



# KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base  
Biloxi, Mississippi

Volume 70, No. 1  
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Rebuild the base ... Renew the community ... Reload the Air Force



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**Dragons deployed**  
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## Southern snowman

Isabella Parrotta, left, and Olivia Salinas admire an illuminated snowman at Christmas in the Park, Dec. 17. Isabella, 2, is the daughter of Staff Sgt. Eugene Parrotta, 81st Medical Support Squadron. Olivia, 3, is the daughter of Army Sgt. Jason and Darla Salinas. Sergeant Salinas is assigned to the 81st MDSS clinical research laboratory. The annual event featured a toy giveaway made possible by a grant from the USO. Festivities also included a tree lighting, live Nativity scene, train and carriage rides, refreshments, caroling and Santa's arrival by fire engine.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

## Housing allowances increase for 2009

American Forces Press Service  
and Keesler News staff

Keesler's military members are receiving an average increase of 7.61 percent in basic allowance for housing this year, compared to the 6.9 percent average across the Department of Defense, according to figures from the base housing office.

For Keesler members without dependents, the increase averages 7.73 percent. For enlisted members without dependents, the average increase varies from 11.14 percent for technical sergeants to 7.3 percent for chief master sergeants. For officers, increases range from 11.34 percent for second lieutenants who

aren't prior enlisted members to 3.77 percent for colonels and brigadier generals.

For Keesler members with dependents, the average increase is 7.48 percent. For enlisted members, the increases range from 4.2 percent for senior master sergeants to 10.08 percent for airmen basic through senior airmen. For officers, rates vary from 3.85 percent for captains who aren't prior enlisted to 10.56 percent for colonels.

DOD officials said the 2009 increase comes to an average of about \$95 per month across the board for the 950,000 service members expected to draw basic allowance for housing.

However, some service members won't receive an increase, and others are

seeing less than that the average increase, said Susan Brumbaugh, director of the Defense Department's BAH program.

"We did see some decreases in some areas for some pay grades, but it's not across the broad spectrum," she said. "We also saw some significant increases across the board, so it's a balance.

"In some years, you'll have a rental market that is very strong in some areas, and in others areas, you'll have local rental markets where there's not a lot of housing available, so it changes," she explained. "It can fluctuate from year to

Please see **BAH**, Page 9

## We are at war in cyberspace ... today ... all the time

By Gen. Stephen Lorenz

Air Education and Training Command commander

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — “The stark reality is that the bad guys are winning and our nation is at risk.”

That’s what retired Lt. Gen. Harry Raduege Jr. writes in an insightful article about cyberspace titled, “Evolving Cybersecurity Faces a New Dawn.” As he describes our many challenges in cyberspace, General Raduege observes that “the list of concerns is growing and endless: rampant cybercrime, increasing identity theft, sophisticated social engineering techniques, relentless intrusions into government networks, and widespread vulnerabilities continuously exploited by a variety of entities ranging from criminal organizations and entrepreneurial hackers to well-resourced espionage actors.”

Over the last few weeks, we have focused on the security of our computer networks, and we have found that we have big challenges.

The bottom line is that we are at war in cyberspace...today...all the time.

Our enemies are attacking our network — the same network you use to send e-mails, share documents and access the internet. They are using stealth and surprise to insert malicious code into our network in order to gain intelligence. What is our enemy’s intention? We don’t know, but it’s not friendly.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Rob Tappana said something that caught my attention. He observed that if our front gate was under attack, we would do something about it. We would reinforce the guards with our security forces, convene the battle staff,

increase patrols, and raise awareness levels throughout the base. Chief Tappana then pointed at the computer on a nearby desk and said, “We must realize that that’s our front gate too.”

He is right. We need to think and act like warriors in cyberspace. That’s where leadership is essential.

General Raduege describes four stages in our journey to secure cyberspace.

**The first stage is ignorance.** We don’t know what we don’t know about cyberspace attacks. We are past that stage now. If you didn’t know about our vulnerability in cyberspace, you do now.

**The second stage is awareness.** We now realize that we are at war in cyberspace, and we are vulnerable. We no longer take access to the network for granted — we realize that it can be taken away unless we take steps to defend it.

**The third stage is actualization.** We share a sense of urgency that we need to do something about the attacks on our network. We will learn more and more about cybersecurity. We will all work together to reduce our vulnerability and defend the network from attack.

**The final stage is the “cyber mindset,”** where we think and act as warriors in cyberspace just as we do in air and space. We will train to protect ourselves and our networks from attack. We will all be “on patrol” as we look for new threats. Leaders at all levels will measure our vulnerability and direct defensive actions to counter the enemy.

To get to the fourth stage, we are going to have to work through a paradigm shift about security in cyberspace. Many of us (including me in the past) have taken the network for granted. We can’t do

that anymore. Every computer connected to the network is part of the battlespace. Every person that has access to the network is operating in a combat environment. Everyone must act responsibly, or it opens a hole in our defense.

As I’ve written before, I believe you are all leaders, because you all have influence over other people in your workplaces, your families, and your communities. It’s going to take your leadership to help us make this paradigm shift. How do you lead others through change? You work through the stages of change faster than the people around you.

So, as leaders, I ask that you move from awareness to actualization as quickly as possible. Talk to our experts, beginning with our communication professionals. Set the right example by following the procedures and not taking shortcuts. Learn about and use the tools we have today. I promise that more tools are on the way.

I am working through the stages as fast as I can. We are improving the security of our computers at our headquarters, and I have directed that no one is exempt from security measures, including me. If my computer has to restart while I’m in the middle of something, so be it. We must be willing to accept a moderate amount of mission degradation to secure ourselves against the enemy “at the gate.”

General Raduege writes that despite the challenges facing us in cyberspace, he is optimistic that we are “on the verge of a new dawn for cybersecurity.” I am optimistic as well, because we are fortunate to have you to help lead us through this change in our mindset. We are at war in cyberspace, and we will all need to apply our warrior skills to prevail. Fight’s on!

## Get ready for Keesler’s finest year

By Brig. Gen. Greg Touhill

81st Training Wing commander

Welcome to 2009! This year is already shaping up to be very busy for Keesler, and it is time for everyone to buckle their chin-straps and suit up for what promises to be our best year ever!

As mentioned in our December Commander’s Calls, our focus for 2009 will be on improving policies, procedures and precision. Rebuilding is much more than brick and mortar; it is about making ourselves, our base, and our Air Force the best. I ask that every Keesler Airman — military and civilian — join me in resolving to do our best in 2009 as we continue to Rebuild, Renew, and Reload at Keesler.

As you look across the wing calendar, you’ll see that it is already filling up with significant events. Just look at the first six months of the year! January marks the change of command of the 403rd Wing from Brig. Gen. Rich Moss to Col. Jim Muscatell,

the Air Education and Training Command Symposium and completion of the A-76 transition. February has us welcoming the AETC Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Inspection Team. In March, we’ll be busy with exercises in anticipation of the “Thunder on the Bay” air show the first weekend in April. In May we’ll welcome back the Special Olympics, and in June we’ll host the International Council of Military Sports Women’s Soccer Championship. As you can see, Keesler is back and moving forward!

As you look forward into 2009, I urge you to set some personal resolutions too. For example, improve your health and fitness by exercising regularly and eating well. Improve your spirit through meditation or practice of your faith. Improve your relationships by demonstrating kindness and giving to others. Improve your job performance by committing yourself to do ordinary things in an extraordinary way, every day.

Let’s go!

## ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

By Brig. Gen. Greg Touhill

81st Training Wing commander

You’re encouraged to work concerns through your chain of command or contact an appropriate helping agent. For unresolved issues, call the commander’s action line for assistance.

Suggestions to help make this a more valuable and useful tool are welcome. Call the commander’s action line, 377-4357; write to Commander’s Action Line, 81st TRW/PA, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2603; e-mail 81st TRW Commander’s Action Line (on-base) or [commanders.line@keesler.af.mil](mailto:commanders.line@keesler.af.mil) (off-base).





## DRAGON ON THE STREET

By **Kemberly Groue**

Keesler News photographer

What is your New Year's resolution?



To raise my fitness score to 95.

**2nd Lt. Johnathan Wong,** Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., on temporary duty with the 333rd Training Squadron.



To save some money and do some investing this year.

**Staff Sgt. Kenneth Vanderpool,** 81st Security Forces Squadron.



Fitness, for sure!

**Master Sgt. Sherriann**

**Baldwin-Rash,** 81st Comptroller Squadron

# Seeking success? Seek wisdom first

By **Col. Prince Gilliard**

81st Training Group commander

Success, according to the online encyclopedia Wikipedia, is the achievement of an objective or goal. Everyone measures success differently, and what you may consider success may not hold true for everyone else. However you define success, remember as you strive for that objective or goal to first "seek wisdom."

In the book, "The Traveler's Gift" by Andy Andrews, he describes "to seek wisdom" as one of seven principles for personal success. Those waiting for success to happen without preparation and work will be disappointed. You must actively pursue success by first seeking wisdom.

Why "seek wisdom?" It sounds simple enough to do, but may be hard to accept for those who find themselves in difficult times and who believe they made good decisions to that point. People experiencing difficult times were likely brought to that defining point based on past decisions.

Those of us who are parents steer our children away from poor decisions we made in our youth. How many prefer your teenager associate with well-behaved children rather than disrespectful ones? Our tactical objec-

"There are no secrets to success.

It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure."

— **Gen. Colin Powell**

tive is that our teenager's behavior will be positively influenced by the children he or she is surrounded by. In these instances, we try to pass on our wisdom so others do not make the same mistakes. Anne Frank said, "Our very lives are fashioned by choice. First we make choices. Then our choices make us." Seeking wisdom will help you make better decisions towards success.

How does one "seek wisdom?" Open your mind and continually learn to create a solid foundation to base your decisions. For example, reading

books from the Chief of Staff of the Air Force Reading List and talking with your true friends will put you on the path to wisdom. Remember a true friend is someone who makes you better by his or her presence. We all have unique life experiences to share, and when we counsel with wiser people, we add their knowledge and experiences to our decision-making processes and greatly increase the probability of our success. It's important to carefully consider who you allow into your close circle of friends, since they're more likely the ones you'll hold counsel and "seek wisdom" with on a regular basis. If you surround yourself with people who don't expect your best and don't challenge you to be better, then you get what you pay for. So instead, surround yourself with people and friends who'll help you on the path of success.

If you find yourself in a difficult situation, realize "the buck stops with you" and your current path or situation is a result of past decisions. In the words of the previous Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Gen. Colin Powell, "There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure." Our challenge in every successful venture is to "seek wisdom" first.

## KEESLER NEWS

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**Keesler on the Web**

<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

## Force support officers complete new course

By Staff Sgt. Tanya Holditch

Keesler News staff

The new force support officers course in the 335th Training Squadron graduated its first class of 57 officers Dec. 11.

Lt. Gen. Richard Newton, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services at the Pentagon, was on hand to congratulate the officers on their achievement.

“These outstanding officers made history as they walked across the stage,” said General Newton. “They just completed a rigorous nine-week course that incorporated skill sets from three legacy career fields — manpower, personnel and services. This training gave our men and women a clearer understanding of how a base runs and cares for Airmen; an understanding that postures them as key advisers for their commanders on all things dealing with force support.”

In 2006, Air Force officials began merging the manpower, personnel and services career fields to streamline programs responsible for “all things people,” from force development to taking care of families and everything in between.

The new 38F Air Force Specialty Code, which incorporates services with the previously merged manpower and personnel career fields, came on line Oct. 31.

Instructors representing each of the three specialties taught the basics of each field to prepare the officers to fill billets in any of the areas of the 38F career field.

“The key is that you do need to know all of this information, although you may only be applying a part of it,” said 2nd Lt. Lori Alix, a full-time Guardsman at the Joint



Photo by Kemberly Groue

### General Newton speaks to the 57 course graduates.

Force Headquarters in Milford, Mass. “Just because I’m in manpower now doesn’t mean I won’t need this information later. If someone needs information, we need to make sure we have it.

“We won’t be experts, but we’ll know what our roles and responsibilities are,” she added.

The week-long field training exercise at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., gave the officers the chance to apply their new skills as they worked in many areas, including personnel accountability, manpower requirements, food service, lodging, mortuary, and command and control.

These force support officers will have many opportunities to prove their value as they deploy

and as their installations continue transforming from mission support squadrons and services squadrons into force support squadrons, according to Capt. Michael Stone, 335th TRS mission support training flight commander, who also now falls under the 38F career field.

