

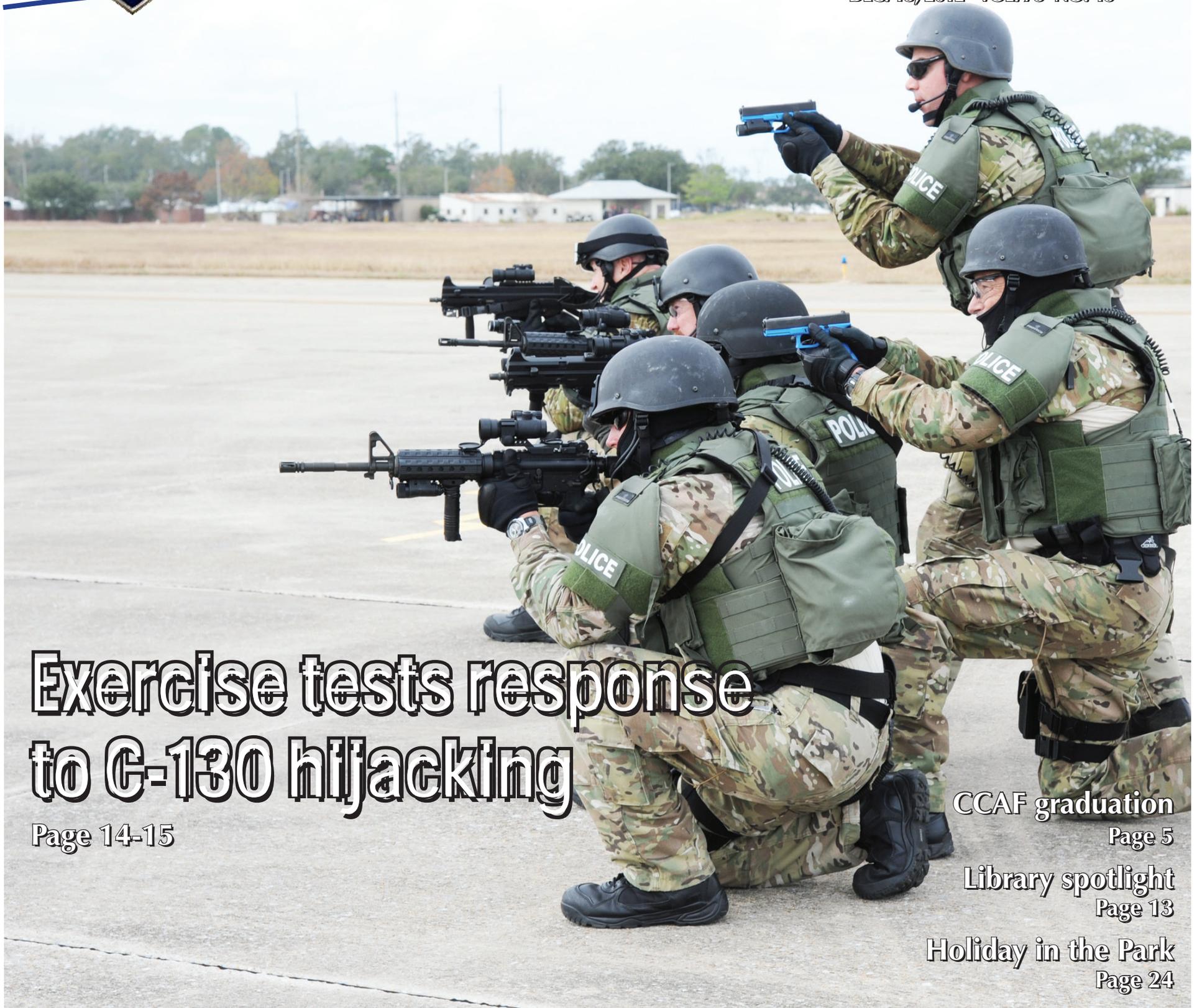


KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train. Fight. Win.

DEC. 13, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 48



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First sergeants help Airmen succeed in career, life

By Master Sgt.
Curtis Thomas

81st Medical Operations Squadron
first sergeant

A frequent question I'm asked while chairing a first sergeant panel is, "What made you decide to become a first sergeant?" My answer is the same as many others who have chosen this career path — to help people.

I entered the Air Force as an Airman basic in April of 1997 and I have had my fair share of learning experiences during almost 16 years of service. Throughout my career my first sergeants always held me to Air Force standards and put me back on track if I began to stray from my path. The delicate balance of "tough love" and compassion were instrumental for me to successfully press forward on the road that would lead me to where I am today.

I find no greater satisfaction than knowing I made a

difference in someone else's life and I often reflect back to the impact certain first sergeants and chiefs had on me. Each let me know in their own way that I could not succeed without failure and that, although I may stumble and sometimes fall, the key was to get back up, brush myself off and press forward a better Airman than before.

As a first sergeant, I like to share my experiences with my Airmen. Often commanders, chiefs and first sergeants are viewed as "flawless" or as having all the answers and not having made the same mistakes as current junior officers, NCOs and Airmen. The truth is that we, too, have made the same or very similar mistakes and we have learned from them and applied the lessons learned to our own personal development.

I have always appreciated my superiors being honest with me and understanding where I am coming from. The

fact that they've shared their personal experiences with me to help me grow also played a huge role in motivating me to pick myself up, dust myself off and take off running toward the goal line.

This has molded me into who I am today and how I apply these same techniques to my leadership style. I am straight forward and direct with people because that is the way I would like to be treated. I often tell people what they need to hear instead of what they want to hear.

As first sergeants, our service is our commitment to the Air Force, our commanders and the valuable men and women of our squadrons who serve our great nation. We provide guidance and mentorship, enforce standards and engage our Airmen to ensure they are fit to fight. Our Airmen are our most valuable asset and to perform at their very best, they must be healthy in body, mind and

spirit. To achieve these goals, we enforce the Air Force physical fitness standards, promote mental health and development of life skills. We support our members and their families through agencies like chaplains, the Airman and family readiness center and the key spouse program.

