

# GULF DEFENDER



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Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

Feb. 13, 2004

## In brief

### Fringe Patriots author signs at BX

Carl Smith, author of *Fringe Patriots*, will be at the Tyndall Base Exchange from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Feb. 19-22, to sign copies of his latest book. *Fringe Patriots* is a suspense thriller set in the mid-to-late '60s.

### Imminent Death Medical Disability Retirement program change

A recent change in law has eliminated the need for, and the appropriateness of, retiring an active-duty member under the Imminent Death Medical Disability Retirement Program.

Prior to passage of Section 645 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2004, immediate retirement was necessary in cases where medical authority had deemed an active-duty member's death to be imminent within 72 hours.

The old retirement provision enabled a surviving spouse to elect coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan that would not have otherwise been available. With passage of the new Act in December 2003, flexibility of election is extended until after death of the active-duty member. Spouses now have more flexibility to elect SBP coverage for themselves or eligible children. Questions concerning the SBP should be directed to Ernie Hooper at 283-2276.

## Inside

● Life support sustains pilots in air ... **Page 8**

● Blue Angels coming to Tyndall ... **Page 11**



Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely

## Inspection line

Senior Airman Lance Clark, 95th Fighter Squadron life support technician, removes a helmet and oxygen mask to be cleaned during a routine 30-day inspection. For more about the critical life support mission, see pages 8-9.

## Bush upholds Iraq decision, discusses intelligence process

**JIM GARAMONE**

American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON**— President George Bush said he is a “war president,” and he makes every foreign policy decision with that in mind.

President Bush spoke on NBC’s “Meet the Press” today. He told interviewer Tim Russert that Saddam Hussein is a “madman,” and he made the right decision to remove the Iraqi dictator from power.

President Bush said nothing is more vital to a president than accurate, timely intelligence. And this is tough to come by in an intelligence war against “shadowy networks (and) individuals who deal with rogue nations.” The president

stressed that the capacity to have good intelligence means “a president can make good calls about fighting this war on terror.”

President Bush appointed a commission Feb. 6 to study pre-war intelligence and compare it to what is known from the Iraq Survey Group. The commission is also going to study intelligence coming in about other nations, such as Libya, North Korea and Iran. The commission will report its findings by March 31, 2005.

“This is a strategic look, kind of a big picture look about the intelligence-gathering capacities of the United States of America,” the president said today.

He responded to the decision to set the reporting deadline after the

November presidential election. “There is going to be ample time for the American people to assess whether or not I made a good call, whether or not I used good judgment, whether or not I made the right decision in removing Saddam Hussein from power,” President Bush said.

The president said the intelligence agencies are doing good jobs. He expressed confidence in Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet and said his job is not in jeopardy. “Intelligence requires, ... all kinds of assets to bring information to the president,” President Bush said. “I want that intelligence service to be strong, viable, competent, confident, and provide good product to the president so I can

make judgment calls.”

Mr. Russert asked about a prediction that U.S. forces would capture Osama bin Laden this year. “I have no idea whether we will capture or bring him to justice,” President Bush answered. “I know we are on the hunt, and Osama bin Laden is a cold-blooded killer, and he represents the nature of the enemy that we face.”

While much of the focus in the war on terror is on Iraq, other operations are equally important and not receiving the press they deserve, President Bush said. “We’ve got thousands of troops, agents, allies on the hunt, and we are doing a pretty good job of dismantling al-

● **SEE BUSH PAGE 15**

**Open House, March 27-28**

## Team Tyndall honors quarterly award winners, reflects on patriotic leaders

**BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW**  
325th Fighter Wing commander



This time of year is particularly special for me as I have the honor of announcing Air Force, command and wing award winners whose service has been instrumental in the success of our total force team at Tyndall. Although at this point in the new year we are typically looking ahead at new challenges, goals and focusing on the course set for 2004, it's a great opportunity to celebrate and honor the achievements of our talented women and men who make up Team Tyndall.

Most recently we honored the Team Tyndall 2003 Fourth Quarter winners during a luncheon ceremony. As always, the competition was fierce as there is a lot of great work and community service being accomplished by Tyndall people. The fourth quarter winners were:

Senior Airman Richard Alfonso, 325th Medical Operations Squadron, Team Tyndall Airman of the Quarter; Tech. Sgt. Pedro Feliciano, 325th Maintenance Squadron, Team Tyndall NCO of the Quarter; Master Sgt. Ronald Ward, 325th Maintenance Squadron, Team Tyndall Senior NCO of the Quarter; 1st Lt.



**“Congratulations to the winners and nominees. Your hard work and dedication to excellence continue to be the cornerstone to the level of success we all enjoy.”**

**BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW**  
325th Fighter Wing commander

Walter Sorensen, 325th Security Forces Squadron, Team Tyndall Company Grade Officer of the Quarter; Ms. Madonna Fell, 325th Fighter Wing Staff Judge Advocate office, Team Tyndall Civilian of the Quarter (Category I); Mr. James Kirkland, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron, Team Tyndall Civilian of the Quarter (Category II); and Airman 1st Class Nicole Lindsay, 325th Maintenance Operations Squadron, Team Tyndall Honor Guard Member of the Quarter.

Once again, congratulations to all the winners and nominees. Your hard work and dedication to excel-

●SEE REFLECTS PAGE 3

## Public reaches out to servicemembers; our opportunity to reach back

**1ST LT. RYAN FITZGERALD**  
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Their signs line U.S. highway 98 throughout the municipalities that make up the Panama City area. The marquee signs read like fan mail, “Welcome Home Troops,” or simply “Thank you.” Their yellow ribbons and flags adorn thousands of homes throughout the

county. Bay County supports our Army Guard brethren, and for years they've supported Tyndall's active, guard and reserve team members.

I traveled back to the Midwest over Christmas to be with my family. I'm not from a military town but, like millions of boroughs across America, there are hundreds of

former residents who now wear the uniform for a living. On my trip, I noticed something strange.

Among the tinsel, decorations, snow and frost, not a single yellow ribbon adorned the houses. There were no signs of support for a national effort and certainly no “Thank you” banners. My hometown isn't lib-

eral or conservative; it's not really politically charged one way or another. But, I thought that everyone, if approached, would say they support the troops serving in Iraq, Korea, Afghanistan and the rest of the world. But few, if any, showed it. There was a stark contrast to the place I've

●SEE SUPPORT PAGE 3

### Action Line

#### Comment:

I am a shift worker for Lockheed, who currently has pharmacy benefits. It seems the pharmacy changed its scheduled hours of operation a few months ago and now operates from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It makes it hard for shift workers to pick up prescriptions before they close. Can arrangements be made to pick up prescriptions earlier at the main pharmacy?

#### Response:

The main pharmacy at the base exchange is open 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and processes new prescriptions for Tyndall Air Force Base providers. The Satellite pharmacy, which processes new civilian prescriptions and refills, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Current staffing levels do not allow us to extend hours. The pharmacy fills on average 27,000 prescriptions per month and it would not be feasible to transport a large volume of these prescriptions over to the main pharmacy. If customers are unable to pick up prescriptions during duty hours they may have a friend or family member\* pick-up prescriptions on their behalf or they may access their pharmacy benefit using an alternative pharmacy venue. Through the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy, prescriptions, including refills, are mailed directly to the customer's home. For information on the mail order pharmacy, call toll-free, 866-363-8667. Another pharmacy alternative is to use a local TRICARE Retail Network Pharmacy. Participating pharmacies in our area include: Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Eckerd's, Rite-Aid, CVS, Walgreens, Winn-Dixie, Publix, and Albertsons. The co-pay is \$3 for generic and \$9 for brand name for up to a 30-day supply in a Network Pharmacy. The same co-pay applies for up to a 90-day supply through the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy. Active-duty members have no co-pay.

(\*Friends or family members picking up prescriptions will need a copy of the front and back of the patient's ID card and a note signed by the patient authorizing them to pick up prescriptions on the patient's behalf.)

**BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW**  
325th Fighter Wing commander

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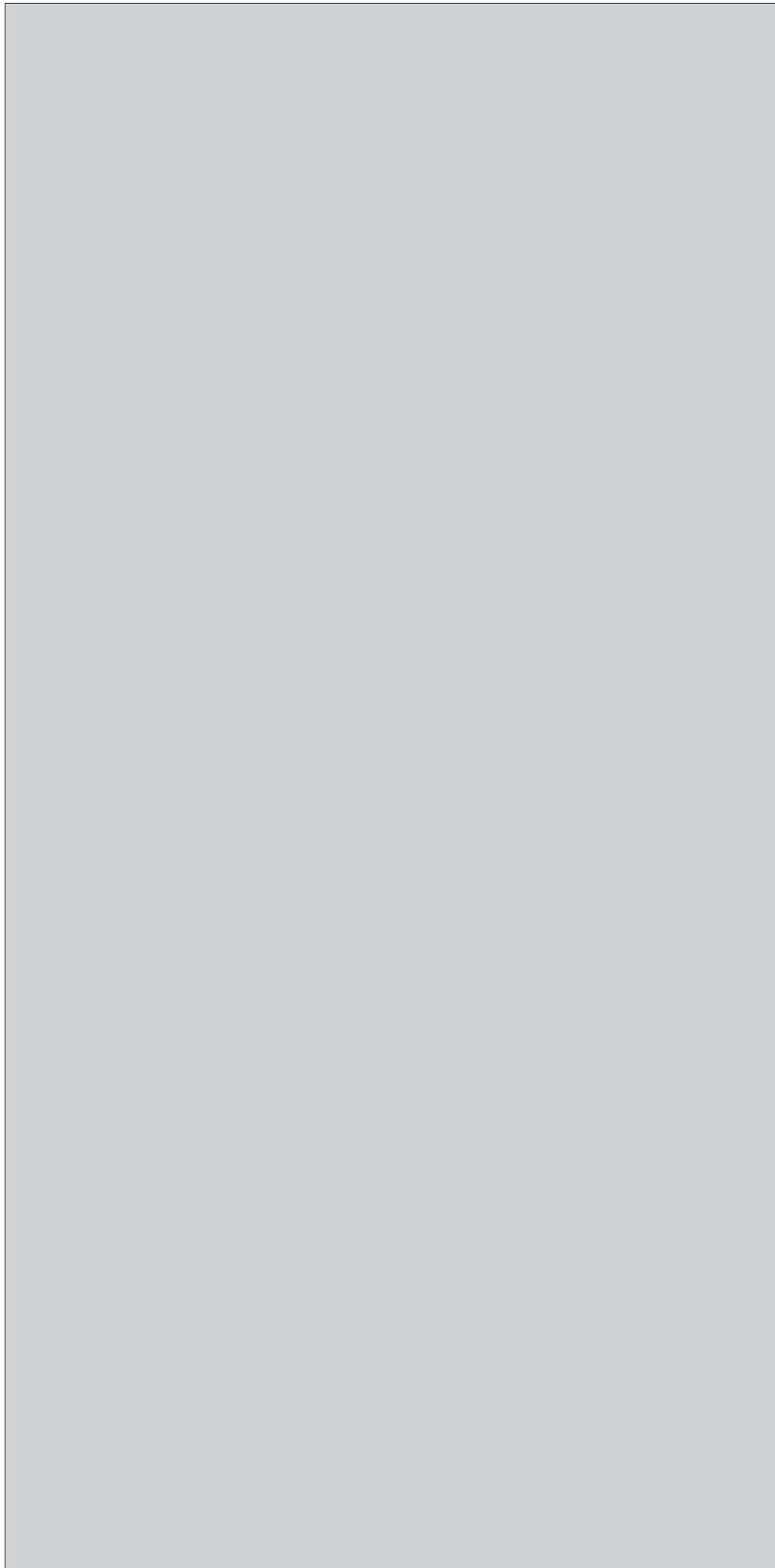
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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office. Photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or emailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.  
For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.



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



● **FROM REFLECTS PAGE 2** take time to honor two lence continue to be the cornerstone to the level of success we all enjoy.

Announcing the fourth quarter winners can mean only one thing — the annual awards are just around the corner. The banquet to honor our Team Tyndall 2003 winners will be held Thursday at the Pelican Reef Enlisted Club. The social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are available through unit first sergeants. I encourage everyone to come out and join the celebration as we honor the outstanding achievements of Team Tyndall's best of the best.

Next week we also

important and patriotic figures who helped forge our nation's path as we celebrate President's Day. Originally the holiday was dedicated to remember the birthday of our first president, George Washington, but has since been modified to also honor President Abraham Lincoln's birthday. These two extraordinary men led our nation through very turbulent periods, and we can draw many lessons from the examples they set for us. Although our Air Force core values were decades from being conceived, it's apparent that integrity first, service before self,

and excellence in all we do were values these leaders stood firmly upon. It's important that we draw on such strong leadership role models as we continue down our individual professional development paths, and translate their examples into a modern-day leadership standard of excellence.

While you reflect on these examples, remember that operational risk management is also the hallmark of a good leader. Exercise your best ORM this weekend; don't drink and drive, get plenty of rest before driving long distances, and always keep safety in mind. Have a great week.

● **FROM SUPPORT PAGE 2**

called home for the last three years.

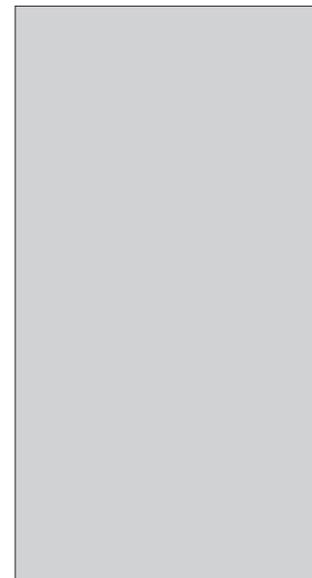
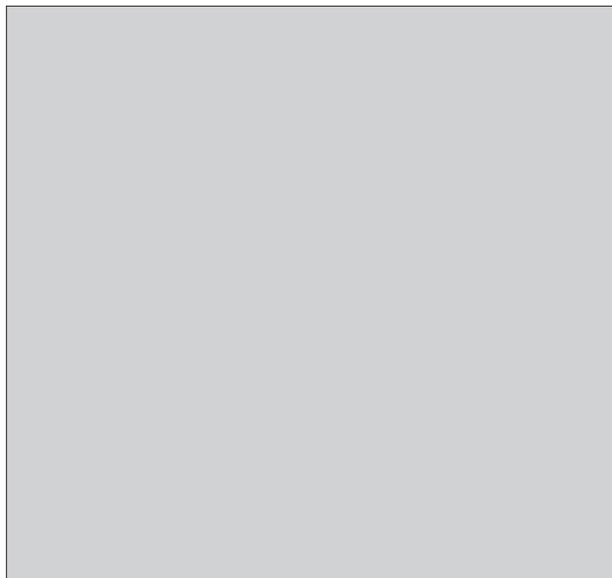
Northwest Florida is a haven for military people who have endured assignments where protesters make regular appearances at the front gates or flightlines. In a few weeks, we have an opportunity to reach back to the community that supports us, our mission and our families.

Plans for Tyndall's annual Gulf Coast Salute are in full swing, and this year's show looks to be action-packed.

Action-packed also means that there will be extra work for all of us. It's not an easy task hosting dozens of visiting aircraft and their crews. Putting 50,000 visitors on the flightline to watch those aircraft fly doesn't make

things easier. But when you drive down the streets of the towns we live in, and see the concern the residents have for all of us, it is crystal clear why events such as the Gulf Coast Salute are so crucial. It's imperative to our mission completion and our quality of life that we maintain the support that Bay County has traditionally given us.

Next time someone stops you to thank you for what you do for a living, tell them about the open house. It's their chance to look inside the gates, and get a glimpse of the aircraft and the buildings that their tax dollars purchased. It's also a chance for them to put a face with the uniform they've been supporting for as long as many of them can remember.



# AF test uniforms hit the streets

**TECH. SGT. DAVID JABLONSKI**  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** — Airmen at two bases got a firsthand look at the proposed new utility uniform Monday when the tiger-striped blue-, green- and gray-patterned ensemble began its wear-test phase.

Officials delivered the distinctive uniforms to testers at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and Langley AFB, Va. A uniform board official provided an update on the utility uniform and also released details about the fitness uniform.

This is the largest wear test the Air Force has done. Typically an item goes through a wear test at a maximum of three bases and 300 people. This test is being conducted at nine bases with 700 airmen participating.

"The Air Force is asking us what we need in a utility uniform and this is our opportunity to give our feedback," said Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Dean, chief of the Air Force Uniform Board office. "One thing people should understand is that this is simply a test, nothing about the

uniform is set in concrete. And that is why we need to get that feedback from the participants and via the Web



## Crossing into the Blue

- *The new uniform is being tested at nine bases with 700 airmen participating.*
- *A Web site that will be operational in April will allow the wearers and those who see them to log on and answer questions.*
- *The wear test will last six-months, then data will be collected to determine how well the uniforms measured up.*

site."

The Web site is expected to be operational in April. The decision to launch the site in April was driven by a desire to allow testers time to wear the uniform. Officials also wanted others to see the testers wearing it and get the chance to ask them questions.

Sergeant Dean is asking people with constructive criticism, who have seen the actual uniform, to log on and an-

swer the questions. Personnel officials will tally the data based on career field.

"For example, as a personnelist, I don't wear my BDUs on a daily basis, whereas a

maintainer or civil engineer would," Sergeant Dean said. "We need to make sure we're looking at the right data in the right context."

Sergeant Dean said the board will take into account valuable suggestions and opinions that are concrete and have basis.

"We need to make sure we're not being emotional," she said. "We need solutions."

Some solutions are already

being addressed in the new design, Sergeant Dean said.

"The best features of the uniform are the permanent-press treatment and actual sizes," she said. "This uniform is distinctive, easy to maintain and fits better. Our current battle dress uniform comes in four sizes. The new uniform will come in actual men's and women sizes. Men's pants will come in sizes 28 to 48 and the shirts will come in jacket sizes 34 to 52; women's uniforms will come in sizes 2 to 24. It's going to provide a much better fit."

