



GULF DEFENDER



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Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Training Expeditionary Airpower Experts*

Aug. 25, 2006

In Brief

Assumption of Command

The 43rd Fighter Squadron Assumption of Command Ceremony will be held at 3:43 p.m. today in the 43rd FS hangar, Bldg. 290.

Lt. Col. David Krumm will assume command from Lt. Col. Michael Stapleton.

TAAA Party

Tyndall's Active Airmen's Association's inaugural Summer Bash is planned for all E-1s to E-4s Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Enlisted Club.

Home buying class

The Family Support Center will offer a basic home buying class from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday in Bldg. 743. Class size is limited. To make a reservation, call the FSC at 283-4204.

Inside

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Lisa Norman

Tradition begins

A memorable moment during his command, Lt. Col. Michael Stapleton, 43rd Fighter Squadron commander, greets Gen. (Ret.) John Jumper, former Air Force Chief of Staff, after completing the general's Raptor qualification flight here in January 2005.

Raptor commander reflects, continues legacy

1ST LT. AMANDA FERRELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The commander of the 43rd Fighter Squadron will relinquish command today after devoting years of leadership and dedication to the "American Hornets."

Lt. Col. Michael Stapleton, commander of the 43rd Fighter Squadron, and a member of the original Raptor Formal Training Unit cadre, has been involved with Raptor training at the 43rd FS since its reactivation in 2002 here.

The 43rd FS is creating a

legacy of air dominance, and those contributing range from fighter weapons officers to maintenance crew chiefs, said Colonel Stapleton.

"Our people are amazing," he said. "I am continually impressed with the kind of Americans who raise their hand and say, 'I want to defend this country,' and then come and join the ranks of the blue Air Force."

Maintaining a training squadron is clearly a team effort, but leading the way in transforming a fledgling F-22 squadron

into a fully operational and mission-ready force of Raptors was no easy task.

"There have been a lot of struggles," said Colonel Stapleton. "Early in a weapon system development program its common to run into things that weren't expected. It's happened with every weapon system we have ever built. But at the end of the day, our folks – our team – bonded together and found ways to overcome challenges and we delivered exactly what the Air Force needed and then some."

When initial operational capability was determined, and the number of capable pilots was evaluated, the 43rd FS had produced 125 percent of what the Air Force asked for, and we did it with half the resources we were expected to do it with, said Colonel Stapleton.

"The difference was the blood, sweat and tears of our folks and the sacrifices they made," he said.

Colonel Stapleton commends those committed to the success of the Raptor program

• **SEE COMMANDER PAGE 12**



Chrissy Cuttita

Heads up

Col. Scott Davis, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander, throws the first pitch at the U.S. Slow-pitch Softball Association Military World Championship Aug. 18. Military teams from around the world competed in the three-day tournament, including three Tyndall teams. See story on page 15.

Identify this ...



Can you identify this object? If so, send an e-mail to editor@tyndall.af.mil with "Identify this" in the subject line. Three correct entries will be chosen at random and drawn from a hat to select the final winner. The prize can be claimed at the Public Affairs office. Airman 1st Class Adam Smith, 95th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, correctly guessed the Aug. 18 "Identify this" as a grounding point on the flightline. Congratulations, Airman Smith. Come claim your prize!

ON THE STREET

What is the most important item to take on deployment?



"Dirt always gets under your nails and caked on your face so I would need baby wipes."

SENIOR AIRMAN KATIE PINGEL
325th Air Control Squadron



"Depending on where I am going, personal protective equipment is important."

MASTER SGT. JOHN BLACKBURN
325th Air Control Squadron



"Baby powder helps keep you dry. You sweat less."

SENIOR AIRMAN CIARA ROBINSON
325th Medical Support Squadron



"I haven't deployed yet, but I'd need extra clean socks."

2ND LT. LEE WHITTEN
325th Air Control Squadron

Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. (S) Tod Wolters.....325th FW commander
Maj. Susan A. Romano.....chief, 325th FW public affairs
Chrissy Cuttita.....chief, internal information
1st Lt. Amanda Ferrell.....staff writer
Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga.....editor

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How Airmen view serving their country impacts career

LT. COL. KEVIN MURRAY
2nd Fighter Squadron Commander

All of us, at one time or another, has had someone ask us why we joined the Air Force, or why we continue to serve. There are a lot of different answers to this question, and probably no wrong answers. Each of us has our own reasons.

I think it's important that each of us spend some time thinking about those reasons so we can easily articulate them to someone the next time we are asked the question, "Why do you serve?" A well thought out explanation of the reasons why you joined the Air Force, and more importantly, why you continue to serve, may provide motivation to that person to also find their own reasons to serve. More importantly, I submit that if you truly understand the reasons why you serve, it will help you to serve better.

How do you view serving your country – fighting in combat or combat support? Are you training others to fight? There are obviously many reasons to join the military. Some may have joined out of a sense of patriotism, a feeling that it is their duty to serve their country by joining the military and being prepared to defend the country and its principles. This patriotic feeling and desire to help one's country was very evident after the 9/11 terrorist attacks with a large wave of people joining the military, and continues today with the ongoing global war on terrorism.

Or maybe others joined the Air Force to take advantage of the great education opportunities the military offers, both in technical training and undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Perhaps there was a desire to live in and travel to new places and countries, and do something new and exciting. It's even possible that some joined because they had nothing else to do, had no real direction in life, or joining the military seemed like a good way to find a focus in life. It could have been any one of these, or several other reasons, that led you to join the Air Force.

I joined the Air Force in 1987. To be very honest, my prime reason for joining was because I wanted to fly. Although I believed strongly in the principles our country was founded upon that we continue to fight for today, I didn't think about joining the Air Force from a patriotic perspective or think it was my patriotic duty. While I felt it was important to serve my country, flying was still the main reason I joined. I have been very fortunate that my 19-year Air Force career provided the training and the opportunity to do something I enjoy very much.

But if you asked me today why I continue to serve in the Air Force, the answer is not because I get to fly. My reasons have evolved over the years, as I suspect most people's do. Having the opportunity to fly was the trigger that got me into the Air Force, but along the way, I discovered several other things that I can do to serve my country.

First, I continue to serve because I do want to defend my country and the ideas upon which it was founded. The freedom we enjoy cannot be taken for granted and it must be earned every day.

My squadron is a training-coded unit, not a combat-coded unit, so I won't get to serve by flying in combat. My mission here is to produce near combat ready F-15 Wingmen for the Combat Air Forces, so I serve my country by providing highly-trained individuals who will deploy to combat.

I also continue to serve because I enjoy the challenging environment of the Air Force. I enjoy tackling a problem or obstacle, identifying a solution to the problem, and then executing the course of action to accomplish the mission.

I've found that service is much more than just doing my job as an F-15 instructor pilot, I also serve by providing the Airmen in my command the opportunity and the motivation to reach their full potential. I do this by providing a good leadership example, and then providing them the opportunity and the responsibility to be a leader themselves.

I also mentor them. I encourage them to pursue educational opportunities, both professional and academic. I counsel them when they have problems, and I praise them when they do well. I help instill the values of integrity, service and excellence. I encourage them to get involved in their community, to volunteer and to be a good ambassador for the Air Force and the U.S.

If I can motivate Airmen to become leaders, to better themselves through education and to demonstrate our service's core values, then I have done something to serve my country. If I can help Airmen who are going down the wrong path correct their problems, become productive in their jobs, and be responsible people with good character in the Air Force and in their community, then I have served my country. And when those Airmen mentor and motivate someone else to reach their potential, then I have served my country.

I owe the Air Force a lot. It has given me great technical training with many leadership and management skills as a bonus. The great thing about those skills is that I get to take them with me when I leave the Air Force. I can continue to influence people even after I retire, and I can continue to influence not only the next generation of Airmen, but the next generation of Americans.

Also, this allows me to fulfill the final reason I serve, which is to help provide a safe and free world for my children to grow up in and realize their own potential. I will continue to serve my family, my community and my country long after I retire.

So take a few minutes to think about why you joined the Air Force, and why you serve today. Keep in mind the perspective that service is not just doing your job in the Air Force, but influencing others to develop their leadership traits, core values and good moral character. Motivating others to reach their full potential in whatever they do, whether they wear a uniform or not, is truly a service to your country.

Action Line

Call 283-2255



BRIG. GEN. (S) TOD WOLTERS
325th Fighter Wing commander

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

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you're not satisfied with the response or you are unable to resolve the

problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General's Office, 283-4646.

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

Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

Commissary	283-4825
Pass and I.D.	283-4191
Medical and Dental	283-7515
MEO	283-2739

MPF	283-2276
SFS Desk Sgt. Services	283-2254
Legal	283-2501
Housing	283-4681
CDC	283-2036
Wing Safety	283-4747
ADC	283-4231
Finance	283-2911
Civil Engineer	283-4117
Civilian Personnel	283-4949
Base Information	283-3203
	283-1113

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.

Domestic violence conviction can shatter military career

An Airman and his girlfriend return home from a bar and they both had a few drinks. Their conversation turns sour and leads to an argument, which transforms into a minor scuffle.

The police are called and the two are separated. Charges are pressed and the Airman is hauled into court.

Feeling ashamed and apologetic for the altercation, he pleads guilty to simple assault, which is a misdemeanor.

He may have just unintentionally ended his military career by committing even a minor act of domestic violence or by pleading guilty to simple assault, which in this case, was a crime of domestic violence.

An extreme result? Perhaps. Something you need to be aware of? Absolutely.

Because the law states anyone who has been convicted of a domestic violence offense cannot carry a weapon, a convicted Airman may be forced to leave the service.



The Gun Control Act defines domestic violence as the use or attempted use of physical force or threatened use of a deadly weapon against a current or former spouse, a parent, a

child or with whom one is cohabitating.

Additionally, the Lautenberg Amendment, a 1996 change to the Gun Control Act, states that anyone who has been convicted of a domestic violence offense is prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition. This law affects members who may carry a weapon, and supervisors who issue those weapons.

