



GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 65, No. 29

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

July 28, 2006

In Brief

Chiefs' golf tourney

The Tyndall Chiefs' 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 team format is a four person select shot (10 percent total team handicap, max individual handicap is 36).

Points of contact for sign up: Pelican Point Pro Shop at 283-4389, Chief Master Sgt. Julio Morelos at 283-6306, or email julio.morelos@tyndall.af.mil or any Tyndall chief master sergeant.

Troy University

Today is the last day of registration for term one 2006 at Troy University. The term runs from Tuesday to Oct. 8. Visit the local Troy University office in Room 44-A of the Base Education Center, or call 283-4449 to enroll.

Inside

Teachers, parents and children get ready for school... **PAGES 10-11**

Flight assures quality in maintenance group... **PAGE 13**



Staff Sgt. Edward Gyokeres

Precision is key as Senior Airman Jason Barber, load crew member, and Staff Sgt. Michael Sirmons, support technician, 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, install the fins on an AIM-7 missile before loading it onto an F-15 Eagle.

F-15 fires live AIM-7 from base inventory

2ND LT. AMANDA FERRELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Four AIM-7 Sparrow missiles from the Tyndall AFB inventory were fired July 19 by an F-15 pilot as part of the Weapons Systems Evaluation Program here.

The missile, known as "The Great White Hope," became operational in 1953 and has since been credited with more than 70 kills in air-to-air combat.

The radar-guided missile was advanced for its time, but its

future retirement marks the beginning of a new era and represents the Air Force's continued mission in advanced weapons research and development, according to Lt. Col. Raymond O'Mara, 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron commander.

"(Firing the last Air Force AIM-7 will) signify the transition to air dominance as we now know it – represented by the F-22 Raptor," he said. "We are severing ties with weapons that need to be supported by launch

systems on aircraft, which was the old way of conducting air combat, and we're now shifting exclusively to 'launch-and-leave' missiles.

"The AIM-120 (Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile) will be the replacement," Colonel O'Mara said. "It represents a significant leap in capability, offering greater performance than the AIM-7."

Aircrew and maintainers from the 2nd Fighter Squadron participated in the live AIM-7

mission here.

"It initially increased our air-to-air capability because of the missile's radar technology," said Maj. Gen. Kenneth DeCuir, Air Combat Command vice commander, during his visit to Tyndall May 9. "The weapon system has been refined to make it a more reliable and capable radar-guided missile. It's undergone various modifications and now

• SEE AIM PAGE 7



Staff Sgt. Edward Gyokeres

Splish-splash

An F-22 Raptor gets a “bird bath” near the end of the runway here. Because of Tyndall’s coastal location, corrosion is accelerated by the salty sea air. To combat this, the jets are washed on a daily basis to rinse off the salt residue and prevent corrosion.

Identify this ...

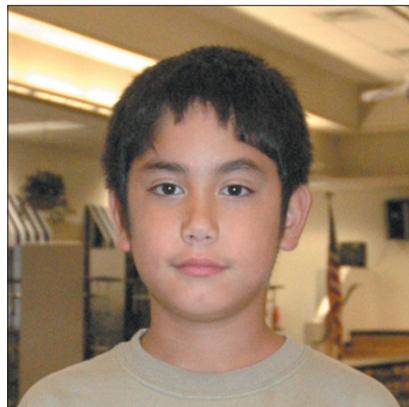


Can you identify this object? If so, send an e-mail to editor@tyndall.af.mil with “Identify this” in the subject line. Three correct entries will be chosen at random and drawn from a hat to select the final winner. The prize can be claimed at the Public Affairs office. Master Sgt. Deryl Brandon, 325th Maintenance Group manning manager, correctly guessed the July 21 “Identify this” as the radome of the F-22 Raptor.

ON THE STREET

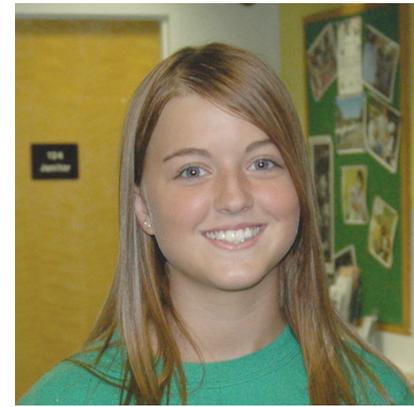
Military Children Focus:

What are you looking forward to most this school year?



“I look forward to learning science by making volcanoes. We get to take the science FCAT, too.”

CHRIS FOSTER
Tyndall Elementary School 5th grade student



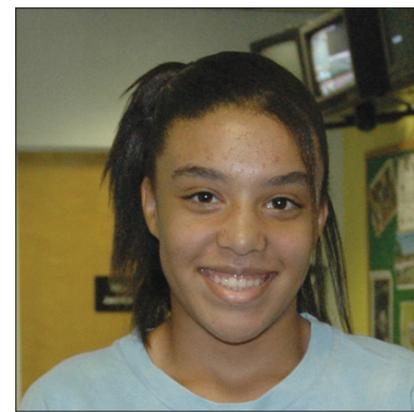
“I miss school. I want to see my friends and I like science and history.”

KEIRSTIN GARNER
Rutherford High School 10th grade student



“I look forward to history lessons, learning about people who did special things in the past.”

KEVIN PALOMAR
Tyndall Elementary School 5th grade student



“I’m excited to go be going to high school. I may play basketball and get a scholarship.”

COURTNEY ROUSE
Rutherford High School 9th grade student

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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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.

The learning organization: It comes down to you

LT. COL. LARRY DUVALL
325th Maintenance Group deputy commander

You may have heard the phrase, "You pay for what you don't know."

At the unit level, having all necessary resources and continuous learning is the key to not having to pay this debt.

The learning organization mentality is a philosophy of constant betterment. Do everything you can to make your area, yourself as an Airman and the unit better. Professions are what they are because people in them continually work to gain additional knowledge and further the body of knowledge.

As members of the military, we provide the essential capabilities needed to defend our nation. That responsibility requires us to always improve our capability and stay ahead of threats looming on the horizon. A comprehensive training and evaluation feedback loop verifies the necessary knowledge and skill performance attained by all personnel.

Day-to-day discipline in execution of whatever tasks are associated with the unit mission and administering all of the necessary supporting programs is essential.

Self initiative and discipline are needed to effectively learn and stay on an upward trend of learning at each opportunity.

Taking ownership of the process is critical. Webster's dictionary defines ownership as, "to have power over;" "wanted control." The jet crew chief

wanting his jet to fly better and look better than the other crew chief's jet is an example of that challenge.

The Air Force has been changing significantly over the last five years. It has been downsizing for a number of years and the Global War on Terrorism has tasked the Air Force in ways we never experienced before.

For example, a seven-level maintainer for an A-10 aircraft can be sent to an F-15 base or one of our Airmen

of F-22 full operation capability pilot needs. Given all of the challenges, every individual needs to stay firmly dedicated to doing their jobs in compliance with Air Force directives everyday.

Air Force instructions and technical orders are those directives. Direction is provided to ensure the essential guidance to safely and efficiently do the job. AFIs provide position responsibilities, establish

configure equipment and aircraft, without deviation. This ensures they are ready before being committed to mission use. Use of TOs is never an option; they are always mandatory.

Other resources are also available to guide task execution and improvement. Manuals and pamphlets provide guidance and knowledge.

For example, the Tongue and Quill provides guidance on communicating. Another example is the Airman's Manual, AFMAN 10-100, that covers basic knowledge of warfighting skills. By reviewing this manual you become a better Airman, a more capable supervisor, and you make the Air Force a more capable expeditionary service.

