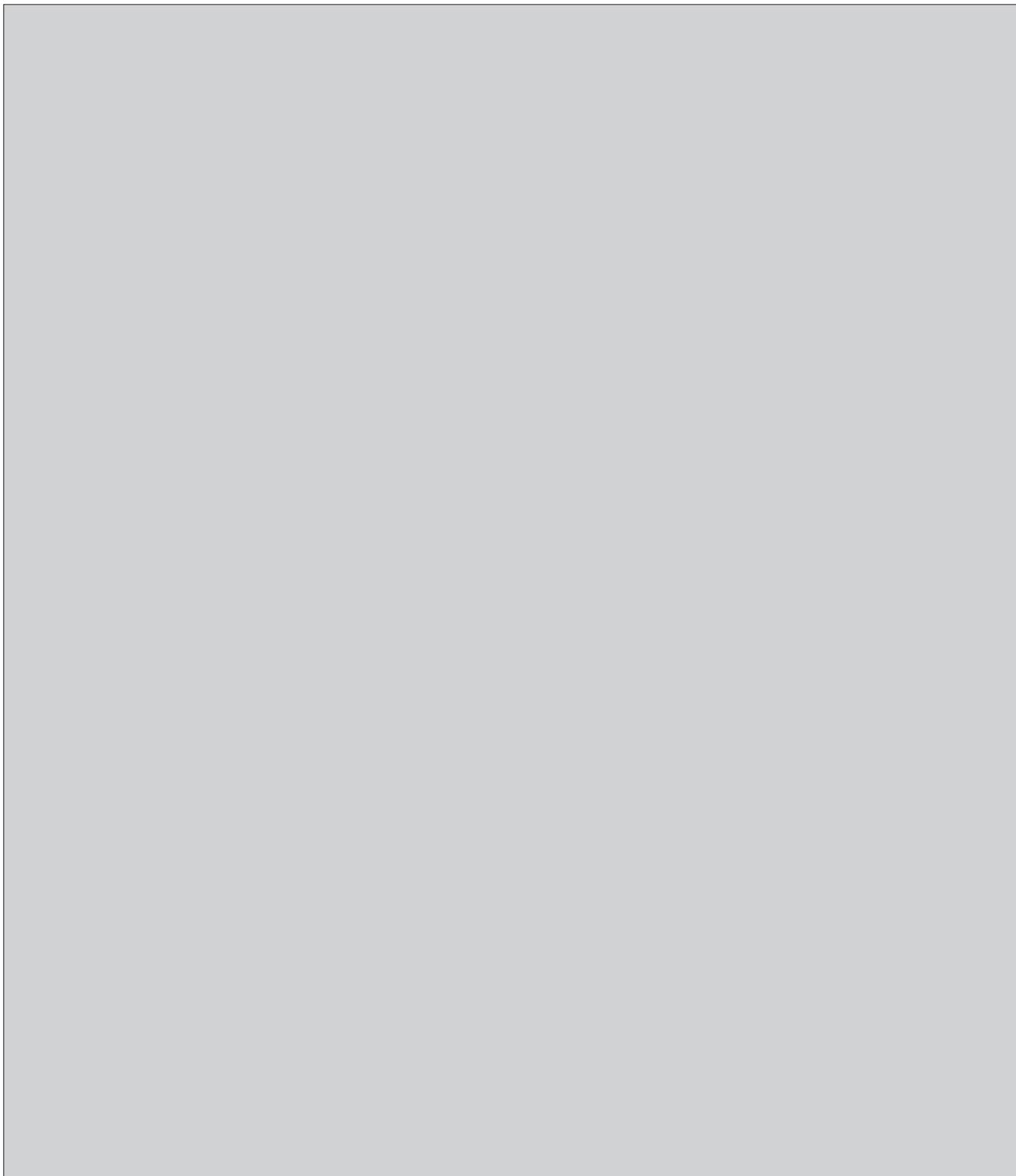
The plan also calls for “aggressive, but event-driven schedules,” he said. The first milestone is to have a labor-relations draft regulation to the Federal Register by November.

