



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

JAN. 5, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 1

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COMMENTARY

It's the inspector general's job — or is it?

By Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Endsley

81st Training Wing Inspector General Office

The Inspector General complaint resolution program is a mystery to most people. Misconceptions abound about the types of issues that are truly IG matters. I'd like to explain the difference between IG and non-IG complaints and to highlight the importance of open communication in dealing with issues that underlie complaints.

People bring their issues to an IG member in a variety of ways. They talk about them in the work center, on the street or in a parking lot. Others visit the IG office in person or use telephone or email. Regardless of how people choose to deliver their complaint, they must select a way to introduce the issue. Common prefaces are, "I have this problem..." or "Something is wrong..." One of the most frequently used opening statements is, "I'm not sure if this is a matter for the IG, but..." The question of when to go to the IG with an issue is a dilemma for many people.

In general, an IG complaint contains a violation of law or directive, fraud, waste, abuse, abuse of authority, reprisal, improperly directed mental health evaluation or restriction (putting boundaries on one's access to the IG, Congress and certain officials in the chain of command.) A very small percentage of complaints meet the necessary conditions to qualify as an IG complaint. Overwhelmingly, the complaint caseload stems from issues that are non-IG complaints.

A non-IG complaint is one that doesn't fit into any of the categories listed above. While not all-inclusive, AFI 90-301, Inspector General Complaints Resolution, Table 3.6, lists 45 issues, each with a specific non-IG grievance channel. Common areas are unprofessional relationships, elimination from Air Education and

IG contacts

To contact the 81st TRW Inspector General Office, visit Room 105, Building 2816 (appointment not required); call 377-3010; fax 377-3357; email 81TRW.IG2@us.af.mil or write to 81 TRW/IG, 720 Chappie James Avenue Suite 204, Keesler AFB, MS 39534.

To report fraud, waste or abuse

81 TRW/IG at contacts above. The FWA hotline is 377-7053.

Air Education and Training Command; 210-652-4460 or DSN 487-4460; mail HQ AETC/IG, 1850 E. 1st Street E Suite 3, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4533.

Secretary of the Air Force; 800-538-8429; mail SAF/IG, 1140 AF Pentagon, Washington DC, 20330-1140.

Department of Defense; 800-424-9098.

Training Command training, military equal opportunity, correction of military records, administrative separations, Tricare issues and appeal of performance records and promotion recommendations. Most of the time, a non-IG complaint consists of an issue that can be solved within their chain of command.

In the realm of non-IG complaints, unfair treatment is a frequently occurring theme. For instance, someone might file a complaint because a supervisor schedules them for a cleanup detail more often than they do other personnel. If analysis doesn't reveal reprisal or

other IG complaint-related elements, the IG office would act as a facilitator or liaison, bringing together the complainant and his or her leaders to resolve the issue. Everyone has the right to file an IG complaint or to write their senator or congressperson without first using the chain of command. However, by using open communication and working to understand the other's position, potential complainants and their leaders can resolve differences without involving the IG.

Communication is the key to solving issues at the lowest possible level. Leaders contribute by making clear their expectations, listening with empathy and applying the Platinum Rule. The Platinum Rule, conceived by motivational speaker and business philosopher Tony Alessandra, goes one step beyond the widely known Golden Rule — treat others like you want to be treated — and encourages individuals to treat each person like he or she would want to be treated. This principle recognizes differences among people and encourages leaders to orient their communication to fit the circumstances and the personalities of the people they lead.

The mission of the IG complaints resolution office is to resolve issues as efficiently and effectively as possible using objective fact-finding techniques. By administering the complaints resolution program, the 81st Training Wing IG office enables the men and women of this wing to focus on doing what they do best: Train, Care, Innovate ... Developing Combat Power for Air, Space and Cyberspace.

There are times when actions taken by one person negatively affects the life or career of another and the only way to resolve the issue is through an IG investigation. However, most complaints don't meet the criteria for an IG complaint and are solvable at the command level by practicing open, honest communication.

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.



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

ON THE COVER

Tech. Sgt. Wai Chung Liu, 335th Training Squadron instructor, and Airman Basic Mohammed Almutairi, a student from Saudi Arabia, review the use of a digital oscilloscope during the precision measurement equipment laboratory course in Wolfe Hall Monday. PMEL is one of the courses at Keesler expecting an influx of Saudi Arabian students as part of an agreement with the Saudi government to purchase 85 F-15SA fighter jets and upgrade its current fleet of 70 F-15S aircraft at an estimated cost of \$29.4 billion. The program is the largest foreign military sales contract in U.S. history. Story and photo, Page 4.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



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KEESLER NEWS

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Keesler gearing up for additional training responsibility Saudi Arabia investing \$29.4 billion in F-15 program

**Air Force News Service,
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs and
Keesler Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials announced the next chapter in a partnership with the Royal Saudi Air Force as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recently signed a \$29.4 billion Foreign Military Sales Letter of Offer and Acceptance solidifying their plans to purchase 84 F-15SA fighter aircraft and upgrade their current fleet of 70 F-15S aircraft to the Saudi Arabian configuration.

Keesler is one of the Air Force bases where Saudi airmen involved in the program will attend technical training.

"The Saudi students associated with the F-15 purchase will be trained in either avionics fundamentals or precision measurement equipment laboratory courses in the 335th Training Squadron," said Col. Maureen Smith, 81st Training Group commander. "Keesler has a proud history of providing training to our international partners and we look forward to continuing this support under the new F-15SA agreement."

In 2011, Keesler hosted students from more than 20 foreign countries, including Saudi Arabia, for a variety of courses, according to James Cooks, director of the Keesler Military Student Office.

"We are excited about this program and the increased capability it will bring to Saudi Arabia, a strategically important partner in the Middle East region," said Heidi Grant, deputy undersecretary of the Air Force for International Affairs. "Building partner capacity is becoming even more important and the Royal Saudi Air Force is undertaking a vast effort to not only modernize their fighter fleet but to invest heavily in quality training."

As part of the agreement, Saudi airmen will also be attending Air Force technical

training courses at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas; Eglin AFB, Fla., Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. and Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fla. Saudi airmen will train alongside their U.S. Air Force counterparts, enriching training for both countries and enhancing an already strong relationship between the two countries.

