



# KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

MARCH 15, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 11



## Wing retires the colors

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## KEESLER NEWS

### 81st Training Wing Public Affairs

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## ON THE COVER

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Schumann, 335th Training Squadron; Staff Sgt. Nicholas Wilson, 81st Training Group; and Staff Sgt. Brandon Barrette, 335th TRS, perform a flag folding ceremony during the 81st Training Wing retreat ceremony March 9.

The retreat ceremony serves a two-fold purpose. It signals the end of the official duty day and serves as a ceremony for paying respect to the flag. While the band plays the national anthem, the junior members of the flag security detail lower the flag slowly and with dignity then flag security detail folds the flag. The senior enlisted salutes and reports "Sir, the flag is secured" the commander returns the salute, and the flag security detail marches away.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



## DRAGONS THAT I MEET

Tech. Sgt. Shaun Wilke



Photo by Kemberly Groue

By Brig. Gen.  
Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

I'd like to introduce you to this week's Dragon, Tech. Sgt. Shaun Wilke.

Shaun has been in the Air Force for 15 years and has spent the last three here at Keesler. He is a Group Military Training Leader and is responsible for the training of more than 2,600 technical training students.

He is currently enrolled at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College studying criminal justice. When Tech. Sgt. Wilke is not at work or school, he enjoys spending time with his son, Logan and wife, Jennifer.



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

## COMMENTARY

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## Air Force women trace history to World War II

By Martha Lockwood

## Defense Media Activity

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. (AFNS) — The Air Force's acceptance of women dates back long before the first "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978.

In 1942, the U.S. Army Air Corps (USAAC) took the unheard-of step of forming and employing two women's aviation units. That same year, a unit of flight nurses who had not yet quite finished their training, were sent into North Africa on Christmas Day following the Allied invasion in November of that year.

## WASPs, WAFS and a Willingness to Serve

Originally, the idea of using women pilots was first suggested in 1930, but was considered "unfeasible," according to information maintained at the National Museum of the Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

Then, in mid-1942, an increased need for World War II combat pilots, favored the use of experienced women pilots to fly aircraft on non-combat missions.

Two women's aviation units—The Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS—with a capital S) and the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) were formed to ease this need. More than 1,000 women participated in these programs as civilians attached to the USAAC, flying 60 million miles of non-combat military missions.

These two units were merged into a single group, the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program in August 1943, and broke ground for U.S. Air Force female pilots who would follow in their footsteps decades later.

Of the more than 25,000 women who applied for pilot training under the WASP program, 1,830 were accepted,

1,074 were graduated, and 916 (including 16 former WAFS) remained when the program was disbanded in December 1944. WASP assignments were diverse—as flight training instructors, glider tow pilots, towing targets for air-to-air and anti-aircraft gunnery practice, engineering test flying, ferrying aircraft, and other duties.

Although WASPs had the privileges of officers, they were never formally adopted into the USAAC. In November 1977—33 years after the WASPs program was disbanded—President Carter signed a bill granting World War II veterans' status to former WASPs.

## "Winged Angels."

It was a slightly different story for flight nurses who were members of the military from the beginning. As it was with so many advances and innovations resulting from World War II, the USAAC radically changed military medical care, and the development of air evacuation and the training of flight nurses were advanced to meet this need.

After the invasion of North Africa in November 1942, the need for flight nurses exceeded the supply, and women who had not yet finished their training were called into action and sent to North Africa on Christmas Day. Finally, in February 1943, the first class of Army Nurse Corps flight nurses graduated.

Unlike their stateside-stationed counterparts in the WASPs, flight nurses (nicknamed "Winged Angels") in the Army Nurse Corps served in combat. They were especially vulnerable to enemy attacks because aircraft used for evacuation could not display their non-combat status.

These same aircraft were also used to transport military supplies. In anticipation and preparation for almost any emergency, flight nurses were



U.S. Air Force photo

required to learn crash procedures, receive survival training, and know the effects of high altitude on a vast array of pathologies.

Of the nearly 1.2 million patients air evacuated throughout the war, only 46 died en route. About 500 USAAC nurses (only 17 died in combat) served as members of 31 medical air evacuation transport squadrons throughout the world.

