



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

DEC. 15, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 48



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COMMENTARY

AETC commander shares holiday wishes

By Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr.

Air Education and Training Command commander

The winter holidays bring an array of celebrations that highlight the diverse cultures that make our nation great. What unites so many of those festivities is a spirit of thankfulness for the many blessings we share. Teresa and I want to wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season and say thank you to all the men and women of Air Education and Training Command for making 2011 such a success.

Closest to our hearts are all the deployed members of the command and their families. Having gone through this experience ourselves, we know how deployments over the holidays can be particularly tough, not just on the Airmen, but particularly the families back home. This year, more than 6,000 AETC Airmen have deployed around the globe. Thanks to your exceptional diligence and readiness, AETC answered the call to send our people to multiple worldwide operations while also maintaining our total commitment to training and educating the world's finest Air Force!

For those of us not deployed, I ask that as you make your holiday plans for quality time with family and friends, please know that I take personal interest in your safety and well-being. Be smart and make good decisions. If you're traveling, use caution and allow yourself time for delays. Make arrangements ahead of time so you're never in a position to consider drinking and driving. The world's greatest Air Force is nothing without its No. 1 asset — you.

As we celebrate together, I also ask you to remember the families of our deployed Airmen as well as our single Airmen. In the spirit of camaraderie that makes our Air Force such a special family, I hope you'll welcome them into your holiday gatherings here at home.

The bonds we build today serve to strengthen the command for tomorrow...and continue to make our United States Air Force the most respected airpower in the world. Happy holidays, AETC. Thank you for all that you do to keep our nation secure.

Season's greetings, Team Keesler — enjoy friendship, fellowship, family

By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

Keri and I would like to wish each of you happy holidays! We are proud to be a part of Team Keesler and thank each of you for what you do for the base, the community and our Air Force.

Regardless of the assignment or location, the holiday season seems to bring out the best in everything and everyone. This year is no different, and Keri and I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of many unit activities and holiday events here on base and in our local community. Lighting the Christmas tree at marina park, welcoming Santa on a world-class sleigh, watching the Holiday Card decorating contest and seeing the highly decorated Keesler Dolphin and its "musical" crew sail to first place honors in the annual Christmas on the Water parade are wonderful traditions here at Keesler.

I'm overwhelmed at the generosity this base has demonstrated with Project Cheer, the Toys for Tots drive and other worthy causes that make the season brighter for those in need.

Over the past month, many of you have worked extra hours and weekends to get ahead on the training calendar to enable a non-training week at the end of 2011. This hard work now gives many of

us the unique opportunity take a little extra time to enjoy the friendship, fellowship and family fun the holidays always bring. I encourage each of you to take advantage of the upcoming Family Days to do one or two of those things with your families which were pushed aside throughout the course of a busy year. Be safe, be smart, but take the time to have some fun this holiday season — you've earned it!

I recognize many base organizations won't be able to take full advantage of the holiday break. I want to thank those members of the team in organizations such as security forces, civil engineering, command post, firefighters, force support and the emergency room and inpatient staff in our 81st Medical Group who will tirelessly stand the watch to enable the rest of us to enjoy the time with our families and friends.

Finally, this year, like many before, more than 200 members of our team will be deployed over the holidays. Please don't hesitate to take the opportunity to reach out to the families of these service members and share your holiday spirit. Enjoying the holidays with another member of our team can make it a special time indeed.

Happy holidays, Team Keesler!

'Budget fatigue' can lead to holiday debt

By Elaine Sanchez

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Last night I hopped on the Internet with the intention of buying a few gifts. Money, as always, is tight, so I figured I could go bargain hunting without wasting time or gas.

As colorful, enticing images of gift possibilities danced across the screen, I swiftly shot from site to site, half a dozen windows open at a time, comparing prices and swooping in to buy more and more.

I felt exhilarated. I was spending guilt-free for the first time in years. I was clicking buttons rather than forking out cash, and that's OK, right?

My bank account told another story when I accessed it later that night.

Today I learned I had fell victim to a phenomenon known in some financial circles as "budget fatigue."

It's easy to get frustrated and tired of tight purse strings, particularly after years of economic setbacks, and decide to let loose over the holidays. But today's spending excess is tomorrow's debt hangover.

In a recent article, Dan Radovsky of USAA offers some tips to combat this trend:

- Know your budget. Be realistic about what you have to spend, make a gift-giving list and stick to it, whether shopping in a store or online. If you've been on a strict budget all year, don't veer off course now.

- Paper or plastic? The payment method you use can have a big impact

on the final cost of the gift. If you decide to charge now and pay later, high interest rates and late fees can take an expensive toll. You may end up spending a lot more than you intended. Plus, what's the point of bargain hunting if you end up with fees tacked on? An expert suggests people who want to use plastic stick to a debit card, but even then be wary of piling up teller machine fees.

- Try layaway. Layaway plans encourage early shopping and enable people to spread out the financial burden over a period of time rather than have it hit all at once. These plans may involve a small fee, but that won't come close to a credit card's interest rates and late fees.

Bottom line, Radovsky said, is to

avoid letting budget fatigue nudge common sense aside. Have fun, but within limits.

Now that I'm a smarter shopper, I'm off to reduce the damage of my Internet shopping spree so I can get back on my budget track.

Service members and their families can learn more about smart spending on Military OneSource or through the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Servicemember Affairs, a government office dedicated to protecting service members and their families from financial predators and pitfalls.

If you have some tried-and-true holiday smart spending tips, don't hesitate to share.

For more posts like this one, visit the AFPS Family Matters Blog.

Train, Care, Innovate ... Developing Combat Power for Air, Space and Cyberspace



ON THE COVER

Santa Claus, Tech. Sgt. Angie Everson, Airman Basic Dylan Updegrave and Tech. Sgt. Christopher Boler, 336th Training Squadron, unload toys from Santa's sleigh into a collection box for Toys for Tots, Monday behind Smith Manor. The Red Wolves collected a total of 1,298 toys to be delivered to Toys For Tots. For a photo of toys collected by Keesler's Marine Corps Detachment and Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit, see Page 6.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

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KEESLER NEWS

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Students, MTLs prepare for holiday 'Exodus'

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

It's beginning to look a lot like Exodus, everywhere you go. With a pep in their step and a twinkle in their eye, nonprior service students go marching by. From now until Wednesday, as they lie all snug in their beds, visions of sugar plums will dance in their heads.

Folks, it's time to go home for the holidays. This year's exodus runs from Dec. 21 to Jan. 2 and for many, this will be their first trip back home since they joined the Air Force. Joy to the World!

Biblical connotations aside, exodus simply means a large number of people leaving an area. But when you factor in the excitement and joy that these students feel about going home, perhaps there are some parallels that can be drawn — minus the fear of marauding bands of Egyptians on chariots chasing after them.

"It's probably a bit like the parting of the Red Sea, logistically," said Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Thomas.

Tech Sgt. Julie Hammond, 81st Training Group military training leader, concurs.

"Filling out paperwork for roughly 2,400 students is quite a big ordeal," said Hammond. "We need to know

Student activities during holiday break

Dec. 23 and 30

Noon — Free golf clinic for nonprior service students at the Bay Breeze Golf Course. Clubs available at no charge. To sign up, call 377-3832.

Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

Free golf all day at the Bay Breeze Golf Course on Christmas and New Year's day. Carts and rental equipment not available.

Dec. 31

8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. — Free New Year's Eve Party, Vandenberg Community Center. Ring in 2012 with video games, pool, ping-pong, cards or board games. Watch the ball drop on the big screen. Non-prior service students only.

8 p.m. to 1 a.m. — Club New Year's

Eve Party, Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom. 80s theme, live entertainment, contests, hors d'oeuvres and late night breakfast. \$35 for Air Force Club members, \$45 nonmembers. Tickets available at the collocated club through Dec. 22, at Bay Breeze Pro Shop Dec. 23-31 or at the door.

8 p.m. to 1 a.m. — New Year's Eve Party, Gaudé Lanes. Bowling, dancing, party favors, food and drinks. \$35 for adults, \$25 for ages 6-17, free for ages 5 and younger. Alcoholic beverages sold separately.

Vandenberg Community Center

5 p.m. Wednesdays — Friends and Flicks. Free event, popcorn provided. Vandenberg remains open during exodus. Students will be able to visit the "V" to play pool, video games, board games, watch TV and more.

where they are going and how long they'll be there. We have to have addresses, phone numbers and make sure they are not going to any restricted areas of the world."

"We also have to prepare for the students staying behind," added Tech Sgt. Shaun Wilke, 81st TRG. "We have to get everyone ready to consolidate into one dorm and make sure we can do accountability for them. We probably start a month and a half out. For the MTLs, there's a lot of administrative work that

needs to be done."

Still, it's a festive occasion for everyone involved. As the students fill out their paperwork, get on their planes and leave, MTL starts to mean more like 'minimal training and leading', which means MTLs get a break too and a chance to spend the holidays with their families.

And according to Wilke, it's also a perfect time to catch up on some maintenance work in the student dormitories and training facilities.

However, for various rea-

sons, some students stay behind. It's estimated that around 150 students will be staying at Keesler for the holidays. But whether students are at home or at Keesler, the holidays are the holidays.

According to Thomas, the Fishbowl Student Center at the Levitow Training Support Facility will have extended hours, 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 19-22. There'll be wireless Internet, gaming systems like Xbox and Wii, TV, holiday decorations and a relaxed atmosphere. The Fishbowl

will be open 1-6 p.m. Christmas Day with movie marathons, food and gifts.

Dec. 27-29, Keesler will be ready for some football with big screen TVs at the Fishbowl and in the dormitory where the students will be staying.

But for Airman Basic Elizabeth Shelton, 338th Training Squadron, she's filled out her paperwork and ready to go home.

"The process has been pretty easy. The MTLs have been very helpful," noted Shelton. "I'm just looking forward to being with my family in a stress-free environment."

The same can be said for Airman 1st Class Joseph Lengfelder, 338th TRS, who will be taking part in his second exodus.

