



In Brief

Commissary Hours

Dec. 24: Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Dec. 25: Closed
 Dec. 31: Open 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Jan. 1: closed

Oasis Relocated

The Oasis Snack Bar has temporarily moved to the Checkers Lounge at the Collocated Club. Breakfast hours are 6:30-10 a.m. lunch hours are 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Blood Drive

The Armed Services Blood drive is 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Jan. 9 at the Community Activity Center. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Caitlin Harris at 283-8622.

Flu mist

Visit the 325th Medical Group immunizations clinic for a flu shot. Clinic hours are 7:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 283-7495.

ROA Activity

The Retiree Activities Offices are closed Dec. 24 -Jan. 2.

The quarterly RAO meeting is at 10 a.m. Jan. 8, located at bldg. 662, 325th MSS conference room. All retired-military members and their spouses are invited to attend. For more information, contact the RAO at 283-2737.

Three NCOs STEP to next level

STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CAPLING
 325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Two Tyndall Air Force Base staff sergeants and one technical sergeant received an early holiday surprise Monday morning in the form of hand-delivered promotions from Brig. Gen. Tod Wolters, 325th Fighter Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Benjamin Van Vleet, 325th FW command chief master sergeant.

The newly promoted sergeants are: Tech. Sgt. Devin Wright, 325th Services Squadron unit deployment manager and NCO in charge of mortuary affairs; Master Sgt. Jamell Jenkins, 325th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of installation and physical security; and Tech. Sgt. Antenney Hemingway, 325th Air Control Squadron NCO in charge of supply.

The sergeants were selected for their promotions under the Air Force's Stripes for Exceptional Performers program. The STEP program allows wing commanders to conduct on-the-spot promotions for exceptional Airmen.

Under the standard Weighted Airmen Promotion System, promotees are measured against all other eligible individuals and if selected, can wait up to 12 months before they officially wear the rank. With the STEP program, the selected assume the new rank immediately.

None of the sergeants promoted Monday had any foresight that they were about to be promoted.

"I knew something was up yesterday when my wife walked in after the general," Sergeant Wright said. "She doesn't usually come to my office like that."

Sergeant Wright was nominated



Staff Sgt. Timothy Capling

Tech. Sgt. Devin Wright, 325th Services Squadron unit deployment manager and NCO in charge of mortuary affairs, gets pinned on by Lt. Col. Michael Lamb, 325th SVS commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Benjamin Van Vleet, 325th Fighter Wing command chief.

by Lt. Col. Michael Lamb, 325th SVS commander. His flawless enlisted performance reports, dedication, attention to detail and maturity led to his nomination.

In 2004, his skill and knowledge earned the services squadron the distinction as Best Services Readiness Program, Colonel Lamb said.

Maj. Paul Quigley, 325th SFS commander, nominated Sergeant Jenkins for his deployed and home-base leadership skills, leading nine junior NCOs responsible for physical and administrative security, and other accomplishments.

Sergeant Jenkins was told he was being recognized by General Wolters for his recent win of a major command level award.

"I had no idea I was about to get promoted," Sergeant Jenkins said.

"I never thought this would happen to me. This accomplishment wasn't mine alone. I had outstanding troops, leadership and mentors that helped me along in my career."

Sergeant Hemingway was also caught off-guard when approached by General Wolters for his promotion.

"I couldn't believe it," he said. "I was totally surprised. The whole day after that was surreal. I woke up Dec. 17 and I was a staff sergeant. I woke up this morning a technical sergeant. That was unbelievable."

Lt. Col. Theodore Davis, 325th ACS commander, nominated Sergeant Hemingway for winning the 2006 325th FW Supply NCO of the Year award, winning the 2006

• SEE STEP PAGE 3

95th FS takes time away from F-15s; moves to bikes

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ANTHONY HYATT
325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 95th Fighter Squadron, notably known for flying F-15s, took a different course Monday night.

