



GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 65, No. 45

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

Nov. 17, 2006

In Brief

Thanksgiving AAFES operating hours

The Felix Lake shoppette will be open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday.

All other facilities will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.

The Main BX will be open 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. Nov. 24 – 25. Coffee and muffins will be available. All other BX facilities will open at their regular time.

Commissary holiday hours

Tyndall's Commissary will be operating the following schedule for the week of Thanksgiving: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday.

The Commissary will be closed Thursday and reopen 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 24 and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 25.

Thanksgiving lunch at Dining Hall

A Thanksgiving luncheon will be held 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday at the Berg-Liles dining facility. Active duty personnel and retirees are welcome.

Inside

"Free" lunch could come with a price ... **PAGE 4**

Sheet metal shop "drills" through the night ... **PAGES 10-11**



Steve Wallace

Leading the way

Maj. Gen. Irving Halter, 19th Air Force commander, is shown the cockpit of an F-22 by Maj. Shawn Anger, 43rd Fighter Squadron instructor pilot, during his tour of the squadron Wednesday.

AETC commander takes on GTC 'Holiday Spike'

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) – The holidays are fast approaching, and the Air Education and Training Command Commander Gen. William R. Looney III has challenged his commanders and their Airmen to "break" the traditional rise in government travel card delinquencies during this time of the year.

With the general's leadership focus on reduced delinquencies, AETC's rate has fallen dramatically and is routinely the lowest of all major commands in the Air Force.

Based on simple analysis of the data, the holiday season has proven to be a difficult time, especially during December. Over the last four years, AETC's December delinquency rate has been twice as high as the rest of the year. This phenomenon has come to be known as the "Holiday Spike." "In fact, the command has never met the goal in the month of December," said Maj. Eric Bradshaw, AETC Chief of the Finance Branch.

General Looney has expressed his high satisfaction with AETC's tremendous

strides to reduce the amount of GTC delinquencies. The overall objective is to achieve the Department of Defense's goal of 2 percent or lower delinquency. Vance AFB was recently lauded by the Air Force Comptroller for its record-setting 17-month run at zero percent. Other bases are following Vance's lead.

"When the goal changed to 2 percent, there weren't many people who thought we'd get there," General Looney said. "But, with the hard work of our Airmen and the leadership of our commanders, below 2 percent has become the standard for the command. With their continued efforts, I am confident we can break this holiday trend this year."

"Tyndall AFB is doing exceptionally well with the GTC Program and continues to be under the 2 percent threshold allowed by Bank of America," said Tech. Sgt. Kristi Sundstrom, 325th Comptroller Squadron GTC coordinator.

"The spike occurs for various reasons,"

Major Bradshaw said. "One reason is some travelers may defer paying their bill to increase the amount of funds they have available for personal reasons during the holiday season. Additionally, travelers may delay filing their settlement vouchers due to holiday leave plans."

There are steps everyone can take to help avoid the spike this year.

"The easiest way to avoid this is for travelers to pay their bills when they're due," the major said. "They must also file their travel vouchers within five days of returning from a TDY and use split disbursement for all outstanding GTC charges (mandatory). If the TDY exceeds 30 days, travelers should use the accrual voucher process to pay their GTC bill for all outstanding charges through that point in the TDY."

Following these simple steps will keep delinquencies low and help AETC to smash the "Holiday Spike." For additional information, contact Tech. Sgt. Kristi Sundstrom at 283-8340.

A thank you message from the 325th MSG/CC

Editor's Note: On Nov. 13, Mrs. Suzanne Luiken and her four children were involved in the traffic accident on the Dupont Bridge that resulted in traffic backing up on U.S. Highway 98. Mrs. Luiken is the wife of Col. Marc Luiken, the 325th Mission Support Group commander. Colonel Luiken is currently deployed to the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. Because of the overwhelming support the Luikens have received since the accident, they asked to send a message to the entire Team Tyndall family. (The Luikens had only minor injuries as a result of the accident.)

From Djibouti, Africa: As we approach Thanksgiving this year, the Luiken family has much to be thankful for. First and foremost, we thank the Lord for His mercy and protection. A close second though, is the wonderful people of Team Tyndall. We are simply overwhelmed by the love, support, professionalism and selflessness shown by so many of Tyndall's Airmen. We are truly humbled and blessed to call you our friends and family. There is no finer group of people than America's Airmen. As you celebrate Thanksgiving this year, count your blessings; they are many! The Luikens are certainly thankful for each of you.

~ Colonel Marc Luiken

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 determine the final winner. The prize can be claimed at the Public Affairs office.

No one correctly guessed the Nov. 9 edition of "Identify this." Since it was so hard, we may run it in a future issue of the *Gulf Defender*.

ON THE STREET

What is your family's Thanksgiving tradition?



"All of us have a big Thanksgiving dinner and then sit in front of the TV to vegetate. My mom has nine siblings."

STAFF SGT. GARY HUTCHENSON
325th Fighter Wing



"We go as a family to pick the turkey and name it 'Louise' as we've done since I was a child. Then everyone has a role in getting it prepared for dinner."

CAPT. TAONA ENRIQUEZ
325th Contracting Squadron



"Everyone comes to our house. My husband and I open our home to everyone, like people deployed here. The more the merrier for us."

SENIOR MASTER SGT. RAMONA BURNETT
Air Forces Northern



"After dinner, my family plays the board game TriBond and the teams are boys versus girls. The boys like to talk trash, but the girls win."

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MATT WORELY
325th Communication Squadron

Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

- Brig. Gen. Tod Wolters.....325th FW commander
- Maj. Susan A. Romano.....chief, 325th FW public affairs
- Chrissy Cuttita.....chief, internal information
- Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga.....editor
- Airman Glenn Moore.....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. 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.

A Thanksgiving message from the 325th FW commander

BRIG. GEN. TOD D. WOLTERS
325th Fighter Wing commander

“As we approach this Thanksgiving season, it is our custom and tradition to observe this special time of the year and count our many blessings. We are saddened that our gallant men of our Armed Services have fallen in the eternal quest for peace with freedom, dignity and justice for all.”

Those words were written in our base newspaper nearly 40 years ago by then Col. James L. Price, Tyndall's Air Defense Weapons Center commander. His message still resonates to this day as we currently mourn the loss of our brothers and sisters waging the Global

War on Terror. We will never forget, and as fellow warriors, we proudly pay tribute for their ultimate sacrifice.

Colonel Price also reflected on the unique aspects that set us, as Americans, apart from all other nations. He said, “We are filled with an instinctive impulse to give thanks for our free society of free men, free institutions and free elections; our freedom of speech, our freedom of the press ... and our confidence in our ability to meet the challenges of today and of the future.”

His words appropriately describe the setting for our 21st century military. Each and every day I am witness to the selfless sacrifices our Airmen...you proudly do

so in the name of freedom. You give of yourselves, and ask for so little in return. Jim Price would be so proud to watch you perform.

Thanksgiving is a day that is set aside to give us a chance to really focus on what we are thankful for, and affords us the opportunity to pause and reflect on how fortunate we are as a nation. America has truly been blessed with unsurpassed prosperity, and so much of that prosperity can be directly attributed to the willingness, drive and determination of the men and women of the Armed Forces. You defend what our Forefathers so aptly described as, “Our inalienable right to life, liberty and

the pursuit of happiness” with class and compassion.

