



# KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

JAN. 12, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 2



## New simulators add realism to classroom

Page 4

AETC award winners

Pages 9-10

Tax office opens Tuesday

Page 18

### INSIDE

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

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# COMMENTARY

## Military and civilians

# Be clear about appropriate political involvement

By Gen. Norton A. Schwartz

Air Force chief of staff

As the nation prepares for the November 2012 Presidential elections, I encourage all Airmen – active duty, National Guard, Reserve and civilian employees – to participate in our nation's political process to the maximum permissible extent. It is important, however, that in doing so, we all comply with the rules that regulate the political activities of Department of Defense personnel. These rules — routed in U.S. law — are intended to strike the proper balance between a government employee's involvement in the political process while avoiding an improper appearance of official DOD endorsement of a particular political party, candidate, cause or issue. These rules also prevent the misuse of one's federal position in support of a particular

political party, candidate, cause or issue.

Prior to engaging in any activity related to the political process, all Airmen should be familiar with the rules prescribed by DOD Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty, and as amplified in the Jan. 28, 2008, Secretary of Defense message, DOD Public Affairs Policy Guidance Concerning Political Campaigns and Elections, in order to ensure a full understanding of the extent and limitations of appropriate involvement in the political process.

Specific prohibitions on political activities by DOD personnel may not be intuitive. For example, active duty personnel may not attend partisan political events in uniform, nor may they march or ride in a partisan parade, regardless of whether or not they are in uniform. Active duty personnel may

display a political sign on their personally owned vehicle, but only if it is no longer than a traditional bumper sticker. Political signs may not be displayed from an on-base residence, even if the military housing development has been privatized. DOD employees may not distribute campaign literature in the federal workplace, nor may they seek to influence the vote of any other DOD employees, except to encourage voting in general. Remember campaign activities on military installations are also strictly prohibited.

If you have any questions about what is appropriate, ask for guidance from your local legal office and obtain any required approvals prior to engaging in the activity. I encourage you to vote and to exercise your civic rights responsibly. Thank you for your continued service to this great nation.

# You have power to kick tobacco habit in 2012

Air Force Medical Operations Agency

Once the holidays have come and gone, it's time to reflect on you and where you want to be in the coming year. If you've tried to quit tobacco before or have been contemplating quitting for a while, now is the time to do it ... not for your mother, not for your spouse, not for your significant other. This is the time to do it for **you**.

Everyone has the power to quit tobacco, but it takes motivation from within and a solid plan with proven strategies to succeed. You can discover how to put together a plan to quit and get the support to stay quit on this website. But first let's look at the best way to get from here to there: motivation.

Motivation is a powerful engine that can ignite your drive to succeed. It comes from your desire to achieve a goal and the belief that you are capable of doing it. The greater your desire and belief, the more motivated you become. Once you can tap into your power of motivation, your drive to quit will become unstoppable.

Kick start your motivation by setting a goal and then get excited about that goal. Write down your goals and commit to them publicly. Look for inspiration from others who have achieved the goal of quitting tobacco. Use visualization to see how you can overcome obstacles and achieve a positive outcome. Then take concrete



actions: Create your own quit plan to map out a strategy for success.

Once you have unleashed your power of motivation and set a plan into action, here are some tips to help you stay motivated.

- **Prepare yourself.** Use Train2Quit, an interactive online program that will walk you through the steps to becoming permanently tobacco-free. The program will show you how to harness all of your resources—mental, psychological, social, and medical—to deal with withdrawal, overcome temptation, and keep from gaining weight as you give up cigarettes or dip for good. Train2Quit will take you on a personalized journey that can double your chances of success.

- **Get support.** When your motivation dips, try connecting with our Live Chat service, available to you 24/7. Our trained quit coaches offer interactive advice, support, or just someone to talk with, one on one,

when you need it most. It's free and confidential, and it could be just the extra support you need to quit and stay quit. Or, go to the Locate Support page to find your region or State and get support in your area to achieve your goal of living tobacco-free.

If you are a TRICARE beneficiary who is not eligible for Medicare, you can call a help line, 24/7, and speak with a trained tobacco quit coach. Your coach can help you create a customized quit plan and refer you to a provider to help you carry out the plan. The Quitline is available 365 days a year in three TRICARE regions:

North: 866-459-8766 (Wisconsin to Maine to North Carolina)

South: 877-414-9949 (Texas to South Carolina)

West: 866-244-6870 (everywhere else)

- **Stay preoccupied.** Our fun, free games — Texas Hold 'Em; Kiss Me, You Fool; Forgotten Treasures; Word

Challenge; and Make an Avatar — are a great way to pass the time when you crave that cigarette or chew due to nicotine withdrawal. Remember, most cravings last only three to six minutes, and these fun games will help keep you distracted to pass the time.

- **Be connected.** You can talk with others who are fighting to quit tobacco just like you through our quit blogs; studies show that people who quit with friends are 36 percent more likely to remain tobacco-free, according to a 2008 study by N.A. Christakis and J.H. Fowler in the New England Journal of Medicine.

- **Keep focused.** Subscribe to QuitTips and get three texts a week with quit tips to keep you on track. QuitTips is free, although your wireless provider will charge for these text messages at its usual rate.

- **Reward yourself.** Use our online savings calculator to see how much money you're spending to feed your tobacco addiction. If you smoke a pack a day and pay \$5 for a pack, you'll see that you're spending \$150 a month. That's money you could spend on a special treat for yourself.

Make this the year that you successfully quit tobacco for you! Get motivated and make a plan. You can do it. We can help.

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

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



### ON THE COVER

Airman Basic Tyler Long, a student in the 334th Training Squadron, operates the one of the new airfield management apprentice course simulators in Cody Hall Monday. The realistic, flexible new simulators were designed and installed by the 81st Training Support Squadron's trainer development flight. Story and photo, Page 4.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

More news, videos, information and photos on the Web  
at <http://www.keesler.af.mil>

## KEESLER NEWS

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# TRAINING AND EDUCATION

## Airfield management course gets more realistic simulator

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Another partnership between the 81st Training Support Squadron and the 334th Training Squadron has come up with a realistic, flexible new simulator for airfield management training.