“Force support officers will be tasked often,” said class member Lt. Col. Kathy Pallozzi, a former public affairs officer who works at the Pentagon. “I look at these young lieutenants and I think, ‘Wow. They are going to be the heartbeats of the base. They are going to be leading these functions to support the warfighter.’ When I was a lieutenant, I don’t remember being that smart.”

# NCO selected for Medical Services Corps

By Steve Pivnick

## 81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Brandee Thompson is trading her stripes for silver bars.

Sergeant Thompson, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron pharmacy technician, was selected for the Medical Service Corps program in December and reports to Commissioned Officer Training at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., Tuesday.

She'll be commissioned as a first lieutenant in the Air Force based on credit she received for her advanced degree. She pins on her new rank before heading to training.

"I came into the Air Force with no college credit," she recalled. "As soon as I completed my (career development courses), I began taking college courses.

"I earned my (Community College of the Air Force) degree three years later," Sergeant Thompson said. "It took another year and a half to receive my bachelor's degree in business management. I took a six-month break before starting my master's program and completed it in two years."

She now has a master's degree in business administration with a specialization in health care management from the University of Phoenix. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees through in-residence and on line studies.

Sergeant Thompson, who's been in the Air Force almost 12 years — the past two at Keesler — first learned about the MSC program during her previous assignment at Buckley AFB, Colo.

"Buckley was the first base



Sergeant Thompson

that I worked very closely with MSCs," she explained. "There we had to turn a warehouse into a full-service pharmacy and went from having no patients to serving 55,000 beneficiaries. It seemed that

they all showed up at our window at once when we opened.

"Afterwards, my commander said I'd make a great MSC — I had to ask him exactly what an MSC did," Sergeant Thompson continued. "After he explained it to me, I really wanted to enter the program. Basically, MCSs are the business and support backbone of the hospital."

She had applied for the program in 2007 and was selected as an alternate.

"It's a very competitive field, so no one can really be sure that they are going to get the position when applying," she said.

This year, she received her acceptance notification Dec. 2.

Sergeant Thompson had to submit a comprehensive package to the selection board, including a personal letter explaining why she wanted to be an MSC and what she

could contribute to the corps, as well as her last five enlisted performance reports and several letters of recommendation. She also had to be interviewed by a senior MSC, so Col. David Garrison, medical center administrator for the 81st Medical Group, conducted the interview.

The Chicago native recommends enlisted members take advantage of the Air Force's educational opportunities.

"I always strive to better myself, but sometimes school was frustrating," Sergeant Thompson admitted. "I sometimes went home after work and had to do homework and asked why I was doing this to myself. But now that I've completed the program, it has definitely paid off and the benefits exceed the effort and cost. Everyone should take advantage of the Air Force's college benefit."

More news and photos on the Web at <http://www.keesler.af.mil>

Exceptions to  
Keesler's

**25 mph**  
speed limit:

**15 mph**  
in housing areas,  
Ploesti Drive  
construction site,  
flight line and  
unpaved surfaces;

**10 mph**  
in close proximity to  
marching formations  
and when waved  
through base gates;

**5 mph**  
in parking lots;  
**35 mph**  
in some sections of  
perimeter roads.

## Academic aces



Airmen 1st Class Brian Bernal, left, and Michelle Ma graduated with perfect scores. Airman Bernal, from Warner Robbins, Ga., graduated from the electronic principles course in the 332nd Training Squadron and is headed to Sheppard Air Force Base for training in the F-22/ F-35 avionics system apprentice course. Airman Ma, a reservist from Katy, Texas, stationed at Lackland AFB, Texas, graduated from the personnel apprentice course in the 335th TRS.

# TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

## Quarterly awards

The 81st Training Group's awards ceremony for the fourth quarter is 3:30 p.m. Jan. 20 at Welch Auditorium.

Awards are given in military, civilian and training instructor categories.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Janet Draper, 377-4136.

## Parking lot closed

The parking lot on the southeast side of the Mathies NCO Academy is closed until 2 p.m. Jan. 22 and noon Feb. 12 for drill practice and evaluations.

Hours may change due to inclement weather.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Greg Jackson, 377-2740.

## Student TMO

Short sheet briefings at the technical training traffic man-

agement office are 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

Briefings are held in Room 213, Levitow Training Support Facility in the Triangle.

For more information, call 377-3147 or visit Room 211 in the Levitow building.

## Special testing dates

Application deadlines and dates for special testing are:

**PRAXIS I and II** — March 16 for April 13; June 14 for July 13.

**ACT** — March 27 for April 27; May 22 for June 22.

**SAT** — April 24 for May 25

Test time is 7 a.m. for all.

For more information, call the education office, 376-8708.

## Student health center

The student health center in the Levitow Training Sup-

port Facility is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.

The front desk phone numbers are 376-0324 or 0325.

## GI Bill benefits

Montgomery GI Bill benefits may be used in conjunction with tuition assistance.

For more information, call 376-8708.

## ACSC options

Air Command and Staff College can be completed by correspondence or seminar.

Majors or major-selects of all services and civilians General Schedule-11 and above are eligible.

For more information, call Joyce James, 376-8472.

## CCAF online

Visit the Air Force Virtual Education Center, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod>, to create MyAFVEC accounts to access online customer service tools.

People can request and track Community College of the Air Force transcripts, view degree progress reports and see if a course counts toward a CCAF degree.

Information dominance wins wars —  
— protect it!

To report  
sexual  
assaults,  
call  
Keesler's  
sexual  
assault  
response  
coordinator  
hotline,  
377-7278.

## Keesler ramps up efforts to conserve energy resources

By Airman 1st Class  
David Salaniti

Keesler News editor

What if someone told you that being “green” can help Keesler earn \$1.5 million? Would you turn the lights lower and take measures to save energy?

Air Education and Training Command is rewarding the top three bases who have the greatest decreases in electric and natural gas consumption. Prizes are \$1.5 million for first place, \$1 million for second place and \$500,000 for third place to use at the wing commander’s discretion.

“‘Going green’ is all about being good stewards of America’s resources,” said Brig. Gen. Greg Touhill, 81st Training Wing commander. “As Americans, we should all be striving to preserve our environment and conserve resources.”

“Green is no longer just the color of a crayon, but an evolution in the way we do business and live our lives,” said Marcy Whitfield, Keesler’s resource efficiency manager.

The contest began in the third quarter of 2008 and runs through the last quarter of 2009. Results are compared to the last quarter of 2005 through

### Save \$\$, earn \$\$

If you have an idea to save the Air Force money by conserving energy, the resource efficiency management office can help you submit the idea to the Air Force Innovative Development Through Employee Awareness program.

The IDEA program gives cash awards ranging from \$200 to \$10,000 to Airmen and federal civilian employees for sharing their ideas on how to save the Air Force money.

For more information, call the IDEA office, 376-8173, or the resource efficiency management office, 376-8557.



the third quarter of 2008.

Ms. Whitfield has a few suggestions for base employees and residents to help Keesler conserve energy:

**Stop wind infiltration** through doors, windows and other openings in your building or home. Contact your facility manager and notify them of these problems to help heat or air conditioning leakage.

**Stop using space heaters** — not only are they unsafe, but they use large amounts of electricity. If it’s cold in your building, let your facility manager know.

**Consolidate use of refrig-**

**erators** to eliminate wasted electricity.

**At the end of the day**, turn off lights in unused rooms and turn off office equipment like copiers, shredders and computer monitors.

“It’s important that Keesler, as a responsible leader and steward in this community, realizes how vital it is to contribute to the solution and set the example for others to follow in this community,” Ms. Whitfield emphasized.

For energy conservation or water-saving ideas, call Ms. Whitfield, 376-8557, or e-mail marcella.whitfield.ctr@keesler.af.mil.

## King’s accomplishments highlighted at luncheon

Keesler’s annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. luncheon is 11 a.m. Jan. 15 at the Locker House Dragon’s Lair.

Tickets are \$12.50 and are available from Faith Lee, 376-4350; Rhonda Blackwell, 376-0434, Jackie Dungey, 376-4731, and Tech. Sgt. Nashona Ragland, 377-3396.



## IN THE NEWS

### Project reroutes gate traffic

Starting Monday, the Meadows Avenue Gate’s south exit lane is closed for up to six weeks for security upgrades.

This project, which will eventually include the White Avenue and Pass Road gates, involves demolition of existing curb work and placement of new curbs, relocating and replacing existing pop-up barriers, and additional signage, traffic control lights and other heightened security measures. Traffic, one or two lanes, may have to be rerouted at times.

### Services customer survey

The annual Air Force Services customer feedback survey is under way through Jan. 15 on the spot while visiting an activity or at <http://www.usafservue.com>.

Base activities being surveyed are the airmen and family readiness center, dining facilities, arts and crafts, auto hobby shop, Gaude Lanes, child development center, civilian personnel section, Katrina Kantina, Vandenberg Community Center, education center, fitness centers and sports programs, Bay Breeze Golf Course, services human resource office, McBride Library, military personnel section, outdoor recreation, youth programs and information and tickets and tours.

### Retroactive VA survivor payments

**Air Force Print News**

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs has identified nearly 11,000 surviving spouses of deceased veterans who’ll receive a lump-sum payment to correct an error in their VA benefits.

Payments released Dec. 29 totaled about \$24 million.

Most likely to have been affected are surviving spouses who never applied for VA survivors’ benefits following the death of a veteran. Surviving spouses of veterans who died after Dec. 31, 1996, are eligible. The VA doesn’t have current addresses for many of them, making contact difficult.

A survivor call center, 1-800-749-8387, is open weekdays, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CST. Inquiries also may be submitted at <http://www.vba.va.gov/survivorsbenefit.htm>.

### New policy expedites civilian hiring

**Air Force Personnel Center**

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — To expedite filling civilian vacancies, selecting officials now have 45 days instead of 90 to choose the best-qualified candidate.

Under the previous policy, managers had 90 days to make a selection once they receive a list of candidates. The 90-day rule was put in place in June 2007 to ease the transition into the National Security Personnel System. A policy review showed managers were more comfortable with the system and could make the decision in 45 days or less.

### Storm water permit review

Keesler is reviewing and updating its storm water permit as required by environmental regulation and public law.

For more information, call Terry James, 377-8255.

### Early deadline for Keesler News

The deadline for the Jan. 22 issue of the Keesler News is noon Jan. 15 because of the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday.

# BAH,

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year. Every year you'll see some areas that go down and some that go up, and this was a very typical year."

Those whose area's BAH is lower than last year's shouldn't worry, because an individual rate protection law is in place to protect those who already are under a rental agreement. So if BAH rates in their area are lower Jan. 1 than Dec. 31, the previous higher rate applies. Service members who change duty stations after Jan. 1 will be affected by the new lower rates for that area.

The local market economy serves as the basis for BAH rate changes. Military housing officials from each installation begin collecting data from the local rental market as early as January each year. They research the current rates for two-bedroom houses, townhouses, single-family homes and all the different standards and profiles for homes.

Typically, rates are higher in larger, more heavily populated metropolitan areas, such as New York City, Chicago and Washington, D.C. Rates in rural areas usually are more stable, and although they may increase to some degree, the rise doesn't have the same impact as in larger cities.

"The military housing offices are looking at adequate and appropriate dwellings we would want our military fami-

lies living in," Ms. Brumbaugh said. "They don't look at a small, two-bedroom house and say, 'We could put an E-5 with a family in that.' They look at it as something that would be appropriate for that particular profile."

The BAH program is

designed to benefit service members, but it's not designed to pay 100 percent of their housing expenses. Although she's never met a service member who's pleased with BAH rates, Ms. Brumbaugh said the program is very well

designed, and once service members understand the process for which the rates are set, they're fairly satisfied.

"The entitlement is a wonderful entitlement," she said. "(The Defense Department) absolutely bends over back-

ward to make sure that if there is any change at all, it's for the benefit of the member."

Army Staff Sgt. Michael Carden, American Forces Press Service, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.