So during this Thanksgiving season, when you are seated around your dinner table, surrounded by family and friends, please take a moment to give thanks to all those who are in harm's way waging the battles against terrorism. Give thanks for living in the greatest nation on Earth. And continue to give thanks for the countless blessings that are bestowed on us as free people.

Charlene and I wish each and every member of Team Tyndall a very Happy Thanksgiving. You are amazing Americans and we are honored to serve at your side.

Have you become ‘one of them?’

MAJ. ERIC NORTH
325th Maintenance Squadron commander

Long ago, in July 1984, I stepped off the “rotator” at Kadena AB, Japan as a young, newly enlisted jet engine mechanic not knowing what the next 15 months had in store for me.

As I took stock of my new work environment, I noticed something very interesting; there was an abundance of Airmen, several sergeants and staff sergeants, a few technical sergeants, four master sergeants, two seniors and one chief for the entire 140 person engine shop. As I was talking to my fellow Airmen, I inquired about the different personnel in the shop and the conversation quickly turned to the noncommissioned officers of the shop.

The Airmen would talk about the buck, staff and technical sergeants as being “one of them.” We rarely talked about the top three because in those days they were godlike and “one of them,” too. If you were lucky, you would catch a glimpse of the seniors or the chief walking the floor, talking to a technical or master sergeant to get status of engine components. I never fully understood what “one of them” really meant then, but now I am “one of them,” and there is no turning back.

What does this mean? Well, it means the Air Force, the American public, and—most of all—my superiors, peers and subordinates are expecting me to rise to the occasion.

When I entered active duty in 1984, we had more than 650,000 Airmen in the Air Force. Today, we are moving towards less than half that number and we are putting increased responsibility on the junior ranks. In today's Air Force, senior airmen are now considered “one of them.”

This is not a bad thing. By virtue of this label, these Airmen

have just stepped into an elite group of professionals, who on a daily basis, are tasked with doing great things in all sorts of fields. You become “one of them” when you are put into a leadership and supervisory position and given the increased responsibility that goes along with it.

You are expected to lead and supervise anywhere from a few to several hundred people. You are expected to ensure you have given your people the tools and resources necessary to perform their job. You are expected to make decisions that could affect the lives of many people in a section, flight, squadron or wing. You are expected to ensure good order and discipline are carried out in a fair and consistent manner. You make the “tough call” and stick with it.

Above all, you are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner, setting the example for others to follow and train the future “one of them” corps.

In today's Air Force, we are moving more responsibility to the lowest level. With that we are expecting more from Airmen at levels unheard of several years ago. Staying focused and true to your word is key in ensuring success as you move up the ranks. From my own personal experience being “one of them” becomes a daunting responsibility, but deep down it is a goal each of us should strive for during our military careers. I am proud to have become “one of them” and continually look forward to the challenges another day brings.

This country is blessed with having the greatest military in the world manned by the smartest, most professional and caring people America has to offer, and we are blessed to be a part of it.

One stripe, one opportunity

STAFF SGT. MARCUS JAMES SR.
325th Maintenance Squadron

I know better.

Those are the words that rang in my ears while my commander read the charges against me.

I thought of how proud I was of my uniform, and how I should have been standing at attention receiving an award for my outstanding service and contribution.

Instead, I threw it away because I lost focus and was so upset. I decided to come up with a self-serving remedy to my personal issues.

The technical sergeant stripe I struggled to earn was lost. And with that, a flashback of the last 10 years started ...

Ten years ago, my supervisor told me I would not get my third stripe because I received a referral enlisted performance report. After wiping my internal tears and retrieving my heart from my stomach, I said “OK” and went back to work. I was too shy to speak up and say, “Sir, I have a problem, I don't know where I'm headed and I need guidance.”

This is when I first realized it was up to me to make a difference and thankfully, the Air Force gave me a second chance.

With my chin up and my wheels spinning,

• SEE STRIPE PAGE 17

Action Line:

Q: What Services facilities are using trans fat or non-trans fat, in the interest of people's health? I've heard about the recent trend and found out the Marina has been using trans fat-free oil.

A: Thank you for your interest in our food services. The 325th Services Squadron business operations started introducing non-trans fat oils in our facilities two months ago. The Officers' Club, Enlisted Club, Marina and Bowling Center have all changed to non-

trans fat oils. The Oasis Snack Bar/Pizza Pub and Golf Course currently use an oil with 1.5 grams trans fat; however, when the current inventory is exhausted, they will go to the same non-trans fat oils being used by the other facilities.

'Free' lunch offer may have you on the menu

1ST LT. SUNIL PATEL

Base Legal Office

Lately, many Tyndall Airmen have gone to promotional lunches in the local community that are often advertised on roadside signs that read, "Free meals for military members."

Once at these events, attendees are required to fill out contact information cards supplied by insurance agents in order to receive the free meal. Subsequently, these agents give presentations on life insurance options available to military members through various insurance companies. Airmen are told by the presenter that his life insurance policies are better than Servicemen's Group Life Insurance they receive from the Air Force. They are also told that they can save money each month by switching to their company's policy. Sadly, for many young Airmen, nothing could be further from the truth.

"I was told it was comparable to SGLI coverage of \$400,000, plus an additional \$25,000 for the savings plan," one Airman lamented. "However, I cannot see on my policy where any amount for \$400,000 exists.



