



GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 65, No. 35

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

Sept. 8, 2006

In Brief

Change of Command

The 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron Change of Command Ceremony is at 3 p.m. today in Hangar 5.

Lt. Col. Raymond O'Mara will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Terry Scott.

Sept. 11 Memorial Events

The memorial run is scheduled for 7:46 a.m. Monday at the Fitness Center. Participants are encouraged to line up at the start with their squadrons or groups.

The run will end at Flag Park where a wreath laying ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. All military and civilian personnel and their families are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact your first sergeant or call the Fitness Center at 283-2631.

Inside

Tyndall's newest ALS and NCO Academy graduates ... **PAGE 7**

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AAFES promotes safety at the fuel pump ... **PAGE 17**



1st Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Standing Proud

Tyndall Honor Guard members, Staff Sgts. Joseph Alers and Austin Weeks (far right), stand at attention during a graduation ceremony for 14 newly inducted Honor Guard members Aug. 18. Senior Airman Aquilino Alveo-Forbes (far left), Honor Guard lead trainer, presented the flight of graduates to Lt. Col. Cynthia Brown, 325th Services Squadron commander, as first sergeants, supervisors and other supporters looked on. For more on the Honor Guard, turn to Page 10.

Airman, community 'voice' remembered

CHRISSEY CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tyndall lost a dear Air Force family member Saturday with the passing of Maj. Gen. Larry Fleming, 31 years and one day after he retired from the Air Force.

He was well known for his active voice on the base and in Bay County, where he lived since shortly after he retired.

"He was active, no question about it," said retired Maj. Gen. Carl Peterson. "He was always looking at what we were doing and how

it affects future generations. He'd always do his research and never back off a position."

Though the two friends did not hold official titles downtown, General Peterson called himself and General Fleming "neighborhood experts."

On base, the Retirees Activities office has definitely been influenced by General Fleming. In fact, he was primarily responsible for setting it up in 1978 and for often monitoring and manning it until just one week ago.



Maj. Gen. Larry Fleming

"I thought he was a great individual," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Doyle Wade, RAO volunteer. "He

was always looking out for the military."

General Fleming's first experience at Tyndall was as a student at the Air Tactical School in 1947. While attending training here, he was assigned as a fighter pilot to the 1st Fighter Group at March Field, Calif.

A decorated war veteran, General Fleming served in World War II with the 55th Fighter Group in England, flying the P-51 Mustang and is credited with 197 combat hours in 38 missions.

• SEE FLEMING PAGE 6

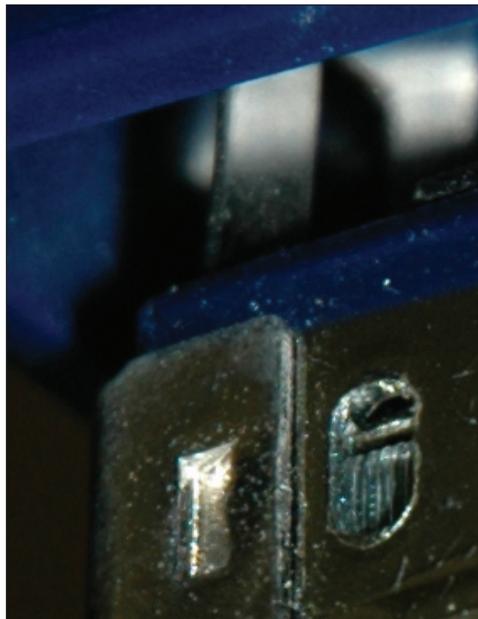


1st Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Hearts apart

Christina Jones points to where she wants a heart painted on her face by Jan Sheffield, a family readiness consultant from the Airman and Family Readiness Center here. More than 100 Tyndall Airmen, who will be deploying over the next few weeks, gathered with their families at the Enlisted Club Aug. 30 for the "Warrior Farewell" ceremony. The ceremony featured activities for children and information from base agencies to help families prepare for the upcoming deployment.

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 "Identify this" for Sept. 1. Since it was so difficult, we may run it again in a future issue of the *Gulf Defender*. Better luck next time!

ON THE STREET

28th Test Squadron/Detachment 2 focus: What is the most marketable skill in your career field?



CESAR MATAMOROS II
F-16 lead contract engineer



STAFF SGT. JARED AUSTIN
Administrative assistant



CAPT. JILL EVENSKI
Developmental engineer and flight commander



TRACEY ALVEY
Facility security manager

"Research and problem solving are the most marketable skills in engineering because you have to form a plan to attack problems."

"Leadership skills, diverse engineering experience and exposure to high levels of responsibility are the most marketable skills."

"Computer skills are the most marketable because as a client support administrator, I'm the first defense for computer problems."

"Knowledge, experience and personal skills to handle unique and challenging situations are the most marketable skills in my field."

Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

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

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Pivotal time in Air Force calls for new perspective

CAPT. MIKE GARRETT
325th Fighter Wing deputy chief of plans

As Airmen we will soon, and some have already, feel the effects of having to do less with less. Why is this?

Take into consideration our aging fleet of aircraft, which need to be replaced and debt from the current war, which is soon expected to exceed an estimated \$320 billion. These issues, among others, are driving our Air Force to make serious adjustments through programs such as Force Shaping and Program Budget Decision 720. By design, these programs will realign and cut our force structure by 40,000 people over the next 15 months. We will all be affected directly or indirectly because it's a part of our lives now and will be for several years to come.

With challenges of modernizing the aircraft fleet and maintaining the best trained Airmen in the world on a limited budget, we also have the daunting task of ensuring mission accomplishment. Simply, we cannot continue to operate with the old practices and organizational structures that we have in the past. We must do it better, smarter and more efficiently without losing

our war fighting skills as Airmen. It's every Airman's responsibility, and it will take each of us to ensure our Air Force's goals are met.

With such a task ahead, I feel it's important to apply an old vision to today's challenge. In the face of adversity the words of one of our founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin, captures it best. During the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Benjamin Franklin was waiting to sign a document that would hold the fate and destiny of our nation. During the convention, his eyes fell upon a carving on the back of George Washington's chair, a carving of a half sun. He stared thoughtfully at it for a moment, and then proclaimed words that would be remembered forever.

"I have often looked at that picture behind the president without being able to tell whether it was a rising sun or setting sun. Now at length, I have the happiness to know that it is indeed a rising, not a setting sun," he said.

What do you think Benjamin Franklin meant and how does it relate to us now? At a pivotal time of change in our history, he knew that we had to separate from the comfortable "norm," and break away

from old practices. If the Republic would have lost, history would have defined the moment as a setting sun. At this pivotal time, our Air Force must adjust to the transformation at hand.

Our commanders are going to need our help. Each Airman today has inherited the task of doing less with less to ensure mission accomplishment and the future success of our Air Force. Do your part. Take a look around your work centers and make note of programs and processes that can be done better. Make suggestions for improvement through the chain of command and "take the football and run with it." Propose solutions to problems, not complaints to problems, and expect to have greater responsibility regardless of your rank. These are just a few things we can all do to contribute.

Through each of our efforts and team work, we will ensure that the Air Force will continue to be a strategic player in our national defense. Tyndall's mission of guaranteeing air dominance will remain the forefront of supporting the Combat Air Forces, and America will always claim victory.

Details make difference, set us apart from others

MAJ. KEVIN WALKER
736th Security Forces Squadron commander

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam – Undoubtedly, at some time in our life we have all been told, "Don't sweat the small stuff."

But instead, I would argue to say, "Sweat the small stuff." It's the small stuff that is going to set you apart. More on that in a minute.

We all rose our right hand and volunteered to become part of this great Air Force for various reasons.

Some may have entered to serve the country, some to pay for college and some may have entered out of

a sense of patriotism following Sept. 11, 2001.

No matter what our reasons, the overwhelming majority of today's Airmen care a great deal about the Air Force and are passionate about their job and career field. With that passion comes the drive to excel and the pride that is felt from a job well done.

But for some reason, many people don't let that passion or pride drive them all the way through their objective.

Many people have their eyes set on large targets, but end up missing the small ones. While large targets are important, it's the small ones that can add up

"Sweat the small stuff, and the small stuff will set you apart."

MAJ. KEVIN WALKER
736th Security Forces Squadron commander

I had a commander once tell me the difference between a good unit and a great unit is the attention to detail. He couldn't have been more right.

Think of it like this. You have moved to a new assignment. Upon your arrival, you may have had someone meet you at the airport. They may have had

a vehicle waiting for you, and they may have even driven you to your hotel or on-base lodging.

While there is nothing wrong with that welcome, some attention to the small details would really have made an impact.

Suppose that same sponsor met you at the airport with a welcome package, knew not only your name, but the name of your family members and pets, took you to pick up your rental car, gave you a quick tour of the surrounding area, drove you to your room, and even

• SEE DETAILS PAGE 4

Action Line

Call 283-2255



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

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

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

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

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

problem, call me at 283-2255.

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

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

Below are more phone numbers to help you resolve any issues with a base agency.

- Commissary** 283-4825
- Pass and Registration** 283-4191
- Medical and Dental** 283-7515
- MEO** 283-2739

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

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

• FROM DETAILS PAGE 3

had some kind of food and drinks waiting for you in your room.

Those are the little details that delineate a good sponsor program with a great sponsor program. Just those little details tell a newly arrived Airman that the unit they are now assigned to is squared away and ready for them.

One more example could be your unit's physical training program.

Suppose your unit's physical training program is conducted on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Stretching is left up to each individual, the run can be however far or fast you would like and then after the run, everyone gets back together for cool-down stretches.

