



# KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

FEB. 17, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 7

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## Resilience — bounce, bend, don't break

By Maj. Matthew Stratton

335th Training Squadron

There's a well-known saying, sometimes attributed to the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus, that says, "The only thing that is constant is change." Many of us who have been in the Air Force for more than a few years could echo that sentiment. Whether it's a new assignment or a new computer system, updated physical training tests or promotion rates, change is a part of life in the Air Force. And while that change can be exciting, it can also be a source of stress.

So what happens when an Airman's stress goes beyond a normal day-to-day level and starts to really build? Suppose there's a financial emergency or a failed relationship. Maybe there's a personal loss or some other life-changing event. How will an Airman deal with that level of stress? The answer to that question largely depends on the individual, the resources they draw upon and their resilience.

Resilience is a term that's being used more frequently in discussions about stress. As defined by the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health, resilience is "the ability to withstand, recover and/or grow in the face of stressors and changing demands." That's a very thorough definition, but it



might be a little too clinical-sounding for use by some of us front-line supervisors. As it applies to my work center and my own life, I prefer to think of resiliency as the ability to bounce back, and not break, after encountering stress.

While everyone is resilient to some degree, some people are more resilient and others are less so. Fortunately, there are ways that resilience can be enhanced. Just like physical training will improve our physical fitness, strengthening key areas of our lives will improve our resilience and better equip us to deal with stress. Those key areas are the four components of our personal wellbeing: our mental,

social, physical, and spiritual wellness. With some initiative and some occasional assistance, we can develop these areas of our lives and increase our ability to bounce back after stressful events.

Even the most resilient among us, though, has a breaking point when too much stress becomes distress.

If that point is reached and our coping skills are overwhelmed by the stress, there's no telling how we'll react. One person might shut down and withdraw, while another might lash out in frustration. That's when a good wingman is needed to recognize the warning signs and then care enough to act. An Airman who is situationally aware and resilient may be able to guide a hurting co-worker, friend or wingman to assistance and possibly help save a life.

To help get Airmen thinking about becoming more resilient, the Air Force chief of staff has directed that each unit hold a resilience-focused Wingman Day by the end of February. Wednesday is the 81st Training Wing's Wingman Day. That day, from 1-4 p.m., most work centers will stand down from technical training, services and non-emergency operations to conduct Wingman Day activities.

For more information, contact your unit representative for unit-specific activities, times and locations.

## Mardi Gras 2011

### Let the good times roll, but keep safety in mind

By Virgil Mitchell

81st Training Wing safety chief

Mardi Gras 2011 is ready to roll along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Saturday, the 1 p.m. Ocean Springs Elks Parade winds through the downtown area from the Ocean Springs Yacht Club down Porter Avenue, turning north on Washington Avenue and then east on Government Street to end at Ocean Springs High School.

The next nearby parade is the North Bay Mardi Gras Association Parade, 1:30 p.m. March 6, that rolls through the D'Iberville-St. Martin communities. The route goes down Lemoine Boulevard to Central Avenue to Rodriguez Street to Automall Parkway and back up to Central Avenue.

The carnival season culminates in Biloxi at 1 p.m. March 8 with the 103rd Gulf Coast Carnival Association downtown parade, followed immediately by the Krewe of

Neptune parade. The route starts near the railroad tracks at Martin Luther King Boulevard, moving south down Main Street, west on U.S. Highway 90 to turn north on Lameuse Street to rejoin Martin Luther King Boulevard to Reynoir Street, back to Highway 90, north on Porter Avenue and west on Howard Avenue to Caillavet Street.

This information is being provided so you can position yourself in a safe location for the festivities.

Mardi Gras is a lot of fun, but it can and often does turn tragic in just seconds. Here are some safety tips to ensure a safe, enjoyable time:

**Almost every year**, fatalities and serious injuries result when a parent turns and fails to supervise a child who can fall under the wheels of a float.



**Never reach under a float** to pick up a throw or hang on to float decorations because the float can start moving at any instant.

**Park in a safe location** that doesn't have parking restrictions or your vehicle could be towed away.

**Be aware of your surroundings** when driving or walking near parades and parade traffic.

Never run in between or chase floats for beads or throws.

**Clear the path** for bands and other marching groups as they go by.

**Don't approach horses** in the parade unless the rider indicates that it is OK.

**Don't approach floats** or other vehicles in the parade until they come to a stop.

**Don't drink and drive.** Report

intoxicated drivers to proper authorities.

**Watch out for beads** and trinkets thrown during the parade.

**Wear sunglasses** during the day to protect your eyes from sun and throws.

**Keep all beads**, small trinkets, snapping pops and plastic bags away from small children.

**Don't place ladders** in intersections or fasten ladders together for a better parade view. The distance of a ladder from a curb should be at least equal to the ladder's height.

**Don't climb** on or over barricades.

**Don't carry** anyone on your shoulders.

**Never leave children** unattended.

**Have a meeting place** in case anyone gets lost from your group.

**Police officers** can direct parents to lost child stations.

**Enjoy, relax and have fun**, but do it safely. Happy Mardi Gras!

Susan Griggs, Keesler News editor, contributed to this article.



## ON THE COVER

Trisha Meagher, spouse of Staff Sgt. Frank Meagher, 333rd Training Squadron, developed a rare heart condition called peripartum cardiomyopathy when she was pregnant with her second child, 3-year-old Felicity. Her story, originally published in this month's issue of South Mississippi Living magazine, was written by Leigh Coleman and is reprinted with permission on Page 16 in observance of National Heart Month. Sergeant Meagher is currently deployed. South Mississippi Living photo by John Stricklin

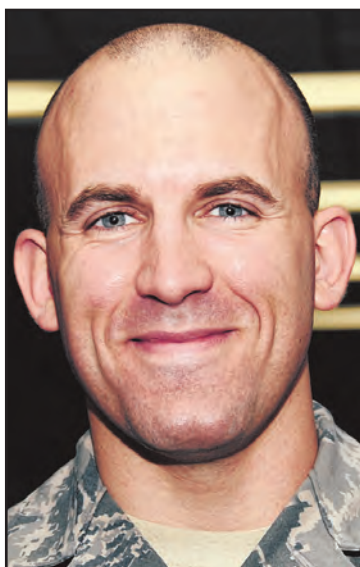


## DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

What would be your dream job?



"I'm doing my dream job — I'm serving in the military."

Senior Airman Matthew Splichal, 81st Training Wing safety office



"Any job that lets me help others and make them happy."

Elizabeth Cathey, 81st Force Support Squadron



"Head football coach at the University of Tennessee."

Senior Airman David Edwards, 81st Comptroller Squadron

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## AETC leaders visit Keesler

By Senior Airman  
Eric Summers Jr.

Keesler Public Affairs

Gen. Edward Rice Jr., commander of the Air Education and Training Command, visited Keesler Feb. 7-8.

Accompanied by Chief Master Sgt. James Cody, AETC's command chief, the leadership team became better acquainted with the 81st Training Wing and 2nd Air Force training missions, toured facilities and met with students, permanent party enlisted members and officers and base leaders.

"This base may be small in square footage, but what you accomplish here is a lot," the general said during a commander's call Feb. 7.

"What we do in AETC forms the very foundation for everything else that happens in our Air Force," General Rice continued. "If we don't get this right, everything that goes on downstream from here is more difficult, if not impossible. What we do here and what you do here matters to the future of our Air Force, so I pay attention to it.

"The good news is that I am very pleased with what I have seen so far," the general added. "I think we're doing as well as can be done in terms of delivering Airmen who are ready to meet the broad missions throughout our Air Force. We are doing that not only because we have the right people involved, but because those people are exerting leadership at every level. Our success is much more a function of what you all do than what I do."

AETC's commander stressed that Air Force leaders can help provide guidance and direction, "but at the end of the day, the innovation that's going to take us into the future is not going to come from us — it's going to come from you. I saw several examples of that today from people who are involved in training or involved in activities



Photo by Kemberly Groue

**General Rice speaks to technical training students from the 81st Training Group Feb. 7 on the Triangle parade field.**

that have come up with new and better ways to do our mission.

"We have many more successes than problems because of you and what you do. We continue to be the most powerful, most envied, strongest, most professional Air Force in the world," General Rice said.

"For me this is like coming back home," Chief Cody told Team Keesler members at the commander's call. "It has been my honor to serve in this Air Force for 26 years and it really did start here. I came in an open general type of guy and they sent me here and said I was going to do air traffic control. It was the people that trained me here at Keesler that set me up for my entire career.

"They taught me the things

I needed to know — they built on the things I learned in basic, but moreover, they gave me purpose," the chief pointed out. "It really was the men and women just like you sitting in the audience that had an impact on my career."

Teresa Rice and Athena Cody accompanied their husbands on the visit to Keesler. In addition to touring student and permanent party dorms and several training venues with their husbands, Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Cody visited the airman and family readiness center, youth center, child development center, Fisher House and met with key spouses and the board of directors of the Keesler Spouses Club.

[www.jetairmen.af.mil](http://www.jetairmen.af.mil)

New website with information about  
the Joint Expeditionary Tasking  
and the  
Individual Augmentee programs

# 81st Training Group highlights top performers

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The 81st Training Group recognized 21 of its top performers Feb. 10 at its annual awards luncheon at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Master Sgt. Torry Hickson, 338th Training Squadron, claimed two awards — senior noncommissioned officer and senior NCO instructor of the year.