The Air Force will also coordinate English language training for the students at Lackland AFB, Texas.

"Air Education and Training Command offers high-quality, advanced training to our international partners in a number of skill sets," said Brig. Gen. Tim Zadaliss, AETC director of operations. "This agreement allows the U.S. Air Force the opportunity to assist the Royal Saudi Air Force in not only modernizing their equipment, but ensuring they will have a well trained force to maintain and operate it."

In 2012, the service expects to train more than 300 Saudi airmen under the agreement.

The U.S. Air Force has been training members of the Royal Saudi Air Force on U.S. soil for more than 25 years, officials said. Since 2007, more than 1,000 Royal Saudi Air Force students have attended U.S. Air Force training programs, including pilot, navigator, logistics, maintenance and explosive ordnance disposal training, as well as professional military education courses.

The program, which includes the largest foreign military sales contract in U.S. history, is being led by Lt. Gen. Thomas Owen, Aeronautical Systems commander and will involve program management personnel at Robins AFB, Ga., Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and Langley AFB, Va., as well as many other Air Force and Navy organizations.

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



Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Tottle, 335th Training Squadron instructor, and Airman 1st Class Kevin Saltzman, one of his students, review the calibration of a torque wrench using a torque calibrator Monday during the precision measurement equipment laboratory course in Wolfe Hall. The squadron expects to train Saudi students associated with the F-15 purchase in the PMEL and avionics fundamentals courses.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Keesler students wrap up season of giving



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Staff Sgt. Marcus Daniels, 338th Training Squadron military training leader, and Airman Basic Lisa Thurman, a student in the squadron, stack presents at Winters Manor for delivery to the Harrison County Department of Human Services Dec. 16. Daniels contacted DHS in November and learned there were more than 350 children under the agency's care. Daniels gave students in the squadron the opportunity to adopt a child and buy a gift. The Dark Knights collected nearly 500 gifts valued at more than \$10,000. In addition to Thurman, other student leaders for the project were Airman Basic Jessica Fehlman and Airman 1st Class Mark Martinez.



Students from the 81st Training Group drop gifts in a Toys for Tots collection box Dec. 13 during a "Santa Cause Run." About 75 students ran nearly three miles from the base's Triangle training area to the home of Lt. Col. Scott and Devalynn Solomon in Bay Ridge housing area. The colonel is the 81st TRG deputy commander. When the runners arrived, they were treated to hot chocolate and watched the Christmas light show at the Solomon home.



Salvation Army volunteer Violet Willis is assisted by Airman Basic Dequanzel Davis, 338th TRS student, with sorting Angel Tree donations at the former Nichols Elementary School in Biloxi Dec. 14. The vacant school was the sole distribution site for all Angel Tree donations for Harrison and Jackson counties. Student volunteers from the 81st TRG worked with the Salvation Army for about a week to organize gifts for distribution to needy children.

81st Training Group names November award winners

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The 81st Training Group has announced its Airman of the Month, military training flight and military training leader Dragon Award winner for November.

Airman 1st Class Alisha Milander, a green rope leader in the 338th Training Squadron, maintained a 98 percent average in the cyber transport course. Milander, who hails from Fargo, N.D., graduated Dec.26 and will be assigned to Hector Air National Guard Base, N.D.

The four squadrons that train nonprior service students select one Airman to compete at a monthly group board.

Airmen are graded on personal appearance, communication skills and military bearing. They also respond to questions about customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, selected entries in the Airman's Manual and current events from that week's issue of the Keesler News.

The MTF of the month is



Milander

from the 334th TRS. The Gators scored the highest overall in marching, physical training, room inspections, open ranks, Airman's Manual, charge of quarters and retreat.

The flight received a roving sign to put in front of its squadron to recognize the monthly recognition.

Staff Sgt. Marcus Daniels, 338th TRS, won the Dragon Award for MTLs. The award was intended to raise the level



Daniels

of adherence to military training standards and military excellence set for technical training students.

For this award, one MTL is nominated from the four squadrons that train nonprior service students. Nominees take a knowledge test of the Air Force Instruction that governs the job and performs control of flight marching and open ranks.

29 students complete Airman Leadership School

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Twenty-eight senior airmen and one staff sergeant graduated from Airman Leadership School Class 12-1 Dec. 14.

Graduates are:

81st Communications Squadron — Senior Airman Daniel Egert (Levitow Award).

81st Dental Squadron — Senior Airman Lizeth Rico. 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron – Senior Airmen Sheene Giray, Tina McGrath, Hana Webb (academic award) and Shelby Williams.

81st Mission Support Group — Senior Airman Chase Headrick (distinguished graduate).

81st Medical Support Squadron — Senior Airman Kiley Pederson (commandant's award) and Justin Whitaker.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — Senior Airman Kayla Spiel.

81st Security Forces Squadron — Staff Sgt. Jared Bosarge; Senior Airmen Derek Chappel, Joseph Hart, Clinton Mathes, Paul Schneider, Carla Scott-Clark, Jacoby Thompson and Tommy West.

81st Surgical Operations Squadron — Senior Airman Jenifer Mathes.

81st Training Wing — Senior Airman Matthew Splichal.

85th Engineering Installation Squadron – Senior Airmen Travis Crowell, Douglas Frites, Skyler Hart, Rajab Kigembe, Andrew Knippenberg, Shane Mehaffy, Derek Robinson, Oracio Salinas and Michael Williams (distinguished graduate).

16 from Keesler graduate from Mathies NCO Academy

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Sixteen Keesler technical sergeants graduated from Mathies NCO Academy Dec. 15 as part of Class 12-1.

Graduates are:

2nd Air Force — Jolene Giddens.

81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron — Debra Hafner and Adrienne Iglesias.

81st Operations Support Flight — Stephen King.

81st Training Support Squadron — Mathew Rampenthal.

85th Engineering Installation Squadron — Ian Harbaugh and Robert Yaus

333rd Training Squadron — Michael Tucker.

335th TRS — Daniel Mike (distinguished graduate), Timothy Minkler, Matthew Pogreba and Michael E. Smith.

336th TRS — Beverly Jackson (distinguished graduate), Sean Jennings and Shaquanna Riley.

338th TRS — Robert Kerezsi.

Cyberspace isn't a secure environment.

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.