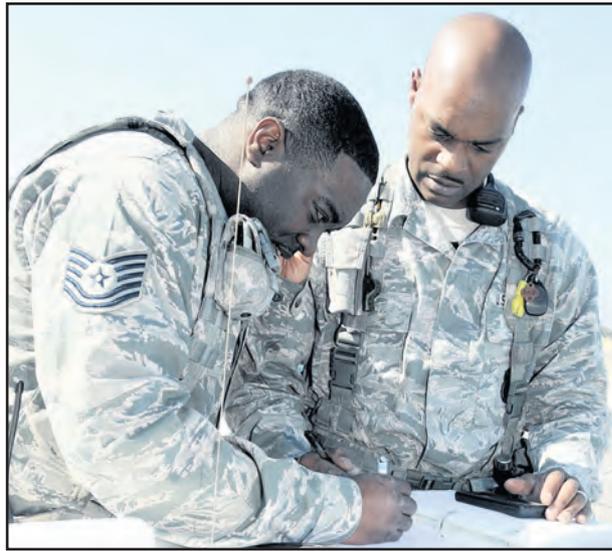
"It's nice to have this time to go home," said Lengfelder. "In the operational Air Force, it's harder to do. I'm looking forward to seeing my family."

According to Wilke, there's another reason why the students are excited to go home.

"This is their first chance to show off to their friends and family," said Wilke. "It's their first time to go home to their families and see how proud they are of them. It's a chance to show everybody what they are doing with their lives."

**Don't drink
and drive.**

Call
Airmen Against
Drunk Driving,
377-SAVE,
for a
safe ride home.



Tech. Sgts. Phillip Bell and Teddy Poole, 81st Security Forces Squadron, conduct a security check to secure units during the exercise.



Investigator Jakavious Pickett, 81st SFS, attempts to negotiate with the hijacker.



Exercise tests response to C-130 hijacking

Officer Kris Hines, Biloxi Police Department Special Response Team, provides flank security for his team members as they secure the aircraft and its passengers.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



The Biloxi Police Department Special Response Team approaches the C-130 aircraft in an attempt to secure the plane after being hijacked during an exercise on the flight line, Monday.

Orange Grove group honors Keesler Marine

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Sgt. Lawrence Goddard, a member of Keesler's Marine Corps Detachment, was honored as the Orange Grove/Lyman Chamber of Commerce's military member of the quarter Dec. 8.

He graduated from the meteorological equipment maintenance course in the 335th Training Squadron the same day.

Goddard joined the Marine Corps five years ago and was deployed aboard the USS Iwo Jima with a Marine expeditionary unit until January 2009.

Goddard volunteered for improvised explosive device detection dog handling training at Southern Pines, N.C., where he was the headquarters and service company dog team leader.

He returned to his old unit and deployed to Afghanistan to serve as assistant kennel master for 13 dog and handler teams working with police mentoring teams at various locations in the region.

Goddard was wounded by enemy fire during a routine squad patrol on Aug. 21, 2010.



Goddard

His actions earned him the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with a Combat Valor Distinction and Purple Heart. After two surgeries and physical therapy to walk without crutches, he returned to Afghanistan to finish the deployment. He returned home in January before coming to Keesler for training.

"I want to thank my fellow Marines and other military for their past service," Goddard said during the award ceremony.

Exceptions to Keesler's 25 mph speed limit:
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.

Bikes for tots



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Ninety-eight bicycles bought by members of the Keesler Marine Detachment and the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit fill a classroom inside Wolfe Hall. The two units collected \$7,360 for Toys for Tots. About \$6,597 was used to purchase the bicycles and 2,351 toys. The remaining balance of \$763 is being given to Toys for Tots.

Dark Knights help restore home after fire



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Bob Martin holds the ladder steady for Linus Clark as he removes the wallpaper in his smoke-damaged kitchen Saturday. Both are members of the 338th Training Squadron. Clark's home received heavy damage in a fire Oct. 26. Teams of Dark Knights have worked nearly every weekend since then to clean and restore the home.



Airmen 1st Class Sean Murphy and Kevin Schenck, 338th TRS students, paint the walls in the master bedroom of Clark's home. Schenck oversaw the team of student volunteers who have worked to repair the Clark home.

An American is sexually assaulted every 2 1/2 minutes.

One in five American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape.

About 10 percent of sexual assault victims are men.

At least 2/3 of sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows.

44 percent of rape victims are under age 18, and 80 percent are under age 30.

Air Force rolls out new rifle qualification course

By Tech Sgt. Joseph Sanchez

37th Training Support Squadron

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — Airmen taking the new Air Force Rifle Qualification Course are finding themselves learning more than just basic marksmanship skills.

Changes requiring more intensive weapons training were published in September by the Air Force Security Center and officially took effect Dec. 1.

“Our combatant commanders identified over the last 10 years that we needed to move away from the Cold War-era style of qualification and give our Airmen quality training,” said Master Sgt. Scott Brown, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe combat arms program manager at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. “More and more Airmen are actively engaging the enemy down range, and they need to have a higher standard of weapons training.”

Although there are numerous differences between the new and the old courses, the most significant change is the emphasis on combat engagement and developing shooter survivability skills.

Previously, the “just-in-time” training prior to a deployment or permanent change of station ensured Airmen had the general skills of weapons familiarization, said Senior Master Sgt. Aaron Thielen, the 37th Training Support Squadron superintendent here. The course gave Airmen an understanding of what parts went where, how the weapon functions, or the cycle of operation, and the



Air Force basic trainee Zachary Browning, 324th Training Squadron, reloads between shooting practice rounds at the firing range at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Nov. 22. Airmen are now required to take a new intensive Air Force rifle qualification course.

basic shooter fundamentals — sight picture, breath control and trigger squeeze.

“Those skills are still the building block of any weapons qualification course,” Thielen said. “However, as we continue to support contingency operations with more and more Air Force personnel performing missions outside the wire, it was imperative that our training evolve to meet the changing environment.”

The course incorporates target acquisition, threat discrimi-

nation, multiple-threat engagement, and surviving weapon malfunction and stoppages.

The major changes in the qualification course include more stringent time constraints, required wear of a combat helmet and body armor, movement during fire, and different firing tactics, said Staff Sgt. Marc Rodriguez, a 52nd Security Forces Squadron combat arms instructor at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. Also, there are now three skill assess-

ments, or tables, in which some Airmen will participate.

Table 1 encompasses the positions currently in the rifle qualification course. Table 2 involves new movements and short-range marksmanship. Table 3 involves night firing and is primarily for career fields where Airmen require advanced weapons training, like security forces.

As an example of the new course’s difficulty, Rodriguez said that during the move and shoot portion, Airmen will

have seconds to advance to the firing line, shoot while standing, crouch, and shoot while kneeling. Rounds not fired within the time limit don’t count toward qualification.

“There are time constraints on all the firing positions to increase your heart rate and make you nervous,” said Tech. Sgt. Robert Duerr, a 52nd SFS combat arms instructor. “At no point downrange will you be shooting at a stationary, small black target with a circle on it. This training will definitely make the individual more competent and confident in their handling of the weapon.”

As a result of the training changes, the number of rounds fired and the additional qualification stages increase the length of classroom training as well as time on the range. Bases that have already used the new curriculum have found the course now takes 10 to 12 hours to complete.

Growing pains are expected with the new course, Duerr said. However, the training is intended to hone Airmen’s weapons skills to provide a better equipped and trained warfighter to combatant commanders downrange. The training may be difficult, but it is not impossible.

Preparation for the course is essential, Thielen said. He recommended Airmen brush up on weapons training by reading their Airman’s Manual.

“Instructors will teach you everything you need to know about the weapon system, but it doesn’t hurt to be prepared,” he said.

Staff Sgt. Daryl Knee, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this report.



Remembering 'day that will live in infamy'



Photos by Kemberly Groue
 Ensign Kenneth Lutza and Senior Chief James Green, Keesler Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit, Staff Sgt. Travis Gore and Sgt. Matthew Petitgout, Keesler Marine Corps Detachment, pause for a moment of silence during a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony at Welch Theater Dec. 7. Pearl Harbor was attacked on Dec. 7, 1941.



Retired Chief Petty Officer Hugh Wingo, a resident at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport was the guest speaker at the ceremony. Wingo, a 94-year-old veteran, told his story of what military life was like for him as a gunner's mate following the Pearl Harbor attacks 70 years ago.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Tuition assistance

Effective Jan. 1, students who want to use Air Force tuition assistance must ensure their school has signed the Department of Defense memorandum of understanding.

Tuition assistance submitted for non-participating schools won't be approved and is currently unwaiverable.

For more information or to check on participating schools, visit www.dodmou.com.

Embry-Riddle registers

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University for its spring term that runs Jan. 9-March 11.

The university offers

degrees in aviation/aerospace, management and business administration with multiple course formats.

Graduate courses are also available to complete Civil Service 1750 qualification requirements.

Discounted rates are available for active-duty military, reservists and Air National Guard.

For more information, call 376-8478 or visit Room 217, Sablich Center.

AECP suspended

Effective immediately, the Airman Education and Commissioning Program is suspending all new student starts.

This suspension directly affects the 2011 AECP selection board. The board results for the April 2011 AECP selection board won't be released.

AECP students currently in the program will continue until graduation and commissioning so long as they continue to meet all program requirements.

For more information, call 376-8472.

Academy applications

The deadline to submit applications to the Air Force Academy is Jan. 1.

For more information, call 376-8472.

NEWS AND FEATURES



Left, Adams was a student in the first aircraft mechanic class at Keesler in 1941.

Right, other students relax outside one of the dormitories. It was south of where the present-day service station and shopette are located.

Courtesy photos



Retiree was Keesler student during Pearl Harbor attack

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Thomas Adams wore a cap that proclaimed his service in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to visit Keesler, the place where he heard the news about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor 70 years ago.

"I've been an airplane nut for as long as I can remember," the 90-year-old Virginia native recalled. "I used to hang out at the library just to read whatever I could about them and I used to ride my bike to the airport to see what was going on there."

