



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

DEC. 1, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 46



Holiday helpers

Page 3

Wingman Day

Page 8

Civilian deployments

Page 13

INSIDE

Commentary, 2-3 Training and Education, 4-7 News and Features, 8-22 Sports and Recreation, 23

www.keesler.af.mil

COMMENTARY

You can be a force supporter, too

By Maj. John Ponton

81st Force Support Squadron

The media has been reporting news of cuts in military and civilian personnel and resources. Keesler units haven't been immune to these reductions, and your 81st Force Support Squadron has been hit harder than most organizations. What does the future hold regarding the many programs, services and events the Keesler community deserves and receives from their manpower, personnel and services teams?

Fortunately, much of the answer is a simple one. The military personnel section will still process identification cards, permanent change of station orders and continue to provide other mission-essential services. The manpower and civilian personnel sections will still help to ensure you have people in place to accomplish the mission. Your lodging and dining facility staffs will still provide comfort and outstanding service to our temporary duty, permanent party and student residents. And, of course, critical mission areas such as mortuary affairs, fitness, and deployment processing must go on.

Where the uncertainty lies is the future of our recreational and youth-focused activities. Golf, outdoor recreation, youth centers, child development centers, arts and crafts, bowling, wood shops and auto hobby shops, among others, are all under

In essence, "you vote with your wallet," and every time you spend a dollar, you are making it known what facilities you wish to remain open.

immense scrutiny regarding their ability to be increasingly self-sustaining on a strictly financial basis. While some of these activities have traditionally received at least some financial support, that's no longer the case.

In keeping with this new mindset, and like every organization in the Air Force, your 81st FSS is being directed to realize efficiencies wherever possible. Traditional services functions are being scrutinized as never before. The reality is that those activities unable to remain financially self-sustaining are in danger of being lost. The good news is that much remains within our control. Team Keesler can help ensure the continued vitality of our recreational activities by playing an active role.

There's much you can do, such as considering the benefits of becoming a club member. Look for ways for you and your organization to partner with your services activities and volunteer your time whenever possible. For example, hold your group meetings at the bowling center for breakfast. At a time when our

activities are being threatened, usage rates and profitability will be determining factors when the tough decisions are made. In essence, "you vote with your wallet," and every time you spend a dollar, you are making it known what facilities you wish to remain open.

To be sure, these are times of uncertainty in the world of force support throughout the Air Force. While we're determined to provide outstanding services, facilities and events to Team Keesler, our methods of delivery will inevitably change. In some cases, facilities may reduce hours or conduct business by appointment. We'll be leaner, more consolidated and more integrated with similar providers located throughout the local community. The job will get done, but with fewer people and less resources, it will be done differently. We embrace the challenges that lie ahead as we strive to remain the best force support squadron in the Air Force.

Leaders urge holiday safety

By Michael Donley

Secretary of the Air Force
Gen. Norton Schwartz

Air Force Chief of Staff
and Chief Master Sgt. James Roy

Chief master sergeant of the Air Force

"Safety never takes a holiday is the theme of this year's holiday safety campaign. We urge all Airmen, uniformed and civilian, to take a few extra minutes to thoroughly think through your holiday plans and use sound risk management when traveling and participating in winter activities.

We also thank our Airmen, commanders, family members, and safety professionals who are working very hard to reduce mishaps. Your efforts are paying off. We lost no Airmen to personal motor vehicle mishaps between Christmas and New Year's Day during the past two years. This year, we are on track to achieve the Secretary of Defense's goal to reduce preventable, off-duty automobile mishaps.

We still have work to do in other mishap areas and will roll out a "Quest for Zero" initiative in the coming year to reduce preventable on-duty fatal mishaps. This year's holiday safety campaign focuses on stress management, winter driving, winter sports, responsible drinking, and preventing complacency. All Airmen have a responsibility to ensure a safe holiday for themselves, their fellow Airmen, and their families by being alert to safety risks, both on- and off-duty. By employing personal and wingman risk management concepts, we might once again enjoy a successful winter holiday season with no preventable mishaps.

Whether you are deployed or serving at home, your dedication and sacrifice are profoundly appreciated. Happy holidays to you and your families. Travel and celebrate with care, and remember that safety never takes a holiday.

'VA for Vets'

New program draws veterans into VA workforce

By Eric Shinseki

Secretary of Veterans Affairs

I would like to introduce "VA for Vets," an outstanding new program to help our veterans find appropriate careers at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Launched on Veterans Day, VA for Vets takes a high-tech and high-touch approach to recruiting, hiring, retaining and reintegrating veterans into the VA workforce.

As part of its high-tech solution, the program offers state of the art online tools for veterans seeking employment or career development opportunities. The online career center includes a military skills translator that translates military skills into civilian language, a resume builder that tailors veterans' resumes so they can more easily compete for open positions in VA and avatar-based technology that connects deployed service members back to VA during their operational missions.

The high-touch solution comes in the form of career and reintegration coaches who are readily available to help veterans

and service members take full advantage of opportunities offered through the career center or to ensure a seamless transition into the VA workforce. The three new coaching call centers are in Dumfries, Va.; Ebensburg, Pa.; and New Orleans.

As vice chair of President Barack Obama's Veterans Employment Council, I am confident that VA can set the standard for veterans' recruitment and career development at other federal agencies. VA for Vets is part of a larger strategic initiative led by the newly-established Veteran Employment Services Office within the Office of Human Resources and Administration. I have set a goal for VA to increase its veteran workforce from 30 percent to 40 percent and VESO will be at the forefront of that effort, working with all offices and administrations to ensure we achieve our goals.

The VA for Vets program represents a commitment to transforming the way we hire and retain our veterans. This program requires the personal commitment of all VA employees so we can uphold our sacred trust and moral obligation to care for those "who have borne the battle."

Train, Care, Innovate ... Developing Combat Power for Air, Space and Cyberspace

ON THE COVER

Seven-year-old Hunter Duval deposits money into the Project Cheer can as Maj. Harold Hobgood and Staff Sgt. Patrick Sandridge, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, try to get the attention of shoppers on their way in and out of the exchange Sunday. Project Cheer, an annual charitable drive sponsored by the First Sergeants Council, provides commissary vouchers to assist Airmen with their holiday food needs. Project Cheer bell-ringers are at the the exchange and shoppette, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 17.

Photo by Adam Bond



NO DUIs NO EXCUSES
DRINK RESPONSIBLY

KEESLER NEWS

81st Training Wing commander

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

Public affairs director

Jerry Taranto

Deputy director

1st Lt. Victoria Porto

Editor

Susan Griggs

Photojournalist

Kemberly Groue

Writer/graphic designer

Steve Hoffmann

Public affairs staff

Staff Sgt.

Kimberly Moore

Senior Airman

Eric Summers Jr.

Airman 1st Class

Heather Heiney

Billy Bell

Tim Coleman

Joel Van Nice

YoLanda Wallace

The Keesler News office is in Room 201A, Wall Studio, Building 0902. The mailing address: 81TRW/PAIN, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2120. Phone: 377-4130, 3837, 3163 or 9966. Published Thursday. News deadline: noon Monday. Editorial content edited, prepared and provided by the 81st TRW Public Affairs Office is in compliance with Air Force journalistic standards. Photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

The Keesler News is published by Gulf Publishing Co., a private firm in no way connected with the Air Force, under an exclusive written contract with the 81st TRW as an authorized publication for U.S. military service members. Contents aren't necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or Air Force. Advertising doesn't constitute endorsement by the U.S. government, DOD, Air Force or Gulf Publishing of products or services advertised. Everything advertised shall be available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor.



Use your smart phone QR code application to view this issue and the online Keesler News archives.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Longest-serving Airman

46 years of service for former 2nd Air Force leader

By Tech. Sgt. Richard Williams

Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON — As the sun sets on the career of Maj. Gen. Alfred Flowers, he looks back with a sense of accomplishment.

Flowers, the deputy assistant secretary for budget in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller, is set to retire from the Air Force on Jan. 1.

With 46 years of service to his country, Flowers is the longest serving Airman and currently the longest serving Air Force officer who began their service since the creation of the U.S. Air Force in 1947.

“When you start at age 17, you can get a lot done by the time you are 60,” Flowers said.

Credits humble beginnings

A Kinston, N.C., native, Flowers was raised by his grandparents, who were sharecroppers. He credits humble beginnings as the foundation that carried him to where he is today.

“Being raised by grandparents who instilled the morals, the values, the integrity of doing the right thing and treating people the way you want to be treated has been important,” he said. “I credit a lot of my makeup, morals and ethical values and attitudes to them.”

