

GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 65, No. 28

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Training Expeditionary Airpower Experts*

July 21, 2006

In Brief

325th CES CoC

Lt. Col. Curt Van De Walle, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, will relinquish command to Lt. Col. F. Susan Grumbach 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Officers' Club. All are invited to attend. For more information, call Master Sgt. Bradley Coon at 283-3072, or Judy Baker at 283-3283. The squadron will be closed for this function from 8:30 to 11 a.m.



Satellite pharmacy re-opening

The Satellite Refill Pharmacy at the Base Exchange has been renovated and will be open for business Monday. All refill operations at the Main Clinic will be terminated at that time.

The Refill Pharmacy operating hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. The automated refill call-in number is 283-7177 or (800) 356-5273.

Inside

Special-duties assignments open doors ... **PAGE 4**

MXS wins intramural softball championship ... **PAGE 13**



Army Master Sgt. Traci Williams

Captain in the middle

Capt. Karen Kramer, (center) from the 325th Medical Group, visits an orphanage while deployed to Afghanistan. For more photos of Tyndall members deployed, see Pages 10-11.

Air Force Surgeon General visits Tyndall

STAFF SGT. STACEY HAGA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. George "Peach" Taylor Jr., Air Force Surgeon General, visited Tyndall July 12 and 13 as one of his last visits before officially retiring Oct. 1.

The visit consisted of a tour of the 325th Medical Group facilities and a final flight in an F-15 Eagle with Lt. Col. George Menker, 1st Fighter

Squadron commander.

"(For) my first assignment, I was a flight surgeon for the 67th Tactical Fighter Squadron flying F-15C and D models," said General Taylor. "Twenty-seven years later, here I am – in my last flight in a D-model. It was a flashback to when I was a captain. It was fun. I thank the 1st Fighter Squadron for hosting it."

Twenty-seven years of service delivered many high

points in General Taylor's career, but he considers his role in the Air Force mission to be the highlight of his career.

"The most fun is always when you are involved in Air Force operations. One of the exciting things about being a doctor in the Air Force is you can be involved in something more than medicine; you can learn the mission and support it," he said.

Once retired, General Tay-

lor plans on staying in Washington D.C.

"I don't really call it retirement. I call it graduation. Serving has been a brilliant education, and because of that, it feels more like a graduation than a retirement," the general said. "I will always be an Airman."

During General Taylor's visit to the 325th MDG, he

• SEE TAYLOR PAGE 7



Michael Newberry

“Ruff”

Airman 1st Class Robert Perricone, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, dressed as “Sparky,” greets children at Bonita Bay. Members of the Tyndall Fire and Emergency Services spent time July 12 with children from Camp Amigo, a summer camp for kids ages 6 to 18 who are burn survivors. The program is run by firefighters, burn-unit nurses and adult burn survivors. The camp’s mission is to provide kids who have physical and emotional scars with a place to be themselves and build a network of support that will last throughout their lives.

Identify this ...

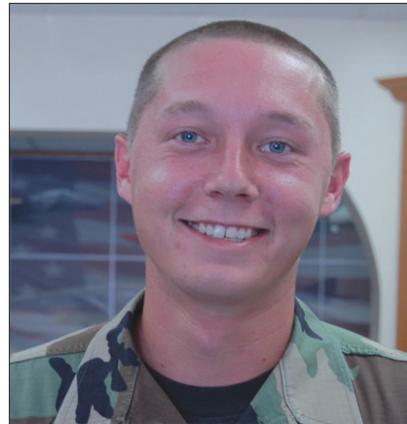


Can you identify this object? If so, send an e-mail to editor@tyndall.af.mil with “Identify this” in the subject line. Three correct entries will be chosen at random and drawn from a hat to select the final winner. The prize can be claimed at the Public Affairs office. Master Sgt. Brent Salvadori, from the 372nd Training Squadron/ Det. 2 correctly guessed the July 14 “Identify this” as a computer speaker.

ON THE STREET

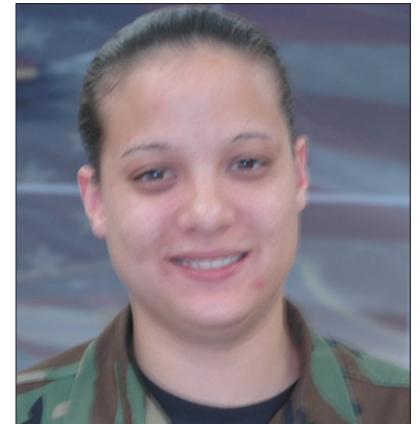
325th Maintenance Squadron Focus:

If you could change anything at Tyndall, what would it be?



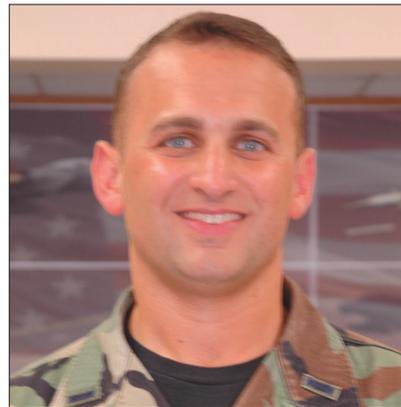
“I’d like to see a 24-hour shop-pette to make it more convenient for shift workers”

STAFF SGT. SHAUN CRAWFORD
Precision Guided Munitions Crew Chief



“I’d like to see Boy Scout Road put to use by building a dirtbike track and some camping spots”

SENIOR AIRMAN LAVINIA GINN
Test Engine Mechanic



“A new dining facility on the flight line side of the base would be nice.”

1ST LT. DAVID PAOLILLO
Maintenance Flight Commander



“I would like to see people’s attitude change. I want to see people take a serious approach to the training aspect of the mission.”

STAFF SGT. AMANDA PENNING
Avionics

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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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.

Enjoy the ride...it goes by at Mach speed



Lisa Norman

Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander, stands as commander of troops during the wing change of command ceremony.

COL. BRIAN D. DICKERSON
325th Fighter Wing vice commander

I know for a lot of you who have been around for a while, you have heard folks about to retire declare, "Where has the time gone? It feels like only yesterday that I took the oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States for the first time."

Yet here I am today, about to retire from the Air Force after nearly 24-plus years of proud service ... saying the same thing, "Where has the time gone?"

I have been so incredibly fortunate in my career. From having the privilege of being selected to serve to the honor of being selected to attend undergraduate pilot training ... from getting to fly the F-15 to graduating from the Fighter Weapons School ...

from getting wonderful assignments around the world to being given the privilege of commanding a fighter squadron. But the real fortunes are not these personal achievements; they are and always have revolved around the people. You all are truly Airmen of the greatest Air Force in history. I have always said that one of the primary reasons I have stayed is the people. It has never mattered if they were active duty "blue suiters," civil servants or contractors, National Guard or Reservists, or of course one of the most vital parts of "us" -- our families. The dedication, sacrifices and excellence of all Airmen and our families are truly awe inspiring and it's humbling to be considered a part of this magnificent team.

The Air Force is so much a part of

me. I would not change a single thing I have done over my career and I cannot think of a better 'corporation' to work for than the United States Air Force. I will always "bleed Air Force blue."

As I reflect back on more than two decades of service, I see some significant history. When I was a second lieutenant sitting "Zulu Alert" at Bitburg AB, Germany, the enemy was real and identifiable, and only five minutes flight time away. I was on multiple missions where we intercepted Soviet bombers in international airspace before they could complete their practice bombing missions. I watched with the rest of the world as the Berlin Wall was torn down piece by piece. A number of years later, as a squadron commander, my squadron flew combat air patrols over our nation's capital on Sept. 11, 2001 and continued to have at least two airplanes in the air 24 hours a day for 120 days straight. And today I marvel as Air Force Airmen transform themselves to supply the needs of the current war. Who would have guessed that we would send our Airmen to do convoy duty with our Army brothers and sisters in arms? That our civilian Airmen would be in the war zone right along side of our uniformed military? Or that we could fly and employ unmanned weapons systems in Iraq from the western United States?

