

# GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 65, No. 26

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

July 7, 2006

## In Brief

### Satellite pharmacy re-opening

The Satellite Refill Pharmacy at the Base Exchange has been renovated and will be open for business July 24. All refill operations at the Main Clinic will be terminated at that time.

The Refill Pharmacy operating hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. The automated refill call-in number is 283-7177 or (800) 356-5273

### Munitions storage closure

The Munitions Storage Area will be closed to all customers from July 31 to Aug. 4. All munitions customers should project their needs accordingly and plan ahead for this closure. Only valid emergency issues will be processed during this period. For more information, call 283-4010/2374.

## Inside

Family Support Center services...

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End of Runway Airmen ensure safety ...

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Engineers go beyond virtual reality ...

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Chrissy Cuttita

## Guts and bolts...

**Staff Sgt. Scott McElroy, 325th Maintenance Squadron avionics technician, gets ready to climb into an F-15 cockpit to conduct a radar operations check. On day one of phase operations, maintainers prepare the jet for safe maintenance and check for needed parts. See the story on Pages 10-11.**

## NSPS training mandatory for supervisors

**MELANIE MCGUIRE**  
325th Mission Support Squadron

Base personnel will be changing the way they do business as approximately 125 non-bargaining unit personnel assigned to Tyndall will convert to the National Security Personnel System Jan. 21, 2007.

This conversion from the General Schedule System marks the beginning of a landmark transformation of the Department of Defense's human resources from a legacy civilian personnel system, with its rigid structure and heavy reliance on seniority, to

a pay-for-performance system.

"One of the strongest characteristics of NSPS is the direct link between pay, performance and mission accomplishment," said Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander. "Under NSPS, employees will be rewarded for their performance and contributions that are aligned with achieving their organization's goals."

In preparation for NSPS implementation, the 325th Mission Support Squadron civilian personnel office is ensuring Tyndall's commanders, supervisors and non-bargaining unit

employees are fully trained and prepared to meet the challenges of NSPS through various soft skills and technical training methods.

All supervisors of appropriated funds General Schedule employees and all non-bargaining unit employees are required to take NSPS 101 training online at [www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/nsps101](http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/nsps101).

"Supervisors will find NSPS 101 informative and beneficial with an excellent overview of the NSPS," said Giles Sanchez, NSPS training manager who recently completed the course.

NSPS will provide employees with an efficient and effective performance management system that will value, recognize and reward their contributions to the mission, further promoting the core values.

Several NSPS training opportunities will be offered in the upcoming months with dates and times to be announced when available. The keys to a successful conversion for our Team Tyndall non-bargaining unit workforce will be a strong implementation plan, senior leadership support and communication.

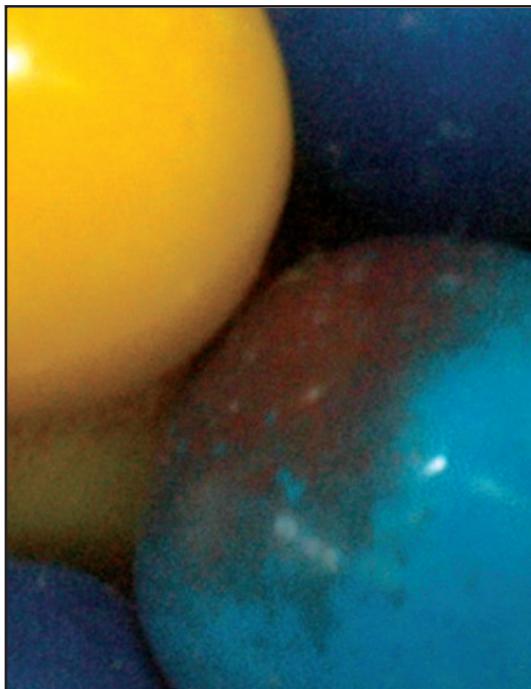


Isaac Gibson

### Beam me up

The 240th Combat Communications Squadron from McEntire Air National Guard Station, S.C. and Air Forces Northern demonstrate the Eagle Vision system to visiting government officials. The satellite system can be used to acquire images from satellites in orbit and use them for purposes such as homeland defense and assessing structural damage after natural disasters.

### Identify this ...



Can you identify this object? If so, send an e-mail to [editor@tyndall.af.mil](mailto: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. No one correctly guessed the June 30 edition of "Identify this." Look out for the photo again in a future issue of *The Gulf Defender*.

## ON THE STREET

### 325th Communications Squadron Focus:

# What did you do for the Fourth of July?



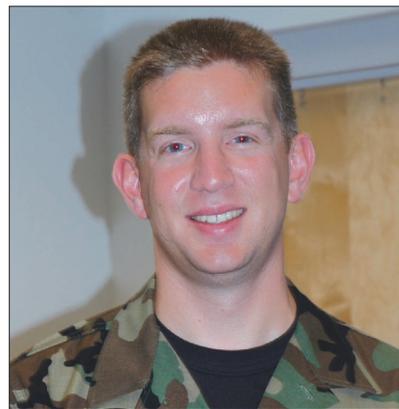
"I went to the beach and hung out with my friends."

**AIRMAN JEREMY DENNEY**  
Ground Radio Maintenance



"I spent time with my family and friends."

**MASTER SGT. PHILIP GAYLORD**  
NCO in-Charge Radio Maintenance



"My wife and I walked down to the beach and had a picnic."

**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MATT WORLEY**  
Computer Technician



"I took my daughter to the fireworks display to watch her reaction."

**MATT NEEDHAM**  
Architect

### Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

- Col. Tod Wolters.....325th FW commander
- Maj. Susan A. Romano.....chief, 325th FW public affairs
- Chrissy Cutitta.....chief, internal information
- Senior Airman Sarah McDowell.....editor
- Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga.....staff writer

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

The deadline for article submissions to the Gulf Defender is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed to [editor@tyndall.af.mil](mailto: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.

# Airmen in Action: *Trusting character to win wars*

**COL. MARC LUIKEN**

325th Mission Support Group commander

The Global War on Terror has dramatically changed the way we fight wars and for the Air Force, those who are actually on the front lines of combat have significantly changed as well.

You don't have to be a flyer or a special operator to end up in combat anymore. Our front-line combatants come from all Air Force specialties, especially in the mission support arena.

Right here in the 325th Mission Support Group

we've had warriors engaged in combat operations, as recently as Air Expeditionary Force 9/10. Communications Airmen have called in air support on insurgents during a convoy attack; Logistics Readiness Division members have manned .50-caliber machine guns, sending hot lead down range against an insurgent attack and civil engineers searched and cleared insurgent safe houses while on patrol with their Marine partners.

Still others survived improvised explosive device attacks because of their up-armored humvee added protection. These are just a few example situations our Airmen now find themselves facing as they de-

ploy into the area of responsibility.

They all succeeded because of their training and, more importantly, because they had something inside them that caused them to make the right choice when faced with a combat situation.

**“Your willingness to serve your country already says something about your character. Continue to build on that foundation by choosing the character-building path in even the simplest decisions.”**

**COL. MARC LUIKEN**  
325th MSG commander

Trust is absolutely essential in combat and it starts right here at home. If I can't trust the person sitting in the cubicle next to me or working on the flight line with me to make right choices, how

am I going to trust them to do the right thing when mortars are falling on our tent city or our convoy is stopped at an unexpected road block?

We develop trust daily inside and outside our work centers, on and off base when we demonstrate our willingness to make the right choice, even when it costs. We build trust because we have developed and cultivated the character demanded of a leader.

“Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character. But if you must be without one, be without strategy,” General H. Norman Schwarzkopf said about the significance of character.



Senior Airman Sarah McDowell

**Members of the 325th MSG don their mission-oriented protective posture gear during an exercise here. All Airmen must be trained and ready to deploy no matter what their career field.**

Your willingness to serve your country already says something about your character. Continue to build on that foundation by choosing the character-building path in even the simplest decisions. It's a practice that will eventually become a habit, a habit that will carry you through when the crisis arises or you find yourself in combat.

Our ability to win this war depends on the character of leaders at all levels in every service. Our nation depends on us to be men and women of impeccable character.

Your character tells the world who you are. Do you cop out or dig out of a difficult situation? Do you

bend the truth or do you stand under the weight of it? Do you take the easy money or do you pay the price? We don't get to pick our talents, our parents, or who we work with or for. But we do choose our character, and we create it every time we make choices.

As this war on terror continues, many of you will find yourselves in combat or similar crisis situations where we will need to make critical decisions. We all are or will be leaders in our Air Force. Trust is foundational to leadership. People will not trust leaders whose character they know is compromised, and they will not continue to follow them.

