



# KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

FEB. 9, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 6



## Dining halls compete for Air Force award

Page 14

Force structure changes  
Page 8

Medic chosen for 'Tops in Blue'  
Page 15

Night of Tournaments  
Page 17

INSIDE

Commentary, 2-3 Training and Education, 4-7 News and Features, 8-21 Sports and Recreation, 23-24

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# COMMENTARY

## Our uniform distinguishes us as Airmen

By Tech. Sgt. Jedediah Moss

338th Training Squadron military training leader

Uniform standards ... believe it or not, the Air Force actually has them! As I travel around the base or downtown for lunch, I see an epidemic of “Can’t wear it rightis”.

To those of you who wear our uniform correctly, thank you. You set the standard for all of us.

I’ve heard all sorts of negative comments made about “today’s Airman” or “when I was an Airman.” It comes down to holding all Airmen accountable and simply being educated on the instructions — in this case, Air Force Instruction 36-2903 — and displaying “excellence in all we do,” the core value that sets us apart as members of the United States Air Force. When wearing the uniform, wear it correctly — don’t just haphazardly throw it on. That uniform distinguishes us as Airmen. Take pride in it and wear it according to the AFI. If you don’t know the instruction, read it and embrace it.

Allow me to explain a few examples of what I see and what is stated in AFI 36-2903.

### Hair standard

For males, hair will not touch your ears, must have a tapered appearance, will be no more than 1.25 inches in bulk, it will not protrude under the front of headgear and faddish styles are not allowed, so all the faux-hawks have to go. If you are going to rock the Magnum PI look, then do it in regulation. Sideburns will not be flared or extend below the bottom orifice of the ear. Males must shave everyday while in uniform — 5 o’clock shadows at 0800 are wrong, so fix it.

For females, hair can’t extend past the bottom of your collar, your bangs will not touch your eyebrow, no more than 3 inches in bulk and when colored, it has to be a natural look. If you are going red, it has to be a natural-looking red, no fire engine red. AFI 36-2903 includes pictures for those who are visual learners.

### Fingernails

Polish will be a single color that doesn’t contrast with complexion, will not exceed 1/4 inch in length and will not have designs. The only exception is a French manicure — if you don’t believe me, look it up. Multi-colored nails have to go, and don’t forget the classic, bright red which is great on a Corvette but not allowed on fingernails while in uniform.

### Pockets

Pockets may not be used as gloves and will be secured (buttoned) at all times. Items stowed in pockets will not be visible, except for pens in the pen pocket on the sleeve. Does that really need to be explained any further?

Don’t allow headgear to hang from the side cargo pocket on the pants. It looks terrible and fails to meet the AFI. My supervisor recently corrected a fellow senior NCO for this and was told, “Putting it in the pocket crushes my hat. If I take it out, I have to carry it.” That is just an example of laziness and apathy. All other buttons will be secured at all times. If using a pocket as the instruction allows, refasten it when done.

### Headgear

Hats will rest squarely on the head — you don’t play for the Yankees or Red Sox, so pull them up. You are also not an Army ranger, so stop wearing the ranger roll like they do.

### Back packs

Black back packs may be worn with any uniform combination. Only solid-color black back packs will be worn with blue uniform combinations. Airman battle uniform patterned back packs, olive drab and Air Force sage green may be worn with the ABU. Small logos are authorized. Airmen may wear a back pack on the left shoulder or both shoulders, not to interfere with rendering the proper salute. Back packs will not have ornamentation, a

high gloss, designs or dangling objects. Small gold or silver clasps are authorized, but not chains.

### Cell phones

Is everyone aware of the policy on cell phones by now? I still see quite a few members who are walking and talking or texting while in uniform. This is a blatant refusal to meet the standard. The AFI says that we can no longer do this unless it is duty related. It’s the standard — follow it and enforce it. And by the way, that cool cell phone cover you picked up at the mall that is pink, white, red, purple, green or any other color not outlined in the AFI is wrong. You are not allowed to use the phone with that cover while in uniform — black, silver, gray and dark blue, that’s it.

### Be an example

Supervisors need to be the example and hold people accountable when they fail to meet the standard. Your Airmen are only going to be as good as you make them. I was told by a chief not too long ago that you can fix only what you have control over. Well, I’m thinking outside the box, just a little. It boils down to this — we are all here for the non-prior service Airmen going through tech training. When they are not in the Triangle, they are out and about around this base, and they shouldn’t be confronted with an epidemic of failing to meet the standard. When our NPS Airmen fail to meet the set standard, we hold them accountable. We as noncommissioned officers, senior NCOs, chiefs and officers owe it to our fellow Airmen to hold them accountable.

The fact is there are still Airmen out there who fail to meet the standard. It applies across the board, whether you’re active-duty, Guard or Reserve. Take the time to become familiar with the AFI and help make “today’s Airmen” the Airmen we want them to be by holding them accountable, setting the example and enforcing the standard.



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### ON THE COVER

Natasha Spears, 81st Force Support Squadron salad preparer, sets fruit out on the salad bar at the Azalea Dining Facility Monday. Keesler is this year's Air Education and Training Command nominee for the John L. Hennessy Award as the Air Force's top food service operation in the multiple facility category. Story and photo, Page 14.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Photo by Kemberly Groue

### DRAGONS THAT I MEET

By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

Volunteers are the lifeblood of many of Keesler's programs and activities. One of these volunteers is Wanda Bingaman, ways and means co-chair for the Keesler Spouses Club, who was recently recognized with one of our Volunteer of the Quarter awards.

This full-time student managed to devote almost 100 hours to Keesler and community activities in the past quarter. She co-chaired KSC's harvest gala and auction, raising \$9,520 for scholarships and other charitable endeavors. She directed a fundraiser and monthly functions for the 333rd Training Squadron, where her husband, Maj. Richard Bingaman, is the director of operations. She's a volunteer at the Keesler Thrift Store and Jeff Davis Elementary School.

Our people are our most valuable resource. I'm proud that Wanda Bingaman is a part of Team Keesler.

For more news, photos, videos and information, log on to [keesler.af.mil](http://keesler.af.mil)

## KEESLER NEWS

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# TRAINING AND EDUCATION

## Instructor recounts challenges, rewards of duty

Commentary by  
Tech. Sgt. Kristopher Coats

### 335th Training Squadron

A day in the life of an instructor is never the same. We instruct the same material class after class, block after block, but each class is unique in its personalities, work ethic, and motivations. We have similar motivations, challenges, headaches and job satisfactions, but the have same goal in mind, "Generate and sustain combat capability for the Air Force ... Airmen technically trained and operationally relevant!"

**0400:** I have an hour to get ready and prepare myself for a nine-hour training day, eight of which are spent standing in front of 10 to 12 sets of eyes waiting to soak up enough job and Air Force knowledge to be productive members of our team.