But through it all there is one very similar and common bond -- patriotism, devotion and selfless commitment of my fellow Airmen. There is no other group of people in the world who are better than those who wear the uniform

of the USAF and our fellow military services. And I'm absolutely positive and proud to say that I've served with the best.

As I leave this assignment and the Air Force, I offer you one small bit of advice, especially for the junior Airmen ... enjoy the ride, because it goes by at Mach speed. Even when the job seems overwhelming or the mission forces you to deploy to all corners of the globe, make the best of it, and soak up every minute of experience, culture and characteristic, and you'll see it makes for a lifetime of memories. I can truly say that the best assignment I've ever had has always been ... the one I was in!

I would be remiss if I didn't thank at least one person by name. She has been my soul mate, my best friend, my councilor and my wife. Donna has been there every step of the way, sacrificing as much -- if not more -- than I have. Donna ... thank you ... I love you.

I do wish I could thank each and everyone of those who have touched Donna and me in so many ways but I would spent the rest of my retired life doing that and there are so many, I probably don't have enough years left to do a good job of it. Instead, Donna and I want to wish you all Godspeed, fair winds and best of luck. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for what you do for your nation, and thank you for making my job as the vice wing commander of the Checkertail Clan the best in my career.

Check six...

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.

Just do it: Special duty assignments enhance NCO careers

MASTER SGT. JOHN ROSS
325th Communications Squadron first sergeant

"I don't want to go. I won't like it. I just want to stay here."

These are things I frequently hear from my children when I suggest we do something out of the ordinary.

Unfortunately, these are also common responses from NCOs and senior NCOs when I suggest to them that they, and the Air Force, would be well served if they volunteered for a special duty assignment.

With our ever-changing Air Force, the need for individuals to step up and perform special duties has never been greater. As SNCOs, it is our responsibility to ensure the needs of the Air Force are met and to influence others to help us meet them.

Let's begin by looking at some of the positive attributes of volunteering for a special duty assignment.

Most people are apprehensive about

leaving their comfort zone to go to a special duty assignment, but there are several things that can be gained by doing so.

First, a person who accepts a position in a special duty will gain a different perspective of the Air Force. The opportunity to work in, or with organizations out of the normal sphere of interaction in a primary AFSC will give a person a greater appreciation for what all Airmen do and how each Airman impacts the mission. Those who wish to influence the whole Air Force, should try doing a tour as a military training

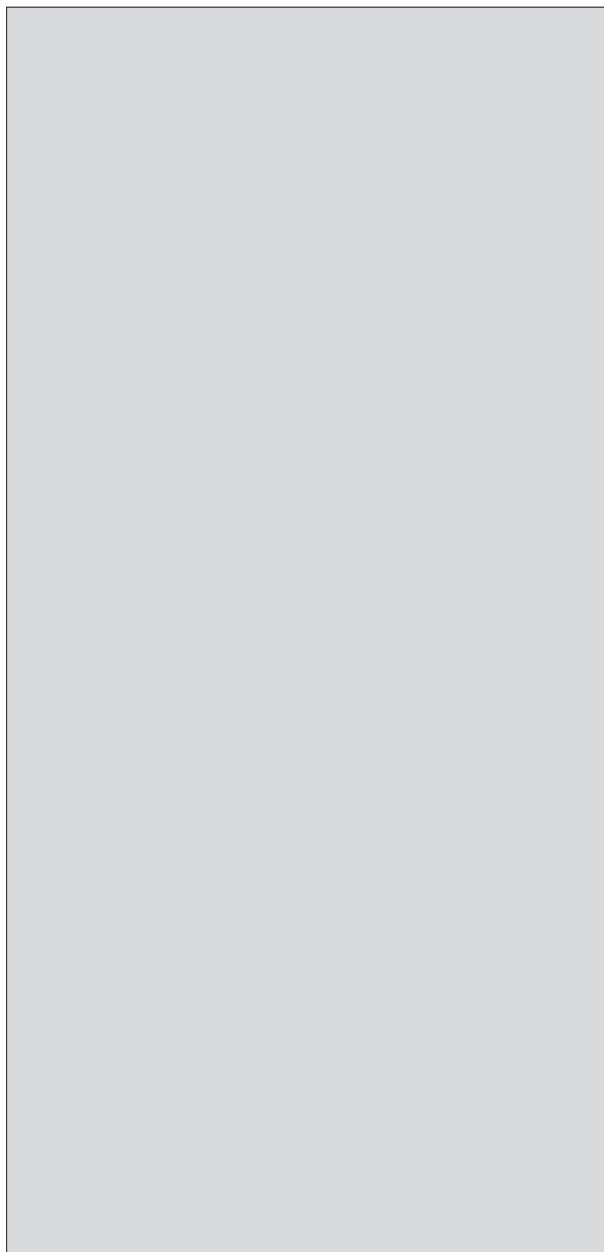
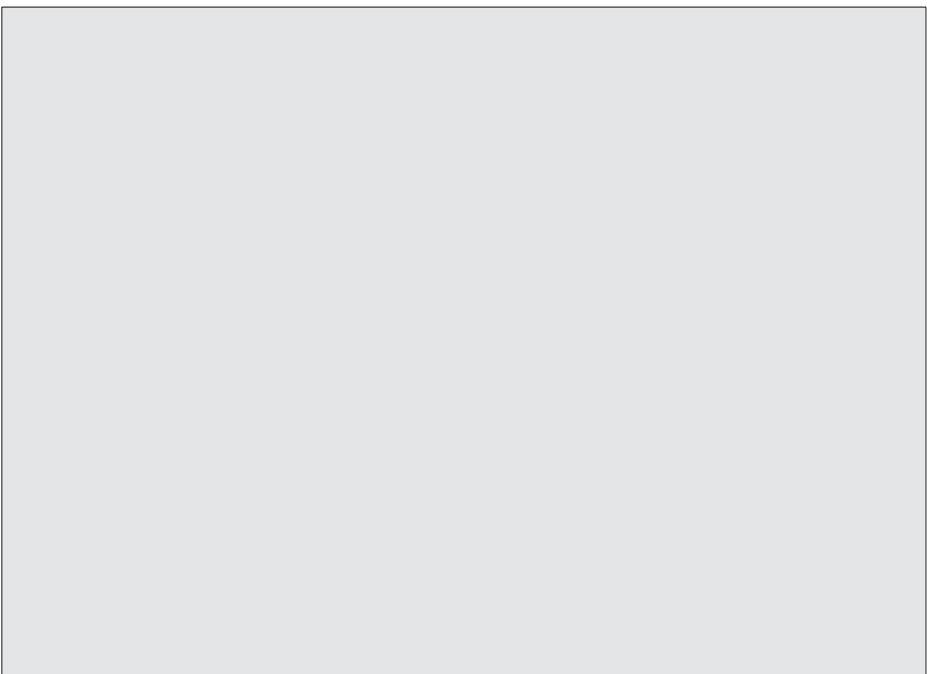
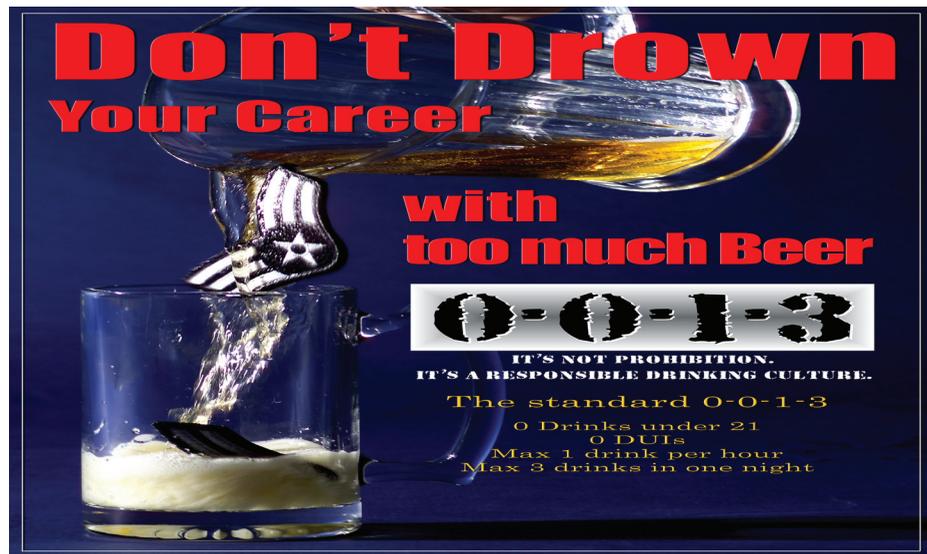
instructor, military training leader, or a professional military education instructor. These dedicated people have an impact on the Air Force now, and will for years to come. As long as one of their

students remains on active duty, their influence is felt. A side benefit of these assignments is a consistent schedule and a very low likelihood of deployment. Those looking for a job that has a direct, positive effect on the lives of individuals, should try first sergeant duty. This special duty position directly assists Airmen in deal-

"Most people are apprehensive about leaving their comfort zone to go to a special-duty assignment, but there are several things that can be gained by doing so."

