



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

SEPT. 23, 2010 VOL. 71 NO. 37



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Exercise evaluation vital part of inspection

Compliance inspection team

There are only 30 days until the Air Education and Training Command Compliance Inspection. Along with inspecting our programs and procedures, the AETC Inspector General Team will evaluate Team Keesler on how we respond to Force Protection Condition (FPCON), Deployment Exercise (DEPLOYEX) and Major Accident Response Exercise (MARE) scenarios. As we gear up for the excitement, it's important to stay vigilant and prepared for all possible scenarios.

Here are some things to remember:

Never enter into an established cordon, whether during an exercise or real-world incident. A cordon includes real or simulated barriers or tape used to prevent movement in or out. It establishes a minimum safe distance from an accident or incident site.

Be aware of why the FPCON threat level has increased. Exercise information and guidance is always directed by the Crisis Action Team (CAT).



The information flow from the CAT to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), the EOC than communicates to the Group Control Center (GCC) /Unit Control Center (UCC) who sends out the information to the units.

Record all exercise information on event logs to ensure proper documentation, tracking and continuity.

Don't be caught unaware. Read your emails frequently during an exercise, read the pop-up messages immediately and listen to those Giant Voice messages.

Know what actions to take during a MARE or FPCON. A good way to prepare is for the leadership in your unit to host a unit-level tabletop exercise in which you run through the MARE and FPCON checklists in the Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan 10-2.

Oct 24-31 will be a whirlwind of activity as the AETC/Inspector General Team descends on Keesler. Preparing for exercises may seem like a daunting task, but base leaders are confident in Team Keesler's ability to successfully take on this challenge. Exercise performance is one of the areas in which everyone can have a positive influence on the compliance inspection outcome. So move with a sense of purpose and let's show the inspectors that we deserve nothing less than an "Outstanding" rating on our exercise response.

New unit leader sizes up leadership challenges

By Col. (Dr.) Joseph Giovannini

81st Surgical Operations Squadron commander

For better or worse, our lives often change dramatically overnight. This is especially true for those of us in the military who must respond at a moment's notice to the needs of our country.

This is true for me as the new 81st Surgical Operations Squadron commander at Keesler. Like most of us, my initial reaction was negative, to resist change in favor of the status quo. I now understand that I have been handed a great opportunity. In any case when we are faced with a challenge, 10 percent of the problem is the issue itself and 90 percent is how we decide to confront it. The only thing we can control is our own attitude on how we choose to move forward.

A leader is not defined by what he himself accomplishes but by the success he promotes in those under him. So as a commander my primary goal is my Airmen's success.

Recently, I was fortunate to attend the senior noncommissioned officer induction ceremony addressed by retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Robert Gaylor. After 62+ years serving the Air Force, his messages about success and leadership still ring true. It all boils down to pride in oneself and the desire to make a difference. When I say pride, I use that word in the most positive sense: pride in yourself, the Air Force family and our country. Without pride, we neglect ourselves, our surroundings and the mission. I would take this concept even further, arguing that wanting to make a difference is critical for success in life. Every day we

all make the choice to accomplish something, lie in bed all day or do something in between.

If one takes pride in oneself, then it goes without saying that you will take pride in your work and your workplace. As commander, I need to empower each Airman, giving them space to shine; keeping my hands out of the processes that are working but getting involved where help is needed. Because intelligence and ability are not single-dimensional elements, I need to uncover each Airman's underlying strengths and accentuate those best attributes. Finally, a leader's greatest achievement is to pull individuals together to function as a team thus creating something magical.

As a leader, I am also tasked to create an environment of discipline. I must enforce that discipline with a fair and even hand for the unit's bene-

fit and morale. As we all know, doing the right thing is usually not the easiest path to take. As a leader, I need to make clear that when troops choose to do something wrong, there will be negative consequences. In addition, it must be clear that there is zero tolerance for certain behaviors such as DUIs, racial harassment and sexual harassment.

The Air Force strives to prepare us for leadership from day one. But, as a new commander, I am confronted with the challenges of providing leadership on a larger scale than most. Fortunately, I have found myself surrounded by an excellent professional staff, all of whom are willing and able to help me and guide me. In the end, I am very proud to be a member of the Air Education and Training Command — the Air Force's First Command.

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ON THE COVER

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, and Tech. Sgt. Adam Malson salute during an 81st Training Wing parade Sept. 16. Sergeant Malson was presented the Bronze Star Medal, first oak leaf cluster, for meritorious service as a joint tactical air controller in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from Aug. 15, 2007, to June 1, 2008. Sergeant Malson is now a combat control instructor in the 334th Training Squadron. Story and photo, Page 4.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



KEESLER NEWS

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DRAGON ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

What is your biggest pet peeve?



"Not having designated times for units to perform mock fitness tests."

Tech. Sgt. Venton Horrice, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron



"People that talk a whole lot."

Wesley Laxton, 81st Training Support Squadron



"People who aren't on time."

Airman Amanda Blodgett, 335th Training Squadron student.

IT TAKES THE COURAGE AND STRENGTH OF A WARRIOR TO ASK FOR HELP.....

If you're in an emotional crisis call 1-800-273-TALK "Press 1 for Veterans"

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Combat control instructor recognized with Bronze Star

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Tech. Sgt. Adam Malson, 334th Training Squadron, was presented the Bronze Star Medal, first oak leaf cluster, during an 81st Training Group parade Sept. 16.

Sergeant Malson, who's served in the Air Force for nine years, was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service as a staff sergeant serving as a joint tactical air controller with Special Forces.

The narrative describing his actions said "he constantly displayed expertise, professionalism, excellent communication skills, and an uncompromising commitment to the U.S. Special Forces Soldiers he was assigned to support."

Sergeant Malson, a staff sergeant at the time, conducted more than 36 close air support missions in critical support of combined joint combat operations.

During one operation, he controlled more than a dozen different air platforms, simultaneously de-conflicting air-



Sergeant Malson

space and clearances for artillery and mortar fires without a single incident.

On one occasion, Sergeant Malson's patrol was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns, and small arms fire from insurgent forces. He was in the "kill zone" receiving fire from multiple, well-fortified insurgent positions. Alongside his Special Forces comrades, he aggressively maneuvered to close with, fix and destroy a six-

man 82mm mortar and recoilless rifle element by directing close air support.

Another time, an insurgent cell, using a mobile cache on a truck, was placing improvised explosive devices along the SFODA's patrol route. The insurgent personnel were poised along the route to conduct a hasty ambush synchronized with multiple IEDs.

Sergeant Malson orchestrated Predator and A-10 reconnaissance of enemy forces massing to block the detachment's movement. He assumed terminal control of the air platform and controlled the engagements on multiple insurgents, resulting in the confirmed kill of more than 12 insurgent combatants and destruction of six IEDs and the mobile cache platform.

Sergeant Malson came to Keesler 18 months ago as a combat control instructor.

"I went through air traffic control school here in early 2002 as part of the training pipeline for combat control students," he said.

New training leader

Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, 2nd Air Force commander, passes the guidon for the 602nd Training Group (Provisional) to Col. Charles Douglass as Chief Master Sgt. Michael Litke, group superintendent, looks on during an assumption of command ceremony Sept. 7. Colonel Douglass comes to 2nd Air Force from Joint Base Balad, Iraq, where he served as 732nd Air Expeditionary Group commander.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Former Keesler trainee receives Medal of Honor 42 years after his death

Air Force News Service, 338th Training Squadron and Keesler News staff

WASHINGTON — Back in 1952, Airman 2nd Class Richard Etchberger graduated from technical training at Keesler in electronics and radar maintenance.

