



In Brief

Tree Sale

The 325th Communications Squadron servicemembers are hosting a Christmas tree sale through Dec. 16 adjacent to the visitors center parking lot.

Focus 56

Focus 56 members' monthly meeting is 3 p.m. Dec. 14 at the Community Activity Center's Enlisted Lounge.

Santa's in town

Breakfast with Santa Claus is at the Community Center Annex 8-11 a.m. Dec. 15. Tickets \$3 per person, on sale at the CC or Child Development Center until Dec. 8. Children two years old and younger will be admitted for free.

Cookie Drive

A cookie drive collection is 7-9 a.m. Dec. 10 at the docking bay behind the commissary. Approximately 500 dozen homemade cookies for Tyndall's dormitory Airmen are needed for the event. For more information, send an email to tyndallcookiedrive@yahoo.com

Tyndall's Heros

Do you know someone who is deployed or has been deployed? Do they have an extraordinary story they want to share? If so, contact the public affairs office at 283-4500 and become part of Tyndall's Heros Program.

Tyndall RAO opens a new office



Photo by Staff Sgt. Vesta M. Anderson

Volunteers of the Retiree Activities Office and the Civil Service Retiree Activities Office are making final touches on their new office at the Satellite Pharmacy. (From left to right) Mr. Bernhard Parzentny, CSRAO volunteer, and RAO volunteers: retired Chief Master Sgts. Duane Peters and William Middleton, retired Senior Master Sgt. Jesse Soto and retired Master Sgt. Danny Farmer.

STAFF SGT. VESTA M. ANDERSON **325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Tyndall Air Force Base's Retiree Activities Office opened a second office at the Satellite Pharmacy located outside the base exchange complex, Nov. 21.

"The RAO's mission is to support, advance, and unify the retired and active military communities," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Duane E. Peters, RAO volunteer.

The Retiree Activities Office serves all military branches' retirees, spouses, widows and widowers by providing information and assistance regarding their rights, privileges, benefits and other information of interest such as changes in health-care benefits

or legislative actions, explained Mr. Peters.

Joining the RAO at the now location is the Civil Service Retiree Activities Office, run by the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

Mr. Bernhard Parzentny, NARFE Chapter 1305 service officer and CSRAO volunteer, explained that the CSRAO assists with and gives guidance on many issues that civil service retirees may encounter, such as: federal procedures governing delivery of annuity checks, federal life insurance and health benefits, change of beneficiary procedures, death benefits, state and federal income taxes and state inheritance taxes, and social security requirements.

"There will be times when I will be in our main office in building 662 (325th Fighter Wing building)," said Mr. Parzentny.

"Volunteers are needed," said Mr. Peters. "If you're interested and want to be of service to the retiree community, and you have an extra three to four hours a week to spare, give the RAO office a call or stop by and see us."

Both offices are staffed entirely by volunteers.

"We are here to help protect your benefits and as you know every organization needs new members and volunteers," said

• SEE RAO PAGE 5

First CMSAF earns Lifetime Achievement Award

BY CARL BERGQUIST

AIR UNIVERSITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

11/26/2007 - MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFPN) - The first chief master sergeant of the Air Force announced he had learned the secret to winning awards to those in attendance at the Senior NCO Academy auditorium Nov. 20 here.

"The secret is simple -- just live long enough," said retired Chief Paul Wesley Airey.

"If you live long enough, (the awards) all come to you," joked the 85-year-old native of New Bedford, Mass.

The chief was honored with the Air Force Association's Lifetime Achievement Award at Gunter's senior academy, becoming the first enlisted member to receive the award.

The first chief master sergeant of the Air Force received the award for his continued service to the Air Force, said the association's president and chief executive officer.

"Chief Airey was unanimously selected by board members to receive our Lifetime Achievement Award," said retired Lt. Gen. Michael M. Dunn. "When you're the first chief master sergeant of the Air Force, you set the standard for the entire enlisted force and each of the chief master sergeants of the Air Force who follow you. His standard was impeccable and his service, leadership and mentorship to senior NCOs after he left the Air Force has been fantastic."

The Lifetime Achievement Award, established in 2003, recognizes the significant lifetime achievement of an individual in the fields of air and space, said Robert Largent, the Air Force Association board chairman. The chief was the 11th recipient of the award. Other honorees include Ohio Sen. John Glenn, retired astronaut and Marine; deceased Air Force Gen. Russell Dougherty, who once served as commander of Strategic Air Command; and Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye, a World War II veteran and Medal



Retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Paul Wesley Airey receives the Air Force Association's Lifetime Achievement award from AFA's Chairman of the Board Robert Largent during a Nov. 20 ceremony at Maxwell-Gunter's Senior NCO Academy in Alabama. Chief Airey was the first chief master sergeant of the Air Force, and is the first enlisted member to receive the AFA award. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Scott Moorman)

of Honor recipient.