MASTER SGT. JOHN ROSS
325th Communications Squadron first sergeant

• SEE DUTY PAGE 16



Rules of engagement set for political participation

STAFF SGT. JEREMY LARLEE
Air Force Print News

Political freedom is something the military has defended since the founding of the United States.

But, while free to participate in the political process, there are some rules military members need to know.

“Our main job is to follow the orders that come down our chain of command, which has an elected official at the top,” said Maj. Frank Minogue, chief of civil law for Air Education and Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

“It would undermine our whole command structure if it appeared that the Air Force was supporting one side, or candidate, more than another,” Major Minogue said.

The November 2006 elections are fast approaching and will decide all 435 House of Representative seats, 33 of the 100 Senate seats and 36 state governors, along with numerous other state and local elections across the country.

It is vital that military members do not give the perception that the military supports one political party, issue or candidate more than another, Major Minogue said.

Political activity rules are listed in Air Force Instruction 51-902, Political Activities by Members of the U.S. Air Force. Violators of this instruction can be punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and receive up to two years confinement and a dishonorable discharge, the major said.

Examples of prohibited activities listed in the instruction include attending a political event in uniform, using official authority to interfere with an election and affect its course or outcome, and using contemptuous words against officials in public office. Military members are allowed to attend political events in civilian clothes but only as a spectator. Speaking publicly at these events is not allowed in or out of uniform.

There also is a separation in the rules about participating in partisan and nonpartisan political activities. The rules tend to be stricter for partisan politics, the instruction states.

Partisan politics are defined in the instruction as an “activity supporting or relating to candidates who repre-

sent, or issues specifically identified with, national or state political parties or associated or ancillary organizations. A candidacy, declared or undeclared, for national or state office is a partisan political activity, even if the candidate is not affiliated with a national or state political party.”

These rules are not in place to restrict a military member’s political freedoms, the major said.

“Obviously we want people to vote and express their opinions,” Major Minogue said. “People are encouraged to participate in the political process, just not as representatives of the Air Force.”

Contact the local legal office for more information about the instruction.

Checkertail Salute

Senior Airman Dwayne Miller



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

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

Airman Miller orchestrated the scheduling and maintenance of more than 26 converters with 100 percent accountability. He organized the 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit's 2005 Turkey Shoot team, which was the overall winner in the contest. Airman Miller also generated 207 combat training sorties, helping the 325th Fighter Wing reach a 93.3 percent flying schedule effectiveness rate.

Job title: F-15 assistant dedicated crew chief

Time on station: Three years, 8 months

Hometown: Little Rock, Ark.

Hobbies: Golf, hunting, fishing and playing guitar

Goals: Finish college degree

Favorite movie: "Caddy Shack"

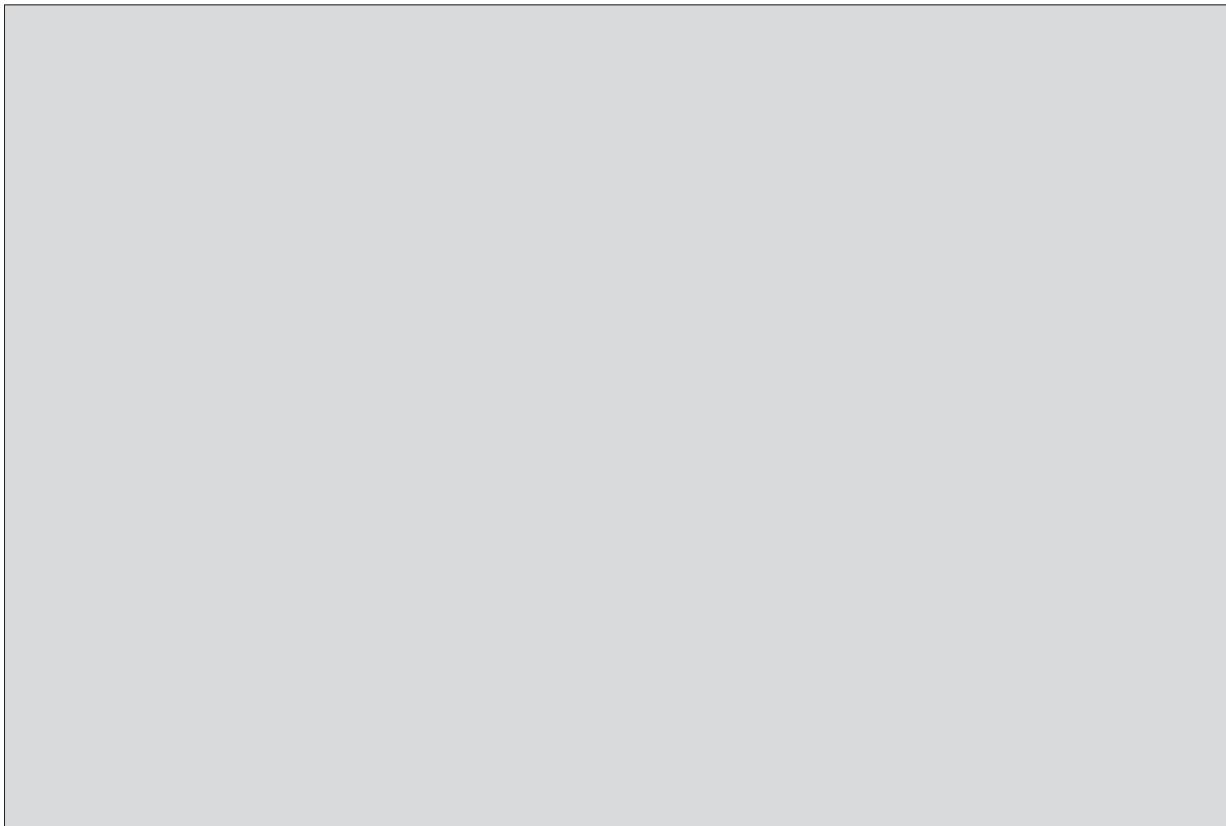
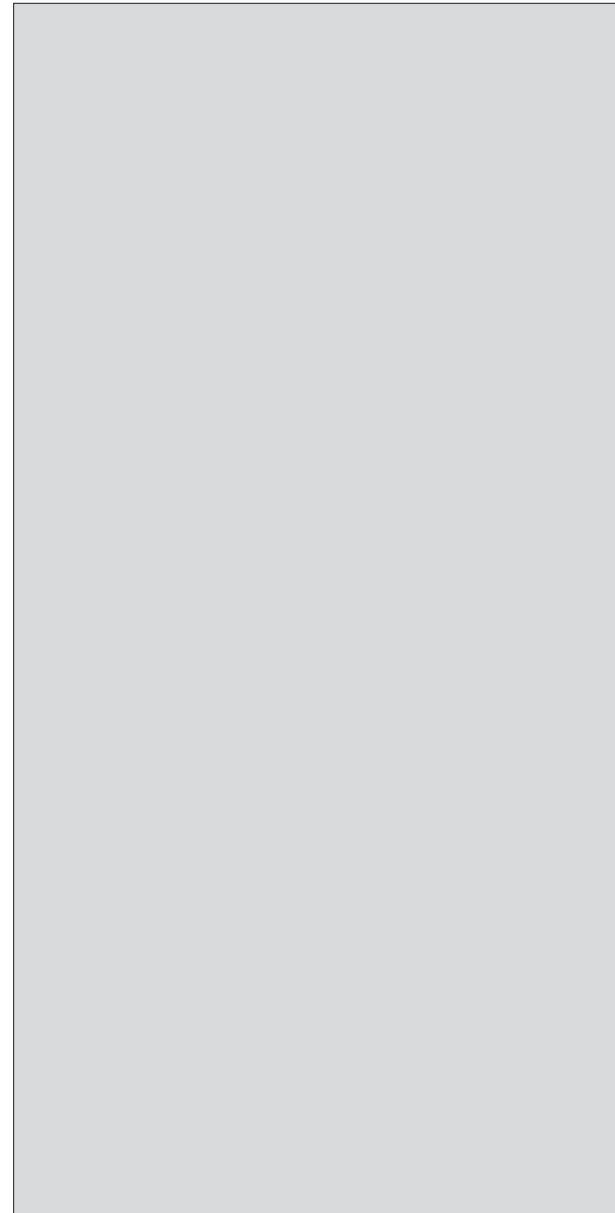
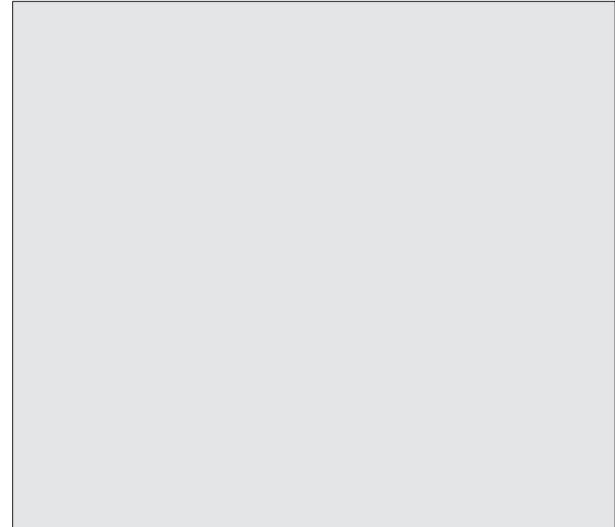
Favorite book: "Angels and Demons" by Dan Brown

