



GULF DEFENDER



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

Dec. 1, 2006

In Brief

Chapel 1 rededication

All Tyndall personnel are invited to the rededication of Chapel 1 at 3:30 p.m. today. The historic chapel recently reopened after months of renovation.

Heart Link

The next Heart Link is 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. today 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.

Temporary library hours

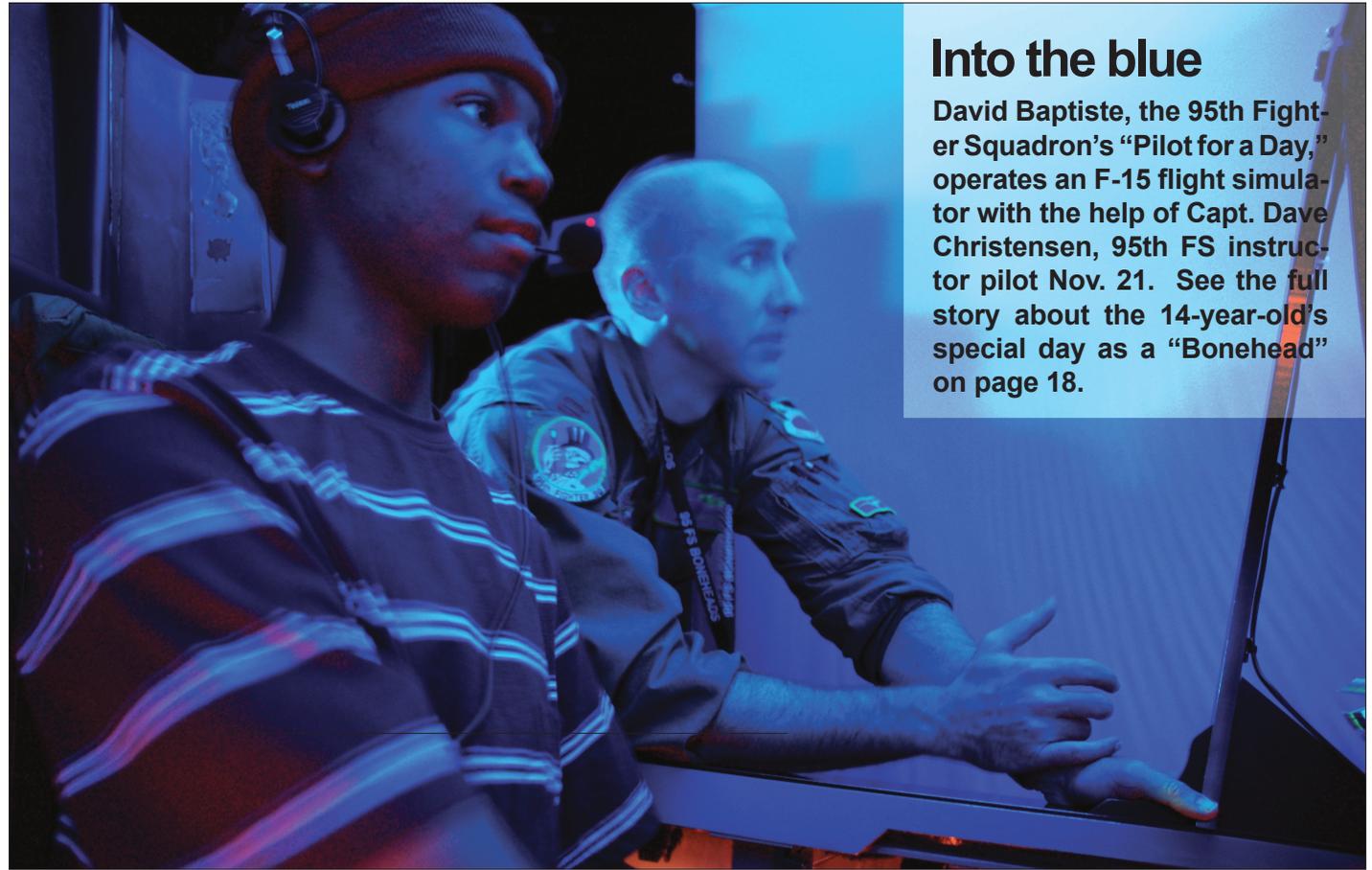
Tyndall's library will change its operating hours temporarily starting Tuesday. They will be closed Mondays, Thursdays and holidays. Hours of operation are: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.

Inside

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Military care package ideas ... **PAGE 14**



Into the blue

David Baptiste, the 95th Fighter Squadron's "Pilot for a Day," operates an F-15 flight simulator with the help of Capt. Dave Christensen, 95th FS instructor pilot Nov. 21. See the full story about the 14-year-old's special day as a "Bonehead" on page 18.

Tech. Sgt. Edward Gyokeres

Base welcomes 19th Air Force commander

STAFF SGT. STACEY HAGA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Irving Halter, 19th Air Force commander, and his wife, Judy Halter, were greeted by Team Tyndall here while on their orientation visit Nov. 14-17.

While here, General Halter visited the 2nd Fighter Squadron, 43rd FS and 325th Air Control Squadron, among other facilities. Mrs. Halter visited the 325th Medical Group, Child Development Center, Youth Center, Natural Resources and the Combat Arms Training Range.

After visiting Sheppard AFB, General Halter chose to visit Tyndall, because it is one of the largest bases in his command and has an advanced training program.

General Halter described Tyndall's training mission as one of the most advanced with the F-22 training pro-

gram and Air Battle Manager training. He commended Tyndall on keeping a strong training program while supporting the Global War on Terror.

"I have an appreciation of both the personal and professional sacrifices people make to be deployed," said General Halter. "Over the course of a year, this base has more than 400 people deploy down range and that is a concurrent responsibility along with training to send people to the fight."

General Halter and his wife have experienced deployments, and they want to make deployments as easy as possible on families.

"We know what it is like to be separated and off on long deployments. We certainly look for signs that families are being well taken care of and that they are prepared for these deployments,"

he said. "Deployments are not going to go away. This is something we will do for awhile."

In regards to deployments and all aspects of military life, General Halter offered advice to young Airmen.

"Focus on the big things and your job. The best thing you can do is come to work ready to do your job," said General Halter. "Have a good attitude and work as hard as you can. If you do, whether you stay for a short time or a lifetime, you are going to do well because the Air Force rewards people who work hard and do good work."

General Halter also said it was great visiting Tyndall.

"General Wolters and his team are doing a great job," said General Halter. "You can tell everyone here has a good attitude and are working together."



Isaac Gibson

'Gen'eros helping

Brig. Gen. Tod Wolters, center, 325th Fighter Wing commander, gives Staff Sgt. Curtis Moore, left, a break while carving the turkey for the Thanksgiving meal held Nov. 24 at the Berg-Liles Dining Facility. Approximately 146 dormitory residents, shift workers, active-duty and retired military members and their families were served.

