

GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 63, No. 30

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

Aug. 6, 2004

In brief

New gas policy

Effective Aug. 14, Felix Lake Shoppette and Service Station customers will be required to pre-pay before pumping gasoline. Credit card users can still pay at the pump.

Hispanic Heritage Month meeting

A meeting to plan Hispanic Heritage Month events is scheduled for Saturday from 8-9 p.m. in The Zone at the Enlisted Club. For more information, contact Edina Morrow, 283-1271.

Latino Night Dance follows from 9 p.m. to midnight (sponsored by the Enlisted Club.)

Varsity basketball tryouts

Tryouts and practice for the 2004-05 Tyndall Tigers Men's Varsity Basketball team, will begin at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 16 at the Fitness Center. Men's tryouts are open to all active duty military members.

Tryouts for the Women's Basketball team will be 6 p.m. Aug. 23. Women's tryouts are open to all active duty, Guard, Reservists, dependents and DOD civilians.

All interested individuals are encouraged to sign-up at the Fitness Center. For more information, contact the Fitness Center at 283-2631.

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2nd Lt. William Powell

Back to school

Students prepare to board a school bus in Base Housing. School began Thursday, and Team Tyndall is reminded to exercise caution near school zones and designated bus stops.

Airmen discover family ties, support system while deployed



Senior Airman Cheyenne Williams

Master Sgt. Christopher Henry, 380th ESFS, deployed from Tyndall, recently discovered his second cousin is also deployed to Southwest Asia.

(Editors note: Master Sgt. Christopher Henry is deployed to a location in Southwest Asia from the 325th Security Forces Squadron here.)

SENIOR AIRMAN
CHEYENNE WILLIAMS
380th AEW Public Affairs

"I love him like I've known him my whole life."

The sincerity in his heart showed on his face as Master Sgt. Christopher Henry, 380th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron flight chief, described his relationship with his new-found family member, Master Sgt. Robert Brown, 380th ESFS, NCO in-charge of physical security here.

The Airmen recently discovered they were second cousins through family resemblance and coincidence.

"I saw him one day and thought to myself, 'wow he looks like my uncle,'" said Sergeant Brown.

After discussing on two separate

occasions where each of their families were from, they realized their Texas roots were one and the same. It didn't take long for the two to begin noticing similarities in their behaviors and attitudes.

"One of us would say or do something and the other would just look in awe ... because we knew the reaction was something only a family member would do."

Aside from the irony of being deployed to the same location at the same time, while holding the same rank, both are also members of the 380th ESFS.

The senior NCOs have taken advantage of their good fortune by relying on one another's strengths.

"He has motivated me to be physically fit," said Sergeant Brown of his health conscious cousin. "Having family here definitely makes the months go by faster, I just wish he could play dominoes," he joked.

Sergeant Henry relies just as much

on his resourceful relative.

"Sergeant Brown has so much job training, I try to get as much knowledge from him as I can," said Sergeant Henry. "I've been away from my family for a long time ... now I know I can go to him for support and to elevate the positive vibe."

The immediate families of both Airmen were ecstatic to find out about their new extended family.

Sergeant Brown's side of the family who resides in Pemberton, N.J., have even insisted to pick Sergeant Henry up from the airport once the men return home from deployment.

When asked if they would keep in touch both answered as if on cue, "definitely."

"Are you kidding, I'm moving in with him," joked Sergeant Henry.

As their deployment nears its end, these courageous cousins serve as a constant reminder of what strong family and strong Airmen are made of.

SECDEF explains why we fight in Iraq

DONALD RUMSFELD

Secretary of Defense

More than 15 months ago, a global coalition ended the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein and liberated the people of Iraq.

As in all conflicts, this has come at a cost in lives. Some of your comrades made the ultimate sacrifice. For your sacrifices, our country and the President are deeply grateful.

In a free, democratic country we have vigorous debates over important public policy issues – none more heated than a decision to go to war. But this should not distract us from the mission at hand or lessen the magnitude of your accomplishments.

The threat we face must be confronted. And you are doing so exceedingly well. Indeed it has been an historic demonstration of skill and military power.

On September 11, 3,000 citizens were killed by extremists determined to frighten and intimidate our people and civilized societies. The future danger is that, if the extremists gain the potential, the number of casualties would be far higher. Terrorists are continuing to plot attacks against the American people and against other civilized societies. This is a different kind of enemy and a different kind of world. And we must think and act differently in this new century.

These extremists think nothing of cutting off innocent

people's heads to try to intimidate great nations. They have murdered citizens from many countries – South Korea, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom and others – hoping to strike fear in the hearts of free people.

Theirs is an ideology of oppression and subjugation of women. They seek to create radical systems that im-

“You are accomplishing something noble and historic – and future generations of Americans will remember and thank you for it.”

DONALD RUMSFELD

Secretary of Defense

pose their views on others. And they will accept no armistice with those who choose free systems.

They see the governments of the Middle East, the United States and our stalwart allies all as targets.

Consider the background. In the span of 20 years, Hussein's Iraq invaded two neighbors, Iran and Kuwait, and launched ballistic missiles at two more. He employed poison gas against soldiers in Iran and against Kurdish villagers in his own country.

The United Nations and the U.S. Congress shared the view that Saddam's regime was a threat to the re-

gion and the world. Indeed, in 1998, our Congress passed a resolution calling for the removal of the regime. And over the years the U.N. passed 17 resolutions condemning Saddam's regime and calling on him to tell the UN about his weapons programs. He ignored every one.

Information gathered since the defeat of Saddam's regime last year confirms that his last declaration to the United Nations about his weapons programs was falsified. The U.N. resolutions had called for “serious consequences” should Saddam not comply. He did not.

The President issued a final ultimatum to Saddam to relinquish power to avoid war. Saddam chose war instead.

By your skill and courage, you have put a brutal dictator in the dock to be tried by the Iraqi people and restored freedom to 25 million people. By helping to repair infrastructure, rebuild schools, encourage democratic institutions and delivering educational and medical supplies, you have shown America's true character and given Iraq a chance at a new start.

But most importantly, your fight – and ultimate victory – against the forces of terror and extremism in Iraq and the Middle East will have made America safer and more secure.

You are accomplishing something noble and historic – and future generations of Americans will remember and thank you for it.

Teamwork, communication foundation of mission excellence

BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON

325th Fighter Wing commander

I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome my wife, Moe, and I received upon our arrival here. I knew I was joining a top-notch organization, but having the opportunity to walk around and meet some of the folks charged with executing the Tyndall mission was an eye-watering experience.

The level of professionalism, dedication and hospitality displayed by every single Team Tyndall member I've met is nothing short of impressive.

Further, I want to thank our friends and neighbors from the local community for

their tremendous support. I've been away for a number of years, and many things have changed in Panama City, but it is truly refreshing to see that the one thing that hasn't changed is the warm hospitality.

I look forward to working closely with the community to continue to strengthen the great relationship we've enjoyed for years.

I also want to congratulate Brig. Gen. Larry New for his superior leadership and for raising the bar to make Tyndall the center of Air Dominance training for

● SEE EXCELLENCE 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 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General's Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.



BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander

325th Fighter Wing public affairs: 2003 Best in Air Force - Large Wing

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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/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or emailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

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

● **FROM EXCELLENCE PAGE 2**

America. The standard has been set, and together we will continue the legacy that he built here. But, it is my goal as the 325th Fighter Wing commander to take the Checkertail Clan to the next level.

This is an exciting time for Team Tyndall, and I'm proud to be a part of this important mission. We can look forward to the continued integration of the F/A-22, and we will continue to build the Raptor program here as the aircraft prepares to enter the Air Force's operational fleet.

Also, we will continue to train the world's best Air Dominance team. From training F-15 and F/A-22 pilots to air battle managers, intelligence officers, air traffic controllers,

maintainers and every other specialty, we will ensure every single Airman who accomplished unless we work together as a team.

“I knew I was joining a top-notch organization, but having the opportunity to walk around and meet some of the folks charged with executing the Tyndall mission was an eye-watering experience.”

BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander



leaves Tyndall is fully prepared to meet future challenges anywhere in the world.

However, none of these goals can be

Having recently come from Southwest Asia, I can assure you teamwork is paramount to mission success.

Part of being a team is taking care of one another. This includes ensuring the highest level of communication up and down the chain of command, as well as looking out for the safety and welfare of Team Tyndall members and their families 24/7.

I know General New placed great emphasis on the well being of the men and women serving here, and that is one of my top priorities as well.

I look forward to working with each of you.

If what I've seen so far is any indication of what's to come, Tyndall's future is definitely bright, and I am blessed to have the privilege of working with such a dynamic team of professionals. Keep up the outstanding work!

Pentagon Channel available to all Airmen

TECH. SGT.
DAVID JABLONSKI
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon Channel is available to practically every active-duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Airman and his or her family thanks to a recent expansion of services.

Officials from the office of the secretary of defense for public affairs made the Pentagon Channel free to all cable providers throughout the continental United States in May, and via streaming video in June at: www.pentagonchannel.mil.

The inaugural broadcast took place May 14.

In order to get the channel, cable television subscribers living off base must call their local provider and ask them to carry it.

"It's up to cable companies, but we've found that they are committed to supporting their customers," said Allison Barber, deputy assistant secretary of defense for internal communications. "If enough customers call to ask the provider to carry the Pentagon Channel, that would be the best scenario. In the meantime, people can download the streaming video."

The Pentagon Channel is

also available to any Air Force installation that has a commander's access channel included in the on-base cable package. But currently, only six Air Force bases are taking advantage of it.

"It's an awareness issue," Ms. Barber said. "We need more (people at) Air Force bases to know about the chan-

"It's important for everyone to have access, for the local commander to get that access and get the channel distributed in their communities."