Don't drink and drive.

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

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Tuition assistance

Effective April 1, students who want to use Air Force tuition assistance must ensure their school has signed the Department of Defense memorandum of understanding.

Tuition assistance submitted for non-participating schools won't be approved and is currently unwaiverable.

For more information or to check on participating schools, visit www.dodmou.com.

Embry-Riddle registers

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is registering for its spring term that runs Monday through March 11.

The university offers degrees in aviation/aerospace, management and business administration with multiple course formats.

Graduate courses are also available to complete Civil Service 1750 qualification requirements.

Discounted rates are available for active-duty military, reservists and Air National Guard.

For more information, call 376-8478 or visit Room 217, Sablich Center.

Retirement ceremony

A retirement ceremony honoring Master Sgt. Keith Markey, 335th Training Squadron, is 3:30 p.m. Jan. 18 in Room 143, Allee Hall.

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 commis-



Academic ace

Senior Airman Nicholas Akins graduated from knowledge operations managers training in the 336th Training Squadron Dec. 20 with a perfect score. He's from Columbus, Ohio, and is assigned to the 121st Logistics Readiness Squadron, Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Ohio.

sioning 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.

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.

OTS boards

Officer Training School recruiting service board dates:

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

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.

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NEWS AND FEATURES

High year tenure details released

By Eric Grill

**Air Force Personnel Services
and Manpower Public Affairs**

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force officials announced Dec. 19, high year of tenure limit changes for the grades of senior airman, staff sergeant and technical sergeant that go into effect in 2013.

The changes are a part of additional force management programs that are ongoing to continue to size and shape the force to current and future requirements.

Most Airmen affected by the HYT changes will have two opportunities to test for the next higher grade before the change becomes effective.

High year of tenure limits for senior airman will be reduced from 10 years to eight years; staff sergeant 20 years to 15 years; and technical sergeant 22 years to 20 years.

The new HYT policy will impact slightly more than one-half of one percent of the enlisted force, or approximately 1,700 Airmen.

“These HYT changes are necessary to help us meet our end-strength,” Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy said. “We are a highly competitive force, and this will make us an even more competitive one.”

This timeline provides Airmen time to prepare for promotion testing.

“Airmen control their careers. We are announcing it now so Airmen affected by the new HYT have ample time to study before their promotion tests,” Roy said.

The Air Force last changed HYT in 2010 when the service went back to the pre-2003 HYT levels due to end-strength stabilization

“It is the supervisor’s role to ensure Airmen are informed and a career path is laid-out - but it is incumbent on every Airman to strive to be the best and reach these milestones in

a timely fashion,” said Air Force Personnel Center Command Chief Ruben Gonzalez Jr.

Senior airmen and staff sergeants who separate because of HYT will receive involuntary separation pay. Technical sergeants may apply for full retirement if leaving active duty because of reaching their HYT just as they would under existing policy.

“We are committed to helping these Airmen and their families during their transition. Each will receive separation pay and many other benefits,” Roy said.

Airmen separating will also receive 180 days of extended medical care for themselves and their family, a second opportunity to enroll in the Post-9/11 GI Bill, NAF hiring preference, permissive TDY for employment and relocation activities, two years of commissary and Exchange privileges among other benefits.

An Airman’s total active federal military service date, or TAFMSD, will determine whether he or she is grandfathered under previous HYT limits or impacted by the new HYT limits.

As examples:

- Senior airmen whose TAFMSD is Sept. 30, 2005, or earlier would separate under on their original HYT date, but no later than Sept. 29, 2013. If the senior airman’s TAFMSD is after Sept. 30, 2013, then the Airman’s HYT date would be adjusted to the new eight-year limit.

- Staff sergeants with a TAFMSD of Sept. 30, 1997 or earlier will retire no later than the first day of the month following their original HYT. Staff sergeants with a TAFMSD of Oct. 1, 1997 through Sept. 30, 1998 must separate on Sept. 29, 2013. Staff sergeants with a TAFMSD of Oct. 1, 1998 or later will have their HYT adjusted to the new 15-year HYT level.

- Technical sergeants who exceed the new HYT will be allowed to remain on active duty to their original HYT or Sept. 1, 2013, whichever is earlier. For example, technical sergeants with a TAFMSD of Aug. 31, 1993, or earlier will retire no later than the first day of the month following their original HYT, but no later than Sept. 1, 2013. Technical sergeants with a TAFMSD of Sept. 1, 1993 or later will have their HYT established at the new 20-year HYT level.

Airmen can find their TAFMSD through the Air Force Personnel Services website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil> and receive additional counseling through their local force support squadron or military personnel section’s career development section.

Airmen assigned overseas who do not have enough time to move to the continental United States will have their date eligible to return from overseas, or DEROS, involuntarily extended to match their new HYT and date of separation. Those whose DEROS exceeds the new HYT and DOS will have their DEROS curtailed to match the new HYT.

Airmen are also encouraged to verify their active duty service commitment for the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill transfer of benefits to family members’ eligibility. Airmen who will have their HYT reduced and the reduction will not allow the Airman to complete the ADSC associated with the Post 9/11 GI Bill transfer of educational benefits option should contact their local education office. They may also visit the Air Force’s Post-9/11 GI Bill web page at: <http://www.afpc.af.mil/library/gibill/index.asp> for additional information.

Extensions of HYT due to unusual or extraordinary circumstances are still applicable under existing guidelines. These include reasons such as

See **Tenure**, Page 9

IN THE NEWS

King luncheon

The 81st Training Wing’s annual luncheon honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is 11 a.m. Monday at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Guest speaker is Chief Master Sgt. Lonnie Slater, Air University command chief and former 81st TRW command chief.

The buffet is \$15.

For more information, call 377-9386 or 5250.

Storm water plan

Keesler is reviewing and updating its Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and the Storm Water Management Plan as required by environmental regulation and public law.

For more information, comments or to participate in either program, call 377-1262.

Clinics close for warrior training

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group conducts warrior training 1-5 p.m. Jan. 12.

Staffing is reduced in family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics general surgery, pharmacy, radiology and laboratory services, so patients are asked to delay visits to these clinics during this training. 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.

Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for the Jan. 19 issue of the Keesler News is noon Jan. 12 because of the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday Jan. 16.