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. Dan Albin, 325th Services Squadron, correctly guessed the "Identify This" for Nov. 17 as a coin slot. **Congratulations! Come claim your prize.**

ON THE STREET

What was your most memorable deployment experience?



"At Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, I remember diving into a bunker shortly after a suspected break in the no-fly zone in 2002."

STAFF SGT. LINELL MCKISSICK
325th Communication Squadron



"While deployed to Tyndall in 2004, I ended up talking to Donald Rumsfeld during routine conference calls."

LT. COL. MICHAEL HARE
1st Air Force/Air Forces Northern



"During my deployment to Baghdad, I remember too many mortars and rockets in the air while I was traveling in an aircraft."

STAFF SGT. JAMES MCBRIDE
325th Communication Squadron



"My most memorable moment was meeting Laura Bush overseas while we were securing their house."

TECH. SGT. MIKE MELLEN
325th Security Forces Squadron

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Chrissy Cuttita.....chief, internal information
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Airman Glenn Moore.....staff writer

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Armed with a smile: Making a difference without words

CAPT. KAREN KRAMER
325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

Recently, I was embedded with an Army Civil Affairs unit in Afghanistan for six months. When I arrived at the base, the orientation briefing I received my first week at work was filled with ideas of how I could make a difference with virtually no resources whatsoever.

I thought to myself, "Yeah! This type of work is right up my alley!"

I love meeting new people in faraway lands, absorbing their culture, getting a taste of their lifestyle and seeing firsthand what their daily lives entail.

I received orders to go to the city of Kabul, meet Afghans in the health community and make some kind of positive impact without any resources. This was not an easy task to say the least. I knew

my deployment would be a challenge, but it became evident that it would become my greatest challenge since my commission as a Public Health Officer.

Because of the potential threat to our personal safety, we were required to carry weapons with us everywhere we went. To the military's way of thinking, it was a show of force to the 'bad guys with bad intentions,' so we were never without protection.

On one particular day, I was traveling to the Ministry of Public Health located next to the American Embassy, not too far from my assigned compound to meet with one of the top advisors within the Ministry. Much to my surprise, the short meeting went very well, considering no one spoke a common language. I attribute the success of this meeting to

one simple thing: a smile.

Before entering the meeting, I deftly concealed my weapon and armed myself with the brightest smile I could muster knowing I was going to enter a frightening and unstable environment. I extended my hand in friendship to accompany my smile as I received a warm but hesitant response.

The importance of my whole deployment was revealed to me in that very moment.

My first impression to the host nation was made with a smile, not a word. In my heart, I knew my smile carried an important message. My confidence level increased as I observed the contagious nature of my actions. I realized I had a priceless weapon that did not cost a dime, was not lethal, yet carried

an enormous amount of weight, and even more importantly, provided its own 'show of force.'

The rest of my deployment followed suit. When I found myself in a situation where there was a language barrier, or if the people I was treating seemed apprehensive or somewhat afraid (especially with the Afghan children I had the opportunity to meet), I would muster up a big smile and look them square in the eyes. It's absolutely remarkable that a smile truly speaks an international language.

So, is there a lesson to be learned here? Yes! Even in a combat zone, a simple smile can become a secret weapon – one of hope, one of friendship, and one that can build bridges to peace.

Sergeant's tough family love made "core values" seem easy

MASTER SGT. BRAD COON
325th Civil Engineer Squadron first sergeant

Where does time go?

It seems like only yesterday I was a little boy playing in the front yard of my house in Wichita, Kan., watching B-52s fly overhead.

At the time, I had no idea what kind of plane it was, but there was no doubt in my mind that I would work on airplanes one day and make a good living doing it. I have now surpassed 19 years in support of our nation and will soon be eligible to retire. I can tell you this ... I am living my childhood dream.

All of the successes I have had in my life and in my career will be forever linked to my upbringing.

When I was a child, I did not fully understand why my mother and father did the things they did.

I was like most children and thought I knew more than they did and could do a lot better in deciding what was best for me.

To this day, my parents remind me that I don't know as much as I think I do ... my parents have never quit guiding me. Long before I was in the Air Force and long before I knew the service's "Core Values," my parents enforced their own set of values. They are: image, integrity and accountability. These are what I call the "Coon Values." I have adopted the Core Values into my everyday life, but my "Coon Values" are what I still rely on to guide and ground me.

Integrity and character: Integrity and character are what most people remember the most after initial contact. For whatever reason, some fail to identify with this and then wonder why they fail to advance in their

career or life. My parents put it like this: If you cheat, steal or lie, then no one will trust you. Sounds kind of harsh, but think about it. Would you trust anyone who was a cheater, thief or liar? I bet not!

I was a typical kid and tried to get away with all three. Each and every time I was caught, and my dad made sure I understood his position on these issues. You only have one opportunity to make a first impression, so don't let your first chance be the last.

Image: The one thing my father would not allow was for me or my brothers to disgrace our last name. As an Airman, I look at the Air Force name I represent with respect. Time Magazine has twice named the American Soldier the Person of the Year, once in 1950, and again in 2003.

The public may not support our political leaders,

• SEE VALUES PAGE 4

Action Line

Call 283-2255



BRIG. GEN. 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 VALUES PAGE 3

but make no mistake, they support the military. So why must we continue to snub the support?

Every "GI" has something that identifies them to the local community as a military member. It may be a hair cut, Department of Defense sticker on the car windshield, an out of state license plate or the uniform we wear.

Running red lights, throwing trash out of car windows and weaving in and out of traffic are a few examples of behavior that will bring attention to you. Couple that with the above-mentioned items and watch how quickly the image of our Air Force and your name can be tarnished.

Accountability: Simply put, if you make a mistake, own up to it. No one has ever been raked over the coals for making an honest mistake. What gets people in hot water is not telling