“We have schedules, but they could be longer (or) they could be shorter, because it’s event-driven, and it depends on how we (complete) each step,” Secretary England said. “We won’t go to the next step until we finish, because we are going to do it right. We won’t rush it.

“We’ll go through this in stages and phases,” he said. “We’ll get feedback, and we’ll keep improving the program as we proceed.”

Secretary England said the system is a great opportunity for employees, the Defense Department and America.

“It’s a great opportunity to have a terrific program for our employees, and I’m convinced we will,” he said. “The process will work, and the product will be one that everyone will want to embrace and be proud to embrace.”



Nominated officers must complete online form for school selection

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER –

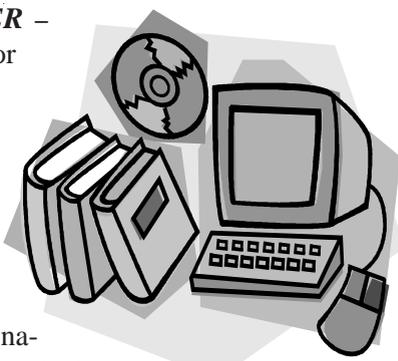
All eligible officers wanting to compete for developmental education opportunity in the 2005-2006 school year must now complete the required preference application online. The 2004 Developmental Education Designation Board meets here Oct. 4-8.

The newly developed senior and intermediate developmental education nomination application is the tool in the developmental education process where nominees make their school preferences known to their senior rater, their development teams and the developmental education board. The application, available all day, every day from any Internet-connected computer, must be completed by the officer and senior rater by May 21.

“This is their chance to provide input to their own development path,” said Lt. Col. Kathryn Moene, AFPC’s force development branch chief. “The Web-based application is user-friendly, saving time and effort for officers and their senior raters.”

To access the application, officers can log onto the AFPC Secure Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/pme/. Once there, those eligible will see an “IDE/SDE” button available.

Officers can select up to five school choices from a drop-down menu and give a synopsis of why they should



attend that school.

“The space to provide comments is smaller, so nominees focus on why they should go to a certain school, and how that school preference impacts their development,” said Colonel Moene.

Once an officer completes the application by clicking “submit,” they are automatically taken to the Assignment Management System Web site

at afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/amsweb/master.cfm, where they should check to ensure their Transitional Officer Developmental Plan is current. A current T-ODP is also mandatory for this process. The application is then made available to the senior rater who will input his/her comments and nominate the officer – all done online.

Following the senior rater’s signature, the developmental application is reviewed by the appropriate force development team, the colonel said. These teams of career field experts will recommend the appropriate developmental opportunity for each officer based on that officer’s background, school preferences and senior rater’s input.

For more information, officers should contact their local Military Personnel Flight or visit AFPC’s officer developmental education Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/pme/.



Developmental education opportunity

- To access the application, officers can visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/pme/

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ignment Management System Web site at <https://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/amsweb/master.cfm>, where they should check to ensure their Transitional Officer Developmental Plan is current.

- For more information, officers should contact their local Military Personnel Flight or visit AFPC’s DEO Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/pme/>.

'Hidden heroes' honored at Tyndall

CHRISTINE SULLIVAN
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Volunteers make a difference in the local community, and those who give their time to worthy organizations will tell you how good it feels.

The "hidden heroes" of Team Tyndall are being honored during National Volunteer Week for making a difference in the lives of others here and around Bay County.

Activities throughout the week included special recognition by the Base Chapel, a library display provided by the 325th Services Squadron, a reception ceremony at the Officers' Club, discounts offered at the Base Exchange and an open house hosted by the base banking facility. The week's festivities are scheduled to wrap up today with free coffee and cake provided by the Base Commissary.

More than 600 volunteers donated more than 75,900 hours of their time here last year, saving the base and local community more than \$1.2 million in labor costs.

"Volunteering is an honor and it makes a tremendous positive impact in our community," said Catherine Tarrant, community readiness consultant for the 325th Mission Support Squadron's Family Support Center. "Volunteers mentor our young people, build character and

encourage our leaders of tomorrow."

Tyndall's Volunteer Resource Program serves as a one-stop location for recruiting, training, and recognizing volunteers.

