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## It's time to fine-tune inspection preparations

### UCI preparation team

There are 16 more days until the Headquarters AETC Compliance Inspection. The Inspector General team arrives Oct. 24, but the inspection won't officially start until Monday.

Are you ready?

The compliance team will begin by thoroughly inspecting how well we perform our day-to-day mission. During the week, the inspectors will also evaluate our response to a variety of exercise events, including deployment, major accident and force protection condition scenarios.

The best way to ensure compliance in executing our day-to-day mission is to complete any applicable self-inspection checklist. By now, all of our checklists should be completed, with only last-minute corrections and adjustments to be made between now and Oct. 25. Keep in mind that the next person who sees your self-inspection responses will be the inspectors. Ask yourself if the inspectors will be satisfied with your response.

The wing is striving for an "outstanding" rating.



We'll accomplish this by focusing on the following:

**Complying** with regulatory requirements — those "must" and "will" items in the Air Force Instructions.

**Creating** best practices.

**Paying attention** to those unit compliance inspection lessons learned and functional trends from other bases.

The compliance inspection is essentially an open book test that will assess our wing's adherence with bylaw requirements, executive orders, Department of Defense directives and Air Force and major command instructions. The challenge comes in thoroughly researching all available material, identifying non-compliance areas, and then taking action where needed to ensure compliance.

To narrow down your approach, start by identify AETC/IG interest areas from inspections at other bases. Review UCI reports from the other bases to make sure you're identifying problem areas in your functional areas and doing something to fix them. Also, review the UCI reports for strengths and best practices which your unit can implement. Call other bases for more information if necessary.

Team Keesler, you know you do your job well every single day, whether someone is looking at us or not. Now is the time to let Headquarters AETC take notice of your outstanding efforts. Let's warmly welcome the AETC IG team and show them just how great we are!

## Civilian force development

## Find ways to capitalize on your skills, knowledge

By Ronnie Cumberland

### 334th Training Squadron

If someone had told me 22 years ago that I would wind up being a GS-13 in the 81st Training Group, I would have laughed at them. Civil service was scary and completely out of my reach — or so I thought. The steps each individual takes to achieve their goals or attain the position of their dreams is up to them. It depends on the skills you have and the knowledge that goes along with each skill.

Only 15 percent of employees are hired because of their technical expertise. The other 85 percent are hired because of other professional qualities they bring to the job, such as interpersonal skills or leadership abilities.

I'm a people person and part of my skill is communicating with people. How you interact with others and treat them with respect often means as much or more than the grammar you use or your writing skills.

Effective communication is the key to getting things done. Take advantage of every opportunity to

### More information is just a click away

A wealth of information is available in the civilian force development corner on the Keesler public Web site, <http://www.keesler.af.mil/civilianforcedevelopmentcenter.asp>

refine your communication abilities. Practice your writing skills and refer to Tongue and Quill for tips on how to write papers to communicate information, present recommendations and other purposes. The T&Q link is <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/shared/media/epubs/AFH33-337.pdf>. Keep this link handy and reference it frequently to improve your writing skills.

Get out of your comfort zone and advocate for your program. Read the "best practices" of others and develop some that you can share. Practice your briefing skills, develop PowerPoint presentations and show off your good work. Take advantage of opportunities to brief visitors and be ready to showcase to inspectors the outstanding accomplishments of your unit. Step forward and lead —

remember, be first to lead but don't lead to be first.

Early in my career, my supervisor noticed I like to be involved in whatever was going on. Opportunities abound for involvement in organizational functions such as hails and farewells or birthday celebrations. I got started by organizing flight functions, then squadron, and moved up to base-level functions. Don't be afraid to volunteer for small things and gradually work up to the big ones. Over time, your organizational and networking skills will grow and enhance your reputation and value to your unit.

Skills and knowledge work hand-in-hand. By reaching out and getting involved in activities beyond your normal job, you'll enhance your skills and add to your knowledge.

It takes hard work, dedication and the willingness to improve on your skills and enhance your knowledge about your job, organization, and group. Volunteer to head up committees and learn more about organizations beyond your immediate surroundings. Develop a network of professionals and share your knowledge and skills with one another. Know who to call when you need help.

What do you think is your greatest skill? Is it computers? Organizing functions? Researching information? Becoming an expert in a task by knowing an Air Force Instruction inside and out? What would you like to do next? The job you're in today may not be what you want to do the rest of your career. You may have your eyes on another position that sounds very interesting and rewarding. So what do you need to do to set yourself up to be competitive for that position?

First, talk to someone who's doing that job or has done that job in the





## ON THE COVER

From left, Chief Master Sgt. Linus Jordan, command chief, and Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, commander, 2nd Air Force; Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander; Brig. Gen. James Muscatell Jr., 403rd Wing commander; and Chief Master Sgt. Lonnie Slater, 81st TRW command chief, sign their pledge forms for the 2010 Combined Federal Campaign at a kickoff ceremony Monday. The goal for this year's campaign, which runs through Nov. 3, is \$135,542, according to Capt. Kara Wisniewski, 81st Medical Operations Group, project officer.

Photo by Adam Bond

## KEESLER NEWS

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## DRAGON ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

What is your favorite thing about fall?



"The changing of the weather — it makes it easier to enjoy the outdoors."

Airman 1st Class Andrew Vela, 81st Operations Support Flight



"The change in the weather."

Tech. Sgt. Leon Allen, 81st Training Wing



"It's not 90 degrees anymore."

Aviation Technician Amber Serton, Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit

## Force development, from Page 2

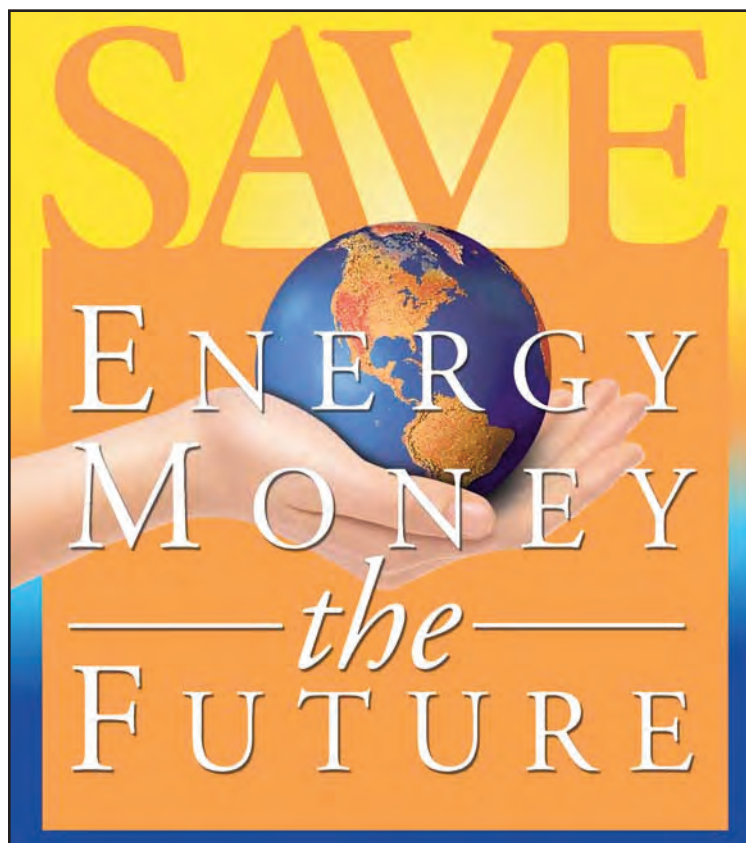
past. Find out what it entails and ensure that you have the skills required for the position.