These values guided Flowers to perform his best in school and propelled him to graduate from high school at 17.

Flowers knew the opportunity to further his education after high school was bleak. However, there were other ways to succeed for someone with motivation, drive and a willingness to perform their best every day.

Followed cousin into military

He followed the model of a cousin who had joined the Army a few years earlier and was doing well. He asked his grandmother’s permission to join the Air Force in 1965.

Upon completion of basic military training, Flowers received a direct to duty assignment as a supply warehouseman at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., which he recalls was a



Photo by Jim Varhegyi

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley presents Flowers the Distinguished Service Medal during the general’s retirement ceremony Nov. 17 at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington D.C.

completely different environment from where he grew up.

After spending two years at Grand Forks AFB, Flowers was retrained into air transportation and received one of his most difficult assignments of his career — casualty collection at Da Nang Air Base, Vietnam, in 1968.

“I knew that there was a war going on and it was a dangerous place,” Flowers said.

“The first day we showed up there was a rocket attack about an hour later, so there I was, a brand new 19-year-old Airman, trying to find my way to the bunker because we were under a rocket attack,” he said. “It was eye opening and quite frightening.”

In Vietnam, Flowers’ primary mission was to haul wounded and deceased soldiers out of the jungle at night.

“It was a job that had to be done, but one that was very difficult,” Flowers said. “Those young Soldiers and Marines deserved all the dignity and respect we could give.”

Upon completion of his tour in Vietnam, Flowers arrived at Norton AFB, Calif., where he met his wife. The two had only been married for two weeks when she received orders to Clark Air Base, Philippines; after

six months of separation, he received a joint spouse assignment.

During his time at Clark AB, Flowers began a quest to further his education with the support of his wife, whom he credits as a large influence on not only his career but his life as well.

He retrained as an accounting specialist during assignments to Lackland AFB, Texas, and Charleston AFB, S.C., and in 1975, after completing his bachelor’s degree, he applied and was accepted to Air Force Officer Training School.

At this time, Flowers’ wife, who was also an Airman, received orders to Iraklion AB, Crete. He would have to make a decision: accept his commission with no guarantee of joining his family after OTS completion or decline the commission and go with his family.

“That was an easy decision for me; I went with her and our 4-year-old and decided I would reapply later in my career,” Flowers said.

The move to Crete did not deter Flowers from continuing his goal of higher education and pursuing a career as an officer. Flowers finished his master’s degree and applied for Officer Training School and this time was denied.

Trading stripes for gold bars

He and his family then moved to Travis AFB, Calif., in 1977 where he again reapplied to OTS and was denied. He waited a short time and, while waiting for his promotion date to sew on master sergeant, he decided to reapply to OTS again and was accepted in 1978.

“My wife had been very instrumental with supporting me while I was furthering my education and extremely supportive after I made my transition from the enlisted side to the officer side,” Flowers said.

Flowers was commissioned in 1978 as a financial management officer. He credits the leaders he had with molding him into the officer he has become today and said it wasn’t always an easy transition.

The biggest challenge was mentally adjusting to life in the officer corps, Flowers said.

New expectations, challenges

“Expectations are different and challenges are different,” he said.

There were many mentors who helped mold Flowers’ career and he recalls his time at the 374th Tactical Fighter Squadron Moody AFB, Ga., and Headquarters Tactical Air Command, Langley AFB, Va., as assignments where his leadership helped unlock his potential as an officer.

Through the selfless leadership of others, Flowers said he was allowed to try and succeed or fail based on the support of others around him. This is something he has tried to pass on to enlisted and officers alike throughout the years.

One important piece to a successful mission, according to Flowers, is everyone working together as a team. He said at times he felt a distinct advantage having spent 13 years as an enlisted Airman; it allowed him to mesh officer and enlisted capabilities.

“The thing that you can never forget as an officer is if you are going to be successful, the enlisted community and all of those around you are what make you successful,” Flowers said. “None of us are good enough to make

Please see **Flowers**, Page 5

Flowers,

from Page 4

ourselves successful, and I never forgot where I came from.”

Throughout his career Flowers has completed 25 assignments, all of which he says were unique and challenging; however, he said his best assignment was to U.S. Special Operations Command, where he served as the director of resources.

“I think the reason I cherish it so much is because of the great work those operators are doing in today’s fight with the Global War on Terrorism,” Flowers said. “I had the opportunity to understand how those great Americans, that small cadre of special operations forces, are making a difference in the fight today.

“To be able to work the resourcing for them and ensure they had what they needed to do their work was a great opportunity and one of my fondest memories over

the past 46 years,” he added.

Besides his assignment to USSOCOM, Flowers said commanding 2nd Air Force at Keesler, which oversees all Air Force basic military and nonflying technical training, was his most important assignment.

“Having been an Airman who went through the 3706th Training Squadron in 1965 and being able to return and command 2nd Air Force was one of my greatest opportunities,” he added.

The training that takes place at Lackland AFB is the most important thing the Air Force does, he said.

“If we don’t get it right there, we don’t get it right in the Air Force,” Flowers said.

The ability to mold young Airmen into future Air Force leaders placed Flowers exactly where he wanted to be, “with the people,” he said. In his view, people are still the most important asset and their abilities and understanding of what is asked of them is crucial to future success.

“This is not about you, this is about service,” Flowers said. “And service sometimes means neglecting your own needs for the good of the whole, the nation or the service.”

Throughout his career, Flowers has worked to ensure Airmen have what they need to accomplish the mission. Whether it was as a supply warehouseman in 1965, an air transportation specialist during Vietnam or an enlisted or commissioned officer in financial management, his love for service has always been at the forefront, even through many changes to the service he has faithfully served for 46 years.

“I have seen a lot of changes throughout my career, and most of them were for the better,” Flowers said. “We all do our jobs and do them the best we can, but we could not do them without the people around us ... the people are what I will miss the most.”

Flowers’ retirement ceremony and banquet were held at Bolling AFB, Md., Nov. 16.

Airmen collect shoes to fight poverty, hunger

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

For most people, a pair of sneakers is simply a comfortable protective foot covering. But for some Keesler Airmen, used athletic shoes are a way to fight poverty, hunger and global warming in Africa.

Tech. Sgt. Nathan Cyr and Staff Sgt. Jason DeGrasse, 335th Training Squadron metrology instructors, partnered with a local running and triathlon store to collect gently-used footwear to benefit the non-profit Perpetual Prosperity Pumps Foundation.

For every 600 pairs collected, the foundation is able to provide bicycle and solar-powered pumps to supply water and 12 months of farming training, seeds, trees, tools and livestock to support a needy family in Ghana.

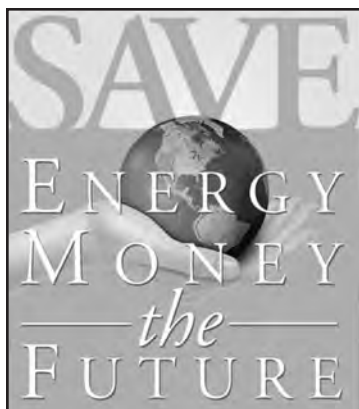
With help from members of their own squadron as well as volunteers from the 336th TRS, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron and Keesler's Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit, Cyr and DeGrasse collected 219 pairs of shoes, 38 pairs of boots and 25 pairs of sandals.

The athletic shoes boosted the local store's collection over the 600-pair goal. Since only athletic shoes are collected for the PPPF project, the boots were donated to the Veterans Affairs Homeless Veterans Coordination Office and the sandals were given to Goodwill in Biloxi.



Photo by Theodore Rayon

DeGrasse, left, and Cyr prepare to deliver shoe donations to a local running and triathlon store to forward for the PPPF campaign.



Air Force launches culture, language website

AETC News Service

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — The Air Force Culture and Language Center, part of Air University's Spaatz Center here, recently launched a new public website to provide information on the Air Force's efforts to increase cross-cultural competence — a critical warfighting skill cited by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta in an August memorandum to all Defense Department personnel.

"Both military and civilian personnel should have cross-cultural training to successfully work in DOD's richly diverse organization and to



better understand the global environment in which we operate," the secretary wrote.

The website, www.culture.af.mil, highlights all AFCLC departments and programs, including free courses that provide Community College of the Air Force credit for Airmen and other cross-cultural competence media resources. Additional training and educational resources are

offered to DOD members through the AFCLC's private site, <https://wwwmil.maxwell.af.mil/afclc/>, which requires users to have a Common Access Card and be on a .mil or .gov server.