"When someone is interested in volunteering and is not sure where to go we have the information and resources to assist them in making an informed decision and referring them to the appropriate agency or organization," Ms.

"Volunteers mentor our young people, build character and encourage our leaders of tomorrow."

CATHERINE TARRANT
325th Mission Support Squadron community readiness consultant

Tarrant said.

Volunteers can also work on special projects with Habitat for Humanity, Red Cross, Salvation Army or Special Olympics, in addition to donating time at the medical clinic and pharmacy, among others. In the past, volunteers working with these types of agencies were recognized for their achievements through awards and other types of in-house programs, but other volunteers working in various locations or multiple agencies had no way of receiving recognition from the community for their hard work and dedication.

"The VRP facilitates that process and now allows any volunteer at Tyndall to receive deserved recognition." Ms. Tarrant said. "The excellence awards are an important way to recognize individuals who go above and beyond average contributions."

The Air Force Volunteer Excellence Awards were established to recognize federal civilians, family members, and military and federal retir-

ees who perform outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct, and consequential nature. The award is signed by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and a volunteer can only be selected to receive it once.

Winners this year include Senior Airman Vesta Anderson, who received the annual Volunteer of the Year award for her tireless efforts as president of the Tyndall's Active Airmen Association in coordinating and organizing volunteer groups for various community services and organizations.

