

GULF DEFENDER



In Brief

SNCO induction

There will be a formal senior noncommissioned officer induction ceremony July 20 beginning with a social hour at 6 p.m. at the Enlisted Club.

The event, themed "Leadership is a Journey – Explore the Possibilities," will feature the eighth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Sam Parish, as the guest speaker. Senior NCO selectees interested in attending the event should contact their first sergeants to sign up.

Finance closure

The 325th Comptroller Squadron will be closed after noon today for an official function.

Boss, buddy night

Boss and Buddy Night is 4 p.m. today in the Enlisted Club's Main Ball Room. The event is free and everyone is invited to attend. Dress is casual or uniform of the day. For more information, call Master Sgt. Brian Hampton at 283-3268.

Inside

New commander shares goals, ideals ...

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Master, technical sergeant promotions ...

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Senior Airman Sarah McDowell

A horse is a horse...

Jody Dillon, Tyndall Stables chairman, exercises her horse at the stables after work. For more information on the horse stables available at Tyndall, see Pages 10-11.

Tyndall Airmen involved in IED explosion

STAFF SGT. STACEY HAGA
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Two Airmen from the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron are safe after being in the vicinity of an improvised explosive device detonation May 26 in Iraq.

The two Airmen, Senior Airmen Levi Kemp and Bruce Thomashunis were deployed to the 506th Air Expeditionary Group/Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron EOD flight in Iraq. Their vehicle had minor damage.

"They were in route to defeat a discovered IED when they

were attacked by an additional IED," said Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Unterseher, 325th CES, EOD craftsman.

The deployed unit is responsible for all ordnance related situations, like road bombs and weapons caches in their area of responsibility.

"Our main mission is to ensure the main supply routes and alternate routes are IED free," said Sergeant Unterseher.

IED's, like the one Airmen Kemp and Thomashunis came across, have been frequently encountered while the unit performs its duties.

The 325th CES deploys on a regular basis and ensures their Airmen receive the best possible training to prepare them for the deployment and any incidents that may arise while deployed.

"Training is what we do. We prepare for the mission by conducting home station training, attending Silver Flag exercises and also attend various other IED related courses," said Sergeant Unterseher.

"Our EOD troops are extreme professionals. They receive the absolute finest training and equipment, and

they constantly adjust their tactics, techniques, and procedures to counter the enemy threat. They practice good ORM and do not take unnecessary risks. Their contribution to the war on terror has been tremendous, and they put their life on the line every time they go outside the wire," said Lt. Col. Curt Van De Walle, 325th CES commander. "Thankfully the enemy did not prevail in this case, and if I know my EOD troops, they have learned from this encounter and it has only stiffened their resolve to win this war."



Senior Airman Sarah McDowell

UXO sighting

Members of a chemical warfare class recognize and record a unexploded ordnance during a class here recently. The chemical warfare class now includes this "hands-on" training. Another new addition is the gas chamber. For more information, see Page 9.

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. Congratulations to Master Sgt. James Gross, with the 1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit for correctly guessing the June 9 "Identify this" as a battery.

ON THE STREET

325th Operations Support Squadron

Who is your favorite TV dad, and why?



"My favorite dad is Tony Soprano. He knows how to separate family life from work life. He's a good provider for his family."

2ND LT. MATT DiSTEFANO
Executive officer



"Major Dad, John Mac, reminds me of my father. He was tough, ruled with an iron fist and was fair."

STAFF SGT. STONEY BAIR
Weather forecaster



"Professor X was like a father figure. He taught students responsibility, tolerance, good qualities and helped them reach their full potential."

STAFF SGT. STEPHANIE FOREST
Intel analyst



"Peter Griffin is my favorite TV dad because what he lacks in common sense and good judgement he makes up for with enthusiasm."

SENIOR AIRMAN MATTHEW HOBBI
Air traffic control apprentice

Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

- Col. Tod Wolters.....325th FW commander
- Maj. Susan A. Romano.....chief, 325th FW public affairs
- Chrissy Cutitta.....chief, internal information
- Senior Airman Sarah McDowell.....editor
- Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga.....staff writer

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Commander Q and A: Colonel Wolters speaks about goals, ideals

Q: What are your goals as the new commander of the 325 FW?

A: Maintain an environment of guaranteeing air dominance by continuing with a back to basics approach. People are first ... mission always.

Q: What do you like best about Tyndall and the surrounding community?

A: There genuine hospitality between the community and the installation.

Q: What attributes are the most important for good leader to possess?

A: Trusting the team to accomplish the mission. Trust fosters empowerment and ownership of that allows leaders to lead without obstruction.

Q: What impressed you most about your predecessor's accomplishments here at Tyndall?

A: His demonstrated trust of team Tyndall.

Q: Who has inspired you most in your career and why?

A: My dad, he was an Air Force leader and he lead from the heart. I would talk to him twice a week.

Q: As the Air Force mission shifts to an asymmetrical battlefield of today and we take on more and more

ground warfare responsibilities, how do you see the role of Tyndall morphing to meet these needs?

A: Continue to tailor the needs of the warfighter. Tyndall will bear the responsibility of Airmen deployed overseas. Squadron commanders will continue to adjust as necessary to make sure that our Airmen are properly trained for deployment.

Q: How do you feel about this assignment and the mission of Tyndall?

A: It's great to be here. As a career Eagle driver, I've seen the value of air superiority. Tyndall has been the one base in the Air Force most responsible for maintaining and sustaining air dominance. Tyndall delivers air dominance for the Air Force.

Q: What advice would you give the enlisted Airmen who are on the verge of reenlisting or getting out?

A: First, go with whatever your heart tells you to do. Second, examine the quality of the individuals you were afforded the opportunity to work with in the Air Force. I'm convinced there is not a finer group to serve with than those who serve in our 21st century Air Force.

Q: What is the accomplishment that you are most proud of in your career?



Lisa Norman

Colonel Wolters speaks at the change of command ceremony.

A: Having the opportunity to command fellow Airmen.

Q: Why do you serve this nation?

A: For the opportunity to serve with fellow Airmen who appreciate that freedom is not free.

Q: Are strong community ties important and why?

A: They are part of team Tyndall.

They allow us the opportunity to continually improve as an Air Force.

Q: What is the benefit of informing the public through media opportunities on base?

A: It's our job to make sure the surrounding community knows exactly what Tyndall is doing in support of Air Force and Department of Defense efforts.

Action Line

Call 283-2255



COL. TOD WOLTERS
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
- ADC** 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.

Even with change, one thing remains the same: *Standards*

CHIEF MASTER SGT. SHARRELL CALLAWAY
325th Mission Support Group Superintendent

Over many years of service, I have seen numerous changes to the way we accomplish the mission, however, my view on Air Force standards has remained the same.

The development and institutionalization of core values reinforces standards into Airmen's daily mindset, specifically "Service Before Self."