"It's an incredible resource to help our military and civilian personnel become more cross-culturally competent," said Ms. Barbara Barger, the Air Force Senior Language Authority and director of the Air Force Language, Region and Culture Program Office. "Through the training and education offered by the AFCLC, we can ensure our people are able to negotiate

culturally-complex environments and accomplish their mission, any time, any place."

AFCLC's public site is a one-stop shop, which also provides links to external culture, language and negotiation learning sites. Some examples include the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, the Marine Corps' Center for Advanced Operational Culture Learning, the Army's Training and Doctrine Command Culture Center and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.

For more information, call 334-653-7729 or email afclc.pa@maxwell.af.mil.

TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

AECP suspended

Effective immediately, the Airman Education and Commissioning Program is suspending all new student starts.

This suspension directly affects the 2011 AECP selection board. The board results for the April 2011 AECP selection board won't be released.

AECP students currently in the program will continue until graduation and commissioning so long as they continue to meet all program requirements.

For more information, call 376-8472.

Hap Arnold grants

The Air Force Aid Society provides \$2,000 grants for undergraduate studies through the Gen. Henry H. Arnold educational grant program.

The application deadline is March 9. Visit the AFAS website at www.afas.org for information and to access the online application.

Grants are available to selected sons and daughters of active duty, Title 10 active Guard/Reserve members on extended active duty, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired Reservists with 20+ qualifying years of service, and deceased Air Force members; spouses (residing stateside) of active duty and Title 10 AGR/Reservists on extended active duty; and surviving spouses of deceased.

OTS boards

Officer Training School recruiting service board dates:

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

Academy applications

The deadline to submit applications to the Air Force Academy is Jan. 1.

For more information, call 376-8472.

NEWS AND FEATURES

Walking for wounded warriors



Sun Herald photo by John Fitzhugh
Chief Master Sgt. Rob Nolen and his wife, Tracy, and Master Sgt. Karen Chachere cross the Biloxi Bay Bridge during Saturday's third annual Wounded Warrior Walk. The chief and Chachere are from the Mathies NCO Academy. The event raised \$1,819 for the Combat Wounded Veterans of South Mississippi.

Wingman Day emphasizes financial, stress management

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

December 8 is Wingman Day at Keesler.

"Wingman Day is an opportunity for the whole base to come together and hear from leadership on how to take care of ourselves," said Chaplain (Capt.) Melvin Smith. "It's an opportunity to come together under the Wingman concept of taking care of one another."

The Wingman Day theme comes from Gen. Edward Rice Jr., Air Education and Training Command commander, through the Community Action Information Board.

According to Chaplain Smith, the CAIB is a meeting where the base commanders discuss potential problem

spots on base and how to solve them. The theme for the Dec. 8 Wingman Day will be personal financial readiness and stress management, with emphasis on how to be resilient in these areas.

A facilitator will initiate a discussion of these topics among small groups rather than a briefing. This allows Airmen the opportunity to express their concerns and ideas about the topics. Following the discussion, these small groups will engage in team building exercises such as sporting, recreational or process improvement activities.

"Really, the purpose for Wingman Day is to advance the wingman concept of taking care of one another," said Chaplain Smith.

Wingman Day starts at 6:45 a.m. at the base operations entrance to the flightline. Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, will kick off the day with a few words about Wingman Day followed by a flightline "fun run." From there, everyone will return to their units to participate in the topic presentations, discussions and group activities. Wingman Day will end around noon.

"Most of the feedback from past Wingman Days have been positive," said Chaplain Smith. "People enjoy getting away from the work section to focus on teamwork, camaraderie and to learn what helps them become strong and resilient."

IN THE NEWS

AICUZ study is released Dec. 12

Keesler's updated Air Installation Compatible Use Zone study is released at a public meeting, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Biloxi Visitors Center, second floor, 1050 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi.

The study addresses aircraft noise and accident potential zones created by current flying operations at Keesler. It contains information on building height restrictions and provides data for use in achieving land uses that are compatible with the current flying mission.

AICUZ data are intended for use by local citizens and government officials involved in land use planning and facility development. The purpose of the AICUZ program is to help ensure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens in the surrounding communities while preserving Keesler's operational capabilities.

The presentation outlines the overall AICUZ program, its methodology, potential uses of the study and Air Force and community responsibilities for compatible land use. A question-and-answer period follows the presentation.

Keesler officials note that as the cities of Biloxi and D'Iberville, and Harrison County continue to grow and prosper, it is important that all government and business leaders join with Keesler in a cooperative effort to implement mutually-beneficial planning for the future.

For those unable to attend the meeting, copies of the study are available by calling the Keesler Public Affairs Office, 377-2783.

Clinics close for warrior training

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

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

Death notification

Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

Col. Daniel Dant, 460th Space Wing commander, regrettably announces the death of Airman 1st Class Corey Cook, formerly of the 335th Training Squadron at Keesler.

Anyone having claims for or against Cook's estate should contact 2nd Lt Jack Craven, 460th Force Support Squadron, summary court officer, 720-847-6117.

Keesler News holiday schedule

The Dec. 15 Keesler News is the last issue for 2011. Jan. 5 is the first issue for 2012.

Dragons deployed — 208

'Happy Hour' makes return visit to Keesler



Photo by Kemberly Groue

McGrenahan, pictured during a 2009 show at Keesler, returns for his third visit to the base for two shows Dec. 9 at Welch Auditorium.

81st Medical Operations Squadron

Bernie McGrenahan brings his Happy Hour Comedy Show back to Keesler with two performances, 9 and 11 a.m. Dec. 9 at Welch Auditorium.

McGrenahan is a comedian with a message aimed at military audiences who uses humor to lead into a serious message about his "party experiences" and conduct.

Some of the topics he addresses are related to alcohol abuse — high-risk drinking and signs of a drinking problem, alcohol poisoning and prevention, drinking game dangers, digesting and processing alcohol, behavior under the influ-

ence of alcohol, driving under the influence and penalties, domestic abuse and violence under the influence of alcohol.

He also brings a message about physical injuries, property damages, risks and dangers of unsafe sex, date rape, making responsible choices and suicide warnings and prevention.

First Lt. Julianna Petrone, Keesler's drug and alcohol abuse prevention and treatment program director, said ADAPT will conduct "drunk busters" demonstrations and other Keesler Integrated Resource Team members will have outreach tables to promote base services between performances.

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

Services take place at 8 p.m. Fridays at Congregation Beth Israel, 12277 Three Rivers Road, Gulfport.

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

Greek Orthodox

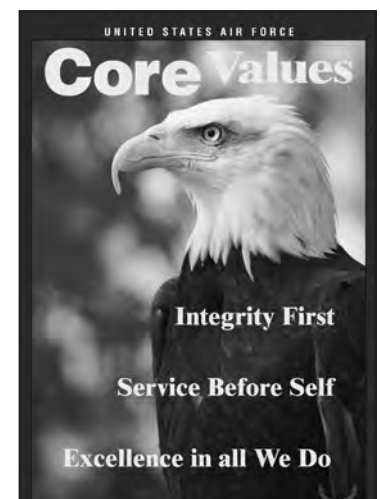
Sunday Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 255 Beauvoir Road, Biloxi. For more information, call 388-6138.

Islamic

Prayer is five times daily; Salaat ul-Jummah 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.



PERSONNEL NOTES

Family care plan changes

Legal office

Effective Nov. 1, Air Force Instruction 36-2908, the Family Care Plan regulation, has changed significantly, with important new requirements regarding custody arrangements during deployment.

Of particular note is Paragraph 2.8.2.4 which states that members have a responsibility to consult with an attorney prior to designating a non-custodial parent as the caregiver. The AFI also directs them to attempt "to the greatest extent possible" to obtain the documented consent of the non-custodial parent to the custody arrangement during a deployment.

Military members who are divorced should have language in the divorce decree which reflects the custody arrangements in the event the custodial military member deploys.

For more information, call 376-8601.

New medals updating process

81st Force Support Squadron

The Air Force Personnel Center has developed a streamlined process for mass updating of the Iraq, Afghanistan, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and the Air Force Expeditionary Medal with gold border.

April 29, AFPC/Total Force Service Center-San Antonio began mass updating the above medals for those individuals who meet the criteria. Allow the system 30 days before requesting any update to your campaign medals.

If you find errors on the virtual MPF, visit the awards and decorations office, Room 224, Sablich Center, or call 376-8155.

Health benefits open season

81st Force Support Squadron

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program open season continues through Dec. 12.

During open season, federal employees can enroll or change plans in the Employee Benefits Information System at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil> or by calling 1-800-525-0102.