Another resource could be a MAJCOM unit compliance inspections that checks compliance and readiness. Organizations can encounter problems when compliance is dropped and the learning organization mentality is not present. Doing well means you did well during that week of inspection but it takes day to day dedicated effort to attain everyday compliance.

Staying the course in compliant operations and constantly working as an individual and at the unit level to keep knowledge, discipline and skill development on an upward slope prevents mistakes and marginal efficiency.

The learning organization approach keeps us on track to effectively and safely guard the nation's interests.

"The learning organization mentality is a philosophy of constant betterment. Do everything you can to make your area, yourself as an Airman and the unit better."

LT. COL. LARRY DUVALL

325th Maintenance Group deputy commander

here can be tasked to work on another aircraft.

Supply priority for non-operational units was lowered a year ago to meet the needs of the Global War on Terrorism. Transportation career field personnel have been tasked to take on convoy operations in the area of responsibility.

Another challenge at Tyndall is the aging F-15 fleet that have more flying hours accumulated than some of the vintage F-4s assigned to the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group. Both maintenance and operations are also heavily tasked spooling up in support

roles and relationships between organizations and provide the necessary procedures and checklists to conduct everything we are tasked with. Each instruction also lists related AFIs that apply to the particular area the instruction covers. The instructions go through ongoing considerable revision and new instructions are regularly published.

For example, the main AFI governing aircraft maintenance, AFI 21-101, has grown from 50 pages in the 1990s to 500 pages today.

TOs are lawful technical directives that govern how to maintain and

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.

Deployment: An opportunity to excel

LT. COL. GEORGE MENKER
1st Fighter Squadron commander

Virtually every Tyndall Airman tasked to deploy during Air Expeditionary Force 3/4 has been notified by now.

The emotional preparations due to extended family separation have begun and the period for physical and mental preparation has started in earnest due to advent of "just in time" training.

It clearly makes sense to prepare critical tasks like self aid/buddy care, combat skills training and chemical warfare just before reaching the area of responsibility so they are fresh in our mind. Yet the extra burden they place on our time can result in losing focus on why we're deploying to the area of responsibility and what a truly critical juncture this is for democracy and freedom.

This is why I urge each of you to also consider opportunities for personal, professional and spiritual growth while deployed.

First of all, you may consider the chance to dramatically improve your physical fitness. During my last AEF rotation, it was my experience that evening trips to the gym replaced happy hour. Going to the gym became a healthy "vice" many had never experienced. During this time,

"Sleeping in a tent for four months has an uncanny way of allowing you to count your blessings."

LT. COL. GEORGE MENKER
1st Fighter Squadron commander

an NCO who worked for me lost 50 unwanted pounds. What a remarkable accomplishment. Imagine the life-long health benefits from no longer toting around that bag of cement. The improvements to his self-esteem were unmistakable. Physical fitness is a choice, and while in the AOR, one can go from meeting fitness standards to perpetually exceeding them.

Professionally, the Air Force has sent mixed signals over the years with regards to professional military education and advanced degrees. Make no mistake; making solid progress in this area will benefit your long term Air Force career. Use this time to knock out some substantial progress in PME or undergraduate work. Those who do will undoubtedly be rewarded over time.

Spiritually, being in a place that lacks the creature comforts to which we are accustomed can quickly restore appreciation for the gift of being an American citizen. Sleeping in a tent for four months has an uncanny way of allowing you to count your blessings.

Our effort of bringing democracy, freedom, and stability to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan is, in a way, giving them the gift Americans have known for over two centuries. It's a gift they would have never imagined were it not for the brave Airmen of AEF 3/4.

Our grateful nation will await your return and history will reveal the efforts of expeditionary Airmen who were essential to bringing democracy and freedom to people that until now, barely dared to dream of it.

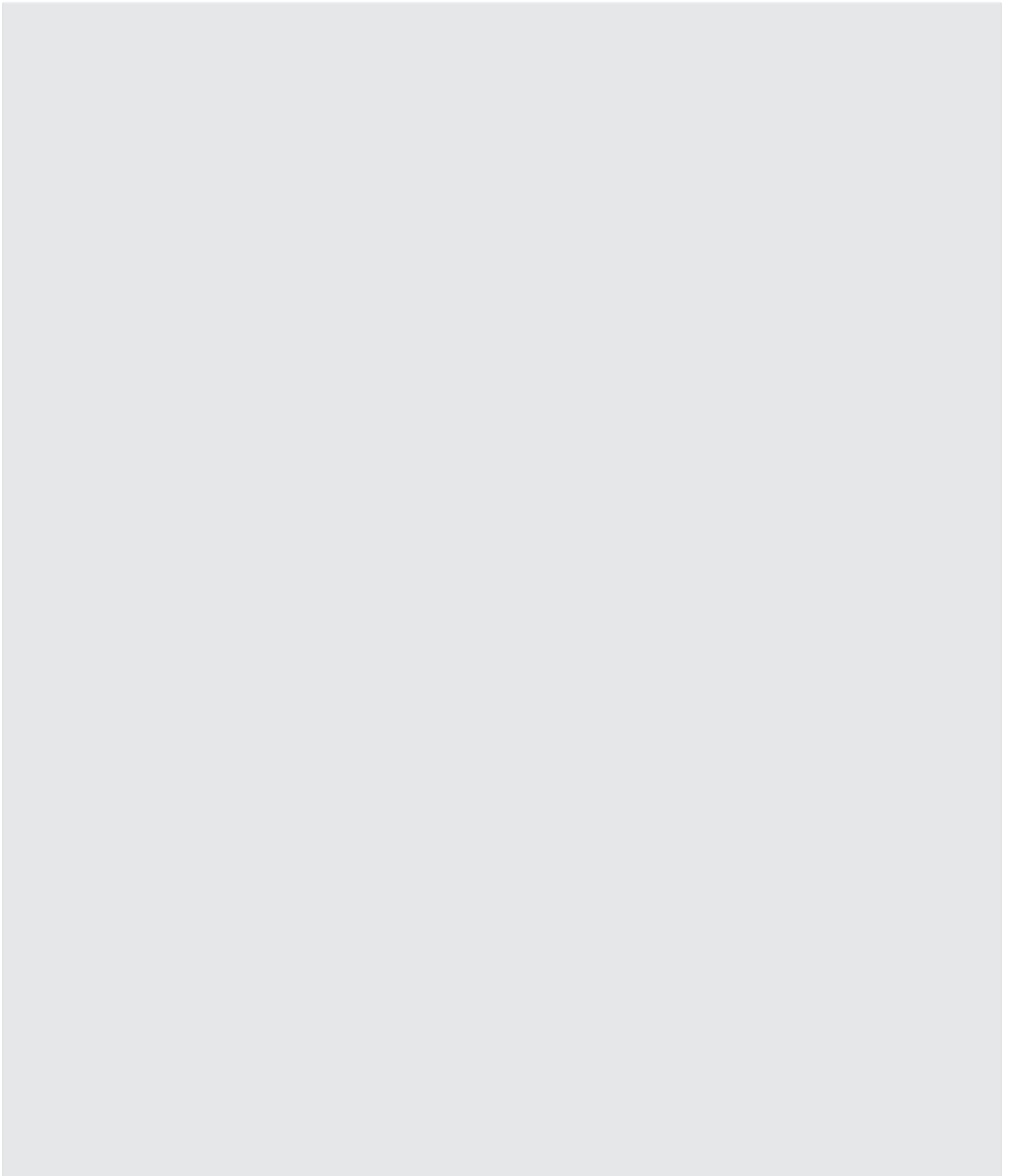
Did you know? Voting information

Airmen and their families serving around the world have the right to vote and the Air Force Voting Program's mission is to ensure they have the information and tools needed to exercise that privilege.