Now consider that same program where the unit fell into formation for stretches, everyone was in the Air Force PT uniform, everyone participated in calisthenics, an organized run was conducted for a known distance or pace, everyone conducted cool-down stretches together and then "pass-ons" and orders of the day were issued.

While they are both effective PT programs, those little details easily set apart the good PT program from the great PT program. As good programs

turn into great programs, the standard will be set.

The next thing you know, the squadron on a whole has transformed from a good squadron to a great squadron.

To put this all in perspective, small things not only can set a good unit apart from a great unit, they can save lives.

The attention to detail that comes with "sweating the small stuff" will help maintainers ensure all the tools are properly secured before the aircraft engines turn, they will help engineers ensure the electrical box is locked out before wires are cut, they will help trainers ensure the latest information is taught to teams deploying down range. The list can go on and on.

Practicing, demanding and enforcing attention to detail does not mean you are obsessive-compulsive; it means you care about your job and your Airmen. It means you have the passion and pride not only to do what is right, but to go that extra mile and make sure your task, unit, wing and Air Force are as squared away as they can possibly be.

Sweat the small stuff, and the small stuff will set you apart.

AETC kicks off CFC

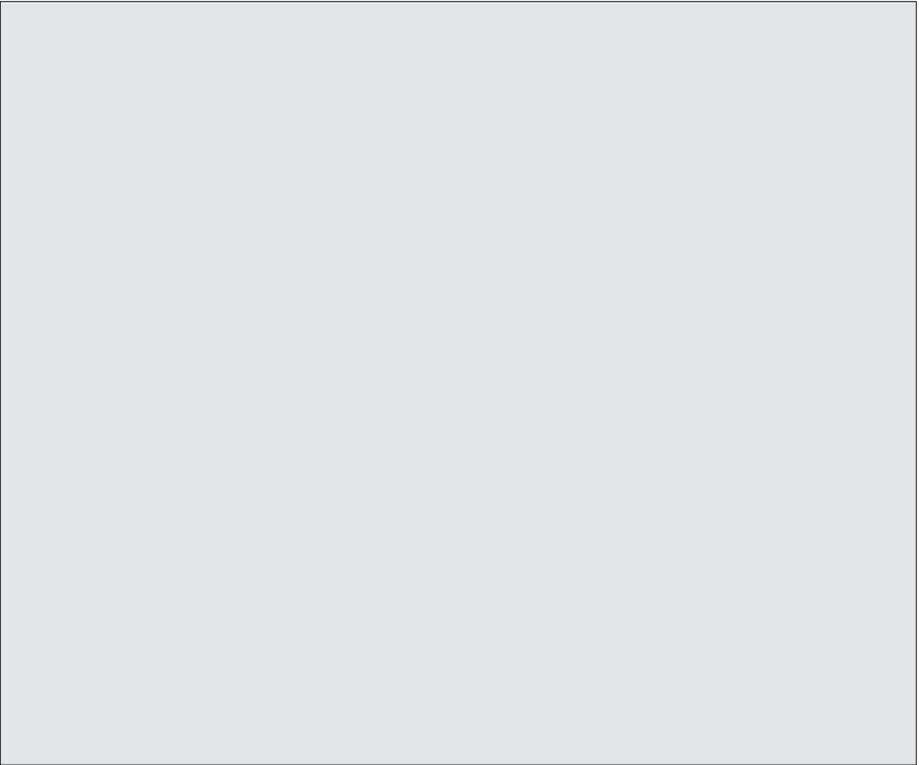
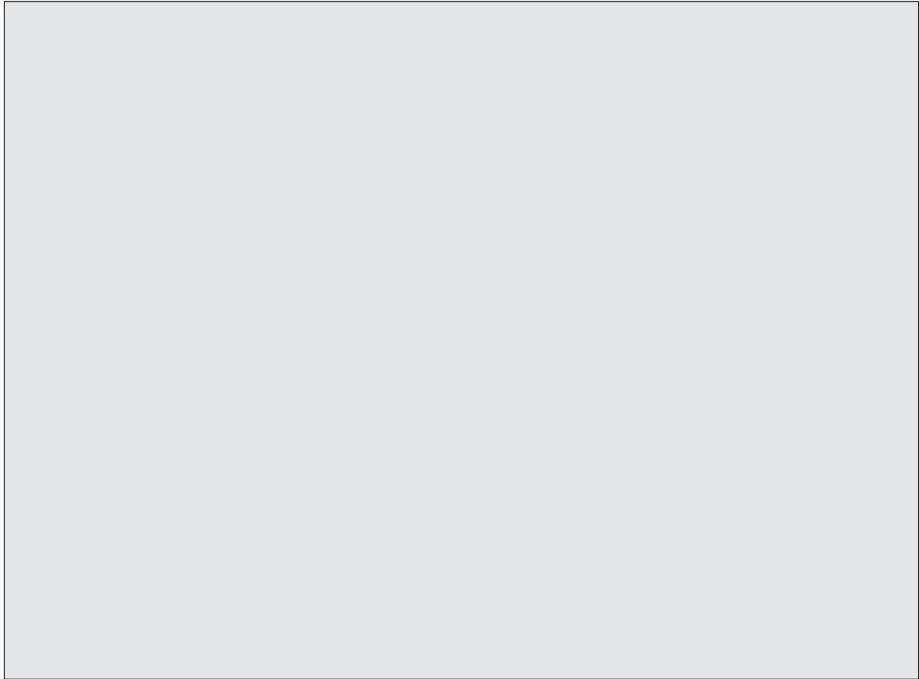
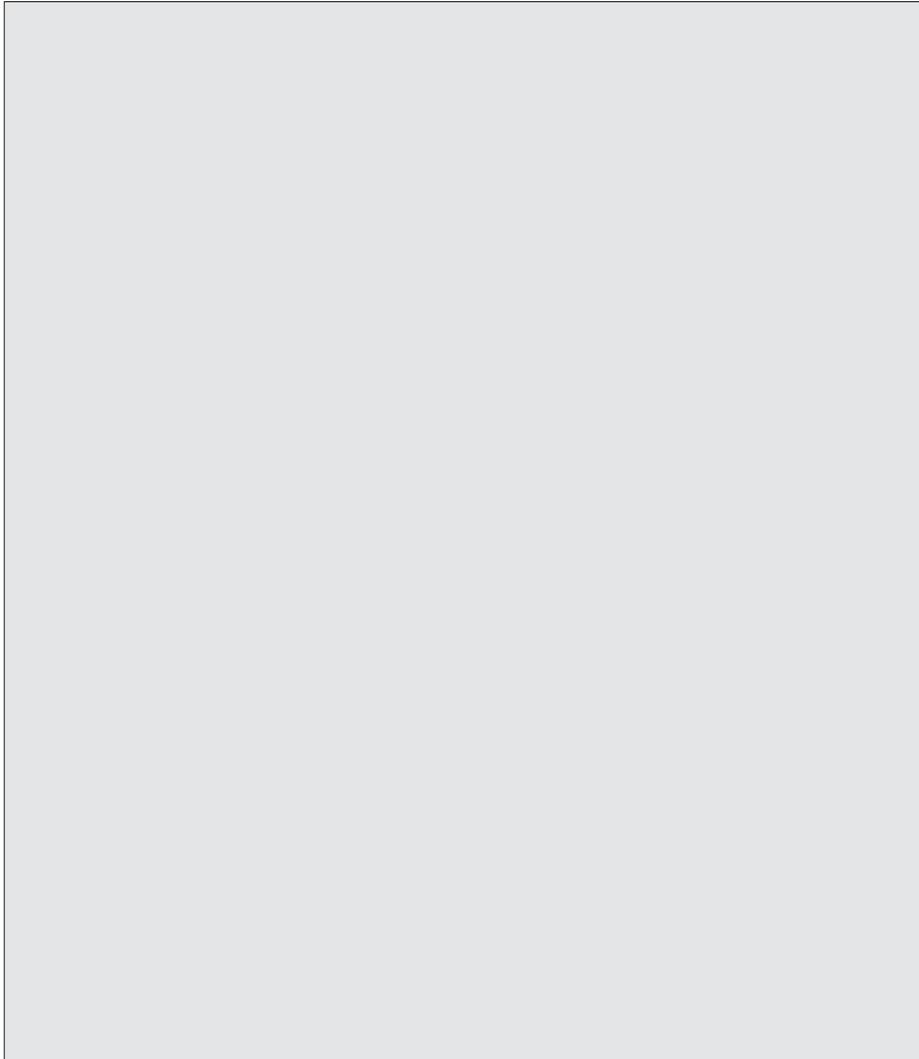
GEN. BILL LOONEY
AETC commander

Each year the Combined Federal Campaign gives us the opportunity to give much needed support back to our local communities. Last year we did a fantastic job of meeting or exceeding all our set goals. Your contributions to CFC made an incredible difference in the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves. As this year's drive begins, I encourage you to support the organizations of your choice.

As you know, CFC is impor-

tant to our communities and our Air Force. CFC is one way of showing how much we appreciate our community neighbors, and an opportunity to give back to those who support us through thick and thin. I encourage you to join me in making this year's CFC our best effort yet.

Thank you for all you do to make AETC a "command of choice," and for the important role you play in developing America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow.



Tyndall prepares for CFC 2006

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The 2006 to 2007 Combined Federal Campaign runs Sept. 1 through Dec. 15 for both continental United States and overseas bases.

Tyndall's CFC campaign starts Tuesday followed by a Kickoff Breakfast, which is scheduled for 7 a.m. Wednesday at the Officers' Club for all commanders, key workers, first sergeants and chiefs. The campaign will end Oct. 24.

Last year, federal employees and servicemembers donated a record setting \$268 million to the CFC. Contributions can be in cash, check or by payroll deduction.