The test includes trying out two boots, one in suede and another that is a low-polish, low-shine black leather style. The suede boot will be tested in black, charcoal gray and tan. Sergeant Dean said high-operations tempo caused senior leaders to move away from the requirement to have a high-polish shine.

After the six-month test is complete, data is collected and evaluated to determine how the uniform stood up to conditions. Comments about style, color and a variety of issues will also be taken into consideration.

## Doors open for active duty to join Air Force Reserve

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN)** — The Air Force is opening doors and modifying programs to give people leaving active duty an opportunity to continue their military careers in the Air Force Reserve. As the active force tries to reduce manning by about 16,600, the Air Force Reserve is seeking to hire many of those experienced airmen and give them a more flexible way to have a career in the military.

"This is an excellent opportunity for prior-service people on active duty to join our Reserve programs," said Col. Francis Mungavin, director of recruiting service at Air Force Reserve Command headquarters here. "Our people are making every effort to ensure that all potential candidates are aware of their release options."

Current Air Force manning numbers are beyond the authorized end-strength of 359,300 airmen on active duty. The new force-shaping program has scheduled active-duty numbers to drop by 3,900 officers and 12,700 enlisted airmen by Sept. 15. "The force-shaping program initiative that will have the greatest impact on us will be the expanded application of the Palace Chase program," said Lt. Col. Dirk Palmer at AFRC's recruiting service. "We expect that airmen in all Air Force specialty codes will be eligible to apply for Palace Chase with

●SEE RESERVE PAGE 5

● **FROM RESERVE PAGE 4**  
a minimum of two years in service.”

Palace Chase is a program for airmen to transition off of active duty by trading their active-duty service commitments for Air Force Reserve service commitments.

“Palace Chase is not a new program,” said Chief Master Sgt. Susan Allick, chief of the Palace Chase Program at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph AFB, Texas. “The program has just eased requirements for the force-shaping program.”

To qualify for this program, applicants must have a re-enlistment code approved for continued military service and meet all the Palace Chase eligibility criteria under the force-shaping rules. Applications under these new rules are being accepted until March 12. To be approved, applicants must separate from active duty between May 15 and Sept. 15. Though the normal application process is from seven to eight weeks, under the new rules, officials at AFPC expect to be able to notify applicants of their results within four to six

*For more information about joining the Air Force Reserve, visit [www.afreserve.com](http://www.afreserve.com). To speak to a recruiter in the area, call (800) 257-1212 between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.*

weeks. “We’ll be working on a first-come, first-served basis,” Chief Allick said. “With the restrictions loosened up on active-duty service commitments, we expect to process a lot of applications.” Though people in all specialty codes are eligible to apply for the Palace Chase transfers to the Air Force Reserve, airmen must have graduated from their initial

training, qualified as 3-levels and not be scheduled to be re-trained. Some U.S. Air Force Academy graduates may be approved for the program. Air Force ROTC cadets may apply to be commissioned directly into Air Force Reserve jobs for six-year commitments, instead of the typical four-year tour of active duty. “With individual mobilization augmentee end-strength sitting at 94.8 percent, this is a great opportunity to fill some of our current vacancies,” said Lt. Col. Nancy Robinson, director of assignments at Air Reserve Personnel Center headquarters in Denver. “We’re trying to pull out the stops and make the transition from the active duty to the Reserve as smooth as possible.” (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

training, qualified as 3-levels and not be scheduled to be re-trained. Some U.S. Air Force Academy graduates may be

## Checkertail Salute

### Airman 1st Class Regina Cooper



Lisa Carroll

**Airman Cooper receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award by Brig. Gen. Larry New, 325th Fighter Wing commander.**

The Checkertail Clan salutes Airman 1st Class Regina Cooper, who assisted with a humanitarian mission to Guatemala, helping foster international relations. Airman Cooper also served as a dental and pharmacy technician, providing care for more than 5,300 patients and maintaining more than \$30,000 worth of surgical supplies/equipment. She also trained four newly assigned assistants in surgical sterile set-up procedures and educated 15 assistants on use of new sedation monitoring system, increasing the work force of oral surgery by 66 percent.

**Duty title:** Dental assistant

**Unit:** 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

**Time on station:** One and a half years

**Time in service:** 2 years

**Hometown:** Thomasville, Ga.

**Hobbies:** Fishing, hunting, reading, spending time with family

**Goals:** Get my commission

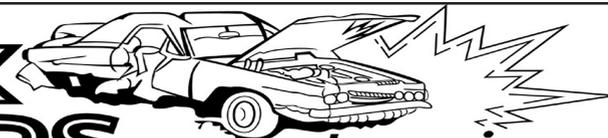
**Favorite book:** The Stand

**Favorite movie:** Grease

**Favorite thing about Tyndall:** I like going to the beach and knowing the friendly people here.

*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.*

**DRUNK DRIVERS are not survivors!**



# Tyndall Officers' Spouses' Club starts Quality of Life grant program

**MELISSA HARTLE**

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Tyndall Air Force Base sits on 29,000 acres of land, encompasses 127 miles of shoreline and offers many comforts of a small town community. How could life get any better?

The Tyndall Officers' Spouses' Club thinks there's always room for improvement, and they are offering up to \$5,000 for a quality of life project that will benefit the Tyndall community.

"The Quality of Life grant program is another way we hope to positively impact the Air Force community ... the base as a whole," said Wendy Harding, Officers' Spouses' Club vice president and chairperson for the Quality of Life Program Committee. "Our fundraisers and the OSC Thrift Shop have been so successful this year we wanted to make this money available to impact more people."

The OSC, a charity organization made up of approximately 125 Tyndall spouses, gives away college scholarships, as well as thousands of dollars each year to local charities, base groups and helping programs where there's a need.

This is the first year the Quality of Life grant has been offered at Tyndall. And though they are providing

the funds for the project, the OSC is looking to Team Tyndall members and organizations for ideas.

"Team Tyndall members live, work and play here," said Mrs. Harding. "Who would know better what's needed? This is their chance to make a difference."

Ideas must be submitted in writing by March 15 to the OSC and should outline the end goal of the project, how the project will be accomplished, materials required (if any) and a cost estimate. The project cannot be open-ended and must be complete by July 30.

Chief Master Sgt. Samuel Kimbrel, 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group, thinks the grant program is a terrific idea. "I don't think there's a better way to spend money with a bigger impact that's tied directly to Tyndall."

He has already submitted a project idea, although not a formal proposal, for new playground equipment. "I'd like to see the playground equipment at the temporary lodging facility upgraded or replaced."

Chief Kimbrel said he noticed the aging playground area nearly six years ago when he moved to Tyndall, and understands funding is not readily available to make the improvements.

He said replacing the old equipment would benefit the children who use the equipment and everyone who

sees it. "When you come to Tyndall and stay in lodging, you're first impression of the base is this little playground," Chief Kimbrel said.

Mrs. Harding said ideas such as this one are just what the OSC is looking for.

"If there is a specific need, whether it be for Airman's Attic, a helping program, or any other need a Team Tyndall member might see - don't hesitate to submit it," said Mrs. Harding. "It doesn't have to be a big-budget project. In fact, we can divide the money to support more than one project."

Once proposals are submitted, the Quality of Life Program Committee will make their selection based on the impact and feasibility of the project. The winning project(s) will be announced at the end of March.

Mrs. Harding said the OSC hopes to offer the grant program again next year and that the program will continue even after current club members are gone. "As Air Force spouses we bloom where we're planted," said Mrs. Harding. "This program, and others like it are our seeds for future generations."

Project proposals can be submitted to Mrs. Harding via email at [hardingaggies@aol.com](mailto:hardingaggies@aol.com) or regular mail, 2732 Eagle Drive, Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403. For more information, call Wendy Harding at 286-1429.



Lisa Carroll

## On display

Brig. Gen. Larry New, 325th Fighter Wing commander and Lt. Col. John Cote, 325th Air Control Squadron commander, unveil a scale model of the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft for display in the 325th ACS during an official presentation Feb. 4.

## Officials limit re-enlistment window to three months

STAFF SGT. MELANIE STREETER

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force personnel officials are changing the re-enlistment eligibility window beginning March 5. The new policy requires active-duty airmen to re-enlist within three months of their term of service expiring, a change from the 12-month window currently in effect.

“In our effort to shape the force, we continue to seek areas that will give us greater management oversight,” said Master Sgt. Maria Cornelia, the Air Force’s chief of retention and bonus programs at the Pentagon.

“We want our airmen to understand that we’re not discouraging re-enlistments,” Sergeant Cornelia said. “By reducing the eligibility window, Air Force officials will have a better picture of how many re-enlistments we can expect within a given period.” Narrowing the window will also assist officials with forecasting requirements for personnel programs such as selective re-enlistment bonuses, career job reservations and re-training, Sergeant Cornelia said. Local military personnel flights have more information.

## Air Force Assistance Fund campaign begins Monday

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFP) — The Air Force Assistance Fund “Commitment to Caring” campaign runs Monday thru May 7, asking airmen to contribute to any of four Air Force-related charities.

The charities benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired Air Force, surviving spouses and families. This is the 31st year of the fund drive.

Charities receive 100 percent of designated contributions.