Before deploying, Airmen receive voting materials needed to notify their state of their new mailing address. They continue to receive voting assistance from home voting officers and on-site PER-SCO teams.

Airmen serving away from their voting residence should use Federal Post Card Application Standard Form 76 to register and request absentee ballots. The SF 76 and 2006-07 Voting Assistance Guide, which lists the unique voting rules for each state, are available on line at www.fvap.gov or may be obtained from the base voting assistance officer.

For more information or assistance on voting, contact the installation voting officer through or visit the Air Force Voting Action site at www.afcrossroads.com/voteFund/Vote/default.htm.



Airman sentenced for drug use

CAPT. ROSEMARY GILLIAM
Base Legal Office

An Airman was convicted of two specifications of wrongful use of marijuana in a special court-martial held here June 22.

Airman Eric Williams, assigned to 325th AMXS, was charged with two specifications of wrongful use of marijuana, in violation of Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, after he tested positive on drug tests in October and January. The October positive drug test result was the product of a random urinalysis.

Originally, after the positive result in October, Airman Williams was given an Article 15. The January positive drug test was the result of a commander directed sweep of the Airman's unit.

Airman Williams confessed and pled guilty to the October drug charge against him. During his guilty plea for the October use, Airman Williams confessed that he had smoked marijuana

with his girlfriend. Even though Airman Williams received an Article 15 for his October drug use, the government was not prohibited from bringing the charge to the June court-martial, and did so. As to the January drug



charge, a fully-litigated court-martial was held before court members. After two days of proceedings, the members found Airman Williams guilty of wrongful use of marijuana.

During the sentencing phase of the court, members reviewed documentary evidence and heard arguments from both the government and the defense counsel. The members returned with a sentence of 30 days confinement and a bad conduct discharge for both of the drug offenses.

"This case should serve to send a message to Air Force members that marijuana use is not compatible with military service, and it will not be tolerated," said Capt. Ezra Glanzer,

assistant staff judge advocate.

In 2005, there were 497 convictions Air Force wide for wrongful drug use, including 87 convictions in the Air Education and Training Command and five convictions at Tyndall Air Force Base after random drug tests.

To date in 2006, more than 2,000 military members have been tested for drugs here at Tyndall. Additionally, in 2006, there have been 191 convictions in the Air Force for drug use, to include 43 in the AETC and four at Tyndall. These numbers illustrate the effectiveness of the Air Force urinalysis program.

This Airman was the fourth individual at Tyndall to be convicted and sentenced to jail based upon a positive urinalysis this year.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Senior Airman Eric White, 325th Security Forces sentry.



• FROM AIM PAGE 1

it's reached the end of its life. The AIM-120 will take its place as the Air Force's single-source air-to-air missile."

A team of weapons specialists, maintainers, aircrew, missile analysts and Raytheon Systems employees orchestrated the live-fire mission.

"The entire process, from the coordination brief to the debrief, is executed to ensure a successful, safe mission," said Maj. Robert Espejo, 83rd FWS, assistant director of operations.

"My role in the mission was to monitor flightline operations and evaluate the load to make sure aircraft were configured correctly for the mission," said Master Sgt. Jeffrey Adams, 83rd FWS maintenance flight chief.

Once the weapons were loaded and the jets launched, analysts prepared to collect data sent from the AIM-7 missile and the targeted drone.

"As the mission supervisor, I patched data collected from the AIM-7 and the drone to equipment that interpreted the weapon's performance," said Staff Sgt. Josh Jones, 83rd FWS NCO in charge of telemetry operations.

Past test results generated by analysts at WSEP have uncovered AIM-7 limitations, leading to software upgrades and improvements to air-to-air

weapon systems technology.

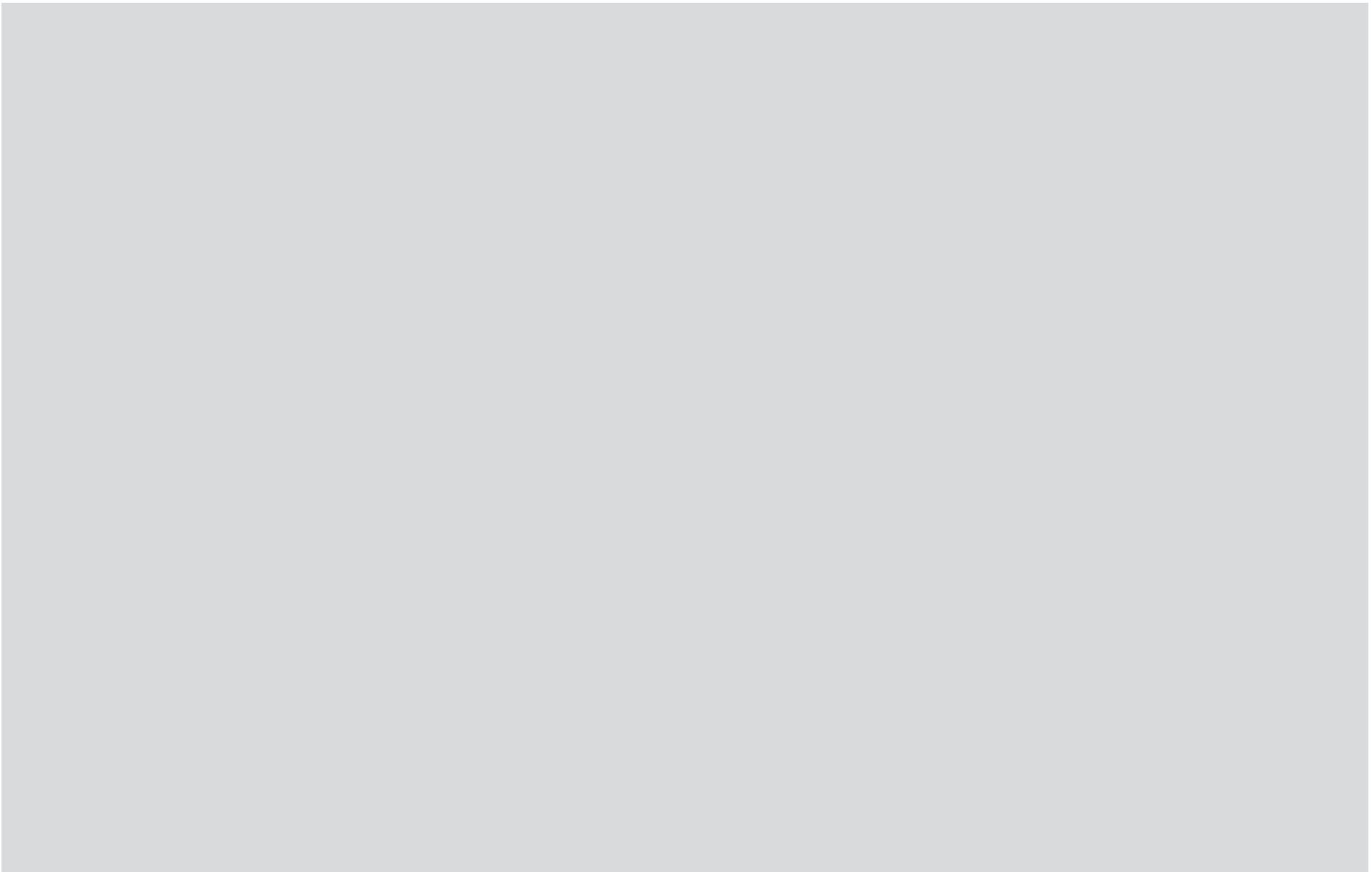
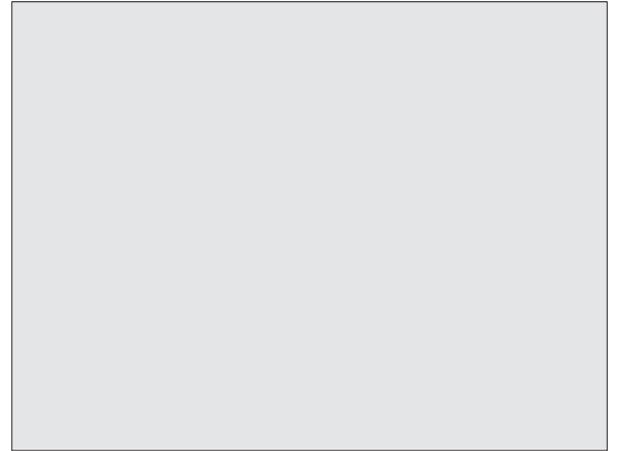
"I work with the 'Tiger Team,' which is a problem-solving group of technicians that proposes design changes or modifications based on information collected here during live missions," said Doris Meacham, Raytheon Systems air-to-air missile analyst. "The testing done here with the AIM-7 has led to technology that is now used on more advanced weapons such as the AMRAAM."