Adams enlisted in 1941 after working for the Navy in Norfolk, Va.

Dec. 7, 1941, Adams was a 20-year-old student in the first class of aircraft mechanic students in the 305th School Squadron at Keesler. The student barracks were located on what's now the southwest corner of the base's Larcher Boulevard and Meadows Drive intersection — green space where Muse Manor used to stand. A row of chow halls was to the north across a shell road where the base service station and shopette are today.

His first knowledge of the Pearl Harbor bombings came on a Sunday afternoon after an early dinner of cold cuts. A buddy ran across the road from the chow hall to the barracks with a fork and knife from his mess kit in his hands shouting, "Those ~!@#%&^* just bombed Pearl Harbor! Where the hell is Pearl Harbor?"

Adams remembers thinking about the Sailors he'd met while working in Norfolk and wondered how many of them might have been at Pearl Harbor.

His 25-year career in the Army Air Corps and the Air Force took him across the country and around the world for training, assignments and temporary duty. He also served as an instructor

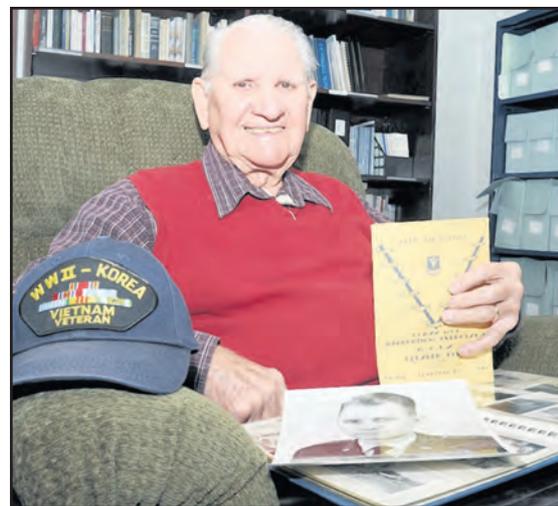


Photo by Kemberly Groue

Adams stopped by the base history office during his Dec. 7 visit to Keesler.

at Keesler and the Gulfport Army Airfield.

Adams' dreams of becoming a pilot were derailed because of his vision, but he finally got to fly during B-29 flight engineer and combat crew training. He flew 24 missions with his crew and substituted on two others during World War II.

He reenlisted at Keesler in 1946 and was sent to Albuquerque, N.M., as part of the Manhattan Project research and development program for bomb drop test flights as part of the 509th Bomb Group.

Adams moved into the officer ranks and became an aircraft maintenance chief and maintenance control officer at England Air Force Base, La. When he retired in 1966, he had achieved the rank of chief warrant officer 4.

He and his wife, Esther, made their home in Pass Christian, Miss. His wife passed away last year and he visits her final resting place at Biloxi National Cemetery often.

IN THE NEWS

Air Force lifts hiring freeze today

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

The hiring freeze implemented in August will be fully lifted today, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced.

The freeze, preceded by hiring controls, was one of several measures implemented this year to bring manning down to mandated 2010 levels. In addition, voluntary separation incentives were recently offered, with employees expected to separate by Dec. 31.

"Even with the hiring freeze being lifted, budget and funding issues are still fluid, so major command and wing leaders must be alert to changing conditions as they'll have the responsibility to control hiring to stay below targeted levels," said Michelle LoweSolis, the AFPC civilian force integration director.

Since spring, nearly 9,000 positions have been trimmed, but an additional 4,500 are necessary to reach required levels. Many positions identified for elimination are already vacant, and the hiring freeze resulted in more vacant positions, which will help the Air Force reach its goals.

"Nevertheless, our nation faces significant challenges and we all must remain firmly focused on force management," LoweSolis said. "Toward that end, a second round of voluntary separation measures is anticipated in January."

Voluntary separation incentives are "effective tools to help reduce our footprint without resorting to involuntary measures," LoweSolis said.

AETC family days

81st Force Support Squadron

Air Education and Training Command has designated Dec. 23 and Dec. 30 as "family days" for military members.

Construction in Bay Ridge

Construction in south Bay Ridge housing is expected to continue through Dec. 23.

Expect heavy equipment and trenching in the common areas around Curtiss Drive to Vandenberg Drive to Cabell Drive to Patrick Drive.

For more information, call 376-7107.

Utility installation

Utility installation for renovation of Dorm 4904 affects the traffic light at Larcher Boulevard and L Street today and Dec. 22, with a four-way stopin place temporarily.

Change in commercial gate hours

Starting Jan. 21, the commercial vehicle gate on the north side of the base will close at 1 p.m. Saturdays.

Drivers will be directed to the White Avenue Gate.

Keesler News holiday schedule

Today's Keesler News is the last issue for 2011.

Jan. 5 is the first issue for 2012.

Dragons deployed — 208

Keesler historian recounts Pearl Harbor attack

By Senior Airman
Eric Summers Jr.

379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

Editor's note: Summers is deployed from the Keesler Public Affairs Office.

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Although 70 years have passed since “a date which will live in infamy,” the events of Dec. 7, 1941, still resonate with many Americans and their allies.

The members of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing and coalition partners here are no different. They gathered together today to reflect upon the Imperial Japanese Navy's attack during a Pearl Harbor Remembrance luncheon.

“Pearl Harbor is worth remembering — in a way, it's kind of an ideal day to reflect on history,” said guest speaker Dr. Susan Dawson, 379th AEW historian, deployed from Keesler. “It's



Dawson

not so near in time that the memory still stings for most of us, but is still recent enough that it has meaning.

“Most importantly, the day was not just a tragedy — it was more complicated than that, because it brought out the best in people and helped unite the nation in a way that, if we learn from it, could be possible again,” she added.

Audience members said the doctor's speech brought out the human aspects of the attack that have been studied in detail by both countries involved.

“To me this was a unique event — something I have not been to before,” said Maj. Michael Brazda, 379 AEW executive officer, deployed from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. “Though I thought I knew the story well, I learned some interesting facts about the people involved.

“It gave me new appreciation to know what it was like to have been there,” added the Grand Rapids, Mich., native.

The attack began around 7:55 on a Sunday morning. The first wave of Japanese aircraft sank the battleship USS Arizona, trapping 1,177 crew members inside. The battleship USS Oklahoma rolled over, trapping another 400 men. Six other battleships were sunk or damaged.

Dawson said while most of

the Navy, Marine and Army Air Corps planes were destroyed on the ground, a few pilots managed to take off — one who was still in his pajamas — and were able to shoot down enemy planes.

“At Hickam, one man even managed to lug a machine gun to the roof of a hangar,” she said. “Another climbed into a parked B-18 Bolo, mounted a .30-caliber machine gun in the nose and kept firing at the enemy until his aircraft was hit and consumed by fire.”

The devastating attack lasted less than two hours.

“Almost 200 American planes were destroyed and another 150 damaged — eight battleships were damaged and four sunk,” said Dawson. “More than 2,400 servicemen died in the attack and 1,200 more were wounded.”

In the months following the attack, there were 15 Medal of Honor recipients, 51 recipients

of the Navy Cross and 53 recipients of the Silver Cross.

During his closing remarks, Brig. Gen. Giovanni Tuck, 379th AEW commander, put the day of remembrance in context.

“If you were standing on the fan tail of a ship right now at Pearl Harbor, someone like Senator Inouye from Hawaii would be talking to anywhere from 800 to a couple thousand people on the significance of that day,” he said. “If you were at Hickam Field, they are honoring the 136 people that died that day at Hickam.

“There would have been an F-15 and F-22 fly-by from the Hawaii Air National Guard over the top of our flag pole and just seconds later right over the top of the Arizona,” he added. “So it is really an amazing time remembering the lives of those who are with us and those who perished that day.”

PERSONNEL NOTES

Thunderbirds recruiting

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- America's premier air demonstration team, the Air Force Thunderbirds, is accepting applications for several positions.

The 138-member unit exhibits Air Force professionalism and skill in support of recruiting and retention programs to reinforce public confidence in the Air Force, to strengthen morale, and support community relations and public image programs, said Bob Cronin, AFPC academic and special utilization branch.

Officers serve a two-year assignment on the team, while enlisted members serve three or four, Cronin said.

The squadron performs up to 75 demonstrations per year in the U.S. and overseas. Activated in 1953, the Thunderbirds are an Air Combat Command unit and, if necessary, all members and equipment can be rapidly integrated into a flying unit.

Available positions include demonstration pilot, operations officer, executive officer, maintenance officer and public affairs officer.

For full application preparation and submission instructions, or for information about other personnel opportunities and issues, go to the secure Air Force Personnel Services website, <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>.

Want to be an astronaut?

Military personnel section

The Air Force is accepting applications for highly qualified officers and enlisted members to participate in the Air Force Astronaut Nomination Program.

Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 17 and forwarded to HQ AFPC/DPAOT3, 550 C Street West Ste 31, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4733.

For more information about applications and eligibility criteria, call the Air Force Personnel Center pipeline and trainer assignments branch, DSN 665-2330 or commercial 210-565-2330, or e-mail AFPC.DPAOT3@SpecialFlyingPrograms.

Preseparation briefings

81st Force Support Squadron

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

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

Mandatory pre-separation briefings — 9 a.m. Tuesday for those separating with honorable discharges and 1 p.m. 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.

Employer Support Freedom Award

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense agency, encourages National Guard and Reserve members to nominate their supportive employers for the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award before the Jan. 16 deadline.

Submit nominations at www.FreedomAward.mil.

Officials said of the more than 1,700 service members who have submitted nominations, about 20 came from Mississippi. The award honors employers who have been supportive of their workers who are also Guard and Reserve members.

The recipients of the award, which is open to all employers, will be announced early next summer and honored in Washington next fall.

Holiday worship

The chapel has announced worship opportunities for the upcoming holiday season.

Catholic

All services are at Triangle Chapel.

Dec. 24 — 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass.

Dec. 25 — 9 a.m. Christmas Day Mass.

Dec. 31 — 4 p.m. New Year's Eve Mass.