ALLISON BARBER

Deputy assistant secretary of defense for internal communications

nel. We're only available on six Air Force bases, but we're on a large number of Army, Navy and Marine Corps bases. In fact, we're on 51 military bases now with over 400,000 (Department of Defense) personnel and growing."

Getting the channel is a simple matter of capturing the satellite signal and adding it to the base's cable television program list. A portion of the Web site gives all the technical data to do this. If that is beyond the scope of local experts, the Web site offers assistance over a toll-free telephone line.

"Our Web site contains all

the information necessary to download the signal," Ms. Barber said, "and if that's not enough, they can call us for help."

If a base or National Guard armory needs a satellite receiver and dish, OSD-PA can even provide them a set.

The Pentagon Channel broadcasts military news and

information for the 2.6 million members of the U.S. armed forces and 650,000 civilian DOD employees worldwide. Programming includes DOD news briefings, military service news, interviews with top defense officials, daily news and information from overseas areas including Iraq, Europe and the Far East, and short stories about the specific projects of our military units and individual military members in the United States as well as overseas that are contributing to the war on terrorism.

But most people are still not getting the message.

"Our latest research from

military members around the world shows that less than 50 percent feel up to speed about military news and information," Ms. Barber said. "And that's a problem."

"That gives me my marching orders every day. That's why we are so aggressive and driven to improve. They deserve better," Ms. Barber added.

"Secretary of Defense (Donald) Rumsfeld and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General (Richard) Myers are very committed to improving internal communication, so this is supported at the highest levels," Ms. Barber said. "It's important for everyone to have access, for the local commander to get that access and get the channel distributed in their communities."

A recent example of how important it is to get the word out happened when President George Bush signed the new Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act, but national news media did not cover it.

One of the provisions allows reservists and guardsmen who are being deployed to turn in a leased vehicle and end the contract without penalty. "That saved troops a lot of money. The national media never told that story, so we put that out over the Pentagon Channel."

Hotline available for outside of command chain comments

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Department of Defense Inspector General Joseph Schmitz is reminding servicemembers there are a number of ways to report suspected incidents of wrongdoing outside their chains of command.

His office runs the DOD Hotline Program. Servicemembers and civilians who wish to report incidents without going through their chains of command can take full advantage of this program.

Those with suspicions can call toll free (800) 424-9098, commercial (703) 604-8569, or DSN 664-8569 to report misdeeds.

Servicemembers and civilians can also mail their concerns to: The Defense Hotline, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C., 20301-1900. The e-mail address is hotline@dodig.osd.mil.

The push to inform servicemembers of this option grew out of the recent series of Senate hearings about prisoner abuse in Iraq. Senators believed there was no way for servicemembers to report wrongdoing outside their chains of command.

For more information, go to the inspector general's Web site at www.dodig.osd.mil/.

(Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

Air Force inspector generals are commanders' eyes, ears, conscience

Members of the inspector general staff are the eyes, ears, and conscience of commanders. They are responsible for investigating complaints that come from outside the chain of command. Though recommended, an individual does not have to follow the chain of command or get the prior approval from a supervisor to file an IG complaint. The IG investigates complaints of reprisal, restriction, fraud, waste and abuse and improper mental health referrals.

Every attempt is made to resolve each complaint at the lowest possible level. But, some complaints may have to be transferred to a higher level IG, such as Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Secretary of the Air Force, or Department of Defense. The IG is an independent, disinterested,

unbiased third party who will determine whether or not a complaint is valid.

To help eliminate some confusion, here are the most frequently asked questions to the IG.

Who can file an IG complaint?

Military and civilian members and their dependents can file a complaint. The IG provides an avenue for people to voice their complaints or get advice on a subject that might constitute a complaint.

Where can I file a complaint?

Complaints can be called in 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 283-4646 or submitted in person to the IG office located in Bldg. 662, Rm. 138. Once a complaint is filed, follow-up action will not be given out as each complaint is treated as protected communication.

Can I get in trouble for filing a complaint?

There is no retaliation on individuals who file complaints, or contact the IG office intending to file a complaint. Also, it is a violation of federal law (10 USC 1034) to restrict an individual's access to the IG.

How long do I have to file a complaint?

Normally, complaints need to be filed within 60 days. However, each complaint is handled on a case by case basis, and if there is no clear violation, such as Air Force policy or instruction, the IG can dismiss the complaint.

For additional information, contact Col. Armand Grassi at 283-4646 or Master Sgt. Brian Hampton at 283-3268.

(Courtesy of 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General's Office)

Checkertail Salute



Lisa Norman

Lieutenant Senechal receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Lieutenant Senechal, who developed the night vision goggle student guide for the F-15C course. She organized a workout program for eight F-15C pilots involved in G-Induced loss of consciousness episodes to keep them in training. Lieutenant Senechal, an outstanding aerospace physiology instructor, energized an annual currency review of 2nd Fighter Squadron F-15C videotapes for proper Anti-G straining maneuvers. She has completed Top Knife Fighter Surgeon's School and Night Vision Instructor School, is immersed in fighter squadron operations, and has coordinated special classes for Air Force ROTC field training.

2nd Lieutenant Sara Senechal

Duty title: 325th Medical Group aerospace physiologist

Time on station: 11 months

Time in service: 14 months

Hometown: Niceville, Fla.

Hobbies: Sports and traveling

Goals: To be the type of officer people are proud to serve with

Favorite movie: "Top Gun"

Favorite book: The Five People You Meet in Heaven

Favorite thing about Tyndall:

Getting to fly in the mighty Eagle over the world's most beautiful beaches

Proudest moment in the military: Getting commissioned by my dad

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

New initiative to improve junior officer leadership engagement, mission effectiveness

1ST LT. ROSAIRE BUSHEY
Air Combat Command Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (ACCNS) – Air Combat Command will begin testing a new initiative designed to improve junior officer leadership engagement and mission effectiveness, and to take better care of Airmen and their families in the short term while helping develop leaders for the out years.

The “Command Opportunities for Lieutenants” initiative will begin testing at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, and Whiteman AFB, Mo., on Aug. 16. The program will task lieutenants currently in non-supervisory technically oriented jobs to also command element-size units.

ACC continues to experience high operations tempos and continued air expeditionary force deployments. This operating environment places great demands on our chain of command and requires high standards of ethics and professionalism founded on our core values. While our non-commissioned officers provide the majority of leadership for younger enlisted airmen, and this is one of our greatest strengths, we can use the additional leadership engagement from our junior officers.

In addition to leadership development, this program will enhance the care of our Airmen and their families. A review of recent trends in ground fatalities and suicides showed more than two-thirds of them involved Airmen in the ranks of E-4 and below. Placing a lieutenant in an element or flight-commander position where he or she can apply “face-to-face” mentoring gives the young officer an opportunity to develop their leadership skills and will provide more care for our enlisted Airmen.

“General Hal Hornburg, commander, Air Combat Command,

has asked us to look at more lieutenant ‘command’ opportunities and engagement . . . and establish or re-establish lieutenant ‘section or element commander’ positions in ACC,” said Lt. Gen. Bruce Wright, ACC vice commander. “We need a relook to ensure we’re yielding as much leadership potential as possible from our Air Force junior officers.”

“By ‘dual hatting’ some of our lieutenants in jobs where they

“We are relying on the professionalism of our NCO corps to help develop these future Air Force leaders through ‘mentoring up’ and teaching our lieutenants about effective leadership.”

LT. COL. KEN KESKEL
Chief of ACC’s manpower, programs and organization branch

are focusing only on the technical aspects of their responsibilities and tasking them to command and team with NCOs to lead airmen, we feel we can help our younger enlisted folks now while developing a better officer corps for the future,” said Lt. Col. Ken Keskel, chief of ACC’s manpower, programs and organization branch.

The plan will focus primarily on the expeditionary combat support units within the mission support and maintenance groups. It will create flight, section or element commander positions for lieutenants, bringing the junior officers in closer contact with Airmen and providing officer oversight much earlier in the chain of command.