Violations of cell-phone regulations and uniform policy, for example, break down our willingness and ability to follow orders while performing routine duties. Standards apply anytime the uniform is worn, on or off duty, regardless of duty status.

It seems there may be a lack of knowledge, poor communication or just a general disregard of the regulations that governs use of cellular

"The development and institutionalization of our core values reinforces standards into our daily mindset, specifically "Service Before Self."

CHIEF MASTER SGT. SHARRELL CALLAWAY
325th Mission Support Group Superintendent

phones and wear of the uniform. I see personnel in uniform on our installation walking or driving while on a cell phone. According to the current policy, uniform military members are not to walk or drive in uniform while on a cell phone or radio.

Only a government issued device and hands free headsets are authorized while in the performance of official duties.

Just like the cell phone regulation, our service has also set standards on personnel performing unofficial duties off base in uniform. Air Force

instructions said we are only authorized to be in uniform while making short stops or eating lunch at local establishments where people wear comparable civilian attire.

However, I've noticed personnel in uniform at local off-base businesses like Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and Winn Dixie shopping and talking on personal cell phones for extended periods of time. This clearly violates several of our instructions and presents a very poor military image to the civilian community.

The importance of the Air Force's

mission and inherent responsibilities to the nation require its members to adhere to higher standards than normally found in the civilian life. Recently, the Secretary of the Air Force said how important our core values are to the nation:

"Our enduring Air Force Core Values provide a touchstone as we rise to meet current and future challenges, threats and opportunities."

If we are to meet these challenges, we should be able to abide to some basic standards daily. We are all charged with upholding standards whether we are in or out of uniform, on or off base, 24/7.

I challenge all of us to keep this in mind, educate those uninformed on the policies and show the American people we are up to the challenge to fight our nation's battles and maintain our nation's security.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Senior Airman Mariano Diaz Miranda from the 325th Air Control Squadron



Tyndall pharmacy undergoes changes

STAFF SGT. STACEY HAGA
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Effective July 1, Tyndall's pharmacy will no longer carry some medications, but those medications will still be available at network pharmacies and the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy.

After a recent Department of Defense uniform formulary review, medications Norvasc, Flomax, Cymbalta, Lexapro, and Welbutrin XL were given the status of non-formulary and selected to be removed from military treatment facilities' inventories.

"Non-formulary status means the medications are removed from the formulary and are no longer available through the military treatment facilities," said Capt. Mary Rojas, 325th Medical Support Squadron Pharmacy Services associate chief.

The uniform formulary evaluates a variety of medication classes throughout the year and either adds new medications or changes the status of existing medications provided by military treatment facilities.

"The pharmacy will continue to provide refills to patients who are already taking Cymbalta, Lexapro, and Welbutrin XL, but any new prescriptions for new patients just starting the medication will fall under the non-formulary rules and will need to be obtained through a network pharmacy or TMOP for a \$22 co-pay for non-active duty members," said Captain Rojas.

To obtain these medications at a \$9 co-pay, medical necessity documentation from a physician is required.

Active-duty servicemembers will only be able to fill prescriptions for a non-formulary medication when it is determined to be medically necessary by a physician and will not have a co-pay, according to the TRICARE Web site.

Another cost-free option for treatment, is to have a healthcare provider prescribe a therapeutically equivalent medication that is offered at military treatment facilities, said Captain Rojas.

For information on medical necessity documentation visit www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/medical-nonformulary.cfm or call Express Scripts at (866) 684-4488.

For additional questions about your pharmacy benefit contact the TRICARE beneficiary office at 283-7157.

Pharmacy tips

Tyndall's pharmacy processes an average of 1,000 prescriptions a day. To get the best service possible follow these tips.

- Fill prescriptions on Monday
- Avoid the midday rush 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Use the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy at (866) 363-8667
- Use local pharmacies participating in the TRICARE Benefit Program

Congratulations to Tyndal's new master, technical sergeants



(The following technical sergeants were selected for promotion Thursday.)

Kenneth Allbrooks, 325th MOS
 Randall Aubin, 325th AMXS
 Dale Andrews, 823rd RHS
 Penny Blackburn, 325th OG
 Troy Brown, 325th AMXS
 Michael Carsey, 325th MXS
 Brady Chieffi, 325th MDSS
 Steven Cournoyer, 325th AMXS
 Thomas Crawford, 325th AMXS
 Joseph Czeck Jr, 325th AMXS
 Peter Darmstedter, 325th AMXS
 Gregory Elliott, 372nd TRS/Det. 2
 James Forcella, 325th SFS
 Joseph Fortino, 325th MOS
 Michael Graham, 325th MOS
 Scott Graham, 325th AMXS
 Cameron Guilliams, NCOA
 Joseph Hall, 53rd TSS

Vincent Hayes, 325th AMXS
 Timothy Hester, 325th COMM
 Lance Hopping, NCOA
 James Jellison, 23rd FT RUCKER
 Anthony Jones, 325th AMXS
 Michael Jones, 325th COMM
 Jamie Jordan, 28th TSS/ Det. 2
 Alan Klaus, 325th OG
 Joseph Lariviere, 325th OSS
 Charles Kebart, 81st TS
 Joel Little, 361st TRS
 Barry Littlefield, 325th MXS
 Jose Martinez, 325th ACS
 Michael Martinez, 66th TRS,DET 2
 Tony Mixon, 82nd ATRS
 Robert Mccloud, AFNORTH
 Joel Mcwilliams, 325th MXS
 Roy Monroe, 325th AMXS
 Tommie Morey, 325th AMXS
 Matthew Mullin, 325th SFS
 Kathleen Mygan, 53rd WEG
 Robert Newman, 325th ACS
 Brian Phill Norris, 325th MXS
 Alphonso Overton, 325th FW
 Kirkland Raibon, 53rd WEG
 Jalal Razick, 325th MOS
 Samuel Rea, 325th OSS
 Frederick Reasner, 325th AMXS
 Wildo Rosario, 43rd FS
 Anthony Rose, 325th AMXS
 Daniel Schifley, 325th MXS
 Edward Schroeder, 325th MXS