## 2008 BAH FOR KEESLER AFB WITHOUT DEPENDENT RATE

RANK	2009	2008	INCREASE OF	% INCREASED	RANK	2009	2008	INCREASE OF	% INCREASED
E-1	\$931.00	\$857.00	\$74.00	7.95	O-1	\$1,085.00	\$962.00	\$123.00	11.34
E-2	\$931.00	\$857.00	\$74.00	7.95	<b>O-1E</b>	<b>\$1,236.00</b>	<b>\$1,125.00</b>	<b>\$111.00</b>	<b>8.98</b>
E-3	\$931.00	\$857.00	\$74.00	7.95	O-2	\$1,210.00	\$1,095.00	\$115.00	9.50
E-4	\$931.00	\$857.00	\$74.00	7.95	O-2E	\$1,280.00	\$1,184.00	\$96.00	7.50
E-5	\$1,035.00	\$928.00	\$107.00	10.34	O-3	\$1,300.00	\$1,211.00	\$89.00	6.85
E-6	\$1,095.00	\$973.00	\$122.00	11.14	O-3E	\$1,336.00	\$1,259.00	\$77.00	5.76
E-7	\$1,166.00	\$1,049.00	\$117.00	10.03	O-4	\$1,384.00	\$1,316.00	\$68.00	4.91
E-8	\$1,256.00	\$1,152.00	\$104.00	8.28	O-5	\$1,430.00	\$1,350.00	\$80.00	5.59
E-9	\$1,287.00	\$1,193.00	\$94.00	7.30	<b>O-6</b>	<b>\$1,457.00</b>	<b>\$1,402.00</b>	<b>\$55.00</b>	<b>3.77</b>
					<b>O-7</b>	<b>\$1,486.00</b>	<b>\$1,430.00</b>	<b>\$56.00</b>	<b>3.77</b>

## KEESLER AFB WITH DEPENDENT RATE

RANK	2009	2008	INCREASE OF	% INCREASED	RANK	2009	2008	INCREASE OF	% INCREASED
E-1	\$1,161.00	\$1,044.00	\$117.00	10.08	O-1	\$1,247.00	\$1,140.00	\$107.00	8.58
E-2	\$1,161.00	\$1,044.00	\$117.00	10.08	O-1E	\$1,389.00	\$1,322.00	\$67.00	4.82
E-3	\$1,161.00	\$1,044.00	\$117.00	10.08	O-2	\$1,334.00	\$1,256.00	\$78.00	5.85
E-4	\$1,161.00	\$1,044.00	\$117.00	10.08	O-2E	\$1,448.00	\$1,392.00	\$56.00	3.87
E-5	\$1,236.00	\$1,125.00	\$111.00	8.98	O-3	\$1,455.00	\$1,399.00	\$56.00	3.85
E-6	\$1,336.00	\$1,259.00	\$77.00	5.76	O-3E	\$1,574.00	\$1,481.00	\$93.00	5.91
E-7	\$1,379.00	\$1,310.00	\$69.00	5.00	O-4	\$1,720.00	\$1,579.00	\$141.00	8.20
E-8	\$1,427.00	\$1,367.00	\$60.00	4.20	O-5	\$1,906.00	\$1,705.00	\$201.00	10.55
E-9	\$1,529.00	\$1,450.00	\$79.00	5.17	O-6	\$1,922.00	\$1,719.00	\$203.00	10.56
					O-7	\$1,944.00	\$1,739.00	\$205.00	10.55

Data provided by 81st Civil Engineer Squadron housing office

# Lost & Found

Call the  
81st Security Forces  
Squadron  
investigations office,  
377-4500,  
7 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
weekdays.

# PERSONNEL NOTES

## NCOs asked to complete survey

AETC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Force staff sergeants through chief master sergeants are encouraged to share feedback with the Air Force Occupational Measurement Squadron through the online military knowledge and testing standard survey.

The survey, intended to give noncommissioned officers a voice their own career advancements, is used in the professional development guide in 2011 and to develop future promotion fitness and supervisory examinations.

The survey takes 10-15 minutes to complete and is posted at <https://surveys.afoms.randolph.af.mil/survey124> until March 6. Participation requires the use of a common access card. Results are released in July.

"I highly encourage Airmen participating in this survey to provide direct, honest and candid inputs," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley. "In our dynamic Air Force, the information in the PDG is updated to ensure Airmen have current information available to develop and enhance their career through professional military knowledge and for promotion preparation.

"We would like Airmen to complete this survey because they are in a position to identify areas of professional knowledge needed to carry out their Airman responsibilities," the chief said.

## 2009 selection boards

**Monday through Jan. 16, May 18-22, Sept. 21-25** — special selection boards.

**Feb. 2-20** — senior master sergeant.

**March 9-20** — colonel line of the Air Force; lieutenant colonel and major biomedical sciences corps/nurse corps.

**June 8-26** — lieutenant colonel and major BSC/NC.

**July 13-24** — senior noncommissioned officer supplemental.

**Aug. 17-28** — command screening.

**Sept. 14-18** — colonel medical service corps, medical corps and dental corps; lieutenant colonel and major MC/DC.

**Oct. 13-26** — chief master sergeant evaluation.

**Nov. 2-13** — colonel and lieutenant colonel judge advocate and chaplain; major LAF, judge advocate and chaplain.

**Dec. 1-11** — colonel LAF/BSC/NC, lieutenant colonel and major BSC/NC.

## Expanded eligibility for medal

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Department of Defense officials recently expanded the areas of eligibility for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

The approved additions are two countries — Morocco and Burkina Faso — and Operation Nomad Shadow, with an initial area of eligibility of Turkey and Northern Iraq.

In March 2003, President Bush approved the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for active-duty, Reserve and Guard service members in recognition for their service in the global war on terrorism. To be eligible, individuals must have deployed abroad on or after Sept. 11, 2001, for service in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Service members who qualify for both the Iraq Campaign Medal and the GWOT-EM during the same Operation Nomad Shadow deployment can be awarded either medal, but not both. Service members are not entitled to more than one campaign or expeditionary medal for the same period of service.

For more information, contact the base's military personnel section or call the Air Force Contact Center, 1-800- 616-3775.

# Personnel class offered to squadron leaders

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Force Personnel Center officials are launching a new course designed to provide squadron commanders outside the personnel career field with the latest military and civilian personnel programs and procedures.

The course also provides information on the air and space expeditionary force construct.

"With the rapidly changing face of personnel support at the base level, it is more important than ever for squadron commanders to understand the Air Force's personnel processes. Our hope is that this course will give the tools squadron commanders need to better take care of their Airmen," said Lt. Col. James Costey, course administrator and chief of AFPC's Personnel Services Directorate action group.

In November, AFPC officials hosted 39 squadron commanders from five different major commands to test the course. AFPC provided briefings, tours and led discussions on assignments, promotions, evaluations, Air Force casualty information, the AEF construct, force development and a multitude of civilian programs.

The students were given compact disks for the course and binders to take back to their home unit. Early next year, officers matched

to command and sitting squadron commanders will have access to the briefings and course takeaways through the Commanders Connection Web site hosted by Air University.

"While they are here for the course, we have more than 2,000 experts at the center who can assist the briefers if they can't answer a question," Colonel Costey said. "None of the students should leave here with any unanswered question."

Although most squadron commanders receive some personnel training during other leadership courses, Colonel Costey said many of these officers, for the first time in their careers, are being called on to be experts on the Air Force's personnel programs.

The findings of a recent Airmen's Time Assessment Team from Air Force headquarters, which traveled to various bases to assess Airmen workload issues, also revealed that commanders need additional training on personnel related programs and support.

"When squadron leaders become more knowledgeable about personnel programs, Airmen win," Colonel Costey said. "We expect this course to pay huge dividends across the Air Force."

The 4½ day course is slated to be held six times a year. Major commands will receive student quotas for the course.

# Target



## for elimination,

## call Keesler's hotline 377-7053

# DOD inaugural committee shifts into high gear

By Donna Mills

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — As part of the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, about 700 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen are preparing for President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration Jan. 20.

"We're spinning up for the full dress rehearsal Jan. 11," said Navy Lt. Mike Billips, a reservist from Atlanta serving as an AFIC spokesman.

Participants go through two full iterations of the swearing-in ceremony at the Capitol, then parade down Pennsylvania Avenue toward the White House.

"The curtain goes up on Jan. 20, and everything has to be locked down perfect before then," Lieutenant Billips said. "So it's a lot of rehearsal, a lot of coordina-



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Daniel Calderon  
**Committee members participate in a large-scale map exercise Dec. 18 in Washington. AFIC carries on a tradition dating back to 1789 of honoring the new commander in chief and recognizing civilian control of the military.**

tion and a lot of training."

Some will be in the midst of the fanfare as honor guards, drivers, ushers or escorts for

distinguished visitors or participating in marching bands, musical units or salute batteries. Others work behind the

scenes, helping to ensure the events go off seamlessly.

"I'm excited to be a part of our nation's history," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Finney from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, assigned to AFIC's information technology directorate

"I'm honored to be a part of a committee of this caliber," Army Spc. Kevyn Coleman said. "This is definitely an assignment to talk about years from now. In my personal opinion, I don't think that I have ever had a better assignment."

The 2009 inauguration is the 56th in which the military has played a role in welcoming the incoming commander in chief. During the first, in April 1789, U.S. Army, local militia units and Revolutionary War veterans escorted George Washington to his inaugural ceremony at New York City's Federal Hall.

## 8 Airmen get Articles 15

Legal office

Eight Keesler Airmen received Article 15 punishments for alcohol-related offenses in November.

**332nd Training**

**Squadron** — an airman first class received a forfeiture of \$754 pay for one month for consumption of alcohol in the permanent party dormitory and being drunk on station. Another airman first class received a reduction in rank to airman basic and received 10 extra duty days for exiting the base while in nonprior student phase program and providing alcohol to underage individuals. The 10 extra duty days were suspended for six months on condition of good behavior. An airman basic received 10 extra duty days and a forfeiture of \$673 for two months for allowing other NPS airmen to have parties in his off-base apartment and for underage drinking.

**335th TRS** — an airman received a reduction in rank to airman basic and a forfeiture of \$673 pay for underage consumption of alcohol and wrongful use of Oxycodone. An airman basic received 30 days correctional custody and a forfeiture of \$673 pay for two months for allowing this airman to use his driver's license to purchase alcohol.

**336th TRS** — an airman first class was reduced to airman basic and forfeited \$673 for two months for underage drinking at off-base hotels on two occasions. The reduction to airman basic and one month of pay forfeiture was suspended for six months, pending good behavior. Another airman basic was reduced to airman and forfeited \$673 for one month, the reduction in rank being suspended for six months, for underage drinking at an off-base hotel on one occasion.

No courts-martial were convened in November.

## DRAGON OF THE WEEK

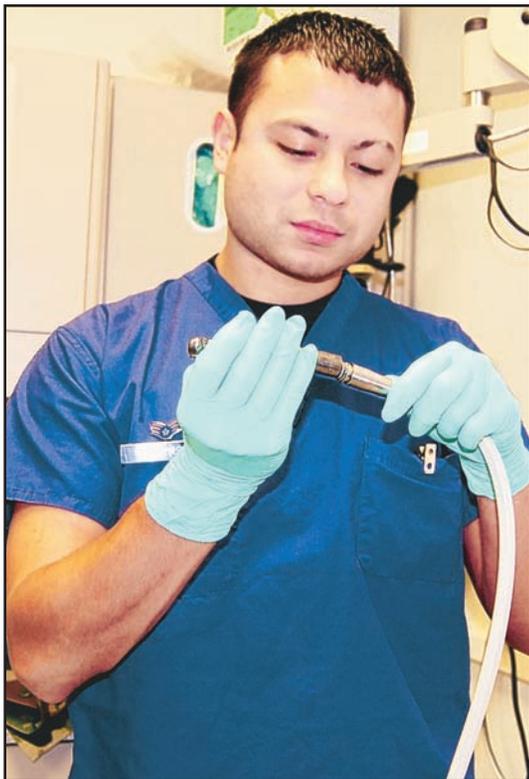


Photo by Steve Pivnick

**Name** — Senior Airman Jacob Broersma

**Unit** — 81st Dental Squadron

**Position** — endodontic technician

**Time in Air Force** — five years

**Time at Keesler** — 10 months

**Hometown** — Myrtle Beach, S.C.

**Noteworthy** — he's recognized as a dedicated wingman always willing to help fellow Airmen. Squadron leaders say he often works through lunch and after duty hours to meet patient care needs and demonstrates true meaning of teamwork as a great asset to the unit.

**Why did you join the Air Force?** —for educational benefits and an opportunity to serve my country

**What are your goals?** short term, to graduate with a Community College of the Air Force degree; long term, to receive a degree in advertising.

**What's your favorite quote?** "Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

**What are your hobbies?** sports and listening to music.

Energy conservation  
is everyone's  
responsibility.