"There are numerous local and national agencies that need our help," said Senior Master Sgt. Billy Simmons, Tyndall's CFC

project officer. "The minimum contribution is \$2 per month."

Military and civilian personnel who are deployed or will be deployed during the campaign will participate in the overseas



CFC at their deployed location where they will have access to the same national and international charities.

Those people who wish to donate to local charities may donate to charities at the deployed location. If married, they may obtain a spousal CFC power of attorney to

complete local contribution forms at their home base.

The CFC was established in 1961 and is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country. This annual fall fund-raising drive allows nearly four million federal employees and military personnel to contribute to thousands of local and national nonprofit organizations.

On average, one in four federal employees or their dependents will benefit from the CFC charities this year, according to CFC officials.

Donors may designate which charities receive their money by filling out a pledge card.

The CFC Web site is at www.opm.gov/cfc.

For more information, contact your unit representative or Sergeant Simmons at 283-8044.

• FROM FLEMING PAGE 1

During the Vietnam War era, he flew the A-1 Skyraider with the Vietnamese after being transferred to the Republic of Vietnam as adviser to the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Vietnamese Air Force, at Tan Son Nhut Airfield in January 1968. It was at this assignment he met General Peterson.

“We all worked together; he told us what to do and we did it,” said General Peterson, who remembers his friend as someone who was serious about work but also had a humorous side.

Their careers crossed a second time at Tyndall before owning post-retirement homes down the road from each other in Panama City.

General Peterson remembered assuming command from General Fleming in 1973 at the Air Defense Weapons Center, Aerospace Defense Command here. There were 96 aircraft on Tyndall’s runway includ-

ing F-106s, T-33s, a few air rescue helicopters and additional aircraft here for air-combat and live-fire training. General Fleming left the busy airfield here to command the 24th North American Air Defense Command Region and the 24th Air Division at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont. from February 1973 until June 1974.

His last assignment was chief of staff, U.S. Southern Command with headquarters at Quarry Heights, Canal Zone in 1974.

“He was a good friend, a great Soldier and Airman who flew 7,000 flying hours with only one accident,” said General Peterson.

General Fleming’s military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished

Unit Citation Emblem, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon with oak leaf cluster.

“He was honest and straight forward. He was a loving husband and father,” said General Peterson. “We’d both call each other daily at 6 a.m. We never started out together but we ended up together (in life).”

General Fleming was born in 1922, in Green Bay, Wis., where he graduated from high school in 1941. He then attended St. Norbert’s College, West DePere, Wis. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in November 1942 and began his active military career in January 1943 as an aviation cadet.

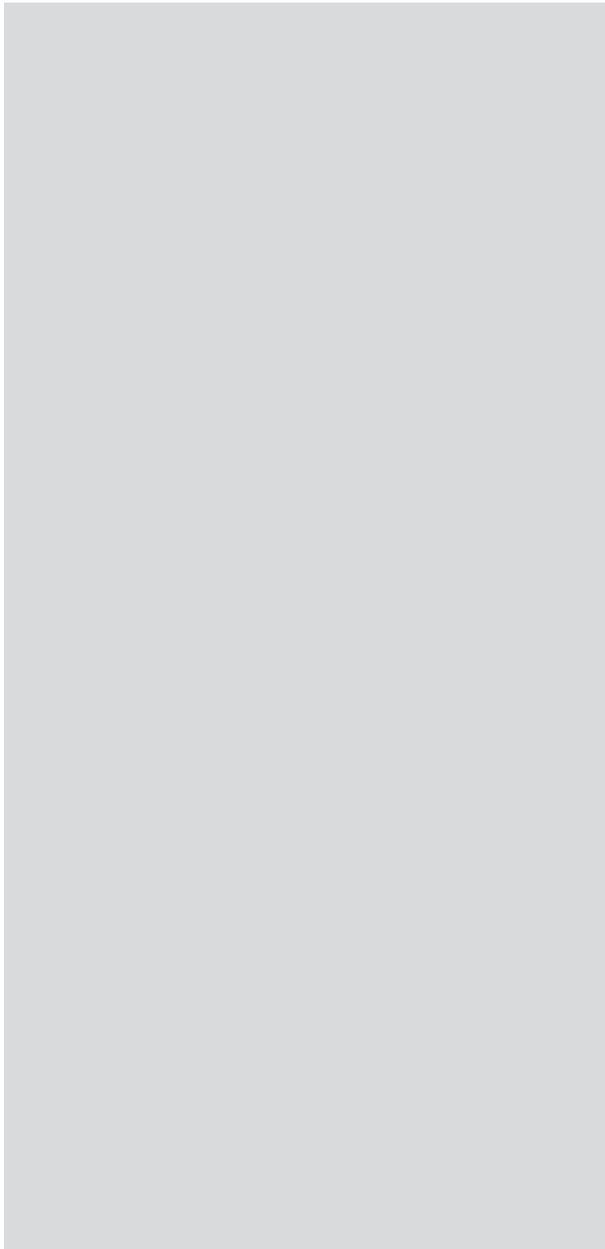
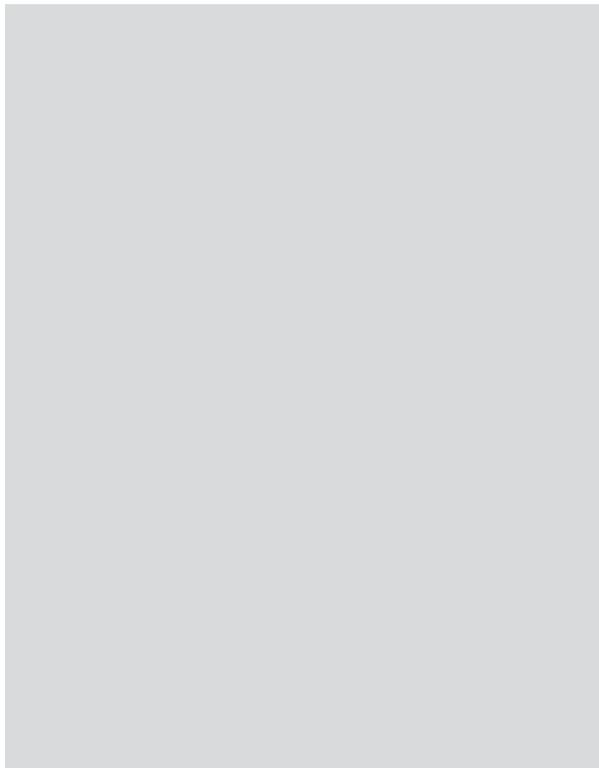
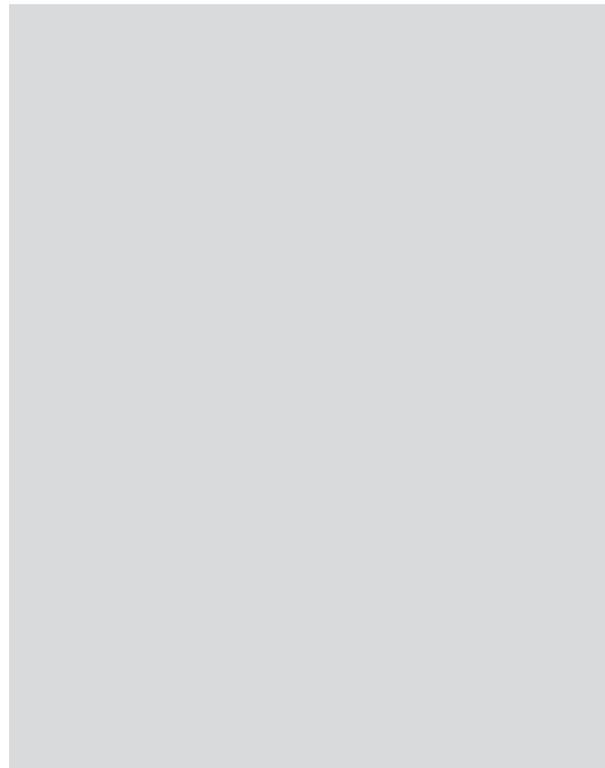
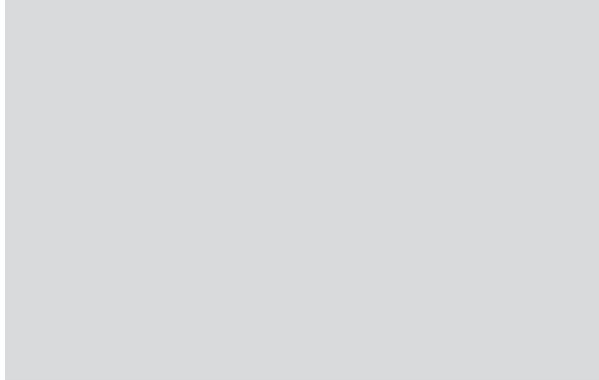
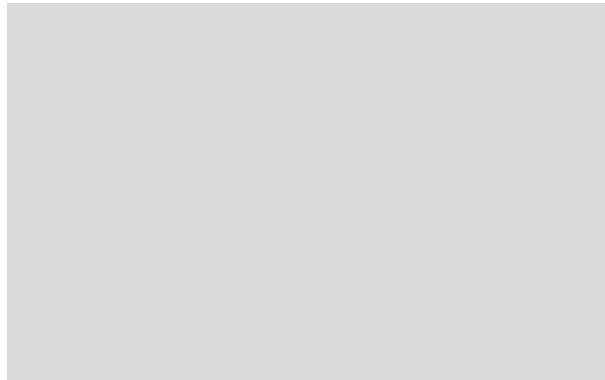
He was commissioned as a second lieutenant and received his pilot wings in Jackson, Miss., in March 1944, and then attended P-40 pilot training.