Convicted persons would be no longer eligible to train with any firearms, or go on deployments requiring possession of small arms. If a career field requires that an Airman needs to qualify to

bear a firearm, an Airman convicted of domestic violence will be withdrawn.

The Airman may be reassigned to a non-firearm bearing position or discharged. Additionally, they will be

forced to give up any privately owned firearms. Put more bluntly, they may never own or use firearms again.

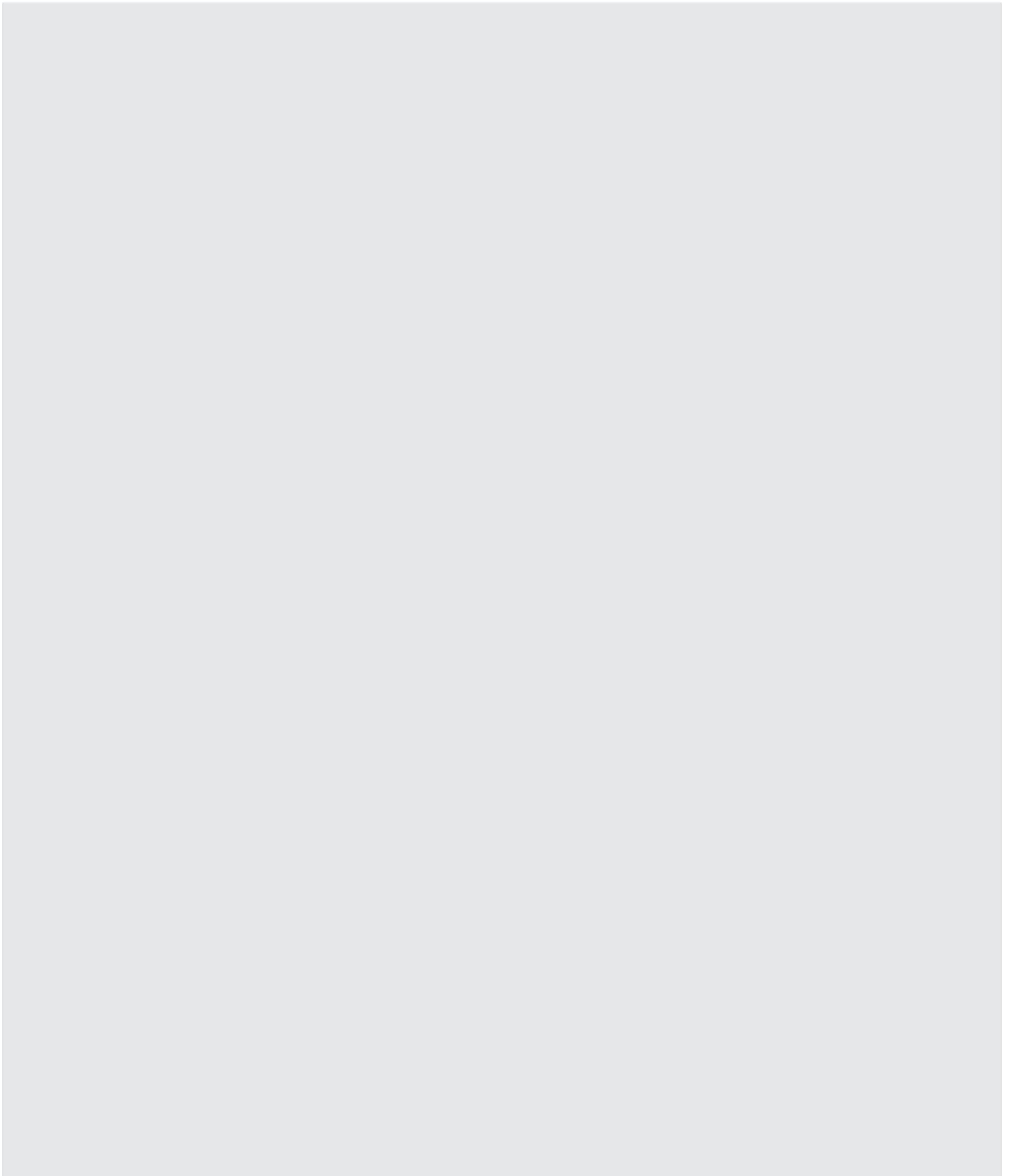
Going through a fully litigated criminal case isn't the only way to be convicted of a crime. Pleading guilty or no contest ("nolo contendere") to a crime of domestic violence counts just as much, and will result in the same loss of rights under the Gun Control Act.

The best way to avoid trouble under the law is to not commit acts of domestic violence in the first place. Domestic turmoil should be resolved through counseling or other channels, such as the chaplain and life skills.

If you are being charged with an act of domestic violence, understand the potential ramifications a plea of guilty or no contest can have on your military career.

Always talk to the Area Defense Counsel or civilian attorney before you make a decision that could end your career.

(Courtesy of Base Legal Office)



Air Force Personnel Center adds SRP, CJR to virtual MPF

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The Air Force will add the Selective Reenlistment and Career Job Reservation programs to the virtual Military Personnel Flight, furthering Personnel Services Delivery Transformation.

Beginning Sept. 1, the automated SRP process will e-mail commanders a monthly roster notifying them of their Airmen projected for reenlistment. Commanders can choose whether or not to make Airmen ineligible for reenlistment based on quality force standards. Upon processing of the subsequent month roster, those Airmen who meet the requirements will automatically be made eligible for reenlistment.

Thirty days after the commander receives the SRP roster, provided Airmen remain eligible, the system will automatically request a CJR for Airmen in the first month of their CJR eligibility window (35th month for four-year enlistees, 59th month for six-year enlistees) in their control Air Force Specialty Code. Airmen eligible for a CJR who are in a constrained career field will be placed on the CJR waiting list. Those who are initially deemed ineligible for reenlist-

ment will continue to be reviewed monthly to determine if they become eligible, at which time the system will request a CJR or place the member on the CJR waiting list.

“Making the CJR application process automatic relieves a good deal of stress for the member, supervisors and commanders,” said Master Sgt. Travis Fritts, 325th Services Squadron first sergeant and 325th Fighter Wing career assistance advisor. “No longer will you have to worry if the paperwork ‘went through’ or if the member made the cut-off.”

Airmen in a constrained AFSC who end up on the CJR waiting list will be able to track the status of their CJR request via a vMPF link. The link will also provide a CJR expiration date for Airmen who receive a CJR.

“The automation of the CJR process means Airmen will be reviewed as soon as they become eligible,” said Capt. Jay Johnson, chief of the future operations integration branch at the Air Force Personnel Center here. “However, supervisors must still understand the program so they can convey to Airmen how the process works or

where to go for additional assistance. As always, the professionals in the Air Force Contact Center will be standing by to assist if needed.”

Airmen still have a large responsibility in the process.

“The automatic application doesn’t relieve the member from following up to decide his or her best career option, said Sergeant Fritts. “That’s an automatic application, not automatic approval; big difference.”

“This move will greatly improve the process for the majority of CJR applications across the Air Force,” said Tech. Sgt. Catrina Baskin, noncommissioned officer in charge of Air Force Reenlistments. “However, Airmen will still need to request a CJR through their base military personnel flight if they desire one in their secondary AFSC or for other special circumstances, such as exceptions to policy.”

For more information on either program, contact the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775 (Option 1,1,2), (210) 565-5000, or DSN 665-5000.

(Contributed by 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Congratulations to Tyndall's newest colonel selects!

(The following lieutenant colonels were selected for promotion Thursday.)

Craig Hall	325th MXG
Douglas Howard	325th MDOS
Alan Lake	325th MSG
James Riemens Van Laare	325th OG
Raymond Sable	AFCESA
Michael Stapleton	43rd FS

Air Force launches profile on MySpace

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFP) – The Air Force is joining the Internet's largest social networking site and entered the MySpace race when it launched its own user profile Monday.

With close to 98 million registered users, MySpace.com is an ideal venue for the Air Force to connect with potential recruits and promote awareness for its up-and-coming documentary-style ad campaign "Do Something Amazing."

As the third most popular Web site, MySpace reaches 49 percent of all Internet users between the ages of 18 to 24. The site's users can chat with old friends, make new friends and post blogs, photos and videos to their profiles.