Jan. 1 — 9 a.m. New Year's Day Mass.

Jewish

Wednesday — Community Chanukah party at Congregation Beth Israel, 12277 Three Rivers Road, Gulfport. For more information, call 539-1655.

Latter Day Saints

Monday — 6 p.m., students meet at the Triangle Chapel to visit temple.

Dec. 25 — 10:15 a.m., Christmas Day service; meet at Triangle Chapel for a ride.

Jan. 1 — 8:15 a.m., New Year's Day service; meet at Triangle Chapel for a ride.

Orthodox

Services at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. For more information, call 388-6138 or log on to www.holytrinitybiloxi.org.

Protestant

Dec. 24 — 6 p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight service, Larcher Chapel.

Dec. 25 — 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day combined service, Triangle Chapel.

Dec. 31 — 8 p.m. until midnight, Watchnight service, Triangle Chapel.

Jan. 1 — 10:30 a.m. New Year's Day combined service, Triangle Chapel.

For more information, call 377-4859.

Raise your voice — honor your country.
If you're interested in singing the national anthem at base or community ceremonies, call 377-1179.

Volunteer —
get connected.

'Dragon Medics' announce quarterly, annual awards

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group has announced its quarterly and annual award winners.

Quarterly awards

Award winners for the October-December quarter announced Nov. 22 are:

Airman — Senior Airman Charlene Vance, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron.

Noncommissioned officer — Tech. Sgt. Holly McCune, 81st MDTS.

Senior NCO — Master Sgt. Kendrick Hinton, 81st Medical Support Squadron.

Company grade officer — Capt. John Cleckner, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron.

Field grade officer — Maj. Thuy Vo, 81st MDTS.

Civilian Category I — Cheryl Ellis, 81st MDSS.

Civilian Category II — Deshannon Hall, 81st MDOS.

Dorm room — Airman 1st Class Marissa Peters, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

Annual awards

Annual award winners for the 81st MDG were announced Dec. 6.

They compete for 81st Training Wing annual recognition at the awards banquet in February.

Airman — Senior Airman Shelia De L'etoile, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

NCO — Tech. Sgt. Tammy Pfeifer, 81st MDTS.

Senior NCO — Master Sgt. MSgt Kendrick Hinton, 81st MDSS.

First sergeant — Master Sgt. Kendal Dismute, 81st MDTS.

Company grade officer — Capt. Donna Burrowes, 81st MDOS.

Field grade officer — Maj. Jason Shirah, 81st MDTS,

Civilian Category I — Gary Bradshaw, 81st MDTS.

Civilian Category II — Robert Tash, 81st MDSS.

Airmen who drink underage face stiff penalties

By **Airmam 1st Class Heather Heiney**

Keesler Public Affairs

After a day of tight boots and strenuous work, a cool alcoholic drink can seem like instant relief to many people. However, if you are under the legal drinking age, giving in to that desire can have detrimental effects.

According to TRICARE's website, more than 10 million underage people drink every year and underage service members and military dependants contribute to this number.

Tech Sgt. Kerry Allen Holmes, 335th Training Squadron assistant military training flight chief, said, "I believe the Airmen were predisposed to drinking before they entered into the Air Force. I believe that once a person at such a young age associates alcohol with having a good time, it's hard to break that relationship."

Staff Sgt. Christopher Freimann, 335th TRS military training leader, said, "I think one of the biggest reasons people drink underage is to fit in and be a part of that group that is drinking."

"I've never really asked specifically, but I assume it's the same reason that most people drink — because they are stressed, want to have a good time, and it makes it easier to socialize," Holmes said.

Students who are caught drinking underage are subsequently restricted to base. They're most likely to be served with an Article 15 and then given whatever additional punishment their commander deems appropriate.

"In most cases, an underage drinker will receive an Article 15," Holmes said. "The punishments that go along with the Article 15 could vary from forfeiture of pay, extra duty or reduction in rank."

Freimann said that most people think the only consequence for drinking is an Article 15 and that it isn't really a big deal. However, before students take a drink, Freimann says they need to sit down and think about



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Senior Airman Michelle Noble, 81st Security Forces Squadron, administers a horizontal gaze nystagmus test used to determine if a person is under the influence of alcohol.

what effects that has on their future. They're now going to their first base with their commander, first sergeant, chief and supervisor knowing they are lacking in their core values. When the time comes for below-the-zone promotions, they may not be considered because of the Article 15.

"Basically drinking underage is the proverbial snowball rolling down the hill— it may start off as just one small thing, eventually causing an avalanche on your would-be career," Freimann said. "If the Department of Defense has to make more budget cuts and starts cutting airmen,

those who have been in trouble will be the first to go."

Tech. Sgt. James Hoover, another MTL in the 335th TRS, said that their attitude about the situation also has a lot to do with how they are handled.

"It's sad to say, but it's almost a weekly occurrence that one of the squadrons has an underage incident," said Hoover.

Despite the fact that underage drinking has been around since a legal age was set and continues to be an issue around the country, Keesler has several programs in place to help change the trend in young Airmen, including

squadron-level safety briefings, Keesler's alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment program and Airmen Against Drunk Driving.

First Lt. Julianna Petrone, ADAPT program manager, said the program's mission is "to promote readiness and health/wellness through the prevention and treatment of substance abuse."

One of ADAPT's prevention programs is a weekly briefing for new 81st Training Group students weekly about the dangers of alcohol and the Air Force standard regarding underage drinking. Other efforts include a weekly "Drunk Busters" program that focuses on the dangers of drinking and driving and peer-to-peer education for students to play out what would happen if they were involved in an alcohol related incident.

"If we receive a referral for underage drinking, Air Force Instruction 44-121 requires that they complete an assessment. If Airmen receive no diagnosis for abuse or dependence, they're required to complete three sessions of alcohol brief counseling," Petrone said. This involves additional one-on-one education on alcohol, types of drinkers, blood alcohol content, abuse vs. dependence and Air Force policy.

If underaged drinkers receive a diagnosis for abuse or dependence, they are placed in treatment for approximately six to eight months. The treatment entails individual and group therapy.

"We also have a fairly new underage drinking focus group consisting of various base agencies as well as the 81st

Training Group (leadership and students) that meets monthly to discuss ways to address the base issue of underage drinking," Petrone said.

AADD is a program that prevents drunk driving by picking up Airmen who have found themselves without another option. Senior Airman Ashley Jordan, AADD president, said the program had almost 300 "saves" between January and November.

However, AADD's won't pick up anyone underage.

"We ensure people are not drinking and driving and that they have a plan," Jordan said. "AADD is their alternate ride home."

The legal drinking age was set for a reason. Besides the fact that it's illegal, underage drinking is dangerous because the human body is still developing and alcohol consumption can inhibit that development.

"Ultimately, the biggest problem is what someone says about themselves when they break a rule like this," Freimann said. "Underage drinking not only violates the Uniformed Code of Military Justice and civilian law, but it also goes against everything we stand for as the Air Force. The core values are all broken when you drink underage."

Freimann said, "There are so many traditions that we all live by on a daily basis that are thrown out the window with that empty beer bottle."

For more information go to www.thatguy.com, TRICARE's campaign to reduce alcohol abuse in the military; call ADAPT, 376-5716; or call AADD, 377-SAVE.

Comedian delivers poignant message with humor



Photos by Kemberly Groue
Airmen 1st Class Webster Antwi and Timothy Washington, Airman Basic Jordan Palmer and Airman 1st Class Gerardo Pardo, 338th Training Squadron, laugh during Bernie McGrenahan's "Happy Hour" comedy show Friday at the Welch Theater.



Bernie McGrenahan is a comedian whose show has a message aimed at military audiences. He uses humor to lead into a serious message about his "party experiences" and conduct.

Augmentees support base where help is needed

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

You may be familiar with the campaign of commercials — someone looking a bit out of place gives the order to close up after brain surgery, or presses just the right sequence of buttons to narrowly avert a nuclear meltdown. Then, when congratulated, the individual is asked if they are a new employee, to which the calm, cool and collected individual replies, “No. But I did stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night.”

If so, it might give you a glimpse into Keesler’s augmentee program. Units and squadrons from around the base lend their members for the good of the whole to fill in where help is needed. After they receive training from the units that need their help, you can hardly tell the difference between an augmentee and those personnel being supported.

“Augmentees help make the mission happen,” said Capt. Christopher Porta, 81st Security Forces Squadron operations officer. “We appreciate them beyond words and couldn’t get the job done without them.”

The 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron and 81st SFS are the two most heavily tasked squadrons on the base and consequently are the two biggest customers of Keesler’s augmentee program.

Although not part of the augmentation program proper, Keesler’s Honor Guard unit is supported entirely by members from the various units and squadrons on base. Mandated by Congress, the honor guard provides honors at funerals for active duty, dependents of active duty and retirees. They also perform in parades, retirement ceremonies and other community relation events. Keesler’s Honor Guard covers an area of 48,000 square miles over 68 counties in the southern half of Mississippi and Louisiana.

“We’re all augmentees,” said Master Sgt. Tonya Santi-

“Augmentees help make the mission happen. We appreciate them beyond words and couldn’t get the job done without them.”

— Porta

ago, superintendent of honor guard operations. “Unlike the other units that have augmentees supporting permanent duty members, there are no permanent honor guard members. The augmentees are the honor guard.”

Honor guard members serve year-round in 90-day on, 90-day off rotations. And according to James Taylor, Keesler’s mortuary affairs officer, some who get selected to serve, ask for additional rotations because they see the good it does for the families of fallen service members.

Keesler’s augmentees are often like the aces in the hole, the kids who come off the bench, throw on their helmets and win the game. There may not be roaring crowds to laud their accomplishments but sometimes their service is no less remarkable.

“On 9/11, 50 minutes after the first plane hit, we were in the general’s office working on contingency plans to get security forces, medical support and supplies to New York City and the Pentagon,” said Wayne Rowell, 81st LRS chief of deployment operations. “We had augmentees working 30 hours straight that day. We used them for a month and a half moving cargo during 24-hour operations.”