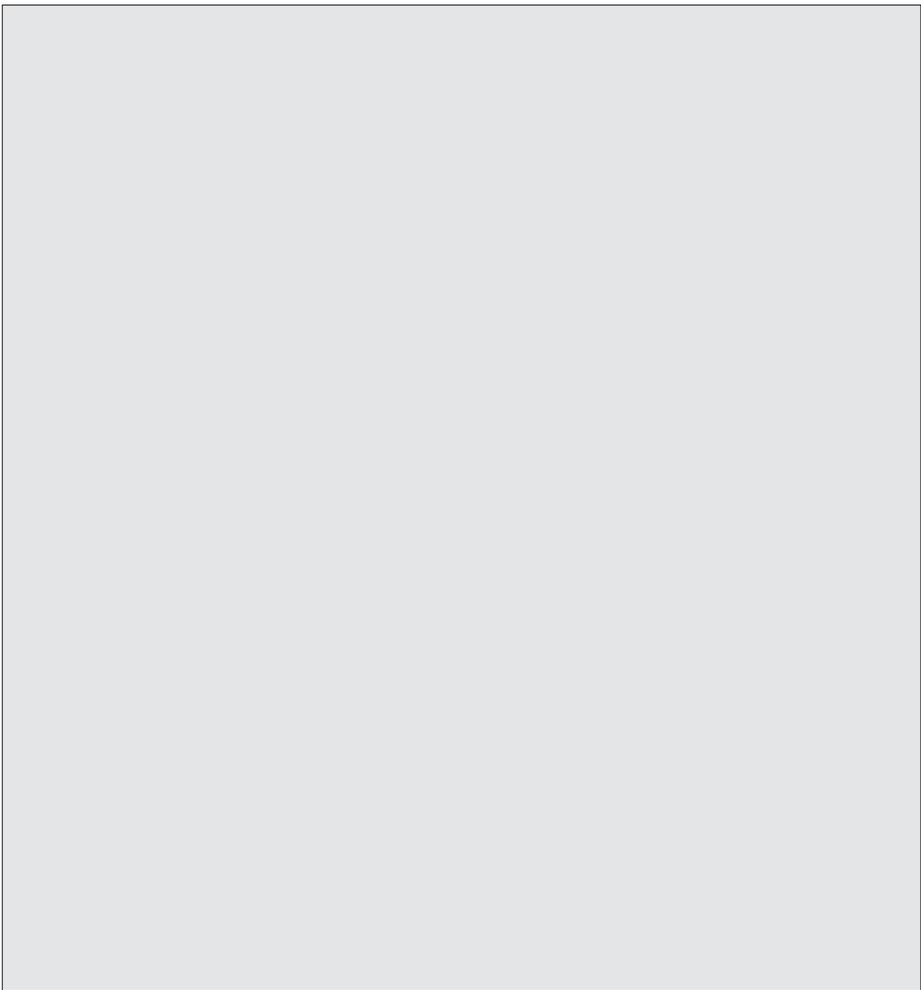
the truth. If there was a failure or success in the integrity or image area. I would be reminded for every action comes an equal or opposite reaction.

Some find it easier to blame others for their failures, but they take full credit for the success. This mind-set needs to be reversed. Own up to failures and press on.

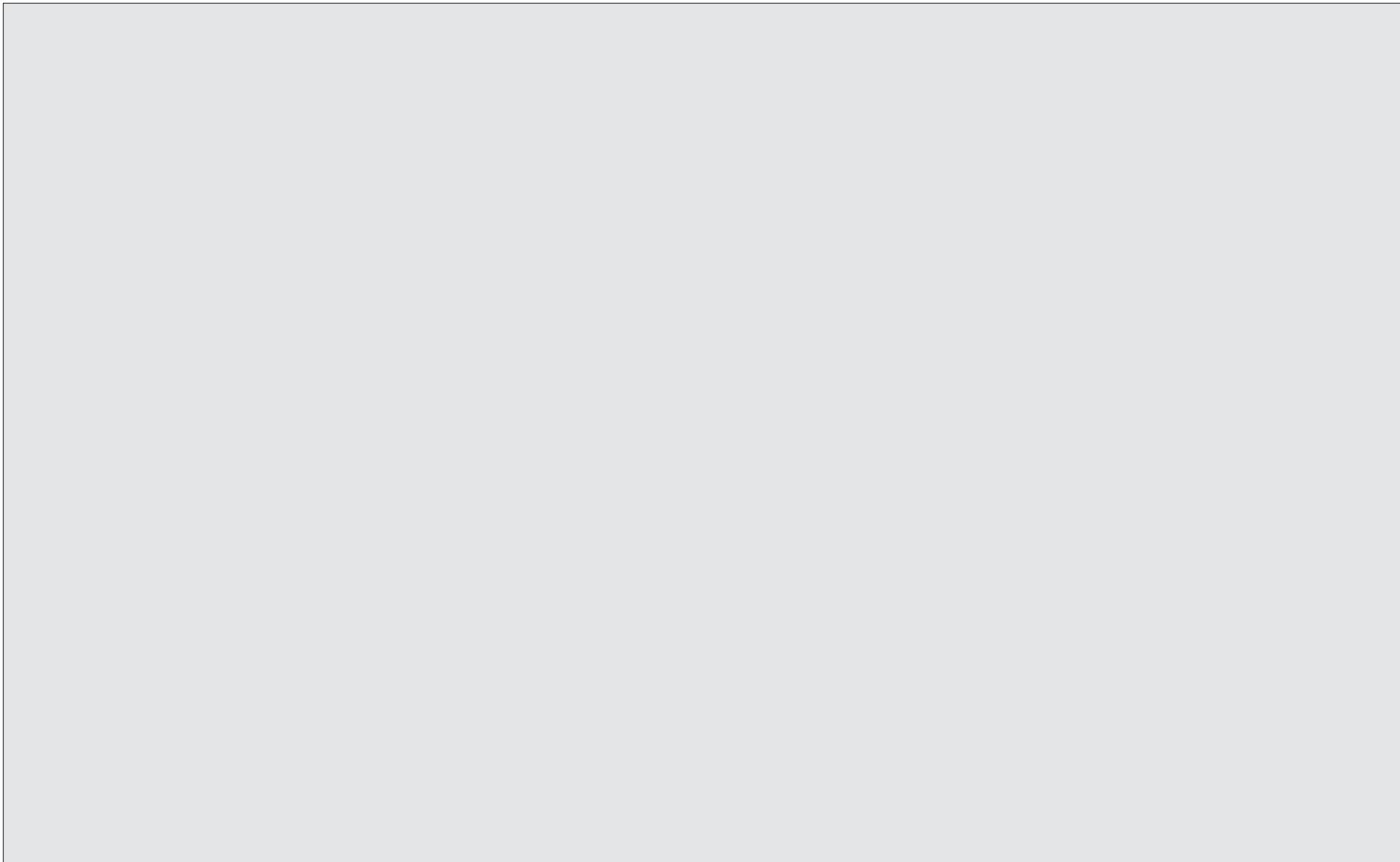
"Coon Values" made me what I am today, and I do not feel I could be living my dream without the tough love from my parents.

As the end of my career approaches, I can not help but wonder where I would have been if not for the love and support of my parents. It is difficult for me to not reference my career without mentioning my upbringing.

Living and serving my country are the two things I have ever done the longest and God willing, I will continue to do both for many more years.



OPSEC -
WHEN IN DOUBT, TALK IT OUT WITH
YOUR SECURITY MANAGER.



Two Tyndall Airmen sentenced in courts martial for cocaine use

CAPT. EZRA GLANZER
Base Legal Office

Two Airmen assigned here pled guilty to violating Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice before a military judge and admitted to using cocaine in June, although their cases were unrelated.