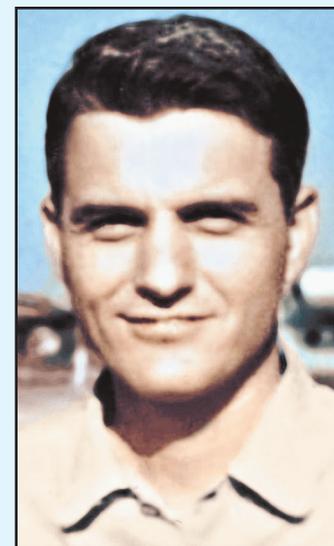
In 1968, Chief Master Sgt. Richard Etchberger was killed when enemy forces overran a clandestine U.S. radar site in Laos.

Tuesday, 42 years after his death, the chief was posthumously recognized with the Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony. Wednesday, he was inducted into the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon.

Chief Etchberger died March 11, 1968, at age 35 after being shot following an overnight battle on Mount Phou Pha Thi at Lima Site 85, as the radar location was known to Americans, where he helped maintain equipment that aided the U.S. bombing campaign of North Vietnam.

Despite having received little or no combat training, Chief Etchberger single-handedly held off the enemy with an M-16, while simultaneously directing air strikes into the area and calling for air rescue. Because of his fierce defense and heroic and selfless actions, he was able to deny the enemy access to his position and save the lives of some of his crew.

When rescue aircraft arrived, Chief Etchberger once again risked his own life numerous times, exposing himself to heavy enemy fire in order to place his three surviving wounded comrades into rescue slings hanging from the hovering



Chief Etchberger

helicopter waiting to airlift them to safety.

With his remaining crew safely aboard, Chief Etchberger finally climbed into an evacuation sling, only to be fatally wounded by enemy ground fire as he was being raised into the aircraft.

"He should have a 55-gallon drum full of medals," said retired Tech Sgt. John Daniel, 71, of La Junta, Colo., one of those rescued. "I wouldn't be alive without him."

After a 2008 personnel board of review of the chief's actions, Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley nominated the Hamburg, Pa., native for the U.S. military's highest decoration, which is awarded "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty."

President Obama approved the medal.

Paul Deitke, 338th TRS ground radar systems training instructor supervisor, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report.

New AETC vice commander leads by serving

By Capt. Omar Villarreal

AETC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Education and Training Command recently welcomed its new vice commander into its fold.

Lt. Gen. Douglas Owens arrived in San Antonio Sept. 8, received his third star the next day and immediately began the task of learning everything he could about AETC's mission and its people.

The general spent Monday and Tuesday at Keesler for training briefings from 2nd Air Force, 81st Training Group and 81st Medical Group before visiting Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., and Maxwell AFB, Ala., late Tuesday and Wednesday.

"It's important for me to get up to speed on what is happening around the command as soon as possible," said General Owens, who previously served as the vice commander of Pacific Air Forces at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. "Because of that I have started engaging with directors and will be on the road visiting AETC wings in the coming weeks."

The general comes from a military family and knew at an early age he wanted to serve his country. His father was an Army noncommissioned officer who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

"My father set a terrific example for myself, my brother and my sister," General Owens said. "He served his country very faithfully."

A 1980 graduate of the Air Force Academy, the general is a command pilot with more than 3,100 hours. He flew combat missions in the first A-10 squadron deployed to Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, has commanded at the squadron, group and wing level, and has served in a variety of operational and staff positions.

"My leadership style is engaging by nature," the general said. "I enjoy talking to people, working challenges with my staff, and I often look

"My leadership style is engaging by nature.

I am a firm believer in servant leadership.

I try to practice that philosophy in every way."

— General Owens

for their inputs and counsel to make difficult decisions."

General Owens made it clear that, as a senior leader, he works for those who serve.

"I am a firm believer in servant leadership," he said. "I try to practice that philosophy in every way."

The general said he hopes to use his years of experience in the operational side of the Air Force to ensure Airmen are properly trained and ready to contribute in any contingency around the world.

"I started out in AETC 30 years ago and, since then, I have spent the better part of 25 years in operations," General Owens said. "Based on the foundation I started in 1980, I bring a mindset that works toward ensuring our folks have what they need to succeed in the tasks we give them."

The general talked about the high quality of the Airmen who make up AETC, saying that one thing he wasn't surprised about is how professional everyone is.

"AETC has the best and brightest Airmen working hard by recruiting, training and educating those who will take our Air Force to the next level," he said. "It is truly our people who make this command special."

General Owens believes he is where he is today because of his family.

"Family has always been central to my priorities," he said. "My wife Teresa and I are a team. She has supported me in all facets of my career. We have a son who is a captain at Barksdale AFB (La.)

and a son who is a second lieutenant going through pilot training at Vance AFB (Okla.). I do what I do today because of them."

General Owens said the thing he wants all Airmen to know about him is his love of the Air Force and the United States.

"I want Airmen to know that I believe in the Air Force's mission and the greatness of our country," he said. "I believe what we do is honorable and I want Airmen to understand that as the vice commander of AETC, I intend to act on behalf of their interests."

Susan Griggs, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report.



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Tomme Lassabe, 81st Training Support Squadron, shows General Owens examples of models that can be constructed at the trainer development facility as Lt. Col. Janet Haug, 81st TRSS commander, looks on.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

From left, Col. (Dr.) Michael Bashford, left, 81st Medical Operations Squadron genetics flight commander, and Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Kory Cornum, 81st MDG commander, listen as General Owens asks Dr. David Rigdon about chromosome analyses in the genetics center during his visit to the 81st Medical Group Hospital Tuesday.

AETC commander addresses innovation through training

By Aletha Frost

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The commander of the Air Education and Training Command spoke on innovative recruiting, training and educational goals used to develop Airmen to meet the Air Force and warfighter mission during the Air Force Association Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md., Sept. 14.

Gen. Stephen Lorenz's comments highlighted AETC's role in creating innovative educational and training programs to develop future leaders.

"AETC has a professional and personal responsibility to make sure that all Airmen training and education is updated and meets their needs, as well as the needs of the combatant commanders," General Lorenz said.

AETC's core competencies of recruiting, educating and training positively impact every Airman's career growth and development.

The fourth core competency innovation, borne out of declining budgets, new recruitment goals, education and training challenges, impacts the spectrum of AETC's competencies to meet the warfighter mission.

"Innovation encompasses all of AETC's

core competencies," General Lorenz said. "AETC must have innovative programs that are flexible, agile and responsive to educate and train world class students."

Working with today's technology, AETC officials have instituted several innovative training and educational programs to meet future Airmen and warfighter requirements.

AETC officials readily instituted the remotely piloted aircraft fundamental pilot and sensor operator training courses in March 2009. The RPA program went from concept to classroom in six weeks.

Other programs entered into AETC's training inventory to meet the changing Air Force and warfighter mission include the combat system officer pipeline, joint expeditionary task training, cyberspace training, the online master's degree program and Air University's doctorate program in military strategy.

The command will continue to develop dynamic training and education programs, but also needs to be innovative for tomorrow's challenges, General Lorenz said.

"AETC forges the future through innovation by developing America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow," General Lorenz said.



Photo by Scott Ash
General Lorenz spoke about AETC's core competencies of recruiting, educating and training.

TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

William Carey program

William Carey University is now offering career and technical education degree programs at Keesler for people interested in instructional design.

The undergraduate program accepts 24 hours of technical credits. Courses support GS 1750 requirements and are offered in the evenings and online.

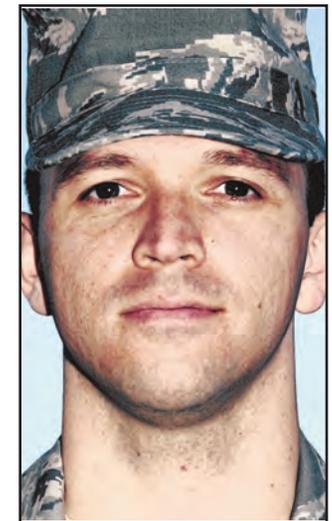
Dr. Karen Juneau is available to talk to people interested in exploring this option for the winter trimester, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays in September in Room 219, Sablich Center.