## DIAMOND NOTES

Senior noncommissioned officers wear shoulder mark (boards) rank insignia on the pullover sweater and cardigan.

All other enlisted members wear metal rank insignia.



Master Sgt. Rogers Trahan, 81st Medical Support Squadron Squadron first sergeant

## MEMORABLE MOMENTS



### Early 1956

Keesler entered the missile age by opening a ground support training program for the SM-65 Atlas Intercontinental Ballistic Missile.

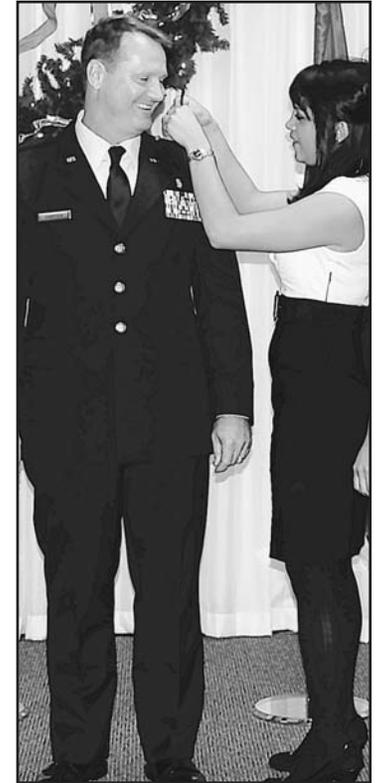


Photo by Steve Pivnick  
Elise Garrison, 19, pins colonel rank on her father's service dress uniform as Col. David Garrison, 81st Medical Group medical center administrator, assumed his new grade Dec. 1. His wife, Mary, and daughters Caroline, 21, and Jordan, 17, also participated in the ceremony at the Dragon's Lair in Locker House. Keesler was the colonel's first assignment as a medical administrative specialist when he arrived at Keesler as an airman basic 29 years ago. Back then, Locker House was his dormitory and the Dragon's Lair was the dining facility. Colonel Garrison served three enlisted assignments before receiving a direct commission as a Medical Service Corps officer in 1987. He returned to Keesler Medical Center in 2001 and was assigned to the 81st Medical Support Squadron until June 2004. He's been in his current position since arriving for his third Keesler tour last June.

# Child care in base housing must be licensed

By Earlene Smith

81st Force Support Squadron

People living in base housing who care for children in their homes could be breaking the rules.

Air Force Instruction 34-276, which governs day care in on-base quarters, states “any individuals caring for children more than 10 hours a week on a regular basis must get approval.”

It states that the “installation commander may revoke the housing privileges of individuals who provide child care but refuse to become licensed or who continue to provide care after their license has been suspended or revoked.”

The rule applies whether or not care-

givers are compensated for their services.

“We feel people living in base housing, who regularly care for children without being licensed, may be unaware of the regulation,” said Mary Pleasant, family childcare program coordinator. “We want not only to bring the information to their attention, but to educate them on the alternative — to become a licensed family child care provider.”

Licenses are granted by the 81st Mission Support Group commander, usually within 30 days upon completion of the initial FCC provider training, background screenings and home inspections.

The training includes child guidance, play environments, nutrition, ages and stages of development, child abuse and neglect,

recordkeeping, business management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid.

“FCC providers are professionals trained to give the best possible care to the children left in their charge,” said Ms. Pleasant.

Once licensed, providers may care for children from 2 weeks through 12 years old assistance from the FCC staff in setting up their home and have access to an extensive library for toys, equipment and materials which help keep costs down. They may set up their own hours of operation and fee structure.

For more information, call 377-3189, 377-5934 or 377-5935, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

**Fail  
to  
prepare?  
Prepare  
to  
fail.**

**Volunteer  
—  
get  
connected.**



## Bye-bye, books

Airman 1st Class Tina Jarunik, 81st Medical Support Squadron medical logistics flight, secures one of 29 containers filled with medical library books and journals for shipment to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office. Last month, nine Airmen provided through the 81st Training Support Squadron spent six hours loading the 11,160 books and 446 journals valued at almost \$678,000. Keesler Medical Center's medical library didn't reopen after Hurricane Katrina hit the base in August 2005 and officially closed in October.

Photo by Steve Pivnick

E-mail =  
global communications.  
Use it securely.



**U.S. AIR FORCE**  
**EagleEyes**  
WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.

A 3-5 minute  
steady tone  
on the  
base siren  
is a  
**TORNADO  
WARNING.**  
Take cover!

## Honoring Old Glory

Cowboys stand at attention as the Keesler Honor Guard presents the American flag during the playing of the National Anthem at Saturday's Championship Bull Riding competition at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum in Biloxi.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



# Free preparation, filing offered by base tax office

By Richard Brock and Richard Ess

### Legal office

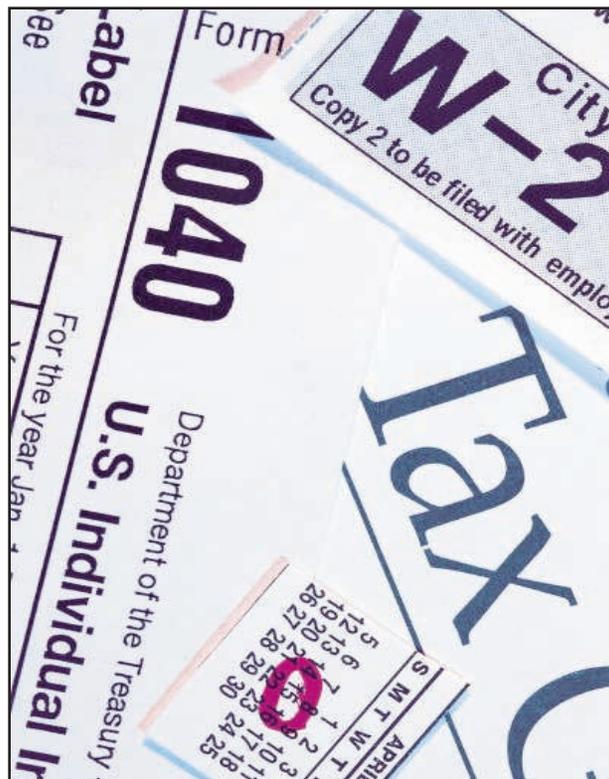
Keesler's tax office is gearing up for another busy season in Room 229, Sablich Center.

Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and working Fridays.

According to the IRS, the average person spends more than \$200 to have their taxes prepared and filed, but at the base tax office, staffed by a manager and trained volunteers, tax returns are prepared and filed free of charge. This service is primarily intended for military members of every service, their dependents and Keesler's retiree community, but is available to anyone with a Department of Defense identification card.

Training of military and civilian employees as Volunteer Income Tax Assistance representatives takes place 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday through Sunday in the Sablich Center Auditorium. The goal is to have at least one VITA representative in every unit on base. Most VITA representatives work from their own computers at their work stations, but some assist customers at the tax office.

The Internal Revenue Service has requested that the base tax office highlight the Earned Income Tax Credit and has designated Jan. 30 as National EITC Awareness Day. This refundable tax credit is paid to people who work, but don't have a high income. It helps lift millions of workers above the poverty line, putting more than \$43 billion in the hands of 22 mil-



lion low to moderate income wage workers, according to the IRS.

People don't have to have children to qualify for EITC, but families with one or more children receive a greater credit than a single worker without

children. In 2008, the maximum for a family with two or more children is \$4,824. Last year among those assisted at the Keesler tax office, the average client who was eligible for the credit received more than \$1,500.

To qualify, taxpayers must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if they didn't earn enough money to be obligated to file a tax return.

Special rules apply to military members. If all of the non-taxed pay allowances a military member receives were included, such as the food and housing allowances, most military members wouldn't qualify for the credit. However, these non-taxed military allowances aren't counted as earned income. Additionally, military members who received non-taxable combat pay can choose to either include or exclude their combat pay when figuring the amount of the credit, whichever results in a higher credit. This makes it easier for military members to qualify.

The EITC has no effect on certain welfare benefits. In most cases, EITC payments won't be used to determine eligibility for Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, food stamps, low-income housing or most Temporary Assistance for Needy Families payments.

If you qualify to claim EITC on your federal income tax return, you also may be eligible for a similar credit on your state or local income tax return. Although Mississippi doesn't offer an EITC, 22 other states, including Louisiana, do.

For more information, call the tax office, 376-8141.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Darnell Cannady

Senior Airman Cara Montgomery watches the monitor as Senior Airman Brittney Hardrick controls a camera so Dr. (Maj.) Craig Kolasch, general surgeon, can see inside a patient during a laparoscopic hernia repair. Airman Montgomery is a surgical technician from the 81st Surgical Operations Squadron and Airman Hardrick is a cardiopulmonary techni-

cian from the 81st Medical Operations Squadron. Along with Maj. Rochelle Haynes, an operating room nurse from the 81st MSGS, the Keesler medics are deployed with the 379th Expeditionary Medical Group in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

## Medics return injured warfighters to the fight

By Senior Airman Clinton Atkins

379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — With precision-guided instrumentation and steady hands, a surgical team here is returning injured warfighters to the fight.

Dr. (Maj.) Daniel Todd Rose, orthopedic surgeon, and Dr. (Maj.) Craig Kolasch, general surgeon, both with the 379th Expeditionary Medical Group, handle most of the minor surgeries and injuries in the area of responsibility.

Major Rose is deployed from Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., and Major Kolasch is deployed from Keesler.

“What we do here is very important,” said Major Rose. “Almost every service member who doesn’t receive care here would most likely be going back to the U.S. or Landstuhl (Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany). Once they are in the U.S. they’re not coming back.

“Our primary goal is to return people back to duty,” he continued.

“Every person you can return to duty is a person you don’t have to pull from the U.S.”

Between orthopedic and general surgery, the two doctors have performed more than 153 surgeries and conducted more than 360 appointments since September. More than 95 percent of the surgical patients have successfully reintegrated back into their deployed jobs to continue their contribution in the war effort. More than 80 percent of the surgical patients are Army.

“We have a steady stream of patients coming here because we accept them from all of the different forward operating bases, but they’re all smaller, manageable cases,” Major Rose said.

Labeled as the primary location in the area of responsibility to perform surgery and rehabilitate service members with minor injuries, the majority of forward deployed physicians contact the doctors here to devise plans

for appropriate medical care.

“We’re an alternative route to provide care for troops instead of sending them outside of the AOR,” he said. “We also treat all of the minor injuries of people here and at (a nearby Army base).

“The services we provide here free up space at Landstuhl for people who are more critically injured and it saves the medivacs from making costly flights to and from Germany,” Major Rose said.

The type of injuries orthopedics commonly see are ring avulsions, knees, crushed hands, severe ankle sprains and fractures.

“If it’s a large bone, we tend to send the patient back to the U.S.,” he said. “We also take care of almost all sports injuries.”

For general surgery, it’s mostly hernias. What’s concerning is that general surgery has seen more than 90 cases and most of them are young.

“It’s an interesting phenomenon

because back home young people don’t generally develop hernias, but the guys we are seeing here are anywhere from 19 to 26 years old and we’re seeing a steady flow of them,” Major Kolasch pointed out. “Guys out in the field do a lot of lifting and wear their gear every day. If someone could solve the problem it would put us out of business, but that would be a good thing.”

Major Kolasch sees a vast majority of the hernia cases in the AOR because the procedures he is able to perform here are less invasive and cause less pain, he said.

“Usually, hernia surgeries can take four to six weeks in recovery time, but we (perform laparoscopic procedures) here and get them back to their (forward operating bases) within two weeks and they’re (fully functional) by four weeks,” Major Kolasch said.

“It’s satisfying knowing people are getting back to their jobs and contributing to the war effort,” Major Rose said.

# On the hole: consequences of body piercing

By Lt. Col. (Dr.) Marcus Cranston

81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron

and Maj. (Dr.) Robert Holmes

81st Medical Operations Squadron

The practice of body piercing dates to the beginning of recorded history, but remains a common practice today. It's important to understand the risks of piercing before having it done.

The earlobe has been a common site for body piercing in the U.S., but increasingly piercing is performed at other sites including the hard cartilage of the upper ear, eyebrows, nose, lips, tongue, belly button, nipples and genitals.

The problems that arise from piercing range from local skin infection, pain and bleeding to chronic liver infection, severe infection of the whole body and permanent nerve damage, to name a few. Tuberculosis, leprosy and tetanus all have been transmitted from piercings.

Complications can be different for different sites.

Ear piercing is frequently complicated by local infection which may become severe.

