Gulf Defender

Vol. 65, No. 1 | Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Home of Air Dominance Training* | Jan. 6, 2006

In brief

New crosswalk policy

Effective immediately, drivers who fail to stop for pedestrians waiting to cross at crosswalks or failing to stop if the pedestrian is not completely out of a crosswalk will have their on-base driving privileges suspended for 14 days.

Operation Jr. Raptor

Volunteers are needed Jan. 20 and 21 to help with Operation Jr. Raptor, a mock deployment program for children. Parents need to register their children for the event by Jan. 13 if they plan to attend. Contact the Family Support Center at 283-4204 to sign-up as a volunteer or for more information.

What's inside

Four Airmen receive STEP promotions
... Page 7

2005 year in review
... Page 10-11

Airman rebuilds old tanks, jets for museums
... Page 14

Master Sgt. Mike Ammons

A formidable force

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander, and Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th FW vice commander, fly the F-22A Raptor and F-15 Eagle Dec. 22 above the Gulf Coast shore near Tyndall. Air Force senior officials recently certified the Raptor as fully qualified and ready for combat. For more information about the Raptor reaching initial operational capability and its name change, see Page 4.

Wingman concept more than motto for Airman

Injured Airman receives help from others after car accident

2nd Lt. Will Powell
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

One Tyndall Airman feels lucky to be alive after his vehicle collided with an 18-wheeler recently in Panama City.

Senior Airman Stephen Day, 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was on his way to work at approximately 8 a.m. when the accident occurred, which fortunately left Airman Day with relatively minor injuries but caused nearly $10,000 in damage to his four-door sedan.

Airman Day and the truck driver were driving side-by-side on U.S. Highway 98 when the tractor-trailer shifted into the middle, left-hand-turn lane but then made a sudden and unexpected sharp right turn toward a parking lot. The Airman slammed on the brakes to avoid hitting the semi, but he collided with the rig's auxiliary fuel tank at approximately 40 mph.

Fortunately, the truck driver also hit the brakes to avoid completely running over Airman Day's car and possibly killing the Airman.

"The first thing I can remember doing was looking down and wondering why my air bag didn't deploy," said Airman Day, whose nearly brand new car was sitting half underneath the semi's fuel tank. "Then I remember smelling fuel and thought the car was going to blow up."

An impact with the steering wheel left his face covered in blood as he tried to open the car door, which wouldn't budge.

"Some people wanted me to sit there to make sure I wasn't injured, but my life was the top priority," he said.

Maj. Connor Blackwood

Airman Day's car after a collision with a tractor-trailer Dec. 14 in Panama City.

● See ACCIDENT Page 6

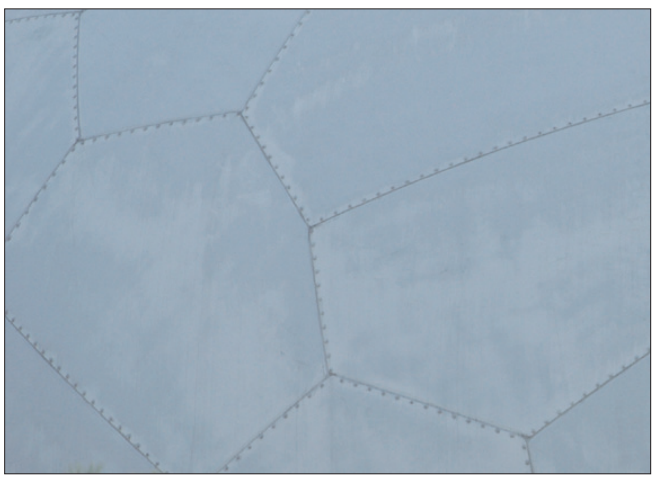
I am an Airman and a Wingman to all other Airmen

Courtesy photo

Kaboom!

A 1000 pound explosive charge detonates Dec. 14 at the Air Force Research Laboratory test range here to measure the blast effects on windows and walls that had been retrofitted with blast-resistant materials. Strict coordination between the researchers, air traffic controllers and aircrews have resulted in safe flying and explosive operations here for more than 10 years.

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 select the final winner. The prize can be claimed at the Public Affairs office.

The winner for the Dec. 16 "Identify This" is Senior Airman Louis Mancuso, 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He correctly guessed it was a Christmas light bulb. Congratulations, Airman Mancuso. Come claim your prize!

ON THE **STREET**

What is your New Year's resolution?

"I want to graduate top of my class. I just cross trained into orthotics."

Staff Sgt. Pompilio Alfaro
325th Medical Operations Squadron

"Ride my Harley more because I didn't have time last year. I was in school constantly."

Master Sgt. Michael Husava
83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron

"My New Year's resolution is to raise my standards in my dating life."

2nd Lt. Chris Collins
325th Fighter Wing

"Quit smoking cold turkey. I've tried smoking cessation classes."

Staff Sgt. Michelle Clements
325th Communications Squadron

Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

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Maj. Susan A. Romano ..... chief, 325th FW public affairs
Ms. Chrissy Cuttita ..... chief, internal information
2nd Lt. William Powell ..... deputy chief, internal information
Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek ..... editor

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office. Photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

Commander welcomes New Year, wishes best

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton
325th Fighter Wing commander

This past year has been a whirlwind of activity for us.

We saw the arrival of the last of our Raptors, thus completing our fleet. The wing made some noise with a historic wing deployment where Tyndall Raptors dropped joint direct attack munitions for the first time. Tyndall braced for three hurricanes and rendered support to our neighbors devastated by the mother of all hurricanes, Katrina. We have trained the world's finest warriors – many whom are deployed in hostile environments today or will soon be on their way. We have also lost fellow Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, as they fight to secure freedoms for infant democracies abroad. Their sacrifices will not be forgotten!

I want to remind each of you why you are here and how important your job is to the mission of Tyndall AFB and the world. The 325th Fighter Wing's mission is to TRAIN AMERICA'S AIR DOMINANCE FORCE. However, we, as a base, do much more than that.

Each of you provides a piece of an intricate puzzle that once put together creates the world's best Airmen ready for battle. From the members of 1st Air Force who protect the sovereignty of our nation's skies, to the Airmen supporting fighter weapons training in the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group – everyone has a piece of the Team Tyndall mission and every one of us is vital to its success!

As Tyndall steps up to the plate in the Air and Space Expeditionary Force batting order, we send our finest abroad to do battle in the coming year. Those who remain behind must pick up a very heavy load and press on. Families must carry on without a parent; coworkers must take on extra caseloads to ensure the mission continues. Deployments are difficult on all, not just the deployed member, but duty calls and the security of this nation rest in our skilled hands.