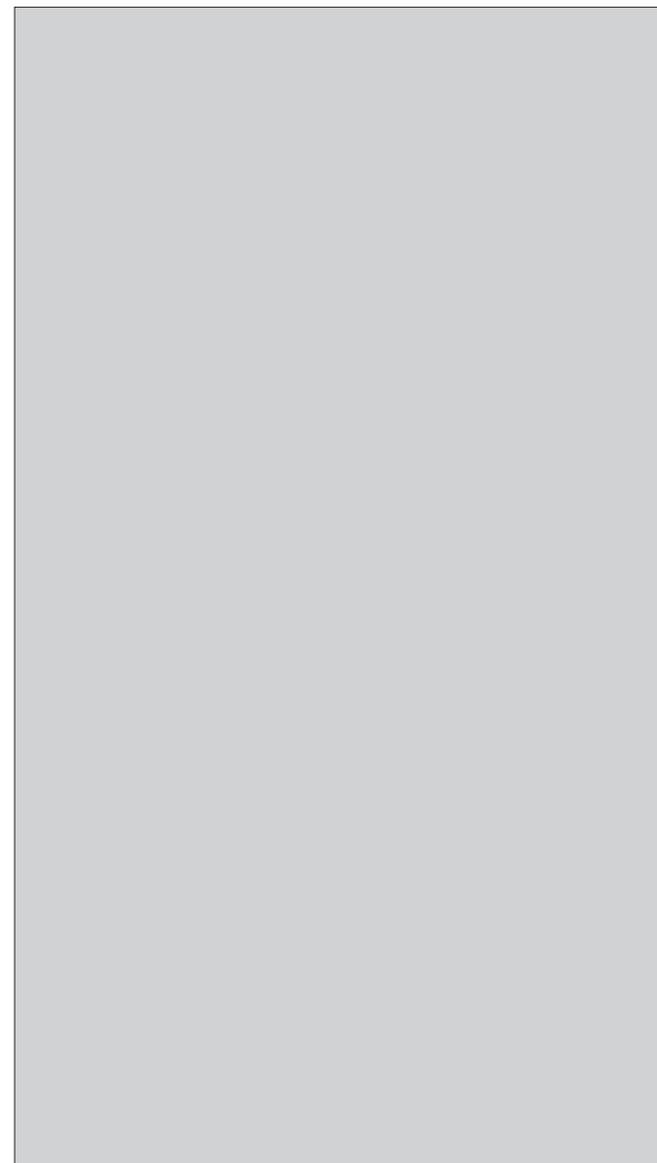
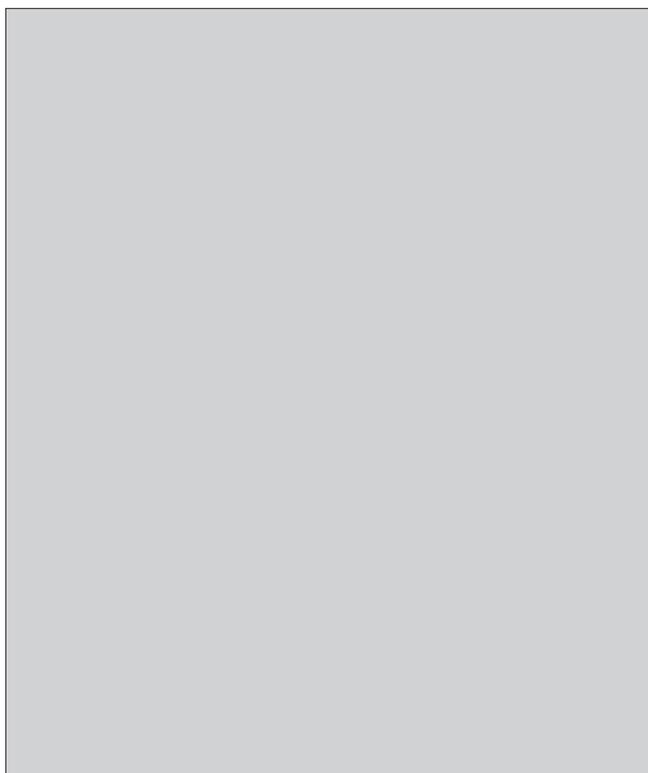
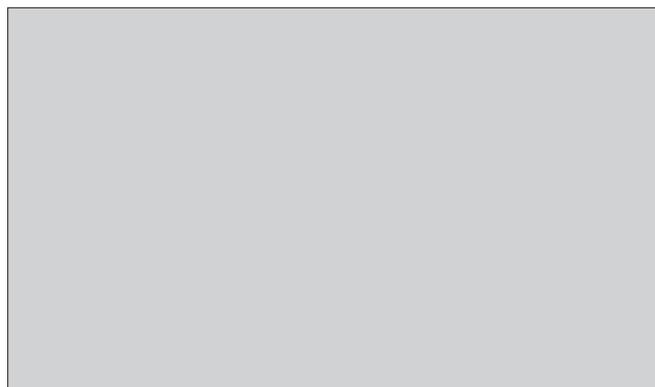
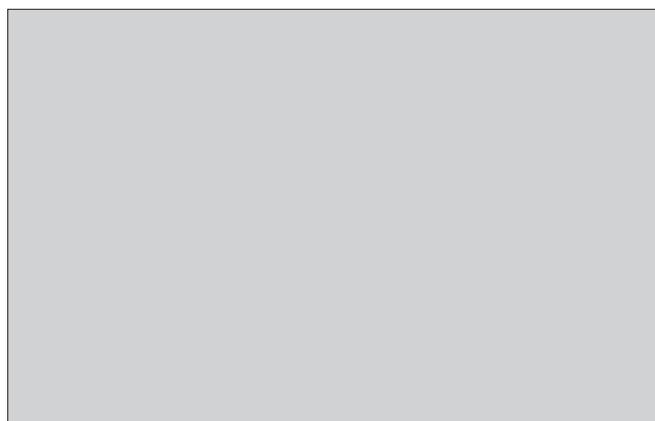
As part of the plans and programs team charged with implementing the plan, Colonel Keskel noted the key role seasoned NCOs will play in making this program a success.

“Our first consideration in this process is that we’re not diluting the authority or responsibility of our NCO corps. In fact, it’s

just the opposite. We are relying on the professionalism of our NCO corps to help develop these future Air Force leaders through ‘mentoring up’ and teaching our lieutenants about effective leadership,” he said.

The program has complete buy-in from the command’s senior enlisted advisor, who sees it as an opportunity to help ensure the safety and welfare of young enlisted members, take some of the burden off an over-tasked NCO corps, and give junior lieutenants an up close and personal perspective on leading the enlisted corps.

“The benefits to this program are obvious. Young officers under the tutelage of senior NCOs will gain invaluable leadership lessons and be much more engaged in the mission and leadership of the Airmen in their unit. At the same time, our younger enlisted Airmen and their families will have the benefit of junior officers being more accessible and helpful within the chain-of-command. It’s a win-win situation all the way around,” said ACC Command Chief Master Sergeant Rodney Ellison. “For it to work, we will need our senior NCO corps to be fully engaged in helping teach our younger, less-experienced officers how to be better, exemplary leaders and our junior enlisted how to be more professional, mission-focused, and supportive Airmen.”



Tricare South now available for beneficiaries

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Department of Defense officials announced July 28 the continuation of its move toward new military health-care contractors and changes in regional areas of responsibility.

On Sunday, Tricare-eligible beneficiaries in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, eastern Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee transition to the Tricare South Region.

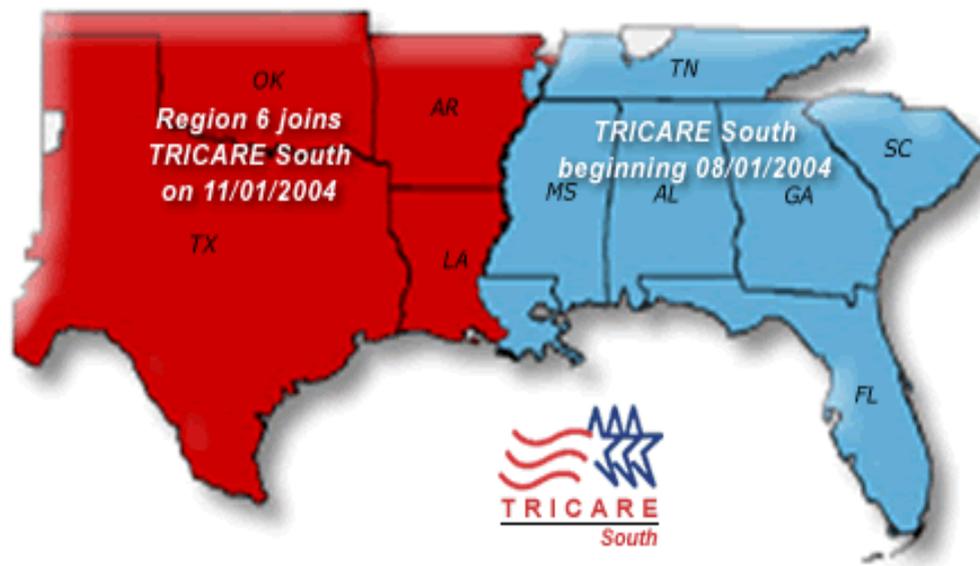
These locations formerly comprised the Southeast and Gulf South Regions (Regions 3 and 4). This is the third major transition to new regions and new contracts announced by the department, including the initial

transition of parts of the West Region on June 1 and parts of the North Region on July 1.

“Through these new and competitively awarded contracts we offer our beneficiaries a suite of services that provide the highest quality of care and a high level of customer service,” said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

Tricare benefits, costs and the enrollment process remain the same under the new regional contracts.

Beneficiaries in the South Region who are not currently enrolled in Tricare Prime, but who are eligible and residing in



a Prime area, will have the opportunity to enroll.

Humana Military Healthcare Services Inc. will provide beneficiaries information on enrollment, network providers, procedures for filing claims, and

contacts for assistance in the South Region.

Beneficiaries in Arkansas, the remaining part of Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas — except for the far western part of the state — will complete the

Tricare South Region when they transition Nov. 1.

Military treatment facilities in all regions remain at the core of the military health system, said officials, and will now sched-

ule appointments for their beneficiaries.

Military treatment facility locations are on the Tricare Web site at www.Tricare.osd.mil/mtf/. Humana has worked with the DOD as a Tricare regional managed care support contractor since 1996.

Under the next generation of Tricare contracts, Humana will provide health-care services and support to about 2.86 million beneficiaries in the new Tricare South Region.

Beneficiaries in the South Region may access health-care information by calling Humana at (800) 444-5445 or online at www.humana-military.com/.

Team Tyndall July Re-enlistments

- | | |
|--|---|
| Tech. Sgt. Alfredo Brown,
325th AMXS | Senior Airman Melissa Outlaw,
325th SFS |
| Master Sgt. Lezeme Dorsey,
28th TS Det. 2 | Tech. Sgt. William Russell Jr.,
325th AMXS |
| Tech. Sgt. James Edman,
325th AMXS | Tech. Sgt. Eliezer Sosa Jr.,
325th AMXS |
| Senior Airman Amy Glenn,
823 RHS | Master Sgt. Kenneth Starnes,
325th FW |
| Tech. Sgt. William Kropenick,
325th ADS | Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Weber,
325th MXS |
| Staff Sgt. Anica Lewis,
325th MSS | Staff Sgt. David Walker,
325th SFS |

Cable Dawgs:

Guarding Team Tyndall telecommunications

CHRISTINE SULLIVAN
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Imagine your work days without the use of telephones and e-mail and you will realize the crucial mission that members of the 325th Communications Squadron's Cable Systems Maintenance Unit have every day.