For more information, visit Room 214, Sablich Center, or call 376-8326.

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 — 9 a.m. Tuesdays for those separating with honorable discharges and 1 p.m. 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.

Federal-style resume writing for government agency jobs — 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday.

Transition assistance program workshops — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 12-14, Room 108A. Dress is business casual; no jeans, T-shirts or uniforms.

Veterans benefits briefing — 8-11 a.m. Dec. 15, Room 108A.

Retirement briefings — 1-3:30 p.m. 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 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.

Online 'MyBiz' updates available

By Debbie Gildea

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Civilian employees are now able update their career brief education and certification records online, and get those updates verified by the Air Force Personnel Center, AFPC officials announced Nov 21.

Verification is important to ensure personnel files are accurate, and employees will benefit as well, said Abigail Hayden, the AFPC classification integration branch chief.

"Education, licensure and certifications can be used for qualification determinations in reassignments, prereduction in force placement when required by the position, so it is to the employee's benefit to have these updates validated and the supporting documentation profiled in the electronic official personnel file," she said.

According to Hayden, the self-service module will soon become the sole method of updating employee records.

"If employees aren't already doing so, they should get used to using this process to update their information," she said.

To update the information, she advises employees to go to the Defense Civilian Personnel Data System MyBiz application and follow the prompts to log in. Once logged in to MyBiz, go to "update my information," and click on the appropriate tab.

When employees update their information, the update source column in MyBiz will show

an "S" for self-certified which means the employee updates are unverified.

"The system will then send an automatically-generated e-mail to the employee to request legible copies of transcripts for education updates, or certificates for certification and license updates. Once we receive and verify the documents, we'll input the information in their official personnel file, and employees will see a "V" in the source column to indicate that the data has been verified," Hayden explained.

Since mid-October any employee who uses the self service application will receive a system generated e-mail request for transcripts and certificates.

"We can't verify the update without the supporting documentation," said Hayden, "so people who can't find their transcripts or certificates will need to contact their schools to get copies."

According to Hayden, the verification process should be complete within 30 days after receipt of the supporting documentation. To ensure the process continues smoothly, civilian employees should wait until they receive the e-mail request to send their documents.

"The e-mail will explain how to submit the information to us through AFPERS, so it will be best to wait for the email after self-certifying," Hayden said. "Meanwhile, it wouldn't hurt to ensure your transcripts and certificates are easily accessible so that you're ready to go when you get your message request."

When using a cell phone to report an emergency by calling "911" while on base or in base housing, tell the dispatcher that you're calling from Keesler to avoid a delay in response.

When you call "911" in this area on cell phones, calls are automatically routed to either Harrison County or the City of Biloxi. Delays have occurred in the past due to routing errors and similar street names.

AAFES offers holiday layaways to help pay for, hide gifts

AAFES Public Affairs

DALLAS – With the holiday season upon us, anxious children the world over might find their curiosity getting the best of them as they scramble to find out what gifts may be hidden away. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service's variety of expanded, convenient layaway options can keep the surprise "in the bag" as some items, such as toys and bikes, can be held on layaway until as late as Christmas Eve.

Clothing, shoes and even handbags are eligible for 30-day layaway while all other merchandise (excluding fine jewelry, which is eligible for 120 days of layaway) can be put on layaway for up to 60 days. Additionally, layaway for toys and bikes has been extended to 90 days.

Any purchase of \$25 or more is eligible for layaway at the exchange. A 15 percent deposit on the total purchase price is required to hold the product.

Merchandise excluded from the exchange's layaway program includes clearance merchandise, computers, peripherals, major appliances, furniture, mattresses, exercise equipment, electronics \$299 and up as well as seasonal and outdoor living products.

Become a Keesler fan on Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/keeslerafb>



Keesler restates shredding policy

81st Training Wing

The 81st Training Wing's operations security shredding policy aims to ensure all Keesler organizations are taking measures to protect unclassified information, especially information on critical information lists, "for official use only" documents and privacy act materials.

When no longer needed for government business or required as material for official records or files, all official and unofficial paper products will be destroyed via shredding and placed in recycling bins in each work center.

The goal of OPSEC is to prevent an intentional or unwanted disclosure of critical or sensitive information. In order to practice proper OPSEC and to minimize the potential for personally identifiable information incidents, every Airman is responsible for ensuring information is protected.

This policy does not include items such as unclassified newspapers, magazines or other periodicals or boxes and packing materials that should be recycled using the proper mechanisms. Materials such as food wrappers and containers should be disposed of in proper waste or recycling collection containers.

One man's
trash
is another
man's
treasure —
think OPSEC.

Civilian deployment opportunities to increase

By Debbie Gildea

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — More than 800 Air Force civilians deployed to various overseas locations in 2010. Projections show that more than 900 will deploy in 2011 and by this time next year, Air Force Personnel Center officials anticipate as many as 1,000 Air Force civilians will be working side-by-side with uniformed members in deployed locations.

Those numbers are expected to continue to rise as mission demands and civilian interests increase, said Tom Kelly, AFPC civilian expeditionary workforce program manager.

“We’ve been deploying civilians for years,” Kelly said, “but the Office of the Secretary of Defense CEW provides an additional avenue to allow civilians to deploy aside from the (air and space expeditionary force).”

There are hundreds of opportunities to support combatant commander requirements around the world, and Air Force leaders are working hard to increase the civilian footprint in support of those requirements, Kelly said.

“The challenge is to ensure our Air Force members are competitive against other governmental and nongovernmental applicants who are also contending for these opportunities. Selection for a civilian deployment is incredibly competitive, with thousands of America’s best and brightest vying for a spot,” he said.

Previously, civilians who wanted to volunteer for a deployment went directly to the OSD website to complete and submit an application, he said. Many of those who applied were not accepted.

“In some cases it was because they were applying for something they weren’t qualified for,” Kelly said. “To help our folks, we created a simple application process that helps prevent that. Before applica-



Dr. Susan Dawson, 81st Training Wing historian, checks out her gas mask as she goes through her deployment duffel bags in her office before departing last September for a four-month assignment to Southwest Asia.

tions go to OSD, we review them and contact applicants if necessary to help them with the process. People who apply want to deploy, so when possible, we’ll try to guide them toward opportunities for which they are qualified.”

Since the oversight process was implemented, Air Force civilian selection rates have increased from 5 percent in 2008 to more than 23 percent this year, Kelly said. But other factors also contribute to nonselection, so Kelly encourages applicants to “bring their ‘A’ game.”

“You have to ensure that your resume is strong and comprehensive because so many people are applying for CEW positions,” he said. “So, you need to make sure you stand out if you want to deploy. It is well worth the time and effort.”

Positions are available in a variety of fields including contracting, finance, intelligence, human resources, security administration, civil engineering, public affairs, supply and many more. Those interested in deploying can get more information about the

program at the OSD CEW site (<http://www.cpms.osd.mil/expeditionary>) and can review the various opportunities and requirements.

“Volunteers aren’t limited to openings in their current fields,” Kelly said. “If they have past documented experience and knowledge in another field, they can apply for an opening there.”

To apply for one, or as many as three of the opportunities listed on the OSD site, select the “apply” link, and then the “volunteer statement” link that goes to the civilian readiness community of practice page. In the “how to apply” folder is the Air Force application, an application checklist and other related documents.

Volunteers must complete, sign and date the top section of the application, attach their resume and hand-carry the package to their local civilian personnel section.

“The application only has space to identify one position, but volunteers can apply for up to three openings, so all they need to do is provide the same information for their

second and third interest areas on a separate sheet of paper,” Kelly said.

“From there, civilian personnel will make a recommendation and forward the application to the wing commander or equivalent, and then to the major command functional area manager. The MAJCOM FAM forwards it to the Headquarters Air Force FAM and from there it comes to me,” Kelly said.

When all required leadership levels have reviewed and made a recommendation, Kelly submits the entire package to OSD. If OSD selects an Air Force volunteer for deployment, deployment officials will contact Kelly who will notify the volunteer’s commander, who notifies the member.

“Although the application process seems cumbersome, it is designed specifically to give Air Force applicants the best chance for selection and allow leadership to have visibility of their resources,” Kelly said. “During the application process, commanders or FAMs can recommend disapproval, but they have to submit signifi-

cant justification for their recommendation and even then, the application will still be provided to OSD.”

Once OSD gets the application, the time it takes to make a selection can vary from a week to six months, depending on the number of applicants, required-in-place dates and other reasons.

“That said, a lot can change in someone’s life depending on how long the selection process takes,” Kelly said. “Applying for a position doesn’t mean that a volunteer will be selected, and if selected, it doesn’t mean the member has to go.”