This brings safety to the forefront; do not become complacent or overburdened by additional workloads to the point that you put lives at risk. Every one of you, regardless of rank, has the ability and responsibility to call "knock it off" at anytime. If you follow the technical orders and something goes wrong, then it is an institutional problem. But if you "freelance" and something goes wrong, that's when we get ourselves into trouble. Follow the TOs and call "knock it off" if you feel something is unsafe.

Thank you for the safety success of 2005; we have had a good year with minimal accidents and incidents. Let's make 2006 even better.

Know that I am proud of each of you and the sacrifices that you make. Be a wingman and take care of one another during the coming year. I challenge each of you to set personal and professional goals, to strive for that next golden ring in your life, as we, as a wing strive to achieve the next level of excellence. I wish each of you a happy and bountiful 2006!

Child reminds commander why he serves, leads

Lt. Col. Kevin Simmons
43rd Electronic Combat Squadron commander

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. (AFPN) – "Excuse me, sir, excuse me."

At first I did not hear her. She was tiny, about 7 years old and was speaking very softly in a very loud and crowded family pizza and entertainment place where I had brought my sons after work.

Only her slight tugging on the sleeve of my flight suit made me realize she was even there. I also had a lot on my mind.

Seven weeks earlier I had moved my family (again).

A week after that, I assumed command of one of the Air Force's "low-density/high-demand" units, the mighty 43rd Electronic Combat Squadron. Known as the "Bats," 43rd ECS aircrews fly the EC-130H Compass Call. The EC-130H is an airborne electronic warfare aircraft that prevents successful enemy command and control communications and limits adversary coordination essential for enemy force management.

The 43rd ECS has been deployed supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom continuously for 16 months. Every day for the past six weeks I found myself running a mental marathon to make sure I was making the right decisions to lead this squadron, and this day was no different.

To keep my thoughts and actions focused, I turned to a tool learned in my 17 years of education and experience as an Airman – conduct mission analysis.

By using the same "who, what, when, where and why" approach I had used in past leadership situations, I felt confident that I would handle this leadership challenge.

It was easy to answer part of the "who" question. I knew who I was. I would continue being myself, knowing that if I kept with our Core Values of Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in all We Do, I would (hopefully) be an effective leader.

However, because I was new to Compass Call, I only knew a few individuals.

To complete the "who" question, for six weeks I had engaged our Airmen in conversation; reviewed their records; learned about their personalities and reputations; held commander's, officer and enlisted calls; called them at home; intruded into their lives to understand their joys and concerns and met with their spouses to learn who I was leading.

Courtesy photo

● See WHY Page 14

Action Line

Call 283-2255

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton
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 that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

Commissary	283-4825
Pass and I.D.	283-4191
Medical and Dental	283-7515
MEO	283-2739
MPF	283-2276
SFS Desk Sgt.	283-2254
Services	283-2501
Legal	283-4681
Housing	283-2036
CDC	283-4747
Wing Safety	283-4231
Area Defense Counsel	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.

F-22A Raptor goes operational, changes name

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) – The F-22A Raptor – Air Force's most advanced weapon system – is ready for combat, Air Force officials announced in December.

In reaching initial operational capability, the Raptor is certified ready for operational use.

The first combat-ready Raptors are flying with the 27th Fighter Squadron of the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley AFB, Va. The squadron's deployment capability is a 12-ship package designed to execute air-to-air and air-to-ground missions.

"If we go to war tomorrow, the Raptor will go with us," said Gen. Ronald E. Keys, Air Combat Command commander.

Air Force senior leaders designated it "F/A" three years ago to stress the stealth fighter's ability to provide close-air support and drop bombs. Now that it is available for duty world wide, the jet returns to the service's consistent fighter designation, the F-22A. The trailing letter indicates the first variant, rather than representing the plane's additional ground attack role. But the mission remains the same – it is a multi-role fighter whose attack capability will continue to grow.

Declaring the transformational stealth fighter "IOC" means the Raptor's proven capabilities are available for combat and supported by a properly trained and equipped force.

It also means the aircraft is qualified to fly homeland defense missions.

"F-22A IOC means our warfighters now have an unprecedented lethal mix of air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities at their disposal," General Keys said. "The Raptor's cutting edge technology brings us continued joint air dominance despite advancing enemy threats."

Reaching the IOC milestone culminates a collaborative 25-year effort between various Air Force organizations and industry partners. The road to IOC was a step-by-step process including pilot training at Tyndall AFB, which continues to produce fully-qualified Raptor pilots.

"General Keys has declared his confidence in the Raptor, Raptor drivers and Raptor maintainers, not just the airplane," said Lt. Col. Michael Stapleton, 43rd Fighter Squadron commander. "Tyndall plays a crucial role in this – we train the force for combat. But don't forget that we are also a large part of Raptor community's experience, ready to support the expeditionary force when called. General Keys believes in our ability to get the job done for America. You better believe his confidence in us makes us proud."

2nd Lt. Will Powell

Airman 1st Class James Fleming, 43rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, assists Raptor pilot Maj. Paul Moga, 43rd Fighter Squadron, after a recent sortie.

Designed to ensure America's air dominance for years to come, the F-22A will ensure U.S. joint forces' freedom from attack and freedom to attack, even as adversaries continue to advance their weapons and technologies, officials said.

"After reviewing our test results – seeing our operational deployment performance and talking to the pilots that will go to war with it – I am confident the F-22A joins the combat force at a far more mature and capable level than any of our previous great aircraft, and will take its rightful place in a long line of U.S. Air Force legends of the air," General Keys said.

AFPC changes AMS access

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – In a recent change to improve security and standardize access controls, access to the Assignment Management System is now controlled via the Air Force Personnel Center's Secure Web site.

Airmen can access the AFPC Secure site at https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/AFPCSECURE/DEFAULT.ASP by establishing a user identification and password or by using the common access card.

Once Airmen enter the secure Web site, it will provide them automatic access to the AMS application and others such as the Virtual Military Personnel Flight.

Commanders must delegate higher level AMS access roles for their staff. The personnel center's AMS help desk will no longer assign these roles to any member, except commanders. Major command access roles will be granted through designated major command AMS representatives. Commanders must revalidate their staffs' higher level access roles by the following dates:

- requisition manager role, no later than Jan. 31; and
- commander support staff role, no later than Feb. 28.

Any member whose higher level access is not revalidated by the deadlines above will have the higher level access revoked.

Beginning Feb. 15, the common access card will be required for higher level access in the AMS. Currently, during the trial period, designated Airmen may gain higher level access with their user identifications and passwords; however, they should verify their CAC card works during this time. For more information on enabling CAC readers contact unit client support administrators.

For questions about AFPC Secure, call (800) 616-3775.

● FROM ACCIDENT PAGE 1

Capt. Alexander Haddad, 95th Fighter Squadron, was driving a short distance behind Airman Day and witnessed the accident. He immediately called 9-1-1 and stopped to assist the injured Airman.