When President Harry Truman signed The National Security Act of 1947, creating the Department of Defense, the U. S. Air Force became a separate military service. At the time, a number of Women's Army Corps (WACs) members continued serving in the Army but performed Air Force duties.

The following year, some WACs chose to transfer to the Women's Air Force (WAFs—with a lower case s) when it became possible to do so.

Originally, the WAFs were limited to 4,000 enlisted women and 300 female officers, all of whom were

encouraged to fill a variety of ground duty roles—mostly clerical and medical—but were not to be trained as pilots, even though the USAAC had graduated the first class of female pilots in April 1943, during wartime.

## The WAFs in Evolution

The first WAF recruit was Sgt. Esther Blake who enlisted on July 8, 1948, in the first minute of the first day that regular Air Force duty was authorized for women. She had been a WAC, and she transferred in from Fort McPherson, Ga.

The first recruits reported to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in 1948. When basic training was desegregated in the Air Force the following year, many African-American women recruits joined, even though the integration of quarters and mess had not yet been achieved.

At first, WAFs wore men's uniforms with neckties. It was "a look" that didn't last long, and winter uniforms for WAFs were modeled after

flight attendants' uniforms, using the same material as the men's winter uniforms.

The necktie was abandoned early on, and was replaced with tabs on the collar. The summer uniform—a two-piece dress made of cotton-cord seersucker—didn't fare as well. Ill-fitting, it required frequent ironing. It would be years before a suitable women's uniform would be achieved.

## Women's History Month

Today, Women's History Month awareness for all the armed services is initiated by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute headquartered at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.. Among the tools and initiatives for observing this month-long celebration of the role women have played throughout history, the Institute is making available a free download of this year's Women's National History Project poster, "Women's Education—Women's Empowerment."



## TRAINING AND EDUCATION

www.keesler.af.mil

### Air Force family celebrates graduation



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Ronald Brown, retired U.S. Air Force Major from Arizona, visits with his sons Airman 1st Class Christopher Brown, 334th Training Squadron student, and Tech. Sgt. Ronald Brown Jr., 334th TRS instructor supervisor, following Airman Brown's graduation ceremony in the air traffic control apprentice course March 7 at Cody Hall.



Second from left, Airman 1st Class Christopher Brown prepares for graduation.



Tech. Sgt. Ronald Brown Jr., is master of ceremonies during his brother's graduation ceremony at Cody Hall.





## 81st Training Group announces February Airman, MTL winners



Staff Sgt. Kevin Braden, 335th Training Squadron, won the Dragon Award for outstanding military training leader for February. 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. The award is intended to raise the level of adherence to military training standards and military excellence set for technical training students.



Airman 1st Class Kathleen Toledo, a green rope student leader from the 338th Training Squadron, is the 81st Training Group's Airman of the Month for February. Her award was presented during a ceremony March 6, on the drill pad. Toledo, from California, plans to graduate from cyber transport training. 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, dormitory common areas and current events from that week's issue of the Keesler News.

Photos Kemberly Groue



## EDUCATION NOTES

### **Embry-Riddle**

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is now registering for the new term that begins Monday.

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 (simulation systems this term).

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

For more information, visit Room 217, Sablich Center, or call 376-8478 or 432-5312.

### **Pitsenbarger Awards**

March 23 at 4 p.m. is the deadline for members of the Community College of the Air Force spring graduating class to apply for a Pitsenbarger Award sponsored to the Air Force Association.

The awards provide a one-time cash award to selected top Air Force enlisted personnel graduating from CCAF who are pursuing or plan to pursue a baccalaureate degree. Prior winners are not eligible.

Applications are available at the education services office or may be downloaded from the Air Force Association web site, <http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/pit.asp>. Applicants must carefully review and follow the requirements/selection criteria and guidelines for the award.

The Pitsenbarger Awards are presented at the CCAF spring commencement ceremony at 3:30 p.m. April 19 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

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



## NEWS AND FEATURES

www.keesler.af.mil

# Environmental audit ends, team recognizes two



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Alfred Watkins, 81st Infrastructure Division, checks the chlorine levels to ensure proper disinfection at the water well on Meadows Drive. Watkins was named as an 'Outstanding Performer' for his development of an exceptional water supply system program at Keesler.