Second, develop an education and training plan you can follow to attain that goal. Maybe the position requires a bachelor's or master's degree or certain training modules. Increase your knowledge by attending additional classes — faculty development courses, Squadron Officer School, leadership seminars or online training modules in IT-Learning. Third, communicate to your supervisor your goals and dreams. Supervisors are willing to set you up for success because one day they'll retire (I have five years and

seven months to go). Supervisors want to leave their jobs in good hands, so get their input and find out how you can set yourself up for your dream position.

Civilians play a vital role in the mission of the Air Force and the Department of Defense. To land your dream job, do your research by talking to individuals who have that position and find out how they got there. Set your sights on doing the same, but go a step beyond so that when you apply and are interviewed for the position, you have the skills and knowledge — plus a little extra.

Sir Francis Bacon once said, "Knowledge is power." That power will enable you to advance to positions that may seem out of reach — nothing is out of your reach.





# TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Greg Mack, radio and radar work centers maintenance supervisor; Neal Hrabak, PMEL manager; Mr. Richardson and David Shank, maintenance supervisor for computer and maintenance control, discuss strategies for providing timely maintenance for 81st TRG training equipment.

## New trainer maintenance flight stands up with many familiar faces

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Friday, the 81st Training Support Squadron stood up a new trainer maintenance and precision measurement equipment laboratory flight.

The new flight is responsible for maintaining all 81st Training Group equipment in training-ready status at all times and to manage a world class PMEL operation, according to Dennis Richardson, who leads the new flight.

The new flight of 36 government employees replaces ITT's 38 contract personnel which included supervisory positions. Mr. Richardson said most of the positions were filled with former contract personnel because of their experience since the turnover didn't include a transition phase. A few others were hired from outside Keesler, along with some who were already

on Keesler's civilian payroll.

Mr. Richardson said that last December, Keesler was notified of possible cancellation of bids for the existing trainer maintenance/PMEL contract. In January, a working group was formed to build a contract-to-civilian — C2C — plan.

Based on the contractor's manning at the time, a cost comparison study was initiated to help the Air Force determine if conversion from contract to civil service maintenance was fiscally responsible and met the criteria established for C2C conversions. Once the green light was given, work began to create 36 position descriptions while also initiating an organizational change request.

"Since January we have worked, almost exclusively, to bring the C2C project to fruition with a 'drop-dead' date of Oct. 1," Mr. Richard-

son pointed out. "All persons were hired with slightly less than four days to spare. Since that time we've been feverishly busy trying to prepare the new flight, both for providing quality maintenance and PMEL functions to Keesler and other agencies and to make the flight as ready as possible for the upcoming Unit Compliance Inspection.

Flight supervision and maintenance control functions are located in Garrard Hall, with maintenance functions in Jones and Cody Hall. The PMEL facility is in Building 4435 next to the motor pool.

"The contractor provided great service for the last 10 years or so," said Lt. Col. Janet Haug, 81st TRSS commander. "This was a long, hard effort, and special thanks goes to financial management, civilian personnel and contracting for making this conversion happen."

# JET set

## Extra training required for different deployment

### 2nd Air Force

So you're going to deploy and it's time to prepare. Do you know what you're preparing for?

First, ask your unit deployment manager to clarify whether you're on an Air Expeditionary Force or a Joint Expeditionary Tasking/Individual Augmentee deployment. These two types of deployment are **not** the same.

A JET/IA deployment places you in a non-standard environment, possibly "outside the wire," and/or requires you to work outside of your traditional skills set. Approximately 5 percent of all Air Force deployers fill JET/IA billets.

If you are tasked to fill a JET/IA billet, you'll have to attend additional pre-deployment training to ensure you can survive and operate in a hostile environment. That means your deployment duration will be extended by 30 to 120 days on the front end. Yes, it's additional time away from home, but it will ensure you can safely perform your

duties in a combat zone. The training is physically and mentally demanding, so you'll need to be ready for that before you arrive.

It's also very likely that your training will be conducted by Army personnel at an Army installation, referred to as a power projection platform. Combat skills training follows full-up Army curriculum, and the course schedule is set with specific tasks each day. The duration of the training day isn't dictated by the clock — it's determined by how fast the day's tasks are accomplished. It's important that every Airman arrives at CST with an open mind and a willing attitude as the training may seem odd at first.

While CST is designed and conducted for Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard personnel, it's full intensity Army training and very much like what Army personnel go through. CST, combined with your past Air Force experiences, will prepare you for the demands of your JET deployment.

## For more information

**Editor's note:** [https:// contacts require common access card](https://contacts.require.common.access.card).

**AEF Online:** <https://aef.afpc.randolph.af.mil/default.aspx>

**Afghanistan:** [www.bagram.afcent.af.mil](http://www.bagram.afcent.af.mil)

**755th Air Expeditionary Group:**

<https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/community/views/home.aspx?Filter=OO-MS-AC-36>

**Iraq:** [www.balad.afcent.af.mil](http://www.balad.afcent.af.mil)

**732nd Air Expeditionary Group:**

<https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/community/views/home.aspx?Filter=OO-MS-AC-28>

**2nd Air Force website:**

<http://www.keesler.af.mil/units/2ndairforce.asp>

[www.facebook.com/jetairmenfanpage](http://www.facebook.com/jetairmenfanpage)

**602nd Training Group(Provisional) Operations Center:**

DSN 591-4100; commercial 228-376-4100

**2nd Air Force Expeditionary Training Division:**

DSN 597-1375 or 7861; commercial 228-377-1375 or 7861

**2nd Air Force JET Strategic Communication (Facebook administrator):**

[2af.edjetia@us.af.mil](mailto:2af.edjetia@us.af.mil)

## Getting ready to cruise

Airmen Basic Brandon Worra, left, and Jacob Wenzl, students from the 332nd Training Squadron, trim the median on U.S. Highway 90 just east of Debuys Road Friday in preparation for Cruisin' the Coast. The Keesler volunteers assisted the City of Biloxi in preparing the major thoroughfare for the 14th annual event, which began Sunday and runs through this weekend. Visitors come to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to showcase and cruise in a variety of antique, classic and hot rod automobiles.

Photo by Kemberly Groue





## Students earn perfect scores in 335th Training Squadron

Airman 1st Class Jordan Parrish, left, and Tech. Sgt. Breonna Parker, completed their technical training in the 335th Training Squadron with perfect scores. Airman Parrish, a graduate of the financial management apprentice course, is stationed with the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 193rd Special Operations Wing, Middleton, Pa. Sergeant Parker, a graduate of the personnel apprentice course, is a reservist assigned to the 717th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Barksdale, La.



## TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

### Pitsenbarger awards

The deadline for fall Community College of the Air Force graduates to apply for the \$400 Pitsenbarger Award is 4 p.m. Tuesday.