The future retirement of the AIM-7 provokes forward-looking enthusiasm for the WSEP team, but the 83rd FWS commander remains focused on the mission at hand.

"We conducted standard operations," said Colonel O'Mara. "It was another live-fire mission for the 83rd FWS - a great opportunity to evaluate weapon functionality and provide invaluable training opportunities for aircrew and weapons loaders."

"Some of the pilots are sad to see it go, but new and improved technology has come along," said Mrs. Meacham. "It is both an exciting and sad moment."

"Anytime you fire or drop anything live you feel the adrenaline," said General DeCuir. "You become more aware and engaged when shooting live missiles... it's an incredible experience."



Associate Spotlight

Tech. Sgt. Tony Mixon



Lisa Norman

Sergeant Mixon receives the Associate Spotlight award from Col. Mike Winslow, 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Sergeant Mixon who led the manufacture of a \$500K subscale drone modification and a modified mongoose pot full-scale chaff/flare system that enhanced threat realism and increased lethality for the combat Air Force. He also volunteers for Meals on Wheels.

Duty title: Special devices aircraft structural maintenance craftsman

Time in Service: Five years, one month

Hometown: Evergreen, Ala.

Hobbies: Golf

Favorite book: Any Harry Potter book

Favorite movie: "Predator"

Favorite thing about your unit: The morale

Goals: To keep progressing in my military career

Proudest moment in the military: Finding out I had a line number for master sergeant

The Associate Spotlight is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize a Warrior from one of Tyndall's tenant units. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate from the wing commander and other items presented by their unit.

Conserving water: You can help

GILBERT WALKER
325th Civil Engineer Squadron

Everyone in Bay County, whether on-base or off, can help out the whole community by conserving water.

Monthly review and comparison of water consumption to previous years shows the county has increased its monthly consumption in 2006.

Water conservation needs to be done on a constant basis. Water may be a renewable resource to a certain extent, but the Earth must do most of the recycling.

Practicing conservation all the time helps it become second nature and less of a strain when it does become critical. Conserving also helps keep the reserves high for critical times when needed.

Here are some tips to reduce water consumption.

Indoors:

- Constantly check toilets, faucets and showers for leaks.

- Take five minute showers.

- Use low flow fixtures.

- Keep the faucet off while not immediately using the water, such as while brushing teeth.

- Only run the dishwasher and washing machine with a full load.

Outdoors:

- Only water the lawn early in the morning or late evening only three times a week. This encourages deeper root growth making the grass more drought resistant.

- Install moisture sensors on automatic irrigation systems.

- Clean walkways, driveways and patios with a broom instead of a hose.

- Grass should be kept about two inches long to hold moisture and shade roots.

- Try water-wise landscaping.

Using these tips will assist the environment by easing the burden to clean water. This practice also saves drinking water supplies for people and water for the other inhabitants of the planet like fish and animals. It also helps to save the energy and money that would have been used to treat the water.

Water is vital to all life on earth, for this and future generations.

For more information or to report any leaks, call 283-4949.

Checkertail Salute

Senior Airman Stephanie Oakley



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

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

Airman Oakley, 325th Medical Group, has reduced downtime in the laboratory by 20 percent, ensuring timely patient treatment. She is a certified Tyndall AFB victim advocate and initiated the addition of self-defense courses to the base program.

Duty title: Medical laboratory journeyman

Time in service: Three years, two months

Hometown: Anderson, S.C.

Hobbies: Watching movies, cooking, shopping

Goals: To finish my bachelor's degree in biology

Favorite thing about Tyndall AFB: The positive attitude and morale of the people who work here

Favorite movie: "Usual Suspects"

Favorite book: "Sleepers" by Lorenzo Carcaterra

Proudest moment in the military: This one (receiving the Checkertail Salute)

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.

Basic beginning for B-course students

CHRISSEY CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

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

Tyndall's Eagle Academics classrooms are the home to F-15 Eagle pilots in training before the ever step into a jet.

They hit the books in hopes to make the passing grade on eight primary classroom course blocks termed "aircraft general," or ACG. Coursework covers everything from the Eagle's history to the systems they'll employ to fly, fight and win against any airborne adversary.

"Academics begin with a very basic introduction to the F-15 (C model)," said Capt. Gregory Soderstrom, 325th Operations Support Squadron chief of F-15 academics. "From there it moves into generalities about the aircraft, the systems, the sensors, the weapons and aircraft handling. These courses continue once they start flying, but will include basic air-to-air tactics, beginning at the one-against-one level and culminating with combat mission oriented four-against-X scenarios."

In the training syllabus, course content includes 267 hours of academics, 30 tests, one comprehensive test, 35 simulated flights and 46 sorties. A day in training can include any combination of these.

"It's designed to be challenging," said Capt. J.T. Grayson, 2nd Fighter Squadron B-course student. "The tactical stuff is the most unfamiliar (after graduating from undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin AFB, Texas.)"

Active-duty instructor pilots only teach the lessons concerning air-to-air tactical employment. Eighteen of the 23 instructors are civilian contractors. Most Lockheed Martin employees are retired Air Force instructor pilots with extensive command experience ranging from squadron-to wing-level leadership backgrounds.

"It keeps us young and it's fun to see new pilots come in without much of a clue but leave with a whole lot of clues," said Don Muller, instructor and retired Air Force colonel.

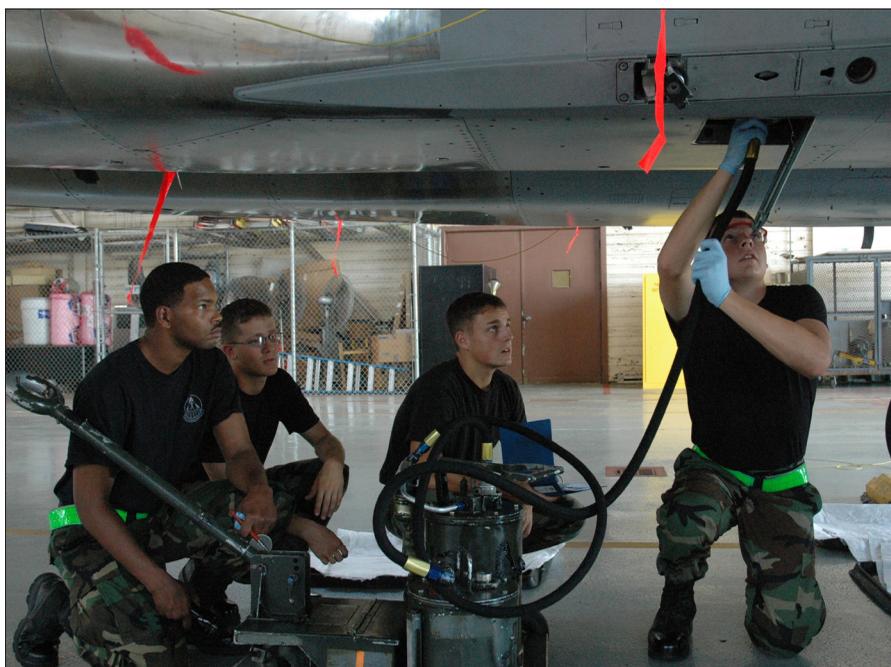
The civilian instructors lead their students through seven ACG blocks encompassing electrical and fuel systems, hydraulics, flight controls, environmental control systems and more.