This same principle of timeliness also allows the Air Force the chance to object if necessary. If the volunteer does accept an offer, Air Force officials have the opportunity to deny it due to mission impairment. However, denial justification must come from a general officer in the member’s chain of command, and justification must clearly show that the volunteer’s absence would negatively affect his or her unit’s mission, Kelly said.

Members selected and approved for deployment will go through the training necessary to prepare them for the experience and improve survivability in the theater, Kelly said, which might include Combat Airman Skills Training. Following training, deploying civilians will out-process, just as military deployers do, and will depart for their assignment.

Most deployments are 12 months, which doesn’t include time spent in whatever training program is required for the location and position.

The process, Kelly said, can be somewhat lengthy, but for those who are interested in an incomparable experience and a variety of related opportunities, it is worth every minute.

For more information about Air Force Civilian Expeditionary Workforce opportunities, go to <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/expeditionary> or contact the AFPC CEW division at afpc.dpieceworkflow@us.af.mil.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

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.



Asian-Pacific American group provides gifts for children

Airman Sabrina Bush, Staff Sgt. Monik Oubina, Senior Airman Sadie Barcroft and Airman 1st Class Arbor Samatov, Asian-Pacific American Heritage Committee members from the 81st Force Support Squadron, display 97 gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The program, an international relief project sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, provides Christmas gifts for children around the world. The APAHC nearly doubled its goal of packing 50 shoeboxes with school supplies, toys and hygiene items. The boxes were delivered to a local church Nov. 20.

Photo by
 Senior Airman Natasha Gagnon



Thanksgiving at Keesler

Left, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Volz, 334th Training Squadron, greets Airmen Basic Jessica Price and Elizabeth Shelton, 338th TRS, at the Fishbowl Student Center Nov. 24. Volz hosted the Airmen for Thanksgiving dinner through the chapel's Home Away from Home program for nonprior service students.

Master Sgt. Joel Shepherd, 338th TRS first sergeant, assisted by his daughter Leilani, 7, serves roast beef to Airman 1st Class Madi Nichols, 336th TRS, during the Thanksgiving feast at the Magnolia Dining Facility. Base leaders serve the meal to boost morale among Airmen who can't share Thanksgiving with their families.

Photos by Adam Bond



Something for everyone this holiday season

Today

4:30 p.m., Holiday in the Park, marina park. Tree lighting ceremony, hay rides, holiday music by the Keesler Choir, visit with Santa, free food and beverages.

Friday

Santa Police, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. sponsored by the 81st Security Forces Squadron. To put out a "warrant" for someone's arrest, call 377-XMAS (9627). Once apprehended, the individual is locked up and forced to listen to Christmas music and enjoy hot chocolate.

The cost to have someone incarcerated is \$10, with a \$5 charge for each additional 15 minutes. The detainee may pay bail to match the price of the amount paid for their warrant. Photos are available for \$5.

For more information, call 377-2337 or 1691.

Jingle Bell Run — noon, free 5-kilometer run/walk, Blake Fitness Center. Register 11:30 a.m. Awards presented to top three finishers in male and female divisions. Holiday attire encouraged.

Through Dec. 18

Project Cheer, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. This bell-ringer fundraiser by the first sergeants council is used to assist Keesler Airmen and their families with their holiday needs with commissary vouchers.

Through Dec. 18

Elf Vandy. Commanders, first sergeants and supervisors, thank the people working on Christmas Day with a goody bag. Registration, donations and pick-up at Vandenberg Community Center. Bags should be picked up by 6

p.m. Dec. 24. Free to participate.

Friday

6:30-9 p.m., Cocktails and Canvas, arts and crafts center. Light snacks provided, bring your favorite beverage. \$15 per person. Registration required; call 377-2821.

Saturday

8 a.m., holiday shopping trip to the Tanger Outlets in Foley, Ala. Bus departs the Bay Breeze Event Center at 8 a.m., returns 5 p.m. \$25 per person.

Noon to 8 p.m., tree trimming party, Vandenberg Community Center. Join the "V" staff and fellow nonprior service students to deck the halls, trim the tree and enjoy free cookies and cocoa. Decorations provided or bring your own.

3 p.m., boarding time for Christmas on the Water, base marina. Be a part of Biloxi's 26th annual boat parade aboard the Keesler Dolphin II. \$40 per person, includes boat ride, fireworks, food and beverages. Today's the deadline to sign up; tickets first come, first served. For more information, call 377-3160.

Wednesday

4-5 p.m., free children's story time, McBride Library. Holiday themed stories and crafts, ages 3-12. Co-hosted by airman and family readiness center as part of the family resiliency training program.

Dec. 9

12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., penguin decorating, arts and crafts center. Kids of all ages are invited to transform a bowling pin into their very own tuxedo clad friend. \$5 per person. Registration required; call 377-2821.

Dec. 10

9 a.m. to noon, breakfast and bowling with Santa, Gaudé Lanes. Bring the whole for a delicious breakfast and bowl a few games with old Saint Nick. \$10 per person, Free ages 4 and younger.

6-10 p.m., teen holiday party, youth center. Rock the night away with a reindeer skating race, music, crafts, holiday helping projects and more. \$5 admission.

Dec. 14

10 a.m., Christmas in Candy Land, McBride Library. 10-11 a.m., holiday themed story time and crafts, ages 3-5.

1-5 p.m., Everyone is invited to come and see the library's holiday displays and enjoy free refreshments.

4-6 p.m., Enjoy traditional children's holiday stories and create holiday crafts at the library. Free hot chocolate and treats for the whole family.

Dec. 16

6:30-9:30 p.m., Friday night fun holiday party, youth center. Celebrate the holidays with festive games, refreshments, music and surprises, ages 6-12. \$10 for first child, \$5 each additional. Registration required. Drop-ins welcome on a space-available basis; call 377-4116.

Dec. 17

8:30 a.m., Santa scramble golf tournament, Bay Breeze Golf Course. Two-person select shot with handicap by flight. Prices vary. Fee includes greens, cart, food, drinks, prizes and giveaways. Registration required; call 377-3832.

10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 12 hours of "A Christmas Story," Bay Breeze Community Center. Enjoy this holiday favorite as

it plays nonstop. Free popcorn. Order from the grill or bring a snack.

Dec. 18

11 a.m. to 1 p.m., brunch with Santa, Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom. Get a picture with Santa. Live entertainment provided by Jesse Hill. \$17.95 for Air Force Club members, \$22.95 nonmembers; ages 4-10 half-price, ages 3 and younger free. Reservations required, call 377-2334.

Dec. 19-23

Full day holiday camp, youth center for school-age program and open recreation. Registration required, call 377-4116.

Dec. 27-30

Full day holiday camp, youth center for school-age program only. Registration required, call 377-4116.

Dec. 31

8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Free New Year's Eve party, Vandenberg Community Center. Ring in 2012 playing video games, pool, ping-pong, cards or board games. Watch the ball drop on the big screen. Nonprior service students only.

8 p.m. to 1 a.m., club New Year's Eve Party, Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom with 80s theme, live entertainment, contests, hors d'oeuvres and late night breakfast. \$35 for Air Force Club members, \$45 nonmembers. Tickets available at the collocated club Dec. 1-22, Bay Breeze Pro Shop Dec. 23-31 or at the door.

8 p.m. to 1 a.m., New Year's Eve Party, Gaudé Lanes. Bowling, dancing, party favors, food and drinks. \$35 for adults, \$25 for ages 6-17, free for ages 5 and younger. Alcoholic beverages sold separately.

Mental health flight offers tips to stay joyful, reduce holiday stress

By Maj. David Cordry

81st Medical Operations Squadron
mental health flight commander

The holiday season is upon us in full force bringing with it the combination of happiness and stress.

Although most of us look forward to spending time with family and friends, the holidays also can be a source of stress. Between multiple demands for things like shopping, entertaining and traveling, stress and depression can creep into the holiday festivities like uninvited guests. It is important to recognize some triggers of holiday stress as we prepare for a peaceful and relaxing holiday season.

Relationships can be a source of great comfort and support through the holiday season; however, tensions are often heightened during the holidays. Family misunderstandings and conflicts often resurface during these times, especially when several people are crammed into a house where everyone is used to having their own space. Avoid engaging in the traditional "airing of grievances" and spend time focusing on the positive things you enjoy about your family. Airmen should keep in mind they are not the same person they were before joining the Air Force and this may present challenges to family and friends who have different expectations of them.