Graphic illustration by Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

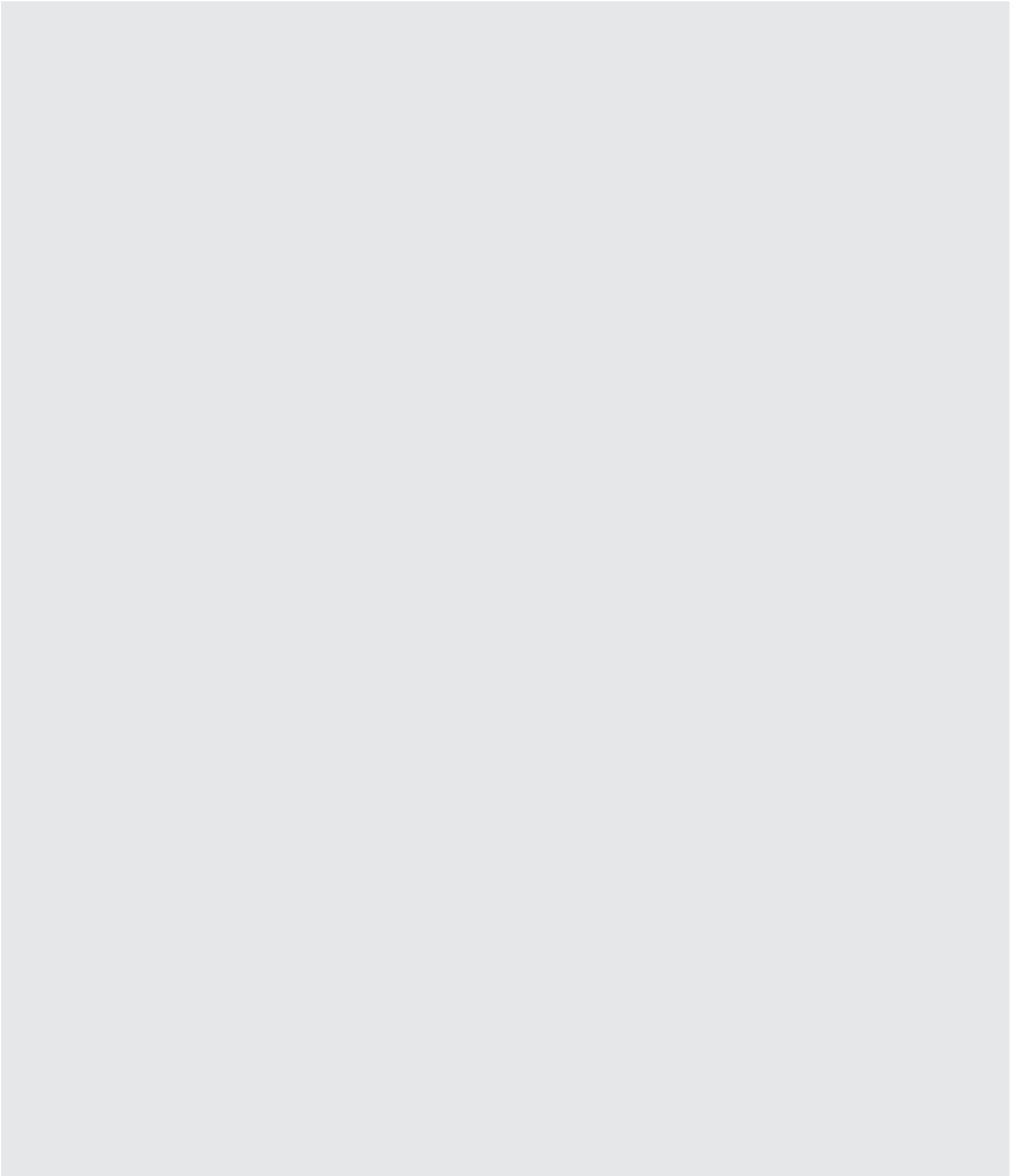
The highest amount I see is \$215,000 at age 70."

Truth be told, if this Airman died today, his family would only receive \$28,000 compared to the \$400,000 from SGLI. Countless others have been equally unlucky. With SGLI, an Airman normally pays \$29 a month for coverage of \$400,000; however, many Airmen have found themselves faced with monthly premiums of \$100 to \$200 a month for much less coverage.

To be fair, there are insurance agents who try to serve the military honestly. And the patently questionable morals and ethics exhibited by some insurance "predators" are regrettable. Even more sad is the fact some of the individuals who choose to take advantage of the military are affiliated with the service.

Airmen are encouraged to do some homework when looking for an insurance agent. Checking with the Better Business Bureau or speaking with other clients of an agency are good ways to start. Airmen must educate themselves about their financial options, so that they do not fall into the trap of those who pose as thoughtful, compassionate

• SEE LUNCH PAGE 18



TSGLI gives lump sum to injured

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFP) – Members currently insured under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance policy have been automatically enrolled for traumatic injury coverage at an increase in their premiums of \$1 per month.

TSGLI coverage is a tax-free lump sum payment ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 depending on the extent of an injury that causes a member to lose time through severe injuries. These include injuries such as the amputation of a limb or total and permanent loss of eyesight, hearing, or speech, third degree burns to more than 30 percent of the body or face, or the loss of a basic ability to care for themselves. The coverage also includes a retroactive provision for Airmen who suffered a

qualifying loss as a direct result of injuries incurred in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom from Oct. 7, 2001 through Nov. 30, 2005. Enrollment in SGLI is not a requirement to receive the retroactive TSGLI benefits.

Traumatic injury coverage is not disability compensation and has no effect on entitlement for compensation and pension benefits provided by the VA or disability benefits provided by the Department of Defense. The payments are designed to assist service members through the recovery period from a serious traumatic injury.

"The intent of TSGLI is to provide qualifying injured Airmen with an immediate source of income," said Mr. Tom Perry, chief of the casualty

matters division at AFPC. "Our casualty assistance representatives will play an active role in counseling eligible Airmen and assisting them with the certification process."

The base casualty assistance representative is the the primary point of contact for assisting potentially eligible members with TSGLI applications in coordination with the base medical treatment facilities. For more information on the TSGLI benefit, Airmen should contact Alicia Gibbons, casualty assistance representative, at 283-8392.

Airmen with questions regarding eligibility or processing requirements for retroactive TSGLI benefits may also contact the AFPC casualty services branch at DSN 665-3505 or (800) 433-0048.

Winter Hunting at Tyndall

Mourning and White-Winged Dove

Second phase - ends Nov. 26
Third phase - Dec. 9 – Jan. 7.

One half hour before sunrise to sunset
Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and
federal holidays

Deer

Daily Nov. 23 – 26 and Dec. 9 – Jan. 1
except Christmas Day.

Jan. 3 – Feb. 14 hunting is on Saturdays,
Sundays, Wednesdays and federal
holidays

Small Game

(squirrel, rabbit, opossum, raccoon,
coyote, armadillo, skunk and migratory
game when in season)

Season ends Feb. 14.

One half hour before sunrise
to sunset Mondays, Wednesdays,
Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays
and any time that deer hunting is
allowed

Muzzleloading

Today - Sunday

NEW CHANGE - Permits are issued
from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday and
Thursday at the Civil Engineer Squadron's
Natural Resources Office. Proper
identification is required. Applicable State
hunting license required.

General hunting and fishing permits are
free to persons 65 years of age or older.

Persons under 16 years of age,
accompanied by an adult and those
certified as being 100 percent disabled
and possessing the State's Florida
Resident Totally and Permanently
Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing
Certificate are free of charge.

All youth under the age of 16 must
have had a state certified hunter
education course.

For more information, call 283-2641.

AAFES gift cards benefit beyond recipient

STAFF SGT. STACEY HAGA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Like many retail stores, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service provides gift cards to its patrons. Unlike other gift cards, AAFES gift cards have a way of benefiting the recipient and the military community.

"The AAFES gift card is a great way to support the military," said Penny Madison, Tyndall AAFES general manager.

From the purchaser, to the recipient, to military Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs that ultimately benefit from exchange patronage, AAFES gift cards meet the entire military community's needs.

"I like to say that our gift cards work three times harder than any other," said Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Eaton, AAFES' senior enlisted advisor. "They not only make purchases easy,

but also ensure the recipient gets exactly what he or she wants at the best possible price while generating much needed revenue for MWR programs. The bottom line is that all gift cards are not created equal."

Gift cards can have different fees and expiration dates. AAFES limits these stipulations with gift cards that never expire and are subject to a \$2 monthly fee after 24 consecutive months of non-use.

The gift cards can be purchased and redeemed at any AAFES facility or online at www.aafes.com.

"If ordered online, they can be ordered by anyone, not just military families and then can be sent directly to any location to include deployed areas," said Ms. Madison. "During the holidays this makes an excellent gift of choice."

To find out more about the



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

Airman 1st Class Brandon Signorotti, 1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit, uses an AAFES gift card at the Base Exchange.

AAFES Gift Card, see any cashier, log on to www.aafes.com or call (888) 481-1550.