The cable maintenance shop, composed of nine active-duty military members and two civilians, is responsible for keeping Tyndall cable systems up and running. They support telecommunications services affecting the 325th Fighter Wing and 30 associate units here.

"Every single mission on Tyndall is affected by the communications supporting it," said Chief Master Sergeant Ralph Brock, 325th CS enlisted manager. "Take out the telephones and e-mail service and work production across Tyndall falls to near zero. Without the sub-terrain cables, none of these services would be possible."

Members of the cable maintenance shop are also responsible for maintaining Tyndall's 68,500 miles of underground and direct buried copper core and fiber optic pair cables. They also maintain all interior Local Area Networking cable systems supporting Tyndall's telephone and networking infrastructure.

One of their primary duties is processing civil engineer work requests when any dig-

ging is to be completed and locate all base telecommunications cables before anyone is allowed to start digging.

On June 4, a 1,800 pair cable was cut during the repair of a sewer line on Suwannee Avenue that serviced buildings on the west end of the base. This cable had to be repaired within 24 hours to provide service to the 1st Air Force Inspector General team ar-

"It's extremely precise work that must be done right or critical mission systems won't work. Without teamwork, we could not be successful."

LT. COL. CURTIS FROST
325th Communications Squadron commander

iving that weekend. The team's mission was accomplished, despite late nights and muddy holes, according to Lt. Col. Curtis Frost, 325th CS commander.

"Morale and teamwork are essential because we work under some of the worst possible conditions, day or night, often working 48 hours or more to restore communications services," he said. "It's extremely precise work that must be done right or critical mission systems won't work. Without teamwork, we

could not be successful."

"It is very lonely at 11 o'clock on a Friday night in the bottom of a muddy hole splicing cables," said Chief Brock. "They drink strong coffee, work and play hard and seem happiest when they are covered with mud up to their knees. It is my honor to do anything I can like bringing them pizza to boost the morale of the troops in that pit."

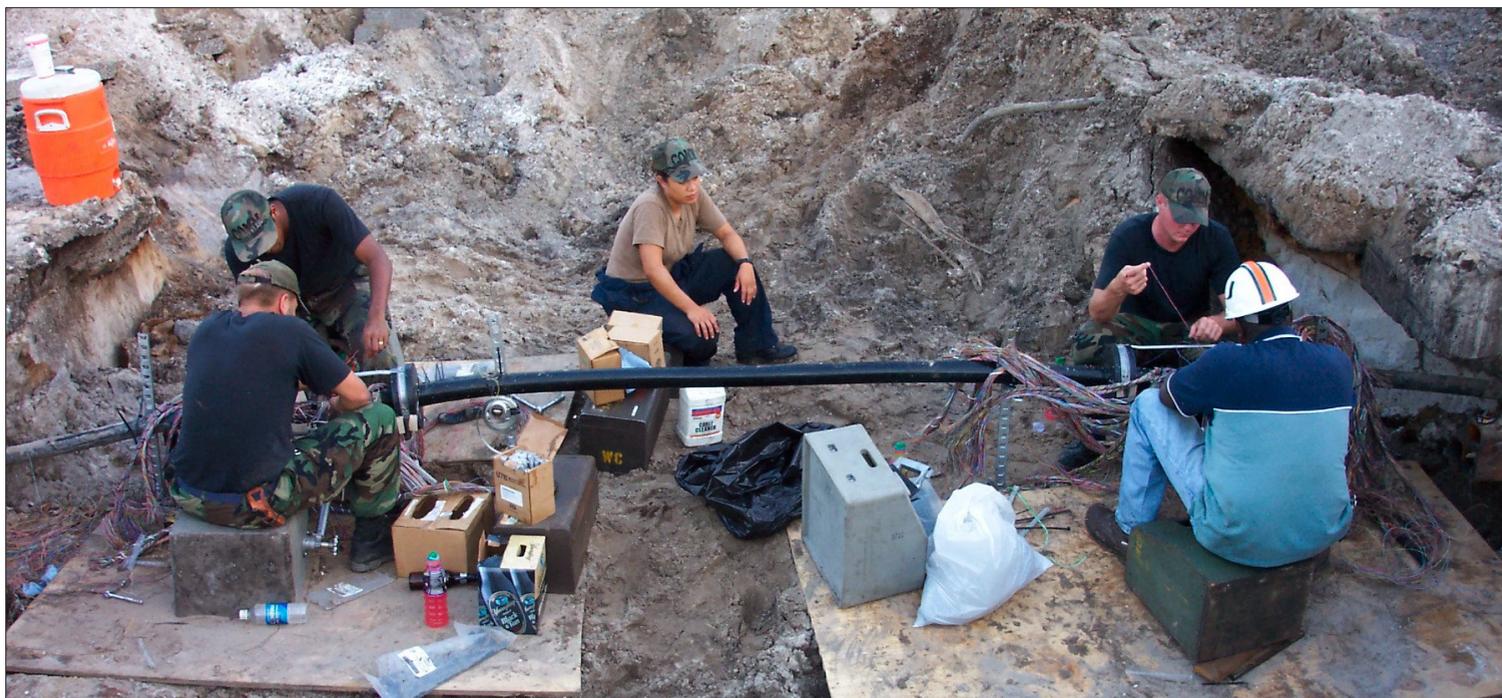
Another responsibility related to buried cables includes the wiring, fiber optic connectivity or copper solutions requests or estimates that must go through the cable systems maintenance unit before links can be installed in outlying buildings needing connectivity to the base backbone.

Members of the unit troubleshoot, locate and repair faulty copper or fiber cable pairs when they malfunction and they also install and maintain standard wire-type LAN systems from start to finish.

One of the more unusual requests for their services came in the form of an antenna installation for the Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation complex here. The antenna had to be installed atop a 200-foot tower on a 160-foot platform 52 miles offshore. The cable maintenance unit installed the 20-foot antenna in addition to 200 feet of heliax cable over the span of two days. Rough seas and

an overnight stay in the Gulf of Mexico did not deter the "cable dawgs" from completing their mission. According to Colonel Frost, this dedication to quality control and maintenance is consistent no matter what the situation or where the challenge.

"The 325th Communications Squadron provides superior command and control support, communications and information services, and mission-ready forces supporting every member of Team Tyndall," said Colonel Frost. "Equally, if not more importantly, there are more than 20 communication specialists serving and providing the same outstanding communications support at this very moment on the front lines in Iraq."



Members of the 325th Communications Squadron "cable dawgs" repair a damaged cable on Tyndall, which provides communications capability to buildings on the west end of the base.



Staff Sgt. David Jennings and Airman 1st Class repair a sewer line on Suwannee Avenue J

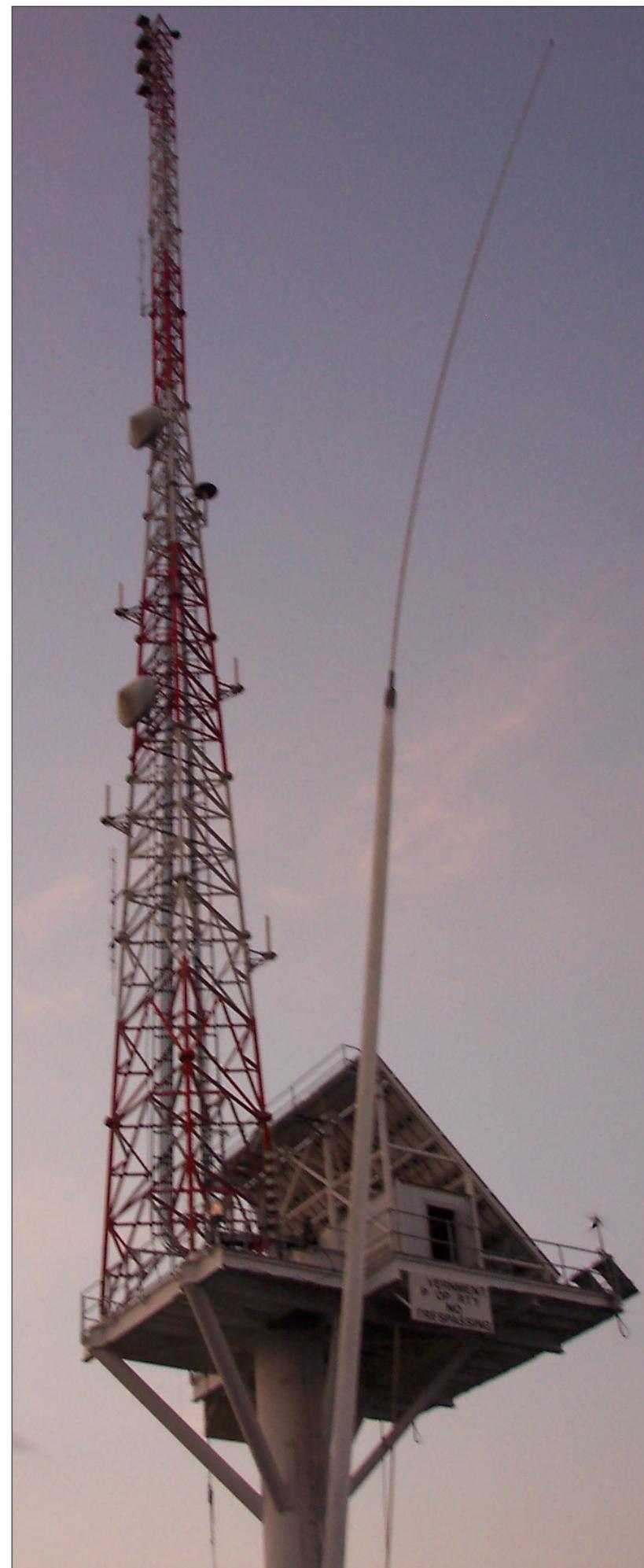
Airm
June



1st Class Neal De La Cruz, 325th CS cable systems maintainer, gets some sleep during a two-day project June 16-17. The CS cable crew installed an antenna 52 miles off the Florida coast supporting Tyndall's ACMI.