What mood will the class be in? What stories will I tell? What appointments and meetings do I have? What impact will I make on my students today? Where are my boots?

**0500:** I have to leave the house or I'm never going to have time to boot the computer, check email, review the material I will be teaching today or brew coffee; must have my coffee. One last trip to a mirror ensures my uniform exceeds all Air Force Instruction 36-2903 standards. I kiss the sleeping family, pat the dogs and I'm out.

I have 20 minutes to catch current events via talk radio. It's important to ensure our Airmen are informed and know what's happening in their world outside Keesler.

**0520:** Walking through the hallway, I pass by photos of enlisted heritage. The photos range from Cpl. Eugene Bullard to the enlisted Medal of Honor recipients. They remind me that much better Airmen than I wore this uniform and it motivates me to step up my game. I have 40 minutes to brew my coffee,

weed through emails, review the day's material and perform one last uniform inspection before entering the classroom. I'm the example. There's no room for error or mediocrity.

**0600:** I check my personal emotions at the door. Regardless of what's going on in my life, it's never reflected on my face or in my actions as I step in the classroom. Professionalism doesn't take a day off. I greet my students with a smile and ask them how they're doing and how their evening went. The day officially begins with the Airman's Creed, "I am an American Airman ... and I will not fail!" For many, the creed may not be personally relevant, but these Airmen know it and they feel it. It means something to them, therefore it means something to me.

We also present "Project Warrior Ethos." Every morning, we show a "this day in history" slide reflecting an important Air Force milestone. It opens lines of communication with the students, relates the event to our career field and notes the impact on the Air Force of today. For the next nine hours, excluding an hour for lunch, I'll be on my feet doing the best I can to present the material in a way that makes the student want to learn. It's not an easy task.

Anyone can stand in front of a class and present a lecture. It's easy — most of the required information is on a slide, and anyone can read a slide to a class. Outstanding instructors can read the slides without taking their eyes off the students and without saying, "uh, ok, all right, and um." They provide relevant examples and real life experiences to reinforce the material without swaying back and forth or exhibiting gestures or movements that can distract the students and degrade the quality of instruction. The students deserve the best instruction. If our students



Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Staff Sgt. Steven Colletta, 335th Training Squadron instructor, provides assistance to Airmen 1st Class Nathaniel Blaine and Nicholas Guarente, Airman Basic Ian Harshbarger and Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Holmes, 335th TRS students, Monday during the financial management apprentice course.**

are distracted by an unprepared instructor, we could be setting them up for failure and an organization could receive an Airman who is not fully "operationally relevant."

No matter how engaging you are, how interesting you make the lessons, or how well you present the material, inevitably a student will fail an end of block exam. Your emotions range from surprise to anger, feeling as if the failure is a reflection of your ability. After giving 100 percent of yourself every day, you realize your student gave you far less. Do you recommend the student be afforded special individualized assistance and allowed to retest or recommend they be washed back into the next available class to repeat the block? Was there something outside the classroom taking the students attention away from the task at hand? Were they playing video games instead of studying, or are they having

marital problems? Is this an Airman you would want working for you? You ask these questions while you academically counsel the student for failing to maintain the minimum standard of 70 percent on a block exam. If this is a second failure, do you recommend this student be eliminated from the course and discharged or reclassified into another career field? Your recommendation can impact this Airman for the rest of his or her life.

**1500:** I can relax for a minute before catching up on my additional duties like building custodian, information assurance officer, telephone control officer or self-inspection monitor. Or there's a commander's call at 1515 and a 5/6 or Top 3 meeting to attend. Physical training is on the agenda as well. Is it too much to ask for a couple more hours in the day?

Being an instructor is one of the most challenging things

I've ever done in my life and my career. I'm challenged daily by frustrating Airmen — the type that have more potential in their little fingers than most have in their entire bodies, but they choose not to apply themselves and wind up as average students at best. I have to find a way to motivate these Airmen in the short time I have with them and reinforce enough discipline to ensure when they leave here, they continue the pursuit of excellence in all they do.

I'm challenged to be perfect — there's no room for error. You have to be on your game 100 percent of the time or you run the risk of setting the wrong example for the Airmen to follow. "Do as I say, not as I do" is not an option; failure is not an option. There's a tremendous amount of pressure to deal with when your failure doesn't just affect you — it can

See **Instructor**, Page 5

## Instructor, from Page 4

affect your entire career field.

Time management is a huge challenge. The official

duty day is 0600-1600, with students being released back to the dormitory at 1500. If you're in class and had planned on leaving at the end of the duty day, you only

have an hour to finish projects or complete tasks you've been assigned. It's critical to take full advantage of your down time and stay on top of things. Counting on days you're out of class to catch up isn't always the best plan. You may have to substitute for a teammate who is sick or has a sick child at home. A 1600 departure time may be wishful thinking.

After reading about what it takes to be an instructor, it may sound like this duty (not a job) isn't worth it; it's too difficult, or there are no rewards. I can assure you, all of the headaches mentioned before pale in comparison to the rewards I receive from this position.

One such reward is opportunity. I mentor our young Airmen and give them advice on everything from a difficult supervisor or relationship issues to not being happy with their first duty assignment. We're here to teach our students, but we're also

charged with molding them. Soon they'll be replacing us.

I get the opportunity to hone my interpersonal skills by counseling Airmen when they're exhibiting substandard performance or unacceptable behavior. Conversely, I get to recognize the truly deserving Airmen by nominating them for student of the month.

Finally, I have the opportunity to meet the future of the Air Force on a daily basis. After just four years, I'm already witnessing the ways our Airmen are improving my Air Force.

We all have alternative methods of teaching, ways to discipline, approaches to leadership and expectations. Students are no different; they have distinct learning styles, motivations, and backgrounds. You can't apply a cookie cutter approach or you will fail some of them. I enjoy the challenge of piecing the puzzle together and finding just the right approach to reach them all. I love pushing them

to work as a team, and enjoy watching those who understand help those who don't.

Finally, I'm fortunate to work with an awesome group of professionals. They tremendous drive and pride in their work. You can't help but be motivated to push yourself beyond your limits.

My drive home is a relaxing one. I reflect over the day's interactions with staff and students and think about how I can make tomorrow's more effective. When my four years are up, I know I won't remember the name of every student I taught, but if I did things right, they'll remember mine. It's been 12 years and I can still name every one of my instructors. No matter how tired, frustrated or burned out I feel, I still look forward to getting up at 0400 to start again.

Tech. Sgts. Jennifer Miller and Lori Cibak and Staff Sgts. Brent Bell and Kimber Anson contributed to this report.

# January award winners announced

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Airman 1st Class Jordan Ruegg, a yellow rope student leader from the 335th Training Squadron, is the 81st Training Group's Airman of the Month for January.

His award was presented during a ceremony Jan. 31 on the drill pad.

Ruegg, from Chicago, plans to graduate from weather apprentice training April 5.