"This award going to Chief Airey is passed due," Mr. Largent said. "This was an opportunity for us to recognize the life and achievements of an Air Force leader and visionary."

Chief Airey said when he joined the armed service 65 years ago during World War II, he never believed he would some day be at the Senior NCO Academy receiving the Air Force Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

"I always thought that when the job was over and I retired, that would be it. I didn't think I would be coming to events like this," he said. "While all the awards I have received are special, this award is particularly special for me. Since the senior academy is where it's at, I'm especially proud to receive it here today."

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley, the current top Air Force enlisted Airman, said he was proud to be part of Chief Airey receiving the award.

"In my opinion, Chief Airey is the most respected enlisted Airman in the Air Force," he said. "He is a man who had a remarkable career, and is someone we can all look up to, especially me. There's nobody else."

The chief's military career began in 1943 when he joined the Army Air Corps. He first flew combat missions in the European Theater as a B-24 Liberator aerial gunner, before his aircraft was shot down on its 28th mission, and he became a German prisoner of war.

Following World War II, Chief Airey served as a first sergeant for much of his career before

being named the first chief master sergeant of the Air Force in 1967. He helped establish the weighted promotion system still used today. The promotion system greatly increased the retention rate of enlisted members. He retired from the Air Force in 1970.

Chief Airey chose to retire in the Tyndall Air Force Base local area and continues to be actively involved with his name sake Airey Noncommissioned Officer Academy and many other base and community activities. (Article contributed to by Staff Sgt. Chyenne A. Griffin, 325th Fighter Wing public affairs.)



Communications Squadron takes to the trees

STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CAPLING
325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

Tyndall Air Force Base's 325th Communications Squadron service members are holding the base's annual Christmas tree sale fundraiser noon-6 p.m. through Dec. 16 at the Tyndall Air Force Base visitors' center area.

The fundraiser, being held for the fifth year, is used to raise money for communications squadron events such as holiday parties and summer celebrations. It is open to all Tyndall AFB personnel and local community members.

"We're going to be selling Wisconsin Balsam Fir trees," said Airman 1st Class Andrew Snyder, 325th CS air field systems technician and tree sale coordinator. "All of the trees are being shipped here directly from Wisconsin and are guaranteed to be fresh."

Trees taller than six feet are being sold for \$45 and all less than six feet are \$40.

"All of the money raised goes directly back to our squadron fund," Airman Snyder said.

The sale is run by 325th CS



Photo by Staff Sgt. Timmothy Capling

Senior Airman Matthew Harris, 325th Communications Squadron network administrator, holds up a Wisconsin Balsam Fir tree at his squadron Christmas tree fundraiser here Nov. 26. The sale is the squadron's primary fundraiser every year and will be open through Dec. 16 or until all trees are sold.

military, civilian and family members on a voluntary basis.

"This is our main fundraiser

every year," said Staff Sgt. Steven Beatty, 325th CS switch technician and event coordinator. "It's a big

morale booster considering all the events this will allow us to hold."

Base spreads holiday cheer through cookie drive

STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CAPLING
325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

Homemade cookies are needed for Tyndall Air Force Base's Annual Cookie Drive. Donations will be collected 7-9 a.m. Dec. 10 at the loading docks behind the Tyndall AFB Commissary.

The goal of the program is to package and distribute 400 dozen cookies to all of the Airmen living in the dormitories.

The base-wide community project was supported by many base agencies such as the First Sergeants' Council, Officers' Spouses' Club and Enlisted Spouses' Club. It also receives

support from the Tyndall AFB Commissary.

This year's program is organized by Charlene Wolters, Officers' Spouses' Club honorary president and wife of Brig. Gen. Tod Wolters, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

"We have approximately 370 Airmen living in the dorms. Homemade cookies and holiday wishes are a great way to show our support and appreciation to all of them," she said.

"The commissary staff does an outstanding job to support this project," Mrs. Wolters said. "They provide us with the location and materials to collect and wrap the cookies. We couldn't do it without them."

Master Sgt. Billie Statom, 601st Air and Space Operation Center first sergeant, is participating in his first cookie drive as the cookie-drive representative for the Tyndall AFB First Sergeants Council.

"Single Airmen might not have the opportunity to go home for the holidays. This is our way to say, 'happy holidays,' and also to bring them some treats," the first sergeant said. "It's a worthwhile program for our Airmen."

Once collected and packaged, the cookies are delivered to the dorm residents by the first sergeants.