1st Class Neal De La Cruz, maintainers with the 325th Communications Squadron, repair a cable cut during the project on June 7.



Despite rough seas, the south master tower was erected by members of the 325th CS Cable Systems Maintenance Shop June 16-17 in the Gulf of Mexico. The antenna was installed atop a 200-foot tower, which is secured to the seabed via a 160-foot platform.

Photos by Joseph Volpi

'Aunt Peggie' finds answers for parents, students

RUDI WILLIAMS
American Forces Press Service

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.— When it comes to getting information for parents, students and educators about different state high school test requirements, nobody does it better than "Aunt Peggie."

"Aunt Peggie" is research consultant Peggie Watson, who updates the Military Child Education Coalition Assessment Resource Center Web site whenever she finds new information about state testing requirements — which change constantly.

The center evolved out of parents' requests for help. At the high school level, when a student is moving from one state to another and going from one assessment program to another, it's extremely important to have as much information about that program as soon as possible, Ms. Watson said. That's especially true if it's going to count for graduation purposes, she added.

Ms. Watson noted that the role of assessment and accountability has intensified with the implementation of the No Child Left Behind legislation.

"States have progressed to meet the mandates of No Child Left Behind," she said.

According to the state education commissions, as of July 14, 30 states

are fully meeting the annual reading-test requirement and 29 states meet the annual math-test requirement, Ms. Watson said.

By 2008, Ms. Watson added, 24 states will have exit-level exams — 21 will have standards based on end-of-course tests and three states will have minimum-competency exit exams.

"We have information for every state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity schools," said Ms. Watson, who calls

herself "a military brat" because her father was an Army artilleryman. "We have Internet links to the major assessments, locations of standards, curriculum guides and the calendar for assessments.

"Sometimes I find samples of released tests," she said. "Some states, like Texas, have released tests you can download or take online."

There are also links to state education departments across the country. "We try to find links to English-as-a-second-language offices, which are sometimes a little difficult to find," noted Ms. Watson, who taught math for 20 years in the Killeen, Texas, In-

dependent School District and spent 13 years as coordinator for testing and research for the district. "And we have links to the gifted- and-talented offices as well."

Ms. Watson, who started working for MCEC after retiring four years ago, noted that having this information available on the MCEC Web site

makes it easier for a parent to find information on a particular state, their assessments and other areas they have questions about.

For example, "You go into the Texas agency's assessment area and you're going to be looking at mostly the TAKS, Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, Ms. Watson said. Under the annual TAKS program, testing will occur in grades 3 through 11. Students must pass the exit-level TAKS exams in order to receive a high school diploma. The tests cover English language arts, math, science and social studies.

"There's also information about state alternative assessment programs designed for special-

needs students who are not scheduled to take the regular assessments tests," she said. "Generally, you'll find grades 3 through 8 math and language arts — the biggies. You're also going to find information on other assessments that states have started, such as adding some social studies or science tests."

Ms. Watson said there's also information on the high school tests, including exit tests. Some states administer general-standards exit tests, while others require end-of-course tests. The most common end-of-course tests are Algebra I, U.S. History, Biology, and English I and II.

"It all depends on the state," Ms. Watson noted.

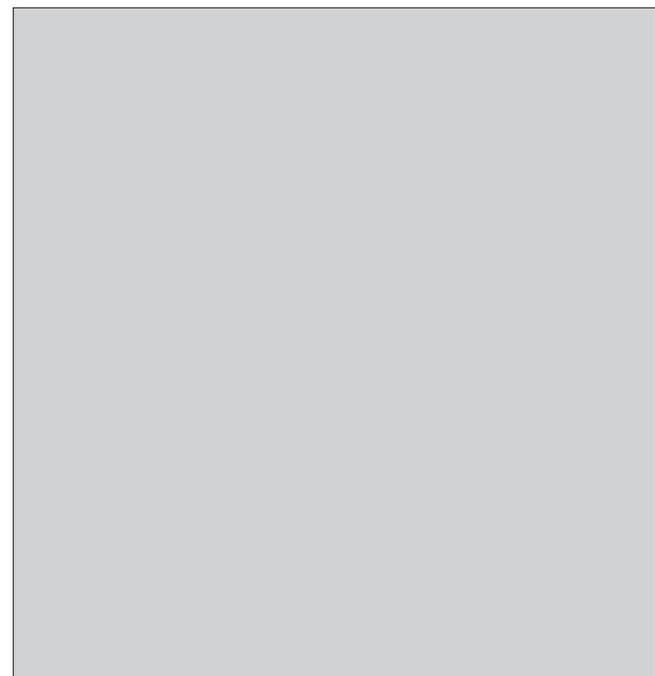
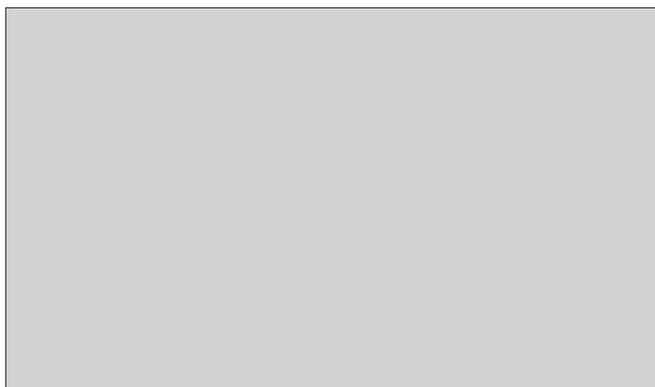
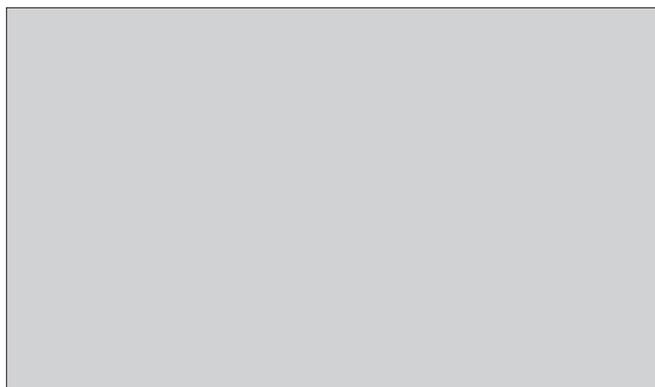
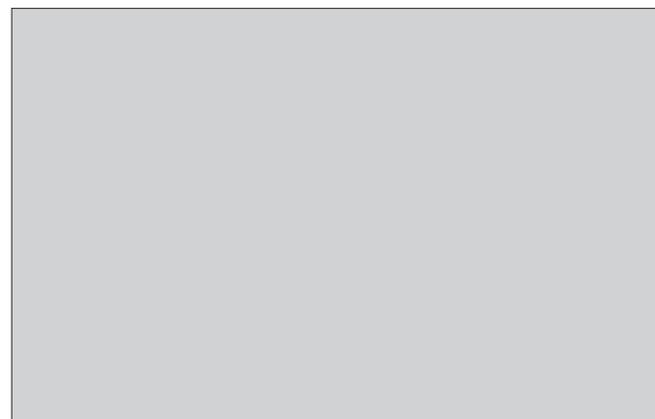
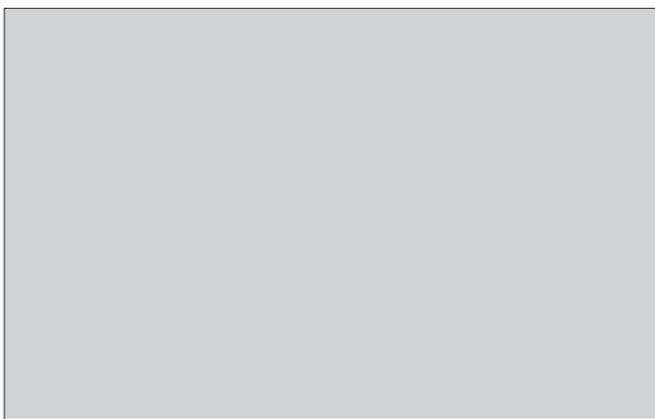
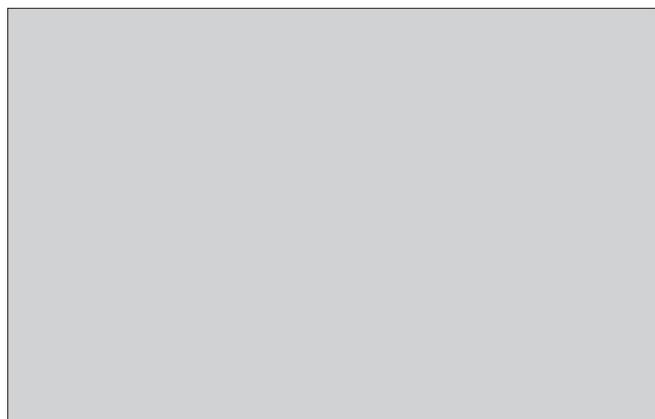
Parents and students can go on the MCEC Web site at www.MilitaryChild.org/assessment for more information. "Once you get in, click on the state you have an interest in," she said. "You'll find from 10 to 20 links for every state."