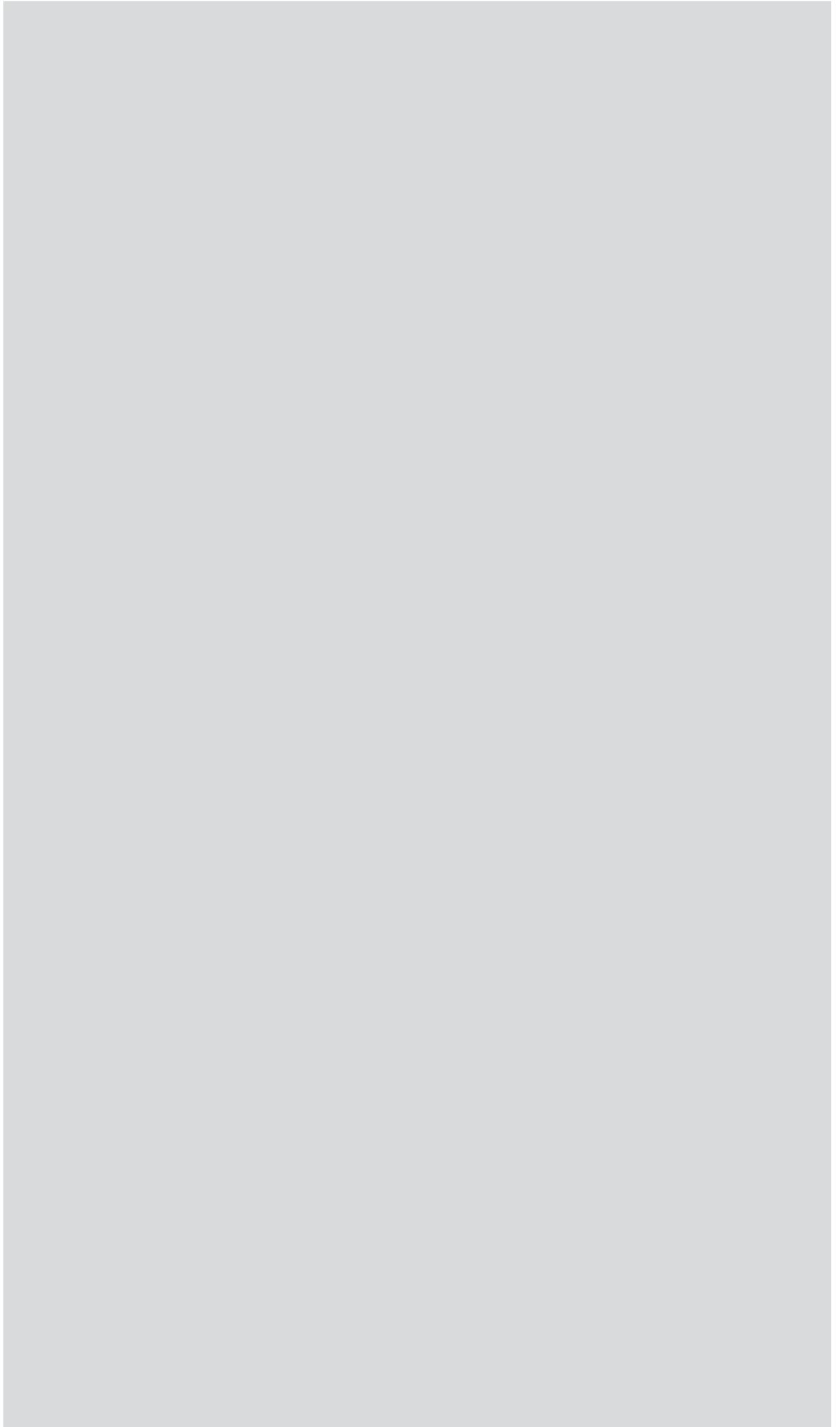
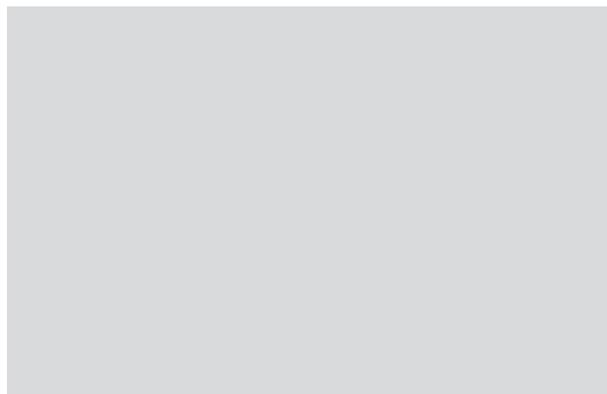
"In order to reach young men and women today, we need to be in tune and engaged in their circles," said Col. Brian Madtes, Air Force Recruiting Service's Strategic Communications director. "MySpace.com is a great way to get the word out to the public about the amazing things people are doing in the Air Force."

When viewing the Air Force profile, users can see a series of five rough-cut clips that will give them a behind-the-scenes look at the extraordinary things Airmen accomplish every day. They will also have the opportunity to vote on which commercial will kick off the "Do Something Amazing" advertising campaign. The one with the most votes will air Sept. 18 during the FOX network's TV show, "Prison Break."

In addition to the 30-second commercials, users will be able to view expanded videos of Airmen as they fly and fight, call in air strikes, navigate satellites and jump out of airplanes. The reality TV film clips include personal, unscripted interviews from Airmen in today's Air Force. MySpace users can also become "friends" of the Air Force, download wallpaper and post messages about what else they would like to see in the ad campaign.

Following the Sept. 18 commercial premiere, Internet users will be able to go to the DoSomethingAmazing.com Web site where they can view more than 100 videos of Airmen in action.

(Courtesy of Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs)



New national Air Force memorial Web site honors veteran Airmen

STAFF SGT. JEREMY LARLEE
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) – A nonprofit organization's Web site is letting people pay tribute to Air Force heroes.

A section in the Air Force Memorial Foundation's Web site, titled Air Force Heroes, allows people to honor an Airman with a paragraph about what makes them extraordinary.

With the Air Force memorial scheduled to open in the mid-October, the Web site is a great resource for people to prepare for the opening, said Maj. Kimberly Tebrugge, a public affairs officer for the 60th Air Force Anniversary Office.

"It is a great opportunity for people to see those who may have slipped through the cracks in regards to recognition," Major Tebrugge said.

Major Tebrugge thinks the Web

site has been underused because it is new and not many people know about it.

"It is very important to recognize the proud heritage we have and the sacrifices and contributions of those who pioneered ahead of us," she said. "It makes you proud to see a collective representation of the similar values that we all share as Airmen and how they are displayed in different ways."

People interested in posting a tribute, or browsing the tributes that have already been posted, can visit the Web site at www.airforcememorial.org/heroes.

(Editor's note: The U.S. Air Force Memorial is scheduled to be officially dedicated and presented to the nation at an on-site ceremony Oct. 14. The new Memorial is located in Arlington, Virginia, directly across from the Pentagon.)



Chrissy Cuttita

Up, and away

Staff Sgt. Brandon Binczak, 325th Security Forces combat arms instructor, raises the red flag in front of the range before M-9 training starts Monday morning. The red flag serves as a reminder to personnel, driving or walking by, that live fire is on the range. No one is allowed to go behind the range at this time.

Security Forces cautions motorists entering, exiting gate

CHRISSEY CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Since 9/11, security at Air Force base gates has continued to be “beefed up” like the newly constructed Sabre Gate here.

“Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices are a real threat to any installation and are frequently used by terrorists,” said Capt. Michael Bernatt, 325th Security Forces Squadron operations officer. “Spike strips are designed to disable any vehicle attempting unauthorized access to the installation and are our first line of defense in force protection.”

DoD installations installed spikes and other barriers at their gates for this reason.

“Many terrorist attacks utilized vehicles, so the spikes were put in place to stop vehicles from forcibly entering the base and to prevent people from entering Sabre Gate the wrong way,” said 2nd Lt. Vernon Frazier, 325th SFS plans and programs officer in charge.

Adding the extra precaution helps exiting traffic flow through the base more smoothly and conveniently.

At Tyndall, posts were installed at

the main gate to provide the DoD recommended serpentine traffic pattern going into and out of base. During the reconstruction of the Sabre Gate, similar posts and spike stripes were installed simultaneously.

With the added obstacles at the gates, Security Forces is urging motorists to drive carefully when entering and exiting the base.

“The signs posted at the exit to Sabre Gate say five mph, however, some motorists may need to drive even slower to prevent rubbing spikes on the underside of their vehicles,” said Captain Bernatt. “We coordinated with 325th Civil Engineering Squadron and the spikes are Department of Transportation compliant and safe.”

After a survey done of motorists exiting the gate, the 325th SFS found that drivers speeding in excess of the limit had problems with spikes rubbing their vehicles’ undercarriage.

“When a vehicle exiting the base drives over the spike strip, it lowers into the ground, allowing the vehicle to pass without incident,” said Master Sgt. John Kelley, 325th SFS installation



Chrissy Cuttita

A vehicle passes over the spike strip while exiting the Sabre Gate. When driving at the correct speed limit, the vehicle is able to compress the strip into the road.

security NCO in charge. “If a vehicle passes over the spikes going too fast, the vehicle suspension doesn’t have time to adjust to the compression of going over a speed bump. This causes the spikes to rub on the undercarriage.”

The bottom line is that while Tyndall is working hard at protecting its gates, its personnel need to be aware of security precautions, take heed and patiently work with Security Forces.

“We are asking motorists to drive

safely,” said Captain Bernatt. “Do not attempt to swerve around the strips or drive over the strips at an angle. Driving over the spikes strips at an angle or backing up over them will result in damage to the vehicles. If you have lowered your vehicle or you know your vehicle sits lower to the ground because of performance modifications, then we are asking drivers to slow down and be extremely careful while driving over the spikes.”

Airmen join services in combat training before deployment



Kemberly Groue

During Theater Immersion training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, 1st Lt. Simon Huntley, left, Bravo Company B 1/149th Infantry Battalion, London, Ky., listens as a contract interpreter Kadhim Al-Sari, Basrah, Iraq, explains to him why the military are here and why they cannot enter into the base’s Entry Control Point on August 15, 2006. This scenario teaches the military how to operate in a Forward Operating Base.

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. (AFP) – Tyndall has sent 18 Airmen to attend Army ground combat skills training, preparing them for operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom deployments.

The Airmen require the training because they will be assigned duties outside their normal Air Force specialties. In the near-term, these numbers are expected to increase substantially.

One Tyndall Airman, Capt. J. Elaine Hunnicutt from the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs, is undergoing this training now.

“The Army CST program is beneficial for Airmen to get acclimated to the Army customs and way of life,” she said. “I have no doubt that the Airman that leave here will leave with a greater sense of the threats that await us abroad and a higher level of comfort for the equipment and weapons that we deploy with.”

The aim of ILO training is to prepare Airmen for nontraditional combat environments in support of the combatant commanders’ requirements where Airmen are deployed to assist Army personnel. Second Air Force wants to support all Airmen engaged in this enhanced, realistic training and address their current and future service needs.

“Very few of us knew each other when we first got here,” said Maj. Brenda Frye, support team command-

er. “We (divided) into an Army company, platoon and squad. For a squad you (have) a driver, a combat life saver, two gunners and a troop commander. You learn how to work with all those people. Our Airmen have stepped up and done a really good job out here.”

