



In Brief

Ceremony

Maj. Rodney H. Nichols will take command of the 325th Mission Support Squadron during a ceremony at 3 p.m. Friday at the Enlisted Club on Tyndall.

Lt. Col. Stephen V. Miliano will relinquish command of the 325th Mission Support Squadron.

Smooth Move

The Airmen and Family Readiness Flight will be hosting the Smooth Move Workshop on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon at building 743, in the Airmen and Family Readiness classroom.

The Smooth Move Workshop is designed to provide information and assist in an upcoming PCS move for military members, civilians, and family members.

For more information and to make reservations, call

Tops In Blues

A presentation is scheduled to be held 7:30 p.m. July 28 at the Marina Civic Center.

Tickets will be available at the Marina Civic Center and Tyndall Community Center, Building 1027, starting at 10 a.m. on July 24.



Courtesy photo

A Mine Area Clearance Equipment vehicle is remotely driven at the Air Force Research Laboratory here during a recent test. The MACE system was designed by the AFRL to keep Airmen out of the driver's seat of mine clearing vehicles while deployed to ensure their safety while performing the hazardous duty. The AFRL here is responsible for the creation of the MACE and many other robotic innovations used Department of Defense wide.

Tyndall robots make lives easier

**SENIOR AIRMAN
TIMOTHY R. CAPLING
325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Deep inside the humid forests of Tyndall Air Force Base is a little known compound inside of a security gate filled with buildings, tents and other fortifications.

The scenery looks similar to a Hollywood secret agent movie.

Inside some of those buildings, robots of all shapes, sizes and sorts can be found. Some of them appear to be hybrids of robots and vehicles.

By that description, people might think Tyndall had inherited some Transformers from the recent movie.

The robots are not Transformers, but they are some of the cutting edge technology the Air Force has to offer. The compound is the Air Force Research Laboratory here.

The AFRL is responsible for creating technology that is useful

for Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Security Forces, Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers and many other Air Force units for deployment and stateside missions.

The AFRL detachment here is just one of 10 in the Air Force. The AFRL headquarters is at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Tyndall's laboratory specializes in materials and manufacturing and has many features including an explosives range to test the equipment they design, said Mike Calidonna, an AFRL program manager and retired Air Force major.

"We specialize in rapid prototypes," said Marshall Dutton, the AFRL program manager of EOD applications.

"We don't develop the vehicles here," said Walter M. Waltz,

AFRL's Robotics Group Lead, "Our expertise is the robotics."

Most recently, Tyndall's AFRL has been working on modifying the Mine Area Clearance Equipment derived from the Hydrema 910 Mine Clearance Vehicle-2 Flail system manufactured in Denmark. The MACE was designed to clear areas with land mines and improvised explosive devices.

The AFRL is modifying the equipment by installing a Global Positioning System and remote control system on the MACE to keep Airmen out of the driver's seat while clearing potentially dangerous areas, therefore possibly saving lives. The modifications completed by AFRL will allow Airmen to control the system from a safe distance, said Dutton.

One MACE is already being used in the Middle East and showing its

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Checkertail Salute

First Lieutenant Patrick Casey



1st Lt. Patrick Casey

Lieutenant Casey, 325th Fighter Wing, receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Tod D. Wolters, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

Lieutenant Casey edited, wrote, verified and processed more than 480 decorations for the entire 325th FW. He handled all correspondence which required the 325th FW commander's signature. Also, Lieutenant Casey was the 325th FW/CC's Executive Communications Officer.

Duty title: 325th Fighter Wing executive officer

Hometown: Diamondhead, Miss.

Time on station: Two years

Time in service: Two years

Hobbies: Flying, boating and scuba diving

Goals: To become a pilot

Favorite thing about Tyndall AFB: The location

Favorite movie: 300

Favorite book: The Right Stuff by Tom Wolfe

Pet peeves: Driving slow in the fast lane

Proudest moment in the military: Getting commissioned

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.

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effectiveness, said Dutton.

Other technology developed by Tyndall's AFRL includes the Yamaha RMAX helicopter used by the Ohio National Guard to spray lakes for insects. The small, remote-controlled helicopter allows for a more cost effective way for the Ohio Guardsmen to complete the job that used to be accomplished using C-130 Hercules aircraft.

The AFRL also developed the Remote Detection Challenge Response system which is a ground robotic system used by Security Forces to conduct stand-off adversary detection, delay, denial and neutralization.

Some of AFRL's technology has been developed from unlikely sources, such as the Defender, which is made from a machine designed for logging, but is now used for base defense. The "bomb bot," a small radio controlled vehicle used to deliver explosives on the battlefield, was evolved from common remote-control cars.

The AFRL continues to lead today's military in technology. The results of their efforts will be seen on the battlefield for years to come.



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

Airman First Class De Anna Eich, 325th Air Control Squadron, correctly guessed the July 2 "Identify This" as a Snickers candy bar wrapper. Congratulations Airman Eich, come claim your prize!



Airman First Class Anthony J. Hyatt

Steve Blackman, Air Force Research Laboratory robotics technician, instructs Lt. Col. Per Lyse Rasmussen, Royal Danish Embassy in Washington D.C., on how to operate the Articulated Remote Manipulator System Tuesday afternoon. ARMS is used for tasks such as improvised explosive device diffusion.