“Requests for assistance have continued at record levels since Sept. 11, 2001,” said retired Lt. Gen. Mike McGinty, Air Force Aid Society chief executive officer. “Last year the Air Force Aid Society helped 30,000 airmen with (more than) \$22.6 million in assistance. That’s a lot of help. Contributions are vital for the society to sustain this kind of help. It is truly an airmen-helping-airmen program.”

The secretary and chief of staff of the Air Force recently announced a \$5.2 million goal. In 2003, Air Force

people gave \$5.9 million to the fund.

People can contribute through cash, check, money order or payroll deduction to:

— The Air Force Aid

enhancement programs. Base family support centers have full details on programs and eligibility requirements.

indigent widows and widowers of retired enlisted people 55 and older. More information is available at [www.afenlistedwidows.org](http://www.afenlistedwidows.org).

— The Air Force Village Indigent Widow’s Fund, a life-care community in San Antonio for retired officers, spouses, widows or widowers and family members. The Air Force Village Web site is [www.airforcevillages.com](http://www.airforcevillages.com).

— The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation, which provides rent and financial assistance to indigent widows and widowers of officers and enlisted people in their own homes and communities. The LeMay Foundation Web site is [www.lemayfoundation.org](http://www.lemayfoundation.org).

Contributions to the AFAF are tax deductible. For more information, visit <http://afassistancefund.org> or the Air Force Personnel Center’s voting and fund-raising Web site at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund).

Installation project officers have information on local procedures and goals.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

### AFAF at Tyndall



- AFAF at Tyndall will be from March 8 to April 16.

- Last year Tyndall contributed \$45,398 to the AFAF and in turn received \$272,028 in direct assistance to its members.

- The point of contact for the AFAF here is Master Sgt. William Canfield at 283-4123 or e-mail [william.canfield@tyndall.af.mil](mailto:william.canfield@tyndall.af.mil).

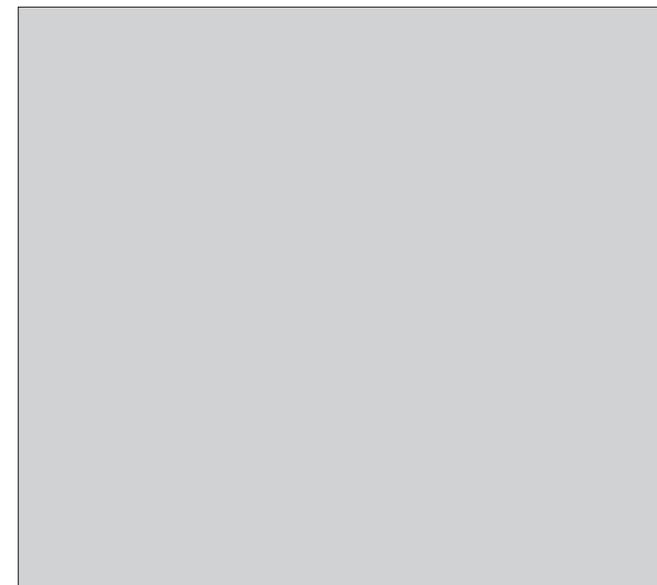
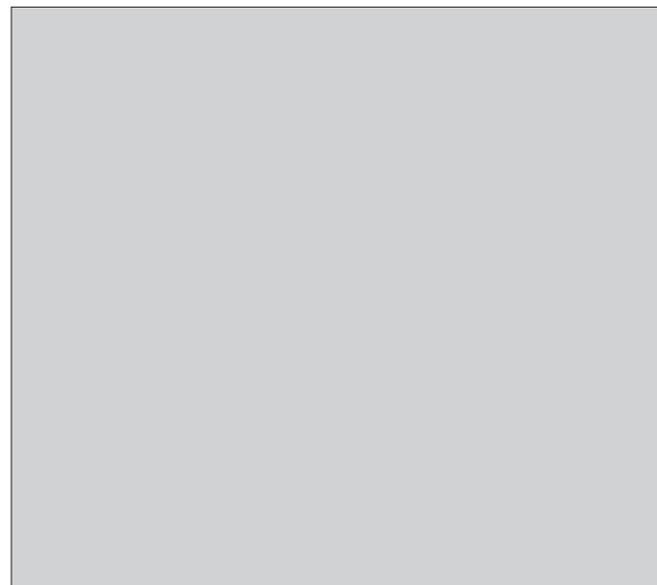
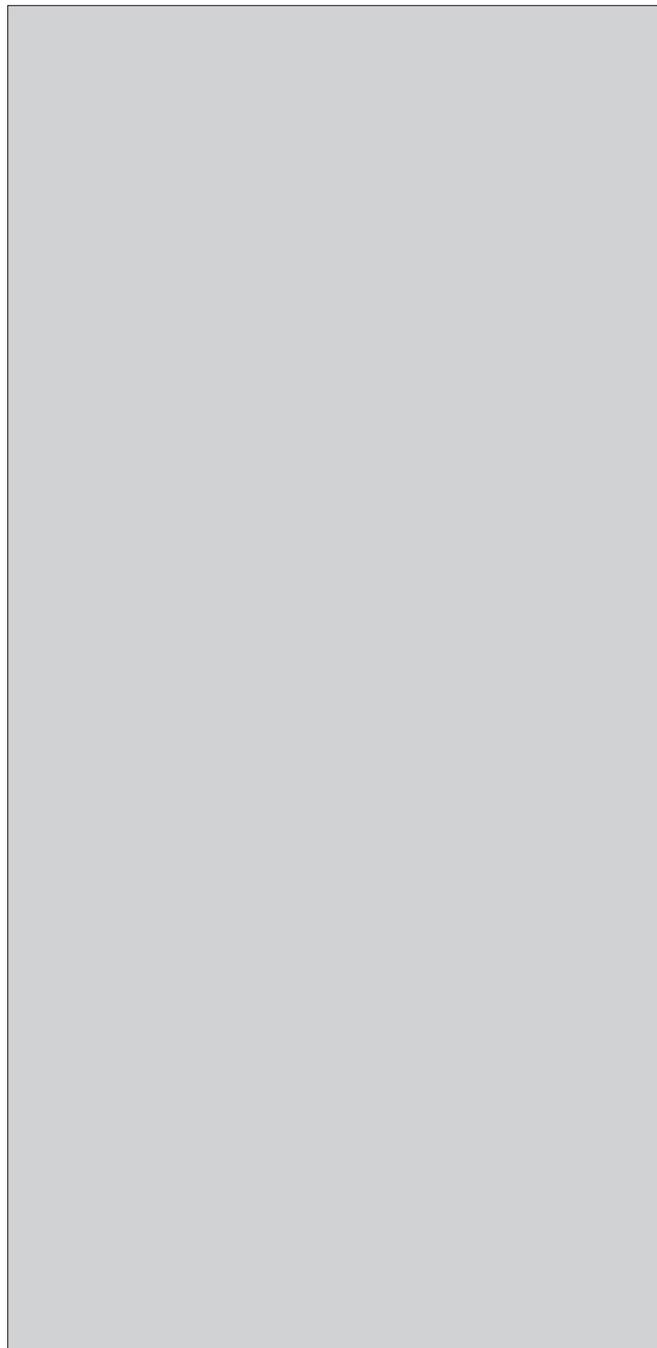
- The alternate point of contact is Master Sgt. Elvira Simpson at 283-7716 or e-mail [Elvira.simpson@tyndall.af.mil](mailto:Elvira.simpson@tyndall.af.mil).

- More information will be available at commanders’ calls.

Society, the official charitable organization of the Air Force which provides airmen and their families with worldwide emergency financial assistance, education assistance and an array of base level community-

Information is also available online at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org).

— The Air Force Enlisted Villages in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., near Eglin Air Force Base, which provides rent subsidy and other support to



# LIFE SUPPORT

## Airmen equip pilots with winning edge

**CHRISTINE SULLIVAN**

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Lockers in Tyndall life support sections are filled with advanced technology to help F-15 Eagle and F/A-22 Raptor pilots do their job.

This high-speed gear and the people who maintain it may even save a life.

“We provide the pilots with critical life-sustaining flight equipment and survival training,” said Staff Sgt. Henry Johnson Jr., 95th FS life support NCO in charge. “Our job is vital to the pilots because our equipment helps them maintain a greater gravity tolerance. It’s the only lifeline they will have if they have to eject from the aircraft.”

The majority of equipment stocked in the cubbyholes at both squadrons is essentially the same; integrated lightweight flight helmets, torso harnesses that attach to parachutes, anti-gravity suits and vests and night vision goggles.

New equipment in the F-15 inventory includes a new combined aircrew systems tester that enables units to mobilize without compressed air or oxygen. It can also be used in a chemical environment with just the change of a canister.

Equipment specific to the Raptor includes full lower-pressure advanced tactical anti-gravity suits. The 43rd FS also has the most advanced communication system in its inventory with custom communications earphone systems that emulate technology used by NASCAR drivers.

“Of all the life support locker rooms I’ve ever seen, this one is outfitted very, very well,” said Lt. Col. Michael Stapleton, 43rd Fighter Squadron operations officer and pilot. “Everything was allocated by Tech. Sgt. Shawn Beard and six of the sharpest life support folks I’ve ever seen.