Checkertail Salute

Airman 1st Class Calvin Smith



Airman Glenn Moore

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

Airman Smith, 325th Operations Group, received the award as a result of his outstanding skills and help he provided during off-line training to a struggling trainee. Airman Smith also scored a 92 percent on his career development course end of course test.

Duty title: Pilot simulator technician

Hometown: Wrens, Ga.

Time on station: Eleven months

Time in service: Fifteen months

Hobbies: Movies, hanging out with friends and working out

Goals: Get my college degree

Favorite thing about Tyndall AFB: The people

Favorite movie: "The Godfather Collection"

Proudest moment in the military: Receiving the Checkertail Salute

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.

Mountain home AFB squadrons hone skills here

CHRISSEY CUTITTA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Two fighter squadrons from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho engaged in dissimilar air combat training and fired live weapons while on temporary duty at Tyndall for Combat Archer.

They set up operations in the 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron, an Air Combat Command tenant unit located at Tyndall. The F-15s of the 390th Fighter Squadron and F-16s of the 389th FS were launched and recovered on the runway by their aircraft maintenance units on temporary duty here.

“Combat Archer is the only cradle-to-grave fighter weapon system evaluation - from human to machine to weapon,” said Lt. Col. Terry Scott, 83rd FWS commander.

Approximately every two weeks, a variety of units from the Department of Defense and other nations, station themselves at the squadron to test the weapon systems on their aircraft.

“Our primary purpose is to evaluate the weapons’ effectiveness of our live missiles, the AIM-9 and AIM-120,” said Maj. Marco Parzych, 389th FS flight commander.

The squadron also completed a Combat Banner mission, in which a banner is tied with a 2,000-foot cable to a Learjet allowing pilots to evaluate their shooting accuracy while testing the aircraft’s gun systems. After completing the mission, the banner is evaluated by a team of 83rd FWS analysts upon recovery of the aircraft.

“No other place in the Air Force provides this training and support,” said Master Sgt. Mike Husava, 83rd FWS liaison flight chief of a logistical team that provides all pre- and post-deployment planning.

“From lieutenant to major, our F-16 pilots were able to shoot in air-to-air operations,” said Major Parzych. “It was a first-time experience for many.”

The ability to experience the jet at 5,000 feet altitude was also unique for the Mountain Home-based pilots. Over the water pilots can fly at lower altitudes, and lucky for them Tyndall is surrounded by it.



1st Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Senior Airman Josh King and Staff Sgt. Jason Coursey, 389th Aircraft Maintenance Unit weapons loaders, arm an F-16 with an AIM-9 missile. Unit members are temporarily on duty at Tyndall from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, for Combat Archer.

“The jet performs better at that altitude, and we can also experience what it can do,” said Major Parzych.

On the ground, maintainers supporting the fighter squadrons loaded live missiles.

“Back at Mountain Home they only get simulated experiences, so it was a big deal for them,” said Major Parzych. “They get fired up to see the end result of what they do. Here they see the jets come back with the missiles gone. It’s rewarding for them.”

Maintainers from the 83rd FWS here monitor all weapons loading so all safety procedures and practices are followed.

“Visiting units benefit from the 83rd FWS maintenance personnel since they do not get the daily experience of loading and unloading weapons at their home stations,” said Sergeant Husava.

The Combat Archer motto, “Preparing for war by testing in peace,” fits its unique mission.

“We are the Department of Defense’s largest fighter weapon system sustainment evaluation program,” said Colonel Scott.

Training Spotlight



What do you most look forward to as a new supervisor?

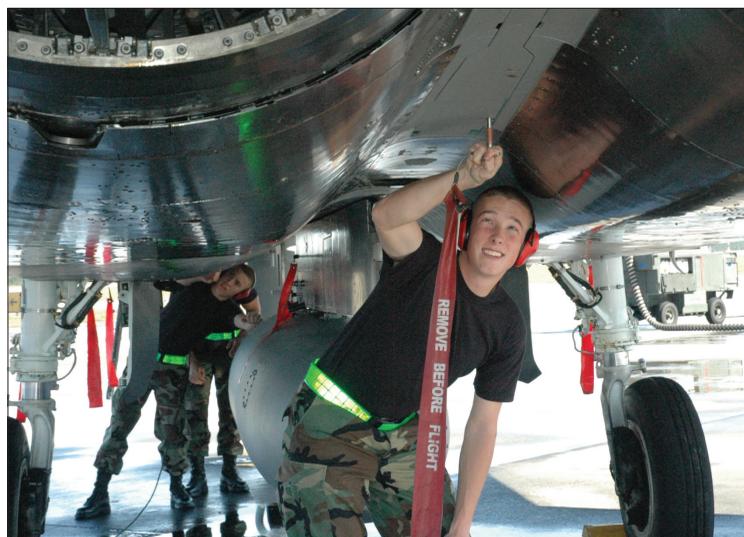
“I look forward to mentoring and guiding younger Airmen in my flight.”

SENIOR AIRMEN JAREK ROSTKOWSKI
Airman Leadership School Student

Congratulations to Mission Ready Airmen graduates of Class 2007- 005 from the 372nd Training Squadron Detachment 4!



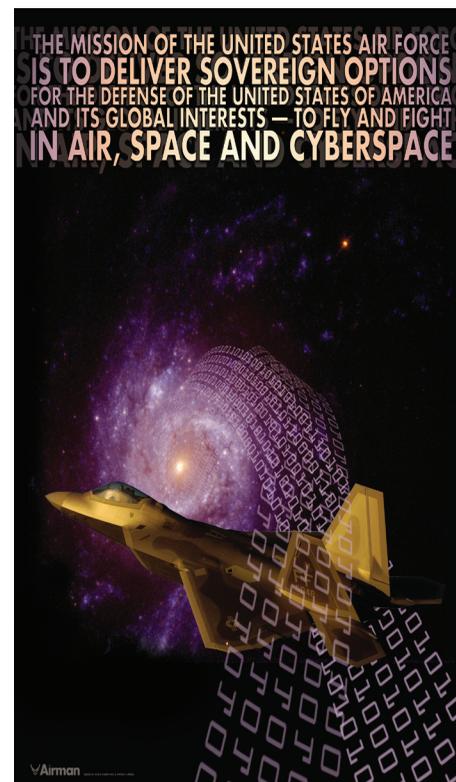
THE MISSION OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE IS TO DELIVER SOVEREIGN OPTIONS FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ITS GLOBAL INTERESTS — TO FLY AND FIGHT IN AIR, SPACE AND CYBERSPACE



Chrissy Cutitta

On pins and needles

Airman 1st Class Ryan Fowler, 372nd Training Squadron/Detachment 4 mission ready Airman, removes the tailhook pin in preparation to launch an F-15. When the students perform the walk around, they are doing a “once over” of the jet to ensure it is prepared for takeoff.