Services for General Fleming were held Wednesday, and a memorial mass was held at St. Dominic’s

Catholic Church.

“General Fleming was an outstanding member of our faith community,” said Father Peter Zalewski, pastor of St. Dominic Catholic Church in Panama City where General Fleming was a member. “He was quite active in helping others and was a great example to other retirees.

“He was an exemplary model of using the talent, skills and abilities he developed in military service to continue to serve the community around him after active duty,” said Father Zalewski.



Congratulations to Tyndall's NCO Academy graduates

(The following technical sergeants graduated Aug. 31.)

Richard Anderson	325th MXG
Albert Badstein	43rd AMU
Jeffrey Carstens	325th MXG
John Clowe	325th SFS
Brian Crouse	16th EWS
Danita Del Toro	AFNORTH A2
Robert Nichols	325th AMXS
Dennis Price, Jr.	325th CES
Eric Rinke	313rd TRS
Christopher Short	325th AMXS
Daniel Slater	325th FW
James Williams	325th AMXS

John L. Levitow Award Jeremy Unterseher 325th CES

Distinguished Graduates Mark Isaacs 372rd TRS/Det. 4
Michael Ratliff 325th AMXS

Congratulations to Tyndall's Airman Leadership School graduates

(The following senior airmen graduated Aug. 29.)

Jessica Brown	325th OSS
Thomas Burkhart	325th MXS
Darius Cook	325th MSS
Donald Ellis	325th MXS
William Foreman	325th AMXS
Noah Klapprodt	325th CS
Philip Morris	325th CES
Ronald Striggles	53rd TSS
Jimmy Welch	325th CES
Corey Dantzler	325th SFS
Jessica Dennard	83rd FWS
Aaron Gable	28th TES/Det. 2
Nathaniel Hensley	325th AMXS
Dana McDermott	325th AMXS
Rhygin Ramsdell	325th AMXS
Kevin Stafford	325th MSS
Terry Todd	325th AMXS
Michael Trysnicky	325th OSS
Jason Turner	325th MXS
Justin Usera	325th OSS
Steven Wilkerson	325th CS

Leadership Award
Daniel Bautista 325th AMXS

John L. Levitow Award
Aaron Ward 81st RCS

OPSEC -
When in doubt, talk it out with your security
manager.



AF adds enlisted assignment preference to virtual MPF

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Enlisted Airmen are now able to change their assignment preferences online through the virtual Military Personnel Flight, as the Air Force continues Personnel Services Delivery Transformation.

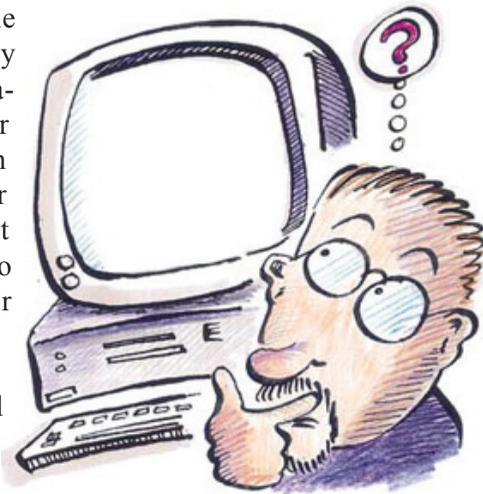
Enlisted Airmen are now responsible for updating their own assignment preferences online through vMPF.

“This automation streamlines the assignment process,” said Capt. Jay Johnson, chief of the future operations integration branch at the Air Force Personnel Center. “Airmen will no longer have to visit their CSS or MPF to update assignment preferences; they’ll be able to do it from their computer at work or home.”

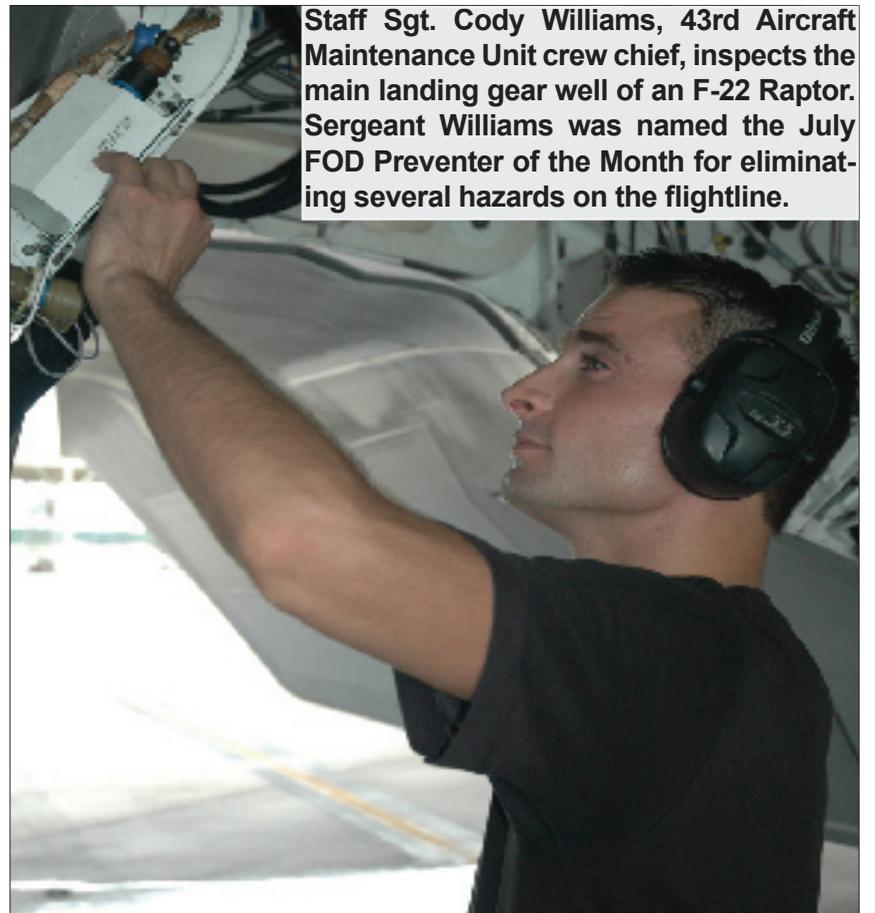
Airmen wanting to make updates to the assignment preferences will be directed to instructions found in the “Self Service Actions” section of the vMPF.

“Each Airman will be responsible for updating their choices to reflect current desires, and they will need to view the Enlisted Quarterly Assignments Listings frequently to stay current on available assignments,” said Captain Johnson.

For more information on this new initiative, contact the Air Force Contact Center at 1-800-616-3775.



FOD Preventer of the Month



Staff Sgt. Cody Williams, 43rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, inspects the main landing gear well of an F-22 Raptor. Sergeant Williams was named the July FOD Preventer of the Month for eliminating several hazards on the flightline.

Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

Checkertail Salute

Tech. Sgt. Tina Crews



1st Lt. Amanda Ferrell

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

Sergeant Crews assists attorneys by gathering evidence, interviewing witnesses and preparing case notes. Her efforts have led to the conviction of criminals including DUI offenders. She also managed Tyndall’s tax center, saving military members and retirees more than \$166,000 in tax preparation fees.

Duty title: NCO in charge of civil law
Time on station: Nine months
Time in service: Sixteen years, 10 months
Hometown: Detroit
Hobbies: Fishing, swimming, sewing and dancing
Goals: To make master sergeant and get a master’s degree in criminal justice
Favorite movie: “The Matrix”
Favorite book: “Black Hawk Down, A Story of Modern War” by Mark Bowden
Pet Peeves: People who do not complete computer based training for deployments.

Proudest moment in the military: Receiving this award

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall’s Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Airman Claribel Najera-Torres, 325th Services Squadron food services technician.



It’s Your FUTURE



...how hard is that?

Training Spotlight



What was the best part of Airman Leadership School?

“Meeting the first Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, Chief Paul Airey, who inspired me to become a great supervisor.”

**SENIOR AIRMAN
COREY DANTZLER**
ALS student

Congratulations to the F-15C Eagle Basic Course graduates of Class 06 EBT from the 1st Fighter Squadron!



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



Airfield managers compare, integrate, learn

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

Military and civilian aircraft operate in overlapping airspace, making the task of controlling air traffic the joint responsibility of both Air Force and civilian controllers.

Airfield operations officer trainees here are taught the importance of interoperability with civilian controllers from day one. And before they graduate the course here and begin supervising air traffic controllers at operational bases, all airfield operations officer trainees must visit a live civilian air control facility to gain insight on their role in the joint effort.

“Students from all phases of the officer training program attended a four day base visit to Warner-Robins AFB, Ga., and Atlanta,” said 2nd Lt. Nicole Backes, 325th Operations Support Squadron airfield operations officer trainee. “There was a two-fold purpose to the trip. The first was to expose us to other areas of air traffic control and airfield management that we may encounter while deployed. The second was to see civilian air traffic control facilities in action, and understand how military and civilian operations integrate.”

Six students, accompanied by one instructor, arrived first at Warner-Robins AFB, Ga., for a lesson in deployed air traffic control operations.

“Touring mobile air traffic control equipment gave insight on expeditionary operations, and what a typical day is like for airfield operations officers when

deployed,” said 2nd Lt. Charles Jesse, 325th OSS airfield operations officer.

“A typical day for airfield operations officers when deployed involves deconflicting airspace and resolving airfield issues while maintaining the highest level of safety possible,” said Lieutenant Backes.

Operating in deployed locations puts airfield operations officers wherever runways are built, which is often in austere locations with little time to establish working facilities.

