

# GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 63, No. 8

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

Feb. 27, 2004

## In brief

### Enlisted supervisor social

The Tyndall Top 3 and Runnin Wild Entertainment are sponsoring an Enlisted Supervisor Social 4 p.m. Thursday at the Enlisted Club. The party is free, and being held for airmen and their supervisors to socialize. There will be food music and karaoke.

### Water boil notice lifted for Wood Manor

For more information on the recent water boil alert, see page 7.



### 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.

## Inside

- General cites AF diversity improvements ... **Page 4**
- Combat arms risk analysis complete ... **Page 10**
- Off-base baseball team big hit for Tyndall members ... **Page 13**



Lisa Carroll

## Annual awards

1st Lt. Jessi Rozman and Senior Airman Paul Syzmanski exchange congratulations moments after they and the other award winners shown here, received honors as Tyndall's Top performers of 2003. For more about Tyndall's best, see pages 8-9.

# Servicemembers encouraged to invest in TSP

**RUDI WILLIAMS**

American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON (AFP)** — A money savvy servicemember serving in Iraq did not wait to get back home to buy a shiny new car with his \$30,000 re-enlistment bonus. Instead, he invested all of it into the Thrift Savings Plan.

"Assuming a 7-percent rate of return, his \$30,000 is projected to be \$345,000 by the time he reaches age 60," said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council. "If he continues to contribute to TSP throughout his career, he could have more than \$1 million saved by the time he retires."

A million dollars is not anything to sneeze at, but Colonel Fenton and other defense officials see a big problem concerning TSP: Not enough servicemembers taking

advantage of the program.

"We're trying to convince people that TSP is a good vehicle for savings," Colonel Fenton said. "The great thing about TSP is that it's tax-deferred in pretax dollar savings. So it comes out of your income, and you're not taxed on it until you use that money later, hopefully in your retirement."

Colonel Fenton said the plan is also "a good idea for people who don't plan to make a career of the military, because they can take their TSP with them when they leave active duty."

Those who leave active duty before retirement could roll their TSP into a 401K plan of a new civilian employer, she said. It could be put into an IRA, or even left in TSP, but no more funds could be added to the account.

"It would just sit there and grow, tax-deferred," Colonel Fenton

said. "I think most people would want to roll it over into some other vehicle that they could continue to contribute to."

More than 220,000 servicemembers signed up for TSP in 2002, the first year the savings plan was opened to military personnel. That figure jumped to more than 390,000 at the end of the open season which ended in December.

That is a healthy increase, but defense officials would like to see thousands more servicemembers use TSP as one of their savings plans for the future, Colonel Fenton said.

"At the end of 2003, the Navy had 32.2 percent of its active duty force enrolled in TSP," Colonel Fenton said. "That's significantly higher than the other services."

Thrift Investment Board statistics show that the Air Force is

second with 21.2-percent participation. The Army has 15 percent. The Marine Corps has 20.2 percent. The Coast Guard has 19.2 percent.

Colonel Fenton said the other two uniformed services, the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, also participate in TSP. The health service has 56.4-percent participation, and NOAA is at 68 percent.

Colonel Fenton thinks more sailors invest in TSP because the Navy does an excellent job of advertising the benefits of the plan.

"We'd like for the rest of the services to get information out to more and more servicemembers," she said. "Let them know that TSP is available, and ensure that they understand what it can do

●SEE INVEST PAGE 4

# Air Force Safety ... the goal is zero mishaps

**GEN. JOHN JUMPER**

Chief of Staff of the Air Force

Over the past 10 years, we have prevailed in combat in Kosovo, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. We have toppled dictators, provided opportunities for democracy to flourish, and destroyed terrorist networks. We have demonstrated time and time again that we are the greatest Air Force in the world. I am very proud of our record in combat and in securing our nation's safety. But, we aren't doing enough to keep our Airmen safe.

During those same 10 years, the Air Force has lost more than 1,000 Airmen in accidents that shouldn't have happened and could have been prevented. People are our most important resource and our greatest investment. We have to protect them. It is tragic to lose a fellow Airman, and every time we do we also lose a piece of our combat capability. We can do better.

I have rarely heard of an accident that couldn't have been prevented, and I'm asking for your help in reducing our mishap rate by at least 50 percent over the next two years. Secretary Rumsfeld shares this goal, and he established the DoD Safety Oversight Council to review our safety practices DoD-wide. But, real change has to start with each of us individually. Commanders and supervisors are accountable for safety practices and performance and must take action to reduce mishap rates. Leaders have to make sure risks are balanced against mission requirements and mitigate the risks or stop operations when those risks become too great. Most important, we all have to get rid of the idea that safety is a concern

only when "on-duty." Safety has to be part of every Airman's daily life — in combat, on the commute to and from work, at home, and on vacation — anywhere you might be.

Our ultimate goal is "zero mishaps." Some people may think "zero" is simply too hard to be a realistic goal. To my way of

**"I have rarely heard of an accident that couldn't have been prevented, and I'm asking for your help in reducing our mishap rate by at least 50 percent over the next two years."**

**GEN. JOHN JUMPER**  
Chief of Staff of the Air Force



thinking, however, any goal other than zero implies that some mishaps are acceptable. But no mishap is. The moment we stop pressing forward we start falling back. Over the past decade, despite some excellent safety programs, we haven't made much progress in making the Air Force safer. Instead, we've been moving in the wrong direction. Another program, procedure, or lecture won't help. Each of us paying attention will. The right attitude about safety in peacetime is no different than how we feel about surviving in war. The difference is that any loss of people or equipment in peacetime means that they will never get to the war.

We know that the mission always comes first and our environment will always be "high-risk." Plus, the Air Force cannot become so risk averse that we jeopardize the mission. But, we cannot fall into the trap of accepting accidents as a cost of doing business, and almost all accidents are preventable. First, we have to turn around the trend in motor vehicle collisions. Off-duty private motor vehicle accidents have steadily risen since Fiscal Year 98 and remain the number one killer of our people. We're taking action to raise motorcycle safety awareness and skill level, but success depends on our people embracing and then practicing safe riding habits.

We also have to decrease the rate of aviation accidents — midair collisions, controlled flight into terrain, and engine failures consistently drive mishap rates. We'll do our part to ensure that you get the training and the technology, but you have to put it into practice. Seat belts don't work if you don't buckle them; helmets don't save lives if you don't wear them. Motor vehicle and aviation accidents drive the statistics, but accidents occur everywhere, like in the workplace and on the sports field.

I have established the Air Force Operational Safety Council, chaired by the Vice Chief of Staff, to oversee safety matters. The AFOSC will monitor safety performance, examine new or emerging technologies from both the operational and safety perspectives, and direct required changes in Air Force policy, programs, and investment. But, all the oversight in the world won't help if our Airmen don't take each other's safety — their survival — seriously.

I need your help — let's get it right on safety.

## Team Tyndall members continue to shine

**BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW**

325th Fighter Wing commander

The 325th Fighter Wing annual award winners were announced last week, and once again I have the pleasure of congratulating this year's winners for their outstanding accomplishments. Airman 1st Class Paul Szymanski, 325th Mission Support Group, was named Airman of the Year; Tech. Sgt. Matthew Dahlin, 325th Maintenance Group, was named NCO of the Year; Master Sgt. Rebecca Simmons, 325th Fighter Wing, was named Senior NCO of the Year; Master Sgt. Alan Weatherly, 325th MXG, was named

First Sergeant of the Year; and 1st Lt. Jessi Rozman, 325th FW, was named Company Grade Officer of the Year. Additionally, Senior Airman Melody White, 325th Air Control Squadron, was named Tyndall AFB Honor Guard Member of the Year; Melissa Sanders, 325th MSG, was named Category I Civilian of the Year; and Sandra Gilmer, 325th Medical Group, was named Category II Civilian of the Year. Again, congratulations, and thank you for all you do for Team Tyndall. The Tyndall AFB associate unit annual award winners and overall Team Tyndall annual award winners were also an-

nounced last week. For more on the 2003 annual award winners, see pages 8-9.