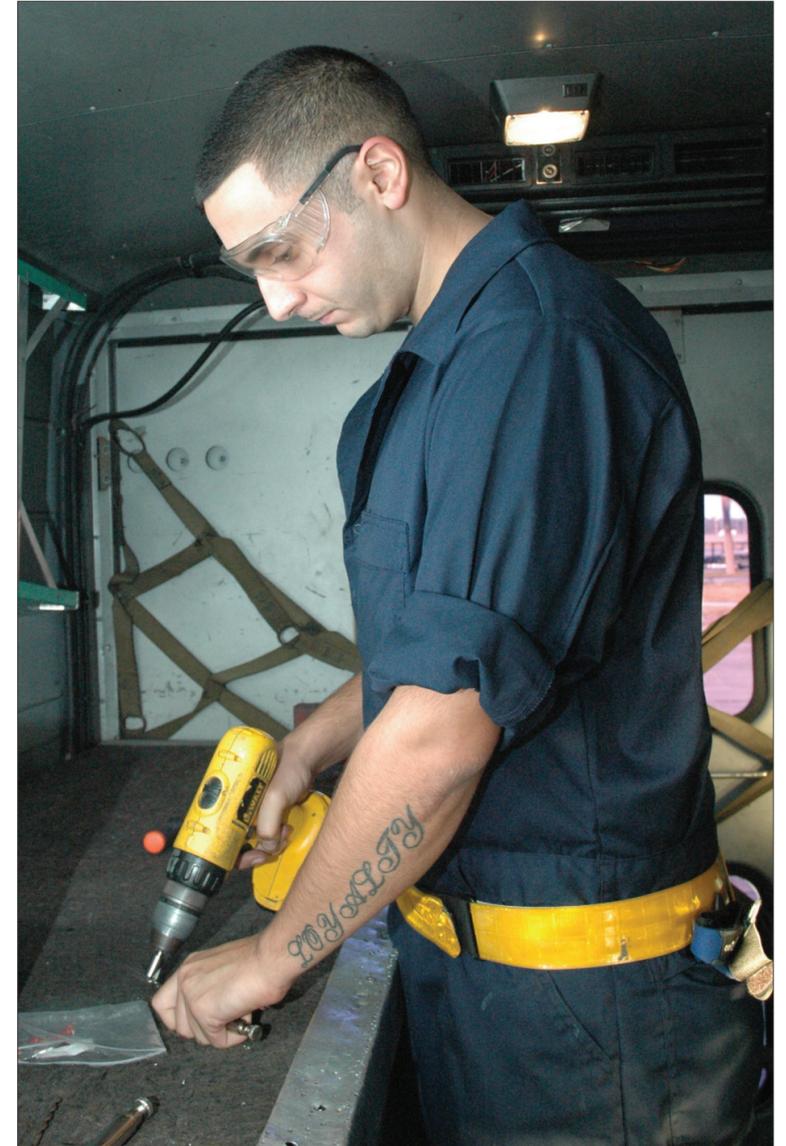




Senior Airman LeThomas Lee, 325th Maintenance Squadron inspection dock member, inspects the cockpit of an F-15 Eagle. The cockpit is inspected twice after all repairs are made to ensure the integrity of the aircraft.



Airman 1st Class Michael Clifford, 325th MXS structural maintenance journeyman, replaces rivets in the intake of an F-15.



Above: Senior Airman Justin Sanderson, 325th MXS aircraft structural maintenance journeyman removes extra metal particles to prevent cracking. Left: Airman Sanderson repairs a bell crank that controls the Eagle's horizontal stabilizer.

Structural maintenance Airmen 'swing' to midnight to keep pilots flying during day

AIRMAN GLENN MOORE
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Ever wonder what jets do at night after pilots go home? Airmen from the 325th Maintenance Squadron know. From 3 p.m. to midnight, structural maintenance Airmen pick each jet apart, ensuring they are ready to be flown in the morning.

"We repair any cracks or loose parts on the aircraft," said Tech. Sgt. Frank Lynch, 325th MXS structural maintenance element lead. "We ensure the structural integrity of each aircraft."

While Airmen have to perform duties repairing jets, they also have to make deadlines so the aircraft is ready.

"It's a very fast-paced environment," said Sergeant Lynch. "When we get to work, we don't stop. We're constantly running up and down the flightline."

While it may be hard work it is vital to the mission here. "We have a huge impact on the mission," said Sergeant Lynch. "Without us these jets couldn't take-off or land - we keep them flying. If there is a loose fastener in the intake it could take out an engine during a flight.

Also, if there's a crack on the jet you could lose a panel or component during flight."

As their job is important to the mission and can be stressful, there are great rewards after repairs are made.

"It's a great feeling when we get a job done and the jet can fly out the next day," said Sergeant Lynch. "There are also situations that we call 'red ball.' That is when we have to make a repair maybe within an hour or two so that the pilot can take off on time. When we finish a repair on time and meet our deadline it is rewarding to know we accomplished our goal."

Although structural maintenance Airmen have a lot of work, there are times they are required to help others. "We do support flight line phase," said Sergeant Lynch. "We are more integrated here with the flight line and phase than most bases are. It's a good experience for Airmen because

they get to see other (flightline maintenance) jobs."

When Airmen from structural maintenance help phase, there is a lot they can learn.

"About every 200 flying hours an F-15 has an inspection," said 1st Lt. David Paolillo, 325th MXS flight commander. "The amount of flying hours a jet has determines how long of an inspection it will receive."

"Structural maintenance is one of two primary sections," said Lieutenant Paolillo. "The other is the inspection section, or phase." The 325th MXS requires numerous different career fields to perform the inspections and repairs.

"We have crew chiefs, avionics, electricians, engine technicians and structural repair," said Lieutenant Paolillo. "These are the Airmen who fix any cracks, replace ribs and anything that keeps the jet operating."

"Without us, these jets couldn't take off or land - we keep them flying."

TECH. SGT. FRANK LYNCH
325th Maintenance Squadron



Briefs

No Gulf Defender

There will be no *Gulf Defender* Nov. 24. due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Temporary library hours

Tyndall's library hours will change its hours temporarily starting Dec. 5. They will be closed Mondays, Thursdays and holidays. Hours of operation are: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.

Airmen's cookie drive

Homemade cookies are needed for Team Tyndall's Annual Airmen's Cookie Drive. Cookie donations will be collected Dec. 11 from 7 – 9 a.m. at the loading docks behind the Commissary. All cookie donations will be distributed to Airmen in the dormitories for the holidays.

CCAF briefs maintainers

Personnel interested in a civilian aircraft maintenance career, persons seeking to become more well-rounded and diversified maintainers and anyone who needs information on obtaining the Federal Aviation Administration Airframe and Powerplant certification are invited to a Community College of the Air Force briefing here. CCAF's Licensure and Certifications Branch will hold briefings at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Nov. 27 in the Tyndall NCO Academy auditorium.

Heart Link

The next Heart Link is 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dec. 1 at the Officers' Club. Heart Link is an orientation offered to every Air Force spouse to learn more about the Air Force mission, customs and available resources and services. For more information or to make reservations, contact the Airmen and Family Readiness Flight at 283-4205.

Finance disbursing office

The disbursing office in finance is open 8:30 a.m. to noon Monday – Friday for those needing to pay off a debt or drop off a bank deposit.



Chrissy Cuttita

Turkey-licious

Daniel Adams and Joseph Cook take part in a Thanksgiving lunch hosted by Tyndall Elementary School Nov. 9. Also joining the student in the festivities were family members and Airmen from Tyndall.