Favorite thing about Tyndall: The numerous golf courses in the area

Pet Peeves: Laziness

Proudest moment in the military: My recent tour of duty in Iraq

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.



• FROM TAYLOR PAGE 1

met with several staff members and toured the facility.

“The visit went well,” said Col. George Nicolas, 325th MDG commander. “General Taylor was very complimentary.”

The medical group has received many praises recently, receiving high marks in patient satisfaction in their surveys, according to Colonel Nicolas.

“He was most impressed with the positive energy and attitude of the staff,” said the colonel. “It’s the best he’s seen in a medical group, which I took as an extreme compliment.

General Taylor also provided guidance for the medical team members regarding the many changes the Air Force is facing.

“He gave us his view on what the future may bring to the Air Force medical service as well as hints on how we might be able to tweak our processes to be even better,” said Colonel Nicolas.

“We were all honored that he chose Tyndall to visit as one of his last few official trips before his retirement ceremony in two weeks,” added Colonel Nicolas.

General Taylor left the Airmen in the medical field some sound advice.

“Medics are in the profession of the healing arts and profession of arms, so your challenge is to learn both,” he encouraged. “In order for the Air Force to carry out its mission, it needs medics who are experts in their field, but are also Airmen. We are on the same team.”

**The Gulf Defender is
published for people like
Senior Airman Julio Arriola,
325th Aeromedical-Dental
Squadron technician**



There's no joke about it – the man has a talent

STAFF SGT. STACEY HAGA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Who would have thought that writing in a journal could get so much publicity?

This question has probably passed through Staff Sgt. Edward Gyokeres' mind more than once.

What started as a daily journal shared with family and friends while he was deployed to Tallil AB, Iraq in 2003, has become a national commodity in the past few years.

"Writing was the most important tool I had to help me through my deployment," said the 95th Aircraft Maintenance Unit load crew chief, "I was able to share my experiences and stories with people I knew wanted to hear them. Knowing I wasn't alone made a huge difference."

Eventually, the letters he sent home were circulated around his commander's support staff. One of the letters made it to the inbox of Brig. Gen. Larry New, who at the time was the 325th Fighter Wing commander. General New requested it be published in the Gulf Defender.

Subsequently, Sergeant Gyokeres had three of his journal entries published in the Gulf Defender, and was featured in USA Weekend magazine.

"Knowing 37 million people would be reading my writing made me nervous, but I actually got a letter from my second grade teacher who saw me in the magazine," he said. "She said she was very proud of me, so I guess I didn't have too much to be worried about."

Upon returning from Iraq, several family members and friends assisted Sergeant Gyokeres in editing and putting the journal into a book format titled, "The Tallil Chronicles."

In February 2005, he attended Operation Homecoming, a symposium for the National Endowment for the Arts, at Hulburt Field, Fla. The event was for professional writers and poets and aspiring writers in the military community that had experiences to share about the war on terror.



Airman 1st Class Chad Christiansen

Staff Sgt. Edward Gyokeres poses for a picture atop disassembled aircraft cannons. Sergeant Gyokeres wrote a journal called "The Tallil Chronicles," and has been published several times.

"I gave a copy of my book to a NEA representative during the event, so I could receive feedback on my writing," said Sergeant Gyokeres.

Almost a year passed by with no answer.

Then in December 2005, he was contacted by an editor on behalf of the NEA. He told Sergeant Gyokeres an anthology will be published in September by Random House publishers and two of his journal entries will be included in the book.

"I fell out of my chair when the NEA called me. I had no idea my writings were submitted (for the anthology)," the sergeant said.

From there, Sergeant Gyokeres' life almost reads like a celebrity's profile.

First, a journal entry was published in The New Yorker.

Then, he went to Los Angeles to appear in

an NEA film documentary about military writers. He was also selected to be in a PBS documentary about war letters.

Through the documentaries, Sergeant Gyokeres hopes to encourage other servicemembers to write while deployed to help cope with the stress brought on by a war environment.

"Sharing deployment experiences helps you work through the issues you might be having, and lets your family know how you are coping," he said.

Semi-celebrity/author status or not, Sergeant Gyokeres is still committed to the Air Force and its mission, and will continue writing.

"I am truly an Airman with a desire and an ability to help my brothers," he said. "Most importantly, I realize that in the truth there is great power, and if you have the strength to voice it, people will hear it."



Staff Sgt. Edward Gyokeres

An Iraqi man holds up a photo of his family. Sergeant Gyokeres took this photo while doing guard duty in Iraq.

Fit to fly: Doctors keep student pilots healthy

MASTER SGT. MARY McHALE
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

(Editor's note: This is the first in a five-part series covering the training B-course students go through to get in the air.)

For basic F-15 Eagle Basic Course students here strapped in aircraft thundering along at speeds exceeding 500 mph, their mental and physical fitness levels must be always be at peak levels.

And here to help ensure those peak levels are the flight surgeons and aerospace physiologists of the 325th Aero-medical-Dental Squadron. From an initial in-processing assessment to any required follow-ups, they work to identify any potential physical or mental issues that could affect a student's flight performance.

"We go over their records with a fine-tooth comb," said Dr. (Maj.) Manoj Ravi, a flight surgeon with the 325th Aero-medical-Dental Squadron. "We have to adhere to very stringent standards in the Air Force Instruction."

If a condition is identified here that may affect a student's training, a waiver package can be submitted through channels to Headquarters Air Education and Training Command. The major said waiver packages have to be extremely thorough since officials at higher headquarters can't physically see the individual.

Dr. Ravi said the once the waiver package is completed it is routed through the base chief flight surgeon then on to Air Education and Training Command for approval or disapproval. He said in some complex cases, it can reach Headquarters Air Force.

Once approved, the students continue their training. Dr. Ravi said he enjoys working on waiver packages and it provides him a sense of achievement when he can return an aviator to flying status.

