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Doggie dentist

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Airmen have many tools to get higher education

By Capt. Omar Villarreal

8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — With the current military tempo, it would seem safe to say that by joining the military, new Airmen will be able to see the world. I have known many people who have joined to get away, to see new places, to expand their understandings and to gain independence.

I decided to join the Air Force because I wanted to follow the footsteps of a proud Airman who served more than 24 years for his country. That proud Airman was my father, who along with my mother stressed the importance of education.

I never was the studying type. I guess I figured there were so many other things I would rather be doing, but because of my parents I knew education could help me grow as a person.

“Education can take you places,”

my parents would say. “Go to school, stay on top of your studies, work hard, believe in yourself and the rest will be history.”

I was commissioned nearly eight years ago, after four extremely fun years at the University of Texas at San Antonio. I am sure there were those who doubted I would be able to finish because I had a full plate. I worked full-time, I ran cross country, I was in ROTC and I was in a fraternity.

“Most people can only work and go to school, or have a social life and go to school,” a school administrator said during an orientation a week before my first semester. “We advise you choose what you want to do and stay away from the other.”

I am here to tell you that no matter how much you have on your plate, no matter how long it has been since you have taken your last class and no matter how hard you think it will be, there is always a little room for higher education. Putting forth just a little

amount of effort is all that is required to succeed.

As service members, we have tools at our disposal to help us get an education. We have an education center. We have tuition assistance. We have leaders who understand the value of a higher education; and if we are away from our families, we have the opportunity to get one or finish one we have already started.

The education center is there to help service members reach their educational goals. The education center is there to help with what probably is the hardest part about getting a higher education, registering for that first class. Once you register, you are well on your way to achieving the degree you seek.

So, with the tools available to each of us, there should be no reason for not pursuing a higher education, right? Well, that is up to us to apply the values instilled in each of us: Integrity first, Service before self and Excellence in all we do.

I think we owe it to ourselves to improve who we are. I can honestly say that I believe most service members strive to be model citizens. We want a higher rank, we want more responsibility and we want to live the best life possible.

I am not going to convince you to go register for a class, buy a textbook or take the first step and visit your base's education center to by writing this commentary. Getting an education is something you have to want to do for yourself.

All I am asking is that you take a second to think about the opportunities you have. As service members, we have opportunities that most only dream of. Want better for yourself? Get a higher education and go further than you ever thought possible.

For information on how you can take that first step, visit your education center or log on the Air Force Portal and visit the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

Intensified efforts in place to curb drunken driving

By Bryan Bailey

Safety office

From Friday through the Labor Day holiday, law enforcement agencies across the country are focusing their efforts to get impaired drivers off the road during the national alcohol-impaired driving crackdown. The message is clear: drive sober or get pulled over.

Nearly 1.5 million people are arrested each year for driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, an arrest rate of one of every 141 licensed drivers and motorcycle operators in the United States. Despite these odds, many still get behind the wheel while impaired, and every year there are thousands of victims who pay the price.

In 2009, there were 10,839 fatalities in crashes involving a driver with a blood alcohol content above the .08 legal limit, accounting for 32 percent of total traffic fatalities for the year. During the Labor Day weekend alone, there were 360 traffic deaths, with 38 percent alcohol related.

These losses can greatly impact our force. In fact, motor vehicle crashes are the leading



cause of death and serious injury for all military personnel. If you're lucky enough to live through a crash, alcohol-impaired driving can result in jail time, fines, ignition interlock, loss of driver's license, higher insurance rates, and much personal embarrassment, including a discharge from the service.

For more information, visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org.

PREPARING for the storm



For hurricane
preparation resources,
log on to
www.keesler.af.mil

ON THE COVER

Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Collins, 81st Security Forces Squadron military working dog trainer, and his German shepherd partner, Bady, pause on a training obstacle at Keesler's kennel Aug. 11. Bady is one of Keesler's detection and patrol trained MWDs used to ensure the safety and security of the base. Story and more photos, Page 16.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney



KEESLER NEWS

**81st Training Wing
commander**

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

Public affairs director

Jerry Taranto

Editor

Susan Griggs

Photojournalist

Kemberly Groue

Writer/graphic designer

Steve Hoffmann

Public affairs staff

Billy Bell

Tim Coleman

Airman 1st Class

Heather Heiney

Staff Sgt.

Kimberly Moore

Senior Airman

Eric Summers Jr.

Joel Van Nice

YoLanda Wallace

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DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

What overpriced
item do you
continue to buy?



"Chicken nuggets from
my favorite fast-food
restaurant."

Marcus Williams, 81st
Communications Squadron



"Shoes."

Senior Airman Brenda
Kithinji, 81st Mission Sup-
port Group



"Cosmetics."

Staff Sgt. Charmaine
Flint, 81st Force Support
Squadron

New 2nd Air Force commander tours Keesler



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Second Lt. Dawn Mitchell, left, assists Maj. Amber Barker, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron maternal child flight commander, as she explains to Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick how patient simulator “Katrina” is used to train the family birthing center staff and other associated medics for labor and delivery emergencies. Patrick, who assumed command of 2nd Air Force July 21, was at the 81st Medical Group Aug. 10 as part of a two-day familiarization visit to 81st Training Wing organizations.

Keesler medics shine at EMEDS training

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Five “Dragon Medics” were recognized as outstanding performers following completion of a recent week-long training session at Camp Bullis, Lackland AFB, Texas.

Capt. (Dr.) John Dusenbury and Senior Airman Sagan Barber, 81st Dental Squadron; 1st Lt. Bethany Casper and Airman 1st Class Terrance Hines, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, and Senior Airman Chari Moore, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, were among 38 Keesler medics at the Expeditionary Medical Support training.

Col. (Dr.) Paul Nelson, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron chief of aerospace medicine, said, “Five of the six outstanding performers were from ‘Team

Keesler.’ This recognition is equivalent to ‘distinguished graduate’ according to the instructor cadre. These individuals were everywhere and colored way outside their lane, often in a great way. This will make our DCRF (Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Enhanced Conventional Weapons Response Force) exercise go smoothly.”

He explained, “The EMEDS training was in preparation for the major DCRF exercise at Camp Atterbury (Ind.). During this training, they focused on their wartime skills validation in preparation for this major field exercise. The ‘Dragon Medics’ built a tent hospital, then performed two days of simulated combat medical care demonstrating emergency stabilization, resuscitation and intensive care of combat wounds. Many of the participants had recently deployed and

brought their knowledge of trauma care and stabilization of combat casualties, training our newer medics in lessons learned from the field.”

Wednesday, almost 100 Keesler medics deployed to Camp Atterbury, about 35 miles south of Indianapolis to participate in “Vibrant Response 12/12A.” They return Aug. 24.

The 81st Medical Group personnel are providing medical support to 7,000 military members. They are also participating in the exercise to improve readiness skills under field conditions and interoperability with the Army command. The Air Force provides a mobile hospital that can provide emergency, surgical and short-term inpatient care. The EMEDS field hospital is chemical protected and includes a team to decontaminate patients.

Crash kills combat controller who trained at Keesler

Air Force News Service and Keesler Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Three Air Force Special Operations Command Airmen died Aug. 6 when their aircraft, a coalition CH-47 Chinook, crashed in the Maiden Wardak Province in eastern Afghanistan. They were among 25 U.S. Special Operations Command operators who died in the crash, which also took the lives of five U.S. Soldiers, seven Afghan commandos and one civilian interpreter.

All three Airmen were assigned to the 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Pope Field, N.C.

Staff Sgt. Andrew Harvell, 26, of Long Beach, Calif., graduated from the combat control operator course in the 334th Training Squadron in June 2003. All Air Force combat controllers begin their technical training at Keesler.

The two Air Force pararescuemen who died are Tech. Sgts. Daniel Zerbe, 28, of York, Pa., and Tech. Sgt. John Brown, 33, of Tallahassee, Fla..

“This crash leaves us in AFSOC with heavy hearts,” said Lt. Gen. Eric Fiel, AFSOC commander. “My deepest sympathies extend to the families of our fallen brethren and to their teammates. As we remember their sacrifice, we will press on and continue to provide unparalleled air support to our combatant commanders.”

Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney, Keesler Public Affairs, contributed to this report.

Scholarship applications accepted for physician assistant program

Air Force Personnel Center

Applications are now being accepted for active-duty officers and cadets to compete for scholarships into an accredited master of physician assistant program beginning in fiscal 2012.

These scholarships pay for tuition, books and most fees. The program also provides students with a monthly living expense stipend while attending the school. Stipend amounts are adjusted annually so applicants should ask about the most current rate when applying.

Students are commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps and placed on inactive, obligated Reserve status during their studies to reduce the financial worry on students and allow them to dedicate their time to learning.

The program is governed by Air Force Instruction 41-110, Medical Health Care Professions Scholarship Programs.

Scholarships are offered for a two-year term in exchange for a minimum service obli-

gation of three years. Service commitments existing prior to program entry are served before fulfilling this commitment.

The student's career as a PA begins upon completion of the degree program and reentry to active duty service as a first lieutenant physician assistant. Prior service grade credit is governed by AFI 36-2005 Table 2.5.

Active-duty officers who meet the eligibility criteria must submit a letter of approval to apply through their immediate commander and wing commander before sending their request to the separations branch at the Air Force Personnel Center. Cadets need a letter of approval from the line officer accessions.