"Airman Day had forced his way out of the car by the time I got to him," said Captain Haddad. "He was obviously hurt, so I had him sit down to assess his injuries, and I tried to stop the bleeding."

The captain, with the assistance of Maj. Connor Blackwood, 1st FS, who also stopped to help, called Airman Day's commander and first sergeant to inform them about the accident.

An ambulance arrived within five minutes of the accident and transported the Airman to Bay Medical Hospital, where he received various x-rays and other tests.

Captain Haddad remained by his side, accompanied by Tech. Sgt. Mark Staub, Airman Day's supervisor.

"Airman Day said he didn't have any family here, so I wanted to stay with him to be sure he was being taken care of properly," said Captain Haddad, who didn't know the Airman until that day.

"The captain was very supportive, and it was comforting to know he was there," Airman Day said. "And Sergeant Staub was a huge help, as well. He took me around to the pharmacy, to see my car, to the police department to pick up my license and then he drove me home."

The Airman said he still suffers from chest, neck and back pain, as well as multiple other injuries, but he admits it could have been a lot worse.

"I could have been run over completely. I definitely feel lucky that I was able to get out of the car," he said.

Congratulations to Tyndall's newest senior airmen Below the Zone recipients!

Andrew Chase, 325th Contracting Squadron
Chad Sommers, 325th Comptroller Squadron
Lori-Lynn Laracuente, 325th Air Control Squadron
Jenay Resto, 325th ACS

TSP announces enrollment changes for 2006

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Effective in 2006, civilian and military employees are no longer subject to a percentage limit on the amount they may contribute to a regular Thrift Savings Plan account.

They may contribute the full amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Service annual elective deferral limit, which is $15,000 for 2006.

"TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan, which everyone should consider," said Janet Thomas, a human resources specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center. "It's a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans."

Investing in TSP is not limited to stocks. People can choose safer government securities or invest in the new Lifecycle Funds.

Open seasons were eliminated July 1, so employees may start, change, stop or resume their TSP contributions at any time (except those in the 6-month non-contribution period following a financial hardship in-service withdrawal).

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

Eligible employees can take out loans, make in-service withdrawals from their TSP accounts, and keep their account even if they leave military or federal civilian service.

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck "so you never have to think about it," Ms. Thomas said. "That makes it easy to 'pay yourself first' while only investing what you deem appropriate.

"As with any individual retirement account, the sooner you begin contributing, the better," Ms. Thomas said.

The five individual TSP funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund. Or participants may choose to invest in the new Lifecycle "L" Funds.

Information on TSP investment funds is available on the TSP Web site at: www.tsp.gov/rates/fundsheets.html.

Congratulations to Tyndall's newest technical and master sergeants!

The following people were promoted through the Stripes for Exceptional Performers Program Dec. 22.

Tech. Sgt. Steven Smith
325th Mission Support Squadron

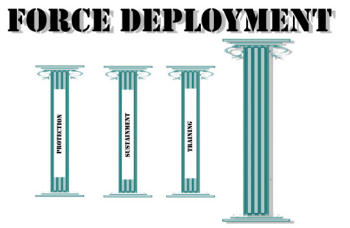
Tech. Sgt. Kevin Skaggs
325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Julia Farmer
2nd Fighter Squadron

Master Sgt. Norman Shaw
325th Maintenance Squadron

New protection against identity theft

People whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years cleaning up the mess the thieves have made of their names and credit records. And the last thing people want to worry about while deployed is someone assuming their identity to commit financial fraud.



Fortunately, new protection guards against identity theft.

Amendments to the Fair Credit Reporting Act allow people to place an "active duty" alert in their credit report for up to one year when they are deployed. The alert requires creditors to verify your identity before granting credit in your name.

The business or creditor may try to contact you directly, but that may be impossible if you're deployed. As a result, the law allows you to use a personal representative to place or remove an alert. If your deployment lasts longer, you may place another alert on your report.

To place an "active duty" alert, or to have it removed, call the toll-free fraud number of one of the three nationwide consumer reporting companies: Equifax, Experian, or Trans Union. The company will require you to provide appropriate proof of your identity, which may include your Social Security number, your name, address and other personal information.

Identity theft is real. Stay protected.

(Courtesy of the Base Legal Office.)

2006 Checkertail Wing Swing Lessons

Wed. and Jan. 18, 25 and Feb. 1, 8

Enlisted Club

- open to all ranks

6 - 7 p.m.
Lessons
7 - 8 p.m.
Dance

Members
Free &
Non-Member
$2.50
per person

NSPS implementation date moves to Feb. 1

GERRY J. GILMORE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – The Department of Defense will delay implementing the new National Security Personnel System until Feb. 1, acting Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England said.

Mr. England, and other defense and Office of Personnel Management officials, provided an update on the system matters to members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee at a Capitol Hill hearing Nov. 17.

The secretary told senators the system will benefit DOD employees.

"This is a win for DOD, it's a win for our employees, and it's a win for our nation," he said.

Several unions recently filed a lawsuit challenging some aspects of NSPS regulations, Mr. England said. However, DOD, OPM, the Justice Department and the unions involved in the lawsuit announced an agreement Nov. 16.

"While the lawsuit is in process, we have all agreed that DOD will continue the training on NSPS and will continue collaboration with them on implementation details," Mr. England said.

He said the final NSPS regulations were published in the Federal Register Nov. 1. That publication, he said, had triggered a 30-day period for congressional review of the regulations prior to their implementation.

NSPS is part of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's program to transform the way DOD does business to better meet the challenges of the 21st century. The new program, in development since 2003, will replace the current general-schedule personnel ranking system with broad pay bands.

Employees are evaluated for performance in duties directly tied to departmental missions. Under NSPS, that pay-for-performance system replaces old civil service rules that rewarded employees for length of service rather than performance.

DOD and OPM are partnering to establish the NSPS, which eventually will affect 180,000 Department of Homeland Security employees as well as DOD's more than 650,000-person civilian work force.

"Our collaboration with the department has been a joint effort, and I do thank Secretary England and his staff for his leadership during this undertaking," OPM director Linda Springer told the Senate panel. She said OPM's role in assisting to craft new NSPS regulations was to ensure there is a proper balance between accomplishing missions and the needs of the work force.

"After all, it's the people in government who make the government work. We also recognize that the government's human resources system must protect and promote fairness and transparency, and guarantee equal access for all," Ms. Springer said.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Phase II of construction at the Sabre Gate is underway. This portion of work will last approximately four months. This phase of construction will allow for only outbound traffic flow through the Sabre Gate. Inbound access for military family housing residents and Youth Center, Golf Course, and Marina Club employees will be through School Road Gate.

All inbound traffic through School Road Gate will be required to turn right onto DeJarnette Road, and all outbound traffic on Sabre Drive will not be permitted to turn right on DeJarnette Road. All other inbound traffic should use the main gate at Illinois Avenue.