I have found the proactive approach is far more effective than the reactive approach. Issues are easier to handle when they are small, before they have become big issues or have spawned other problems. We may, in fact, be able to avert some negative situations altogether.

The relationship between a first sergeant and Airmen or the commander is like any other — it is based upon trust and requires respect and good communication. A breakdown in any of these areas will have a devastating effect on the relationship as well as the foundation.

I have been blessed to have

amazing people as first sergeants throughout my career and I am honored to serve as a first sergeant today. I can only hope and strive to be the best first sergeant, senior NCO, wingman and leader I can be. I am highly motivated and dedicated to my organization and the outstanding men and women who have entrusted me with a great deal of responsibility. At the end of the day, I feel a great sense of pride and accomplishment knowing I played a part in helping an Airman either through action, advice or simply by listening.

Colin Powell said, "There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure."

I believe we at Keesler have proven this to be true. I will continue to serve in whatever capacity I can to ensure we maintain the highest level of excellence and resilience in the face of adversity.

Holiday stress reduction begins with you

By Paula Spooner

Family advocacy outreach manager

Ahh, the holidays. It's the season of twinkling lights and favorite carols, carefully selected gifts and visits with those we love. Unfortunately, for many of us, it's also several straight weeks of stress. Every year I tell myself that next year I'm going to handle the shopping differently — I'll plan ahead and purchase throughout the year instead of postponing until I absolutely cannot put it off any longer. But I never do.

Despite my admittedly poor planning strategy, I can pass on some lessons I've learned for managing stress.

If you can't control it, don't worry about it. Sure, there are an unlimited number of things you could stew about — disrupted plane schedules, whether Uncle Bob will act out in front of your in-laws or if anyone will actually eat what you bring to the potluck. But as the saying goes, "Wor-

rying is like a rocking chair — it gives you something to do but it doesn't get you anywhere."

So before you tie yourself up in knots over possible outcomes or what other people do or think, ask yourself this question, "Can I force this person, weather or situation to perform as I demand?" Usually you can't. Then ask yourself, "Can I control my own response to this person, weather or situation?" The answer is yes. You can allow it to control you, or you can choose to let it go, and thus maintain your own inner peace. This actually makes you a stronger person.

It's okay not to be perfect. Imperfection is often more interesting. When my oldest daughter was about six she went through a hat-wearing phase. Her absolute favorite was an enormous, white, floppy-brimmed disaster that she wore with everything — shorts, jeans, bathing suits and even pajamas. Planning some professional family photos as gifts, I hid the hat in

my closet, got the excited kids ready, and set off. I thought the session went surprisingly well. Two weeks later I went into the studio to review the proofs. In every single one, my daughter stood behind me with her small hand on my shoulder, a smug smile on her face, and that hat affixed firmly to her head. How she managed to smuggle it in and out without my knowledge still remains a mystery. But I do know this: to this day, those photos remain my most cherished family portraits of all time. They created a distinct and lasting memory, and tell a wonderful story about my daughter, her persistence, and our family.

Examine the expectations of yourself, others and the season itself to make sure you're staying realistic. The media would have us believe that if we spend lots of money, drink sparkling beverages, consume rich food, drive the finest cars and dress in the latest styles we will have gloriously fulfill-

ing holiday season and never feel the pinch of over-spending. Sounds great, but it's not reality. Reality is about limits and constant change. So even though circumstances may have permitted a certain amount of spending, travel or entertaining last year, it simply may not be the same this year. And next year could be different still. Life fluctuates, plans adjust and people cope. Kids might complain, but they ultimately respond to the functioning of their parents, so the better the adults handle stress, the better the kids manage.

It's perfectly fine to say "no". The older I get, the easier it becomes for me to set limits. If you don't want to attend a party, politely send your regrets. If you absolutely feel obligated, put in a quick appearance and then make your exit. Don't feel like baking this year? Buy some holiday treats, or simply skip them. Does it

Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy
81st Training Wing
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ON THE COVER

The Biloxi Police Department Special Response Team prepares to secure an aircraft and its passengers during an anti-hijacking exercise on the flightline Dec. 4. The exercise scenario consisted of a disgruntled Airman, who after being denied leave during the holidays, created a fake Air Force leave form to get on a flight and hijack the aircraft to fly home.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Nice house, baby

Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing commander, Chief Master Sgt. Angie Johnson, 81st TRW command chief, and rap star Vanilla Ice pose for a photo during a taping of "The Vanilla Ice Project" Dec. 8, 2012 in West Palm Beach, Fla. Spacy and Johnson volunteered to help with construction for the reality show, which showcases Vanilla Ice as he renovates old mansions with his own personal style.

"Vanilla Ice is a good friend of mine who I have known for several years," Spacy said. "Besides being a 'rap star' he is a good guy, family man and huge supporter of our troops. We hope to bring him to Keesler this upcoming year."

Courtesy photo



THE WORLD'S BEST AIRMEN — TRAINING, FIGHTING, WINNING



seem that your kids push your guilt button more heavily around the holidays? Know this: kids actually benefit from being told no, especially when it comes to setting limits about material possessions. So look at it this way: when you kindly but firmly say no, you are being a good parent, and also serving as a healthy role model for the other adults in your life that need practice setting their own boundaries. They will look at you and think, “Wow, I should do that.”

Take time every day to care for yourself. This doesn't require spa visits and expensive dinners on the town; in fact, short but frequent pockets of quiet that we carve out of the day can do the most to rejuvenate us.

For example, my job requires me to frequently travel between Arnold Annex and the 81st Medical Group. If I drive I'll arrive in two minutes, but then I must search for a parking spot and immediately resume my fast-paced day. But if I choose to walk over, it's a seven minute break from computers, phones, emails and best of all — I won't have to look for a parking place. It's a chance to think, breathe deeply, and get a tiny amount of exercise.