If you are not going to be able to spend the holidays with your family, try to maximize your time with friends wherever you are going to be—don't isolate yourself. Consider volunteering your time instead of staying home alone. Homeless shelters and nursing homes welcome volunteers anytime. You may also decide to attend a religious or spiritual service offered on base or in the community. Supervisors, make sure your troops have plans for the holidays or help them find something to do. Specifically ask if they



will be alone and, if so, help them find alternate plans.

Between travel, food, entertainment and fighting crowds to ensure you can buy just the limited edition G.I. Joe with the kung-fu grip, stretched finances can put a strain on your budget. Overspending to ensure everyone is happy for the holidays frequently leads to financial worries in the ensuing months as credit card bills come due. Before you start buying holiday gifts, decide how much you can afford and stick to your budget. Don't try to buy happiness with an avalanche of gifts.

The demands of the holiday season frequently require juggling priorities. This can lead to things like chores and errands taking priority over healthy coping behaviors such as getting adequate rest and exercise. Don't let the holidays become an excuse to overdo it when it comes to eating and consuming alcohol. When you ignore your exercise routine and getting adequate rest, you become more run down and vulnerable to the effects of stress. Additionally, getting out of shape reduces your chances for success in family traditions like the "feats of strength." Do you really want your older brother to remind you all year long about how easily he gave you a noogie because you let yourself get flabby over the holidays?

Here are some additional tips to manage your stress during the holidays:

Set realistic expectations for the holidays. Don't try to

make the holidays perfect or just like last year. Traditions often change as families change; be flexible and enjoy things as they are rather than obsessing about how things are supposed to be.

Set aside old differences with family members and friends. Don't try to resolve decades-old disagreements with family, just enjoy the time together.

Stick to a budget.

Learn to say no. You can't participate in every event or activity. Be comfortable knowing your limits and setting them with family and friends.

Don't abandon healthy habits. Continue to get some exercise and rest. Don't overdo it with alcohol and become "that guy" that your family and friends are going to remember as the person who got drunk and ruined the holidays.

Take some time for yourself. Spending 15 minutes just relaxing can help you recharge your batteries and tackle the tasks you still have to handle.

Take time out for spirituality. Celebrate the religious significance of the holidays. Often this might be a good time to renew your spiritual beliefs and spend more time in contemplation of spirituality.

Seek help. If you begin to feel "stretched thin" emotionally or physically, don't wait until you reach the point of helplessness or hopelessness. Seek help from a supervisor, friend or loved one or speak with someone at the mental health clinic or a chaplain.

Christmas light show dazzles by land, by sea

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

As some artists might work in acrylics or clay, Lt. Col. Scott Solomon, 81st Training Group deputy commander, works in Christmas lights. He is a master artisan of exterior illumination, a virtuoso of synchronized holiday fanfare. His medium of choice has traditionally been houses, a stationary canvas with which he weaves a tapestry of twinkling luminescence.

But this year, he is taking on a project quite different, a challenge so daring, so bold as to rock the very foundation of all we know about what can and cannot be made merry and bright — the Dolphin. Not the fish but the boat — Keesler's recreational fishing vessel.

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, has commissioned Solomon to “see what he can do” with the Dolphin to make it a stand-out entrant in Saturday's Christmas on the Water event in Biloxi.

Christmas on the Water is a community-wide celebration which features a parade of boats from Point Cadet Marina to the Biloxi Lighthouse. For 26 years, contestants have decked the bows of their boats with Christmas lights and floated them in front of a panel of judges to see which one is the best and brightest. Last year, Keesler placed second. But this year, Solomon is hoping to win the whole thing.

His plan is simple in its concept — decorate the Dolphin with lights and play the Air Force song “Wild Blue Yonder.” But Solomon has the technology and the capability to synchronize the lights to the song and make it look as though planes are actually going off into the wild blue yonder. The exact details of the light show have yet to be revealed.

“To my knowledge, no boat has ever had a show of lights set to music,” noted Solomon.

In his spare time, Solomon has spent the past five years honing his craft. That's when



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Two years ago, David Solomon, 4, son of Lt. Col. Scott and Devalynn Solomon, watched Tech. Sgt. Charissa Rotundo and her 5-year-old son, Vinny, put a donation in the Toys for Tots collection box at the Solomon home. At that time, Solomon commanded the 333rd Training Squadron and Rotundo was an instructor in the 336th TRS. Solomon is now the 81st Training Group's deputy commander and Rotundo is now assigned to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. The musical light display and toy collection at the Solomon home, 703 Vandenberg Drive in Bay Ridge housing area, is from dark until 10 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

he stopped just decorating his house with a static display of pretty lights and started choreographing an animated holiday extravaganza.

Solomon uses controllers to make the lights do what he wants them to do. This year, he plans to use 10 controllers with 16 channels per controller for a total of 160 channels in all controlling approximately 50,000 tiny lights. According to Solomon, the show gets a little bit bigger every year. Last year's show had 18 songs, about 30 minutes in length and was broadcast on FM 107.5.

Solomon uses compiling software called Aurora to synchronize the lights with the music. Solomon listens to the music and everywhere he wants the lights to do something he puts a mark. Most of

the songs are what you would expect — Silent Night, Jingle Bells, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, for example. But some are not — the theme to Jeopardy, Mr. Roboto by Styx and what Solomon refers to as his “Broke Intro” at the beginning which makes the viewer think something is going wrong with the show.

Synchronized Christmas light shows are a natural fit for Solomon. He can find his way around the murky inner workings of computers and electronics much like Rudolph's red nose in a blizzard. His career background is in cyber operations and he was instrumental in standing up Keesler's new cyber schoolhouse while he was commander of the 333rd Training Squadron.

“I've always loved tinkering with things, especially with electronics,” said Solomon. “It's always been a hobby of mine.”

Solomon builds all his own sets, carefully places every light, wires all the electronics and even writes scripts that his high school-aged son and daughter narrate as part of the show.

“The whole idea is to try and tell a story with the song,” said Solomon. “So I like to have a lot of scene changes.”

If you have access to the base and want to view the light show at Solomon's house, cruise down Vandenberg Drive in Bay Ridge housing — you can't miss it. Just look for the brilliant, most dazzling house on the

block. And if you want to bring a toy for a toddler, Solomon will have a Toys for Tots collection box in his front yard.

Additionally, there are two ways to view Solomon's Christmas on the Water boat show. One is to simply come to the parade this Saturday and watch it from land. The other is to purchase a \$40 ticket and be a passenger aboard the Keesler Dolphin II.

This price includes boat ride, food and beverages, fireworks and of course, an up-close screening of Solomon's light show. Tickets are first come, first served. The deadline for signing up is today. Boarding time is 3 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, call 377-3160.

Plan, moderation urged to avoid binge drinking during holidays

Air Force News Service

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. — The holiday season is upon us, and it's a time when many people find themselves celebrating at parties where alcoholic beverages are being served. Therefore, it is important that everyone know what they are dealing with when it comes to consuming alcohol.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration reports that in 2009, there were 1.4 million driving-under-the-influence arrests, and drunk drivers claimed the lives of 10,839 people. Binge drinking and drinking and driving are more likely to occur during the holiday season when people are off work and celebrating the season.

Binge drinking is drinking to get drunk and is defined as five or more drinks for a man and four or more drinks for a woman in a two-hour period. What is a drink? One drink is 1.5 ounces of distilled liquor, 5 ounces of wine or 12 ounces of beer.

Some of the consequences to binge drinking are death from alcohol poisoning, aspiration and heart arrhythmias, health officials said. Binge drinking is also linked to legal problems such as DUIs, public intoxication, drunk and disorderly, domestic violence and assaults. Prolonged or heavy use can lead to liver damage and heart disease.

Alcohol is rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream, initially causing a lack of inhibition, then acting as a depressant. A hangover from the night before is a sign that the body is going through withdrawal from alcohol.

One unfortunate consequence of the holiday season is a sharp increase in alcohol-related accidents and deaths. Many partygoers don't drink often, leaving them with low



tolerance and more vulnerability to the alcohol's effects, officials said. At the other extreme are problem drinkers who find plenty of social occasions to drink and may feel less inhibited at parties where alcohol is liberally served. More than likely, most of these folks are drinking and driving.

If you are hosting a party and serving alcohol, here are some steps to ensure that all guests are comfortable and that alcohol does not become a problem:

- Never pressure anyone to have a drink.
- Offer a selection of non-alcoholic beverages as well as plenty of food.
- Stop serving alcohol at least one hour before the party ends.
- Don't serve alcohol to an intoxicated guest.
- Don't let anyone who is drunk or had more than the recommended drinking drive home.
- Promote having a plan and a designated driver prior to attending the party.