Change in commercial gate hours

Starting Jan. 21, the commercial vehicle gate on the north side of the base will close at 1 p.m. Saturdays.

Drivers will be directed to the White Avenue Gate.

Wing calendar event planning

The 81st Training Wing events calendar at <http://www.keesler.af.mil/events/index.asp> is designed to help organizers avoid conflicts with other scheduled events.

Once an official date is set, event planners should send details to the public affairs organizational box, 81trw.pamain@us.af.mil. Most items are posted within one business day. Items that must be included are the name of event, date, time, location and a point of contact.

Events should be coordinated and approved through respective chains of command and be mission-relevant to a wide audience. All inputs are subject to review and editing by the 81st Training Wing Public Affairs office.

Dragons deployed — 200

Tenure, from Page 8

extreme personal hardship or when an extension is clearly in the interest of the Air Force.

“Leadership is committed to taking steps to ensure the resiliency of our Airmen and families,” Gonzalez said. “Our bases and communities have resources to alleviate financial and emotional stress.”

Airmen can find more information about those programs through their unit first sergeant or at their local airman and family readiness centers, he said.

This change to policy will not affect Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard members.

For more information about high year of tenure limits or any other personnel related issue, visit the Air Force Personnel Services website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>.

81st FSS wins three AETC awards for 2011

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

The 81st Force Support Squadron received three 2011 Air Education and Training Command manpower and personnel awards for fiscal 2011.

Staff Sgt. Jacob Williams was named NCO of the year in customer support. Keesler also had the top manpower and organization program and professional development program.

While deployed to Afghanistan, Williams conducted 100 joint service briefs for 9,000 incoming service members ensuring 100 percent accountability. He reclassified more than 140 nonprior service Airmen averaging less than one day processing time which surpassed AETC's goal of two days. Williams coordinated with the 81st Training



Williams

Wing to move initial safety training to the student processing center, eliminating student transit time and saving the Air Force more than \$24,000 annually.

Williams volunteered to

help reconfigure and install more than 300 new computer systems which helped make the entire squadron Microsoft Vista compliant. He audited a \$1 million basic allowance program which led to the identification of 26 members who weren't receiving basic allowance, resulting in more than \$8,500 in awards.

Williams has been accepted into a global business management masters degree program and has completed 15 hours with a 3.5 grade point average. He also coordinated a bingo day for patients at the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The manpower and organization section managed more than 4,700 numbered Air Force, wing and group authorizations valued at \$520 million. Additionally, it built and managed 268 single-point

standards and reloaded the Air Force with just under 27,000 Airmen in more than 60 Air Force Specialty Codes. The section also initiated a study for a regional confinement center with AETC approval with the addition of more than 10 authorizations. With savings to the Air Force of \$250,000, the section analyzed the client systems technical contract and identified workload duplication.

The professional development flight piloted Keesler's professional enhancement programs, facilitating 59 seminars and coordinating more than 60 briefings. The flight directed First Term Airmen Center activities which included transitioning 142 newly assigned Airmen to operational Air Force. It conducted six NCO and senior NCO professional enhancement seminars which bolstered leadership and supervisory skill sets for 90 NCOs and 74 senior NCOs. The flight oversaw four professional development center renovation projects valued at more than \$250,000 with no interruptions in training.



Resources available for absentee voters

Voting assistance office

Keesler members who'd like to register to vote or those who plan to vote in a number of upcoming state primary elections can contact their unit voting representative; visit the voting assistance office, Room 113, Sablich Center; call 376-5836 or log on to www.FVAP.gov.

Upcoming primaries:

New Hampshire — Tuesday.

South Carolina — Jan. 21.

Florida — Jan. 31.

Missouri — Feb. 7.

Arizona and Michigan — Feb. 28.

Defense bill affects pay, separation bonuses, more

By Karen Parrish

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama signed the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act on Dec. 31, which increases active-duty and reserve pay by 1.6 percent and governs Defense Department activities, from procurement to military personnel policy.

Several provisions in this year's act will potentially affect active-duty and retired service members and their families.

Section 347 requires DOD to finance an independent assessment of overseas troop basing, advising retention, closure, realignment or establishment of U.S. military facilities outside the U.S. "in light of potential fiscal constraints on (DOD) and emerging national security requirements in coming years."

Section 402 reduces authorized Army minimum end strength from 562,000 to 547,000. The other services' authorized minimum strengths are unchanged, with 325,700 for the Navy, 202,100 for the Marine Corps and 332,800 for the Air Force.

Section 512 of the act creates a new member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which currently includes the Army and Air Force chiefs of staff, the chief of naval operations and the Marine Corps commandant. The new member will be the chief of the National Guard

Bureau, who will have responsibility for "addressing matters involving non-federalized National Guard forces in support of homeland defense and civil support missions."

Section 526 extends voluntary separation pay and benefits authority, formerly set to expire Dec. 31, to the end of 2018. Section 530 converts the high-deployment allowance from mandatory to authorized. The allowance currently pays \$100 a day, in addition to all other pay and allowances, to a deployed service member who has been deployed 401 days or more out of the preceding 730 days.

Section 701 limits annual TRICARE enrollment fee increases for retirees and their family members to an amount equal to the percentage by which retired pay increases that year.

Section 702 sets mental health assessment requirements for service members deployed for contingency operations. The act calls for a series of assessments: one within 120 days before deployment; another during the period between 90 days after a deployment begins and 180 days after it ends; a third within a year after the deployment ends; and a fourth between 18 months and 30 months of redeployment.

The act states assessments are intended to "identify post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal tendencies, and other behavioral health conditions ... in order to deter-

mine which such members are in need of additional care and treatment for such health conditions."

Assessments are not required for service members "not subjected or exposed to operational risk factors during deployment in the contingency operation concerned," the act states.

Section 954 affirms that DOD "has the capability, and upon direction by the president may conduct offensive operations in cyberspace to defend our nation, allies and interests," subject to the law of armed conflict and the War Powers Resolution.

Signing the bill into law, Obama acknowledged "serious reservations" about parts of the act, particularly provisions that regulate the detention, interrogation and prosecution of suspected terrorists.

"I have signed the act chiefly because it authorizes funding for the defense of the United States and its interests abroad, crucial services for service members and their families, and vital national security programs that must be renewed," Obama said in a statement released today.