“They buy equipment for us that we need and for the right cost,” he added. “It helps us to work more effectively within the same budget level as the other squadrons.”

“We are proud to have led the way for multiple functional improvements in all life support sections within the 325th Fighter Wing,” said Sergeant Beard, 43rd FS life support NCOIC.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Kurpaski, 43rd FS life support training supervisor, who worked under

Sergeant Beard when they were both assigned to the 95th FS, said he was impressed with the equipment and camaraderie at the 95th FS.

Now assigned to the 43rd FS, Sergeant Kurpaski said he’s amazed at the advanced equipment and top-notch team members he has the privilege to work with.

He, along with three other team members, works in the back room of the life support section at the new 43rd FS building, which houses a testing area and work stations. They tackle multiple facets of inspections, buildup, fitting, and repair for all equipment pilots use on a daily basis.

“Everything we need to work with is right here,” said Sergeant Kurpaski.

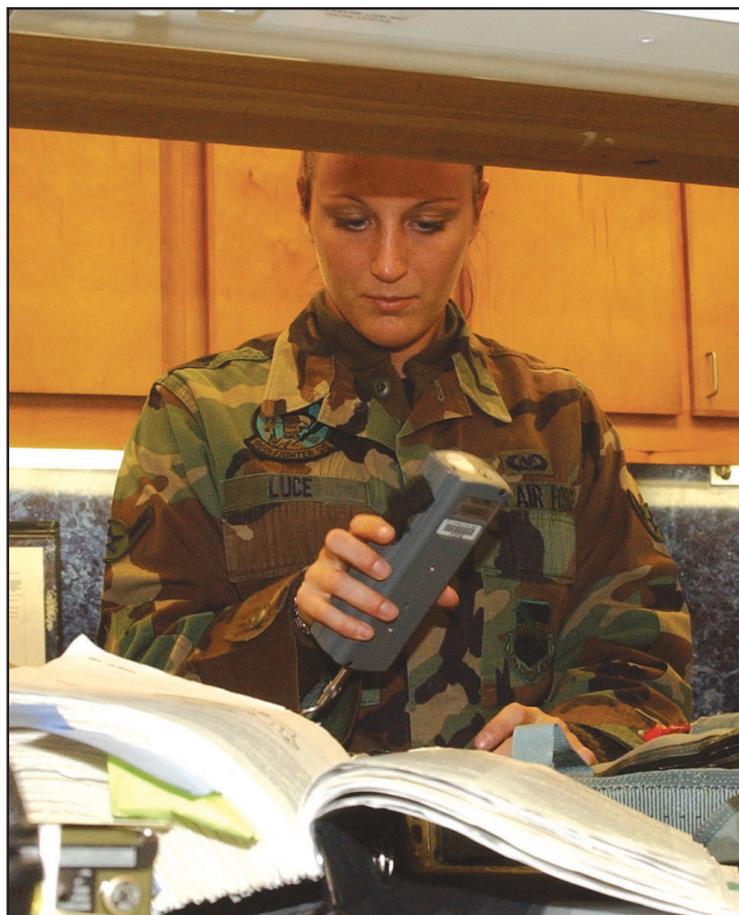
The daily routine of the 43rd FS life support section is nearly identical to the 95th FS when it comes to equipment maintenance, inspection and repair.

“We remove, install, inspect and repack various pre-positioned life-saving items installed in the F/A-22, such as ACES II survival kits and parachutes,” said Sergeant Beard. “Our typical days include everything from inspecting the life-saving components for



Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely

Senior Airman Lance Clark, 95th Fighter Squadron, re-assembles part of an oxygen mask after inspecting it for signs of damage.



Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely

Airman 1st Class Randi Luce, 95th FS, uses a pull tester to ensure key parts of a pilot's torso harness function correctly.



Lt. Col. James Richter, 95th FS Airman 1st Class Clint Scott ensure their pilots have the s

# REPORT:

## , survivability

Right: Maj. Michael Hoepfner, 43rd Fighter Squadron pilot, gathers up his life support gear moments before stepping to a Raptor training mission.



Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely

S director of operations, raises his arms to permit proper fit check for his life preserver unit, as and Airman Randi Luce make necessary adjustments. Tyndall's life support airmen routinely safest, most reliable and comfortable equipment possible.

the pilot, to inspecting their personal flight equipment."

"The addition and upgrade of maintenance rooms and work stations for our technicians has greatly improved efficiency," he added. "We estimate our improved operations efficiency at about 20 percent, which has benchmarked the set up for sister squad-

rons here and abroad."

"I've been doing this job for 15 years, and this is the first time I've gotten to work with totally new stuff," said Colonel Stapleton. "It's amazing to see what these guys do with it."

The 95th FS is currently in the process of procuring a low-profile aircrew life preserver that



Christine Sullivan

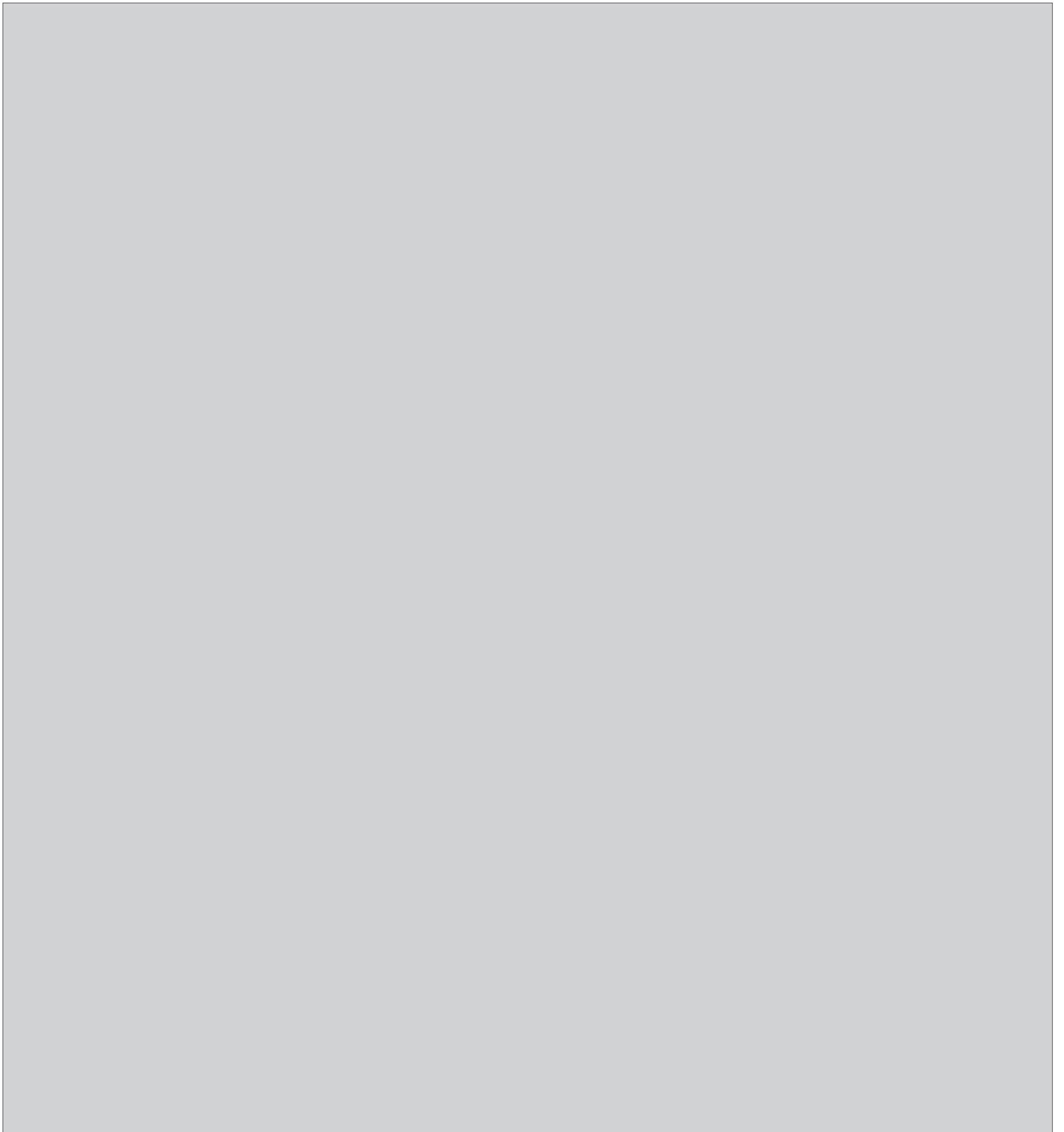


Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely

Airman Scott performs a routine post-flight inspection of a G-suit, carefully examining it for signs of cracking or tearing which could present a serious inflight hazard to a pilot.

lessens the weight of flight equipment and provides more comfort to pilots.

"Our vision for the life support community here and elsewhere is to come on line in the very near future with the latest version of the survival vest, chemical defense and advanced preparation for potential mobility operations," said Sergeant Beard. "We have an elite network of subject-matter experts in our field who communicate and share lessons learned with the latest and greatest technology."