Senior Airman William Coe, 325th Maintenance Squadron, was convicted of one specification of wrongful use of cocaine Oct. 17 in a special court-martial held here. Nov. 7, Staff Sgt. Jason Borrero, 325th Contracting Squadron, was convicted in a court martial of the same offense.

“Although these sentences look a lot different, military judges look at more

than just the charges against Airmen,” said Capt. Rosemary Gilliam, Base Legal Office assistant staff judge advocate. “They consider all the evidence in making a sentencing determination, as opposed to using a ‘cookie cutter’ approach. These Airmen’s convictions show that the random urinalysis program makes it difficult to get away with illegal drug use in the Air Force.”

After testing positive in a random urinalysis test, Airman Coe admitted to snorting one line of cocaine with a girl he had met in Panama City. After reviewing documentary evidence and hearing arguments from both the government and the

defense counsel, the judge returned a sentence of one month confinement, reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$849 per month for one month, a fine of \$250, and to serve three months additional confinement if the fine is not paid, and a reprimand.

The former Staff Sergeant also tested positive in a random urinalysis test and admitted buying three and one-half grams of cocaine from a dealer in Panama City, then snorting it.

After reviewing documentary evidence, hearing from a witness and hearing arguments from the government and defense counsel, the military judge in Sergeant Borrero’s case returned a sentence of

two months confinement, a bad-conduct discharge, forfeiture of two-thirds pay for two months and reduction to E-3.

This year, there have been 344 convictions in the Air Force for drug use, to include 89 convictions in Air Education and Training Command and seven convictions at Tyndall.

These numbers illustrate the effectiveness of the Air Force urinalysis program and the fact that wrongful drug use will not be tolerated in the military. Airman Coe and Sergeant Borrero were the sixth and seventh individuals at Tyndall to be convicted and sentenced to jail based on a positive urinalysis test this year.

Tyndall lease signing

Base residents’ lease signing for housing will be Dec. 11 – 15 at the Education Center, building 1230. The housing office has a time and date schedule based on street names. This schedule will be posted in next week’s *Gulf Defender*.

Residents need to bring a copy of the servicemember’s most recent Leave and Earning Statement. For more information contact the GMH Community Management Office at 286-1700.

ADAPT: Catch a buzz, catch a ride

An information booth will be set up at the Base Exchange Dec. 7 and 13 to remind everyone to always designate a sober driver before each party or event involving alcohol this holiday season.

“The holiday season is supposed to be a time for family, friends, and festive celebrations, but it is unfortunately also a time when we see a tragic jump in the number of alcohol-related highway fatalities each year between Thanksgiving and New Year’s” said Staff Sgt. Ruth Basil, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program NCO in charge. “That’s why we are out early reminding everyone this holiday season, if you catch a buzz, catch a ride.”

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, approximately three in every ten Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their lives. Impaired driving is one of America’s deadliest crimes. Every 30 minutes, nearly 50 times a day, someone in America dies in an

alcohol-related crash. Hundreds of thousands more are injured each year.

According to 325th Security Forces Squadron twenty Driving Under the Influence charges have been handled by Tyndall so far this year. Twelve of those drivers were military. The numbers are almost half the 2004 and 2005 totals.

“Designating a sober driver before the party begins is just one of several, simple steps to remember to help avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving,” said Sergeant Basil.

Tyndall’s Airmen Against Drunk Driving program already provided 274 safe rides to military members this year. All calls

to the hotline, (850) 867-0220, are kept confidential and anonymous

ADAPT also provides the following simple reminders for a safe holiday season:

- Don’t even think about getting behind the wheel of your vehicle if you’ve been drinking alcohol.
- If you are impaired, call a taxi, get a sober friend

• SEE ADAPT PAGE 17

Do not drink and drive. If you do drink...

Be Smart

0 To avoid alcohol-related incidents...

1 limit yourself to one drink an hour...

3 and no more than three drinks max!

Air Force News Agency

SEADS ends operations, becomes AOC



Mike Strickler

Colonel David Kriner, left, the 601st Air Operations Center commander, flips the ceremonial switch with Maj. Gen. Hank Morrow, right, 1st Air Force commander, and Master Sgt. Judy Butler-McGuire and Tech. Sgt. James Middleton. The ceremony marked the closure of operations and its continued transition to the 601st Air Operations Center.

MIKE STRICKLER
AFNORTH Public Affairs

After more than 37 years of monitoring America's airways, the flip of a ceremonial switch Friday marked the close of operations here for the Southeast Air Defense Sector.

More than 100 members of the tight-knit SEADS family looked on as Continental U.S. Northeast Air Defense Sector Region leaders marked the passing of the SEADS mission while celebrating its impending transformation to the 601st Air Operations Center.

"It's an emotional and historic event," said Colonel David Kriner, former SEADS, and now 601 AOC, commander. "As we are now actively re-rolling this mission, closing one chapter and opening another in supporting this war-fighting headquarters as an AOC."

SEADS has been responsible for air defense of the southeastern United States began since April 1982, following its transfer

• SEE SEADS PAGE 17

Checkertail Salute

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Taggart



Airman Glenn Moore

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

Sergeant Taggart, 325th Maintenance Group, received the award as a result of his 100 percent flight line evaluation pass rate. Staff Sgt. Taggart also propelled the 95th Aircraft Maintenance Unit to an overall win in a wing weapons load competition with a "perfect" load.

Duty title: Weapons load crew chief
Hometown: Martinsburg, W. Va.
Time on station: Eight months
Time in service: Four years, nine months
Hobbies: Fishing and hanging out with my friends
Goals: Make technical sergeant first time I test and finish my Community College of the Air Force degree
Favorite thing about Tyndall AFB: Beaches and fishing
Favorite movie: "Dazed and Confused"

Proudest moment in the military: Winning my first weapons load competition

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.

Checkertail Salute

Staff Sgt. Joey Bryson



Airman Glenn Moore

Sergeant Bryson receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Tod Wolters, 325th Fighter Wing commander, Nov. 21.

Sergeant Bryson, 325th Mission Support Group, received the award as a result of his logistics processing while deployed to Balad AB, Iraq from January to May. Sergeant Bryson also attended a three-day NCO Enhancement Seminar, which helped him develop supervisory skills.

Duty title: Deployment support
 NCO in charge
Hometown: Klamath Falls, Ore.
Time on station: Three years, three months
Time in service: Twelve years
Hobbies: Scuba diving, fishing, hunting and camping
Goals: Earn my Bachelor's degree and make technical sergeant
Favorite thing about Tyndall AFB: Working with a great team
Favorite movie: "Broken Arrow"
Proudest moment in the military: Joining the Air Force and making staff sergeant

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.

Training Spotlight



What was the most challenging thing to learn in technical school?