Donald MacMillan, 81st Training Support Squadron, validates Lockout/Tagout procedures to insure safety of personnel prior to equipment maintenance at the Trainer Development Facility. MacMillan was named as an 'Outstanding Performer' for his exceptional management of the Lockout/Tagout procedures and conducting quarterly retraining with all Trainer Development personnel.

By Staff Sgt.  
Kimberly Rae Moore

Keesler News co-editor

An Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment Management Program inspection at concluded Friday.

The ESOH CAMP is a base-level auditing program for achieving compliance with federal, state and local regulations. Internal assessments are conducted yearly, and external assessments are conducted every three years.

These inspections help the base improve compliance with legal requirements, ensure the safety and protection of Airmen and their families, and protect the environment.

The inspection team recognized two Keesler members as outstanding performers, Al Watkins, 81st ID and Donald MacMillan, 81st Training Support Squadron.

Watkins said he was surprised the team recognized him as an outstanding performer.

"As the Base Water Official I feel it's my job to ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and to

keep team Keesler's water supply potable and safe for all to enjoy," he said. So I was surprised to be named an outstanding performer.

MacMillan reacted similarly. He said, being recognized means a lot to him.

"I couldn't have done it without the encouragement of Mr. (David) Jacobsen and support from former safety representative Mr. (Michael) Landwehr."

Watkins also wanted to send out a thank-you. He said, "I'd like to thank and congratulate CSC's (Contracting Services Company) Water and Utility Shop personnel for continuing outstanding work maintaining and operating one of the best water systems in the State of Mississippi."

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, congratulated the two and said the entire base performed outstandingly.

"The outstanding work of Mr. Watkins and Mr. MacMillan reflects that of the entire wing. We'll use the success of this inspection as a benchmark while we prepare for our upcoming UCI. Keep up the great work Team Keesler."



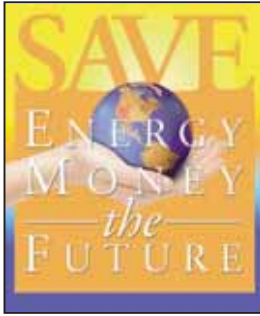
## Deployed Airmen win Facebook photo contest

Senior Master Sgt. Steve Schaff, Capt. Christopher Silco, Staff Sgt. Andrew Vogel and 1st Lt. Julian Madrid, 345th and 815th Airlift Squadrons, hold the American flag that traveled with them on a C-130J during a recent deployment to Southwest Asia.

Do you have a great photo of Keesler members in action? Post it to our wall at [www.facebook.com/keeslerafb](http://www.facebook.com/keeslerafb) for a chance to get published in Keesler News.

Courtesy photo





## Photo of the Day

### CH-47 Chinook helicopter receives an aerial refueling

A U.S. Air Force load master observes aboard a MC-130E aircraft as a CH-47 Chinook helicopter receives an aerial refueling during Emerald Warrior, Duke Field, Fla., March 6, 2012. The primary purpose of Emerald Warrior is to exercise special operations components in urban and irregular warfare settings to support combatant commanders in theater campaigns. Emerald Warrior leverages lessons from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and other historical lessons to provide better trained and ready forces to combatant commanders.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony Ritter





## **Registration for youth driving safety school ends March 27**

The second installment of Keesler's Street Survival School is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 31. Registration is open until March 27.

Spaces are limited to the first 30 participants. Those with driver's permits are allowed based on space availability.

There is a \$35 fee for participation, and registration must be received and paid for by March 27.

To reserve a spot or for more information, call 228-376-3123, send an email to keeslerautox@gmail.com, or visit [www.streetsurvival.org](http://www.streetsurvival.org).



## 14 selected for promotion to Senior Master Sgt.

By Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney

### Keesler Public Affairs

Fourteen Keesler master sergeants were selected for promotion March 8 when the 2012 senior master sergeant selectee list was released. Air Force officials selected 1,702 of 12,351 eligible Master Sergeants for promotion to Senior Master Sergeant for a selection rate of 13.78 percent.