Tongue piercings are unique because they penetrate a muscle rather than skin; may swell for several days making talking, eating and even breathing difficult; and take up to several months to heal.

Tongue and lip piercings may chip teeth and damage gums — yours or your partner's — and jewelry can be accidentally swallowed.



Belly button piercing usually takes the longest time to heal — up to a year or more — probably due to perspiration and irritation from clothing.

Genital piercing may cause problems with sexual function for either gender, may injure your partner and can allow you to more easily acquire or transmit HIV, viral hepatitis or other infections.

Piercings in the webbing between fingers and the skin of the chest wall are often rejected or grow out of the skin quickly.

Scarring, sometimes disfiguring, can occur at any site, particularly if the piercing is done poorly or the site has become infected.

Whole-body infections are some of the most feared complications, because once the infection gets into your bloodstream it can cause tremendous damage to your bones, heart, brain or simply lead to organ shutdown and death. Piercings have been known to cause heart infection and from there spread to any area where the heart supplies blood, like the brain, spleen, eyes, bones and joints.

No matter why you choose to undergo piercing, and whether you intend your piercing to be temporary or permanent, it is essential that you carefully select both the body site and quality of jewelry you'll use and consider the potential risks.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that you “go to a licensed facility and take time to discuss the safety procedures with the artists working at the shop. They should explain the process and clarify what they do to keep everyone safe and healthy by using sterile needles and razors, washing hands, wearing gloves and keeping surfaces clean.”

In addition, your medical provider can help to explain the risks related to body piercing and should be notified immediately if you suspect a complication after a piercing.

For more information, contact your primary care provider or search Medline Plus from the general health tab at <https://www.tricareonline.com/welcome.do>

Road rage is a recipe for disaster.

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News,  
377-4130,  
377-3837  
or  
377-9966.

Shortcuts cut life short — be safe!

## Web initiative streamlines overseas outprocessing

### Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Force Personnel Center officials have introduced an initiative that will streamline final processing for Airmen retiring or separating from overseas areas.

With this change, additional travel to a separation processing base is no longer required.

The new procedure is part of Air Force leadership's ongoing commitment to personnel services delivery transformation.

“By centralizing the retirement and separation procedures at AFPC, Airmen no longer have to travel stateside to conduct final outprocessing actions,” said Ann Lacey, the center's retirement procedures section manager. “They can take care of most of those check-out tasks at various base organizations and by taking advantage of the virtual MPF.

By using the virtual Military Personnel Flight, active-duty Airmen who are located at an overseas location and retiring or separating on or after Jan. 1, 2009, can now complete all processing before leaving the overseas area or, if applicable, they can complete it by mail after arriving in the continental U.S.

For Guard and Reserve members, procedures for separating and retiring remain the same. See the virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve link at <http://www.afpc.af.mil/>.

With this initiative, retiring Airmen can travel directly to their home of selection and separating members can travel directly to their home of record or to the place they entered active duty.

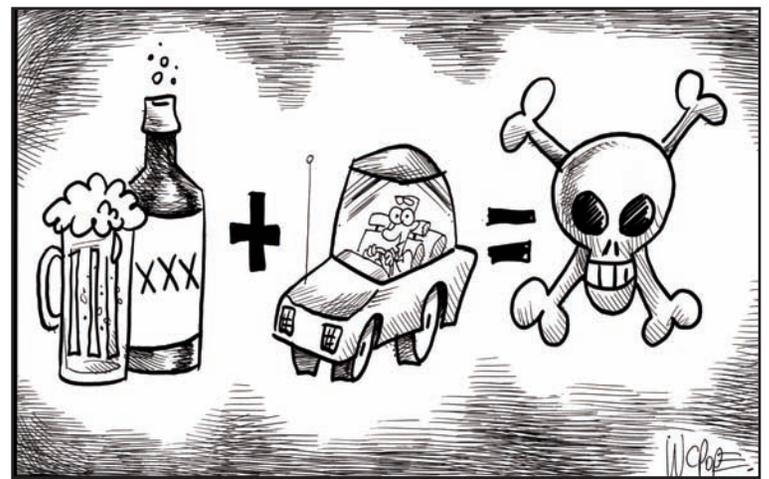
“This change will make things a lot easier for our Airmen overseas because they won't have to worry about making that additional stop,” Ms. Lacey said. “Also, with the convenience and accessibility of the virtual MPF, they can view and download retirement briefings, outprocessing checklists and other important documents from any location worldwide.”

Some rare cases, however, might still require the SPB option. Airmen at overseas locations where there are limited support facilities will have to conduct final outprocessing actions in the continental U.S.

The Air Force may also exempt individuals with hardships not common to other Air Force members or if travel to a SPB is determined to be in the best interest of the Air Force.

These SPB changes don't impact a member's entitlement to move household goods to a desired destination. Members should contact their local transportation management flight for details on shipping their household goods.

For more information, call the 24-hour Air Force Contact Center, 1-800-616-3775.



## Holiday donations for Fisher House

From left, Kelly Ross, Sirena George and Connie Ziz from Keesler Federal Credit Union's Larcher Branch give Larry Vetter, Fisher House director, household products collected by KFCU employees. The donation also included a \$250 gift certificate. Fisher House provides a home away from home for families of patients undergoing treatment at Keesler Medical Center and the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



## KEESLER NOTES

### Help for assault victims

Jan. 15 is the deadline to donate to the sexual assault prevention and response program's book bag drive for the Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence.

Each bag has a new set of clothing to give to sexual assault victims after a forensic exam at an area hospital. Sweat pants, T-shirts, flip flops, sports bras ranging in size from small to extra-extra large and monetary donations are needed.

Drop off items at the SAPR office on the third floor of Locker House, using the stairs closest to the intersection of Third and D streets.

For more information, call 377-8635 or 7278.

### Heart Link

Heart Link, an orientation program for spouses with less than five years of Air Force affiliation, is Feb. 19 in Room 108A, Sablich Center.

Heart Link increases awareness of the Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocols and base and community resources and services.

Lunch and giveaways are provided. Limited child care is available.

To register, call the airman and family readiness center, 376-8728.

### Airman's Attic

The Top III is looking for volunteers to support Airman's Attic, a program that assists junior enlisted members with free basic household supplies.

Airman's Attic, in the former chapel building adjacent to Sablich Center, is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays and 3-6 p.m. Wednesdays when enough volunteers are available.

The program also needs donations in good condition and volunteers with trucks to assist with occasional pickups.

For more information, call 377-3814 or 7801.

### Multimedia services

For information on multimedia products and services available at Wall Studio, call 377-2793 or 4636.

### Housing maintenance

The new phone numbers for family housing maintenance service calls are 377-5561, 5562 and 5563.

## KaBOOM!



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airman 1st Class Shacoya Pittman, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, was one of the volunteers who worked on a new KaBOOM! playground behind D'Iberville Elementary School Dec. 19. KaBOOM!, a national non-profit organization that empowers communities to build playgrounds, has coordinated the construction of more than 100 community playgrounds along the Mississippi Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina destroyed many of the area's recreational facilities more than three years ago.



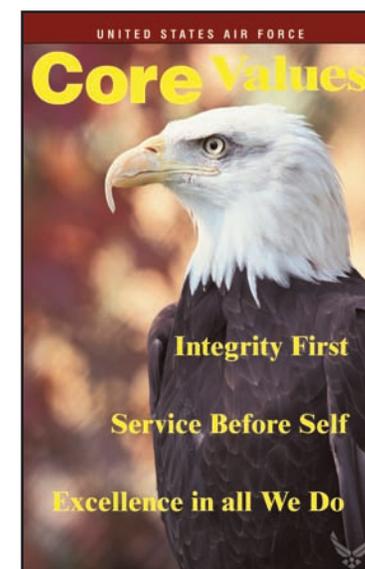
## Thunderbirds set their sights on Keesler show

Col. Christopher Valle, left, 81st Training Wing vice commander, discusses airfield safety requirements with Maj. Anthony Mulhare, advance pilot/narrator for the Air Force Demonstration Squadron Thunderbirds. Major Mulhare visited Keesler Dec. 16 to assess the base's ability to meet those requirements before the team's appearance at the base's Thunder on the Bay Air Show, April 4-5. Keesler is the Thunderbirds' third stop this year, with more than 73 performances planned in the U.S., Europe and the Far East.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

More news and photos on the Web  
at <http://www.keesler.af.mil>

The Keesler Thrift Shop,  
in the former chapel building adjacent to Sablich Center,  
is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.  
Consignments are accepted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays.  
Donations are accepted during regular hours.  
For more information, call 377-3217.



## Air Force names Pounds top female athlete of year

**Air Force Print News**

SAN ANTONIO — Former Air Force track and field standout Dana Pounds was named the 2008 Female Athlete of the Year.

Pounds, who spent the past two years as a member of the World Class Athlete Program, finished second at the Olympic Trials in June.

During 2008, Pounds came in second at the U.S. Olympic Trials, narrowly missing a berth at the Olympic Games in Beijing. She also won the Oregon Invitational, defeating the American record-holder for the third time. She currently is ranked second in the nation and 34th in the world in the javelin.

In addition to her competitive schedule in 2008, Pounds worked as a volunteer WCAP coach at the Air Force Academy. Of the 12 cadet-athletes she worked with, seven placed at the Mountain West Conference championships.

“The Air Force provided me with an opportunity with the WCAP that allowed me to focus on my training and it was an opportunity that can’t be



Air Force photo

**Pounds is a product of the World Class Athlete Program.**

matched,” Pounds said. “(Being named Female Athlete of the Year) is an extreme honor that I will cherish forever.”

Pounds currently is stationed at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, with the 538 Aircraft Sustainment Group.

## Falcons fall in bowl game, 34-28

**By John Van Winkle**

**Air Force Academy Public Affairs**

FORT WORTH, Texas — A record-setting ground game couldn’t help the Air Force Academy Falcons overcome early mistakes, as the University of Houston Cougars downed the Air Force 34-28 in the Armed Forces Bowl Dec. 31.

The Falcons set an Armed Forces Bowl record for yards rushed, grinding out 243 yards on 67 carries, led by Jared Tew. The sophomore fullback, the game’s most valuable player, carried 27 times for 149 yards and two touchdowns.

“A win would’ve been better,” Tew said. “After the first half, the linebackers were look-

ing at me and reading what I was doing. We’ll need to expand the offense more to do better next season.”

“As you go into a game, your mistakes have to be close to zero,” said Air Force head football coach Troy Calhoun. “You’ve got to perform at a different level and we’ve got to get to that level. Going into this game, I thought we’d have to play very crisp and faster than we had all season long. We didn’t do that today. You just have to take advantage of every single opportunity and we didn’t do that.”

The focus for the Falcons now turns to next season. Calhoun said the future is promising for a team that surpassed expectations during a rebuilding year by earning a 8-4 regular season finish and a bowl appearance.

# For happy hunting, keep safety in mind

## Safety office

Mississippi's gun-hunting season for various types of small game is during the fall and winter months.

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks offers free hunter education classes. Everyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1972 is required to complete the classes before purchasing a Mississippi hunting license.

For more information on class dates and times, call the hunter education office, 1-800-354-5033.

For hunters who've completed the course, here are some firearms safety reminders:

**Treat** every firearm with the same respect due a loaded firearm.

**Control** the direction of your firearm's muzzle. Carry your gun safely, keeping the safety on until ready to shoot.

**Identify** your target and what's beyond it.

**Know** the identifying features of the game you hunt.

**Be sure** the barrel and action are clear of obstructions and that you have ammunition of the proper size for the firearm you carry.

**Unload** guns when not in use. Leave the action open.

**Carry** firearms empty in cases to and from shooting areas.

**Never** point a gun at anything you don't intend to shoot. Almost 95 percent of the people shot in hunting accidents were within six feet of the person who shot them.

**Avoid** all horseplay with firearms.

**Never** climb a fence or tree, jump a ditch or log with a loaded firearm.

**Never** pull a gun toward you with a muzzle.

**Never** shoot a bullet at a flat, hard surface or water. During target practice, be sure your backstop is adequate.

**Store** firearms and ammunition separately, beyond the reach of children and careless adults.

**Avoid** alcoholic beverages or other mood-altering drugs before or after shooting.

**Never** pick up or accept a gun from anyone unless you can visually determine it's unloaded. If you don't know how to check the weapon, don't handle it until you learn.

## SCORES AND MORE

### Basketball

#### SEMAC varsity

**Saturday** — Keesler hosts varsity teams from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., at Blake Fitness Center.