## Action Line

Call 283-2255



**COL. 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.

<b>Commissary</b>	<b>283-4825</b>
<b>Pass and I.D.</b>	<b>283-4191</b>
<b>Medical and Dental</b>	<b>283-7515</b>
<b>MEO</b>	<b>283-2739</b>

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

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

# Canada, U.S. celebrate special day

**CHRISSY CUTTITA**

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Two countries whose militaries fought side by side for years defending the North American continent fought against each other Friday in a friendly competition called volleyball.

Tyndall's Canadian Component Forces sought to defeat their American counterparts over the net for the third year in a row during a time where both countries celebrate their nation's independence.

"The Canada day festivities here build camaraderie and let us remember where we come from in a place where we are normally just mixed in," said Lt. Col. Kelly Kovach, Canadian Element commander.

The Canadians didn't get the trophy this year, but Tyndall leadership and the community joined in the food and fun at Bonita Bay to help celebrate the 139th Canada Day with their brothers-in-arms.

"We trained all year long for this great comeback and the training paid off," said Master Sgt. Kim Stroud, Operations Requirements

Air Operations Center manager. "It was a grueling match and I think the 'home turf' advantage may have played a big part in our win because I think a few of the Canadians, not being used to the heat and humidity, were actually melting. However, they were very competitive and it came down to the final minutes of game three before the win was determined."

"It was a fair game, fairly won; to the victor go the spoils," said Colonel Kovach. "Of course we will try and win back the title."

Since the 1980s, Canadians have been stationed with North American Aerospace Defense Command support, and since the 1990s they have been integrated in the daily operations at Air Forces Northern located here.

Twenty five Canadian families are permanently posted here and some who were stationed here before retired in the area and continue to keep in touch.



Isaac Gibson

**Canadians and Americans from Air Forces Northern celebrate Canada Day by playing volleyball at Heritage Park Friday.**

# Despite stormy start, 'Katrina baby' thrives

SUSAN GRIGGS

81st Training Wing Public Affairs

**KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. (AFPN)-**

No, her name is not Katrina.

Sage Madison Post's dramatic birth at Keesler Medical Center during a cesarean section by flashlight as Hurricane Katrina stormed ashore was an inspirational story in the tumultuous days after the storm.

However, without the family's consent, federal regulations to protect the privacy of personal health information kept many details of the birth from being released.

A handwritten note and photos slipped under the door of the 81st Training Wing's public affairs office almost 10 months later filled in the blanks of the family's story.

"I started carrying around a copy of Sage's birth certificate because people acted like they didn't be-

lieve me when I told them about her delivery during Katrina," said Stephenie Post, the wife of Senior Airman Aaron Post of the 81st Transportation Squadron.

The Posts and their then-2-year-old daughter, Austin, joined other expectant parents who were sheltered at the Keesler Medical Center. Mrs. Post was 39 weeks pregnant and scheduled for a cesarean section Aug. 30, the day after the hurricane pounded Keesler.

"We watched the trees in the wind through little windows as the storm blew in," she said. "Before the power went out, we were watching TV and playing video games to keep from getting bored."

When the storm surge flooded the medical center's basement, the generators became inoperable and left the facility without power. Families had to drag their belongings upstairs in the dark to safety.

• SEE BABY PAGE 15



Kemberly Groue

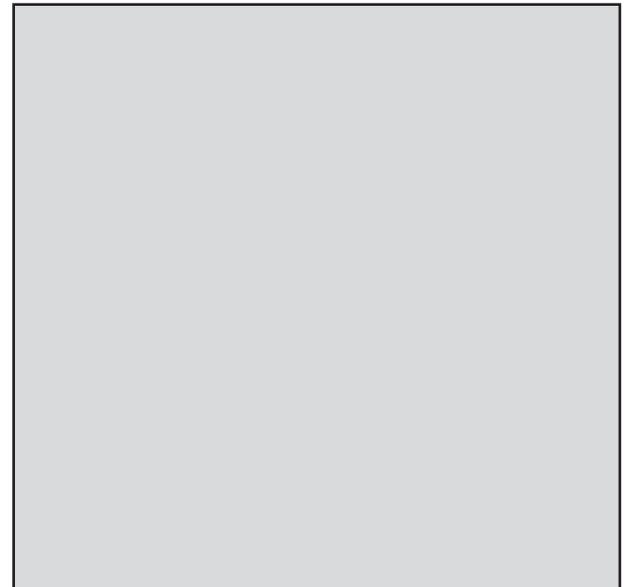
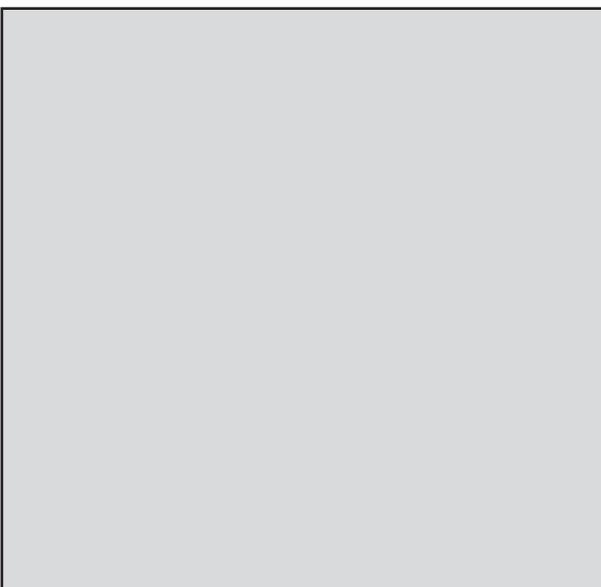
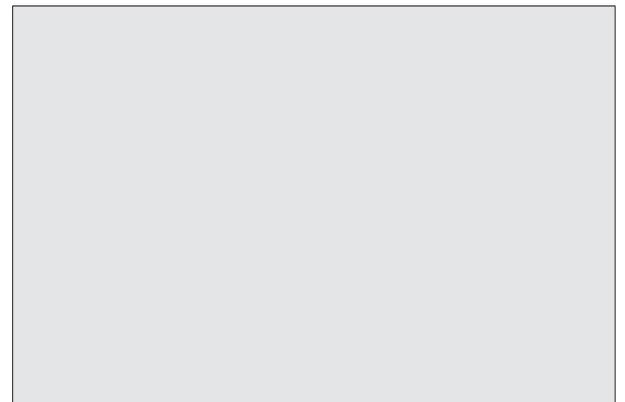
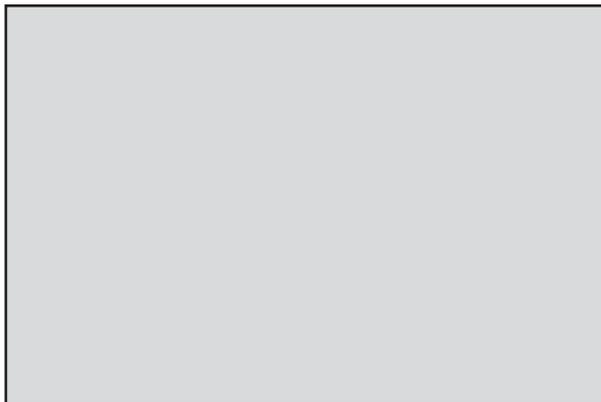
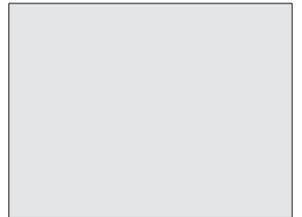
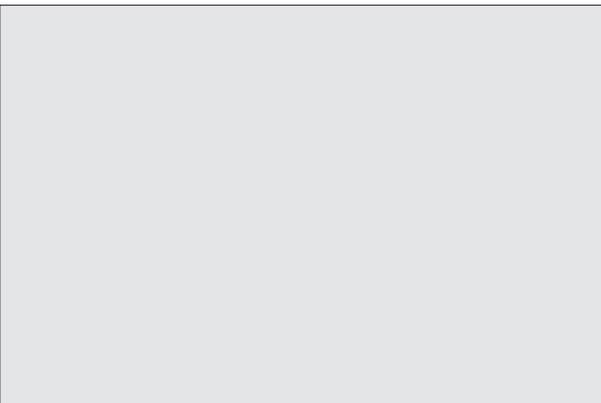
**Life is getting back to normal for Senior Airman Aaron and Stephenie Post, shown here with 3-year-old Austin and 10-month-old Sage Madison.**

# Family Support Center provides 'Best Beginnings'



Photos by Senior Airman Sarah McDowell

Left, Senior Airman Parris Kawaauhau, 95th Aircraft Maintenance dedicated crew chief assistant, goes through the steps of cardiopulmonary resuscitation on a dummy during infant and child CPR class. Above, Anita Pembleton, Family Support Center, briefs new mothers and fathers about services they and their children can receive from the military. Various agencies from Tyndall are included in this briefing. For more information on these quarterly programs, call 283-4204.