● SEE SCHOOL PAGE 11

For more information:

Those who would like to learn more about schools, grading systems, programs and testing criteria in other states can visit:

www.militarychild.org/assessment/



'101 Critical Days' proving fatality free

JILLIAN SPEAKE
AETC public affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) —

For the first time in several years, Air Education and Training Command faces the last month of its summer safety campaign without any fatalities.

If the command completes Operation Safe Summer without any

fatalities, it will be the first time in documented history, said Senior Master Sgt. Robbie Bogard, AETC ground safety superintendent.

Operation Safe Summer, the name for the command's 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign, started Memorial Day and ends Labor Day.

It's during this time the Air Force traditionally experiences an

increase in off-duty travel and recreation mishaps.

"I ask every member of AETC to continue to keep safety in the forefront of your lives and conduct our mission with the professionalism and esprit de corps

"By this time last year, our safety record was not so stellar," Sergeant Bogard said. "Fortunately, our safety efforts this year

have been very successful, but we need to ensure we can see this success through to the end

of summer. It is everyone's responsibility to continue to educate those around us and promote risk management in everything

"I'm confident with the right operational mindset — both on and off duty — we can complete this summer fatality free."

GEN. DON COOK
AETC commander

you've demonstrated so far," said Gen. Don Cook, AETC commander. "I'm confident with the right operational mindset — both on and off duty — we can complete this summer fatality free."

The campaign focuses on personal and operational risk management techniques, safe driving practices and how to remain safe during summer activities such as swimming and boating.

we do."

In the summer of 2003, six people in AETC died in accidents.

Five Airmen were killed in vehicle accidents, and one died in an all-terrain vehicle mishap.

Overall, the Air Force lost 37 Airmen to accidental deaths last summer, a significant rise over the 30 Airmen who died in accidents Air Force-wide in 2002 and the 19 who died in 2001.

● FROM SCHOOL PAGE 10

Those who need more information can search on their own by clicking on the state and going to the Department of Education, which is under state government.

"Others might want a little more guidance," Ms. Watson noted.

One day, a parent told Ms. Watson that her family was moving to Fairfax, Va., and she needed information on gifted-and-talented-student programs in that area. She'd already visited the MCEC Web site, but wanted more information.

The mother was concerned that, as with most gifted-and-talented programs, they have their own assessment process and screening, Ms. Watson said.

"The middle school assessment had closed for the summer, so the mother was afraid her child wouldn't be able to get into classes until the beginning of the new year, three months after school started."

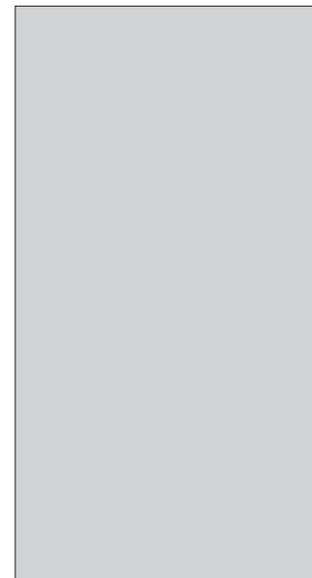
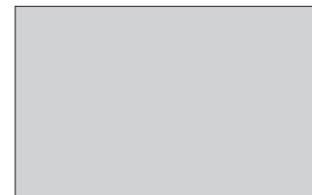
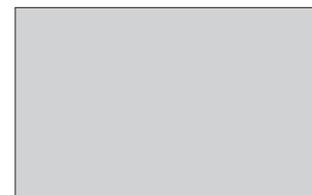
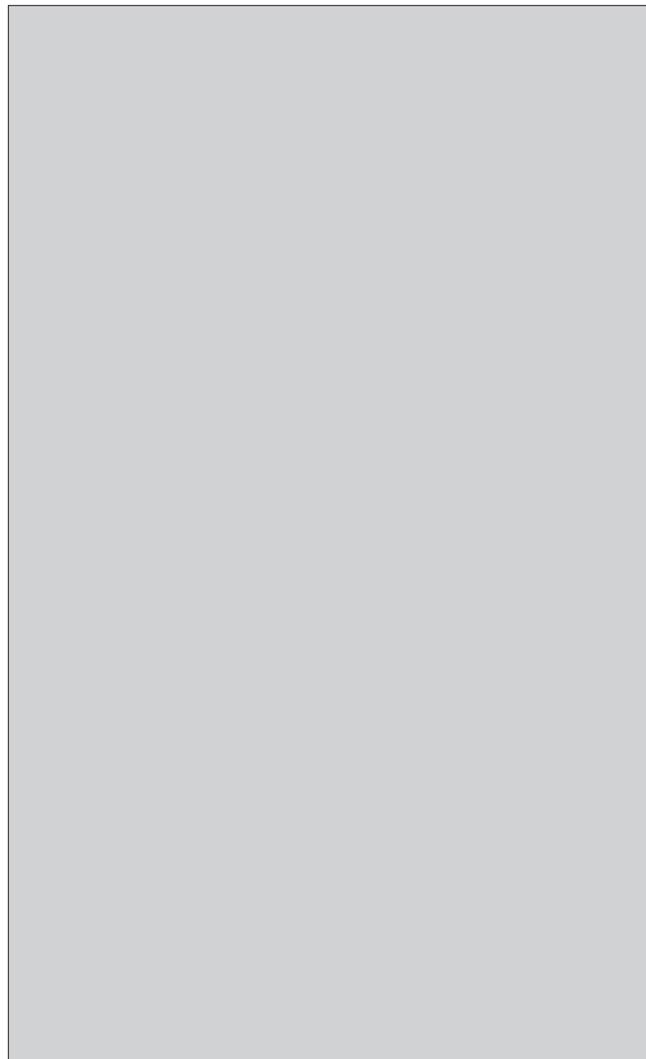
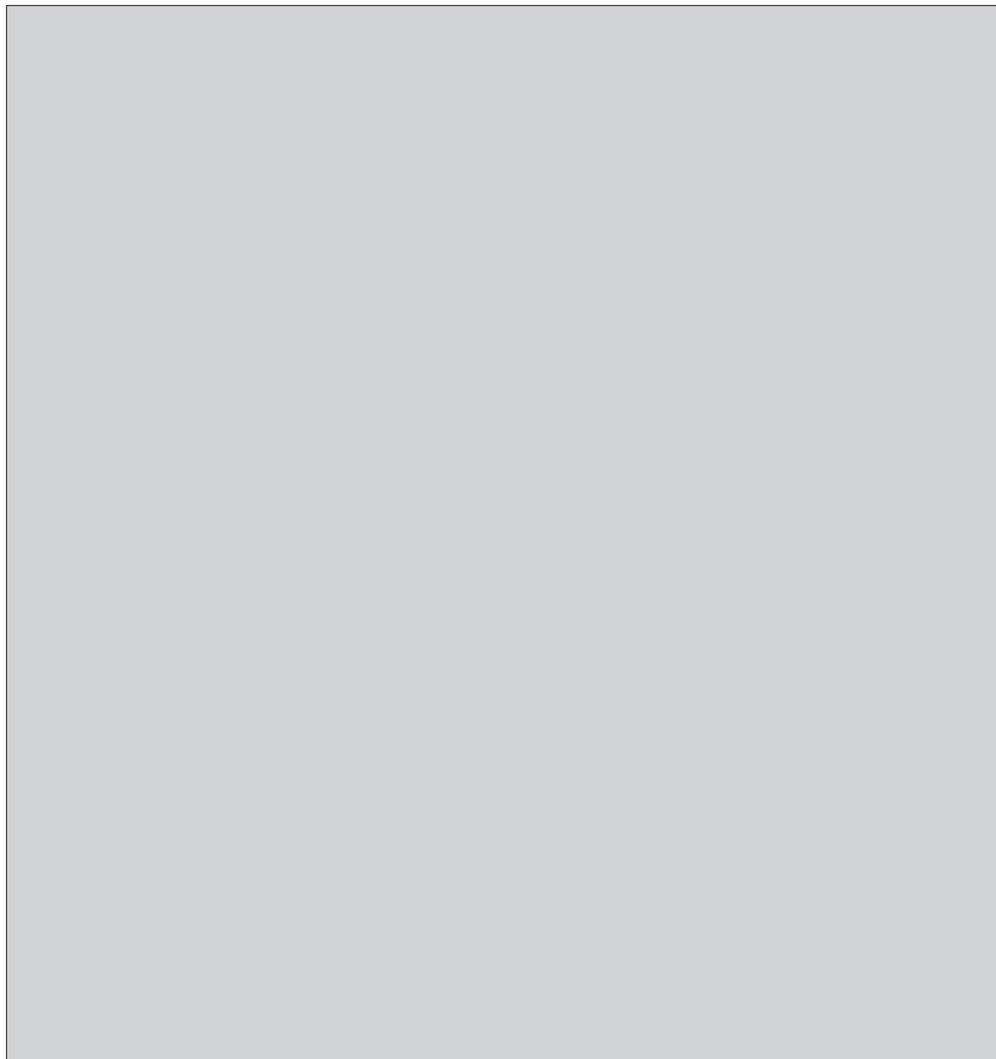
Ms. Watson came to the rescue by finding Internet links the mother hadn't found.

"That made her little bit happier because she had more background and information and a couple more phone numbers to call," she said. "That's what it's all about."

About 18 months ago, when Ms. Watson started receiving up to 10 telephone calls a week, plus a bunch of e-mail messages, she told her co-workers, "I guess I'm becoming 'Aunt Peggie.'"

