



In Brief

Tree Sale

The 325th Communications Squadron servicemembers are hosting a Christmas tree sale through Dec. 16 adjacent to the visitors center parking lot.

Focus 56

Focus 56 members' monthly meeting is 3 p.m. Dec. 14 at the Community Activity Center's Enlisted Lounge.

Santa's in town

Breakfast with Santa Claus is at the Community Center Annex 8-11 a.m. Dec. 15. Tickets are \$3 per person, on sale at building 1125 until noon today. Children two years old and younger will be admitted for free.

Cookie Drive

A cookie drive collection is 7-9 a.m. today at the docking bay behind the commissary. Approximately 500 dozen homemade cookies for Tyndall's dormitory Airmen are needed for the event. For more information, send an email to tyndallcookiedrive@yahoo.com.

ROA Holiday Hrs.

The Tyndall Air Force Base Retiree Activities Office, located at the 325th Fighter Wing building and Satellite Pharmacy, will be closed for the holiday season Dec. 24 through Jan. 2.

Firebee takes its final flight and mission

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ANTHONY HYATT
325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron planned to launch the BQM-34P "Firebee" sub-scale aerial target drones final mission Dec. 5 at the 82nd ATRS Launch Facility.

Due to a ground abort, the Firebees last flight was postponed to Dec. 12. The ground abort was caused by consecutive engine roll-backs; the engine shut down twice and was unable to restart, said Maj. Kevin Brackin, 82nd ATRS Sub-Scale Aerial Target Flight commander.

This specific drone has carried the load for air-to-air engagements at the 82nd ATRS and will be officially replaced with the Air Force Follow-On Sub-Scale Aerial Target BQM-167A "Skeeter."

"The BQM-34P arrived at Tyndall Air Force Base in 1958," said Maj. Ronald Miller, 82nd ATRS operations officer. "It has logged more than 1500 hours flown."

With speeds that reach 0.96 mach, the Firebee has been the most capable and reliable high performance aerial target system according to Major Miller.

"The primary mission is to simulate tactical threats by enemy aircraft and missiles for defense readiness training, air-to-air combat training and the development and evaluation of weapons systems," said Major Brackin.

"The BQM-34 is like a 1970's Civic, while the BQM-167 is like a 2007 Civic," said Major Brackin.

The "Skeeter" is constructed mainly of carbon fiber composites, which makes the airframe significantly lighter than the similar-sized Firebee, therefore significantly increasing the range for a given payload weight,



Photo by Airman 1st Class Anthony J. Hyatt

The BQM-34P, Firebee, launches for it's last flight Dec. 5 at the 82nd Aerial Target Squadron. Weighing more than 2,000 pounds and with a wingspan of approximately 13 feet, the Firebee can reach speeds upto mach 0.97.

according to Major Brackin.

Not a well-known squadron by many, the 82nd ATRS falls under the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group here. The mission of the 82nd is to ensure safe, effective and efficient contractor-provided aerial targets support for DoD weapons test and evaluation programs. It also assures the

war fighter receives the best in combat capability; providing Air Combat Command with unique expertise for the thorough testing and integration of fighter avionics/weapons and electronic warfare throughout the testing process and beyond.

General Looney: Beat the GTC “Holiday Spike”

COURTESY OF AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Once again the holiday season is here – bringing with it joy, celebration and a renewed emphasis on reducing Government Travel Card delinquencies.

In 2006, Air Education and Training Command broke the historic trend of higher than normal GTC delinquent payment rates during the holiday season – a trend known as the “Holiday Spike.” This

first-ever achievement paved the way for a 15-month trend of AETC maintaining the lowest GTC delinquency rates in the Air Force.

General William R. Looney III, AETC commander, is once again challenging his commanders to repeat last year’s superb performance.

“Our goal during this holiday season is to keep GTC rates below the two percent Air Force standard,” said General Looney. “This translates into fewer financial woes for our

Airmen, which enables them to better focus on their families and our mission.”

There is no magic formula to achieving that goal, said Maj. Virgil Garrett, AETC chief of financial services. “Cardholders and program coordinators simply need to ensure the card is only used for authorized charges,” said Major Garrett. “Then, travelers must pay their GTC bill in full when it’s due.”

Some simple reminders can help avoid delinquent payments

or inappropriate GTC use.

“The GTC may only be used while in a TDY/PCS status and only for travel-related expenses (i.e., airfare, rental vehicles, lodging and meals),” said Major Garrett. “Guidance also calls for using the split-disbursement feature when filing travel vouchers for all GTC charges.”