Because individuals are so

different, it is difficult to give specific advice about drinking. But certain facts are clear — there's no way to speed up the brain's recovery from alcohol and no way to make good decisions when you are drinking too much, too fast.

So this holiday season, do not underestimate the effects of alcohol. If you drink have a plan:

- Set limits — no more than three drinks for the evening. Keep count.
- Pace yourself. Have "drink spacers" — make every other drink a nonalcoholic one.
- Call a taxi, friend, family member or supervisor.
- Have a designated driver.

Lastly, consider the consequences of an arrest or a potentially fatal crash, and make plans to get home safely. Remember that a designated driver is someone who hasn't had any alcohol, not simply the person in your group who drank the least. Have a safe holiday season!



U.S. AIR FORCE
EagleEyes
 WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.

Standards of conduct apply during holidays, too

By Staff Sgt. Ashley Ishmon

17th Training Wing Staff Judge Advocate Office

GOODFELLOW AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The holiday season is traditionally a time of parties, receptions and exchanging gifts. However, even during the holiday season, the standards of conduct apply.

A brief summary of the applicable rules is below to ensure people don't unwittingly violate the standards.

General rule:

- Federal personnel may not accept gifts offered because of their official positions or those offered by a "prohibited source."

A prohibited source is anyone, including contractors, who:

- Seeks official action by the employee's agency.
- Does business or seeks to do business with the employee's agency.
- Conducts activities regulated by the employee's agency.
- Has interests that may be substantially affected by the employee's performance of duty; or
- Is an organization composed of members described above.

There are some exceptions to this rule:

- Federal personnel may accept gifts (other than cash) that do not exceed \$20 as long as the total amount of gifts from that source doesn't exceed \$50 for the year.

For more information,
call the legal office,
376-8601.

- Federal personnel may accept gifts, even from a contractor employee if the gift is given because of a bona fide personal relationship. For example, personal gifts are actually paid for by the contractor employee rather than the contractor.
- Federal personnel may generally attend an open-house or reception, and accept any gift of refreshments if it is a widely-attended gathering, and the employee's supervisor determines that it is in the agency's interest that the employee attends.
- Federal personnel may accept invitations, even from contractors, that are open to the public.
- Federal personnel may accept invitations offered to a group or class that is not related to government employment. An example of this is when a building owner throws a reception for all of the tenants of the building.
- Refreshments of soft drinks, coffee, pastries or similar refreshments that do not constitute a meal may be accepted since they are not considered to be a gift.
- If an outside business or other relationship results in attendance at an event, the federal employee may attend. For example, a federal

employee's spouse works at SAIC. The federal employee may accompany the spouse to the SAIC employee's holiday party since the invitation is to the spouse as an SAIC employee, and not to the federal employee because of his or her position.

Parties, open houses and receptions hosted by non-prohibited sources:

- Federal personnel may attend social events sponsored by non-prohibited sources if no one is charged admission.

Gifts and exchanges between federal personnel:

- As a general rule, supervisors may not accept gifts from subordinates or federal personnel who receive less pay.

There are some exceptions to this rule.

- During holidays, which occur on an occasional basis, supervisors may accept gifts (other than cash) of \$10 or less from a subordinate.
- Supervisors may accept food and refreshments shared in the office, and may share in the expenses of an office party.
- If a subordinate is invited to a social event at the supervisor's residence, the subordinate may give the supervisor a hospitality gift of the type and value customarily given on such an occasion.

There are no legal restrictions on gifts given to peers or subordinates. However, common sense and good taste should apply.

Remember, this guidance only highlights common questions and doesn't cover every situation.

For lost and found items, call the 81st Security Forces Squadron investigations office, 377-4500.

Raise
your voice —
honor
your country.
If you're
interested
in singing the
National
Anthem
at base or
community
ceremonies,
call 377-1179.



To advertise in the Keesler News, call:
896-2380 (Classifieds)
896-2415 (Display)

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 — 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Heartlink. Air Force spouse orientation. Lunch, prizes, tote bags and more. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Tuesday-Dec. 9 — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., executive transition assistance program. Open to E-9s, O5-s and above 24 months from retirement.

Wednesday — 9 a.m., deployment briefing. All members deploying must attend prior to departure.

Arts and crafts center

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

Friday — 6:30-9 p.m., cocktails and canvas. Paint a flower motif on canvas using acrylics. Bring your favorite beverage. \$15 includes materials. Space limited. Reserve your seat today.

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

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2334. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

Through Dec. 22 — tickets available for purchase at the club for 80s-themed New Year's Eve party. \$35 Air Force Club members, \$45 nonmembers. Party and lodging packages available.

Weekdays — food and drink specials in the lounge. Taco Tuesdays, wings and things Wednesdays and ladies night Thursdays.

Saturdays and Sundays — 11 a.m., lounge opens; noon, grill opens. ESPN College GamePlan Saturdays; NFL Sunday Ticket and tailgate buffet Sundays.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

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

Saturday — noon, free golf clinic for non-prior service students. Clubs provided. Space limited.

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

Fitness centers

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

Friday — noon, 5-kilometer Jingle Bell run/walk at Blake Fitness Center. Registrations begin at 11:30 a.m. Safe holiday running attire is encouraged. Free to participate.

Information, tickets and travel

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-3818.

Saturday — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., holiday shopping trip to Tanger Outlets in Foley, Ala. \$25

per person. 15-24 people. Bus departs the Bay Breeze Event Center at 8 a.m.

Inns of Keesler

Editor's note: For more information, call 374-0088. **Through Dec. 17** — accepting holiday reservations for Dec. 17-Jan. 3.

McBride Library

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

Wednesday — 4-5 p.m., free holiday themed children's story time and crafts, ages 3-12.

Outdoor recreation

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-3160.

Today — 4:30 p.m., Holiday in the Park at marina park. Tree lighting, holiday music, train rides, food, beverages and a visit from Santa.

Saturday — 3 p.m., Christmas on the Water. Ride in the boat parade aboard the Dolphin II, followed by fireworks. \$40 per person includes boat ride, food and beverage. Sign up by Dec. 1. Space limited. Volunteers to decorate the boat needed.

Vandenberg Community Center

Editor's note: Friday and Saturday night activities are part of the late night dances, \$3 admission; non-prior service students only. For more information, call 377-3308 or 5576.

Friday — 7 p.m., inter-training squadron arm-wrestling competition. Free to participate. Co-hosted by Triangle Fitness Center.

Saturday — noon to 8 p.m., holiday tree trimming party. Trim the tree and deck the halls of the Vandenberg. Free cookies and cocoa.

Wednesdays — 5-9 p.m., friends and flicks. Free movie night; popcorn provided.

Youth center

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

Today — winter soccer registration ends, ages 3-14. \$50 for first child, \$25 each additional. Season begins in January. Volunteer coaches needed.

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

Saturday — 4-10 p.m., parents night out, child care, ages 6-12. \$4 per hour, per child. Immunization records, emergency contact and registration required.

Dragon Wagon

Thursday-Sunday — all new route and schedule. Air Force Club members ride free; \$1 for nonmembers. For new route and schedule, visit <http://www.keesler81fss.us>.

KEESLER NOTES

Santa Police Friday

The 81st Security Forces Squadron's annual Santa Police fundraiser is 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.

To put out a "warrant" for someone's arrest, call 377-XMAS (9627). Once apprehended, the individual is locked up and forced to listen to Christmas music and enjoy hot chocolate.

The cost to have someone incarcerated is \$10, with a \$5 charge for each additional 15 minutes. The detainee may pay bail to match the price of the amount paid for their warrant. Photos are available for \$5 more that will be printed on the spot.

Housing office hours

The housing office in Sablich Center has limited service Tuesday through Dec. 8 due to training.

The community housing office is closed during this time.

Minimum manning

The 81st Communications Squadron is minimally manned, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday during the retirement ceremonies of two squadron members.

For assistance during this period, call the communications focal point, 376-8127.

Amateur radio club

The Keesler Amateur Radio

Club meets 7 p.m. Dec. 12 in Rooms 5438 and 5439, Locker House.

For more information, call 228-323-1515.

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 that are clean and in good condition.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 4-6 p.m. Wednesday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the last Saturday of the month.

Airman's Attic is closed on federal holidays.

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 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.

Log on to www.keeslerspousesclub.com for more information and a list of pre-

ferred donations. Pickup is available for bulk donations.

For more information, call 377-3217.