Other group award winners who advance to 81st Training Wing annual awards competition are:

**Airman** — Airman 1st Class Siera Wilson, 81st Training Support Squadron.

**Noncommissioned officer** — Tech. Sgt. Javaughn Johnson, 334th TRS.

**Company grade officer** — Capt. Allyson Strickland, 335th TRS.

**First sergeant** — Master Sgt. Charles Gallaher, 338th TRS.

**Civilian category 1** — Kristin Trujillo, 81st TRSS.

**Civilian category 2** — James Gunn, 334th TRS.

**Civilian category 2** — Elizabeth LeBlanc, 333rd TRS.

Technical training annual award winners are:

**Airman instructor** — Senior Airman Charles Boyd, 38th TRS.

**NCO instructor** — Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Jones, 333rd TRS.

**Civilian instructor** — Wendi Fischer, 335th TRS.

**Officer instructor** — Capt. Brian Miller, 335th TRS.

**Junior military training leader** — Tech. Sgt. Julie Hammond, 81st TRSS.

**Senior MTL** — Master Sgt. Anthony Fisher, 81st TRSS.

**Flight chief** — Senior Master Sgt. Renaldo Garza, 338th TRS.

**Support airman** — Airman 1st Class Brett David, 81st TRSS.

**Support NCO** — Staff Sgt. Anna Wilson, 332nd TRS.

**Support senior NCO** — Senior Master Sgt. Phuoc Phan, 335th TRS.

**Support civilian** — Karen Peden, 338th TRS.

**Training squadron** — 334th TRS.

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

## Admissions liaison officers are recruiters for Air Force Academy

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Have you ever wondered who goes to the Air Force Academy and how they get there? High school students and prior enlisted service members from all over the country, and even other nations, attend the academy, and there's a whole force of admission liaison officers to assist them in their preparation and admission process.

Many high school students know about the Air Force Academy from their family and friends in the Air Force, exposure to the academy's sports teams or even from visiting the campus in the foothills of the Rockies near Colorado Springs, Colo. But many other students across the country have never heard of the Air Force Academy or don't realize that they may be qualified to attend. An ALO plays a valuable role in both situations.

"An ALO's job is to identify, recruit, counsel and evaluate local high school students who are interested, or who may be interested, in attending the Air Force Academy," says Maj. Casey Moore, a reservist who's been an ALO for the state of Mississippi for the last five years following an active-duty Air Force career.

"ALOs play a major role, sometimes the most important role, in the process of finding outstanding young people that go on to attend the AFA and become future leaders of the Air Force and our country," Major Moore explained.

An ALO is a nonpaid position. Most ALOs do much of their work from their homes, but also travel to local schools, homes and communities to meet with and recruit students.

Major Moore points out that the ALO job is not only a great asset for the prospective academy cadet, but "being an ALO is personally fulfilling. It's a great feeling to be able to help these young people realize their dream of attending the Air Force Academy, or in many cases, guiding a

student that has not considered the academy into realizing what a great opportunity it is. And it is a great way to continue serving in the Air Force even beyond active duty."

The Mississippi ALO unit, made up of 20 members, always needs additional recruiters, especially in the Gulf of Mexico region. Most officers can become an ALO as an additional duty to their primary active-duty, reserve or Air National Guard job. Retired officers and some civilians with ties to the Air Force Academy can also serve as ALOs.

"ALOs are assigned regions within Mississippi, and then specific high schools within that region to cover," Major Moore noted. "ALOs can even live outside of Mississippi, but all schools and regions will be in Mississippi, so it might not be convenient to live too far away. I actually live in Collierville, Tenn., just north of Mississippi, and cover the northern region of the state for my ALO duties.

"Being an ALO is essentially a part-time military job that has many benefits," Major Moore said. "You can earn points toward retirement, it provides great input for performance reports and the opportunity for promotion may be beyond what you might be doing now.

"I think many officers would find being an ALO a very rewarding experience, as well as a great way to serve their country in a way that will benefit us all many years into the future," Major Moore continued. "Additionally, interested active-duty, reserve or guard personnel can become an ALO in a primary Category E reserve capacity. Although it's a non-paid position, ALOs earn points toward retirement while performing a very important job helping Mississippi's outstanding youth."

For more information on Air Force Academy opportunities or becoming an ALO, e-mail Major Moore, caseykmooore@hotmail.com, or call 1-901-651-1440 or e-mail





Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airman Basic James Carver, 336th Training Squadron, has his white rope removed by Airman Basic Kellie-Jo Gomey, 336th TRS, during a ceremony at the Levitow Training Support Facility Jan. 19. During the “Roping Out” ceremony, students who are only a few weeks away from leaving Keesler have their ropes removed as the responsibilities move on to another student volunteer.

## Chapel’s White Rope program marks path for servant leadership

By Jonathan Hicks

Keesler Public Affairs

Leadership is more than just leading people — it’s also serving them, like many student Airmen are doing through the chapel’s volunteer White Rope program.

This student-led program models excellence by the service of others through its four pillars of spiritual formation, authentic community, leadership and service opportunities.

“We do expect a lot from our White Ropes,” said Chaplain (Capt.) Garrell Calton, 81st Training Wing chaplain. “Mentorship is a large part of the program and so is communicating the ideas, needs and concerns of the rest of the student population to the chaplains. It’s a lot of responsibility for them as they follow what we call the 3 Hs of help, honor and hospitality.”

In addition to scheduling activities and assisting fellow students, approximately 100 White Ropes volunteer their services to the local community in food banks, beach and community clean-ups, the humane society, shelters and other community events.

“I became a White Rope because it was the best outlet for me to give back and serve the community,” said Airman 1st Class Clark Kelly, 338th Training Squadron. “I also like helping the other students with their problems. We even raised money on our own and cooked for students who didn’t go home for the holidays.”

Although White Ropes offer guidance, they aren’t allowed to counsel any student, but instead refer them to the chaplains for their counseling needs.

“Students feel we are more approachable and can talk eas-

ier to us,” said Airman 1st Class Katelyn Marshall, 338th TRS. “We answer questions they have or direct them where to go to find out what they want to know. Also, if the students have ideas or concerns about something, we address it with the chaplains.”

“Our White Ropes are like my right hand,” Chaplain Calton said. “They keep me informed about what’s going out there, but it’s definitely a two-way street because I also bounce ideas off of them.”

Although it’s strictly a volunteer program, White Ropes are held to the highest standards of professionalism and morality. There’s an application process that also includes interviews with current White Ropes before final selections are made.

For more information on the White Rope program, call 376-3095.

## Medic chosen to teach at Canadian NCO Academy

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Senior Master Sgt. Laura Herring has been selected for a unique assignment. She will become an instructor at the Canadian Forces Senior NCO Academy, located about 60 miles southeast of Montreal.

Sergeant Herring, superintendent of the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron pathology and laboratory flight, learned she was chosen for the post Jan. 11 when she received a phone call from the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.



Sergeant Herring

She said she had applied around Thanksgiving and believes each numbered Air Force was asked to submit nominees.

“I’m excited!” Sergeant Herring said. “This will be my first instructor duty.”

The 22-year Air Force veteran — all in the laboratory career field — arrived at Keesler 13 months ago.

Sergeant Herring started language training at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Feb. 10. She scored a 113 on the language aptitude test — a score of 95 or higher is required.

Following the six-month school, Sergeant Herring, a Dallas native, attends the six-week basic instructor course at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Make energy awareness part of your day.

## Sailor is State of Union guest



Courtesy photo  
Petty Officer 1st Class Darius Sayers, left, was the guest of Mississippi Congressman Steven Palazzo to attend President Barack Obama's State of the Union address, Jan. 25 in Washington, D.C. Petty Officer Sayers won last year's Thomas V. Fredian Community Leadership Award from the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce. He's a master training specialist in Keesler's Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit's advanced calibration technician school and coordinates the command's community service efforts.

## 3 technical training students have perfect scores



From left, Airman Basic Jacob Burghardt and Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Bauer, 336th Training Squadron, and Airman 1st Class Hammad Ghazali, 338th TRS, have graduated from technical training with perfect scores. Airman Burghardt, from Fond du Lac, Wisc., completed both the information technology fundamentals and cyber systems operations courses with perfect scores. He'll follow on with Security + training before heading to his first assignment at Misawa Air Base, Japan. Sergeant Bauer, from Waukesha, Wisc., completed both ITF and cyber surety apprentice courses with perfect scores and already possesses his Security + certification. He returns to the Wisconsin National Guard's 128th Air Refueling Wing. Airman Ghazali graduated from the electronic principles course Feb. 10. He's from Farmington Hills, Mich., and continues his training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, in the avionics communication, navigation and penetration aid systems apprentice course.



# TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

## Drill downs, parades

The 81st Training Group's first drill down of the 2011 season is 8 a.m. Friday on the parade grounds.

Other drill downs are 8 a.m. April 29, June 24, Aug. 19 and Oct. 28.

For more information, call 377-2103.

Parades are 6 p.m. March 17, July 21 and Sept. 29 and during Special Olympics, May 13-15.

For more information, call 377-2789.

## William Carey term

William Carey University's spring trimester starts Monday.

The university offers flexible degrees that allow for the transfer of many Community College of the Air Force credits. Courses are also available to complete Civil Service 1750 qualification requirements.

Discounted tuition rates are available for active-duty mili-

tary, dependents, retirees and Defense Department civilians.