“The training definitely makes you appreciate what you have,” said Captain Hunnicutt. “The Soldiers live a hard life. There is reason for that, they are put into harms way on the battlefield every day.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley tasked 2nd Air Force to manage the oversight of Airmen throughout their training cycle for “in-lieu-of” taskings and individual augmentee taskings to the United States Central Command area of responsibility. This is the first team to graduate since that tasking.

Tech. Sgt. Alphonso Smith, a readiness NCO at Brooks City Base, San Antonio, said he advises Airmen to be mentally and physically prepared before entering ILO training.

“The Army believes in repetition, so that (a procedure) is embedded,” Sergeant Smith said. “When a grenade goes off, it’s second nature for you to know exactly what to do.”

Under ILO taskings, Airmen, Sailors, Soldiers and Marines from a cross-section of military specialties

OSI seeks Reserve volunteers

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations is recruiting to fill approximately 40 command Reserve individual mobilization augmentee E-5 and E-6 special agent positions.

Staff and technical sergeants from any career field – current reservists and Airmen leaving active duty – can apply.

Accepted applicants will be sent to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the Air Force Special Investigations Academy, both in Glynco, Ga., for special agent training.

New OSI special agent recruits begin training at FLETC with an 11-week course called the Criminal Investigator Training Program. It is attended by trainees from almost all federal investigative agencies.

The CITP provides basic investigative training in law, interviewing, informants, defensive tactics, emergency driving, evidence processing, firearms, search and seizure, arrest techniques, report writing, testifying and surveillance. Students participate in physical training several

times a week.

The CITP is followed by eight weeks of training in OSI-specific coursework. Topics include the OSI organization and mission, ethics, investigative responsibility and jurisdiction, interrogations, military law, crimes against property and persons (physical and sexual), liaison, the role of investigative experts, computer crime, forensics, fraud investigations, environmental crime, counterintelligence collections and investigations and force-protection programs.

Interested applicants can contact OSI Reserve Affairs for more information at (240) 857-0866, DSN 857-0866 or mary.mesa@ogn.af.mil.

To find out more about the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, visit public.afosi.amc.af.mil. Follow the link to “Joining OSI” or “Reserve Affairs” to learn more about becoming a Reserve agent. For more information on FLETC and USAFSIA follow the link to “Training.”

(Courtesy of AFPC)



Golden Bolt Award



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

Staff Sgt. John Brannon, 95th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, conducts an aircraft forms document review. He is helping his squadron with administrative work until his arm heals. Sergeant Brannon won the Golden Bolt Award in July after he found the Golden Bolt behind an F-15 left main landing gear.

Checkertail Salute

Senior Airman Rodney Lee



1st Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Airman Lee receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. (S) Tod Wolters, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

Airman Lee managed test, measurement and diagnostic equipment accounts with zero discrepancies during a 2006 Air Education and Training Command evaluation. In addition to producing line replaceable units and filling mission capable demands, he is his squadron's booster club representative.

Duty title: Avionics technician
Time on station: One year, seven months
Time in service: Four years, seven months
Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas
Hobbies: Sports
Goals: Complete Community College of the Air Force courses and earn a bachelor's degree from Embry-Riddle
Favorite movie: “Belly”
Favorite book: “Manhattan Hunt Club” by Toni Morrison
Pet Peeves: “Snakes on a Plane” commercials
Proudest moment in the military: My re-enlistment

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.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like
Senior Airman
Aaron Ward
81st Range Control Squadron
weapons director.



It's Your
FUTURE



... how hard is that?

Training Spotlight



What advice would you give to future NCO Academy students?

“Come with an open mind.”

TECH SGT. PATRICK NEEDHAM
NCOA student



Congratulations to the 325th Airborne Control Squadron's newest airborne battle managers, class 06-14A, who graduated Wednesday!

Get your Community College of the Air Force information at afvec.langley.af.mil.



MU-2 pilots provide valuable ABM training

1ST LT. JON QUINLAN
325th Air Control Squadron

Nestled in the middle of the Tyndall flight line next to some of the most sophisticated fighters in the world, are eight white turbo prop Mitsubishi MU-2 flight training aircraft.

Some may say these aircraft seem odd parked near the F-22 Raptors or F-15 Eagles, but the mission of these MU-2 aircraft and the pilots that fly them are just as vital to developing America's Air Dominance.

The MU-2s and the nine retired military pilots that fly them provide direct flying support for the 325th Air Control Squadron's Air Battle Management course. These pilots, contracted by Air 1st Aviation Companies, Inc. fly two missions daily so ABM students get real world experience controlling aircraft.

“These flights give ABM students their first look at controlling live aircraft,” said Capt. Art Gerhart, 325th ACS instructor. “These (MU-2 pilots) enhance our training by giving us a stepping stone approach to training.”

After ABM students complete extensive simulator training, their next step is controlling eight MU-2 sorties with a total of 24 tactical intercepts. Students also receive one orientation flight in the MU-2 to see first hand how pilots use the information that ABMs provide them.

“We simulate F-15 fighter tactics in the MU-2 even though we are going a lot slower,” said Rich White, Air 1st chief pilot and retired colonel. “Our distances are compressed so it's a rela-



1st Lt. Jon Quinlan

Joe Cannizzo flies the Mitsubishi MU-2 flight training aircraft during an Air Battle Manager training mission.

tively seamless transition.”

The shorter distances make the training and the timing more realistic for students to help prepare them for high performance missions. Instructors from the 325th ACS choose scenarios for the MU-2 pilots to fly, exposing students to a variety of formations and offensive/defensive tactics. Students use these training sorties to get comfortable controlling aircraft, get experience hearing what tactical missions will sound like, and practice radio communication to the pilots. All ABM students must successfully complete all eight missions before they start working with high performance aircraft such as the F-15 Eagle or F-22 Raptor.

The MU-2 tactical missions simulate a battle between the “blue” forces, usually simulating F-15's and the “red” forces, usually simulating Mig-29's.

The MU-2 pilots are some of the

most experienced pilots on base with years of experience flying everything from the F-111, to the A-10, to the F-15. Seven are retired Air Force pilots, one is a retired Navy pilot and one is a former Marine pilot. All the pilots have fighter aircraft experience.

“I love it,” said Mr. White on flying MU-2 missions. “We enjoy the job because number one, it keeps us flying, two, this is a mission that most of us did some time in our military careers and the mission certainly contributes

to national defense.”

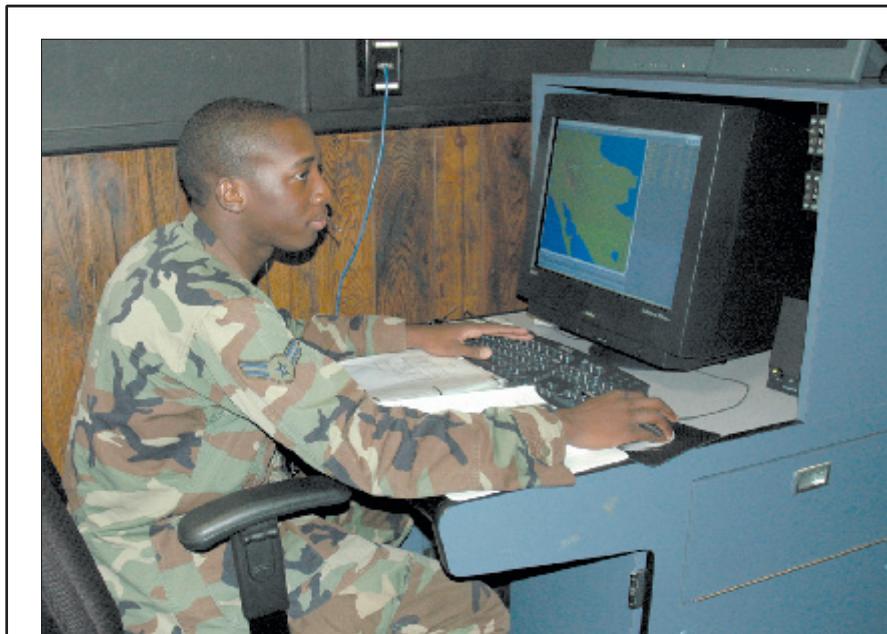
The pilots enjoy their job and also enjoy the aircraft they fly.

“The MU-2 is the right airplane for this mission,” said Joe Cannizzo, Air 1st pilot who is also an Air National Guard lieutenant colonel at the Southeast Air Defense Sector here. “The MU-2 is a reliable, rugged, maneuverable and economical turbo prop airplane ... It's just the right mix.”

The pilots play a big part in training new ABMs.

“It is important for us to see how the controller is handling the intercept and adjust our communication appropriately,” said Mr. Cannizzo. “We don't want to over task the controller, but maximize the learning.”

Air 1st Aviation Companies, Inc. has provided contracted flight training for Tyndall AFB since 1998, flying more than 4,000 flight hours per year.



Chrissy Cuttita

Creating 'airspace'

Airman 1st Class Darryl Robinson, 325th Operations Support Squadron air traffic control specialist, runs a scenario for air field operations officers training here. At the computer, he works as a supervisor and stages the environment. These specialists guide students through air traffic control situations that they may observe on the flightline.

Evolution of a Predator



Photo courtesy of the 43rd Fighter Squadron

An F-22 Raptor from the 43rd Fighter Squadron taxis to the runway during a deployment to Nellis AFB, Nev. The squadron conducted various training missions and supported the mission employment phase of the Fighter Weapons School.

Raptor commander makes mark, moves on

• FROM COMMANDER PAGE 1 here, and his foresight and leadership as a commander quickly propelled the Raptor program toward combat-readiness.