"What ties the whole system together is the customized lab designed and installed by the 81st TRSS trainer development shop here at Keesler," said Tech. Sgt. Clint Harper, instructor supervisor for 334th TRS airfield management apprentice course. "They came in, surveyed our needs and concerns and came up with an outstanding state-of-the-art design that far exceeded our expectations. The design puts the instructor in the center of everything with a 360-degree view of all students."

The six new simulators and two instructor consoles, purchased from Simigon at a cost of \$185,000, consist of a chassis simulating a vehicle, with a seat, steering wheel, pedals and three high resolution LED screens.

The simulators were accepted Dec. 16 and the

trainer development team was responsible for installing the cubicles and equipment in time for instructors to begin introducing students to the new technology Jan. 3. Use has been scaled down somewhat as the instructors learn the software.

"As we become more proficient and create more scenarios and simulations, we'll integrate them more heavily, eventually into every block of training," Harper remarked.

"The simulators came equipped with a simulation of Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., which will be our primary training airfield, but Randolph AFB, Texas, and McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas were also included," Harper said. "Simigon included over 100 'entities,' which are aircraft, vehicles, people, wildlife and other random objects that can be introduced as a planned part of the simulation, or thrown in on the fly to keep students on their toes."

Harper explained that the older simulators were designed to train future airfield drivers, which isn't the focus of the course.

"In our course, we take 168 students a year through the process of airfield planning, design, construction, sustainment and operations management," he remarked. "These simulators are highly customizable and were designed by trainer development with the intent to meet our needs."

Trainers can now create simulations that compliment all course requirements, from airfield design to day-to-day airfield operations to complex emergency response situations.

"These simulators offer incredible realism," said Dale Riggins, 81st TRSS equipment resources manager. "When you're behind the wheel, you can even feel the slide of the ice and snow."

"With the ability to deliver on-screen slides, we can add as much detail as needed to enhance our training," Harper pointed out. "We are now able to give students a hands-on application perspective, which wasn't possible before. This will also help reduce the amount of 'brain-dump' that students experience before reaching their first duty station."



Photo by Kemberly Groue  
Harper assists Airman Basic Ryan Hall, 334th TRS student, as he uses the new course's simulator in Cody Hall Monday. The realistic, flexible new simulator was designed and installed by the 81st TRSS trainer development flight.

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.



Computer security is your responsibility.

## STEP up



**Tech. Sgt. Chanda Randall, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, was promoted to her current rank Dec. 21 through the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program. She's is the education and training manager for the 85th EIS and was honored as Pacific Air Forces education and training manager of the year for 2010.**

# 81st TRG announces winners

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The 81st Training Group has announced its fourth quarter and annual award winners.

## Fourth quarter awards

**Noncommissioned officer** — Tech. Sgt. Jason Trenz, 81st Training Support Squadron.

**Senior NCO** — Master Sgt. Van Kemp II, 333rd Training Squadron.

**Company grade officer** — Capt. Shawn Adams, 333rd TRS.

**Civilian Category I** — Renee Johnson, 333 TRS.

**Civilian Category II** — Barbara Walker, 81st TRSS.

**Civilian supervisor Category II** — Peter Martinez, 334th TRS.

**NCO instructor** — Tech. Sgt. Jason Ylagan, 333rd TRS.

**Senior NCO instructor** — Master Sgt. John Platt, 335th TRS.

**Officer instructor** — Capt. Jeremy Sparks, 333rd TRS.

**Civilian instructor** — Leslie Rhodes, 81st TRSS.

**Military training leader** — Staff Sgt. Russell Warren, 338th TRS.

**Flight chief** — Edward Wood, 335th TRS.

**Support NCO** — Tech. Sgt. Aaron Lujan, 81st TRSS.

**Support senior NCO** — Master Sgt. Wayne Bullock,



333rd TRS.

**Support officer** — Maj. Daniel Williams, 334th TRS.

**Support civilian** — Ms. Melissa Dodson/81 TRSS

## Annual awards

**Airman** — Airman 1st Class Fredrick Taylor, 81st TRSS.

**NCO** — Tech. Sgt. Gary Hutcheson, 336th TRS.

**Senior NCO** — Master Sgt. Mark Lorenzo, 333rd TRS.

**Company grade officer** — Capt. Jason Matheny, 334th TRS.

**Civilian Category I** — Kristin Trujillo, 81st TRSS.

**Civilian Category II** — Vanessa Williams, 81st TRSS.

**Civilian supervisor** — George Holbert, 81st TRSS.

**First sergeant** — Senior Master Sgt. Joel Shepherd, 338th TRS.

**NCO instructor** — Tech. Sgt. Dennis Wilson, 333rd TRS.

**Senior NCO** — Master Sgt.

Carmaneta Dixon, 335th TRS.

**Officer instructor** — Capt. Darrin Layton, 334th TRS.

**Civilian instructor** — Ms. Barbara Walker, 81st TRSS.

**Junior MTL** — Staff Sgt. Anthony Powell, 338th TRS.

**Senior MTL** — Master Sgt. Corey Lockhart, 335th TRS.

**Flight commander** — Capt. Ryan Curtiss, 333rd TRS.

**Support NCO** — SSgt. Lester Naoe, 81st TRSS.

**Support senior NCO** — Master Sgt. James Musgrove, 338th TRS.

**Support officer** — Maj. Daniel Williams, 334th TRS.

**Support civilian** — Elaine Christiansen, 333rd TRS.

## ENERGY AWARENESS

Energy conservation helps create and maintain a clean environment, reduces pollution and our dependence on foreign oil, and helps the Air Force meet its federal goals. Here's how you can help:

- Turn off lights in unoccupied offices or rooms
- Replace inefficient incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs
- Turn off monitors, printers and fax machines when leaving at the end of the day
- Buy "Energy Star" labeled appliances and products
- Install programmable thermostats to set lower temperatures in unoccupied areas
- Make sure broken windows are reported and everything is caulked and sealed as appropriate
- Recycle. Recycling paper can save one tree per 16.5 reams of paper; recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours

# TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

## Technology expo

The 81st Training Support Squadron hosts its 17th annual training technology and information systems expo, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 9 in the multipurpose room of the Roberts Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Facility.