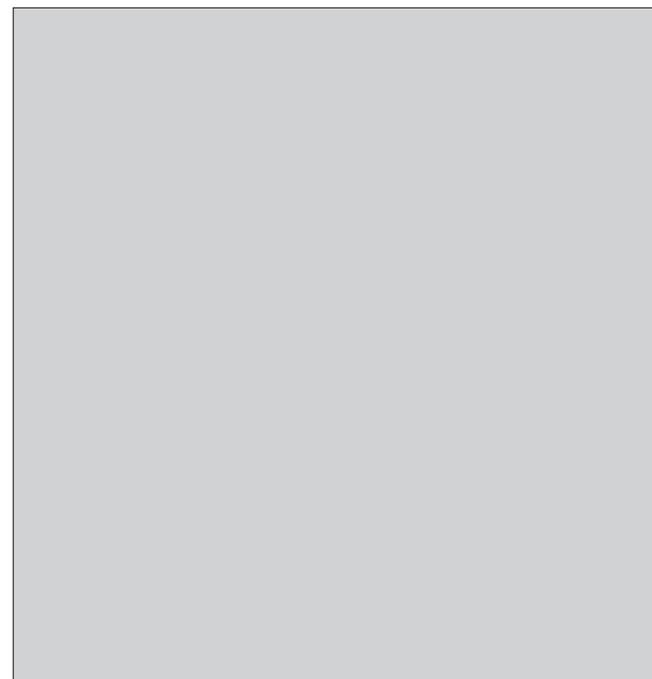
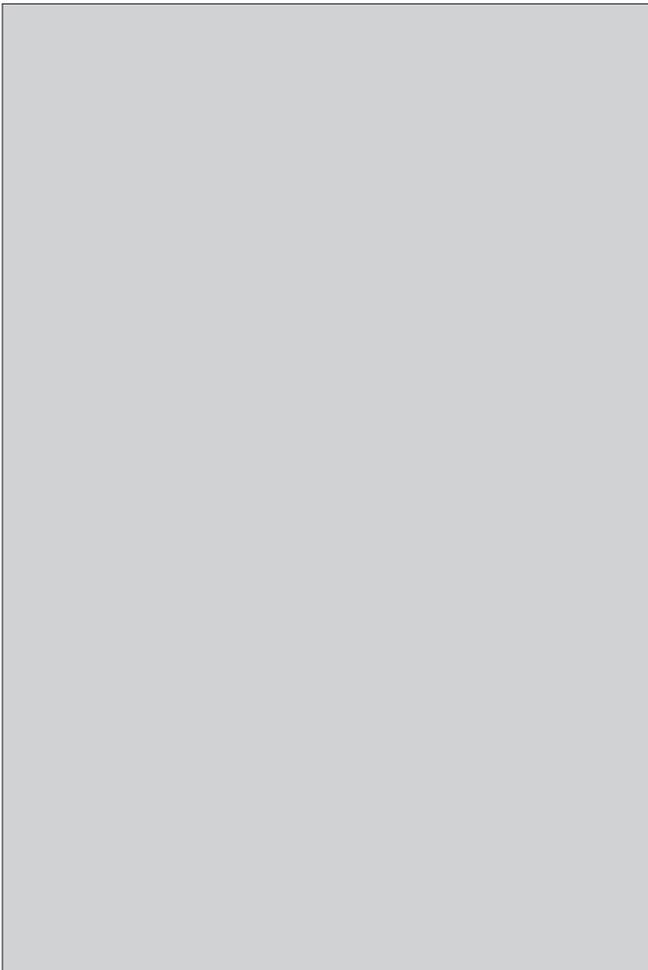
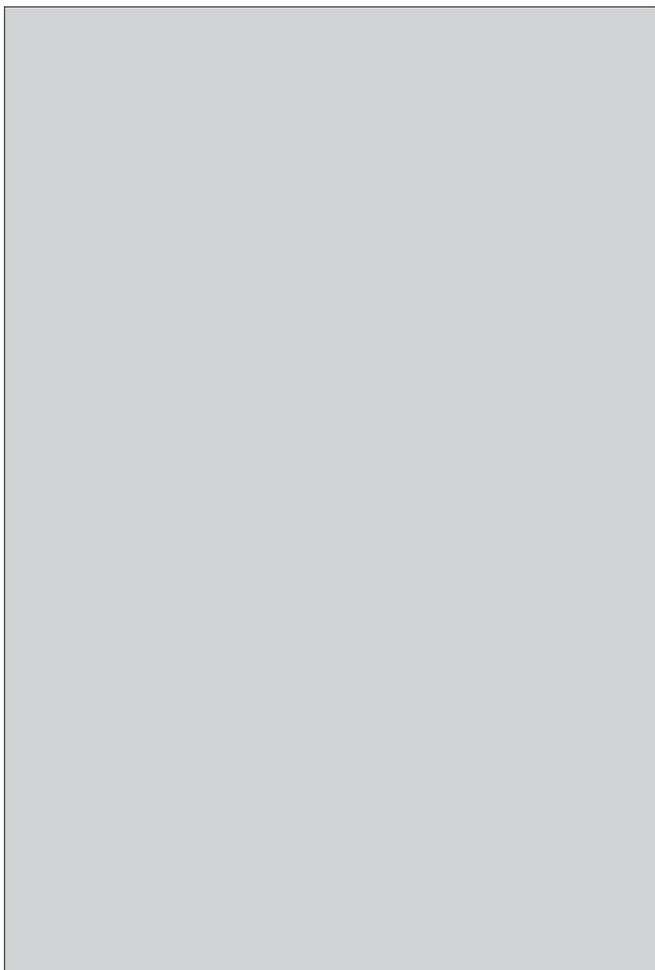




Blue Angels photo by U.S. Navy Lt. Michael Blankenship

## Gulf Coast Salute 2004 has a mean case of the 'Blues'

The U.S. Navy Blue Angels fly their renowned Delta formation over the waters near Nantucket Island, Mass. The aerial team will bring their special brand of high-flying action to Tyndall during the Gulf Coast Salute 2004, March 27-28. Many military and civilian static and aerial displays are also scheduled.





Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

## Gift of life

**Airman 1st Class Brandon Ford, 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit weapons specialist, donates blood at the Northwest Florida Blood Center blood drive Feb 6. The blood drive was held in the NFBC bus between Hangars 1 and 2, and will return every 56 days to allow members the chance to donate as much as possible.**

## Events

### Tyndall Officers' Spouses' Club

The Officers' Spouses' Club hosts the second annual Time, Talent and Treasure Silent Auction 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 25 - 26 and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 8 p.m. Feb 27 at the Tyndall Officer's Club. Auction items include crafts, gift certificates to area restaurants, and beauty salons, gift baskets and products from area businesses. All proceeds will go to support college scholarships for military dependents and spouses.

### Tyndall Elementary School's Kindergarten Open House

Tyndall Elementary School will hold a kindergarten open house and registration 2-2:45 p.m. Monday in the schools media center. There will be a short presentation for parents from kindergarten teachers and a visit to the classrooms. Registration materials will be available. For more information, call Becky Jones at 286-6481.

### Thrift Shop

Each week in February the Tyndall Thrift Shop will highlight donated items in a spotlighted department that will be available for half price. Donated clothing items will be 50 percent off the entire month. Shopping hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Wednesday thru Friday and 9 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of each month. Consignments are accepted on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The Thrift Shop is located in Bldg. 743. Any donated items may be left in the collection bin in front of the shop.

For more information, call 286-5888

### Gulf Coast Salute 2004

"Showcasing America's Defenders; Five Forces, One Mission." Tyndall Air Force Base will host the 2004 open house March 27-28, featuring the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels and many other military and civilian aerial demonstrations. For more information, call 283-9726.

### Talent show

The Tyndall Black Heritage Committee is sponsoring an annual variety show Feb. 28 at the Enlisted Club. Contact Staff Sgt. John Phinisey for more information, at 283-2663 or e-mail john.phinisey@tyndall.af.mil, or e-mail Crystal Lewis at crystal.lewis@tyndall.af.mil.

### Base operations relocated

Base operations, Bldg. 149, will be relocated for nine months due to renovation. Base weather and meteorological navigation

will be operating out of the trailer in front of building 149 and Airfield Management will be operating out of Bldg. 131. For more information, call 283-4244.

## Services

### Anger Management

A four-session anger management course will be held 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 23, and March 1 in Bldg. 1305. For more information or to sign up, call 283-7511.

### Tyndall Officers' Spouses' Club college scholarship

Tyndall Officers' Spouses' Club college scholarship applications are now available for qualified college-bound high school students and military spouses. Application packets can be picked up at the Tyndall Education Office or in the high school guidance counselor's offices. Deadline for the application is noon Feb. 27. For more information, call 286-1212.

### National Prayer Luncheon

There will be a national prayer luncheon 11:30 a.m. at the Pelican Reef Enlisted Club Feb. 20. Chaplain (Col.) John Stefero, Air Education and Training Command chaplain, will be the guest speaker. Tickets cost \$5 and are available through the chapel and unit first sergeants. For more information, call 283-2925.