“One of the key areas Colonel Stapleton took the lead on was designing and developing a training program that fostered transformational thinking,”



Col. Timothy Merrell, former 325th Operations Group commander, passes the 43rd Fighter Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Michael Stapleton as he gained command of the “American Hornets” in December 2004.

said Col. Jeffrey Harrigian, the first commander of the 43rd FS and the current Chief of the Joint Exercise Division at the NATO Joint Warfare Center in Stavanger, Norway. “Some of our pilot meetings required the ability to get folks to think differently, yet at the same time, we needed to leverage all the expertise we had from other fighter airframes. Colonel Stapleton got folks to communicate and come together to build the underpinning of the program being executed right now.”

Leading a Raptor training unit, Colonel Stapleton recognized the need to consider every aspect of performance when engaging a weapon

system that far surpasses anything the fighter community has tackled before.

“The lessons learned from past fighter programs, such as the F-15 and F-16, were used as the foundation for the F-22 program here,” said Colonel Stapleton.

A group of experts from the fighter community offered guidance during the initial phases of the Raptor training program. Based on the challenges of previous fighter weapon systems, the experts knew that the technology was going to be great, but it was going to be unpredictable, said Colonel Stapleton.

“In the early days there was a lot of consternation about how this aircraft was going to be flown,” he said. “There was a lot of concern at the higher levels of the Air Force amongst some of the general officers about whether or not we had the right ‘sight picture,’ so they spent a lot of time making sure we had the right picture.”

“I can remember sitting in Gen. Donald Cook’s office one day, and

it was during one of those high levels of concern,” said the colonel about a meeting with the former commander of Air Education and Training Command. “We were on our way back from the Raptor Nation meeting with the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, who was our number one supporter and who gave us that sight picture.”

During the meeting, Colonel Stapleton said, the original Raptor cadre was entrusted with the responsibility to conduct Raptor training using tactically sound methods based on their own experiences and past lessons learned.

“That was a huge lesson in leadership and the ability to take the risks on yourself as a leader and let your people excel,” said Colonel Stapleton. “Having the latitude to explore the ‘rights and wrongs’ of a new program and a new airplane got us on a tremendously solid path.”

Given the responsibility of turning a viable Raptor training program into a force of mission-ready Raptor pilots,

Colonel Stapleton and the initial team of Raptor instructors at the 43rd FS tested tactics and operating procedures that had never before been executed.

Operational risk is weighed heavily as pilots continue to create a new doctrine of tactics and global strike capabilities specific to the F-22.

“We had to take some risks to find out how to tactically fly the Raptor,” said Colonel Stapleton. “We had to try new things, so we took seven weapons officers from the squadron and put them all together in a room and started thinking about tactics – nothing was off the table. Colonel Harrigian was the commander at the time, and he started by getting us talking about the benefits of the airplane. We started talking about the speed, the sensors and the stealth. We started to put these ideas under the heat and pressure of these weapons officers with really big attitudes about how to fly fighters, and what came out of that was a totally different dynamic in how to achieve air dominance.”

“The frank discussions of tactics and the proper employment of the F-22’s weapon systems were critical in the maturation of not only our pilots and those in the squadron, but of the entire Raptor program,” said Colonel Harrigian. “This approach ensured our folks were engaged and contributing to the plan, thus supporting our effort to build a prepared, cohesive team.”

A vision of unrivaled air superiority backed by sound judgment guided Colonel Stapleton’s training philosophy.

“I trust the judgment of every single instructor in the 43rd FS,” he said. “We’re talking about the future of air dominance, and the capability to provide freedom of movement through any battle space out there for our joint forces. Judgment was the key, and our instructor pilots know when they’ve pushed the envelope too far, and they know when it’s time to bring it back home. They also know when to push the envelope little bit more. They know better than anyone else because they’re the ones doing it.”

As an experienced pilot and a concerned leader, Colonel Stapleton continually judges situations from the perspective of fellow instructor pilots in the squadron. And

sometimes, he said, that’s hard to do.

“I feel a little bit of pressure from the system and a lot of responsibility to the cost of this aircraft, but then my allegiance, my heart as a fighter pilot, is to that captain who’s pushing the envelope for the Raptor community,” he said. “It’s a balance, but at the end of the day, it’s their judgment that carries them and progress is made.”

The trust needed to be a part of the Raptor community reaches beyond the squadron’s secure vaults and briefing rooms. Every component of the Raptor mission is a significant link to the program’s success.

“We have worked together on this program longer than any other pilot and maintainer at Tyndall,” said Chief Master Sgt. Larry Aderholdt, 43rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit NCO in charge. “We respect and have trust and loyalty for one another. We’ve shared the same vision from the start.”

Cooperation between operational units and maintenance units is often the difference between mission success and failure.

“Without his trust in my ability to do what’s right, the AMU may not have seen as many successes as we have,” said Chief Aderholdt. “Colonel Stapleton has a relationship with the maintainers on the line. To them, he’s not the 43rd FS commander, he’s Lt. Col. Stapleton, a guy you feel comfortable talking to about anything and who

“Set the highest standards you can, and demand performance to those standards every day.”

LT. COL. MICHAEL STAPLETON
43rd Fighter Squadron commander

will listen and sincerely care about your opinions and concerns.”

Because of that relationship, said Chief Aderholdt, the maintainers are dedicated like no other group of folks he’s worked with in 20 years of service.

The impact Colonel Stapleton has made on the Raptor community transcends glass cockpits and discussions of tactical doctrine. He believes in creating a strong foundation for the training program here, and he’s enthusiastic about the future of the Raptor.

“It’s a new aircraft – a new horizon – and it’s very exciting to be on the lead-



Lisa Norman

Senior Airman James Flemming, an F-22 Raptor crew chief, stands by as Lt. Col. “Bam Bam” Stapleton reviews the aircraft’s computerized maintenance log before a Raptor mission.

ing edge of that,” he said.

His advice for those who continue to create and carry on the traditions of the “American Hornets” is to, “set the highest standards you can, and demand performance to those standards every day.”

“The most impressive leadership trait of his is the ability to communicate and motivate folks,” said Colonel Harrigian. “Whether it’s a group of fighter pilots or members of Congress, his communication skills and passion for the program will make any American proud.”

Raptor training at the 43rd FS will continue to build upon the contributions made by Colonel Stapleton.

“The accomplishments of the 43rd FS under Colonel Stapleton’s leadership have been legendary,” said Lt. Col. David Krumm, incoming commander of the 43rd FS. “Over the past four years, the chal-

lenges and obstacles of this new weapon system truly demanded revolutionary vision and solutions, and Colonel Stapleton provided both. I am honored to follow in his footsteps as the commander of the 43rd FS, and I plan to continue to advance his ideas and concepts for the Raptor and produce world-class F-22 pilots for the Combat Air Forces.”

The footsteps Colonel Stapleton leaves behind as commander of the 43rd FS can be traced back to what’s most important to him.

“There’s no way I could do this without my family,” said Colonel Stapleton. “There’s no way I could be a part of something this big without them. It’s not real to me until I go home and tell my kids and my wife about it – it’s just not real to me. And it could be the most challenging thing in the world, but it doesn’t set in until I share it with them and they become a part of it ... they’ve been fantastic.”

Lt. Col. Stapleton will be appointed as the deputy commander of the 325th Operations Group following the assumption of command.

Briefs

POW/MIA Recognition Day

At 3 p.m. Sept. 14, Tyndall AFB will start the National Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day Ceremony with a 24-hour vigil run in Flag Park. This commemoration is set aside to honor the commitment and the sacrifices made by this nation's POWs, MIAs, and their families.

To sign up, contact your first sergeant. For more information, contact Senior Airman Theresa Edmiston at 283-1098.

Remembrance reunion event

Air Forces Northern and the Continental U.S. NORAD Region 9-11 Remembrance Reunion is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Sept. 11 at Flag Park. The event will honor those who served Sept. 11, 2001, and also recognize servicemembers who continue to defend the nation through Operation Noble Eagle.

For more information, visit www.1staf.tyndall.af.mil/911/index.htm or call 283-8659.

POW/MIA luncheon

The POW/MIA luncheon will be at 11:45 a.m. Sept. 15 at the Enlisted Club. The cost is \$14 for club members and \$16 for non-members. The price includes a commemorative coin. For more information, please contact your first sergeant.

RAO here may close soon

The Retirees Activities office may close soon unless more people volunteer to keep it running. The RAO provides a source of information for the retiree community about pay and entitlements, vehicle registration, identification cards and more.

Office hours are from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Volunteers can work as many or as few hours per week as they desire. For more information or to volunteer call 283-2737, or e-mail rao@tyndall.af.mil.

Heart Link

The next Heart Link is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Enlisted Club Classics Lounge. Heart Link is an orientation about the Air Force mission and available services that can benefit every Air Force spouse. There will be games, skits, and prize drawings



Chrissy Cuttita

Scrappin' happy

Medina Barron gets help from Cheryl Haswell during a "Scrappin' Factory" workshop at Arts and Crafts Center Aug. 19. Classes are offered from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. one Saturday a month. The next two classes are scheduled for Sept. 9 and Oct. 5. For more information or to reserve a seat, call Arts and Crafts Center at 283-4511.

throughout the day. For more information or to make reservations, contact the Family Support Center at 283-4205.

Women's chapel activity

The Protestant Women of the Chapel fall kickoff will be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Sept. 7 at the Spiritual Fitness Building 1476. If you would like to attend the fellowship or have any questions contact the Chapel at 283-2925.

Marriage Class

"Seven Habits for Highly Effective Marriages," is a brown bag lunch-time class that discusses the core concepts needed to build a strong, solid foundation for marriage. Classes are held at the Family Support Center. For information or to make reservations, call 283-4204.

Spouse Employment Assistance

The Family Support Center military family employment specialist is available from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Tuesday and Wednesday at the

FSC. They assist military spouses with job placement and referrals for positions in the Panama City area and register spouses in the workforce employment system. For more information or to make an appointment, call 283-4204.

Case lot sale

The commissary will have a case lot sale Sept. 15-17. For more information, call 283-4825 or go to www.commissaries.com.

Towel service to end

Air Force fitness centers will discontinue towel service. Tyndall's Fitness Center will no longer issue towels beginning Oct. 1.