# Congratulations to Tyndalls NCO Academy graduates

*Distinguished graduate*  
**Kimberly Muhlecke,**  
325th ADS

**Roy Anderson,**  
325th MDSS  
**Adam Clark,**  
325th CS

**Michael Graves,**  
325th AMXS  
**Jamar Jordan,**  
325th MXS

**Raisean Lasenberry,**  
325th ACS  
**Scott Linza,**  
REDHORSE

**Darren Maring,**  
325th ADS

**Phillip Pittman,**  
327th TRS/Det. 4  
**Richard Pratt,**  
28th TES

**Jodi Rusticelli,**  
325th MOS

**Jacob Sanabia,**  
AFCESA

**Kelica Snipes,**  
325th SVS

**Charles White,**  
325th AMXS

**Alijhondroe Wiley,**  
325th SFS

## Checkertail Salute

### Tech Sgt. Penny Blackburn



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

**Sergeant Blackburn receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Col. Tod Wolters, 325th Fighter Wing commander.**

Sergeant Blackburn produced the first consolidated in-flight guide for the 325th FW. She taught console familiarization to nine air control students and trained two 325th Air Control Squadron weapons technicians in initial qualification training. Sergeant Blackburn has been an active community volunteer, raising more than \$1,000 for Hiland Park Elementary and helping Bay County set up a Big Brothers/Big Sisters chapter.

**Duty Title:** NCO in-charge of 325th Operations Group standards and evaluations

**Time on station:** Two years and six months

**Time in service:** 14 years

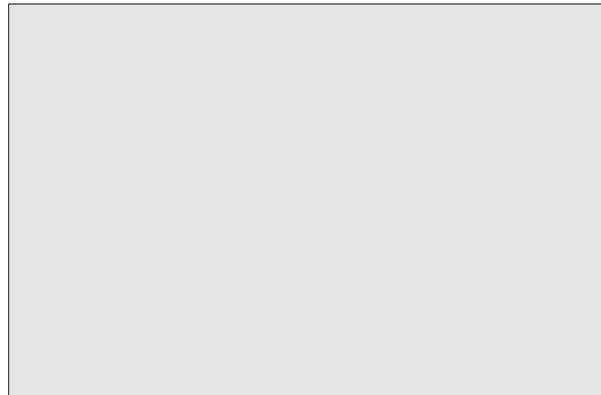
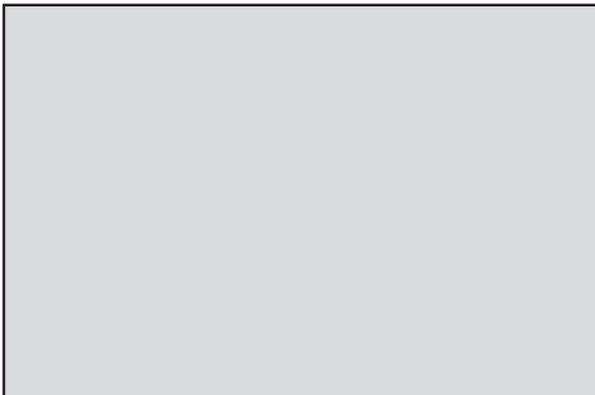
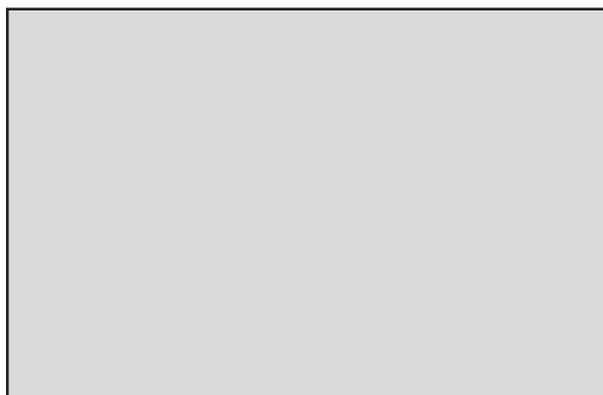
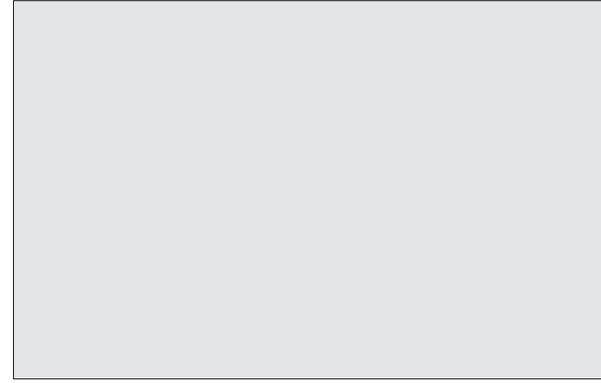
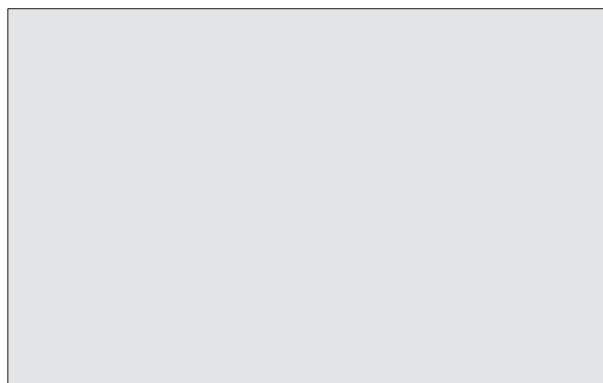
**Hometown:** Johnson City, Tenn.

**Goals:** Earn bachelor's degree in social psychology

**Favorite thing about Tyndall:** Living at a vacation destination

**Proudest moment in the military:** I got a line number for master sergeant and an F-15 familiarization flight within two weeks.

*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.*



# EOR Airmen are last stop for safety checks

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
STAFF SGT. STACEY HAGA  
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

They run from jet to jet, ensuring the safety of every F-15 Eagle and F-22 Raptor that takes off from Tyndall's runway.

With beads of sweat on their foreheads, these maintainers quickly and thoroughly check the jet for any exterior issues that could prevent the jet from having a safe flight.

End of Runway Airmen are the last maintainers to inspect the jet prior to takeoff.

This team of Airmen performs an inspection of aircraft tires, panels, doors and looks for any gas, oil or hydraulic leaks after the aircraft taxis to the runway.

Sometimes things can happen to a jet after engine start up and after taxi that could make the aircraft unsafe for flight.

The EOR team's job is to catch these safety issues and correct them.

"It is the last look inspection on the aircraft before the pilot takes off, so we are ensuring the aircraft is flight ready before the pilot goes to the runway," said Tech. Sgt. Dathan



Senior Airman Dennis Rodriguez, far right, 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, clears an F-15 for take-off after the End of Runway team inspects the aircraft and removes the safety pins.

Brown, 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron assistant section chief of EOR operations. "We are verifying nothing has changed since the aircraft taxied out. We make sure components are not leaking, and the jet did not run over something

that could have cut the tire beyond limits."

The inspection is very quick, averaging one minute for the Raptor and two minutes for the Eagle.

"The F-15 takes longer, because we are actually talk-

ing to the pilot and removing weapon safety pins from the aircraft," said Sergeant Brown.

The Raptor has no safety pins to remove and maintainers are unable to talk to the pilot due to security reasons, he explained.

Even though the inspection is quick, safety is a top concern of EOR Airmen.

"We are working with taxiing aircraft so everyone has to be very aware of their surroundings," he said. "Engine intakes and hot jet exhaust are a very big safety concerns. All of these are all handled with constant situational awareness."

EOR inspects about 76 aircraft per day, normally making their schedule fast-paced. The Airmen often run from one inspection to the next to ensure each jet makes its scheduled takeoff time.

They also inspect the F-15 Eagle after it lands, checking

for hot brakes, chaff, and reinserting the safety pins before clearing the aircraft to the taxiway.

Regardless of the hectic schedule, the Airmen view EOR as a unique learning opportunity.

"I get to learn about both jets working here and get dual qualification," said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Vance, 325th AMXS EOR team supervisor.

The learning experience transcends into the different career fields also.

"I'm a weapons loader and I get to learn things about crew chief duties here," said Senior Airman Chris Sachtleben, 325th AMXS EOR team member.

"We have camaraderie and great teamwork," said Sergeant Brown.

It is this teamwork that enables the EOR team to efficiently inspect Tyndall's F-22s and F-15s and help accomplish the mission.



Tech. Sgt. Dathan Brown inspects an F-15 for any safety issues prior to takeoff.