Applications are available in the education office, Room 224, Sablich Center, or at <http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/pit.asp>.

The award is sponsored by the Air Force Association. Prior winners aren't eligible.

For more information, call 376-8708 or 8710.

### Commander's call

The 81st Training Group commander's call is 3:15 p.m. Oct. 14 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

For more information, call Staff Sgts. Bryan Walsh or Albrecco Jackson, 377-1154.

### Academy Day at USM

The 2010 4th Congressional District Academy Day is 8 a.m. to noon Oct. 16 in the student union at the University of Southern Mississippi's Hattiesburg campus.

Congressman Gene Taylor is hosting the event.

Representatives from all five service academies will attend to provide information and answer questions. Army, Air Force, and Navy ROTC representatives will also make a presentation, and cadets attending the academies will be on hand.

### Drill down, parade

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

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Julie Hammond, 377-2103.

### Commissioning briefings

Starting next week, commissioning briefings are 10 a.m. second Tuesday of the month in Room 224, Sablich Center.

### GI Bill benefits

Montgomery GI Bill benefits may be used in conjunction with tuition assistance.

For more information, call 376-8708.

## Registration opens for AETC Symposium

**Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs**  
RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Registration is now open for the 2011 Air Education and Training Command Symposium, Jan. 20-21 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio.

The two-day event will feature more than 90 seminars on a variety of education, training and innovation topics by experts from across the Air Force. For Airmen interested in technology and industry demonstrations, the Alamo Chapter of the Air Force Association will host an exposition in conjunction with the symposium.

James Sturch, AETC Symposium

event director, said the presentations will fall into five main categories: recruiting, leadership and communication, national and international security issues, operational issues, training innovations and educational innovations.

"This year's symposium promises to be one of the best yet and we expect more than 3,500 people to attend," Mr. Sturch said.

The keynote speaker for the Jan. 20 luncheon will be Gen. Douglas Fraser, U.S. Southern Command commander. The keynote speaker for the Jan. 21 luncheon will be Chief Master Sgt. James Roy, chief master sergeant of the Air Force. Both luncheons are included in the

symposium registration fee and open to all symposium attendees.

The symposium culminates with the AETC Ball, which will celebrate Airmen throughout AETC who have performed heroic actions and will include a performance by the Air Force Singing Sergeants. Retired Lt. Gen. John Hopper, former AETC vice commander, will emcee the symposium and the ball.

Participants can decide which seminars and discussions they want to attend, tailoring their experience at the symposium to their own professional needs and interests.

To register, visit <http://www.aetc-symposium.com>.



# WHO'S YOUR WINGMAN?





Photos by Kemberly Groue

Staff Sgt. Reneé Johnson, left, 81st Training Support Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Betty Love, right, 334th Training Squadron, welcome World War II veteran Evelyn Whittaker to her new home Monday.

## New Armed Forces Retirement Home opens 5 years after Katrina's destruction

By Randy Roughton

### Defense Media Activity

GULFPORT, Miss. — Armed Forces Retirement Home residents expected to be displaced for only a few weeks after Hurricane Katrina damaged their facility in 2005. The first 126 veterans returned home five years later to a larger and more lavish facility.

The residents lived at the AFRH's Washington D.C., facility for much of the past five years. Bill Williams, an Air Force veteran, was the first to enter the gate Sept. 4, after driving from Washington in his recreational vehicle.

"It's great to be back home," Mr. Williams said. "I felt very privileged to have spent the past couple of years in our nation's capital, but I feel like I'm back in my element. I was born and raised in the South."

The Gulfport facility evacu-



**The \$187 million, 800,000 square-foot facility offers four eight-floor towers and 582 rooms with individual balconies overlooking the Mississippi Sound.**

ated 416 residents Aug. 30, 2005, after Katrina destroyed several buildings and the steel and concrete perimeter around the facility. More than 400 residents stayed in the structure during the hurricane.

Mr. Williams was one of 41

residents who drove home, while the other 85 arrived by airplane to scores of people who greeted them with American flags at the airport. About 100 school children

Please see AFRC, Page 9

## IN THE NEWS

### 4 officers promoted

Four officers have been selected for promotion:

**To major** — Capt. Rhea Lagano, 2nd Air Force; Capt. Elizabeth Hernandez, Area Defense Counsel, and Capt. Jacob Simpson, 81st Medical Group medical law consultant.

**To lieutenant colonel** — Chaplain (Maj.) Henry Close III, 81st Training Wing.

### Clinics close for warrior training

#### 81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group conducts warrior training, noon to 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 such as shortness of breath, chest or abdominal pain or bleeding with pregnancy, go to the nearest emergency room or call 911 for an ambulance.

### Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for submissions for the Oct. 14 issue of the Keesler News is noon today because of Monday's Columbus Day holiday.

### Trick-or-treat in base housing

Trick-or-treat hours in base housing are 6-9 p.m. Oct. 31.

### New hours for postal centers

The base postal service centers have new hours.

The postal service center on Meadows Drive in the same building as the post office is now open 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The postal service center in the Levitow Training Support Facility is now open noon to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

These changes don't affect the hours for the post office.

### Off-limits list

These establishments have been declared "off-limits" to all armed forces personnel by the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board::

**Biloxi** — Ya-ya's, 2623 Pass Road.

**Pascagoula** — Bunksmall Apartments, 708 S. Pascagoula Street.

**Ocean Springs** — Pugs, 6213 Washington Avenue.

**D'Iberville** — Guitars and Cadillacs, 4031 Popp's Ferry Road

**Gulfport** — Herbal Alternatives, 1909 East Pass Road and 11530 U.S. Highway 49.

Service members are ordered not to enter or patronize these off-limits establishments or their locations. This restriction doesn't apply to armed forces police on duty or others on official business. Violations of this order are punishable under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

**Dragons deployed — 252**

lined an access road outside the retirement home gate with flags and hand-drawn signs to welcome the veterans.

More than 90 more residents arrive by Oct. 15, and another 125 arrive on an Oct. 25 flight, said Sheil Abarr, AFRH public affairs officer. Another 10 residents will be moved from area assisted living centers Nov. 2 before the official opening and an all-day celebration called "Glory on the Gulf" Nov. 8.

"For the residents who lived here, this was their home," Ms. Abarr said. "They were displaced within a 24-hour period to never see their room again, although we had everything shipped up there to them. We didn't even start moving their stuff out of the facility until about eight months in.

"What we tried to do as an agency was make them a part of the process, for them to

build their home. They have been involved, from looking at blueprints to going through mock-ups of their rooms, so they could put a hand at going back into their home.."

The \$187 million, 800,000 square-foot facility has four eight-floor towers and 582 rooms. The rooms are larger than in the previous facility and have kitchenettes and showers.

There's also a wellness center, indoor bocce court, bowling alley, Nintendo Wii stations, pool tables, swimming pool and hobby shops.

"You can look at pictures, but to walk in with residents when they walk into their rooms for the first time, and a couple of them had tears in their eyes because they were home," Ms. Abarr said. "I told them it's a very grateful nation because this was an appropriation. We consider our veterans our heroes, but for them to walk into their rooms for the first time was what was special.