More than 30 volunteers from the 95th FS went to the Lighthouse Marina and Boatyard Restaurant in Panama City Beach Dec. 17 to participate in Ardry's Bikes for Tykes, a program to acquire Christmas bicycles for disadvantaged children.

"Although we are bummed about our airplanes being grounded, the 95th was happy to come out and help underprivileged kids this Christmas," said Maj. Jeffrey Ward, 95th FS Director of Operations Flight C commander. "Our circumstances gave us a unique opportunity to put our efforts into directly assisting an organization that is focused on making Christmas Better for some deserving kids."

This is the second year for the program and the second volunteer year for Team Tyndall. In 2006, approximately 260 bikes were given out. This year,

more than 480 bikes were given.

The bikes were given to children whose names were provided by school guidance counselors, military, Salvation Army, foster care and boys and



Airman 1st Class Anthony J. Hyatt

girls clubs.

"You get a great sense of pride giving back to the community," said Maj. Andre Maugeri, 325th Operations Group instructor pilot and volunteer.

"It's the season of giving."

Money was raised through private donations and from the Hombre Golf Courses' golf tournament earlier this year.

"Just fewer than 500 bikes were transported, assembled, organized and presented to grateful families by these remarkable men," said Lisa Dallas of Ardry's Bikes for Tykes.

As hundreds of bikes were transported from the local Wal-Mart to the Lighthouse Marina, a competition between the pilots was made.

"Since we pilots are naturally competitive, it would only be fitting to see who can build the bikes the fastest," said Lt. Col. Kevin Huyck, 95th FS commander.

After a majority of the bikes were made, parents started to line up to retrieve their bikes.

As parents signed in, their card was given to the runner, played by the 95th FS volunteers. The runners took the card to the Lighthouse, found the bike that corresponded with the card and handed it over to the parents.

"This Christmas nearly 500 kids will be surprised with a bike thanks to the help of a small group of community volunteers and the assistance of the 95th Fighter Squadron," said Ms. Dallas. "These few men gave hours of their time, braving the winter elements, and did so with amazing compassion and enthusiasm."

Deployed Airmen families celebrate the holidays together

STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CAPLING
325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Tyndall Air Force Base Airmen and Family Readiness Center hosted a "Hearts Apart" holiday party Dec. 13 for family members of deployed servicemembers.

The evening consisted of a pizza dinner, holiday craft making and gifts donated by the Florida National Guard Family Readiness Center for the attending children.

"We had a great turnout with more than 45 people," said Master Sgt. Kat Mygan, 325th Mission Support Squadron family readiness manager and party coordinator. "This is the first year we've held this party, but we're looking to make it an annual event."

Cathy Vaden, wife of deployed Master Sgt. Robert Vaden, Airey NCO Academy instructor, attended the party with their four children.

"It's been comforting to be around people in the same situation as we're in," Mrs. Vaden said. "It's been great for the kids to get to meet other children with parents who are deployed. Plus, it was one less dinner I had to cook!"

The focus of the party was to show support to the families while their loved ones are away.

"We want to make sure we don't forget the people who are left behind," Sergeant Mygan said. "This is our way of reaching out to these families during the holidays when the absence of a loved one is felt even more than usual. We want to let them know they have an Air Force family."



Staff Sgt. Timothy Capling

Lt. Col. Rita Uribe, 325th Fighter Wing assistant staff judge advocate, eats dinner with her daughter Katie at the "Hearts Apart" holiday party at the Airmen and Family Readiness Center Dec. 13. Colonel Uribe's husband, Lt. Col. Andy Uribe, Air Forces Northern chief standardization evaluation, is currently deployed as the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group deputy commander.

Where we've been, where we're going



BRIG. GEN. TOD WOLTERS
325TH FIGHTER WING COMMANDER

As we close 2007, we look forward to what 2008 will bring! I'd like each of you to stop and take the time to enjoy this holiday season.