“Safety wiring in the tight spots around the F-15 Eagle.”

AIRMAN COLLIN URBANOWICZ
372nd Training Squadron/Detachment 4
Mission Ready Airman

Congratulations to Mission Ready Airmen graduates of Classes 2007-005, 2007-006 and 2007-007 from the 372nd Training Squadron/Detachment 4!



Class act

Senior Airman Jessica Hensley reviews the Air Force core values during the enlisted force structure class taught in Airmen Leadership School here. The class is designed to stimulate conversation between the instructor and students on the importance of the values in a supervisory role.



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

ABM students reach new training “heights”

TECH. SGT. EDWARD GYOKERES
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Nine members of Air Battle Manager class 07-006 departed direct from their classrooms Nov. 16 for a top-to-bottom guided tour of the radar approach and control center and air traffic control tower facilities at the 325th Operations Support Squadron.

The tour is a part of the training program for all ABM students, said Capt. Mike Boynton, 325th Air Control Squadron training flight commander and ABM instructor. The mission of an ABM working in an E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System shares a lot of similarities with the RAPCON controllers working at airports around the world. Captain Boynton explained that by showing the ways the RAPCON and tower facilities perform their daily operations, the students will be able to work more smoothly with controllers in the future.

During the two-hour tour, students visited the “highest” office on base, the control tower, saw the dimly lit RAPCON control center and the multi-million dollar virtual reality ATC simulator being run through its paces.

“I found it to be very helpful to see the way they work here,” said 1st Lt. Renee Powell, 325th ACS ABM student. “It gives us a unique perspective on how things get handled on the ground, versus in the air like we are learning.”

The differences between ABMs and RAPCON controllers are considerable, but they share many of the same tasks when it comes to controlling airspace - whether it is tracking airliners over the continental U.S. or patrolling the skies over South Korea, said Captain Boynton.

However, there is a fundamental difference in the missions of the two careers. Air traffic controllers do everything in their power to safely pass aircraft through the airspace over Tyndall. Basically, they do this by making sure two objects never occupy the same space at the same time.

ABMs are taught to do the opposite. They are trained to direct U.S. and Coalition warplanes to intercept courses against unknown or enemy aircraft. If the aircraft are hostile and ABMs succeed, the preferred result is a collision between enemy aircraft and our missiles.



Tech. Sgt. Edward Gyokeres

Airman Meagen Shank, 325th Operations Support Squadron air traffic control apprentice, right, explains tower operations to Air Battle Manager students, left to right, 1st Lt. Rene Powell, Capt. Mike Boynton and 1st. Lt. Darin Romain.

“The RAPCON’s job is to separate planes. Ours is to bring them together,” said 1st Lt. Jon Quinlan, ABM student, about the differences between ABM and RAPCON missions.

Knowing exactly how this is done is an important part of ABM training at Tyndall. For this reason, it is likely the staff of the 325th OSS will continue to explain their mission to many more students.





Tech. Sgt. Edward Gyokeres

Above: Carl Goodwin, U.S. Forest Service, ignites underbrush and monitors the flames. Below: Terry Walter, Tyndall Natural Resources, assesses the burned areas as smoke clears. Joe McIernan, left, and Wes Westphal, Natural Resources personnel, look on.



Tech. Sgt. Edward Gyokeres

A U.S. Forest Service wildland fire expert monitors a controlled burn. Those witnessing smoke or flames near or on base must be vigilant before making calls to emergency responders to report fires. Calls reporting controlled burns in areas monitored by Tyndall agencies may interfere with reports of actual emergencies.

Protecting personnel, property - one burn at a time

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

According to the Florida Division of Forestry, 4,539 wildfires have burned 213,444 acres between Jan. 1 and Oct. 31 in Florida this year.

While fires near developed areas present obvious dangers, many wildfires occur naturally promoting ecological rejuvenation and reduce the threat of unpredicted, uncontrolled and disastrous wildfires.



Tech. Sgt. Edward Gyokeres

A control burn border runs parallel with the fence line of the base firing range. Fire borders are established so flames do not spread beyond the intended "line of fire."

"The state of Florida has a fire dependant ecosystem," said Terry Walter, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron wildland fire program manager. "This means many of the plants and animals here need fire to survive."

The 325th Civil Engineer Squadron's Natural Resources el-

ement, with assistance from the U.S. Forest Service, ensures Tyndall's undeveloped land remains productive, environmentally sound and healthy by conducting controlled burns through highly vegetated and uninhabited areas surrounding the base.

"Tyndall has numerous important assets on base - people's lives, buildings, fuels and ammunition," said Wes Westphal, chief of Natural Resources. "If fire, either naturally occurring or unintended, were to threaten Tyndall's assets, our function would be to control the fire in a safe timely manner with no impact to the mission, personnel or infrastructure."

Controlled burns are prescribed primarily to protect lives, then property, and

finally natural resources, he said.

While the thought of wildfires promoting ecological systems may seem paradoxical, the controlled burning mission conducted by the Natural Resources Element is both an art and science, and has been tremendously successful in meeting its objectives.

"Since Tyndall started its controlled burn program, Bald Eagles have made their nests in the burned area," said Mr. Walter. "We have at least four nesting pairs of Bald Eagles on base."

With Tyndall's 46 federally protected and endangered plant and animal species, controlled burns help maintain strong reproduction patterns and ecological stability for species that rely on



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

Thomas Dayton, U.S. Forest Service, sets fire to brush along a gravel border, which helps control flames during prescribed burning.

fire to proliferate.

Natural Resources experts work closely with Tyndall fire and emergency personnel to select specific areas to be burned. Many variables are considered when the agencies determine ranges most in need of prescribed burning.

"We look at local ecosystems that need fire to remain healthy," said Mr. Walter. "We also look at what the fuel load is, and when speaking of 'fuel,' we are talking about the underbrush, trees and anything in the forest that will burn easily."

The primary variable considered by Tyndall agencies during the burning season is weather.

"Weather is the most critical part of determining where we burn," said Mr. Walter. "Smoke management is our biggest concern. We need to make sure the smoke does not impact sensitive areas such as the base, flightline, U.S. Highway 98, Panama City and surrounding communities."

Natural Resources and fire department personnel are concerned that many local residents, both on and off base, are unaware of the specific areas affected by controlled fires, which are closely monitored by both agencies.

"Many people see fire as being destructive," said Mr. Walter. "As soon as the general population sees fire on the ground or in a tree, they use their cell phones and call the fire department or law enforcement. When the general public or base personnel call the Tyndall fire and emergency services flight or the law enforcement desk, they are tying up the phone lines that could delay a real emergency call."

The fire managers urge those that see smoke or fire to first scan the area for fire control personnel prior to initiating an emergency phone call.