Academics are constantly set into play during simulated and actual flights. It's an integral part of becoming a certified Eagle driver during their fourth or fifth week here.



Chrissy Cuttita

Don Muller teaches Hydraulic Systems to 2nd Fighter Squadron B-Course students during their first week of training.



2nd Lt. Matthew Perry

Hook it up...

Staff Sgt. Michael Kell, (center), 372nd Training Squadron/ Det. 4 F-15 crew chief instructor, trains (from left) Airmen 1st Class Kelton Sanders, Matthew Sadusky and Joshua Yeggy, all Mission Ready Airman students with the 372nd TRS, on how to hook up an oil line to an F-15.

Training Spotlight



What has been the highlight of your training here?

"I like working with all the enlisted Airmen. They have a lot of experience controlling for quite a few years. Without them we wouldn't know our jobs."

2ND LT. MATTHEW MCMURDY
Airfield operations officer student

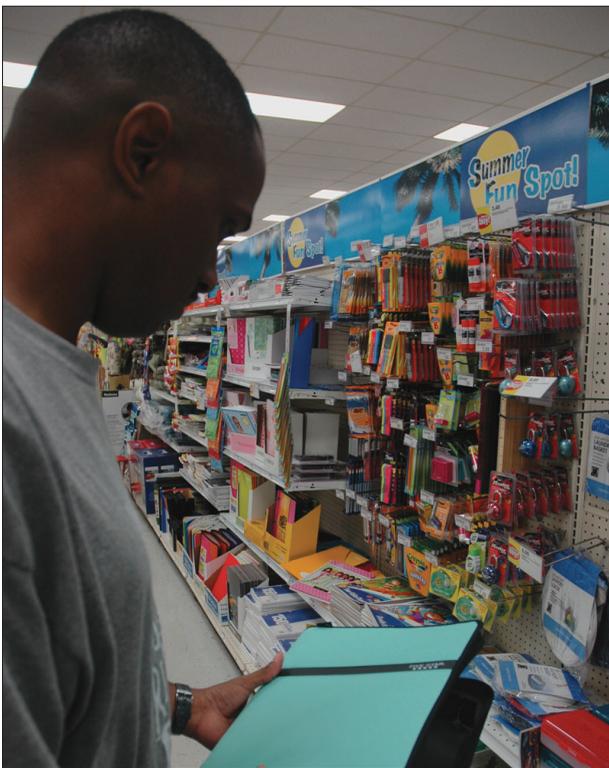


To learn about becoming a member of the Tyndall Honor Guard, call 283-4405.

Get your Community College of the Air Force information at afvec.langley.af.mil



Gabrielle Rainey picks out a colored paper notebook for class.



Eugene Phillips, parent, checks out the variety of school supplies at the Base Exchange.



Julie Weston, Tyndall Elementary 5th grade teacher and Dra Phillips, 4th grade teacher, put together a bulletin board for Mrs. Phillips classroom.



Stephanie Asselin, Tyndall Elementary 2nd grade teacher, shows the math books her students will be using this year.

Back to school Students, parents, teachers

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. STACEY HAGA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Ding, ding, ding.

There goes the bell, better not be late for class.

School will be back in session Wednesday for Bay County schools and students, teachers and parents are preparing for a new school year.

Planning lessons, brushing up on math skills, and shopping for pencils and paper are just some of the many things they will do to get ready for another year of school.

For teachers, the last couple of weeks before school starts are an extremely busy time.

"We set up our classrooms, get all the textbooks together, and prepare lesson plans for the first two weeks of school," said Julie Weston, Tyndall Elementary school 5th grade teacher, naming just a few of the many tasks the teachers must complete before the first bell rings.

Some parents and children do more than just back to school shopping.

"We go through work booklets with our son," said Master Sgt. Roger Tibbetts, Air Forces Northern NCO in charge of the joint interface control office, about the things he does to get his children ready for school. "We are also working on getting our daughter to go to bed earlier. This is her first year of school."

Some parents also help their children with the transitions they face when moving from one school to another. Rose Ward, daughter of Isabella Ward, 325th Mission Support Squadron human resources, will be starting her first year of high school at Rutherford High School.

ers prepare for new year

“I have talked with her about the changes she can expect,” said Mrs. Ward. “She makes good grades. She is just concerned about the social aspect of it.”

The social side of the school houses in Bay County will be seeing a change of dress and appearance this year. The schools in the county have established a school uniform policy.

This concept is not entirely new to the public school system. Since 1997, the United States has seen a steady increase in the percentage of public school mandating a uniform policy. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the potential benefits of school uniforms include decrease in violence and theft, increase student concentration and help school officials recognize intruders that enter the school.

However, the uniform policy has received mixed reviews from the public.

“Rose hated the idea, but she is accepting it,” said Ms. Ward. “I think it would be great if the schools would assist the lower income families with purchasing the first set of uniforms. They can get expensive.”

“For me, it makes dressing them easier,” said Sergeant Tibbetts. “It’s more practical at this point since they are younger.”

Even some teachers are adopting the uniform policy.

“Most of the teachers and staff have elected to wear a uniform similar to the children’s. We want to be a positive role model for them and set the example by wearing a uniform too,” said Dra Phillips, Tyndall Elementary 4th grade teacher.

New dress code or not, there is always an air of excitement when it is time to go back to school and getting ready is just the start of it.



Justin Moses picks out his new uniform for school.



de teacher, gathers the text books and work-



Dra Phillips, Tyndall Elementary 4th grade teacher, and Julie Weston, 5th grade teacher, rearrange a classroom for the start of a new school year.

Briefs

AAFES offers tax free shopping online

AAFES customers can choose from an array of affordable, tax free items through the Exchange Online Store at www.aafes.com. Always open, this virtual exchange offers a variety of "back to school" basics such as school uniforms, electronics and athletic gear.

Thousands of additional products discounted up to 15 percent are also just a click away at the new and improved Exchange Online Mall at www.aafes.com

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 283-8659.

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.

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.

Summer 2006 Airman Magazine available

Read about how airpower is helping fight the war on terrorism, see how a team of Airmen mentors is making a difference in Afghanistan, follow the daily routine of an Air Force recruiter in the Big Apple, and tag along as Airmen prepare for



Lisa Norman

Order up!

Senior Airman Brian Clabby, pharmacy technician, serves Linda Lebaron-Hamn, 325th Medical Group secretary at the Tyndall Satellite pharmacy. The pharmacy is open 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. It closes at 2 p.m. the last Wednesday of the month and at noon the first Wednesday of the month, and is closed Saturday and Sunday.

detainee operations in the area of responsibility.

These features and more highlight the summer quarterly issue of Airman magazine, now available online at www.af.mil/news/airman/.