The four squadrons that train nonprior service students select one Airman to compete at a monthly group board. Airmen are graded on personal appearance, communication skills and military bearing. They also respond to questions about customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, dormitory common areas and current events from that week's issue of the Keesler News.

The 336th Military Training Flight earned honors for January for its overall accomplishments in marching, physical



Ruegg

training, room inspections, open ranks, Airman's Manual, charge of quarters and retreat. The flight received a roving sign to put in front of its squadron to recognize the achievement.

Staff Sgt. Shaundarius Martin, 336th TRS, won the Dragon Award for outstanding military training leader for January.

One MTL is nominated



Martin

from the four squadrons that train nonprior service students. Nominees take a knowledge test of the Air Force Instruction that governs the job and performs control of flight marching and open ranks.

The award is intended to raise the level of adherence to military training standards and military excellence set for technical training students.



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## TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

### Technology expo

The 81st Training Support Squadron hosts its 17th annual training technology and information systems expo, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today in the multipurpose room of the Roberts Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Facility.

Larry Monroe is the 81st TRSS project officer.

The free expo features more than 40 exhibitors and is open to all Defense Department, government and contractor personnel with base access.

For more information, call 377-7799 or 1-877-332-3976.

### USM admissions

Admissions counselor Alex Robertson is in the University of Southern Mississippi office, 2-5 p.m. Tuesday.

The office is in Room 219, Sablich Center.

USM-Keesler administrator Sandy Laubersheimer said it's a good time to apply for the summer semester to have your choice of classes.

For more information, call 376-8479.

### MGCCC-Keesler term

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's Keesler Center's spring term is Feb. 27 through May 11.

Registration is underway for current students on the web, as well as by appointment in the MGCCC-Keesler office, Room 221, Sablich Center for active-duty military.

Students taking English composition I, oral communication or mathematics class for the first time must have an assessment of skills.

Printed copies of the schedule are available at the office or online at [www.mgccc.edu](http://www.mgccc.edu).

For more information, call 376-8477 or 897-3822.

### Student family dinner

A family dinner for non-prior service students is 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Fishbowl Student Center.

For more information, call 377-0155.

### CCAF graduation

Feb. 24 is the deadline to apply for the Community College of the Air Force's spring graduating class.

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

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

### Drill downs, parades

The 81st Training Group's drill down and parade schedule for 2012 is:

**Drill downs** — 8 a.m. Feb. 17, April 13, June 22 and Aug. 31; 5 p.m. Oct. 31 (tentative).

**Parades** — 6 p.m. March 29 and July 1.

### KSC scholarships

Applications are now being accepted for 2012 Keesler Spouses Club Scholarships.

Eligible applicants include high school seniors entering a college, university or vocational studies as well as spouses pursuing a degree or vocational studies.

For applications and more eligibility information, visit [www.keeslerspousesclub.com](http://www.keeslerspousesclub.com), call 210-825-2273 or email [scholarships@keeslerspousesclub.com](mailto:scholarships@keeslerspousesclub.com).

The deadline is April 2.

### OTS boards

Officer Training School recruiting service board dates:

**Non-rated** — March 1 cutoff for April 16.

### Tuition assistance

Effective April 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](http://www.dodmou.com).

# NEWS AND FEATURES

## Force structure changes proposed

Congress must approve,  
President must sign  
before budget is final

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs,  
Air Force Reserve Public Affairs and Keesler News

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials announced proposed force structure changes Friday that support the new Department of Defense strategic guidance retiring 286 aircraft over the next five years, including 227 in fiscal year 13.

In order for the planned reductions to take effect, they must be approved by Congress and signed into law by the president.

At Keesler, 10 of the 403rd Wing's C-130J aircraft move to a new location in FY14 under the proposed budget. Although the 345th Airlift Squadron would end as part of the FY13 budget proposal, the Air Force Reserve unit remains operational.

The Air Force is scheduled to announce manpower changes caused by these structure changes in the next few weeks and related force structure manpower changes in March.

According to Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, the Air Force is shaping itself for future challenges by realigning Air Force assets with DOD's new strategic guidance.

"We've had to adjust our force structure based on our strategic objectives and to balance capability and capacity with constrained budgets," Donley said. "We must have the right tools and enough of them to credibly deter potential adversaries and to deliver on our objectives."

The new strategic guidance requires the joint force to be capable of fighting one large scale, combined arms campaign with sufficient combat power to also deny a second adversary, and de-emphasized large-scale, prolonged stability operations. The Air Force's approach to this new strategy is to retire fighter, mobility, and ISR that are beyond those needed to meet the capacity requirements of the new defense strategic guidance.

"Where possible, we attempted to retire all aircraft of a specific type, allowing us to also divest the unique training and logistic support structure for that aircraft," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz explained. "When that was not possible, we worked to retire the oldest aircraft first, and redistributed aircraft into effective and economical units, eliminating other units when that was most efficient. Where we retained older aircraft, we are taking steps to ensure they will remain viable into the future."

Although the U.S. has removed all combat forces from Iraq and the new strategic guid-

ance reduces the steady state requirement for ground forces, the Air Force expects steady state rotational requirements to remain constant, or perhaps increase.

According to Schwartz, this continuing combatant commander requirement for Air Force aircraft and Airmen to deploy forward was a key factor in determining the required mix between Active and Reserve component forces due to differences in sustainable deployment rates and operations tempo.

Schwartz also explained the need for reductions in the Reserve Component.

"Two decades of military end strength and force structure reductions in our active duty component has changed the mix of active duty to Reserve Component forces," Schwartz said. "We've carefully considered the mix and what the appropriate balance should be between the active and reserve components. The Reserve Component is a critical and essential part of our Total Force, but must be balanced and matched appropriately within a constrained fiscal environment."

"We're going to do this intelligently in a way that balances tempo, that keeps the right mix of assets, modern and less modern, in each of the components, and we're doing this in an inclusive fashion with Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve leadership," said Schwartz.

The Air Force is going to get smaller, and all of the components — active, guard and reserve — are going to get smaller together, he said.

Schwartz also emphasized that the Air Force will avoid a hollow force by protecting readiness at any force level, and strengthen our integration of the total force team of active duty, guard and reserve Airmen.

"To ensure an agile and ready force, we made a conscious choice not to maintain more force structure than we could afford to properly train and equip," Schwartz said. "We've taken this approach to preserve the capabilities the nation requires of its Air Force."

The announcement specifies the force structure changes experienced by the total force and will save the Air Force \$8.7 billion over the next five years.

For fiscal years 2014-2017 the Air Force plans to reduce 50+ aircraft from its inventory, continue to reshape the missions between the Total Force and increase reserve component participation in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, as well as cyber missions.

For more details about the Fiscal 2013 force structure changes, log on to [www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120203-027.pdf](http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120203-027.pdf)

Ann Stefanek, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs; Col. Bob Thompson, Air Force Reserve Public Affairs, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report.