Applicants must be accepted into an accredited master of physician assistant program and be medically qualified for worldwide duty.

For more information, log on to <https://kx.afms.mil/afbsceducation> or e-mail afpc.dpamw@us.af.mil or call DSN 665-2775 or commercial 210-565-2775.

ACT/SAT prep software offered to military families

By Michael McCracken

e-Knowledge Scholarship Alliance

For the sixth year, the eKnowledge Military Sponsorship Alliance is donating standard SAT and ACT PowerPrep programs to military families.

Eligible recipients of the software include service members from all branches of the military who are active duty, retired, veterans, members of the Guard or Reserve, Defense Department employees and civilians performing military support and their relatives and dependents.

So far, the alliance has donated more than 167,000 programs valued at more than \$37 million in this non-profit venture.

The alliance includes

more than 100 groups, corporations and professional athlete partners, including the National Catholic Education Association, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, National Federation of High Schools, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Department of Defense.

SAT and ACT tests are required by most U.S. universities.

SAT dates for this academic year are Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3, Jan. 28, March 10, May 5 and June 2.

ACT dates are Sept. 10, Oct. 22, Dec. 10, Feb. 11, April 14 and June 9.

For more information, or to order a donated program, visit www.eknowledge.com/MilNews.

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

Yale student interns at trainer development

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

The 81st Training Support Squadron's trainer development flight can replicate almost anything. Some of its recent projects include a door assembly simulator for the C-130 and a full scale model of a GBU-32 guided bomb. The flight even has printers that can print in three dimensions like a gear box with working gears. But then there's the mind and passion of Levi DeLuke. And while it will never be replicated, it can certainly be developed.

DeLuke is the son of Jeff and Sheila DeLuke. Levi's father is the 81st Training Group registrar chief.

DeLuke is entering his second year at Yale University working on a degree in engineering and is volunteering his time this month with the trainer development flight in order to get some

"I want to be hands off just enough to allow for some mistakes because that's how he's going to learn.

This internship allows Levi to develop his own path of engineering."

— Peterson

hands-on experience on what it's like to be an engineer.

"I love working here," said DeLuke. "All these guys are great. It's like working with my professors."

Paul Peterson, 81st TRSS mechanical designer, has taken the lead in working with DeLuke and making sure he gets exposed to everything training development has to offer. Currently, DeLuke and Peterson are working on

developing a C-130 fire extinguisher trainer for Sheppard Air Force Base. DeLuke is reverse engineering the real thing by using calipers to take measurements and entering them into 3-D modeling software.

"I wanted to give Levi something he could work on from start to finish and be able to see the unit operating," said Peterson.

According to Peterson,

DeLuke is an extremely bright young man and has required very little supervision with his internship.

"I want to be hands off just enough to allow for some mistakes because that's how he's going to learn," said Peterson. "This internship allows Levi to develop his own path of engineering."

Along with good safety and engineering practices, DeLuke is learning good problem-solving skills as Peterson will occasionally introduce variables into the engineering process to see how DeLuke would handle them.

Before coming to Keesler to begin his internship, DeLuke spent time in Italy pursuing another passion — learning Italian. DeLuke says he's just always loved the language — a love that was passed down from his grandfather who is Italian.

When DeLuke returns to Yale, he says he is looking for-

ward to building sets for university theater productions.

"I can't act, but I can build sets," said DeLuke.

And then there is the keeping of bees, that favorite high school pastime. That's right, DeLuke is a bona fide beekeeper.

"I learned it by helping out a neighbor who is a beekeeper," said DeLuke. "And before I knew it, I was keeping bees. We would either sell or gave away a lot of honey. We had tons of honey."

When DeLuke left for Yale to earn his engineering degree, he taught his dad how to keep his bees while he was away.

"I hope he comes back every summer," said Peterson. "I hope he comes back and works here someday."

DeLuke agrees.

"I'd love to come back and do something with the Department of Defense — maybe something in the area of nanotechnology," said DeLuke.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Peterson, left, and DeLuke are stepping through the process of reverse engineering the fire extinguisher valve on a C-130. DeLuke is entering measurements into 3-D modeling software which will be used to fabricate a trainer for Sheppard.

8th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force visits Keesler



Photo by Kemberly Groue

The eighth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Sam Parish, speaks to Airmen from the Airman Leadership School and the first term airman center Friday. Parish, who was the Air Force's top enlisted leader from 1983-1986, was the guest speaker at Friday's senior noncommissioned officer induction ceremony and addressed students at the Mathies NCO Academy.

Exceptions to Keesler's 25 mph speed limit are:
15 mph in housing areas, flight line and unpaved surfaces;
10 mph in close proximity to marching formations and when waved through base gates;
5 mph in parking lots, and
35 mph in some sections of perimeter roads.

TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

WCU registration

William Carey University is enrolling for the fall trimester which begins Monday.

William Carey offers flexible bachelor's and master's degree programs.

For more information on degrees, Veterans Affairs benefits and tuition assistance, call 376-8440.

Career and technical education is available for finishing GS 1750 requirements while working toward a degree. Online and live courses on base are offered.

Dr. Karen Juneau is available to answer questions about the program. For more information, call 282-0470.

MGCCC fall session

The fall session begins Monday for Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Keesler.

Today is the final day to register.

View the fall schedule at www.mgccc.edu.

For more information, call 376-8477 or visit the MGCCC office, Room 221, Sablich Center.

USM fall term

The University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Coast's fall term begins Wednesday.

For more information, call 376-8479.

CCAF deadline

The deadline to apply for the Community College of the Air Force fall graduation is Aug. 26.

By that date, all supporting documentation must be on file at CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., including your nomination action request.

For more information, visit Room 224, Sablich Center, or call 376-8708 or 8710.

OTS recruiting boards

Dates for Officer Training School recruiting service boards:

Rated — Dec. 1 application cutoff for Jan. 23; June 21, 2012, cutoff for Aug. 13, 2012.

Non-rated — March 1 cutoff for April 16.

CALT program

The Civilian Acculturation and Leadership Program is a two-week in-residence course patterned after the Officer Training School curriculum.

CALT is open to Air Force civilians in permanent General Service 7-13 with a bachelor's degree and two to five years experience.

Applications are open on a continuing basis.

Nominees can apply by completing the Air Force Civilian Competitive Development Nomination Form.

Seven classes are offered between October and September 2012. Classes are open until all seats are filled.

For more information, call 376-8161 or log on to Air Force Personnel Services.

Civilian tuition aid

Civilians using tuition assistance must receive a grade of "C" or higher for undergraduate classes or a grade of "B" or higher for graduate classes.

Failure to do so results in reimbursement to the government for its portion of paid tuition assistance.

Course grades must be provided to education services within two weeks of course completion.

For more information, call 376-8708.

Manager certification

The Community College of the Air Force awards professional manager certification that recognizes an individual's advanced level of education and experience in leadership and management, as well as professional accomplishments.

For more information, log on to <http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/certifications.asp> or call 376-8708 or 8710.

Symposium seeks to galvanize common cyberspace definition

By Christopher Kratzer

Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL Air Force Base, Ala. — The Air Force Research Institute at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., hosts a cyber symposium Oct. 26-27.

“Cyber Power: The Quest for a Common Ground,” is designed to improve the lack of accepted standards for definitions, data structures, threat assessments and policies both within and across communities that employ cyber power.

Retired Gen. Michael Hayden, former director of the CIA, emphasized the need for a common understanding of cyberspace in a recent article in the Air Force Research Institute’s “Strategic Studies Quarterly.”

“Rarely has something been so important and so talked about with less clarity and less apparent understanding than this phenomenon,” Hayden wrote. “But few of us (myself included) have created the broad structural framework within which to comfortably and confidently place these varied phenomena. And that matters.”

“I have sat in very small group meetings in Washington, been briefed on an operational need and an operational solution, and been unable (along with my colleagues) to decide on a course of action because we lacked a clear picture of the long-term legal and policy implications of any decision we might make.”

The conference will give cyber professionals from inter-agency, joint, industry, academic and international entities a forum to exchange ideas and experiences, according to Panayotis Yannakogeorgos, organizer of the conference.

“In recent years, large scale threats, including the Stuxnet

“I hope that this conference begins opening avenues of dialogues and shared understanding amongst all cyber stakeholders.”

— Yannakogeorgos

worm, the emergence of privateer hacker networks and the militarization of cyberspace, have raised the awareness of government decision makers and the private sector about the great risk cyber threats pose to vital systems and infrastructures upon which our societies and economies depend,” he said. “There is no coordination or common methodology with which to address the problem. I hope that this conference begins opening avenues of dialogues and shared understanding amongst all cyber stakeholders. We’re advocating a ‘whole of society’ approach.”

Panel discussions will be held at the event to foster a dialogue among attendees. Each panel will consist of representatives from private and public sectors and will focus on a specific theme.

“The conference will be organized around four themes related to the study of cyber threats: data needs and structures for situational awareness; common analytics and visualization; threat, trend, and target assessment methodology; and policy and law,” Yannakogeorgos said. “The format adopted for the conference will encourage an open dialogue among attendees following the Chatham House rule. This event will

also serve as an excellent networking opportunity among key cyber researchers and the policy makers.”