Seek out these opportunities throughout the day. Eating well, getting adequate sleep, exercising and relaxing are very significant factors to staying balanced during stressful days. You know what works for you, so practice it. If you lack the discipline, make a commitment with your partner or a friend and agree to keep tabs on each other.

For more ideas on healthy stress management practices, contact one of the many agencies here at Keesler. The mental health flight, Airman and family readiness center and health and wellness center are all here to help make your holiday the smoothest one yet.

For more information call 228-376-3457.

114 Keesler members earn CCAF degrees

By Senior Airman Heather Heiney

Keesler News co-editor

The Community College of the Air Force presented 114 Keesler members with 131 associates degrees Dec. 5 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Four graduates received awards during the ceremony including three Air Force Association Pitsenbarger Awards, three Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University excellence awards, three University of Southern Mississippi excellence awards, three William Carey University excellence awards and a Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Sal D'Aquila Scholarship.

Staff Sgts. Gayle Feist, 335th Training Squadron, and Rachel Thompson, 338th TRS, and Senior Airman Mark Richardson, 81st Medical Support Squadron, each won awards from AFA, ERAU, USM and WCU.

Staff Sgt. Gregory Buford, 338th TRS, received an award from MGCCC.

Graduates are:

2nd Air Force — Master Sgt. Bruce Adams and Tech. Sgts. Richard Moss and Christina Re.

81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron — Staff Sgts. Justina Fitzpatrick and Leonard Patterson.

81st Comptroller Squadron — Master Sgt. Jeffrey Moody.

81st Contracting Squadron — Senior Airman Amanda Nesbitt.

81st Dental Squadron — Staff Sgt. Rene Roddy.

81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron — Master Sgt. Leslie Finley; Tech. Sgt. Michele Chapman; Staff Sgts. Andrea Klein, Pisit Moommala and Allen Savedra; and Senior Airmen Nathan Butcher, Robert Chambers, Darrell Edwards, Robert Tipton and Charlene Vance.

81st Force Support Squadron — Tech. Sgt. Marcus Hogsten and Staff Sgt. Amanda Wyatt.



81st Infrastructure Division — Staff Sgt. Chase Headrick.

81st Inpatient Operations Squadron — Tech. Sgt. Patricia Boydston.

81st Logistics Readiness Squadron — Master Sgt. Christopher Yarbrough and Tech. Sgt. Darrin Srader.

81st Medical Group — Master Sgt. Gene McCants.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — Staff Sgts. Teresa Adens and Dominique Woodfork; Senior Airman Kayciann Gordon and Airman 1st Class Scarlett Kayla.

81st MDSS — Staff Sgt. Peter Stephen Plete and Senior Airmen Jacob Duran and Mark Richardson.

81st Surgical Operations Squadron — Tech. Sgt. Jay Villanueva; Staff Sgts. Tyreema Anderson, Lionel Jor-

dan and Tina Perine; Senior Airmen Manuel Botero, Stephanie Garcia and Crystal Smith; and Airman 1st Class Stephanie Glover.

81st Training Group — Tech. Sgt. Shaun Wilke.

81st Training Support Squadron — Master Sgts. David Donnerstag, Gary Landenberger and Orlando Thomas and Senior Airman Francis Rhodd.

81st Training Wing — Staff Sgts. Tawny Crutcher and Kimberly Moore and Senior Airman Wyleeshia Meekins.

85th Engineering Installation Squadron — Staff Sgts. Theodore Nichols and Bobby Palmer.

96th Aerial Port Squadron — Master Sgt. Jonathan Vansandt and Tech

Sgts. Terry Rutledge, Earl Thomas and Matthew Welch.

333rd TRS — Marine Master Gunnery Sgt. Ryan Wallace, Master Sgt. Wayne Bullock, Tech. Sgt. Guillermo Muniz and Staff Sgts. Douglas Batchelde, Jacob Conrads and Eric Hafner.

334th TRS — Master Sgt. Bradley Reilly and Staff Sgts. Nathaniel Edwards, Lester Lane and Jennifer Riter.

335th TRS — Master Sgt. John Platt, Marine Staff Sgt. John Gregson, Tech. Sgt. Chad Nabinger, Marine Sgt. Michael Haas and Staff Sgts. Brandy Cotton, Gayle Feist and Joshua Rowles.

336th TRS — Master Sgts. Ryan Bienvenu, Yancy Culver and Charity Winkler; Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Walker; Tech. Sgts. Andrew Borden, Jeffie Bowen, Ervin McKinzie and Matthew Wane; and Staff Sgts. Reginald Bass, Ryan Clements, Marshall Dixon, Joshua Fuqua, Quan Holmes, Edward Lotz, Andrew Tong and Angel White.

338th TRS — Master Sgt. Yolanda Jerry; Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Jacques; Staff Sgts. Gregory Buford and Rachel Thompson; and Senior Airman Andrew Pratt.

345th Airlift Squadron — Staff Sgt. Travis Hurst and Senior Airman Mason Euler.

403rd Wing — Senior Master Sgt. Bambi Clark; Master Sgts. Winifred Bass and James Sieloff; Tech. Sgts. Amber Pacheco, Yesenia Pena, Dedrick Powell, Sierra Spencer, Leatrice Vassel, Latanya Winn and Brian Vines; Staff Sgts. Rickey Carroll, John Fortner, Damian Hebert, Sean McGovern and Johnnie Sims; and Senior Airmen Nicholas Harich and David Vennen.

815th Airlift Squadron — Master Sgt. Joseph Helm and Tech. Sgt. Douglas Otten.

Air Force Legal Operations Agency — Staff Sgt. Merissa Pough.

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or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/keeslerafb

OTS shortens course length, increases efficiency

By Airman 1st Class William Blankenship

Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFNS) -- Beginning in January, the Air Force Officer Training School's Basic Officer Training course will be shortened by three weeks, officials announced Dec. 4.