Checkertail Salute

Carolyn Faye Owens

2nd Lt. Will Powell

Ms. Owens receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Ms. Owens, 325th Fighter Wing Equal Employment Opportunity. She contributed in the testing of a locally developed database that has since become the Headquarters AETC-approved standard. She also discovered EEO complaints for which federal agencies had not met the mandated suspense.

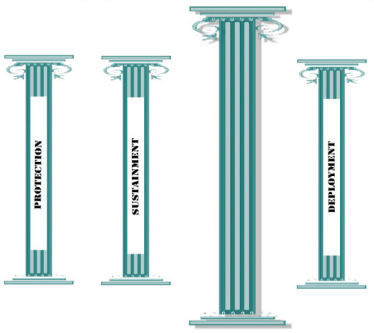
Duty title: Equal opportunity specialist
Time on station: Ten years
Time in service: Nineteen years
Hometown: Panama City
Hobbies: Family gatherings
Favorite movie: "Gone with the Wind" and "The Ten Commandments"
Favorite book: The Bible
Favorite thing about Tyndall: Team spirit
Pet peeves: When people do not seek solutions to problems
Goals: Be the best grandparent ever!
Proudest moment in the military: Husband's military retirement

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.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Airman 1st Class Tiffany Afonso, 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron apprentice.

PEOPLE FIRST

FORCE TRAINING



Training Spotlight

What is the most interesting part of your training here?

"The most interesting part of my course is living out my childhood dream of flying."

1st Lt. John Deloney
2nd Fighter Squadron
student pilot

Eagle students toughen skills for perfection

Chrissy Cuttita
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Having the ability to quickly learn new information and retain old information is vital as a student pilot, but the most important thing a student pilot needs to be successful is thick skin, according to veteran pilots.

"I tell the students if they don't have thick skin, they'll have to grow it," said Lt. Col. Bill Routt, 1st Fighter Squadron operations officer.

Although he has flown 2,650 hours in the F-15 since 1989, he continues to experience how easily any failure in a mission is questioned.

The fighter pilot admits they are nitpicky about getting everything to perfection and nothing less.

"We debrief to such minute detail and we are punished for any imperfection," he said. "I still make mistakes and feel bad when I do. With experience you just make less mistakes."

Every pilot, student or experienced, has to keep themselves up to date by studying on their own. They must become familiar with the latest aviation technology and fighter tactics - friendly and foe.

"The F-15 Eagle is one of the easiest jets to fly but it is one of the most difficult to employ properly," said Colonel Routt.

He said the F-15 Eagle has a unique and dynamic air-to-air dogfighter mission.

"Our mission has numerous variables, and we rarely attack the same problem the same way. Unlike the bomb droppers, who often fly a route with timing, we need to be fluid in our approach and base our attack on an unknown enemy tactic or presentation," the colonel said.

Pilots have to know their surroundings, including flight members, the mission and its priorities. And their work doesn't end when they step down from the cockpit.

One of the additional duties of many fighter pilots here is being the instructor for young officers who are preparing to embark on a career as Eagle drivers.

"Students are the whole reason this base exists," said Colonel Routt. "The last class was here more than seven months. They start out clueless about the airplane but graduate knowing all the facets in which the F-15 Eagle can perform."

"The training I received at Tyndall was world class and I couldn't ask for anything more," said 1st Lt. Tyler Ellison, one of last year's graduates and current F-15 pilot at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. "The instructors provided all the fundamentals required to become a combat mission-ready pilot in the combat air forces. The instructors know the demands and requirements for pilots in the operational fighter squadrons and they ensure that each graduate possesses the needed skills to succeed in their first assignment."

Preparing for a sortie can fill all the hours of a workday while actual air-time in the jet averages 90 minutes or less per sortie here. It all depends on the complexity of the mission. Students practice basic flight maneuvers and participate in a four-ship combat exercises.

"Get ready for an increased intensity of training at your operational squadron but remember, after mission qualification training, there are no more grade sheets!," Lieutenant Ellison said as advice to students today.

2nd Lt. Will Powell

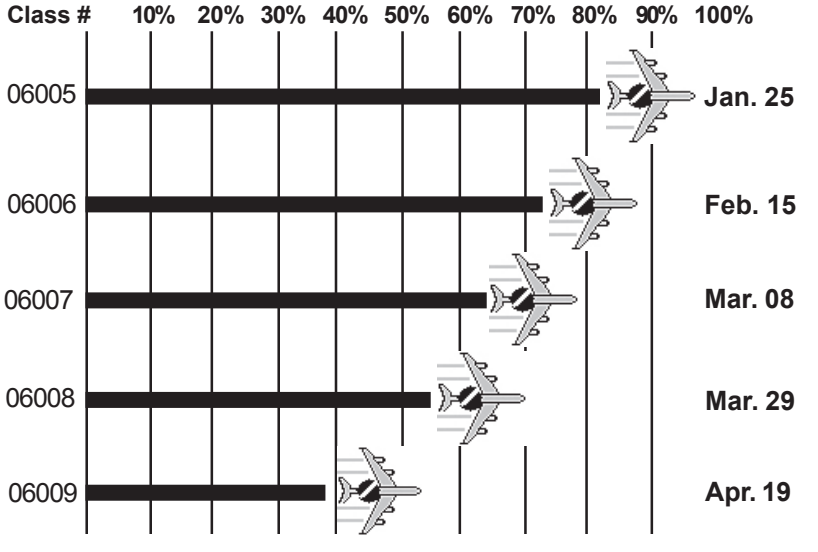
First Lt. Tyler Ellison, pilot and 1st Fighter Squadron F-15 Eagle B-Course 04-JBT graduate, inspects the exhaust nozzles on his jet before taking off for a training sortie here. He now flies for the 390th FS, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

Learning leadership

Staff Sgt. Ed Parker, Airman Leadership School instructor, teaches his first ALS course of 2006 Wednesday called "successful learning," an introduction to the curriculum. Forty-three students in-processed Tuesday for the course, which is required before the Airmen pin on staff sergeant.

Chrissy Cuttita

Air Battle Manager student progress chart



Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender* Jan. 14, 2005

CSAF becomes Tyndall's newest Raptor pilot

2ND LT. WILLIAM P...

Lisa Norman

Former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper signs a placard for Staff Sgt. Jonathan Tringali, 43rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, following one of the general's three F-22A qualification flights. The general spent nine days here learning to fly the Raptor and completed his training with a third qualification flight Jan. 12.

Airmen aid tsunami relief efforts

OVER SRI LANKA – Senior Airman Matt Morrow scans the Sri Lankan horizon during tsunami relief operations in January. His HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter delivered supplies and equipment to various relief distribution centers. Tyndall Airmen also assisted by raising more than $10,000 for the relief fund. Airman Marrow is an aerial gunner from the 33rd Rescue Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Japan, who was supporting Operation Unified Assistance.