According to www.chathamhouse.org, under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use information but cannot divulge the identity of the source, which facilitates free speech and confidentiality at meetings.

Yannakogeorgos stressed that while the Air Force is leading the way in cyberspace, the help of joint, inter-agency and private-sector partners is invaluable.

“The way we’ve structured each panel is such that it reflects a whole of society approach rather than just an Air Force approach,” he said. “Although the Air Force is on the cutting edge of all things cyber, we can’t go it alone without the help of our joint, interagency and private sector partners. We expect that the panelists, who are some of the nation’s best and brightest thinkers on cyber policy issues, will have a fruitful discussion that will inform the broader communities of (cyber experts).”

For more information or to register for the symposium, visit <http://afri.au.af.mil/cyber/> or follow @AFRI09 on Twitter.

IN THE NEWS

Sunshade work affects base access

81st Security Forces Squadron

Keesler’s gates are being equipped with sunshades that will reduce some of the extreme weather experienced by 81st Security Forces Squadron entry controllers.

Installation schedule:

Meadows Drive Gate — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 27.

White Avenue Gate — 4-9 p.m. Aug. 27; traffic limited to single lanes in and out on west side of the gate.

Pass Road Gate — noon to 6 p.m. Aug. 28; traffic limited to single lanes in and out on north side of gate.

Exercise may affect hospital access

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

A major field training exercise affects access to care at the Keesler Hospital through Wednesday as nearly 100 members of the 81st Medical Group deploy to Camp Atterbury, Ind., to participate in “Vibrant Response 12/12A.”

The best way to access care is to call the central appointment line, 1-800-700-8603, as soon as it opens, 5 a.m. for active-duty members and 6 a.m. for others.

Air Force Ball is Sept. 17

Sept. 17, the Air Force Association Stennis Chapter hosts an Air Force Ball at the Bay Breeze Event Center to celebrate the Air Force’s 64th birthday.

The social hour is 6 p.m. with dinner at 7.

The evening includes a prisoner of war as guest speaker, a jazz band, cake cutting, dancing and prizes.

Tickets are \$35. Only 250 seats are available.

To respond, log on to www.gulfcoastairforceball.org.

Dental residency program review

The Commission on Dental Accreditation is reviewing the general practice and endodontics residency programs of the 81st Medical Group Nov. 15-16.

Third-party comments from students and patients are solicited by CODA until Sept. 15, 60 days prior to the scheduled review. Such comments must pertain only to the standards for the particular program or policies and procedures used in the commission’s accreditation process.

A copy of the appropriate accreditation standards and/or the commission’s policy on third-party comments may be obtained by contacting the commission at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611, or by calling 1-800-621-8099, extension 4653.

Many of the CODA standards and policies also are available at the American Dental Association’s website at www.ada.org/100.aspx. Comments are screened by commission staff for relevancy. For comments not relevant to these issues, the individual is notified that the comment is not related to accreditation and, where appropriate, referred to the appropriate agency.

For local questions, consult the program directors or the 81st Dental Squadron Residency Flight Commander, 606 Fisher Street, Keesler AFB, MS 39535, or call 376-5190.

Hospital staff mourns long-time employee

By Steve Pivnick

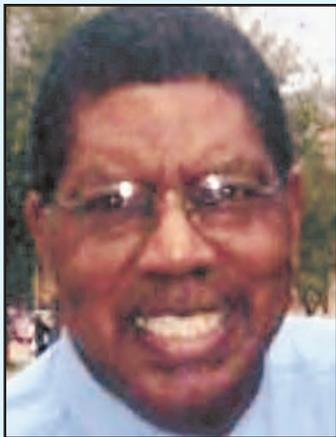
81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group has lost a long-time member.

Leonard Frazier passed away July 30 at the age of 65. He was the evening supervisor of the housekeeping staff and was an employee in the department for 22 years.

Survivors include his wife Caroline; daughters Sheritha and Chakon, both of D'Iberville, and Shequena Ashburn (Andrew) of Pittsburgh, Pa.; mother Sarah Frazier Hayes of Natchez, Miss.; brother Joseph; sisters Gloria Edgerson (Ronald), Barbara Dorsey (Dennis), Zelda Smith (L.T.); sister-in-law Algeritha Hudson; brother-in-law Rev. Freeman Webster (Delores); goddaughter Natasha Walker; three godgrandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

Services were held Aug. 5 at Mercy Seat Baptist Church in Gulfport followed by burial at Biloxi National Cemetery. Frazier's memorial service was held in the hospital's Don Wylie Auditorium Friday.



Frazier

Air Force officials implement 90-day civilian hiring freeze

By Capt. Mary Danner-Jones

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials announced the implementation of a 90-day hiring freeze effective immediately.

A firm commitment to keep spending within requested levels led to implement the hiring freeze across the civilian workforce.

In addition to a 90-day hiring freeze, the officials plan to reduce temporary and term employees and will implement both the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program and Voluntary Early Retirement Authority Program.

Officials project that all major commands, direct reporting units and field operation agencies will be affected by these actions.

"We are operating in a very challenging fiscal environment and are focused on meeting mission requirements with a reduced budget," said Lt. Gen. Darrell Jones, the deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. "We are mindful of the potential impacts of budget constraints on our civilian force and their families, which is why we are seeking to reduce the need for involuntary measures."

The 90-day hiring freeze is intended to quickly reduce civilian strength levels to

"We are mindful of the potential impacts of budget constraints on our civilian force and their families, which is why we are seeking to reduce the need for involuntary measures."

— Jones

budgetary limits and enable future hiring to support the most critical mission requirements.

"We will do our utmost to provide timely, candid communication on specific efforts as details are finalized," General Jones said.

For additional information on civilian workforce reduction measures, personnel should contact their local civilian personnel office, or call the Total Force Service Center, 800-525-0102.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Latin American specialist training

Air Force Personnel Center

The Inter-American Air Forces Academy's International Squadron Officer School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, develops potential Latin American regional affairs specialists.

Eight students will be selected to attend the Oct. 14-Dec. 11 class and four will be chosen to attend the June 25-Aug. 11 class next year.

Basic qualification criteria:

Captains with at least four but not more than seven years total active federal commissioned service as of course start date and routine Spanish proficiency or better.

For more information, contact Air Force Personnel Center officer force development, DSN 665-1478, commercial (210) 565-1478 or dpapff.workflow@randolph.af.mil; or the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, DSN 473-2741, commercial (210) 671-2741.

Transition assistance classes

81st Force Support Squadron

The airman and family readiness center plans the following classes for 2011 at the Sablich Center.

For more information or to preregister for classes, call 376-8728.

Mandatory pre-separation briefings — 1 p.m. Tuesdays for those separating with honorable discharges and 2:30 for retirees, Room 110. Bring one copy of separation or retirement orders. This appointment is required by law, and must be accomplished 90 calendar days before the separation or retirement date. For short-notice separations or retirements, the briefing should be done as soon as possible. Medical separation must receive a one-on-one briefing.

Transition assistance program workshops — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 12-14, Oct. 17-19, Nov. 14-16 and Dec. 12-14, Room 108A. Dress is business casual; no jeans, T-shirts or uniforms.

Veterans benefits briefing — 8-11 a.m. Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A.

Retirement briefings — 1-3:30 p.m. Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A; for members with less than a year until retirement.

Executive transition assistance workshop — Dec. 6-9 for colonels and chief master sergeants with the necessary knowledge and skills to organize their search for a second career in the private, nonprofit and government sector. Air Education and Training Command headquarters facilitates this workshop. For more information, call Robert Bertels, DSN 487-2669.

Discrimination hotline

Air Force Personnel Center

The Air Force Discrimination Hotline, 1-888-231-4058, serves active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilians.

The 24/7 hotline number ensures all discrimination and sexual harassment concerns are quickly identified and addressed. It streamlines the process by which individuals can speak with an equal opportunity professional at the Air Force Personnel Center to advise and assist with their concerns and issues. Callers can remain anonymous.

Personnel are highly encouraged to use their chain of command or local EO office as a first means to address concerns, but the 24/7 hotline is available to those who don't have immediate access to their local EO office.

Base construction sites
are off-limits without authorization.

New leader for 81st Medical Support Squadron



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Norman Whitt, left, lead CACI war reserve materiel contractor, describes the work done in the WRM warehouse to Lt. Col. Craig Lambert, right, new commander of the 81st Medical Support Squadron, Aug. 9 as Maj. Ronald Eller, the squadron's logistics flight commander, listens. Lambert assumed command of the unit from Lt. Col. Michael Dietz July 6. Lambert previously commanded the 45th MDSS, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., and was the deputy commander and administrator of the 45th Medical Group. Dietz, who's been selected for promotion to colonel, is now the hospital administrator at Langley AFB, Va.

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85th EIS welcomes new commander



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Kent Massey, Maj. Jeffrey Gomes, George McNeer and Fred Blache discuss the 85th Engineering Installation Squadron's storage area for lab and test equipment in Maltby Hall during an Aug. 9 familiarization tour. Gomes has commanded the squadron since July 28 and Massey, McNeer and Blache are some of his civilian employees. Gomes came to Keesler from Newport, R.I., where he earned his master's degree in national security and strategic studies at the College of Naval Command and Staff. He was an Air Force director fellow for the Chief of Naval Operations strategic studies group at the Naval War College. Lt. Col. Lonnie Hammack, who led the 85th EIS for two years, is now assigned to Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Defense Department says military retirement system won't change anytime soon

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The military retirement system isn't going to change any time soon, a Defense Department official said recently.