“The insight I gained from the airfield managers at Warner-Robins AFB was how fast the Air Force can ‘stand up’ mobile air traffic control units for immediate service in deployed conditions,” said Lieutenant Jesse. “This gives us the ability to control aircraft anywhere on the globe within one and a half hours of stand up.”

“I also learned just how involved our role as airfield operations officers will be while deployed, and how our expertise is used on a regular basis by multiple agencies both at home and in deployed locations,” he said.

The students were briefed on mobile Radar Approach Control systems and



1st Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Lieutenant Jesse monitors live air traffic in the Radar Approach Control center here.

mobile tower units, which bring navigation devices and other needed air control systems to isolated locations.

After touring Warner-Robins AFB, Ga., and becoming acquainted with Combat Communications facilities, the trainees traveled to Atlanta to witness their civilian counterparts in action.

“Our first stop in Atlanta was to the Terminal Radar Approach Control Center,” said Lieutenant Backes. “The center controls air traffic into Atlanta, Macon, and Columbus, Ga., and they communicate with military aircraft when our pilots enter their airspace.”

The officer trainees learned that the challenges encountered on military airfields are similar to those civilian controllers see every day.

“The military provides a service to

• SEE STUDENTS PAGE 15



Chrissy Cuttita

Generating knowledge

Airman Basic Joshua Dawson, 372nd Training Squadron/ Detachment 4 mission ready airman (right), explains how to service an integrated drive generator to his instructor and fellow Airmen. The generator supplies electrical energy to F-15 Eagle aircraft. Trainees from class 2006069 graduated Thursday, and are now mission ready F-15 crew chiefs.

FEATURE

REPRESENTING WITH HONOR

1st Lt. Amanda Ferrell
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Sharp clicks echo each deliberate step. The first note of "Taps" slowly creeps from a bagpipe in the distance and six Airmen, stoically poised, carry the casket of a fellow comrade to its final resting place.

Tyndall Honor Guard members proudly accept the responsibility of conducting formal military ceremonies, which recognize and continue the tradition of reverence for fellow Airmen who have served, and continue to serve.

"My most memorable experience in the Honor Guard was a funeral ceremony my flight and I performed," said Airman 1st Class James Mitchell, 81st Range Control Squadron weapons director technician and Honor Guard member. "It was just like many of the other funerals we had performed together in the past, except the son of the man we buried was standing with his family proudly wearing his military uniform."

"It made the experience so much

more real and humbling," said the Airman. "I had the personal honor of giving (the man's son) three shells from the rounds we fired during his father's 21-gun-salute. It was a tremendous honor."

The significance of the Honor Guard is tremendous to the families and public audiences they perform for, and their impact is lasting. The reaction they receive from their audience is only one of the benefits being a part of the organization offers.

Members are offered a ceremonial uniform, free dry cleaning for the ceremonial uniform and two duty uniforms per week, and an Honor Guard coin presented after they complete training or perform at their first funeral ceremony.

"Members are also given the opportunity to travel throughout Tyndall Honor Guard's area of responsibility, which covers 11,546 square miles across Florida, Georgia and Alabama," said Tech. Sgt. Tobin Winebrenner, 325th Services Squadron Honor Guard flight commander.



1st Lt. Amanda Ferrell
Airman 1st Class Matthew Helton, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, is congratulated by the Honor Guard flight commander, Sergeant Winebrenner, during the graduation ceremony Aug. 18.

The benefits are enticing, but having what it takes to be a valuable member of the team is crucial.

"The Honor Guard is made up of

64 personnel from all units on Tyndall," said Sergeant Winebrenner. "They are in 20-plus different Air Force Specialty Codes and 90 percent of our members are ranks of senior airman and below."

The demographics of the team are diverse, but what every Honor Guard member has in common is clear.

"The Tyndall Honor Guard team

has unquestionable integrity, loyalty, trustworthiness and dependability," said the sergeant.

And that's exactly what draws motivated Airmen to the organization.

"After hearing a lot of positive comments pertaining to the Honor Guard and what it does for the community, I decided to take the time to volunteer," said Airman Rashaad Robinson, 325th Security Forces Squadron patrolman and one of the newest members of the team. "As an Honor Guard member, I am aware of the fact that we are held to a high standard. Our uniforms should be crisp, physical training is three times each week and training is second nature."

Training begins with an initial course covering uniform wear, ceremonial procedures and orientation to the Honor Guard schedule and "lifestyle." Senior Honor Guard members work closely with each new recruit to prepare them for the numerous ceremonies and details they will perform.

"The initial training class is designed to get members familiar with the most frequent Honor Guard requests," said Sergeant Winebrenner. "The class consists of more than 40 hours of proficiency training, which is continued during each Honor Guard (one month) rotation. At the beginning of each rotation, the flight's trainer will plan training for the week based on the requests we receive and the need for perfecting a particular performance."

The trainees must learn to perform many detailed movements, becoming proficient in a variety of ceremonies.

"During our initial training, we focused on funerals, retirement ceremonies, indoor colors, outdoor colors, and change of command ceremonies," said Airman Robinson.

Each performance has a specific set of movements and a definite order, and it's important to perfect each one, he said.

The Honor Guard provides an awesome learning experience, and as with any other high-profile duty, it requires discipline and patience, said Airman Mitchell.

Each member has a favorite ceremony to perform, and each for a different reason.

"The most fulfilling and honorable detail is giving a servicemember their last honors," said Airman Mitchell.

"I particularly like performing the retirement ceremony for the simple fact that it gives me a chance to give thanks to the men and women who have served in our military," said Airman Robinson.

Members can volunteer or be appointed by their squadron for Honor Guard duty.

"The typical contract is for 13 months," said Sergeant Winebrenner. "The first month is a training class, followed by 12 monthly rotations of performing details."

Whether members are appointed or volunteer, it doesn't take long for a strong sense of pride and camaraderie to set in.

"I am an Honor Guard volunteer," said Airman Mitchell. "I believe being on the Honor Guard is a very unique and distinguished position that affords me many opportunities."

The team gathers for group social events and many are close friends. The joy of being a part of the Honor Guard clearly transcends the experience of performing formal ceremonial details.

"I enjoy the fact that I am giving back to the community and meeting new people," said Airman Robinson.

"The Tyndall Honor Guard team has unquestionable integrity, loyalty, trustworthiness and dependability."

TECH. SGT. TOBIN WINEBRENNER
Tyndall Honor Guard flight commander



1st Lt. Amanda Ferrell
Airman 1st Class Michael Ward, 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron avionics technician and Honor Guard member, stands to recognize the graduates.



1st Lt. Amanda Ferrell
Chief Master Sgt. Mark Charles, right, 325th Communications Squadron chief enlisted manager, stands in position as the Honor Guard marches forward carrying a casket during practice. Chief Charles is an honorary Honor Guard member who will perform during funerals to honor fellow enlisted members.



1st Lt. Amanda Ferrell
During funerals, Honor Guard members fold the American flag using the traditional triangular fold. The team practices often because each fold must be precise.



Chrissy Cuttita
Col. Scott Davis, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander, salutes the flag as the colors are presented during the opening ceremonies of a military world championship softball tournament in August at Frank Brown Park in Panama City Beach.

Briefs

Personnel records go online

Air Force bases are beginning a two-year project to eliminate hard-copy Unit Personnel Record Groups from their respective military personnel flights. Tyndall AFB is scheduled to ship hardcopy UPRGs to the Air Force Personnel Center Nov. 6.

All records will be electronically scanned and available for viewing in the Automated Records Management System by Nov. 22. At that time, Airmen will have access to their own records by logging on to ARMS at the AFPC Secure Website. For more information, call military personnel flight customer service at 283-2276.

POW/MIA Recognition Day

At 3 p.m. Thursday, the National Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day Ceremony will start with a 24-hour vigil run at Flag Park.

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

POW/MIA luncheon

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

Heart Link

A Heart Link meeting is scheduled 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Enlisted Club Classics Lounge. Heart Link is an orientation about the Air Force mission and the services available for Air Force spouses. For more information or to make reservations, contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 283-4205.

Best Beginnings Class

The Airman and Family Readiness Center will host the Best Beginnings Class from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 15 in Bldg. 743. Infant and Child CPR will be offered afterward. When calling, request the CPR class in addition to Best Beginnings. The CPR class is free; however, it is limited to eight families.



Airman Glenn Moore

Lots o' deals

Capt. Dave Van Pelt, 325th Air Control Squadron intelligence officer, shops for items in the "bulk" aisle at the Commissary. The Commissary will have a case lot sale Sept. 15-17. Case lot sales offer shoppers the chance to buy bulk quantities of their favorite products at savings of up to 50 percent or more. For more information, call 283-4825 or go to www.commissaries.com.

For more information and to make reservations, call 283-4204.

Smooth Move Workshop

A workshop designed to ease the transition to your next duty station is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Representatives from finance, Tricare, legal and other base agencies will be available to offer their services. For more information or to make reservations, call 283-4204.

Troy University

Registration for Troy University Term 2 runs Monday through Oct. 6. Classes start Oct. 9 and end Dec. 17. Students may register with an advisor at any Troy University location or online by accessing Trojan WebExpress at www.troy.edu.

Degree programs, course listings and an admission application can be found online at fwr.troy.edu. For more information, call 283-4449.

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop has returned to regular operating hours of 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday – Friday. Consignments are accepted from I.D. card holders from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. The thrift shop will be open from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. For more information, call 286-5888.

Fee for intramural sports

The 325th Services Squadron will no longer receive appropriated funds for intramural sports programs here starting Oct. 1. Members will soon pay a fee to participate in the intramural program. For more information, call the Fitness Center at 283-2631.

Scrappin' Factory

The Arts and Crafts Center will host a scrapbooking class from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. For reservations, call 283-4511.