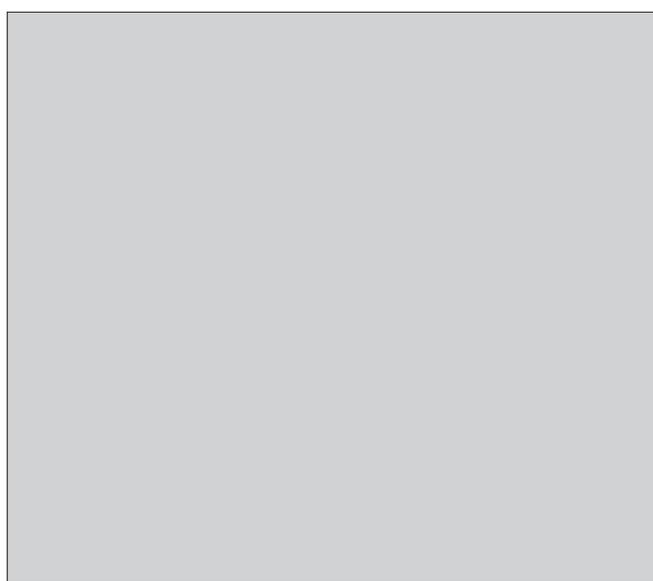
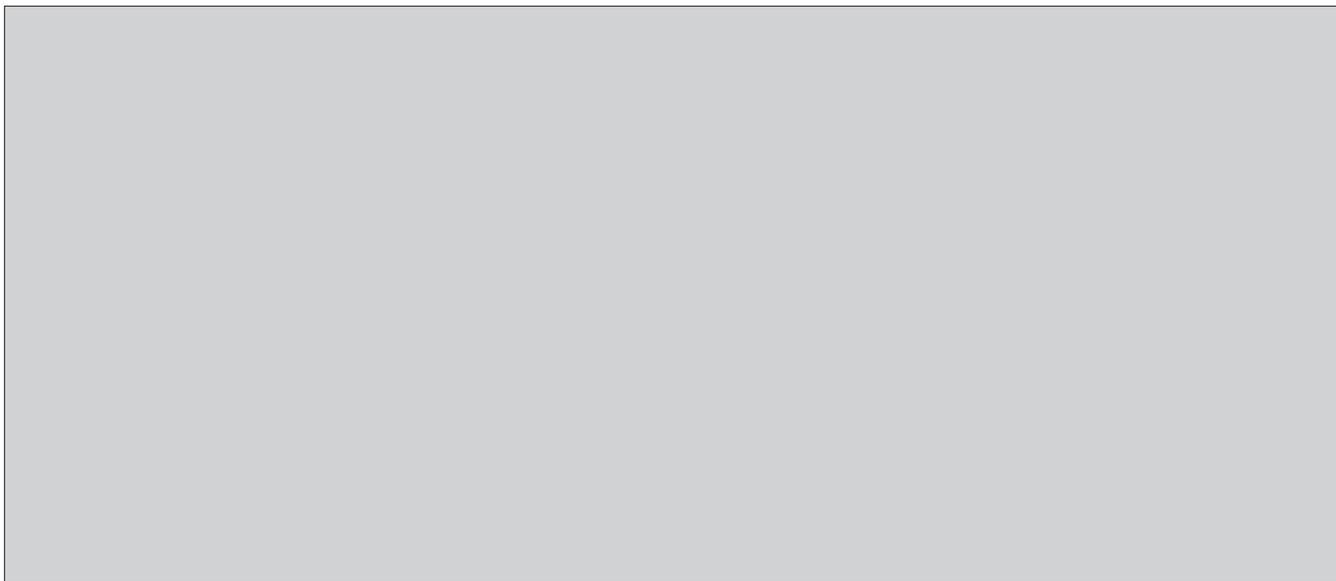
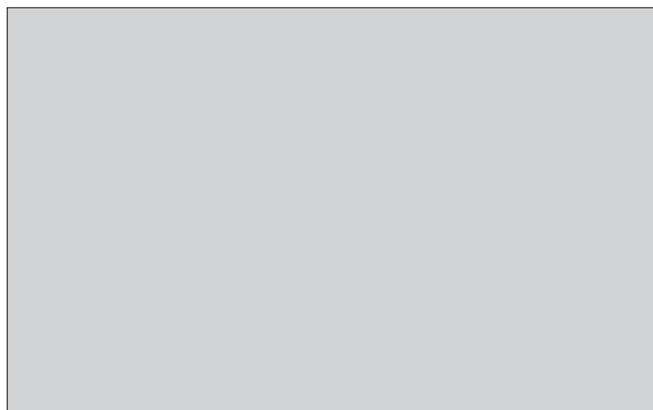
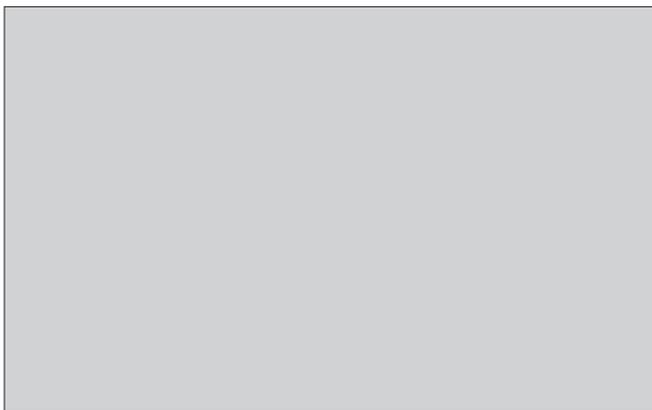
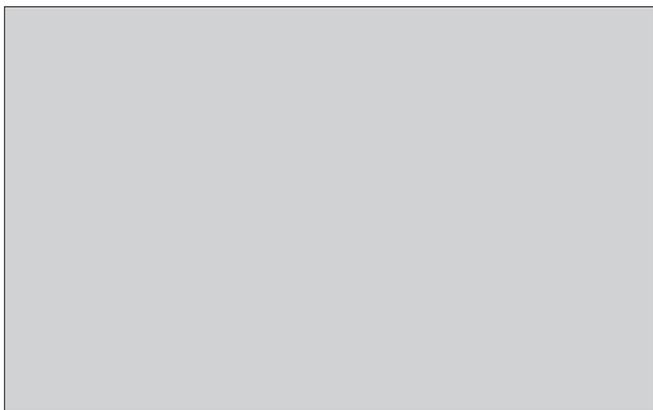
In the civilian categories, Patricia Byrne was

recognized with an award for volunteering her time at the base pediatric clinic, Bob Thedford won an award for donating his time with Family Services and the Airman's Attic. Theresa Cochran made significant contributions to the Tyndall Thrift Shop and was recognized as Volunteer of the Year.