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said any changes to military retirement should be studied carefully and should be "grandfathered" so the military doesn't break faith with those in the service.

Pentagon officials are reviewing all areas of the defense budget, and the goal of the review is to "inform the decisions and strategies that we have to make," Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Aug. 4.

"So that's going to be key to what decisions we make and what areas we look to for savings," the secretary added.

In support of the depart-

ment's efficiency initiatives, a small group of Defense Business Board members was tasked to develop alternative plans to the current military retirement system. The group briefed its findings and draft recommendations to the full board during their July 21 quarterly meeting. The full board approved the recommendations, and the group will issue a final report by the end of this month.

The Defense Business Board provides DOD's senior leaders independent advice and recommendations "on effective strategies for the implementation of best business practices on matters of interest to the Department of Defense," according to Pentagon officials.

Eileen Lainez, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said officials are reviewing the board's recommendations.

"Any recommendation to change the military retirement system must be approached with thoughtful analysis, to include considerations of impacts to recruiting and retention," Lainez said. "While the military retirement system, as with all other compensation, is a fair subject of review for effectiveness and efficiency, no changes to the current retirement system have been approved, and no changes will be made without careful consideration for both the current force and the future force."

Core Values



Integrity First

Service Before Self

Excellence in all We Do

"Sure Hope It Floats"
Regatta & Pool Party



Cardboard boats face off in regatta at Triangle Pool

By Diana White

CSC marketing

The "Sure Hope It Floats" cardboard boat regatta is 7 p.m. Saturday at the Triangle Pool.

Each team is made up of a "skipper" and a "first-mate" that construct their boat, be it a dinghy or a luxury liner, out of cardboard and duct tape for a race across the pool.

Hosted by the community centers, outdoor recreation and the Keesler Integrated Resource Team, the free event is open to Team Keesler.

"We thought this event would be a fun activity that can bring people of all ages together and build camaraderie," said Maria Taylor, community center director. Plus, we're excited to see the creativity that Team Keesler has when it comes to the design of each individual boat and their ingenuity in getting it across the pool."

Prizes are awarded to the first, second and third boats to cross the finish line. Other prizes include best dressed crew, most unique design and the "Davy Jones Locker" trophy for the first boat to sink. After the race, there's free food, non-alcoholic drink specials and music and at an end-of-season pool party.

Cardboard and tape are available at the Vandenberg Community Center while supplies last. Teams may sign up through Friday at the Vandenberg Community Center, Bay Breeze Community Center and outdoor recreation.

The event is sponsored by Allen Toyota and Forest City.

For more information and rules, call 377-2509 or 3160 or visit www.keesler81fss.us.

Celebrating Keesler's heritage

Keesler celebrates "70 Years of Excellence ... With a Touch of Class!" Aug. 27 with these celebrations:

Golf scramble — 8 a.m., Bay Breeze Golf Course. Golfers must have verifiable handicaps for the four-person select-shot tournament. The cost is \$40 per player for green fees, cart, coffee, pastries, lunch, beverages, prizes and giveaways. Preregistration is required. For more information or to sign up, call 377-3832.

Family party — 9 a.m. to noon, Bay Breeze Event Center. Free activities and refreshments are planned, including games, a clown, face painting, inflatables, pony rides, arts and crafts, cookies and ice cream. For more information, call 377-4116.

Gala — 7-11 p.m., Bay Breeze Event Center. Guests are asked wear Kentucky Derby garb, with prizes for best dressed guests. There's live entertainment by Big Band Theory, dancing, scotch and cigar sampling, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a photo booth. Tickets are \$15 for Air Force Club members and \$20 for nonmembers. Tickets are available at Bay Breeze club and pro shop, the marina and Gaudé Lanes. For more information, call 377-1690 or 2334.

ENERGY AWARENESS

Energy conservation helps create and maintain a clean environment, reduces pollution and our dependence on foreign oil, and helps the Air Force meet its federal goals. Here's how you can help:

- Turn off lights in unoccupied offices or rooms
- Replace inefficient incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs
- Turn off monitors, printers and fax machines when leaving at the end of the day
- Buy "Energy Star" labeled appliances and products
- Install programmable thermostats to set lower temperatures in unoccupied areas
- Make sure broken windows are reported and everything is caulked and sealed as appropriate
- Recycle. Recycling paper can save one tree per 16.5 reams of paper; recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours
- Styrofoam is not recyclable -- use coffee mugs instead

Airman's experience underscores career cost of drinking, driving

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Six months ago, Senior Airman Steven Guerrero was Staff Sergeant Guerrero. Then he had a serious lapse of judgment and was stopped for driving under the influence of alcohol.

The noncommissioned officer in charge of the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron radiation oncology department recalled his life prior to and since being stopped by an 81st Security Forces Squadron patrol on March 3.

"I was selected to train on the (computed tomography) scan equipment within six months of arriving at Keesler," he said. "Then I made staff sergeant the first time I tested. I always ensured I concentrated on core values on duty. Unfortunately, this wasn't the case after duty hours. I felt everything was going my way. I felt invincible and that I could do no wrong."

Then things went terribly wrong.

"I had some drinks at the event center after work," he explained. "Afterwards, I went to a co-worker's on-base residence and had a couple more. By the end of the night, I decided it was time to head home. My friend offered to let me stay the night but I refused. I insisted I could drive and told him I would text him when I got home. I never did text him — the security forces pulled me over and busted me for a DUI."

"I remember sitting in the holding cell waiting for the 'Shirt' to pick me up. And while I was waiting, I prayed for God to help me, but God didn't help me that night. I continued to be in denial the entire weekend, dreading having to see my co-workers who would know their NCOIC got hit with a DUI."

Guerrero continued, "The next day came and what I had



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Guerrero shares his experience with 81st Medical Group enlisted members during a mandatory enlisted call July 26. The group's senior enlisted leadership — superintendents and first sergeants (at right) — used the occasion to instill upon the Airmen the need to avoid drinking and driving as well as underage drinking following a spate of drinking incidents.

hoped was a dream was just the opposite. I woke up to a phone call from my supervisor telling me to put on my service-dress uniform because we were going to the wing. I received an a**⁻chewing from the wing commander and command chief. But that wasn't the end of it. I still had to await the consequences of my actions. Weeks went by without a word and I had no idea what to expect. So I had to assume the worst — that I would be separating in 90 days.

"Then I had my commander's verdict. As a result of my lapse of judgment, I was 'busted' down to senior airman, received an Article 15 — which included an unfavorable information file — and had to serve 10 days extra duty. Fortunately, I wasn't placed on the control roster, which probably salvaged my career. At the time, the Air Force was still conducting 'roll backs' and anyone placed on the control roster most likely would be separated from the service."

He observed, "Fortunately I'm still here and have a career. I thank everyone who supported me because I know they didn't have too. They could have decided to kick me out and I wouldn't blame

them if they had.

"This has been one of the hardest lessons I ever had to learn. Normally, if given the chance, I would do everything the same way twice. But not this: I'd give everything to take it back if I could."

Guerrero said, "I realize it's not worth risking your life or career over an alcohol-related incident. I'm just glad I didn't injure or kill anyone or myself or lose my career because of this. And when I was an NCO, I always told my troops not to drink and drive, but I went and did it myself. That's not right."

"Alcohol-related incidents are so easy to avoid. Why does it always take something bad to happen before we decide to change the way we live?"

Wanting to share what he has learned from his DUI, Guerrero stated, "If you drink, don't drive, and if you're under age, you shouldn't be drinking in the first place. I witnessed underage drinking and many DUIs here and was convinced I was never going to be caught. But I did get caught. If it happened to me, it could easily happen to anyone. If I can convince at least one person to change their drinking habits, then I know I did my job."

Determined trainer boosts canine warrior's skills

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

It has been said that there is no closer relationship than that of a boy and his dog, but a military working dog and its handler share a bond that allows them to communicate without language, move synchronously and risk their lives for one another and the mission.

Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Collins, 81st Security Forces Squadron MWD trainer, and his German shepherd partner, Bady, have this relationship.

Collins first met Bady when he was attending a supervisor's course at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. At the time, Keesler needed another detector dog to replace one that was about to retire. Bady was the only dog available, but had "washed out" of detector training. Collins decided to bring Bady back to Keesler and complete the training himself.

"The dog was in limbo," Collins said, "but his drives were so high."

Lackland only has a certain amount of time to train a dog and then the dog has to move on, fully qualified or not. Bringing Bady to Keesler allowed Collins the one-on-one time that Bady needed to absorb the process of detection.

A military working dog and its handler share a bond that allows them to communicate without language, move synchronously and risk their lives for one another and the mission.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney

Collins spent two months working with Bady one-on-one after hours to fully qualify the dog after Bady "washed out" of detector training at Lackland.

"I was confident that our section could get him detection-certified," Collins said.

He also said that if he hadn't trained Bady for detection here at Keesler, it would have cost the Air Force more money to fully train another dog and to send Bady to another base, most likely overseas, to work

solely as a patrol dog.

Collins brought Bady to Keesler in October and spent two months fully training and qualifying the dog. Master Sgt. Lisa Phillips, a former 81st SFS MWD handler, witnessed the certification and assured that the height and depth of training was fulfilled.