Selectees are:

**Timothy Blair**, 345th Airlift Squadron; **Duane Bourgeois**, 345th AS; **Craig Edwards** 81st Training Support Squadron; **Anthony Fisher**, 81st TRSS; **Torry Hickson**, 338th Training Squadron; **Jason Holbert**, 81st TRSS; **Gregory Jackson**, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron; **Robert Jackson**, 81st Training Wing Chaplain's Office; **Laura Leos**, 81st Dental Squadron; **Lorenzo Mendoza**, 85th EIS; **Bruce Milbrath**, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron; **Mark Pitts**, 2nd Air Force; **Christopher Ray**, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron; **Jakelyne Rose**, 335th TRS.





Photo by Kemberly Groue

Staff Sgt. Angelo Banks, 81st Security Forces Squadron, creates a Geneva convention card for a customer March 8, 2012, at the visitor control center.

## Member of 81st SFS wins AETC's 2011 Airman of the year

By Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Angelo Banks, 81st Security Forces Squadron, was named the Air Education and Training Command Airman of the year March 2.

Banks streamlined Defense Biometric Identification System registration for non-prior service Airmen saving an average of 40 man-hours per month. He strengthened base defenses by leading security

forces members in approximately 200 random antiterrorism measures. He also prevented injury during a medical emergency by stabilizing someone suffering a seizure.

Outside of his official duties, some of Banks' achievements include his volunteering for Airmen Against Drunk Driving, organizing a base 5K run and bringing together a team for the Gulf Coast Heart Walk.

Banks now competes at the Air Force level.

## Keesler instructor receives management award

By Senior Airman Eric Summers Jr.

Keesler Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Trae Clark, 334th aviation resource management instructor, won Air Education and Training Command's Outstanding Air Force Aviation Resource Management Award for 2011 Feb. 29.

Clark is a model instructor, teaching six three-level courses of more than 1,242 hours with an average student grade of 92 percent. He also devoted 22 hours of special individual assistance to ensure 19 students passed the retest saving the Air Force \$17,000 in retraining costs.

Clark also analyzed 200 test questions, identified seven ambiguities and updated four questions. He managed more than 450 technical training management system entries on 57 students with zero errors.

Since 1942, Keesler has graduated more than 2.2 million students. Keesler's training mission is the responsibility of the 81st Training Group, the largest electronics training group in the world. On any given day, more than 5,000 students attend classes in one of more than 600 courses. The 81st TRG annually provides training to more than 38,000 officers, Airmen and civilian employees of the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, other Department of Defense agencies and contractors, as well as allied nations.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airmen 1st Class LaDarrion Holloway, Kierrea Clary, Airmen Basic Evan Keil and Kailyn Cabrera receive instruction from Staff Sgt. Trae Clark, 334th Training Squadron, during aviation resource management apprentice course at Cody Hall.



## Wing holds retreat ceremony to retire colors



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Military Training Leaders serving as the flag detail complete the flag folding while flights from the 81st Mission Support Group, 81st Training Group, and 81st Medical Group, stand at attention during the 81st Training Wing retreat ceremony Friday.



Keesler's Drum and Bugle Corps plays the national anthem and America the Beautiful during the 81st TRW retreat ceremony. While the band plays, the junior members of the flag security detail lower the flag slowly and with dignity then flag security detail folds the flag.



Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Boothe, 81st MSG superintendant, presents arms during the 81st TRW retreat ceremony. Flights from 81st MSG, 81st TRG and 81st MDG stand at attention in the background.





# Cyber students take second in 'DC3' challenge

By 2nd Lt. Tara Roznovak

Former 333rd Training Squadron student

Once a year in January, the Defense Cyber Crime Center issues a 10-month challenge to the world to solve unique digital forensic problems.

This competition is based on individual scenario-based progressive level challenges. The purpose of the challenge is to solve current issues facing the digital forensics community and to interest students in the cyber security, cyber investigations and digital forensics fields.