## IN THE NEWS

### Clinics close for warrior training

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group conducts warrior training 1-5 p.m. today.

Staffing is reduced in family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics general surgery, pharmacy, radiology and laboratory services. For urgent situations, call central appointments at 1-800-700-8603 or report to the emergency room.

For emergency situations, contact 911 for an ambulance.

### Wing annual awards Feb. 23

The 81st Training Wing annual awards ceremony on Feb. 23 begins with a social hour at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Attire is mess dress or semi-formal for military and semi-formal for civilians, said Senior Master Sgt. Derek Fromenthal, project officer for the event.

Tickets are available until Feb. 16 for \$17 for club members and \$20 for nonmembers. Group representatives are Senior Master Sgt. Jason Hanley, 376-0449, 81st Medical Group; Master Sgt. Shawn Robertson, 377-3456; Senior Master Sgt. Valencia Parker-Evans, 377-9011, 81st Training Wing staff agencies; and Master Sgt. John Bowden, 377-3034.

### Arbor Day is Feb. 23

Arbor Day, a national observance that encourages tree planting and care, is observed at Keesler Feb. 23.

A 9:30 a.m. ceremony at the child development center includes a tree planting and presentation of Keesler's 19th consecutive Tree City USA award are planned.

In case of rain, the ceremony is held at the youth center.

For more information, call 377-1262.

### National Prayer Breakfast

Keesler observes the National Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m. March 6 at Bay Breeze Event Center.

Team Impact returns again this year for the interfaith program. Team Impact's unique method of ministry uses the physical talents of elite athletes to demonstrate a spiritual message.

For tickets, see your first sergeant or visit Larcher Chapel.

For more information, call 377-2520 or 4859.

### Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for the Feb. 23 issue of the Keesler News is noon Feb. 16 because of the Presidents Day federal holiday on Feb. 20 and the Mardi Gras holiday on Feb. 21 observed by the newspaper's commercial publisher.

### AETC family days

Air Education and Training Command family days for the remainder of 2012, 2013 and 2014 are:

**2012** — May 25, July 5, Nov. 23 and Dec. 24.

**2013** — May 24, July 5, Nov. 29 and Dec. 26.

**2014** — May 23, July 7, Nov. 28 and Dec. 26.

### Dragons deployed — 189



Moore took this photo of President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama as they shook hands with awaiting children who greeted them upon their arrival in El Salvador March 22. The shot was the first-place winner in the news photo category.

## Keesler wins 3 first-place awards in AETC's 2011 Media Contest

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The 81st Training Wing Public Affairs Office claimed three first-place awards in Air Education and Training Command's 2011 Media Contest.

Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney and Staff Sgt. Kimberly Moore now compete for Air Force honors.

Heiney is AETC's print journalist of the year and also won first place in the commentary category. Moore took top honors in the news photo category.

Keesler is the first duty station for Heiney, a public affairs specialist who arrived in August 2010. After only four months on the job, she was selected as AETC's outstanding new writer, along with second place in the commentary category and third place in the photojournalism category.

Her print journalist submission for 2011 included five stories. "Air Force facilitates passionate pursuit of learning" won the commentary category. Her other four stories included a feature about Col. Glen Downing, 81st Training Wing commander, and the challenges he's faced since being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis; a retirement story about Chief Master Sgt. Billy Abbott, 81st Training Group; a sports feature about World War II veteran Bernard Moyer Sr., who bowls at Gaudé Lanes; and a feature about a tree-planting honoring longtime Keesler Spouses Club member Cathy Varble on her 80th birthday.

Moore, noncommissioned officer in charge of public affairs, joined the Air Force in 2005 and arrived at Keesler in 2009 after a deployment to Djibouti the previous year.

Her winning photo of President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama was



Photo by Adam Bond

**Moore and Heiney are public affairs specialists at Keesler.**

taken in El Salvador last March while serving a six-month deployment to Honduras in support of Joint Task Force-Bravo.

While stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., she served as editor of the base newspaper before becoming airman in charge of community relations. She won third place in Air Combat Command's outstanding public affairs airman competition in 2006. The following year, she earned second place awards in the series and combat documentation categories and third place in the news photo category in ACC's media contest.

Moore took second place in the photojournalism category of AETC's 2009 media competition for a feature on Keesler's Airman Leadership School.



Sally-Ann Roberts, morning news anchor at WWL-TV in New Orleans, was the Black History Month luncheon guest speaker. Her father, the late Col. Lawrence Roberts, was a Tuskegee Airman who retired in 1975 as commander of Keesler's maintenance and supply group.



## Luncheon celebrates black history

Left, Antoinette Vinson and Staff Sgt. Andrea Jones, 81st Medical Support Squadron, watch as the colors are posted at the Black History Month luncheon, Feb. 2 at Bay Breeze Event Center. The event was sponsored by Keesler's African-American Heritage Committee.

Bottom, Linda Brundidge, 81st MDSS, and her husband, retiree Marvin Brundidge, go through the buffet line.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



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

**March 1** — (rescheduled from Feb. 10), noon, Gaudé Lanes, 8th annual AAHC bowling tournament. \$10. For more information, call 377-5250.

# Imminent danger pay is now prorated

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Service members now will receive imminent danger pay only for days they actually spend in hazardous areas, Pentagon officials said here today.

The change, which took effect yesterday, was included in the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, which President Barack Obama signed into law Dec. 31.

“Members will see the prorated amount in their Feb. 15 pay records,” Pentagon spokesman Navy Capt. John Kirby said.

The act called for the Department of Defense to pay service members imminent danger pay only for the time they spend in areas that qualify for the pay. In the past, service members received \$225 per month if they spent any time that month in an area where the pay was authorized.

“This is a more targeted way of handling that pay,” Kirby said.

Now, service members will receive \$7.50 a day for days spent in these areas.

Personnel who travel to the designated areas for periods less than 30 days should keep track of the number of days they are in the area to verify that they are paid for the correct number of days, officials said.

The military services are working to waive or remit debts for members who may have been overpaid for January, officials said. The services can waive this “when there is no indication of fraud, fault, misrepresentation, or when members were unaware they were overpaid,” Pentagon spokeswoman Eileen Lainez said.

Proration is based on a 30-day month, which translates into a rate of \$7.50 per day. It does not matter if the month is 28 or 31 days long, officials explained; if service members serve in affected areas for the complete month, they will receive the full rate of \$225 per month.

The Defense Department defines imminent danger pay areas as places where members are subject to the threat of physical harm or imminent danger because of civil insurrection, civil war, terrorism or wartime conditions.

Service members who come under fire, regardless of location, will receive the full monthly hostile-fire pay amount of \$225.

Service members will receive notification of the change via emails, on the MyPay system, on social media sites and via the chain of command.