“They have helped us tremendously during our manning shortage,” added Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Bryant, 81st SFS superintendent. “They show up very eager to learn. They catch on quickly. They’re diligent and perform their duties in a professional manner. This allows us to meet our posting and frees up our more experienced mem-

bers to respond to more complex calls for service.”

Augmentees receive extensive training to be able to perform the duties they are being asked to do.

“Our augmentees receive security forces training on their duties as installation entry controllers and security response team members,” said Bryant. “In addition, they receive training on weapons and proper use of force.”

The 81st LRS employs a three-day curriculum when they receive augmentees. They receive training on how to perform such aerial port duties as unloading and loading cargo, weighing, processing and inspection of cargo, certifying and safeguarding cargo and how operating equipment and tools used to move cargo.

According to Rowell, it’s an outstanding curriculum that was recognized in the most recent operational readiness and unit compliance inspections.

The benefits to those who use augmentees are obvious. But what’s in it for an augmentee? What do they get out of being an augmentee other than additional duty? Monetarily — nothing. However, in the realm of the intangible, the benefits are very real.

“It puts them in a different category above their peers when they get selected for augmentee duty,” said Rowell. “It’s a chance to stand out. A lot of quarterly award winners will have an augmentee bullet in their resume.”

Also, the attitude of the augmentee is also an important component in the benefit they receive.

“The ones who volunteer

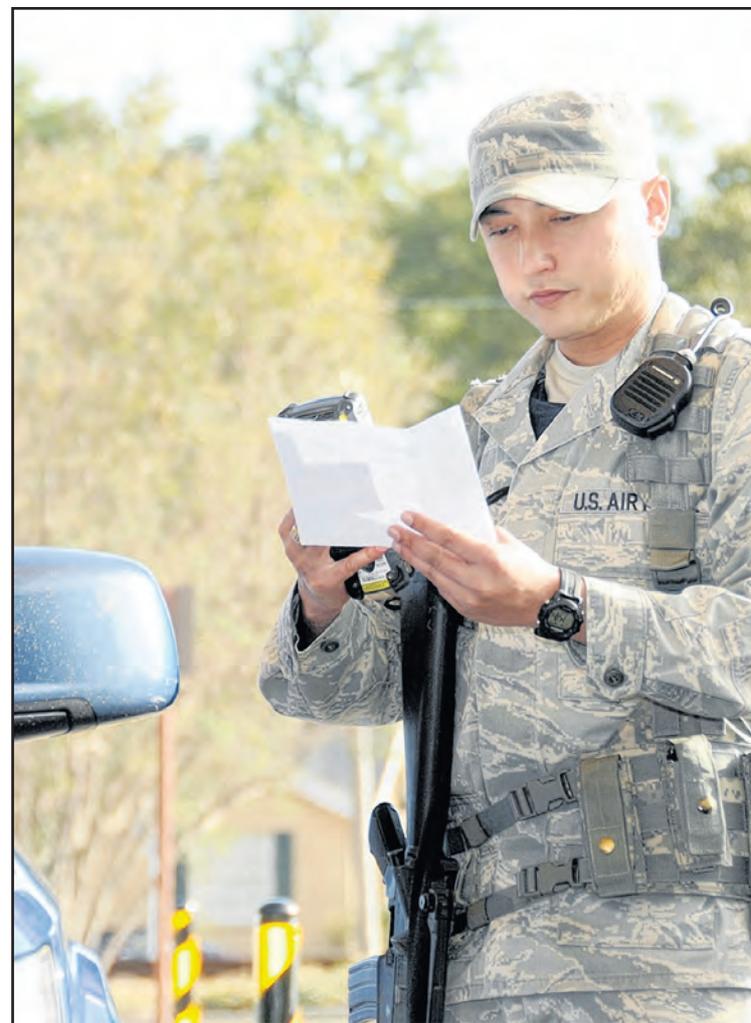


Photo by Kemberly Groue
Staff Sgt. David Reimer, an augmentee from the 81st Dental Squadron, checks identification cards as visitors enter the White Avenue Gate.

to come out are a breed apart from the ones who are ‘volun-told’,” added Rowell. “We know who the volunteers are. It shows in their work.”

It’s also an opportunity for augments and augmentee to come together and share ideas, to see and appreciate their role in the Air Force from a different perspective.

“Airmen from different career fields and backgrounds come in with different perspectives and ideas that we as security force members may not see,” noted Bryant. “This helps us develop innovative ideas to improve our operational environment.”

And there are other ways to bring benefit to an augmentee because as Rowell puts it, “A happy augmentee is a productive augmentee.”

“When we bring an augmentee in for orientation, we

ask them if they’ve had any previous experience,” said Rowell. “If so, there might be a particular area that they’d like to work. Some don’t want to drive forklifts; others can’t wait. So we have a tendency to use augmentees where their skill set is the strongest.”

The skills and training augmentees receive stick with them and have a way of opening doors throughout their career in the Air Force.

“It has far-reaching effects,” Rowell added. “If they’ve served in 81st SFS, they become better with their weapons. If they’ve worked with 81st LRS, it gives the skills that, when they get deployed, will help them in the field. If they become a tech or a master sergeant, they can definitely draw back on the experience they had as an augmentee.”

Care coordinators help wounded rehabilitate in many areas of life

Defense Media Activity
and Keesler News staff

FORT MEADE, Md. — When an Airman becomes seriously wounded, ill or injured, the little things have a tendency to fall through the cracks as they focus on recovery and rehabilitation. These little things, like paying the bills for instance, have the potential to turn into major problems for Airmen and their families if they're left unresolved.

That's when Air Force Recovery Care coordinators step in. They find service members who are wounded during war, injured in an accident or diagnosed with a serious illness and provide them with nonmedical support throughout their recovery, rehabilitation and re-integration stages. That help includes transportation, housing, finances, legal assistance and even child care.

Currently, there are 33 RCCs in the program located throughout the continental U.S. as well as one in Hawaii and Landstuhl, Germany, serving more than 1,100 wounded, ill or injured Airmen. They're strategically stationed at hospitals and other locations where high volume of wounded, ill or injured Airmen are being treated.

Keesler's recovery care coordinator is Dan Ransom, who assumed his duties in 2009 after retiring from the Air Force with 26 years of service. His background as a military training leader and in professional military education gave him the manage-



Ransom

ment skills that prepared him for the job.

Most coordinators are former first sergeants, command chiefs or colonels. The experience they gained during their time in the Air Force enables them to provide better service to Airmen because they understand how the system works.

When a coordinator finds an Airman who wants their assistance, the RCC completes a comprehensive recovery plan with the service member to establish goals and identify nonmedical areas where help is needed.

Mr. Ransom's job focuses primarily on the non-clinical needs of 64 wounded warriors in Mississippi and Alabama, including active duty, Reserve and National Guard members.

"I work closely with Donna Anderson, our wounded warrior nurse case manager, and a multidisciplinary team to ensure that a service member's care is complete, both med-

ically and non-medically," he explained. "The collaborative effort between many Team Keesler agencies in assisting our wounded, injured or ill is phenomenal."

The mental health clinic is instrumental in providing post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury screening and counseling. The airman and family readiness center assists with Air Force Aid Society loans and financial counseling. Naomi Kraima, counselor for the Disabled American Veterans transition assistance program, provides disability information for members who are being medically retired or separated.

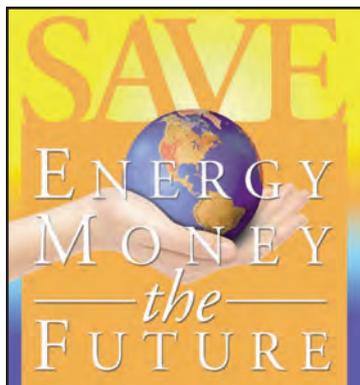
"A large number of service members are referred to us from their units," Mr. Ransom pointed out.

"Keesler's first sergeants and chiefs group are exceptional in using our program. It's truly a collective effort to ensure today's warriors are taken care of completely."

Non-clinical needs of service members are great — financial, legal and administrative.

"Sometimes when regulations state that something can't be done, it is my job to find someone that can do it," he stressed. "The needs of service members don't go away when they're told we can't do anything for them — they still have house payments, car payments, children to feed."

Tech. Sgt. Chris Powell, Defense Media Activity, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report.





Concerted effort reduces base waste

By Joel Van Nice

Keesler Public Affairs

As the holidays approach, the trash and recycle bins overflow with remains from office parties and gift exchanges. Keesler custodial and recycling crews are well equipped to handle the seasonal overflow with a complete schedule of cleaning and recycling services.

Al Watkins, chief of the 81st Infrastructure Division's

operation flight, explains, "Custodial services are performed in a manner that will maintain a satisfactory facility condition and present a clean, neat and professional appearance."

The custodial contractor is responsible for cleaning hard floors and carpets as well as trash collection and removal. Trash collection follows a standard schedule. Trash is collected once or twice a week at most facilities. Academic facilities are taken care of by students. Trash at the child development center, youth center and fitness centers is collected daily. The custodial

services team also provides emergency cleaning due to broken water pipes, toilet overflow and similar emergencies.

Keesler's recycling program is an effort to reduce the total volume of trash the base generates each year and bring down overall cost.

"The goal for diversion, or the amount of trash converted to recyclable materials, required by the Defense Department is 40 percent," Watkins explained. "The recycling contractor started at 14 percent and surpassed the goal with a 55 percent diversion rate."

What's recyclable at Keesler

Recyclable items

All paper items — white, colored, newspaper, magazines, packing paper, phone books, books and other products. When recycling folders, remove metal prongs.

- Shredded paper must be bagged and tied; don't shred plastic items and mix with paper.
- Cardboard must go outside buildings in designated blue receptacles. Styrofoam and plastic should be removed and separated from the cardboard.
- Folders with metal prongs removed from the inside
 - Toner cartridges
 - Metallic items such as wire, radiators, aluminum, copper, brass, steel, lead, iron and other items
 - Aluminum cans, bagged, tied and placed in your collections area
 - Plastic bottles, jugs and containers should be free of food products, bagged, tied and placed in your collections area
 - Glass; clear, brown and green with caps removed
 - Electronic items such as televisions, radios, computer equipment, etc.
 - Wood pallets, furniture and other items are

accepted in the recycle center yard.