Cutting the course from 12 weeks to nine weeks was the result of finding efficiencies in the course's scheduling processes and curriculum, said the OTS commandant.

"Our staff was able to adapt its operations and curriculum in several innovative ways to save money and Airmen's time while still producing fully qualified

and capable second lieutenants," said Col. Thomas Coglitore. "We've also beefed up our total force academics in order for our trainees to better understand the cultures between the active, Reserve and Air National Guard components."

The commandant said, shortening the course falls in line with Air Education and Training Command's cost-conscious culture initiative, or C3, which challenges AETC units to seek more efficient ways of using available resources.

"By developing and delivering qualified second lieutenants in a new way, we preserve our resources," he said.

Coglitore said estimated savings of about \$1.9 million

may be gained from the change.

"There is a potential for much larger savings as the result of the decreased course length and an increase in the number of classes offered annually by allowing for a more efficient training pipeline flow," he said.

In fiscal 2012, OTS officials graduated 642 second lieutenants from its basic officer training course and are expected to graduate 1,055 new officers in fiscal 2013. BOT graduates both active-duty and Reserve line officers. OTS's officer production numbers fluctuate in response to variations between projected and actual Air Force Academy and Air Force ROTC accessions and Air Force end-

strength requirements.

"If we get hit with a national emergency and need to commission more officers quickly, OTS gives our nation the surge capacity to do it, and this new construct increases our maximum capability," said Coglitore.

The syllabus is now pared down to the minimum necessary to fulfill federal commissioning standards.

"There are 116 tasks directed by Air Force instructions to commission someone as an officer and 10 more from the Joint Chiefs of Staff," he said. "I am comfortable that we are not lowering standards, but becoming more efficient with how we schedule and conduct

the training."

Producing motivated officers of character who embody the American warrior ethos and are culturally aware, expeditionary minded and prepared to lead is the mission of OTS. Blending those principals with the culture of cost consciousness in today's Air Force assures the future of air power, said Col. Scott Wiggins, OTS vice commandant.

"When things have been done a certain way for a long time, and while tradition is important, sometimes you have to weigh tradition versus progress," he said. "We always need to be willing to ask why do we do something a certain way and how can we do it better."



Academic ace

Airman 1st Class Brian T. Willbrand, 335th Training Squadron, reviews notes and equipment during class Dec. 5 at Dolan Hall. Willbrand graduated with a perfect score from the avionics fundamentals course. He is a native of St. Charles, Mo., and is heading to the 365th Training Squadron, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, for further training.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Library offers digital media, reading programs

By Senior Airman Heather Heiney

Keesler News co-editor

Countless rows of books, whispered voices and the sound of rustling pages easily conjures up the image of a library. And while these sights and sounds still linger within library walls, in this digital age they offer so much more.

Keesler has had its own library since 1942. Post Library was located on the balcony of the service club which was near the housing area for basic training center squadrons and contained a collection of 3,317 books and other materials.

The current library opened in 1964 and was named the McBride library May 28, 1975 after Maj. Edward "Hoss" Ernest McBride, an aircraft pilot from Hattiesburg who gave his life during the Vietnam War.

Now, the base library contains more than 43,000 print and digital items in addition to educational and recreational services.

The library is located on the south east corner of Larcher Blvd. and Meadows Drive and is open 10 a.m.

to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and noon to 7 p.m. Fridays through Sundays but is closed on federal holidays.

Katherine Baughman, library technician, said, "Some people may not even know we're here and when they walk in they're amazed at what we have to offer."

In addition to books, magazines, study guides and other print resources, the library offers more than 40 common access card enabled computers, faxing, copying, DVDs, Blue Ray, video games and a multitude of digital resources.

Rebekah Chandlee, library director, said that while they plan to continue keeping up with the latest book releases, digital resources are an avenue that the library is heavily promoting.

"We're holding back on print resources now to get into digital demand," Chandlee said. "But we still have a good amount of books, especially children's books."

Some of the digital services include:

EBSCO and Gale Cengage Learning — informational databases with reference material, student resources, do-it-yourself



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Sophia Francis, 5, daughter of Amanda and Maj. Mark Francis, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, searches through a shelf of books in the children's room at the McBride Library.

resources e-audiobooks and ebooks for downloading.

Tutor.com — online tutoring for all subjects and levels, career help, resume and essay writing, test prep and several other resources.

NewsBank — Armed forces and government news database.

Overdrive, One Click Digital, TumbleBookLibrary, TumbleReadables and TumbleTalkingBooks — downloadable audio and eBooks, CLEP study guides and more.

Transparent Language — teaches the basics of more than 80 languages.

Petersons — test prep and career building tools.

Universal Class — online continuing education and

professional development classes. Note, most classes are not for college credit but for enhancing knowledge.

Zinio — digital magazine database.

In addition to all the digital resources the McBride library offers at least two events per month including educational classes, guest speakers, children's story or craft time and United Through Reading.

United Through reading is a program that offers parents and grandparents a way to stay connected to their children and grandchildren while apart. Family members privately record a DVD of themselves reading a book to the child. The book, DVD and an envelope will be provided.

"The child feels closer to

their parent or loved one," Baughman said.

In the coming year the library staff plans to continue enhancing their young adult area, reorganize the children's section by reading level and add to their professional military resource section.

The McBride library offers all the above programs and even more and its staff keeps patrons coming back for more.

"I love working with my staff," Chandlee said. "Our patrons always talk about our staff and love coming to the library."

For more information call 228-377-2181, email mcbride.library@us.af.mil or visit <https://keeslerafb.softlinkliberty.net>.



Kim Perez, a contractor with Families OverComing Under Stress, reads the book, *The Christmas Cricket* by Eve Bunting, to Natalie Crider, 3; her dad, Staff Sgt. Eric Crider, 333rd Training Squadron; mom, Barbara; sisters Jenna, 1, and Autumn, 5, during story time at the McBride Library.