In addition to maintaining his day job at the kennel, Collins also had to come in at night to work on Bady's detection training.

"We still have to meet the mission here," Collins said. "There was a lot of late-night training going on."

Collins also said that Bady may not have done well elsewhere because he's too aggressive and his bites are particularly hard. He said that in the wrong situation, someone could have been injured.

"It took three days before I could step into his kennel," Collins said. "On the third day, he had a curious look on his face and let me into the kennel. By the fifth day, I had physical contact."

Collins said that MWDs have to build a rapport and trust with their handlers over time.

A typical day for the dog handlers consists of unit physical training, controlled aggression/patrol training, feeding, cleaning, discussing

troubleshooting methods and detection training. K-9s are trained to bite and hold, pursue an individual that is fleeing, detect odors and act on the command of the handler. The dog searches for an odor, performs a response and receives a reward.

"We use the behavioral drive of the dog to manipulate its actions," Collins said.

"The dog learns through self discovery, and we use successive approximation to train them. For instance, a dog doesn't learn to alert on an aid 4 feet deep automatically. We have to gradually get the dog to detect at that level, this is successive approximation," Collins said. "You know the phrase 'learning to crawl before we can walk' — it's basically the same thing."

After the dog is used to the decoy succumbing to its attacks, the handlers test its stress threshold by resisting the dog.

The decoy and handler talk to one another throughout each training session. They discuss what signs the dog gave, what that means for that particular dog and what they can do differently next time to elicit a different response. The handlers have to understand behavioral signs, as well as what's going on with their dog psychologically.

Handlers also receive veterinary training so that if something happens to their dog, they can react immediately and save the dog's life.

"We get a lot of the same training that the medical folks get," Staff Sgt. Nick Ford, MWD handler, said.

Collins dedicates nearly all of his time every day to making sure Bady and all the other dogs in the kennel are fully trained and cared for.

"He never leaves the kennel," said Ford.

"There is not a day that goes by that I don't put a smile on when I see Bady," Collins said. "It's a handler thing."



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Barani, left, and Casper treat Ziko. The second-year endodontics residents graduated from the residency program the next day.

Military working dog receives historic, career-saving root canal

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

A team from the 81st Dental Squadron recently performed a root canal on a valued member of the 81st Security Forces Squadron — military working dog “Ziko.”

Veterinarian Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Joseph Harre, 81st Medical Support Squadron, oversaw the approximately two-hour procedure as second-year endodontics residents Maj. (Drs) Arezoo Barani and Rhett Casper and dental technicians Airman 1st Class Jason Rodriguez, Staff Sgt. Heather Muller and Tech. Sgt. Marcus McQuaig treated the 10-year-old canine.

Dr. Harre explained Ziko also had a root canal in 2003. “It’s important to try to save the tooth so he can continue to work, especially since it was one of his canines, which is a main gripping tooth.”

Dr. Harre said the security force military working dogs normally have dental checks annually or as needed. The squadron’s dog handlers determined there was a problem because Ziko was not biting

and performing as he should which led to the dental work.

“Without the root canal, his effectiveness would definitely be reduced,” the veterinarian added.

Col. (Dr.) Brian Bergeron, 81st DS endodontics residency program director, also was present. He commented, “This tooth had received a root canal previously several years prior for unknown reasons. Upon radiographic inspection following general anesthesia (dogs don’t cooperate for dental x-rays), it was apparent that the root canal had been poorly done originally, likely leading to a low-grade bacterial infection and chronic painful inflammation at the end of the root. We retreat and re-accomplish root canals routinely for various reasons in humans, but almost never in dogs.”

Dr. Bergeron continued, “This ‘canine’ tooth is critical as the cornerstone of the mouth and particularly in a military working dog that often needs to be able to both intimidate and attack if necessary. Routinely, abscessed teeth with previous root canals

would be extracted but ‘canine’ teeth in German shepherds can be almost 2½ inches long, with two-thirds of that length in bone. The surgery to remove the tooth could be debilitating to the animal versus a routine tooth extraction. As a result, we decided to retreat and redo this particular dog’s root canal. This root canal retreatment is so uncommon for dogs it was the first such procedure ever accomplished at Keesler.”

Ziko’s handler is Staff Sgt. Jose Orama, but Staff Sgt. Nicholas Ford, another dog handler, was present during the procedure. He noted that Keesler’s MWDs have to be “dual-purpose” and are used for attacking and detection.

Sergeant Ford said that although Ziko has recovered from the root canal, the security forces squadron is in the process of “adopting him out” because of his age and loss of aggression since the procedure. Sergeant Ford noted there already are candidates — former handlers — lined up to adopt him.

Good bullet writing makes big career impact

By Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

In the Air Force, there are two types of bullets — the kind loaded into a weapon system and the kind used to evaluate Airmen’s performance.

Good bullet writing can make an impact on both the supervisor writing the bullet and the person being evaluated.

“As supervisors, it builds our leadership influence and credibility, and it motivates others to work to their highest potential. As subordinates, it enhances our promotion selections and future job opportunities,” said Senior Master Sgt. Vanessa Polk, director of education at the Mathies NCO Academy.

Polk said that bullets affect careers in terms of awards, decorations, promotions, long-term records and potential retention. She also said that it’s a supervisor’s responsibility to honestly and accurately document performance and differentiate between the high and poor performers.

“Our Airmen do great work and we need to effectively capture it in their enlisted performance reports and award packages. Bullet writing sets Airmen up for success,” said Senior Master Sgt. Kimberlee Bauer, legal office superintendent.

Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Jennings, 81st Mission Support Group superintendent, said to ask yourself, “Did the action save money or time? Did it improve

a process or did it better the path for the people that follow it?”

“You want to use your hardest hitting impact — things you led and spearheaded are always best,” said Jennings.

The chief also suggested seeking advice from others.

“Don’t be bashful to seek a mentor or trusted agent to bounce something off of,” Jennings said. “Don’t be too proud to ask for help.”

Bauer said to look at the rank of the individual, because with more rank comes more responsibility and leadership skills.

“What may be a great bullet for a senior airman wouldn’t pass as a bullet for an NCO; you need to make sure the bullets align appropriately,” Bauer said. “Skip the fluff and state the facts with impact.”

Polk suggested the following tips to make the bullet-writing process flow smoothly:

- Start early so you don’t have to rush.
- Paint a clear picture of what took place and show how that event impacts the unit, base, Air Force and beyond.
- A good bullet quantifies with numbers, dollar amounts and percentages.
- It adds specifics so the reader isn’t left assuming, guessing or questioning what it means.
- Typically, it should begin with an action verb, be on a single line and have two components — an accomplishment element and an impact element. The two are separated by a double dash, a semi-

colon or a verb ending in “ing.”

● It shouldn’t be a complete sentence and is prefaced with a single dash.

● Teach your subordinates to track their accomplishments because it adds to their development.

● Document all significant happenings as they occur so details are captured while fresh.

● Think outside the box; don’t repeat information from one EPR to the next.

● Use strong words that best describe the situation in as few words as possible.

● Consider the overall presentation — How much white space is there? Does the entire package capture the whole-person concept?

● Be consistent with punctuation between the two elements.

● Think “big picture” and balance. Don’t get caught up with insignificant specifics. In other words, select the right information and support.

● Seek feedback, and be open to the perspectives of others, especially those with proven successes like winning wing and major command packages. Always have someone check your work before submitting.

● Finally, practice writing bullets to improve.

“For me, it’s pride in ownership in knowing you are absolutely doing your best when it comes to setting your Airmen up for success; effective writing skills can have an impact on Airmen for their entire career,” said Bauer.

Identity theft is a personal nightmare and security risk. Shred bills, statements, letters, old journals, records, outdated application forms and any documents that contain your full name, Social Security number, duty title and job information, credit card, bank account numbers and names of family members. If you see documents being removed from trash cans, call the 81st Security Forces Squadron law enforcement desk, 377-3040.

Volunteer — get connected.

Deployed medics care for, bond with Soldiers

By Senior Airman
Patrick McKenna

U.S. Air Force Central Command
SHINDAND AIR BASE,
Afghanistan — When the Army goes on missions outside the wire, they are susceptible to any number of threats, ranging from extreme weather conditions and rocks being thrown at them to small arms fire and roadside bombs. Having well trained medical professionals attached to Army units ensures a quick response in the event a Soldier is wounded and in need of emergency medical attention.

For two Air Force medical services technicians deployed to Shindand Air Base, Afghanistan, their mission is to travel outside the wire and provide that crucial medical care to approximately 400 Soldiers assigned to the 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

Staff Sgts. Ryan Hartman and Carlos Meza, Air Force medics, are joint expeditionary tasked, or JET, Airmen attached to the 298th CSSB, and are both serving the first deployment of their career. According to their medic team lead, Army Sgt. 1st Class Wes Blanscet, these Airmen are tasked with providing medical support for convoy missions throughout western Afghanistan.

Both of these NCOs bring a wealth of experience to this deployment.

Hartman, deployed from the 81st Medical Operations Squadron at Keesler, has spent five years in the medical field, serving the last three as an emergency services technician.

Meza, deployed from the 377th MDOS at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., has nearly four years of medical experience and has completed the paramedic program with Air Force pararescuemen.