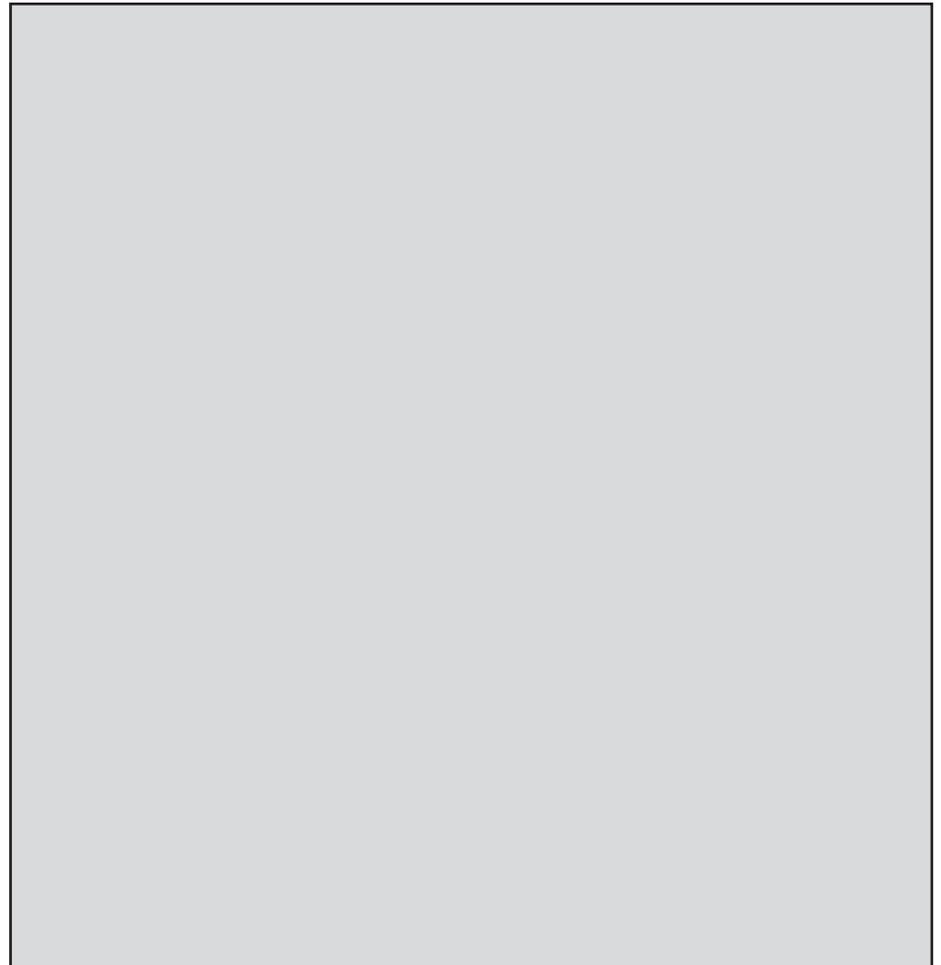
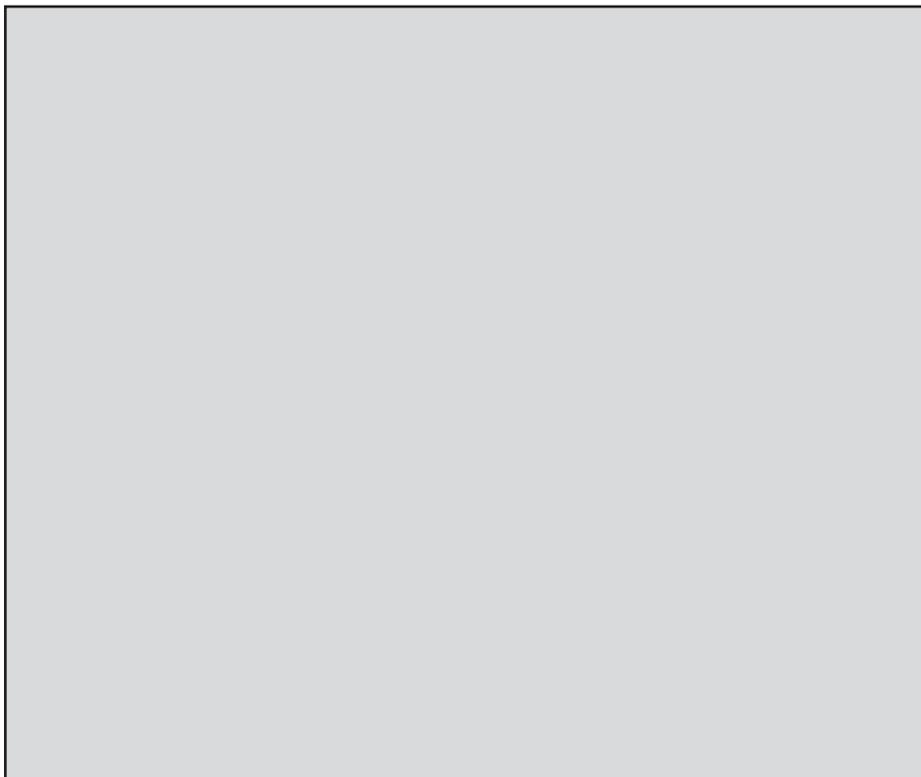
Scott Seavey, 325th AMXS
 Craig Smith, 361st TRS
 Michael Smith, NCOA
 Patrick Smith, 325th AMXS
 Miguel Soto, 325th AMXS
 Bret Stout, 325th CES
 Patrick Tarin, 325th AMXS
 Roger Thornton, 325th ACS
 Timothy Vanhorn, 325th MXG
 Steven Vinsh, 325th MXG
 Terri Watkins, 325th MOS
 Lee Weinberg, 325th AMXS
 David Wilder, 325th MSS
 Durand Yangson, 823rd RHS
 Wilson Yasmeen, 325th OSS



(The following staff sergeants were selected for promotion Thursday.)

Christian Addison, 361st TRS
 Don Allen, 823rd RHS
 David Anderson, 325th ACS
 Stoney Bair, 325th OSS
 Daryl Bernhardt, 325th COMM
 Robert Bogie, 361st TRS

• SEE TECH PAGE 7



• FROM TECH PAGE 6

Joshua Bost, 325th MXS
 James Boyce, 83rd FWS
 Kennison Boyer, 325th MXS
 Eric Bradley, 325th MXS
 Brandi Breyfogle, 325th MDOS
 Denise Brown, 325th MDSS
 Brian Bussie, 325th COMM
 Morgan Cabaniss, 325th SFS
 Valentine Caldera, 325th MXS
 Jerome Capalad, 325th CES
 Michael Cirulli, 372nd TRS
 Matthew Conley, 325th AMXS
 Rene Contreras, 325th SFS
 Jessie Cox, 325th AMXS
 James Curtis, 325th AMXS
 Kevin Dales, 28th TEST
 Ruben Davila, 325th CES
 Nichelle Denny, 325th COMM
 Joey Dimauro, 325th CES
 Michael Doane, 313rd TRS
 Chuck Duke, 325th MXG
 Daren Dykes, 325th MSS
 Jonathan Echols, 81st TEST
 Darrell Erdman, 372nd TRS
 Nicholas Fears, 325th AMXS
 Kevin Friend, 325th FW
 Floyd Gardner, 325th AMXS
 Benjamin Garman, 325th COMM
 Michael Grant, 325th SFS