Annual Golden Age holiday party

Tyndall will be hosting a party for veterans and their spouses from 1 to 3 p.m. Dec. 13 at the Enlisted Club. Donations for cookies (sugar-free if possible) and fruit basket sponsors will be greatly appreciated. For more information please contact Chief Master Sgt. Sharrell Callaway, 283-8845; Chief Master Sgt. Arleen Heath, 283-2037, for cookie donations; Master Sgt. Travis Fritts, 283-2222, for entertainment and Senior Master Sgt. Mike Goetz, 283-8387, to volunteer.

Technology Exposition

The 325th Communication Squadron will host a Technology Expo 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 5 at the Officers' Club. All are invited to attend for free. Exhibitors will demonstrate the latest in communication technology.

For more information, contact Keren Bogaczyk, at (888) 603-8899, ext. 239 or via email bogaczyk@ncsi.com.

GCCC announcements

Gulf Coast Community College will be closed Wednesday for a student holiday and Nov. 23 – 24 for Thanksgiving.

Tyndall Center registration for Spring classes beginning Jan. 4. is in progress.

The deadline to apply for Fall graduation is today.

Applications are available on-line under Web Registration/Forms. For more information, call 283-4332.

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is open 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday to Friday.

Only winter clothing is being accepted for consignment. For more information, call 286-5888 during business hours.

Commissary gift baskets and gift certificates

About 100 gift baskets at prices lower than commercial retail are always available anytime at Virtual Commissary, www.commissaries.com. "Gift of Groceries," Commissary gift certificates, can be purchased by anyone at a commissary or gift-wrapped and mailed through the online Web site. Commissary gift certificates can also be donated to one of several charities that help military families. Gift certificates can be purchased by anyone, but can only be used by an authorized shopper.

**Catholic services**

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m.
Monday–Friday,
Chapel Two
Reconciliation, 11 a.m. Fridays
or by appointment
Chapel 2
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.)

Airman finds hobby as Puma coach

JASON DEARDORFF
325th Communications Squadron

Many times I hear people say there's nothing to do at Tyndall. It's boring, all you have is the club and ocean scene and that gets old quickly.

If you had asked me about Tyndall four years ago I might have said the same thing. But I decided I wasn't going to be satisfied with that sentiment.

During that time, my friend Jesus Mendoza, told me about a local adult YMCA soccer club in Panama City and I should come out and play.

needed members. The response was staggering and quickly I had a full roster composed entirely of military members.

My next goal was to attain sponsorship for the team for some Puma jerseys I had found. Unfortunately, sponsorship was a bust, but we were able to purchase uniforms from my old team. The name "Pumas" stuck.

The Pumas didn't take long to make a name for themselves, winning the League Cup Tournament in our first season in the spring of 2005; runner-up in the League Championship in the fall; and even won the League Championship in the spring of 2006.

With the Pumas being a military team, we've always had to deal with revolving team members.

This fall is the Pumas' fourth season and in those seasons I have seen more than 30 different military members as part of this club. While the names have changed extensively, we still have some long standing military members as well as local Panama City players. Our mission, as always, is having fun, staying fit to fight, but also to win the League Cup Tournament and League Championship. The Pumas are in a position to do this for the first time by any team in the league.

With orders to MacDill AFB, Fla., this will be my last season as coach and player for the Pumas. My hope is that another military member will pick up where I left off and the Puma name continues.

I found something great at Tyndall – the Pumas and the great military members who continue to make it exciting for me everyday.

Next time you hear someone say they don't like it here, ask them if they play soccer and refer them to the Pumas.

(Editor's note: The Pumas won the 2006 Fall League Cup Tournament and will compete for the Championship beginning Dec. 2.)



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

Pumas Jason Deardorff (left) and Roger Mendoza face off during a scrimmage.

Mendoza and I toiled for four seasons together on a team, but didn't have very much success competitively. Wanting more, I told him I was going to put together a new team and hoped he would play for me.

I told myself there had to be many military members out there who want something to do and have great soccer talent.

So that's how it all started. I began advertising and getting the word out that I was starting a team and

Tigers Split with Hurricanes

The Tyndall Tigers men's varsity basketball team split their two road games versus the Naval Station Mayport Hurricanes in Southeastern Military Athletic Conference regular season action this past weekend.

In Friday's game, Tyndall, who dressed only eight players, saw Mayport jump out to an early double digit lead, 20-9 with 14:46 remaining in the first half.

After a time out the Tigers regrouped and outscored the

Hurricanes 45-20, behind Anthony Showers and Jared Austin, who scored 17 and 15 points respectively, to take a 54-40 lead into the intermission.

In the second half, the Tigers, behind Ryan Cunningham's 16 points maintained a double-digit lead throughout and coasted to the victory; Tyndall, 107, Mayport, 84.

Saturday's game saw the two teams reverse roles as Mayport fell behind early, but came storming back to take a 46-30 lead at the half.

In the second stanza, the Tigers cut the Hurricanes lead to eight points, before they suffered through a five-minute scoring drought that enabled Mayport to extend their lead and cruise to the victory; Mayport, 91, Tyndall, 67.

The Tigers will host the Flying Tigers from Moody AFB, Ga. 3 p.m. Saturday and men only noon Sunday. For more information contact the Fitness Center at 283-2631 for more information.

(Courtesy of Tyndall Tigers)

Intramural Sports Standings

Bowling

Team	W	L	Team	W	L
MSS	80	32	83rd FWS 1	58	54
SVS	73	39	AFCEA 2	56	56
RED HORSE	72	40	AMMO	54	58
SFS	72	40	43rd AMU	54	58
MOS	70	42	AFNORTH 3	54	58
Test	69	43	AMXS 2	54	58
AFCEA 1	68	44	AMXS 4	46	58
ACS 1	64	48	ACS 2	48	64
AFNORTH 1	64	48	CONS	46	66
CS 1	62	50	MDG	46	66
DS2	60	52	ISRD	44	68
Phase 1	58	54	372nd TRS	44	68
CES	58	54	CS 2	42	70
83rd FWS 2	56	56	Phase 2	36	76
AMXS 1	56	56	Bye	10	102
Team High Game Scratch			CS 1		954
Team High Series Scratch			AMXS 1		2818
Team High Game Handicap			Test		1176
Team High Series Handicap			MSS		3250
High Male Game Scratch			Zac Bucher		286
High Male Series Scratch			Gary Hite		704
High Male Game Handicap			Jon Carter		320
High Male Series Handicap			Ken Hauck		727
High Female Game Scratch			Chong Dodson		222
High Female Series Scratch			Michelle Clements		667
High Female Game Handicap			Jen Lash		254
High Female Series Handicap			Michelle Smith		686

Pig Prog Scorebox

CONS	89	MDOS	79
MXS	87	CES	79
1st FS	85	NCOA	79
Pig Prog	83	OSS	78
CPTS	81	ACS	75
28th TES	79	CS	69
372nd TRS	79	SVS	67
		First Sgts.	64
		SFS	62
		AMXS	49



Pig Prog

325th CES picks
for NFL Week eleven:

- Atlanta at Baltimore
- Buffalo at Houston
- Chicago at N.Y. Jets
- Cincinnati at New Orleans
- Minnesota at Miami
- New England at Green Bay
- Oakland at Kansas City
- Pittsburgh at Cleveland
- St. Louis at Carolina
- Tennessee at Philadelphia
- Washington at Tampa Bay
- Detroit at Arizona
- Seattle at San Francisco
- Indianapolis at Dallas
- San Diego at Denver
- N.Y. Giants at Jacksonville

Forget pompoms, standings tighten

PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATOR

From the land of luck

I can't remember a football season as exciting as this.