Tyndall Chapel Schedule

Catholic services

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

Protestant services

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

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



Rollin' along

Gary Hite practices for upcoming games in Tyndall's Raptor Lanes fifth-annual tournament. Hite finished 2nd place in the first game Sept. 2. Upcoming games are scheduled for Oct. 15, Nov. 12 and Dec. 16. Four men and two women having the highest cumulative pin count for 18 games will be selected for the base team.

Airman Glenn Moore

Pigskin Prognosticator's Picks

For NFL Week 1:

- Miami @ Pittsburgh
- Atlanta @ Carolina
- Baltimore @ Tampa Bay
- Buffalo @ New England
- Cincinnati @ Kansas City
- Denver @ St. Louis
- New Orleans @ Cleveland
- N.Y. Jets @ Tennessee
- Philadelphia @ Houston
- Seattle @ Detroit
- Chicago @ Green Bay
- Dallas @ Jacksonville
- San Francisco @ Arizona
- Indianapolis @ N.Y. Giants
- Minnesota @ Washington
- San Diego @ Oakland - 35

Intramural Sports Standings

Flag Football					
Team	W	L	Team	W	L
SFS	3	0	MDG	2	3
COMM	3	0	ACS	1	2
MXS	4	1	SVS	1	3
AMXS	3	1	601st 1	1	4
OSS	2	1	53rd WEG	0	2
CES	3	2	372 TRS	0	4
83 FWS	2	2			

Golf			
Team	Points	Team	Points
372nd TRS	78	MOS 1	52
CES	77.5	RHS	50
AFNORTH 1	71.5	TEST	48
MXS 1	70.5	OSS	38
AFCESA	69	MDG	35
COMM 1	68.5	SVS	32.5
MSS	66.5	ACS	26
53rd WEG	61.5	601 2	22
SFS	54.5	CONS	13.5
83rd FWS	52.5	MXS 2	10

Bowling					
Team	W	L	Team	W	L
AMXS 4	22	2	CONS	12	12
Test	20	4	CS 2	12	12
Phase 1	20	4	ISRD	10	14
AMXS 1	18	6	ACS 1	10	14
AMMO	18	6	SFS	10	14
CES	16	8	AMXS 2	8	16
ACS 2	16	8	DS2	8	16
MSS	14	10	AFNORTH 1	8	16
SVS	14	10	83 FWS 2	8	16
AFCESA 1	14	10	43rd AMU	8	16
RED HORSE	14	10	Phase 2	8	16
AFNORTH 3	14	10	83 FWS 1	6	18
MOS	14	10	325 MDG	6	18
372nd TRS	14	10	CS 1	4	20
AFCESA 2	12	12	Bye	0	24

Team High Game Scratch	83rd FWS 1	958
Team High Series Scratch	AMXS 1	2623
Team High Game Handicap	AMXS 4	1134
Team High Series Handicap	DS2	3340
High Male Game Scratch	Jon Tindell	274
High Male Series Scratch	Gary Hite	718
High Male Game Handicap	Chz Veno	263
High Male Series Handicap	Steve Smith	700
High Female Game Scratch	Rachel Petri-Rose	175
High Female Series Scratch	Chong Dodson	512
High Female Game Handicap	Melissa Seguin	232
High Female Series Handicap	Veronica Bailey	655

Opening week is here – bring it on

PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATOR

From the city on the Sound

It's here, it's here!

The kickoff for the NFL season is just like Christmas ... if Christmas involved 250-pound men in plastic armor smashing into each other like runaway trains. At any rate, my living room is decorated in my favorite team's colors, my No. 37 jersey is laid out and the Monday Night Football theme song echoes throughout the house.

As of press time, I still don't know who won the opening Pittsburgh vs. Miami game, but that's alright. The games that matter won't be played until Sunday.

I'm keeping an eye on the Jets vs. Titans game. Rookie Brad Smith, drafted by New York to play wide receiver, also stepped in as quarterback and running back in their preseason win over

Philadelphia. Talk about versatility. If Tennessee wants to win, the team will have to clear up their quarterback situation. Billy Volek, Kerry Collins or Vince Young – who's going to start on Sunday?

I checked around with some of Tyndall's pickers to see which games they would be watching during the opening week. Seth Foulkes, 325th CES picker, said he wants to see the Colts vs. Giants game. I can agree with him there. A Peyton Manning vs. Eli Manning match-up will be fun to watch.

However, Foulkes said he is also looking forward to the Steelers vs. Dolphins game. Apparently he is from Pittsburgh and has been a Steelers fan his whole life. This seems to cloud his prognosticator vision.

"Basically, I pick teams based on past performance," he said.

"Whether it's from the previous season or many years back, records give a lot of insight ... but the Steelers, regardless of records, get my pick."

Devon Blackwell, 325th CPTS picker, is similarly loyal to the Raiders.

"I grew up in L.A. watching the Raiders play," Blackwell said. "I'll never turn my back on the Raiders!"

While loyalty is admirable and can win over friends, it's not going to win the Super Prog trophy.

But, Blackwell is adamant that CPTS will bring home the coveted "Golden Football."

"We'll win by using our superior brain power," he said.

I hope that isn't the same "brain power" you used to pick Cincinnati to go to Super Bowl XLI.

Now, let's get out there and watch some football!

Positions open at Fitness Center

The Tyndall Fitness Center is hiring aerobics instructors and sporting officials. Applicants must be military or civilian employees from Tyndall, or military dependents.



For more information, contact the Fitness Center at 283-2631.

Exchange program brings worlds, missions together

CHRISSE CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

There's no better way to know your allies than to don their uniform and embed yourself into the equivalent of your job in their country. That's what seems to work for the 325th Air Control Squadron here, who continues to strengthen their mission by utilizing the Air Force Military Personnel Exchange Program.

While a foreign officer became a member of Tyndall's team, an Airman works on a Japanese air base.

Japanese Air Self Defense Force Capt. Kazunobu Akutsu is halfway through his two-year assignment here as a simulator instructor at the 325th ACS. The exchange officer takes his work and the Air Force mission very seriously.

"Of course, I can't deny I'm homesick, but this is my duty and I can overcome it," he said. "It's good for the students to have me here with them (every work day). I have a stronger responsibility now."

While Captain Akutsu is here, Air Force Maj. Charles Grahn has been instructing weapons controller students at the 5th Technical School in Komaki, Japan, as part of the exchange program since October 2004. The major, a graduate of the 325th ACS air battle manager course, was accepted for the exchange program which led to the assignment in Japan.

"The exchange program helps the Air Force mission because it increases both of the countries' understanding and ability to work with each

other," said Major Grahn, who volunteered for the professional challenge and the chance to learn the Japanese language. "The most rewarding part of this assignment for me professionally is seeing the JASDF going to bilateral and international exercises and using the skills I have taught."

According to Air Force International Affairs, this is the opportunity the exchange program is designed to offer. By embedding U.S. military personnel into foreign air forces, they help Airmen gain valuable understanding of how our international and coalition partners operate.

"Fifty years ago, who could have possibly imagined the incredibly tight military alliance that has formed between Japan and the U.S.," said Norm Her-

rin, 325th ACS instructional systems specialist who has sponsored numerous JASDF exchange officers over the

past decade. "To me, that friendship is the biggest ben-

• SEE EXCHANGE PAGE 18



Chrissy Cuttita

Captain Akutsu instructs 2nd Lt. Brad Dvorak, 325th Air Control Squadron air battle manager student, on a simulator here.

Course prepares acting first sergeants for demanding task

STAFF SGT. STACEY HAGA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The duty position of first sergeant has many stressors of its own, but what about those who fill in for the first sergeant when he's out of the office?

In addition to their current job, acting

first sergeants have all of the responsibilities of a first sergeant, without the official first sergeant training.

That is why the Acting First Sergeant Certification Course here, a three-day training program for those taking on this responsibility, was created.

"The course does not replace the First Sergeant Academy," said Master Sgt. John Ross, 325th Communications Squadron first sergeant. "It helps the senior NCOs and selects serve as a first sergeant when needed."

The certification course is for senior noncommissioned officers and senior NCO selects recommended by their first sergeants for acting first sergeant duties. It also provides training to NCOs acting as first sergeants in units that are too small to have one assigned.

"The course was set up by the first sergeants council and is adapted to meet the current needs of the wing," said Sergeant Ross.

The course is taught here quarterly by Tyndall's first sergeants and base agencies, such as Life Skills and Security Forces. Approximately, 80 NCOs are trained per year here.

Some of the topics covered in the three days are personnel issues, financial responsibilities, unfavorable information files and first sergeant response actions. The class members are also provided the opportunity to ask questions to a commanders' panel and first sergeants' panel. The last day of the course provides them a chance to put their new found

knowledge to the test with a role play scenario.

However, knowledge is not the only thing the acting first sergeants take away from the course. The acting first sergeants receive a first sergeants guide with a list of contacts for base agencies and first sergeants, a Uniform Code of Military Justice guide, a copy of the course slides and handouts from base agencies.

These guides can prove very valuable to them while performing first sergeant duties.

"The course sets them up for success," said Sergeant Ross. "We provide a network of support for them. This network is critical to their success."

"The slides were a good reference," said Senior Master Sgt. Wil Black, 325th CS support flight chief, who has been an acting first sergeant on numerous occasions. "However, the biggest help was the contacts. I knew where to go when I needed help."

"We are all here to help each other," said Sergeant Ross.

Sergeant Ross also said the duties of a first sergeant or active first sergeant can be very rewarding.

"If I am helping someone, it's a great thing," he said.



Chrissy Cuttita

Master Sgts Dennis Robison and Elisabeth Reid role play a domestic violence scenario as their peers evaluate conflict resolution techniques taught in the Acting First Sergeant Certification course.