Please reflect on the past year and re-examine your challenges and successes... this will help us grow as Airmen. Our current challenge remains getting our F-15s off the ramp and back in the air. Although we're standing by, ready to launch with a maintenance "press", we have to remember we are standing down to ensure the safety of our greatest commodity – our people. Despite

this setback, our successes have been numerous.

We deployed nearly 400 Airmen to more than 30 locations with minimum discrepancies; we executed our flying-hour program, meeting 100 percent of our scheduled hours in Fiscal Year 2006; our 43d Fighter Squadron met a significant milestone when it flew the 5,000th hour in the F-22 Raptor; we successfully showcased our base and mission to Air Education and Training Command commanders and the community when we hosted the AETC Commanders' Conference and our annual Gulf Coast Salute back-to-back; and the wing took the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for FY06. These are just a few of our accomplishments – space doesn't permit me to list the many AETC and Air Force-level awards our folks have taken, but they are abundant. My sincere appreciation for making the 325th Fighter Wing shine – job well done!

I ask that you also take time to remember those who are serving abroad and the families they've left behind, because that's what being part of the Air Force family means. Currently, we have more than 150 Tyndall Airmen deployed around the world and

many of them have families back here in Panama City. Whether they belong to your squadron or are your next door neighbor, I ask you to reach out to these families and make sure they have what they need over the holidays. Invite them to join you and your family for a holiday meal, take them a holiday treat or just pick up the phone and let them know you care.

Also, take time to serve your community. There is no place more supportive of our men and women in uniform than Bay County. Try to get out there and give back. Many of you have already done so by volunteering at the annual Golden Age Christmas Party for local veterans and seniors, building homes for Habitat for Humanity and building bicycles for Bikes for Tykes. I can assure you that no good deed goes unnoticed and our community leaders never shy away from an opportunity to tell me how much they appreciate what you do for them and for our community.

Since many of you will be hitting the highways over the holiday season, take time to plan accordingly and arrive safely. I know I don't have to preach to you that seatbelts save lives, and driving under the influence or while fatigued will put you

in harms way. Use risk management and common sense when you set out on the roadways. Your friends and family would rather spend a few less hours with you than never spend another holiday together because you pushed too hard or failed to wear your seatbelt.

Take time to share laughter and love with your friends and family, because they are who matter most. One day you will leave this wonderful Air Force. Although you'll have many fond memories and perhaps a great resume to take with you, it's the people who have shared in this experience that will remain a constant in your life. Make sure you let them know how much you appreciate them and how much we appreciate their support of you.

Lastly, I want you to take time for yourself. Relax, refresh and come back to work ready to take on what challenges lie ahead for next year with vigor and enthusiasm. You are what makes this great Air Force what it is today and what it will be for years to come.

Charlene and I wish you the safest and happiest of holidays, filled with joy, many blessings and most importantly, precious quality time.

• FROM STEP PAGE 1

Maintenance Squadron Staff Professional of the Year award, managing a \$25 million warehouse while deployed and obtaining a 100 percent quality assurance pass rate for his programs.

All three sergeants are looking forward to the pay raise that comes with promotion.

"I just plan to save up with the extra money," Sergeant Jenkins said.

Sergeant Wright, a new father, said he plans to spend his pay increase on his baby daughter.

"The extra money will come in handy for newborn diapers. I also plan to get a few extra Christmas presents for my daughter and a little something extra for my wife," he said.

Sergeant Hemingway also said he plans to spread some holiday cheer with his new pay.

"I'll make sure my niece has an extra special third Christmas," he said.

"Thank you"

Daniel Smith, country-music artist, visited Tyndall Air Force Base Dec. 14 to perform some of his songs during a commander's call at Hangar One. Smith is the singer of "Thank You," a song dedicated to the men and women of the United States military, and the hit single "What you see is what you get." He also performed a couple of his songs at the Collocated Club Friday night.