The objectives are to establish relationships, resolve issues, and develop new and creative tools and techniques. Each team is challenged on five different levels. The levels become progressively more difficult in the development of the solutions for each given scenario.

Level 100 is the "novice" level in which there are well-known solutions to the challenge. Examples include file signatures, suspicious software, and hashing metadata.

Level 200 is the "advanced" level with known solutions and includes challenges with data hiding, file headers, and passwords.

Level 300 is the "expert" level with much more difficult challenges. Team members are required to provide solutions for intrusions, cracking, and data recovery.

The "master" level, level 400, has no known unclassified solutions for the challenges.

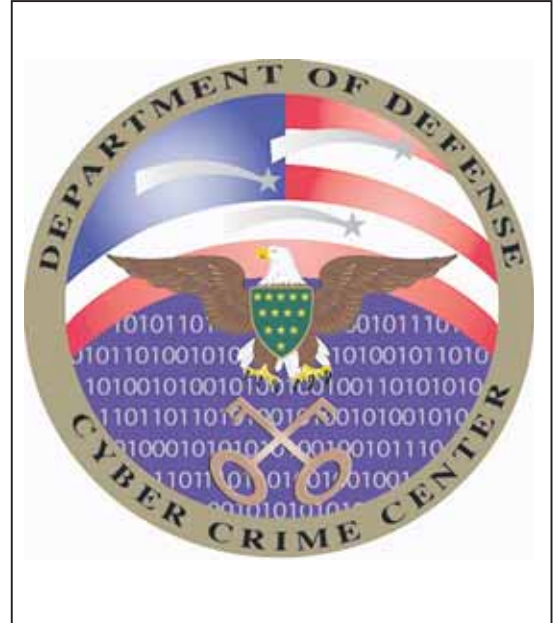
The teams have to solve issues with encryption, virtualization, and steganography to name a few.

The most difficult level is the "developer" level, or level 500. This level requires the teams to develop tools for issues such as automation or data recovery.

In 2011, the 333rd Training Squadron sponsored a team of students to compete against 68 other teams. The team members were 2nd Lts. David Musielewicz, Justin Warner, Alex Larson, and Robby Winchester. In December he team of four found out they placed second in the challenge, beating out all but one team from the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. Because of their achievement, the 333rd TRS sponsored two student teams and one team of staff members for the challenge held this year.

Capt Paul Brandau, a current UCT instructor, stated that "Cyberspace warriors of today and tomorrow must not be one dimensional. To be good attackers, we have to be good defenders and vice-versa. Nothing helps hone our Airmen's skills like practical challenges that teach them to step outside of standard training and challenge themselves to learn more."

For more information go to [www.dc3.mil](http://www.dc3.mil).



## Keesler Events Calendar

### Today

**8 a.m.** — Veterans' Benefit Briefing at the Sablich Center room 108A. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

**1 p.m.** — Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing in room 108 Sablich Center  
— Retirement benefit brief in room 108A, Sablich Center.

**5 p.m.** — Digital Animation workshop, McBride Library.

### Friday

**3 p.m.** — 5K National Nutrition Month St. Patty's Day run/walk at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

**6 p.m.** — Cocktails & Canvas at the Arts and Crafts Center. Cost is \$20 per person. Call 228-377-2821 to register.

### Saturday

**1 p.m.** — Children's Pot-O-Gold class at the Arts and Crafts Center.

### Tuesday

**9 a.m.** — Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing in room 108 Sablich Center.  
— Separatees preseparation counseling in room 110 Sablich Center. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

**1 p.m.** — Retiree Preseparation Counseling every Tuesday at the Airman and Family Readiness Center conference room. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

### Wednesday

**7 a.m.** — Newcomer's Orientation in room 108B Sablich Center.

**9:30 a.m.** — Non-prior service Airmen separate rations briefing in room 134 Levitow airman and family readiness center annex (also at 3:30 p.m.).

**6 p.m.** — Kiddie Bingo at the Bay Breeze Event Center function rooms.

### Thursday, March 22

Last day to sign up for the Muscle Mania competition at the Triangle Fitness Center.