For more information, call 376-8480 or visit Room 219, Sablich Center.

## Annual tech expo

The 16th annual Training Technology Products and Information Services Expo is 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

The expo is devoted to all types of distance learning and resident education and training. Civilian and military vendors display the latest in technical and support gear. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call 377-7799.

## CCAF graduation

Feb. 25 is the last day to apply for the Community College of the Air Force spring graduating class.

By that date, all supporting documentation must be on file

with CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., including your nomination action request.

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

## MGCCC spring term

Pre-registration is under way for the spring session for Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Keesler Center through Feb. 28, when the term begins.

The spring schedule is found on the college's website, [www.mgccc.edu](http://www.mgccc.edu).

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

## DeCA scholarships

Applications for the Defense Commissary Agency's 2011 Scholarships for Military Children program are available at the commissary, online at <http://www.commissaries.com>

under the "news and info" tab under "scholarship info" tab; or at [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org).

## Hap Arnold grants

The application deadline for the 2011-2012 General Henry H. Arnold education grant program is March 11.

Application forms and eligibility requirements and other information to apply for the \$2,000 grants are found at the Air Force Aid Society's website at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org).

## KSC scholarships

Applications are now being accepted for 2011 Keesler Spouses Club scholarships.

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

For more information, log on to [www.keeslerspousesclub.com](http://www.keeslerspousesclub.com) or call 273-2489 or 243-7133.

## Swan scholarship

May 31 is the deadline to apply for the Hurricane Hunters \$2,000 Swan 38 scholarship.

The scholarship is open to active and retired 403rd Wing members and their dependents.

For more information, log on to [www.hurricanehunters.com](http://www.hurricanehunters.com).

## Manager certification

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

The program provides a structured professional development track that supplements enlisted professional military education and the career field education and training plan.

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



## Fiscal 2012 budget Efficiencies, balance main emphasis areas

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials said despite a reduction in the top line request, combat capabilities and balance will remain focal points in the Air Force's portion of the president's fiscal 2012 budget presented Monday.

The total Air Force budget request for FY12 is \$166.3 billion, down from \$170.8 billion in FY11. The largest portion of the \$4.5 billion decrease from FY11 to FY12 is a \$4.4 billion reduction in Air Force overseas contingency operations.

Maj. Gen. Al Flowers, Air Force budget director, said the budget request is structured through a deliberate process that interweaves the national military strategy, the quadrennial defense review, combatant command requirements and the service's priorities and core functions.

As military forces poised to leave Iraq by Dec. 31, Air Force officials subsequently have sought funding consistent with one-quarter of FY11 operating levels for overseas contingency operations in Iraq. Although the largest budget request reduction relates to the drawdown in Iraq, Air Force officials still will request full-year support for operations in Afghanistan consistent with the FY11 operating levels.

The "blue," or operational, baseline has remained relatively flat, transitioning from \$119.6 billion last fiscal year to \$119 billion this fiscal year. The FY12 budget request reflects multiple factors, including a Department of Defense mandate to identify efficiencies and cost savings.

"There's a lot of movement in the blue Air Force total obligation authority," General Flowers said. "There are programmatic increases, decreases

"This total force budget provides our Airmen and civilians the necessary funding to protect readiness, reduce overhead costs and apply the savings from efficiencies to force structure and modernization."

— General Flowers

and inflation adjustments, all offset by efficiencies of about \$1.9 billion in (operation and maintenance) and \$3.4 billion across the budget."

The general said that the efficiency initiative objective was to identify resources in support and overhead that could be moved to warfighter and readiness enhancements.

"Our efficiencies include plans to consolidate four air operations centers, streamline three numbered air forces and introduce cost reduction efforts in the information technology area," General Flowers said, adding that the Air Force exceeded its efficiency target by \$5 billion and moved \$33 billion to enhancement areas.

"With this budget, the Air Force demonstrates its steadfast commitment to Secretary Gates' efficiency agenda by achieving \$3.4 billion in cost savings and balancing measures," said David Tillotson III, the Air Force deputy chief management officer and office of business transformation director.

Within the \$30.2 billion request for pay and allowances, General Flowers said Airmen can expect a pay raise of 1.6 percent, including a 4.2 percent housing allowance increase and a 3.4 percent subsistence

allowance increase.

"There is a significant amount of money in this budget for Airmen and families, with \$813 million alone allotted for family and support programs," General Flowers continued. "This breaks down to about \$189 million for family readiness centers and warfighter support to include \$8 million to fund Air Force resiliency programs."

Also included is \$224 million for childcare and youth programs, with another \$400 million for community support and education assistance programs. The general also noted \$2.8 million allotted for additional case workers and program managers to meet the growing demands of the Air Force's wounded warrior populations.

"This total force budget provides our Airmen and civilians the necessary funding to protect readiness, reduce overhead costs and apply the savings from efficiencies to force structure and modernization," the general said.

General Flowers explained there is considerable movement within the military per-

Please see **Budget**, Page 17

## IN THE NEWS

### 2 security forces promoted

Senior Airmen Lindsay Carmickle and Brian Delmar, 81st Security Forces Squadron, have been selected for promotion to staff sergeant.

### Wingman Day planned

From 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, units of the 81st Training Wing stand down from technical training, support activities and non-emergency operations to observe Wingman Day.

The focus of Wingman Day is resiliency, which is defined as "the ability to withstand, recover and grow in the face of stressors and changing demands."

Wingman Day activities will start with a 30-minute commander's call, followed by 90 minutes of small group discussion and conclude with an hour of team building exercises.

Squadron points of contact have more information on Wingman Day activities, including event locations and small group assignments.

### Wing annual awards dinner

The 81st Training Wing's annual awards dinner is Feb. 24 at the Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom.

Cocktails are at 6:30 p.m., with the meal starting at 7.

Dress is mess dress or semi-formal for military and dress casual for civilians.

Tickets are \$25.20 for club members and \$28.80 for nonmembers for the London broil meal. Tickets are available from Master Sgt. Sheila Hanley, 81st Medical Group, 376-4419; Tech. Sgt. Jay Cook, 81st Training Group, 377-0121; Master Sgt. James Gross, 81st Training Wing staff agencies, 377-5445; and Master Sgt. Jessica Woodruff, 81st Mission Support Group, 376-8508.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Jakelyne Kamarakafego, 377-7338.

### National Prayer Breakfast

Keesler's National Prayer Breakfast is 7 a.m. March 8 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Team Impact will appear at the event. For more information, log on to [www.team-impact.com](http://www.team-impact.com).

"Children are out of school for the Mardi Gras holiday, so parents are encouraged to bring them along," said Chaplain (Capt.) Garrell Calton.

Tickets are \$5 and are available from Staff Sgt. Charles White, 377-2331.

### Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for the Feb. 24 issue of the Keesler News is noon today because of Monday's President's Day federal holiday.

**Dragons deployed — 218**

# Black History Month

## Soul food sampling is Feb. 25

Black History Month events continue next week and spill over into March and April.

**Soul food sampling** — 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 25, youth center. Donations are accepted. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Rochelle Harden, 376-8662, or Staff Sgt. Ashley Brunson, 377-0378.

**AAHC golf tournament** — March 11, Bay Breeze Golf Course. \$50 per person for four-person team. For more information, call Kurt Higgins, 377-5250.

**Sickle cell 5-kilometer run/walk** — April 8, Blake Fitness Center. Registration 6:45 a.m., race time 7:30 a.m. Cost is \$10-\$15. For more information, call Master Sgt. Yolanda Jerry, 377-1201, or Tech. Sgt. Tyrone Deckard, 376-6603.

## Budget,

from Page 10

sonnel account in order to maintain end strength numbers while keeping critical career fields afloat.

“We have realigned 2,100 military manpower billets to support (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) in order to meet our goal of 65 combat air patrols by the end of 2013,” the general said. “Even with the improved retention, we still have some career fields in which we have critical shortages.”

To address these shortages, the budget includes \$626 million dollars for career fields such as intelligence language specialists, contractors, security forces, nurses, psychologists, civil engineers, special operations forces and explosive ordnance disposal personnel.

“We’ll continue to identify enabling capabilities that support the combatant commanders and meet the needs of the warfighter,” General Flowers said. “It’s all about taking care of Airmen and meeting the mission of our United States Air Force.”

In order to provide critical support to the joint and coalition team to win today’s fight, General Flowers said, Air Force officials will use inno-

vative acquisition strategies that enable investment in critical mission areas.

Procurement and research, development, test and evaluation accounts include changes based on the Air Force’s plan to modernize the force, increase readiness and maintain acquisition excellence, he said.

“The procurement portion of the FY12 budget includes funding for 48 MQ-9 Reapers, the maximum number that can be produced for the Air Force within a given year,” General Flowers said.

The Reaper fleet plus-up will help ensure the Air Force meets its goal of 65 combat air patrols by the end of 2013, he added.

“We’re asking for support in buying multiple advanced extremely-high-frequency satellites and space-based infrared system satellites using innovative acquisition strategies in order to procure satellites more efficiently and stabilize work for our industrial base,” General Flowers said.

“Many programs will benefit from these efficiencies through reduced costs to procure satellites,” he continued. “We’ll need special Congressional language that will allow us to use procurement, advanced procurement and advanced appropriated funds to do so.”

The Air Force’s FY12 budget request includes \$553 million

for AEHF satellites, and \$244 million toward advanced procurement for SBIRS.