Edward Gyokeres, 325th AMXS
 Kenneth Hauck, 325th FW
 Jason Hernandez, 325th SFS
 Rodney Ho Jr, 361st TRS
 Givonnie Jackson, 325th OSS
 Richard Jackson, 23rd TS
 Dino James, 325th COMM
 Jason Komlodi, 28th TS
 Sanders Lato Jones, 325th MSS
 Earl Lancaster S, 325th AMXS
 Jeremy Seth Larsen, 43rd FS
 Kristopher Lankert, 342 TS/Det. 2
 Tonisha Layne, 325th FW
 Samuel Lebouef, 325th AMXS
 Robert Liggon, 325th OSS
 Robert Livingston, 325th SFS
 Heath Marlin, 325th AMXS
 Adam Martin, 325th MXS
 Ramon Martinez, 325th OSS
 Clarence Mathis, 325th MSG
 Brian Mayberry, 28th TEST
 Wayne Morris Jr, 361st TRS
 Steven Murphy, 325th MXS
 Edward Nagy, 325th OSS
 Choyo Navedo, 83rd FWS
 Stephanie Nelsen, 823rd RHS
 John Novak, 325th MDSS
 Kenneth Oberdorf, 23rd TS
 Terry Olson, 53rd WEG
 Travis Parker, 325th AMXS

Joseph Pedone, 325th OSS
 Jefferey Peterson, 325th AMXS
 Gerhard Pieper, 325th MXG
 Matthew Porter, 53rd WEG
 Vincentpaul Reyes, 325th MOS
 Sherry Rivera, 325th ADS
 Charles Roberts, 325th OSS
 Christopher Romano, 325th SFS
 Eric Rutherford, 325th SFS
 Michael Samsel, 325th MXG
 Glenn Santos, 325th CES
 Scott Schirk, 823rd RHS
 Jake Scott, 372nd TRS
 Michael Shipman, 325th AMXS
 Jaime Simon, 313rd TRS
 Scott Simon, 313rd TRS
 Sheryl Smith, 325th MDOS
 Jessie Snyder, 325th MXS
 John Sowell, 325th AMXS
 Daniel Stone, 325th AMXS
 Michael Taylor, 81st TEST
 Scot Thorpe, 325th MXS
 Jeffrey Trauth, 28th TEST
 Jonathan Tringali, 325th AMXS
 Jason Troxell, 325th AMXS
 Edward Tyre Jr, 325th OSS
 Bobbiejo Walden, 325th MXS
 Beatriz Webb, 325th FW
 Joshua Wiener, 325th MXS
 Pleashette Wiley, 325th MDSS

SFS Airmen, military-working dogs train, deploy

CHRISSEY CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Two of the Air Force's toughest Airmen are enroute to a 190-day Global War on Terrorism deployment after barking for a seat on a commercial airline that left Panama City June 16.

Spike and Tucker, two of the seven military working dogs stationed here, are attending training at Nellis AFB, Nev., with their handlers until they head to their area of responsibility overseas.

For Tucker, the senior member of the pack, this is his sixth deployment.

"I'm confident they will accomplish their mission due to the high quality training we provide here, as well as the high caliber personnel that we have as K-9 handlers," said Maj. Christopher Corley, 325th Security Forces Squadron commander.

Their deployed mission is to detect and deter acts of aggression against U.S. and coalition forces, said Tech. Sgt. Jake Burkett, 325th Security Forces kennel-master.

Primarily they conduct explosive detection and searches. Vehicles, luggage of arriving personal and departing persons on base visits are all things they sniff.

"They also support U.S. Army and Marine Corps to conduct raids in the villages and conduct vehicle convoys," said Sergeant Burkett. "During hours of darkness they patrol the perimeter for personnel attempting to breach it."

To get to this point, fears of loud noises, cars and walking down stairs had to be overcome during training courses here and at Lackland AFB, Texas.

At Tyndall, they worked hard to be officially assigned and certified as a team with a security forces Airman.



Chrissy Cuttita

From left, Spike and Tucker head through the Panama City International Airport security checkpoint on their way to the plane with their respective handlers, Staff Sgts. Pat Schue and David Gum. Because they are working police dogs, they get to bypass the screener and sit on the plane, unlike other traveler's pets that normally travel in crates in aircraft cargo.

"It takes time and patience to make a dog comfortable in their position and build confidence in them," said Sergeant Burkett who has been a handler of six dogs in 12-years. "The training comes all-natural for them."

Each dog learns differently, so lessons must apply to their personality, just like any other student in an Air Force class. Tucker is very enthusiastic and gets real anxious when his handler is not right next to him. Spike is known for needing more praise-voice to get him mo-

tivated from his lackadaisical state. "We set-up scenarios they might encounter while deployed, to familiarize the dog and handler with situations and mission requirements they normally wouldn't see in the states," said Sergeant Burkett.

To create a training environment, security forces personnel can use gunfire and ground-burst simulators to familiarize dogs with the sounds heard in combat.

Trainers will wear their "battle rattle," body armor, helmet, gear and

weapon, so together the team can figure out what works and what doesn't as far as the wearing of their gear.

"With a higher operations tempo and a home station mission, explosive qualifications are needed more since 9/11," said Sergeant Burkett.

Too dangerous to be with others, the isolated lifestyle becomes habit and training becomes the reason to wake up each morning. Like other Airmen, they have career development courses, quarterly reviews and annual recertification.



Future gas chamber will produce confident war fighters

STAFF SGT. STACEY HAGA
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Gas! Gas! Gas!

Those words echo loudly through Airmen's heads as they quickly don their gas masks and run for cover.

These Airmen are not at war; they are in chemical warfare training at Tyndall.

They emerge from shelter, the garage of the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron building, in full Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear and search for unidentified explosive ordinances lying in the grass around the building.

Pretty soon, Airmen will also have the opportunity to test their donning skills as they enter a gas chamber filled with tear gas as part of their chemical warfare training.

For about one year now, a new \$20,000 gas chamber has been in development.

Once the gas capsules arrive, the chamber will be open for business, said Airman 1st Class Ryan Mahoney, 325th CES, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-yield explosive training instructor.

"The chamber is a temper tent that has a heating source in it to get the capsules to release the gas," said Airman Mahoney.

The use of the gas chamber is expected to increase the effectiveness of chemical warfare training. The 325th CES plans to send the initial training classes through the gas chamber at first and in the future it will be used in the CBRNE training for Airmen before they deploy, said Tech. Sgt. Joseph Treholm, 325th CES NCO in-charge of operations and training.

"We will have the students don their protective gear and move around in the chamber to show them that their gear works," said Airman Mahoney. "It will give the students the confidence that they have a good seal on their masks."

The students will then be asked to remove their masks in the chamber to see what they have been protected from.