## Airmen unite to welcome veterans home

By Senior Airman Eric Summers Jr.

### Keesler Public Affairs

Airmen at Keesler and the 366th Training Squadron's Detachment 6 at the Seabee Base in Gulfport have come together to welcome back several hundred veterans to the Mississippi Gulf Coast when the Armed Forces Retirement Home holds "Glory on the Gulf," its official opening celebration Nov. 8.

To greet the veterans as they return home, the Airmen have raised more than \$4,000 to prepare "welcome home" packages.

"The gifts will contain an American flag, sugarless mints and trinkets inside a mug with "Welcome Home" on one side and the AFRH logo on the other," said Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Jennings, 81st Mission Support Group superintendent, who spearheaded the project at Keesler.

The initiative began when his successor at the 366th TRS, Master Sgt. Wendell Snyder, saw a flyer for the reopening of the AFRH and thought it would be a cool thing for the military members on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to do something special for the returning veterans.

The 81st Training Group raised \$2,937.50, and Chief Jennings added the

remainder for a \$3,000 total. The chief was also successful in soliciting donations from base organizations — the first sergeants and the Air Force Sergeants Association both donated \$300. Chief Jennings told fellow members of the chiefs group he'd match whatever they donated, so the chiefs gave \$200 and Chief Jennings matched it.

"These veterans served before you and I did," said Chief Jennings. "Some served when they didn't have a choice — some served when there was still segregation. I grew up in an era when the military wasn't liked, many returned home without fanfare or welcome, but they still served. They served proudly and I have an abundance of respect for them.

"This also gives Airmen a chance to learn from history firsthand," he pointed out. "When you read a book, you can get some knowledge, but when you have a living, breathing piece of history, there's a much greater appreciation.

"I really want to thank the men and women of this wing for their help," the chief added. "From the time I sent the first email about this, I saw more than four grand raised."



## PCS moves customer survey

### Air Force News Service

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Airmen who recently completed a permanent change of station move have probably completed all the obvious steps involved in the move — boxes unpacked, children settled into new schools, PCS travel voucher completed.

However, travelers are advised that they're not yet done with their move if they haven't completed the personal property customer satisfaction survey that rates both the government and industry organizations in moving the family's household to the new duty station.

Officials say that whether this move was the best move ever, just average or the worst, travelers need to complete the 12-question survey to ensure leaders are aware of how the move went.

The results are used in two ways. First, the military services use the results to determine how well the origin and destination personal property offices did in assisting during the move. Additionally, the ratings on how well the commercial moving company performed determine how much business they will get from the Department of Defense in the future.

The surveys are e-mailed between seven and 21 days following the delivery of household property. Airmen who recently completed a PCS move but didn't receive the e-mail are asked to either select the Personal Property/POV link at [www.SDDC.army.mil](http://www.SDDC.army.mil) to access the survey or contact their local personal property office.

## Classes for job hunters

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

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

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

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

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

**Civilian format resume writing** — 2 p.m. today or Oct. 21, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2 or 16.

For more information, call 376-8728 or e-mail [lana.smith.1@us.af.mil](mailto: lana.smith.1@us.af.mil).

## Moving in October?

### 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron

The Joint Personal Property Office in San Antonio relocates to Port San Antonio today and is minimally manned this month.

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

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

## First sergeant symposium

Registration is under way for the Air Education and Training Command Additional Duty First Sergeant Symposium, Nov. 15-19 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy Training Center, Building 7356.

The symposium provides tools to prospective and current additional duty first sergeants. The event is unit-funded for members traveling to Lackland, and those attending must coordinate with their first sergeant or command chief prior to registration.

To register, visit <https://www.my.af.mil/afknprod/community/views/home.aspx?Filter=OO-DP-AE-54>.

For more information, call 210-671-3897 or DSN 554-2641.

# Deadline for stop loss benefit extended

By Daniel Elkins

### Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Eligible Airmen, veterans and their beneficiaries now have until Dec. 3 to apply for retroactive stop loss special pay following an extension in the continuing resolution signed by the president Sept. 30.

The new Dec. 3 deadline extends the original Oct. 21 cutoff for applications and allows eligible recipients more time to apply for the benefit.

Airmen eligible for the benefit include active, retired and former members as well as reserve and guard component members who served on active duty while their enlistment or period of obligated service was involuntarily extended, or whose eligibility for separation or retirement was suspended as a result of stop loss. Legally designated beneficiaries for Airmen affected may also apply.

To file a claim, eligible individuals may download a stop loss claim application at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss). Applicants who were serving in the Reserve or Guard at the time of stop loss may apply by visiting the Air Reserve Personnel Center website at <https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR>.

Due to the benefit period coming to a close

this year, officials at Air Force Personnel Center have seen an influx of applications, which has lengthened the processing period to eight to 10 weeks from the date an application is received. After processing, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service may require an additional 21 days for processing the payment.

Those found to be eligible are entitled to receive \$500 in retroactive special pay for each month they were affected by stop loss. Those who accepted a selective re-enlistment bonus subsequent to being affected by stop loss are not eligible for the special pay.

More than 3,700 claims by Airmen have been approved for retroactive stop loss special pay since officials here began accepting claims in September 2009.

Air Force officials used stop loss for Operation Enduring Freedom from Oct. 2, 2001, through Jan. 31, 2003, and Operation Iraqi Freedom from May 2 through Dec. 31, 2003. Individuals who were deployed during either operation may be eligible beyond the inclusive dates depending on their Air Force specialty and deployment return date.

For more information on program eligibility and claims instructions, call the Total Force Service Center, 1-800-525-0102.

**Information dominance wins wars — protect it!**



# Friday is special day to honor retirees

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler rolls out the red carpet for military retirees for its annual Retiree Appreciation Day, 8:30 a.m. Oct. 8 at the Dragon's Lair in Locker House.

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, and retired Master Sgt. Morgan Brown, representing the National Association for Uniformed Services, are guest speakers at a 10:15 a.m. ceremony featuring the Keesler Honor Guard.

The 81st Medical Group will be on hand to adminis-

ter vaccinations. Among the 30 sponsored booths are the hospital, Fisher House, commissary, Bay Breeze Event Center, Area Agency for Aging, Bancorp South, health and wellness center, finance, personnel, Air Force Association, Air Force Sergeants Association, airman and family readiness center.

Free smoothies are served, entertainment is planned and door prizes are given. A free lunch is served at 12:30 p.m.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Traci Dev-  
ereaux, 376-4445.

**Volunteer — get connected.**

## PREPARING for the storm



**Hurricane season continues through Nov. 30.**

**For hurricane preparation information,**

**log on to [www.keesler.af.mil](http://www.keesler.af.mil)**



# Education activity provides support for military children

**American Forces Press Service**

WASHINGTON — Department of Defense Education Activity officials are keeping on the cutting-edge of sharing resources and training tools with public schools supporting military families, a Washington education official said.

“Our goal is to reach military children who attend public schools,” said Kathy Facon, the activity’s chief of educational partnership. “We want to make sure that what’s good for our students is good for them too.”

Aimed at cooperation with public schools, the education activity serves as an ex officio member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Commission.