• FROM STUDENTS PAGE 9

its customers, who are pilots, just as the civilian sector does. We operate under the same federal jurisdictions with the main differences being the volume of aircraft we control,” said Lieutenant Jesse.

Students were able to better understand their civilian counterparts’ duty as air traffic controllers and airfield managers after visiting the facilities and speaking with the professionals themselves.

“Visiting the Atlanta (air traffic control facilities) gave great insight into the interactions between military and civilian control centers, as well as offered a view of the Federal Aviation Administration’s equipment and control methods,” said 2nd Lt. Nathan Coyle, 325th OSS airfield operations officer trainee. “Military air traffic control members are in constant communication and interaction with civilian controllers. We work together to safely and expeditiously move civilian and military aircraft to their destinations.”

Lieutenant Coyle said that the opportunity helped him realize “the significant influence members of our career field may have on the National Airspace System, specifically those working as Air Force representatives to the FAA.”

The trainees broadened their knowledge of air traffic control, and gained new perspective.

“I have a whole new level of respect for what our civilian counterparts do on a daily basis,” said Lieutenant Jesse.

Associate Spotlight

Second Lt. Eric Cagurangan



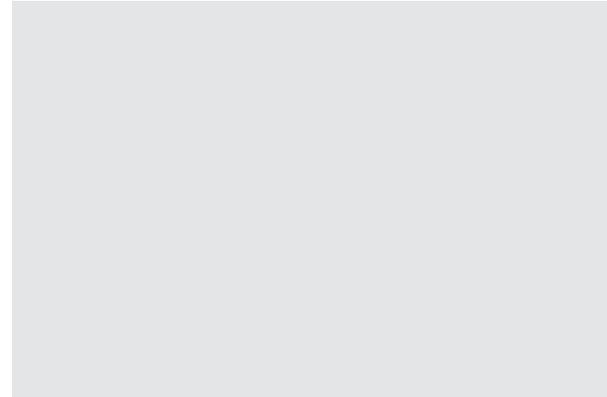
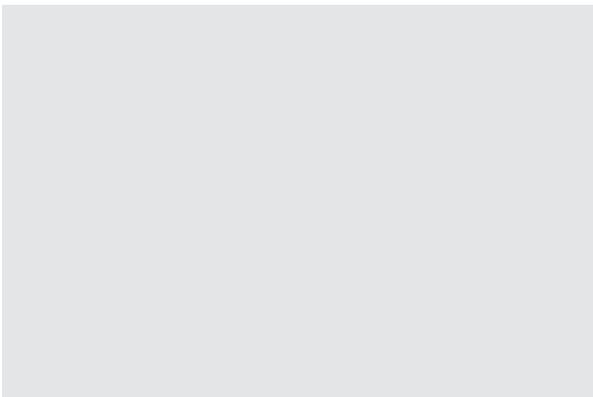
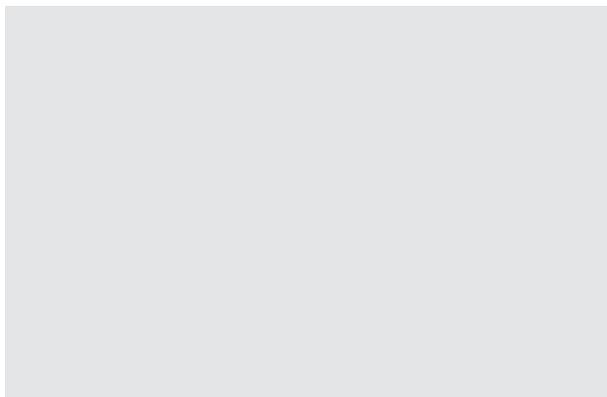
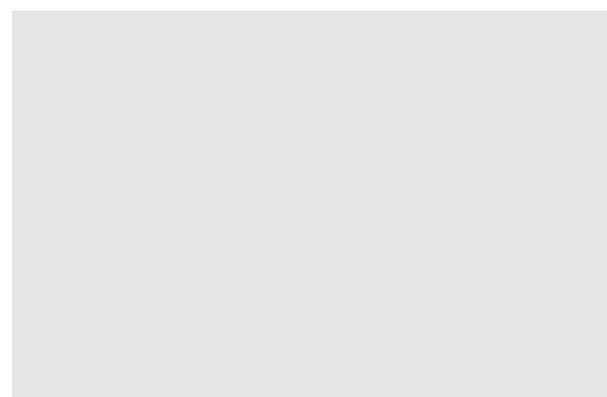
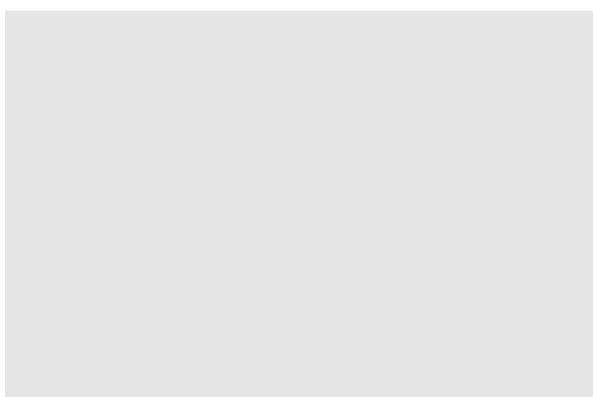
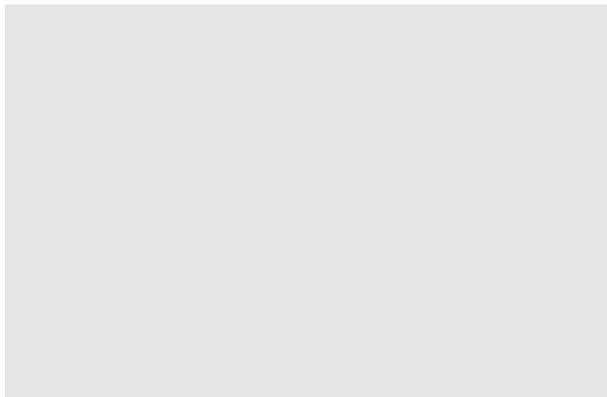
Chrissy Cuffita

Lieutenant Cagurangan receives the Associate Spotlight from Lt. Col. Collin Smith, 28th Test Squadron/Detachment 2 commander.

Lieutenant Cagurangan executed 24 F-16 ground test missions, saving the Air Force \$609,000 and 71 aircraft sorties. He also added valuable electronic attack threat information to the Air Force Weapons School course syllabus. He also volunteered more than 40 hours in the community with Habitat for Humanity and the Salvation Army.

- Duty title:** F-16 flight test engineer
- Time on Station:** Eleven months
- Time in Service:** Eleven months
- Hometown:** Atwater, Calif.
- Hobbies:** Tennis, reading and running
- Favorite book:** “Dune” by Frank Herbert
- Favorite movie:** “The Matrix”
- Favorite thing about Tyndall:** The solidarity of those in my unit.
- Pet Peeve:** Local traffic
- Proudest moment in the military:** Earning a commission and becoming an Air Force officer.

The Associate Spotlight is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize a Warrior from one of Tyndall’s tenant units. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate from the wing commander and other items presented by their unit.





Funshine NEWS

www.325thservices.com ☆ Look for the new Funshine Review brochure inserted into the Gulf Defender the first of every month. ☆

NEW
Aerobics Program
 at your Tyndall Fitness Center



In order to provide you with a variety of classes, a small fee will be charged effective Oct 1.

283-2631



Tyndall AFB Sand Dollar Inn

Got Bed?

For reservations call:
283-4211

Call now to book your rooms for this holiday season:

AIR FORCE INNS

Thanksgiving: Nov 22 - 26
 Christmas & New Years: Dec 15 - Jan 6




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

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

Rank/Name _____
 Unit/Office Symbol _____
 Duty Phone _____
 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:

Fuel safety: pay attention at the pump

STAFF SGT. STACEY HAGA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

In June, a car burst into flames destroying 10 other vehicles at the Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., hospital. What happened? Was it a bomb?

No, the owner of the vehicle had two five-gallon containers of gasoline in the trunk.

“The Ft. Leonard Wood Fire Department suspects the fire most likely started when an electrical spark from the tail or brake light ignited fumes that accumulated in the hot enclosed trunk,” said Mike Myers, Army and Air Force Exchange Service health and safety manager. “It was a miracle no one was fatally injured.”

This incident has sparked AAFES to re-emphasize the safety precautions everyone should practice when handling gasoline, whether they are storing or pumping it.

“Most everyone handles, stores or uses gasoline nearly everyday without giving thought as to how dangerous it is,” said Ken Jolley,

325th Fighter Wing ground safety manager and chief of occupational safety. “Gasoline can be dangerous if it’s not treated with respect.”

The American Petroleum Institute recommends the following precautions for storing and transporting gasoline:

- Store gas at room temperature and away from potential heat sources such as the sun.
- Handle gasoline outdoors, or in ventilated areas.

Mr. Myers also recommends keeping gasoline containers tightly closed and not storing them in a vehicle’s trunk for a prolonged period of time.

“Gasoline and other fuels are extremely dangerous and we must exercise great care when using, transporting or storing them,” he said.

Another hazard at the pump is static electricity.

- Turn off any auxiliary sources of ignition such as cell phones.
- Do not smoke, light matches or lighters at the pump or when

handling gasoline.

• When dispensing gasoline into a container, use only approved portable containers. Place them on the ground to avoid a possible static electricity ignition of fuel vapors. Never fill containers inside a vehicle or its trunk, the bed of a pickup truck or the floor of a trailer.