For more information or to schedule and appointment, call 376-8480.

Drill down, parade

The 81st Training Wing's final drill down of the year is 8 a.m. Oct. 29.

Academic ace



Senior Airman Timothy Dunn graduated from the personnel apprentice course in the 335th Training Squadron with a perfect score Sept. 14. He's assigned to the Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville, Fla.



From left, Stuart Fowler and Bobby Jones watch John Dendinger tee off on Hole 11 at the annual Keesler vs. Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce golf tournament. Fowler is a chamber member and Jones and Dendinger are from the 403rd Maintenance Squadron. This tournament was part of Bay Breeze Event Center's grand opening activities Friday. Keesler won the tournament.



Festivities mark event center's grand opening

Professional clown Louis Vocchi makes a dragonfly out of balloons for 5-year-old David Hargy, son of Lt. Col. David and Sunnan Hargy. The colonel commands the 366th Training Squadron Detachment 6 at the Gulfport Seabee Base. Live bands, a disc jockey, a comedian and children's activities rounded out Friday's entertainment.



Photos by Kemberly Groue
Col. Phil Harding, 2nd Air Force, chats with Dick Wilson, a retired lieutenant colonel and member of the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce, at a special reception Thursday, the eve of Bay Breeze Event Center's grand opening.



Kelly Rooney, wife of Luke Rooney, 81st Force Support Squadron, watches their daughter Madison, 8, eat a cupcake she decorated during Friday's grand opening celebration. The event featured free food, drinks and activities for the entire family.

IN THE NEWS

Death notification

With great regret, Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, announces the death of Tech. Sgt. Timothy Hogan, previously assigned to Keesler Fire Emergency Services.

A memorial service for Sergeant Hogan is 8:30 a.m. Friday at Triangle Chapel.

Any person or persons having claims for or against Sergeant Hogan's estate, call 2nd Lt. Aftan Boudreaux, summary court officer, 376-8704.

Housing privatization meetings set

Town hall meetings to discuss privatization of Keesler's military family housing are 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. today at the Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom.

Quarterly wing run

The quarterly 81st Training Wing run is 7 a.m. Sept. 30 on the flight line.

Combined Federal Campaign kickoff

This year's Combined Federal Campaign kickoff breakfast is 7 a.m. Oct. 4 in the Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom.

This year's drive runs through Nov. 3.

For more information, call Capt. Kara Wisniewski, 376-5716.

Clinics close for warrior training

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group conducts warrior training, noon to 5 p.m. Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 9.

These dates are exceptions to the training normally conducted the second Thursday of the month due to holidays and the Unit Compliance Inspection.

Family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics and general surgery clinics each have one doctor available for urgent appointments. For urgent situations, call central appointments at 1-800-700-8603 or report to the emergency room.

Although pharmacy, radiology and laboratory services are open, they'll have reduced staffing, so patients are asked to delay visits during warrior training.

For emergency situations such as shortness of breath, chest or abdominal pain or bleeding with pregnancy, go to the nearest emergency room or call 911 for an ambulance.

Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for submissions for the Oct. 14 issue of the Keesler News is noon Oct. 7 because of the Columbus Day holiday, Oct. 11.

Lighthouse painted with personal touches

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

Orlando has Mickey Mice. Chicago has cows. D.C. has donkeys and elephants. Biloxi has lighthouses. And now Keesler does, too.

Like many other cities have done across the country, Biloxi has chosen an iconic symbol, the lighthouse, to represent its unique heritage along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. These 7-foot replicas can be purchased and personalized to represent the business or organization that bought it.

Known as the Lighthouse Project, the Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce chose the lighthouse as a way to bring the coastal community together to celebrate and represent the strength and resilience of the people of the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina.

Each business or organization that purchases a lighthouse is encouraged to personalize it in a way that reflects the unique character of that business or organization.

Keesler's lighthouse was purchased by the 81st Training Group. A volun-



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Artist Suzan Templin is placing the final touches on her lighthouse masterpiece. This 7-foot replica is on display at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

tary fundraiser was held to raise the \$1,500 to purchase the lighthouse.

"The 81st Training Group has benefited greatly from community support over the years," said Col. Lynn Con-

nett, 81st Training Group.

"We were excited about the opportunity to give back to the local community by supporting this Biloxi-unique cultural celebration. The

lighthouse is absolutely beautiful and serves as a tangible reminder of the outstanding base-community relationship we've enjoyed for decades."

Suzan Templin, Keesler's military fine artist, was assigned the task of personalizing Keesler's lighthouse. Ms. Templin's work can be seen in paintings that adorn the walls of just about every building on base. Much of her work serves to represent the unique character of the different groups and squadrons on base.

Using acrylics, Ms. Templin painted a beach scene with tall sea oats, Adirondack chairs, sea life, ocean and sand, and a C-130 flying in the blue sky above.

"The scene wasn't complicated but a lighthouse is a very challenging shape to paint on," said Ms. Templin. "I was really worried about it for a while but I think it turned out well. When your heart is in it you can do anything. I like making people smile with my art. It's like reaching the human soul."

The lighthouse is on display at the new Bay Breeze Event Center and was in place for Friday's ribbon-cutting ceremony.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Classes for job hunters

Job hunters can improve their chances for success with several upcoming classes at the airman and family readiness center.

Classes are held in the center's conference room in Sablich Center. There's a limit of 10 people per class.

Career choices — noon to 2:30 p.m. today and Oct. 29.

Interview skills and salary negotiation — 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26, Nov. 23 and Dec. 28.

Federal format resume writing — 2 p.m. Sept. 30, Oct. 14, Nov. 17 and Dec. 9; and 3 p.m. Oct. 28. Registration is required.

Civilian format resume writing — 2 p.m. Oct. 7 or 21, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2 or 16; and 3 p.m. Sept. 23.

For more information, call 376-8728 or e-mail ana.smith.1@us.af.mil.

Retroactive stop loss claims

Air Force News Service

Airmen, veterans and beneficiaries who were involuntarily extended under stop loss between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009, are eligible for retroactive stop loss special pay.

If your enlistment was involuntarily extended due to stop loss, and you have yet to file a claim for retroactive stop loss special pay, Oct. 21 is the last day to file.

For links to the claim forms and instructions on how to file, log on to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss

Moving in October?

81st Logistics Readiness Squadron

The Joint Personal Property Office in San Antonio relocates to Port San Antonio Oct. 7 and is minimally manned the entire month.

Those relocating in October should visit the personal property processing office, Room 114, Sablich Center, no later than 30 days prior to their desired pickup date.

Technical training students in the Triangle area must contact the traffic management office, Room 211, Levitow Training Support Facility.

Clearing outstanding travel orders

81st Comptroller Squadron.

If outstanding travel orders aren't processed promptly, the 81st Training Wing could lose valuable funding at end of the fiscal year. The overall responsibility lies with the member. All official travelers are responsible for filing their travel vouchers within five days of returning from temporary duty. If your orders are revoked or canceled, members should notify the finance office as soon as they receive notification.

If your travel orders were created in the Defense Travel System, the member should file the voucher immediately upon return from temporary duty. Orders that are canceled must be canceled by the member and approving official in DTS. If an airline ticket is involved, work with the central ticketing office to receive credit for the ticket.

For travel-related inquiries, call 376-8225.

Military personnel contacts

Military personnel section phone numbers:

Customer support — 376-8738.

Career development — 376-8739.

Force management — 376-8740.

Student personnel center — 377-4111.

Testing — 376-4111.

**Information
dominance
wins wars —
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Enlisted get-together is Oct. 1

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

An enlisted bash is 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Oct. 1 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

The entrance fee is \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door.

There'll be a disk jockey, food, refreshments and game-winning prizes including a 42-inch flat-screen television, XBox360, gas cards, gift cards and a facial.