"Volunteering keeps me mentally and physically active. I enjoy contact with people and it's very satisfying to help them solve their problems, or at least direct people to places where they can get the information they need," said Retired Lt. Col. (Ret.) Edward Bultmann, Tyndall Retiree Activity Office director. "Volunteers improve the efficiency of many organizations at no cost, and they promote greater customer satisfaction because the organization is able to perform its operations more quickly with more people," he added.

"It is inspiring to see folks who have dedicated their lives to the service of our great nation and find the time to continue to remain involved in bettering our community and the lives of others through volunteer efforts," said Brig. Gen. Larry New, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

For additional information on how or where volunteers are needed, call the Family Support Center at 283-4204.





Jim Weslowski

New coupon scanners check for purchases

Mary Marks, Tyndall Commissary cashier, scans a customer's coupon bar codes for purchase accuracy. Commissary customers will now have all their coupons scanned to match purchases. The scanner software was updated Wednesday to check coupon bar codes as they pass through the cashier's scanner. Cashiers can now tell if a customer is redeeming a coupon for an item that was actually purchased. The scanner upgrade is being implemented in all Defense Commissary Agency stores.

Events

Stress classes

The Life Skills Support Center is offering the following two-session classes on May 7 and 10, June 2 and 9, and July 14 and 22:

"How to Beat Stress" from 10 a.m. to noon, "Depression and you" from 1 – 2 p.m., "Getting a handle on my anxiety" from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Classes are located in the Family Support Center classroom and are offered to everyone age 18 and over. Call 283-7511 to sign up.

Pharmacy update

All new prescriptions, including civilian prescriptions, will now be processed through the Main Clinic Pharmacy. The Satellite Pharmacy in the Base Exchange will only provide refill service. For more information, call 283-7577.

Moms, Pops and Tots

An informal group for parents and their children aged from birth to pre-school can gather at the Community Activity Center (Building 1027) 9-11 a.m. every Wednesday. There will be playtime, arts, crafts, outings and guest speakers. For more information, call

Laurie Cambell at 286-6501 or Melissa Dyle at 785-4966.

Employment opportunity for veterans

The Family Support Center has openings in the Veterans Affairs Work Study Program. The program offers tax-free compensation to veterans who are full time students. The FSC is seeking applicants with Microsoft Office and customer service skills. This is a great opportunity to build experience and earn money at the same time. Contact the Family Support Center for more information at 283-4204.

Thrift Shop

Thrift Shop hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and 9 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of every month. Consignments are accepted from 9:30 -11:30 a.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays only.

For more information, call 286-5888

Marriage workshop

There will be a "Married and Loving it" workshop 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 24 at 505 S. Tyndall Parkway, Parkway Presbyterian Church. Hosted by the Community Action Network. The program is designed to teach participants how to enjoy sharing their lives with each other. Register no later than

noon today. For more information, or to sign up, call 283-7511.

DCUs in demand

The overwhelming demand for desert combat uniforms has put a strain on current stock availability at the depot. This has resulted in personnel working under a "Constrained Logistics" approach, which means they will only release DCUs to Tyndall as directed by Headquarters USAF. Units identified for AEF 9-10 (Summer) and AEF 1-2 (Fall), including lead wings and all support units, must establish their requirements to Base Supply (Individual Equipment) no later than May 14. There may be some exceptions, such as short notice taskings and small requirements. Contact Thomas Archer at 283-2334 with requirements.

AF Honor Guard now recruiting

The Air Force Honor Guard is currently seeking members to train and perform in the AF Honor Guard. NCOs and Senior NCOs interested in joining can visit the Tyndall Honor Guard office located in Bldg. 1015.

Members must be at least 5-foot-8 inches tall to join. For more information about the AF Honor Guard visit the Web site at www.bolling.af.mil/orgs/OG/HG/index_HG.htm

Classifieds

2003 Dodge Ram SLT Quad cab

Hemi, nerf bars, tow package, 21K miles, graphite, beautiful truck, asking pay off, approx. \$24,500. (850) 648-3068.

Husky stand up scooter

3.5HP Briggs & Stratton (25 mph), hand brakes, fun to ride, \$150. Call 648-3068.

