



# KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

SEPT. 1, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 34



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## Inspector general's office — here to hear, help

By Maj. Tabetha Clark

### 81st Training Wing inspector general

The mission of the 81st Training Wing Inspector General office is to administer a complaint resolution process that impartially and practically addresses grievances in order to enhance morale, promote efficiency and emphasize mission focus.

Our office fully understands the criticality of maintaining Team Keesler's focus on mission accomplishment and excellence. Therefore, if personnel are sidetracked by negative issues, there's no doubt that the wing's productivity will falter. This is where we can provide assistance and direction. We help ensure personnel issues are worked appropriately and quickly so members' focus is placed back on the mission.

Our staff acts as the eyes and ears of the wing commander, educates personnel on the IG program and provides complaints resolution support to any of the 12,000 men and women assigned to Keesler.

Although we stand ready to assist Team Keesler members with resolving issues, we encourage you to give your chain of command the first opportunity to resolve your issues. The exception is if your chain of command is the issue or you think you have been:

- restricted access to your IG or Congressperson,
- reprised against, or
- improperly referred for a mental health evaluation.

The IG office expressly handles these three types of complaints, not commanders. You also need to know that as an Armed Forces member, you have the right of access, freedom from reprisal for making a protected communication and rights regarding mental health evaluations under Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1034, Whistleblower Protection.

**Restriction:** preventing or attempting to prevent members of the Armed Forces from making or preparing lawful communications to members of Congress and/or an IG.

**Reprisal:** taking, or threatening to take, an unfavorable personnel action or withholding, or threatening to withhold, a favorable personnel action on a military member for making or preparing a protected communication.

**Improper mental health evaluations:** consist of a service member being referred, without being afforded their rights, for a clinical assessment for a mental, physical or personality disorder to determine the member's mental health status and fitness for duty. It does not include interviews under family advocacy programs or Air Force drug and alcohol abuse rehabilitation programs.

Our office also oversees the fraud, waste and abuse program. FWA prevention and correction is a command responsibility, so personnel are encouraged to report abuse and waste to their chain of command before coming to the IG. Additionally, report fraud issues to command, Office of Special Investigations or 81st Security Forces Squadron prior to coming to the IG. However, if you're uncomfortable reporting through those channels or think command is part of the problem, by all means report FWA to the IG. Be proactive in preventing FWA by reviewing operations and processes to detect deficiencies, minimize waste, emphasize economy, and identify/correct potential fraud or abuse.

**Fraud:** any intentional deception designed to unlawfully deprive the Air Force of something of value or to secure from the Air Force for an individual a benefit, privilege, allowance or consideration to which he or she is not entitled. Examples include, but are not limited to, making false statements, submitting false claims or using false weights or measures; deceit, either by suppressing the truth or misrepresenting material facts, or to deprive the Air Force of something of value.

**Waste:** the extravagant, careless, or needless expenditure of Air Force funds or the consumption of Air Force property that results from deficient practices, systems controls, or decisions. A management action or inaction that creates a substantial

risk of significant adverse impact on the agency's ability to accomplish its mission. An example is negligently or recklessly incurring unnecessary costs for equipment and supplies due to inefficient or ineffective resource management or inventories.

**Abuse:** intentional wrongful or improper use of Air Force resources. Examples include misuse of grade, position or authority that causes the loss or misuse of resources such as tools, vehicles, computers or copy machines.

Any deviations or violations of policy and procedures should be reported immediately to the IG office. Complaints can be in the form of an email, phone call, word document or on an AF IMT 102 complaint form. Additionally, complaints can be in person or anonymous. However the complaint is submitted, it will be handled in a manner that characterizes integrity, objectivity and impartiality. Similarly, a complainant's responsibility is to submit complaints within 60 days of learning of the alleged wrong, cooperate by providing factual and relevant information regarding the issue and being truthful, because statements provided are official within Air Force channels. In turn, the IG staff will conduct an analysis of your issue and channel it to the appropriate agency for resolution.

Remember, IGs are independent, responsive, impartial and thorough fact finders. We don't determine guilt or innocence. We aren't on one side or the other and we aren't anyone's personal advocate. We work toward a solution that is within the law and is in the best interest of the Air Force. Ultimately, our goal is to maintain public trust while enhancing military capability by resolving problems at the lowest level possible. If you need assistance, more information about our complaints resolution program or just need someone to listen, call 377-3010, email us at 81trw.ig2@us.af.mil or visit us in Room 105, 81st TRW headquarters, Building 2816. We're here to help!

## Summer safety campaign enters home stretch

By Maj. Robbie Bogard

### Air Education and Training Command occupational safety manager

Air Education and Training Command is on the verge of yet another historic milestone — our second-ever fatality-free Critical Days of Summer. Reaching this goal last year was a milestone in and of itself — and being on the precipice of making it happen for the second year is another major accomplishment for our mishap prevention programs across the command.

Standing between us and that historic event is the upcoming Labor Day weekend. Many of our people will be traveling to enjoy the final summertime long weekend.

Today and tomorrow, we need to engage leaders at all levels to engage their Airmen, face-to-face, and ensure they understand the importance of making safe, common sense decisions. We need to make sure our supervisors are ensuring personnel under the age of 26 are receiving pre-departure safety.