**1 p.m.** — Airman and Family Readiness Center post deployment briefing, Sablich Center room 108.

### Friday, March 23

**Noon** — Budgeting "Lunch and Learn" at the McBride

### Tuesday, March 27

**9 a.m.** — Airman and Family Readiness Center post deployment briefing, Sablich Center room 108.  
— Separatees preseparation counseling at the Sablich Center room 110. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

**1 p.m.** — Retiree Preseparation Counseling every Tuesday at the Airman and Family Readiness Center conference room. Call 228-376-8728 to register.

**6 p.m.** — Airman Leadership School graduation at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

### Upcoming events

- The TRICARE Service Center, currently located on Pass Rd., moves to 284 DeBuys Rd. effective April 2. The TRICARE Service Center telephone number is 1-800-444-5445. Its hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- Central Selection Boards for officer promotion will convene July 16 at Air Force Pacific Command headquarters. Officers must have an extended active duty date of Jan. 18, 2012 or earlier and a date of separation of Oct. 14, 2012 or later. For more information call 228-376-8356.

- Bulk trash can be picked up on Tuesdays and Thursdays upon request. Please call 855-452-3499 in advance to schedule a pick-up. Bulk trash includes couches, tables, chairs, box springs and other items too large for regular trash pick-up. If you have excessive regular trash, you can drop it off at the dumpster on 409 M St.



# Medic builds mental toughness with MMA

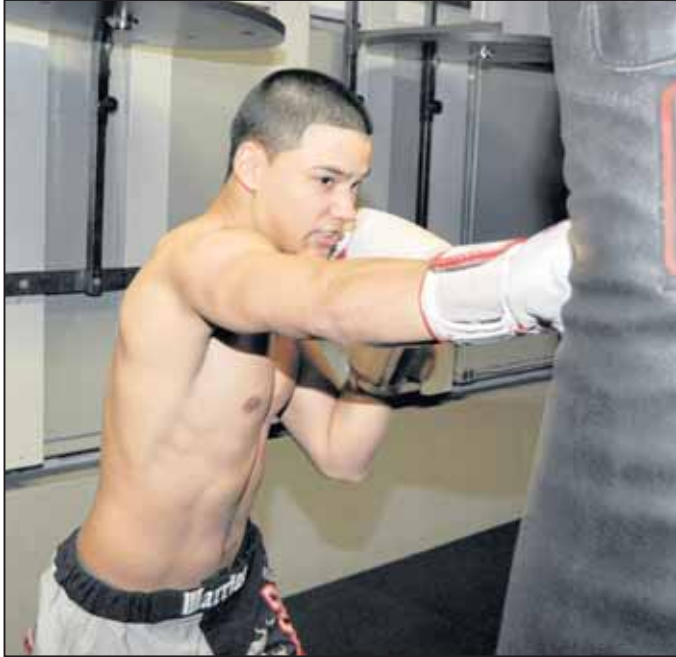


Photo by Steve Pivnick

Airman 1st Class Armando Gonzalez, 81st Medical Operations Squadron demonstrates his mixed martial arts form at the Triangle Fitness center. Gonzales has been practicing MMA for three years.

By Steve Pivnick

## 81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Airman 1st Class Armando Gonzalez, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, has been fighting since he was a child. Then, about three years ago, he became involved in mixed martial arts and boxing.

The 20-year-old Airman, originally from Orlando, Fla., views the two sports as good forms of competition, quite different from the street fighting in which he previously had been involved.

He began with Brazilian Jiu Jitsu while living in Pensacola, Fla., then started boxing training at the Bienville Boxing Club while continuing his training in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu at The Academy, both in Ocean Springs.

"Competing in MMA and boxing is a lifestyle for me," he explained. "It's some of the most intense training you can do and has helped me build my mental toughness to get through everyday problems. Going one more round with all the intensity you have is a basic principle I use daily. I've been fighting all my life, both literally and figuratively, and it seemed a natural fit to compete in the sports."