“Our training has prepared us to work under stressful situations with a sense of urgency and competency,” said Meza, a native of Big Pine, Calif. “Mass casualties,

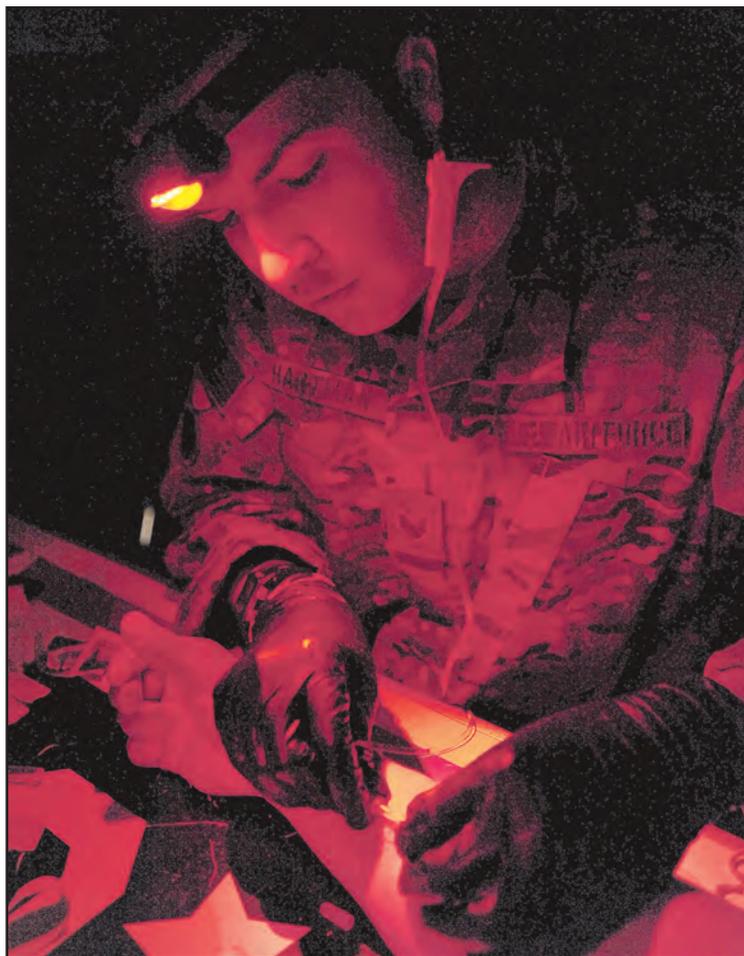


Photo by Master Sgt. William Greer
Hartman, deployed from the 81st MDOS, connects the intravenous tubing to his patient's arm during his weekly medical refresher training at Shindand Air Base, Afghanistan, Aug. 6. Hartman is a joint expeditionary tasking Airman deployed to Afghanistan and is attached to the Army's 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The JET mission is a high-visibility program that makes up just 5 percent of all Air Force deployments and provides combat mission ready Airmen to Army combatant commanders. Second Air Force, headquartered at Keesler, trains and provides oversight of Airmen completing Army training prior to JET missions through its 602nd Training Group (Provisional).

urgent medevac, and patient care under fire are some scenarios we've been trained to deal with.”

Just because they're now deployed, doesn't mean their training is complete. Being assigned to a team with three other medics from the Army, and having a seasoned paramedic team leader in Blanscet, has broadened their medical knowledge as well as provided them opportunities for additional hands-on training to hone their skills even more.

According to Hartman, their Army team lead has trained them for unique situa-

tions they could face while outside the wire, including searching their 40-pound equipment bag for an item in darkness, administering IVs wearing night-vision goggles, and performing buddy carries, all while wearing their full combat gear.

“We've gone through some great training prior to this deployment, but now that we're out here where it counts, we have to keep training,” said Hartman, a native of Fort Walton Beach, Fla. “We are out on the road at all hours of the day, so we have to prepare for a wide range of

“Not only are these Soldiers our American heroes, but they are brothers, sisters, fathers and cousins that I can help send back home to their loved ones. There isn't a greater feeling out there.”

— Meza

scenarios. We're always training so those important techniques stay fresh in our minds and we can just react when called upon.”

All the training and experience they've built up in their Air Force careers crosses their minds every time they're out on a mission and the convoy encounters an unexpected situation.

“We've had instances where road blocks have been set up for our convoys, bottles of flammable substances have been thrown at our fuel tankers, and roadside bombs have been identified boxing our convoys in,” Meza said. “While that's happening, you're in the back of the vehicle, your adrenaline starts to pump and you're running through different scenarios and prepping for what items you might need if the situation goes bad.”

Being the only two Airmen deployed with more than 400 Soldiers, the medics, having never worked with the Army before, weren't sure what to expect or how the Soldiers would interact with them. They quickly realized they were part of the 298th CSSB family.

“Everyone here from the moment we arrived was really welcoming,” Hartman said. “It's like we've known them for years. We might not be in the same service, but we're on the same team. We all want to reach the same goals.”

Battalion leadership has observed how these two Air-

men have meshed with the battalion's Soldiers and is impressed how Hartman and Meza have carried themselves during the first few months of their deployment so far.

“These professional and knowledgeable Airmen play an important part in the Army's mission here at Shindand,” said Army Capt. Emanuel Barber, 298th CSSB S-3, which oversees logistics, training and anti-terrorism. “Not only do they provide medical support to the Soldiers here, but they also support convoys delivering critical materials to bases throughout RC-West. They're a valuable asset.”

After a long mission, these Airmen are sweaty, tired, and most nights just want to get online to talk to their loved ones back home in the U.S. They're missing birthdays, anniversaries and the comforts of home, but they know what they're doing here is making a difference.

“The responsibility of taking care of your fellow Soldiers is a very rewarding and humbling one,” Meza said. “There is a great deal of pride knowing that you are the person that they are going to call upon when they're having the worst day of their lives and you're going to be there to help. Not only are these Soldiers our American heroes, but they are brothers, sisters, fathers and cousins that I can help send back home to their loved ones. There isn't a greater feeling out there.”

Summer camp for teens develops leadership skills

By Erin Tindell

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO — More than 80 teens from Air Force installations worldwide learned about college life, teamwork and leadership skills during a week long summer camp here July 10-15.

The Air Force Teen Leadership Camp at the University of Texas San Antonio campus exposed the teens to personal development classes such as effective communication, financial management and situational leadership. Additionally, the teens participated in rope courses and a build-a-boat challenge at nearby Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, to strengthen their skills in trust and teamwork.

The camp is one of three annual summer camps hosted by Air Force Services Agency youth program officials.

"We teach courses that apply to them through their high school and college years and give them leadership tools to last a lifetime," said Lesley Darley, a school liaison officer at Robins AFB, Ga., and a previous youth director who served as one of the camp leaders. "They participate in challenges that teach them to build trust within themselves and others, and courses that force them to reach beyond their comfort zone."

The camp, in its second year, also gives teenagers a glimpse at life on a college campus, she said. They stayed in quad-style dorm rooms, ate at campus dining facilities and transitioned to classes in various buildings.

AFSVA officials also partnered with the UTSA Air Force ROTC detachment, having cadets lead the teens through early morning physical training sessions.

The teens were divided into small groups to attend classes and work on challenges together. According to the teenagers, it allowed them to

Keesler teen benefits from camp experience

By Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

One of the teens who attended last month's Air Force Teen Leadership Camp is Marshall Downing, 15, a sophomore at Biloxi High School.

Marshall is the son of Vicki and Col. Glen Downing, 81st Training Wing vice commander.

"I learned useful leadership skills that can help me tremendously in the future when I am presented with a leadership role," Marshall said. "Some of the skills were effective communication, teamwork and understanding."

He said that his favorite part of the camp was the class on effective communication because it taught him to get his point across clearly by using an accurate vocabulary and knowing the goal to be accomplished.

"The most challenging part of the camp was engineering a bridge designed to drop different sized balls at different distances," Marshall said. "Our team had to use everyone's strength's in this challenge, and ultimately, due to our careful consideration, we were able to get more than 75 percent of the balls in the correct container."

In the future, Marshall is considering one of several career paths, including a pathologist, a serviceman in either the Air Force or Navy or a voice actor.

"The camp would be greatly beneficial to other teens here at Keesler," Marshall said.



Courtesy photo

Marshall was one of more than 80 teens at the camp.

learn about their similarities as military youth and each other's unique perspectives on issues.

The leaders within each group stepped forward during the challenges, said Kevin Hansen, a camp leader from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., where he's the chief of youth programs.

"The teens became a team and learned about each others' strengths and weaknesses and how to use each other to accomplish the team goals," he said.

The camp also allows teens to form friendships that continue outside of camp once they return to their installations, officials said. The teenagers use a private social networking group to network and keep in touch with each other throughout the year.

For more information about Air Force Youth Programs and summer camps, visit www.afyouthprograms.com or stop by a local base youth center.

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Communication key to maintaining reservist career, family balance

By Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens

403rd Wing Public Affairs

Editor's note — This is the last story in a four-part series on how Air Force reservists from various career fields train throughout the year to serve their country.

Each career field in the Air Force Reserve comes with its own set of challenges. One challenge common to reservists of all career fields is maintaining balance in three areas of their lives: family, civilian employer, and Air Force career — also known as the Reserve Triad.