Based on past experiences, a couple of tragic but possible scenarios to consider are:

- A 25-year-old senior airman or staff sergeant traveled several hundred miles to see friends and family. While there, he drank some beer and decided to drive after being awake for 20 hours. He failed to buckle his seat belt, lost control of his car, was ejected and fatally injured.
- A 23-year-old airman first class operating a 600cc sport bike well in excess of the posted speed limit failed

to negotiate a turn, lost control, struck a fence along the road and was fatally injured.

Both scenarios are preventable — if we urge our people to use risk management, engage with their wingmen and our extended safety team places mishap prevention in their thoughts this week.

We're very optimistic we will have our second fatality-free Critical Days of Summer Campaign in AETC. Let's make sure we do all we can to make this happen.

## ON THE COVER

From left, Chef Jon Marc Van Zutphen, 81st Force Support Squadron, cooks pasta dishes to order for 2nd Lt. Lindsey Hatcher, Meghan and 2nd Lt. Jason Ten Haken and Cheron Hollingsworth during a birthday gala with a Kentucky Derby theme at Bay Breeze Event Center. The lieutenants are students in the 333rd Training Squadron. Hollingsworth's husband is James Hollingsworth, 2nd Air Force. Other events held Saturday to celebrate Keesler's 70th birthday were a golf scramble and a family party. More photos, Page 10.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



## KEESLER NEWS

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**81st Training Wing Formal Retreat Ceremony**  
**4:30 p.m. Sept. 9**  
**in front of wing headquarters**

# TRAINING AND EDUCATION

## Home schooling offers learning, lifestyle choice

By Joel Van Nice

### Keesler Public Affairs

Most mornings, Keesler parents are waking up their children, feeding them breakfast and getting them ready for school. But for many families, their trip won't involve a bus or car ride.

According to the Air Force Times, these children are part of the estimated 2 million home schoolers in the U.S. Experts have estimated a 12 percent increase in the past few years, and some data indicates military home school rates have grown by twice that.

"I think home schooling helps provide continuity in their education as our kids change schools with each (permanent change of station)," explained Kristina Wiedie. She and her husband, Lt. Col. Charles Wiedie, Keesler staff judge advocate, have three children that she teaches at home.

"I started home schooling because my kids attended a Montessori charter school in California and Montessori elementary schools aren't available in this area," she said. "I wanted to continue the Montessori method of learning because it's a wonderful way

of learning and also so my kids could possibly transition back into a Montessori school when we PCS."

"We've chosen to home school because it allows us to take an active part in our children's education and character development," said Teresa Stratton, mother of four. She's married to Maj. Matthew Stratton, 335th Training Squadron weather training flight commander.

However, Stratton and her husband have reasons for home schooling beyond just developing knowledge and skills.

"It also involves establishing values and presenting world views," she pointed out. "Our decision to home school was facilitated by the many positive outcomes we observed in the families of our friends who home schooled. Most of them have close, encouraging relationships together and their children are responsible, confident young men and women."

Cherie Elliott is married to Chaplain (Capt.) Ralph Elliott, who's currently deployed.

"The choice to home school for our family has been for spiritual reasons," said Elliott, who teaches their four children. "We



Photos by Kemberly Groue

The Elliotts, from left, are William, 15; Chris, 16; Mrs. Elliott; Sydney, 13; and Ralph, 17. With mom's help, William, Chris and Sydney review lessons prior to the start of the new school year while Ralph does some leisure reading. This home schooling session was held at the Triangle Annex because Mrs. Elliott had a gospel service leaders meeting there.

have never sought to prove our teaching methods to be far superior than the school districts in which we lived, nor to try to shelter our children from the cares of the world. Our desire has been to bless the Lord, however, and with whatever God has for our family."

Home schooling parents see many benefits to teaching their children at home.

"Since beginning to home school, I've discovered many advantages such as utilizing wonderful learning opportunities available in the local area," Wiedie remarked.

"In studying oceanography, there's the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Lab, the Gulf Islands National Seashore ranger station and the aquarium in New Orleans, just to name a few," she continued. "The kids studied art and learned history through the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art creative outreach programs.

The Stennis Space Center is another wonderful resource for many learning opportunities."

Elliott also enjoys unique experiences available to home-schooling families.

"Our four children have had an awesome opportunity to be a part of Civil Air Patrol," Elliott said. "The Col. Berta A. Edge Composite Squadron meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays on Hangar Road. Through the Civil Air Patrol, my three sons have had an opportunity to fly a plane. However, my daughter would rather choose opportunities on the ground."

"The greatest benefit of home schooling is the time we get to spend with our children," Stratton noted.

"Another great perk is the flexibility — we run on our own schedule. Minor adjustments to school days and hours allow us to run errands when we need to, spend non-training Fridays together and vacation during cheaper, less

crowded times."