The act also contains critical initiatives to control spiraling health-care costs within the Defense Department, develop counterterrorism initiatives abroad, build the security capacity of key partners, modernize the force, and boost the efficiency and effectiveness of military operations worldwide, he noted.

Air Force offers another round of early retirement, separation incentives for civilians Monday

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — The Air Force is offering a second round of voluntary early retirement authority and voluntary separation incentive pay beginning Monday.

The move is part of the Air Force's continuing effort to meet the Department of Defense requirement to maintain civilian funding at fiscal 2010 levels.

"The Air Force recognizes the invaluable contributions of our civilian workforce, but also recognizes the fiscal constraints under which the Department of Defense and the government as a whole are operating," said Maj. Gen. Sharon Dunbar, director of force management policy. "We are working to balance mission needs while taking care to minimize the effect on our current permanent civilian workforce and their families."

The first round of VERA/VSIP was used as a voluntary means to reduce civilian workforce levels, enabling strategic rebalancing efforts. As the Air Force continues its fiscal 2012 civilian workforce restructure, Round 2 of VERA/VSIP will be used to further realign and rebalance the civilian force.

Civilian employees will receive VERA/VSIP eligibility surveys from their personnel managers in January and applications are due Feb. 3 or an earlier date established by local authorities. Applicants approved for this round of VERA/VSIP will need to separate on or before April 30.

"We are pursuing all available force management measures, to include civilian hiring controls, where required, with the goal of avoiding involuntary measures for our current permanent workforce," Dunbar said.

In August, the Air Force instituted a 90-day hiring freeze that was lifted as an Air Force-wide control Dec. 16. Hiring controls remain in effect in some areas and vary by major command, depending on current MAJCOM strength relative to approved funding levels. Of the positions already identified for elimination, many were vacant and the freeze created additional vacancies. By lifting the Air Force-wide freeze, MAJCOM managers and hiring officials will be able to hire personnel into vacant positions that remain to support the future Air Force mission.

For more information about civilian employment, voluntary separation programs and other personnel issues, visit the secure Air Force Personnel Service website, <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>.

ENERGY AWARENESS

The Air Force is committed to energy efficiency. Everyone -- servicemembers, civilians and family members -- can help save energy and work toward a cleaner future. Here are some "Energy Facts" to think about:

- Each winter, the equivalent of of all the oil in the Alaskan oil pipeline is lost as heat through American windows
- "Energy Star" makes a difference. Energy Star tagged appliances typically use 50 percent less energy than their older counterparts
- Every time an oven door is opened, 25-50 degrees of temperature is lost
- Each ton of recycled paper saves the energy equivalent of 380 barrels of oil
- Ceiling fans cost about \$2.40 a month to run 10 hours a day; they can reduce energy bills by \$10
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours

Make energy awareness
a part of your day

Wing staff agencies name annual award winners

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Annual award winners for the 81st Training Wing staff agencies were named Dec. 13. They are:

Airman — Airman 1st Class Joshua Bice, 81st Comptroller Squadron.

Noncommissioned officer — Tech. Sgt. Scott Mendoza, legal office.

Senior NCO — Master Sgt. Stephen Carter, 81st Operations Support Flight.

Company grade officer — 2nd Lt. Semira Moore, 81st CPTS.

Civilian Category I — Christine McGill, sexual assault prevention and response office.

Civilian Category II — Richard Brock, legal office.

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

Transition assistance workshops

Airman and family readiness center

Transition assistance program workshops have been scheduled for 2012 in Room 108A, Sablich Center, according to Steve McDaniel, transition assistance program specialist at the airman and family readiness center.

Workshops are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 23-26, Feb. 13-16, March 12-15, April 9-12, May 14-17, June 11-14, July 16-19, Aug. 12-16, Sept. 17-20, Oct. 15-17, Nov. 26-29 and Dec. 13.

The final day of the workshop includes Veterans Affairs briefings and retirement briefings.

Dress is business casual — no jeans, T-shirts or uniforms.

For more information or to register, call 376-8728.

Thunderbirds recruiting

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — America's premier air demonstration team, the Air Force Thunderbirds, is accepting applications for several positions.

The 138-member unit exhibits Air Force professionalism and skill in support of recruiting and retention programs to reinforce public confidence in the Air Force, to strengthen morale, and support community relations and public image programs, said Bob Cronin, AFPC academic and special utilization branch.

Officers serve a two-year assignment on the team, while enlisted members serve three or four, Cronin said.

The squadron performs up to 75 demonstrations per year in the U.S. and overseas. Activated in 1953, the Thunderbirds are an Air Combat Command unit and, if necessary, all members and equipment can be rapidly integrated into a flying unit.

Available positions include demonstration pilot, operations officer, executive officer, maintenance officer and public affairs officer.

For full application preparation and submission instructions, or for information about other personnel opportunities and issues, go to the secure Air Force Personnel Services website, <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>.

Want to be an astronaut?

Military personnel section

The Air Force is accepting applications for highly qualified officers and enlisted members to participate in the Air Force Astronaut Nomination Program.

Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 17 and forwarded to HQ AFPC/DPAOT3, 550 C Street West Ste 31, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4733.

For more information about applications and eligibility criteria, call the Air Force Personnel Center pipeline and trainer assignments branch, DSN 665-2330 or commercial 210-565-2330, or e-mail AFPC.DPAOT3@SpecialFlyingPrograms.

Employer Support Freedom Award

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense agency, encourages National Guard and Reserve members to nominate their supportive employers for the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award before the Jan. 16 deadline.

Submit nominations at www.FreedomAward.mil.

Officials said of the more than 1,700 service members who have submitted nominations, about 20 came from Mississippi. The award honors employers who have been supportive of their workers who are also Guard and Reserve members.

The recipients of the award, which is open to all employers, will be announced early next summer and honored in Washington next fall.

Commissary continues tradition of giving

John Lowe, 81st Force Support Squadron, and Gail Andrews, Keesler Commissary employee, sort Angel Tree gifts for four Keesler families Dec. 20 in front of the store. First sergeants and supervisors, working with the airman and family readiness center, identified families with extra needs during the holiday season. Commissary employees, vendors and contract staff purchase gifts for selected families each year.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Songwriter sings, rides for wounded warriors

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

Somewhere east of Biloxi, Devorah Gottesman is mounted upon her trusty touring bicycle as she continues her cross-country journey. She's determined to go the distance and then some as she carries her precious gear — the song of the wounded warrior.

Known simply as Devorah by her family, friends and fans, she pauses from her ride in the parking lot of the Biloxi Lighthouse Dec. 14.

"Yeah, I'm completely not willing to throw in the towel," she declares.

A resident of Friday Harbor, Wash., the locally-popular singer/songwriter started her "Pennies 4 Patriots" fundraiser for the Wounded Warrior project Oct. 10 at the American Legion Post 43 in Hollywood, Calif. Her ride is scheduled to end at the Wounded Warrior Project headquarters in Jacksonville, Fla. Jan. 20, but her mission will have just begun.

In addition to money, Devorah rides to raise awareness for the wounded warrior and to bridge a disconnect she feels the average American citizen has toward military service members.

"I keep running into this attitude that, you know, the military just does what it does and we pay taxes and I guess it's helping so I'll keep paying my taxes and let them keep doing what they're doing and I guess it's helping with our freedom," said Devorah. "I want to bring back that intimate connection with the soldier. People have to be inspired before they give. When you give a gift, know why, feel why — then the amount becomes insignificant."

When she stopped in Biloxi, Devorah has raised less than \$5,000, but her goal is to raise \$1 million.

"And I'm going to keep riding until I get the million," she added.

Armed with a lifetime of musical experience, upbringing and talent and a passion for exercise, Devorah plans to make good on her promise. Having adopted the wounded warrior cause as her own, she feels she has finally found a way to give back. And to her, it feels very right and very good.

"That's the selfish part," she admits. "I'm just living life in all of its awe-inspiring glory."

Devorah didn't so much find the Wounded Warrior Project as the Wounded Warrior Project found her. In 2005, with her music career going well



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Devorah poses for a photo with her guitar and bike in front of the Biloxi Lighthouse Dec. 14. She's riding her bike across the country to raise money and awareness for wounded warriors.

and having just built a home, she was feeling content with her life but had a nagging sense that she needed to give back to a life that had been good to her. But she didn't want to do something for the sake of doing it to make herself feel good. It had to feel right.

"I always try to stay in the moment and do what feels right at the time and not have too many plans and constraints," said Devorah.

So in 2009, she met a Soldier on San Juan Island near Friday Harbor who taught her what serving is all about.

"He brought out a lot of my questions about what freedom would mean to me and what my life as a citizen in this country meant," she explained.

"After hearing me sing, he said, 'You have USO and Wounded Warrior Project written all over your soul.' All of the sudden it just clicked.

"I felt like I had found a perfect match for me — to honor men and women who are willing to give their entire lives for others. That's a level of service deeper than anything I have ever found. This felt correct to me."

"Wounded warrior sings — a song about life nobody else sings," begins the song that came to Devorah shortly after meeting the Soldier. Over the next several months as she began to play the song in public, the words and heart of the song as well as the call to take it across the country began to solidify. Then, after playing on the

steps of Post 43 to a crowd of more than 100 military, Hollywood dignitaries, veterans and other spectators, she received a motorcycle escort out of town and was off.

Unfortunately, the first half of the ride didn't go as smoothly as she had planned. She lost her bike support in Phoenix due to illness, leaving Devorah stranded at a truckstop in the middle of the desert with 200 pounds of gear and no way to get it from here to there. But these are just the sort of situations that bring clarity to a mission.

"God bless Fort Bliss. God bless Fort Sam Houston," Devorah exclaimed. "And God bless every Soldier who has met me along the way and picked up my stuff, carried it in their rig and either rode with me or drove me to where I needed to go.

"One of the most emotional moments of this ride was sitting around with a team of Soldiers and watching them plan how they were going to complete the mission of getting me to Fort Sam Houston," she recalled. "And they're doing this for me. One Soldier said, 'If you don't feel safe in this town, we'll take watch and stand outside your door all night.' I just started crying."

Throughout her journey, Devorah has been visiting and performing at Veterans Affairs hospitals, schools, American Legion posts, appearing on local news shows and radio stations. She is also hoping to appear on major network shows and print publications.

"It's not just about riding a bike and singing a song," said Devorah. "It's about awareness first — everything else follows."

And now she's back on track and being followed around by Dave Lancaster, a veteran who's made a career out of bike support. Devorah met up with him in Mandeville, La.

"It's very humbling," remarked Devorah. "I don't understand how when I make this one commitment, everything starts to fall into place, starts to make sense. And it's not really a different turn in my life — it's reminding me of who I was when I was a child when I remember earliest childhood dreams. That's what's blowing me away. And when you see tears in me, I'm anything but sad. I'm pretty much overwhelmed by the beauty of being alive."

For more information on the "Pennies 4 Patriots" campaign, visit <http://www.devorahmusic.com> and click on the Wounded Warrior Project link.



Final vestige of Katrina recovery tumbles down

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, gets behind the wheel of a front end loader Dec. 16 to begin demolition of the vacant satellite pharmacy building on Meadows Drive. The modular structure was called into use after Hurricane Katrina flooded the original satellite pharmacy in August 2005. The new exchange pharmacy, which opened in March 2010, features a drive-up window and twice the space of the demolished structure it replaced.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Cost, decreasing interest shut down instant messengers

Air Force News Service

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The Air Force shut down the Air Force Instant Messenger and Friends and Family Instant Messenger services Dec. 31.

AFIM and FFIM are collaborative tools available on the Air Force Portal. AFIM is used by Air Force Portal users to chat with each other. FFIM is a subset of AFIM that allowed AF Portal users to chat with up to five friends or family members.

The cost of the services, combined with waning interest in the services, Air Force focus on migrating to Department of Defense enterprise capabilities and availability of other social networking options, led to the decision to eliminate the services.

The cost to maintain AFIM and FFIM was about \$228,000 per year, which included the license cost and engineering support.

Since the DOD opened up access to social media sites on May 2010, both AFIM and FFIM metrics show a significant decrease in usage. As of September, AFIM usage had decreased 71 percent in page views; and 43 percent in weekly session visitors from approximately 5,000 to less than 2,500. For FFIM, weekly visitors had decreased 80 percent from 600 to less than 100.