2001 Yamaha XL 800 Waverunner

With Westco trailer; 64.2 operating hours; new battery; just tuned up for summer; excellent condition; \$6,000; call Stephen or Lesa at 769-3849 for details

Household items

Sofa, loveseat and large chair, floral pattern, \$200 OBO; King-size waterbed, headboard has lights and mirror and California-king pillow-top mattress, \$300 OBO. Call 784-2029.

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.

Wanted:

White wicker furniture set. Call 648-3068

Garage Sales

There will be a garage sale at 3542B Andrews Loop, Saturday from 8a.m. to 4 p.m.

Chapel Schedule

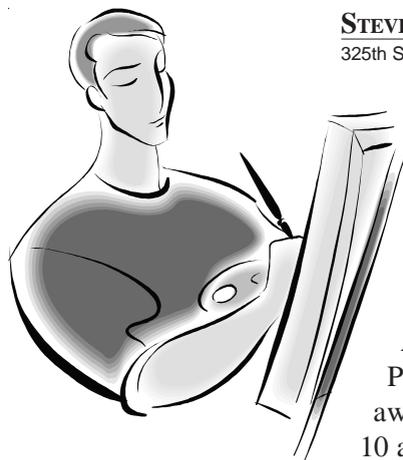
Catholic services will be held at Chapel 2:

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.

Artist, craftsman contest showcases Tyndall talents



STEVE RIDDLE

325th Services Squadron publicist

An awards presentation this week took a little longer than usual, thanks to some artistically talented people here.

The 2003 Air Force Artist and Craftsman/Photography Contest awards were presented 10 a.m. Wednesday in the

Services Squadron Conference Room to contest participants who earned first place, second place or gallery merit recognition. Along with the thrill of winning, the recipients received prize money awards for their entries.

The photographs and artwork are presently being displayed in the Air Force Gallery at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. They can be viewed by logging on to www.aetcsv.com and clicking on the "Programs" link at the top of the page.

In the Photography Contest, Senior Master Sgt. Carol Cox received honors in the Adult, Color Transparency, Nature/Scenic category. Sergeant Cox won first place with her underwater picture of colorful sea creatures and a scuba diver titled "Adrift." She also took second with another underwater photograph titled "Blue Bell Sponges," and earned a gallery merit for a picture titled "Faery Castles."

Sergeant Cox also earned first place in the Color Transparency, People category for "Turkish Weaver," first place in the Digital Photograph, Creative Effects category for "Josiah's Sparkler" and gallery merit recognition in the Digital Photograph, Nature/Scenic category for "Peppers" and "Little Brown Frog."

Also in the Digital Photograph category, Terry Stewart won in the Military Life division with his picture entitled

"Reflection" and Master Sgt. Michael Griffith won the People division for "Thinker."

Master Sgt. Michael Ward also placed in the Digital Photograph, People category, earning two gallery merits for his pictures "Golden Girl" and "New Family." He won the Monochrome Prints, People category with his picture "A Story to Tell" and earned a gallery merit for "Ice Cream Parlor." He also earned gallery merit recognition in the Color Print, People category with "Crayola Circles" and a gallery merit in the Computer Imaging and Enhancement category for "NIK."

The adults of Tyndall weren't the only ones who made a good showing for the base. Tyndall Youth of the Year Ryan Graber won the Youth Monochrome Print, Nature/Scenic category with "Infinity," a picture of his younger brother standing on the dock just west of Beacon Beach Marina during heavy fog. Last year's Youth of the Year Channing Adams won the Youth Color Print, Nature/Scenic category for "Secret Garden."

Megan Setter earned a runner-up in the Adult Monochrome Print, Military Life category with her picture of flight line workers and F-15 aircraft entitled "On the Wings of Eagles." Jeanne Alma Byrns earned a gallery merit in the Adult Color print category with "Carolyn's Garden."

Not content to stick with competing in just the Photography contest, Mrs. Byrns also entered the Artist/Craftsman contest, and won the Fine Art category with "Vicky," a torso sculpture of her daughter. Dorothy Bowie tied for the runner-up spot in the same category for "Shades of Autumn," an oil painting of a mountain stream and trees. She also earned gallery merit recognition for an acrylic painting titled "Fluffy Eyeing a Butterfly."