General Flowers presented another example of acquisition improvement with a reference to “block buying,” specifically in the Air Force’s evolved expendable launch vehicle program.

“Through these more efficient purchases of launch vehicles, we’ll start to see some of our acquisition improvements come to fruition,” General Flowers said. “We’ve already implemented approximately 75 efficiency initiatives that range in scope and impact throughout the acquisition enterprise.”

Additional modernization efforts include F-15 Eagle radar upgrades, C-5A Galaxy engine and reliability upgrades and C-130 Hercules avionics modernization and improvements, General Flowers said, adding Air Force officials also are requesting \$5.2 billion to strengthen the nuclear enterprise.

General Flowers said the overall budget reflects the Air Force secretary and chief of staff’s priorities: strengthen the nuclear enterprise; partner with the joint and coalition team to win today’s fight; develop and care for Airmen and their families; modernize the air, space and cyberspace inventories; and recapture acquisition excellence.

## Voices raised in praise

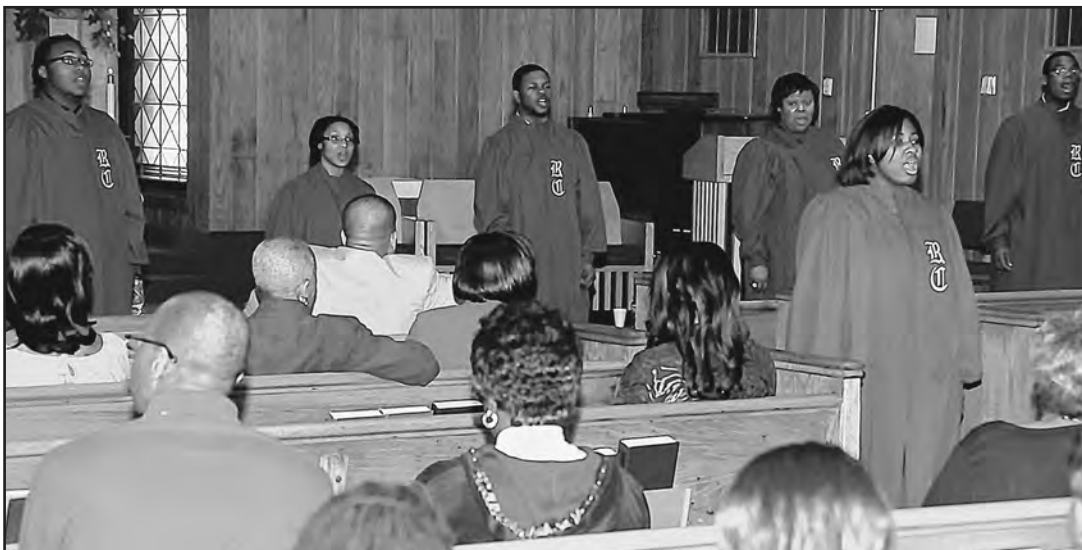


Photo by Kemberly Groue

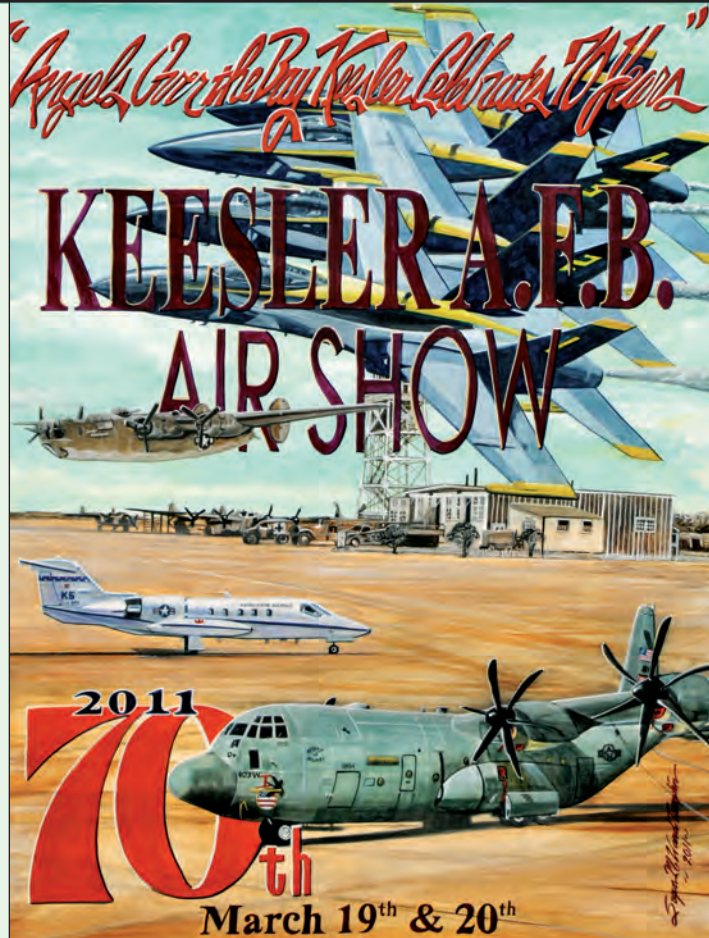
The 21-member Rust College A Cappella Choir, Holly Springs, Miss., performed at three chapel services at Keesler Sunday.



On the schedule are the Navy Blue Angels, Army Golden Knights parachute team, a B-25 Mitchell Bomber, an F-16 demonstration, the Air Force Honor Guard and other performances.

Displays include a C-17 Globemaster, MQ-1 Predator remotely piloted aircraft, OH-58 Kiowa and many more.

Gates open 9 a.m. both days — Free admission! For more information, log on to [www.keesler.af.mil](http://www.keesler.af.mil)



# Best for 2010

Group standouts advance to 81st Training Wing's annual award competition

## 81st Medical Group

By Steve Pivnick

### 81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group honored its 2010 annual award winners during a Jan. 18 luncheon at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Winners are:

**Airman** — Senior Airman Robert Tipton, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron.

**Noncommissioned officer** — Staff Sgt. Billy Wince, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

**Senior NCO** — Master Sgt. Bruce Milbrath, 81st MDTs.

**Company grade officer** — Capt. Donna Burrowes, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

**Field grade officer** — Maj. David Cordry, 81st MDOS.

**Civilian category 1** — David Hanes, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

**Civilian category 1** — Paula Tracy, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

**Civilian supervisor category 2** — Michael Chatham, 81st Medical Support Squadron.

**First sergeant** — Master Sgt. Lee Utsey, 81st AMDS.

## 81st Mission Support Group

By Susan Griggs

### Keesler News editor

The 81st Mission Support Group's annual award winners for 2010 are:

**Airman** — Airman Brittany Beltran, 81st Security Forces Squadron.

**Noncommissioned officer** — Staff Sgt. Eric Goebel, 81st SFS.

**Senior NCO** — Master Sgt. Ramon Santiago-Estrada, 81st Force Support Squadron.

**First sergeant** — Master Sgt. Kevin Scharwath, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron.

**Company grade officer** — Capt. Jason Williams, 81st Force Support Squadron.

**Civilian category 1** — Amy Dye, 81st FSS.

**Civilian category 2** — Curtis Greer, 81st FSS.

**Civilian supervisor category 2** — Michael Fix, 81st FSS.

## Wing staff agencies

By Susan Griggs

### Keesler News editor

The annual award winners for the 81st Training Wing staff agencies for 2010 are:

**Airman** — Senior Airman Thomas Butler, 81st Comptroller Squadron.

**Noncommissioned officer** — Tech. Sgt. Paul Braun, legal office.

**Senior NCO** — Senior Master Sgt. Kimberlee Bauer, legal office.

**Company grade officer** — 2nd Lt. William Kiser, 81st CPTS.

**Civilian category 1** — Ronnie Reagan, legal office.

**Civilian category 2** — Karen Teague, 81st CPTS.

**First sergeant** — Master Sgt. James Messer, 81st TRW.

## Honoring chosen few

From left, Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Boothe, 81st Comptroller Squadron, and Senior Master Sgts. Thomas Cimenski, 338th Training Squadron, and Anthony Pearson, 334th TRS, were honored at Saturday's chief master sergeant induction ceremony at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Photo by Steve Pivnick



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81stTRW.Keesler](http://www.facebook.com/81stTRW.Keesler)

# Force shaping board targets overmanned fields

By Daniel Elkins

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Officials are convening the 2011 Force Shaping Board May 9 at the Air Force Personnel Center here to reduce the number of officers in specified specialties and year groups as part of the service's force management efforts to meet its end strength.

This board is one of a variety of voluntary and involuntary measures being taken by service officials as part of a tailored, multi-year Force Management Program. Air Force leaders recently announced programs aimed at managing the force at various phase points along a career.

The board will evaluate officers serving on the active duty list in the grade of first lieutenant and captain in the following competitive categories and year groups: biomedical sciences corps, 2008; medical serv-

ice corps, 2006 through 2008; and line of the Air Force-judge advocate general, 2006 through 2008. Officers are ineligible if they have an approved date of separation before the mandatory Oct. 1, separation date or have entered active duty after May 9, 2009.

Additionally, officers with six or more years of total federal commissioned service by the mandatory separation date or who have 15 or more years of total active service as of the board convening date are also ineligible under the FSB.

Retention recommendation forms must be completed for all board-eligible officers with less than 15 years total active federal service as of May 9. The RRF must be forwarded to AFPC no later than April 8.