Keesler's Airmen's Council, Airmen Against Drunk Driving and Dorm Council are sponsoring the event.

For more information, call Airman 1st Class Allen Savedra, 377-9240, or e-mail allen.savedra@us.af.mil.

This won't hurt

From left, Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, gets a flu shot from Brig. Gen. Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander, as Master Sgt. Lloyd Alston, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, administers the vaccine to General Cornum. The 81st Medical Group Hospital's immunization clinic is finalizing the schedule for its annual flu shot campaign.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Air Force leaders discuss challenges, achievements

By Staff Sgt. Patrice Clarke

50th Space Wing Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz hosted a multi-command panel of generals to address issues from the audience at the Air Force Association's Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition at National Harbor, in Oxon Hill, Md., Sept. 15.

The panel discussion also featured Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy.

Lt. Gen. Donald C. Wurster, commander of Air Force Special Operations Command, and other generals on the panel expressed concerns about personnel and stressed career fields.

"We are talking about our battlefield Airmen in career fields like combat controllers, pararescuemen, tactical air control party Airmen and our special (operations) weather teams," General Wurster said. "That force is fewer than 600 people, and last week I went up to McChord (Air Force Base, Wash.) to pin on our 65th Purple Heart in that group. One in 10 of those brave, young, beret-wearing enlisted members is wearing a Purple Heart," he said.

Gen. Raymond Johns, commander of Air Mobility Command, shared examples of the Air Force's response to Haiti's devastating earthquake in January.

He described the aerial delivery, almost overnight, of hundreds of pallets of food and water, as well as the quick move of a brigade combat team of the 82nd Airborne from Ft. Bragg, N.C., to the disaster-stricken country.

"When Haiti kicked off on the 12th of January, we put the call out to everybody," he said. "That night, 13,000 active, guard and Reserve Airmen said, 'Let's go do the mission.'"

Gen. C. Robert Kehler, commander of Air Force Space Command, shared his perspective and milestones during his three years at AFSPC.

"We just went past our first birthday in 24th Air Force," General Kehler said. "The first

undergraduate cyber training classes (at Keesler) are in session. The cyber professionals will soon be going through an assignment night, and they will graduate in December."

He also highlighted the many operational successes of AFSPC and how the command's Airmen continue to provide a much-needed advantage to the warfighter.

"It's the United States Air Force who is charged with providing the Global Positioning System capability to planet Earth," General Kehler said. "We continue to provide the ability for the warfighters to strike with precision, see the battlefield with clarity, operate with assurance, and navigate with accuracy."

Chief Roy, who advises Air Force leadership on enlisted interests, noted some constraints the enlisted force faces, including undermanned career fields with high deployment rates.

Despite the demanding operations tempo, General Schwartz said the entire Air Force team will continue its important mission defending the U.S. and assisting its partners.

"As long as people are dying in the ongoing military operations, this team of panel members and our Air Force family are going to do what's necessary, and we are going to do it well," he said.

The panel discussion also featured Gen. Craig McKinley, National Guard Bureau chief; Gen. Roger Brady, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander; Gen. Stephen Lorenz, Air Education and Training Command commander; Gen. William Fraser III, Air Combat Command commander; Gen. Donald Hoffman, Air Force Materiel Command commander; and Gen. Gary North, Pacific Air Forces commander.

Lt. Gen. Frank Klotz, Air Force Global Strike Command commander; Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner Jr., Air Force Reserve Command commander; and Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, Air National Guard director, also participated in the event.

News tips?

Call the Keesler News, 377-4130, or e-mail keeslernews@us.af.mil



Enlisted leader addresses Airmen's concerns

By Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes

Defense Media Activity-San Antonio

WASHINGTON — The chief master sergeant of the Air Force shared his perspective of where the enlisted force is heading at the Air Force Association Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition Sept. 15.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy emphasized Airmen's participation in the joint and coalition fight, deliberately developing Airmen and building resiliency among Airmen and their families.

"We're in this joint and coalition fight in a very serious way," Chief Roy said. "I think we're doing a good job in the joint mission, and we make excellent coalition partners."

With more than 220,000 total force Airmen deployed, forward stationed or employed by a combatant command, maintaining and acquiring skills has become of one the senior enlisted leader's primary focuses.

Chief Roy said Air Force officials have been looking at ways to make combat skills training more efficient and effective for Airmen who deploy frequently and to the same locations.

Many Airmen are at a one-to-one dwell rate, meaning they're deployed for six months and home

for six months, but with up to two months of training before deploying, they're actually having about four months at home at a time, Chief Roy said.

"One of the areas we're looking at is credentialing the training," he said. "That's something that we're going to have to really review, really study to get it right, because the last thing we want to do is send people into combat who don't have the right training. We've got to step into this with caution, but it's something we've got to look at because our Airmen are deploying at such a rapid rate."

Credentialing could allow Airmen to skip certain portions of frequently repeated training, letting them spend more time at home with their families during the reconstitution portion of the deployment cycle.

Equipment issues also are being re-evaluated to make sure Airmen have the proper gear to complete the mission including the Airman Battle System-Ground.

"The ABS-G is a set of flame-retardant gear that our Airmen are receiving, in the pattern in our ABUs ... for Airmen who operate 'outside the wire'," Chief Roy said. "Right now, today, we've got it about 90 percent fielded in Iraq. It looks like we'll have it 100 percent fielded in the next 60 days."

Another joint set of gear, with the Operation Enduring Freedom camouflage pattern, referred to as OCP, is ready to be fielded to Airmen in Afghanistan

beginning this fall, Chief Roy said.

A new development in enlisted training is that Airmen who attend some joint professional military education schools will be able to apply those credits toward their Air Force PME requirements.

"We have two Airmen, for the first time in about four years, that are going through the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy," the chief said.

He said they are looking at partner nation schools to see if Airmen who attend can get credit for the like-Air Force course "just like we've done in Canada and Singapore."

"We're going to give them full credit for the U.S. Air Force Senior NCO Academy," he said. "We've been doing that for many, many years in our officer corps, and it has worked perfectly."

Lastly, the chief discussed building resiliency in Airmen and families, including programs to help prevent suicides.

"It cannot be just another program," Chief Roy said. "It's got to be heartfelt, and we've got to make sure our Airmen are given those tools before they need them. It's not before they deploy; it's right out of the shoot, when they're in basic (military training) when they're in (technical) school. It's all the way through a person's career. We've got to continue to instill resiliency in our Airmen and our families."

Heart Attack Symptoms

Men and women may experience some common symptoms, but there are differences.



- Nausea/vomiting
- Jaw pain
- Back pain



- Chest discomfort
- Arm pain
- Shortness of breath

Combat injuries can't crush chief's spirit

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

When Chief Master Sgt. Damian Orslene retired from the Air Force Monday, he received traditional keepsakes, love and respect bestowed on an Airman who's devoted 28 years of service to his country.

He'll also carry with him combat injuries from a five-month deployment that forced his departure from the service much earlier than he'd hoped. He's had three surgeries and three years of nonstop physical therapy to rebuild his right shoulder and replace his right hip. He developed a blood clot in his lung after surgery and nearly died. He walks with a cane, takes 18 pills a day and wears hearing aids to lessen the constant buzzing that steals his sleep.

But his worst wounds are ones people can't see and often don't understand — the traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from an explosion at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

"A song, a movie, a book, a feel-good article in Reader's Digest will make me bawl — I feel like the biggest wimp sometimes because my emotions are so raw," the chief remarked. "That other Damian Orslene no longer exists. You come home a new person and you have to figure out who you are — and you expect the person who loved that person who left to love this new you."

Chief Orslene volunteered for his third deployment over the objections of his wife, Lori, a retired senior master sergeant, and some of his Keesler colleagues.