Developmental education opportunities announced

Air Force officers interested in 2007 developmental education opportunities must begin the application process in August. A completed Air Force Form 3849, PME/AFIT/RTFB Officer Worksheet, and senior rater nomination are due by Aug. 18 for officers applying for the Olmsted Scholarship, White House Fellowship, Mansfield Fellowship or Information Assurance Scholarship programs. The application process and program details, to include board convening

dates, eligibility criteria and timelines are available on the Air Force Personnel Center's Web site at ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/docs/dpa/developed/de_info_web_screen.ppt. Application packages should be sent no later than Oct. 31 to:

HQ AFPC/DPAFE

550 C St. West, Ste. 32

Randolph AFB, Texas 78150-4734. Incomplete or late packages will not receive consideration.

SGLI premium rate increases

The monthly premium rate for basic Servicemember's Group Life Insurance increased by five cents per month for each \$10,000 of coverage, from 65 cents per month per \$10,000 to 70 cents per month per \$10,000, July 1. On the same date, family SGLI premiums decreased across the board.

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.)

Bowling season rolls in August 18



Chrissy Cuttita

Jenny Nikolaisen, with the 325th Communications Squadron team, bowls at Raptor Lanes.

CHRISSY CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

After duty hours, there is a busy place on base full of people and thundering sounds.

With the help of 32 squadrons here, with a total of 400 members, Tyndall's Raptor Lanes hosts the base intramural bowling league that competes nightly

and on occasional weekends.

The teams compete for several categories of awards.

"It all comes down to having a good team," said Chris Swan, 1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit team, who was last year's base champion and has been bowling for a year here.

There are six different categories of

leagues at the bowling alley bowlers can play on and there more opportunities for teams to compete in the local area.

But, awards are not the only benefit from the sport.

"It's a good way to meet people from your own unit and base," said Jenny Nikolaisen, 325th Communication Squadron team, who also participates in downtown competitions to include being on the base's winning women's league. "It's all about camaraderie for me."

Fred Alcorn has been heading up the league for five years now and said he is always looking for more squadron member participation. Each squadron team is comprised of the respective members only.

To play on a team, experience isn't necessary. Some members have been bowling since they were on youth leagues and others just started.

Often members look forward to prize money that is awarded to the teams in an amount determined by the number of teams and their placing. This is also given at the end of the season.

The new season begins Aug. 18 and will continue through the spring of next year. Teams bowl according to a schedule. With 12 lanes and 32 teams, there is not much room, but the alley is accepting more teams. The bowling schedule gets posted for each team's competition, and they always leave time open for children to play Saturday morning.

"And if the three to five year olds can do it, so can anyone," said Alcorn.

"It's good sport and good fun," added Nikolaisen.

Men's Varsity Basketball Try-Outs

Try-outs/practice for the Tyndall Tigers Men's Varsity Basketball team are tentatively scheduled to begin 6 p.m. Aug. 14 at the Fitness Center. All interested individuals are encouraged to sign-up now at the Fitness Center. For more information, call the Fitness Center at 283-2631.



CGO host Tynman Triathlon/ Duathlon

The Tyndall Company Grade Officers' Council is sponsoring the Tynman Triathlon/Duathlon Sept. 16. Race sign in starts at 6:30 a.m., the race begins at 8 a.m. at Eagle Drive in base housing

There are two options:

Sprint triathlon: 600-meter swim, 12-mile bike, 3-mile run

Duathlon: 1.1-Mile run, 12-mile bike, 3-mile run

Registration available online at www.active.com

For more information, call 283-2060.

Golf Standings

| Team | Points | Team | Points |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| 372 TRS | 63.5 | SFS | 32 |
| COMM 1 | 59.5 | 83 FWS | 32 |
| CES | 56.5 | 601 1 | 28.5 |
| AFCESA | 48.5 | OSS | 28 |
| MXS 1 | 47.5 | TEST | 26 |
| AF NOR 1 | 47 | 601 2 | 25.5 |
| RHS | 45.5 | ACS | 25 |
| 53 WEG | 41 | CONS | 19.5 |
| MSS | 37.5 | MXS 2 | 13.5 |
| SVS | 37 | COMM 2 | 5.5 |
| MDG | 35.5 | | |

Getting dirty produces great results for missiles shop

STAFF SGT. STACEY HAGA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

On the other side of the runway, across from the hangars, jets and bustle of the operations buildings, a group of buildings sit among the trees.

The buildings are so far back, many people on Tyndall may not know they are even there.

However, the products maintained by the Airmen in these buildings are seen almost everyday on the flightline – missiles.

The buildings house the 325th Maintenance Squadron munitions flight that is responsible for the procurement and maintenance of aerospace munitions and provides munitions-related support.

Within the munitions flight, the precision guided missiles shop is responsible for the maintenance and inspection of the captive air training missiles used to train the F-15 pilots here.

With four flying squadrons sending missiles to the shop daily for various maintenance needs, the PGM shop often has a very-fast paced tempo.

The fast pace and heavy work load doesn't seem to phase the Airmen.

"I like the work load. It makes the day go by fast," said Senior Airman Joshua Tobin, PGM shop crewmember.

"We currently have one day shift. We used to have two, but decided consolidate them due to reduced manning," said Staff Sgt. Robert Lewis, PGM shop crew chief. "We average about 12 Airmen on the shift."