"We do not leave the fire area until it is safe to do so," Mr. Walter said. "If the fire is still burning, firefighters will continuously monitor the area until it is deemed safe."

There is a fine line between what's an emergency, and what is not, said Mr. Walter. We do not suggest personnel ignore fires in the area in case it's an actual wildfire. However, we need to educate all Tyndall personnel and their families on the purpose and locations of controlled burning on and around Tyndall, he said.

If Natural Resource personnel or vehicles are not on the scene of a fire, and no signs designate the area as a monitored sector of prescribed burning, then call Tyndall's fire department.

"Natural Resources is planning to burn about 12,000 acres this year," said Mr. Walter. "Some of these areas will be very visible, and folks need to pay attention to the personnel on scene. If you see fire control personnel in yellow shirts and signs posted around areas of smoke and fire, then the fire is a controlled burn."

Natural Resources wildland fire managers and their team of trained experts encourage Tyndall members and their families to seek information on the benefits of controlled burns.

"There are numerous ecological benefits to controlled burning" said Mr. Walter. "Fire is nature's way of cleansing itself."



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

Briefs

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.

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 are needed. For more information, contact Chief Master Sgt. Sharrell Callaway at 283-8845 or Chief Master Sgt. Arleen Heath at 283-2037. To donate cookies contact Master Sgt. Travis Fritts at 283-2222. To volunteer, contact Senior Master Sgt. Mike Goetz, 283-8387.

ANG part-time vacancies

The Air National Guard units in Montgomery, Ala., have part-time vacancies. Contact Master Sgt. Vonsetta Love at (334) 394-7190 or 1-800-368-4481 or e-mail her at vonsetta.love@almont.ang.af.mil. For more information, visit www.goang.com.

The 106th Maintenance Group, Westhampton Beach, N.Y., has several full-time and part-time openings. If interested, contact Col. Robert Landsiedel at (631) 723-7497.

Technology Exposition

The 325th Communication Squadron will host a free Technology Expo 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Officers' Club. All personnel are invited to attend. Exhibitors will demonstrate the latest in communication technology. For more information, contact Keren Bogaczyk at (888) 603-8899, ext. 239, or via e-mail bogaczyk@ncsi.com.

Education Grant Program

The Air Force Aid Society's General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program provides \$2,000 grants for undergraduate studies.

The deadline for 2007-2008 academic year submissions is March 9, 2007.



Airman Glenn Moore

Book sale

Claudia Lunsford, library technician, assists Iva Painter, customer, with her book purchase. The library will be hosting a book sale until Saturday. Profits from the book sale will primarily be used to purchase new books, DVDs and other materials for children.

Use of funds is limited to tuition, books, fees, or other curriculum-required materials.

To apply, visit A&FRC in building 745 or go to www.afas.org. For more information, contact the A&FRC at 283-4204.

Troy University

Registration for Troy University Term 3 runs through Dec. 29. Classes start Jan. 2 and end March 11. Students may register with an advisor at any Troy University location or online by accessing Trojan WebExpress at www.troy.edu.

ERAU registration

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Spring 2007 Term begins Jan. 8. Registration will be held Dec. 4 – 15 and Jan. 3 – 5 in the Education Center, room 48. Applications are available on-line under Web registration/forms. For more information, call 283-4332.

GCCC announcements

Registration is on-going at the GCCC Tyndall Center for Spring classes beginning Jan. 4. Accelerated eight-week distance education and tra-

ditional courses start that term.

Finance disbursing office

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

Thrift Shop needs new manager

The Thrift Shop is now taking applications for the manager position. For more information, stop by or call the Thrift Shop at 286-5888. Applications will be accepted until Dec. 15.

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is open Wednesday-Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It will also be open 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. Winter clothing will be accepted for consignment through March 1st. The store will be closed Dec. 20 – 29 for the holidays. For more information, call 286-5888 during business hours.

Officers' Spouses' Club

The Tyndall Officers' Spouses' Club will have a Christmas Social 10:30 a.m. Dec. 12 at the Officers' Club.

**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.)

Pig Prog predicts Super Bowl contenders

PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATOR

From the land of resurrection

Hopefully everyone had a great Thanksgiving. I know I did. There's nothing like scarfing down endless leftovers of a great turkey dinner and watching lots of football.

One game may have been a statement to the rest of the league.

The Dallas Cowboys have turned their season around and looked like a Super Bowl contender. I know just about every team in the mediocre National Football Conference are contenders, but Dallas looks like the real deal.

After their 38-10 pounding of Tampa Bay, new Dallas quarterback Tony Romo has a rating of 110. Not too bad for a guy who played college ball at Eastern Illinois and wasn't even drafted. His five touchdowns against the Buccaneers tied the franchise record for touchdown passes in a single game.

Former Dallas and Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman only threw five touchdowns in one game once during his career. With the emergence of a new star, Dallas is playing good at the right time to make a run at the playoffs.

Dallas coach, Bill Parcells, must be thankful during the holiday season to have a quarterback playing like a star who was an after thought at the beginning of the season.

For a team who shouldn't be very thankful right about now, we head to Atlanta. The Falcons have been reeling in recent weeks and

Sunday didn't help.

After Michael Vick's rise to stardom a few weeks ago, he has fallen hard. Atlanta receivers haven't helped dropping passes.

I was beginning to wonder if they understood the concept of a wide receiver. The fans weren't to happy with the game as boos rained down from the stands. I'm sure Vick's little gesture at the end of the game showed the fans how much he appreciates their support. Apparently he thinks they are number one.

Speaking of people who think they'll actually make it to the top, OSS jumped four spots in the last two weeks, I was wondering where they have been getting support with their picks.

"I just picked them," said Mark Rivers, OSS picker. "Not much to it, I just open (the e-mail) and click."

That sounds too simple.

"After doing so well, I hope I get another good week like last week," said Rivers.

Don't hope too much. Remember football is 90 percent mental and picking winning teams is also. The other 10 percent is the upset factor.

"I'm probably going to do the exact same thing this week," said Rivers. "I may go with the dart method sooner or later."

My suggestion would be to give both ways of making picks and watch how a true pro does it.

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

Tigers, Knights take turns winning

The Tyndall Tigers men's varsity basketball team split their two games versus the visiting Moody Knights in Southeastern Military Athletic Conference, SEMAC, regular season action.

During the Nov. 25 game, the two squads battled back and forth with an end score Tyndall, 114, Moody, 105.

Moody took a two-point lead, 42-40, at the intermission. In the second half, the Tigers caught fire behind the scoring of Melvin Smith, 19, Anthony Showers, 18, and Marqus Armour, 16, to open up a double digit lead that reached as many as 18 points.

Moody mounted a furious rally, aided by a four-minute Tyndall scoring drought to come within 7 points with a minute and a half remaining to be played.

The Tigers converted clutch free throws down the stretch to seal the victory.