Officials said the objective of the board is to manage the force by retaining officers the Air Force needs to develop as its future leaders. The board will make its determination based on information similarly consid-

ered by a promotion board, to include an officer selection brief, performance reports, training reports and decorations. The board will also consider the officer's retention recommendation form and any letters submitted by eligible officers to provide additional information relevant to the board's decision process that is not included in any other documents.

Voluntary force management programs are still in place for interested officers with the following separation options that include time-in-grade waivers, limited active-duty service commitment waivers, Palace Chase, Blue-to-Green and officer cross-flow programs.

For more information on these programs or the force shaping board, visit the Air Force Personnel Services website and select the 2011 Force Management link or call the Total Force Service Center, 1-800-525-0102.

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





**U.S. AIR FORCE**  
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# Date of separation rollback planned

By Daniel Elkins

Air Force Personnel, Services  
and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Force officials announced Feb. 2 plans to conduct an enlisted date of separation rollback as part of

its ongoing measures to manage the force and maintain a quality enlisted corps.

The DOS rollback affects enlisted members in the grades of senior master sergeant and below with fewer than 14 or more than 20 years of service

as of May 31, 2011. The rollback will accelerate the date of separation for Airmen based on their years of service and certain re-enlistment eligibility, assignment availability and grade status reason codes as well as reporting identifiers.

Under the DOS rollback, Airmen must separate no later than May 31 or retire no later than June 1, 2011, if they possess select codes preventing their re-enlistment. Airmen identified for the rollback and eligible for retirement must submit their retirement request via the Virtual Military Personnel Flight by March 11.

Airmen with at least 180 days of active-duty service and are separated or retired under the DOS Rollback are authorized transition assistance benefits. Those include 180 days of extended medical care for themselves and their families and an ID card permitting base commissary and exchange privileges for two years.

Those separated with more than six years, but less than 20 years total active service are eligible for one-half the amount of separation pay, but must sign an Individual Ready Reserve agreement to serve for a minimum three years following their military service obligation. Those declining to serve in the IRR will be ineligible for separation pay.

The Air Force will not recoup unearned portions of education assistance funds, special pay, unearned portions of bonuses or other monetary incentives under the DOS Rollback Program. Additionally, most Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits will not be impacted; however, the transferability of benefits to dependents may be affected. Airmen should consult their local education centers or the VA concerning transferability.

For more information visit the Air Force personnel services website and select the 2011 Force Management link or call the Total Force Service Center, 1-800-525-0102.

# PERSONNEL NOTES

## Stop loss pay extension

American Forces Press Service

The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for retroactive Stop Loss special pay has been extended to March 4.

Congress established the retroactive pay to compensate service members who served involuntary extensions or whose retirement was suspended between Sept. 11, 2001 through Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible members and their beneficiaries are required to submit a claim to their respective military service to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in stop-loss status.

Service officials estimate 145,000 service members, veterans and beneficiaries are eligible.

Because most of those eligible had separated from the military, the services have engaged in persistent outreach efforts throughout the year. Efforts, including direct mail, engaging military and veteran service organizations, social networks and media outlets, will continue throughout the period of eligibility, Defense Department officials said.

## MTI opportunities

The military training instructor corps has received authorization to pursue 18-month time-on-station waivers. First term Airmen must be within their career job reservation window.

For more information, call the MTI recruiting team, DSN 473-1016 or 1018.

## Military personnel contacts

Military personnel section phone numbers:

**Customer support** — 376-8738.

**Career development** — 376-8739.

**Force management** — 376-8740.

**Student personnel center** — 377-4111.

**Testing** — 376-4111.

## Permissive TDY procedures

All newly-arrived permanent party active-duty members, must report to their units upon arrival at Keesler.

Unit personnel coordinators assist members with completing permissive temporary duty requests and obtaining the commander's signature. Members may not depart on permissive TDY without in-processing the military personnel section and obtaining a leave number.

For more information, call 376-8347.

## Leave after the fact memo

If a member is attempting to process leave after the leave has already occurred, a memorandum signed by a level no lower than the squadron first sergeant is required.

For more information, call 376-8347.

## Identification card requirements

To obtain identification cards, military personnel in uniform have priority in customer service, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Customer service is also open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on non-training Fridays.

To be issued an identification card, two forms of legal identification are necessary. Dependents are required to be accompanied by their sponsor unless they have power of attorney or a Defense Department Form 1172.

For more information, call 376-8339.

# Officer nominations due March 3 for financial management program

By Dan Elkins

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Force line officers interested in applying for the Financial Management Leadership Program must submit their nominations to the Air Force Personnel Center by March 3.

The four-year program specializes in Air Force leadership development by providing an opportunity for line officers outside of the 65F financial management career specialty a chance to gain experience as comptroller squadron commanders.

"Financial management is a valuable competency for future strategic leaders," said Maj. John Decker, chief of comptroller officer assignments. "This program allows officers an excellent opportunity to use and develop their critical business management skills."

The program is open to majors and major-selects in the 1998 to 2001 year groups who possess an undergraduate or graduate degree in business, accounting, economics or financial management.

The Financial Management Leadership Program consists of two phases.

**In the first phase**, officers selected for the program are assigned to major command financial management staffs as part of a two-year internship to gain a broad understanding of

financial services, budget analysis, and planning and programming. Additionally, officers attend the financial management staff officer course at Keesler and the four-week course at the Defense Financial Management and Comptroller School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., for further professional development.

**The second phase** of the program includes a command assignment at a comptroller squadron. In this assignment, officers will command up to 75 people, serve as the chief financial officer to the wing commander and manage an annual operating budget of more than \$100 million. Following the two-year command assignment, officers return to their core career field.

Officers interested in applying for this program must be approved for temporary release from their career field by their functional assignment team, and must meet further basic eligibility criteria.

Nomination packages are due to the AFPC comptroller Officer Assignments Team by March 3. A selection board convenes March 10 to identify candidates.

For more details on eligibility requirements and nomination procedures, visit the Air Force personnel services website at <https://gum.afpc.randolph.af.mil>, or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.





UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

# Core Values



**Integrity First**

**Service Before Self**

**Excellence in all We Do**

# Center offers classes to assist members leaving the service, seeking employment

## 81st Force Support Squadron

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

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

## Transition assistance classes

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

**Transition assistance program workshops** — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, March 14-16, April 11-13, May 9-11, June 13-15, July 18-20, Aug. 8-10, Sept. 12-14, Oct. 17-19, Nov. 14-16 and Dec. 12-14, Room 108A. Dress is business casual; no jeans, T-shirts or uniforms.

**Veterans benefits briefing** — 8-11 a.m. March 17, April 14, May 12, June 16, July 21, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A.

**Retirement briefings** — 1-3:30 p.m. March 17, April 14, May 12, June 16, July 21, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A; intended for members with less than a year until retirement.

**Executive transition assistance workshop** — Dec. 6-9 for colonels and chief master sergeants with the necessary knowledge and skills to organize their search for a second career in the private, nonprofit and government sector. Air Education and Training Command headquarters facilitates this workshop. For more information, call Robert Bertels, DSN 487-2669 or 6106 or e-mail robert.bertels@randolph.af.mil.

## Classes for job hunters

**Resumes for non-government jobs** — 9-11:30 a.m. March 22, Room 108A. Maximum of 15 people per class; pre-registration is required no later than the day prior to the class.

**Resumes for government or federal positions** — 9-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 16 or March 30, Room 108B, 9 a.m. until 11:30 am. Pre-registration is required no later than the day prior to the class.

**Skills assessment class** — 9-11:30 a.m. March 10, Room 108A. Pre-registration is required no later than the day prior to the class.

**Interviewing and salary negotiation class** — 9-11 a.m. Feb. 24 or March 24, Room 108A.

**Resume writing and job fair preparation** — special class to assist in preparing for April's Southern Region Military and Civilian Job Fair in April; 2-4:30 p.m. March 29, Room 108 B, or 9-11:30 a.m. March 31, Room 108A.

**Upcoming special classes** — in May there'll be special civilian job resume writing, federal job resume writing and interviewing classes for instructors or other personnel with inflexible work schedules. Each topic's class will be 45 minutes each day for three days. Participants are expected to attend all three class days.

**After attending a class**, call 376-8728 to have your resume reviewed.



# Mother survives rare post-partum heart failure

By Leigh Coleman

South Mississippi Living

**Editor's note:** The following story is reprinted with permission from the February 2011 issue of South Mississippi Living magazine in recognition of National Heart Month. Trisha Meagher is married to Staff Sgt. Frank Meagher, 333rd Training Squadron, who's currently deployed to Afghanistan.

By the time Trisha Meagher learned she was pregnant, she figured she knew a thing or two about childbirth from her first uneventful pregnancy. Her second was a different story.

Never had she felt so tired, breathless or bloated. "I was swollen, more swollen than I had ever been, I felt horrible. But I first attributed it to what the doctors told me, that it was all normal," Meagher said. "But they were wrong."

Meagher, then 28, got worse, not better during her last month of pregnancy. "I gained nearly 25 pounds in the last month. That was so out of the ordinary since I had only gained a little over the entire pregnancy," she said. "I knew something was wrong, very wrong. I told the doctors to induce me immediately."

The day after she delivered a healthy baby girl, she started having more complications. She could hardly breathe.