The compact is an agreement among states to ensure the smooth transition of military children between schools. The compact works to ease issues surrounding records transfer, graduation requirements and course sequencing, among others. So far, Mississippi and 34 states have signed the compact.

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children in South Carolina was passed June 11. According to the Compact information paper, the new legislation “allows for the uniform treatment, at the state and local district level, of military children transferring between school districts and states.”

The Interstate Compact had been in the works for two years and was initially brought to the table in July 2008.

With programs in place like the Interstate Compact, DODEA officials are working to develop training and marketing materials to help states

and school districts implement compact guidelines.

Most recently, officials offered up their latest special education training tools to public schools supporting military children after receiving positive reviews from their own teachers.

The program includes 16 training modules developed in cooperation with top experts in the special-education field, said David Butler, an education data specialist.

The modules cover a broad spectrum of topics including mediation and conflict resolution, classroom behavior management strategies and effective strategies for students with math difficulties, as well as a module on autism spectrum disorders.

“The modules were developed so they could be used on a widespread basis,” Ms. Facon said. “Much of the information can be applied to any teachers, not just those in special education.”

These key areas of support within the gates represent the DOD’s commitment to military children, and in further support outside the base gates, a robust grant program to school districts across the nation is also offered by DODEA. In the past two years, the activity has awarded \$96 million in grants to about 80 school districts, Ms. Facon said.

Officials have reached out to districts that have been affected by deployments or are in locations where education options are more limited for military families, she said.

Most of the grants are focused on academics to improve student achievement, but also include resources for additional counseling support, virtual learning opportunities

and professional development for the teaching staff.

Ms. Facon also highlighted an online resource called “Students at the Center” that benefits both military families and the schools they attend.

For military parents, the resource offers tips on navigating the public education system, as well as information on report cards, school performance and district achievement levels. For school leaders, it offers information on military families, particularly in regard to education and readiness, and how they can facilitate a safe and stable environment for military students. Military leaders can, for instance, find information on providing outreach to school boards.

“We’re very proud of this resource,” Ms. Facon said. “We’ve brought information that was available in many different formats into one location.”

For help via the web for students, the Department of Defense is also currently funding an online tutoring program for military children provided by Tutor.com. Eligible service members and their families connect to expert tutors online for help with homework, test preparation and academic skills in all core subjects at no charge.

Since 2001, the Tutor.com network of more than 1,800 professional tutors and career specialists have delivered more than 5 million one-on-one tutoring and career sessions. Now, service members and their families have access to the resources through a contract funded by DOD.

For more information on the education activity’s training and products, visit [www.militaryk12partners.dod.ea.edu](http://www.militaryk12partners.dod.ea.edu).

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



# Airmen learn conservation lesson

By Airman 1st Class Heather Holcomb

## Keesler Public Affairs

“Turn out that light” is something that many people grew up hearing on a constant basis because their parents knew the cost of energy. However, military members and their dependents are often oblivious to their energy use because they never see a bill.

The average monthly electricity bill for Keesler is more than a million dollars. As part of an effort to reduce energy consumption, a new briefing has been added to the First Term Airman’s Center program. Adrian Barcomb, base resource efficiency manager, presented new Airmen with facts about energy use and solutions for daily conservation in the first briefing Sept. 23.

Mr. Barcomb presented a three-part strategy — reduce demand, increase supply and change the culture.

Reducing demand boils down to using the least amount of energy possible while still supporting the mission. The need for energy is indisputable, but leaving computer monitors or lights on in an unoccupied office doesn’t support the mission and turning them off is a simple way to dramatically reduce energy consumption.

Increasing supply means increasing the use of renewable energy such as solar, wind, water, hydrogen, biomass and geothermal energies. Unlike oil-based energy production, these methods are more environmentally friendly and don’t run the risk of depletion.

Mr. Barcomb also presented a four-step process for changing the culture to be more energy conscious and efficient:

**Accept cultural change.** This means understanding the reason for change as well as the expectations of leadership.

**Educate and implement.** This means educating the public and encouraging participation at all levels.

**Innovate and improve.** This means reducing energy costs and using alternative energy solutions.

**Follow up and gather feedback.** This includes monitoring the effects of the implemented changes and sharing the results and new knowledge with the public.

Some ways to help conserve energy at home and in the office include:

- \* Turning off computer monitors, printers and other office equipment when not in use.
- \* Keeping thermostats set above 76 degrees in the spring and summer and below 69 degrees in the fall and winter.
- \* Reporting any outdoor lights left on during the day to civil engineering, 377-5561.
- \* Using Energy Star® rated products.
- \* Unplugging chargers when not in use.
- \* And not forgetting to turn out that light!



Photo by Airman 1st Class Heather Holcomb

## October highlights energy awareness

By Michael Donley

Secretary of the Air Force

and Gen. Norton Schwartz

Air Force chief of staff

The Air Force is engaged in a long-term effort to improve our nation’s energy security through energy efficiency and conservation. We have made solid progress in these areas over the past year, but our work is far from done. In order to meet our strategic energy goals, we must continue to instill energy efficiency and conservation into our daily routines within our aviation and our installation communities.

October is the federal government’s Energy Awareness Month, appropriately timed with the start of a new fiscal year. This year’s Air Force theme is “A New Culture: Energy as an Operations Enabler.” This theme highlights the ties between energy and mission success by raising awareness of the energy costs associated with our daily activities. As such, we must continue to emphasize the pillars of the the Air Force’s Energy Plan: Reducing Demand, Increasing Supply and Changing Our Culture.

Achieving our energy goals requires sustained effort, a systematic approach, determined leadership and a firm commitment from all of us to identify and implement workable solutions. You are an integral part of this effort. Through commitment, innovation, teamwork and discipline, we will free up funding for other Air Force priorities and enhance our energy security.

# Fire Prevention Week draws to close Saturday

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

There are three more days of Fire Prevention Week activities on base:

## Today

9 a.m. — visits to various base facilities and fire drills.

1 p.m. — commissary; fire drill and fire extinguisher demonstrations.

3 p.m. — Garfield Avenue and Givens Drive in East Falcon Park; stove and fire extinguisher demonstrations, fire truck display.

## Friday

9 a.m. — exchange and commissary.

1 p.m. — fire muster, marina.

## Saturday

10 a.m. — fire department open house; fire truck rescue, demonstrations, fire truck rides, static displays, safe house tour, fire prevention literature, fire hats, games, door prizes, giveaways and free hot dogs, popcorn and sodas.

For more information, call 377-8440.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Smokey the Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog pay a visit to 81st Training Wing headquarters to have a word with Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, wing commander, to kick off Keesler's observance of Fire Prevention Week. Events and activities promoting fire safety and prevention end this weekend with Saturday's fire department open house.**



# Legal office blazes trail to assist with gaining citizenship

## Legal office

Keesler is the first base in the Air Force to establish a partnership with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to assist military personnel and their family members with establishing U.S. citizenship.

From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 14, a USCIS representative will be in the legal office to meet with military members, their families, retirees and dependents to answer questions about becoming a citizen, legal permanent residency and the naturalization process. The representative will be able to explain the application process and how being a military member helps the immigration process.

Walk-ins and appointments are welcome.