Assisting the flight surgeons with their task of keeping the fliers healthy are flight physiologists.

"We provide aerospace physiological training to all students that require it," said 1st Lt. Sara Senechal, aerospace physiologist. "Most, however, have been through the altitude chamber within the past five years and are current when they show up at Tyndall. Another major aspect of our involvement is working with students to prepare them to handle the physiological effects of flying on the human body, specifically the gravity forces associated with flying the Eagle."

The lieutenant said common reasons students have G-problems are poor G-strain techniques, dehydration, fatigue in the jet and ineffective workouts. She said training given to students includes "anti-G straining maneuver coaching, the importance of good hydration, and maintenance of a proper diet and rest. Additionally, pilots should get involved in both an intense weight training program and aerobic exercises."

To help the doctor further understand the stresses and strains students experience in the cockpit, the major and the other flight doctors re required to fly 12 times annu-

ally. They also review the aircrafts' heads up display tapes to further familiarize themselves.

"We fly one or two sorties a month with pilots to see what they go through and frankly, I can tell you, it's like being in a boxing match," he said. "It's hard work. Not only do they have to manage the G-forces, they have to maintain an optimum level of situational awareness as they fly and fight. They have to process a lot of information in a short time, so it's critical they don't get fixated on one element of flight or distracted by outside concerns."

He said once an issue, whether physical or mental, is discovered, a thorough assessment is conducted and a course of action involving the appropriate officials is determined.

"A minor ache on the ground can become a significant issue in the air," he said. "We have to be aware of any little thing that can throw off a pilot's fitness level."

"Fighter pilots have some inherent characteristics that make them successful," Major Ravi said. "They are extremely intelligent and good at multitasking. They never do anything half way, no matter the task, so we have to watch out that they don't oversaturate themselves."

"Pilots live to fly and fight," the doctor said. "They want to be healthy and they want to fly, and you're helping them achieve that goal, it's a great feeling."



Training Spotlight



What were your thoughts the first time you launched a jet?

"I was really ecstatic, but a little nervous at first. After it was over, I couldn't wait to do it again."

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS

BRYAN JERNIGAN

372nd Training Squadron/Det. 2

Mission Ready Airman

Honor Graduate going to 95th Fighter Squadron



To learn about becoming a member of the Tyndall Honor Guard, call 283-4405.

In control

First Lt. Jon Quinlan, 325th Air Control Squadron air battle manager student, controls simulated aircraft during a class while his instructor evaluates him.



Senior Airman Sarah McDowell

Get your Community College of the Air Force information at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>

Tyndall deploys: behind-the-scenes look at what A



Courtesy photos

While in Al Udeid AB, Qatar, Staff Sgt. Samuel Hudson from the 325th Services Squadron, organizes a stock room.



Senior Airman Carol Hysell, from the 325th Services Squadron, serves food while deployed to Al Udeid AB, Qatar.



Tech. Sgt. Charles Campbell, with Tyndall's 325th Medical Operations Squadron, sits down with Afghan nationals to have lunch.



Tech. Sgt. Philip Sutton, with the 325th Communications Squadron here, runs an interference deconflict while deployed in Iraq.)



Airmen go through a p



Master Sgt. Robert Mayor, 325th Mission Support Group, was deployed to Afghanistan working for Headquarters Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan to interdict narcotics with the British government, the Afghanistan government, and the United States Drug Enforcement Agency trying to cut the poppy and heroin production in the country, finding drug labs, and finding caches of narcotics.

Airmen are doing for GWOT



processing line during AEF 9/10.



Tech Sgt. Irizarry Merced talks with former Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray and other command chiefs while deployed to Bogota, Columbia.

ved to Kabul, Afghani-
tan. He worked Count-
ent, and the U.S. Drug
the country, destroy-

Photos worth more than a thousand



Staff Sgt. Edward Gyokeres

Staff Sgt. Edward Gyokeres, with Tyndall's 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was able to capture this shot of an Iraqi national while on guard duty at Tallil AB, Iraq.



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek, with 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office, captured this photo during a visit to an orphanage in Afghanistan. School supplies and other necessities were passed out during the trip.

Briefs

Chiefs golf tourney

The Tyndall Chief's Group Annual Golf Tournament will be at 7:30 a.m. Aug. 4 at the Pelican Point Golf Course. The cost is \$45 for non-course members \$35 for members. Price includes cart and entry fee, prizes and meal during award presentations. The event is open to everyone; select your own team. The format is a four person select shot (10 percent total team handicap, max individual handicap is 36), with a 7:30 a.m. shotgun start. Points of contact for sign up: Pelican Point Pro Shop at 283-4389, Chief Master Sgt. Julio C. Morelos at 283-6306, or email julio.morelos@tyndall.af.mil or any Tyndall chief master sergeant.

Remembrance reunion event

Air Forces Northern, and the Continental U.S. NORAD Region 9-11 Remembrance-Reunion is scheduled for Sept. 9 and 10.

The event includes a wreath laying ceremony, Combined Air Operations Center/F-22 tour and mission briefing, remembrance-reunion dinner and a religious service. This event will remember and honor those who served on Sept. 11, 2001, and also recognize service members who continue to defend the nation through Operation Noble Eagle. For more information, visit www.1staf.tyndall.af.mil/911/index.htm or call (850) 283-8659.

Commissioning brief

A commissioning briefing will be held 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Education Center. The briefing will cover the Air Force Academy and Prep School, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, Officer Training School, the Airman Education and Commissioning Program and the Physician Assistant Program. For more information, call 283-4285.

OSI brief

Report suspicious activities to the 325th Security Forces Squadron at 283-2254, or the Air Force Office of Special Investigations at 283-3261.



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

Thrift shopping

Mathew Ruff checks out a model truck with his mother Diane. Items in the thrift shop are both donated and are on consignment. New hours are: Tuesdays and Thursdays only from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No consignments will be accepted unless you are permanently changing station in or out. For details or appointments, call 286-5888.

Troy University

The Troy University registration for term one 2006 continues through July 28. The term runs from Aug. 1 to Oct. 8. Learn more about the 10 undergraduate- and eight graduate-level programs available in traditional or online formats by visiting the local Troy University office in Room 44-A of the Base Education Center, or call 283-4449.

Used Book Sale

The Eglin Officers' Spouses' Club will be conducting a used book sale 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Eglin Library. Funds raised at the book sale will be used to benefit the Eglin Library and the EOSC Scholarship and Charitable Request Program. For more information or to donate books, contact Troi Reppart at 651-1386 or tnt.beach@cox.net.

Air Force Marathon

The Air Force Marathon is open to runners who would like to self-nominate. Tyndall members may submit a Form 303 to unit commanders or the base Fitness Center for consideration. For more information, call 283-2631.

Limited space at the marina

There is limited parking at the Beacon Beach Marina due to pavement of the parking area.

The public boat launch is closed; however, the private boat launch will be available for usage for all Tyndall patronage. The Marina Grill is open.

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.

Tyndall Chapel Schedule**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.)

MXS win softball championship

CHRISSE CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Another challenging season of softball heads out of the park with the 325th Maintenance Squadron back in the lead as Tyndall's best team.

On July 13, the 325th MXS and Southeast Air Defense Sector teams met in the winners' bracket for the third time this year. The 19-12 final score put MXS on top.

"Last year, we just had a break in the action and let someone else enjoy it for a while," said Jessie Snyder, MXS team player. "I feel like we had to hand the trophy over for something out of our control. We had players at the AETC championship last year so seven of our starters were on temporary duty to Lackland AFB, Texas."

"We were last year's best but lost this year," said Jeffrey Munn, SEADS team coach. "MXS won for four years in a row before we won last year. Because of that, (the July games) were the most anticipated game of the year."

To keep last year's title of best softball team here, SEADS would have had to beat MXS twice in a double elimination, but they only won the first game July 12.

"That day we were 1-1 against each other," said Jeffrey Munn, SEADS team coach. "With us both undefeated, folks were calling it the 'clash of the titans' match up."

Before the final game, sports standings read "SEADS 12-0, MXS 11-0"



Courtesy photo

The 325th Maintenance Squadron Softball team, pictured here, won the base intramural championships.

for the season, and they got their players ready for a head to head competition.