"I couldn't lay down, I couldn't walk from my bed to



Photo by John Stricklin

**Heart survivor Trisha Meagher and her two children, Felicity, 3, and Luke, 7, play at a Keesler playground. Sergeant Meagher, 333rd TRS, is currently deployed to Afghanistan.**

the bathroom without having to rest, I couldn't sleep, and my heart wouldn't stop racing," Meagher said. "The doctors dismissed my symptoms as anxiety but I knew they were wrong."

She finally went to the emergency room one night. Doctors found that her heart had all but quit. She had

somehow developed a rare and mysterious form of congestive heart failure called peripartum cardiomyopathy, which strikes pregnant women.

When cardiologists made the diagnosis, Meagher's heart was pumping out about 15 percent of its blood volume, far less than the 60 to 70 percent common to healthy hearts.

"That is why I want to tell my story," she said. "I never would have thought that I would suffer a sudden, catastrophic breakdown of the heart muscle at such a young age. My body was filled with fluid. It took time to get to the point where I could function. The road to recovery has been a long one."

Doctors say they are no nearer to understanding pregnancy-related heart failure than when it was first described in the 1840s. The numbers, or the lack of them, are a big reason why so little is known about pregnancy-related heart failure.

The cause remains a mystery. Doctors still don't know how often it occurs. In the USA, estimates veer wildly from one in every 3,000 to one in every 15,000 pregnancies.

Meagher, now 32, resides in Biloxi with Frank, her husband, who is currently deployed to Afghanistan. Her two children, Luke, 7, and Felicity, 3, are healthy and keep their mother busy while dad is away on active military duty.

Today, she is able to exercise and keep up with her daily routines. However, she will be on medication for the rest of her life. "I have learned a lot. This disease sometimes goes undiagnosed until it's too late, because heart failure symptoms mimic those of a normal pregnancy," Meagher said.

She said pregnant women with the condition "often go to the doctor saying 'I'm short of breath, my legs are swollen and I can only walk a block or two,' and are ignored because that's the same litany

of complaints doctors routinely hear from pregnant women.

"I want to tell women to listen to their gut instinct and tell your doctors that you do not agree with them and if you think there is something else going on in your body," Meagher said.

"I could not have made it through all of this without my faith in the Lord and the support of my husband, Frank. Women need to exercise every day. The doctors did tell me that because I was physically fit before the pregnancy, it probably saved my life."

Working with the founders of an Internet-based support group called "A Mother's Heart — The foundation for mothers with big hearts," Meagher is getting involved and telling people her story. Using the website, [www.amotherheart.org](http://www.amotherheart.org), and speaking at labor and delivery departments, she has begun educating patients about the disease.



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Frank and Trisha Meagher.





# Implementing 'Don't Ask' repeal calls for training

By Maj. Joel Harper

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials will soon begin training Airmen in anticipation of the repeal of the law and policy commonly known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

This training will help Airmen understand what is expected in a post-repeal environment, said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz.

“I know our Airmen will approach this issue professionally, and will continue to adhere faithfully to our core values of integrity, service before self and excellence in all we do,” General Schwartz said. “Implementing this change while fighting a war is challenging, but I have no doubt that the Air Force will do this in a way that minimizes operational impact and successfully accomplishes the important task of training our force.”

The first tier of training will focus on Air Force experts responsible for implementing policy changes and personnel providing repeal-related services to Airmen. This group includes several func-

tional communities including chaplains, judge advocates and benefit counselors. This training explains guidance for implementing policy changes, and includes tools and information to help these experts answer Airmen’s questions about the repeal.

The second tier will focus on Air Force leaders, and will assist commanders, senior NCOs, and civilian supervisors in preparing for and implementing repeal. The final tier will train and prepare the broader force while reinforcing expectations of professional and personal conduct through engagement by experts and leaders at all levels. The training for all tiers will commence on the same date, and training will occur concurrently.

“We need to ensure our changes in policy happen in a professional, deliberate manner,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy. “This training is an important part of making the transition, and it should answer many questions that Airmen at all levels have been asking.”

Airmen will have ample training opportunities, said Col. Jeff White,

the leader of the education and training working group for the Air Force repeal implementation team. The training is a standardized program developed by armed services officials working in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary of Defense repeal implementation team.

“This training explains the new policies and provides information about specific behaviors, statements and actions to our Airmen, ensuring a consistent understanding grounded in an organizational climate of dignity and respect,” Colonel White said. “When local conditions or mission requirements demand additional training, commanders may supplement accordingly. However, they must include, at a minimum, the information in the Air Force-approved briefings.”

Face-to-face training is the Air Force-preferred training method, but in the event that this isn’t possible, computer-based training is authorized to facilitate training completion.

Additionally, a “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” repeal site will open on the Air Force Portal and will include informa-

tional resources for leaders at all levels to include lesson plans and slide presentations, frequently asked questions, vignettes, guiding principles, and the “Top 10 Things You Need to Know,” Colonel White said.

“The Air Force will accomplish this training expeditiously, in the disciplined, professional manner our nation expects from its Airmen,” Colonel White said.

Repeal of the policy was set into motion Dec. 22 when the president signed legislation that set conditions that must be met prior to the repeal of title 10, United States Code, section 654, “Policy Concerning Homosexuality in the Armed Forces.” The current law and policy remains in effect until 60 days after certification by the president, the secretary of defense, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“By following our core values, we will successfully implement this change with the same unparalleled professionalism we have demonstrated with every transformation we have undertaken, in both peace and war,” General Schwartz said.



# Foreign travel requires planning, preparation to maximize safety

## 81st Training Wing

You arrived in Cairo on vacation to visit the pyramids of Egypt and settle in for the night. You awake to find rioters, police and tanks filling the streets. Cell phones, the Internet and phone systems don't work. Would you know what to do? Who do you turn to for help? Where are they located and can you get there on your own?

Considering recent events, this scenario is more reality than fiction. Situations like this, as well as others, clearly indicate foreign travel requires more than a passport and ticket. It takes planning and preparation.

"Let's face it — it's too late to plan when the rioters and tanks are in the street and all communication with the outside world is lost," said Ken Oates, Keesler's antiterrorism chief. "At that point, the only thing your phone is good for is taking pictures and video of the government buildings burning and that's probably a bad idea itself."

Mr. Oates serves as Keesler's focal point for unofficial travel to any location outside of the continental United States and works closely with other offices to facilitate such journeys.

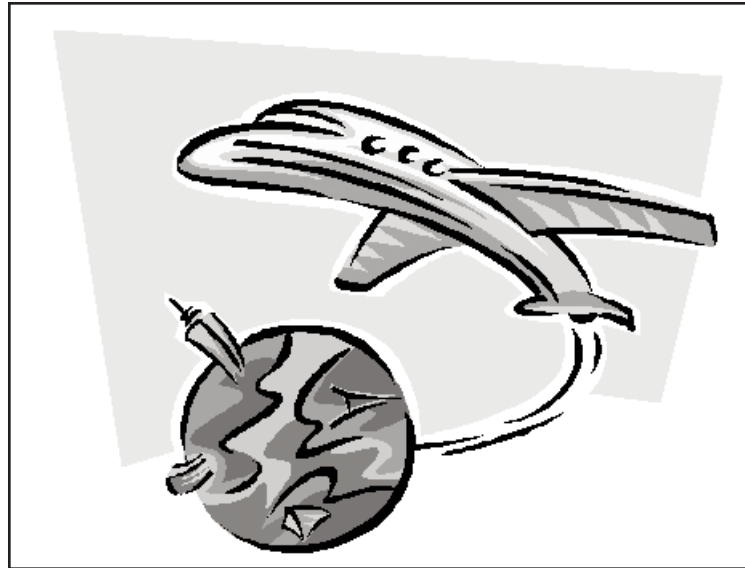
Military members and civilian employees must abide by certain policies and regulations designed to ensure their safety and security.

"These policies ensure travelers enter and exit foreign destinations legally and avoid high-risk or off-limits areas," Mr. Oates explained.

From a force protection standpoint, all vacation destinations have risks whether it is a terrorist event, natural or manmade disaster, or civil unrest, Mr. Oates emphasized.

"The key is to avoid or at least mitigate those risks through a well-designed and comprehensive emergency action plan shared with travel companions and a trusted friend at home."

To facilitate safe travel, Keesler's travel policy requires military personnel to complete a travel checklist for



any OCONUS location while on leave or on pass. This ensures proper preparation and clearances for travel.

Vacation travel often requires pre-departure training, briefings, and submission of documentation to the responsible combatant command responsible for geographic areas of the globe. Combatant commands are responsible for Defense Department personnel assigned to their commands as well as those traveling to and within them. This is true even for military, dependent, and civilian employees on leave or pass.

In many cases, the combatant command must approve travel, which can take more than 30 days. Travel to some locations even requires the approval of a colonel or higher rank.

"There is no singular off-limits list, but there's a comprehensive resource that personnel must use as a starting point called the Foreign Clearance Guide," Mr. Oates said. "It applies to military, dependants and DOD employees for both official and unofficial travel."

While it states it's a guide, the FCG is actually regulatory and lists travel and entry requirements for each specific country. It also identifies if the country is off-limits or has off-limits areas within it.

The FCG is available online through any .mil domain system at <https://>

[www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm](https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm). It can be accessed from a public network by establishing an account through the website.

"The requirements found here are typically set by the responsible combatant command," Mr. Oates pointed out. "Often, the restrictions and requirements aren't as tasking as for civilians and dependents as compared to our military personnel, but those identified are still required."