"We're really trying to give the Airmen a sense of home," said Linda Nicolas, officer spouses' club representative and wife of

Col. George Nicolas Jr., 325th Medical Group commander. "It's a little bit of mom. We need to be taking care of our Airmen while they're away from their families."

For more information on the cookie drive, including volunteering or dropping off donations, e-mail tyndallcookiedrive@yahoo.com.

ANONYMOUS. DEPENDABLE. FREE RIDE.

a.a.d.d.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 5:00PM - 5:00AM

AIRMAN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING
867-AADD(2233)

It's beginning to look a lot like an AF holiday season

STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CAPLING 325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

One of my favorite things about serving in the Air Force is the sense of family I feel during the holidays.

My first assignment was as a security forces troop at Royal Air Force Lakenheath Air Base, United Kingdom. My wife Ashley and I arrived on station in late November 2004. We were new to the country, the base and the Air Force.

After completing First-Term Airmen Center and security forces localized training, my first day on the job was Christmas Eve. Ashley and I were not looking forward to the holiday and being away from our families in the U.S. As newlyweds, we lived in a nearly empty house and didn't have a whole lot of money. We didn't even have a tree to set up. I was scheduled to work Christmas day and Ashley wasn't, so we didn't

plan on doing anything special for the holiday.

As I turned in my rifle after duty on Christmas Eve, the now retired Master Sgt. Bob Hitchcock, my flight chief at the time, called me over to him. Being the brand new Airman on flight, I got a little nervous. Why was the boss singling me out on my first day of work? "I must have screwed up today," I thought as I trotted over to him and stood tall.

"Yes sir?" I said.

"Capling, I heard your wife isn't working tomorrow," he said.

"No sir," I replied.

"This is your first Christmas together isn't it?" he said.

"Yes sir," I answered.

"Merry Christmas, take tomorrow off and we'll see you on the 26th," Sergeant Hitchcock said.

"Thank you sir!" I said, and floated back to my car to drive home and tell Ashley the good news.

That night we decided, since we

were going to be together, we had to at least make a Christmas dinner. We drove to the commissary that night and bought a ham and other holiday treats. I invited two other Airmen, who were also new to the base and didn't have family there, to our house. The next evening, the four of us sat down to a traditional Christmas dinner and we were able to capture that feeling of being with family on the holiday. We stuffed ourselves with food, told jokes and played board games. Even though we weren't home, it felt darn close.

That's the great thing about serving in the military. No matter where we're at, we're not alone. We're always with people in the same boat.

Almost every holiday since I've been in has been spent with my wife, my children, and other Airmen and their families. We're all bonded through the common denominator of service and everyone seems to come together when we need each

other the most, like at holiday time. I have yet to serve during a holiday where somebody hasn't opened their home to my family.

One unique thing I've learned about servicemembers is the ability to adapt to new situations at a rapid pace. During my first deployment, Easter could have been just another day, but some outstanding services Airmen decided to do what they could to make an extra special meal at the dining facility tent. Their effort went a long way to boost the morale of several thousand Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen. We were far from home, but we were certainly among family.

This holiday season, keep the new Airmen, the old Airmen and the Airmen who are deployed in mind. For those of us that can't spend the holiday with our families back home, let's make it a great holiday with our Air Force families.

Checkertail Salute

Senior Airman Thomas Swain



Photo by Chris Dahmer

Senior Airman Thomas Swain, 325th Air Control Squadron pilot simulator technician, completes scope set-up in an operations room prior to a training mission.

Senior Airmen Swain created simulation scenarios and criteria for the simulation driving portion of the Turkey Shoot competition. He also briefed two Air Battle Manager classes on safe custodial duties and trained 24 rated officers on classified annotating, which lead to the Weapons and Tactics office receiving zero discrepancies during three flight inspections.

Duty title: Pilot Simulator Technician

Hometown: Phoenix, AZ

Time on station: Two years and six months

Time in service: Three years

Hobbies: Watching the Dallas Cowboys and the Phoenix Suns, and playing with my son.

Goals: To own my own business as a web designer.

Favorite thing about Tyndall AFB: The beach

Favorite movie: Office Space

Favorite book: Lord Of The Flies

Pet Peeves: People who complain about their job while soldiers die in Iraq.

Proudest moment in the military: The day my son was born.

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.

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.

No one was able to correctly guess the Nov. 26 "Identify This" as a door-knob bolt.



BEWARE . . .



325th MDG captures flag football championship

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
ANTHONY J. HYATT

325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Tyndall Air Force Base intramural flag football championship

In a league where the 325th Security Forces Squadron flag football team has won the last two base championships, this year a new team was crowned champions.