“Additionally, all outstanding balances must be paid by the due date on the billing statement from Bank of America (BoA),” said the major. “Many agency

program coordinators begin contacting Airmen and their commanders about outstanding charges at the 30-day point to ensure they do not become delinquent – being proactive yields great results.”

It’s relatively simple to avoid trouble with the GTC if it is used properly and members pay the bill on time.

“I’m confident we’ll continue leading the Air Force as we beat the ‘Holiday Spike’ again this year,” said General Looney.



In memory: Mr. Gary Lynn Black

COURTESY OF TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mr. Gary Black, 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron computer engineer, passed away Dec. 4.

Mr. Black was born in Chattanooga, Tenn. in May 1952. He

earned an electrical engineering degree at the University of Tennessee. Prior to serving at Tyndall Air Force Base, Mr. Black worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority at the Sequoyah nuclear facility.

Mr. Black and his family moved to Lynn Haven, Fla. 19 years ago when he started his new career here.

Mr. Black received his 30-year civil service pin in April and has been a part of Team

Tyndall for 18 years.

The Regions Bank of Lynn Haven has an account in the Black Family name for memorial contributions or donations to help with funeral arrangements.

Commentary: Sacrifice defines our greatest moments



BY MAJ. GEN. HANK MORROW
1ST AIR FORCE COMMANDER

Sixty-six years ago this month, America suffered a well-executed assault on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. We lost more than 2,300 Americans in one day - men, women and children. Over the following five years, more than 400,000 Americans died fighting in World War II.

Six years ago this last September, nearly 3,000 Americans died at the

hands of terrorists. Since then, the United States has lost nearly 3,900 of its warriors, fighting to eliminate evil and protect freedom.

We salute those lost, hold sacred the tragic days and remember the dark events carved into the stock of our national history. But it is the sacrifice that best frames, best defines, the greatest moments in America’s history.

The sudden shock of an attack at home, and the realization of so much loss, so soon, is always hard to comprehend. We so value our freedom, and so respect the tolerance of it’s many faces, that we view diversity as core to being an American. So when we suffer loss, we view the tragedy and mourn the passing in many, many different ways.

But this country understands sacrifice as a whole.

The loss of a sergeant from San Antonio; an Airman from Bangor; a Marine from San Jose or a Seaman from Hampton Roads, is the loss of

an American and a sacrifice made in the name of us all. No matter the political perspective, religious values, social class or education level, that loss is one we bear together. That sacrifice is an American making the ultimate sacrifice for America.

We have always known that freedom wears many different faces in this nation. We see them in our communities, our country and overseas. Some wear uniforms, but not all. We recognize them as neighbors, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and in the faces of our children.

When we fight we bring our cultures, our precious values, and our many faces to bear on the enemy. That diversity, and our common respect for it, brings a unique flexibility to the fight.

We are always strongest in our diversity. This is something a terrorist will never understand, and our enemies will never overcome. In sacrifice, we are always one people.

Because of sacrifice we have

destroyed evil in Europe, put down imperialism in Asia, toppled a dictator in Iraq, and ended a repressive regime in Afghanistan. Because of our willingness to sacrifice today, we maintain freedom at home and give promise and hope to our citizens, and citizens of the world, when disasters strike.

During this holiday season, remember those who have sacrificed, and continue to sacrifice, for this great nation. Know that I appreciate and value the contributions you make for the mission and America. More than that know that Americans from all cultures and walks of life understand and appreciate what you do for them. It is our greatest strength and best hope for the future.

As we wrap up this year of achievement with holiday celebrations, let’s set the tone for a safe 2008. If you drink, don’t drive! Neither your family nor your country can afford to lose you. My family and I wish you a prosperous 2008. Make it a safe one.

325th OSS prepares to fly under a bigger sail

STAFF SGT. VESTA M. ANDERSON
325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Tyndall Air Force Base achieved a major milestone in air dominance when a 140-foot crane hoisted the new Digital Airport Surveillance Radar Antenna to its home on top of a new 75-foot tower.

The DASR antenna, referred to as a "sail" by radar technicians, will update air traffic control and radar approach's aging AN/GPN-20 analog radar system, said Tech. Sgt. Scot Myers, 325th Operations Support Squadron air traffic control training NCO in charge.

The upgrade began in January with renovations to the floor support at the Radar Approach Control building. By mid-summer, the construction on the new radar tower began and the antenna was erected in October, said Sergeant Myers.

"Late January we are looking to start running with some of our new

capabilities," said Sergeant Myers.