"The tear gas used in the chamber is a riot-control agent that chokes and tears up those who encounter it. Once the Airmen are removed from the agent they will be fine," said Airman Mahoney.



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Molloy, 325th CES, inspects the filter of his gas mask. When inspecting the filter, it is important to make sure the connecting end is free of dents. Dents in this area can prohibit the mask from getting a good seal.

"The chamber will increase the quality of training that our deployers will receive and it will make them more able to accomplish their jobs with the gear on, by giving them the assurance that they are protected."

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS RYAN MAHONEY
325th CES, Chemical, Biological, Radiological,
Nuclear, and High-yield explosive training instructor

"The strength we will use will be about 15 percent of the strength used on riots and we have control over how strong we want it to be," said Sergeant Treholm.

The gas chamber will not only enhance the training that Airmen receive, it will also assist instructors teaching the course. The instructor's goal is to ensure everyone knows how to don their equipment correctly and know how to get a good seal with their gas mask. The gas

chamber will help the instructors determine who does know from the others who are coughing and crying in the chamber.

The gas chamber has proven to be an asset in improving chemical warfare training for Airmen at other bases and will prove useful here also.

"The chamber will increase the quality of training that our deployers will receive and it will make them more able to accomplish their jobs with the gear on, by giving them the assurance that they are protected," said Airman Mahoney.

By sending Airmen into the gas chamber as part of their readiness training, they can emerge confident war fighters ready to take on any challenge they may face in a wartime situation, even...

Gas! Gas! Gas!

Training Spotlight

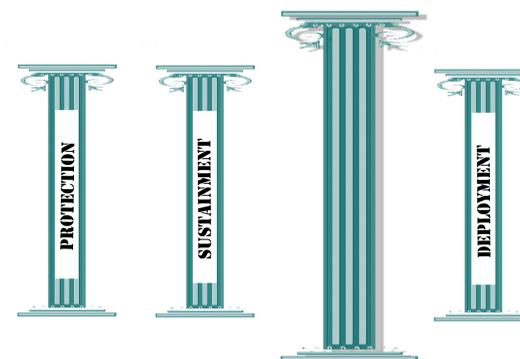


What challenges do you think you are going to face at your training here?

I'm just coming here from technical school, and there is a more complex air space here. During training I just worked with simulators and now its the real thing dealing with pilots.

SENIOR AIRMAN JESIAH POLLOCK
325th Operations Support Squadron air traffic control apprentice

FORCE TRAINING



Horse stables provide recreation, co



Jody Dillon exercises "Dude," her horse, in an arena at the stables. There are two arenas at the stables and 12 barns.



Ms. Mobley prepares "Festus" for riding by putting on the bridle. The two have been riding at the Tyndall stables since August of 2005.



Ms. Mobley and Amanda ride, while Mrs. Dillon escorts her horse into the sunset, after a day of exercising their horses.

Community service

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SENIOR AIRMAN SARAH MCDOWELL
 325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Hidden in the thick forests of Tyndall, nestled by the bay, is a place where people go to ride.

The Tyndall stables is home to 24 horses and a second home to their masters.

Traveling out to the stables at least morning and evening to feed and exercise the horses, these riders get to enjoy scenery that many Tyndallites may have not yet seen.

“My wife and I are trail riders and take them out on the beach that we have there and it is pretty nice, especially in the winter time,” said Terry Townes. “You could be out on the trail hours and hours and still not back-track.”

The location of the stables itself is also something that the riders admire.

“We have access to two beautiful arenas, and a hundred miles of trails,” said Jacquelyn Mobley, who has been riding for 10 years. “Not to mention we have a gorgeous view of the bay and Shell Island.”

It seems there are many benefits from horseback riding from camaraderie to exercise.

“I don’t think there is just one great benefit from riding,” Ms. Mobley said. “When I ride, it is as if I enter a whole different world. I forget

about my daily stresses, am able to work out, and I learn a tremendous amount about patience. Plus, I never stop having fun.”

But, recreation is not all that the stables offer. The riders have found ways to take their favorite activities and help the community.

“Some of our people have gone out and partnered with the Bay County horseman’s posse and looked for missing people in the woods,” Mr. Townes said. “The riders can get into areas to look for missing people along coastlines and rivers or bayous where people or vehicles can’t go. Volunteers with horses provide this service.”

They also provide community services for Tyndall.

“We worked with the Officers’ Spouses Club to give tours, provided Christmas hay rides, participated in parades for the summer fling,” Mr. Townes said. “Most anything that the 325th Services Squadron can plug us into, we have been in.”

Airmen who have an interest in giving back to the stables and meeting the horses also have an opportunity.

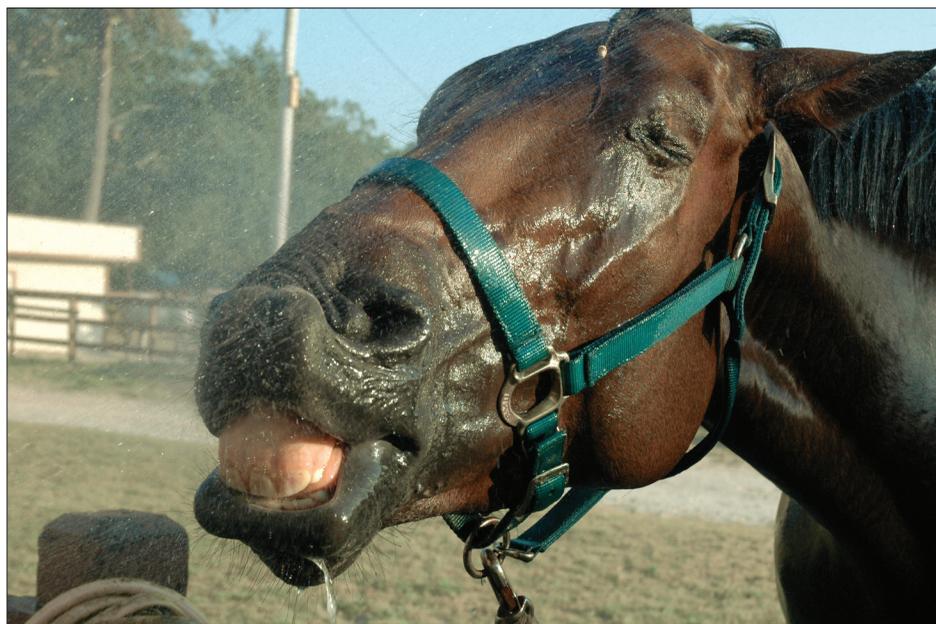
“There is always work to be done and fences to be fixed,” Mr. Townes said. “Everyone is more than welcome to come out and look at the facility.”



Amanda Dillon rides “Stormy” bareback at one of the two arenas here. Bareback riding is a leisure way to ride.



A horse munches on some hay. Recently, all the members of the stables worked together to unload and disperse 300 bales of hay. This happens every two months.