“UCSIS plans to have a representative on base each month, so call the legal office if you can’t make the Oct. 14 date,” said Capt. Virginia Mack. “The success of this program depends on its use by the Keesler community.”

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 377-8601 or Captain Mack, 377-8132.

**To report  
sexual  
assaults,  
call  
Keesler's  
sexual assault  
response  
coordinator  
hotline,  
377-7278.**

# AADD offers free, safe rides back to base

By Jonathan Hicks

## Keesler Public Affairs

Keesler Airmen are making a difference in the fight against drunk driving with the Airmen Against Drunk Driving program.

AADD uses the Air Force wingman concept to help save lives by offering a confidential free ride back to the base for drivers who have been drinking.

The AADD phone number is 377-SAVE (7283). Hours are 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The service is also available during the same hours on Thursdays before non-trainings Friday and Sundays when there's a federal holiday on Monday.

"This program is a safe alternative for Airmen to get a ride home after they have had too much to drink," said Airman 1st Class Mackenzie Jackson, AADD president. He's a knowledge operations manager in the 81st Training Group.

"The purpose of this organization is two-fold," Airman Jackson explained. "First, we're trying to reduce alcohol-related incidents in our military and surrounding community by providing a variety of services. Second, we're trying to save the Armed Forces money for the cost of disciplining, retraining and replacing military personnel by reducing the loss of lives."

Airman Jackson said the

AADD program has been active at Keesler for five years. It's also in place at other bases."

"This year we have more than 200 active volunteers so far," he pointed out. "If someone is interested in volunteer-

ing, all they have to do is fill out our 'hold harmless' statement. The scheduler or I will input that information into our database and then send the individual a link to our schedule so they can volunteer whenever they like," he added.

So far this year, AADD has kept more than 270 people who have been drinking off the road.

"We have seen less people using the program this year than last year," he noted. "Last year we actually had

443 people use the program. In the future, I and the other executive officers are actively trying to come up with more incentives and rewards for our volunteers."

For more information or to volunteer, call 377-5511.

**Don't drink  
and drive.**

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

**More than  
270 saves  
so far this year**



# Online development plan improves total force career roadmaps

By Tech. Sgt. Phyllis Hanson

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The web-based career tool for total force Airmen, known as My Development Plan, is undergoing changes aimed at positively affecting the Air Force and its members' futures, officials said Sept. 28.

With a total force focus, MyDP is geared to help users make informed decisions about their career with information available at one site. Airman can access MyDP at <https://w20.afpc.randolph.af.mil/MyXDP>.

MyDP's primary goal is to be the "one-stop shop" for all career-related applications, from career progression to potential job assignments.

Presently, the site averages more than 23,000 user logins per month with members taking advantage of various networking opportunities and discussion forums. Exciting future additions, such as Career Path Tool and enhancements to the existing mentoring application will provide users even more capability to make informed decisions about their careers.

"The career path tool has incredible potential for career development for officers, civilians and enlisted Air Force members," said Patrick Hogan, Air Force acquisition career management director.

"More importantly, for perhaps the first time, supervisors, coaches, mentors and individuals will soon have one place to look for development paths, position information, projected vacancies and links to other essential career information," Mr. Hogan said. "The power of the interactive tool will facilitate and help integrate both next assignment consideration and long term career development planning."

MyDP already gives individuals instant access to their records, career field information, and a consolidated career summary - all from one website. Members can also use various forums to discuss career-field-specific information or other relevant matters with fellow members throughout the Air Force.

"A quick search in the MyEDP forums will reveal that somebody else has already asked the exact same question I have, which saves a great deal of time," said MyDP user Staff Sgt. Jonathan Rethford, an information technology project manager for Air Force Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems. "I would encourage other Airmen to use this resource before making decisions that could have major career impacts."

While there will be noticeable cosmetic improvements to the site in the coming months, such as redesigned menus, the key changes will be found with the relocation of "career impacting" applications to the MyDP application, said



Lt. Col. Paul Burger, force development information technology integration chief. "Our goal is to eventually place all career-impacting applications on MyDP, providing easy access for the total force."

The Career Path Tool provides unique capabilities not found in any existing Air Force personnel database or system.

The tool is "a dynamic career pyramid allowing career field managers and assignment teams to more proactively manage the field while providing Airmen the transparency needed to more effectively manage their careers through the capture and display of their experience" said Maj. Jason Johnson, force development information technology integration deputy chief.

"It is interactive, so Airmen can map out jobs, education and training, into a career plan they will be able to share with their mentor in a secure, online environment," Major Johnson said. "These plans will also provide the opportunity for members to devise a career path taking them from present day to a desired future job."

While this won't define the "golden path" to senior leadership, it will give Airmen an indication of what to do to keep them competitive," the major explained.

The CPT will be phased into MyDP beginning this fall, as the career field management teams map their Air Force specialty code duty histories into the tool. As each career field completes its mapping, the teams will make announcements to their members.

Another very beneficial tool within MyDP is the Mentor Network, Colonel Burger said.

"We're working to add the function within the Mentor Network whereby the mentee can share their eRecords with mentors in a secure online environment, giving the mentor the ability to make more informed decisions about a mentee's career," he added.

Airmen can choose to work with several mentors and select a mentor through the Mentor Network within MyDP. If a potential mentor is requested by a mentee and doesn't have a MyDP account, a request message will invite him or her to create one.

# National Healthcare Foodservice Workers Week

## Retired NCO's food service commitment reflected in civilian nutritional medicine job

By Steve Pivnick

### 81st Medical Group Public Affairs

National Healthcare Foodservice Workers Week is an annual event being celebrated this week to recognize the important role food service staff has in keeping patients and hospital staff well-nourished and healthy.

Michael Trahan epitomizes that philosophy. Having spent most of his active-duty Air Force career in the nutritional medicine field, he was determined to continue in the field following retirement. He currently supervises nine civilian members of the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron nutritional medicine flight.

Mr. Trahan served more than 21 years in the Air Force, retiring in August 2005 as a master sergeant.

"I spent my first 4½ years as a plumbing specialist in civil engineering," he recounted.

"I retrained into diet therapy in 1988. I attended the six-week basic food service school at Lowry Air Force Base, Colo., and then went to diet therapy school at Sheppard AFB, Texas."

In November 1988, Mr. Trahan reported to Keesler to begin work in his new career field as a diet therapy technician. In 2001, he moved to Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom, for three years before being reassigned to F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., in 2004.

"We left Wyoming in June 2005 when I began my terminal leave," he said. "I was looking forward to starting work in the Keesler hospital in October, but then Katrina hit and, of course, that put a hold on things so I did electrical work in the local community until a cook position opened up in October 2006."

Mr. Trahan has been in his current position for two years.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Mr. Trahan talks with cook Laurence Wilson as he places eggs in a bowl for the Sept. 28 breakfast meal in the hospital cafeteria. Mr. Wilson is one of nine employees Mr. Trahan supervises.

**News tips? Call the Keesler News, 377-4130, or e-mail [keeslernews@us.af.mil](mailto:keeslernews@us.af.mil)**



# Base pharmacies plan free activities to observe pharmacists month

By Maj. Winnie Lok-Park

## 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron

October is American Pharmacists Month. To mark the observance, the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron Pharmacy has planned several free activities for beneficiaries.