In addition to our annual awards, I want to recognize some more of our outstanding people and units from the base who earned honors at the command level. The 325th Medical Group received several Air Education and Training Command awards, including the Outstanding Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight of the Year and the Surgeon General's Medical Information Management Medium Team of the Year. Also, Staff Sgt. Darren Maring, a 325th MDG

●SEE AWARDS PAGE 5

## Action Line

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

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

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

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

*Larry D. New*

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

## Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Larry New ..... 325th FW commander  
Capt. Chris Karns ..... chief, 325th FW public affairs  
2nd Lt. Albert Bosco ..... chief, internal information  
Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell ..... editor  
Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely ..... staff reporter  
Christine Sullivan ..... staff reporter  
Jim Weslowski ..... staff reporter

The *Gulf Defender* is published by the *Panama City News Herald*, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Gulf Defender* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, the Department of the Air Force or the *Panama City News Herald* of the products or services advertised.

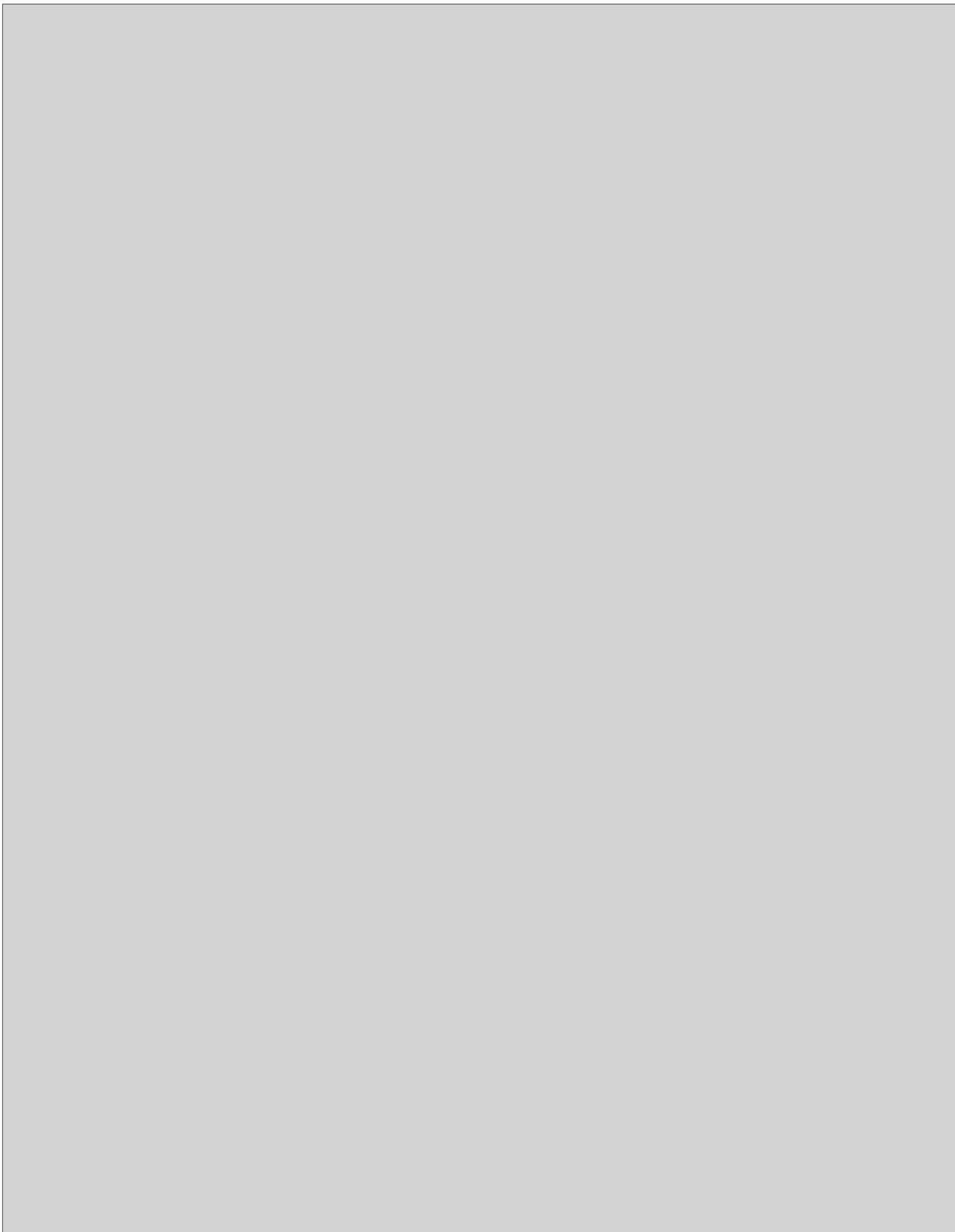
Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the pur-

chaser, user or patron.

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

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

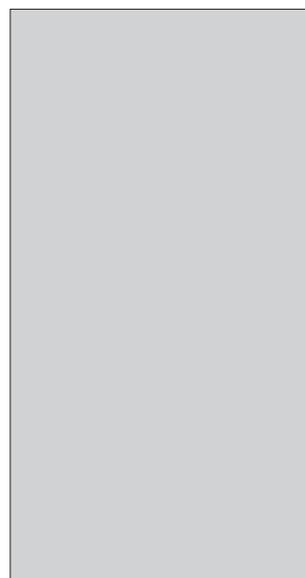
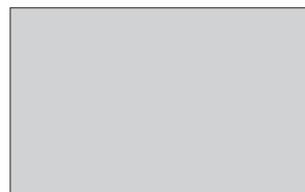
For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.



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

**QUIT**

 American Heart  
Association  
WE'RE FIGHTING FOR  
YOUR LIFE



# General cites Air Force diversity

**2ND LT. LISA SANTORELLI**  
81st Training Wing Public Affairs

**KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss.** — The Air Force has come a long way in improving diversity among its ranks.

That was a key message from Air Education and Training Command Vice Commander Lt. Gen. John Hopper Jr. in his speech at the African American Heritage Committee Luncheon here Feb. 12.

"I came to Keesler because Team Keesler is a great place, doing some great things to turn young people into productive Americans dedicated to our country," General Hopper said.

"We (the American people) are all in your debt for your efforts."

The luncheon's theme marked the 50th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education that banned segregation in public schools.

"African Americans have gone to great lengths to pursue education, and now this decision is universally celebrated among all Americans," said General Hopper, the Air Force's highest ranking black officer.

The general reflected on the first time he experienced segregation growing up in

Clarksville, Tenn., in the 1950s.

"I was boarding a bus with my 3-year-old brother," he said. "I let my brother board first, and he promptly sat in the first seat on the bus. When I told him we had to move to the back of the bus, in a typical 3-year-old's manner he asked me why. The irony of that particular situation was that it took place two years after Brown vs. Board of Education."

The general said education is the first step in America becoming a colorblind society.

"My father always said the application of education, or what I call continuing education, would provide you with a successful life," he said. "I look at our great nation and see the potential we have for success."

General Hopper also commented on the Air Force's strides to increase diversity, realizing the importance of diversity to the successful accomplishment of the Air Force mission.

"We want our fighting forces to represent what you see in our society," the general said. "The Air Force has come a long way, and it's clear we need to, and can, do more than what we're doing



**Lt. Gen. John Hopper Jr.**

now to improve diversity."

General Hopper received his commission in 1969 upon graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has flown in combat in Vietnam and as commander of the 1660th Tactical Airlift Wing (Provisional) in Southwest Asia during Operation Desert Storm.

He also served as the commandant of cadets at the Air Force Academy and on the

Joint Staff at the Pentagon. He is a command pilot with more than 3,900 flying hours in 12 different aircraft.

As vice commander of AETC with headquarters at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, he helps lead the command mission of recruiting, training and educating more than 500,000 men and women annually for the air and space force and the nation.

## ● FROM INVEST PAGE 1

for them. At least (the services should) have the information available so they can make a choice.

"Servicemembers who leave active duty and join the National Guard or Reserve will still have TSP because they could invest in it whenever they're on active duty," Colonel Fenton said. "They could even contribute a percentage of their weekend active-duty pay."