Just as many careers in the Air Force Reserve share commonalities in their approach to training, each aspect of the Reserve Triad has similarities in its approach to sustaining balance in the lives of Citizen Airmen.

According to Chap. (Maj.) Timothy Broughton, communication is a key element in maintaining that balance.

“If your civilian employer knows what your military responsibilities are, and your family understands the responsibilities of your civilian job and military activities, then it makes it much easier for everyone to get on the same page,” said Broughton.

The chaplain said this is where time management comes into play.

“The demands can fluctuate in your home life, job life and military life — and in some instances, these demands can conflict with each other,” said Broughton. So understanding what is expected of you and when it is expected can go a long way toward curtailing some of the difficulties you can encounter in managing these three areas.”

Broughton said reservists should also evaluate their goals in these areas and prioritize when they would like to achieve them.

“You might have large expectations for what you would like to accomplish in each of these areas, but you’ve got to figure out what the best time is to pursue each,” said Chaplain Broughton.

Pleasing family, civilian employers and military supervisors at the same time isn’t an easy task, or always possible, according to Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Woitalla, 403rd Wing command chief master sergeant.

“There are going to be times when the Reserve needs you and times when your civilian employer needs you,” said the chief, who believes making time for family is crucial. “Any time you have to spend with your family, you need to take that time and cherish it. It’s very important to pay attention to your family and give them the support they’re giving you.”

Citizen Airmen have many avenues of support available for needs or issues arising in their family life, civilian and military career,

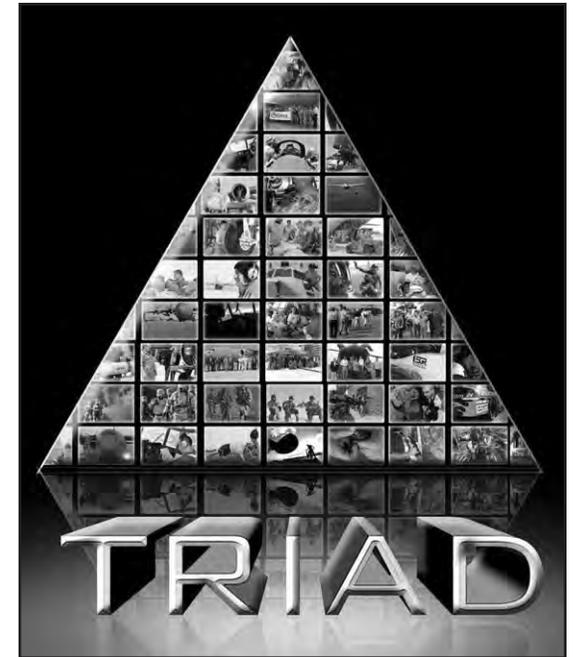


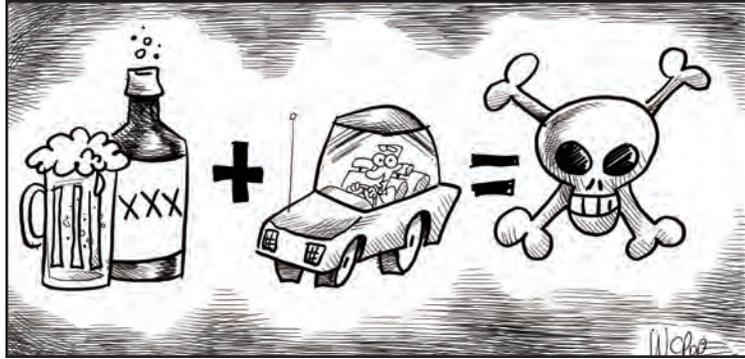
Photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens
Citizen Airmen have a unique balance to sustain in three areas of their lives: family, civilian employer and Air Force career — the Reserve Triad. Communication, prioritization and time management all factor into helping reservists maintain equilibrium in these areas of their lives.

said Master Sgt. Dale Bass, 403rd Wing family readiness technician.

One of the main advocates Citizen Airmen have in their relations with their civilian employers is the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. The main goal of ESGR is to promote understanding of the National Guard and Reserve to gain employer and community support and to help resolve conflicts occurring between service members and employers.

Bass said Military One Source and the Military and Family Life Consultant Program are also great resources for consultation on a wide range of topics, such as deployments, family and health matters, financial and legal issues and career and education advice. In addition, the 403rd Wing Key Family Member Program and Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program provide support for reservists and family members throughout the deployment process. Reservists can contact their respective family readiness or family support office for advice on who to consult on different issues.

Regardless of military career field, communication, prioritization and time management all factor into helping Citizen Airmen balance the Reserve Triad so that, when called upon, they can deploy alongside their active-duty counterparts in support of contingencies around the globe.



eight days a week

Airman and family readiness center

Editor's note: Registration is required. All briefings take place in Room 108, Sablich Center, unless otherwise noted.

Today — 9-11 a.m., civilian resume writing. Bring a copy of resume for review.

Wednesday — 7 a.m. to noon, newcomers orientation.

Aug. 25 — 9 a.m. to noon, Bundles for Babies. Open to all expecting military and dependants at Keesler. Receive a layette gift valued at \$75 upon completion of the class.

Arts and crafts center

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-2821.

Friday — 12:30 p.m., framing class. Bring a piece of art or photograph no larger than 5x7 inches to frame. Class certifies you to use shop equipment in the future.

Saturday — 10 a.m., beginners creative woodworking class. Learn intarsia, a technique that uses varied shapes, sizes and types of wood inlaid together. \$20 includes materials.

Through Sept. 1 — summer photo contest. To enter, submit a printed copy of your photo to the center; entries will be placed on display. Prizes awarded. Free to enter.

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

Editor's note: Must be age 18 or older to enter collocated lounge. For more information or reservations, call 377-2334.

Weekdays — food and drink specials in the collocated lounge. Monday madness with domestic draft specials, taco Tuesdays, wings and things Wednesdays and ladies night on Thursdays before nontraining Fridays.

Through Aug. 26 — reserve your seat for the Texas hold'em tournament, 5 p.m. Aug. 26. Free for Air Force Club members; \$5 nonmembers.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-3832.

Friday — 12:30 p.m., nonprior service student golf clinic. Free to attend.

Saturday — 8 a.m., summer slam tournament. Two-person best ball with handicap. Prices vary. Fee includes greens, cart, food, beverage, prizes and giveaways.

Wednesdays — 4:30 p.m., free golf clinic. Adults only.

Aug. 27 — 8 a.m., Keesler birthday golf scramble. Four-person, select-shot tournament. \$40 per player; preregistration required. Players assigned to teams by handicap.

Child development center

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-2211. Fee based on family income.

Through Oct. 1 — open enrollment for kindergarten transition program for 4-year-olds and preschool part-day program (morning and afternoon sessions.)

Fitness centers

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-4385 or 3056.

Saturday — doubles racquetball tournament, Blake Fitness Center. Matches scheduled by participants.

Monday — 6-8 p.m., women's varsity basketball tryouts, Blake Fitness Center. Open to active duty, Defense Department and non-appropriated funds civilian personnel and dependents age 18 and older.

Through Wednesday — summer powerlifting competition registration, Triangle Fitness Center.

Aug. 25 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., weigh-in for summer power lifting meet, Triangle Fitness Center. Competition is Aug. 26; open to all men and women; free to participate.

Outdoor recreation

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3160.

Friday and Sunday — Gulf barrier island fishing trips aboard the Dolphin II. \$100 per person, fishing gear included; 14-22 people. No fishing license required.

Aug. 25 — sailing classes. Classroom instruction today, 5:30 p.m., McBride Library. On-the-water instruction Aug. 27 or 28, to be arranged with instructor. \$45 per person; space limited. Class certifies you to rent sailboats.

Swimming pools

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3948 or 3568. Identification and entry fee required for admission; \$1.50 daily.

Daily except Monday — 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., main base pool. Adult lap swim 11 a.m. to noon.

Saturday and Sunday — 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Triangle pool. Adult lap swim 11 a.m. to noon.

Youth center

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-4116. Drop-ins accepted on space-available basis.

Friday — 6:30-9:30 p.m., Friday night fun, ages 6-12. Games, skating, movies and more. \$10 for first child, \$5 others. Air Force Club members receive 10 percent off first child's fee.

Tuesdays — tennis lessons, 5-5:30 p.m., ages 4-7; 5:30-6:30 p.m., ages 8-10; 5:30-7 p.m., ages 11-16. Prices vary. Dance class, 5:30-6:30 p.m., ages 3-5; 6:30-7:30 p.m., ages 6 and older. \$45 per month.

Through Sept. 3 — youth flag football registration. \$50 for first child, \$25 for each additional child. Season begins in October. Air Force Club members receive 10 percent off first child's fee.

Dragon Wagon

Thursday-Sunday — catch a ride to base "hot spots" for 50 cents, \$10 monthly passes available at Gaudé Lanes and Legends Café; Air Force Club members ride free. For route and schedule, visit <http://www.keesler81fss.us>.

ID card service limited

The military personnel section's customer support section will have limited service today while new identification card equipment is being installed.

AFSA meeting

The Air Force Sergeants Association meets at 11 a.m. Tuesday in Ballroom 3 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Coombs retirement

A retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Harry Coombs Jr. is 10 a.m. Sept. 1 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Diversity Day

Keesler's second annual Diversity Day is Sept. 13 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

To volunteer for one of the committees, call 377-9160 or e-mail 81mss.dpn@us.af.mil.