Although SEADS was missing a few "key" players in the finals, their team still learned some valuable lessons on putting your best team on the field in critical situations.

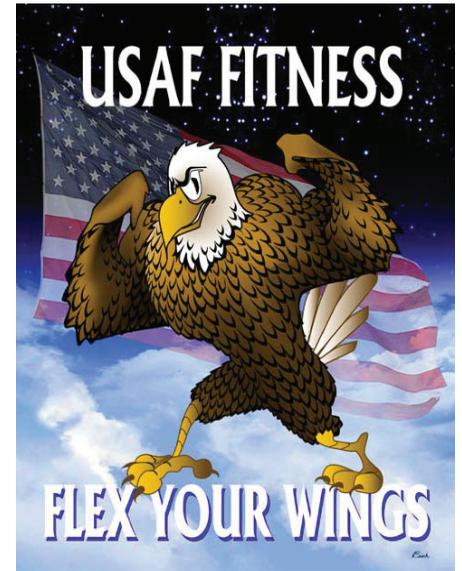
"It goes from intramural fun to a 'have to win it all' mentality in a critical game," said Munn. "Everyone played all year. We were strong, so it didn't matter who showed up during league play. We ruled all but two teams in the regular season. But, come playoff time, the easier teams were gone and had to go straight forward and look for the points."

Because SEADS is a Florida Air National Guard unit, their core team doesn't change much. Fifteen of the sixteen players this year are ready to play next year.

MXS agrees that a good softball team takes good continuity. They've been fortunate to have same core members for four years and that's why team has won so many times, said Snyder.

Players from both teams have also been selected for the Tyndall Varsity Softball team that competes at command-level.

"It takes a lot of experience. It's not an easy game to play. To be good at it you have to practice," said Snyder.



Intramural bowling season is starting up. Contact the Fitness Center at 283-2631, for more information.

Congratulations to the Tyndall Tennis Doubles champions, David Barwinski and Frederick Floyd from Air Forces North.

Softball Standings

American

Won Lost

SEADS	12	0
AMXS	10	2
AMXS 3	8	4
MSS	7	5
SFS	7	5
ACS	5	7
83 FWS	5	7
COMM	4	8
CONS	4	8
WEG	1	10
SVS	1	10
TEST	0	0

National

Won Lost

MXS	11	0
CES	10	2
OSS	9	2
MDG	8	4
AFCESA	7	5
SEADS 2	5	6
LRD	4	8
RHS	3	8
372 TRS	2	10
ACS 2	0	12

Golf Standings

Team

Points

372 TRS	63.5
COMM 1	59.5
CES	56.5
AFCESA	48.5
MXS 1	47.5
AF NOR 1	47
RHS	45.5
53 WEG	41
MSS	37.5
SVS	37
MDG	35.5

Team

Points

SFS	32
83 FWS	32
601 1	28.5
OSS	28
TEST	26
601 2	25.5
ACS	25
CONS	19.5
MXS 2	13.5
COMM 2	5.5

Village provides homes, assistance to war heroes

STAFF SGT. STACEY HAGA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Some of the Air Force's retired war heroes and their spouses are not able to support themselves well financially in what is supposed to be their golden years.

Some are not even able to afford a roof over their head.

Fortunately, they have a place they can go for help.

The Air Force Enlisted Village in Shalimar, Fla., was founded in 1967 with a goal to provide a safe and secure place for retired Airmen and their spouses to live. It also provides financial support to the indigent widows that live there.

"The village was created because there were so many Air Force widows living below the poverty level. The majority of our widows came from an era prior to the Survivor Benefit Plan and many weren't able to establish careers or significant assets," said James Binnicker, the ninth chief master sergeant of the Air Force and president and of the Air Force Enlisted Village. "In many cases, the village is their last hope."

Any retired military member or spouse, age 55 or older, with a valid military ID may live in the village.

With limited funding provided by donations only, the village assists the surviving spouses with the greatest needs first, but no one is refused assistance due to financial status.

The village also offers temporary housing to spouses of active-duty members who have passed away.

The Airmen and spouses live in the village among their peers without the stigma normally associated with subsidized housing facilities, said Chief Binnicker.

The enlisted village consists of two independent living communities, Bob Hope and Teresa Village, and an assisted living facility, Hawthorn House. The communities have many amenities for their resi-



Courtesy photos

Residents at the Air Force Enlisted Village ride scooters for fun and exercise. The village offers many different activities for the men and women who live in the three communities.

dents including a pool, community center, garden plots, chapel and transportation to local doctor's appointments.

The village's future plans involve building a skilled nursing facility and additional independent living apartments.

All the facilities and events offered at the enlisted village are made possible by the generous donations from Air Force members and the community.

"As a non-profit organization, we don't receive any federal or state funding or Medicare/Medicaid. The money we do receive from the Air Force Assistance Fund is restricted for the direct support of indigent widows," said Chief Binnicker.

The rest of the money comes from donations given by the community and military members.

The village also receives donations in the form of volunteer work.

"The enlisted village is a world-class operation, but they run on a shoe-string budget," said Chief Master Sgt. Craig Deatherage, 325th Fighter Wing command chief. "Our proximity to the village gives us both the opportunity and the obligation to preserve and improve this wonderful community. Contributing time, energy and funds to the village is one of the noblest acts our Airmen can offer to senior citizens who laid the foundation for our Air Force."

"We appreciate volunteers at all three of our locations. Once people see our campuses and meet the residents, they're hooked," said Chief Binnicker.

"We must certainly act, support and contribute today, not only for the current residents, but to ensure the village is available for our spouses," said Chief Deatherage. "There may come a day when your spouse needs to live in the secure and supportive environment offered by this community of friends."

Even though donations and volunteer work are vital to the village's operation, Chief Binnicker encourages help in the form of sharing information with those in need.

"The most important thing anyone can do is to spread the word about the village," he said. "Tell your families, friends and co-workers we're here and we're available to military widows and military families in their time of need."

For more information on the Air Force Enlisted Village visit their Web site, www.afenlistedwidows.org.



A group of Teresa Village residents participate in water aerobics.

Uniform board to release updates to AFI

WASHINGTON (AFP) – An update to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Air Force Uniform Dress and Appearance, will soon be released, said Air Force officials.

A key feature of this updated instruction will be the return of heritage to the enlisted corps -- chevrons on the sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia.

“Over the years, we’ve made changes that made sense at the time, but had the effect of moving us away from our heritage,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley. “Chevrons on sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia are historical symbols of the finest non-commissioned officer corps on the planet. We need to return that heritage to them and reconnect them to the great NCOs who went before them.”

The circle around the U.S. was eliminated in 1991, said Senior

Master Sgt. Dana Athnos of the Air Force Uniform Board.

“Yet, every uniform board since received requests to return that to the enlisted force, so it has been done,” she said. “Wearing the circle on the lapel has a lasting heritage that dates back to April 27, 1918.”

The change will include the removal of senior NCO shoulder boards from the blue uniform and from all upper garments, except the optional wool sweaters. Implementation dates will be reflected in the revised AFI.

The updates will also include information about the new air staff badge and new space badge. Desert combat uniforms are now authorized on ci-

vilian flights to and from the area of responsibility. Also, Air Force personnel are not authorized to wear desert boots with the battle dress uniform.

As a reminder, Oct. 1 marks the mandatory wear of physical training

gear. All Airmen will be required to have one running suit, two T-shirts and two pairs of shorts. Also beginning in October, enlisted Airmen will receive an increase in their clothing allowance to offset

the increase of the mandatory number of T-shirts and shorts from two sets to three sets in October 2007.