"Once they contribute, they're putting in a percentage of their basic pay," Colonel Fenton said. "So every time they're being paid basic pay, some percentage, whatever they selected, which is up to 9 percent, would go into their TSP."

The amount servicemembers are allowed to contribute and the percentage of pay they can invest increases annually. For example, through November, it was 8 percent; beginning in December, the limit is 9 percent. The annual total of tax-deferred contributions cannot exceed the Internal Revenue Code limit, which is \$12,000 for 2003 and \$13,000 for 2004.

Those who are contributing to TSP from their basic pay are allowed to contribute from 1 percent to 100 percent of any incentive or special pay, including bonus pay.



**Think  
before  
you  
drink.**

● **FROM AWARDS PAGE 2**

bioenvironmental engineering apprentice, was named AETC's Outstanding Bioenvironmental Engineering NCO of the Year; and Linda Yeager, a 325th ADS computer assistant, was named AETC's Medical Information System Management Civilian of the Year. For more on the medical group's awards, see page 6.

The 325th Mission Support Group had several command-level award winners as well. Avelino Reyes-Alfonso was named the George F. Ruestow Air Force Logistics Readiness Senior Civilian Manager of the Year, and four individuals from



**“Tyndall airmen are continuing to strive to meet the daily challenges of our Air Force ...”**

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

the 325th Communications Squadron took top AETC honors. Tech. Sgt. Dennis Montros, NCO in charge of internet services, was named AETC's NCO of the Year in the Communications, Computer Systems category; Airman 1st Class Timothy Carlin, an internet services technician, was named Airman of the Year in the Communications, Computer Systems category; Master Sgt. Richard Venable, NCOIC of ground radio maintenance, was named Senior NCO of the Year in the Communications, Electrical and Wire Systems Maintenance category; and Tech. Sgt. Robert O'Connor, customer service center NCOIC, was named NCO of the Year in the Communications, Electrical and Wire Systems Maintenance category.

On the operations side of the house, Capt. Allyssa Cowden, 325th Operations Support Squadron F-15C Intelligence Training Unit officer in charge, merited AETC's Maj. Gen. John S. Patton Outstanding Active Duty Intelligence Officer of the Year, Level II, award, and Capt. John Dean, a 325th OSS academics instructor and 1st Fighter Squadron F-15C instructor pilot, won the Air Force Association David C.

Schilling award. And, the awards and recognition continue to roll in! The fact that so many of our folks are being recognized is testimony to the quality of individuals who make up Team Tyndall.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Tyndall airmen are excelling in the daily challenges of our Air Force through hard work, and dedication to the mission. Team Tyndall airmen achieved a pass rate of 97 percent on their

Career Development Courses last month, and it is an average that has been well above 95 percent for quite some time. It is impressive to see those kinds of numbers, as they indi-

cate the level of talent and perseverance displayed by our airmen every day.

Speaking of hard work and dedication, we are one month away from this year's Gulf Coast Salute, scheduled for March 27-28. The folks heading up this year's open house have been working diligently to bring everyone the best possible event, but there is still much to do. I know folks will be busy putting the final touches on what I know will be a fantastic event, but we are always in need of additional volunteers, and I am asking that folks help out wherever they can.

Of course, the U.S. Navy Blue Angels will be headlining this year's airshow, and in addition, there will be several other military and civilian aerial demonstrations and many static displays, events and activities the whole family will enjoy. For more information on the open house, be sure to check the link on the Tyndall Web site. It contains valuable information that will ensure maximum enjoyment by all.

Congratulations, again, to all our award winners. Keep up the great work!

# 325th Medical Group takes top AETC awards

**SENIOR MASTER SGT. ROB FULLER**

325 Fighter Wing public affairs

The 325th Medical Group has a lot to be proud of these days as the bioenvironmental engineering and medical information systems flights came up big winners in Air Education and Training Command's awards competition, winning key team and individual awards.

The bioenvironmental engineering flight was named best flight of its kind in AETC for 2003 due to their outstanding team accomplishments, and Staff Sgt. Darren Maring, bioenvironmental engineering apprentice, was named Bioenvironmental Engineering NCO of the Year.

Hallmarks to the team's success in 2003 included an overhauled gas mask fit process, 160 contractors trained for no-notice deployment and support for more than 300 deploying troops, which ensured all were 100% medically qualified with zero early return; the best compliance rate in the Air Force. Also, the BIO team played a pivotal role in the beddown of the F/A-22 Raptor, tackling the first environmental study, solving hazardous waste concerns and building accident response plans.

"I am really proud of the Bioenvironmental Engineering flight," said Lt. Col. Robert Gargiulo, 325th Aeromedical -Dental Squadron commander. "It takes an integrated team effort to be selected as the AETC Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight of the Year. From emergency preparations and response to their occupational and environmental health mission, the BEE team is committed to customer focused mission success."

Successful teams usually have successful individuals at the heart of the organization, and the BEE team is no different. Sergeant Maring, made great strides in 2003 as he revamped the respirator program for 194 shop workers to include a new fit-test regime that increased compliance from 50 to 90 percent and saved 20 man-hours per

---

**"I am really proud of the bioenvironmental engineering flight ... it takes an integrated team effort to be selected as the AETC Bioenvironmental Engineering flight of the Year.**

**LT. COL. ROBERT GARGIULO**

325th Aeromedical - Dental Squadron commander

---

week. Sergeant Maring also co-wrote emergency response procedures and mass deployment plans which contributed to an "Excellent" rating during the 2003 AETC Operational Readiness Inspection. He excelled in his professional development with a 90 percent on his career development course examination and gained acceptance to the American Military University Master's in Emergency/Disaster Management program. Sergeant Maring was active off-duty as a Salvation Army volunteer, in unit support organizations and squadron and group sports teams.

"Staff Sgt. Darren Maring is a natural leader and go getter," said Colonel Gargiulo. "You put him on a problem and you get results. Case in point is the outstanding job he did on what was a disjointed respiratory protection program. Compliance jumped from 50 to 90 percent under his management."

The Medical Information Systems flight also took top command honors in 2003 and Ms. Linda Yeager, medical information management flight computer assistant, was named AETC's Medical Information Management Civilian of the Year.