### BX Optical Shop

The BX Optical Shop is now open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Saturday.

### BX Beauty Shop

The BX Beauty Shop will be closed until Feb 24 due to remodeling.

### Gulf Coast Community College

Applications are now being accepted for the 2004 summer term at Gulf Coast Community College. Active-duty military must submit a copy of orders with application. Schedules will be available April 15 for summer and fall terms. The next placement test at the Tyndall Education center will be at 1 p.m. March 11.

### Free CLEP eCBT for military personnel

Starting Monday, DANTES will fund the CLEP eCBT test fee for eligible military personnel and civilian examinees testing on-campus at national test centers. The advance, non-refundable registration fee charged by national test centers to reserve a date and time for testing is not funded by DANTES. The fee ranges from

\$15 to \$25 per test and the examinee is responsible for paying this fee. For more information, call the Tyndall Education Center at 283-4285 or 283-4286.

## Classifieds

### Super Beetle

1974 red Super Beetle, new paint, sunroof, 45k on rebuilt engine. 105k miles total, in excellent condition. Moving and need to sell, \$6,500. Call Jonathan at 215-2279.

### Ford Aspire

1994 Ford Aspire, standard, am/fm and cassette. 95k, runs well. \$550. Call Mark or Amie at 286-2285 or 624-4823.

### Chevrolet Camaro

1995 Chevy Z-28 Camaro Convertible LT1, auto a/c/ps/abs. Leather, silver/black, 144k miles, \$6,000 negotiable. Chrome brush guard for 94-98 Dodge truck, \$250, call 286-4728.

### Household items

Coffee table for \$50; Dining room table with three chairs for \$60; vinyl love seat and lounge chair for \$80; lawnmower for \$40. All prices are negotiable. For more information, call Steve at 286-4288 after 6 p.m.

### Yamaha Dirt Bike

2003 Yamaha TTR-250 dirt bike, ridden only once. Bike has been kept in a garage and is in showroom condition. Asking \$3,800. For more information, call Chris at 286-1741.

### Maxum Open Bow

1994 18' Maxum Open Bow. 3.0L, 4Cyl, 135 hp, low hours. Includes life vests, extra prop, 2 anchors, cover, \$6,400 OBO. Call 286-3837.

### Ford Ranger

2000 Ford Ranger Extra Cab XLT. White, A/C, AM/FM/CD, 5Spd, bed liner and cover, 34,000 miles. Asking \$8,800. Call 286-3837.

### Enterprise Tires

Four used 80,000 mile 205/70R14 Enterprise tires, used them for 2,500 miles, asking \$135 OBO. For more information, call Rob at 286-1828 and leave a message.

### Toyota Tacoma PreRunner

Xtra Cab, automatic, black, AM/FM/CD. Runs great. 50K miles, must sell, asking \$13,000. For more information, call Isreal at 522-1665 or 276-9778.

### Television set

19" Sony flat tube monitor. \$150. 874-9179.

## Retiree News

### VA to gain six new cemeteries

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 County; 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 residences.

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 on the Internet at <http://www.va.gov> or <http://www.cem.va.gov>.

# Joint-service paintball war

STEVE RIDDLE

325th Services marketing publicist

Teams of Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force personnel will converge on Tyndall four weeks from now – not for a military exercise, but to wage all-out war.

Tyndall's Outdoor Recreation Center will host their first multi-base paintball tournament March 6–7 at the paintball fields here. Teams from bases as far away as Jacksonville, Georgia and Alabama are expected to compete.

"We're having our first joint-armed forces invitational paintball tournament," said Cindy Workman, outdoor recreation director. "So far, we've heard from 18 different teams who said they were interested in coming here."

The tournament will be played on the Speedball course, and will be a double elimination contest. Along with the adult division, there will be a 10–13 and 14–17 year old division. Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams in each bracket.

"Speedball games are pretty fast," explained John Horgan, who is coordinating the event with Outdoor Recreation. "Usually the games only last five minutes."

The games are so quick because the fighting is close-quarters combat. The speedball field is about 80 yards long and 40 yards wide. Dozens of large and small barricades provide cover. Each team begins from a "starting bunker" located at opposite ends of the field. In the exact center of the field, a flag is hung on a post. A team must get that flag and hang it on the opposing bunker to win.

"Usually to get the flag to the other side of the field, you have to take out the other team,"

Horgan said.

The event begins with check-in at 8 a.m. March 6. A mandatory safety briefing will cover the rules of the course at 9 a.m. The tournament begins at 10 a.m.

Food and beverage concessions will be available for both days, and paintball supplies, including CO2 and paintballs, will be available for purchase. Paintball markers, or guns, and safety equipment will be available to rent. Door and participation prizes will also be given out.

"It's a two-day event, with day one being the actual tournament," Horgan explained. "Day two is going to be recreational play. We'll play on all the fields that day."

Horgan is part of a group of volunteers who plan to put the finishing touches on the Speedball field in the next three weeks. Volunteers have been working on all the fields since the course opened Feb. 27, 2003. Most of the original work was done on field one, the Speedball field. However, in the past three months, paintball enthusiasts from the base have worked to transform Fields Two and Three into challenging courses with barricades and pillbox attack positions.

"At first more attention was given to the Speedball field," said Jesse Gentile, who has spearheaded the effort to build up Fields Two and Three since November. "The other two fields were basically already here, but we started building them up."

Fields Two and Three are approximately two acres each, and offer a more natural setting for paintball games. While the Speedball field is smaller, with many barricades to hide

behind, the other two fields require players to make use of natural terrain features. The ability to move silently through the woods and quickly find cover goes a long way there.

"Fields Two and Three are 'woods' courses," Gentile explained. "In field two, we put in some wood barricades made out of branches. We put out a few cable spools too." The barricades are fewer and farther between, with narrow paths connecting many of them.

"We built two little defensive positions in Field Three a couple of months ago," Gentile said. "From there we built two more pillboxes, and then on the outside edge of the course we put some regular small barricades."

The defensive positions and pillboxes are made from sturdy plywood and posts. They are located on the field in spots where they can be used as either a defensive position or to lay down suppressing cover-fire for a frontal assault. Gentile said because they play on the field nearly as much as they work on it, they are able to make the course more player-friendly.

"We play games on them all the time," he said. "We're constantly out here getting ideas, deciding what to do next. The fields are basically done, but we'll play, and it helps us decide if there should maybe be another bunker somewhere, or if a barricade should face more a certain way."



Steve Riddle

**Josh Jones (left) and Dylan Evers put the finishing touches on a barricade they recently completed at the paintball fields here. Barricades like this one will be heavily used during the Outdoor Recreation Invitational Paintball Tournament March 6 - 7.**

According to Workman, all the hard work has really paid off.

"The volunteers have been working really hard to make the course better," she said, adding that the quality of the entire paintball field is what has made the tournament possible.

Workman said the tournament is also a great way to familiarize anyone from Tyndall, who did not know about the paintball field, with its fast-paced brand of fun.

"We're having the tournament to not only expand the use of our field, but to provide a unique and high-interest sport to the people of Tyndall," Workman said.

To register for the tournament or to find out more, contact Tyndall Outdoor Recreation at 283-3199.

## Tigers take two from Hurlburt's Commandos

With their backs against the wall and the conference title on the line, the second-place Tyndall Tigers men's varsity basketball team twice defeated the first-place Hurlburt Field Commandos in Southeastern Military Athletic Conference action last weekend to capture the crown.

### Tyndall 68, Hurlburt 54

In Saturday's game, Tyndall and Hurlburt exchanged the lead in the first half, with Tyndall taking a three point lead 32-29 behind Tommy Nixon, who came off the bench to score eight points in the first half.

In the second half, the Tigers maintained the lead throughout the

half, as they opened up a 16-point lead with five minutes remaining. Tyndall then iced the game when Hurlburt couldn't mount a challenge.

The Tigers had balanced scoring as five players scored in double figures, led by Israel Figueroa and Omar Johnson with 13 points each, followed by Marvin Gamble (12) Nixon (11) and Elvin Walker (10). Gamble led rebounders with 10, while Johnson led in both assists (11) and steals (6). Walter Fitzgerald led Hurlburt in scoring with a game-high 17 points.

### Tyndall 83, Hurlburt 82

Tyndall's first game victory re-

sulted in Sunday's game being the conference championship game. The Tigers jumped out to an early double-digit lead they maintained throughout the first half, as they led 49-33 at the half.

In the second half, Tyndall cruised to a 66-50 lead with 8:39 remaining in the contest until the momentum shifted toward the Commandos. Hurlburt went on a run behind Tony Johnson's four three pointers and Fitzgerald to cut Tyndall's lead to 83-79 with eight seconds remaining. Johnson's three-pointer at the buzzer closed out the scoring as the Tyndall squad es-

caped with the victory and the conference regular season title.

Elvin Walker paced the Tigers with a game-high 22 points, followed by Omar Johnson (17), Figueroa (16), and Tarrance Garner (10). Figueroa led in rebounding with eight, and Walker led with five assists. Fitzgerald again led Hurlburt's scorers with 19 points.

This weekend, the Tigers will seek to defend their 2003 postseason title. They will face the winner of the Moody vs. Maxwell game at 3 p.m. Saturday in their first game of the tourney.