# ABMs connect NCA, warfighter

**2ND LT. MATTHEW PERRY**  
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

It's the mission for many Airmen to make sure they keep the military's aircraft safe from harm.

It is the mission for another dedicated group of individuals to direct these aircraft into harm's way while still upholding the other mission of keeping them safe.

Air battle managers continuously communicate with pilots to keep them up to speed with any updates of any aircraft that may be in the area that could be hostile.

"ABMs are experts who manage the executions of air-to-air and air-to-ground combat missions under the guidance of the national command authority," said Capt. Virgil Gibbs, 325th Air Control Squadron instructor. "We are the link between the National Command Authority and the warfighter in the air and on the ground."

ABMs begin their training for this responsibility here at Tyndall's 325th ACS. The squadron graduates approximately 200 students each year from the nine-month program, which includes instruction on different formations and exercises, capabilities of various fighter aircraft, the different air-to-air and air-to-ground armaments available for use, as well as the various threats to the jets.

"I wanted to be in the operations side of the Air Force and to be able to fly on planes. I also like being part of a high-valued asset," said 2nd Lt. Colin Cavanaugh, a 325th ACS student who is almost ready to graduate from the program.

Initially, the students learn about the different types of radar and how they work. Next, they learn how to direct two planes to meet head-on, side-by-side and procedures to guide jets to a tanker for safe air refueling operations. The students then take eight flights in the MU-2 twin-engine turboprop plane to get the pilot's perspective of the air battle manager/pilot communication link.

"Students fly on the MU-2 so they can appreciate first hand the work load of the pilot and use the proper communication at the proper time." Captain Gibbs said.



2nd Lt. Matthew Perry

**Capt. Virgil Gibbs, briefs 2nd Lt. Jenn Bloomer, an ABM student, about air-to-air and air-to-ground missions.**

Back on the ground, students controlling the MU-2 get the feel of live control but on a much slower scale. The dots on the radar scope move much slower compared to an F-15 Eagle, so a student has more time to correct an error.

After successfully passing the MU-2 course, the students enter the large force exercise block, which mimics a war. They interact as an E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System crew, where they apply rules of engagement, controlling aircraft and the computers and Air Force doctrine.

"The large force exercise block prepares the student to execute wartime missions in an environment where they can have 50 plus aircraft under their control," Captain Gibbs said. "The goal is to give the student the big picture of the battlefield and the assets to execute the entire air tasking order."

The final phase of their training involves controlling the Eagles. By now, the students have completed 112 of their 160 training days. In this

phase, students begin with one-on-one intercepts, and gradually work up to two-on-two engagements.

"The final phase is when the students get to control high performance aircraft such as the F-15 and the F-22 (stationed here). They learn their tactical skills and provide information to the pilots so they can effectively execute air to air engagements." Captain Gibbs said.

Following those training flights, the B-course pilot and ABM students debrief to exchange information and learn how to communicate more effectively with each other.

"In the debrief they review the mission using both air combat maneuver instrumentation and communication playback," said Captain Gibbs. "This is where students can play back missions in a second-by-second environment. We analyze aircraft tactics and communications procedures to develop desired learning objectives. These objectives are then used in subsequent missions to increase the skills and knowledge of the students."

## Training Spotlight



**After you graduate next week, where will you go?**

First I'll complete Survival Evasion Resistance Escape training and then I will move to Warner Robins AFB, Ga., to learn the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System Platform.

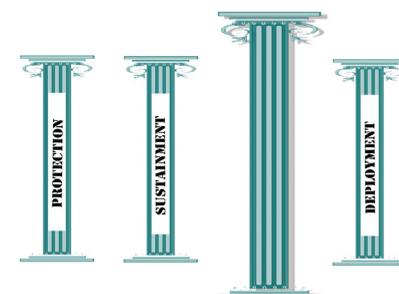
**2ND LT. BETSY SCOTT**  
325th Air Control Squadron  
air battle manager student



## Questions about retraining?

Call the 325th Fighter Wing Career Assistance Advisor, Master Sgt. Albert Lewis at 283-2222.

## FORCE TRAINING



# Phasing operation

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
**CHRISSEY CUTTITA**  
 325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Every 200 flying hours, an F-15 will dock itself in the 325th Maintenance Squadron's phase dock to be picked apart and examined for quality assurance by maintenance professionals.

"Like on your vehicle, aircraft parts (including the airframe) wear-out/fail and get damaged after hours and hours of use," said Senior Master Sgt. Ron Wagner, 325th MXS flight chief. "The inspection is used to discover and correct items which, over time, would eventually become dangerous safety-of-flight issues. This becomes more and more important as the aircraft get older."

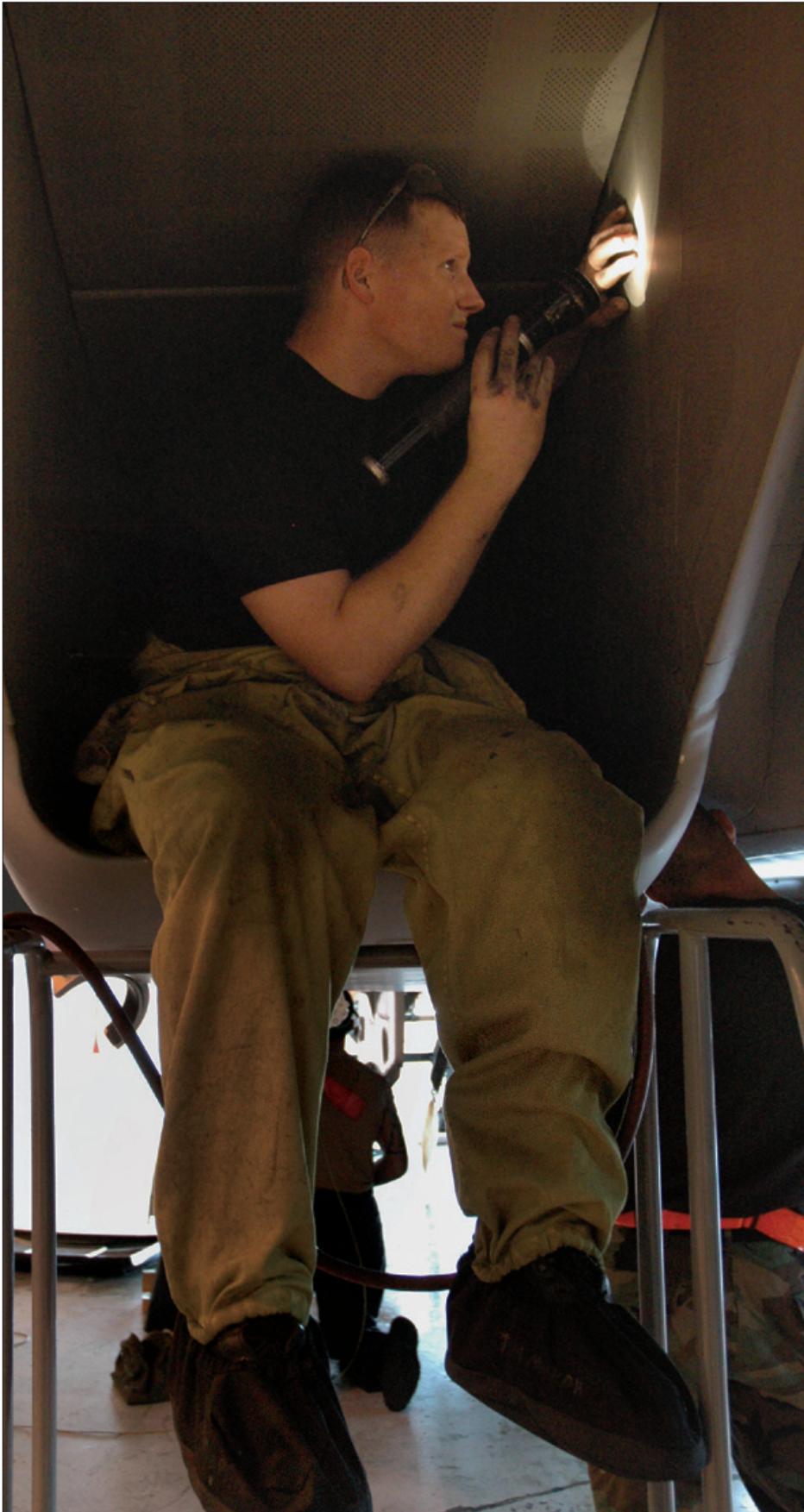
Engineers have certain items with specific life cycles so the 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron also gets involved and uses the downtime opportunity to catch-up on all the "time change" items before the aircraft actually are grounded, he said.

Before phase can get started, a contract has to be signed to layout the work requirements. This meeting is called predock.