"The name stuck," she said with a chuckle.

"So, in order to put a face or name with the program, I'm listed as 'Aunt Peggie,'" she noted. "If you contact Aunt Peggie, I'll try to find the answer to your questions. If I can't find the answer, I'll try to find you a contact person."





Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

Lots of love

Rachael Foley, 4, hugs her mother, Jessie, while they, along with Meagan-Anne, 9, look through knick-knacks supplied to the Family Support Center here from the joint efforts of the Auxillary Veterans of Foreign Wars and Hallmark. Jessie, Meagan-Anne and Rachael are the family of Master Sgt. Robert Foley, 325th Mission Support Squadron first sergeant. The toys, picture frames, candle holders and memorabilia boxes are available to families that currently have deployed members. For more information on Family Support Center programs, call 283-4204.

Events

Reunion celebration

A reunion celebration for military members who deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and their families, is scheduled for Aug. 27-29 at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, Panama City Beach. There will be no cost for the hotel, and child care will be provided. Limited spaces. First come, first served. To sign up or for more information, call Chaplain Hector Colon or Tech. Sgt. Susie Arce at 283-2925.

Air Force Ball

The annual Tyndall Air Force Ball, celebrating the Air Force's 58th Birthday, will be 6 p.m. Sept. 24 at the Edgewater Beach Resort. For more information call Maj. Iwona Blackledge at 283-7224.

Scouting on Tyndall AFB

Cub Scout Pack 388, sponsored by the Tyndall chapter of the Air Force Sergeants Association, is starting the 2004-2005 program year 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Tyndall Elementary School cafeteria. Cub Scouting is open to boys in first through fifth grades or ages 6 to 10.

Pack 388 meets Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at Tyndall's Spiritual Fitness Center. For more information, contact Steve Swaine, at 286-1445 or e-mail sswaine@hotmail.com,

or Rod Carter at 286-8112.

For boys over 10, Boy Scout Troop 388, also sponsored by AFSA, meets 7 p.m. Monday nights at the Scout Hut, Bldg. 3001 on Boy Scout Road. For more information on Boy Scouts, contact Jack Mobley, at 871-0914.

Girl Scouting is also active on and around Tyndall. To get involved or for more information, contact Angela Carter at 286-8112.

FishStock comes to Bay County

FishStock is scheduled to take place Aug. 14-15 at the Panama City Marina. A boat show and on-land festivities begin each day at noon. Fishing tournament entry forms can be picked up at the Panama City Marina or Bonita Bay. For more information contact Jim Wilson at 769-2536 or visit www.FishStock.com.

Anger management

The next anger management workshop series will be held 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and Aug. 16 and 23 at Bldg. 1305 conference room. For more information or to sign up for classes, call 283-7511.

Palace Chase information

The Air National Guard has part-time positions available throughout the country to military members separating or thinking about applying for Palace Chase.

Retraining is available, and members re-

tain most of their benefits in addition to some state benefits such as 100 percent tuition assistance. For more information, contact Master Sgt. William Andujar at (850) 884-2729 or email william.andujar@hurlburt.af.mil.

Air Force Reserve opportunities

The Air Force Reserve is hiring for part-time positions all over the United States. It is possible to continue receiving Air Force benefits while building toward retirement, perhaps in a totally different career field and in a different location. If you are thinking about separating under the Palace Chase Force Shaping initiative or are approaching the end of your active duty commitment, contact Master Sgt. Randi Baum at 283-8384 to learn more about the opportunities in the Air Force Reserve.

Veteran reunion

The Thailand-Laos-Cambodia Brotherhood Vietnam War Veterans will hold their annual reunion Sept. 24-26 at the Ontario, Calif., Doubletree Ontario Airport Hotel. Anyone who served in these countries during the war is eligible. To attend, call Les Thompson at (714) 557-0776 or e-mail Les21@ix.netcom.com.

Classifieds

1996 Dodge Diesel

3500 Club Cab Truck 4x4 5spd A/C PS/

PB P/W P/L Cruise 125k Miles, Rhino Liner, Tool Box, Brush Guard \$14,500. Call William or Michelle 286-4728

For Sale:

Solid hardwood dresser- \$100, Black metal bunk bed with futon sofa on bottom- \$150, Pine kitchen hutch- \$75, Pine Armoire- \$40, Brass baker's rack- \$15, Rocker/Recliner- \$100, Mocha-colored oversized sofa- \$100. All in good condition. Ladies 2 KT Diamond Anniversary Ring/ 14KT gold- \$1,000., Mens .75KT Diamond Anniversary Ring/ 14KT gold- \$800., 1KT pair white gold baguette earrings- \$250. Call 784-4792.

2001 Kawasaki Ultra 130 D.I.

With yacht club trailer only 36 hours. Fuel injected for easy starting. Extras included. Asking \$4,600 Call 286-5401 or 774-9383

1996 Honda Accord

Green, two door, in good condition, \$5,600. Call 233-3048.

2000 Chevy Conversion Van

High roof, leather, four captain's chairs, bench/bed, AC/DC, carpet, tinted windows with shades, extended back. 64K miles. \$17,000. Call Tom or Penny at 286-5411.

2001 Yamaha Waverunner XL800

With Westco trailer; recently tuned up; approx 70 operating hours; includes three lifejackets; \$5,000 firm; contact Stephen or Lesa for more information at 769-3849.

Garage Sales

3693 A Kisling Lp.

2838 B Sentry Ln.

Garage sales are held 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic services 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 Bldg. 1476

General Protestant service, 11 a.m., Chapel 2.

Artist and Craftsman contest showcases base talents



STEVE RIDDLE

325th Services Squadron publicist

The Tyndall Skills Development Center is presently accepting entries for this year's Artist and Craftsman and Photography Contests.

"People have until Aug. 31 to get their entries in," explained Karen Dyer, acting manager of the Skills Development Center. "We'll be taking entries all month, and judging will occur in September."

For nearly two decades this annual event has given the men and women of the Tyndall com-

munity a chance to show off their skills in painting, sculpting, woodworking, photography, or any number of artistic mediums. According to Ms. Dyer, people are already planning to get in on this year's event.

"We've had a few people already stop by and get their entry forms," she said. "And a lot of people have stopped by and asked about it too."

This year's judging of the contest will be done by representatives from the Bay County Visual Arts Center. The Photography Contest will be judged by the staff of a local photography studio.

"We have outside, independent judges to make the contest as fair as possible," Ms. Dyer said. "They're all qualified to judge because they all work in the art

or photography fields."

Both contests will have a division for adults and children 17 years old and under. In the Artist and Craftsman Contest, four categories will be judged. The fine art category will consist of painting, sculpture, drawing, or graphic designs. Textiles can be any type of needlework, weaving, crocheting, or quilting. The industrial category includes woodworking, plastic, fiberglass, or metal works. And the multi-craft patterns arts category can be leather tooling projects, ceramics, stained glass, jewelry or baskets.

"The Multi-craft category is just about anything that isn't covered in the other categories," Ms. Dyer said. "They can even be kits you purchase and make."

In the Photography Contest, four photographic mediums can be used for the categories – monochromatic (black and white) print, color print, color transparency, and digital.

The photography categories are people, military life, scenic /

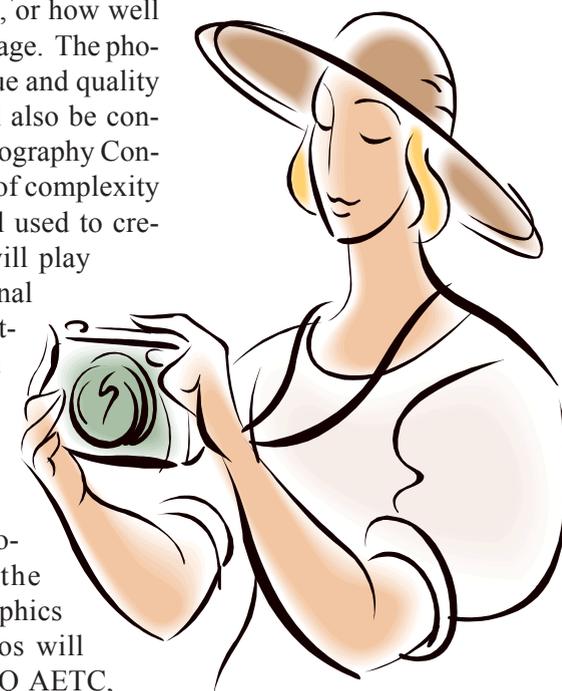
nature, creative effects, and computer imaging enhancement.

Officials will look for certain criteria when judging the entries for both contests. The artistic impact, or first emotional response a piece generates, is very important in either event. The freshness of approach, or creative way the work is presented, will also be considered, as well as its composition, or how well it conveys its message. The photographic technique and quality of the picture will also be considered in the Photography Contest, and the level of complexity and technical skill used to create an art piece will play into the judges' final decisions in the Artist and Craftsman competition.

The first and second place entries in both contests will be photographed by the Tyndall Base Graphics office. The photos will then be sent to HQ AETC,

where they will be judged against entries from other bases. Those winners, as well as entries receiving a meritorious mention, will be displayed on the Web site www.aetcsv.com for viewing.

For more information, contact the Skills Development Center at 283-4511.



Steve Riddle

Pre-season practice

Tyson Wilhelm goes for a pass from J'vonne Wilson during a recent practice session for the upcoming 2004 Intramural Flag Football Season, which begins Aug. 16. Fifteen teams will compete this season, including last year's champs, the 325th Communications Squadron.