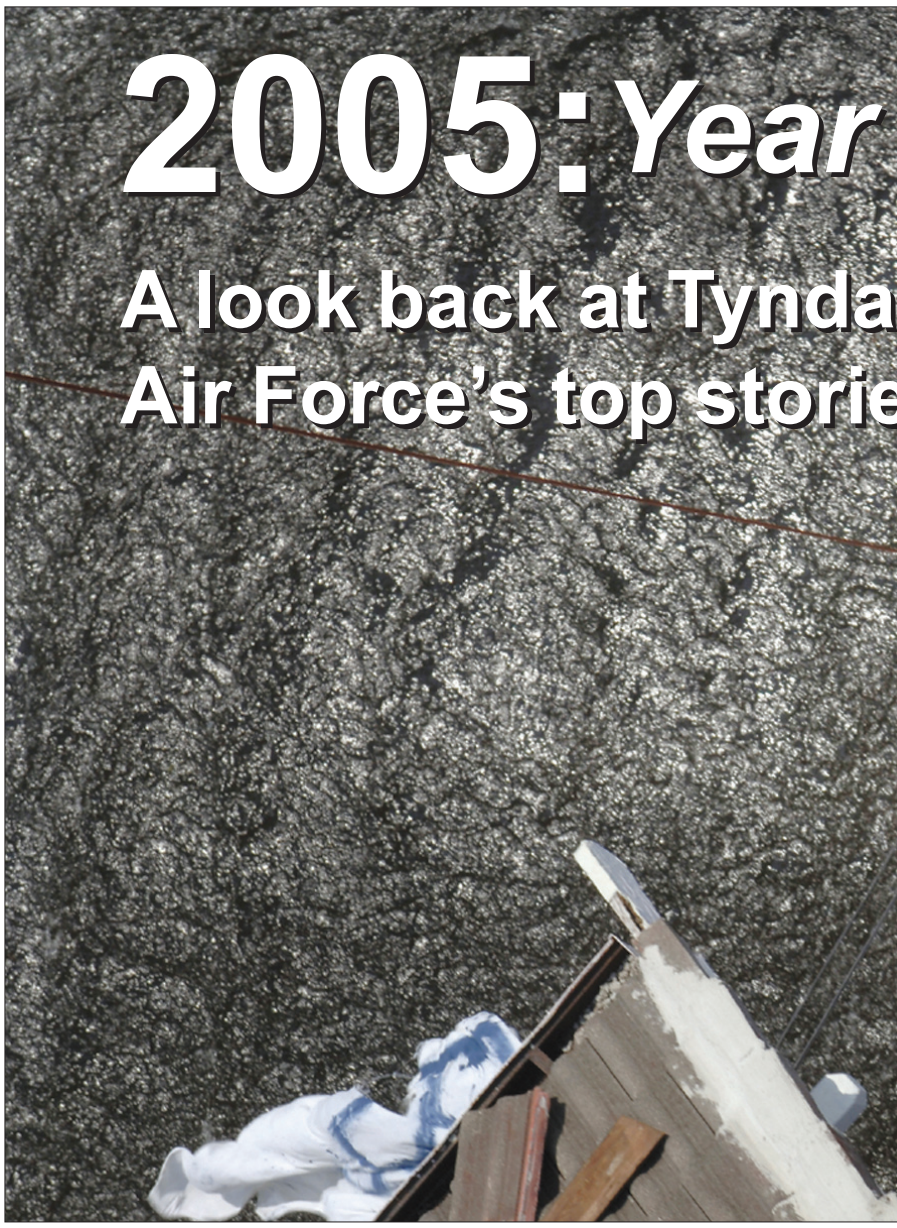
Master Sgt. Val Gempis

The fleet is complete!

Wing commander delivers 43rd FS' Raptor No. 23

2005: *Year*

A look back at Tynda Air Force's top storie



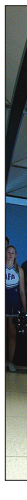
NEW ORLEANS – Tech. Sgt. Lem Torres rescues a child Sept. 2 who wa Sergeant Torres is a pararescueman in the 38th Rescue Squadron, Moo

...Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender* July 1, 2005

Tyndall is 'Excellent!'

Lisa Norman

A cheering crowd receives the news of yet another 'Excellent' rating at the Operational Readiness Inspection outbrief June 28 here. The 325th Fighter Wing received an overall rating of 'Excellent' after a week of inspections and exercises.



U th fr at S

in review

ll's, es

Staff Sgt. Manuel J. Martinez

as trapped in a house in New Orleans flooded with water left by Hurricane Katrina. dy AFB, Ga.

Tyndall hit by Hurricane Dennis

Issac Gibson

Members of the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron clear a tree that knocked over a light pole during Hurricane Dennis July 10. The base population safely evacuated to avoid the hurricane, but Tyndall suffered approximately $2.1 million in damage to its facilities. This hurricane was one of many to strike the Gulf Coast during the summer.

Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

Gen. Moseley sworn in as 18th CSAF

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. – Gen. John P. Jumper (left) passes the Chief of Staff Guidon to Gen. T. Michael Moseley during a ceremony Sept. 2. General Moseley served as Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force before being sworn in as the 18th Air Force Chief of Staff.

Wynne sworn in

Charley Starr

.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFPN) – Secretary of e Air Force, Michael W. Wynne, takes the oath of office om Pete Geren during his swearing-in ceremony Nov. 3 the academy's Mitchell Hall. Mr. Geren was the acting ECAF since July 29.

Tyndall Raptors drop first JDAMs at Nellis

2nd Lt. Will Powell

Airman 1st Class Steve Young, 43rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit weapons load crewman, inspects a joint direct attack munition before loading it onto an F-22A Raptor Dec. 2 here. For the first time ever here, six Raptors were loaded up with the "smart bombs" for a two-week long deployment to Nellis AFB, Nev.

Briefs

RAO volunteers

The Retiree Activities Office is seeking volunteers to assist with the various tasks associated with running the office. The RAO is an all-volunteer organization that provides assistance and information to Tyndall's retiree community on retiree-related issues. Those interested in volunteering should contact the office by e-mail at tyndall.RAO@tyndall.af.mil or call 283-2737.

Clinic phone numbers

The 325th Medical Group advises patients that they may use the central appointments line, 283-2778, to conduct business with both Family Practice and Flight Medicine. The automated system allows patients to choose the clinic desired and, if the number is busy, the call will be queued until a staff member can take the call. This same number can be used to reach medical staff after hours and on weekends. Patients may continue to use the front desk numbers during regular business hours: 283-7535 for Flight Medicine and 283-7501 for Family Practice.

AADD volunteers

Airmen Against Drunk Driving is looking for volunteers. The hours of operations are 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Volunteers must be E-1s through E-4s. Those interested in volunteering can call 867-0220, or e-mail Airman 1st Class Brandon Krueger at brandon.krueger@tyndall.af.mil.

