



In Brief

AFAF Kick-Off

The Air Force Assistance Fund drive begins Monday with a free kick-off event, 11 a.m. at the 95th Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Lisa Winders at 283-8986.

RAO Meeting

The quarterly retiree committee meeting is 10 a.m. April 8 at the 325th Fighter Wing, bldg. 662, room 204.

For more information, call the Retiree Activity Office at 283-2737.

Dining Facility

The Berg-Liles Dining Facility is closed until April 1 due to drainage repairs. For additional information, call the food service staff office at 283-4422.

Best Beginnings

A Best Beginning Class for expectant and new parents with babies less than a year old, is 9 a.m. - noon Friday at the Airmen and Family Readiness Center classroom, bldg. 743. For more information and reservations, call 283-4204

Country Music Star

Country music star Aaron Tippin will perform a free concert at the 2008 Gulf Coast Salute air show March 29. For more information about the air show, visit www.tyndall.af.mil.

DOD hires certified police officers

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

Police officers with prior law enforcement experience have been hired to augment deployed 325th Security Forces Squadron patrolmen beginning this year.

Due to the high rate of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom deployments, five certified police officers have been hired to conduct day-to-day patrolling responsibilities to help with security force's extreme manning shortages and lack of continuity, said Capt. Michael Bernatt, 325th SFS operations officer.

The initiation of this program is Air Force wide. Applicants submitted their names in July and the Department of Defense began hiring in December.

"These are not contractors," said Captain Bernatt. "The Air Force police are hired as permanent additions to the career field. It's unknown at this time if the Air Force will increase the size and scope of the program."

These police officers are responsible for the same duties as an active-duty patrolman and are required to complete the same



Photo by Staff Sgt. Vesta M. Anderson

Staff Sgt. James A. Dandridge Jr. (left) and Patrolman Duane Coleman (right) patrol Tyndall Air Force Base as rotated partners. Sergeant Dandridge, a national guardsman, has been at Tyndall for two years and Patrolman Coleman has been working as an AF police officer since February.

necessary training.

"Training has been ongoing since January, the training consists of law enforcement and security procedures such as traffic stops, alarm activations and bomb threats," said Captain Bernatt.

The program adds to the experience

of Tyndall Air Force Base's law enforcement patrols.

"Our Air Force police officers are all prior DOD or civilian law enforcement officers and bring with them a high level of professionalism and experience," said Captain Bernatt. "We are glad to have them."

Deployed Airmen families gather for Spring social

STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY CAPLING
325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Tyndall Air Force Base Airmen and Family Readiness center hosted a "Hearts Apart" Spring Social March 6 for families of deployed servicemembers.

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

"Hearts Apart provides a way for the

families left behind to come together once a quarter in a fun and relaxing environment; a break from the day to day grind," said Jodie Schwartz, Airmen and Family Readiness flight chief.

The evening consisted of a pizza dinner, craft making, face painting and a bouncy castle for children.

"We had a great turnout with more than 30 people," said Master Sgt.

Kat Mygan, 325th Mission Support Squadron family readiness program manager and party coordinator. "This is a great way to let our families know they are part of the Air Force family and they are not alone. Hearts Apart is to get the families out and to tell them, 'Hey, don't worry about a thing. Come out, and have a good time with us.'"

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Checkertail Salute

Tech. Sgt. Sherman Alford



Photo by Chris Dahmer

Tech. Sgt. Sherman Alford, 325 FW Command Section superintendent, reviews his section's file plan in preparation for the 2008 Operational Readiness Inspection.

Tech. Sgt. Sherman Alford led the base and wing annual and quarterly awards programs, recognizing Airmen for outstanding achievements. As the functional information manager for the 325th Fighter Wing staff, Sergeant Alford reviews training records and provides training and mentorship to other information managers. During his off-duty time, Sergeant Alford is a Salvation Army volunteer and a youth softball coach.

Hometown: Apalachicola, Fla.

Time on station: Six years and two months

Time in service: 14 years and one month

Goals: Retire and coach high school football

Hobbies: Softball, bass fishing and coaching

Favorite thing about Tyndall AFB: It's on the water

Favorite movie: Braveheart and Shawshank Redemption

Favorite book: "When Pride Still Mattered"

Pet Peeves: Computer freeze, soup slurpers and name droppers

Proudest moment in the military: Meeting Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Paul Airey

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.



Airman Against Drunk Driving provides military members with a free, safe ride home within the local area. This program is available to all ranks possessing a valid military ID. AADD stresses complete anonymity to ease the fear of retribution.

Call: (850) 867-0220

Hours of Operation:

Tyndall Air Force Base

Gulf Coast Salute

"To Servicemembers Home & Abroad"

Saturday
March 29

Gates open at 9 a.m.

Free admission. Free parking.
For a schedule of events, directions, details and more...
Visit www.tyndall.af.mil

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Amanda Henderson, wife of a deployed Airman, attended the party with her son.

"It's nice to have some support and to meet other people in the same boat as me," Mrs. Henderson said. "Plus my son can meet others also missing their dads."

Sergeant Mygan said next month they're planning a 'Warrior Farewell' for deploying members to attend with their families letting them know the resources available to both of them while the Airman is away.

"Not only do we want to take care of the families while their loved ones are away, but we also want our Airmen to be assured their families are being taken care of back home," she said.

The sergeant also added they're planning the next Hearts Apart event near Mothers' Day.