Showers paced the Tigers in scoring with a game high 32 points, followed by Smith, 30, Armour, 23, and Jared Austin with 13 points. Armour led in rebounding with 10 and Smith led in assists with 6. Clint Williams led Moody in scoring with 25 points.

Curing the Nov. 26 game, the Tigers started out sluggishly, as their shots weren't falling as they had the previous day. Moody took a 49-36 lead into the intermission.

In the second stanza, Tyndall battled back to cut the deficit to one-point 81-80 with 2:38 remaining in the contest. Three consecutive empty possessions

by the Tigers sealed the outcome of the game came as Moody extended its lead and hung on to take the hard fought victory.

Tigers lost to the Knights, Moody, 91, Tyndall, 85.

Showers and Smith paced the Tigers in scoring with 24 and 18 points respectively, followed by Markus Manuel, 12, and Ryan Cunningham with 10 points. Manuel also led the Tigers in rebounding with 8 and Smith led in assists with 6. Clint Williams led Moody in scoring with a game high 28 points.

The Tigers will host the Bandits from Ft. Benning, Ga., 3 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.

Contact the Fitness Center at 283-2631 for more information.

(Courtesy Tyndall Tigers)

Intramural Sports Standings

Bowling

Team	W	L	Team	W	L
MSS	82	38	843rd AMU	60	60
SVS	81	39	AMXS 2	60	60
MOS	78	42	83rd FWS 2	58	62
RED HORSE	78	42	AFNORTH 3	58	62
Test	75	45	Phase 1	58	62
AFNORTH 1	74	46	AMXS 1	56	64
SFS	74	46	AMXS 4	54	66
AFCESA 1	70	50	MDG	52	68
DS2	68	52	ACS 2	48	72
CS 1	68	52	CONS	46	74
ACS 1	66	54	372nd TRS	46	74
83rd FWS 1	64	56	ISRD	44	76
CES	64	56	CS 2	42	78
AMMO	62	58	Phase 2	36	84
AFCESA	62	58	Bye	12	108

Team High Game Scratch	AFNORTH 1	938
Team High Series Scratch	DS2	2833
Team High Game Handicap	AFCESA 2	1131
Team High Series Handicap	CS 1	3321
High Male Game Scratch	Bob Penninger	267
High Male Series Scratch	Gary Hite	796
High Male Game Handicap	Justin Williams	279
High Male Series Handicap	Billy Gazzaway	767
High Female Game Scratch	Chong Dodson	226
High Female Series Scratch	Michelle Clements	675
High Female Game Handicap	Iris Hague	250
High Female Series Handicap	Angela Robeson	677

Pig Prog Scorebox

CONS	110	CES	97
MXS	105	NCOA	96
1st FS	105	ACS	93
Pig Prog	101	28th TES	89
CPTS	100	CS	87
372nd TRS	100	MDOS	86
OSS	98	SVS	82
		SFS	72



Pig Prog

325th MXS picks
for NFL Week thirteen:

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



Sending holiday cheer to military overseas, at home



AAFES: Consider priorities when shipping goods abroad

DALLAS – Nothing brightens the day of a Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Airman more than a care package filled with special items from home.

Unfortunately, as the holidays approach and well-meaning Americans step up military support efforts, many of the handwritten cards and homemade cookies take longer to reach their destinations.

“Ultimately the boxes of batteries, toothbrushes and shaving cream can delay some much needed and requested items from friends and family,” said Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Eaton, Army & Air Force Exchange Service’s senior enlisted advisor. “While any and all support is very much appreciated, those

who choose to ‘support our troops’ this holiday season should consider whether the items they are collecting and mailing are truly needed.”

Today, AAFES operates 53 Post and Base Exchange facilities throughout Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. The stock assortment found in these exchanges varies from location to location, but even the most basic operation provides access to toiletries, phone cards and cold drinks.

Any American can provide these and many more items to deployed troops by ordering a lightweight “Gift from the Homefront” gift certificate for less than it costs to send a one-pound package.

With the PX/BX certificates, available at aafes.org or (877) 770-4438, military can pick up all of the toothpaste, socks or even Burger King Whoppers they want. “Gifts from the Homefront” are not only redeemable at exchanges throughout Iraq and Afghanistan, but can also be used at any of the 187 name brand fast food outlets AAFES operates in the contingency theater.

“Exchange gift certificates provide an affordable and efficient troop support option that can mitigate the impact America’s generosity can have on holiday mail from spouses, parents and friends,” said Eaton. “Speeding delivery of these critical items is one

of the best possible gifts we can send troops spending the holidays far from home.”

To send “Gifts from the Homefront,” log on aafes.org or call (877) 770-4438. Gift certificates may be sent to an individual service member (designated by the purchaser) or distributed to “any service member” through the Air Force Aid Society, American Red Cross, Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes, Fisher House, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Operation Homefront, Operation Interdependence®, Soldier & Family Assistance Center, USA Cares or United Service Organization.

(Courtesy of AAFES)

eCarePackage goes online

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AFPN) – Operation Homefront has launched “eCarePackage,” an online service that allows citizens to send care packages to deployed troops and their families.

Operation Homefront is part of CinCHouse.com, a community for military wives, and is a team member of America Supports You, a Department of Defense program connecting U.S. citizens with members of the military.

Servicemembers and families can register on www.ecarepackage.org, which protects their identity and location, and visitors can “adopt” them based on common interests. Then visitors select individual items to create a customized care package for their chosen servicemember or family and include a personal message.

Operation Homefront’s team of volunteers takes the order, boxes the selected items and ships them directly to the servicemember or family -- always protecting their identity and physical location.

“There’s nothing like a care package to cheer a deployed Soldier or a lonely military family, especially dur-

ing the holidays,” said Amy Palmer, executive vice president of operations for Operation Homefront. “With operational security for the troops so tight, we were concerned that care packages weren’t getting through. So we built eCarePackage to ensure our troops and families continue to ‘feel the love’ from Americans.”

Items available in the eCarePackage store range from toiletries and necessities to games, books and candy. Most items were donated from sponsors. Donated items are not marked up, so eCarePackage visitors often pay only the cost of handling and shipping.

The eCarePackage program is an extension of Operation Homefront’s mission to provide emergency support and morale to our troops, the families they leave behind during deployments, and wounded warriors when they return home. Operation Homefront recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Defense Department to ensure greater collaboration.

(Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

Commissary offers special holiday gift ideas this season

BONNIE POWELL
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. – “Gift” is often the operative word during the holiday season and Commissary customers have even more options this year through www.commissaries.com.

Whether it’s one of about 100 gift baskets and bakery goods available on the new Virtual Commissary, or a Commissary gift certificate, “food is always a welcome gift for your military neighbor next door, or for a military family you know elsewhere in the world,” said Patrick Nixon, Defense Commissary Agency director and chief executive officer. “We’re excited about our new Virtual Commissary and the possibilities for the future,” said Mr. Nixon.