The fifth seeded 325th Medical Group football team and the sixth seeded 325th Operations Support Squadron's squad squared off against each other in the base championship game Tuesday night.

"It's great to have the number five and number six teams in the championship game," said Mark Estorga, 325th MDG coach. "It just goes to show that on any given day, no matter what your record is, you can be beat."

The MDG team cruised into the championship game

after beating the fourth seeded 325th Communication Squadron, the number one seeded 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

OSS beat the third seeded 325th Services Squadron and the second seeded 325th SFS. In the third round of the playoffs, they ran into MDG, where they lost 14-13.

"They (OSS) have been the toughest team we have played all season," said Estorga.

Going into the loser's bracket, OSS had to get back to the winner's bracket by beating the 325th AMXS. With one loss in the playoffs, OSS had to beat MDG twice.

This is OSS's second trip to the championship game in as many years.

"We came in second last year, and this year we expect nothing but first place," said Michael Fiedler, 325th OSS coach.

In order for OSS to win the championship, they would have to beat MDG twice.

OSS fought off elimination

by beating MDG with a score of 22-10 in the first game Tuesday night. With both teams having one loss, the winner of the next game would become base champions.

In game two, OSS was able to get out to an early lead of 10-0, but with their backs against wall, MDG scored on a long touchdown pass by James Casper to cut the lead to 10-7 OSS.

Early in the second half, MDG took a big gamble going for it on fourth down around mid-field. As OSS seemed to have the play covered, MDG's Richard Hylton-Gordon somehow found a way to keep the drive alive by taking the pitch for a long first-down run. This conversion proved to be crucial as MDG scored to be up 14-10.

After a couple of punts from each team, OSS finally got the ball back with two minutes left in the game. Quarterback Travis Thurmond and OSS moved the ball efficiently



Photo by Airman 1st Class Anthony J. Hyatt

The 325th Medical Group flag football team celebrates after beating the 325th Operations Support Squadron Tuesday night to become Tyndall Air Force Base's 2007 intramural champions. As the last seeded team in the playoffs, the 325th MDG proved that any team can be beaten on any given night.

down the field while the clock ticked away.

With 28 seconds left in the game and OSS inside MDG's 10-yard line, MDG's Darius Cook sealed the deal, picking

off Thurmond's pass.

MDG was able to close the game out 14-10, becoming Tyndall's 2007 intramural flag football champions.

• From RAO Page 1

Mr. Parzentny.

Mr. Peters has been a volunteer for the RAO for approximately six months and states the importance of receiving more help.

"You can make a difference," said Mr. Peters. "You can be proud to tell your friends, that you, as a retiree, are 'still serving'."

The Civil Service Retiree Activities Office is open every Tuesday, except holidays, from noon - 4 p.m. The RAO is open 9 a.m. - noon Monday through Friday.

For more information on either organization, please contact the new offices at the BX, 283-8660, or the main office located at the 325th Fighter Wing building, 283-2737.



325th Medical Group House Call



The 325th Medical Group personnel have created a questions and answers forum for Tyndall Air Force Base personnel to seek medical advice outside of active duty sick-call and scheduled appointments. The information is provided by Tyndall AFB's medical staff every two weeks. Individuals who have serious medical questions or concerns are encouraged to seek medical attention by dialing 911 during emergency situations, or the appointment line at 283-2778.

QUESTION: Though everyone looks forward to the holidays, this season tends to be a lot more stressful for me and my family. I've thought about seeking counseling because I've noticed that I sleep less and am more irritable with my family and friends. I'm nervous about counseling because I don't want it to affect my spouse's military career. How can I get help and maintain my family's privacy?

RESPONSE (Provided by: Capt. Sundonia Wonnun, 325th Medical Operations Squadron Behavioral Health consultant): These are common concerns during the holiday season. Though we perceive the holidays as a festive time, demands on time, family, and resources increase. This can inherently make the holidays seem more stressful than exciting at times. Many people report changes in sleep, appetite, concentration, and personal relationships. Tyndall's Mental Health Clinic offers short-term counseling, classes, and consultation services for individuals and families of active duty members and retirees on a space-available basis. There are providers there than can assist you and your family while maintaining your confidentiality. Limits of confidentiality will be discussed at your first session, so all of your concerns can be addressed before disclosure. In addition, your Primary Care Provider can give you a referral to see the Behavioral Health Consultant in your primary care clinic. Whichever you choose, your decision to seek services before the stress increases and negatively impacts your family will far outweigh any potential impact mental health treatment has on your sponsor's military career. Actually, only approximately 5 percent of those involved in mental health treatment experience a negative impact on their military career.