Supply classes

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

Block I supply indoctrination class is 9-10 a.m. Dec. 15. All newly-assigned supply custodians and resource managers are required to attend. For more information or to sign up, call 377-5998.

Precious Metals Recovery Program is 10-11 a.m. Dec 15. All newly-assigned PMRP monitors are required to attend, and refresher training is required annually. For more information or to sign up, call 377-5998.

Block IIA bench stock training is 9-10 a.m. Dec. 20. For more information or to sign up, call 377-2005.

Block IIB repair cycle training is 10-11 a.m. Dec. 20. For more information or to sign up, call 377-4191.

Block III equipment custodian refresher training is 1-2 p.m. Dec. 15. All newly-assigned supply equipment custodians are required to attend, as well as all other custodians annually. For more information or to sign up, call 377-2270.

For information on all supply classes, call 377-4480.

Supply source

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

For more information, visit CSC supply customer service, Room 126, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002; call

377-2005 or e-mail 81LRS.CustomerSVC@us.af.mil.

Repair parts

For maintenance activities wanting to order bit/piece repair parts, call the wing awaiting parts monitors, 377-4180 or 5590.

Child care in housing areas requires licensing

81st Force Support Squadron

People living in base housing who care for children in their homes could be breaking the rules.

Air Force Instruction 34-276, which governs day care in on-base quarters, states "any individuals caring for children more than 10 hours a week on a regular basis must get approval."

It states that the "installation commander may revoke the housing privileges of individuals who provide child care but refuse to become licensed or who continue to provide care after their license has been suspended or revoked."

The rule applies whether or not caregivers are compensated for their services.

"We feel people living in base housing, who regularly care for children without being licensed, may be unaware of the regulation," said Mary Pleasant, family child care program coordinator. "We want not only to bring the information to their attention, but to educate them on the alternative — to become a licensed family child care provider."

Licenses are granted by the 81st Mission

Support Group commander, usually within 30 days upon completion of the initial FCC provider training, background screenings and home inspections.

The training includes child guidance, play environments, nutrition, ages and stages of development, child abuse and neglect, recordkeeping, business management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid.

"FCC providers are professionals trained to give the best possible care to the children left in their charge," said Pleasant.

Once licensed, providers may care for children from 2 weeks through 12 years old assistance from the FCC staff in setting up their home and have access to an extensive library for toys, equipment and materials which help keep costs down. They may set up their own hours of operation and fee structure.

For more information, call 377-3189, 5934 or 5935, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Falcons end season 7-5, defeat CSU 45-21

By Leslie Finstein

Air Force Academy Public Affairs

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — The U.S. Air Force Academy Falcons soared to a 45-21 victory Saturday against the Rams of Colorado State University here.

The win brings the Falcons to 7-5-0 overall for the 2011 season and bowl eligible for the fifth consecutive year. This is also the first time in school history that the Falcons have had five consecutive seven-win seasons.

The Academy moves to 30-19-1 all-time against CSU. The Ram-Falcon trophy, awarded to the winner of this front-range rivalry, will remain in Colorado Springs for the sixth straight year.

In the first quarter, Air Force moved quickly up the field on their first drive only to lose possession with a fumble in CSU territory. The Rams then went on a 12-play, 87-yard drive to score their first opening drive touchdown since Sept. 10.

The game started to turn around for the Falcons after the defense made a key stop late in the first quarter with a sack by linebacker Alex Means. Means leads the team in sacks this year.

Quarterback Tim Jefferson led the Falcons on a 2:30, five-play, 73-yard drive that led to a touchdown on a 33-yard reception by wide receiver Zach Kauth, early in the second quarter.

After that the Falcons defense got rolling, keeping the Rams off the score board for the rest of the half.

Jefferson connected with Kauth two more times, on a 40- and 50-yard passes respectively, giving the senior wide receiver his first 100-yard game of his career and his first three-touchdown game.

Almost exactly five minutes after the second Jefferson-to-Kauth touchdown, kicker Parker Harrington tacked on three more points with a 22-yard field goal.



Air Force went into halftime up 31-7 on a 12-yard rushing touchdown from junior running back Cody Getz, his first touchdown this season.

The second quarter was the third highest squaring quarter for the Falcon's this season and ties as the third most in school history.

"We hit a couple of big plays, the two throws to Zach Kauth were huge," said Academy Head Football Coach Troy Calhoun about the second quarter. "And the defense, I thought we were as stout as could be."

Air Force senior running back Asher Clark ran for 69 yards in the first half which put him more than 1,000 yards rushing on the season. Clark is the third player for Air Force ever to go over 1,000 yards twice in his career and the second player ever to do it in back-to-back seasons.

In the second half, CSU scored on a run by sophomore running back Chris Nwoke making the score 31-14 Air Force. Nwoke had more than 200 yards rushing in the game, giving him more than 1,000 on the season. Nwoke is the seventh player in CSU history to break 1,000 yards as a sophomore or younger.

"He's good," said Calhoun of Nwoke. "He's powerful, hard to tackle, and there were times that he hit us."

Air Force responded quickly to CSU's score with a rushing touchdown by junior

running back Mike Dewitt. Air Force took a 38-14 lead into the fourth quarter.

Clark rushed more than 100 yards for the game, capping off a touchdown drive for the Falcons early in the fourth quarter, putting up Air Force 45-14.

Late in the fourth quarter, CSU's Nwoke got a second rushing touchdown to cap off an 11-play, 80-yard drive. Nwoke ran for more than 260 yards in the game. That would be the last scoring drive of the game. Jefferson took a knee to close out the Air Force victory.

With three touchdown passes, Air Force matched a team record set in 1977.

Clark finished the game with 111 yards, 33-yards shy of setting the all-time Academy rushing yards record held by Dee Dowls (1986-89). Now that the Falcons are bowl-eligible, Clark could have one more opportunity to overtake Dowls.

When it comes to bowls, the Falcons, even with their winning record, could be on the outside looking in. The Mountain West conference has five bowl-eligible teams, Texas Christian University, Boise State University, the University of Wyoming, San Diego State University and now Air Force, and only four bowls.

Mountain West teams are eligible for the New Mexico Bowl on Dec. 17; the Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego on Dec. 21; the Las Vegas Bowl on Dec. 22; and the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La., on Dec. 26.

The Bowl Championship Series distorts the bowl picture for the Falcons as well. TCU and Boise State are both still alive in the hunt and have outside shots at slipping into a BCS bowl. This week, TCU is No. 20 and Boise State is No. 7 in the BCS rankings. With a number of games left to be played, the BCS and most of the other bowl berths are undecided.

Bowl berths are officially announced Sunday.

Thursday intramural bowling

Week 11 of 34

| Team | Won | Lost |
|----------------|------|------|
| 335th TRS-A | 64.0 | 24.0 |
| 81st FSS | 60.0 | 28.0 |
| 403rd AMXS | 56.0 | 32.0 |
| 81st TRSS-PMEL | 50.0 | 38.0 |
| 334th TRS | 50.0 | 38.0 |
| 81st CS | 46.0 | 42.0 |
| 81st LRS-B | 46.0 | 42.0 |
| ECS Strikers | 46.0 | 42.0 |
| 338th TRS | 44.0 | 44.0 |
| 336th TRS | 42.0 | 46.0 |
| 81st LRS-A | 38.0 | 50.0 |
| 81st TRSS-A | 36.0 | 52.0 |
| 2nd Air Force | 36.0 | 52.0 |
| 335th TRS-B | 32.0 | 56.0 |
| 81st WSA | 30.0 | 58.0 |
| Seabees | 28.0 | 60.0 |

Season high scores

Team game — 335th TRS, 997.

Team series — 81st FSS, 2,733.

High handicap game (team) — 335th TRS-A, 1,132.

High handicap series (team) — 335th TRS-A, 3,127.

Game/men — Garo Watson, 267.

Series/men — Jeff Miracle, 734.

High handicap game/men — Robert Dickinson, 279.

High handicap series/men — Robert Dickinson, 742.

Game/women — Carol Wetzler, 200.

Series/women — Sabra Miracle, 529.

High handicap game/women — Carol Wetzler, 258.

High handicap series/women — Carol Wetzler, 655.

Average/men — Garo Watson, 209.15.

Average/women — Micki Vandermeer, 156.58.

Most improved — Robert Dickinson, 8.73; Carol Wetzler, 3.93.

Parking spots must be marked on both sides by a white diagonal or horizontal line or a white "T" in accordance with Keesler Instruction 31-204.

Parking on seeded areas, on troop walks and at the student dormitories in the Triangle is prohibited. It's also illegal to park with the driver's side nearest the curb, instead of the passenger's side.