In the Multi-crafts category, Ellen Adler won with her basket she hand wove titled "Tall Basket." Mackey Tyndall placed second with a leather "Cellular Phone Case" and earned a gallery merit in the Industrial Arts category for "1st FS Wooden Plaque" that features the logo of the 1st Fighter Squadron stationed here.

Jeremy Paulk earned the runner-up spot in the Textile Art category with "A New Beginning." This complicated piece began as a color pencil drawing of a fearsome looking dragon that was then scanned into a computer, refined pixel by pixel, and finally screened onto T-shirts.

Jon Letsinger earned gallery merit recognition in the Industrial Arts category for "Rocking Horse," an actual working design of a wooden rocking horse made with an old set of plans he got from his father.

Because of the number of photography awards received, Tyndall earned first place recognition at the AETC level for the photography contest. The base also took second in the artist/craftsman contest, and won the photograph gallery award for having the most entries in the display.

"This was our most successful year ever," said Julie Ballaro, Community Support Flight chief. "We had so many great entries from a variety of talented people."

Ms. Ballaro said entries for the 2004 Artist/Craftsman and Photography Contests would be accepted at the Skills Development Center from Aug. 1 to 31.

"Work on them now if you don't already have them made," she said to any potential artists who may want to enter this year's contest. "And talk to other folks; get them to participate to, because the more participation we have, the more we make the program grow for the future."

For more information on the upcoming 2004 Artist/Craftsman and Photography Contests, contact the Skills Development Center at 283-4511.



Three-person Paintball Tournament

Moody Air Force Base is hosting a paintball tournament 9 a.m. May 1. Entry fee is \$30 per team. The classes attending are junior (ages 12-16) and novice (ages 17 and up.)

Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams of each class.

There will be drawings throughout the day for prizes.

There must be three teams per class for the tournament to take place.

Teams may bring their own paintballs, tournament grade paintballs will be available for purchase.

For more information call DSN 460-2872



Steve Riddle

Serving tennis lessons

(From left) Rene Grifol shows Ryan Stevens how to hit a tennis ball during the Tyndall Youth Center's USA Tennis Free for All event Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Grifol is a USA Tennis community consultant, and travels to area schools and youth facilities in an effort to get children involved with the game of tennis. Nearly forty children participated in the event. Youth Center Fitness Coordinator Andy Wallace, who is also the USA Tennis area league coordinator, will be offering tennis lessons for all Tyndall children ages five and up beginning May 8. Lessons will be once a week for four weeks, and the cost is \$30. For more information, call 283-4366.

Funshine NEWS



April 23, 2004

www.325thservices.com

E Club Karaoke in the Zone
 April 29, 6-10 p.m.
 Featuring a Shotgun Karaoke Contest (members only)
 Compete for prizes.
283-4357



Leisure Travel
 ☎ 283-2864
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.

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).

Horseback Riding Lessons
 Available for youth of all ages. Call for info.

Air Force Club Scholarship Program



Entry deadline is July 15.
 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 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:
 Bank One, Coca Cola and Master Card.
 No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

Berg Liles
 ☎ 283-2239
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.

SIK Card Holders
 Looking for a new taste of food at your Berg-Liles dining facility? Well come join us on April 30, 2004 at 12:30 p.m. We are having a great food show. This will give you a chance to let us know what you would like to see on the food line.
 For any questions please call
SrA Tasha Goodrich at 283-2239



Worldwide Air Force
Colossal Cookie Challenge
 May 21, 1 p.m. CAC Ballroom

Sign up by May 14. Awards and certificate will be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category. Top winner in each category will compete at Command level. Event open to all active duty members, DoD civilians, contractors, military dependents & retirees.

283-2495

INFORMATION, TICKETS & TRAVEL
 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28
 10 A.M.-1 P.M.
 AT THE ENLISTED CLUB



Travel Expedition 2004

Over \$8,000 in Door Prizes
Door Prizes! also Freebies and Over 80 Vendors!
 For more information call: 283-2499

Community Center
 ☎ 283-2495
Ballroom Dance Classes
 Starts May 7. 6:30-8 p.m. Instructor Rus Knight. Learn to Waltz, Cha-Cha, Swing, Slow Dance & Disco. Cost is \$65 per couple, \$32.50 per single per 4 week session. Deadline to sign-up is April 30.