Larry Monroe is the 81st TRSS project officer.

The free expo features more than 40 exhibitors and is open

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and drive.**

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

to all Defense Department, government and contractor personnel with base access.

For more information, call 377-7799 or 1-877-332-3976.

## 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](http://www.dodmou.com).

## 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](http://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.



# NEWS AND FEATURES

## Baby New Year

Capt. (Dr.) Timothy and Sandra Davis hold their new daughter Elizabeth in the Keesler Hospital family birthing center Jan. 3. Elizabeth was born 8:37 a.m. Jan. 2, making her Keesler's first 2012 baby. She "weighed in" at 8 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 21 1/4 inches "tall." She joins brothers Grant, 5, and William, 2, in their Ocean Springs home. Dr. Davis is a second-year internal medicine resident assigned to the 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

Photo by Steve Pivnick



## Civilian workforce restructure Keesler losing 38 more positions

**Air Force News Service  
and Keesler Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON — Wednesday, Air Force officials announced 4,500 additional positions for elimination as a continuation of its FY12 civilian workforce restructure.

This second round of reductions includes 38 more positions at Keesler. November's round of cuts eliminated 68 positions from the 1,607 civilian authorizations in the 81st Training Wing and 403rd Wing.

"These reductions are a result of Air Force initiatives to further streamline installation support, trim the size of management headquarters and tailor support requirement for training development and management," said Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander.

The Air Force reduction builds on the realignments announced in November, including the elimination of 9,000 positions and the addition of 5,900 positions against the Air Force's top priorities. In addition, these reductions respond to the Secretary of Defense's

direction to target civilian funding at fiscal year 2010 levels.

These reductions are consistent with Air Force-wide initiatives to reduce the overall workforce, Mueller said.

"The technical training mission which has been a Keesler mainstay for more than 70 years remains an important part of the Air Force and is sustaining the core competencies of the Air Force mission in air, space and cyberspace," Mueller said.

In an effort to encourage voluntary separations and retirements, the Air Force is currently offering its second round of voluntary separation incentive pay and voluntary early retirement authority programs. Keesler civilian employees received VERA/VSIP eligibility surveys from their personnel managers earlier this month and the applications are due no later than Jan. 30. Approved applications will result in separations or retirements that take effect by April 30.

This announcement marks the end of civilian reductions associated with the Air Force's FY12 civilian workforce restructure.

## IN THE NEWS

### 3 Airmen killed in Afghanistan

**Air Force News Service**

WASHINGTON — Three Airmen died Jan. 5 in Shirghazi, Helmand province, Afghanistan, when their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device.

The three killed are **Senior Airman Bryan R. Bell**, 23, of Erie, Pa., assigned to the 2nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.; **Tech. Sgt. Matthew S. Schwartz**, 34, of Traverse City, Mich., assigned to the 90th Civil Engineer Squadron, FE Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.; and **Airman 1st Class Matthew R. Seidler**, 24, of Westminster, Md., assigned to the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

### School board member sought

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, is seeking a Keesler volunteer, preferable a Biloxi School District parent, to represent the base as an honorary non-voting member of the district's board of trustees.

Meetings are at 5 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the DuKate Building Annex, 1445 Father Ryan Ave., Biloxi.

For more information, call 376-8505.

### Clinics close for warrior training

**81st Medical Group Public Affairs**

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

### Quarterly awards luncheon

The 81st Training Wing's quarterly awards luncheon is noon Tuesday at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

For tickets or more information, contact your group representative or call 377-9011.

### 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.

### Early Keesler News deadline

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

### Customer survey

CSC is soliciting customer response from Keesler members who have used any of the base operating support services since Aug. 1, 2011.

Services include the library, fitness centers, supply, civil engineering or weather. Responses are confidential.

The customer service survey is available online Wednesday through Jan. 31 at [www.keeslerbossurvey.com](http://www.keeslerbossurvey.com)

### Dragons deployed — 200



# 81st CONS garners three 2011 AETC awards

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

The 81st Contracting Squadron received three command-level awards for fiscal year 2011.

The squadron received one award from Air Education and Training Command for outstanding contracting unit and two individual awards.

The two individual award winners are:

**Ms. Da Vina Davis**, AETC professional courage.

**Lt. Col. Jonathan Wright**, outstanding contracting officer.

During 2011, the 81st CONS performed more than a thousand contract actions totaling approximately \$107 million, 16 percent more than 2010.

The 81st CONS awarded 84



**Davis**

hospital contracts which has led the hospital to have the lowest "left without being seen" rate in the Air Force out of 23,000 patients resulting in \$6.7 million in referral savings.



**Wright**

During the E. Coli water crisis, the 81st CONS facilitated the purchase of 162,000 bottles of water in less than three hours for more than 9,000 base personnel for 10

days. Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller described the 81st CONS as "heroes."

Davis is the team lead for the commercial acquisitions flight. She was instrumental in steering the 81st Medical Group through the radiation therapy contractor's employee firings over a sexual harassment case which led to a seamless restoration of service and no lawsuits.

Davis also aligned three blood donor contracts into one for a savings of \$1.1 million. She trained 62 quality assurance personnel when Wright-Patterson Air Force Base offloaded eight task orders in the amount of \$56.8 million. Davis also secured AETC and Pentagon approval on a \$99,000 ratification closing a two-year case in three months.

As commander of the 81st CONS, Wright led a team to win AETC's Commander-in-Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence in 2011. He developed an emergency notification system for contractors which AETC now shares through the command.

Wright, who also is serving as deputy commander of the 81st Mission Support Group, was also instrumental in reinvigorating Keesler's recycling program with aggressive marketing and leadership with a 40 percent solid waste diversion rate in 2011, more than doubling the rate for 2010.