Lisa Norman

Tyndall Air Force Base angels give to angels

STAFF SGT. VESTA ANDERSON
325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

This holiday season, as many families prepare their homes with attractive decorations, the 325th Fighter Wing Chapel Two set up their own decoration - the "Angel Tree," standing in a corner with white lights blanketing its limbs. Instead of glass balls of brilliant colors, chapel assistants decorated the tree with a brilliance of another kind - angels.

"The purpose of the tree is to get gifts out to underprivileged families at Tyndall Air Force Base," said Senior Airman Wesley Sutton, 325th FW chaplain's assistant.

Team Tyndall has been picking angels from the tree annually. Once they make

their selection of a green or pink angel displaying children's age, they return with a wrapped Christmas gift based on the angel's age.

Families are selected by squadron first sergeants who, because of their close knowledge of the families they watch over, select airmen who may need a helping hand during the holidays.

"There's excellent communication between sponsors, supervisors, superintendents, (first sergeants) and commanders to determine who should be on the list," said Master Sgt. Travis Fritts, 325th Mission Support Squadron career advisor.

"It really does show how much of a family we are in the Air Force," said Sergeant Fritts. "Despite gas costing \$3

a gallon and house payments going up, people are still willing to look out for children they've never met."

The families on the list remain grateful.

"The angel tree really helps my son have a better Christmas," said Senior Airman Eva Pena, 325th Air Control Squadron weapons technician, "especially since I am a single parent and can't afford to buy him a lot of the toys he wants."

This year, gift giving has extended beyond the program's normal contributors.

"There are 136 families who have been selected for the angel list," said Staff Sgt. Sean Finley, 325th FW chaplain's assistant. "The (base exchange) contributed 50 gifts for the children," said

Sergeant Finley.

The number of children varies in each family; however, all children will receive a present, explained Airman Sutton.

"I appreciate the fact that my child is remembered during the holidays by people who don't even know him," said Airman Pena. "It helps me remember what Christmas is all about. I love to see his face light up when he gets his gifts."

The chapel continues to be phenomenal with the Angel Tree program, explains Sergeant Fritts, and it can be said that 136 Team Tyndall members and 136 Team Tyndall angels agree.

"Nothing brings a quicker smile to a parent than hearing a child's squeal of delight

on Christmas morning when the gift-wrap starts flying," said Sergeant Fritts. "Those are memories that last a lifetime."



Staff Sgt. Vesta Anderson

The 325th Fighter Wing Chapel Two Christmas tree bares its last angel. All angels were successfully picked from the tree by Dec. 10.

Checkertail Salute

Airman 1st Class Jeffrey D. Polser



Photo by Chris Dahmer

Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Polser, 325th Comptroller Squadron customer service technician, explains travel entitlements to an Airman.

Airman Polser assisted with inprocessing more than 400 personnel and processed more than 200 travel vouchers with a 98 percent accuracy rate. He also assisted with more than 5,000 walk-in customers since his arrival.

Hometown: McKinney, Texas
Time on station: Eleven months
Time in service: Six months
Hobbies: Spending time with friends, going to concerts and working out
Goals: To do more volunteer work
Favorite thing about Tyndall AFB: Close proximity to beaches
Favorite movie: The Bourne Trilogy
Favorite book: The BFG by Roald Dahl
Pet Peeves: Not staying true to your word and lack of consideration for others
Proudest moment in the military: Graduating basic military training as an honors graduate

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.

2008 Newcomers Guides available now for order

COURTESY OF 325TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Orders must be placed now for Tyndall Air Force Base's Newcomers Guide and Telephone Directory 2008 edition, available in January.

These base guides contain a full profile and history of the base and all associate units. Also, a complete list of phone numbers for Tyndall AFB, as well as base and community maps. The guide also contains profiles of some local businesses supporting the bases' mission along with Tricare/ United Concordia medical sections.

The guides are free to all base personnel, dependents and retirees.

To place an order that will be delivered at no cost, visit <http://www.united-publishers.com/books>. Fill out your contact information, select "Tyndall guide" in the scroll-down menu and select the number of copies needed in your unit.