"Additionally, other levels of command can establish off-limits areas, although these may or may not be listed in the FCG," he continued. "An example of this is Air Education and Training Command's designation of an off-limits area in Mexico. It's my job to keep up with these types of directives and restrictions."

The Keesler Antiterrorism Community of Practice on the Air Force Knowledge Now System is a repository for other travel requirements, including the current policy for the 81st Training Wing established by the installation commander. Mr. Oates can provide access to interested personnel.

"The bottom line is to contact me well ahead of any OCONUS travel," Mr. Oates stressed.

For more information or to begin the planning process for foreign travel, call Mr. Oates, 377-2808 or e-mail [junius.oates.1@us.af.mil](mailto:junius.oates.1@us.af.mil).

For chapel service schedules,  
call 377-2520 or 4859.

# Eyes in the sky keep close watch for shoplifters

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

Behind an unmarked white door, somewhere in the exchange, in a tiny, dark office sits Bill McCoy, Army and Air Force Exchange Service safety and security associate at Keesler. He and a handful of other security associates sit vigilant behind a deck of video monitors. They are watching the store aisles waiting for the telltale signature movements of a shoplifter.

"We try to watch their body language, what type of items they're looking at and where they are looking," explained Mr. McCoy. "A shoplifter will often look around to see if anyone is watching. Then they'll take an item to a secluded area where they think they aren't being watched."

But they are being watched. The Keesler exchange has more than a hundred tiny cameras inside dark orbs on the ceiling of the store. These cameras are called pan-tilt-zoom cameras or PTZs that can zoom in close enough to see the hairs standing up on the back of a shoplifter's neck. They are the compound eye of the store and are controlled by a joy stick that Mr. McCoy wields in the palm of his hand to cover every angle in the store.

"I catch a lot of kids in this zone stripping video games out of their boxes," Mr. McCoy illustrated as he maneuvered his camera into place.

The store is divided into zones that Mr. McCoy can peer into at will. Video games, computers accessories, electronics and cosmetics are the hot zones and offer the goods shoplifters covet the most. But they are often not where the lift takes place.

"The younger kids, the first-time shoplifters, will just try to conceal the item and head for the door," explained Mr. McCoy. "But the older kids and students will leave the area and head for the dressing room or some other secluded area where they can



Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Michael Diot, AAFES loss prevention manager, toggles between various camera angles throughout the exchange as he keeps watch for suspicious shoplifting behavior. With more than 100 cameras, AAFES security and safety associates are able to keep an eye on almost every square inch of the store.**

strip the item out of its box and then try to leave."

The younger dependent is the most common shoplifter, but according to Mr. McCoy, just when you think you know who will and will not shoplift, someone comes along who doesn't fit the typical profile.

"We've caught active-duty new students to permanent-party officers and shoplifters from age 8 to 71," said Mr. McCoy. "You might think that a certain person wouldn't be the type to shoplift but they'll surprise you."

To make a stop, the camera must be on the shoplifter during the entire event, from the time they conceal the item to the time they begin to leave the store.

"We work with the sales associates on the floor. If we see someone enter a dressing room with an item and leave without it, we'll have the associate check the dressing room," explained Mr. McCoy.

"But most of the time we know they have the item when they leave and their pockets and purses are a little puffer."

But according to Mr. McCoy, stopping someone for shoplifting who really hasn't shoplifted is just a bad as shoplifting itself.

"So when we stop someone, we know they have the item and we let them know we know, and they know they've been caught," he said. "You can see it in their eyes."

Mr. McCoy estimates that between \$500 and \$600 dollars worth of merchandise gets stolen from the Keesler exchange every month. It's nearly three times that during the holidays. So AAFES has invested in having highly-trained individuals who know how to catch a shoplifter.

It takes precision technology, timing and training. Mr. McCoy and his fellow safety and security associates have all undergone extensive train-

ing and multiple levels of certification to be able to do what they do.

And having customers know that they know how to catch them should they decide to shoplift is also part of the equation.

"It's a pretty huge deterrent," said Mr. McCoy. "We want them to know our capabilities. It'll make a potential shoplifter think twice."

During the grand opening of the exchange, customers were invited in to see the monitors and the cameras and every new hire is shown how this technology is used to catch shoplifters. When Mr. McCoy zooms in on the register and can tell if an item is being scanned, what's being scanned and for how much, it has a tendency to deter internal theft.

"It's called 'sweetheartin'," described Mr. McCoy. "When the cashier clerk pretends to scan an item for a friend and just bags it, or they give a

generous discount with a price override, it's called 'sweetheartin'."

AAFES-wide, 33 percent of merchandise loss was due to shoplifting and 47 percent was internal theft. However, Mr. McCoy says those numbers are trending downwards due to AAFES' investment in implementation of new technology and security personnel. Nearly \$1,000 was recently recovered following an investigation at Starbucks, where an employee was videotaped taking money from the register.

But even with all the new technology, cameras and electronic sensors, Mr. McCoy admits that he and his fellow security associates can't catch everyone all of the time.

"But when someone starts stealing and gets away with it once, chances are they'll come back and do it again," Mr. McCoy warned. "And that's when they get caught."





Photo by Kemberly Groue

Devalynn Solomon, spouse of Lt. Col. Scott Solomon, 81st Training Group, and Lisa Reynolds, spouse of Maj. Michael Reynolds, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, sort through items donated to the thrift shop, Feb. 9.

# Keesler Spouses Club helps families adjust to military life

By Senior Airman  
Eric Summers Jr.

## Keesler Public Affairs

For a military spouse, getting acquainted with military life can be taxing. Some may have to move and become separated from friends and family that they've known their whole lives.

Keesler has a program, though, that's designed to help spouses by gathering them together with peers that may have experienced the same ordeal.

The Keesler Spouses Club is a charitable and social organization focused on community involvement.

"The KSC has a social event each month between September and May," said Jeanne Newberry, KSC president. She's married to Lt. Col. James Newberry, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron.

"In addition to the monthly socials, the KSC offers several activity groups such as a discovery group, scrapbooking and bunko," she added.

The spouses group also raises money for various charities and organizations on base

and in the surrounding community.

"When it comes to charitable giving, the Keesler Thrift Shop is our main source of charitable funds," Mrs. Newberry explained. "Money generated from the thrift shop allows the KSC to donate to charitable organizations benefiting Keesler, such as the Fisher House and the airman and family readiness center. We also donate to our local community, including the Gulf Coast Women's Shelter for Nonviolence, college scholarships and our legacy groups such as the Air Force Village and Air Force Enlisted Widows."

Before Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the spouse club here today was two separate groups — the enlisted spouses club and the officer spouses club. Following Katrina, the two organizations joined together to form the KSC.

"When we moved to Keesler in 2008, my husband and I had only been married for three years," Mrs. Newberry recalled. "The move was my first and I was leaving behind friends I had known

my whole life, as well as my family." Mrs. Newberry said.

"I soon realized my experience at Keesler would be what I made it," she continued. "I could choose to sit around and miss my family and friends or get involved with other spouses and organizations on base. I chose to join the Keesler Spouses Club and get involved. It's been a decision I am happy I made and has made my time here both memorable and rewarding.

Any Keesler spouse is able to become part of the organization.

"Membership in the KSC is open to spouses of any Armed Forces member working at Keesler," said Mrs. Newberry. "This includes both officer and enlisted spouses, spouses of active Guard or Reserve members as well as spouses of civil service or key civilian personnel working at Keesler."

Membership information and applications are available at the Keesler Thrift Shop, located at the corner of Meadows Drive and First Street, as well as on the KSC website, [www.keeslerspousesclub.com](http://www.keeslerspousesclub.com)

## Financial seminars

Keesler Federal Credit Union offers free financial seminars on base during Military Saves Week, Feb. 21-25:

**Wednesday** — 10-11 a.m., Room 108B, Sablich Center, Investing for your financial goals.

**Feb. 24** — 9-10:30 a.m., budgeting your expense and debt; 10:45-11:45 a.m., home buying, both at Bay Breeze Event Center Function Room 1.

**Feb. 25** — 10-11:30 a.m., Room 108B, Sablich Center, how to prevent identity theft.

Register by Feb. 18 at [www.kfcu.org/militarysavesclasses](http://www.kfcu.org/militarysavesclasses). For more information, call Jessica Bartels, 385-5500, extension 6353, or e-mail [jessica.bartels@kfcu.org](mailto:jessica.bartels@kfcu.org). Include phone number in e-mail.

## Black History Month

Remaining Black History Month events:

**Soul food sampling** — 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 25, youth center. Donations are accepted. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Rochelle Harden, 376-8662, or Staff Sgt. Ashley Brunson, 377-0378.

**AAHC golf tournament** — March 11, Bay Breeze Golf Course. \$50 per person for four-person team. For more information, call Kurt Higgins, 377-5250.

**Sickle cell 5-kilometer run/walk** — April 8, Blake Fitness Center. Registration 6:45 a.m., race time 7:30 a.m. Coast is \$10-\$15. For more information, call Master Sgt. Yolanda Jerry, 377-1201, or Tech. Sgt. Tyrone Deckard, 376-6603.

## Skin cancer screening

A limited number of appointments are available March 9 in the dermatology clinic for skin cancer screening.

Patients who've received a screening exam within the last year are ineligible. Patients will be screened for skin cancer only; no other skin issues are addressed or treated during the screenings.