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

QUIT

 American Heart
Association
WE'RE FIGHTING FOR
YOUR LIFE



Funshine NEWS



August 6, 2004

www.325thservices.com

Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

Surf's Up

Schedule a class and learn basic techniques and ocean awareness in a safe environment. Classes are held at St. Andrews State Park and transportation is provided. Cost is \$40 per 2 hour session.

USA Tennis

Tennis anyone? Sign up for USA Tennis for ages 6 and up and learn the basics in a friendly group atmosphere. The program runs August 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 9 a.m. and the cost is \$30. Call 283-4366 for more details.

Start Smart

Hit a homerun or score a goal and sign-up for Start Smart for ages 3-5. Work one-on-one with your child improving basic baseball and soccer skills. The classes run August 13, 20, 27 and September 3 at 10 a.m. and cost is \$30. Call Andy at 283-4366 for details.

Start Smart Baseball

Batter up for Start Smart Baseball for ages 3-5. Work one-on-one with your child improving basic skills. The classes run August 10, 17, 24, 31 at 10 a.m. and cost is \$30.

Soccer

Registration for youth ages 4-10 has been extended one week until August 7. A current copy of Birth Certificate must be on file or made available and submitted with the registration form along with fee at the time of registration. Details call 283-4366.

Community Center

☎ 283-2495

Ballroom Dance Classes

Starts Aug. 6, 6:30-8 p.m. Instructor: Russ Knight. Learn to Waltz, Cha-Cha, Swing, Slow Dance & Disco. Cost is \$65 per couple or \$32.50 for singles, per four week session. Deadline to sign-up is July 30.

Guitar Lessons

Instructor: Ric Higgins. For beginners to advanced. Cost is \$20 per 1/2 hour session or \$30 per hour. Call for more information.

American TaeKwonDo Classes

Master: Clifford Kinchen. Mondays and Wednesdays 6-6:50 p.m. for 6-12 yrs., 6:50-7:40 p.m. for 13 yrs. old and up. Cost: \$5 per class or \$40 for 10 class punch card. Call for more information.

Marina Club

☎ 283-3059

Best Salad Bar on Base

All you can eat with soft drink \$5.95.

Base Library Summer Meltdown

Book Sale

Aug. 19-21

During regular hours. Get some great deals on books, tapes and more!
Call 283-4287 for details

PET FAIR

August 28, 8 a.m. until noon
at the Veterinary Clinic

- Military Working Dog Demonstration
- Agility Demonstration
- Pictures of the Kids with Clifford the Big Red Dog
- Best Trick Contest
- Owner/Pet Look Alike Contest
- Vet Clinic Open House
- Lectures
- Door Prizes
- Discounted Microchips.

Join us for all the fun at
Bldg 1309 Suwannee Road.
If you have any questions feel
free to call us at
283-2434



Bowl for the Stars & Strikes

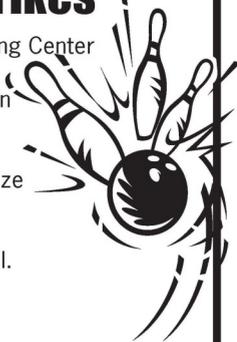
Cool Off in the Bowling Center

Terrific Prizes:

- Bowling Pin Key chain
- Bowling Ball
- Bank or T-Shirt
- \$500 cash grand prize or second prizes, a
- Pride of Our Nation
- Viz-A-Ball bowling ball.

Sponsored by Coca-Cola and Qubica
No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

Punches are given for every game bowled or large Coca-Cola fountain beverage purchased at Raptor Lanes snack bar now through August 31, 2004.



New Computer Gaming Room

Sector-Six

at the Community Center play

Battlefield Vietnam or Unreal Tournament (2-way). This program is free. Gamers under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Call 283-2495 for information

Start getting ready now

2004 Air Force Marathon

September 18, 2004

Call the Fitness Center for details.

Or visit the official website at:

http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil/registration.htm

283-2631



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

Skills Development

☎ 283-4511

Air Force Photo Contest

The Skills Center will be accepting entries all month. This contest will be judged in September for base level and then sent off to Command Level in October. Open to all base personnel and dependents.

Annual Artist Craftsmen and Photo Contest

Skills Development Center

will be accepting entries all month. This contest will be judged in September for base level and then sent off to Command Level in October. Open to all base personnel and dependents.

For more details
283-4511



Need help with Child Care? Extended Duty Child Care

available for parents required to work outside of normal duty hours.
Call Family Child Care
283-2266 for details

Crazy Cash Give-Away

at the O' & E Clubs Fridays during Social Hour.

Beginning at 5 p.m.

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

Tyndall Enlisted Club



Latin

Dance Night

Aug 7, 2004

Starting at 8 p.m.



For details call 283-4357

Disney Cruise Line Special September Rates for Military Personnel

Choose a 3-,4-, or 7-night cruise filled with spectacular shows, fantastic programs, unique rotation dining, legendary Disney hospitality and an unforgettable adventure in paradise at Disney's own private island. Plus stay in a fabulous stateroom with a deluxe ocean view.

Call 283-2864 for prices

STRIVE SMART STRENGTH™

Strive Selectorized Weight Equipment at the Fitness Center. Offers a full body strength and cardio workout. 283-2631 for details

No federal endorsement of sponsor intended

WAPS study list now available

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Promotion-eligible enlisted members can now find which materials to study for the 2005 testing cycles.

The most current Weighted Airman Promotion System Catalog, which lists the materials used by test writers to develop the 2005 promotion tests, is now available on the Air Force Personnel Center Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/testing>. The catalog lists study references for those

testing for staff through chief master sergeant.

WAPS Career Development Course study material, when required, is automatically shipped to promotion-eligible Airmen by the Air Force Institute for Advanced Distributed Learning. Enlisted Airmen should check the WAPS Catalog every year to ensure they have the current references, which often includes non-CDC publications, said officials.

AFIADL will begin shipping the CDC's in September for people test-

ing for staff, technical and master sergeant. If CDCs are not received by November, Airmen should contact their unit WAPS monitor to initiate follow-up actions, said officials.

Test administration dates for the 2005 chief master sergeant cycle are Sept. 7-10. The dates for senior master sergeant testing are Dec. 6-17, while testing for technical sergeant and master sergeant takes place Feb. 15 to March 31. Senior airmen will test for staff sergeant May 1-31.



Questions about career options?

Call Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kahapea, 325th Fighter Wing career assistance advisor, for answers to retraining or special duty questions at 283-2222.

Warfighters get 'sneak peak' at JEFX

SENIOR AIRMAN BECKY LARAIA

Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment 2004 public affairs

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (AFPN) — Battle management in the Air Force is changing, and 58 Airmen and two Soldiers from 14 different home bases are helping to shape its future.

The Battle Control Center-Experimental, currently being tested and evaluated at the Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment 2004, is a bridge between the Air Force's current forward-deployed command and control system and a new innovation called the Battle Control System-Mobile. It is the forward-deployed ground-based battle management capability that provides a link between the Combined Air and Space Operations Center and aircraft in theater.

The BCC-X is showcasing future technologies and capabilities to air battle managers, weapons directors, surveillance and maintenance people, and other warfighters who will potentially use the facility in battle. By participating in the experiment's simulated war, these experts will be able to provide useable feedback to refine the overall system requirements, said Jason Hamblen, an Odyssey Systems Consulting Group engineer supporting Battle Control System-Mobile.

"JEFX gives operators the opportunity to tell us what they like and don't like, and we can incorporate that into our future acquisition strategy," Mr. Hamblen said.

The need for the innovation came from the Air Force's use of outdated concepts and equipment in its control and reporting center. This system was developed in the late 1980s. Along with the new technologies, the staff is also looking at new tactics, techniques and procedures.

"The mission will not change," he said, "but the way we do the mission might."

This equipment modernization allows operators to access radar and radio communications from a larger area. It gives them the ability to control radars and radios remotely, to include host-nation radars.

"The benefit of this is it reduces our forward-deployed footprint," said 1st Lt. Danyawn Miles, the BCC-X project manager from Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.

Considering two Air Force deaths during Operation Iraqi Freedom occurred at control and reporting center locations, being able to minimize the number of troops on the front line is a valuable asset, he said.

The facility itself is also being updated. Both the unit command center, which houses the battle commander, intelligence, maintenance control and mission planning, and the tactical operations center, where the majority of airspace management occurs, can now be set up and run within about two hours, said Mr. Hamblen.

Innovation is not limited to the actual structure. The capability of having all eight operators, the battle staff coordinator and mission crew commander in the same room, instead of being set up in four different operating modules is an improvement in the tactical operations center.

"It gives the commander the capability to see what is going on and easy-access to his troops," he said.

The facility also showcases a touch-screen radio communication link and commercial off-the-shelf computer monitors and video screens.

"We don't have to have it specially made and we can have the users and maintainers evaluate it," said Mr. Hamblen.

He explained that using commercial equipment makes it easier and more cost-effective to replace the equipment and update parts.

"As technology progresses, we have to progress as well," he said. "The only efficient way to do that is to use commercial equipment."

JEFX has also incorporated an Army air defense artillery fire control officer into the tactical operations center. This position serves as the BCC-X link to the Army's Patriot batteries.

"That's important because it reduces fratricide (friendly fire) and improves the Patriot's kill chain," said Lieutenant Miles. "What we provide to the Patriots is a beyond-the-line-of-sight air picture, thus increasing their situational awareness and fire support coordination. By providing the Army a bigger picture, the shooter has more time to make a decision."

Beyond their own experimentation, the BCC-X is also supporting other aspects of JEFX by providing network connectivity to the Army's Future Combat Systems, processing simulation data received from Hurlburt Field, Fla., and backing up the Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft.

General observations collected from the BCC-X players will be used to finalize this project which should be fielded in 2006, said Lieutenant Miles.