Guitar Instructor Needed
 Make money \$\$\$! Teach guitar at the CAC.

Table Tennis Tournament
 April 24, 1 p.m. Best 2 out of 3. Double elimination. Awards for 1st & 2nd place.

Music Room
 We have drums, keyboards and guitars available for you to play, all in one room.

Fax Services Available

Ship Fed Ex with Us!
Fed Ex Express Services
 Which include:
 Priority Overnight Economy 2 Day
 Standard Overnight Express Saver 3 Day
Our rates beat the others!
 Packages must be at the Community Center by 1:30 p.m. for Overnight. Exclusions exist. Limit 10 lbs.
Call the CAC for details: 283-2495

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

Youth Center
 ☎ 283-4366
Start Smart Basketball
 May 7, 14, 21, & 28. 10 a.m. Cost is \$30. Is your 3-5 old ready for recreational basketball league? Sign up for Start Smart Basketball and work one-on-one with your child developing basic skills.

USA Tennis
 Tennis anyone? Sign up for USA Tennis for ages 5 & up and learn basic skills in a fun group atmosphere. The program runs May 8, 15, 22, 29 at 9 a.m. and cost is \$30. Call Andy at 283-4366 for more details.

Start Smart Baseball
 Is your 3-5 year old ready for recreational baseball leagues? Sign up for Start Smart Baseball and work one-on-one with your child developing basic skills. The program runs May 5, 12, 19, 26 at 10 a.m. and cost is \$30.

Surf Class
 May 1 at noon. Cost is \$40. Surfs up! Are you ready to catch a wave? Sign up for the Youth Surfing Clinic for ages 8 and up. Learn basic techniques from certified instructors.

AETC holds Technology Conference

2ND LT. AMBER MILLERCHIP

Air Education and Training Command public affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) — Air Education and Training Command will hold its third annual Technology in Education and Training Conference May 26 and 27 at the Live Oak Civic Center, three miles from Randolph in Live Oak, Texas.

The conference, co-sponsored by AETC and the San Antonio Chapter of the American Society for Training and Development, is a free two-day symposium and demonstration of instructional technologies that could enhance the Air Force training and education environment.

Last year's event included 41 vendors, 33 guest speakers and more than 450 attendees.

This year's theme is "An Open Forum for Learning Requirements, Challenges and Solutions."

The conference keynote speaker is Lt.

Gen. Richard Brown III, acting Air Force assistant vice chief of staff. He will discuss technology's role in achieving the Air Force's vision for training transformation the morning of May 26.

Other speakers will discuss training

"I strongly encourage training managers, courseware developers and those involved with incorporating technologies into training and education programs to participate in this year's conference."

GEN. DON COOK

Commander of Air Education and Training Command

and education requirements, best practices, lessons learned, hands-on applications and case studies.

A leadership panel, comprised of representatives from government, industry, and academia, scheduled for May 26, will

address training requirements, current and future technologies and corporate learning vision.

An exhibition hall will showcase instructional technologies and enable participants to experience the possible future of education and training environments.

Training and education practitioners and decision-makers from government, industry and academia are invited to participate in the event.

"I strongly encourage training managers, courseware developers and those involved with incorporating technologies into training and education programs to participate in this year's conference," said Gen. Don Cook, AETC commander.

To register for the event go to Web site at www.sanantonio-astd.org/TETC2004.asp. For more details, call the AETC Technology Requirements Branch at (210) 652-8058 or DSN 487-8058.

"An Open Forum for Learning Requirements, Challenges and Solutions."

• *The Air Education and Training Command will host a Technology Conference May 26 and 27.*

• *This year's conference keynote speaker is Lt. Gen. Richard Brown, acting Air Force assistant vice chief of staff.*

• *To register for the event, visit the Web site at www.sanantonio-astd.org/TETC2004.asp. For more details, call the AETC Technology Requirements Branch at (210) 652-8058 or DSN 487-8058.*



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

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

QUIT

**American Heart
Association**
WE'RE FIGHTING FOR
YOUR LIFE