"I had a little trouble with hip degeneration, but I was still running half-marathons, 10-Ks and 5-Ks and I passed all my PT tests with flying colors," he noted.

At Kirkuk, the chief headed a six-member personnel support for contingency operations team — PERSCO, for short.

About once a week, he'd get a call to assist with other duties.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airman 1st Class Candace Thompson and Tech. Sgt. James Shealey fold the American flag as Lt. Col. Janet Haug, 81st Training Support Squadron commander, and Chief Orslene, squadron superintendent, look on during the chief's retirement ceremony Monday at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Chief Orslene injured his right shoulder while securing concertina wire to the base's chain link fence with a wooden crimping tool. After four hours, he heard a loud pop and his right arm stopped working and started tingling. He hurt his right hip when he slipped as he and his teammates ran to a bunker when they were attacked during a mail run.

"Both times the medics said they needed to medevac me to Landstuhl (Regional Medical Center, Germany), but I insisted on staying with my team," he recalled.

April 2, 2007, changed the chief's life forever. A cement truck full of explosives drove into a police station just as U.S. security forces arrived. The base commander called him to the command post to use the personnel database to find A-positive blood donors. Then the command chief called and said, "I need you at the hospital."

When Chief Orslene arrived, he found the command chief standing outside

who said, "They need help in there. I thought I could do it, but I can't."

The emergency room "reminded me of a chainsaw massacre — blood on the ceiling, running down the walls, bloody footprints down the hall. An Airman I knew yelled, 'Down here, Chief! Here's your gloves. They need you in the operating room.' I told her, 'I'm a personnel chief.' She repeated, 'They need you in the OR.'"

"I go in and there's the medical chief — he's a 4A, a medical admin guy — and he's gowned, masked, actively involved in the operation," Chief Orslene remembered. "I asked, 'Tom, what in the hell am I doing here?' He said, 'We need anyone with any medical training. Come over here and hold this guy's eye in.' He slid this thing like a Dixie cup across the guy's face and sewed it in place over the eye. Then he handed me this guy's arm and told me to put it in a bag and put his name on it and put it under the bed so that when

they shipped him out, all of his body parts would go with him.

"The blood was flowing out as fast as they could put it in. They were taking blood right out of people's arms and brought it straight into the OR. The tile floor was so covered in blood that you couldn't stand up, so I took these blue spongy pads and tried to squeegee the blood into the corner."

Finally the surgeon said, "If we're going to ship him to Balad (Air Base, Iraq), there's no better time than this. I put as much anesthesia in him as he can take. He's going to wake up and you're going to have to talk to him."

"I started whispering in his ear as he started to rouse and shake," the chief said. "I held his hand and kept saying, 'Brian, you're going to be OK. Buddy, you're going to be OK,' over and over again. We went out through the ER to go to the helicopter, but I didn't remember any of that. Finally, they had to pry my fingers loose from his hand — and he died 23 minutes

after they took off."

When Chief Orslene returned home from Iraq, he had to learn to navigate the medical care maze to get the treatment he needed for his physical injuries.

"We didn't have a wounded warrior program here yet," he pointed out. "That's been fixed — now when you get home, you see a doctor, whether you need to or not. Dr. James Gasque, a retired colonel who continues to work with wounded warriors, and Dr. Yekaterina Karpitskaya, my orthopedic surgeon, are the very best."

It didn't take long for the chief's wife to become aware of the emotional toll of her husband's deployment.

"We were at the base gas station during his R&R week on a Wednesday at noon when they test the base sirens," Mrs. Orslene said. "As the alarm started blaring, he literally dove under the truck. He was visibly startled and asked what the siren was for. Even after I explained it to him, he was uncomfortable hearing it and only visibly relaxed when it stopped."

She noticed her husband's frequent "whiteouts" when he stared ahead without blinking for long periods.

The chief's PTSD became more obvious to his wife on the 4th of July, about six weeks after his return. When a neighbor started firing a small cannon to celebrate the holiday, her husband flipped over the dining room table, tried to find his weapon and freaked out their guests.

"When I couldn't get Damian to understand he was safe, I went outside and demanded that my neighbor, a retired Navy officer, stop firing his cannon," Mrs. Orslene said. "I told him, 'From one military person to another, I'm sure you understand what my husband just went through and will not fire that cannon again.'"

"Damian had so many things physically wrong with him that we just associated

Please see **Orslene**, Page 17

any changes — headaches, memory loss, irritability — to the therapy or pain he was in at the time,” she continued.

“I didn’t immediately associate his forgetting things to traumatic brain injury. What was different right away, though, was his emotional state. Damian had never spoken harshly to me and he came very close several times. He had highs and lows before like everyone does, but now his highs were higher and his lows lower.”

To complicate the issue, there was no clear reference in Chief Orslene’s medical records about the combat aspects of his injuries, so he wasn’t coded as a “wounded warrior.” The medical evaluation board at Keesler said he would be retired at 40 percent non-combat related. To appeal the decision, Chief Orslene met with a physical evaluation board at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

“Basically the board said just because I said I was hurt in a combat zone didn’t make it so,” he said. “We had a laptop and a cell phone and I’m reaching out to people all over, saying, ‘Dude, send me a letter, e-mail, anything!’”

People all over the globe sent information to support him, with the chief working the phones and his wife downloading e-mails to print out.

After reading some of the e-mails, Lori said, “I’ve been hearing you tell your story for three years — you didn’t mention half of this stuff.”

“When I started reading the e-mails, it was like a filing cabinet in the deep, dark recesses of my mind was unlocked,” the chief said. “Horrible memories came tumbling out.”

The e-mails revealed missing pieces about the day of the police station explosion.

“The blast came through our wire through the tent to the command post — the cement building was split from floor to ceiling,” Chief Orslene explained. “The blast threw me 9 feet into the air and I

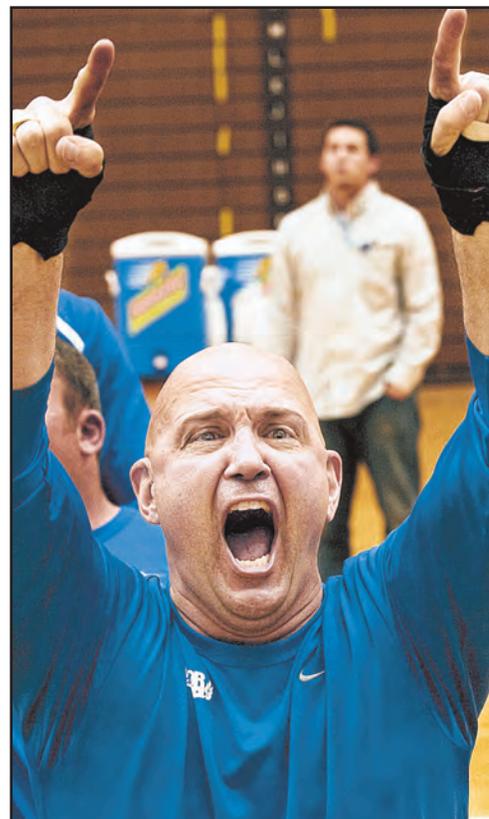


Photo by Kemberly Groue

The Orslenes have been married for 11 years.

Right, Chief Orslene celebrates after Air Force’s wheelchair basketball victory against Navy May 12 that clinched the bronze medal at the inaugural Warrior Games in Colorado Springs.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Desiree Palacios



came down on my head. When I came to, there was so much sand in the air I couldn’t hear or see. As soon as I was cognizant, they needed blood, and that’s where the story I remembered picked up.”

The chief had repressed the scene in the emergency room which had been converted to a makeshift surgery suite because of the number of injuries.

“There was blood everywhere — like the worst M*A*S*H scene you could imagine, people doing the very best they could,” Chief Orslene said.