(Courtesy Tyndall Tigers)

### Tyndall hosts post-season tournament

Team Tyndall will host the 2004 King Aerospace/Southeastern Military Athletic Conference Men's Postseason Basketball Tournament Saturday through Monday at the Tyndall Sports and Fitness Center.

Teams vying for the championship trophy are: Keesler Dragons, Robins Hawks, Maxwell Warriors, Moody Falcons, Eglin Eagles, Hurlburt Field Commandos and the host and defending tourney champ Tyndall Tigers.

The opening tip-off is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday. Games will run throughout the weekend, with the championship game scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Monday. For more information contact the sports and fitness center staff at 283-2631.

# Funshine NEWS

February 13, 2004

www.325thservice.com

The Officers' Club Advisory Council presents:

## Mardi Gras

at the O Club For Officers and Civilian equivalents

Friday, Feb 20, 6-10 p.m.

\$9 per person in advance by Feb. 17 • \$12 at the door

Club members, look for the coupon on page 3 of your copy of the February Services Magazine to save \$3.

### Food - DJ - Contests

#### Centerpiece Contest:

Teams up to four people enter a centerpiece designed like a Mardi Gras float. Top three will win a prize

#### Best display of Mardi Gras spirit:

Prize will be awarded

Sponsored in part by First Command Financial Planning and Tyndall Federal Credit Union

No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.



Hosted by the 325th Mission Support Group

**283-4357**

The Tyndall Base Library Presents:

### Professional Storyteller

Ann Newman

10 a.m. Sat., February 28

telling these Traditional Folk tales:

- How Anansi Got the Stories
- Anansi's Good Day

All Ranks, Members Only

### Valentine's Dinner

at O' Club Sat., Feb. 14

Specialty Salad with Red Wine Vinaigrette Dressing Sliced Tenderloin, Lobster Tail & Glass of Wine Cheesecake with Strawberry Topping

\$34.95 per Couple

Limited seatings at 5:30 p.m. & 7:15 p.m.



Reservations strongly recommended  
**283-4357**

### Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

#### Kids on Target Archery

Ages 8 and up. Learn basic archery techniques in a safe environment. Program runs Mar. 23-26 at 10 a.m. and cost is \$30.

#### Tennis Anyone?

Ages 5 and up and learn basic skills in a friendly group environment. Program runs Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27, at 9 a.m. Cost is \$30 and all equipment is provided.

#### Start Smart Soccer

Mar. 10, 12, 17, 19 at 10 a.m. Cost is \$30. Open to youth ages 3-5 yrs.

### Community Activity Ctr.

☎ 283-2495

#### Valentine's Day Balloon Bouquet Special

This special is good until 8 p.m. on Feb. 13. 1 Valentine mylar and 3 latex balloons for \$4 or 10 latex balloons for \$10. We also have assorted stuffed animals and valentine's candy available.

#### Valentine's Balloon Bouquet Give-Away

Register to win a Free Valentine's Balloon Bouquet for that someone special. Drawing will be held at 3 p.m. today.

#### Base Chess Tournament

Feb. 21, 11 a.m. Categories include: Youth, Active Duty, and DoD Civilians. Awards for 1st and 2nd place in each category. All participants must sign up by Feb. 17.

## Tyndall Invitational Paintball

Tournament

March 6 & 7

Double Elimination

3 person teams

Pre-register by

Feb. 28

Cost is \$20

Door Prizes & Trophies

**283-3199**

### Gulf Coast Salute Booth Sign-up

Base organizations have the opportunity to earn income for their unit. Apply with the Services Squadron to work a booth. Requests are honored on a first come first basis, with official military units assigned to Tyndall given priority. Applications should be hand carried to the Community Center, (Bldg. 1027) All applications must be received by close of business Feb. 20. For more information call Rudy Wallace 283-2495.

### Sealed Bid Vehicle Sale

1994 Ford 15 passenger van, mileage: 69,993. Minimum bid \$500. Item may be viewed in the parking lot behind 113 Suwannee Bldg. 1129 room 10. For more information contact Elaine Mobley 283-2781. Item is sold as is. Bids will be accepted through noon February 27.

Deals on

# CRUISES!

#### Carnival Cruise Line

Bahamas sailings out of Miami. Starting at \$299

#### Royal Caribbean

Caribbean sailings out of Port Canaveral. Starting at \$399

#### Norwegian Cruise Line

Western Caribbean sailings out of New Orleans \$399/\$499

For more information call 238-3199

## 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**

### Family Child Care

☎ 283-2266

#### FCC Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 12:30-1:30 p.m.

#### PCS Child Care

Free child care is available when you are making a PCS move. Contact the Family Support Center (283-4204) or the Family Child Care office (283-2266) for details.

#### Provider Class

The next Family Child Care provider class will be offered in March. Contact the Family Child Care office to schedule an orientation and register for the class.

#### Help Wanted

Tyndall needs Family Child Care providers to care for children under the age of two. Our next training class begins March 10. Contact the FCC office, 283-2266 for details.

## Certificate of Creditable Coverage automatically issued for persons no longer eligible for TRICARE updated

On Feb. 1, the Department of Defense Military Health System began automatically issuing a Certificate of Creditable Coverage to any former uniformed services sponsor or family member who loses eligibility for health care benefits under TRICARE. Eligibility for TRICARE may end as a result of a sponsor's separation from active duty status, divorce, demobilization if the sponsor is a member of the National Guard or Reserves, or a dependent child reaching age 21 (23 for full-time students).

For persons no longer eligible for TRICARE, the certificate serves as proof of previous health care coverage and limits the

time another health care plan may exclude them from participating in a health care plan due to a preexisting medical condition.

The Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office, as custodian of the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, will mail a certificate for the sponsor or family member within 5 to 10 days after eligibility has been lost.

Sponsors or family members who have questions regarding the certificate may contact the DSO at (800) 538-9552, or TTY/TDD at (866) 363-2883. Additional information is also available on the TRICARE Web site at [www.tricare.osd.mil/certificate/index.cfm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/certificate/index.cfm). (Courtesy of TRICARE)



## ● FROM BUSH PAGE 1

Qaeda – better than a pretty good job, a very good job.”

On Iraq, the president said he expected to find weapons of mass destruction stockpiles in the country. “I based my decision on the best intelligence possible, intelligence that had been gathered over the years, intelligence that not only our analysts thought was valid but analysts from other countries thought were valid,” he said.

All nations took note of Saddam's recalcitrance to open the country to inspectors. All countries noted that Saddam had used chemical weapons on Iran in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War and on Kurds in the northern part of the country. U.N. weapons inspectors said there was a large number of chemical and biological weapons unaccounted for following the first Persian Gulf War.

“I expected there to be stockpiles of weapons,” President Bush said. The Iraq Survey Group under David Kay found the capacity to produce weapons, but no stockpiles. The group has not finished its work yet, and there are a number of theories as to what happened to the weapons. “David Kay did report to the American people that Saddam had the capacity to make weapons,” President Bush said.

“Saddam Hussein was dangerous with weapons. Saddam Hussein was dangerous with the ability to make weapons. He was a dangerous man in the dangerous part of the world.”

The president said that knowing what he did, he did not think he could rely on the good will of a madman. “I believe it is essential that when we see a threat, we deal with those threats before they become imminent,” President Bush said.

“It's too late if they become imminent. It's too late in this new kind of war, and so that's why I made the decision I made.”

**“Every life is precious. Every person that is willing to sacrifice for this country deserves our praise.”**

**GEORGE BUSH**

President of the United States of America

President Bush said he had first wanted the United Nations to act to get Saddam to disarm peacefully. “U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441 clearly stated, ‘Show us your arms and destroy them, or your programs and destroy them,’” he noted. “And we said, ‘There are serious consequences if you don't.’”

It wasn't just the United States making the determination that Saddam posed a danger. The United Nations thought so too. “And, of course, he defied the world once again,” President Bush said. No country or international organization can afford to have its word doubted. The president said that if the United States or the United Nations says there will be serious consequences, then there better be serious consequences. If there aren't, “People look at

us and say, ‘They don't mean what they say, they are not willing to follow through,’” he said.

Inaction would have emboldened Saddam Hussein, the president said. “He could have developed a nuclear weapon over time – I'm not saying immediately—but over time which would then have put us in what position? We would have been in a position of blackmail,” President Bush said.

“In other words, you can't rely upon a madman, and he was a madman. You can't rely upon him making rational decisions when it comes to war and peace. And it's too late, in my judgment, when a madman who has got terrorist connections is able to act.”

He said experiences since March 2003 show the message has been received. “Libya, for example: There was a positive effect in Libya where Moammar Qadhafi voluntarily disclosed his weapons programs and agreed to dismantle them, and the world is a better place as a result of that,” President Bush said.

During his hour-long interview, President Bush spoke directly to the families of Americans who have been killed in Iraq. “Every life is precious. Every person that is willing to sacrifice for this country deserves our praise,” he said. “Saddam Hussein was dangerous, and I'm not gonna leave him in power and trust a madman. He's a dangerous man. He had the ability to make weapons at the very minimum.”