The women's teams play at 2 p.m. and the men face off at 4.

For more information, call Sam Miller, 377-2444.

#### Intramural Eastern Division

##### Games at Blake Fitness Center.

**Monday** — 6 p.m., 338th TRS vs. 335th TRS; 7 p.m., 81st FSS vs. 81st DS; 8 p.m., 85th EIS vs. 403rd Wing.

**Wednesday** — 6 p.m., 81st MDG vs. 335th TRS; 7 p.m., 81st MDSS vs. 81st DS; 8 p.m., 338th TRS vs. 403rd Wing.

#### Intramural Western Division

##### Games at Blake Fitness Center.

**Today** — 6 p.m., 81st SFS vs. 332nd TRS; 7 p.m., 81st CS vs. MK Island; 8 p.m., Truxtun vs. 81st LRS.

**Tuesday** — 6 p.m., 81st CES vs. 332nd TRS; 7 p.m., MARDET vs. MK Island; 8 p.m., 81st CS vs. 81st SFS.

#### Intramural Western Division

##### Games at Dragon Fitness Center.

**Monday** — 11 a.m., 81st LRS vs. 81st FSS-A; noon, 81st CES vs. 81st TRSS.

**Wednesday** — 11 a.m., 81st SFS vs. 81st FSS-A; noon, 81st LRS vs. 335th TRS.

### Bowling

#### Open Sundays — 1-6 p.m.

**Registration** — continues for Keesler Youth Bowling Association at Gaudé Lanes. Any child old enough to throw the bowling ball down the alley is eligible. League meets 9:30 a.m. Saturdays. Instruction available. For more information, including fees, call 377-2817.

**Glow bowling** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, \$1 per game and \$1 for shoes; 9 p.m. Fridays, 7 p.m. Saturdays, \$5.50 adults, \$3.50 ages 17 and younger, including shoes.

**Lunch and bowl special** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. Bowl for \$1 a game plus \$1 for shoes.

**Team building special** — 1-5 p.m. weekdays. Bring your employees bowling for \$1 a game plus shoe rental. For reservations, call 377-2817.

**Open bowling** — limited on league days; first come, first served. Reservations accepted with groups of 20 or more. Discounts available with groups of 25 or more.

**Club member special** — show current club card Thursdays and bowl for \$1.50 per game; free shoe rental.

**Birthday party package** — 1:30-3 p.m. or 3:30-5 p.m. Saturdays. Basic party with bowling and food \$8.95 per child. Mid party, including table supply and T-shirt, \$11.95 per child. Premium party with games and a pin, \$15.95 per child. Reservations required.

### Fitness centers

**Free fitness classes** — yoga, step aerobics, turbo-core, spin/cycle, boxing workout and fencing at Dragon Fitness Center. For more information, call 377-2907.

**Boxing room** — Triangle Fitness Center. Three speed bags and two heavy bags. Sign out gloves at the counter.

**Computerized fitness assessments, counseling** — available by appointment at Dragon Fitness Center. To schedule, call 377-2907.

**Massage appointments** — at Triangle Fitness Center, call 263-5515.

**Wall of Fame** — powerlifting event, 1-4 p.m. first compressed work schedule Friday each month, Triangle Fitness Center. Squat, bench press and dead lift; one attempt in any or all three events; 12 weight classes for men, 10 for women. Set record for most pounds lifted or break an existing record and get your picture on the wall. Open to all Defense Department personnel 18 years of age and older.

For more information, call 377-3056.

**Triangle Fitness Center** — open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays and weekends; closed holidays. For more information, call 377-3056.

**Blake Fitness Center** — open 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends and holidays.

**Dragon Fitness Center** — 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays. Parent-child fitness room has workout equipment and play area for ages 6 months to 7 years.

### Golf

**Couples/coed golf event** — 2 p.m., Jan. 17. Nine-hole select shot. Sign up by Jan. 14. Members \$15, nonmembers \$20 for greens fee, cart, food, beverage and prizes.

**Active-duty military/spouse special** — couples playing golf together pay one regular fee; second fee is half price. Special is good through January.

**Nonprior service student special** — show phase card or UBU card. Greens fee and cart, \$15 for 18 holes, \$10 for nine holes. Greens fee, cart and rental clubs, \$20 for 18 holes, \$15 for nine holes.

**Free golf clinics for nonprior service students** — noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday and Jan. 17, 23 and 24. Sign up at pro shop, 377-3832. Maximum 10 people per session.

**New driving range open** — 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Yardage markers are accurate and measured from the hitting mats. Bucket of balls \$2.

**Twilight golf special** — 2 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays. Pay nine-hole fee and golf until course closes.

**Golf lessons** — \$25 for 30 minutes. For appointment, call 424-0479.

**Course and pro shop** — 7 a.m.

to dusk daily. For tee times, call 377-3832.

### Outdoor recreation

**10 percent discount** — on all rental equipment.

**Children's wildlife poster contest** — submit original poster by the end of January depicting any kind of wildlife. First place wins \$100 savings bond, second place \$50 bond.

**Rental campers** — \$50 day. Two available; one sleeps six, one sleeps eight. For more information and towing requirements, call 377-3160.

**Fish of the month** — weigh in the largest catfish during January and win \$100 savings bond; minimum three participants.

**One-day fishing trips** — to Horn, Ship or Cat Islands; pick the date. Charter trip in Delacroix and Reggio, La. with professional fishing guide. For more information, call 377-3160.

**Camping packages** — for rent include sleeping bags, lanterns, camp stoves and tents. For more information, call 377-3160.

**RV, boat and trailer storage** — \$20 per month.

**Delacroix, La. fishing site** — two self-contained trailers for rent, \$50 per night. Maximum four per trailer. Bring linens and cooking utensils. Louisiana fishing license required.

**Pontoon boat training** — to rent a pontoon you must take a test and be certified. Call for information.

**Bicycles for rent** — 3500 Trek seven-speed bikes, \$3 day, \$15 week.

**Wet slip fees** — monthly, boats more than 32 feet, \$3.75 per foot; less than 32 feet, \$2.50 per foot. Overnight, \$5 per boat.

**Deep sea fishing trips** — compressed work schedule Fridays and Sundays on the Keesler Dolphin II. \$75 per person includes everything you need to fish. Payment due upon reservation. Minimum 15, maximum 22 people. For reservation, call 377-3160.

**Deep sea fishing private charter** — rent Dolphin II, \$850 for first six people, \$60 each additional person. \$350 deposit required.

**Back Bay cruiser** — 17-foot vessel for rent. Mississippi boater registration card required. For prices, call 377-3160.

**Marina park pavilions** — to reserve, call 377-3160.

**Disk golf** — distance, fairway, multi-purpose, putt and approach disks for sale or rent.

**Resale area** — snacks, beverages, fishing and rental equipment, hunting and fishing licenses.

**Paintball course** — open by reservation only; for reservations or more information, call 377-3160.

### Softball

**Women's varsity team** — coaches needed. For more information, call Sam Miller, 377-2444.

### Sports council

**Meeting** — 3:30 p.m. Jan. 21, Vandenberg Community Center.



## GRADUATIONS

### Mathies NCO Academy Class 09-1

**81st Communications Squadron** — Tech. Sgt. Fernando Duque.

**81st Force Support Squadron** — Tech. Sgt. Yancy Culver.

**81st Medical Operations Squadron** — Tech. Sgt. Sharon Schneider.

**81st Medical Support Squadron** — Tech. Sgt. Leonardo Garza.

**81st Security Forces Squadron** — Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Thatcher.

**81st Training Wing** — Tech. Sgt. Dennis Brigman.

**85th Engineering Installation Squadron** — Tech. Sgt. John Weimer.

**333rd TRS** — Tech. Sgts. Joel Peebles, Tonya Santiago and Kathrine Voirol (class first sergeant).

**334th TRS** — Tech. Sgt. Michael White.

**335th TRS** — Tech. Sgt. Jennifer DesJardin.

**338th TRS** — Tech. Sgt. Todd Gay.

### Airman Leadership School Class 09-1

**81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron** — Senior Airman Ambree Evans.

**81st Dental Squadron** — Senior Airmen Hilary Gaskin, Heather Ide and Clennon Turner.

**81st Force Support Squadron** — Senior Airman Anetria Singleton.

**81st Inpatient Operations Squadron** — Senior Airmen Dimaris Moore and Jessica Rowe.

**81st Logistics Readiness Squadron** — Senior Airman Kendall Denson.

**81st Medical Operations Squadron** — Senior Airmen Christian Alarcon, Katrina Lockhart, Julien Martinez, Capri Shand and Shaquanda Sullivan.

**81st Medical Support Squadron** — Senior Airman Shannon Kabling.

**81st Operations Support Flight** — Senior Airman Leroy Simmons.

**81st Surgical Operations Squadron** — Senior Airman Gabriel Muller (academic achievement award).

**85th Engineering Installation Squadron** — Senior Airman Curtis Winfrey.

**333rd Training Squadron** — Senior Airman Kathrine Voirol (class first sergeant).

**334th TRS** — Senior Airmen Kerry Gaubault (distinguished graduate), Stormi Ramirez, Tiffany Thompson and Shakeitha Tischler (commandant's leadership award).

**338th TRS** — Senior Airman Ashley Klejmont (class commander) and Ryan Cartmel (John Levitow Award).

## HONORS

### Student honor roll

#### 332nd Training Squadron

**Electronic principles** — Airmen Basic Nicholas Aaseng, Giovanni Barnett, Jarriott Bennett, Peter Benskotarsitano, Kurt Breckenridge, Brandon Brown, Diego Chacon, Lance Chunn, Lee Cink, Gale Clary, Frederick Cooper, Kyle Daughtery, Ricardo DeLaCruz, Nathaniel Ernst, Matthew Fitzgerald, Christopher Floyd, Taylor Fuller, Jordan Ghunaym, Tyler Goeke, Grant Halazon, Darold Hatcher, Chad Heimbecker, Jordan Howell, Craig Hunt, Brad Jacobs, Spencer Jett, Gregory Kelloff, Antonio Labella, Jeremy LeBlanc, Travis Mason, Kristen McKibben, Michael McNeill, Darrien Moody, Matthew Morgan, Vincent Mosby, Edward Mitchell, Steven Mox, James Owen, Don Price, Victoria Rhyner, Chad Rinderer, Patrick Sebay, Ryan Swiderski, Seth Taborbelland, Marcos Tapia, Garrett Tolley and Riley Wendt; Airmen Robert Debone, Matthew Dry, Jeremy Earl, Michael Goda, Michael Harrold, Bryan Horn, Michael Koenig, Westley Latina, Dallas Maltby, Timothy Manuel, Justin McCormick, Michael McHam, Ryan McKee, Kristofferson Nunez, Joseph Pena, Michael Reyes, Christopher Sisney and Laura Wittenberg; Airmen 1st Class Scott Bailey, Victor Baillif, Christopher Barnes, Joseph Barnett,

Jeffrey Birchenough, David Blake, Marcone Cangussu, Lori D'Entremont, John Derby, Mitchell Forde, Nicholas Garrison, Kyle Greene, Matthew Grove, Monte Hall, James Hamilton, Robert Hockenhull, Robert Hollar, Jeffrey Hughes, Michael Ingram, Alexander Johnson, Nathaniel Johnson, Shanan Kellems, Zachary Knott, Melissa LaFollette, Steven LaFollette, Crystal Lathrop, Eric Livesay, Jared Lucci, Christopher Maryinuk, John McConnell, Asa McQueen, Aron Mooney, Christopher Murphy, Robert Myrick, Daniel Nichols, Brandon Novenario, Denitra Parcell, Kelsey Parker, Cody Perna, Allan Ramirez, Nathan Reese, Richard Roggensack, David Salinas, Bradford Schroeder, Robert Schroeder, Raymond Shaw, Nolan Short, Christopher Speicher, Andrew Vang and Randall Winchester; Daniel Ortiz and Robert Zuber; Pfc. Pedro Carrillo; Senior Airmen Justin Apple, James Bitts, Rachel Chamberland, Kevin Fowler, Brian Houck, Kristen Montano, Irving Ruiz-Lopez, Steven Salinas and Alex Szwet; Staff Sgts. Mark Brizzi, Blake Haynes, Roger Jones, Carl Misko, James Taylor and Robert Walker; Tech. Sgts. James Moore and Benjamin Smith; Master Sgts. Paul Gunnoe and Christopher Randall; Senior Master Sgt Donald Miller; Raymond Klinger.