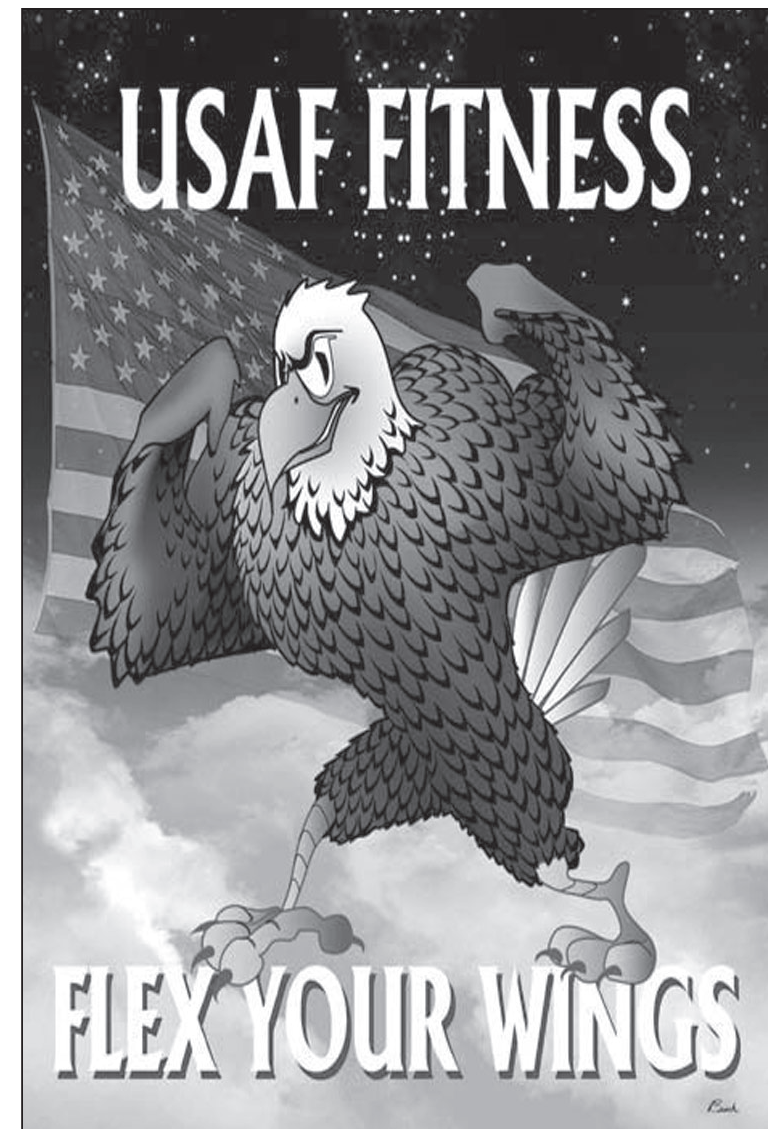
The Air Force is migrating to DOD enterprise capabilities for better information sharing

and greater efficiency. An established DOD instant messaging capability is the Defense Connect Online chat function called “Jabber.” The Air Force performed a user acceptance test of the DCO chat capability and found it an acceptable replacement for AFIM and FFIM; including use in deployed locations.

Anyone with access to a common access card-enabled computer can establish a DCO account. Once a DCO account is established, a user can login to DCO with their CAC or with their DCO user identification and password. An established DCO user can set up a DCO conference room and provide the link to that conference room to friends and family. The friends and family members can then enter the conference room as guests. Once in the conference room, all guests have access to a chat pod where they can exchange instant messages. While FFIM was limited to the Air Force Portal sponsor registering up to five people and only chatting with individuals one at a time, DCO allows the sponsor to establish a chat session where multiple people can chat together.

Information on how to access and use Jabber is located on the AF Portal.

Chat tools on social media sites like Facebook are also available to Airmen on military networks as well as family and friends at home. Deployed Airmen at larger Air Force installations are also able to use the DOD’s Morale Net.



Hospital honors volunteers

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Forty-four Keesler Hospital volunteers were honored during the volunteer services annual award luncheon Dec. 9 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander, presented certificates to:

Less than one year — Lester Broome, Robert Boston, Tameeka Isaacs-Powell, Leticia Kammer, Raymond Lyons, Dawn Lyons and Paula Miley

One year — Monica Benjamin, Christine Cannedy, Jill Clayton, Carolyn Davis, Clair Davis, Edward Guardanapo, Jeanne Hawkins, Elvin Kellum, Ana McKitrick, Teresa Olague and Bernie Sea.l

Two years — Donna Cifranic, David Clark, Bonnie Cotman, Scott Cotman, Patricia

French, Shirley Harrington and Wayne Rupard

Three years — Chester Urbati

Five years — Mary King

10 years — Ruth Taylor

12 years — Richard Dunlap

13 years — Thomas Varble

14 years — Seconda Baker, Harry Crawford and Christine Sharp

15 years — Dean Huffer

16 years — Robert Holgate and Robert Meleady

20 years — Grover Stuart

23 years — Rosalina Jackson

24 years — Margarite Edwards

26 years — Frankie Petty

27 years — Joseph Lafrance

30 years — Usa Jones

31 years — Dean Todd

39 years — Louise Turpel

**NO DRINKING NO EXCUSES
DRINK RESPONSIBLY**

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.

Monday — 2-4 p.m., career skills and work personality assessment.

Wednesday — 7-11:30 a.m., newcomers orientation. 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., separate rations briefing. Open to nonprior service students with dependents stationed at Keesler for 20 weeks or more who want to reside outside of the dorms during technical training. To register, call 377-0155. 1-2:30 p.m., smooth move; advice on making relocation easier. Open to anyone with access to Keesler. 2-4:30 p.m., civilian jobs resume writing. Bring resume for review.

Arts and crafts center

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

Jan. 13 — 6-8:30 p.m., cocktails and canvas. Paint a fleur-de-lis on canvas using acrylics. Light snacks provided, bring your favorite beverage. \$20 includes materials. Space limited. Reserve your seat today.

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

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

Jan. 13 — 5 p.m., Texas Hold 'Em tournament in the ballroom. Prizes awarded. Free for Air Force Club members, \$5 nonmembers. Reserve your seat today.