ANG opportunities

The 109th Airlift Wing, in Scotia, N.Y., home of the LC-130 Ski-Birds, has traditional guard vacancies in many career fields. They also have positions open through the rank of major for prior service navigators qualified in any airframe. For more information on these positions or on Palace Chase and Palace Front, call Master Sgt. James Reeves, 109th AW recruiting office supervisor at (800) 524-5070, DSN 344-2457 or by e-mail at 109aw@recruiting.goang.com. Those interested can also go online to www.skibird.com.

Facility managers training

The facility managers make-up training is scheduled from 8–11:30 a.m. and noon to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 18 at the NCO Academy auditorium. This is a change from a previously scheduled date. For more information, call CE customer service at 283-4948/4949.

Isaac Gibson

Snip!

(From left) Brig. Gen. Jack Eggington, 325th Fighter Wing commander, Col. Don Whitehead, 1st Air Force comptroller, and Lt. Col. Kelly Kovach, Canadian component commander, officially open Tyndall's Maple Leaf Center recently. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was followed by the Canadian holiday tradition of "moose milking." The Maple Leaf Center serves as a conference center as well as a location for both community and social events.

Military family employment specialist

A military family employment specialist will be available at the Family Support Center 8:30–11:30 a.m. every Wednesday. The employment specialist is available to assist military spouses with job placement and referral for positions in the Panama City area and to register spouses in the workforce employment system. For more information or to make an appointment, call the FSC at 283-4204.

Airman's Attic

Family Services and the Airman's Attic are open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday–Friday in Bldg. 747. Call the Family Services office at 283-4913 for more information.

Tyndall lodging adds Military Family Housing units

The 325th Services Squadron began acquiring some of the Military Family Housing units in May that were being turned over to privatization. Since this time, they remodeled 52 units and began opening the three-bedroom units in May. Currently all of the two-, three- and four-bedroom houses are open and were full all summer long.

They also have 12 pet-friendly units to help those with pets. There is a $10 charge per day for keeping pets in these units, with a maximum of two pets allowed. These new TLFs are available not just to PCSing families, but are also available on a space-available basis to friends and family members visiting the area. Reservations can be made up to seven days in advance for a maximum of three nights.

For more information, call the Sand Dollar Inn at 283-4211.

Tyndall Commissary closure Jan. 24

The Commissary will be closed Jan. 24 so new grocery shelving can be installed. This will ensure adequate time to complete the shelving replacement process and to get products back on the shelves.

After the resetting of products, some categories or items may not be located in the same shopping aisles they are now. Aisle markers will also be updated. In order to assist you with the new locations, a revised store layout will be available at the entrance to the commissary Jan. 25.

AF Reserve recruiter available

A new Air Force Reserve in-service recruiter is available to assist Tyndall Airmen with their career options. If enlisted Airmen or officers are interested in joining the Air Force Reserves, or would like more information about what the Reserves can offer, contact Tech. Sgt. John Bishop at 283-8384.

Thrift Shop hours

Normal operating hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday–Friday, with consignments from 9:30–11:30 a.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Thrift Shop is located in Bldg. 743, across from the Post Office. For more information, call 286-5888.

Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m.
Monday–Friday, Chapel Two
Reconciliation, before Saturday Mass or by appointment
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel Two
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.)

Chrissy Cuttita

Burnin' off the fruit cake

Members of the 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit run around the track Wednesday during their first physical fitness session of the year. All Tyndall squadrons are resuming regular physical training sessions to get back in shape for upcoming physical fitness tests. For more information on sports and fitness, call the Fitness Center at 283-2631.

Post-season begins but the pickings continue

PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATOR
From the down-pour town

Who let the dogs out? The 2nd Fighter Squadron gains big time in the score box. Rumor has it there's something to do with "girl power." Look out though, if squadrons like 325th Air Control Squadron continue to choose the winners as well as they did this week, you could be sent back to the pound.

Because some of you forgot to make picks in week 16 and 17, squadrons like 325th Communications Squadron dropped big time. How could you forget the love of pigskin with some excuse like holiday leave? What a fumble!

I was sad to see Seattle lose in Week 17, but how can I be a sore loser when Shaun Alexander scored his 100th career touchdown and ran that 3-yard run that won him his first NFL rushing title at 1,863 total? We're ready for the playoffs! Bring it on!

Sorry New England fans, your boys just barely lost that one. Guess they are giving praise to the mighty wild card right now.

Even with the mental hurt they must feel, the Colts continued to keep the physical hurt on other teams by ending the season with the NFL-best 14-2 record. Coach Tony Dungy said he thinks they are doing it for him.

So who will it be in Super Bowl XL? We see our close-to-home team here, Jacksonville, is really trying to get a piece of the action in the game, which they only got to host in their city last year. But who's really going to Detroit to play the greatest game of the year?

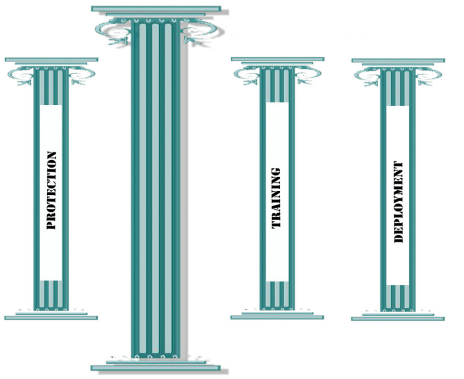
The 325th Medical Operations Squadron believes Carolina will face Indianapolis in the motor city. Care to argue that prediction?

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

Prognosticator scorebox

Team	Week 17	Total
PIG-PROG	12	158
2nd FS	10	161
325th ACS	12	160
325th MOS	9	159
325th SVS	7	157
325th AMXS	9	153
325th CONS	0	149
823rd RHS	8	149
325th CES	9	148
325th MDOS	11	147
First Sgts.	11	147
325th CS	0	141
53rd WEG	9	128
325th CPTS	0	124
325th OG	7	124
325th MSS	8	122
325th OSS	11	117
AFRL	0	115
325th MXS	0	109
NCOA	0	102

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Intramural Sports Standings

Basketball

Team	W	L	Team	W	L
AMXS 3	4	0	COMM	3	2
95th FS	4	0	SVS	2	3
ACS	3	0	AFRL	1	3
AMXS 1	4	1	SFS	1	3
OSS	3	1	83rd FWS	0	4
AMXS 2	2	1	CES	0	5
MXS	2	1	601st EAOG	0	5