Club membership drive

The annual Air Force Clubs' membership drive starts Sept. 1 and will end Nov. 31. To sign up for club membership stop by the Officers' or Enlisted Club or call them at 283-4357 or 283-4146, respectively.

Tyndall Chapel Schedule**Catholic services**

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m.
Monday-Friday,
Chapel Two
Reconciliation, before Saturday
Mass or by appointment
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m.,
Chapel Two
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m.,
Chapel Two
Religious Education, 11 a.m.,
Bldg. 1476

Protestant services

Traditional worship service,
9:30 a.m., Chapel One
Contemporary worship
service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two
Wednesday Fellowship,
5 p.m., Chapel Two

(For more information on other services in the local area, call the Chaplain's office at 283-2925.)

Teams play Military World softball

CHRISSEY CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Three Tyndall softball teams returned from competitive inter-service rivalry with their heads held up high Sunday.

Airman, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines from bases around the world reported to duty on Frank Brown Park's softball fields in Panama City Beach for the U.S. Slow-pitch Softball Association's Military World Championship tournament.

Tyndall's Lady Tigers placed seventh of 15 in the women's military category, while the 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Playmakers placed seventh and 2NQ Nomads placed ninth of 13 teams in the military men's intramural category.

"At the Intramural level, the teams are becoming stronger and stronger each year," said John Atkinson, manager of the 2NQ Nomads, made up of players who work at a variety of squadrons around base. "This is what makes this tournament fun. This allows you to compete against the Army, Navy, and Air Force teams in

the world. After the Military Worlds were completed, the 2NQ Nomads ranked 12th in the world based on the number of points earned during tournament play throughout the year."

The teams practiced hard to prepare for this challenge and fought hard when they got there.

"Our team looks forward to this tournament along with the Air Education and Training Command Championships every year," said Daryl Shines, Lady Tigers coach. "We accomplished our goals at AETC this year and next year we will work hard to be on top of both tournaments."

The Nomads started practicing in January for their 2006 tournament schedule for the Florida Panhandle and Alabama area.

"We played against some exceptionally talented teams in these tournaments," said Atkinson. "Tournaments allow us to hone our skills and get used to playing with each other."

When the competition was

about to close, the championship sponsors instituted a pilot program for a co-ed division so the Tyndall "Catheads" were created on the spot.

"Participants were made up of players from the Lady Tigers and members from the 2NQ Nomads," said Atkinson. "This team was thrown together at the last minute and placed 5th in the Mixed Division. We had a heartbreaking loss in our last game. The score was 17 to 16, in eleven innings."

According to managers and coaches, its all about how you play the game, not whether you win or lose.

"The three main ingredients that make a ballplayer are commitment, loyalty and passion for the game," said Atkinson. "The two teams I managed in the Military Worlds this past weekend have these outstanding qualities and more. If the Military Worlds were happening again this weekend, I would take these two teams back with me to battle in the trenches again."

Intramural Sports Standings

Golf

Team	Points	Team	Points
372nd TRS	72	SFS	48.5
AFNORTH	70.5	MOS 1	43.5
CES	68.5	OSS	38
AFCESA	65.5	TEST	37.5
COMM1	62.5	MDG	35
MXS 1	61.5	SVS	32.5
MSS	58.5	ACS	26
53rd WEG	55	601 2	22
RHS	50	CONS	13.5
83rd FWS	50	MXS 2	8.5

Bowling

Team	W	L	Team	W	L
CES	16	0	ACS 1	8	8
AFCESA 1	14	2	CONS	8	8
AMXS 4	12	4	CS 2	8	8
Test	12	4	MDG	8	8
ACS 2	12	4	AFCESA 2	8	8
RED HORSE	12	4	DS2	6	10
AMMO	12	4	MSS	6	10
AFNORTH /	10	6	CS 1	6	10
INRD	10	6	AFNORTH 3	4	12
AMXS 1	10	6	AMXS 2	4	12
SFS	10	6	83rd FWS 1	4	12
372nd TRS	10	6	AMXS 43	2	14
SVS	8	8	MOS	2	14
83rd FWS 2	8	8	AFNORTH 1	2	14
Phase 2	8	8	Bye	0	16

Team High Game Scratch	AFCESA	941
Team High Series Scratch	AFNORTH 1	2719
Team High Game Handicap	Phase 1	1133
Team High Series Handicap	SVS	3414
High Male Game Scratch	Steve Murphy	267
High Male Series Scratch	Ken Young	734
High Male Game Handicap	Robert Gullet	258
High Male Series Handicap	Sparky Sparks	720
High Female Game Scratch	Jody Forcha	223
High Female Series Scratch	Chong Dodson	582
High Female Game Handicap	Angie Woods	242
High Female Series Handicap	Renee Powell	658

Bowling championship games to start

Tyndall's Raptor Lanes begins its fifth annual base bowling championship Sept. 2.

The purpose of the tournament games is to select the Tyndall representatives for the Raptor Lanes Base Team.

To be eligible for the base Team, bowlers must be a member of the Thursday Night Intramural League and have bowled 21 games in the league.

Four males and two females will be selected.

There will be four separate tournament games held Sept. 2, Oct. 15, Nov. 12 and Dec. 16.

Championship winners must bowl in at least three of the tournaments. Those having the highest cumulative pin count for 18 games during these

tournament games will be selected for the base team.

If a bowler participates in all four tournament games, the bowler will be allowed to drop the lowest set.

The bowling tournament is conducted under the authority of and sanctioned by the U.S. Bowling Congress. All applicable USBC rules will govern this tournament. All entrants must be members of the Panama City USBC.

Results will be

posted at Raptor Lanes.

For a list of rules, to sign up or to obtain more information, call Raptor Lanes at 283-2380.

(Courtesy of Raptor Lanes)



September 11th

Memorial Run

United We Stand.

Participant arrival 7 a.m. at the Fitness Center.
All active duty contact your Unit 1st Sgt for details.
All others call 283-2631 for details.

TRUSSARDI SERVICES



CGOC hosts Tynman Triathlon/ Duathlon

The Tyndall Company Grade Officers' Council is sponsoring the Tynman Triathlon/Duathlon Sept. 16. Race sign-in starts at 6:30 a.m., and the race begins at 8 a.m. at Eagle Drive in base housing here

There are two options for entry:

Sprint triathlon: 600-meter swim, 12-mile bike, 3-mile run

Duathlon: 1.1-Mile run, 12-mile bike, 3-mile run

Registration is available online at www.active.com

For more information, call 283-2060.

**Tyndall's
Fitness
Center is
looking for
a women's
varsity
basketball
coach.
For more
information,
contact
283-2631.**

• FROM ILO PAGE 9

are performing nontraditional missions to provide temporary augmentation. ILO training is designed to develop a population of Airmen who are combat-ready and able to fulfill duties outside their normal Air Force specialty.

"I'm extremely grateful for our high-caliber Airmen who have taken on the challenges of ILO training," said Col. Scott Schafer, vice commander at 2nd Air Force.

"I have been told on more than one occasion 'Thank you' - because the Air Force is stepping up to fill position for the Army," Captain Hunnicutt said. "It means that Soldiers can have more time with their families before that next rotation."

Colonel Schafer expressed his gratitude at a picnic held for the Airmen and their families. He thanked the families for their support and prayers "because without

them, the Airmen couldn't have successfully accomplished the training," he said.

Col Schafer challenged the graduates, who came together from 50 bases, to continue the partnership that was forged four years ago between the U.S. and Afghanistan.

"Airmen join hands with Army embedded training teams and work with the new Afghan National Army to come together to rebuild that country," he said. "I can't think of a greater, more exciting challenge that you have before you to be part of history, to be part of helping Afghanistan come to see that freedom that they've never seen before."

The four-week course included theater immersion training activities such as individual movement techniques, mounted combat patrols, improvised explosion device identification training, and combat

lifesaver training. The course also included support missions exercises, night-firing weapons training, base defense training and combat tactics exercises.

Major Frye said the training also included a five-day field training exercise for convoy operations. She said the training incorporated relevant scenarios geared toward experiences and expected situations in current deployed environments.

"The most important thing we gained from our experience here was to be comfortable with carrying and firing a loaded weapon," Major Frye said. "Everyone got a lot more comfortable with (his or her) M-16 and M-9."

"The Army is happy to have us here and the Airmen are eager to learn and get into the fight," Captain Hunnicutt said.

(Contributed by 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

AAFES offers uniform purchase online

DALLAS – With the latest edition to the Exchange Online Store, busy troops can now assemble their uniforms with just a few clicks of the mouse.

The virtual exchange’s new “Uniform Ready-to-Wear” site makes it easy to complete uniform orders through one easy-to-use Web site. The final product is shipped to the Soldier or Airmen’s door, ready to wear right out of the box, with no assembly required.

ACUs and BDUs can be ordered along with add-on items such as boots, belts, t-shirts and socks. For a small fee a local alterations contractor will even attach all nametapes, rank, insignia, badges and patches on BDUs before they are mailed.

“This is the most convenient way for an Airman or officer to purchase a set of BDUs,” said Maj. Brian Schooley, Army and Air Force Exchange Service Air Force military clothing program manager. “The uniform is deliv-

ered directly to the mailbox and once the local command patch is attached the uniform is ready to wear.”