## PERSONNEL NOTES

### Special duty team here March 5

#### 81st Force Support Squadron

Special duty assignment team briefings by a recruiting team from Air Education and Training Command are scheduled at Keesler March 5:

**9-11 a.m.** — Sablich Center Auditorium, 2nd floor.

**11 a.m. to noon** — Sablich Center Auditorium for senior leaders such as commanders, superintendents, first sergeants and Top III members.

**2:30-3:30 p.m.** — Room GC612, Keesler Hospital, for 81st Medical Group members.

**4-5 p.m.** — Welch Auditorium.

Briefings discuss opportunities for recruiters, military training instructors, military training leaders and professional military education instructors.

Spouses are highly encouraged to attend. Senior airmen with at least 35 months time in service through master sergeants with less than 16 years total active federal military service may be eligible to apply and are encouraged to attend a briefing. Since each specialty has some varied rank needs and requirements the briefings are open to everyone on base.

For more information, call 377-3697.

### WAPS testing cycle

#### 81st Force Support Squadron

The 12E6 and E7 Weighted Airman Promotion System testing cycle continues through March 31.

Contact your unit WAPS monitor if you have not received a test date for this current cycle or haven't received your WAPS specialty knowledge test study materials.

The online 2011 Professional Development Guide is currently an approved official reference for WAPS testing and can be found at the Airman Advancement Division website on its professional development page at <https://www.omsq.af.mil/index.htm>.

### Transition assistance

#### Airman and family readiness center

Transition assistance program workshops have been scheduled for 2012 in Room 108A, Sablich Center, according to Steve McDaniel, transition assistance program specialist at the airman and family readiness center.

Workshops are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Feb. 16, March 12-15, April 9-12, May 14-17, June 11-14, July 16-19, Aug. 12-16, Sept. 17-20, Oct. 15-17, Nov. 26-29 and Dec. 13.

The final day of the workshop includes Veterans Affairs briefings and retirement briefings.

Dress is business casual — no jeans, T-shirts or uniforms. For more information or to register, call 376-8728.

### Leave accumulation extended

#### 81st Comptroller Squadron

Members unable to use leave due to military necessity may accumulate a maximum of 75 days by the end of a fiscal year until Sept. 30, 2013. After this date, the limit returns to the previous 60-day limit of accrued leave.

If service members are unable to use their excess accrued leave prior to that date due to mission requirements, approval may be requested to carry over the excess leave days.

For more information, call the military personnel section, 376-8738, or the Total Force Service Center, 1-800-525-0102.



## AADD elects new council

By Susan Griggs

**Keesler News editor**

Airmen Against Drunk Driving elected new executive council members Feb. 1.

New officers are:

**President** — Tech. Sgt. Bobbie Longe, 334th Training Squadron.

**Vice President** — Staff Sgt. Kwanza Lincoln, 338th TRS.

**Scheduler** — Staff Sgt. Jilian Balderas, 345th Airlift Squadron.

**Public affairs representative** — Staff Sgt. Jimmie Johnson, 81st Training Wing.

**Treasurer** — Senior Airman Brandi Denton, 81st Dental Squadron.

**Recorder** — Tech. Sgt. Thomas Hefty, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

**Webmaster** — Senior Airman Sarah Guthrie, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron.

For more information about AADD, email [333trs.aadd.keesler@us.af.mil](mailto:333trs.aadd.keesler@us.af.mil). To volunteer, visit <https://www.keesler.af.mil/aadd/schedule/schedule.cfm>

### This week's movies at Welch Theater

**Friday** — 6:30 p.m., Mission Impossible Ghost Protocol (PG-13).

**Saturday** — 2 p.m., The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn (PG-13); 6:30 p.m., Sherlock Holmes — A Game of Shadows (PG-13).

**Sunday** — 1 p.m., We Bought a Zoo (PG).

# Keesler nominated for AETC Hennessy award

## 81st Force Support Squadron

Keesler is this year's Air Education and Training Command nominee for the John L. Hennessy Award as the top food service operation in the Air Force in the multiple facility category.

The Hennessy Award is based on the entire scope of the food service program. Keesler has won the award six times, most recently in 2010.

Tuesday and Wednesday, a three-member evaluation team representing the Air Force Services Agency and the food service industry will visit Keesler and evaluate the food service program.

The theme for the evaluation team's site visit is "Feed Them Right...Fit to Fight," and focuses on building a mentally and physically strong Air Force through nutrition. "The Keesler food service team has always been committed to meet, if not exceed, our customers' expectations in providing the best service possible," said Roy Jackson, 81st Force Support Squadron food service officer.

The Azalea, Live Oak and Magnolia dining facilities serve approximately 2 million meals annually, about 5,500 a day. The three facilities offer daily snack specials, world cuisine lunches, "grab-and-go" meals, signature sandwiches and vegetarian items.

**Azalea** opened in 2001 in the Triangle for nonprior students and can feed 1,500 people per meal. The facility houses the flight kitchen that prepares more than 250 meals per month and the central preparation kitchen where more than 350,000 pounds of produce and 125,000 servings of various meat items are processed and prepared annually.

**Live Oak** opened in 1986 and has a rated capacity of 750 customers per meal. It supports permanent party personnel, temporary duty personnel and prior service personnel attending classes on base. The facility also serves members of the 403rd Wing and is the training facility for the wing during unit training



Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Airmen 1st Class Matthew Carter and Skyler Ross, Airman Basic Destiny Boggs and Airman 1st Class Cody Fox, 334th Training Squadron, eat lunch at the Azalea Dining Facility. Keesler is this year's Air Education and Training Command nominee for the John L. Hennessy Award as the top food service operation in the Air Force in the multiple facility category.**

assembly weekends.

**Magnolia** opened in 1985 and hosts the monthly birthday celebrations for junior enlisted members and serves a mid-night meal Monday through Friday. This facility can serve 1,500 customers per meal.

Jackson said that all of Keesler's dining facilities play a vital role within the Keesler

community providing outstanding mission support on a daily basis as well as special community events.

During the annual Mississippi Special Olympics, hosted by Keesler, more than 1,500 athletes, coaches and volunteers are served by the dining facilities. In 2011, the food service team provided

more than 600 flight and ground support meals in support of the Keesler's Angels Over the Bay Air Show.

Food service has an active recognition program offering monthly dining facility, customer service and employee awards. Upcoming menus are available on a daily hotline, 377-3463, and can be accessed

by logging on to the 81st Force Support Squadron website, [www.keesler81FSS.us](http://www.keesler81FSS.us).

Customers can rate the dining facilities by completing comment cards and dropping them in a box at the cashier's station, or by going to [www.keesler81FSS.us](http://www.keesler81FSS.us) and clicking on the interactive customer evaluation icon, ICE.

# Keesler Airman selected to perform with 'Tops in Blue' singing group

By Steve Pivnick

## 81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Senior Airman Emmanuel Maldonado-Rosario is following a family tradition of Air Force service among the family's eight children, with one exception — he's the only one to have been selected to become a member of the service's "Tops in Blue" entertainment group.