- Food scraps.
- Cooking oil.

Non-recyclable items

- Carbon paper should be disposed of in trash receptacles.
 - Food-contaminated products such as fast food paper wrappers, napkins, paper cups, etc.
 - Biodegradable papers such as toilet paper, hand towels, napkins, etc.
 - Tobacco containers including contaminated products such as "spit bottles"
 - Wax paper.
 - Waxed cardboard
 - Styrofoam
- Batteries, light bulbs and paint should be turned in to the environmental office, Building 4420 near the military fuel station on Ploesti Drive, 9-10 a.m. Tuesdays. These items should not be put in garbage cans.
- The recycling center, Building 4004, is located off Chappie James Avenue. Hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays. There's a 24-hour setup next to the building to recycle items. For more information, call 377-4546 or 348-6409.

Reaching out on Wingman Day



Staff Sgt. Judy Mehaffy, 81st Training Wing; Colin Quick, 81st TRW; Master Sgt. Stephen Carter, 81st Operation Support Flight; Staff Sgt. Heather Smith, 81st Comptroller Squadron; and Master Sgt. Chad Hutchinson, 81st CTPS, participate in a team building exercise for Wingman Day Dec. 8 at the Bay Breeze Event Center. The purpose of Wingman Day is to reinforce the wingman concept as a foundation to building strong and sufficient Airmen.



Members of the 81st Security Forces Squadron participate in a Wingman Bay ruck march Dec. 8. They marched five miles from the Bay Breeze Golf Course around the flight line along I-81 and back to the golf course.

Photos by Kemberly Groue

Resources available for absentee voters during state primaries

Voting assistance office

Keesler members who'd like to register to vote or those who plan to vote in a number of upcoming state primary elections can contact the unit voting representative; visit the voting assistance office, Room 113, Sablich Center; call 376-5836 or log on to www.FVAP.gov.

Upcoming primaries include:

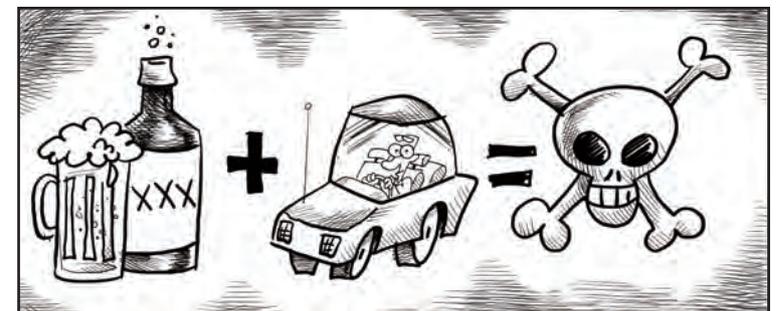
New Hampshire — Jan. 10.

South Carolina — Jan. 21.

Florida — Jan. 31.

Missouri — Feb. 7.

Arizona and Michigan — Feb. 28.



Never give
safety
a day off.

Squadrons spread cheer with Holiday Card competition



Photos by Kemberly Groue

The 81st Contracting Squadron won first place in the most classic category of the Holiday Card contest, Dec. 9. The holiday cards are on display on Larcher Boulevard south of the base exchange. The judging was done by Kimberly Nastasi of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce and her staff. Each winning unit receives 200 Dragon Dollars to offset the cost of holiday parties at the Bay Breeze Event Center or marina park pavilion and can also be used at the bowling center, golf tournaments or other Services activities.



The 81st Force Support Squadron won first place in the most charismatic category.



The 333rd Training Squadron won first place in the most innovative category.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Lt. Col. Brian Worth, center, 336th Training Squadron commander, talks to nonprior service students about motorcycle safety while Staff Sgt. Edward Lotz, 336th TRS military training leader, shows the appropriate apparel for riders during the Red Wolves' motorcycle safety awareness ride April 22 in front of Holbrook Manor. The purpose of the event was two-fold — to promote safety ethics and techniques among students and to stress awareness of motorcyclists who share the road with other vehicles. Eleven of the squadron's other motorcyclists joined Worth and Lotz in the ride.

Motorcycle milestone surpassed

By Staff Sgt. Clinton Atkins

AETC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Education and Training Command has surpassed a significant safety milestone — no service member fatalities have occurred as a result of operating a motorcycle in more than two years.

The last time the command hit such a streak was Aug. 8, 1998. On that day, the no-fatalities run hit 786 days. The current record is 769 days.

“Teamwork made this happen,” said Colonel Creig Rice, AETC Safety director, “Commanders set the tone, our safety offices provided training and education, our motorcycle mentorship clubs aided our inexperienced riders, and our motorcyclists exercised sound risk management. As long as leaders stay involved and individuals continue to use sound risk management, we can continue this positive trend.”

The milestone resulted

from the efforts of everyone involved in AETC's motorcycle safety program, from top leaders down to brand-new riders. And in that mix is a group of expert volunteers teaching the Motorcycle Safety Foundation courses located at many of the bases across AETC.

“Training is important. Motorcycle safety courses provide the basic level of safe motorcycle operation,” said Bryan Bailey, 81st Training Wing Safety. He also serves as an MSF course instructor at Keesler. “The basic rider's course does provide the mechanics and skills of riding a motorcycle but more importantly, it provides the rider with a strategy on how to avoid mishaps.”

Motorcycle safety courses aren't the only way to keep riders alive, he said, mentorship also plays a big role.

“Mentorship is a great way to ensure this streak continues,” Bailey said. “Riders should talk to other riders

about the importance of making good decisions and the consequences of using bad judgment. We have a great wealth of experience out there; we need to take advantage of it.”

Tech. Sgt. David Roller is an active duty motorcycle rider. He said the focus on motorcycle safety has to do with much more than policy.

“Many riders think the motorcycle safety program is just a bunch of rules written down on paper,” he said. “I can assure it is not. It is a people program, designed to keep our wingmen safe.”

There are 4,300 Airmen in AETC who ride motorcycles and they deserve a lot of the credit for this streak, said AETC Safety Manager Robbie Bogard.

“Our service members are better educating themselves about motorcycle safety, wearing the proper protective equipment and exercising better risk management,” he said. “Hopefully this streak will continue.”

TRICARE offers young adult option

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The TRICARE Young Adult Prime option became available for purchase Dec. 1, with coverage beginning Jan. 1.

TYA Prime offers young adult beneficiaries TRICARE Prime coverage for monthly premiums of \$201.

To purchase TYA Prime, dependents must be under age 26, unmarried and not eligible for their own employer-sponsored health care coverage.

TYA Prime is a managed health care option with low out-of-pocket costs. Care is delivered through military clinics and hospitals and the TRICARE network of civilian providers.

Uniformed services dependents may qualify to purchase TYA Prime if they live in a designated Prime service area and their sponsor's status makes them eligible for Prime coverage.

In addition to TYA Prime, young adult dependents may also be eligible for TYA Standard, which has been available

since May. With monthly premiums of \$186, Standard offers eligible dependents the flexibility to see TRICARE-authorized network and non-network providers of their choice, wherever they live or travel. The Standard monthly premium is dropping to \$176 on Jan. 1.

Complete information and application forms are available at www.tricare.mil/tya.

Sponsors and their adult dependents are encouraged to explore both commercial and military health care plan options and costs when choosing a plan that best meets their needs.

Young adults considering TYA should determine if they are eligible before completing and sending in an application. Eligible dependents may drop off the application and payment of three months of premiums at a TRICARE Service Center or send them by mail or fax to their regional health care contractor.

Once the initial payment is made, monthly premiums must

be paid in advance through automated electronic payment.

As long as the TYA enrollment application is received by the 20th of the month, coverage can begin on the first day of the next month. For example, if an applicant wants TYA Prime to start Jan 1, the application and initial three-month payment must be received by Dec. 20, 2011. If it's received after Dec. 20, TYA Prime coverage begins Feb. 1, 2012.

Dependent eligibility for TRICARE previously ended at age 21, or age 23 for full-time students. Similar to provisions in the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, TYA offers eligible young adults up to age 26 the option to continue TRICARE Standard or Prime coverage, as long as their sponsor is still eligible for TRICARE. Unlike employer sponsored health plans, TYA is available only to unmarried young adult dependents.

African-American Heritage Committee ready to kick off events for new year

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler's African-American Heritage Committee has planned a variety of activities to kick off the new year.

Jan. 9 — 11 a.m., Bay Breeze Event Center, Martin Luther King Jr. memorial luncheon with Chief Master Sgt. Lonnie Slater as guest speaker. Slater, former 81st Training Wing command chief, is now the command chief at Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. The luncheon is \$15. For tickets, call 377-9386 or 377-5250.

Jan. 28 — 6 p.m., Triangle Chapel, free gospel concert. For more information, call 377-0327.

Feb. 2 — 11 a.m., Bay Breeze Event Center, Black History Month luncheon. Guest speaker is Lucimarian Roberts. The luncheon is \$15. For tickets, call 377-9386.

Feb. 10 — noon, Gaudé Lanes, 8th annual AAHC bowling tournament. \$10 to participate. For more information, call 377-5250.

Feb. 24 — 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., youth center, soul food sampling. Donations accepted. For more information, call 376-8682.

Road rage sets a deadly stage.

Career-broadening opportunities available to NAF employees

By Capt. Carrie Kessler

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO — Nonappropriated funds employees now have the opportunity to expand their careers and sharpen their leadership skills through the NAF Career Broadener Program.

Applications for this program are part of the NAF Development Team call released Dec. 1.

This Air Force initiative allows federal employees in categories NF III/IV/V, UA 6-12, NA 09-15, NL 01-15, NS 01-19, and CY 04-05 the chance to pursue management roles outside their primary area of expertise for career enhancement.