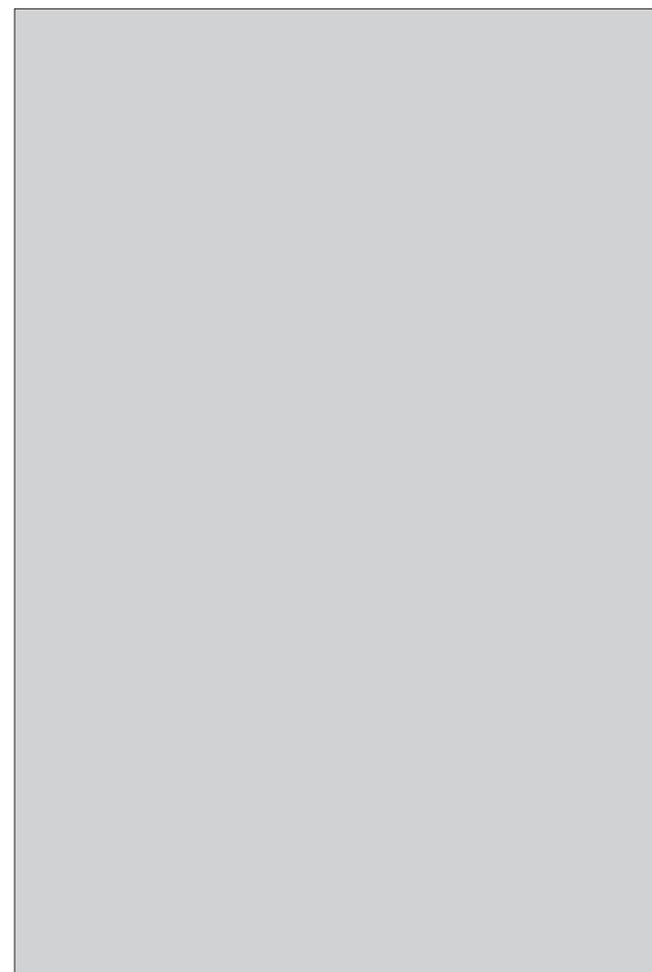
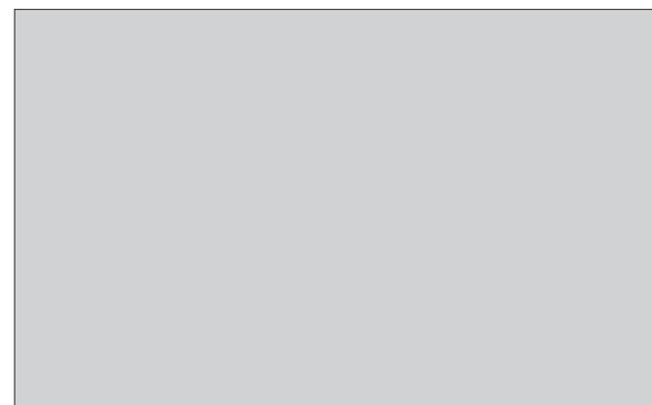
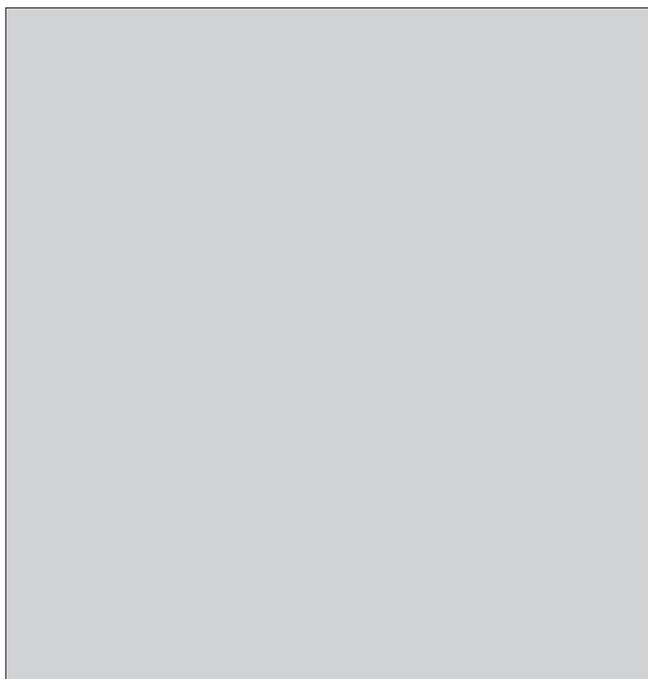
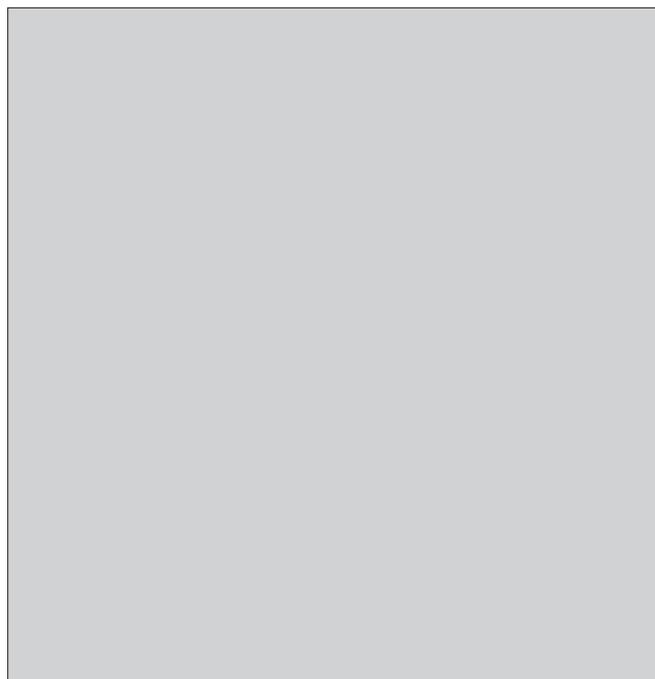
The flight's highlights in 2003 included writing 22,000 lines of code to allow base-

broke requests down into 24 categories, creating a user-friendly and searchable database. She was instrumental to the flight consolidation of a central storage area containing five years of excess computer equipment, which purged \$600,000 worth of excess materials. Finally, Ms. Yeager consistently focused on the essential areas, maintaining an average 99.98 percent local area network uptime over 8,760 hours of operation.

"The 325th Medical Group and 325th Medical Support Squadron are very proud of both our Medical Information Systems Flight and Ms. Linda Yeager," said Lt. Col. Bradley Herremans, 325th MDSS commander. "We are proud of the service they all provide this medical community everyday."

wide access to Physical Health Assessments, increasing base readiness from 63 to 97 percent. Also, the team managed a rapid two-day installation of 15 Corporate Dental Application computers, which enhanced dental clinic scheduling ability. The flight was recognized for successful security documentation and training programs, and received an "Outstanding" score during the wing information assurance inspection and an overall "Excellent" rating during the 2003 AETC ORI.

Ms. Yeager is considered the rock of the help desk staff with the top number of completed work orders. In 2003 she tracked all metrics and



## Checkertail Salute

Lynn Crouch



Steve Wallace

**Lynn Crouch is awarded the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award by Col. Doug Cochran, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.**

The Checkertail Clan salutes Lynn Crouch for her many accomplishments. She has coordinated a base wide information brief on the Air Force ROTC program, developed information packets on numerous commissioning programs and is responsible for coordinating Tyndall's upcoming Community College of the AF graduation. She is also active in various unit activities.

**Duty title:** Education and training specialist

**Unit:** 325th Mission Support Squadron

**Time on station:** Seven months

**Time in service:** Seven months

**Hometown:** Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Hobbies:** Traveling, reading and hanging out with friends

**Goals:** Earning a commission, becoming a navigator or air battle manager

**Favorite thing about Tyndall:** The people I get to help on a daily basis

*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.*

## Water boil alert information

Bioenvironmental engineering and civil engineer teams routinely test the base drinking water for chlorination and the presence of bacteria in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. About two weeks ago, following a repair to a break in a water line, bioenvironmental engineering got positive results for bacteria. This sometimes occurs after a repair as still water from the end of lines is drawn into the main lines and/or sediment is agitated. Corrective actions include super chlorinating and flushing the lines with follow up testing until two consecutive days of sampling indicate no bacteriological presence. Bioenvironmental engineering and CE investigate potential causes and corrective actions for positive bacteria sample results. Although the water boil alert has been lifted, in event of future occurrences, the 325th MDG has provided the following information.

During the boil alert, water used for drinking or cooking should be brought to a rolling boil for about one - two minutes. Use of water for non-consumption purposes, such as showering, dishwashing, brushing your teeth, etc. is fine during a boil alert, as there should be little to no effect with drinking small amounts of the water, unless your immune system is currently challenged. This may be likened to swallowing water while swimming in a clear lake or creek. Affected housing areas and base organizations are notified through housing area marques, "Tyndall All" e-mails, and broadcasts on the base Commanders Channel (Channel 12). For any questions concerning the above, please contact Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight, 283-7139.

*(Courtesy of the 325th Medical Group)*

# And, the winners are ...



Lisa Carroll

Left to right: Brig. Gen. Larry New, 325th Fighter Wing commander, Airman Derek Hojohn, 325th Comptroller Squadron customer service and Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Cargill, 325th FW command chief, don hats and sunglasses while lights flash and hip-hop music plays, on the stage of the Enlisted Club, during Team Tyndall Annual Awards Banquet Feb. 19 during the opening moments of the gala event.

## JIM WESLOWSKI

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Team Tyndall showcased its ultimate performers Feb. 19 during the gala 2003 Annual Awards Banquet at the Enlisted Club here. Awards were presented to the top performers for the 325th Fighter Wing and associate units, as well as overall Team Tyndall award winners. Winners were recognized in eight categories: company grade officer, senior NCO, NCO, airman, civilians categories I and II, honor guard and first sergeant. The awards presentation began with a slide show celebrating the nation's first 100 years of flight.