Ms. Mobley’s horse, “Festus,” gets a drink of water after a day of exercise.

Briefs

Honor Guard recruiting

The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard-recruiting team will host a special duty assignment briefing on June 22 in the NCO Academy Auditorium from 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. An applicant can expedite the processing of his/her application if they bring a completed application with them to the briefing. To obtain a copy of the special-duty application, contact the wing career advisor, Senior Master Sgt. Albert Lewis at 283-2222.

School physicals offered

School and sport physicals are by appointment only at Tyndall. Call the appointment line 283-2778 to schedule. If a child's medical record does not reside at the Tyndall clinic, the child must bring a copy to the appointment, or reschedule. Families with records in transit due to PCS are exempt from this rule and will receive a review upon the record's arrival.

Any child who is new to Bay County schools needs a physical within 30 days of entry into school. Any child who will be playing sports for the Tyndall Youth Center, Bay County Middle or High Schools needs a current physical (past 12 months). In both cases, the provider may be able to sign the forms without a physical exam if the parent can show proof of a wellness visit or physical in the past 12 months, and the child has no change in their health status.

Limited space at the marina

Beginning June 22, there will be limited parking at the Beacon Beach Marina due to pavement of the parking area.

The public boat launch will be closed; however, the private boat launch will be available for usage for all Tyndall patronage. The Marina Grill will remain open. Flag personnel will be present to direct traffic and parking. The estimated completion date of construction is July 28. For any further questions or concerns, please feel free to call the marina at 283-3059.



Chrissy Cuttita

One corn dog, please!

Airman 1st Class Cody Mood, 43rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit aircraft armament systems journeyman, orders food at the Berg-Liles Dining Facility. Due to limited space and increased temporary duty commitments, the facility will be limited to meal-card holders, on-duty security police (weapons carrying), firemen, and temporary duty personnel during lunch meal until Aug. 1. From June 19 to Aug. 1, the Eagle Quick Turn (flight kitchen) will be limited to personnel with flight line badges for all meals.

Base ropes course

The base ropes course offers a program that promotes team cohesion, strength and provides an opportunity for self insight. Call the Tyndall Outdoor Recreation, Bonita Bay program coordinator to schedule, at 283-3199.

Volunteer opportunity

Covenant Hospice will host a Volunteer Orientation 9-11 a.m. June 24 at Covenant Hospice's Education Center at 107 West 19th Street.

This orientation provides an overview of hospice programs and services and explains the role of the volunteer. After completing the orientation and an application process, volunteers can indicate their placement choices.

Volunteer opportunities include administrative support in a Covenant Hospice office or Community Support Center, special events and fundraisers, or the Ambassador Community outreach program. This is a free program and open to the public. Registration is requested and refresh-

ments are provided.

My Soldier Pen Pal program

My Soldier.com created five simple ways to show patriotic support:

1. Go to www.mysoldier.com to register for the "My Soldier" program and adopt a soldier who could use a pen-pal or friend.
2. Encourage children and students to spend their summer vacation creating a meaningful, even educational, pen pal relationship.
3. Join the program as a family. Family writing projects can create a bond for a common cause, which deepens familial ties.
4. Wear the free red My Soldier bracelet mailed to you via a self addressed stamped envelope to show your support.
5. Submit the name of an active soldier who would like to be adopted through the Web site link.

New Commissary hours

The Commissary will now be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays for a six-month trial period.

**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.)

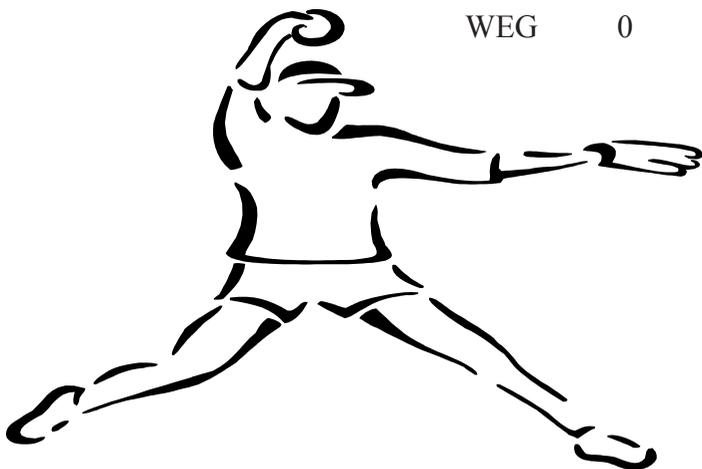


Senior Airman Sarah McDowell

Three hour tour...
 Col. Ed Fienga from Headquarters Air Force Space Command, and his family, finish boating in the Gulf. They rented a boat from Bonita Bay for the day. The recreation center offers sports and other equipment, such as camping, fishing, scuba diving, and lawn equipment. For more information on their services, call 283-2495.

Softball Standings

	<i>National</i>		<i>American</i>		
	Won	Lost	Won	Lost	
MXS	7	0	SEADS	8	0
OSS	6	0	AMXS	7	1
CES	7	2	AMXS 3	5	2
MDG	6	3	SFS	5	3
AFCESA	4	3	MSS	5	3
LRD	3	5	ACS	3	3
SEADS 2	3	5	CONS	4	5
RHS	2	5	COMM	3	6
372 TRS	2	7	83 FWS	3	6
ACS 2	0	8	SVS	2	6
			TEST	1	6
			WEG	0	7

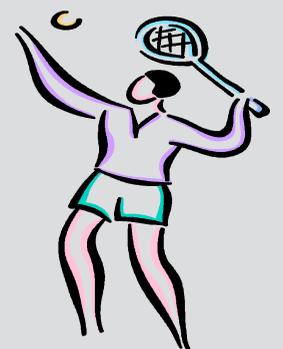


Golf Standings

Team	Points	Team	Points
CES	40	601 2	18
COMM 1	32.5	601 1	17.5
53 WEG	31	MDG	17
AFCESA	30	83 FWS	16.5
372 TRS	29	OSS	14.5
RHS	28.5	ACS	13.5
AFNORTH 1	24.5	TEST	12.5
MOS 1	23.5	SVS	11
MXS 1	23	CONS	7.5
SFS	21	MXS 2	3.5
MSS	20.5	COMM 2	3

Congratulations to the tennis champion!

James Garred from the Air Force Civil Engineer Squadron



Mine explosion puts two Airmen on different paths to recovery

MASTER SGT. MICHAEL WARD
Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency

One year ago, two Air Force civil engineers were severely injured when a land mine exploded. The two were assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. One had his foot blown off. The other received serious damage to both legs

The explosion sent both men on separate journeys toward recovery. One underwent a below-the-knee amputation and a long rehabilitation process at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. The other still has both legs, but is in constant pain and faces years of physical therapy.