The DASR system will provide Tyndall's ATC and RAPCON controllers with airport-terminal area primary surveillance coverage to 60 nautical miles and secondary surveillance coverage to 120 nautical miles, said Mr. Jim Smith, 325th Communications Squadron Plans and Implementation Flight commander.

"The radar's digital processing provides greatly improved target and weather processing to support the improved performance associated with the deployment of the Standard Terminal Automation Replacement System," said Mr. Smith.

The increased reliability of the radar's weather capability is a highly-anticipated addition to RAPCON.

"By June of 2008, we will have the weather detection capability," explained Sergeant Myers. "The old system allows us to see the outline of weather but not its intensity," the

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Photo provided by 325th Communications Squadron

The 10,000-pound Digital Surveillance Radar Antenna, referred to as a "sail" by radar technicians, is located at the east end of taxiway B and will replace the aging analog radar system.

GMH brings together servicemembers, families

STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY R. CAPLING
325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The GMH military housing staff is providing a drop-off point for donated cell phones and accessories for the "Cell Phones for Soldiers drive" organization.

According to the charity's Web site, "Cell Phones for Soldiers hopes to turn old cell phones into more than 12 million minutes of prepaid calling cards for U.S. troops stationed overseas in 2007. To do so, Cell Phones for Soldiers expect to collect 15,000 cell phones each month through a network of more than 3,000 collection sites across the country."

The charity was started by then 12 and 13-year-old brother and sister Brittany and Robbie Bergquist of Norwell, Mass. in 2004 to help U.S. servicemembers call home while overseas without having to worry about large bills.

The program turns the donated

phones and turns them over to a company that pays them for each one, and provides more than one hour of talk time for the servicemembers.

The GMH office is accepting donations at their office through Jan. 25 and is reinstating pick-up after Memorial Day.

"You can also bring in calling cards for donation," said Nakisha Hughley, GMH resident specialist and outreach coordinator. "We take the donations and ship them directly to the program. We're simply a collection site."

This is GMH's first year participating in the program.

"Every GMH office across the nation is using their leasing office as a drop-off point," Ms. Hughley said. "The whole point is to get servicemembers connected with their families during the holidays. This is just another way for us to say we appreciate you."

The drop-off box is available in the GMH office; building 747, during office hours, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

"This is a very admirable program



Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy R. Capling

Nakisha Hughley, GMH military housing office resident specialist, holds up the donation box for the, "Cell Phones For Soldiers," charity, the GMH office will have the box available for collections through Jan. 25.

where people aren't just looking for money," Ms. Hughley said. "Our troops are really benefiting from this. There's no better morale booster than being able to call home for the

holidays."

For more information or to make a donation, call Ms. Hughley at 286-1700 or visit the Web site at <http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com>.



Photos by Ms. Lisa C. Norman

Safety first

Left: Mr. James Weable, 325th Maintenance Squadron Defense Supprt Services bleed technician, performs a florescent penetrant inspection to ensure there are no cacks in the canopy rail.

Right: Airman 1st Class Blake Brewer, 325th Maintenance Squadron, performs aircraft structural maintenance applying corrosive paint stripper to the F-15 canopy rail. Tyndall Air Force Base maintainers worked through the Dec. 1 weekend to initiate the inspection on the F-15 fleet, here.

Checkertail Salute

Senior Airman Bret Savitski



Photo by Chris Dahmer

Senior Airman Bret Savitski, 325th Contracting Squadron contract specialist, observes headlight installation on a government vehicle performed by an AFRL contractor employee.

Senior Airman Savitski was awarded a \$3.6 million contract for 1,086 rugged notebooks and negotiated no-cost replacement units when notified of programming problems. His actions saved the government more than 1,000 manhours in repairs, 125 days of computer down time, and \$65,000 in repair cost.

Duty title: Contract Specialist
Hometown: Seminole, Fla.
Time on station: Eight months
Time in service: Four years
Hobbies: Scuba diving.
Goals: Masters Degree.
Favorite thing about Tyndall AFB: Being close to the water.
Favorite movie: Any 'Bourne' movie
Favorite book: Bible
Pet Peeves: None.
Proudest moment in the military: Getting a line number for 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.

08' Newcomers Guides available now for order

COURTESY OF 325TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Orders must be placed now for Tyndall Air Force Base's Newcomers Guide and Telephone Directory 2008 edition, available in January.

These base guides contain a full profile and history of the base and all associate units. Also, a complete list of phone numbers for Tyndall AFB, as well as base and community maps. The guide also contains profiles of some local businesses supporting the bases' mission along with a Tricare/ United Concordia medical sections.

The guides are free to all base personnel, dependents, civil service and retirees.