Air Force officials emphasized that Airmen should not wait until October to purchase these items. The revised AFI will clarify wear of the PT

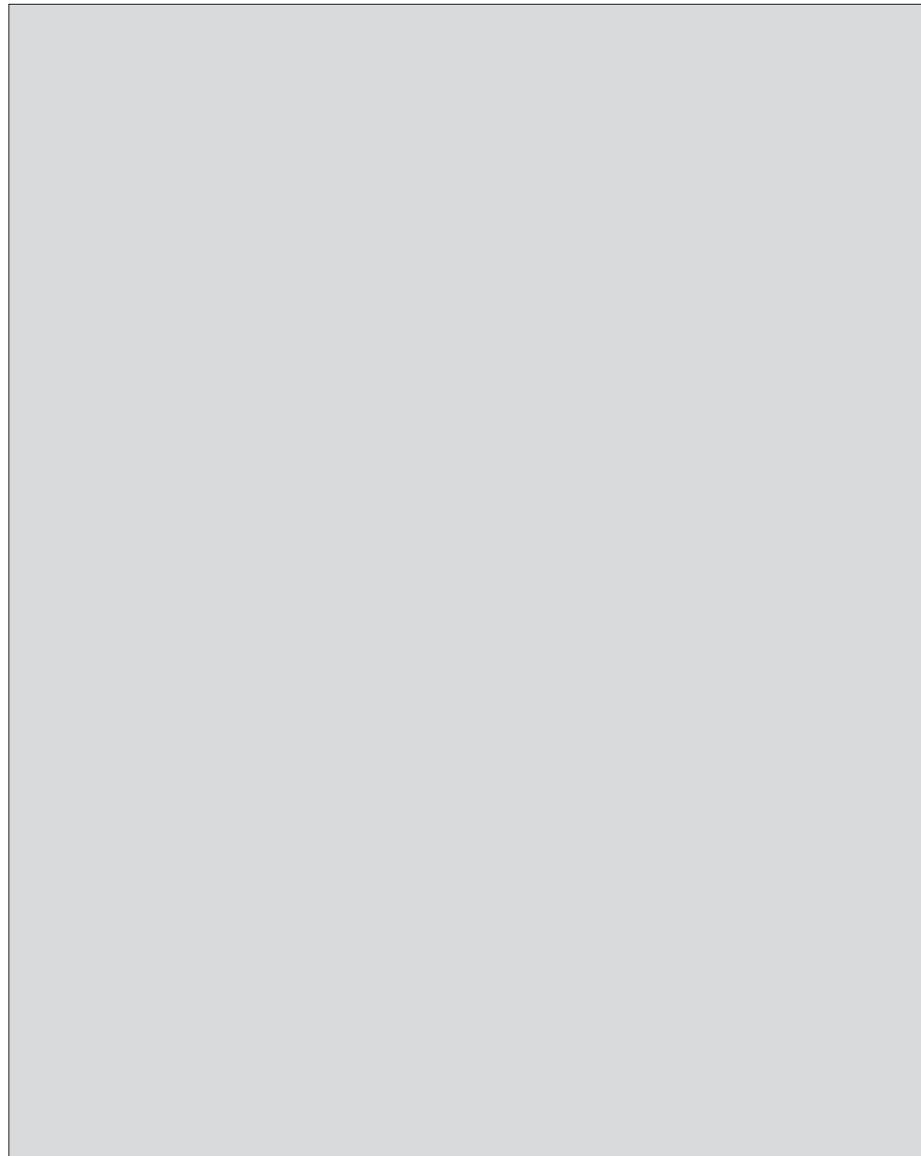
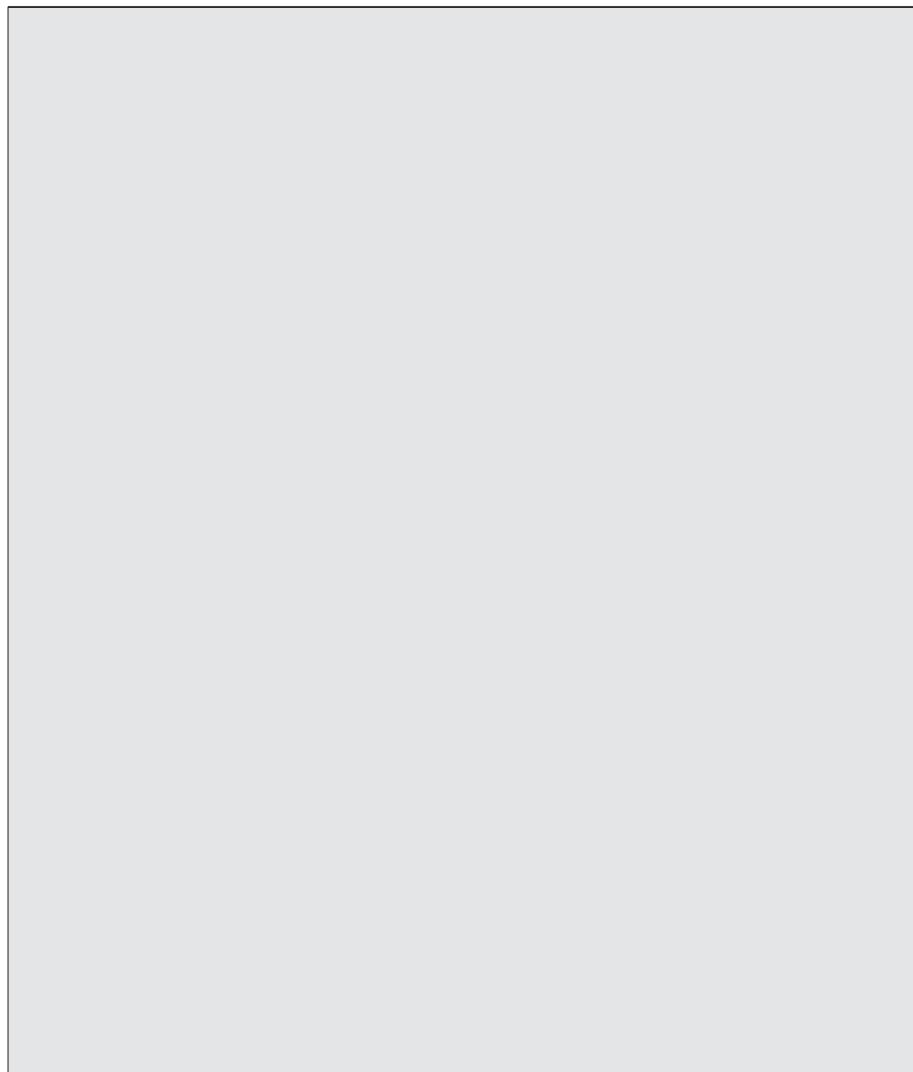
gear by specifying that when doing organized PT, the shorts and T-shirts will be worn as a set and not mixed with civilian clothes; however, at other times the PT gear, to include the running suit, can be worn with civilian clothes.

More clarification will be provided about sister service badges, as well as cell phone use in uniform. New guidance about the wear of flight clothing also is incorporated in the updated document.

The new AFI will be available for all Airmen later this month.

“The Air Force Uniform Board reviews any matters related to Air Force uniforms involving possible improvements, and in turn, provides recommendations to the chief of staff for a final decision,” Sergeant Athnos said. “It’s a deliberate process that is focused on feedback from the field to better accomplish our mission.”

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• FROM DUTY PAGE 4

ing with unique issues to include family problems, financial difficulties, and many others.

Former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray stated, "The first sergeant is one of the original enlisted leadership positions created under General George Washington...throughout history, first sergeants have enforced standards, maintained good order and discipline, and given great care to our enlisted Airmen." What a great legacy to fulfill and uphold.

Finally, with more and more SNCOs completing their Community College of the Air Force degrees and SNCO academy correspondence course, a special duty assignment is becoming the next big distinguisher among those vying for promotion to the top two enlisted ranks. Recent promotion statistics show those completing special duty assignments are more likely to be promoted. Even with so many positive attributes of special duty assignments there are also some potential drawbacks.

When considering a special duty assignment it is also important to consider some potentially negative factors. First, is leaving an AFSC as a fully qualified troop. With the advances in technology, being out of a career field for several years may cause some difficulty upon return. Second, you will be competing for promotion with others in special duty assignments rather than in your previous career field can make it more difficult to make the cutoff while in the special duty because of the caliber of the group.

While there are some potential drawbacks to filling a special duty position, let's look at why, I believe, it is something well worth doing.