Pharmacy closed

The Keesler Hospital's outpatient pharmacy is closed for remodeling Sept. 2.

All new prescriptions normally filled at the outpatient pharmacy will be diverted to the exchange pharmacy, which will be open that day with additional staffing to prevent delay in patient care.

The outpatient pharmacy reopens at 7:30 a.m. Sept. 6.

Supply classes

Quarterly supply classes are held in Room 109, Taylor Logistics Building.

Block I basic supply class is 9-10 a.m. Sept. 22 and Dec. 15. All newly-assigned supply custodians and resource managers are required to attend. For more information or to sign up, call 377-5998.

Block II A bench stock training is 10-11 a.m. Sept. 27 and Dec. 20. For more information or to sign up, call 377-4180.

Block II B repair cycle training is held 9-11 a.m. Sept. 21 and Dec. 14. For more information or to sign up, call 377-4192.

Block III custodian train-

ing is 1-2 p.m. Sept. 22 and Dec. 15. All newly-assigned supply equipment custodians are required to attend, as well as all other custodians annually. For more information or to sign up, call 377-2270.

For information on all supply classes, call 377-4480.

Prostate cancer

The 81st Surgical Operations Squadron's urology clinic observes Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in September with prostate cancer screening from 8-11 a.m. Sept. 23.

Any male eligible for military health care ages 40 and older, may walk in for a quick prostate cancer screening. The process includes a short questionnaire, a blood test at the lab and a digital rectal exam. Patient education materials are also available."

Airman's Attic

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

Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to noon non-training Fridays and the last Saturday of the month.

For more information, call 209-1390 or 377-3814..

Keesler Thrift Shop

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

Profits benefit base and area charities and provide scholarships.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Consignments are accepted 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays.

Log on to www.keeslerspousesclub.com for a list of preferred donations. Pickup is available for bulk donations..

For more information, call 377-3217 or log on to www.keesler.af.mil.

Hemodialysis care

The Keesler Hospital offers chronic hemodialysis to patients requiring the care.

Hemodialysis removes waste products such as creatinine and urea as well as free water from the blood when the kidneys are in renal failure.

The staff currently cares for Department of Defense beneficiaries only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The eight dialysis machines, located in three treatment rooms, allow them to care for up to 12 patients a week.

For more information, call 376-5537.

Visitor center hours

The Keesler Visitor Center is open 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and training Fridays, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. nontraining Fridays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekends.

Worship schedule

Roman Catholic

Daily Mass, 11:15 a.m., Monday through Friday, Triangle Chapel.

Sunday Mass, 9 a.m., Triangle Chapel.

Protestant

Traditional service, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Larcher Chapel.

Contemporary service, 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

Gospel service, noon Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

Jewish

Regular services are 8 p.m. Fridays at Congregation Beth Israel, 12277 Three Rivers Road, Gulfport.

High holidays:

Sept 28 — 8 p.m., Erev Rosh Hashanah.

Sept. 29 — 9:30 a.m., first day Rosh Hashanah/Shacharit; 6:30 p.m., Minchah/Ma-ariv.

Sept. 30 — 9:30 a.m., second day Rosh Hashanah; 8 p.m., Shabbat Shuvah/Ma-ariv.

Oct. 1 — 10 a.m., Shabbat Shuvah/Torah study.

Oct. 7 — 6 p.m., Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre.

Oct. 8 — 9:30 a.m., Yom Kippur/Shacharit; 5 p.m., Yom Kippur/Minchah/Ne-ilah

For more information, call 377-4050, 207-2196, 539-1655 or 1-405-740-9077.

Greek Orthodox

Sunday Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m., Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 255 Beauvoir Road, Biloxi. For more information, call 388-6138.

Islamic

Prayer is five times daily; Salaat ul-Jummah congregational prayer, noon on Friday, Building 2003. For more information, call 377-2520.

Latter-Day Saints

Student group service, 2 p.m. Sunday, Triangle Chapel. For more information, call 396-5274 or 1-616-881-1994.

This week's movies at Welch Theater

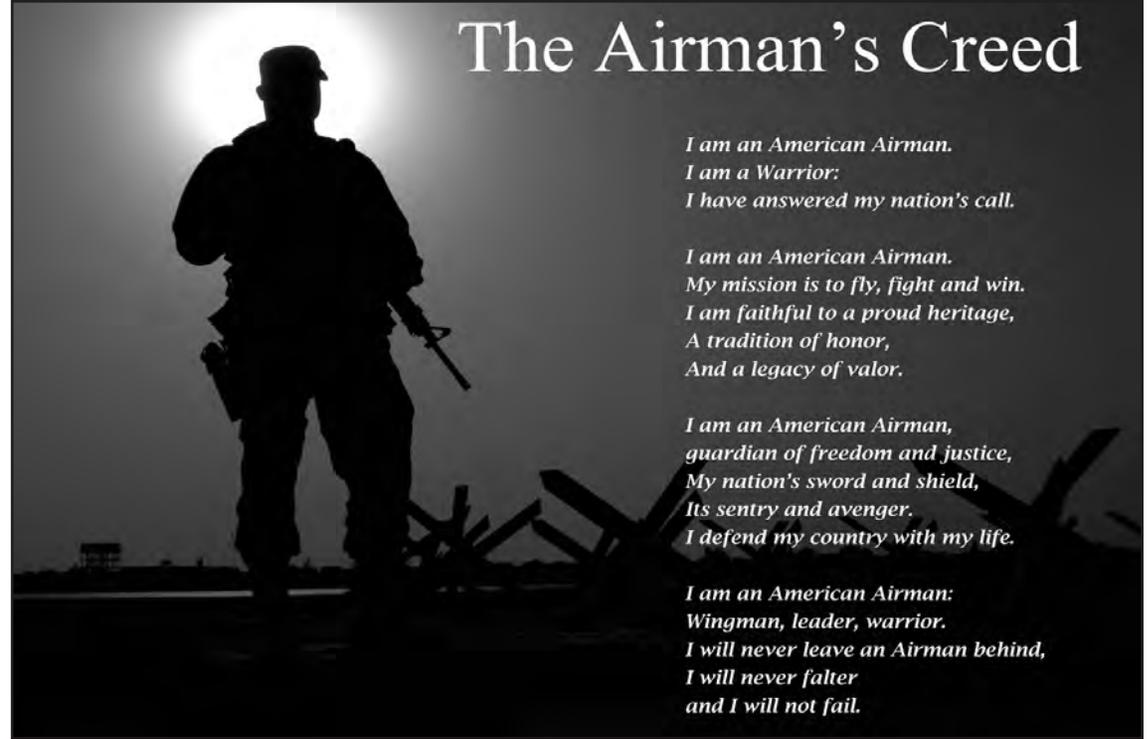
Friday — 6:30 p.m., Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG-13)..

Saturday — 2 p.m., Monte Carlo (PG); 6:30 p.m., Horrible Bosses.

Sunday — 1 p.m., Larry Crowne (PG-13)..



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.*

Soccer playoffs begin Monday

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Playoffs begin Monday for the base's intramural soccer championship.

Coaches met yesterday at Vandenberg Community Center to finalize the tournament format.

Games were postponed earlier this week due for treatment of Keesler's soccer and softball fields with fertilizer, herbicide, and insecticide, so final regular season games are

rescheduled for 6, 7 and 8 p.m. today.

As of Friday, only one team remained undefeated for the regular season — the 338th Training Squadron in the East Division at 8-0. In the West Division, the 336th TRS-A team holds the top spot at 8-2, with the 334th TRS-A team in the wings at 7-2.

For more information and playoff schedules, call the intramural sports office, 377-2444.

William Benedict, left, 334th TRS, and Sean Coombs, 333rd TRS, battle for control of the ball in an East Division game Aug. 11. The 334th TRS claimed the win, 2-0.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Alexander Steen, 333rd TRS, rushes toward Andrea Dibble, 334th TRS, as she bumps the ball to a teammate with her head in the Aug. 11 game.

Mini-triathlon is Sept. 10

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler's 7th annual mini-triathlon is 8 a.m. Sept. 10 at the Triangle Pool.

Patty McGruder, health promotion educator at the health and wellness center, said that three events are planned — a 200-yard swim, 9 miles cycling and 2 miles running.

For relay teams, one of the three members must be female. Each person does a different event. The top three teams earn Commander's Cup points. All teammates must be from the same squadron.

Individual categories are

individual male and female (ages 18-29, 30-39, 40-49 and over 50), elite male (less than 45 minutes), elite female (less than 50 minutes), Clydesdale (men more than 200 pounds) and Athena (women more than 150 pounds).

Competitors who sign up by Sept. 1 at the HAWC or Blake Fitness Center receive a T-shirt the day of the event. The last day to register is Sept. 7; no sign-ups are accepted on the day of the contest. Check-in time is from 6:30-7 a.m.

For more information, call the health and wellness center, 376-3170.

Golf course survey under way

Air Force Services has launched a golfer survey at 71 courses worldwide.

This survey gives Keesler golfers the chance to provide valuable feedback on Bay Breeze Golf Course.

For more information or to respond to the survey, go to www.keesler81fss.us or visit the pro shop for a printed survey.