“Being able to work in another facet of the operation helps the employee understand the big picture and gives them the skills and experience necessary to potentially assume management positions outside their current NAF position,” said Michael Bilicki, Air Force Services Agency career broadener program coordinator.

During the first call for nominations, four individuals are selected to participate in the program in the lodging and recreation areas. The NAF Development Team makes

the selections in February.

“It helps force support leaders identify those NAF employees who have potential for increased leadership and management roles,” Bilicki said.

During the one-year career broadening period, program participants will gain valuable knowledge and skills without losing the progress already gained in their current career.

“If a lodging employee is interested in obtaining skills and knowledge in outdoor recreation management or any of the other activity management areas, currently they would have to transfer over to that specific area, quite possibly starting at the entry level position and working their way back up,” said Bobbie Nugent, an AFSVA human resources specialist. This program allows individuals to crossover and gain the necessary experience while not losing the time they have already invested in their careers.

Similar to the career broadening program for appropriated fund employees, the NAF Career Broadener Program benefits the organization as well.

“This not only makes the employee more valuable by having a greater understanding of overall operations, but also makes the organization stronger by having more qual-

ified and skilled employees ready to assume leadership and management roles as needed,” Bilicki said.

During the development team call, interested employees need to complete a career-broadening nomination request in the Transition-Civilian Development Plan. The T-CDP is a web-based application that captures the plans and preferences of employees in the Force Development process. Employees who would like to participate must complete an employee profile in the system. T-CDPs are due to the Force Support Career Field Management Office no later than Jan. 13.

“Our hope is that the employee will gain a broader sense of management and operations experience within the NAF force support community along with a greater understanding of the entire force support squadron,” Nugent said.

For more information about the Career Broadener Program and NAF development opportunities, contact the AFSVA Human Resources Program Management Branch at HQAFNAFHRO@randolph.af.mil. For more information on NAF employment, visit www.NAFjobs.org or call Kessler’s NAF human resources office, 376-8278.

Become a Keesler fan
on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/keeslerafb>

Weekend movies at Welch Theater

Friday — 6:30 p.m., A
Very Harold and Kumar
Christmas (R).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Puss
in Boots (PG); 6:30 p.m.,
Tower Heist (PG-13).

Sunday — 1 p.m., In
Time (PG-13).

**No movies Dec. 23
through Jan. 1.**

NORAD set to track Santa's flight

Air Force News Service

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The North American Aerospace Defense Command is getting ready to track Santa's yuletide journey.

The NORAD Tracks Santa website, <http://www.norad-santa.org>, went live Dec. 1 featuring a countdown calendar, a kid's countdown village complete with holiday games and activities that change daily, and video messages from students and troops from around the world.

With the addition of Brazilian Portuguese, the website is now available in eight languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese and Chinese.

This year, using free applications in the Apple iTunes Store and the Android Market, parents and children can also countdown the days until Santa's take off on their smart phones. Tracking opportunities are also offered on Facebook,



Google+, YouTube and Twitter. Santa followers just need to type "@noradsanta" into each search engine to get started.

Also on the website, fans can go to the Operation Good Will page and watch the live stream of the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, presented by the National Park Foundation and National Park Service, Dec. 1 beginning at 4:30 p.m. EST by clicking on the <http://www.thenational-tree.org> link.

Starting at midnight MST on Dec. 24, website visitors can watch Santa as he makes all the preparations for his flight. Then, at 4 a.m. MST, trackers worldwide can talk to a live phone operator to inquire about

Santa's whereabouts by dialing the toll-free number 1-877-HI-NORAD (1-877-446-6723) or by sending an email to norad-trackssanta@gmail.com. NORAD's "Santa Cams" will also stream videos as Santa makes his way over various locations worldwide.

NORAD Tracks Santa started in 1955 when a local media advertisement directed kids to call Santa direct — only the number was misprinted. Instead of reaching Santa, the phone rang through to the crew commander on duty at the Continental Air Defense Command Operations Center. Thus began the tradition that NORAD has carried on since it was created in 1958.

Computer security is your responsibility.

All I want for Christmas ...



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Three-year-old Adriana Iovieno holds the gift Santa just gave her and listens as he recounts her behavior since last Christmas during the 81st Medical Group's annual children's Christmas party Dec. 10 in the Keesler Hospital's Don Wylie Auditorium. Santa and Mrs. Claus were the highlight of the event that also included games, crafts and lunch featuring pizza and a pair of special Christmas cakes. Adriana's parents are Staff Sgts. Ashley Iovieno, 81st Medical Support Squadron, and Kristopher Iovieno, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

Decking Fisher House's halls



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Sun Olsen and Sherrie Kelley secure a wreath to the banister as they decorate Keesler Fisher House for the holidays. Fifteen employees from a local supercenter spent several hours setting up and decorating a tree in the living room, hanging tinsel and placing other decorations throughout the dining room and central hallway in an annual tradition begun in 2006.

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

Conserve energy during holidays

By Butch Wallace

Resource efficiency manager

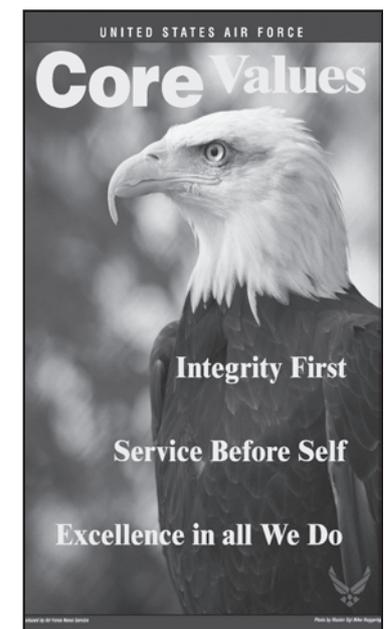
With the upcoming holidays and exodus of trainees from Keesler, it's a good time to consider energy conservation measures to help the base reach its annual energy use targets.

The Air Force's energy intensity is measured each year by combining the total amounts of electricity and natural gas and other fuel sources as appropriate. So the times when the facilities aren't needed are excellent opportunities to affect Keesler's annual metrics.

Please keep these energy-saving tips in mind as the holidays approach and offices are nearly empty:

- Turn off unnecessary lights.
- Turn off peripherals such as radios, computer monitors, copiers and printers.
- Enlist help from CSC with setting back temperature on thermostats.

For more information, call 377-5853 or 4300.



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 — 8-11 a.m., Veterans Affairs benefits briefing. 1-4 p.m., retirement benefits briefing.

Wednesday — 9 a.m., deployment briefing. All members deploying must attend prior to departure.

Dec. 28 — 7-11:30 a.m., newcomers orientation.

Arts and crafts center

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

Through Dec. 30 — 2012 United States Air Force Arts and Crafts Gallery. Submit crafts, fine art, photography and digital art. Entries displayed at the center and online at www.airforcegallery.com.

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2334. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

Today — 6 p.m., Keesler men's varsity softball pre-tryout interest meeting in the lounge for those interested in joining the varsity softball team. Hosted by the Triangle Fitness Center sports office.

Sunday — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., brunch with Santa. Live entertainment by Jesse Hill. \$17.95 Air Force Club members, \$22.95 nonmembers; ages 4-10 half-price, ages 3 and younger free. Reservations recommended.

Dec. 31 — 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., New Year's Eve party in the ballroom. 80s-theme, live entertainment, contests, hors d'oeuvres, champagne toast and late night breakfast. \$35 for Air Force Club members, \$45 nonmembers. Overnight package available; admission for two, one night stay at the Inns of Keesler and transportation. \$90 for Air Force Club members, \$110 nonmembers. For tickets, call 377-2334 or 3832.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

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

Saturday — 8:30 a.m., Santa scramble golf tournament. Two person select shot with handicap by flight. Prices vary. Fee includes greens, cart, food, drinks, giveaways and prizes. Register in advance.

Dec. 17-Jan. 8 — holiday and new year's sale. Save up to 30 percent on select merchandise.

Dec. 22-23 — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Christmas tent sale. Deep discounts on quality merchandise.

Dec. 23 and 30 — noon, free golf clinic for nonprior service students. Clubs provided. Space limited.

Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 — free golf all day. Golf carts and rental clubs not available.

Fitness centers

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

Friday-Monday — Triangle running/walking track is closed for repairs.

Gaudé Lanes

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2817.

Saturday-Sunday — 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday, pizza and pins special. Two hours of bowling, shoes, large pizza and a pitcher of soda or tea, \$35.

Sunday — noon to 6 p.m., Sunday funday. Three game special including shoes. \$6 for adults, \$3 for youth.

Dec. 31 — 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., New Year's Eve party. Bowling, dancing, party favors, food and drinks. \$35 adults, \$25 ages 6-17, free for ages 5 and younger. Alcoholic beverages sold separately.

Outdoor recreation

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

Through Jan. 1 — Due to construction, the disc golf course is temporarily closed.

Vandenberg Community Center

Editor's note: Friday and Saturday night activities are part of the late night dances, \$3 admission; non-prior service students only. For more information, call 377-3308 or 5576.

Saturday — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., exodus dance. Last night to party with friends before heading home for the holidays.

Dec. 31 — 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., free New Year's Eve party. Ring in 2012 playing video games, pool, ping-pong, cards or board games. Watch the ball drop on the big screen.

Wednesdays — 5-9 p.m., friends and flicks. Free movie night; popcorn provided.

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 youth holiday party, ages 6-12. Celebrate the holidays with festive games, refreshments, music and surprises. \$10 for first child, \$5 each additional. Air Force Club members get 10 percent off first child's fee.

Monday-Dec. 23 — full-day holiday camp for school age program and open recreation. Registration required.

Dec. 27-30 — full-day holiday camp for school age program only. Registration required.

Dragon Wagon

Friday-Sunday — all new route and schedule. Air Force Club members ride free; \$1 for nonmembers. For new route and schedule, visit <http://www.keesler81fss.us>.

AFAF extends contest deadline

By Eric Grill

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force Assistance Fund officials announced Dec. 2 the extension to the AFAF's 2012 fundraising campaign online video contest to Jan. 31, 2012.