From 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at the hospital pharmacy and 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 19 at the exchange pharmacy, patients can bring in their medications and herbal supplements and speak with the pharmacist about any concerns.

Tours are scheduled at the exchange pharmacy, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Oct. 18, 20 and 21, and the hospital pharmacy, 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Oct. 18-20 to help patients understand what pharmacists do after they receive a prescription and show how prescriptions are filled. The staff takes patients behind locked doors to display state-of-the-art technology and answer any questions. Space is limited, so sign up is required at the pharmacy during duty hours.

For parents concerned about children getting into medicine cabinets or cleaning supplies, the pharmacy staff provides poison prevention education for children at the child development center, 10 a.m. Oct. 14.

Anyone with questions about their medications should contact their pharmacists; they are the best and most accessible medication experts.

A dialogue between patients and pharmacists about any prescription or non-prescription medicines they're taking will ensure patients receive maximum health benefits and harmful side effects are minimized.

Pharmacists know how medications may interact with food, other medicines or



Photo by Steve Pivnick

## Pharmacist Capt. Lisa Dykes fills a prescription using the hospital pharmacy's "robot."

dietary supplements that can affect the patient or the effectiveness of the medicines. Some interactions can be dangerous. When picking up a new medicine, patients should ask if it will work safely with other prescription and nonprescription medicines they may be taking. Patients also need to inform their pharmacist about any herbal products they are using.

Following the pharmacist's advice to ensure proper medication use can also save money. Not following a prescription's instructions or discontinuing its use without consulting with the health care provider could lead to more expensive treatments, such as surgery or hospitalization.

With the array of complex and effective medications now available, it's more important than ever that patients consult their pharmacist to improve medication use. Patients can help manage their own care by reading labels, knowing the active ingredient in the medications and talking with the pharmacist.

Pharmacists also provide

information about how to best store medications in the home and what medications patients should have on hand. The pharmacist can advise patients what to do once a medication reaches its expiration date and recommend proper disposal of expired medications.

Today's pharmacists no longer are simply drug dispensers. The pharmacy itself has become a health care center. Pharmacists are actively changing their practices to meet the challenges of the health-care system and patient needs and demands.

Patients should expect a higher level of service from today's pharmacists. They should look to their pharmacists to provide medication counseling services, including drug regimen reviews and drug interaction checks, disease-specific medication monitoring, coordination of patient care with physicians and other health care providers, and monitoring medication side effects.

Information from the American Pharmacists Association was used in this report.

# The Airman's Creed

*I am an American Airman.  
I am a Warrior:  
I have answered my nation's call.*

*I am an American Airman.  
My mission is to fly, fight and win.  
I am faithful to a proud heritage,  
A tradition of honor,  
And a legacy of valor.*

*I am an American Airman,  
guardian of freedom and justice,  
My nation's sword and shield,  
Its sentry and avenger.  
I defend my country with my life.*

*I am an American Airman:  
Wingman, leader, warrior.  
I will never leave an Airman behind,  
I will never falter  
and I will not fail.*



# Fiscal '10 contracting actions top \$5.3 million

By Lt. Col. Jonathan Wright

## 81st Contracting Squadron

During the 2010 fiscal year which drew to a close last week, the 81st Contracting Squadron awarded 113 contract actions totaling \$5,311,828 with small businesses in Biloxi, Ocean Springs, D'Iberville, Gulfport, Pascagoula, and Gautier.

September's actions included 11 contracts valued at \$506,791 for various construction projects and services.

Contractors and vendors interested in bidding opportunities can find all requirements for goods and services valued over \$25,000 posted on [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov). Posts from the 81st CONS are found under Agencies, then Department of the Air Force, then search by location to find 81st CONS.

For more information, contact George Budz, director of business operations, 377-3131.

Additionally, a significant portion of Keesler's construction contract business is done through CSC. For more information, contractors and vendors may call Nancy Holliday, 377-4213.



## New dining choices available at shoppette



Photos by Kemberly Groue  
Supervisor Kai Hernandez takes an order at Noble Roman's Pizza Monday. The new shoppette food outlet is open for carry out and delivery orders, 10:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. daily and until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. To place orders, call 267-6767.



Staff Sgts. Leah Gonzalez, left, 335th Training Squadron, and her husband, Staff Sgt. Andres Gonzalez, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, place their lunch orders with cashier Valentina Johnson Monday at Popeye's Chicken. There's a dining room inside and a drive-up window. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. In a few weeks, Popeye's will open at 6 a.m. for breakfast customers.





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



## Exchange contest offers gift cards to young shoppers

### AAFES Public Affairs

DALLAS – The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is teaming up with Hershey's, giving six young people a chance to scare up an exchange gift card during Hershey's "Tag Me!" Halloween character-naming contest.

Authorized shoppers ages 5–17 can submit names for one,

or all six Halloween characters, by logging on to the Patriot Family Connection, [www.shopmyexchange.com/Patriot\\_Family/events.asp](http://www.shopmyexchange.com/Patriot_Family/events.asp), through Oct. 31.

Characters to be named include a lollipop-loving vampire, a wolfman who enjoys devouring gummy worms and a candy bar-consuming mummy.

The top five entries for each character will be selected by exchange leadership. The finalists will have their submissions reposted to the Facebook page for a final vote by fans.

Winners receive a \$250 exchange gift card.

For more information, log on to [http://www.shopmyexchange.com/Patriot\\_Family/tag\\_me.asp](http://www.shopmyexchange.com/Patriot_Family/tag_me.asp)

## Finance office closed

The finance office is closed today for unit compliance inspection preparation and training.

## 81st CS closed

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

Regular hours resume after the inspection.

For emergencies, call 376-8127.

## Spouses club luncheon

Reservations for Tuesday's Keesler Spouses Club luncheon must be made by 11 a.m. today by calling 207-2523.

The 11 a.m. event at the Bay Breeze Event Center is hosted by the 81st Training Group spouses.

The menu includes Greek pasta, salad, roll and dessert for \$12 for Air Force Club members and \$14.40 for others.

## Blessing of the Animals

The chapel sponsors an ecumenical Blessing of the Animals Sunday:

**5 p.m.** — Patrick Drive roundabout, Bay Ridge.

**6 p.m.** — playground at Lincoln and Garfield, East Falcon Park.

**6:30 p.m.** — playground at Adams and Fairchild, West Falcon Park.

All participants receive a memento from the chaplains.

For more information, call Chaplains (Capts.) Charles Mal-lory, 377-4859, or Ruben Covos, 377-2331.

## Second career briefing

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

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

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

Topics include job competition, transition planning, resumes, salary negotiation,

networking and interviewing.

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

## Airman's Attic hours

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

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

Donations are needed such as furniture, area rugs, cutlery, dish-ware, infant wear and maternity clothes which are clean and in good condition. Bring donations to Airman's Attic during regular hours, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, non-training Fridays and the last Saturday of the month.

## Thrift shop hours

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

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

For more information, call 377-3217.

## Supply source

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

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

## Speakers bureau

The public affairs office is looking for people who enjoy public speaking to tell the Air Force story.