Staff Sgt. Cody Spitler, 81st Force Support Squadron, portrays a hostage who is being apprehended for safety purposes by the Biloxi Police Department Special Response Team upon his release from the aircraft during an anti-hijacking exercise on the flightline at Keesler Dec. 4. The exercise scenario consisted of a disgruntled Airman, who after being denied leave during the holidays, created a fake Air Force leave form to get on a flight and hijack the aircraft to fly home.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



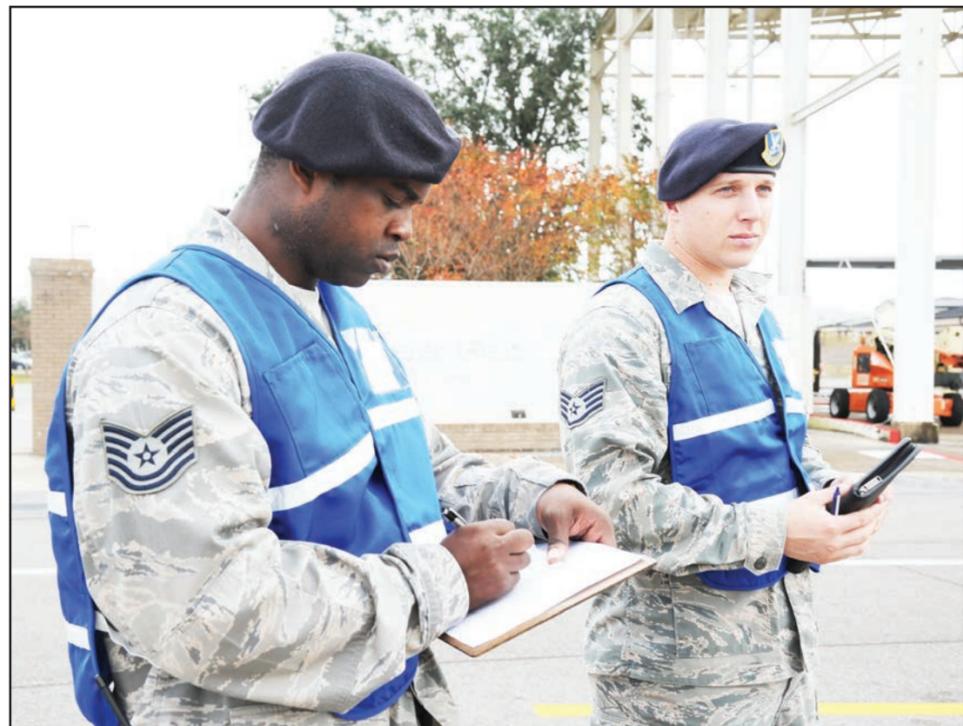
The Biloxi Police Department Special Response Team rushes into the bay of a C-130 to secure the aircraft.

Master Sgt. Michael Smith, 81st Security Forces Squadron, and Officer Scott Doucet, the Biloxi Police Department Special Response Team commander, discuss the integration of Doucet's officers into the base's response to the hijacking simulation by providing an explanation of the team's capabilities.

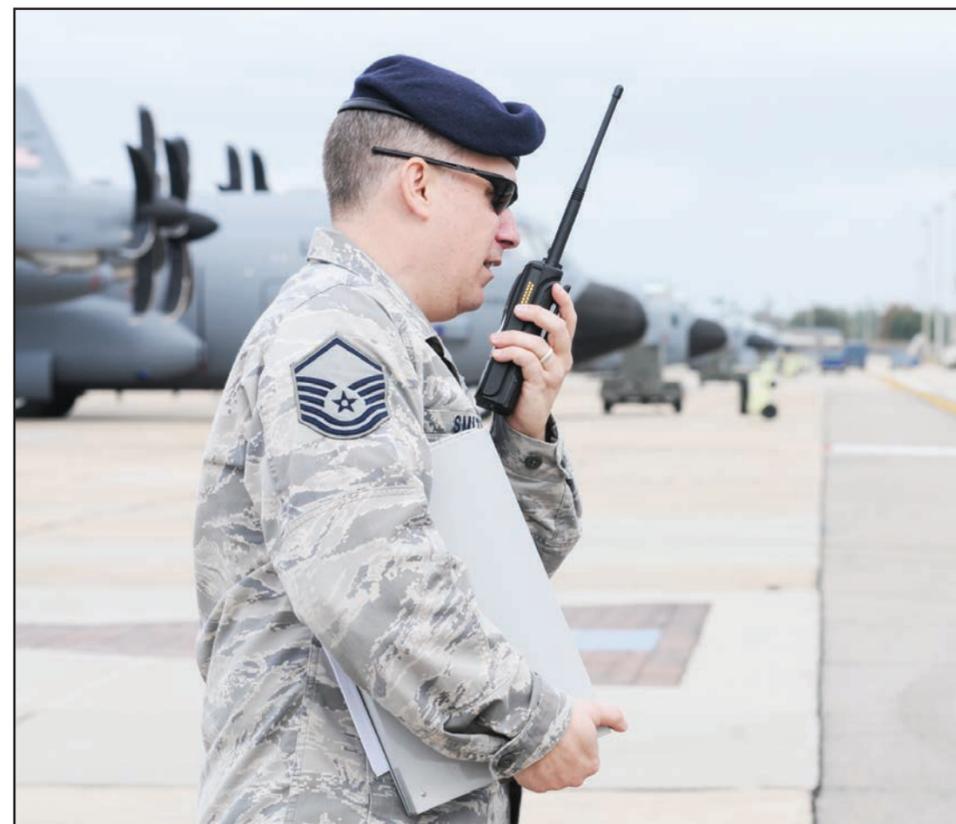
C-130 hijacking exercise tests base response



Senior Airman Welson Portillo, 81st Force Support Squadron, portrays a hostage who is being released from the aircraft with the Biloxi Police Department Special Response Team standing by to apprehend him for safety purposes.