Earning the title of Team Tyndall and 325th FW Company Grade Officer of the Year was 1st Lt. Jessi R. Rozman, 325th FW. Her efforts guaranteed the legality of more than \$531 million in expenses for the wing's flying hour and air battle manager programs. More than 18,000 flying hours were used to produce 359 pilots and air battle managers in 2003. Lieutenant Rozman also led her team to a second consecutive selection as the Best Financial Services Office in Air Education and Training Command.

Master Sergeant Rebecca Simmons, 325th FW, garnered the title of Team Tyndall and 325th FW Senior NCO of the Year award. Supervising the processing of more than \$530,000 in claims, she ensured Team Tyndall members received quick payments. Sergeant Simmons also provided support to base commanders by processing 93 percent of all Article 15s within 11 days, nine days faster than the Air Force goal.

The title of Team Tyndall and 325th FW NCO of the Year was awarded to Tech. Sgt. Matthew Dahlin, 325th

## Team Tyndall Award, 325th Fi



**Sandra Gilmer**  
Team Tyndall Civilian of the Year (Category II)



**Melissa Sanders**  
Team Tyndall Civilian of the Year (Category I).



**1st Lt. Jessi Rozman**  
Team Tyndall Company Grade Officer of the Year



## Tyndall AFB Associat



**Virgil Carr**  
Tyndall Associate Unit Civilian of the Year (Category II)



**Sarita Jo Hubbird**  
Tyndall Associate Unit Civilian of the Year (Category I)



**1st Lt. David McGraw**  
Tyndall Associate Unit Company Grade Officer of the Year



**Master Sgt. Michael Martin**  
Tyndall Associate Unit First Sergeant of the Year.

Maintenance Group. Sergeant Dahlin led the electrical-environmental systems element during the 2003 AETC Operational Readiness Inspection, paving the way for his squadron to earn one of the highest ratings.

Providing top contract support to the Air Force Research Laboratory earned Airman 1st Class Paul Szymanski, 325th Mission Support Group, the title of Team Tyndall and 325th FW Airman of the Year. He administrated 40 contracts valued at more than \$100 million for enhancement of the chemical suit used by the warfighter. Airman Szymanski's negotiation skills saved the Air Force more than \$1 million in saving for the Air Force.

Handling a workload of two, Melissa Sanders, 325th MSG, earned the title of Team Tyndall and 325th FW Civilian of the Year, Category I. According to her superiors, with no other administrative manning in the squadron, Ms. Sanders brilliantly performed the job of a commander's support staff. She was Tyndall's nominee to AETC as Outstanding Contracting Support Civilian for fiscal 2002 and 2003.

Earning the title of Team Tyndall and 325th FW Civilian of the Year Category II, Sandra Gilmer, 325th Medical Group, established a \$40,000 staff account to purchase supplies and equipment for a humanitarian mission to Guatemala, benefiting more than 5,000 patients. She also established four new weapons of mass destruction supply accounts valued at more than \$153,000, weeks ahead of schedule.

Winning honors as the Team Tyndall and 325th FW First Sergeant of the Year was Master Sgt. Alan Weatherly, 325th Maintenance Group. During the year, his people skills helped prevent four potential suicide attempts, and he continues to instill suicide prevention by training personnel on applied suicide intervention skills.

Performing more than 80 honor guard details during the

year, Senior Airman Melody White, 325th Air Control Squadron, earned the title of Team Tyndall Honor Guard Member of the Year. Throughout the year, she spent more than 350 additional work hours performing military funeral honors, change of command and retirement ceremonies. Airman White also helped train 25 new honor guard members.

Leading a research team of five chemists, engineers and technicians in developing advanced fabrics and coatings for warfighter protection earned 1st Lt. David McGraw, Air Force Research Laboratory, the Associate Unit Company Grade Officer of the Year award. Lieutenant McGraw also planned, organized and directed the reconfiguration of an abandoned explosive lab into a new bio-aerosol research facility for advanced filtration studies.

Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Gray, 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group, earned the Associate Unit Senior NCO of the Year award. Sergeant Gray gathered critical missile and aircraft maintenance fault data for use in determining future weapons systems design modifications and purchases for the Combat Air Force.

Master Sgt. Bryon Nelson, Detachment 1, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, has been named the Associate Unit NCO of the Year. He was responsible for training 720 services career field Air Expeditionary Force personnel. He was also selected to review two new Air Force handbooks and develop a curriculum for six major command training sites.

Staff Sgt. Jessi Gentile, 53rd WEG, was named Associate Unit Airman of the Year. He ensured flawless data collection of AIM-7s, -9s, and -120s worth \$23.3 million. He was lead airman in relocating a \$12 million telemetry room, a self-help project that saved the Air Force \$80,000 in contractor costs.

Serving as an administrative and protocol aide for the staff, Sarita Jo Hubbard, Air Force Civil Engineer Support

Agency, earned Associate Unit Civilian of the Year, Category I. She provided support for a staff of 34 and routinely supported the AFCESA director and staff of 73, seeking new tasks and course opportunities.

Leading a team of 16 scientists, engineers and technicians in the Fire Research Group, Virgil Carr, AFRL, earned the title of Associate Unit Civilian of the Year, Category II. His team executed a \$3 million research program developing fire fighting technologies to increase the capabilities of military firefighters in saving resources and lives. They developed an airdroppable fire fighting system at the request of the chief of staff of the Air Force.

Master Sgt. Michael Martin, 53rd WEG, earned the title of Associate Unit First Sergeant of the Year. Sergeant Martin demonstrated dedication, perseverance, leadership and compassion to airmen in his squadron, many geographically separated.



Lisa Carroll

**Tyndall Air Force Base Honor Guard represent the prisoners of war and missing in action in a ceremony before the awards banquet here. Each one of them represent a different service, and they are inverting the glasses to represent the POW/MIA's inability to share the evening's toast.**

## ghter Wing Award winners

**Master Sgt. Alan Weatherly**  
Team Tyndall  
First Sergeant of the Year



**Master Sgt. Rebecca Simmons**  
Team Tyndall  
Senior NCO of the Year



**Tech. Sgt. Matthew Dahlin**  
Team Tyndall  
NCO of the Year



**Senior Airman Paul Szymanski**  
Team Tyndall  
Airman of the Year

## te Unit Award winners



**Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Gray**  
Tyndall Associate Unit Senior NCO of the Year



**Master Sgt. Bryon Nelson**  
Tyndall Associate Unit NCO of the Year



**Staff Sgt. Jesse Gentile**  
Tyndall Associate Unit Airman of the Year.



**Senior Airman Melody White**  
Tyndall Honor Guard Member of the Year

# Combat arms risk analysis complete

CHRISTINE SULLIVAN

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Members of the 325th Security Forces Squadron will soon be able to train on the M-60, M-240 and M-249 automatic machine guns and do it safely, eliminating the need for them to travel to Fort Rucker, Ala., to receive these weapons qualifications.

The SFS improved its mission capabilities on Feb. 13 with initial approval for M-60 weapons qualification from Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency headquarters and the 325th Fighter Wing Safety Office manager. A report containing the operational risk management analysis will now be forwarded to Brig. Gen. Larry New, 325th Fighter Wing commander, for final approval.

According to 2nd Lt. Robert Prausa, SFS officer in charge of training and resources, the trip to Ft. Rucker is a 16-hour day with travel time, and the struggle to attain access on a consistent basis is a challenge.

"We couldn't get people qualified for deployment as quickly as we wanted to," he said. "What we've done here increases the mission capability of our squadron and makes sure our deployed personnel can move forward when they need to."

The ORM evaluation is a tool that assesses the risks of using an existing firing range that does not meet the minimum safety criteria. The Tyndall range ORM analyzed the available surface danger zones based on the type of ammunition a weapons fire.

With the assistance of AFCESA and the safety office, a risk assessment was conducted at

Tyndall's combat arms firing range to determine what actions were needed to help prevent any possible injuries from a round leaving the range safety zone.