The Airmen perform maintenance on the mis-



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

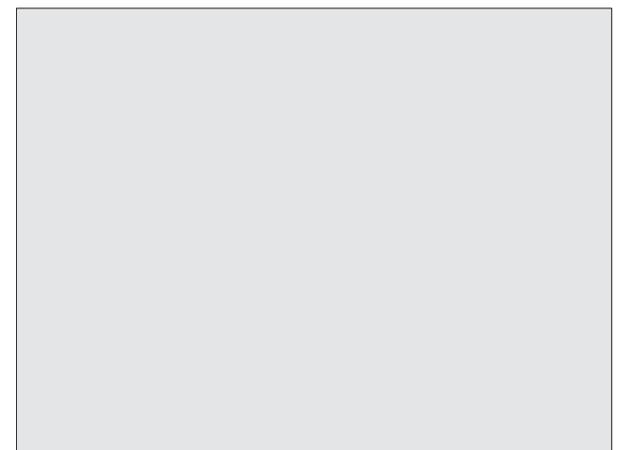
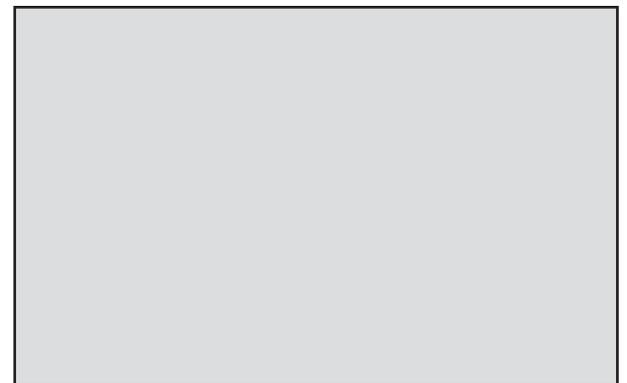
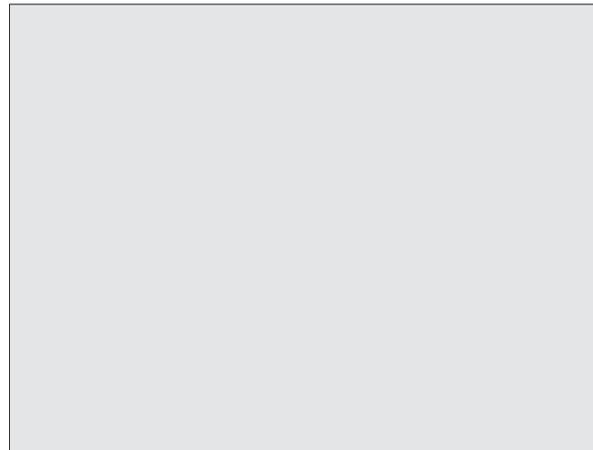
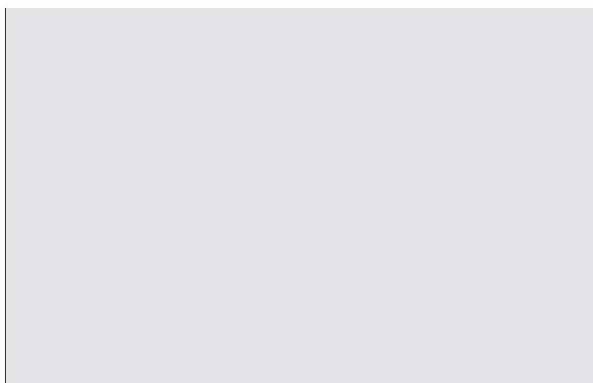
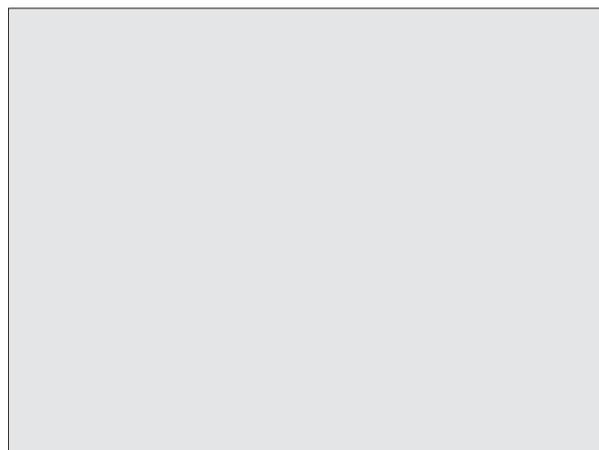
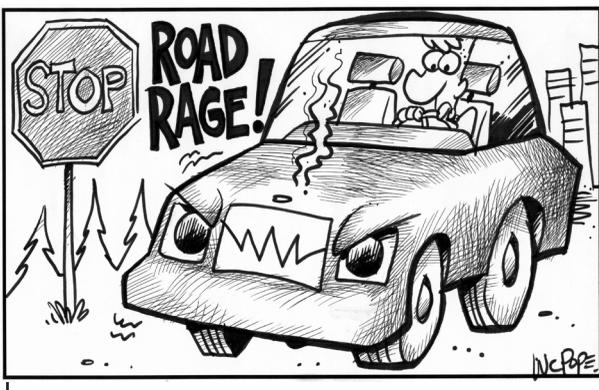
Senior Airmen Christopher Bratcher (left) and Jeffrey Hird, both precision guided munitions shop crew members, remove the fins from the guidance control section of a captive air training missile (CATM-9) prior to performing maintenance.

siles after approximately 20 flights.

A tactical missile importing system is a program also used by the shop to track the flying hours, maintenance and inspections of a missile.

The inspection of the missiles requires some dust to be kicked up and is critical for it being attached to the hanger of the jet smoothly.

• SEE MXS PAGE 15



Moving?

Call the Family Support Center at 283-4204 for information or classes on moving.



“The inspection of the AIM-9 missile is every 180 days,” said Sergeant Lewis “For inspection, we sand it down, repaint it, re-stencil the lettering and put the armaments back on.”

The process requires time, attention to detail and a lot of manpower.

“Ideally four to five Airmen are needed for the inspection, but the more we have the better. It speeds up the process,” said the sergeant.

The sanding and painting causes many safety concerns and the Airmen address these issues by wearing proper protective gear.

When sanding, Airmen resemble astronauts in white suits with face shields and respirators.

“It gets very hot and humid (in the sanding room) with all the equipment on, so they take breaks often,” said Sergeant Lewis.

To address the safety concern with carrying an AIM-9, which can weight 190 lbs. when ready to launch, they use a three-person lift and carry and wear steel-toe boots.

The tough, and often, dirty job of the PGM shop is rewarding in many ways to those who work there.

“(The job) has taught me the importance of

attention to detail. If we leave something out, it’s a big foreign object damage hazard,” said Airman Tobin.

“I like the atmosphere. They are good people to work with and they trust you do your job,” said Senior Airman Adam Osheimer, PGM shop crewmember.

“(Occasionally) we will work with live missiles,” said Staff Sgt. Glenn Talley, PGM shop bay chief. “We recently visually inspected and tested live AIM-7 missiles to be fired.”

The Airmen also participate in some of the Air Force’s training exercises.