Tech. Sgt. Jason Gavin and Staff Sgt. Jeffery Fitzgerald, 81st Security Forces Squadron exercise evaluation team members, make time line notes as the exercise gets underway.



Master Sgt. Michael Smith, 81st Security Forces Squadron, relays pertinent information on-scene back to his squadron personnel during the exercise.



Investigator Matthew James, 81st Security Forces Squadron, questions one of the hostages, Lt. Col. John Gallagher, 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, following his release from the aircraft.

KEESLER NOTES

2012 supply classes

Quarterly supply classes are held in the CSC Supply Conference Room, Room 121B, Taylor Logistics Building.

Block I - supply indoctrination is 9-10 a.m. Dec. 20. All newly-assigned supply custodians and resource managers are required to attend. For more information or to sign-up for any block-training class, call 228-377-5998.

Precious metals recovery program is 10-11 a.m. Dec. 20. All newly-assigned PMRP monitors are required to attend and refresher training is required annually. For more information or to sign-up, call 228-377-5998.

Block III equipment custodian refresher training is 1-2 p.m. Dec. 20. Supply equipment custodians are required to have block III custodian training annually. For more

information about the block III training or to sign-up, call 228-377-2270/7800.

Block IIA- bench stock training is 2-3 p.m., Dec. 20. For more information or to sign-up, call 228-377-4180.

Block IIB - repair cycle training is 10-11 a.m., Dec. 21. For more information or to sign-up, call 228-377-4491.

Central selection board

The CY113A colonel (LAF-J), and lieutenant colonel (LAF/LAF-J) central selection board will convene March 18 at Air Force Personnel Command headquarters.

To be eligible for the P0613A (LAF-J) and P0513A (LAF/LAF-J) CSBs the officer must have an extended active duty date of Sept. 19 or earlier with a date of separation of June 16, 2013 or later. Also, officers on active duty under the Voluntary Recall Program

or any other Reserve Recall Program must have at least one year on active duty as of the board convening date, starting from their new EAD date.

For more information call 228-376-8356.

NCOA scholarships

The Mathies NCO Academy's class 13-1 is offering two, \$250 scholarships to Keesler spouses or dependents who plan on attending an accredited junior college, trade school or four-year university in the 2012-2013 academic year. The purpose of the scholarship is to give a Keesler dependent recognition for their civic and academic achievement. Applications are due today and winners will be notified Monday. Applicants are required to answer questions about their college goals, interests and extracurricular activities as well as complete a one-page es-

say. For more information call 228-377-3944.

Emergency room move

Keesler Hospital's emergency room moves Dec. 11 to its new location on the first floor of the new Back Bay Tower, located on the northeast corner of the hospital. Signs along major Keesler roads will direct patients to the ER.

Housing office move

The housing office and community housing will be relocating to 300 Patrick Drive (Forest City Community Center) the week of Dec. 10 and there will be limited service during this time.

Business ownership seminar

Interested in having your own business, either in addition to your 'day job' or after leaving military service? Attend the 'Own Your Own Business Seminar' 2 p.m. Dec. 12 in the Sablich Center Room 108A. Hear from local offices of the Small Business Administration, Small Busi-

ness Development Center and Innovation Center. Learn about what they provide, classes and free resources. Call 228-376-8728 to sign up.

Tuition assistance

Active-duty members requesting tuition assistance may do so no earlier than 30 days prior to their class start date.

81st MDG holiday services minimal

The 81st Medical Group will have minimal services Dec. 13, 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1. The emergency room, however, is always available.

Keesler Airman's Attic

The Keesler Airman's Attic provides free donated items to enlisted members of any branch, E-5 and below. The facility is located at the corner of Meadows Drive and First Street and is open Mondays, Wednesdays and every non-training Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The last Saturday of the month is an "all ranks" day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call 228-377-3814.

Keesler Events Calendar

Today

1 p.m. — Airman and family readiness center post-deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

4 p.m. — Children's storytime at the McBride Library for kids ages three and older.

4:30 p.m. — Holiday in the park at the marina.

5 p.m. — Family ceramics night at the arts and crafts center.

— Auto maintenance 101 at the auto hobby shop.

6 p.m. — Party plate date at the arts and crafts center.

Friday

11 a.m. — Push-pull weightlifting competition at the Triangle Fitness Center.

Saturday

1 p.m. — Kids and canvas at the arts and crafts center.

— Watercolor painting class at the arts and crafts center.

Tuesday

9 a.m. — Pre-separation counseling at the Sablich Center Room 110.

— Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

1 p.m. — Retirees pre-separation counseling at the Sablich Center Room 110.

Wednesday

8 a.m. — Newcomers orientation at the Sablich Center Room 108B.

Dec. 13

8 a.m. — Veterans benefits briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108A.

1 p.m. — Airman and

family readiness center post-deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

— Retirement benefits briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108A.

Dec. 15

8 a.m. — Santa Golf Scramble at the Bay Breeze Golf Course.

Dec. 18

9 a.m. — Pre-separation counseling at the Sablich Center Room 110.

— Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

1 p.m. — Retirees pre-separation counseling at the Sablich Center Room 110.

2012 chapel holiday events

Catholic worship schedule (All at Triangle Chapel)

Daily mass — Monday through Friday at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel 11:15 a.m.

Evening prayer — 5 p.m. Sunday through Friday.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception — Advent Retreat from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Holy Day of Obligation Mass 2 p.m. Dec. 8.

Advent reconciliation service — 6 p.m. Dec. 12.

Christmas vigil mass — 5 p.m. Dec. 24.

Christmas morning mass — 9 a.m. Dec. 25.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) — 5 p.m. Dec. 31 and 11:15 a.m. Jan. 1.