I'm not sure which upset is more important because there have been so many upsets each week.

This week there were six upsets and maybe seven, if you include Seattle beating St. Louis without half their team. But one game left me jaw-dropped – New York vs. New England.

I thought I could hear the J-E-T-S chant all the way from the Empire State Sunday and it was powered by their defense. The Jets held the Patriots to their second fewest point total this year and sacked Patriots' quarterback Tom Brady four times.

So much for Brady performing great under pressure, but maybe everyone shouldn't expect him to win every game. Brady is good ... don't get me wrong ... but the comparisons to Joe Montana and Dan Marino are ridiculous. Montana had a rating over a 100 four times in his career, won two Super Bowls and won two Super Bowl MVP's.

While Brady is a good quarterback, to be compared to a few of the most decorated quarterbacks ever, he has to step up his game for the next eight years. Besides, the Patriots won behind great defenses in their three Super Bowl years.

Enough of beating Brady since he already took a beating Sunday. Let's talk a little bit about the team who

administered the beating. The Jets put up a great fight and played well on both sides of the ball. Jets quarterback Chad Pennington didn't make any mistakes and kept his team in the game.

New York's defense on third down is probably what won them the game though. New England was 3-12 on third down and their two turnovers proved costly.

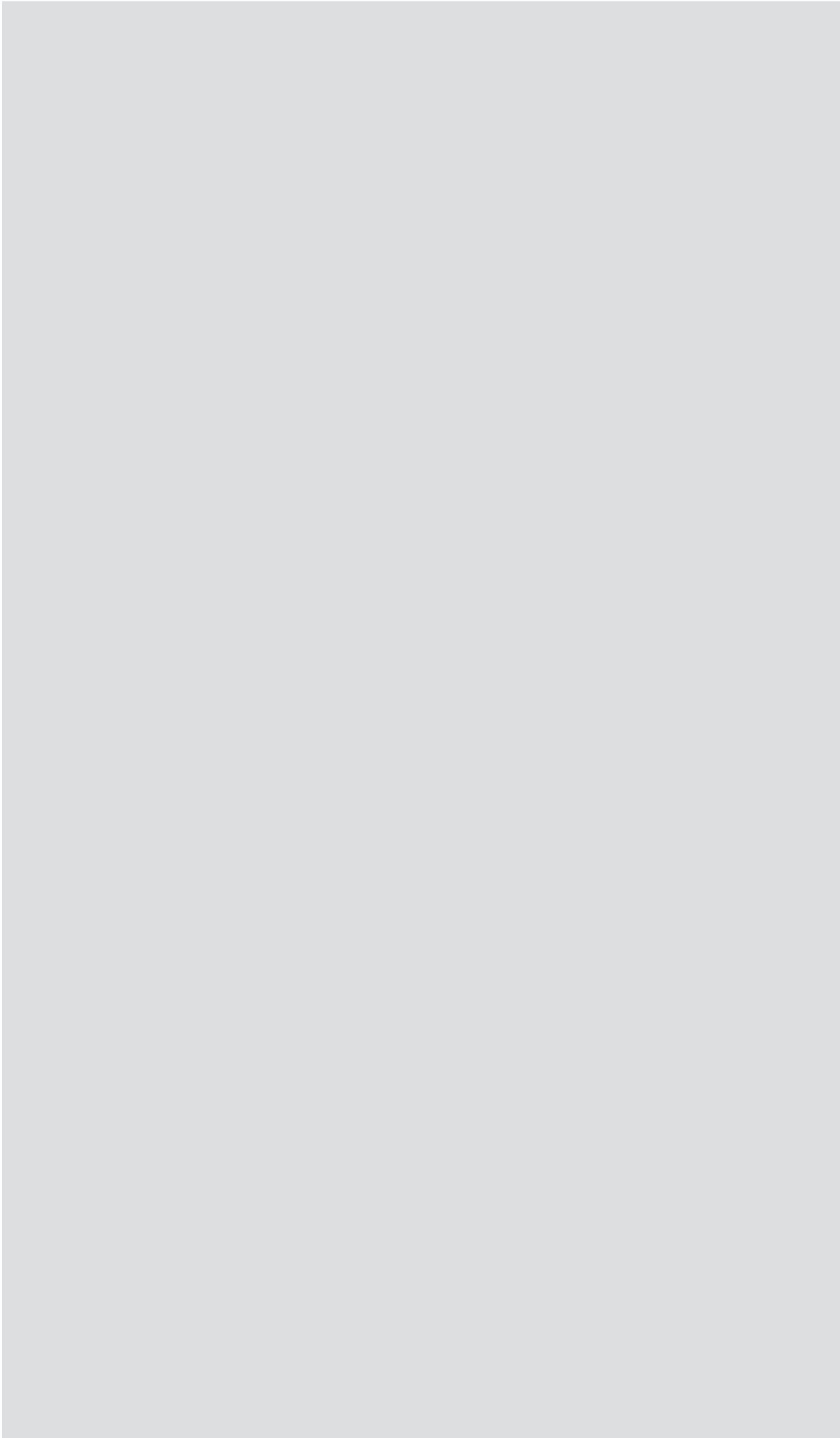
As the division race gets close between the Patriots and Jets, the race is also getting close in the Pig Prog standings. Five teams are tied with 79 correct picks coming into this week, another team has 78 and another with 81. The teams at 79 picks are 10 picks behind CONS, but a lead can be cut quickly in a league with so many upsets.

"Oh, we will catch up," said 372nd TRS/Det. 4 picker Douglas Johannes. "We are going to throw away the news articles, predictions, injury lists and focus on the color of uniforms. That should increase our winning percentage."