**Metrology basic course** — Airmen Basic Aaron Etheridge, Matthew Harrington and Chad Honeycutt; Airman Ryan Fox.

#### 334th TRS

**Air traffic control operations training flight** — Airmen Basic Jedediah Bickham, Jesse Byers, Alex Donovan, James Guitard, Joshua Kujawa, Mario Leary, Alan Mitchell, James Mackmer and Christopher Mortensen; Airman Justin McWhite; Airmen 1st Class Andrew Parla, Jeffery Principe and John Tullus; Staff Sgts. Daniel Baracosa, Raymond Dempsey, Christopher Donaldson and Ryan Dougherty; Master Sgt Hyunsik Ji; 2nd Lt. Maitree Muangtong.

#### 335th TRS

**Comptroller training flight** — Airmen Basic Jon Candelario, James Hill, Zachariah Lowe, Sarat Luewongopas, Jedidiah Morris, Thomas Morris, Scott Proefrock and Williams Uriniuk; Airman Jonathon Tovey; Airmen 1st Class Akshay Botre, Joshua Cedeno, Yaohue Chen, Benjamin Debacco, Mercedes Fleming, Zachary Herrera and Katherine Smith; Staff Sgts. Latrell Ball, Edgardo Garcia, Anthony Pistella, Clifford Robison and Ryan Tovar; Tech. Sgts. Michael Herrell; Master Sgt. Diana Aragon.

## CHAPEL SERVICES

**Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2520.**

### Protestant

#### Sunday worship

Larcher Chapel traditional with children's ministry.....8:30 a.m.

Triangle Chapel contemporary service.....10:30 a.m.

Triangle Chapel gospel service.....Noon

### Roman Catholic

#### Sunday Mass

Triangle Chapel.....9 a.m.

#### Weekday Mass

Medical Center chapel.....11:15 a.m.

### Jewish

For worship opportunities, call Master Sgt. Michael Raff, 377-5235 or 273-2226.

### Islamic

**Building 2003** — prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jumma congregational prayer, noon Friday.

For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

### Latter-Day Saints

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints** — student group service, 2 p.m. Sundays, Triangle Chapel. For more information, call 396-5274 or 801-787-1990.

#### 338th TRS

**Ground radar** — Airman Basic Curtis Filkins; Airmen 1st Class Ryan Frankland, Casey Raynes and Michael White.

**Ground radio** — Airmen Basic Brandon Auwaerter, Michael Brokington, Nathaniel Dykstra, Joshua Ervin, Hamzah Khan, Kristofer Lee and Diana Smith; Airman Christina Johnson; Airman 1st Class Jeremy Coffman, Christopher Oshell and John Ward; Senior Airmen Gary Ervin and Tom Kwiczor; Tech. Sgts. Daniel Howard and Jason Kruenegel.

## CLASSES

### Airman Leadership School

**Class 09-2** — graduation Feb. 12.

### Mathies NCO Academy

**Class 09-2** — graduation Feb. 13.

### Airman and family readiness center

**Credit history seminar** — 9-10 a.m. Jan. 16, Room 108A, Sablich Center, conducted by Keesler Federal Credit Union. To register, call 376-8728.

**First-term officer financial seminar** — 10 a.m. to noon Jan. 27, Room 108A, Sablich Center. To register, call 376-8728.

### Arts and crafts center

**Scrapbook crop** — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday. \$5 including using shop tools and accessories.

**Thursday crafting** — 5-7:30 p.m. crafting pleasure, painting, pottery, scrapbooking.

**Scrapbook Christmas page design** — 5-7:30 p.m., Jan. 15. Bring your Christmas pictures and make a keepsake. \$20 includes materials for four pages.

**Jewelry making** — 10:30 a.m. to noon Jan. 24, Learn wire wrapping and tooling. \$30 including materials.

**Beginners pottery wheel** — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 17. \$40 includes clay, instruction and firing.

### Wood shop

**Beginners woodworking** — 5:15-7:30 p.m., Wednesday. \$25 including shop use, materials and certification for equipment use. Pre-registration required.

**Beginning intarsia** — 10 a.m. Jan. 17. \$15 including materials. Intarsia is the art of piecing wood in a decorative pattern.

**Advanced intarsia** — 10 a.m. Jan. 24. \$20 including all materials and tool use; new project each month.

### Framing

**Beginners framing** — one class, three sessions, Jan. 15, 22 and 29. \$60 including materials, shop use, instruction and shop use card. Call for time. Pre-registration required.

### Auto hobby shop

#### Open shop use.

**Vehicle storage lot** — for a secure place to store your vehicle, call 377-3872.

**Car care** — 24-hour coin-operated car wash, vacuum and tire air pump; features foamy brush wash, high pressure rinse, wax system, towelettes and Armorall, and a vacuum station.

### Vehicle resale lot

One block west of Larcher Boulevard on Tingle Street, north of the 81st Security Forces Squadron building; register at multi-craft shop, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Registration, license and proof of insurance required. \$10 per month per stall for regular vehicles, \$20 per month for recreational vehicles and boats.

### Tickets and trips

**Mardi Gras parades** — call for pricing and schedule of tours to upcoming parades in New Orleans and Mobile, Ala. Space limited.

# Digest,

from Page 25

## Chapel

All classes are held at the Triangle Chapel Annex. For more information, call 377-2520.

**Catholic religious education** — after 9 a.m. Sunday Mass.  
**Protestant Sunday School** — 10:30-11:30 a.m. for preschool, elementary, teens and adults.

**Men's prayer breakfast** — 9 a.m. to noon second Saturday of the month.

**Women's prayer breakfast** — 10 a.m. to noon first Saturday of the month.

**Tuesday Bible study** — 6-7:30 p.m. at the Haven.

**Dinner and the Bible** — 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Triangle Chapel Annex.

## Keesler Medical Center

### Pediatric subspecialty clinic

**Baby Boot Camp** — 11 a.m.-1 p.m. second Thursday of the month in conference room BF 400, located off the outpatient clinic entrance. Classes cover infants from birth to 6 months of age. Classes address common concerns of new parents such as booking appointments, colic, immunizations, safety, feeding issues, developmental milestones, dental care and infant cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Gifts, prizes and refreshments are included. Classes open to members of all branches of the military and their dependents. To sign up, call Capt. Romeatrius Moss, 376-5375. For more information, call Capt. Moss, Maj. Muriel Gatlin, 376-5387, or Staff Sgt. Jihan Brown, 376-5579.

### Mental health clinic

**Post-traumatic stress disorder** — 1:30 p.m. Mondays.

**Healthy thinking** — 2 p.m. Tuesdays.

**Stress management techniques** — 10 a.m. Wednesdays.

**Relaxation techniques** — 9 a.m. Mondays.

To register, call 376-0385.

## McBride Library

**Gale data base orientations** — 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

**Fax special** — 50 cents a page this month.

**Orientations for commanders, instructors and first sergeants** — 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

**Online catalog** — to search the inventory of books, DVDs, CDs, videotapes, magazines, periodicals and more, log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us>, click on the link for McBride Library, then the link for the online catalog.

**Available** — two large meeting rooms, audio room, typing room and children's library available.

**Wireless Internet** — information available at the front desk.

**Available for use** — children's library and meeting, audio and typing rooms.

**Free wireless Internet** — check at circulation desk.

**Tours/orientations** — call 377-2181.

## CLUBS AND CENTERS

### Vandenberg Community Center

**Editor's note:** All events, except dances, are open to all Keesler personnel.

**Free shuttle service** — 6-9:30 p.m. Thursdays before nonworking Fridays; 1-11 p.m. nonworking Fridays and Saturdays and 6-11 p.m. working Fridays. Also stops at Muse Manor, McBride Library, arts and crafts center, Tyer House, Gaude Lanes, outdoor recreation, Katrina Kantina and Bay Breeze Golf Course.

**Legends Café** — open 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 5-9 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 5-11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

**Pool tournaments** — 6 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays.

**Dances** — 6 p.m. to midnight Thursdays before compressed work schedule Fridays, and Fridays and Saturdays. \$3.

### Katrina Kantina

**All ranks invited** — open 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays. Snacks, beverages and music.

**Luncheon specials** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays; \$6 mem-

bers, \$8 nonmembers. For more information, call 377-2219.

**Tuesday special** — 5 p.m., red beans and rice, \$1 bowl.

**Karaoke** — 6-9 p.m. Jan. 22; DJ Wayne, drink specials.

**Catering** — experts can assist with planning weddings, holidays, birthdays, official functions and other special occasions.

## Youth center

**Editor's note:** All children registered in a youth center program receive free membership.

**Open recreation** — free and supervised, 3-7 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, ages 9 and older. Boys and Girls Club programs including computer media center, homework assistance "Power Hour" program, and triple-play sports and recreation activities. Students sign themselves in at the front desk.

**Operation Night Hoops for teens** — 7-10 p.m. Jan. 17. Great fun for basketball fans.

**Friday night fun** — 7-9 p.m. for ages 9 and older. Free skating music, games and more. \$5 cover charge for meals.

**Youth of the Year packets** — teens can pick up a packet now to participate in a lifetime achievement program. For more information, contact the youth center director.

**Youth center action council** — meets monthly. If you're interested in military youth programs and have a child age 6-18, call and join this focus group.

**Military home schoolers** — meet monthly at the youth center. For more information, call 377-4116.

**Power hour** — 4-6 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. Homework help and tutoring, ages 6-12. No charge for those registered in the youth program.

**Torch Club** — 6-7 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, ages 6-12. Focus on club and community service, education, athletics and fitness.

**TRAIL (Keystone Club)** — 6 p.m. Monday and Jan. 26; leadership club for teens with games, snacks and fun.

**Book collection** — drop off new and used children's books to be distributed to the Keesler Medical Center's pediatric clinic.

**Classes** — dance, gymnastics, karate, children's theater and guitar; \$50 month. Classes meet Saturday mornings; evening classes begin in March. For more information, call 377-4116.

**Youth employment service** — earn money for college tuition; call for more information.

**Congressional Award program** — ages 14-21; self-directed merit program promoting personal development, physical fitness and community involvement.

**Volunteers needed** — for sports, open recreation, crafts, cooking, computers, arts, reading, sewing and general cleaning and decorations. Must be 18 or older. For more information, call 377-4116.

## TRANSITIONS

### Workshops, briefings

**Congressionally-mandated pre-separation briefings** — counseling by airman and family readiness center for active-duty military members of any branch of service who'll receive honorable discharges and no extra transition benefits. Briefings are Thursdays in Room 111, Sablich Center, 1 p.m. for those who are separating and 2:30 p.m. for those who are retiring. Starting in January, the briefings move to Tuesdays instead of Thursdays. The briefing is held in Sablich Center, Room 111. If someone is separating/retiring under special circumstances, they can schedule an appointment by calling 376-8728.

**Transition assistance program** — briefings for 2009 are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Jan. 15, Feb. 9-12, March 9-12, April 13-16, May 11-14, June 8-11, July 13-16, Aug. 10-13, Sept. 14-17, Oct. 19-22, Nov. 16-19 and Dec. 14-17, Room 108A, Sablich Center. For military personnel who are 12 months or less from separation or 24 months or less from retirement, and Department of Defense civilians; spouses welcome. Military members should complete congressionally-mandated pre-separation counseling in advance. Attire is business casual — no uniforms, jeans, shorts or T-shirts. To sign up, call 376-8728.

**Air Force Reserve opportunities** — for members separating within 180 days, call Master Sgt. Charlene Morse, 377-7116; e-mail [charlene.morse@keesler.af.mil](mailto:charlene.morse@keesler.af.mil) or visit Room 125-F, Sablich Center.

**Palace Chase** — for information about how to apply for a program to attend college full time and work part time, visit Room 125-F, Sablich Center. For more information, call Master Sgt. Charlene Morse, 377-7116; e-mail [charlene.morse@keesler.af.mil](mailto:charlene.morse@keesler.af.mil) or visit Room 130, Sablich Center.

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## DINING HALL MENUS

### Thursday

**Lunch** — pork chops with mushroom gravy, braised liver with onions, fried fish, hush puppies, rissole potatoes, rice, gravy, broccoli, peas and carrots, corn, fruit salad, potato salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken chili, cheeseburger soup, buffalo wings and roast beef subs.