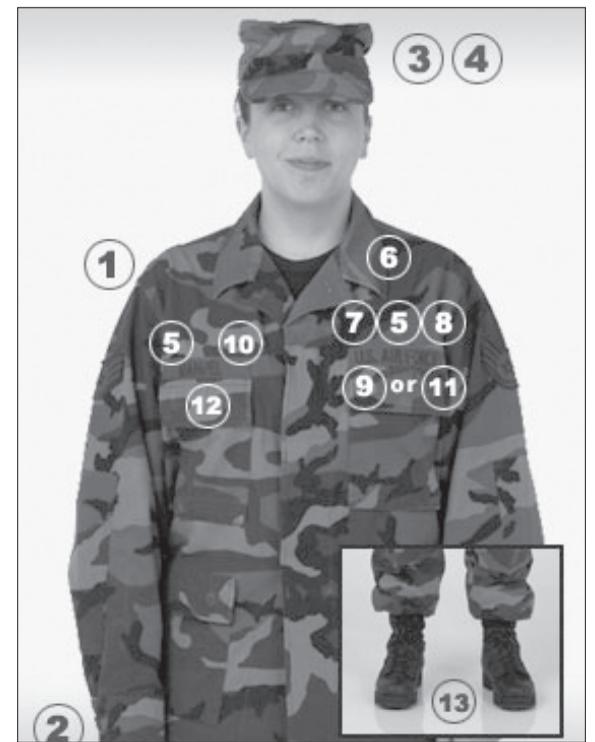
Operational since July 24, the “Uniform Ready-to-Wear” site may be accessed by logging on to www.aafes.com.

From there, military service members need to click shop by department and select “Military Uniforms Ready-to-Wear” to begin creating their custom uniform.

“This is a great opportunity for active and Reserve Soldiers in remote locations to purchase their ACUs,” said Maj. Lula Hart-Evans, AAFES Army mili-

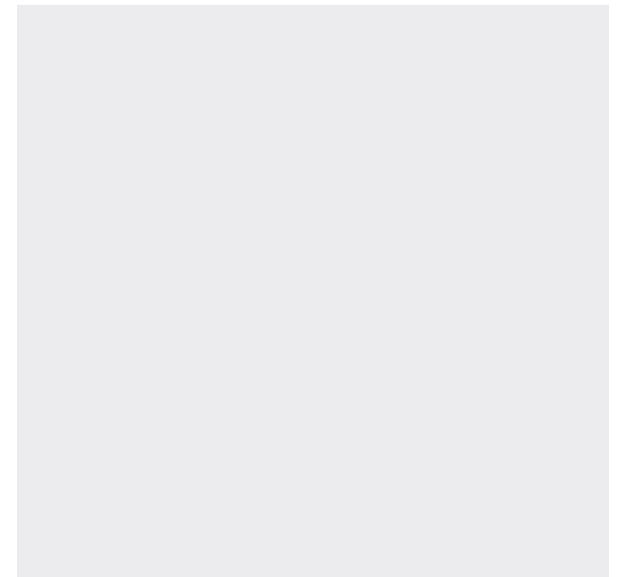
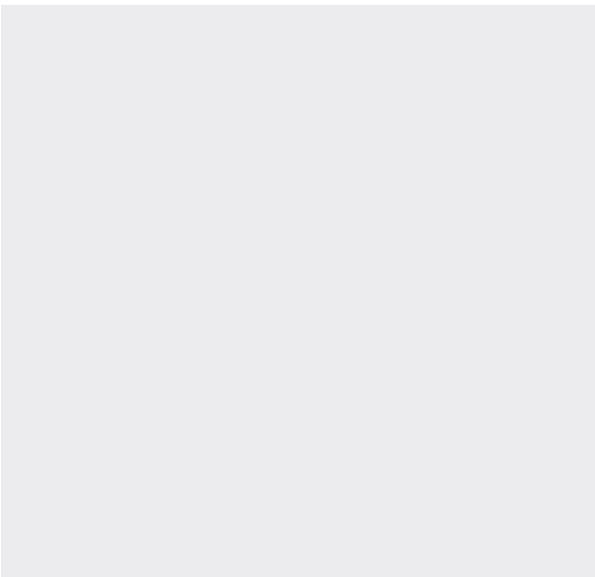
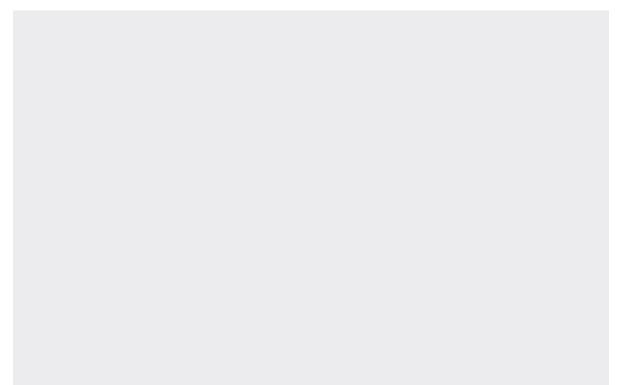
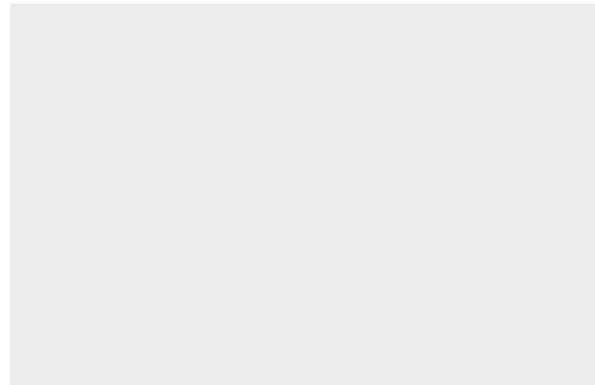
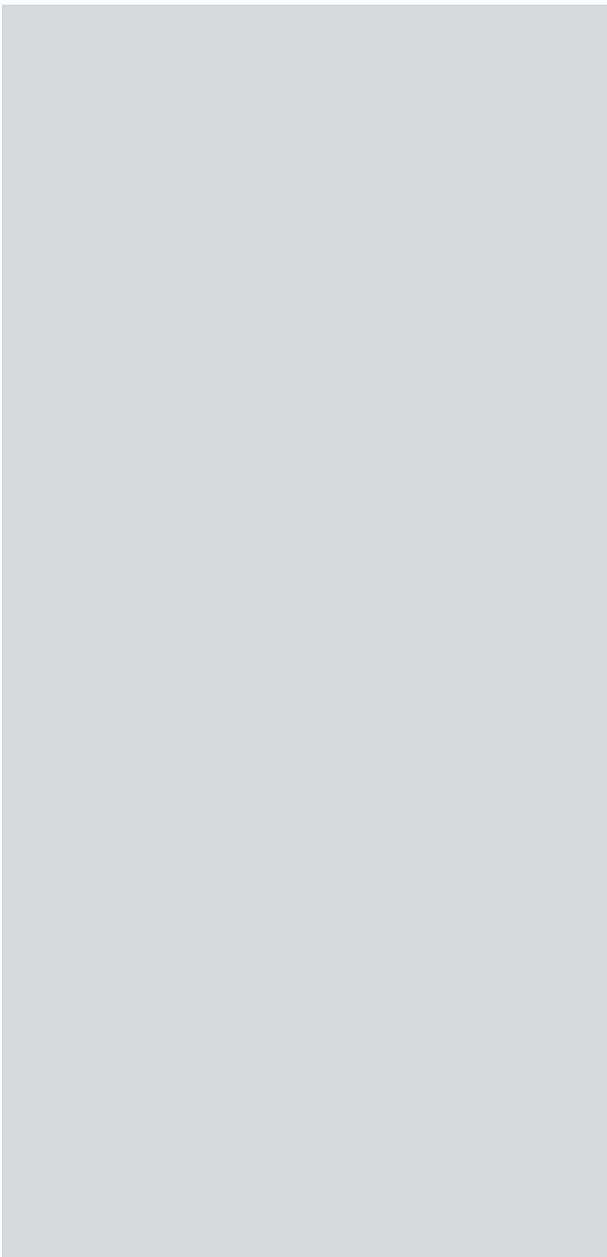
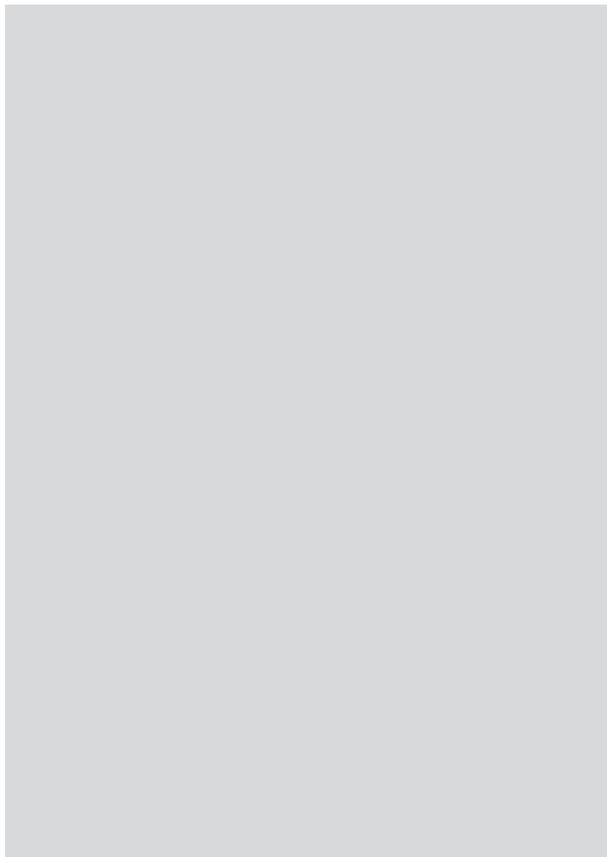
tary clothing program manager. “Assembling a complete uniform is now as simple as using a pull down menu.”

(Courtesy of AAFES)



AAFES

AAFES’ online Web site gives members the opportunity to order by number using the “Uniform Ready-to-Wear feature.





Senior Airman Shannon Van Wagner, 325th MDG aerospace medical technician, helps Maj. Thomas Toffoli, 325th MDG flight surgeon, adjust an oxygen mask to get a proper seal.

Flight medicine keeps aircrew healthy

SENIOR AIRMAN SARAH MCDOWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

(Editor's note: This is the second story in the three-part feature series highlighting the 325th Medical Group's women's health clinic, flight medicine and family practice.)