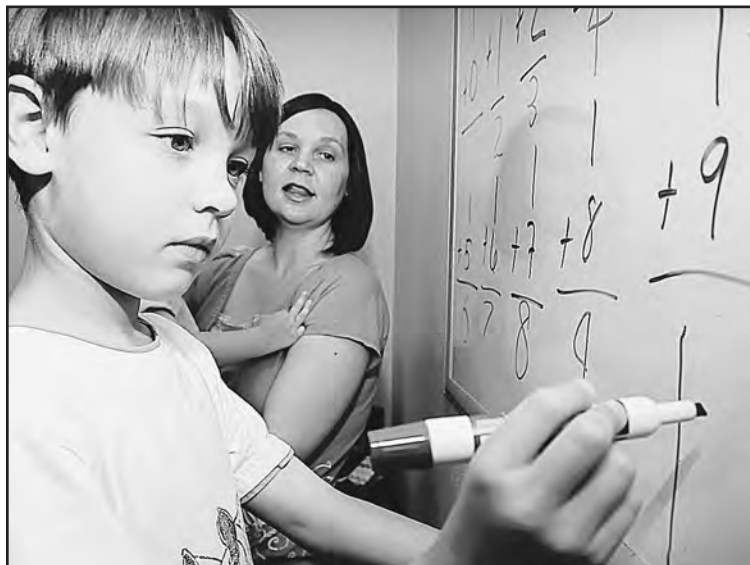
For many, the main benefit is to connect their faith with teaching.

"The most important benefit to our family has been the incredible privilege of teaching our children Biblical truths and principles, in addition to core subjects like English, science and math, as well as other electives," Elliott commented.

What does a typical day look like to a home schooler? The question made Wiedie laugh.

"I don't think there is such a thing," she answered, observing that a perfect home school day is rare.

"My kids have a 'work plan,' a schedule of what is to be done every day for the week," she said. "They're allowed to work ahead as much as they want, but are required to at least get done



Jack Stratton, 6, reviews math problems with his mom at their home in Gulfport. Jack is a first grader this year.

See Home school, Page 5

## Home school,

from Page 4

what is scheduled for that day. This helps keep them organized, know what is expected of them and hopefully promotes independence.”

The Stratton family has a very detailed schedule that begins with pledges to the American flag, the Christian flag and the Bible.

“Our younger children especially enjoy this time of the school day because they are encouraged to be as loud as possible,” Stratton remarked. “Our 2-year-old is still learning the words to the pledge, but what he lacks in precision is made up for in quantity — he says ‘America’ whenever he gets lost!”

The pledges are followed by handwriting, language, history, geography, math and science, with scheduled breaks for snacks for the kids, housework for mom and lunch for the family.

“Any detailed account of

“Home schooling isn’t just a choice in education — it’s a lifestyle.”

— Stratton

our normal school day is obviously lacking ‘real world’ situations that come from having a large family,” Stratton responded. “But those are also important learning moments that our children don’t miss out on because they’re sitting at a desk for seven hours a day. My 6-year-old knows how to get his 2-year-old brother dressed, how to calm down a screaming baby and how to set the table for snacks. Our 4-year-old daughter knows how to clean the table and get herself ready for an afternoon nap.

“Many days there are things that put a pause on the learning, but those are the moments that also bring lots of joy and laughter together,” she added. “Home schooling isn’t just a choice in education — it’s a lifestyle.”

The youth center provides military home schoolers a place to meet from 1-3 p.m. Thursdays for extracurricular activities. Wiedie is the unofficial contact person for the group and can be reached through the youth center, 377-4116, or the base’s school liaison officer, 376-8510.

By Sept. 15, all home-schooled students must register with the attendance officer assigned to the public school that they would have attended. A certificate of enrollment must be completed for each child that will be home schooled that includes the child’s name, address, telephone number, date of birth and a simple description of the type of education the child is receiving. A verification of compliance is given once the certificate of enrollment has been completed.



Photo by Kemberly Groue  
**Magdalena Wiedie, 8, and her mom label nouns, verbs and prepositions to prepare for third grade grammar lessons.**

# Fadok is new commander, president of Air University

By Kelly Deichert

## Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — The change of command ceremony Aug. 12 was unique for Air University, as Lt. Gen. David Fadok became the organization's first president and 29th commander.

"We produce the future and must never forget how important that mission is," Fadok said after assuming command from Lt. Gen. Allen Peck, who retired later in the day after 36 years of service.

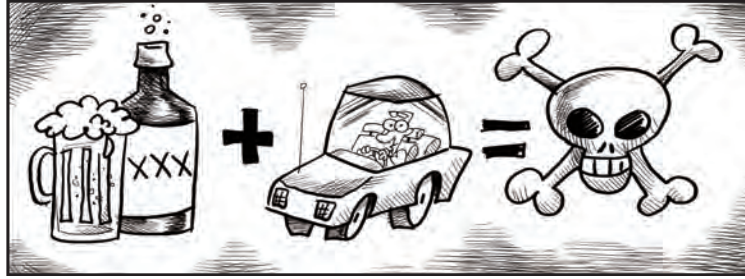
Since assuming command in 2008, Peck undertook an ambitious AU reorganization, said Gen. Edward Rice Jr., Air Education and Training Command commander, who presided over the change of command ceremony.

Peck's accomplishments included gaining authority to grant doctorate degrees in military strategy, developing and implementing an online master's degree program through the Air Command and Staff College and offering professional continuing education courses for cyberspace and space operations, Rice said.

Because of these changes and the university culture of the institution, in 2009 the Air University Board of Visitors recommended to the Air Force chief of staff that the title of the organization's leader change to "commander and president," said Dr. Bruce Murphy, AU chief academic officer.

"(Gen. Norton) Schwartz directed that the change become effective with the next change of command," he said. "Accordingly, when General Fadok was nominated by President Obama to lead AU, the title was 'commander and president.'"

