



In Brief

Black History Month

The Black History Month Luncheon is 11:30 a.m. Feb. 7 at the Collocated Club. Reservations are due Jan. 30. Tickets are \$9 for club members and \$10 for non-club members. For more information, call Melissa Greene at 283-2807.

Birthday Meal

A lobster or steak and shrimp meal will be provided to all meal-card holders at the Annual Birthday Meal 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the CAC Annex.

Tax Center

The Tax Center will be open from 8 a.m. until noon Feb. 1 at the Wing Support Bldg 662. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Charles Zaldivar at 283-4681.

HPV Vaccine

The 325th Medical Group Immunizations Clinic now carries the human papilloma virus vaccine. The vaccine helps protect eligible women ages 9-26 against cervical cancer. For more information, call 283-2778.

Basic Savings

The next series of Basic Savings and Investment Classes begins Jan. 23 with classes Feb. 6 and 20, Mar. 5 and 19. Classes are from 9-11 a.m. in the Airman and Family Readiness classroom, Bldg. 743. For more information, call 283-4204.

Tyndall AFB restores its ecosystem

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

As the largest installation in Air Education and Training Command, Tyndall Air Force Base encompasses 29,000 acres. Of this area, 18,000 acres are forest and coastline that have remained in their natural state, rich in wildlife.

According to Wesley Westphal, Natural Resources element chief, when Tyndall AFB opened Dec. 7, 1941, the land was mostly flat due to the abundant use of its resources - the Longleaf Pine. The tree was used heavily by the turpentine industry for Navy ships, and was also used to supply schooner masts.

The Longleaf Pine was eventually replaced by the Slash Pine, a commercial tree for the naval stores industry, and the adaptable Sand Pine. However, after more than 70 years, there is a shift in the sails - the native Longleaf Pine forest is being restored to its true home.

Tyndall AFB has already started the first phase of the Air Force's policy to implement "ecosystem management."

There are three phases to the restoration plan.

"Phase one is the removal of all species of trees and shrubs other than Longleaf, Slash Pine and significant hardwoods," said Daniel Childs, 325th Civil Engineer Natural Resources forester. This phase is 15 percent complete and is expected to be finished in April.

Phase two is the mechanical site preparation of the cleared areas.

"This is done with a roller chopper that cuts the remaining debris, roots and stumps into smaller pieces in advance of the reforestation phase," said Mr. Childs.



Photo provided by 325th Civil Engineer Squadron

The removal of non-commercial forestry product has already begun at Tyndall Air Force Base. Harvest order of restoration sites are based on the weather and market conditions.

Phase three is reforestation.

"This is where we plant Longleaf Pine seedlings," said Mr. Childs.

There are many advantages to both forests and wildlife when restoring the natural habitat.

By reducing Sand Pine Scrub, underbrush, dead trees and pine straw and restoring Longleaf Pine, the hazard fuel load for a catastrophic wildfire is reduced.

"Longleaf Pine-dominated ecosystems require frequent, low-intensity fires to sustain the incredible biodiversity they develop," said Mr. Childs while contrasting the native-pine tree against the currently Sand Pine. "The Sand Pine cannot be managed by prescribed burning."

However, after the "cut and run" harvest operations during the turn of the century, the Longleaf Pine was nearly wiped out and soon the Sand Pine took over.

"Sand Pine will establish by 'opportunity,'" said Mr. Childs. "Any dry barren ground left unmanaged and unburned will reforest with Sand

Pine Scrub."

Tyndall AFB has joined the ranks of many in the ecosystem management effort.

"Longleaf Pine restoration is the restoration project in the Southeast at this time," said Mr. Childs. "It is said that Longleaf Pine ecosystems

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Photo provided by 325th Civil Engineer Squadron

The Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan is restoring 200 acres of Sand Pine Scrub with Longleaf Pine each year.

Lady Tigers defeat Keesler: Crowned conf. champions

STORY PROVIDED BY
TYNDALL LADY TIGERS

The Tyndall Lady Tigers women's varsity basketball team captured the conference regular season crown with a perfect 8-0 record Saturday.

Tyndall Lady Tigers defeated the visiting Keesler Air Force Base Lady Dragons 90-61 in Southeastern Military Athletic Conference play Friday.

Lady Tigers forward Tiffanie Guthrie led Tyndall to victory as she tallied a triple-double with 31 points, 19 rebounds and 10 assists. Tyndall's other forward, Richere Harrison, added another 30 points.

Tyndall led comfortably

throughout the contest and closed the half at 40-27.

The Tigers did not look back as they cruised to victory in the second half.

Monica Mason chipped in with 17 points and six assists and Lisa Gamble scored 10 points. Harrison also added 10 rebounds. Erica Martin led Keesler in scoring with 19 points.

The Lady Tigers will travel to Eglin AFB this weekend to compete in the SEMAC Martin Luther King Men and Women's Basketball Challenge. The Lady Tigers are scheduled to play Keesler at noon Saturday and will host the Eglin AFB Lady Eagles noon Sunday.

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support higher biodiversity than any other forest ecosystem with the exception of the rain forest."

"There is an estimated 5 percent of the original old-growth forest remaining," explained Mr. Childs. "Many of the plant and animals associated with Longleaf are threatened or endangered due to the loss of habitat and fire exclusion."

"All woods in the Southeast are going to burn sometime," said Mr. Childs. "It's better to maintain a fire-dependant ecosystem with prescribed first than to wait for a stand-replacing wildfire (which burns more fuel and thus burns hotter, making it harder to suppress as it kills vegetation and wildlife)."

The benefits continue.

"Habitat modification resulting from restoration of Longleaf Pine ecosystems will benefit many species of management concern," said Tyndall's forester.

The harvest rate for phase one, removing Sand Pine and Shrub Oaks, is between 50-75 acres per month. Prepping the site is scheduled for this summer and the machine plant of the native Longleaf Pine will begin this winter.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Capling

Check it out!

Derryl Sullivan, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron civil engineer, purchases a tub of coffee at the commissary's new self check-out lane Jan. 17. The commissary added four self check-out lanes Jan. 15 and replaced nine cash registers with new systems to help speed up customer service.

Checkertail Salute

Airman 1st Class Timothy Burk



Photo by Chris Dahmer

Airman 1st Class Timothy Burk, 325th Air Control Squadron pilot simulation technician, conducts scope setup prior to a simulated training mission.

Airman Burk piloted six hours of additional-training simulations, which afforded off-line practice to four students. He also scrutinized 12 student-grade books, identifying and correcting administrative errors. Airman Burk's efforts have provided an accurate record of the Air Battle Managers' training progress.

Hometown: Camden, Tenn.

Time on station: Six months

Time in service: 10 Months

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, fixing up old houses, designing floor plans and beaches

Goals: To eventually become a professional pilot

Favorite thing about Tyndall AFB: Everything there is to do: the marina, golf course, beach, etc.

Favorite book: The Bible and Money Magazine

Pet Peeves: Waiting on people who are late

Proudest moment in the military: Arriving and settling at my first duty station: Tyndall

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.