Whenever something breaks, such as an aircraft, there is someone standing by ready and able to fix it. But, what happens if those who fly the aircraft "break?"

Keeping these men and women flying is a critical task, and that's when the 325th Medical Group's Flight Medicine steps in.

"Our goal is to keep fliers flying and ensure they are physi-

cally capable of doing their job safely," said Maj. Darin Gunnink, 325th Aeromedical Dental Squadron nurse manager.

The flight provides medical support for Tyndall's 325th Fighter Wing and tenant units.

"We go over their records with a fine toothed comb," said Dr. (Maj.) Manoj Ravi, a flight surgeon with the 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron. "We have to adhere to very stringent standards in the Air Force instruction."

With a staff of only four flight surgeons for a population of about 1,600 patients, practicing flight medicine is a job that can

be demanding, but it appears that the folks at Tyndall do it well.

As in other shops, even "ordinary" tasks such as deployments can make the job even more difficult.

"As with everybody else involved in the war on terror, we have been affected by deployments this year," said Major Gunnink. "What is unique to us, is that we had two flight surgeons deployed this year, and one had a permanent change of station which left us with only two doctors for nine months out of the year."

The doctors may incur these challenges, but when it comes

• SEE FLIGHT PAGE 19

• FROM FLIGHT PAGE 18

to their patients, they study the challenges of the unique work environment.

To help the doctor further understand the stresses and strains students experience in the cockpit, flight doctors fly once a month. They also review the aircrafts' heads up display tapes to further familiarize themselves.

"We fly with the pilots to see what they go through and frankly, I can tell you, it's like being in a boxing match," he said. "It's hard work. Not only do they have to manage the G-forces, they have to maintain an optimum

level of situational awareness as they fly and fight. They have to process a lot of information in a short time, so it's critical they don't get fixated on one element of flight or distracted by outside concerns."

He said once an issue, whether physical or mental, is discovered, a thorough assessment is conducted and a course of action involving the appropriate officials is determined.

"A minor ache on the ground can become a significant issue in the air," he said. "We have to be aware of any little thing that can throw off a pilot's fitness level."

Major Ravi said his interaction with

students can either be formal, through office visits, or informal, through visits to the fighter squadrons. Referrals are another source of information, though the major said that referrals don't often happen here.

"We hang out at the operations desk and as the fliers get more comfortable with you, they'll ask questions. We try to address the minor issues at the squadron."

The doctor said the two favorite parts of his job are the flying and working with the instructors and students.

"Fighter pilots have some inherent characteristics that make them successful," Major Ravi said. "They are

extremely intelligent and good at multitasking. They never do anything half way, no matter the task, so we have to watch out that they don't oversaturate themselves."

Also during their squadron visits, they are not only interacting with instructors and students, they are assessing the overall occupational environment to ensure it is "conducive to operational effectiveness," according to the major.

"Pilots live to fly and fight," the doctor said. "They want to be healthy and they want to fly, and you're helping them achieve that goal, it's a great feeling."

Tricare helps customers understand allowable charges with Web site

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Tricare Management Activity posted its allowable charges on an easy-to-use Web site.

The cost of medical care varies widely across the country, and neither hospitals nor doctors' offices usually post their charges for various procedures.

That makes it hard for patients to judge if they're being charged a reasonable amount for operations or examinations. By making its maximum allowable charges easily available to the public, Tricare's intent is to level the playing field a little between medical service providers and users.

"We have a responsibility to help educate the public on health care issues," said William Winkenwerder, Jr., assistant secretary of defense (health affairs.) "With medical costs continuing to spiral upward, the more the consumer knows the better. This information could be especially useful for people with no insurance, who may be able to negotiate pricing with their physicians."

The new Web site shows the Tricare Maximum allowable charge tables, listing the most frequently used

procedures, more than 300 of them, and the amount Tricare is legally allowed to pay for them. These charges are tied to Medicare allowable charges, effectively making them a federal standard for health care costs.

Tricare figures the allowable charge from all professional (non-institutional) providers' bills nationwide, with adjustments for specific localities, over the previous year. A claims processor can tell a provider the allowable charge amount for specific services or procedures and now, anyone can see the charges on the new Web site.

The rate table uses the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System. The charges in this table don't reflect discounts regional contractors may negotiate with Tricare network providers, so they may differ from the amounts shown on TRICARE beneficiaries' explanation of benefits.

The Tricare allowable charges are listed on line at www.tricare.osd.mil/allowablecharges.

(Courtesy of Tricare)

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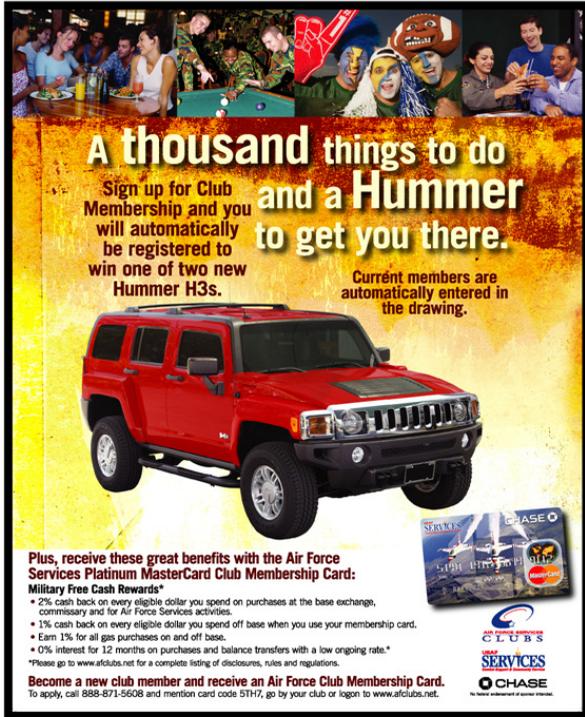
The National Football League is soon beginning its 2006 season. Do you think you can outsmart the Pig-Prog by picking each week's winners? Watch for the Pig-Prog challenge coming soon only in the *Gulf Defender*. Maybe you'll get a chance to lose to the greatest football forecaster of them all.





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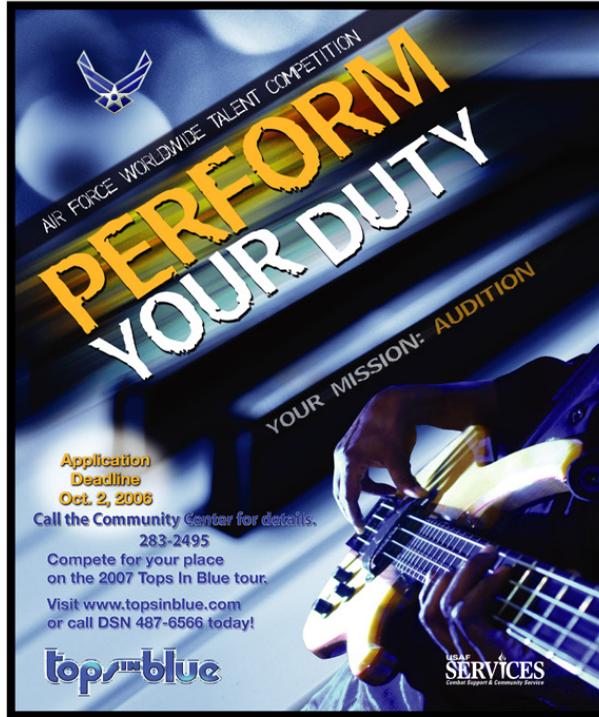
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For details call 283-4366



The Veterinary Clinic will be CLOSED Sept. 4 - 5

Attention Team Tyndall: Place a free classified ad in the Gulf Defender

Military classified ads are placed in the Gulf Defender on a space available basis. Ads must be for a one-time sale of personal goods and should include a complete description, 30 words or less, of item being sold. Forms must be turned in by 2 p.m. Thursday for publication in the following Friday's Gulf Defender. Completed forms can be dropped off or mailed to the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at 445 Suwannee Rd. Ste. 129, Tyndall AFB, FL 32403, or faxed to 283-3225. Ads can also be sent in by e-mail to checkertailmarket@tyndall.af.mil.

Rank/Name _____
 Unit/Office Symbol _____
 Duty Phone _____
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Item description (One ad per form)
 (30 words or less)

We value your opinion!

Take a couple of minutes to give us your thoughts on how we can make the Gulf Defender better:

Did the front page grab your attention? Yes No

Do you feel there is a good mix of local, command and Air Force-level news? Yes No

Do the photos encourage you to read accompanied articles? Yes No

Is the Gulf Defender easy to read and follow? Yes No

What did you find most interesting in this week's paper? _____

If you could change one thing in the paper, what would it be? _____

Comments:

Tyndall AFB AAFES Labor Day weekend holiday hours

Facility	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Alterations	closed	closed	closed
Anthony's	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	11 a.m. – 4 p.m.	11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Barber	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	11 a.m. – 4 p.m.	closed
Barber (flightline)	closed	closed	closed
Beauty shop	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.	closed	closed
Cell n' Accessories	9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.	closed	closed
Charley's	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	closed	closed
Class Six	8 a.m. – 10 p.m.	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Cool Beanz Coffee	closed	closed	closed
Dry cleaners	closed	closed	closed
Felix Lake	6 a.m. – 9 p.m.	6 a.m. – 9 p.m.	6 a.m. – 9 p.m.
GNC	9 a.m. – 6 p.m.	10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Main store	9 a.m. – 7 p.m.	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
MCSS	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	closed	closed
Optical shop	9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.	closed	closed
Robin Hood	closed	closed	closed
Service station	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	closed	closed
Shoal point	11 a.m. – 6 p.m.	11 a.m. – 6 p.m.	closed

Other Base Facilities

Commissary	9 a.m. – 6 p.m.	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	closed
Burger King	7 a.m. – 8 p.m.	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	closed