Under Peck's leadership, more than 50,000 resident and 120,000 nonresident officers, enlisted and civilian personnel graduated from AU each year.



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# TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

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## OTS recruiting boards

Officer Training School recruiting service board dates:

**Rated** — Dec. 1 application cutoff for Jan. 23; June 21, 2012, cutoff for Aug. 13, 2012.

**Non-rated** — March 1 cut-off for April 16.

## CALT program

The Civilian Acculturation and Leadership Program is a two-week in-residence course patterned after the Officer Training School curriculum.

CALT is open to Air Force civilians in permanent General Service 7-13 with a bachelor's degree and two to five years experience.

Applications are open on a continuing basis.

Nominees can apply by completing the Air Force Civilian Competitive Development Nomination Form.

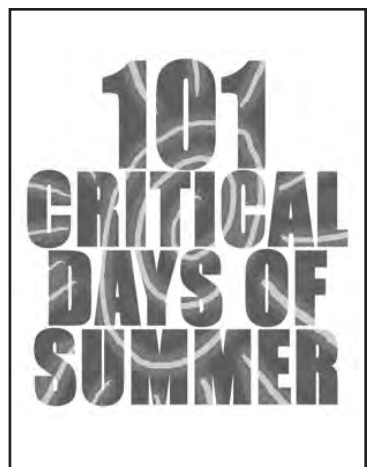
Seven classes are offered between October and September 2012. Classes are open until all seats are filled.

For more information, call 376-8161 or log on to Air Force Personnel Services.

## Manager certification

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

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



## Keesler hosts morning call



Photo by Kemeberly Groue

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, center, 81st Training Wing commander, presents wing coins to Bruce Marie, left, Biloxi Chamber of Commerce president, and Biloxi Mayor A.J. Holloway. As part of its 70th birthday celebration, Keesler hosted the chamber's morning call at the Bay Breeze Event Center, Aug. 25.

## Air Force birthday celebration features ball, speakers, Sept. 17

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Now that Keesler's 70th birthday celebration has ended, it's time to get ready for the Air Force's 64th birthday.

The Air Force became a separate service on Sept. 18, 1947.

To celebrate the occasion, the Air Force Association John C. Stennis Chapter 332 is hosting an Air Force Ball, Sept. 17 at the Bay Breeze Event Center. The social hour is 6 p.m. with dinner at 7.

The evening includes a prisoner of war as guest speaker, a jazz band, cake cutting, dancing and prizes. The Keesler Honor Guard and the Civil Air Patrol are participating as well.

"We're really excited about our first ball here at Keesler," said Lt. Col. Scott Solomon, AFA president and deputy

commander of the 81st Training Group. "It's a great opportunity to bring the Keesler community together. Many people on base who aren't even members are providing tremendous support in preparing for this event."

Solomon hopes that the occasion is just another step toward revitalizing the local

chapter, which has been in a rebuilding mode since Hurricane Katrina six years ago. The organization currently has 398 members and community partners.

Tickets for the ball are \$35. Only 250 seats are available.

For more information, visit [www.gulfcoastairforceball.org](http://www.gulfcoastairforceball.org).

### What is the Air Force Association?

The Air Force Association, founded in 1946, exists to promote Air Force airpower.

The AFA educates the critical role of aerospace power in the defense of the United States, advocates aerospace power and a strong national defense and supports the Air Force, the Air Force family and aerospace education.

The AFA is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit educational organization.

The association's top issues for 2011 are supporting Airmen, caring for veterans and retirees, recapitalizing the aging fleet, securing space and cyberspace, strengthening the nuclear mission and investing in airpower.

## IN THE NEWS

### Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for the Sept. 8 issue of the Keesler News is noon today because of Monday's Labor Day holiday.

### Hospital ramp reopens

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The Keesler Hospital's A-tower ramp reopened to traffic Aug. 23.

The ramp was closed for more than 10 months following a water main break under the west end of the roadway. During the closure, vehicles entered and exited the ramp from the east side.

### Clinics close for warrior training

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group conducts warrior training noon to 5 p.m. Sept. 8.

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. If it's an emergency, contact 911 for an ambulance.

### Formal retreat for 9/11 observance

The 81st Training Wing holds a formal retreat, 4:30 p.m. Sept. 9 in front of wing headquarters as part of Keesler's 9/11 observance.

### Dental residency program review

The Commission on Dental Accreditation is reviewing the general practice and endodontics residency programs of the 81st Medical Group Nov. 15-16.

Third-party comments from students and patients are solicited by CODA until Sept. 15, 60 days prior to the scheduled review. Such comments must pertain only to the standards for the particular program or policies and procedures used in the commission's accreditation process.

A copy of the appropriate accreditation standards and/or the commission's policy on third-party comments may be obtained by contacting the commission at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611, or by calling 1-800-621-8099, extension 4653.

Many of the CODA standards and policies also are available at the American Dental Association's website at [www.ada.org/100.aspx](http://www.ada.org/100.aspx). Comments are screened by commission staff for relevancy. For comments not relevant to these issues, the individual is notified that the comment is not related to accreditation and, where appropriate, referred to the appropriate agency.

For local questions, consult the program directors or the 81st Dental Squadron Residency Flight Commander, 606 Fisher Street, Keesler AFB, MS 39535, or call 376-5190.