Wright was also able to garner approval from the Air Force on "best practice" for a software script that resulted in 98 percent faster interface for medical requirements.

When you gamble with safety, you bet your life.

# 81st LRS wins three individual AETC awards

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

The 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron received three individual Air Education and Training Command awards for fiscal year 2011.

The winners are:

**Airman 1st Class Kenneth Littlewolf**, vehicle operations Airman of the year.

**Staff Sgt. Mirna Lujano**, traffic management noncommissioned officer of the year.

**Master Sgt. Christopher Ray**, logistics plans senior NCO of the year.

Littlewolf transported 888 passengers and 48 square tons of cargo in 2011. This resulted in more than 2,000 accident-free miles with a 100 percent on-time rate.

He maintained a \$3.2 million, 69-vehicle fleet, reinstated a vehicle inspection process that led to a 30 percent



**Littlewolf**

increase in the asset commission rate.

Littlewolf also played a significant logistics role in supporting the 2011 Thunder Over the Bay Airshow. He helped coordinate the transportation of approximately 165,000 passengers and 328



**Lujano**

aircrew in what was the largest event in Keesler history.

Lujano coordinated more than 21,000 travel requests for Allied Forces Central Europe's busiest passenger section. She certified 52 commercial travel office invoices for a total of \$21 million. This



**Ray**

led to contractors being paid within 30 days, eliminating interest fees.

Lujano aided in \$65,000 dormitory relocation project, moving 103 airmen leading the project being completed 45 days ahead of schedule. She also recouped and

processed 50 unused airline tickets saving the Air Force more than \$14,000.

Ray managed the 81st Training Wing readiness operations leading 57 military and 28 civilians. He oversaw the 81st TRW air and space expeditionary force reporting tool which reduced late reports by 25 percent.

He turned in \$10,000 worth of unserviceable assets and increased the cargo facility utilization rate by 30 percent.

Ray directed the 403rd Wing deployment operations, processing 415 passengers and more than 125 square tons of cargo from 11 aircraft.

He guided Keesler's support agreement by reviewing 36 agreements and initiating three which secured \$1.3 million in annual reimbursements.



## This week's movies at Welch Auditorium

**Friday** — 6:30 p.m., J. Egnar (R),

**Saturday** — 2 p.m., Immortal (R); 6 p.m., The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG-13),

**Sunday** — 1 p.m., Jack and Jill (PG).

# PERSONNEL NOTES

## Promotion board, file freeze

### Military personnel section

The 12E8 senior master sergeant board convenes Jan. 30 through Feb. 17.

The Air Force Personnel Center will freeze files effective Jan. 23. Any data updated in the Military Personnel Data System after Jan. 23 for the 12E8 promotion cycle won't be reflected on the member's data verification report.

If an individual's eligibility status changes or an update is required to member's DVR after Jan. 23 Jan, the military personnel section will contact AFPC via email.

For more information, call 376-8356.

## 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 Tuesday 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](mailto:AFPC.DPAOT3@SpecialFlyingPrograms).

## Transition assistance

### 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, sneakers, T-shirts or uniforms.

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

## Employer Support 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 Monday deadline.

Submit nominations at [www.FreedomAward.mil](http://www.FreedomAward.mil).

# Craigslist scam targets Airmen

By Chris McCann

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson  
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — *“Hi, Thanks for replying to my ad. I’m in a hurry to find a buyer because I have a family emergency and I need to sell it before 22 November. My name is Larry. I’m an Air Force Staff Sergeant stationed at an AF Base in Anchorage, Alaska. The truck is here with me.*

*This 2000 Toyota Tundra SR5 4 Wheel Drive, has 72,000 miles on it, Automatic 4SPD, 4.7L V8. A/C, Cruise Control, Heated Seats, Tow Package, Traction Control and more. It has no damage, no scratches or dents, no hidden defects. The price is \$2,690. If you want to buy this SUV I will take care of the delivery to your door (with an AF cargo plane to the nearest AF Base) and I will offer 5 days to inspect the vehicle and take it to your mechanic from the moment you receive it (and the option to accept or reject it), before I’ll have your money...”*

Sounds too good to be true? That’s because it is.

This scam and others similar to it have circulated around Craigslist for a few years now.

Service members of all branches have had their names used as the “sellers” of these vehicles. Often, the ad even states that an Air Force tow truck will take the vehicle from the nearest Air Force base to the buyer’s house. The photos are taken from other Craigslist ads, photo-hosting sites and even car dealership websites.

Unfortunately, people can and do get conned into sending money, and the car of course never shows up.

Staff Sgt. Amanda Gibson, an approving official for the 3rd Munitions Squadron here, was a “seller” — much to her surprise.

“I found out through an email from someone at

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, (Ohio),” Gibson said. “I thought it was over. ... Then I got a call from security forces at a base in Pennsylvania because a civilian had gotten in touch with them and asked if I was real.”

She was also mentioned in an article in the Hartford, (Conn.) Courant about the scam, she said.

In all, she has found her name in 61 scam advertisements and continues to get occasional emails about the vehicle she’s allegedly selling. Gibson has filed reports with the Federal Trade Commission and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, she said.

Unfortunately, there’s not much that can be done. The scammers are not in the U.S. in most cases. FBI Agent Tim Gallagher, the section chief of the bureau’s cyber division, said that the FBI has arrested people in connection with the scams overseas.

However, that may be cold comfort to those who have been duped.

“I think service members’ names are chosen because it’s relatively easy to verify that we exist, and people want to trust military people,” Gibson said.

It’s also easy to search for a name and get results, even phone numbers, which makes potential victims think it’s legitimate. For example, even Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Kuehnl, the 673rd Air Base Wing senior enlisted advisor here, was shocked to get a call on her duty phone about a vehicle she was allegedly selling.

“I have sold things on Craigslist in the past, so the first email didn’t surprise me,” Kuehnl said. “But I would never use the duty phone. That spooked me.”

Alaska seems to be a good place for the scammers to claim as the car’s location, since it’s remote, Gibson said. Often, people don’t realize it’s a scam until they offer to make a trip to take a look at the car, which is almost always somewhere remote.