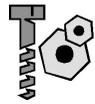
Only authorized commissary shoppers can access Virtual Commissary. However, anyone can purchase or donate the “Gift of Groceries,” but they can only be used by authorized shoppers. The commissary gift certificates can be easily purchased in small denominations at any Commissary

worldwide, or purchased in a variety of amounts for delivery anywhere in the world through the link at the Commissary Web site.

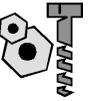
Commissary gift certificates are made possible through a business agreement with CertifiChecks Inc. There is a small charge for handling, printing and shipping the certificates. Donations of gift certificates through CertifiChecks Inc. to worldwide charitable organizations such as the Air Force Aid Society, Fisher House Foundation, Operation Homefront, and the United Service Organization have added up to over \$200,000. Many installation holiday food programs are using Commissary gift certificates as well.

“The gift certificates are very handy to help families with emergency needs,” said Amy Palmer, executive vice president of operations for Operation Homefront and CinCHouse.com. “Operation Homefront received about 250 donated certificates last year, but our local chapters can certainly put a lot more of them to good use.”





Golden Bolt Award



Tech. Sgt. Edward Gyokeres

On Eagle's wings

Senior Airman Joe Brown, 325th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, takes a close look at an F-15 Eagle wing panel during a phase inspection. Airman Brown was the Golden Bolt winner for September after he found the bolt during a daily foreign object damage walk.



Funshine NEWS

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



Pancake Breakfast with Santa This Saturday

at the Youth Center

Spongebob compliments of **KNOLOGY**

Talk with Santa, have a delicious breakfast, a fun filled morning of activities and fantastic giveaways!

USAA

283-4366

TYNDALL SERVICES
Center Support & Community Service
www.325thservices.com

\$2.50 ages 12 & under
\$4.50 ages 13 & above



Tyndall's Christmas Tree Lighting

December 7
5 p.m.



Wetslips Available

Beacon Beach Marina
\$4.50 per foot
283-3059

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:

• **FROM ADAPT PAGE 6**

or family member to come and get you.

- Take the keys and never let a friend leave your sight if you think they are about to drive while impaired.

Sergeant Basil also said when hosting a party this holiday season, offer alcohol-free beverages during the event, and make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.

National Drunk and Drugged

Driving (3D) Prevention Month is in December to help underscore the public's commitment to preventing impaired driving and promote the use of designated drivers and sober ride programs. The month of December and the New Year's Eve holiday are also often highlighted by significant increases in state and local law enforcement efforts to combat impaired driving such as the use of sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols.

"Driving impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is simply not worth the risk," said Sergeant Basil. "The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be really significant and not the way you want to spend your holiday season."

(Courtesy of ADAPT)

• **FROM SEADS PAGE 7**

from Duluth, Minn., where it had served as the 23rd Air Division under the Aerospace Defense Command since November 1969. In October 1996 SEADS transitioned completely to the Air National Guard and became a Geographically Separated Unit assigned within the Florida Air National Guard.

Since then its responsibility for defense of approximately 1,000,000 square miles of airspace, and 3,000 miles of coastline from Virginia to Texas, marked SEADS as the busiest of CONR's three sectors.

That responsibility now rests with CONR's NORAD in Rome, N.Y., and Western Air Defense Sector at McChord AFB, Wash.

"This decision was made nearly four years ago to first modernize the air defense system, and then consolidate CONR's three air defense sectors into two as we transitioned into an AOC" said Col. Kriner. "To facilitate that CONR moved the WADS responsibilities further to the east, while NEADS area of responsibility extended further south, all the way

down to the Straits of Florida."

As for the 601st AOC, Colonel Kriner said the next step in the migration involves training.

"We've got more than 250 full-time Air National Guardsmen that need to be trained and integrated into the processes of an AOC in providing air tasking order and strategy-to-task functions," he said. "We've been working nearly four years toward this, and everyone's excited for what they're going to do next, what they're going to learn, and how we're going to work together as an AOC and Air Force Forces staff in support of CONR."

Brig. Gen. Charles Campbell, AFNORTH vice commander and Florida Air National Guardsman, lauded the SEADS team on their accomplishments.

"You know, these days, a lot of people talk about finishing well. Well I can tell you, this team finished well," he said. "They held it together while we moved toward the AOC mission through holidays, hurricanes and missed time with families – it was truly a job well done."



Tech. Sgt. Edward Gyokeres

Tech. Sgt. Tricia Bell, 95th Fighter Squadron life support NCO in charge, right, inflates anti-G-suit harness worn by David Baptiste, the "Pilot of the Day" Nov. 21.

Boneheads train "fighter ace" *"Pilot for a Day" program succeeds again*

TECH. SGT. EDWARD GYOKERES
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Each month, the 95th Fighter Squadron selects a deserving child with a serious medical condition to live their life of a fighter pilot for a day. David Baptiste, 14, worked for Mr. Bones, and in doing so, became a "Bonehead" for life Nov. 21.

The entire squadron from the top down, went out of its way to make sure David felt like a true VIP.

The squadron commander, Lt. Col. Bill Routt, met David and his family and took them into his office for a full briefing on the F-15 Eagle and its weapons systems. It was just the first stop in busy schedule that included a tour of the 95th FS flightline, a meal with all of the pilots and, to top off the day, a full hour in the F-15 simulator facility for his entire family.

After meeting the commander, he was fitted with every piece of gear the 95th FS life support flight had to offer. A G-suit, parachute harness, helmet and oxygen mask were fitted. He was led to the testing station for a demonstration of the anti-G suit harness. He was shown how to operate a pair of night vision goggles.

"To have him suited up and see the excitement on his face, I could tell he was truly enjoying his lifelong dream of becoming a fighter pilot," said David's

father Master Sgt. Hector Baptiste.

David would soon have a chance to put his goals into action. After a photo shoot on the flightline and a traditional pilot portrait, his entire family was virtually linked together inside the F-15 simulator complex. With his sister in one jet and his mother in another, David was ready to challenge them both in the F-15 simulator.

They didn't stand a chance. With a small amount of instruction by Capt. David Christensen, David took off, found his family and used his skills to repeatedly challenge them in the air. The harder they fought back, the faster they died.

David became confident quickly – a bit too quickly one might say.

"I'm coming, you have no chance, I'm going to get you," he said to his siblings.

He wasn't instigating, he was right. His mother's, sister's and brother's virtual jet went down in fireballs to the sounds of his confident laughter in their headsets, again and again.

With his simulator time over, David showed two student pilots, who were waiting for their turn, how good he really was. He flew his Eagle home and made a perfect landing.

When David emerged from the simulator cockpit, the grins from the crowd outside were almost as large as the one on his face.