Bowling

Team	W	L	Team	W	L
MXS - Phase	92	44	83 FWS 1	68	68
MXS 1	86	50	1st AMU 2	67	69
SFS	82	54	NCOA	66	70
601st 2	80	56	CONS	65	71
IAM	80	56	AMMO	64	72
TEST	78	58	OSS	64	72
1st AMU 3	77	59	53rd WEG	62	74
601st 1	76	60	RED HORSE	60	76
1st AMU 1	75	61	ACS 2	60	76
MSS 1	74	62	CS 2	58	78
MSS 2	74	62	SVS	57	79
CS1	74	62	325 MOS	57	79
AMXS	72	64	ACS 1	56	80
83 FWS 2	70	66	Med Gp	52	84
CES	68	68	1FS	52	84
AFCESA	68	68	AAFES	36	100

Pig-Prog vs. 325 MDOS

Washington @ **Tampa Bay**	**Washington**
Jacksonville @ New England	**New England**
Carolina @ N.Y Giants	**Carolina**
Pittsburgh @ Cincinnati	**Pittsburgh**

These games are a part of this postseason's Wild Card Weekend. Be sure to get your squadron's picks in for next week's Divisional Playoffs. Then it's the event we've all waited for, Super Bowl XL Feb. 5.

The 325th MSS beat the Pig Prog in the Week 15 challenge. Looks like the Pig Prog needs some *support!*

Airman rebuilds, restores history; donates to museums

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Many Airmen volunteer their in time in a variety of ways. Not everyone, though, gets to be a part of history.

Staff Sgt. Ryan Spencer has already seen the fruits of his labor displayed in one museum, and now a second project will also be set up for the public to see.

As the builder of two model aircraft carriers, as well as the restorer of an F-86 Sabre and a Sherman tank, Sergeant Spencer is trying to preserve and learn about military history. In fact, he's been doing it most of his life.

When he was 4 years old, Sergeant Spencer began building models. He started out using kits to build trucks, cars and planes, and soon he moved on to building the models from scratch.

"I enjoyed learning about all the names and history of the models I built," he said. "My dad was in the Air Force, and I asked him how he knew the names and numbers of all the planes. He told me I just had to learn about them."

Building models helped him to learn not only the history of the vehicles, but also how to follow directions. This helped in school where he gained further model-building skills in classes such as art, ceramics, wood shop and metal shop.

"I found out I didn't have to build something that came out of a box," said Sergeant Spencer, who works in the 325th Maintenance Squadron as an aircraft structural maintenance journeyman. "Once you learn the general techniques, you can make anything out there."

His drive to learn and increase his skills has helped him not only with his projects, but with his job as well.

"Our job is very meticulous at times," said Master Sgt. Terry Gabbert, 325th MXS structural maintenance superintendent. "A lot of times we will be required to fabricate our own parts or come up with a repair that will need to be approved. Sergeant Spencer is always looking for a better way to accomplish the mission."

It was back in 1991 that Sergeant Spencer decided to take on his first big mission: A large-scale project building a 1/72nd scale model of the USS Hornet that would measure 12 feet long and weigh 150 pounds. With the help of Fritz Hammer, the curator of the South Carolina State Museum, he gathered as much information as possible on the carrier and decided to have it finished one year later, just in time for the 50th anniversary of the Doolittle Raid.

The Doolittle Raid occurred April 18, 1942, when 16 B-25 medium bombers took off from the USS Hornet to conduct a surprise attack on the Japanese during World War II. The "Doolittle Raiders," as they are known, were to meet at the South Carolina State Museum for their anniversary, and it was planned that Sergeant Spencer would unveil his project there.

"I can't explain how I did it," he said. "I had to make my own plans of the carrier using black and white and color photos, as well as a smaller scale model. I also made all my own molds, including fire hydrants, catwalks and ladders. Attention to detail is very important when building a model for a museum."

Sergeant Spencer paid so much attention to the details, he even created his own 48-star flag, because he could not find any that were to scale. He also created individual wood slats for the runway, because that's how the carriers were built in that time.

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

Staff Sgt. Ryan Spencer, 325th Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural maintenance journeyman, sets part of the runway lines on his model of the USS Independence at his house recently.

"I was building the Hornet by myself, and found out later that a team of 30 to 50 people built its sister ship, the USS Enterprise," he said. "We worked on the same size projects, and we finished at the same time."

All of his hard work paid off, though, when the Raiders finally saw the ship.

"What touched me the most was what happened April 18, 1992," said Sergeant Spencer. "The Raiders who attended the function gathered around the model. I looked and some of them were crying. 'You've done a really good job,' they said. It still sends chills up my spine."

The ship is still displayed in the South Carolina State Museum and now sits in a Plexiglas display case. Sergeant Spencer is finishing up a model of the USS Independence, which will be displayed at the National Museum of Naval Aviation, Naval Air Station Pensacola. Besides the carriers and military vehicle restoration, he also helps with special projects around Tyndall.

"Sergeant Spencer recently completed a static display vertical stabilizer for our squadron, and he is also on the restoration team for the Silver Flag aircraft," said Sergeant Gabbert. "He gives of his time very freely."

What big project does Sergeant Spencer have planned next?

"I'd like to repaint my car soon, too," he said.

● From WHY Page 3

The "what" in this mission analysis turned out to be a little more difficult. Once I read what the standing mission statement was and reviewed what we were currently tasked with, I found myself delving into Air Force Instructions and policy letters to understand the guidance I was being held accountable for, while signing Air Force forms I did not even know existed to make sure we were doing what was expected of us in other areas.

Most importantly, I trusted squadron people to complete tasks they had been entrusted with. Together, we had not lost sight of what was our main effort – support combat operations.

I realized that you never know when you are going to be called upon to serve in a leadership situation. I had about four months from the time I was told until I was on a stage 1,700 miles from my last duty station taking the guidon from the group commander.

During that time, I spent a lot of time reading and talking to others. I also spent time running and reflecting. My mission analysis reaffirmed you have to be prepared mentally, physically and emotionally for the rigors of leadership because you never know when your time is coming, only that it will.

Orders to Arizona answered part of the "where" question. I visited the dorms, toured base housing and drove through neighborhoods where some of our Airmen lived so I could better understand their lifestyles.

However, we are Airmen with a global commitment; we do not always get to choose where our battles will be fought or where the needs of the Air Force will send us. As a squadron, we discussed operations at our current forward-operating location and continued to look beyond the front gates to make sure we are prepared to go where our nation needs us next.

Finally, I had to answer the "why" in my mission analysis.

"Excuse me, sir, excuse me," she said.

"I am sorry, am I in your way?" I asked when I finally realized she was trying to get my attention.

"No, sir," she said. "I just wanted to thank you for keeping us safe."

Then in an instant, she disappeared into a crowded room of kids, pizza and arcade games. In that instant, I was reminded "That's why … "

God bless America.

ARTICLES 15

The following adverse actions took place at Tyndall AFB in November 2005.