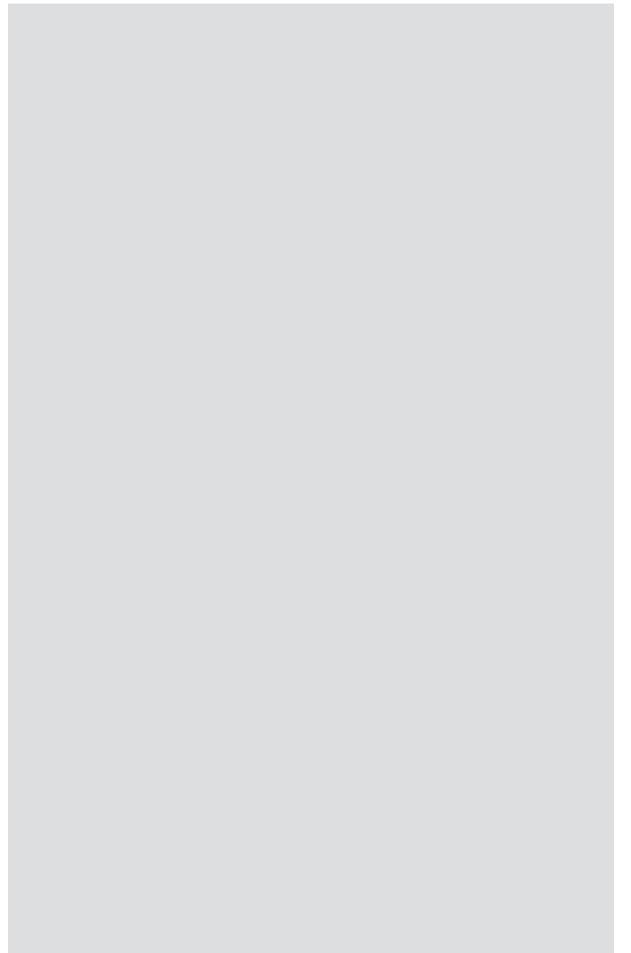
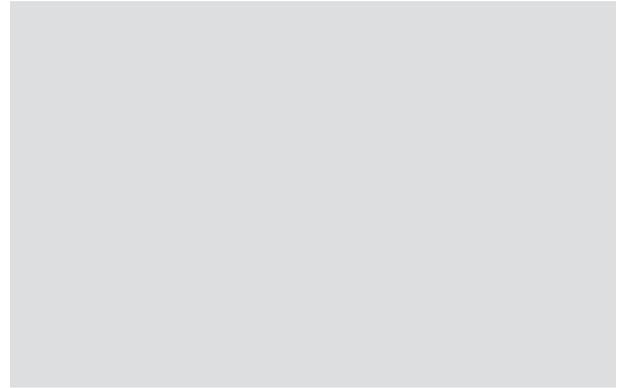
I asked him how they ended up so far behind the leaders.

"We just have to stop picking teams by what the mascot and cheerleaders look like and pick the winning football team," said Johannes.

Well, they should take a few tips from me if they're going start picking like a champ. It won't change too much if they do, because they're going to stay in my rear view mirror the rest of the season along with everyone else.



**The Gulf Defender is published for people like
Airman 1st Class Luis Ventura
325th Communications Squadron
information manager.**





Funshine NEWS

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*Through a service provider for a complete listing of features, rules and regulations.
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ALL RANKS Thanksgiving Brunch At the O'Club
Nov. 23
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

\$17.95 Adults
 \$7.95 Children 5-11
 Club Members receive \$2 discount.

Menu Includes:

- Carving Station: with Ham & Roast Beef
- Omelet & Waffle Station
- Sliced Turkey
- Stuffing, Candied Yams
- Mashed Potatoes w/ gravy
- Fruits & vegetables
- Mimosa & Bloody Mary Station
- Juices, Tea & Coffee
- Dessert Station

283-4357
Reservations encouraged



TURKEY TO GO Thanksgiving Meals To Go
Plan ahead and let us do the cooking for you!!!

Feeds an average Family of 6

We are taking orders Nov. 1st - 17th until 4 p.m.

Your Meal Includes:
A 10 lb. Turkey
Mashed Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables
Cornbread Stuffing
Giblet Gravy
Dinner Rolls
Cranberry Sauce
& Pumpkin Pie
\$38 for Members
\$40 for Non-Members

Orders can be picked up from 8 - 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 23 at the Tyndall Enlisted Club

Call **283-4357** for more information

•FROM STRIPE PAGE 3

I volunteered for the most complicated jobs, mastering one aircraft generation equipment unit after the next until my supervisor spoke to me again.

“Airman James, can I see you in the office for a minute?” he asked.

I hoped I wasn’t about to receive bad news. I hated the suspense.

He said, “You fooled everyone. We didn’t expect you to turn around and react the way you did.” He gave me a pat on the back and thanked me for all the hard work.

My first supervisor didn’t pull any punches and demanded excellence. He said I had a lot of promise. That statement alone gave me confidence beyond measure. Those words pulled me through, and I was eventually promoted to senior airman.

Then I cross trained as an F-15 crew chief and graduated technical school as distinguished graduate.

After making staff sergeant the following year, I was moved to the top maintenance position on the jet. I was the designated crew chief, and I was proud of it. I

didn’t feel very knowledgeable, but it was “my jet.” I was about four years behind the average senior airman in terms of experience. And with my past performance record, I did not get an EPR rating more than 4.

I found a new mentor and I developed a new personal goal for my career. I didn’t just want to *be* like him, I wanted his job.

I threw myself into something new – expediting – and I made my unit proud. It felt great to be a part of something and know I was an asset to the unit. Teamwork and leadership had taken on a whole new meaning to me.

Though more family and work challenges came my way, I made technical sergeant in 2004.

At Kunsan Air Base, Korea, my next assignment, my support position took me away from the flightline but I felt I earned the right to use every stripe. I accomplished the tasks at hand and “got down in the trenches.” The Airmen called me “boss” and I felt respected. I was proud they could win awards like Airmen of the Quarter, I never did.

But then, at the height of my career, I faced the charges. I

never thought I would do anything stupid enough to get an Article 15, but I failed.

I’ve made some bad decisions in my life, but I’ve never regretted anything I’ve done more than when I decided to put myself in a position that compromised my career.

My mother taught me two valuable lessons when I was young and I still hold them close

First, being honest and sincere, even if you did wrong, can help you save face and feel like you are worth something.

Second, sometimes people make mistakes, but if they own up to it and apologize, I must acknowledge the person’s self-respect and dignity and take it into consideration before passing judgment.

I understand we are accountable and must pay the cost of our transgressions. I am truly sorry for what I have done. I know my career is not over, and I can recover again.

I know I can make it again, keep my stripe and continue on in my career to be the example I am expected to be. It is a lot of work, but I’m ready to do my part.

• FROM LUNCH PAGE 4

and understanding insurance agents or financial planners.

To shield oneself from unscrupulous tactics, it is recommended that Airmen follow the guidelines below before making any financially-altering decisions:

1. Never be rushed into making a decision. Don't deprive yourself of the opportunity to think things over or confer with experts or family. Take the time to do research and make the right decision.

2. Make sure you get copies of all contracts and pertinent documents. On many occasions, Airmen have never received copies of the life insurance policies for which they are paying premiums. Know the penalties for withdrawing money from a life insurance policy or an annuity plan or canceling any type of insurance policy.

3. Do not be impressed with smooth-talking agents who claim to be looking out for your interests. Don't be fooled. Find out the facts. Ask to see their licenses. Demand straight answers.

Do research on the company you are dealing with. Beware of claims of "free services," "guaranteed returns," or

"additional savings accounts." Insurance agents/brokers are in business to earn money – nothing else. There is always a catch.

4. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Such agents usually appeal to human weakness for "bargains." The more attractive a product appears, the more wary and suspicious you should be.

5. Know the difference between term-life insurance and whole life insurance. SGLI is like term-life insurance, for as long as one is active duty his beneficiary will receive the same amount upon one's death. In a whole-life policy, beneficiaries receive an amount based on how long one has held the insurance.

6. Before signing such life insurance policies, seek the advice of the Military Personnel Flight at 283-2276, the Base Legal Office at 283-4681, or the Airman and Family Readiness Flight at 283-4204. Use the services of the professionals you have at your disposal on base. Find out in detail what your SGLI provides you.

Look out and educate yourself. Make informed choices for you and your family. Don't get served a "free" lunch when you, in fact, are the one on the menu.



For current information about Air Force pay, benefits, jobs and more, visit: ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil