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

Bay Breeze Golf Course

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

Through Sunday — New Year's sale. Save up to 30 percent on select merchandise.

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.

Through Jan. 12 — "I Lost It at Keesler" registration, Dragon Fitness Center's annual weight loss program. Free to participate. Initial weigh-in Jan. 12, final weigh-in Feb. 28. Must be age 18 or older and eligible to use base fitness centers. Program runs Jan. 16-Feb. 27. For more information, call 377-4409.

Gaudé Lanes

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2817.

Friday-Saturday — 9 p.m. Friday and 7 p.m. Saturday, glow bowling.

Through Jan. 31 — World Wide Bowling

program for ages 5-18. Log bowling score on www.usafbowltowin.com for chances to win a custom bowling ball and bag. Three winners awarded weekly.

Weekdays — 6:30-9 a.m., fast \$5 breakfast served at 11th Frame Café.

McBride Library

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

Today — 4-5 p.m., free children's story and craft time, ages 3-12.

Outdoor recreation

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

Saturday — noon, free geocache adventure and treasure hunt. A set of coordinates posted on the outdoor recreation Facebook page will lead you to the first location. Clues will guide you to each cache. Prize awarded. All caches located on Keesler. Must provide own GPS or Smartphone.

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.

Saturday — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., welcome back party.

Wednesday — 5-7 p.m. free ping-pong tournament. Prize awarded to the winner.

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.

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 — free Challenger Sports British youth soccer clinic, 9-9:45 a.m., ages 3-4; 10-11 a.m., ages 5-8; 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., ages 9-14. Priority given to youth enrolled in the Keesler youth soccer program. Registration required. 4-10 p.m., parents' night out, child care, ages 6-12. \$4 per hour, per child. Immunization records, emergency contact and registration required. Space limited.

Dragon Wagon

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

A 3-5 minute steady tone on the base siren is a tornado warning — take cover.

KEESLER NOTES

Finance closes

The 81st Comptroller Squadron is closed from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday for an official function.

Amateur radio club

The Keesler Amateur Radio Club meets 7 p.m. Monday in Room 5439, Locker House.

For more information, call 228-323-1515.

Canvas and Cocktails

The Keesler Spouses Club's January function is Canvas and Cocktails, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the arts and crafts center.

The cost is \$20 in advance. Snacks and drinks are provided.

For more information, log on to keeslerspousesclub.com.

Supply classes

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

Block I supply indoctrination class is 9-10 a.m. March 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. March 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. March 22. For more information or to sign up, call 377-4180.

Block IIB repair cycle training is 10-11 a.m. March 22. For more information or to sign up, call 377-4191.

Block III equipment custodian refresher training is 1-2 p.m. March 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.

Military Child of Year

Operation Homefront is accepting online nominations until Jan. 15 for the 2012 Military Child of the Year Award.

The award is given to an

outstanding military child the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The winners, who each will receive \$5,000, will be flown with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., for special recognition ceremony April 5.

Nominations are accepted at www.OperationHomefront.net/MCOY.

Candidates should demonstrate resilience and strength of character, thrive in the face of the challenges of military life and demonstrate leadership within their families and within their communities.

Nominees must have valid military ID or currently be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, be between the ages of 8-18 and be able to travel to Washington, D.C., for the ceremony on April 5.

Finalists must have a background check to confirm the nomination information and provide references.

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 [\[spousesclub.com\]\(http://spousesclub.com\) for more information and a list of preferred donations. Pickup is available for bulk donations.](http://www.keesler</p>
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For more information, call 377-3217.

Periodontal patients

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

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

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

For more information, call 376-5225.

Air Force Aid assistance

Air Force Aid Society assistance, including Falcon Loans, is provided by appointment only. Emergency travel aid is 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.

Hemodialysis care

The Keesler Hospital offers chronic hemodialysis to patients requiring the care.

Hemodialysis removes waste products such as creatinine and urea as well as free water from the blood when the kidneys are in renal failure.

The staff currently cares for Department of Defense beneficiaries only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The eight dialysis machines, located in three treatment rooms, allow them to care for up to 12 patients per week.

For more information, call 376-5537.

Repair parts

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

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Dietary pills removed due to health concerns

Air Force News Service
and 6th Medical Group

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense has implemented a temporary moratorium on the sales of products containing DMAA within military facilities.

The moratorium will remain in effect pending further review of relevant scientific evidence and reported events, officials said.

Recent reports show that two Soldier deaths and additional adverse health effects in other service members may be related to the use of dietary supplements containing DMAA, which is also known as dimethylamylamine.

DMAA is found in many weight-loss and bodybuilding supplements such as Jack 3D, Oxy Elite Pro, Lipo 6 and

Hemo Rate. Side effects include elevated blood pressure, heart palpitations, nausea, vomiting, headaches, panic attacks and stroke. These complications are exacerbated by the addition of caffeine, also in many supplements.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Jonathan Woodson asked the surgeons general of the military services to conduct a review of available scientific evidence and adverse event reports to better understand any potential relationship between DMAA and these events. Recommendations from this review will guide further decisions, officials said.

The 6th Medical Group, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., contributed to this report.

Thursday intramural bowling

Week 14 of 34

Team	Won	Lost
335th TRS-A	76.0	36.0
81st FSS	72.0	40.0
403rd AMXS	70.0	42.0
334th TRS	66.0	46.0
81st CS	66.0	46.0
338th TRS	60.0	52.0
81st TRSS-PMEL	58.0	54.0
81st LRS-A	56.0	56.0
336th TRS	56.0	56.0
ECS Strikers	56.0	56.0
81st LRS-B	54.0	58.0
81st TRSS-A	46.0	66.0
2nd Air Force	42.0	70.0
Seabees	40.0	72.0
81st WSA	40.0	64.0
335th TRS-B	38.0	74.0

Season high scores

Team game — 335th TRS, 997.

Team series — 335th TRS, 2,777.

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

High handicap series (team) — 403rd AMXS, 3150.

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, 531.

High handicap game/women — Carol Wetzler, 258.

High handicap series/women — Carol Wetzler, 655.

Average/men — Garo Watson, 208.63.

Average/women — Micki Vandermeer, 157.92.

Most improved — Matthew Such, 12.17; Carol Wetzler, 4.72.