"During this time we document the tail number, what hourly postflight we are on, the days the aircraft is schedule in and out and we agree on what is going to be done," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Veit, 325th MXS dock chief. "In addition, we have a post dock document that records what actually was completed out of the predock contract."

Up to three aircraft can be in the dock at one time and they can all be at different stages of repair. Teams are assigned to each one to follow through with the jet's phase maintenance whether it's a five or ten week-day mission. Each person on the team is assigned to one of five sections of the jet; forward, wing, hydraulics, aft and engine. Avionics and electrical system journeymen and apprentices work all sections while other personnel work in their specific area of expertise.

On day one, maintainers prepare the jet for safe maintenance and check for needed parts. They mark



Above: Airman 1st Class Mike Clifford, 325th MXS structural maintenance technician, gets ready to crawl into an Eagle's engine intake.  
 Right: Airman 1st Class John Thore, 325th MXS aircraft structural maintenance/sheet metal journeyman, removes nut plates.



# ns - one jet at a time



**Left: Senior Airman Parris Kawaauhau, 95th AMU crew chief assistant, takes a panel off an F-15 wing. Above: Staff Sgt. Joshua Bost, 325th MXS aerospace propulsion craftsman, checks the throttle rigs on an F-15 engine.**

panels to be removed and cover openings with tape so nothing can get inside. “Red streamers” are placed to indicate safety conditions. Leak tests are conducted. Hydraulics and electronics are run.

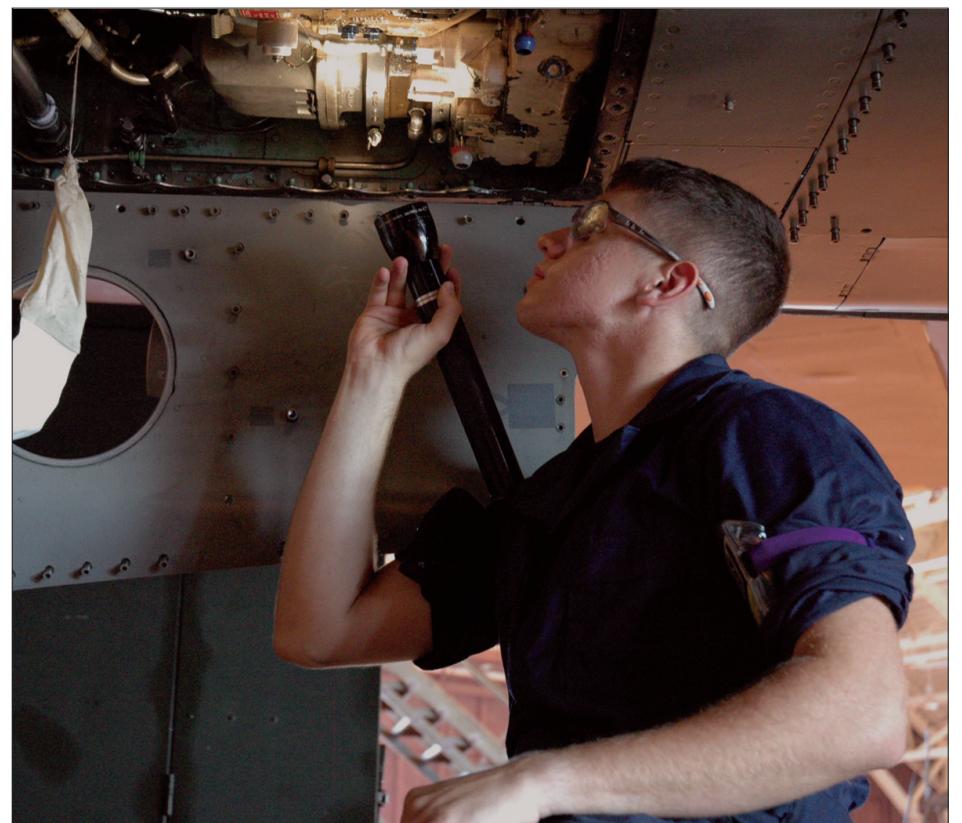
**Left: Senior Airman Sam Gebreselassie, 325th MXS tactical aircraft maintenance journeyman, plugs in the communication connection during a hydraulic-powered simulated engine run. Below: Staff Sgt. Scott McElroy, avionics technician, inspects electrical connectors on the F-15.**

Structural components are examined on day two, ensuring there are no cracks in the surface. Back shops arrive to take out the ejection seat for inspection.

Ordered parts are usually received by day three, when maintainers stop looking and start fixing. Days spent making repairs depends on which hourly postflight inspection is scheduled, number one or number two. Two is longer and conducted every other 200 flying hour check. A periodic inspection can take up to eleven week days to complete.

“All these inspections have the same basic stages but differ in the amount of items checked and how in-depth we look at certain items,” said Sergeant Wagner. “What the mechanics look for depends on which inspection the aircraft is in for. There are workcards for each inspection for the items to be checked. We also have our own self-generated list of high-fail and/or critical items. In addition to these two lists, we also look the aircraft over for any discrepancies possible as well as foreign objects.”

Before an aircraft can return to its unit, the crew chief of that unit and others make a final inspection and



**Airman Ben Mockovciak, 325th MXS crew chief, checks the hydraulic pumps on an F-15 during the first day of phase maintenance.**

pass or fail the jet for flying operations.

“The pass rate is pretty high,” said Sergeant Veit, who coordinates and monitors the workload of any jet that sits in his section of the dock. “Occasionally, about 30 percent of

the time, the aircraft doesn’t go back into flying. It goes for depot fix. Regardless of the follow-on maintenance, as long as the phase inspection is complete, the AMU assumes responsibility so the phase dock can start working the next airplane.”



## Briefs

**OSI brief**

Report suspicious activities to the 325th Security Forces Squadron at 283-2254, or the Air Force Office of Special Investigations at 283-3261.

**AAFES electronics**

The 2006 Exchange Electronics Summer supplement is available at all main stores and online at aafes.com, usmc-mccs.org, navy-nex.com or cg-exchange.com.

Prices in this all-services catalog are valid through Oct. 16, for any authorized exchange customer. Active duty military members of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard, as well as military retirees, reservists, National Guardsmen, Department of Defense civilians stationed overseas, Exchange employees and their family members are all authorized exchange privileges.

Orders can be placed by mail, fax or phone. Toll free orders can be placed from the United States, Puerto Rico or Guam at 800-527-2345.

**Limited space at the marina**

There is limited parking at the Beacon Beach Marina due to pavement of the parking area.

The public boat launch is closed; however, the private boat launch will be available for usage for all Tyndall patronage. The Marina Grill is open. The estimated completion date of construction is July 28. For any further questions or concerns, please feel free to call the marina at 283-3059.

**Dining facility limitations**

Due to limited space and increased temporary duty commitments, the facility will be limited to meal-card holders, on-duty security police (weapons carrying), firemen, and temporary duty personnel during lunch meal until Aug. 1. The Eagle Quick Turn (flight kitchen) will be limited to personnel with flight line badges for all meals until Aug. 1.

**Base ropes course**

The base ropes course offers a program that promotes team cohesion, strength and provides an opportunity for self insight. Call the Tyndall Outdoor Recreation, Bonita Bay program coordinator to schedule, at 283-3199.



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

**'Water-mark'**

Jack McFadden, Del-Jen civil engineering plumber, uses a ground penetrating radar that detects utility lines in the ground to find an existing gas line in base housing and prepare for a future water main. Base residents were mailed housing surveys and are encouraged to fill them out to keep improvements happening in housing. For more information, or to obtain another copy of the survey, call 283-8332.

**School physicals offered**

School and sport physicals are by appointment only at Tyndall. Call the appointment line 283-2778 to schedule. If a child's medical record does not reside at the Tyndall clinic, the child must bring a copy to the appointment, or reschedule. Families with records in transit due to PCS are exempt from this rule and will receive a review upon the record's arrival.

Any child who is new to Bay County schools needs a physical within 30 days of entry into school. Any child who will be playing sports for the Tyndall Youth Center, Bay County Middle or High Schools needs a current physical (past 12 months). In both cases, the provider may be able to sign the forms without a physical exam if the parent can show proof of a wellness visit or physical in the past 12 months, and the child has no change in their health status.

**Base lawn watering schedule**

The following is the lawn watering schedule for military family housing.

**Base Housing:**

Redfish Point, Shoal Point, Bay

View, Wood Manor, and Felix Lake - Odd-numbered buildings may run sprinklers Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

The even-numbered buildings may run sprinklers Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

The times sprinklers may run from 6:30-8:30 a.m. if they are manual systems and 6:30-8 p.m. if they are automatic systems.

**Other than base-housing**

Odd-numbered buildings on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Even-numbered buildings on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

Manual systems are allowed from 7-9 a.m. Automatic systems are allowed from 8-10 p.m.