I have had the opportunity to do special duty assignment tours as a technical school instructor and now, a first sergeant. These two special duties account for 40 percent of my military career to date. I count these assignments as some of the most gratifying and important things I have done. That is why I endorse special duty assignments to my peers and subordinates. The



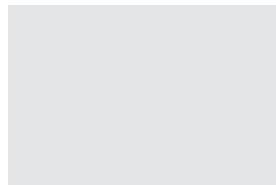
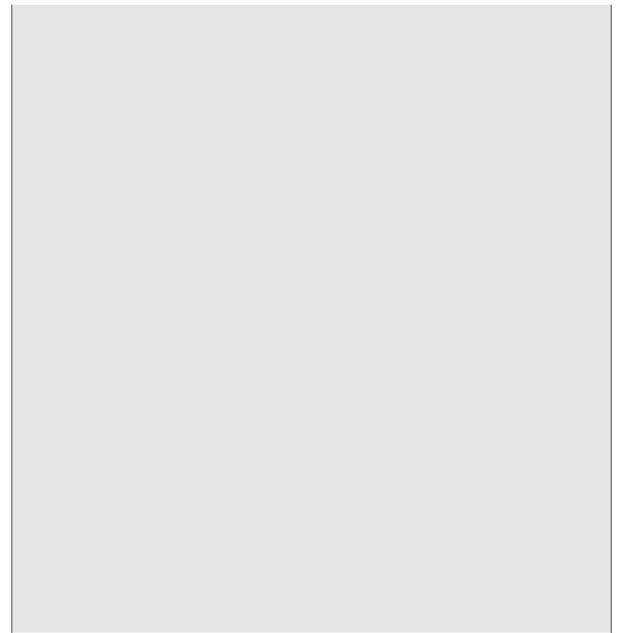
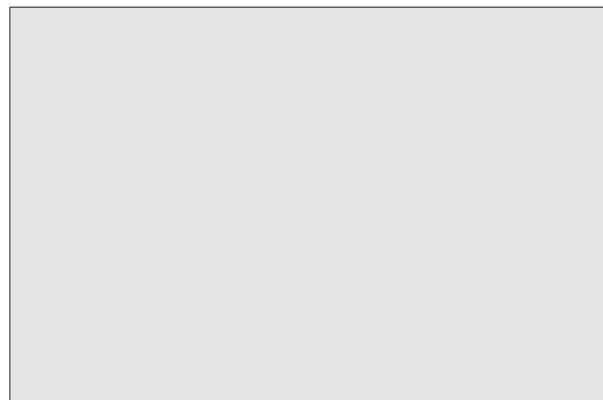
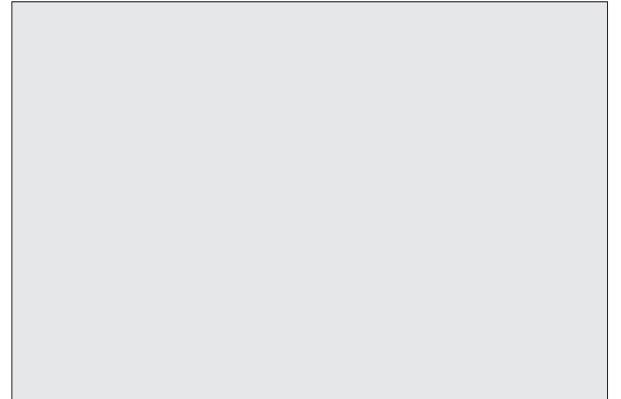
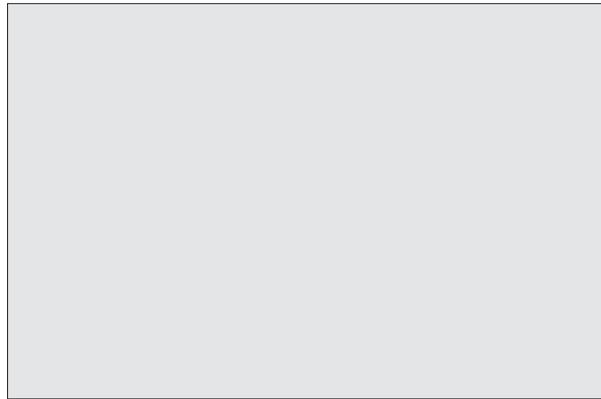
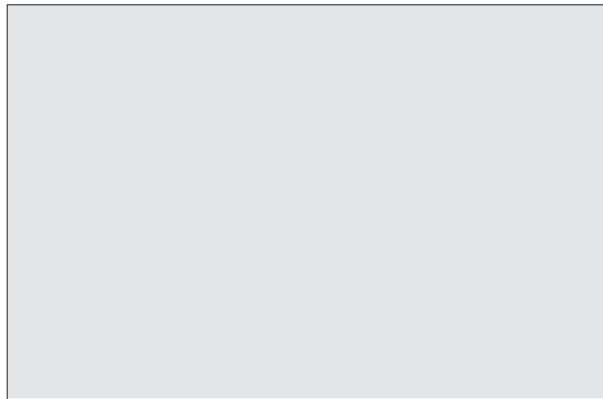
Senior Airman Sarah McDowell

A military training instructor corrects an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet during inprocessing here. MTIs are just one of the many special duty assignments Airmen may sign up for.

opportunity to make an impact on the grand scale, and even more importantly, in the individual lives of our Airmen, is tremendous. The good done by individuals who step up and move beyond their comfort zone is immeasurable. A break in a career may be just what an individual needs to help them prepare for the long run. These duties also return more rounded, better prepared, lead-

ers to their career fields once their assignment is complete. Benjamin Disraeli, former Prime Minister of England once said, "The more extensive a man's knowledge of what has to be done, the greater will be his power of knowing what to do."

What better way to learn 'what has to be done' than by stepping out and seeing things from a different perspective?





Funshine NEWS

www.325thservices.com ☆ Lookout for the New Funshine Review coming out in the Gulf Defender in August. ☆ www.325thservices.com



O'Club Luau Membership Night
All ranks

Members only event, non-members sign-up at the door. For details call 283-4357.

August 18
5 - 8:30 p.m.

Luau menu
Hawaiian dress
Limbo contest
Prizes
Hawaiian Tropical drink specials

SERVICES MARKETING



Jain Fit Factor!

Get out!

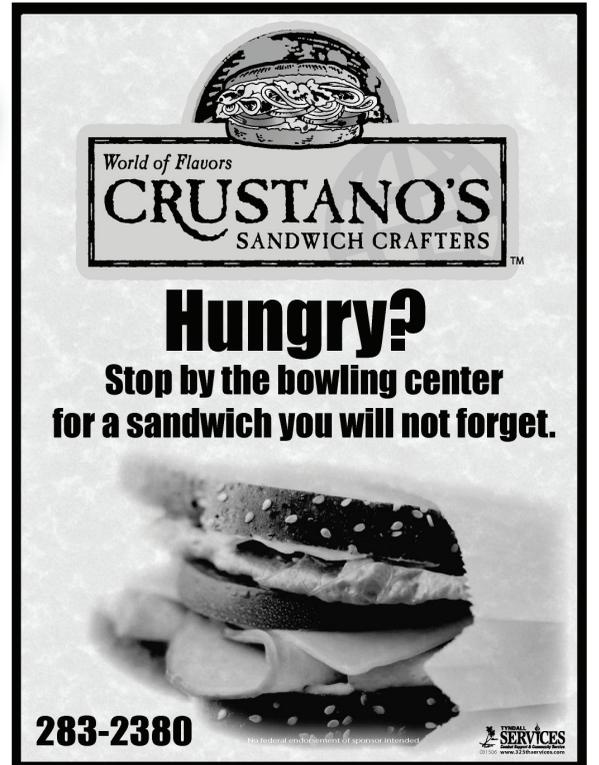
Get up!

Get fit!

Find out more at your Local Youth Center.

283-4366

YOUTH PROGRAM
SERVICES MARKETING



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CRUSTANO'S
SANDWICH CRAFTERS™

Hungry?
Stop by the bowling center for a sandwich you will not forget.

283-2380

SERVICES MARKETING

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

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Do the photos encourage you to read accompanied articles? Yes No

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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: _____

