



In Brief

AFAF Kick-Off

The Air Force Assistance Fund drive begins March 24 with a free kick-off event, 11 a.m. at the 95th Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Lisa Winders at 283-8986.

RAO Meeting

The quarterly retiree committee meeting is 10 a.m. April 8 at the 325th Fighter Wing, bldg. 662, Rm. 204.

For more information, call the Retiree Activity Office at 283-2737.

Dining Facility

The Berg-Liles Dining Facility is closed until April 1 due to drainage repairs. For additional information, call the food service staff office at 283-4422.

GCCC

The next GCCC placement test is 1 p.m. Wednesday. For more information, call the Education Center at 283-4332.

Country Music Star

Country music star Aaron Tippin will perform a free concert at the 2008 Gulf Coast Salute air show March 29. For more information about the air show, visit www.tyndall.af.mil.



Falcon Loan takes flight

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

Airmen of all ranks in urgent need of money are now able to apply for the Air Force Aid Society's Falcon Loan at the Tyndall Airmen and Family Readiness Center beginning Monday.

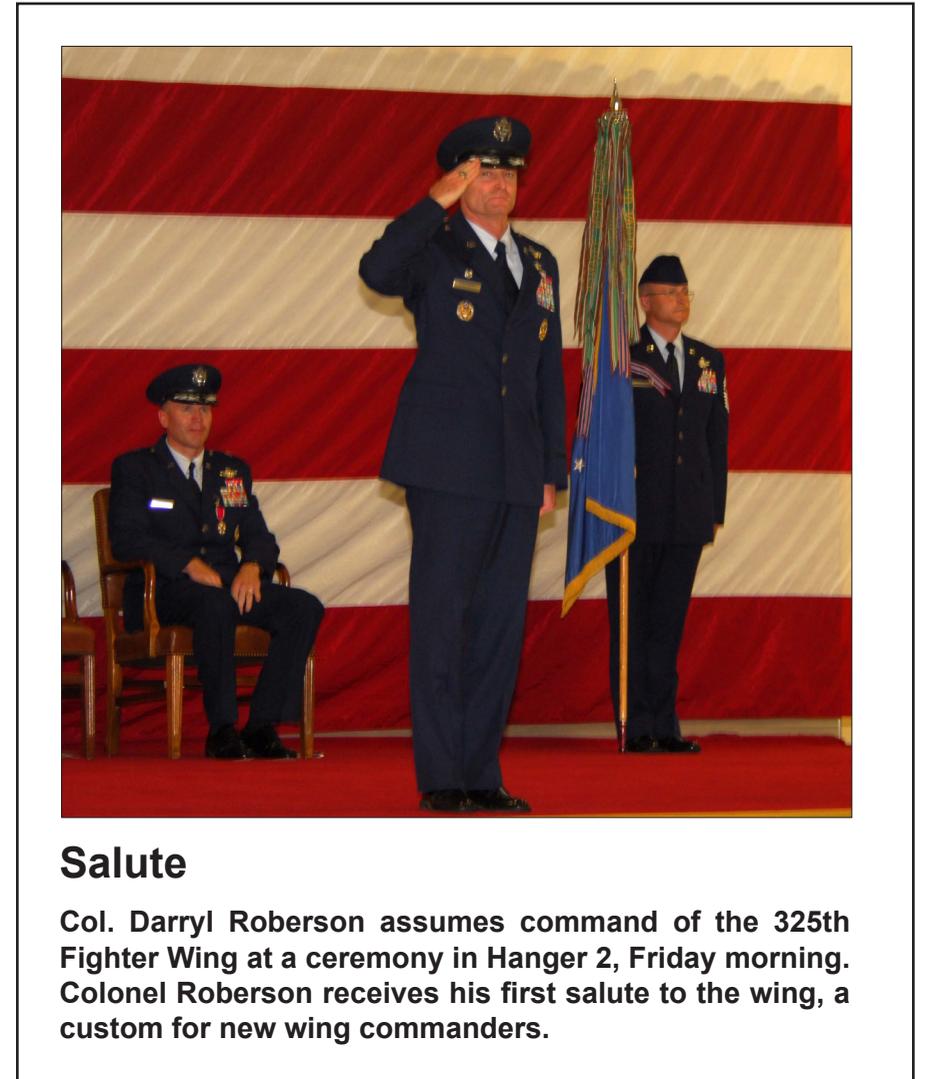
"The Falcon Loan is a great new program for Airmen in need," said Gen. William R. Looney III, commander of Air Education and Training Command. "This gives every Airman - enlisted and officer - a means to avoid high-interest payday loan places. The Air Force Aid Society has made it simple for Airmen to get the interest-free money they need for emergencies."

The Falcon Loan, a \$500 maximum interest-free loan, can be utilized for emergency needs such as car repairs, emergency travel or other approved needs.

"The Falcon Loan differs from regular bank loans in that the interest rate is zero," said Senior Master Sgt. David Brett, 325th Mission Support Group Airmen and Family Readiness Center NCO in charge.

Since financial concerns often affect readiness, the Falcon Loan helps Airmen with immediate financial issues and opens up dialog with the Airmen and Family Readiness Center for further assistance in improving their readiness level, explained Sergeant Brett.