Combat arms instructors devised the set up of the M-60 for testing purposes. Tech. Sgt. Mark Boyd, SFS combat arms NCO in charge, leads the team charged with conducting all forms of firearms training for various units and squadrons. He was heavily involved with this heavy-weapon

**“What we've done here increases the mission capability of our squadron and makes sure our deployed personnel can move forward when they need to.”**

**2ND LT. ROBERT PRAUSA**  
325th Security Forces Squadron OIC

authorization process as well.

"I revised the analysis paperwork to incorporate the specific type of set up for the actual demonstration and made sure my supervisor and commander were kept in the loop," Sergeant Boyd said. "The SFS team did a great job throughout this process."

The Tyndall range has an upgraded steel-bullet trap, and a new baffle system was installed in April 2003 to accommodate the large-caliber machine gun.

"The range improvements significantly lower the likelihood of rounds leaving the range," said James Caulder, AFCESA chief structural engineer, who authored the engineering technical letter, which provides guidance for design and construction of small arms ranges. "Our studies show a 7.62

mm round will only travel a maximum of 700 meters downrange if, by chance, it ricochets off the bullet catch and bypasses the baffle system."

Because Tyndall AFB is surrounded almost entirely by waterways, the required area behind the firing range to catch any errant rounds is aquatic. To ensure the safety of anyone behind the range when it is in use, one marine patrol boat will always be positioned in these waters during a heavy-weapon course of fire.

"Safeguards have been put in place throughout the safety area to keep us aware of any incidents by way of radio communications between the combat arms headquarters and the patrol boat," Lieutenant Prausa said. "And, we will try to minimize live-fire training for heavy weapons to months of low boating activity."

As new weapons and ammunition are added to the arsenal, additional baffle systems will be installed at Tyndall's firing range. A smaller machine gun, called the Squad Automatic Weapon, M-249 light machine gun, is also scheduled to be authorized for training on Tyndall's firing range.

"Eventually, we're going to create a fully-contained range that will mitigate the entire surface danger zone – no real estate will be needed behind this range," said Lieutenant Prausa.

Not only will this validation save time and energy spent on stop-gap measures for safety, it will literally save Tyndall tens of thousands of dollars per year by eliminating the need to travel and train at Fort Rucker.

"The costs of range use, man



Christine Sullivan

**325th Security Force Squadron combat arms instructors demonstrate firing the M-60 machine gun. M-60 qualification is now available at Tyndall.**

hours, transportation and travel to Fort Rucker all add up," said Lieutenant Prausa. "We've increased our mission capability and improved our training effectiveness.

"Even though money is tight throughout the Air Force, we still need to train and equip our troops.

It's essential they receive and maintain a combat-ready edge," said Lt. Col. Scott Enold, SFS commander. "Their lives and those they deploy with depend on that edge and this initiative will allow us to channel that savings into other force and resource-protection efforts."



# Washed driveways make for dirty bays

**JIM WESLOWSKI**

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Who would have thought washing the family vehicle in the driveway would send phosphates, oils and a host of chemicals and dirt on a straight path of pollution to pristine St. Andrews Bay. Stormwater runoff is a serious concern, in both dry and rainy seasons. It is water that becomes contaminated as it flows over streets, parking lots, driveways, construction sites and industrial facilities through a network of drains and ditches directly to lakes, streams, beaches and the local bay.

“Urban runoff is a large source of pollution entering the waterways and coastal areas throughout the state,” said Allison Swann-Davis, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron stormwater program manager. “We can see the impacts in increased health risks to swim-

mers near storm drainage areas, high concentrations of toxic metals in the bay and ocean sediments and toxicity to aquatic life.”

Urban runoff can be water from rain or man-made sources that does not soak into



**“No matter how far you live from water, anything that ends up in stormwater runoff can affect water quality. Most pollution reaching the bay comes from small and sometimes unidentifiable sources.”**

**ALLISON SWANN-DAVIS**

325th Civil Engineer Squadron stormwater program manager.

the ground, and instead flows to the stormwater system. When it rains, the stormwater flows from rooftops, over paved roads and parking lots, across bare soil and through sloped lawns. A garden hose can also generate runoff if the water is of sufficient volume to flow across a surface without soaking in. As it flows, this runoff washes off the oil, fertilizer, yard chemicals, plastics, cigarette butts, animal waste, and other pollutants from streets, parking lots, yards, driveways and other areas, and carries them to the bay. According to Ms. Swann-Davis, dirt and sediment washed into drains and ditches also plugs and chokes natural waterways, causing flooding problems and smothering bottom dwelling plants and animals.

“You don’t need a heavy rainstorm to send pollutants rushing toward the wetlands and bay,” said Ms. Swann-Davis. A garden hose alone can supply enough water. Contrary to popular belief, storm drains

source of water pollution.”

Reducing the amount of pollutants in stormwater is simple.