A staff sergeant received a suspended reduction to senior airman, suspended forfeitures of $978 pay per month for two months, 30 days extra duty, and a reprimand under Article 15 for going from his place of duty without authorization, in violation of Articles 86, UCMJ.

A staff sergeant received a suspended reduction to senior airman, suspended forfeitures of $100 pay per month for two months, and 45 days extra duty under Article 15 for viewing pornographic material on a government computer, in violation of Article 92, UCMJ.

An airman first class received a reduction to airman under Article 15 for failure to obey a noncommissioned officer, in violation of Article 91, UCMJ.

Court Martial:

A senior airman was tried at a Special Court-Martial for two specifications of wrongful use of a controlled substance (methadone and oxycodone). The trial took place Nov. 4, and he was found guilty and sentenced to a reduction to airman basic, 90 days confinement, and a bad conduct discharge. In accordance with Article 58b, UCMJ, since the sentence included a punitive discharge, the accused will also forfeit two-thirds pay per month for the duration of his period of confinement.

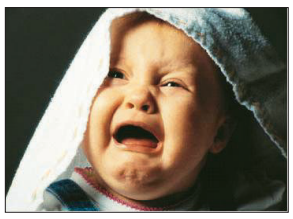
Discharges:

An airman basic received a general discharge for illegal drug use.

An airman first class received a general discharge for illegal drug use.

Did you miss past issues of the Gulf Defender? Don't fret!

We're online:
www.tyndall.af.mil/News/news.htm.



Funshine NEWS

www.325thservices.com ☆Log onto the NEW & IMPROVED Web site☆ www.325thservices.com

Tyndall's famous Gulf Coast shrimp fest

All ranks
at the O'Club
Tonight
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Featuring

Snow Crab station	Peel & eat shrimp station
Oysters on the 1/2 shell	Beef carving station
Variety of selected fish	Breaded shrimp
Scallops	Seafood Newberg
Clam chowder soup	Mashed potatoes with gravy
Steamed rice	Hush puppies
Vegetables	Assorted desserts

Market Price - $18.95* Children ages 6-11 - $9.95* 5 and under - $4.95*

* Members receive a $3 discount. For details contact O'Club 283-4357.

Casino Night

at the O'Club

Jan. 20
4 p.m.
Gaming starts at 5 p.m.
$8.50
for club members only
(hors d' oeuvres included)

More than $1,000 in prizes!

Call 283-4357 for details.

Free Movie Nites

Tonight at the Community Center 8 p.m.

Lord of War - (Rated R)

A wily arms dealer dodges bullets and betrayal as he schemes his way to the top of his profession, only to come face to face with his conscience. But it's not easy to leave a life of girls, guns and glamour when nobody wants you to stop, not even your enemies. For details contact the Pizza Pub 283-3222.

Thursday Jan.12 at the Community Center 6 p.m.

Elizabethtown - (Rated PG-13)

After causing the Oregon shoe company he works for to lose hundreds of millions of dollars, Drew is fired for his mistake and promptly dumped by his girlfriend, Ellen. On the way home, Drew meets a flight attendant, Claire, with whom he falls in love, in a romance that helps his life get back on track. For details contact the Community Center 283-2495.

ENLISTED CLUB LADIES NIGHT

Thur. and 26
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

- Karaoke
- Food
- Drawings
- Contests

Drive responsibly - Drink specials 9 - 11 p.m.

For details contact 283-4357.

FamCamp Festival

Jan. 28
11a.m. to 6 p.m.

Jazz and blue grass musical entertainment
Military police canine demonstration
Crafters & RV demos

Call the 325th Services FamCamp (Tyndall AFB camp grounds) at 283-2798 for details. Emerald Coast RV

Enlisted Club - Open to all ranks

Wed. and Jan. 18, 25 and Feb. 1, 8

6 - 7 p.m. Lessons
7 - 8 p.m. Dance
Members free & non-member $2.50 per person

2006 Checkertail Wing Swing Lessons

Coming soon: "Wing Swing" Feb. 25
Learn to dance
Sign-up now!

For details or to sign-up contact 283-4357.

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 (850) 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:

Force pillars highlight wing mission, offer quick reference

2ND LT. WILL POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Since March, the Gulf Defender has occasionally placed a graphic throughout the paper as a way for readers to quickly identify the theme of various stories.

For those new to Tyndall, the graphic, instituted by the 325th Fighter Wing commander, uses four-pillars to represent the wing mission. These pillars – Force Protection, Force Sustainment, Force Training and Force Deployment – are the foundation of the wing's mission, TRAINING AMERICA'S AIR DOMINANCE FORCE, and are vital to the success of the expeditionary Air Force.

One pillar stands out from the rest to highlight the theme of the page or story so readers can easily see how the story relates to the mission. Every Airman falls into at least one column by the nature of his job, but each pillar "affects us all in some way or another," said Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton.

"We are all part of Force Protection, for example," he said. "From the security forces who actively guard and patrol our installation to the youngest enlisted Airman, we are each responsible for protecting ourselves and the resources assigned to us."

Force Sustainment ensures Tyndall Airmen have the proper quality of life.

"The Medical Group, the Fitness Center, and the Chaplains keep us physically and spiritually healthy, the Commissary provides us with food and the Child Development Center offers daily child care so we can go to work and support the war efforts," the general said. "But Force Sustainment also means hot meals and water when we deploy or a comfortable place to rest our heads at night. We can only live and work for so long before our supplies, and our spirits, need replenishing."

The third column, Force Training, represents Tyndall's primary mission, said General Egginton.

"This is what we do here," General Egginton said. "We train like we fight, which means we all need to work our very best to ensure each student – from an F-22A Raptor Instructor Upgrade student to the Airman Leadership school student and everything in between – doesn't miss a step in his or her training. I won't send any Airman to war without the proper training, so each person must be sure he is receiving all the training he needs for his specific job."

The final column, Force Deployment, is why we train the way we fight, continued General Egginton.

"We can't fight and win wars solely from the luxury of our positions at home," he said. "We must deploy in order to sustain and support operations. This is why we exercise and have readiness inspections. Traditionally, 150 Tyndall members are deployed at any given time, but all Airmen need to be prepared to deploy on short notice."

Each pillar is vital in creating a solid foundation and one can't stand without the others, continued the general.

"The same can be said of our Airmen. Each person is vital and contributes in some very important way to the 325th FW mission and to the greater Air Force mission. So keep looking for the graphic in this and future Gulf Defenders to learn more about how your job affects us all," he said.

This week in Tyndall history ...

Jan. 6, 1943 - Lieutenant Clark Gable, a Hollywood actor, and the rest of Class 43-1 received their prized silver wings for graduating from Tyndall's flexible gunnery training.

Questions about career options?

Call Master Sgt. Albert Lewis, 325th Fighter Wing career assistance advisor, for answers to retraining or special duty questions at 283-2222.

www.af.mil