“The last thing I remembered was when the helicopter took off, but it didn’t end there,” he continued. “The chief who was in the operating room yelled my name and said, ‘There’s plenty more where he came from — let’s go.’ And I went back in there for 18 1/2 hours. Now I remember holding people down who were screaming as we cut off their clothes because they’d been burned so bad ... sticking my fingers in guys’ bodies, holding down arteries that were pumping blood. I held people’s lives in my hands.

“I had so much blood on me that when I was done they wouldn’t let me leave the hospital — they cut off my clothes and put me in scrubs

and sent me out to go put on a fresh uniform. I still feel blood on my hands that just won’t wash off.”

Back to the physical evaluation board at Lackland — Chief Orslene’s injuries were determined to be combat-related.

“I’m Air Force Wounded Warrior No. 577,” he declared. “People hear about wounded Soldiers and Marines, not Airmen. There are nearly 800 Air Force Wounded Warriors now, some of them right here at Keesler.”

After the Orslenes returned home, they had one day to repack before leaving for the Wounded Warrior Games at the Olympics Training Center in Colorado Springs. A week of training and conditioning preceded the actual competition, with swimming from 9-11 a.m., basketball from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and volleyball from 1-3 p.m. He won a bronze medal in the wheelchair basketball event.

Being surrounded by hundreds of wounded warriors stirred up even more repressed memories for Chief Orslene, but it also awakened a new appreciation of why the United States is the greatest fighting force in the world.

“It has little to do with technology — it’s because we never quit,” he insisted. “One

guy was hanging on to the side of the pool and I said, ‘Way to go!’ and he said, ‘That’s what you expect from a Marine, isn’t it?’ They took his legs, they took his eyes, he’s forever damaged and he still won’t quit.”

The pace of competing in three sports took its toll on Chief Orslene by the time he competed in the 100-meter swimming event. He missed the bronze medal by 1/100th of a second. He passed out after the race and awoke with his head in Lori’s lap and an oxygen mask on his face.

Two weeks after the games, the chief had shoulder surgery and ended up in the ER several times for pain management. Nightmares began anew and he was only able to sleep about two hours a night.

“PTSD is a disease — it goes into remission, but it never goes away,” he observed. “You can do things to mitigate it — take some meds, read about it, have a support network, develop coping strategies. You get comfortable with the memories — the more you talk about it, the better it gets; the more you remember, the less likely you are to have nightmares. I spend two hours with a psychiatrist every Tuesday to work through this.”

Chief Orslene worries

about the challenges many Airmen face after they return from deployment, expected to be back on the job just a few weeks after their return.

“They’re not the same people when they come back — maybe they were gunners on convoys or guarded Iraqis in prison,” he observed. “I’m afraid our country is going to have an epidemic of PTSD in 10 years.

“I’m 46 years old and realized I needed help — I’m a chief and I wouldn’t back down,” he continued. “But what if I was 20 and I had my whole life ahead of me and a 19-year-old wife and a brand-new baby?”

Chief Orslene praised the 81st Medical Group’s wounded warrior team, referring to Donna Anderson, active-duty wounded warrior care coordinator, and Dan Ransom, recovery care coordinator, as “absolute heroes — Dan and Donna are a tiger team. Keesler’s program is in its infancy compared to larger facilities, but the Air Force and other services count on Keesler when injured service members move home to this area.”

Chief Orslene’s retirement plans are uncertain. An avid fisherman, he earned his boat captain’s license, hoping to work on a charter boat after retirement, but isn’t sure if “my mediocre body will be able to get out there every day.” He’s been encouraged to start a nonprofit organization to assist wounded warriors in Mississippi, but he’s not sure where to start.

“I pray every night that God’s going to point me in the right direction,” Chief Orslene remarked. “I’ve had a lot of separation anxiety about leaving the Air Force. I’m in mourning for a way of life that I love and I don’t know what’s next — a chief is who I am, and that part of me is dying.

“But when it’s all said and done, it’s been a great ride — I’ve loved being an Airman,” he concluded. “It’s all about the people you love and the people who love you. The rest of it is details.”

AFA holds 9/11 military banquet

Air Force Association Chapter 332

Air Force Association John C. Stennis Chapter 332 joined with military retirees from Diamondhead, Miss., for a military banquet at the Diamondhead Country Club Sept. 11.

“This was a great event to share our 9/11 stories, talk to the cadets about what happened and how that changed America and recognize supporters in our community,” said Lt. Col. Janet Haug, chapter president and commander of the 81st Training Support Squadron.

The guest speaker was Maj Gen Mary Kay Hertog, 2nd Air Force commander.

The event was supported by Bay High School Junior ROTC, Biloxi High School Jazz Band, Diamondhead Regimental Brass Band and the Keesler Drum and Bugle Corps.

Miguel Rivera, 81st TRSS, plays the trombone in the Diamondhead band. Paul Solomon, son of Lt. Col. Scott and Devallynn Solomon, 81st Training Group, is a member of Biloxi High’s jazz band. Members of the base’s drum and bugle corps who performed are Airman 1st Class Jamhal Simon, 332nd Training Squadron; Airman 1st Class Annemarie Stella, 334th TRS, and Airman 1st Class Nathan McGreal and Airman Basic Chad Christensen, 336th TRS.

Ted Pattison Jr. from the Gulf Hills Racquet Club, a tennis instructor at Keesler’s youth center, received a community partner plaque and pin.

Teacher of the year is Andrew Gunkle from Gulfport High School.

Member of the year is Capt. Naomi Henigin, who’s now stationed at the Air Force Academy.

Members of the dinner committee are retired Chief Master Sgt. Ray and Pat Sheehy, retired Col. Sid Wright and retired Army Lt. Col. Bill Eckert.

Profits from the event benefit AFA’s Aerospace Education Foundation.

McFall ends 38-year federal career

News tips? Call the Keesler News, 377-4130.

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Bob McFall, director of Keesler's arts and crafts complex, retires Wednesday, 38 years to the day that he came into the Air Force.

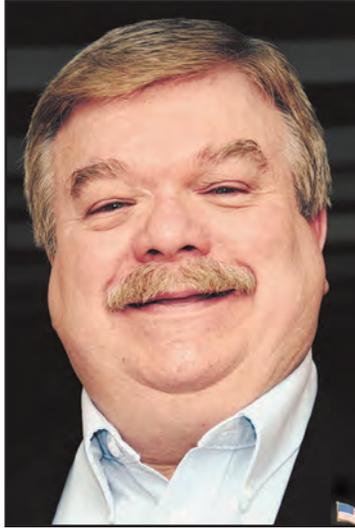
He spent four years in the military at Reese Air Force Base, Texas, where he was an administrative specialist for the special services division. He began his civil service career in 1977 as a recreation apprentice in Reese's recreation center and moved into the director's position in two years.

"While I was there, I was told that I was the first male child care director in Air Force history," he said.

In 1982, he moved to Lackland AFB, Texas, to manage the Skylark Community Center.

"We had the most customers and the largest staff of any community center in Air Force history," he stated.

At Lackland, he launched a "Christmas elf program" to



Mr. McFall

assemble packages for Airmen and civilians working on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day that he took to future assignments.

In 1991, Mr. McFall moved to Keesler, where he revitalized Vandenberg Community Center and converted the old NCO Club into the base's sec-

ond community center.

In 2002, Mr. McFall took an assignment at Yokota Air Base, Japan, where he was director of the largest community center program in Pacific Air Forces and director of Armed Forces Entertainment for mainland Japan. As family member program flight chief, he was responsible for the care of more than 500 children.

He returned to Keesler in 2004.

Mr. McFall was recognized for AETC's best Services program and program manager four times during his career.

"I'm looking forward enjoying the holidays — I'm usually working then, taking care of our Airmen," he said. "My retirement home in Chickasaw, Ala., is on the water, so I'm going to buy a boat. I might go back to school and do some community volunteer work. I'm really looking forward to the second half of my life."