No more than 30 minutes per zone.

**New Thrift Shop hours**

New hours are: Tuesdays and Thursdays only from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. starting July 6. No consignments will be accepted unless you are permanently changing station in or out. For details or appointments, call 286-5888.

**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.)

# Tigers take awards in SEMAC tournament

The Tyndall Tigers men's varsity basketball team recently put the finishing touch on their 2005-2006 Southeastern Military Athletic Conference season with their annual end-of-season awards dinner. The following awards were presented:

- Leading Scorer: Elvin Walker, 21.6 points per game.
- 3-Point Field Goals Made: Elvin Walker, with 75.
- Free Throw Percent Leader: Melvin Smith, with 73 percent.
- Assists Leader: Anthony Showers, 5.3 Assists per game.
- Leading Rebounder: Derrell Thomas, 7.8 rebounds per game.
- Steals Leader: Anthony Showers, 2.5 steals per game.
- Block Shots Leader: Marqus

Armour, 1.8 blocks per game.

- 6th Man of the Year: Ryan Cunningham.
- Most Improved Player: Marcelle Mosley.
- Newcomer of the Year: Jared Austin.
- Offensive Player of the Year: Elvin Walker.
- Defensive Player of the Year: Markus Manuel.
- Most Valuable Player: Elvin Walker.

The Tigers finished with a 24-11 overall record 69 percent winning rate, and a 17-7 record, which is a 71

percent conference mark. The Tigers took second place at the 2005 SEMAC Pre-Season Tournament at Robins AFB, Ga.

Elvin Walker and Tyssen Pina won the All-Tournament award during the Co-Champions SEMAC Regular season. The Tigers also took second place during the 2006 SEMAC Post Season Tourney

at Robins AFB, Ga., during which Marqus Armour, Elvin Walker, Anthony Showers earned the All Tournament award.

The conference awards were given to Elvin Walker as the Co-Most Valuable Player; William Sharpe as Co-Coach of the Year; and Elvin Walker, Anthony Showers and Melvin Smith as All-Conference winners

Looking ahead to the 2006-2007 season, the SEMAC conference promises to be as tough as ever – anyone who feels that they possess the skills to play at the varsity level is encouraged to compete for a roster spot – tryouts are tentatively scheduled to begin Aug. 14.

*(Courtesy of the Tyndall Tigers)*



## Air Force marathon gearing up

Headquarters Air Education and Training Command Services will field two teams and four individual runners in the Air Force Marathon, Sept. 16, at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. AETC bases are requested to submit teams in each of the following categories: Men's Open Relay, Women's Open Relay and Individual.

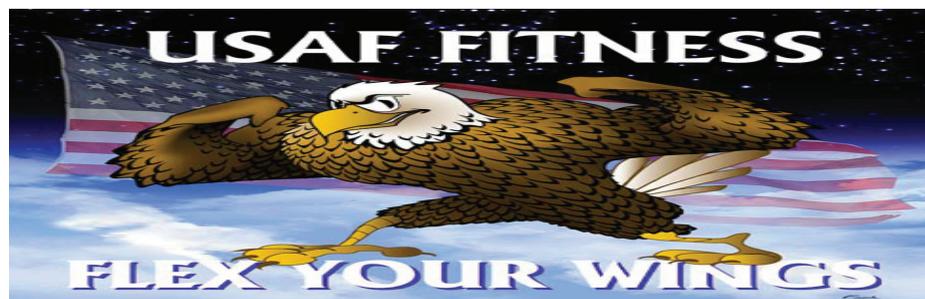
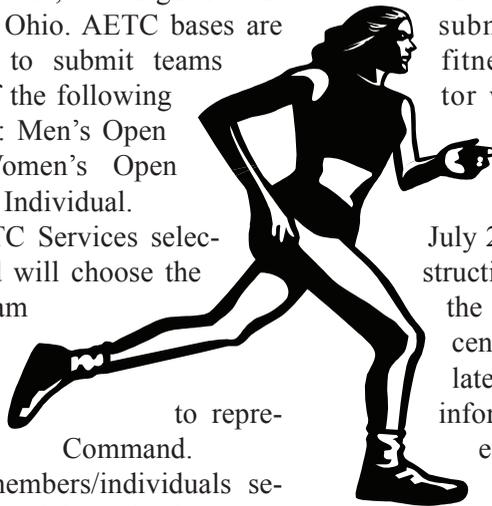
An AETC Services selection board will choose the base team individual in each category to represent the Command.

Team members/individuals selected to participate in the marathon will attend in permissive TDY status. AETC Services will reimburse travel lodging expenses,

provide a \$5-a-day maintenance allowance, warm-up suits, running shirts and the entry fee for each team.

Nominations must be submitted to the local fitness center director who will forward their top teams in each category to AETC by July 21. Accounting instructions will be sent to the base-level fitness center directors at a later date. Detailed information about the event is located at: <http://lafinarathon.wpafb.af.mil/>.

For more information, call Capt. Dena Vineyard, at (210) 652-7622.



## Softball Standings

	American		National	
	Won	Lost	Won	Lost
SEADS	12	0	MXS	11 0
AMXS	10	2	CES	10 2
AMXS 3	8	4	OSS	9 2
MSS	7	5	MDG	8 4
SFS	7	5	AFCESA	7 5
ACS	5	7	SEADS 2	5 6
83 FWS	5	7	LRD	4 8
COMM	4	8	RHS	3 8
CONS	4	8	372 TRS	2 10
WEG	1	10	ACS 2	0 12
SVS	1	10		
TEST	0	0		

## Golf Standings

Team	Points	Team	Points
CES	47.5	MSS	31.5
COMM 1	45.5	601 1	26.5
372 TRS	42	601 2	25
AFCESA	39	83 FWS	22.5
MXS 1	39.5	SVS	20
RHS	36.5	TEST	18.5
53 WEG	35	OSS	15.5
AF NOR 1	33.5	ACS	15
MOS 1	33	CONS	13.5
MDG	32	MXS	5.5
SFS	32	COMM 2	3

## Engineers go beyond virtual reality to test weapons systems



**Second Lt. Will Dalton, F-15 avionics engineer, operates the F-15C console while Maj. Raul Parra watches.**

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
**CHRISSEY CUTTITA**  
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Some aircraft parts are able to fight in air-to-air combat without ever having to take off a runway.

By assembling the avionics “guts” of fighter jets into racks and consoles, engineers and technicians

can recreate flight and aerial threats in one facility.

That is what makes the 28th Test and Evaluation Squadron/Detachment 2 Integrated Avionics Test Facility here an Air Force inexpensive option to operationally test the weapons systems of all varieties of the F-15 and F-16 fighter jets, with the potential to support a wide variety of other test users.



**Airman First Class Allan Robillos, electronic warfare technician, ensures correct radio frequency-signal connections on the electronic countermeasures attack suite. Technicians must know where each RF-connection goes to recreate the desired signal for the simulated targets and associated EW effects in support of the mission objectives.**

“Our technicians and engineers perform the same functions as the pilot and are very experienced in flight testing,” said Maj. Raul Parra, director of operations. “They run the mission from the control center the same as any fighter squadron would, including a prebrief and a debrief.”

Actual aircraft parts are used and tested in the tower to get a better than simulated flight experience. Engineers call it “hardware in the loop” testing. They test new software and hardware or updates to existing systems that are already deemed “healthy” in the Air Force inventory to validate performance. Results are provided to the rest of the Combined Air Force services.

The facility conducts test programs through the execution of two operational modes, open-air and ground-loop missions that utilize unique Air Force fighter radars/avionics, air-to-air missiles, electronic attack and electronic protection suites. Radar target generators build the simulated target aircraft interceptors. For ground-loop testing one tower communicates to another to relay signals for simulated flight testing.

For open-air testing the IATF tower can use its radars to transmit and illuminate against airborne interceptor targets created by aircraft in their area of operations. Those aircraft can be enroute to another location or can intentionally engage the tower in a fly-by mission and test their capabilities but they never have to land on Tyndall’s runway to get test results.

For ground-loop testing, “the target generator builds synthetic targets and feeds its signal into the jamming system to simulate a target in the range-of-interest; further analysis shows how well the representative aircraft radars and avionics fixed within the tower perform,” said Andrew Kay, 28th TES/Det. 2 technical director.

For the Flight Test Engineers at the operation consoles the experience of flying jets goes beyond operating the aircraft’s guts, they often receive on the job training flying with fighter squadrons at Tyndall and at Eglin. This gives FTEs the opportunity to experience the warfighter’s environment, the operational methods applied and the language used by fighter pilots.

The detachment’s operationally representative aircraft systems integration, facilities and range location make this sophisticated one-of-a-kind test center a national asset located right here at Tyndall.