**Dragons deployed — 305**





Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, left, 81st Training Wing commander, receives a flu shot from Brig. Gen. Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander, who receives his shot from Capt. Kelly Carter, 81st TRW. Flu shots are mandatory for active duty members and hospital employees, who may begin receiving their vaccinations now. A schedule is being set up for the 81st Training Group in the coming weeks, and automated phone messages will be made soon to alert high-risk patients, parents of children at the child development center and dependents. All others, including civilians and contractors, will follow soon.**

## Roll up your sleeve — flu season is here

By 1st Lt. Brittany Chase

### 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Keesler, it's that time again — the flu season has begun.

This year's flu shot, just as last year's, protects against the seasonal flu and H1N1.

Even though this year's vaccine is the same as last year's, the Centers for Disease Control recommend an annual vaccine for "optimal protection." Once again, both the FluMist and intramuscular shots are available.

The flu shot is an inactivated vaccine containing killed virus, while the FluMist is a live attenuated vaccine, meaning the flu strain used to create the vaccine has been reduced to a harmless or less virulent form to keep the pathogen live.

This year's vaccine can be expected to reduce laboratory-confirmed influenza by approximately 70 to 90 percent in healthy adults under 65 years of age.

The CDC urges susceptible populations, such as children, elderly people, pregnant women and immunocompromised people to receive the vaccine as soon as possible.

An estimated 5 to 20 percent of Americans come down with the flu every year so it's important for all people 6 months and older to get vaccinated.

At Keesler, all active-duty members are required to get vaccinated. Flu is spread from person to person through droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. Most people may be able to infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and five to seven days after becoming sick. Some may not show symptoms at all. That means that people may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before knowing they are sick, as well as while they are sick. Considering how quickly flu can spread, getting immunized not only protects you, but all around you as well.

Here are some ways to keep yourself and your families healthy this flu season:

- Get vaccinated.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are having flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat or muscle aches, see your doctor.

For more information on influenza, please visit the CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/> or call the public health office, 376-3163.

# 70th birthday celebration — something for everyone



Grace Blankenship, 2½, tosses a hula hoop around a cone at Saturday's family birthday party. Her dad is Tech. Sgt. Dan Blankenship, a Keesler firefighter.



Top, 3-year-old Wyatt Hollin and his dad, Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hollin, 333rd Training Squadron, assemble an organizer at a Home Depot booth during Keesler's family birthday party. Wyatt's mom is Erica Hollin. Other birthday events Saturday at Bay Breeze Event Center included a birthday golf scramble and an evening gala.



Col. Glen Downing, 81st Training Wing vice commander, wore vintage attire for Saturday's birthday golf scramble.

Left, Dean Todd, Don McCormick and Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller cut the cake at Saturday's birthday gala. Todd and McCormick are members of the Keesler Federal Credit Union Board of Directors and Mueller is the 81st TRW commander.



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Top, Airman 1st Class Jason Lillis, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, prepares his 8-month-old daughter, Kaylee, for a pony ride during the family birthday party. Kaylee's mom is Tiffany Lillis.

Left, Peggy Fairley, catering director at the Bay Breeze Event Center, replenishes the dessert table with cake pops and pastries for Saturday's gala. Kentucky Derby attire was chosen for the event which featured music by Big Bang Theory.

## This week's movies at Welch Theater

**Friday** — Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2 (PG-13).

**Saturday** — 2 p.m., Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG-13); 6:30 p.m., Friends with Benefits (R).

**Sunday** — 1 p.m., Winnie the Pooh (G).



## PERSONNEL NOTES

### CSA not for personal use

#### 81st Comptroller Squadron

Effective immediately the Controlled Spend Account is no longer for personal use.

Based on feedback from Air Force leadership, general counsel, Defense Travel Management Office and the General Services Administration, the CSA can be used for official government travel only.

In addition, the CSA program in its original implementation had no requirement for delinquency management and therefore no real performance indicators. Soon, area program coordinators will be expected to monitor account listings for suspended and past due accounts.

For more information, call 376-8189.

### Leadership training opportunities

#### Equal opportunity office

Several equal opportunity leadership training opportunities are offered in during September.

All classes are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the equal opportunity classroom, Building 2902, the Airman Leadership School building.

**Sept. 8** — Dealing with difficult people; Bruce Mow, instructor.

**Sept. 15** — Managing emotions under pressure; John Pye, instructor.

**Sept. 22** — How to deal with unacceptable employee behavior; James Laubach, instructor.

For more information or to sign up, call 377-2975 or email 81trw/eo@us.af.mil.

### Unit citation

The Presidential Unit Citation has been awarded to Joint Task Force Neptune, March 17-May 2.

If you were assigned to Joint Task Force Neptune during this time, call 376-8155 or visit Room 224, Sablich Center, Room 224, to see if you are eligible.

### Transition assistance classes

#### 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, call 376-8728.

**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. 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. Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A.

**Retirement briefings** — 1-3:30 p.m. Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A; 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.

# Year-end PCS orders approved at central location

## Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Airmen who get permanent-change-of-station orders after Sept. 12 will have their orders approved at a centralized location as Air Force Personnel Center officials implement procedures for closing out the fiscal year PCS budget.

By the end of this fiscal year, AFPC is on course to publish more than 70,000 orders. As FY11 comes to a close, officials are working with base-level military personnel sections to ensure the Air Force doesn't exceed the overall number of orders allowed by the budget.