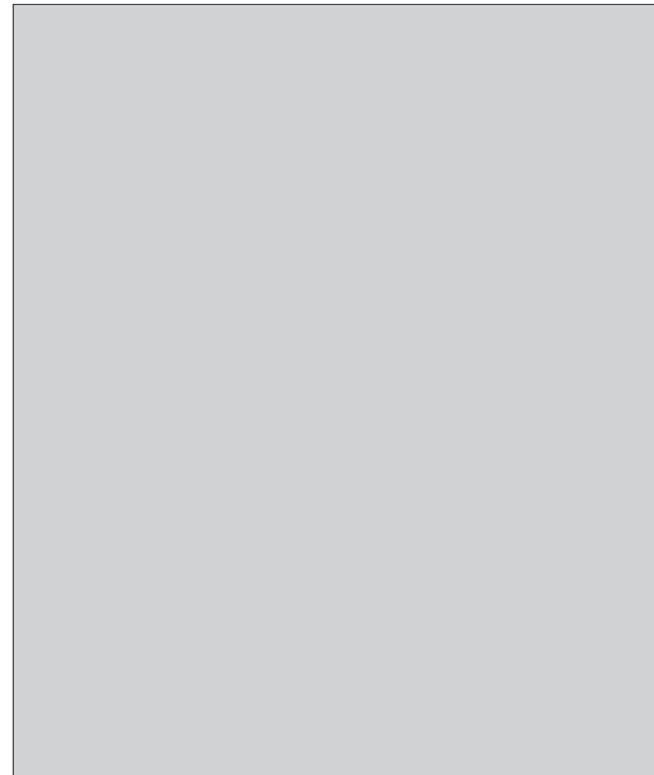
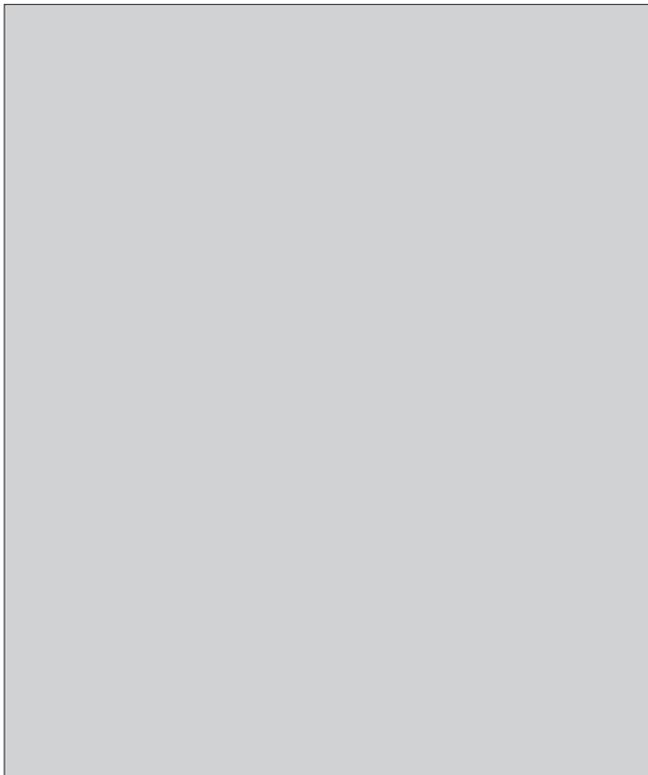
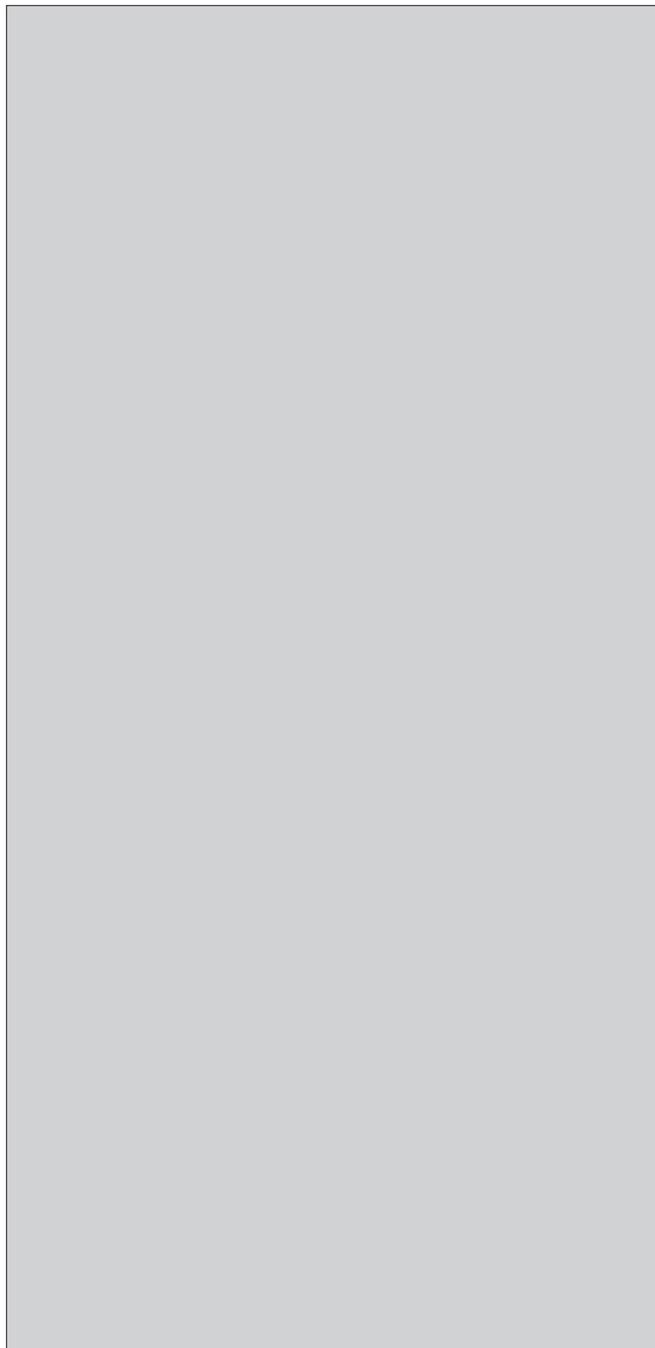
“Before you dispose of something, try to recycle it and never dump anything down the storm drain,” said Ms. Swann-Davis. “Dispose of unwanted paint and chemicals during Bay County’s Amnesty Day [For dates, call 784-4028]. Collect animal waste and dispose of it in a garbage can or flush it down the toilet. Use fertilizer and pesticides carefully and in strict compliance with the label directions. Too much can easily wash off your lawn or garden and into storm drains.

“Use soap sparingly when washing vehicles,” Ms. Swann-Davis continues. “Wash the car on a grassy area, not concrete, so the ground can filter the water naturally. Best of all, take your car to the base car wash or a commercial car wash. This is especially important if you plan to clean the engine or the bottom of the vehicle. Most carwashes send the wash water to the sewer system for treatment, not to a storm drain leading to the bay.

“We hope to educate residents in ways they can continue to help reduce the amount of pollutants around their homes that are swept away with stormwater and end up in the bay,” said Ms. Swann-Davis. “Even the simplest things to reduce pollutants will help reduce the collective hazards of stormwater runoff.”

For more information about the base’s stormwater program, call 283-4354.

To report clogged storm drains on base, call 283-4949.





Steve Wallace

## Team Tyndall 'Steps Up'

Col. Doug Cochran, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander, carries a "fitness flag" while leading Tyndall airmen down US Highway 98 here Wednesday. Despite soggy weather, Tyndall members rallied to participate in an 3.3-mile run and 11-mile bike segment of "Step Up Florida." The overall three-day relay was held to support the Bay County Health Department in promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

## Events

### Talent show

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

### Medical clinic minimum manning

Medical clinics at the base hospital will be minimally staffed due to mandatory training Tuesday - March 5, and will be providing acute care only.

### Moms, Pops and Tots

An informal group for parents and their children aged from birth to preschool can gather at the Community Activities Center (Bldg. 1027) 9-11 a.m. every Wednesday. There will be playtime, arts, crafts, outings and guest speakers. For more information, call Laurie Cambell at 286-6501 or Melissa Dyle at 785-4966.

## Services

### SIU Bachelor of Science degree

Summer semester registration is in progress for Southern Illinois University's Bachelor of Science degree in Workforce Education and Development at Naval Air Station Pensacola. Classes begin May 8. The program is accelerated and WED major courses can be completed in 12 months. Classes are conducted on alter-

nating weekends. For more information, contact the Tyndall AFB Education Center, the SIU/WED office at the NAS Pensacola Navy College Center at 458-6263, or visit the Web site at [wed.siu.edu](http://wed.siu.edu).

### 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.

### Anger management

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

## Classifieds

### VW Super Beetle

1974 red VW Super Beetle, new paint, sunroof, 45k on rebuilt engine. In excellent condition. Moving and need to sell, \$5,500. Call anytime 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.

Whirlpool washing machine, \$50 and Kenmore gas dryer, almond, call Steve or Lisa at 769-3849.

## Retiree News

### AF study reveals apparent cancer agent

A new analysis of cancer incidence among Air Force veterans of the Vietnam War found increased risks of prostate cancer and melanoma in those who sprayed Agent Orange and other herbicides, according to an article published in the February edition of the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

The article, written by members of the Air Force Health Study on Operation Ranch Hand, indicates that a statistical adjustment for years served in Southeast Asia reveals increased risks of prostate cancer, melanoma and cancer at any anatomical site among those with the highest dioxin exposure.

Previous results of the Study's research had found no consistent evidence that Agent Orange is related to cancer.

The National Academy of Sciences will review this study along with many other studies on herbicide and dioxin exposure to make a report to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assist him in decisions related to compensation.

For more information, contact the Air Force Surgeon General's Office at (202) 767-4797 or access the Ranch Hand Study web site at: [www.brooks.af.mil/AFRL/HED/hedb/afhs/afhs.shtml](http://www.brooks.af.mil/AFRL/HED/hedb/afhs/afhs.shtml).

## Garage Sales

### 2981 A Starfighter Ave.

There will be a garage sale at 2981 A Starfighter Ave. from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

## Chapel Schedule

### Catholic services will be held at Chapel 2:

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

### Protestant services at Chapel 1:

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

# Batter up: Team Tyndall members find local off-base team a big hit

**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SARAH MCDOWELL**  
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Six Team Tyndall members have found their field of dreams on a local baseball team.

The Bay County Brewers have been a team since 2001 and have grown every year. Originally, the Bay County team was known as the Blues, but it dissolved in 2000 due to lack of participation. Now, interest for the team is high and the Brewers have the potential to form an entire league this year, and are hoping to recruit new players in hopes of building a league composed of at least four teams.

"We have six or seven teams that we play from Tallahassee right now, and some from Pensacola," said Erik Shay 325th Maintenance Squadron avionics and catcher for the Brewers. They also play other neighboring teams.

"We hope to get enough players to be able to play other Bay County teams, to cut back on travel," said Cory Powers 325th MXS avionics and utility player and sec-

ond baseman for the team.

The team is recruiting players who are 18 and up.