To be eligible for the loan, applicants must be active-duty Air Force members or an AF spouse with a power of attorney. Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members who are on Title 10 orders



Salute

Col. Darryl Roberson assumes command of the 325th Fighter Wing at a ceremony in Hanger 2, Friday morning. Colonel Roberson receives his first salute to the wing, a custom for new wing commanders.

are also eligible.

Airmen must not have a current Air Force Aide Society loan still open to be eligible.

Applications can be downloaded from the AFAS Web site, <http://www.afas.org/docs/AFAS-Application-March2008.pdf>.

Bring a completed application, ID card and current Leave and Earning Statement to the Tyndall Family Readiness Center. AFR and ANG who meet the requirements are additionally required to provide a copy of their orders and a voided check, explained Sergeant Brett.

Individuals approved for the Falcon Loan are expected to repay

by allotment within 10 months or by their separation date, if less than 10 months.

For more information on the Falcon Loan program, please contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 283-4204 or visit the AFAS Web site, <http://www.afas.org>.



Tyndall AFB hoopsters take aim at Air Force team

STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CAPLING 325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Four Tyndall Lady Tiger basketball players were selected to participate in the 2008 All-Air Force Women's Basketball Trial Camp March 2-19 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

If selected, they will represent the Air Force team in the 2008 Armed Forces Women's Championship March 20-28 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn., and if mission permits, the National Council International du Sport Militaire April 12-23 at Lackland AFB, Texas. Six out of the 19 tryout slots went to players from Air Education and Training Command.

The four selected from Tyndall are: 2nd Lt. Monica Mason, 325th Mission Support Squadron officer in charge of customer service and readiness, Staff Sgt. Mariela Miles, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, Airman 1st

Class Richere Harrison, 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron integrated avionics technician, and Airman 1st Class Tiffanie Guthrie, 325th Communications Squadron assistant base forms and publications manager.

Lieutenant Mason is trying out for the Air Force team for the first time, but her basketball background is extensive. In addition to playing for the Tyndall Lady Tigers, she also played basketball at the collegiate level and coached the 325th MSS intramural basketball team for the 2007-2008 season.

"I am definitely eager, excited and grateful to be given the opportunity to represent Tyndall Air Force Base and the Air Force while playing a sport I've always enjoyed," Lieutenant Mason said. "I've been spending the last month trying to get in the best physical and mental condition before the camp. I know it is going to be

challenging, but I think we are all up for the challenge!"

Sergeant Miles was selected for the tryout for the third time, but will not be able to attend due to an injury.

"With the talent coming from this base, there's no doubt in my mind that they'll make it," she said. "I played on the gold medal winning teams in 2004 and 2005. Personally, I wanted this year to be another gold winning one. The players take a lot of pride in representing the Air Force and I know that this year will be no different so I'll be cheering on our girls and hoping they bring home the gold."

Airman Harrison has been playing basketball since she was in the ninth grade, to include a two-year stint playing at the junior college level, is trying out for the first time and looking forward to the challenge.

"I know it's going to be a lot of hard work for me," she said. "I know it's not going to be all fun and games when we get down there, but I'm excited to be going."

Tech. Sgt. Tricia Bell, 95th Fighter Squadron aircrew flight equipment NCO in charge, coached all four players for the Tyndall Lady Tigers who recently lost to the Ft. Benning Lady Bandits in the Southeastern Military Athletic Conference championship after a perfect regular season.

Sergeant Bell expects her players to perform well at the tryout. She said the players performed outstanding throughout the season, even when the team had a shortage of players due to mission requirements.

"They were the best choices to represent Tyndall and the Air Force," she said. "I expect all of them to make it."

Checkertail Salute

Tech. Sgt. Francisco Garza



Photo by Chris Dahmer

Tech. Sgt. Francisco Garza, 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron resource advisor, conducts a newcomer orientation briefing to newly arrived personnel.

Sergeant Garza managed his squadron's \$67.1 million budget by advising the commander on financial planning, allocation, management and documentation according to the fiscal year requirements. He also processed more than 500 temporary duty orders. As an avid volunteer, Sergeant Garza served as the president of a local breast cancer fundraiser walk, raising \$1,500, and coaches the Rutherford weight-lifting team.

Hometown: Lubbock, Texas.
Time on station: Three years and nine months
Time in service: 23 years
Goals: To retire one day
Hobbies: Collecting Hot Wheels, working on his Chevy pick-up
Favorite thing about Tyndall AFB: the weather
Favorite movie: Clueless and The Godfather
Proudest moment in the military: When I got married to my wife, Donna, and having the two greatest kids a Dad could have.

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.

Tyndall Air Force Base
Gulf Coast Salute 2008
 "To Servicemembers Home & Abroad"

Featuring the
Thunderbirds

Saturday, March 29
 Gates open at 9 a.m.

Free admission. Free parking.
 For a schedule of events, directions, details and more...
 Visit www.tyndall.af.mil

**AIRMEN
 AGAINST
 DRUNK DRIVING**

(850) 867-0220
 Fri. & Sat., 5 p.m.- 5 a.m.