"Fiscal year 2010 proved to be an excellent closeout," said Lt. Col. Sean McElhaney Pahia, assignment support division chief. "Moving the orders approval function to AFPC in accordance with the end of the fiscal year closeout procedures

allowed us to balance the PCS budget and ensure the availability of sufficient PCS funds to cover Air Force obligations, while maintaining superior cus-

tomers service."

Military personnel sections and other orders-publishing authorities must exercise extreme diligence in Septem-

ber, and continue to process accurate orders for AFPC approval, the colonel said.

If monitoring reveals that the Air Force is operating well

within its budgeted PCS funds, AFPC officials will approve as many orders as needed to meet mission requirements.

# Clandestine kittens make home in general's car while he's away

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

"While the general's away, the cats will play."

Maybe that's what a couple of kittens were thinking when they decided to roost in the 81st Medical Group commander's staff car.

Bruce Dye, a member of the 81st Medical Support Squadron medical information management flight, was reporting to work Aug. 14 and happened to notice at least one kitten peering at him from the grill of Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Kory Cornum's vehicle. The "Dragon Medic" commander was off station on a temporary duty assignment. Dye contacted another squadron member who alerted the commander's secretary. She called CSC pest management.

A CSC pest management team consisting of Phillip Remel and Michael Thomas arrived around 9 a.m. Aug. 15 to try to extricate the young felines — and perhaps their mother — from the car's engine compartment. (They later assumed "momma" had run off.) The two kittens — one orange, the other grey tabbies — eluded the erstwhile team that tried to capture them using a snare and net. One of the cats did run from the car and covered by a nearby wall. The pest management crew tried to capture it in the net only to find it had a hole in it through which the "young 'un" escaped and returned to the sanctuary of the engine block.

Remel and Thomas believe the cat family may be the same one that has been seen outside the 81st Medical Support Squadron's logistics warehouse.

After several more attempts to catch the elusive critters, Remel and Thomas left, planning to check back after lunch and see if they might have better luck then. But, alas, the kittens were



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Remel attempts to encourage one of the kittens to exit the engine block, but the young feline had no intention of leaving, retreating behind the engine.

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"Anyone who loves animals would hate to have something happen to them."

— Rodriguez

able to elude capture. Apparently, they realized they were "home free" because as Chief Master Sgt. Michael Anderson, 81st MDG superintendent, left for the day, he saw them "lounging" under the staff car. They were seen early the next morning relaxing on the steps leading to the hospital's A tower.

Staff Sgt. Tawnie Miller, 81st MDG, was concerned about the safety of the kittens and their mother and began asking around the group command area to see if she could find someone who might adopt them. One member stepped up and volunteered to take them home — Staff Sgt. Oscar Rodriguez, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge.

He brought two pet carriers in the next day and that afternoon "popped the hood" trying to find the cat family. Unfortunately, they had already vacated the premises.

Rodriguez planned to look for them in the early evening, capture them and take them home. Regrettably, they weren't there, so he decided to try again Aug. 17. After learning the wayward kitties had been seen sleeping in the car's grill early on Aug. 17, the cat wrangler again went to the staff car to try to snare them — they weren't there. So, he moved the car to the hospital parking lot in the hope the kittens would return to the ramp area where he would — once more — attempt to entice them into the pet carriers. Sergeant Rodriguez deployed Aug. 18 for a week-long medical exercise and hoped to continue his efforts when he returned. As of Tuesday, the wayward kittens were still at large.

Why had Rodriguez decided to rescue the kittens? He explained, "Anyone who loves animals would hate to have something happen to them."



U.S. AIR FORCE  
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# eight days a week

## Airman and family readiness center

**Editor's note:** Registration is required. All briefings take place in Room 108, Sablich Center, unless otherwise noted.

**Today and Sept. 8** — 9-11:30 a.m., interview skills and salary negotiation. Learn how to get the employer to "talk money" first when discussing salary.

**Wednesday** — 7-11:30 a.m., newcomers orientation.

## Bay Breeze Collocated Club

**Editor's note:** Must be age 18 or older to enter collocated lounge. For more information or reservations, call 377-2334. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

**Through Sept. 9** — reserve your seat for the upcoming Texas hold'em tournament. 5 p.m., Sept. 9. First 100 people guaranteed a seat. Prizes awarded. Free for Air Force Club members, \$5 nonmembers. Sponsored by Budweiser-Responsibility Matters and Forest City.

**Weekdays** — food and drink specials in the collocated lounge. Monday madness with domestic draft specials, taco Tuesdays, wings and things Wednesdays and ladies night on Thursdays before nontraining Fridays.

## Bay Breeze Golf Course

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

**Saturday** — 8 a.m., Keesler birthday golf scramble. Four-person, select-shot tournament. \$40 per player; preregistration required. Players assigned to teams by handicap.

**Wednesdays** — 4:30 p.m., free golf clinic. Adults only.

## Child development center

**Editor's note:** For more information or to register, call 377-2211. Fee based on family income.

**Through Oct. 1** — open enrollment for kindergarten transition program for 4-year-olds and preschool part-day program (morning and afternoon sessions.)

## Fitness centers

**Editor's note:** For more information or to register, call 377-4385 or 3056. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

**Today** — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., weigh-in for powerlifting competition, Triangle Fitness Center.