Their day started routinely -- as routinely as a day in a combat zone could. Staff Sgt. Chris Ramakka, an explosive ordnance technician deployed from the 6th Civil Engineer Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., and other EOD Airmen were cleaning up an old Soviet artillery site approximately 12 miles from Bagram

"The guys had scouted out the area the day before, and we were picking up 122 mm and 155 mm tank rounds," Sergeant Ramakka said. "I was walking back and forth looking for stuff on the ground, picking it up and taking it away."

His squadron commander, Maj. Matthew Conlan, deployed from the 422nd Air Base Squadron at Royal Air Force Croughton, England, was out with the team, observing the removal operation.

"I like to go out with my guys," the major said. "If they're swinging hammers, I'll swing hammers with them. If they're pouring concrete, I'll pour concrete with them. It gives me perspective and expertise."

The area was a few hundred feet from a known mine field, but it had been marked off and they were well away from it.

"If we had known we were working in a mine field we wouldn't have been there. It wouldn't be worth our time, because you can get blown up in a place like that," Sergeant Ramakka said.

"Besides," he said, "the Afghans were walking around all over the place. If the locals are walking around -- now, that's not a guarantee -- you

are pretty safe."

They weren't. Somehow, the markers had moved, been moved or had been incorrectly placed to begin with. They had been walking in a mine field for hours without so much as a misstep. That was about to change.

"There's a picture of us that Major Conlan took probably not 30 seconds before I stepped on the mine," said Sergeant Ramakka. "I was probably standing on it for a minute or so while I was talking to him. Then I went to move ..."

Sergeant Ramakka's story

"I thought that the major had tried to kill me," Sergeant Ramakka said. "It didn't even occur to me that it could have been caused by me, but eventually I realized what happened."

Sergeant Ramakka had stepped on an old Soviet pressure-sensitive anti-personnel mine, designed to blow up not when weight is put on it, but when it is removed. As he stepped off the mine, it exploded, blowing off his left foot and the tips of two fingers on his right hand, and damaging his right leg.

"Right after, I saw my leg and I was pretty irritated. I was angry and hitting the ground when sanity caught up to me and said, 'You know, you're in a mine field.' So I rolled back over and waited.

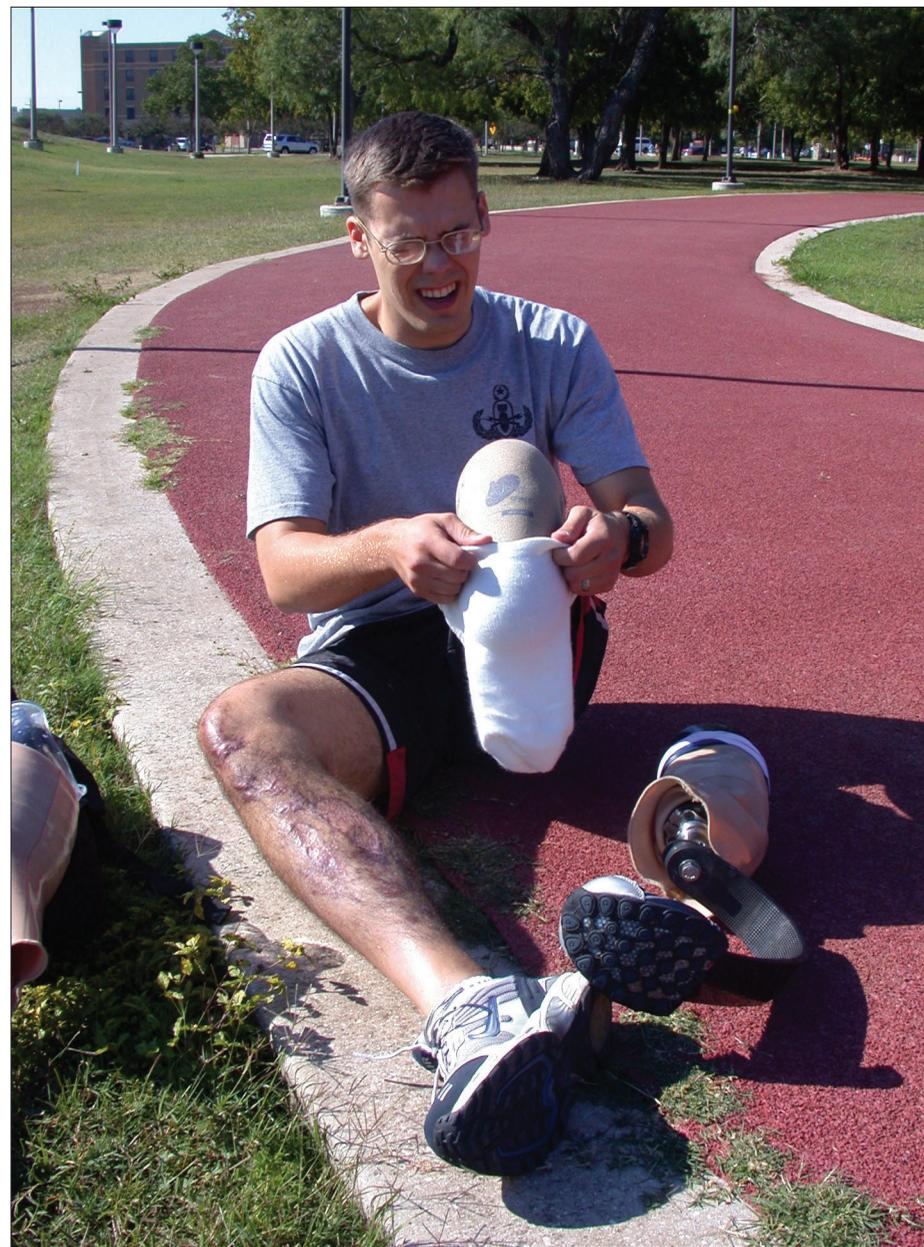
"I assessed myself, wiggled my fingers, took off my gloves, looked at my hands and I was happy because I still had my knee. If I was going to lose my leg, it's easier if it's below the knee. I never thought I was going to die. It hurt, but it's supposed to, so I wasn't really shocked by that."

Major Conlan, who was behind Sergeant Ramakka, was blown to the ground, his right leg shattered and his left leg severely injured.

Civil engineers in the area quickly began applying self-aid buddy care to try and stabilize the injured Airmen. Eventually they were joined by an Army medic.

"I remember the guys were down there looking for my foot and I'm thinking, 'It's gone. You're not going to find that thing,'" Sergeant Ramakka said.

The two Airmen were airlifted to the hospital at Bagram AB. Despite the severity of his injuries, the medical staff



Master Sgt. Micheal Ward

Staff Sgt. Chris Ramakka prepares to go for a jog. He has a prosthetic for walking and one for running.

was able to save Major Conlan's leg. Sergeant Ramakka's left leg was too damaged to save and was amputated below the knee.