The extension of the video contest allows participants more time to complete their video entries.

"We received requests for extensions to the deadline and, based on feedback we received from Airmen, we wanted to clarify the eligibility criteria for the entries," said William D'Avanzo, the Air Force's voting action officer and fundraising chief.

The contest is open to any individual or team and is not limited to one entry per base, D'Avanzo said.

The winning video for each category will be featured on the AFAF YouTube channel and played at the 9th Annual Air Force Charity Ball in Springfield, Va., March 24. The AFAF will also name a 2012 Air Force Aid Society educational grant after the winning teams in recognition of their efforts.

The concept for the video contest originated from an installation project officer at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., who created a humorous video to educate people on donating to the AFAF and its affiliate charities, he said. When the IPO at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, used the video to publicize AFAF, she suggested holding a video contest to help generate more interest.

Video contest rules:

- Videos must be about one or all of the AFAF affiliate charities, the campaign itself, or testimonials on how one of the charities helped an individual or family.

- The videos may be humorous, serious, informational or educational.

- Eligibility and number of video teams from each base is unlimited.

- Each person or team may submit one video in each of the two categories — 29-second and 59-second.

- The video must be posted to a YouTube channel and the video link emailed to USAF.Fundraising@randolph.af.mil no later than Jan. 31, 2012. The email must be digitally signed from an af.mil account and must contain the statement, "All persons appearing in the video have given permission to be videotaped and for the video to be publicly displayed on YouTube."

- If children are shown in the video, include a signed letter (.doc or .pdf) from the child's parent or legal guardian giving permission for the child to be in the video and for the video to be posted on YouTube.

- Approved video submissions will be re-posted to <http://www.youtube.com/afaassistancefund> upon receipt.

- Videos will be judged Jan. 31 by AFAF and affiliate charity representatives for content, cinematography, creativity and number of "views" on the AFAF YouTube channel. Winning videos will be announced on the AFAF YouTube channel and through public affairs channels the week beginning Feb. 6, 2012.

The AFAF is an annual effort to raise funds for charitable affiliates supporting the Air Force family, including active duty, reservists, Guard and dependents, retirees and surviving spouses in need. AFAF's affiliate charities are Air Force Villages, Air Force Aid Society, General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation, and Air Force Enlisted Village.

For more information on the AFAF's affiliate charities, visit <http://www.afassistancefund.org>.

Tech. Sgt. Steve Grever contributed to this story.

A 3-5 minute steady tone on the base siren is a tornado warning — take cover.

KEESLER NOTES

Housing office hours

The housing office in Sablich Center has limited service today due to training.

The community housing office is closed during this time.

Legal office closes

The legal office closes at noon Monday for an official function.

For more information, call 376-8601.

Amateur radio club

The Keesler Amateur Radio Club meets 7 p.m. Monday in Rooms 5438-5439, Locker House.

For more information, call 228-323-1515.

Commissary hours

Commissary hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 24, closed Dec. 25, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 31 and closed Jan. 1.

Supply classes

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

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

Precious Metals Recovery Program is 10-11 a.m. today. All newly-assigned PMRP monitors are required to attend, and refresher training is required annually. For more information or to sign up, call 377-5998.

Block IIA bench stock training is 9-10 a.m. Tuesday. For more information or to sign up, call 377-2005.

Block IIB repair cycle training is 10-11 a.m. Tuesday. For more information or to sign up, call 377-4191.

Block III equipment custodian refresher training is 1-2 p.m. today. 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.

Military Child of Year

Operation Homefront is

accepting online nominations until Jan. 15 for the 2012 Military Child of the Year Award.

The award is given to an outstanding military child the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The winners, who each will receive \$5,000, will be flown with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., for special recognition ceremony April 5.

Nominations are accepted at www.OperationHomefront.net/MCOY.

Candidates should demonstrate resilience and strength of character, thrive in the face of the challenges of military life and demonstrate leadership within their families and within their communities.

Nominees must have valid military ID or currently be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, be between the ages of 8-18 and be able to travel to Washington, D.C., for the ceremony on April 5.

Finalists must have a background check to confirm the information provided in the

nomination and must provide references.

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 more information and a list of preferred donations. Pickup is available for bulk donations.

For more information, call 377-3217.

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 that are clean and in good condition.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 4-6 p.m. Wednesday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the last Saturday of the month.

Airman's Attic is closed on federal holidays.

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

Periodontal patients

The 81st Dental Squadron periodontics department is seeking people with gum problems for the general dental residency teaching program.

Limited numbers of patients, including retirees and eligible military dependents, accepted as teaching cases receive free periodontal care at Keesler.

Patients will be treated by Air Force general dentistry residents under specialty supervision. Patients must be readily available for lengthy recurring appointments, generally Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings.

For more information, call 376-5225.

Air Force Aid assistance

Air Force Aid Society assistance, including Falcon Loans,

is provided by appointment only. Emergency travel aid is still provided on a walk-in basis.

For an appointment, call 376-8728.

Air Force Aid

Air Force active-duty members and spouses, retirees and surviving spouses of deceased active duty members can apply for Air Force Aid Society assistance online.

Log on to <https://my.afas.org/memberportal/Login/Login.aspx>. The client completes and submits the application to the airman and family readiness center at the selected base. The applicant receives an e-mail and is instructed to call the center, 376-8728, to schedule an appointment.

Supply source

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

For more information, visit CSC supply customer service, Room 126, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002; call 377-2005 or e-mail 81LRS.CustomerSVC@us.af.mil.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Intramural basketball in 3rd week

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

After two weeks of intramural basketball action, all 16 teams have taken to the Blake Fitness Center courts at least once.

In the Western Conference, the 81st Force Support Squadron is atop the standings at 2-0, followed by the 81st Medical Group, last year's intramural champ, and the 334th Training Squadron, both 1-0.

The remaining five teams are the 333rd TRS and the Keesler Marine Corps Detachment, 1-1; the 81st Training Wing Staff Agencies and 81st Medical Support Squadron, 0-1; and the 338th TRS-B, 0-2.

The Western Conference plays at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

In the Eastern Conference, the 335th TRS is leading the standings at 2-0, followed by the 345th Airlift Squadron and 338th TRS-A, both at 1-0.

The conference's other five teams are the 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron and 81st Security Forces Squadron, 1-1; 338th TRS-C and Gautier Army Recruiting Station, 0-1; and the 403rd Wing, 0-2.

Eastern Conference teams play 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information and schedules, call 377-2444.

Southeastern Military Athletic Conference Keesler Dragons earn first win

By Sam Miller

Intramural sports director

The Keesler Dragons overcame a poor first half shooting performance to defeat the Hurlburt Field (Fla.) Commandos, 73-62, Saturday at Blake Fitness Center.

Keesler came into the contest looking for its first win of the season after a 0-4 start. Hurlburt Field, 2-3, was looking to avoid its second straight loss.

Both teams started the game with abysmal shooting and the score remained close most of the first half. With less than five minutes left in the half, the Dragons were able to put together a 6-2 offensive run against the Commandos and took a 31-24 halftime lead. Keesler's Mario McKnight led all scorers at the break with 13 points.

The Dragons were clicking on all cylinders after the half behind the 17-point offensive explosion of Quameir Harding, who led all

scorers at the buzzer with 26 points.

Keesler travels to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Jan. 14. Eglin has a 5-2 record after a 73-68 victory over Mayport Naval Air Station, Fla., that drops the Sailors to 4-3. Hurlburt Field, now 2-4, hosts Maxwell AFB, Ala., Jan. 7. Maxwell is atop the SEMAC standings at 5-1 after a 77-70 weekend win over Robins AFB, Ga.

The seventh SEMAC men's team, Moody AFB, Ga., was open last weekend and holds a 3-2 record.

Keesler Dragon Quameir Harding makes a layup during Saturday's SEMAC contest against the Hurlburt Field Commandos. Harding tallied 17 points in the second half and led all scorers at the final buzzer with 26 points. His teammate, Mario McKnight, was Keesler's top scorer in the first half with 13 points.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Bowl bound



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Raymond Hoy

Air Force Academy quarterback Tim Jefferson runs up the middle during the Air Force-Army game Nov. 5 at Falcon Stadium in Colorado. The Falcons, who finished the 2011 regular season 7-5, face the University of Toledo Rockets in the Military Bowl, Dec. 28 in Washington, D.C. Air Force has won its last two straight bowl appearances, defeating Georgia Tech 14-7 in the 2010 Independence Bowl and beating the University of Houston 47-20 in the 2009 Armed Forces Bowl. This is the Falcons' fifth straight bowl appearance under head coach Troy Calhoun.

Safety has no time out.

Thursday intramural bowling

Week 13 of 34

Team	Won	Lost
335th TRS-A	72.0	32.0
81st FSS	70.0	34.0
403rd AMXS	64.0	40.0
81st CS	58.0	46.0
334th TRS	58.0	46.0
81st TRSS-PMEL	56.0	48.0
ECS Strikers	56.0	48.0
81st LRS-A	52.0	52.0
338th TRS	52.0	52.0
336th TRS	52.0	52.0
81st LRS-B	48.0	56.0
81st TRSS-A	44.0	60.0
2nd Air Force	42.0	62.0
81st WSA	40.0	64.0
335th TRS-B	40.0	64.0
Seabees	28.0	68.0

Season high scores

Team game — 335th TRS, 997.

Team series — 335th TRS, 2,777.

High handicap game (team) — 335th TRS-A, 1,132.

High handicap series (team) — 403rd AMXS, 3150.

Game/men — Garo Watson, 267.

Series/men — Jeff Miracle, 734.

High handicap game/men — Robert Dickinson, 279.

High handicap series/men — Robert Dickinson, 742.

Game/women — Carol Wetzler, 200.

Series/women — Sabra Miracle, 529.

High handicap game/women — Carol Wetzler, 258.

High handicap series/women — Carol Wetzler, 655.

Average/men — Garo Watson, 208.63.

Average/women — Micki Vandermeer, 156.58.

Most improved — Matthew Such, 12.17; Carol Wetzler, 4.61.