Protestant Worship Services (All at Larcher Blvd. Chapel)

Christmas Eve candlelight worship/communion — 5 p.m. Dec. 24.

New Year's Eve watchnight service — 8 p.m. to midnight Dec. 31.

Two Keesler members, units win awards in AETC's A1 program

By Senior Airman Heather Heiney

Keesler News co-editor

Keesler members won two unit and two individual awards in the Air Education and Training Command A1 awards program.

The 81st Force Support Squadron was awarded with Airman and Family Readiness Program of the Year and Marketing Program of the Year.

Master Sgt. Carmaneta Dixon, 335th Training Squadron, won the Gen. Billy Boles Mentorship Award.

Becky Green, 81st FSS, was named Flight Chief of the Year.

Keesler's Airman and family readiness center provided 4,000 formal consultations and 502 workshops to 9,000 active duty military members and their families. They acted

as the liaison between base and local organizations by working 300,000 volunteer hours with a community impact of \$6.6 million. They also created a newcomers welcome lounge for newly assigned Airmen and their spouses with information from 25 base agencies.

The services marketing program increased digital advertising and reduced print products by 39 percent saving \$5,000 per year and 20 man-hours per week. They developed a "Marketing 101" course on customer service and marketing for activity managers which was adopted by four other bases. They also receive 3,390 customer service surveys which stated an average customer satisfaction of 4.86 on a five-point scale.

Dixon, although not an assigned instructor, taught 280 hours in an education and

training technician course during a manning shortage and mentored more than 40 unit training managers. She partnered with the Weighted Airman Promotion System manager at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. to complete a study for future WAPS modifications. She also delivered a briefing about standards adherence to more than 100 new Airmen.

Green partnered with the Air Force Personnel Center to create an evaluation checklist that reduced errors 85 percent and became an AETC "best practice." She completed Squadron Officer School and renewed her National Board Certified Counseling license. She also volunteered at local elementary schools and raised money for three different fund raising campaigns.

Five from Keesler win AETC 'Jumper' award

By Senior Airman Heather Heiney

Keesler News co-editor

Five Keesler Airmen won Air Education and Training Command-level awards in the annual Gen. John P. Jumper Awards for Excellence in Warfighting Integration and the Information Dominance Annual Awards.

Winners are:

Tech. Sgt. Frank Meagher, 333rd Training Squadron – Outstanding Cyber Surety NCO.

Tech. Sgt. Brian Owens, 333rd TRS – Outstanding Spectrum Operations NCO.

Tech. Sgt. Aaron Lujan, 81st Training Support Squadron – Outstanding Cyberspace Systems NCO.

Senior Master Sgt. Jason Holbert, 81st TRSS – Outstanding Cyberspace Systems Senior NCO.

Tech. Sgt. Guillermo Muniz, 333rd TRS – Outstanding Cyber Defense Operations NCO.

Meagher conducted 360 hours of computer security validation and aligned training curriculum with the National Security Agency version. He secured 400, 81st Training Wing information items with a \$1 million value and sustained encryption requirements for 32 training classes per year. He also "adopted" a mother and two children at a shelter for nonviolence and raised \$2,000 to help their family.

Owens taught 324 hours, supplied radio frequency and signal-finding techniques to 76 students with a 96 percent class average. He completed a 100-hour combat skills training course which improved his combat survival expertise. Also, as a Dragon Walk volunteer he mentored and ensured accountability of more than 7,000 students.

Lujan helped certify 160 Airmen by writing a radar training package which ensured deployment rotation continuity. He prepared 228 squadron members for five base exercises and two real-world events in his squadron's unit control center. He also trained 10 curriculum developers and led the publication of 40 training packages.

Holbert established cyber operations rules of engagement during a deployment in support of the International Security Assistance Force. He led 24 chief master sergeants during a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff event. He also was the cyber team lead for the AETC consolidated unit inspection in October and was recognized as a professional performer by the inspector general team.

Muniz mapped a training plan for the entire cyber warfighter Air Force Specialty Code. He taught more than 1,200 hours contributing to the education of 378 new cyber defense operators yearly. He also led 120 wing top three members in a 48-hour event decorating a retiree home.

DOD preparing for potential sequestration

By Senior Master Sgt. David Byron

Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON — The Office of Management and Budget has instructed the Department of Defense to pursue internal planning to meet required budget cuts if sequestration goes into effect Jan. 3.

"We are at the very start of this process," said Dr. George Little, acting assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, during a Pentagon press availability here, Dec. 5. "We don't have all the details firmed up. Naturally, we hope very much that sequestration will be avoided and we don't enter that phase."

Sequestration is a mechanism enacted by Congress that will initiate severe across-the-government budget cuts if Congress and the president are unable to pass a budget that meets the requirements of the Budget Control Act of 2011.

For the DOD, sequestration would cut the defense budget by \$500 billion over the next 10 years. These cuts would be in addition to the nearly \$500 billion in cuts, during the same time frame, already directed by the 2011 BCA.

DOD officials have already been considering possible effects of sequestration, including communicating impacts to the DOD work force.

"Our focus has been on examining the potential impacts of sequestration," Little said. "We know what the potential impacts might be, and that helps us create a baseline for what we need to plan against."

He explained that although the core of the effort this month is planning

against the possible cuts, officials still hold hope that Congress and the administration can come to a resolution avoiding sequestration.

If the cuts do go into effect Jan. 3, Little said the DOD should still have the first couple of months in 2013 to determine the best way to handle the effects.

"Not every consequence of sequestration would occur on Jan. 3," he said. "People will still come to work, we think, at this stage. This will be a phased-in approach to dealing with sequestration, if it were to take place."

Whatever the effect, he said DOD officials are committed to communicating the issues to the internal DOD community as soon as they are clear.

"We have a lot of internal constituencies to reach out to -- service members, their families and the civilian employees of the Department of Defense -- and we're talking active, Guard and Reserve," said Little. "Three million people work inside this department. One out of 100 Americans work for the secretary of defense. That is a big number and it's a big communication challenge should sequestration take effect."