“We support the CAF and I see our future more as electronic warfare centric and operationally joint in support of other services,” said Major Parra. “Pilots come in from around the world and see how their systems are performing against the tower and they get real-time feedback on the weapon systems. This is unique because the only time they’ll see that performance is when they are in a war/threat scenario.”

# Chief takes responsibility of tending to Tyndall's nature

**CHRISSE CUTTITA**  
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Taking care of Mother Earth has always been a priority for Native-Americans, so it is only natural that a Chickasaw Indian accepted the job to protect and respect the land on which Tyndall operates.

Wesley Westphal moved from Patrick AFB in No-

vember after serving 12 years there and being hired here as the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron Chief of Natural Resources. He welcomed the opportunity to take on the preservation of the land, its history, and the species that live on Tyndall's 29,000 acres.

"It's exciting here because of the amount of area we have

and the diversity," he said. "We are the most diverse in Air Education and Training Command because 43 threatened or endangered species live on base and it is up to us to help them survive."

Mr. Westphal and his team of professionals do what they can to ensure whatever Tyndall needs for the mission doesn't have an adverse affect on the land or its historical properties.

For example, land is currently being looked at for construction at Silver Flag but the state historical preservation center thinks it is possible that land could be the site of an 1,400-year old American Indian burial ground. An amateur archeologist first found the site in 1902. Personnel at Natural Resources have the responsibility of going out into the woods and finding the site lo-

cation to ensure it is not the same site as the one set to be dug up for construction. Differences in terrain led them to some broken pottery so they may have found the correct location.

This project will continue as well as the daily calls that come in asking for assistance on other issues. Mr. Westphal deals with a variety of inquiries on a daily basis, such as wondering where to walk a dog, where the bears are hanging out, or what kind of snakes can be found on Tyndall. He fields calls from families who want to come on base and leave flowers at their family's gravesite and gets calls about osprey nests that need to be moved from the flightline area because of the potential bird air strike hazard it may cause.

Natural Resources also stands-by in case there is a

fire or gas threat to the land or its species due to operations, and schedules prescribed burns to keep the fire hazards down.

"We have to have inventive thinking here," he said. "Knowledge, experience and just being good listeners helps us make the best decision for the base. There is never a problem that is not an opportunity to excel."

On top of that, Mr. Westphal says his team has a desire to do whatever needs to be done, and having a wildlife biologist on his staff also helps.

"As a Chickasaw Indian, my heritage is to take care of mother nature and our ancestors," he said. "I get satisfaction in what I do here from that stand point - protect, respect and pay honor."



Capt. J. Elaine Hunnicutt

**Jack Mobley and Wes Westphal monitor a controlled burn on Tyndall earlier this year.**

## • FROM BABY PAGE 5

Mrs. Post carried Austin while her husband carried a portable crib and their hurricane supplies. Mrs. Post tripped with the toddler in her arms and her water broke, triggering labor.

The Posts and the medical team had decisions to make. There was no way to evacuate Mrs. Post by air because of the high winds. She could have proceeded with a normal delivery, but she had been advised to have a repeat C-section. There are certain risks involved with any surgical procedure, even under optimal circumstances.

When Mrs. Post opted for the C-section, a team of about 50 medics and support people prepared the make-shift delivery room in the intensive care unit, performed the surgery and ensured the health and safety of the mother and child.

The ICU had windows where the afternoon sun provided some illumination.

Equipment had to be pushed about 500 feet down the dark hallways from the delivery room to the ICU. After furniture and equipment were rearranged, the floor was scrubbed and

the walls were cleaned with antiseptic wipes to sanitize the area as much as possible. Sheets were taped up over the unit's windows to provide some sense of privacy.

"I wasn't really scared about the delivery. I was confident that these people knew what they were doing," Mrs. Post said, "but I was in a lot of pain, and I was ready for it to be over with."

The tiny room was packed with medics for the delivery, some holding industrial flashlights to provide as much illumination as possible.

For the second time, Airman Post couldn't be present for his child's birth. When Austin was born, he was stationed in Korea. The make-shift delivery room was too crowded this time, so he waited down the hall with Austin.

"Considering what we were going through, the medical team was great," Mrs. Post said. "One lady was talking to me, putting me at ease and telling me everything that was going on."

The darkness, heat, humidity and lack of ventilation presented challenges during the delivery, but the medics

did what they could to keep Mrs. Post comfortable.

The 8-pound, 9-ounce baby girl arrived at 3:30 p.m. Aug. 29. Not long after the storm had passed, the Posts and other medical patients were transported via a C-130 Hercules to Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland AFB, Texas, for follow-up care.

"We weren't allowed to return to our home to see what the storm had done or to get any of our things before we left," Mrs. Post said. "After we were given the OK, we went to Oregon to stay with our families until things settled down."

The family's home in military family housing was flooded by Katrina's storm surge. They were able to salvage their bedroom furniture and some of their clothing that was upstairs, but everything on the first floor was ruined.

"And we had moved a lot of things downstairs so that I wouldn't have to keep running up and down the stairs late in my pregnancy," Mrs. Post said.

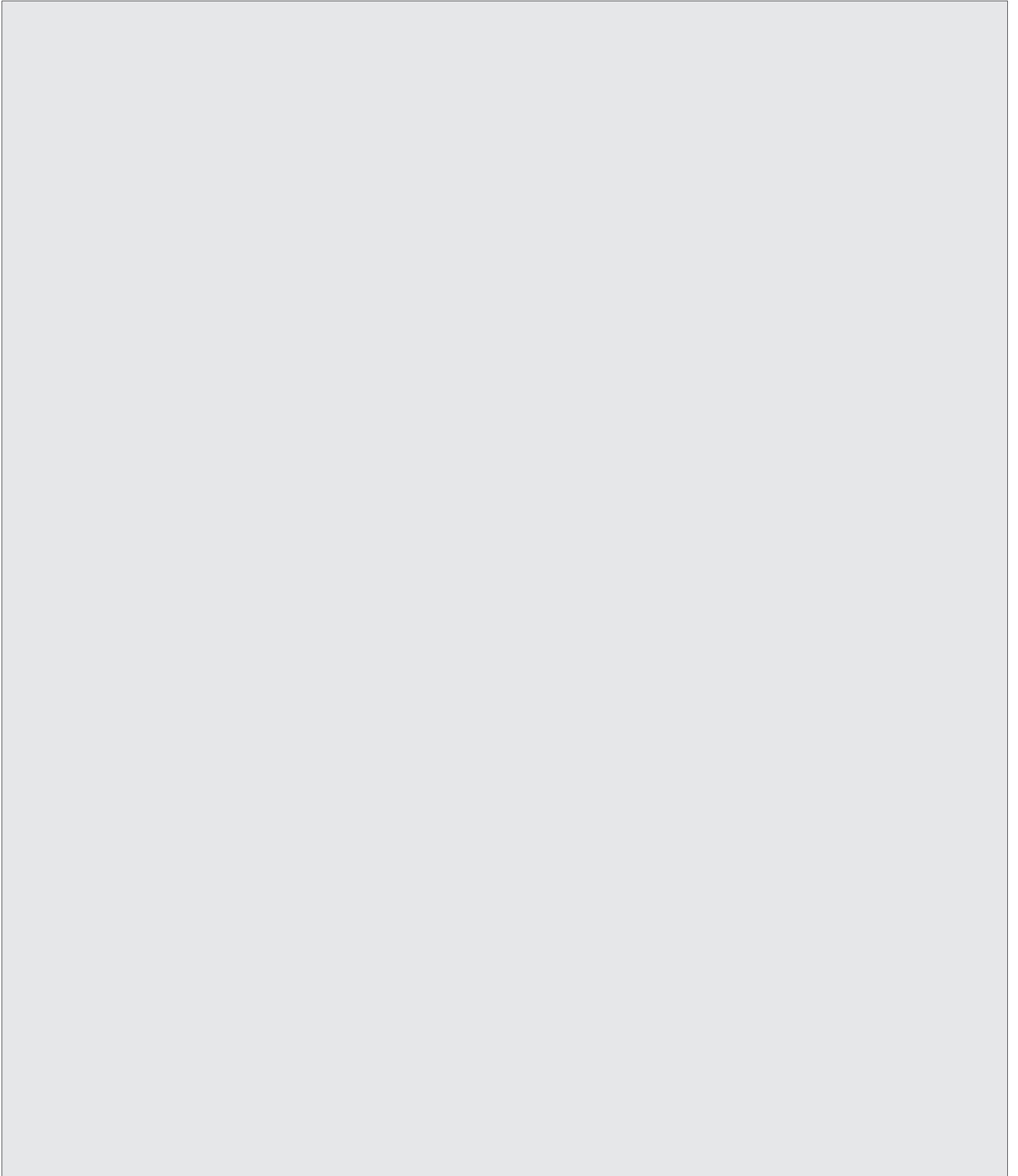
The Post family moved into a vacant home that was not affected by

the hurricane and began to put their lives back together. Their insurance covered the depreciated value of their possessions, not the replacement cost, but proceeds from a lawsuit that had been pending for several years finally came through and enabled them to replace their household belongings.