**Friday** — noon, third annual summer powerlifting meet, Triangle Fitness Center. Free to par-

ticipate. Awards presented. Sponsored by Keesler Federal Credit Union.

**Wednesday** — 7 a.m., 5K poker run/walk, Blake Fitness Center. Participants receive a card at five stations along the course. Awards presented. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. Sponsored by Newk's.

## Gaudé Lanes

**Tuesday** — 6:30 p.m., high rollers league begins. \$18 per person, per night. League runs every Tuesday for 32 weeks.

**Wednesday** — 6:30 p.m., Veterans Administration league begins. Prizes awarded. League runs every Wednesday for 32 weeks.

**Sept. 8** — 9 a.m., senior league begins. Prizes awarded. League runs every Thursday for 32 weeks. 6 p.m., intramural league begins. \$11 per person, per week. League runs for 34 weeks.

## Swimming pools

**Editor's note:** For more information, call 377-3948 or 3568. Identification and entry fee required for admission; \$1.50 daily.

**Daily except Monday** — 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., main base pool. Adult lap swim 11 a.m. to noon.

**Saturday and Sunday** — 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Triangle pool. Adult lap swim 11 a.m. to noon.

## Youth center

**Editor's note:** For more information or to register, call 377-4116. Drop-ins accepted on space-available basis.

**Friday** — 6:30-9:30 p.m., Friday night fun, ages 6-12. Games, skating, movies and more. \$10 for first child, \$5 others. Air Force Club members receive 10 percent off first child's fee.

**Tuesdays** — tennis lessons, 5-5:30 p.m., ages 4-7; 5:30-6:30 p.m., ages 8-10; 5:30-7 p.m., ages 11-16. Prices vary. Dance class, 5:30-6:30 p.m., ages 3-5; 6:30-7:30 p.m., ages 6 and older. \$45 per month.

**Through Sept. 16** — youth flag football registration. \$50 for first child, \$25 for each additional child. Season begins in October. Air Force Club members receive 10 percent off first child's fee.

## Dragon Wagon

**Thursday-Sunday** — catch a ride to base "hot spots" for 50 cents, \$10 monthly passes available at Gaudé Lanes and Legends Café; Air Force Club members ride free. For route and schedule, visit <http://www.keesler81fss.us>.



Make your  
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CFC representative.

# Worship schedule

## Roman Catholic

**Daily Mass**, 11:15 a.m., Monday through Friday, Triangle Chapel.

**Sunday Mass**, 9 a.m., Triangle Chapel.

## Protestant

**Traditional service**, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Larcher Chapel.

**Contemporary service**, 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

**Gospel service**, noon Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

## Jewish

Regular services 8 p.m. Fridays at Congregation Beth Israel, 12277 Three Rivers Road, Gulfport.

High holidays:

**Sept. 28** — 8 p.m., Erev Rosh Hashanah.

**Sept. 29** — 9:30 a.m., first day Rosh Hashanah/Shacharit; 6:30 p.m., Minchah/Ma-ariv.

**Sept. 30** — 9:30 a.m., second day Rosh Hashanah; 8 p.m., Shabbat Shuvah/Ma-ariv.

**Oct. 1** — 10 a.m., Shabbat Shuvah/Torah study.

**Oct. 7** — 6 p.m., Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre.

**Oct. 8** — 9:30 a.m., Yom Kippur/Shacharit; 5 p.m., Yom Kippur/Minchah/Ne-ilah.

For more information, call 377-4050, 207-2196, 539-1655 or 1-405-740-9077.

## Greek Orthodox

Sunday Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m., Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 255 Beauvoir Road, Biloxi. For more information, call 388-6138.

## Islamic

Prayer is five times daily; Salaat ul-Jumma congregational prayer, noon on Friday, Building 2003. For more information, call 377-2520.

## Latter-Day Saints

Student group service, 2 p.m. Sunday, Triangle Chapel. For more information, call 396-5274 or 1-616-881-1994.

# KEESLER NOTES

## Air Force Aid assistance

Starting today, Air Force Aid Society assistance, including Falcon Loans, is provided by appointment only.

Emergency travel aid are still provided on a walk-in basis.

For an appointment, call 376-8728.

## Air Force Aid

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

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

## Parenting class

Family advocacy is sponsoring a program covering effective parenting of children ages 2-12, 3-4:30 p.m. today, Sept. 8, 15 and 22 in the Arnold Annex conference room.

The "1-2-3 Magic" program is a humorous look at parenting and a serious look at discipline that encourages good behavior and self-confidence.

It's open to anyone with access to the base, but seating is limited.

To sign up, call 376-3457 or 3459.

## Free Friday fun

The Keesler Spouses Club sponsors a free Friday fun night at the youth center, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Sept. 9 for children ages 6-12.

Admission charges, snacks and drinks are covered by donations from club members.

## Pharmacy closed

The Keesler Hospital's outpatient pharmacy is closed for remodeling Friday.

All new prescriptions normally filled at the outpatient pharmacy are diverted to the exchange pharmacy, which will be open that day with additional staffing to prevent delay in patient care.

The outpatient pharmacy reopens at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday.

## Diversity Day

Keesler's second annual Diversity Day is Sept. 13 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

To volunteer for one of the committees, call 377-9160 or e-mail [81mss.dpn@us.af.mil](mailto:81mss.dpn@us.af.mil).