Maldonado-Rosario, a dental technician with the 81st Dental Squadron here, learned he had been selected Jan. 25 when squadron commander Col. (Dr.) Nicholas Miniotis and superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Putt approached him with the news.

"At first I didn't realize what they were talking about — they asked me how I'd like to go on a year-long TDY (temporary-duty assignment). Then they told me I had made 'Tops In Blue.' I was really surprised!"

He was equally surprised when he learned earlier he was among the finalists for the team. He had submitted a self-made video to the Air Force entertainment staff — filmed in his dormitory room with his camera-phone — and was among the finalists named in November.

The 22-year-old singer said, although he has been singing since he was a child and sang in his high school choir, this was the first time he had actually participated in an audition.

"I sing just about anything but specialized in classical music when I attended college (Inter-American University in San German, Puerto Rico.)"

Maldonado-Rosario, who is from Manatí, Puerto Rico, described the 10-day "Talent Search" tryout Jan. 8-17 at



**Maldonado-Rosario**

Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, was "a lot of work, but fun. We would perform in vocal, dancing and specialization auditions from 10 a.m. until 3 the next morning and then be up at 6 a.m. We were told the actual tour, which runs from March 2012 to March 2013, will be much more intense. But I'm ready for it and really look forward to the experience" of traveling throughout the U.S. and world."

He expects "Tops in Blue" will return to Keesler so his local "family" will have the opportunity to see him perform with the troupe. He reports to Lackland in mid-March to start the one-year stint.

He added, "I want to thank my family and coworkers who have supported me throughout the process."

"Tops in Blue" is an all-active duty Air Force special unit made up of talented amateur performers selected for their entertainment abilities. According to its website, "Tops in Blue is one of the oldest and most widely traveled entertainment groups of its kind. Composed of 35 to 40 of the most talented vocalists, musicians,

## Air Force family

Senior Airman Emmanuel Maldonado-Rosario, who has been in the Air Force since October 2009, is one of eight children, seven of whom are current Air Force members. The eighth is in the process of enlisting.

His oldest brother is a chief master sergeant at Aviano Air Base, Italy, and another is a senior master sergeant assigned to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Both are in computer specialties.

Maldonado-Rosario, a younger brother — a member of security forces at Kirtland AFB, N.M., — and a sister are senior airmen. She is an air traffic controller at Holloman AFB, N.M. And two brothers are airmen first class; one is a munitions specialist at an Army post in Italy; the second just completed basic training and is attending technical school in Virginia. The most recent Air Force member's twin sister will soon join her siblings in Air Force blue.

Their father, who passed away last year, was an Army Ranger. And Maldonado-Rosario stressed, "Although mom was never in the military, she has always been a big supporter and influence in our military careers."

dancers and technicians anywhere, their primary purpose is to perform for military personnel and their families throughout the world. However, the enormous popularity of the group has also made them America's goodwill ambassadors around the globe."

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# Blood center part of tri-service drive

By Steve Pivnick

## 81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Teams from the Keesler Blood Donor Center recently returned from a tri-service blood drive at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and Fort Gordon, Ga.

Five BDC members comprised the Air Force contingent among the 73 active-duty military and 25 civilians from the 12 Air Force, Army and Navy bases who participated in the Jan. 9-12 West Point drive, an annual event hosted by Fort Gordon. Following the drive, three additional Keesler BDC staff traveled to Fort Gordon to process the 1,828 units that had been collected.

Tech. Sgt. Debra Hafner, NCO-in-charge of the blood donor center, said, "This single blood drive supplied enough blood for two weeks worth of critical shipments from these 12 bases for support of forces in Southwest Asia." The Keesler team was also singled out by the Joint Blood Program Officer Forward for helping meet a State Department request for increased blood products.

Members of the West Point team were: Hafner, a lab technician; lab technologist Larry Bank, lab technician Kevin Nguyen and phlebotomists Rachel Ncaise and Amber Lee.

The Fort Gordon team was comprised of medical labora-



## Keesler Blood Donor Center

The Keesler Blood Donor Center is located in the 81st Medical Group's Arnold Medical Annex, opposite the Meadows Drive tennis courts. They collect donations in the facility and on blood drives across base and throughout surrounding states.

The BDC is one of only three Air Force Blood Donor Centers. It's part of the Armed Services Blood Program which shares the joint mission of collecting, processing and distributing thousands of blood products for military medical centers at home and in theater overseas. These units play a key role in the direct medical care of wounded Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines involved in worldwide contingency operations.

Capt. Heidi McMinn, officer in charge of Keesler's BDC, explained

BDC personnel and their donors play a key role in ensuring the DOD ships more than 1,000 units of blood to more than 50 US military hospitals throughout Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East in direct support of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn. Most of the blood shipped from Keesler reaches the theater less than a week after the day it's collected.

She added, "The donor center always needs AB positive and negative and O negative donors. Products collected from these blood types are in high demand at home and overseas."

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 376-6100. Donors are also accepted on a walk-in basis or during blood drives at units across the base.

tory technicians Staff Sgt. Jason Venable, Airman 1st Class Michael Brown and Nancy Evans.

The West Point blood drive followed a similar program held in September at the Air Force Academy.



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

## 'Night of Tournaments' uses sports to promote fun without alcohol

By Steve Pivnick

### 81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Keesler's Underage Drinking Focus Group sponsors "The Night of Tournaments" 8 p.m. to midnight Feb. 17 in the student Triangle area.

First Lt. Julianna Petrone, Keesler Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment program manager, said this is a sporting night to promote fun without alcohol. Kickball, softball, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball and Guitar Hero events will be held simultaneously throughout the night.

The lieutenant explained, "The focus group is a Keesler Integrated Resource Team initiative. It is comprised of multiple KIRT agencies and is

designed to address underage drinking at Keesler.

"This is a basewide issue and each training group squadron is signing up teams for all of the events," she continued. "I would also encourage base permanent party to sign teams as well and come out and enjoy the event. We hope to have a large number of spectators."

In addition to the sporting events, food vendors are planned and KIRT agencies will provide outreach throughout the night.

Teams planning to participate must register with ADAPT's Senior Airman Stephanie Tipton, 376-3452, by Wednesday.

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## Top III announces 'Star Performers'



Airman 1st Class Vincent Soles and Staff Sgt. LaKedrian Guy, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron flight medicine flight, are the 81st Training Wing's Top III Airman and NCO Star Performers for October-December. They were recognized for their response to an in-flight emergency involving a 403rd Wing C-130J Hercules aircraft and 14 aircrew members.

Road rage sets a deadly stage.

# Keesler medic awarded grant to study low back pain therapy

By Steve Pivnick

## 81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Lt. Col. John Childs, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron Physical Therapy Department director of musculoskeletal research, has been awarded a \$125,000 grant from the Air Force Medical Service for his protocol "Implications of Timing and Quality of Physical Therapy on Low Back Pain Utilization and Costs in the Military Health System."