The baby's unusual name, Sage Madison, was chosen because Mrs. Post "wanted something original that wasn't hard to spell or pronounce. I let Aaron pick Austin's name because he was overseas when she was born."

Sage has her mom's dark hair and her dad's eyes and chubby cheeks. In spite of the stormy circumstances surrounding her birth, she has a sweet, sunny disposition.

"We wanted everyone to know that with all of the horrible things that Katrina did to Keesler, something really good came out of it -- our daughter," Mrs. Post said. "She's a very happy, healthy baby, and her sister loves having a playmate. Trying to recover what we lost has been hard work and has kept us very busy, but we want to thank everyone who's helped our family."





# Funshine NEWS

www.325thservices.com

☆ Log onto the NEW & IMPROVED Web site ☆

www.325thservices.com

## SCUBA OPEN WATER DIVING LESSONS July

11,12,13,18,19, & 20 graduate on 23  
 Times: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
 15,16,22, & 23  
 Times: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

First 2 dives cost:  
 St. Andrew's State Park: \$5.00  
 VORTEX Springs: \$25.00

Students are required to bring their own mask, fins, snorkel, & booties.

Cost includes:  
 Student kit ( books, dive table, log book), buoyancy control device (BC), tanks, regulators, weights, belts and wetsuit as needed, 1 boat trip to complete the last 2 dives in the gulf.

**\$215.00**

For details, call Bonifa Bay at 283-3199.



## Calling to all Officers! to 4th FRIDAY

Come be a part of Tyndall's newest tradition....

- ◆ Music
- ◆ Drinks
- ◆ Food

Every 4th Friday at 4:30 p.m. in Checkers' Lounge in the O' Club

For details, call Officers' Club 283-4357.



Try our newest buffet specials! at the Pizza Pub

## Taco Tuesday

- ◆ tacos
- ◆ burritos
- ◆ nachos
- ◆ salad
- ◆ beverage

For only **\$5.95**  
Members receive \$1 discount

## Italian Thursday

- ◆ pasta
- ◆ lasagna
- ◆ garlic bread
- ◆ salad
- ◆ beverage

For only **\$5.95**  
Members receive \$1 discount



### 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](mailto:checkertailmarket@tyndall.af.mil).

Rank/Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Unit/Office Symbol \_\_\_\_\_  
 Duty Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Making history: First Iraqis graduate AMMOC

JOHN INGLE AND

SENIOR AIRMAN JACQUE LICKTEIG  
82nd Training Wing Public Affairs

**SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS)** – Images of suicide bombers or improvised explosive devices taking their toll on civilian and military lives in Iraq has been daily news for the past three years.

No one ever gets accustomed to seeing the videos or photos.

Two Iraqis here, however, vowed to make a difference in the rebuilding process of their home country by serving as officers in the fledgling democracy's military. Their first step began here June 7 when they completed the Aircraft and Munitions Maintenance Officers Course at the 360th Training Squadron.

Their names and ranks are being withheld for security reasons.

One Iraqi officer said one of the things he noticed the most about his stay in Texas was the number of children playing and smiling.

**“Iraqi people need help from you. (Our) children need help to give them back their smile,”** he said. **“When I saw children play or laughing, it made me sad. We need (the United States) to help us give safety and security.”**

ANONYMOUS  
Iraqi officer

**“Iraqi people need help from you. (Our) children need help to give them back their smile,”** he said. **“When I saw children play or laughing, it made me sad. We need (the United States) to help us give safety and security.”**

The officer said smiles and laughter will return to the children when a safe and secure Iraq is in place.

The officers began their training here in October when they attended a four-month language course. AMMOC training began in March.

The two, along with two other international and seven U.S. students, learned the maintenance aspects of

aerospace ground equipment, plans and scheduling, jet engine mishap investigation and AMMOC.

There is a distinct difference between Iraqi maintenance officers and those in the United States, they said. Iraqi officers are able to get in a hangar or on a flightline alongside their technicians and repair aircraft, they said, whereas U.S. maintenance officers primarily manage.

They were very appreciative of the training, but even more so of the welcoming atmosphere instructors and students alike showed. From overcoming a language barrier to frequent invi-

tations to eat out, they said they didn't feel like foreigners in a strange land.

Assistance from fellow students and the International Military Student Office made their time here more than a training experience.

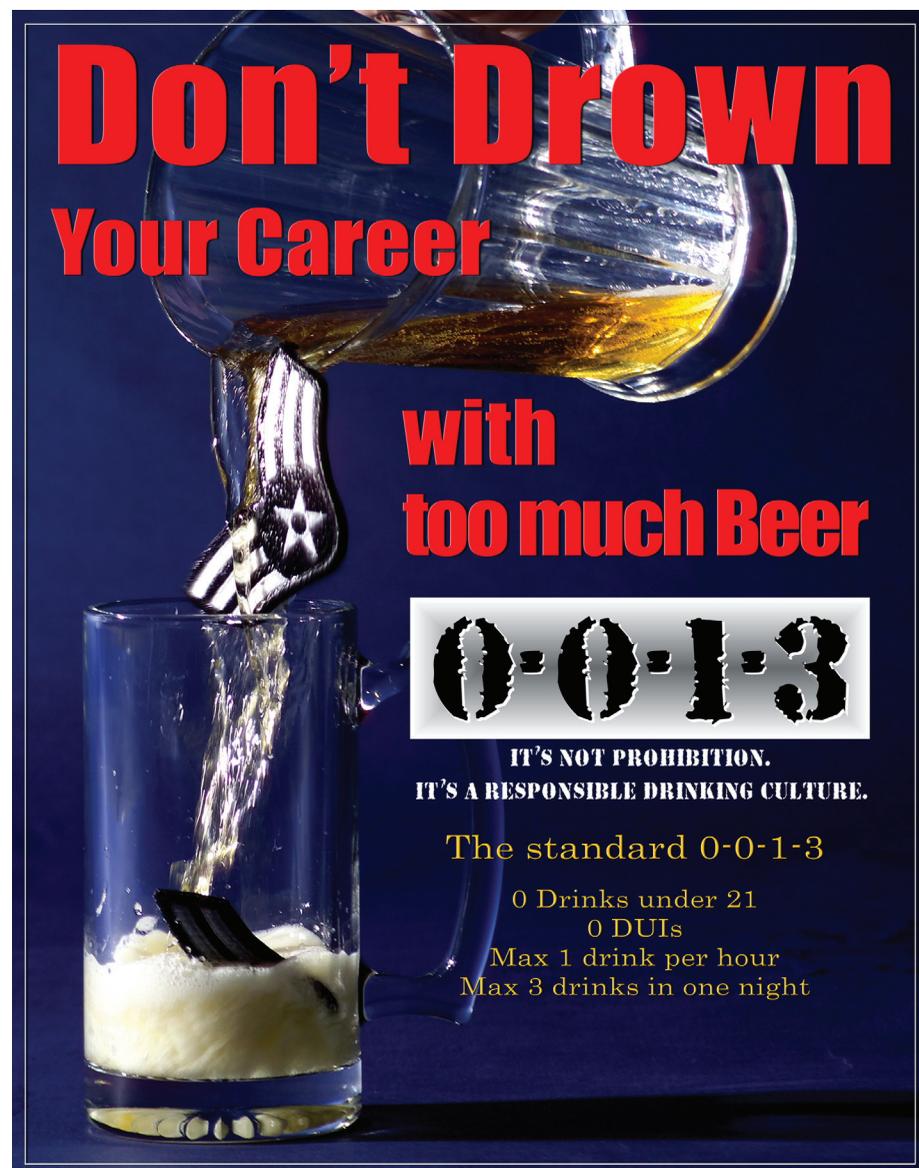
**“You are not our friends,”** they said, **“you are family.”**

A shroud of secrecy veiled the officers' voyage to train here. Their whereabouts and purpose have been kept from everyone except their wives in order to protect them and their families.

But, braving this dangerous situation was well worth the new Iraq that is under construction today.

One of the officers explained a friend of his was in the Iraqi National Guard and lost both legs due to combat action. But, his friend told him as long as he has two hands he will continue to fight against the insurgency and terrorists.

That is the cause of Iraqis – to continue the fight against those who don't want peace and democracy.



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Your Career**

**with  
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**0-0-1-3**

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**The standard 0-0-1-3**

0 Drinks under 21  
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Max 1 drink per hour  
Max 3 drinks in one night