Tigers win streak continues

(COURTESY OF TYNDALL TIGERS)

The Tyndall Tigers men's varsity basketball team (6-1) traveled to Eglin Air Force Base Saturday to face the Eglin Eagles (6-1) in Southeastern Military Athletic Conference action with first place on the line going into the holiday break.

The two teams played close throughout the first half until Tyndall committed turnovers on three consecutive possessions, which the Eagles turned into a 10-point lead. The Tigers came roaring back to cut their deficit to two points on a three-point bucket by Chris Walker as the half time buzzer sounded.

In the second half, the score remained close

throughout until the Tigers extended their defensive pressure with eight minutes remaining in the contest, forcing Eglin to commit consecutive turnovers. Tyndall's forward, Marqus Armour, got hot and scored eight points in a row to take the Tigers to a 10-point lead. The Tigers connected on clutch free throws down the stretch, led by guard Melvin Smith, who connected on six free throws in the last minute of the contest to seal the win.

The Tigers pulled out a 98-82 victory.

Chris Walker paced the Tigers in scoring with a game- and season-high 21 points, followed by Melvin Smith and Marqus

Armour with 18 points each. Armour and Antonio Bazemore led in rebounding with 14 and 11 respectively. Bazemore also led in assists with six. Rasheem Ramsey led the defensive effort with five steals. Eglin's Stanton Simmons paced the Eagles in scoring with 20 points.

With their hard-fought victory, the Tiger's record improved to 7-1, as they moved a full game ahead of the second-place Eagles and two games ahead of third-place Hurlburt Field. The Tigers will break for the holiday season and return to the hardwood on Jan. 5 when they travel to Fort Benning, Ga. to play the Bandits.

2007 Tyndall Intramural Basketball scores

Dec. 18, 2007

5:30 p.m. 601st AOC-44 53rd WEG-49

6:30 p.m. MSS-33 OSS-49

7:30 p.m. AMXS1-40 MXS-60

Dec. 19, 2007

5:30 p.m. MXS-53 COMM-43

6:30 p.m. SVS-55 CES-42

Dec. 20, 2007

5:30 p.m. AMXS1-54 ACS-37

6:30 p.m. AFCESA-35 MSS-34

7:30 p.m. OSS-39 SFS-24

Lady Tigers stay perfect

(COURTESY OF LADY TIGERS)

The Tyndall Lady Tigers improved their record to 6-0 for the season as they defeated the Lady Eagles of Eglin Air Force Base by a score of 88-66 in Southeastern Military Athletic Conference action this past Saturday.

The two squads traded baskets throughout the first half as Eglin connected on four three-point baskets to combat Lady Tigers Tiffanie Guthrie's 16 first-half points. Tyndall took a slim two-point lead, 36-34, into the intermission. In the second half, the Lady Tigers steadily took control of the contest as they wore down the smaller Eglin squad and scored numerous points

in transition. The Lady Tigers lead increased to as many as 26 points before they went into their "delay game".

Guthrie led the Lady Tigers in double figure scoring with a game high 30 points, followed by Richere Harrison's 17. Monica Mason and Mariela Miles added 16 points each. Guthrie and Sandra Williams led the team in rebounding with 14 and 10 respectively. Guthrie also added six steals. Demeika McCelendon paced Eglin in scoring with 17 points.

The Lady Tigers take their unblemished record into the holiday break. They will return to the hardwood on Jan. 5, as they travel to Ft. Benning to face the Lady Bandits.

Southeastern Military Athletic Conference Standings (as of Dec. 21)

Men's Basketball 2007 Regular Season Standings

Team	Win	Loss
Tyndall	7	1
Eglin	6	2
Hurlburt Field	4	3
Keesler	3	3
Moody	2	4
Ft. Benning	1	4
Mayport	0	5

Women's Basketball Standings

Tyndall	6	0
Keesler	2	2
Eglin	2	2
Ft. Benning	1	2
Moody	0	4