"The more players the better, as we want to have about 20 people on each team," Shay said.

"The team offers community involvement, a fun workout, teamwork, and there is a possibility of playing on one of the Yankees spring training fields this year," Shay said. "It is the ultimate, to be able to play on a major league field."

Though there are comparable intramural sports on base, Powers and Shay agree playing baseball, as opposed to softball, and the community interaction are two benefits of joining the team.

Right now, the team is in its practice season, and the regular season starts up in May.

"We practice fielding fly and ground balls, infield and out field and batting. We also do technique training and game scenarios," Shay said, "It is a physical challenge, and a good workout." The Brewers practice two times a week on average, and the

schedule is work-schedule friendly. The experience of the members ranges from minimal to minor league.

Today the team has 18 members and has been granted field use privileges by the city of Lynn Haven. Their home field is the Cain Griffin Field, which is the Mosley High School field. They also practice on fields located on 23rd Street.

Though most expenses, such as uniforms and equipment, currently come out of the players' pockets, the team does have a corporate sponsor, which defrays part of the costs.

"Playing for the Brewers is fun and a good opportunity to socialize," Shay said. "We are just here to play baseball, hopefully competitively."

The Bay County Brewer's Web site, [www.leaguelineup.com/baycountybrewers](http://www.leaguelineup.com/baycountybrewers) will be updated regularly when the season starts.

Anyone interested in joining the Brewers can contact Erik Shay at 774-2959 and come to the practice ready to play, at Cain Field, which is located on 17th St.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

**Top:** Aaron Scott, 95<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, center fielder for the Bay County Brewers, hovers over second base with baseball in hand seconds before Dave Coleman, 325<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, can get to it during a game scenario practice with the Brewers Sunday.

**Left:** Douglas Zyla, 325<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, and short stop for the Brewers, reaches and catches the ball just as Erik Shay, 325<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron avionics, catcher for the team, dives for the base.

The team practices every Sunday and is looking for about 60 new players, ages 18 and older, to help build a league for the Brewers.

- Anyone who is interested in joining the Brewers can come to the practice ready to play, at Cain Field, which is located on 17th St., or contact Erik Shay for more information at 774-2959, or Cory Powers at 785-8698
- The Bay County Brewer's website, [www.leaguelineup.com/baycountybrewers](http://www.leaguelineup.com/baycountybrewers) will be updated regularly as soon as the season starts.



# Funshine NEWS



February 27, 2004

www.325thservice.com

## Eubank Team WELCOME TO SERVICES



## Tyndall Invitational Paintball

Tournament

March 6 &amp; 7

Come out and watch the fun.  
Door Prizes & Trophies  
**283-3199**

## Gulf Coast Salute 2004 5K Fun Run/Walk March 27, 8 a.m.

Open to all ages and fitness levels so bring out the entire family for a run or walk around Tyndall. This is a Fun Run, not a competitive race. All who participate in the walk/run will be eligible to win prizes awarded through a random drawing. Walk begins at 8 a.m., run begins at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$10 before March 12 & \$12 after. For more details: 283-2631.

Registration Forms  
available at the  
Fitness Center



## Family Child Care

☎ 283-2266

### Provider Class

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

## Tyndall's All Ranks Seafood Extravaganza

At the O' Club  
Friday, March 12  
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Snow Crab Station, Peel & Eat Shrimp Station, Oysters on the 1/2 Shell Station, Beef Carving Station, A Variety of Prepared Fish, Breaded Shrimp, Scallops, Seafood Newberg, Clam Chowder, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Steamed Rice, Hush Puppies, Vegetables, Assorted Desserts, Tea, Water, Coffee.

Market Price: \$18.95\*  
Children ages 6-11: \$9.95\*  
5 & Under: \$4.95\*

\*Members First!

Show your club card to receive a \$3 discount.

## Tyndall Open House Tournament

March 19, 2004

Deadline for sign-ups  
will be noon, March 18.

\$30 for members  
\$45 for non-members

Prices include: Lunch, green fees, range balls, carts and prize fund. Format is 4 person select shot. Patrons can make teams or be placed on teams by the director of golf. Prizes will be given for the closest to the pin on holes 9 and 15, best score and other prizes will be determined on the amount of teams entered.

## 283-4389

## 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

## Community Activity Ctr.

☎ 283-2495

### St. Paddy's Treasure Hunt

Starts Mar. 2. Deadline to sign up is Mar. 5. Grand prize: New Microsoft X-Box. This event is open to all active members, DoD civilians, contractors, military dependents, & retirees. Call for more details.

### Blarney Stone Contest

Guess the weight of the Blarney Stone & you could win an All You Can Eat Pizza Buffet for Two. Starts Mar. 2. One entry per person. Winner will be announced Mar. 17 at 3 p.m.

### Base Level Billiards Tournament

Mar. 13, Starting at 11 a.m. This event is open to all active duty members, DoD civilians, contractors, military dependents & retirees. Awards for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place.

## Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

### 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.

## 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

## Playstation II Tournament

Madden '04

E Club • March 6, 6 p.m. Big Screens, Food,  
Prizes. Members Only. Join Today!

## 283-4357



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 238-2864**

# Leaders call for re-energized suicide-prevention efforts

**G.W. POMEROY**

Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — After 11 active-duty suicides since Jan. 1 and 14 during the final quarter of 2003, Air Force senior leaders are asking commanders and leaders across the service to assess and re-energize suicide prevention efforts at all levels.

The 2003 calendar year suicide rate of 10.5 per 100,000 people was the lowest of all the military services and one-half the rate of a comparable civilian population of males between the ages of 20 and 50. As of Tuesday, the service's suicide rate was 18.1.

In a letter sent to all major commands, the Air Force's acting assistant vice chief of staff urges all airmen to continue pitching in to reduce the number of suicides.

"Suicide is not stopped by medical personnel in emergency rooms; it is stopped by addressing quality-of-life issues in the unit on a daily basis," Lt. Gen. Richard E. Brown III wrote in the letter.

"The major components of the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program are active leadership involvement, an emphasis on community involvement and a focus on prevention throughout the life of airmen and their families, not just when they are suicidal," General Brown wrote.

"Pay special attention to the quality of your suicide-prevention briefings," General Brown wrote. The Air Force re-

quires active-duty and civilian personnel to attend suicide-prevention briefings once during the 15-month air and space expeditionary force cycle.

## 11 initiatives of suicide prevention:

- *Build community awareness; leadership involvement; investigative interview policy; professional military education; epidemiological database; delivery of community preventive services; community education and training; critical incident stress management; integrated delivery system; limited patient-psychotherapist privilege and unit risk factor assessment.*



In light of the recent suicides — none of which occurred during operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom — General Brown urged commanders to "review how well we continue to implement the 11 initiatives that serve as the foundation of the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program."

The 11 initiatives are outlined in Air Force Pamphlet 44-160, Air Force Suicide Prevention Program: Description of Program Initiatives and Outcomes. The 11 initiatives are: build community awareness; leadership involvement; inves-

tigative interview policy; professional military education; epidemiological database; delivery of community preventive services; community education and training; critical incident stress management; integrated delivery system; limited patient-psychotherapist privilege and unit risk factor assessment.

Air Force leaders take a community approach in suicide prevention, encouraging every airman to take responsibility in reducing the number of suicides.

A key element of the program is to make a steady pipeline of suicide-prevention tools available for Air Force people at all levels. So far in 2004, the Air Force Medical Service has issued the 2004 Leader's Guide for Managing Personnel in Distress, which is geared to help commanders, first sergeants and other leaders recognize when their people are distressed and how to respond appropriately. It also helps commanders link their people to resources and get them help as soon as possible.

The guide presents information on 35 distressing situations, provides checklists detailing potential behaviors or signs reflective of the person's reaction to the distressing event and responses or resources the leaders may want to use in responding to the person's needs. The guide was widely distributed as a CD-ROM to every squadron commander and first sergeant in the Air Force. The guide can be viewed on the dot-mil-restricted Air Force Suicide Prevention Program Web site, <https://www.afms.mil/afsp>.