No fatalities for AETC during annual summer safety campaign

By Jessica Turner

AETC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Education and Training Command ended its Critical Days of Summer campaign with no fatalities for the first time in 50 years.

The Air Force campaigns for safety every year from Memorial Day to Labor Day to encourage Airmen to focus on the increased risk of injuries and fatalities resulting from the climate-favorable season.

“I commend our Airmen, civilians and commanders for their outstanding efforts during the 2010 Critical Days of Summer,” said Gen. Stephen Lorenz, AETC. “I challenged Airmen to minimize their risks and to look out for each other and for their families, and they responded by exceeding all expectations.”

“Statistics show an average of three fatalities during the summer campaign,” said Master Sgt. Scotty Johns, AETC ground safety superintendent. “More often, fatalities are due to privately owned vehicles and recreational accidents caused by human error, poor judgment, driving under the influence and the failure to wear seatbelts.”

AETC’s director of safety said he is thankful for the participation and dedication of all Airmen, and hopes the men and women of the command can continue the safety goal.

“The summer of 2010 will always be memorable in that ... we didn’t have to make any sad phone calls to notify moms and dads that their child was lost in a senseless preventable mishap,” said Col. John Blumentritt, AETC safety director. “It’s a testament to commanders, supervisors and wingmen at every level that their efforts are paying off. It’s going to take an equal or even greater effort by all to keep this positive trend going into the next fiscal year and beyond.”

Army and Air Force Exchange to salute those 'Still Serving'

DALLAS —As part of its annual "Still Serving" weekend, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service will salute former Soldiers and Airmen by offering unique specials and events at Exchanges worldwide September 24-26.

"Still Serving" sales and benefits information is arriving in the mailboxes of approximately 700,000 Army and Air Force retirees. The flyer offers exclusive savings on a wide variety of products including 25 percent off men's adidas apparel, Nike caps and accessories, Hanes women intimate apparel, Rosetti handbags and Rolfs belts, \$50

off any in-stock Toshiba notebook and several food court meal deals.

"At approximately 2.3 million, retirees account for 26 percent of the Exchange's 12.3 million authorized shoppers," said the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Jeffry Helm. "The specials offered in the flyer, combined with the host of "Still Serving" events and festivities, should provide plenty of incentive for retirees to come and rediscover the value the Exchange offers."

In addition to the savings in-store, military shoppers

will find details on a "Salute to Your Service" sweepstakes at www.shopmyexchange.com. Online giveaways during the event include an Apple 8GB iPod Touch, netbook computer, six-piece luggage set and Dyson bagless vacuum cleaner.

Authorized shoppers can learn more about activities planned for the weekend of 24 September at their nearest Exchange by calling their local store manager. Contact information for all Army and Air Force Exchanges can be found online at www.shopmyexchange.com with the "Store Locator" link.



Become a Keesler fan
on Facebook!
81TRW Keesler AFB, MS

Volunteer —
get connected.

AAFES unveils new logo

Army & Air Force Exchange Service
Public Affairs

DALLAS — When the Army & Air Force Exchange Service unveils its new brand at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., Sept. 17, it will usher in a new era for exchange shoppers far beyond the plains of Oklahoma.

The upgrade is happening everywhere the exchange has a presence, including shoppers' mailboxes and computers as the website changes to www.shopmyexchange.com and advertisements, tabloids and catalogs display a brand new 'X' logo.

"The 'X' simplifies the many terms Army and Air Force Exchanges have been known as throughout the years," said Chief Master Sgt. Jeffry Helm, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's senior enlisted advisor.



sor. "This endeavor marks the end of post exchange, base exchange, AAFES, 'AFEES,' PX and BX confusion. Now, the 'exchange' stands ready to meet all authorized shoppers' needs."

"Even though there's a new look, customers around the world will still receive the same competitively-priced products and tax-free shopping they've come to expect from their exchange benefit," he said. "Regardless of the appearance, the benefit remains the same."

Driving on airfield restricted to certified personnel

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

For safety reasons, only specially-trained individuals are allowed to drive or walk within Keesler airfield's controlled movement area.

Airfield operations chief Justin Cooper said that only personnel with an Air Force Form 483, Certificate of Competency, for Keesler are allowed to drive on the airfield.

Refresher training must be completed annually and documented on the back of the form. Training includes completing the airfield driving computer-based instruction on Advanced Distributed Learning Service, watching the Keesler airfield driving video and reading Keesler Instruction 13-202, Airfield Driving.

Airfield drivers who commit a controlled movement area violation or runway incursion lose their driving privileges for a minimum of 30 days per Keesler Instruction 13-202, Chapter 4.

For pedestrians, the controlled movement area of the airfield is surrounded by signs around the perimeter of the runway. Pedestrians who commit controlled movement area violations or runway incursions are apprehended by the 81st Security Forces Squadron.

For more information, call Johnny Blair, assistant airfield manager, 377-2215.

Base residents encouraged to slow down

81st Security Forces Squadron

Keesler has experienced speeding incidents in family housing areas. Most incidents involve military members and dependants during the evening hours and on weekends.

The 81st Security Forces Squadron strictly enforces speed limits on base and reminds personnel driving on Keesler to follow the posted signs.

Keesler's speed limit is 25 mph unless otherwise posted, but the limit drops to 15 mph in family housing areas. In parking lots, the speed limit is 5 mph.

A speeding citation for exceeding 10 mph over the

posted limit in the family housing areas carries driving suspension — 30 days for a first offense, 90 days for a second offense and one year for the third and subsequent offenses.

A speeding citation for 1 to 10 mph over the speed limit earns drivers three points against their military driving record. For 11-15 mph over the limit, it's 4 points. If a driver receives 12 points within 12 months or 18 points within 24 months, driving privileges are suspended for one year.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Sheralyn Gonzalez, 376-6604.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Speed limit signs like this one posted in Bay Ridge housing are often ignored as incidents of speeding are rising.

KEESLER NOTES

81st CS closed

The 81st Communications Squadron is closed 7-10 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays for Unit Compliance Inspection preparations and training.

Regular hours resume after the inspection.

For emergencies, call 376-8127.

Book signing

Retired Maj. Gen. Jesse Allen of Biloxi signs copies of his book, *From Jeep Driver to General*, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the main exchange.

Be Well class

The health and wellness center offers a "Be Well Class," 8-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, for Keesler military, retired, their families and federal civilian employees.

The three-part class focuses on exercise, nutrition and behavior modifications. It's recommended for people who aren't sure how to start an

exercise program or make improvements in overall health, fitness and diet. It's taught by an exercise physiologist, the HAWC dietician and a mental health technician.

Specific modules are offered each month that members can attend, such as running, strength training and healthy weight.

For more information, call the HAWC, 376-3170.

Healthy living classes

The mental health flight is offering a series classes encompassing healthy living from a therapeutic point of view.

Classes are 3 p.m. Wednesdays in the Arnold Medical Annex conference room in on Meadows Drive behind the tennis courts.

They last 60-90 minutes and are open to military members and retirees, along with their family members, as well as federal civilian employees.

For more information on topics, call Senior Airman Fabian Consbruck, 376-0385.

Heart Walk

Base teams are being organized for the American Heart Association's Heart Walk Oct. 2.

Festivities and registration begin at 7:30 a.m. at the former Gulfport Veterans Administration Medical Center site on U.S. Hwy. 90. The walk starts at 8:30 a.m.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Isunte Barnes, 377-2936, (504) 274-9030 or e-mail isunte.barnes@us.af.mil.

Second career briefing

Marketing Yourself for a Second Career program is 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 20 in the Sablich Center Auditorium.

The program is presented by retired Navy Capt. Brian Blanchfield, Military Officers Association of America.

It's recommended for military members who plan to leave the service in the next one to three years. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Topics include job competi-

tion, transition planning, resumes, salary negotiation, networking and interviewing.