To place an order that will be delivered at no cost, please visit <http://www.united-publishers.com/books>. Fill out your contact information, select "Tyndall guide" in the scroll-down menu and select the number of copies needed in your unit.



Photo provided by Mr. Daniel Smith

Country singer Daniel Smith is scheduled to perform at the The Zone, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14. Mr. Smith earned high praise for his song, "I'm Going Home," from his debut album, "American Made." Get advanced tickets only at The Club, Pizza Pub, Community Center and Library for \$5.

**Wingman Day
Bus Schedule
Dec. 14**

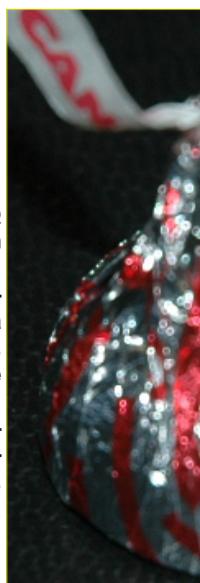
1:30 p.m.
First wave will depart from
Bldg. 662 (Wing HQ)
Bldg. 1471
Bldg. 1281 (ACS)
CACAnnex (Enlisted Club)
43rd FS

2:15 p.m.
Last bus arrive at Hangar 1

3:30 p.m.
Buses will depart Hangar 1
(or concluding CC call)

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 was able to correctly guess the Nov. 26 "Identify This" as a door-knob bolt.



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sergeant said. "If we want to know the intensity, we call Eglin AFB. They are equipped with the new radar, but once we are running on the DASR, we will have that capability ourselves."

The new radar also allows RAPCON to feed off other ATC agencies' radar surveillance during RAPCON blackouts, explained Sergeant Myers.

The STARS terminal-control workstations, referred to as scopes, have a dual capability to be used for live control or simulation.

"The most exciting gain with the STARS is realistic training scenarios," said Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Ash, 325th OSS radar approach chief controller. "The simulators utilized match the equipment the controllers use on a daily basis."

Controllers will now have the ability to build scenarios to meet training objectives, explained Chief Ash. These scenarios can be manipulated to accommodate procedural changes or new approaches.

This new ability maximizes training capabilities, said Chief Ash.

Raytheon Corporation is currently installing both systems and started controller training last month, said Mr. Smith, and the overall project management is provided by the 325th CS Plans and Implementation Flight.

"The initial operational capability for STARS is February 2008, with DASR commissioning slated for September 2008," said Mr. Smith.



Photo provided by 325th Communications Squadron

A 140-foot, 175-ton capacity crane placed the DASR atop the new tower on Oct. 24.

Tyndall Tigers defeat Commandos

COURTESY OF TYNDALL TIGERS TEAM

The Tyndall Air Force Base Tigers men's varsity basketball team completed the first half of their conference schedule by defeating the visiting Hurlburt Field Commandos, the defending conference champs, 101-89 in Southeastern Military Athletic Conference action Saturday.

The Tigers quickly opened up a double-digit lead, which they maintained throughout the opening stanza, behind the hot shooting of Melvin Smith and Anthony Showers who scored 12 and 10 points respectively to pace the Tigers to a 49-39 lead at

the half. In the second half, Tyndall's lead increased to as many as 22 points, before Hurlburt made a late run to trim the final margin to 12 points. The victory raised Tyndall's record to 5-1 and moved the Tigers back into a first place tie with Eglin AFB.

Anthony Showers paced the Tigers in scoring with a game high 28 points in his final game as a Tyndall Tiger, followed by Melvin Smith with 20, Jared Austin with 12, Marqus Armour with 11, and Antonio Bazemore and Marcelle Mosley added 10 points each; Showers also led in assists with six, and Bazemore and

Frank Vega tied for rebounding honors with 10 each. Jamaar Major led Hurlburt in scoring with 27 points.

The Tigers and Lady Tigers will host the teams from Moody AFB

on Dec. 8. The game times are: 1:00 p.m. for the women's team and 3:00 p.m. for the men's team. For more information contact the Fitness Center at 283-2631.

Southeastern Military Athletic Conference Standings (as of Dec. 3)		
Men's Basketball 2007 Regular Season Standings		
Team	Win	Loss
Tyndall	5	1
Eglin	5	1
Keesler	3	2
Hurlburt Field	3	3
Moody	2	3
Ft. Benning	1	4
Mayport	0	4

Women's Basketball Standings		
Team	Win	Loss
Tyndall	4	0
Eglin	2	2
Keesler	2	2
Ft. Benning	0	2
Moody	0	3