Childs said the purpose of the almost year-long study at the Keesler Hospital is to describe the current referral patterns to physical therapy by primary care providers within the Military Health System for patients with a new episode of low back pain.

The study hopes to determine whether early access to physical therapy and care that adheres to practice guideline recommendations results in lower health care utilization and costs down the road compared to late access to physical therapy and/or care that is not consistent with practice guidelines.

He explained, "We expect that that early referral to physical therapy and care that adheres to practice guideline recommendations will result in lower downstream health care utilization and costs compared to delayed referral and non-adherent care."

Noting that low back pain affects 80 percent of people during their lifetime, Childs said the total annual direct



**Childs**

health care cost in the United States for LBP is estimated to exceed \$85 billion. "Second only to the common cold, LBP is also the most frequent reason for visiting a physician in the Military Health System and is a leading cause of medical evacuation in Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom.

"Most patients with LBP access care initially through a primary care provider. However, suboptimal primary care management for patients with LBP has been shown to lead to the use of increasingly invasive and costly interventions. Recent evidence suggests that early referral to physical therapy and delivering care that is consistent with best-practice guideline recommendations promotes faster recovery and reduces the need for invasive and costly interventions such as narcotics, spine surgery and injections."

Describing how the study

will be conducted, Childs said, "We will extract claims data from the Military Health System's Management Analysis and Reporting Tool, referred to as M2, a powerful ad hoc query tool that enhances support to health-care managers to oversee MHS operations. M2 provides summary and detailed views of population, clinical and financial health utilization data from all MHS regions worldwide and includes data from both the direct care system (care provided in military treatment facilities) and commercial network claims (care provided to MHS beneficiaries at civilian facilities). M2 allows health-care analysts and decision makers to perform trend analyses, conduct patient and provider profiling studies and conduct business case analyses to maximize health plan efficiency and identify opportunities for transferring health care from the private sector back to MTFs.

"We are fortunate to have access to a rich data set in M2, which is maintained and operated by the TRICARE Management Activity of the MHS."

Childs, a leading physical therapy researcher, is the first to hold the director of musculoskeletal research position at the Keesler Hospital. He also continues to serve as an associate professor in the U.S. Army-Baylor University Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy, located at San Antonio's Fort Sam Houston.



## Military Saves Week

# DOD promotes financial readiness Feb. 19-26

### Airman and family readiness center

Military Saves Week is Feb. 19-26.

As it enters its sixth year, the Military Saves program has now become an integral part of the Department of Defense's Financial Readiness Campaign.

Military Saves is co-sponsored by the Consumer Federation of America and the Department of Defense.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Departments of the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps and the National Guard Bureau all formally support Military Saves Week.

The goals of Military Saves for service members and their



families include increased household savings for short- and long-term needs and decreased consumer debt.

Military Saves seeks to develop a military command climate and overall culture that supports prudent financial behavior by creating a

focus on financial literacy education and counseling; supporting the availability of bank and credit union savings products, especially regular (automatic) deposits and encouraging service members and their families to take financial action to improve

their financial well-being.

Over the past five years, more than 100,000 military members and families have taken the "saver's pledge" to save money, reduce debt and build wealth over time. During 2011, across all the military services, more than 60,000 people were reached through Military Saves financial fairs and almost 40,000 people were reached through seminars and classes.

In addition, many military banks and defense credit unions promoted Military Saves Week and offered financial seminars and special savings products.

"There are an abundance of success stories that began with

"Military Saves," said Rose Janosik, community resource specialist at the airman and family readiness center. "Many of them had to do with no longer living paycheck to paycheck, paying off debt, no longer wasting money on high interest rates, bounced check fees, and overdraft fees while being in debt, building an emergency fund and saving enough money to purchase a first home.

"The objective is you taking care of yourself, and caring enough about yourself to do just that," she added. "You can get off to a good start by taking the saver's pledge at [www.militarysaves.com](http://www.militarysaves.com)."

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# eight days a week

## Airman and family readiness center

**Editor's note:** For more information or to register, call 376-8728.

**Friday** — 1-3:30 p.m., civilian jobs resume writing. Bring resume for review.

**Monday** — 9 a.m. to noon, federal jobs resume writing. Bring current job announcement.

**Monday-Wednesday** — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., employment workshop. Open to those 12 months or less from separation or 24 months from retirement. Spouses invited to attend.

**Wednesday** — 9-11:30 a.m., interview skills and salary negotiation. 1 p.m., deployment briefing. All members deploying must attend prior to departure. 1-2:30 p.m., smooth move; advice on making relocation easier. Open to anyone with access to Keesler. 5:30-7 p.m., family dinner. Open to nonprior service students and their families here at Keesler. To register, call 377-0155 by Feb. 13.

**Feb. 16** — 8-11 a.m., Veterans Affairs benefits briefing. 1-4 p.m., retirement benefits briefing.

## Arts and crafts center

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

**Friday** — 6-9:30 p.m., cocktails and canvas. Couples Picasso-style portrait class. Light snacks provided, bring your favorite beverage. \$20 includes materials. Space limited. Reserve your seat today.

**Wednesday** — 10:30 a.m. to noon, basic strokes. Painting tips and techniques of the flat brush for beginners. \$10 includes materials.

## Bay Breeze Collocated Club

**Editor's note:** For more information, call 377-2334.

**Today** — 5-8 p.m., Mongolian barbecue in the ballroom. 75 cents per ounce for Air Force Club members, 95 cents per ounce for non-members; ages 4-10 half price, ages 3 and younger free.

**Tuesday** — 6-9 p.m., sweetheart special in the ballroom. Candlelit dinner for two and live entertainment by Jesse Hill. \$42.50 for Air Force Club member couples, \$47.50 nonmember couples. Reservations encouraged.

**Wednesday** — 6:30 p.m., bingo in the ballroom. \$100 prize for each of the first 12 games. Bonus game at the end of the night with \$1200 blackout jackpot. \$15 for 13 game packet; \$1 daubers. Early bird games start at 6 p.m., \$1 per card. Bar and food service available. Must be age 18 or older to play.

## Bay Breeze Golf Course

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

**Friday and Wednesday** — noon to 3 p.m., ladies golf development. 30-minute driving range lesson plus four to nine-hole option. \$40 per person includes cart.

**Tuesday** — two-for-one Valentine's special.

Members only pay cart fee for their valentine. Two-for-one pricing for nonmember couples.

**Daily** — 6-11 a.m., breakfast platters less than \$4 at snack bar.

## Fitness centers

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

**Saturday** — 11 a.m., women's varsity basketball; 1 p.m., men's varsity basketball games, Keesler Dragons versus Robins Hawks at Blake Fitness Center. Free admission.

## Gaudé Lanes

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

**Tuesday** — 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Valentine lunch and bowl special. Purchase a lunch combo and bowl for free.