**Dinner** — baked chicken, pepper steak, pasta primavera, mashed potatoes, rice, gravy, mixed vegetables, fried okra, green beans, potato salad, fruit salad, cream of broccoli soup, cheeseburger soup, chicken chili, buffalo wings and roast beef subs.

### Friday

**Lunch** — shrimp scampi, beef stew, turkey, egg noodles, rice, gravy, corn on the cob, cauliflower, collard greens, three-bean salad, chicken and wild rice soup, French onion soup, chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

**Dinner** — chili macaroni, barbecue chicken, fried catfish, potato wedges, Spanish rice, gravy, fried cabbage, carrots, broccoli, pasta salad, three-bean salad, chicken and wild rice soup, French onion soup, chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

### Saturday

**Lunch** — baked chicken, Swedish meatballs, creole shrimp, mashed potatoes, rice, gravy, creamed corn, asparagus, steamed squash, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, clam chowder, chicken chili and chicken nuggets.

**Dinner** — baked fish, knockwurst, Chinese five-spice chicken, potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, stir-fry vegetables, baked beans, spinach, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, clam chowder, chili and chicken nuggets.

### Sunday

**Lunch** — oven fried fish, spareribs, chicken breast parmesan, macaroni and cheese, O'Brien potatoes, gravy, peas, sweet potatoes, broccoli combo, German coleslaw, tomato salad, chicken tortilla soup, baked potato chowder, chili and cheese pizza.

**Dinner** — stir-fry beef with broccoli, turkey nuggets, pork chop suey, sauteed mushrooms and onions, baked potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, corn on the cob, green beans, German coleslaw, tomato salad, chicken tortilla soup, baked potato chowder, chili and cheese pizza.

### Monday

**Lunch** — beef pot roast, baked stuffed fish, roast pork loin, potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, succotash, green beans, cucumber/onion salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone, chili with beans, grilled sausage and steak and cheese subs.

**Dinner** — spaghetti with meat sauce, loin strip steak, turkey, baked potatoes, pea and pepper rice, gravy, squash, carrots, broccoli, sauteed mushrooms and onions, macaroni salad, cucumber/onion salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone, chili with beans, grilled sausage and steak and cheese subs.

### Tuesday

**Lunch** — teriyaki chicken, veal parmesan, baked fish, rice, parsley buttered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, succotash, steamed carrots, macaroni salad, cottage cheese salad, beef pot roast soup, vegetable soup, chicken chili, sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

**Dinner** — country captain chicken, meatloaf, turkey a la king, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, tempura vegetables, mustard greens, okra tomato gumbo, macaroni salad, cottage cheese salad, beef pot roast soup, vegetable soup, chicken chili, sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

### Wednesday

**Lunch** — Mexican baked chicken and pork chops, beef fajitas, jalapeno cornbread, refried beans, corn, gravy, pinto beans, peas and carrots, cole slaw, garden cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

**Dinner** — lemon-herb chicken, sweet and sour pork, jambalaya, scalloped potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, Mexican corn, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, chicken noodle soup, cream of potato soup, chili, cheese fishwich and pizza.

## Employment opportunities

**Career focus program for spouses** — information on area employment opportunities, job Web sites, human resources contacts, temporary jobs, on-base listings and free training programs. Computer lab available for resume preparation or job search in Room 108B, Sablich Center. For an appointment, call 376-8728.

**Air Force Office of Special Investigations** — senior airmen with less than six years time in service, and staff and technical sergeants with less than 12 years time in service are eligible. Foreign language, computer or technical skills are desired, but not required. Those accepted attend the Federal Law

Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Ga. for training in instruction in law, report writing, forensics, interview techniques, firearms and defensive tactics and other subjects related to the challenges of investigative duty. For more information on applying, contact AFOSI Detachment 407, 377-3420.

**Junior ROTC** — immediate employment opportunities for retired or retiring Air Force officers and noncommissioned officers. Those who retired within the past 10 years or are six months from retirement may qualify to be an instructor. To apply or for more information, go to <http://www.afaots.af.mil> and select "AFJROTC" or call Jo Alice Talley, toll free 1-866-235-7682, extension 7742; DSN 493-7742, or commercial (334) 953-7742.

## Web sites

**Defense Manpower Data Center** — <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dors> or <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/tbb>.

**Air Force Blue to Corporate Gray** — <http://www.bluetogray.com>.

**Air Force Federal Employment Resume and Information** — <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/resweb>.

**Civilian job certification and licensing requirements for military personnel and veterans** — <http://www.dol.gov/dol/vets>.

**Department of Veterans Affairs** — <http://www.vba.va.gov/efif/index.htm>; for members returning from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

**Southern Region Military and Civilian Job Fair** — <http://www.mesc.state.ms.us/jobfair>.

**New military spouse career center** — <http://www.military.com/spouse>. Extensive job board including public and private sectors. For more information, call Vince Patton, 703-269-0154, or e-mail at [vince@militaryadvantage.com](mailto:vince@militaryadvantage.com).

**Military Connection** — online resources database for military family members seeking civilian employment at <http://www.militaryconnection.com>.

**America's Job Bank** — <http://www.ajb.dni.us>.

## MEETINGS

**African-American Heritage Committee** — 3:30 p.m. second Tuesday of the month, Room 109, Taylor Logistics Building. For more information, call Paulette Powell, 377-2270, or Kurt Higgins, 377-1390.

**Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 652** — 4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month, Katrina Kantina. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Rich Striggow, 377-4800, or visit the group's Web site, <http://www.afsa652.org>.

**Air Force Sergeants Association Auxiliary** — 6 p.m. third Tuesday of the month. For more information, call Michelle Foster, 273-4591, or e-mail [auxiliary.president@afsa652.org](mailto:auxiliary.president@afsa652.org).

**Airmen Against Drunk Driving** — For more information, call Staff Sgt. Aaron Eden, 377-1907; Staff Sgt. Brad Mills, 377-1714, or call 377-SAVE.

**Asian Pacific-American Heritage Committee** — 11:30 a.m. first Wednesday of month, Room 111, Sablich Center. For more information, call Lucy Belles, 376-8500, or Master Sgt. Ernesto Alvendia, 376-8501.

**At Eze Toastmasters Club** — 11 a.m. Tuesdays, Building 1101 conference room. For more information, call Dewi Clark, 377-2714 or e-mail [dewi.clark2@keesler.af.mil](mailto:dewi.clark2@keesler.af.mil); Arleen Stewart, 377-2440, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

**Blacks in Government** — 5:15 p.m. second Thursday of the month, Taylor Logistics Building conference room. For more information call Florence Clay, 377-8681, or Paulette Powell, 377-2270.

**Civil Air Patrol Col. Berta A. Edge Composite Squadron** — 7 p.m. Tuesdays upstairs in Hangar 3 for youth and adults. For more information, call 1-601-528-4337, e-mail [Camo.princess92@gmail.com](mailto:Camo.princess92@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.keeslercap.org>.

**Company grade officers council** — meets first Wednesday of the month. For time and location, call 1st Lt. Stephanie Lutz, 377-8638.

**Company grade officers council** — meets first Wednesday of the month. For time and location, call Capt. Ted West, 377-7343.

**Keesler 5.6** — 3:15 p.m. third Wednesday of the month; location varies. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Toyshaline Young or Tech. Sgt. Jodi Evans, 377-4885.

**Keesler Christian Home Educators Association** — 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month, September-May, Larcher Chapel. For more information, call Heather Melancon, 831-8895.

**Keesler Spouses Club** — second Tuesday of the month. For time and place, call Leanne Ramsay, 377-3217, or visit <http://www.KeeslerSpousesClub.com>.

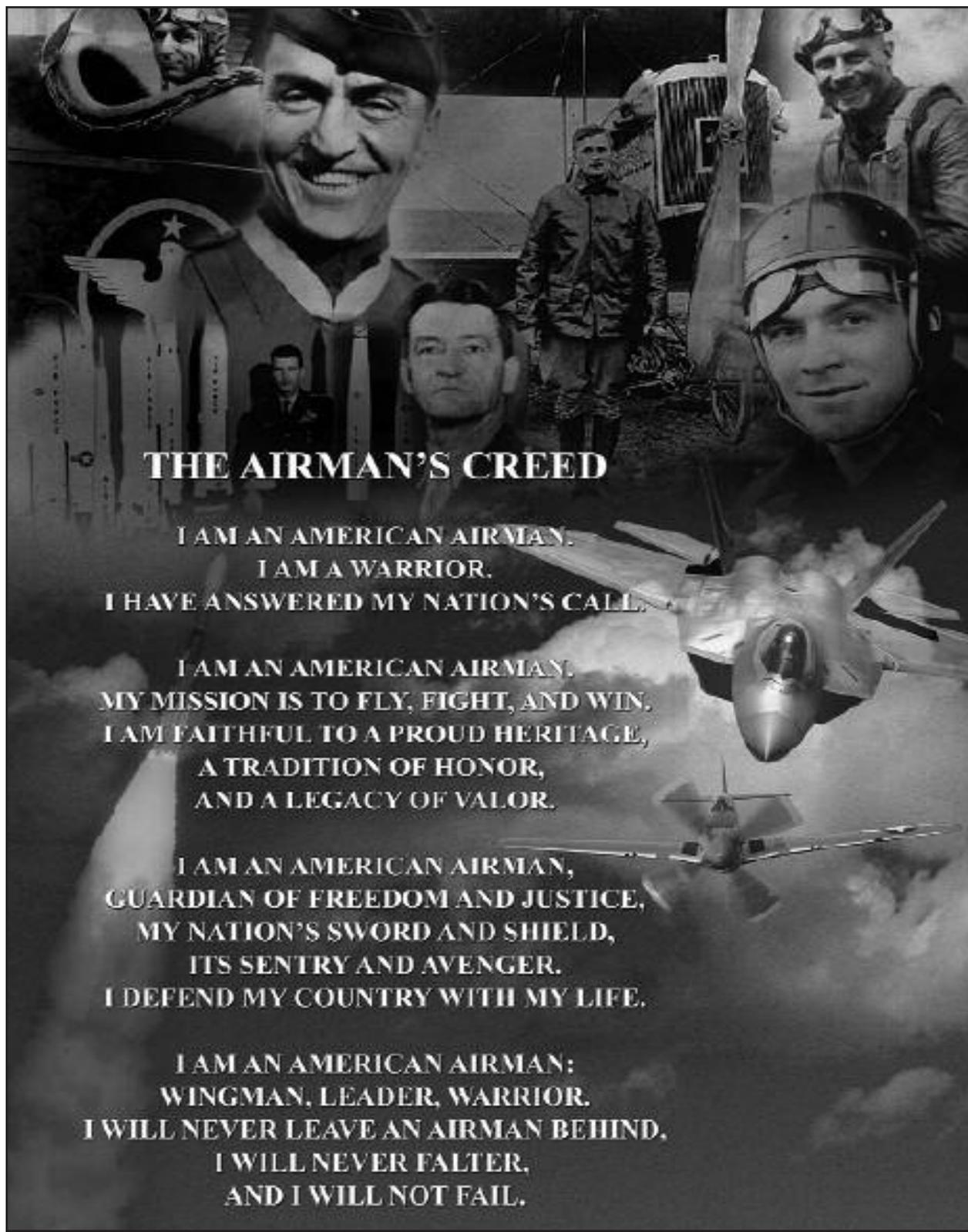
**Retired Enlisted Association Magnolia Chapter 81** — 6:30 p.m. second Thursday of the month, Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call Larry McKean, 377-3252 or 374-5922.

**Top III** — 3 p.m. third Thursday of the month, Katrina Kantina. For more information, call Master Sgt. Michael Krejci, 377-4451.

**Tuskegee Airmen Inc., Col. Lawrence E. Roberts Chapter** — 5 p.m. first Thursday of the month, McBride Library. For more information, call Glenda Mosby, 243-1992, [gmosby1@bellsouth.net](mailto:gmosby1@bellsouth.net), or Charles Bowers, 860-3665.

## MOVIES

**Editor's note:** Movies are shown at Welch Auditorium. Tickets are \$3 adults and \$1.50 children for regular features, and \$2.50 adults and \$1 children for matinees. For recording about current features, call 377-6627.



**THE AIRMAN'S CREED**

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.  
I AM A WARRIOR.  
I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.  
MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT, AND WIN.  
I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE,  
A TRADITION OF HONOR,  
AND A LEGACY OF VALOR.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN,  
GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE,  
MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD,  
ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER.  
I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN:  
WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR.  
I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND.  
I WILL NEVER FALTER,  
AND I WILL NOT FAIL.