



In Brief

Base newspaper

The base newspaper is back. The new Gulf Defender is a privately-owned commercial product created by Freedom Communications, Inc.

Twelve thousand copies will be produced twice a month on pay days.

Jonas Hogg is the reporter from the News Herald who will put the paper together.

There will be a disclaimer in the new Gulf Defender exempting the military from any responsibility for editorial content or advertising.

If you have any questions about the new Gulf Defender, call the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs staff at 283-4500.

Hurricane briefs

The 325th Civil Engineer Squadron readiness flight will be holding hurricane preparedness briefs for all base personnel and their dependents. Information will be provided to help people prepare for the hurricane season.

The briefs are scheduled for Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4 and Nov. 1 at the Tyndall Enlisted Club at 2:30 p.m. Another set of briefs is scheduled for July 3, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2 and Nov. 6 at the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group auditorium at 9 a.m.

Please contact the 325th CES readiness flight at 283-2010 with questions.



Chrissy Cuttita

Taxiway clear

Tech. Sgt. Nick Thompson, 325th Operations Support Squadron deputy airfield manager, uses a measuring wheel to determine if there is enough aircraft clearance on a taxiway under construction at Tyndall. His team was awarded "Airfield Management Facility of the Year" by Air Force officials who announced the winners June 13.

Children learn to be 'home alone'

CHRISSEY CUTTITA
325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A knock at the door, a stove, first aid and fire are all on the list of things that are sometimes scary but need to be responded to by someone 10 years or older left home alone at their base residence.

Fortunately, Youth Center personnel provide the tools to ensure they are safe.

On June 16th, Tyndall youth signed contracts with their parents or caretakers and walked away a bit braver with certificates in hand after completing this month's three-hour course appropriately titled "Home Alone."

"We teach things they need to know," said Jeannie Holland, volunteer instructor and school age assistant lead at the Youth Center.

On her list of things to cover are fire safety, hurricane preparedness, stranger danger, kitchen risks, emergency kits and first aid.

Tyndall Instruction 34-202 states children should not be left home alone

without completing the class offered at the Youth Center monthly.

The "Am I ready to be alone checklist" has been complete and stored with instruction material in a special place for every youth that has been certified.

For one graduate of the course, the lessons were applied in a real-life situation.

"Someone knocked on the door when no one was home," said Nick Calla, 12 years old. "I got so scared I got my stick, boots and spy gear."

Luckily for Nick, the unknown figure turned out to be his mother's friend. She got in an accident and needed help. And lucky for them both, he had his emergency numbers on hand.

It's been at least a year since Nick took the course but after being home alone a few times, he's confident and ready to prepare his brother who will go to the class next.

"I enjoy it, that's why I volunteer," said Ms. Holland. "I know it's an

important thing to do, especially now with a lot of latch-key children. I feel good that they know what to do in case of an emergency."

Jacob Morrow, 10, recently took the class and learned his mother's concerns.

"Something bad could happen," he said, describing the result if he didn't listen to her rules of not using the stove or oven and not letting people come over when she is out.

"I wasn't so scared the first time," Jacob said. "Everything was locked. My folder is in my room."

Ms. Holland is proud the children keep their references handy and occasionally checks to see if the information is retained by talking to course graduates while they are attending Open Recreation at the Youth Center.

The base instruction said children ages 10 to 11 can stay home without adult supervision for two hours or less,

• SEE HOME PAGE 2

Checkertail Salute

Staff Sgt. Tena Grant



2nd Lt. Patrick Casey

Sergeant Grant, 325th Mission Support Group, receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Tod D. Wolters, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

Sergeant Grant conducted tenant unit deployment staff assistance visits, ensuring program compliance and correcting deficiencies. She also executed the reception and re-deployment of six F-16 aircraft, 22 personnel and 22 tons of cargo from the 63rd Fighter Squadron,

Duty title: 325th Mission Support Group
NCOIC logistics readiness

Hometown: Baltimore, Md.

Time on station: Eight months

Time in service: Six years and seven months

Hobbies: Spending time with my daughter, bowling and playing Guitar Hero

Goals: To do my best in my career field and to make Chief Master Sgt.

Favorite thing about Tyndall AFB: The weather and the beaches

Favorite movie: 40 year-old Virgin

Pet peeves: When people give answers about things they don't know about, and people who are rude.

Proudest moment in the military: My first funeral while on the Honor Guard at Luke AFB, Ariz. I saw how much it meant to the family to have their family member buried properly.

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.



Hurricane

Emergency information

Accountability:

(follow these steps until contact is made)

1. Contact supervisor
2. Contact Hurricane Evacuation Support Staff at (877) 325-EVAC (3822).
3. Contact Air Force Personnel Center at (800) 435-9941.

Phone numbers:

Straight Talk (877) 529-5540

Tyndall Toll-free (800) 896-8806

Bay County Emergency Operations Center (850) 784-4000

Tyndall Civil Engineer Readiness Flight (850) 283-2010

For downed power lines, fires or medical emergencies, call 911.

• FROM HOME PAGE 1

day or night, while a child ages 12 to 15 can stay home up to 10 hours during daylight but only four hours after dark. Teens 16 and older can stay home alone for up to 72 hours.

According to the instruction, all youth left home alone need to have emergency phone numbers and feel comfortable in the situation. Parents and caretakers are the best judges to determine if their child is ready. There must be no determined or suspected behavioral, emotional, medical, physical, psychological or psychiatric condition that impairs ability to function alone, and to stay home, they all must take the "Home Alone" course.

The regulation also determines if the children can babysit or care for younger children, and there is a mandatory course for that too. Only youth over 12 can care for children provided that youth 12 to 14 do not watch children under three. Only children at least 16 years old can accompany children in self-directed Youth Center activities.

Additionally, there are rules about leaving children in vehicles unattended. A child under six should never be left in this situation. Youth seven to nine can be left in a vehicle, but only for 15 minutes and anyone under age 11 cannot be left in a vehicle without the keys being removed and the handbrake applied.

It all comes down to caring for children and that's the reason Ms. Holland enjoys the job she's had for 15 years.

"My seven grandchildren are definitely an influence," she said. "And one is getting ready to come to my 'Home Alone' course."

The next course is scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. July 21 at the Youth Center. For more information, call 283-4326.



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.

Airman Whitney Solano, 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, correctly guessed the June 11 "Identify This" as an Okaloosa County Florida license plate. Congratulations Airman Solano, come claim your prize!