Little said he has stood up a communication task force to take part in the planning process.

"We expect, through our planning efforts, to identify not just numbers, but also how we communicate it to our three million-person workforce, and prepare them for what may come down the pike," he said. "We're going to try to do what we can, as quickly as possible, to define precisely who we need to talk to and when."

Safety office offers holiday decorating, driving tips

81st Training Wing Safety Office

Holiday season is in full swing, festive music is playing throughout stores and various winter decorations are popping up in the neighbor's yard. As people string dazzling holiday décor on the bough and set off to visit friends and family they should keep ladder and winter driving safety in mind.

Ladders can be one of the household item for which safety is sometimes disregarded. Whether on the roof stringing lights, mounting the perfect star atop the tree or hanging ornaments within the office, one must always recognize hazards that could lead to a serious injury. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, about 12,500 individuals are seen in hospitals for falls, cuts or shocks that were related to holiday decorating. So, before beginning the decorating season, follow these ladder safety tips:

- * Carefully inspect ladders

for cracks, corrosion and security of the bolts and rivets.

- * Make sure the ladder's feet swivel properly if equipped and have slip-resistant pads.

- * Use a fiberglass ladder if there is any chance of contact with electricity.

- * When placing the ladder, look for a safe, firm and level footing area and rigid support for the top of the ladder.

- * When climbing off a ladder make sure it extends three feet above the landing.

- * Additionally, while climbing the ladder, use three points of contact and never carry a load that could cause you to lose balance.

- * Never stand on the very top rung of a ladder and do not pull, lean, stretch or make sudden movements on a ladder.

- * Avoid setting the ladder near exit doors or near vehicle traffic.

Now that the house is decorated with cheerful holiday attire, the tree illuminated with colorful lights, and as the cal-

endar gets closer to December 25th; some people will be traveling great distances to spend some quality time with family and friends. If driving to a destination that experiences extreme winter weather follow these winter driving safety tips:

- * Clear the snow and ice from the vehicle windows, roof, hood and trunk.

- * Ensure the mirrors and lights are also snow-free.

- * Leave a few minutes earlier than normal.

- * Be aware of potentially icy areas such as shady spots and bridges.

- * Keep a safe distance of at least five seconds behind other vehicles and trucks that are plowing the road.

- * Keep an emergency winter-driving kit in your car including blankets, water, food, flashlights and reflective triangles or markers.

- * Always remember to drive safely.



Safety Sam says,

“A fugitive from the laws of averages — that’s you if you don’t use your safety gear.”

NORAD provides website, apps to track Santa

North American Aerospace Defense Command Public Affairs

PETERSON AIRFORCE BASE, Colo. (AFNS) -- Children of all ages will be able to track Santa Claus on his annual journey, thanks to the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

The “NORAD Tracks Santa” website at <http://www.noradsanta.org> is up and running. The site features a holiday countdown, games and daily activities, video messages from students around the world and more, officials said, and it is available in English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and Chinese.

Official apps also are available in the Windows Store,

Apple Store, and Google Play so parents and children can count down the days until Santa's launch on their smartphones and tablets. Tracking opportunities also offered on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Google Plus. Santa followers just need to type “@noradsanta” into each search engine to get started.

Starting at midnight Mountain Standard Time on Dec. 24, website visitors can watch Santa make the preparations for his flight. Then, at 4 a.m. Mountain time, trackers worldwide can speak with a live phone operator to inquire as to Santa's whereabouts by dialing the toll-free number 1-877-Hi-NORAD (1-877-446-6723) or by sending an

email to noradtrackssanta@outlook.com.

NORAD's “Santa Cams” also will stream videos as Santa makes his way over various locations.

NORAD Tracks Santa is possible, in large part, to the efforts and services of numerous program contributors, officials said. New to this year's program are Bing, HP, iLink-Systems, Kids.gov, Microsoft's Windows Azure, BeMerry! Santa, and SiriusXM. Returning collaborators include the 21st Space Wing, Acuity Scheduling, Air Canada, American Forces Network, Analytical Graphics Inc., Avaya, Citadel Mall, Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs

Council, CradlePoint, Defense Video Imagery Distribution System, the Federal Aviation Administration, First Choice Awards and Gifts, Globelink Foreign Language Center, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, Meshbox, the National Tree Lighting Ceremony, Naturally Santa's, the Newseum, OnStar, PCI Broadband, the Pentagon Channel, RadiantBlue, Space Foundation, TurboSquid, twtelecom, UGroup Media, Verizon and VisionBox.

Santa's Countdown Calendar and the Santa Cam videos will feature music by military bands, including the Naden Band of the Maritime Forces Pacific, the Air Force Academy Band, the Air Force Band

of Liberty, the Air Force Band of the Golden West, the Air Force Band of the West, the Air Force Band, the Air Force Heartland of America Band, the U.S. Army Ground Forces Band, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Band, the Air Force Band of Mid-America, and the West Point Band.

It all started in 1955, when a local media advertisement directed children to call Santa direct - but 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. NORAD has carried the tradition on since the command was created in 1958.

Holiday in the Park



Photos by Kemberly Groue

A live nativity scene is on display at Keesler's annual Holiday in the Park Dec. 6 at marina park. The event included a tree lighting ceremony, hay rides, holiday music, visits with Santa and free food and beverages.



Emma-Lynn Wiley, 9 months, daughter of Kodi and Staff Sgt. Herschal Wiley, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, sleeps in the arms of Santa Clause.



Petty Officer 1st Class Mike DeMauro, Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit, his daughter, Evelyn, 7; wife, Clarissa, and son, Hayden, 4, admire the Christmas light decorations on display at marina park.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Mary Grace Castillo, CNATTU, leads the audience in the holiday song, "Oh Gloria," and other carols during Keesler's annual Holiday in the Park.