"Amateur MMA consists of all fighting disciplines. A fighter should

know at least one striking discipline and at least one grappling discipline. A well-rounded fighter knows as many as three disciplines both on the ground and standing. I train in boxing for striking techniques and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu for grappling. I fight because it's a form of expression, like an artist who paints on canvas. It requires a great amount of technique to perform and the quantity of focus you must have involves quite a bit of intelligence. Most people will never know the feeling of walking into that cage, but I do. I've been skydiving and there is no comparison."

Gonzalez maintains a hectic training regimen.

"I wake up at 7 a.m. for work. When I get off at 5 p.m., I head straight to the gym and train from 5:30-8:30 pm. I also am taking college classes, so it's a challenge to balance work, school and training. I believe you have to be mentally tough to make it in this sport. In a perfect world, I'd be the world champ one day, but I do this as a form of expression. I love the sport for itself, the fine details in every move and the slightest mistake that causes you to lose a bout. This is what I live for!"

## Tricare launches new system to make appointments online

By Senior Airman Mary McCurdy

### 81st Medical Support Squadron

For those who have wished there was an easier way to make their TRICARE appointments, didn't have to wait on hold for so long or wanted to make appointments on line, the wait is over.

The Keesler Hospital is proud to announce activation of the newest "dot com" internet system: [www.tricareonline.com](http://www.tricareonline.com). TRICARE on Line is accessible from any personal computer or laptop with an internet connection.

How does this help Keesler beneficiaries? Keesler Hospital beneficiaries enrolled to pediatrics, primary care, flight medicine and internal medicine clinics can make routine, well and acute appointments online through the new TOL system. It gives beneficiaries the freedom to make appointments 24 hours a day, seven days a week from any desktop or laptop computer.

This user-friendly system requires beneficiaries to register by completing a six-step process. Once registered, users just need to click their way to their next appoint-

ment. Each family member will need an individual account. Once registered, making an appointment is as easy as logging in, selecting an appointment type and time.

If people experience difficulty or have questions regarding TRICARE Online, they should contact TOL technical support at 1-800-600-9332 or (210) 767-5250 within the United States. They are available 24/7. For those who would like to speak to a "warm body," the Keesler Hospital appointment line is still available at 1-800-700-8603.

## Pediatric clinic suspends 'Fast Trac' services in emergency department

By Capt. Jennifer Rhodes

### 81st Medical Operations Squadron

To support the Patient Centered Medical Home initiative, the Keesler Pediatric Clinic will no longer offer acute care services (Fast Trac) in the Emergency Department.

Parents who want their child to be seen for an acute issue (onset of a new illness) should call the appointment line at 1-800-700-8603 as early as 6 a.m. If an

appointment is not available that day, a telephone consult will be sent to the Pediatric Clinic. A registered nurse will return the call, triage the child and determine the best plan of care.

Additional acute appointments are being made available with each primary care manager to prevent patients from seeing other providers outside their assigned team.

Please contact the Pediatric Clinic at 228-376-0402 with any questions.



# SPORTS AND RECREATION

www.keesler.af.mil



## Spring Youth Baseball Registration

**Closes tomorrow!**  
 at the Youth Center  
 For ages 3-14.  
 \$50 first child, discounted price for each additional.  
 Season runs April-June.  
 Coaches needed!  
 Call 377-4116 for more information.

## 5K St. Patrick's Run/Walk

**3 p.m. March 16**  
 at the Bay Breeze Event Center  
 Registration starts at 2:30 p.m.



Participants encouraged to wear green!

Prizes awarded to the 1st & 2nd place runners and walkers in both male and female divisions.

St. Patrick's 5K After Party in the Bay Breeze lounge.  
 5K Award Presentation | FREE Food | 1<sup>st</sup> Green Beer Special  
 Co-hosted by Fitness and Bay Breeze Collocated Club.

## St. Patrick's Day "Luck O' the Irish" Golf Tournament



**8 a.m. shotgun start**  
**March 17**  
**Bay Breeze Golf Course**

Two player, combined net scores.  
 Partners will be drawn during play.  
 Prizes awarded to best individuals and teams.

Entry fees: \$20 inclusive member, \$25 greens member and \$35 guests. Fee includes cart, food, drinks and prizes.

Wear green and receive a special treat! Register in advance, call 377-3832.