If a potential buyer offers to visit and test-drive it, suddenly there’s “another offer” and the car isn’t for sale anymore, or it’s “already crated and ready for shipping.”

And what if you discover that you’ve been “trying to sell” a beautiful vehicle at a fraction of its blue-book value?

Fortunately, said a representative from OSI, it’s usually not an actual case of identity theft, just theft of your name. Scammers use web-based email addresses, like Gmail, to do the transactions; they’re not hacking email accounts. They don’t need a person’s social security number, address or any other information — just his or her name and reputation as a service member — to get their money and disappear.

Most times, the ad states that “for your protection” the money will go to an escrow account with eBay until buyer and seller are both satisfied, officials said. But eBay and Craigslist have nothing to do with each other. Just like Toyota won’t repair your Ford, eBay won’t broker money for Craigslist.

Airmen who find that someone has used their name in connection with the scam should report it to local authorities as well as to IC3.gov and ftc.gov. OSI also recommends Airmen inform their chain of command. Some potential victims think that service members are the scammers, so their command should know what happened as soon as possible.

Airmen can also file reports with the FBI, and it’s never a bad idea to have a fraud alert on your bank account and credit cards, officials said.

Craigslist and eBay both have prominent disclaimers reminding people not to use Western Union or MoneyGram for purchases, since once the money is sent, it’s gone, with no recourse for the sender. While those services might be good for sending money to a relative or friend, they’re also often used by scam artists.



# Keesler doctor applies for patent for reconstructive biologic mesh

By Steve Pivnick

## 81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Capt. (Dr.) Andrew Hall, currently a general surgery resident assigned to the 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, has applied for a patent for a medical product he developed while in fellowship training at the 81st Medical Support Squadron Clinical Research Laboratory.

The application for “Lipid-Coated Surgical Mesh” was submitted to the U.S. Patent Office Dec. 6. He began working on the project in late 2009.

Hall said the omental coated biologic mesh is in its infancy.

“It consists of a biologic mesh coated with lipid compounds derived from mammalian omentum (a fold of



## Hall

peritoneum connecting or supporting abdominal structures) and isn't a particularly glamorous process,” Hall explained. “It involves taking pig omentums, grinding them,

putting the ground substance in solvent and extracting it with an evaporator. The goal is to improve the rate and degree of incorporation of the biologic mesh for reconstruction of abdominal walls with hopeful application in treatment of wounded personnel.”

“With patent protection, the Air Force will retain the rights to the invention which will hopefully reduce costs of the final product and potentially bring in revenue,” he added. “However, there is still a long way to go before this would become a reality.”

Hall said Capt. (Dr.) Nicholas Lancia and Maj. (Dr.) Christopher Gerlach, pathologists with the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, led the project's microscopic analysis.

# Combined regimen reduces lower back pain

## University of Florida

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — A regimen of core strengthening exercises was no better than traditional sit-ups for preventing back pain in soldiers, according to a new University of Florida study. But combining both exercise programs with a brief educational session on back pain strategies did lower the incidence of treatment for back pain.

The results of the study appear online in *BMC Medicine*, an open-access journal of BioMed Central.

Lt. Col. John Childs, Keesler's director of musculoskeletal research and a co-investigator for the study, said low back pain is among the most frequent causes of medical visits and lost-duty time in the Military Health System.

"Musculoskeletal pain, and especially low back pain, adversely affects military preparedness as common reasons for medical evacuation from ongoing conflicts, with return

to duty being uncertain," said Childs, who holds a doctorate in physical therapy and serves as an associate professor with the U.S. Army-Baylor University doctoral program in physical therapy.

"It was our hypothesis that the core stabilization exercises would have some protective effect for back pain and maybe the combination of the core stabilization exercises and the education program would be the most effective, but as it turns out, adding the education to either of the exercise programs was the only place where we saw the benefit," said lead investigator Steven George, who also holds a doctorate in physical therapy. He's an associate professor in the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions department of physical therapy.

Core exercises target several different muscle groups that support the spine, including abdominal muscles, back

muscles, side muscles, and muscles that attach to the pelvis. The military typically uses traditional lumbar training, which exercises only the abdominal muscles through a lot of sit-ups and crunches, George said.

"Core stabilization exercises are considered to be a more balanced approach to lumbar training so that's why we and others have thought that core exercises would be better at preventing back pain and that may be, but it just wasn't the case in this study," George said.

The Prevention of Low Back in the Military study involved 4,325 Soldiers stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, who were completing a program for combat medic training. Participants were randomized by company into one of four treatment groups: core stabilization exercises, core stabilization exercises plus an educational session on back pain coping strategies, traditional lumbar exercises or traditional lumbar exercises plus the back pain educational session. The exercise programs were completed as a group under the supervision of a drill instructor once a day, five days a week for 12 weeks.

The education program consisted of one 45-minute group session led by study personnel that provided evidence-based information on low back pain and strategies for recovering from mild back injury.

"Part of the education is just to get people to understand the difference between when pain indicates true injury, which is usually only in the very early stages, and when pain is just a lingering signal, but you can still be active," George said. "We need to get people moving even when they're in pain because if we wait until they're pain-free, they can become deconditioned."

The researchers tracked



Photo by Steve Pivnick

**Lt. Col. John Childs, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, demonstrates spinal manipulation for acute lower back pain on simulated patient Kevin Wait, a physical therapy clinic staff physical therapist.**

participants' incidence of low back pain for two years following the intervention using a military health care utilization database. There was no difference in health care visits for back pain in the treatment groups who received exercises only, but among the groups who also received the educational program, there was a 3 percent decrease in seeking health care for low back pain. The decrease may seem small, researchers say, but because back pain is such a common health issue in the military, even a small decrease could lessen the burden on the health care system.

"Disease prevention is a fundamental tenet of modern health care but unfortunately efforts to prevent back pain have been largely unsuccessful because they were based upon anecdote and opinion rather than firm evidence," said Christopher Maher, director of musculoskeletal research at the George Insti-

tute for Global Health in Australia and a professor at the University of Sydney, who reviewed the journal article. "What has limited progress in this field is a lack of prevention research; most trials in the back pain field evaluate treatment rather than prevention. The POLM trial is the back pain game changer. This trial will transform the approach to back pain prevention."

Future studies should investigate what cost savings may be attained through decreased health care visits for back pain, whether the educational program could benefit civilian populations and if the effects of the intervention could be greater if a more intensive education program was provided, researchers say.

The study was funded by the U.S. Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program of the Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs.





## Remember. Celebrate. Act. A Day On — Not a Day Off

Keesler celebrated the birthday, life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at a luncheon Monday at Bay Breeze Event Center. The luncheon was sponsored by the Keesler African-American Heritage Committee

Left, after leading the audience in the national anthem, retired Chief Master Sgt. Chris Moore listens to the speakers.

Right, Chief Master Sgt. Lonnie L. Slater, Air University command chief master sergeant, was the guest speaker. Slater formerly served as the 81st Training Wing's command chief.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



## African-American Heritage Committee ready to kick off events for new year

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

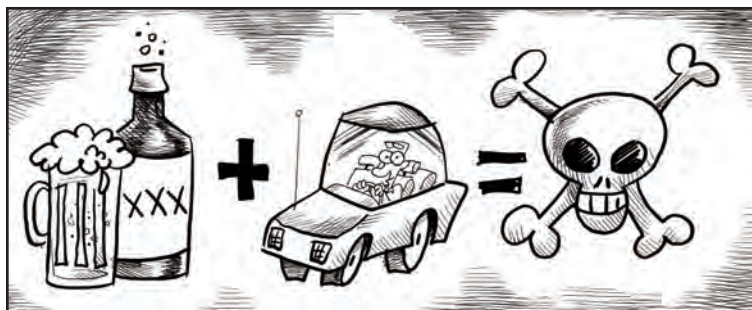
Keesler's African-American Heritage Committee has planned a variety of activities during the upcoming month.

**Jan. 28** — 6 p.m., Triangle Chapel, free gospel concert. For more information, call 377-0327.

**Feb. 2** — 11 a.m., Bay Breeze Event Center, Black History Month luncheon. Guest speaker is Lucimarian Roberts. The luncheon is \$15. For tickets, call 377-9386.

**Feb. 10** — noon, Gaudé Lanes, 8th annual AAHC bowling tournament. \$10 to participate. For more information, call 377-5250.

**Feb. 24** — 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., youth center, soul food sampling. Donations accepted. For more information, call 376-8682.



# Rules restrict political activity of DOD personnel

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — With election activity steadily picking up, defense officials are in the process of issuing regular election-year guidance to remind military and Defense Department civilians that they're subject to rules regulating their involvement in political activities.

This issue, one the department regularly addresses during election periods, came to light earlier this week after an Army Reserve member in uniform appeared endorsing a political candidate.

Several sets of rules help to protect the integrity of the political process, DOD officials said. DOD Directive 1344.10 applies to members of the armed forces, whether they serve on active duty, as members of the reserve components not on active duty, as National Guard members in a nonfederal

status, and military retirees.

In addition, the Hatch Act applies to federal civilian employees, and employees also are subject to widely published DOD guidance that discusses participation in political campaigns and elections.

These rules are designed to prevent military members' or federal civilian employees' participation in political activities that imply, or appear to imply, official sponsorship, approval or endorsement, officials said. The concern, they explained, is that actual or perceived partisanship could undermine the legitimacy of the military profession and department.

That's not to imply, however, that military members and civilian employees can't participate in politics. In fact, DOD has a longstanding policy of encouraging members to carry out the obligations of citizenship, officials said. DOD encourages its military and civilian members to regis-

ter to vote and vote as they choose, they said. Both groups can sign nominating petitions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues.

However, officials emphasized, they can do so only if they don't act as, or aren't perceived as, representatives of the armed forces in carrying out these activities.

Beyond that, the list of dos and don'ts differs depending on whether the employee is a member of the armed forces, a career civil service employee, a political appointee or a member of the career Senior Executive Service, officials said.

Military members, for example, may attend political meetings or rallies only as spectators and not in uniform. They're not permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups or participate in partisan political campaigns or conventions.

They also are barred from engaging in any political activities while in uniform.

A combat engineer assigned to the 416th Theater Engineer Company potentially violated these rules Jan. 3 when he stepped onto a stage at Ron Paul's headquarters in Ankeny, Iowa, during the Iowa Caucus to offer a personal endorsement. Although he was wearing his uniform, the soldier was not in an active status at the time, Army Maj. Angela Wallace, an Army Reserve spokeswoman, confirmed.

Wallace emphasized that the soldier "stands alone in his opinions regarding his political affiliation and beliefs, and they in no way reflect that of the Army Reserve."

His chain of command is aware of the issue and is considering appropriate disciplinary action to take, she said.

Most civilian DOD employees, whose political activities are governed by the Hatch Act,

are permitted to be active in and speak before political gatherings and serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups, officials said. These activities, however, cannot involve fundraising.

Civilian employees also are permitted to manage campaigns, distribute literature, write political articles or serve as a spokesperson for a party or candidate.

There are exceptions to this, including but not limited to Senior Executive Service.

While the dos and don'ts concerning political activity may vary, the basic tenets hold true for all DOD employees.

The bottom line, officials said, is that they should steer clear of any activity that may be reasonably viewed as directly or indirectly associating DOD or the military with a partisan political activity, or that "is otherwise contrary to the spirit or intent" of the rules described.



# Base tax office opens Tuesday

## Legal office

The Keesler Tax Office opens Tuesday in Room 229, Sablich Center.

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday. Appointments are strongly recommended by calling 376-8144.

Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Disch and Staff Sgt. Robert Shavers manage the tax office this year.

There are four filing stations at the tax office. Some state and federal return forms may be obtained at the same location, and distribution racks with many forms are located outside

the tax office.

Each squadron will have one or more tax preparers. The list of those volunteers will be published in the Keesler News as soon finalized.

Attorney Richard Brock, who oversees the base's tax assistance program, said almost all returns will be electronically filed for both federal and state returns.

"Electronic filing is in big demand as it lessens the time a taxpayer waits for the refund," Brock said.

Electronic filing requires that the taxpayer have the fol-

lowing paperwork:

- All W-2 forms.
- The Social Security numbers for each family member claimed on your returns.
- All 1099 forms that show either interest you earned, dividends received or retired pay.
- A copy of last year's return.
- A Form 8879 and state form must be signed by both tax filers so both should be present or be prepared to take the forms to be signed by your spouse.

For more information or appointments, call 376-8144.

## Fire department offers advice on proper operation of space heaters

### Fire prevention section chief

Winter is here and there are days when you need more warmth in your home or office area. What do you do? You get a portable space heater and turn it on and let it put forth the heat that you need.

Did you inspect it? Did you plug it directly into a wall outlet? Did you place the heater on a noncombustible surface?

According to the National Fire Protection Association, electric heaters are involved in 79 percent of fatal home heating and offices fires in the winter. The leading cause of electrical space heater fires is combustibles too close to the heater. If you are going to use a portable heating unit, knowing how to choose a reliable, high-quality space heater and knowing how to use that heater properly is essential.

The U.S. Department of Energy recommends choosing a space heater by referring to the heater's sizing table to find the correct size for the room you want to heat. Before purchasing a heater, compare the safety ratings through consumer publications to find the most reliable heater possible.

When you purchase an electric heater, check it for possible problems. You can bring the heater to the base fire department, Building 4225, for approval of the correct type of heater.

- Electric space heaters should always be placed in the home or office with safety in mind. The furniture or surface you place the heater on should be stable, not lightweight or wobbly.

- Don't place space heaters under a desk or enclosed areas. Always keep space heaters away from exit ways for egress.

- Don't place electrical heaters within three feet of flammable materials such as curtains, upholstered furniture, carpeting, clothing, paper products, pressurized containers and cleaning supplies. Be careful around cloth or canvas wall decorations.

- The space heater must be grounded with a three-pronged plug. Be sure the plug fits properly

into an outlet since a loose plug can overheat. Have a worn-out plug or outlet replaced if necessary. The base fire department recommends not using extension cords or surge protectors with the electrical space heater.

- Plug the heater directly into the wall receptacle. Electrical space heaters are prohibited in the base hospital and in places where flammable and combustible liquids are used or stored.

- Do not place space heaters in bathrooms or near the sink to avoid electrocution.

- In rooms or areas where space heaters are being used, make sure that there is some type of fire detection available. The space heater should be fully enclosed by design and have no external surfaces that reach temperatures capable of ignition.

- Don't leave electric space heaters unattended when in use. Unplug the heater at the end of the day, shift or when leaving the area.

- All electrical heaters that are used on Keesler must bear the UL or FM seal of approval and must automatically shut off when tipped over.

- Gasoline, propane and kerosene portable heaters are prohibited in base housing and all base facilities.

- Space heaters can trip a circuit breaker or blow a fuse. If this happens repeatedly, try using a different outlet or contact housing or facility to get this corrected.

- Don't hide the heater's cord under a rug or carpet — anything placed on top of the cord could cause a fire by overheating.

- If you have children or pets, take special precautions when using your electric space heater. Don't use the heater in a location where it could trip pets or children while in use. It is advisable to place the heater on a high noncombustible out of reach of children and pets. Never hand items above or on the heater.

For more information, call the base fire prevention section, 377-3330 or 8440.

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

## Project Cheer nets \$9,000 to help Airmen

By Joel Van Nice

Keesler Public Affairs

Project Cheer, an annual program sponsored by the First Sergeants Council, raised more than \$9,000 in 2011 to assist Airmen in need during the holiday season.

The first sergeants and their supporters used a bell-ringing campaign outside the main

exchange and shoppette to provide gift cards to help out with holiday food needs.

“The council donated a total of \$6,000 in \$50 gift cards in December,” said Senior Master Sgt. Joel Shepherd, 338th Training Squadron first sergeant. “We currently have \$3,000 left to help needy families throughout the 2012 year.”

## Military OneSource available to help with variety of life issues

By Staff Sgt. Kimberly Moore

Keesler Public Affairs

You may have noticed posters, flyers or even magnets placed around base advertising “Military OneSource” and wondered, “What is that?”

This seems to be a common question and maybe that’s because there’s not a short definition.

Military OneSource is a venue to provide help with a broad range of concerns including money management, spouse employment and education, parenting and child care, relocation, deployment, reunion, and the particular concerns of families with special-needs members. Services are available 24 hours a day by telephone and online.

Military OneSource is available to all active-duty members of any service along with National Guard and Reserve members, regardless of activation status. Dependents of eligible members may also use the resource, along with retired or separating service members up to six months following their separation.

“The intent (when developing this program) was not to replace but to augment the airman and family readiness center,” said Jackie Pope, airman and family readiness center section chief at Keesler.

Often, members will be on shift work or assigned to areas not near an installation, so Military OneSource allows those members access to assistance.

“Military OneSource offers such a variety of



Photo by Kemberly Groue

A service member views Military OneSource’s web site, [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com). Military OneSource is a venue to provide help with a broad range of concerns including money management, spouse employment and education, parenting and child care, relocation, deployment, reunion, and the particular concerns of families with special-needs members. Services are available 24 hours a day online and by telephone at 1-800-342-9647.

resources,” Pope explained.

The consultants hold master’s level degrees and can assist with managing stress, communication skills and family issues, just to name a few.

According to Military OneSource’s website, “highly trained, dedicated and caring consultants answer the phones providing information, referrals and support.”

Pope encouraged, “Just go to the website and look around — you’ll be surprised how much is out there.”

On the site, you’ll see tabs at the top of the page catego-

rizing the available information into the a variety of groups — military life and deployment, family and recreation, health and relationships, career and education, financial and legal, crisis and disasters and community.

So when you find yourself contemplating something and don’t know exactly where to find the answer, try [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) — what you need might be right there.

For more information, go to [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com). For immediate help by phone, call 1-800-342-9647.



# 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.

**Friday** — 2-4:30 p.m., federal jobs resume writing. Bring current job announcement.

**Wednesday** — 1 p.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** — 6-8:30 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.

**Wednesday** — 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.

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

**Wednesday** — 6 p.m., free bingo in the ballroom. \$100 awarded to each winner of the first 12 games. Bonus game at the end of the night with \$1200 jackpot to player who fills card within the first 47 numbers called. After 47 numbers, jackpot is reduced to \$200. Bar and food service available. Must be age 18 or older to play.

## Bay Breeze Golf Course

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

**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.

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

**Today, Wednesday and Jan. 19** — 6 p.m., men's varsity softball tryouts at the Triangle softball fields.

**Saturday and Monday** — 10 a.m., men's varsity softball tryouts at the Triangle softball fields.

**Through Jan. 19** — 9 p.m., wall of fame incentive program registration deadline. Compete in squat, bench press and dead lift events to take the title of the wall of fame record holder. Free to enter, prizes awarded. Competition is 1 p.m., Jan. 20 at Triangle Fitness Center.

## 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](http://www.usafbowltowin.com) for chance 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.

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

## 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., dance squad competition. Dance crews compete. Prizes awarded.

**Jan. 19** — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., comedy night. Prize awarded to the last comic standing.

**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.

## 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

## Immigration assistance

From 8 a.m. to noon Jan. 19, a representative from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is in the legal office to meet with military members, their families, retirees and their dependents to answer questions about the immigration application process and how being a military member helps the immigration process.

Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins are seen as time allows.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the legal office, 376-8601.

## Military Child of Year

Operation Homefront is

accepting online nominations until Sunday 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](http://www.OperationHomefront.net/MCOY).

Candidates should demonstrate resilience and strength of character, thrive in the face of the challenges of military life and demonstrate leader-

ship 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 [www.keeslerspousesclub.com](http://www.keeslerspousesclub.com) for more information and a list of preferred donations. Pickup is available for bulk donations.

For more information, call 377-3217.

## Supply source

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

For more information, visit CSC supply customer service, Room 126, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002; call 377-2005 or e-mail 81LRS.CustomerSVC@us.af.mil.





Defense Department telecommunications systems  
are subject to monitoring.

## Dental clinic plans services for kids in need

### 81st Dental Squadron

The 81st Dental Squadron dental clinic hosts "Give Kids A Smile" Day, 8-11 a.m. Feb. 22.

The program provides children ages 3-12 years from active-duty and retired military families free dental services ranging from screenings to fillings and sealants as part of the national event.

Pediatric dentist Maj. (Dr.) Stephen Gasparovich said appointments on the morning of the event will be limited to the first 50 children.

"The 'Give Kids A Smile' event is intended to provide free, desperately-needed dental services as part of the American Dental Association's Give Kids a Smile program," Gasparovich said. "Last year, more than 46,000 team members nationwide participated."

"According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly one in four children ages 2 to 11 years have untreated cavities in their baby teeth," he said. "The National Institutes of Health reports that 80 percent of tooth decay is found in just 25 percent of children, primarily from low-income families."

"This event will raise awareness of the epidemic of untreated dental disease occurring here and across the country and raise awareness of the need to build local and public partnerships to increase access to oral healthcare to solve this crisis," he added.

To schedule a child for the event, sponsors should call the dental clinic front desk, 376-0511, and mention this article.

# SPORTS AND RECREATION

## Intramural basketball Teams back on court after holiday hiatus

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Intramural basketball action picked up Jan. 4-5 after the holiday hiatus.

Three Western Conference matchups were on the Jan. 5 schedule, with the 334th Training Squadron defeating the 338th TRS-B, 46-39; the 81st Medical Group slamming the 81st Force Support Squadron, 82-52; and the Keesler Marine Corps Detachment slipping past the 81st Medical Support Squadron, 49-46.

As of Friday, the 81st unbeaten MDG remained at the top of the Western Conference standings at 4-0, followed by the 81st FSS, 3-1; 81st Training Wing staff agencies, 2-1; 334th

TRS and MARDET, 2-2; 333rd TRS, 1-2; 81st Medical Support Squadron, 1-3; and 338th TRS-C, 0-4.

Jan. 5 in the Eastern Conference, the 335th TRS beat the 338th TRS-A, 45-43; the 403rd Wing outpaced the 338th TRS-C and the 81st SFS won over the Gautier Army Recruiting Station, 40-34.

At week's end, the undefeated 335th TRS continued to top the Eastern Conference standings at 4-0, followed by the 338th TRS-A and 81st SFS at 3-1; 403rd Wing, 2-2; 345th Airlift Squadron, 1-2; GARS, 1-3; and 338th TRS-C, 0-4.

For more information and schedules, call 377-2444.

At work and at play, always keep safety in mind.

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.

## Thursday intramural bowling

### Week 15 of 34

Team	Won	Lost
335th TRS-A	82.0	38.0
81st FSS	80.0	40.0
403rd AMXS	76.0	44.0
334th TRS	74.0	46.0
81st CS	70.0	50.0
81st TRSS-PMEL	64.0	56.0
338th TRS	64.0	56.0
ECS Strikers	62.0	58.0
81st LRS-B	60.0	60.0
81st LRS-A	58.0	62.0
336th TRS	56.0	64.0
81st TRSS-A	48.0	72.0
2nd Air Force	44.0	76.0
335th TRS-B	40.0	80.0
Seabees	40.0	72.0
81st WSA	40.0	64.0

### 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, 3,150.

**Game/men** — Garo Watson, 267.

**Series/men** — Jeff Miracle, 734.

**High handicap game/men** — Robert Dickinson, 279.

**High handicap series/men** — Mike Sullo, 744.

**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, 206.88.

**Average/women** — Sabra Miracle, 157.67.

**Most improved** — Matthew Such, 12.17; Carol Wetzler, 4.62.