## Spouses club welcome

The Keesler Spouses Club plans a birthday bunco night in honor of the Air Force's 64th birthday, 6:30 p.m. Sept. 13 in function rooms 1 and 2 on the first floor of the Bay Beeze Event Center.

The free event features light snacks, door prizes and information on the club's thrift shop, volunteer activities, scholarships, bunco, play group, book club and discovery club.

For more information, email [membership@keeslerspousesclub.com](mailto:membership@keeslerspousesclub.com), visit [www.keeslerspousesclub.com](http://www.keeslerspousesclub.com) or call 207-1523.

## Cancer screenings

**Skin cancer screening** — 8-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Sept. 14, 21 and 28 in the dermatology clinic. Patients need a referral and no other dermatology issues will be addressed.

For more information, call 376-3501.

**Prostate cancer screening** — 8-11 a.m. Sept. 23 in the urology clinic.

Any male eligible for military health care ages 40 and older, may walk in for a quick prostate cancer screening. The process includes a short questionnaire, a blood test at the lab and a digital rectal exam. Patient education materials are also available.

## 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.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and non-training Fridays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the last Saturday of the month.

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

## Keesler Thrift Shop

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

Profits benefit local 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.

Pickup is available for bulk donations.

For more information and a list of preferred donations, call 377-3217 or log on to [www.keesler.af.mil](http://www.keesler.af.mil).



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jacqueline Haro

The Keesler Dragons won a soccer tournament in Gautier in June. Some of the winning team members are no longer playing, but many are headed to play in the Defender's Cup tournament. Front row from left are Eric Hagan, Jason McClean, Steve Haro, Sammy Valles, Fred Riley and Rajab Kigembe. Back row from left are Kenny Woltz, Kyle Kinsey, Jarred Lovelace, Christopher Simpson, Rodrigo Paes and Carlos Zuniga.

## Base's varsity soccer team competes for Defender's Cup

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler's varsity soccer team leaves today for Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, to compete in the Air Force's Defender's Cup tournament.

"There's nothing better than winning that tournament," said player-coach Eric Hagan, 334th Training Squadron. "It's the only soccer tournament that gives every base the opportunity to participate. "Having the bragging rights of being the best team in the Air Force means a lot," the coach continued. "I was lucky enough to be on the 2004 championship team from Vance AFB, Okla."

The 20 teams in the tournament initially are divided into groups of four. Keesler's group includes Langley AFB, Va.; Dyess AFB, Texas, and Fort Sam Houston, Texas. After playing the other teams in the group, the teams are seeded for Sunday's elimination playoff games.

To prepare for the tournament, many team members have played in the base's intramural league. The team practices together twice a week and most have participated in an off-base soccer league. In the past two months, that team has won off-base tournaments in Gautier and Moss Point.

"Most of our players have played in the Defender's Cup tournament multiple times," Hagan pointed out. "We have a very skillful team that works together very well."

Core members powering the team are Hagan and Carlos Zuniga at forward, Jarred Lovelace and Marcus Tenenbaum at midfield and Fred Riley at defense. Lovelace's wife is Casey Lovelace, 81st Dental Squadron. Zuniga is from the 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, Tenenbaum is from the 333rd TRS and Riley's dad is a retiree.

Other players rounding out

the team are Sammy Valles, 81st Training Group; Kenny Woltz, who recently separated from the Air Force; Kyle Kinsey, 81st Force Support Squadron; Justin Gray, 81st Training Support Squadron; Badin Burch, 403rd Wing; Leroy Simmons, 81st Operations Support Flight; Henry "Bones" Pilligua, 81st Communications Squadron; Patrick Gould, 333rd TRS; and Eric Coffie, Rodrigo Paes and Ugo Nnakeyi, 81st Medical Support Squadron.

Team members are on permissive temporary duty, so the base supplies vans for transportation to Texas.

"We're responsible for our hotels, food and other expenses," Hagan said.

"We have the talent — we just have to get the job done," he stressed. "If we play well, the sky is the limit. To win a tournament of this caliber, the entire team must play well every game."

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



# Individuals, teams compete in Sept. 10 mini-triathlon

Keesler's 7th annual mini-triathlon is 8 a.m. Sept. 10 at the Triangle Pool.

Patty McGruder, health promotion educator at the health and wellness center, said that three events are planned — a 200-yard swim, 9 miles cycling and 2 miles running.

For relay teams, one of the three members must be female. Each person does a different event. The top three teams earn Commander's Cup points. All teammates must be from the same squadron.

Individual categories are individual male and female (ages 18-29, 30-39, 40-49 and over 50), elite male (less than 45 minutes), elite female (less than 50 minutes), Clydesdale (men more than 200 pounds) and Athena (women more than 150 pounds).

Competitors who sign up by Sept. 1 at the HAWC or Blake Fitness Center receive a T-shirt the day of the event. The last day to register is Sept. 7; no sign-ups are accepted on the day of the contest. Check-in time is from 6:30-7 a.m.

For more information, call the health and wellness center, 376-3170.

## Soccer, golf titles on line

Weather willing, the championship matches for two intramural sports have been scheduled.

**Soccer** — championship game was scheduled to be played Wednesday. Story and photos will be published in next week's Keesler News.

**Golf** — championship match is 1 p.m. Sept. 6.

For more information, call 377-2244.

**For lost and found items,  
call the 81st Security Forces Squadron investigations office,  
377-4500,  
7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.**