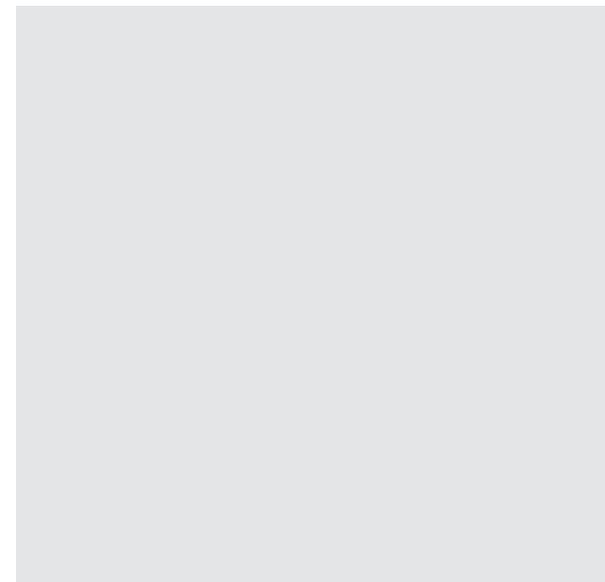
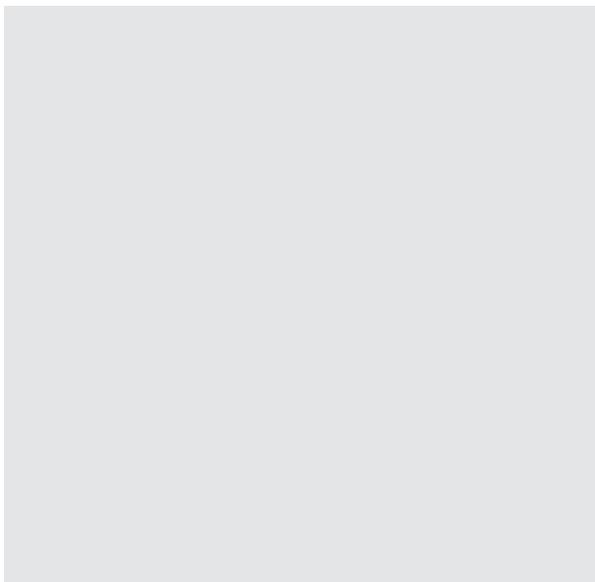
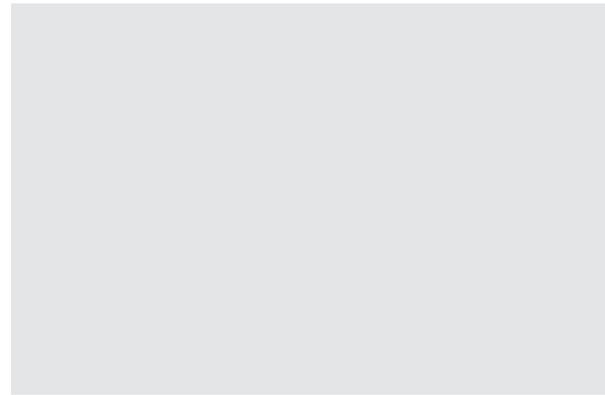
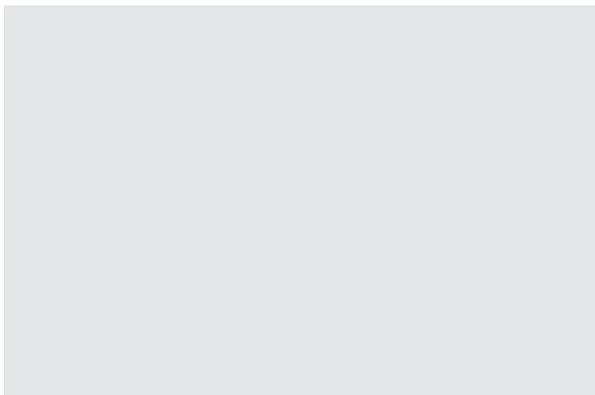
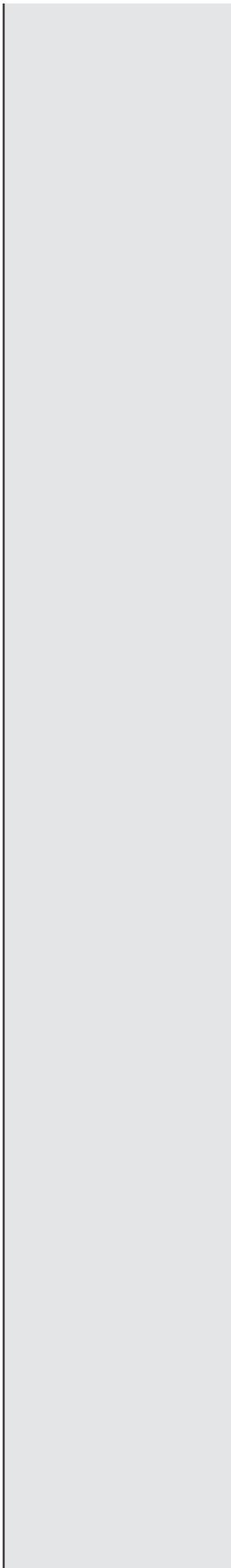
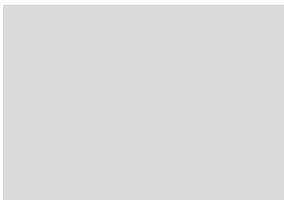
• When filling a portable container, manually control the nozzle valve throughout the filling process.

• Fill a container no more than 95 percent full to allow for expansion.

Many efforts are made at the 269 AAFES gas stations worldwide to provide gas to customers in a safe manner. It is up to the approximate 11.6 million customers to treat gasoline with respect and heed all warnings posted at the pump.

“Gasoline and respect, we all need to have both,” said Mr. Jolley.

(Information from an AAFES news release was used in this article.)



• FROM EXCHANGE PAGE 14

efit for the young people in uniform on both sides of the globe.”

The squadron here is not an unfamiliar place for the weapons controller born in Tokyo. Captain Akutsu spent a few weeks with the 325th ACS as an international student studying here in 2003. In fact, his squadron commander at his military station, Naha, was an instructor here in 1993 and recommended the captain take the exchange instructor position because of his knowledge in tactical interception.

Captain Akutsu's squadron in Japan has experience working with Americans. His squadron works side-by-side with Airmen at Kadena Air Base on a daily basis, and they have participated in exercises like Cope Thunder together.

While Major Grahn went to Kichijoji Language School, near Tokyo, to learn Japanese before starting his job in Japan, Captain Akutsu “hit the ground running” as soon as he arrived here.

The Japanese officer learned English in school and through work, but language is still a challenge for the officer with seven years of military experience. Luckily, ABMs and command and control

center personnel have their own operating language called “brevity words.”

Captain Akutsu can attest that the words ABM students here struggle to memorize are valuable during daily air operations.

Similar to American ABMs, JASDF weapons controllers are the “eyes” in the sky over their country.

He has handled the real-world task of scrambling to determine who the “dot” is on the radar screen, which is a task he simulates for ABM students here on their scopes.

At his home base, he's also had to coordinate information with control centers at Kadena AB to determine if aircraft over southwest Japan were friendly or foe.

“We use English (in Japan) because it is easy to convey in a short time,” said Captain Akutsu.

ABM classes 06011 and 06015 have already recognized their Japanese ally as one of the best simulator instructors here.

Though from different countries, Captain Akutsu's students have similar professional backgrounds.

The captain entered the National Defense Academy in Japan and studied ground, maritime and air defense for four years. During his second year, he picked JASDF as his choice of national service. Upon completion of the six-month officer candidate school, he was assigned as a weapons controller.

“It's very important to manage air campaigns and also the entire flying organization including maintenance,” said Captain Akutsu. “International work is difficult. I must accept the culture and it takes time to acclimate.”

He has had to adjust to the more advanced and sophisticated avionics technology of the U.S. Air Force, and adapt to the local Panama City culture. However, his coworkers welcome him as “a brother in arms,” and he enjoys the beaches like the rest of Tyndall's personnel. He has visited three other Air Force bases in his career, and enjoyed touring Washington D.C. Captain Akutsu also keeps in touch with six of his fellow Japanese officers (from various professional backgrounds) who are serving at other Air Force bases through the exchange program.

Both officers believe this program will

benefit their military careers.

“My experience working with the Japanese military would be a great help if I were to enter into the new international affairs officer career field (the former FAO program) or if I got an assignment where I would be working with the JASDF or Japanese officials in the future,” said Major Grahn.



Courtesy Photo

Scopes are used by ABM students to view air traffic.

Voluntary Assignments Applications put on hold

Due to the delay in the Program Budget Decision 720 authorization reductions, the Air Force has further delayed the temporary suspension of the Voluntary Assignment Applications consideration further from Aug. 20 until approximately Sept. 30.

This includes base of preference, voluntary stabilized base assignment program and follow-on/home-basing, join spouse, CONUS isolated and permissive assignments requests.

Airmen may continue to apply and Military Personnel Fights will update MilPDS to reflect application pending status; however, consideration of the application will not occur until after Sept. 30 as manning projections could change

significantly based on authorization reductions.

Short notice follow-on/home-basing requests, oversees returnee with a report no later than date within 60 days, and first-term Airmen base of preference requests with a projected re-enlistment within 60 days will be worked on a case-by-case basis.

These requests should be sent via e-mail to the appropriate Air Force Personnel Center assignment noncommissioned officer.

Additional information will be posted on the AFPC assignments Web page and provided to the Air Force Contact Center.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Noel Lorenzo at 283-8368 or e-mail AFPC at afpc.dpaas3@randolph.af.mil.



For current information about Air Force pay, benefits, jobs and more, visit:
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