"It's not something somebody wants to happen to them, but at the same time it could have been worse. It was a crappy experience, but I'm alive."

After two days in the Bagram hospital, Sergeant Ramakka had short stays at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany and Wilford Hall in San Antonio.

He was then transferred to the amputee unit at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio to heal, begin rehabilitation and be fitted for a prosthetic leg.

"When I first got my leg, I wanted to just take off walking on it all the time. I started walking on it before they

finished screwing it together. They weren't too happy about that."

It didn't take long for him to go from walking to running, something he said he never really cared for before.

"Now, that's all I want to do. It's rough running on a regular prosthetic leg. It's jarring, but you get used to that."

Sergeant Ramakka recently received a new leg designed for running. Made of high-tech materials, it's lighter, more flexible and relatively more comfortable.

"It hurts a little less than the other one, but there's still nothing really there absorbing your shock. If you don't have enough socks on, you'll bottom out and that really hurts."

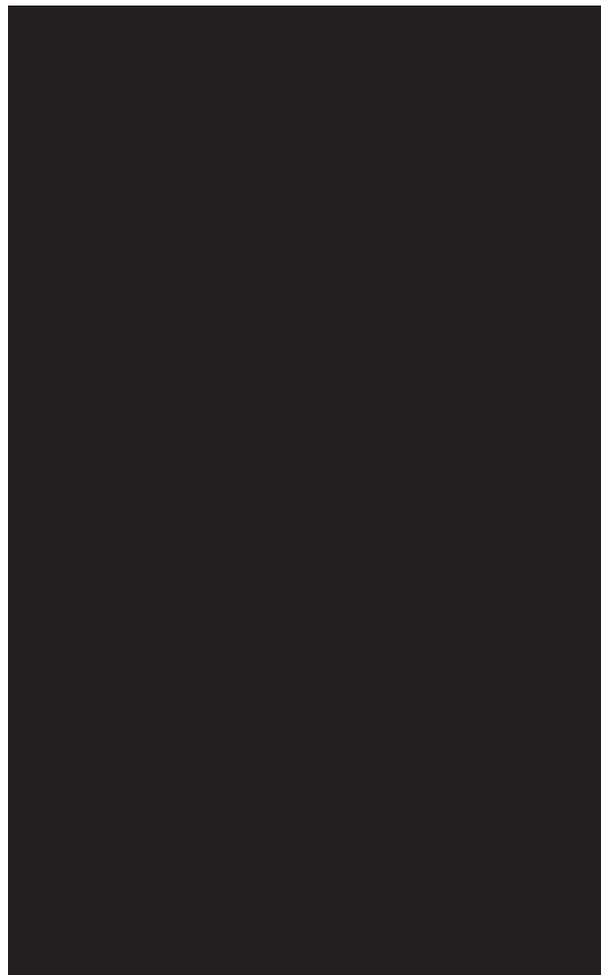
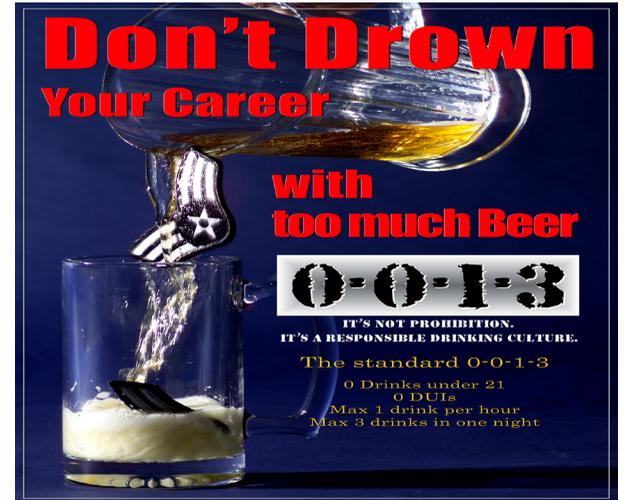
He said he can already run a mile with it and hopes to get up to three.

FOD preventer of the month



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

Airman 1st Class Jason Brown, 43rd AMU crew chief, secures the seat of a F-22A Raptor. Airman Brown recently found three bolts that came off a tire dolly on the taxi way making him the Foreign Object Debris Preventer of the Month for May.



Checkertail Salute

Richard Venable



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

Mr. Venable receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Col. Tod Wolters, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

Richard Venable, 325th Communications Squadron ground radio communications craftsman, performed depot level repairs on equipment to prevent a three-day communication outage for the 43rd Fighter Squadron and tower. He repaired the tower radio, returning air control capabilities to 100 percent and saved \$1,500 in depot repair costs. Mr. Venable also engineered and implemented the public address system for the 2006 "Thunder Over the Gulf" Airshow.

Name: Richard Venable

Duty title: Radio Maintenance Technician

Time on station: 11 years, 10 on active duty, one in civil service

Time in service: 25 years active duty, one in civil service

Hometown: Richmond, Indiana

Hobbies: Computers, treasure-hunting with a global positioning system (geocaching)

Favorite thing about Tyndall AFB: The weather and the water

Favorite movie: All the "Star Wars" movies

Favorite book: "My Story" by Bob Knight

Pet Peeves: Those who run inside when the National Anthem starts

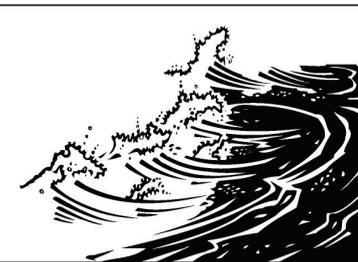
Proudest moment in the military: Winning the 2003 AETC Communications and Information Award

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.





Funshine NEWS



www.325thservices.com

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www.325thservices.com

Get ready...



Tyndall IDOL II is HERE!

Tonight & June 23 (Friday)

This weeks winners were.....don't miss the next show tonight at 6 p.m.

- Richard Brown
- Keenan Coleman
- Arry'on DiFebo
- Kenya Landry
- Derrick Moore
- Sherry Rivera
- David "Justin" Williams
- Michael Zarate
- Rob Stewart

Location: The Zone (located within the E'Club)

All ranks

For Details, call 283-4357.

Audience members are invited to participate with show activities.




Aero Club

Private Pilot Ground School begins July 10

Instrument and Commercial Ground School begins July 11

Call the Aero Club for details 283-4404.



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 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: _____



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

DACT maintaining

Airman 1st Class Glen Eason, 61st Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, from Luke AFB, Ariz., removes a screw from the flap seal of a an F-16 rudder. The 61st F-16 Falcons are conducting formal syllabus training with the 43rd Fighter Squadron F-22A Raptors on dissimilar air combat maneuvers, tactical intercepts, and continuation training on basic fighter maneuvers.