For an appointment, call 376-3501.

## Singers sought

Vocalists are needed to sing the National Anthem at base or community ceremonies.

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

## Tax office

The base tax office in Room 229, Sablich Center, is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on training Fridays.

For more information and appointments, call 376-8141.

## DBIDS registration

Registration continues for Defense Biometric Identification System cards.

Active-duty members and Defense Department employees register through March 31. Registration for retirees and dependants is April 1 through June 31, but the pass and ID office won't turn away those wishing to register earlier.

Register at the pass and registration office in the visitor center across from the White Avenue Gate, the military personnel section in Sablich Center, the exchange pharmacy, the 81st Medical Group Hospital's information desk and A tower lobby, 403rd Maintenance Squadron, Hewes Hall and the Levitow Training Support Facility.

## Airman's Attic

Airman's Attic, at the corner of Meadows Drive and 1st Street, assists junior enlisted members with obtaining free basic household items.

Donations are needed such as furniture, area rugs, cutlery, dishware, infant wear and maternity clothes which are clean and in good condition. 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.

Airman's Attic is also open on a trial basis, 5-7 p.m. Tuesday.

## Thrift shop

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

Profits benefit base and area charities and provide scholarships.

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

Donations are needed such as kitchen items, small appliances, furniture, rugs, household items and infant and children's items. Pickup is available for those donations.

For more information, call 377-3217.

## Singers sought

Vocalists interested in singing the National Anthem at base or community events, call Yolanda Wallace, 377-1179.

## Supply classes

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

**Block I** basic supply class is 9-10 a.m., March 17, Jun 16, Sept 22 and Dec 15.

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

**Block IIA-Bench Stock** and **Block IIB-Repair Cycle** are held 9-11 a.m. March 16, June 15, Sept. 21 and Dec 14.

**Block III supplemental training** is 1-2 p.m., Mar 17, Jun 16, Sep 22 and Dec 15. All newly-assigned supply equipment custodians are required to attend, as well as all other custodians annually.

For more information, call 377-4480 or e-mail [edmund.lee.3.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:edmund.lee.3.ctr@us.af.mil).

## Peridontal 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.



# eight days a week

## Arts and crafts center

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

**Friday** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., acrylic painting, \$30.

**Saturday** — 10 a.m., beginning woodworking, \$25; 10 a.m. to noon, intarsia woodworking, \$25.

## Bay Breeze Community Center

**Tuesday** — 7-8 p.m., ballroom variety dance. Learn the cha-cha, swing, foxtrot and waltz. \$10 per class, per person. For more information, call 377-2509.

## Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center

**Friday** — 9 p.m. to midnight, glow bowling.

**Saturday** — 7 p.m., casino bowling, \$15 per person for three games

**Weekdays** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., bowling lunch special, buy any combo meal at the 11th Frame Café and get one free game of bowling.

## McBride Library

**Monday** — 3:30 p.m., healthy smiles dental program, ages 5-9. For more information, call 377-2181.

**Wednesday** — 10 a.m., children's story time, ages 3-5.

## Bay Breeze Collocated Club

**Editor's note:** Must be age 18 or older to enter collocated lounge.

**Saturday** — 4-7 p.m., social hour in collocated lounge.

**Weekdays except training Fridays** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., all-you-can-eat lunch buffet and salad bar in the casual dining area. \$6.95 members, \$8.95 nonmembers. For more information, call 377-2334.

**Training Fridays** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. all-you-can-eat catfish buffet and salad bar in the casual dining area. \$8.95 members, \$10.95 nonmembers.

## Outdoor recreation

**Monday** — President's Day special, get a free rod and reel rental with every boat rental.

## Vandenberg Community Center

**Editor's note:** \* indicates activities that are part of the late night dances, \$3 admission; nonprior students only.

\***Friday** — Black light party, the lights will be out all night long.

**Weekends** — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., late night dances. Karaoke begins at 9 p.m. every Saturday.

**Weekdays** — 6-7 p.m., tae kwon do for ages 18 and older; \$75 per month per person.

## Airman and family readiness

**Editor's note:** To register for classes, call 376-8728.

**Today** — 8-11 a.m., Veterans Administration benefits, for active duty and their spouses, learn about benefits and how to file claims; 1-4 p.m., retirement benefits.

**Saturday** — 9-11 a.m., survivor's benefits, for single and married members and their spouses.

**Wednesday** — 7 a.m. to noon, newcomer's orientation.

**Feb. 24** — 9-11:30 a.m., interview skills and salary negotiation.

## Youth center

**Friday** — 6:30-9:30 p.m., Friday night fun, ages 6-12. \$10 admission for the first child, \$5 for each additional child. Show your Bay Breeze Club card and receive a 10 percent discount on admission.

**Tuesday-Feb. 25** — kids' citizenship challenge essay contest. For rules and requirements, call 377-4116.

**Mardi Gras camp** — Registration continues for camp, March 7-9. Activities include bowling, parade and meals. For information, call 377-4116.

## Varsity sports

**Varsity softball tryouts** — 5-7 p.m. today, Wednesday and Feb. 24, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday and Monday, Triangle fields. For more information, call 377-2444.



Mark Cowan, lead cook at the Bay Breeze Event Center, cooks Mongolian barbecue meals, Feb. 10. Mongolian barbecues are featured twice a month — the next one is 5-8 p.m. Wednesday in the Bay Breeze ballroom.

## Mongolian barbecue on the menu this Wednesday at Bay Breeze

Dixie and Wayne Huber from Biloxi prepare their Mongolian barbecue dishes for the kitchen staff to prepare, Feb. 10. Mr. Huber is a retired master sergeant. Three different meats and a variety of vegetables are offered to diners to combine to satisfy their own particular tastes for 95 cents per ounce for club members and \$1.10 for nonmembers.

Photos by Kemberly Groue





# SPORTS AND RECREATION



Team Keesler turned out for Friday's Healthy Heart 5-kilometer run/walk.

## Running for healthy hearts

Emmanuel Balderas, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, was the first place male runner at 20 minutes, 53 seconds. First place female runner was Elizabeth Cathey, 81st Force Support Squadron, 27:37. Her husband is Senior Airman Isaac Cathey, 403rd Maintenance Squadron, who's currently deployed to Afghanistan.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



## Black History Month bowling tournament



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Kevin Scharwatch, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, hits the lanes during the African-American Heritage Committee's Black History Month bowling tournament.



# Unbeaten Dragon Medics take basketball title

By Sam Miller

Intramural sports director

The No. 1 seed 81st Medical Group posted a 67-62 victory over the 338th Training Squadron Dark Knights to claim the 2010-11 intramural basketball championship Feb. 9 at Blake Fitness Center.

Kwamina Boyd scored a game-high 22 points and nailed three big three-pointers in the fourth quarter to lead the Dragon Medics.

With the win, the Dragon Medics finished the season with a perfect 14-0 record, while the Dark Knights finished at 10-4.

The Dragon Medics came into the championship game as division champs and a 10-0 regular season record. The Dark Knights came into the contest with a 7-3 regular season record and a 9.6 point average margin of victory in their conference playoffs.

The 81st MDG was down late in the second half, but an untimely technical foul on the Dark Knight Adrian Ross and two missed free throws as time winded down gave the Dragon Medics an opportunity to tie with 2.8 seconds left in the final half of play. Medic Alvin Holmes launched an 85-foot pass down the court to heavily-guarded Daryl Jones who heaved up a desperate three-point shot that sent the game into overtime.

The Dragon Medics clamped down defensively in the extra period, holding the Dark Knights scoreless in overtime. Kwamina Boyd scored four points in the period, but it was the two crucial free throws with less than 30 seconds left that would seal the victory for the Dragon Medics.

A free throw by Dragon Medic Jonathan Settles was the only other scoring in overtime as the Dark Knights failed to convert on two shot attempts as time expired.

The early stages of the first half were polar opposites of the second half as both teams started the games with several turnovers and failed shot attempts. The game heated up with less than eight minutes remaining in the first half.

The Dragon Medics found most of their scoring with the inside presence of team captain Alvin Holmes, a starter for Keesler's varsity basketball team. Holmes led the 81st MDG in scoring with eight points at the half. The Dark Knights' Pierre Rodriguez was able to give his team a two-point halftime lead with very solid three-point shooting. Rodriguez led all scorers at the half with nine points.

The Dark Knights would keep the lead most of the second half with the a stellar



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Kwamina Boyd, left, 81st MDG, drives the ball around Buckston Battles, 338th TRS.



Dragon Medic Daryl Jones, left, hustles past Pierre Hernandez-Rodriguez toward the goal for a shot.



The Dragon Medics savor their basketball championship.

offensive output by Courtney Brantley who totaled 12 points with less than nine minutes left in the second half of play. The offensive assault by Kwamina Boyd in the same period kept the game within reach as it came down to the wire.

Holmes said he was confident that his team could win the base championship, and the two-point win against the Naval Construction Battalion Center in the quarter finals gave them the experience they needed to pull out a close game.

## Regular season

### Western Conference

**First** — 403rd Wing

**Second** — 338th TRS

**Third** — 81st Logistics

Readiness Squadron

### Western Conference

**First** — 81st MDG

**Second** — Naval Construction Battalion Center

**Third** — 81st Force Support Squadron.



From left, Dragon Medics team captain Alvin Holmes, Ed Goldsmith and Lawrence McIntyre congratulate each other following the win.