**Weekdays** — 6:30-9 a.m., fast \$5 breakfast served at 11th Frame Café.

## McBride Library

**Editor's note:** For more information or to register, call 377-2181.

**Today** — 10 a.m., free "Rock Your Smile" story time, ages 3 and older. Co-hosted by the dental clinic.

**Feb. 16** — 4 p.m., United Through Reading. Deploying members read a children's book aloud to be recorded on DVD for child to watch at home. Registration is required.

## 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.

**Friday** — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., DJ battle. Student turntable competition. Battle begins at 10 p.m.

**Saturday** — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., red and white ball. Fashion show, food and drink specials and prizes. Red and white attire encouraged.

**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 Valentine's party, ages 6-12. Holiday crafts, dancing, games and more. \$10 for first child, \$5 each additional. Air Force Club members get 10 percent off first child's fee.

**Saturday** — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., free mother/daughter pamper party, ages 8-18. Personal care, health tips, prizes, food and fun. Pre-registration required. 4-10 p.m., parents' night out, child care, ages 6-12. \$4 per hour, per child. Immunization records, emergency contact and registration required. Space limited.

**Through March 9** — youth baseball registration, ages 3-14. \$50 for first child, discounted price for each additional. Season begins in April. Coaches needed, call for information.

# KEESLER NOTES

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## **AFSA meets today**

The Air Force Sergeants Association meets at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 9 in Room 2 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month.

For more information, call 377-9193.

## **Black History Month**

Keesler's African-American Heritage Committee has two more events planned for Black History Month:

**Friday** — noon, Gaudé Lanes, 8th annual AAHC bowling tournament. \$10. 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.

## **KSC luncheon**

The Keesler Spouses Club's monthly luncheon on Tuesday is hosted by the 403rd Wing.

The group meets at the Bay Breeze Event Center at 10 a.m. for a windshield tour, lunch and briefings, returning to the event center about 1:45 p.m.

Lunch is \$12 and cash-only payments are made at the event.

For more information, visit keeslerspousesclub.com.

## **Wood shop items**

A number of items at the wood shop need to be picked up by the end of February.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

## **Alcoholics Anonymous**

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held 7-8 p.m. Fridays upstairs in the Triangle Chapel Annex.

All active-duty and retired members and their dependents are welcome to attend.

## **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

## Free tickets available for Surge hockey

Feb. 18 is Military Appreciation Night at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum as the Mississippi Surge meets the Pensacola (Fla.) Ice Flyers in professional hockey at 7:05 p.m.

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, drops the puck to start the contest.

Free tickets are available for active-duty and retired military and their family members.

Tanja Schloegel, commercial sponsorship coordinator for the 81st Force Support Squadron, said Tuesday that 1,000 of the 3,000 free tickets have already been distributed. The remaining tickets are available at outdoor recreation while supplies last.

## HAWC joins Navy for 4-week fitness challenge

By Steve Pivnick

### 81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The Keesler Health and Wellness Center, in conjunction with the Navy's "Crews Into Shape" challenge, sponsors a four-week wellness campaign and challenge in March to mark National Nutrition Month.

Tech. Sgt. Erica Shepherd, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron Health Promotion Flight, explained, "The challenge, from March 4-31, brings people together for a team approach to wellness. Each crew member earns points for exercising, maintaining or achieving a goal weight, eating fruits and vegetables and drinking fluids or water."

The entire Department of

Defense "family" is invited "on board."

To participate, Shepherd said a team needs two to 10 members and picks a crew leader. No weigh-in is required. Crews must register with the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center by Feb. 24. For rules and more information, log on to [www.nmcphc.med.navy.mil/Healthy\\_Living/Resources\\_Products/Crews\\_Into\\_Shape/crews\\_info.aspx](http://www.nmcphc.med.navy.mil/Healthy_Living/Resources_Products/Crews_Into_Shape/crews_info.aspx)

Participants receive a free HAWC water bottle for signing up and each crew member who completes the challenge receives a certificate. Prizes are awarded to top-scoring crews.

For more information, call 376-3170 or email the HAWC at [81AMDSHAWC2@us.af.mil](mailto:81AMDSHAWC2@us.af.mil)

## Basketball playoffs tip off

By Susan Griggs

### Keesler News editor

The intramural basketball postseason tournament began Wednesday at Blake Fitness Center, with the 334th Training Squadron taking on the 81st Force Support Squadron and the 81st Medical Support Squadron meeting the 81st Training Wing staff agencies team.

Scores weren't available at press time.

Tonight, the 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron and the 338th TRS-A tip off at 6 p.m., followed by the 81st Security Forces Squadron and the 338th TRS-C at 7 p.m. and the 335th TRS and Gautier Army Recruiting Station at 8.

Monday games feature the 81st Medical Group and the 333rd TRS at 6 p.m. and 338th TRS-B and the Marine Corps Detachment at 7 p.m. The first game of the second round, with the winners of Wednesday's games, follows at 8 p.m.

The final game of the first round between the 403rd Wing and 345th Airlift Squadron is at 6 p.m. Tuesday, followed by second-round games at 7 and 8 p.m. Play continues at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Wednesday.

The championship game is scheduled for 6 p.m. Feb. 16.

All teams in the league's two conferences are competing in the single elimination tournament.

For more information, call 377-2444.

# Thursday intramural bowling

## Week 19 of 34

Team	Won	Lost
335th TRS-A	108.0	44.0
81st FSS	94.0	58.0
81st CS	88.0	64.0
338th TRS	86.0	66.0
334th TRS	86.0	66.0
403rd AMXS	86.0	58.0
81st TRSS-PMEL	77.0	75.0
ECS Strikers	76.0	76.0
336th TRS	76.0	76.0
81st LRS-A	74.0	78.0
81st WSA	72.0	80.0
81st LRS-B	69.0	83.0
81st TRSS-A	62.0	90.0
335th TRS-B	60.0	92.0
2nd Air Force	50.0	102.0
Seabees	40.0	72.0

## Season high scores

**Team game** — 335th TRS, 1,043.

**Team series** — 335th TRS, 2,990.

**High handicap game (team)** — 335th TRS-A, 1,144.

**High handicap series (team)** — 81st CS, 3,300.

**Game/men** — Jamie Sieloff, 265.

**Series/men** — Jeff Miracle, 734.

**High handicap game/men** — Robert Dickinson, 279.

**High handicap series/men** — Robert Dickinson, 742.

**Game/women** — Sabra Miracle, 212.

**Series/women** — Sabra Miracle, 567.

**High handicap game/women** — Sabra Miracle, 249.

**High handicap series/women** — Sabra Miracle, 678.

**Average/men** — Jeff Miracle, 206.40.

**Average/women** — Sabra Miracle, 157.89.

**Most improved** — Matthew Such, 15.45; Sabra Miracle, 1.89.

Play hard —  
play safe.