For more information, call Steve McDaniel Jr., 376-8506.

Pool still open

The main base pool on Meadows Drive remains open through Wednesday:

Monday-Friday — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. lap swim only; 2-3 p.m. closed; 3-7 p.m. lap and recreation swimming.

Saturday and Sunday — noon to 6 p.m., lap and recreation swim.

For more information, call 377-3948 or 3160

Airman's Attic hours

Airman's Attic is at the corner of Meadows Drive and 1st Street.

Airmen's Attic assists junior enlisted members with obtaining free basic household items.

Donations are needed such as furniture, area rugs, cutlery, dishware, infant wear and maternity clothes which are clean and in good condition. Bring dona-

tions to Airman's Attic during regular hours, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, non-training Fridays and the last Saturday of the month.

Supply source

The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office is a free source of supplies and equipment.

For more information, visit the CSC supply customer service element, Room 126, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002; call Michael Cashion, 377-8891, or e-mail michael.cashion.2.ctr@us.af.mil.

Thrift shop hours

The Keesler Thrift Shop, operated by the Keesler Spouses Club, is at the corner of Meadows Drive and First Street.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Donations are accepted during regular hours. Consignments are accepted 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays.

For more information, call 377-3217.

8 from Keesler finish Air Force Marathon events

By Bill Hancock

88th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON Air Force Base, Ohio — A record 12,000 runners registered for 2010 Air Force Marathon events last weekend at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Events included the full marathon, a wheeled division, a half-marathon and 10K and 5K runs.

“There are representatives from every state, along with six nations, and 44 folks who have attended every U.S. Air Force Marathon start since its inception in 1997,” said Lt. Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger, Air Force Materiel Command vice commander, in welcoming the participants.

The Air Force Marathon, sanctioned by the USA Track and Field Association, is a qualifier for the Boston Marathon.

“What a privilege it is to run,” said Morgan Burns, an Air National Guardsman from DeSoto, Kan., after winning the women’s 10K. “I just completed basic training last January and currently attend tech-

nical school at Keesler. Academics come first, and I needed to attain special permission from my squadron commander to run today.”

Brian Dumm, an English instructor at the Air Force Academy, won the full marathon with a time of 2:27:40.

Anne Marie Sibal, a judge advocate at the academy, finished first among military females running the full marathon at 3:06:47.

This half-marathon team event featured some friendly interservice rivalry between the Air Force and Marine Corps teams. The Air Force team of four males and two females took the honors.

In her first marathon, Alicia Salas, March AFB, Calif., took home the “Tail-end Charlie” trophy as the last full marathon finisher.

“Brutal,” was how she described the pain in her knees during the final miles of the race. “I finished and I am very thankful,” Sergeant Salas said.

For complete race results, visit www.usafmarathon.com.

Here’s how Team Keesler fared

Keesler News staff

Eight Keesler runners completed Saturday’s Air Force Marathon.

Morgan Burns, 21, a weather student in the 335th Training Squadron, beat 966 other female runners to take first place in the women’s 10K with a time of 41 minutes 11 seconds. She was also 14th place overall of the total 1,702 runners in the race and 6th overall in the military division.

Here’s how other Keesler runners finished, with clock time/chip time, overall place, gender place, division place and age grade.

Marathon

Walker Hofmann, 333rd TRS — 4:31:25/4:29:47; 1,104/2,416; 880/1,712; 109/196; 46.3 percent.

Zsuzsanna Krokovay, 81st Medical Operations Squadron — 4:39:51/4:30:55; 1,124/2,416; 232/704; 47/122; 50 percent.

Joseph Wheeler, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron — 5:34:37/5:32:11; 2,007/2,416; 1,473/1,712; 241/285; 37.6 percent.

Cody Spittler, 81st Force Support Squadron — 5:37:41/5:14:31; 1,825/2,416; 1,355/1,712; 113/133; 39.7 percent.

Half marathon

Annette Owens, 333rd TRS — 2:33:21/2:28:45; 2,584/4,302; 1,041/2,247; 1,041/2,247; 51.5 percent.

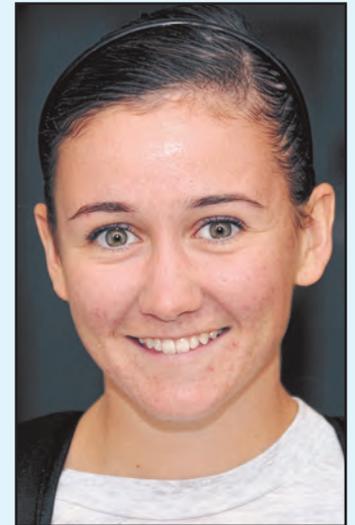
Nelson Viniegra, 81st MDOS — 2:34:29/2:32:41; 2,740/4,302; 1,603/2,055; 223/289; 40.7 percent.

Terry Owens, 336th TRS — 2:56:11/2:51:18; 3,317/4,302; 1,827/2,055; 252/282; 38.8 percent.

10K

Janet Draper, 338th TRS — 1:14:17/1:10:53; 997/1,701; 452/1,701; 43/120; 44.3 percent.

Airman 1st Class Heather Holcomb and Susan Griggs contributed to this report.



Burns

Golf tournament Oct. 8 benefits wounded warriors

Keesler’s Wounded Warrior Golf Tournament is 11 a.m. Oct. 8 at Bay Breeze golf course.

The cost is \$50 per player, with a limit of 36 four-person teams. The fee covers food, beverage, green fees and cart.

There’ll be prizes and raffles. Mulligans/strings are \$5.

All profits benefit wounded, injured and ill service members and their families in the surrounding area who are in need through the local Disabled American Veterans chapter.

For more information, call Dan Ransom, 376, 3076, or Christopher Freimann, 377-8234.



Tying flies

From left, Navy retirees Ed Carson of Diamondhead and Melvin Picaut of Ocean Springs demonstrate fly tying to 4-year-old Sidney Vail and her mom, Melinda, at the exchange Friday. Sidney’s dad is Capt. Andrew Vail, 45th Airlift Squadron. The men represent Project Healing Waters, a program that uses fly fishing as part of the rehabilitation of injured military members and veterans. For more information, visit www.projecthealingwaters.org

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Poker face



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Steve Mullens, 81st Force Support Squadron, won the 5K poker run Sept. 16 by drawing three jacks, a queen and a 3 at the five stops along the route.

16 teams wage war in flag football

American League — The 338th Training Squadron's A-team (5-0) and the 81st Security Forces Squadron (3-0) are still undefeated as of Sept. 15.

Other teams and their records are 334th TRS (2-1), Marine Corps Detachment (2-3), 335th TRS (3-3), 81st Medical Support Squadron-B (2-4), 336th TRS-A (0-2) and Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit (0-4).

National League — As of Sept. 16, the 81st MDSS-A is 6-0.

Other teams and their records are 81st Medical Group (5-1), 332nd TRS (3-2), 81st Diagnos-

tics and Therapeutics Squadron (2-2), 403rd Wing (2-3), 338th TRS-B (1-3), 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron (1-4) and 336th TRS-B (1-6).

Games are 6, 7 and 8 p.m. American League plays Mondays and Wednesdays; National League plays Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Intramural soccer playoffs under way

Keesler's intramural soccer playoffs began Wednesday with the top eight teams meeting in a single elimination format.

Wednesday, the 338th Training Squadron A-team (9-1) played the 335th TRS (4-5) and the 334th TRS (9-1) faced off against the 338th TRS-B (4-5).

Monday's games feature the 332nd TRS (7-2) against the 336th TRS-A (3-5) at 6 p.m. and

81st Logistics Readiness Squadron (4-5) against the 81st Medical Support Squadron (7-3) at 7 p.m.

Winners of these four games meet at 6 and 7 p.m. next Wednesday. The winners of those two games meet in the championship game, 6 p.m. Sept. 30.

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