The Keesler Speakers Bureau is a community relations program developed as a public service and information vehicle. It's comprised of military and civilian Air Force employees who volunteer their time and information to speak to community groups.

Speakers come from a variety of experiences and backgrounds that offer a variety of presentations. Topics include aircraft maintenance, aviation, computer operations, communication skills, health, military life, military law, combat experience, financial management, child development, Air Force history and more.

For more information, call YoLanda Wallace, 377-1179.

## Periodontal patients

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

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

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

For more information, call 376-5225.

## Healthy living classes

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

Classes are 3 p.m. Wednesdays in the Arnold Medical

Annex conference room in on Meadows Drive behind the tennis courts.

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

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

## Be Well class

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

The three-part class focuses on exercise, nutrition and behavior modifications. It's recommended for people who aren't sure how to start an exercise program or make improvements in overall health, fitness and diet. It's taught by an exercise physiologist, the HAWC dietician and a mental health technician.

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

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

## Root canal treatment

The Keesler Dental Clinic is seeking patients who require root canal treatment.

All authorized beneficiaries, including military retirees and dependents of active duty and retired, are eligible for care.

Patients accepted for treatment are treated by either the endodontic specialty program residents or the residents in the general dentistry program.

Referral from a dentist for root canal treatment is needed.

For more information, call 376-5227.

## Root canal treatment

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Referral from a dentist for root canal treatment is needed.

For more information, call the endodontics department, 376-5227.

## Supply classes

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

**Block I** basic supply class is 9 a.m. Dec. 15.

All newly-assigned supply custodians and resource managers are required to attend.

For more information, contact Patrick Governale, 377-5998 or patrick.governale.ctr@us.af.mil, or Paulette Powell, 377-2270, paulette.powell.1.ctr@us.af.mil.

**Block IIA-Bench Stock** is 9-9:30 a.m. Dec 9. To schedule an appointment, call Crystal Simpson, 377-9955.

**Block IIB-Repair Cycle** is 10-11 a.m. Dec 9. To schedule an appointment, call Nathaniel Parks, 377-2310.

**Block III** training is 1 p.m. Dec. 15. All newly-assigned supply equipment custodians are required to attend as well as all other custodians annually.

For more information, contact Willie McDonald, 377-2660 or willie.mcdonald.1.ctr@us.af.mil or Paulette Powell, 377-2270, paulette.powell.1.ctr@us.af.mil



## Wing run

Cooler fall temperatures greeted runners for the 81st Training Wing's quarterly flight line run, Sept. 30.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



# Gators chomp way to intramural soccer title

By Sam Miller

## Intramural sports director

The 334th Training Squadron Gators avenged a regular season loss to the 338th TRS Dark Knights A-team by winning the inaugural Keesler 7 vs. 7 intramural soccer championship.

The Gators, led by head coach Steven Haro, took the crown with a 3-1 win over the Gators, the only team to defeat them in the regular season.

This matchup was very intriguing, because both squadrons have players that compete with Keesler's varsity soccer team. The players practiced with each other for most of the season in preparation for the Defender's Cup Alamo City Military Open Soccer Tournament held over the Labor Day weekend.

Both teams dominated the regular season finishing with 9-1 records and a five-goal average margin of victory.

The first meeting Aug. 2 between these two squadrons was highly anticipated, with both teams boasting undefeated records. The squads were tied, 3-3, after 50 minutes of regulation play, but the Dark Knights took the regular season victory over the Gators in a 2 to 1 shootout.

The defense was stern early



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Dark Knights teammates Manuel Leon, left, and Fred Riley, right, surround the Gators' John Cortes-Ramirez as he moves the ball down the field.

in the first half of championship. Both teams took a considerable number of shots before the Gators were able to

score to take a 1-0 lead going into the half.

The Gators scored early in the second half of the match

and looked ready to put the game away.

But four possessions later, the Dark Knights cut the score

to 3-1. In spite of the Dark Knights late gain in momentum, the Gators pulled out the victory.



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## Keesler nurse in training for Marine Corps Marathon

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Kristin Reed, a nurse in the 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron, is training for the Marine Corps Marathon being held Oct. 31 in Washington, D.C.

To prepare for the 26.2-mile run, she has been following the Hal Higdon marathon training program. The 18-week program consists of four short runs and one long run each week, increasing in distance weekly.

"I also cross-train one day a week, usually ply metrics, sprints or interval runs, and rest one day per week," Reed explained. "I got into running track in high school and did a few 5Ks. I started running longer distances in 2009.

"I think the key to running is to find a partner and motivate each other," she suggested. "You'll actually work out if you are accountable to someone else; start small and increase in distance slowly. If you feel like you need to take a day off, do! But don't stop entirely, because it is difficult to get started back up."

Reed completed the full Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, in September 2009. She also completed the Marine Corps Half Marathon at Fredericksburg, Va., in May 2009, the Mississippi Coast Half Marathon at Stennis Space Center in November and Toys for Tots Half Marathon in Mobile in December.

"I also ran a half marathon in June while deployed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar," she added.



Photo by Steve Pivnick  
Kristin Reed trains on the  
Crotwell Track Sept. 13.

## Varsity basketball tips off Saturday

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler's varsity basketball teams open the 2010-11 Southeastern Military Athletic Conference Saturday at Blake Fitness Center.

The women tip off at noon and the men hit the court at 2 p.m. against Mayport Naval Station, Fla.

The Keesler Dragons tied for the regular season title with Hurlburt Field, Fla., last season with an 8-3 record.

Because of that regular season title, Keesler was selected to compete in the National Military Athletic Association's tournament at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, April 9-12. The Dragons won the NMAA championship.

There are eight men's teams and seven women's teams in SEMAC this season. Hurlburt doesn't have a women's team.

Keesler's SEMAC schedule:

**Oct. 16** — Keesler at Robins AFB, Ga.

**Oct. 23** — Maxwell AFB, Ala., at Keesler.

**Oct. 30** — Keesler at Hurlburt Field.

**Nov. 6** — Keesler at Tyndall AFB, Fla.

**Nov. 13** — Eglin AFB, Fla., at Keesler.

**Dec. 4** — Keesler at Mayport.

**Dec. 11** — Robins at Keesler.

**Jan. 8** — Keesler at Maxwell.

**Jan. 15-17** — 4th annual Martin Luther King challenge, Eglin.

**Jan. 22** — Hurlburt Field at Keesler.

**Jan. 29** — Tyndall at Keesler.

**Feb. 5** — Keesler at Eglin.

**Feb. 19-21** — men's post-season tournament, Hurlburt Field.

**Feb. 26-27** — women's postseason tournament, location to be determined.

**March 11-13** — March Madness men's and women's tournament, Mayport.

**Date to be determined** — NMAA men's tournament, Fort Myers, Washington, D.C.



# Run stresses breast cancer awareness



Photo by Kemberly Groue  
Nina Cox was the first place runner in Friday's Breast Cancer Awareness 5-kilometer run with a time of 26 minutes, 23 seconds. Her husband is Travis Cox, 333rd Training Squadron. Duane Ellerbe, 338th TRS, came in second with a time of 27:28. The third place runner was Ralph Godinez, 335th TRS.

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