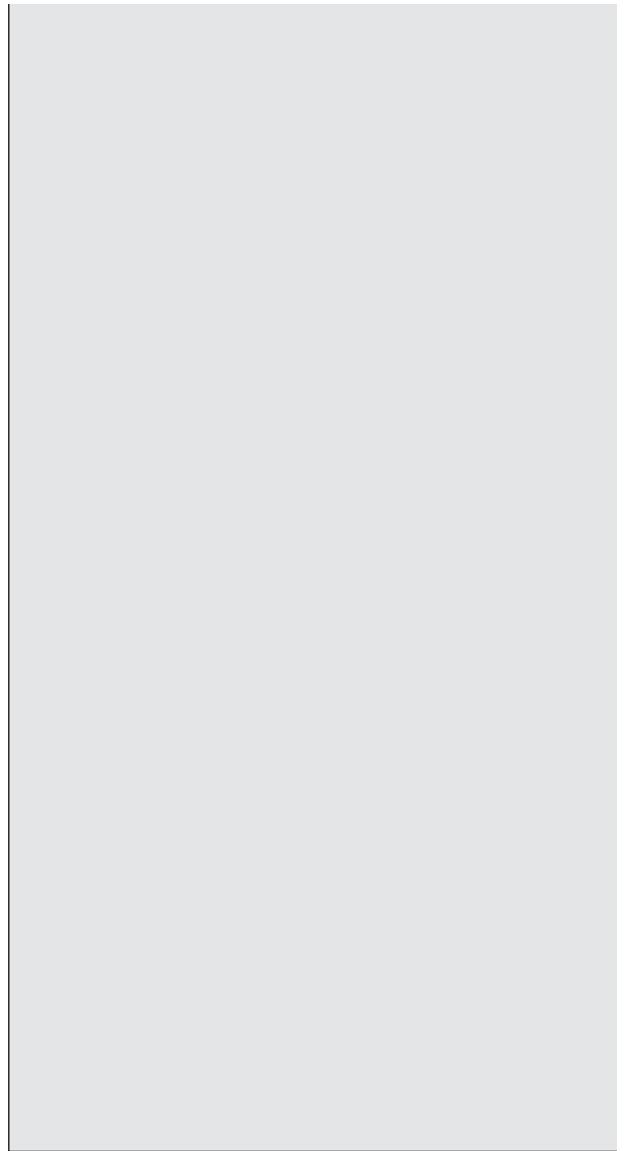
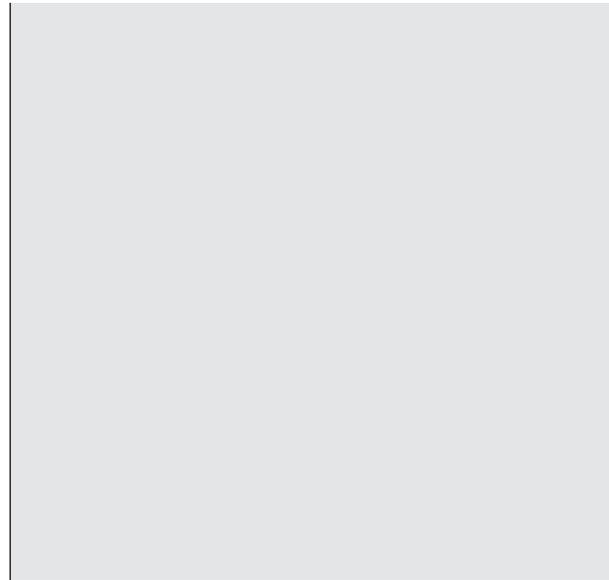
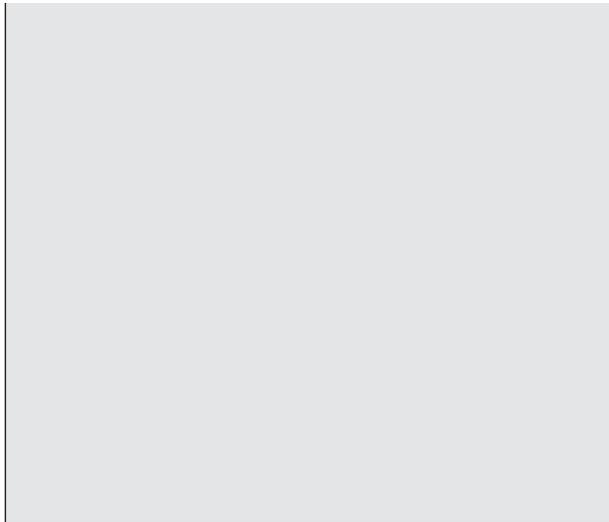
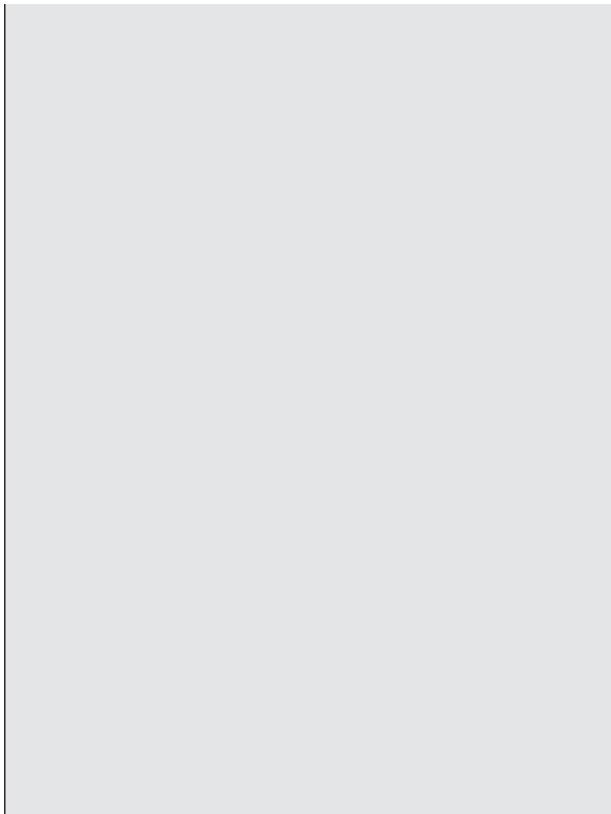
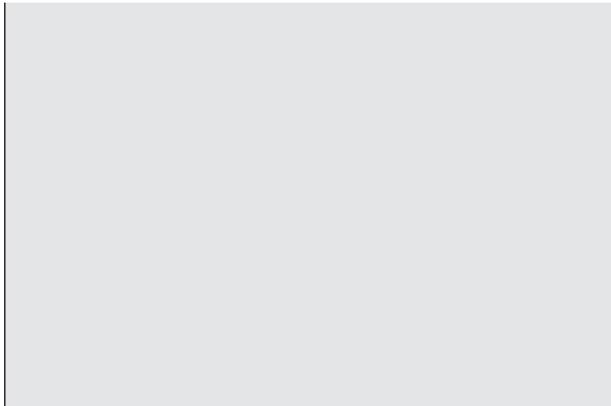
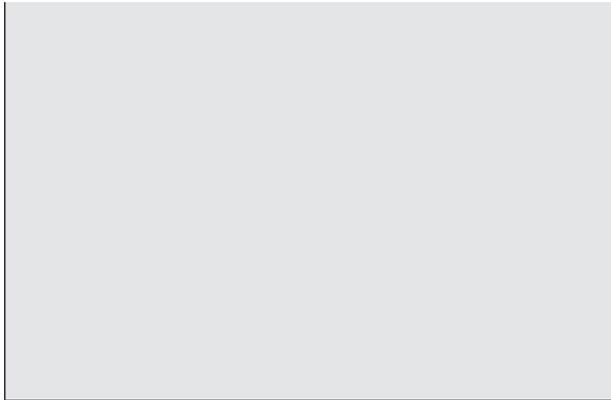
“We travel to Nellis AFB, Nev. for Red Flag and Canada for Maple Flag,” said Sergeant Lewis.

“We have also gone to Key West, Fla., for dissimilar air combat training with the Navy,” added Sergeant Talley.

The temporary duties often call for the Airmen to perform duties they are qualified on, but do not accomplish on a regular basis in their current assignment.

Whatever the tasking, the Airmen strive for perfection.

The PGM shop had zero write-ups from the Maintenance Standardization Evaluation Team in June, which is an example of the shop’s dedication to excellence.





Funshine NEWS



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

Auto Hobby Shop



Tyndall AFB, FL

**Automotive
Watercraft
Motorcycle
ATV**

Service & repair

258-0011

Mississippi Rd. Bldg. 934



Beacon Beach Marina & Yacht Club

Friday nights
D.J.
5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Every Friday night
is
“members night”

Come out and socialize
with your fellow club
members.



For details
call 283-3059.



Raptor Lanes Bowling Center Youth Registration for Winter Leagues

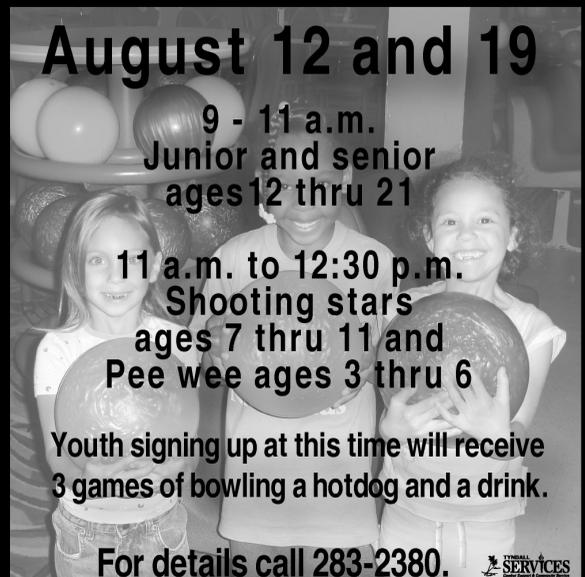
August 12 and 19

9 - 11 a.m.
Junior and senior
ages 12 thru 21

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Shooting stars
ages 7 thru 11 and
Pee wee ages 3 thru 6

Youth signing up at this time will receive
3 games of bowling a hotdog and a drink.

For details call 283-2380.




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: _____

Programs offer chance to work with foreign Air Force

Officers from almost any specialty, and some NCOs, can have the opportunity to live and work as a foreign air force member through the Military Personnel Exchange Program, which allows nations to learn how other air forces operate.

Countries involved in the program include France, Italy, Spain, Jordan, Denmark and Norway. There are 166 Air Force exchange positions involving 163 officers and three NCOs in 23 countries.

Airmen assigned to MPEP must integrate completely into the host nation's air force. All participants must be able to speak the native language of the host country fluently.

More information about the program can be found in Air Force Instruction 16-107, Feb. 2 "Military Personnel Exchange Program."

For more information, read the Air Force Print News Story at www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123023221.

