



# KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train. Fight. Win.

AUG. 23, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 33



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## ON THE COVER

Staff Sgt. Christopher Jarrell, 81<sup>st</sup> Security Forces kennel master, poses for a photo with Military Working Dog, Toki, while deployed in Afghanistan. Jarrell has been selected for the Secretary of the Air Force's "Portraits in Courage" for 2012.

Courtesy photo



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Photo by Staff Sgt. Amanda Dick

Pararescue jumpers from the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing prepare to demonstrate a water rescue in the Hudson River in New York City Sunday. The demonstration is part of Air Force Week 2012 and included Guardsmen from the oldest ANG unit.

## HURRICANE SEASON

runs from June 1 - Nov. 30. For more information and preparations tips,  
visit [www.keesler.af.mil/hurricaneinfo.asp](http://www.keesler.af.mil/hurricaneinfo.asp)

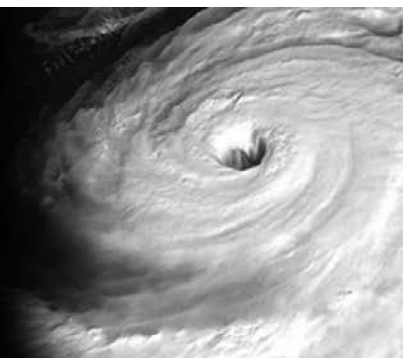




Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airmen 1<sup>st</sup> Class Garrison Johnson and Ryan Cope, 336<sup>th</sup> Training Squadron, listen as Chief Master Sgt. Glen Usherwood, 81<sup>st</sup> Training Wing superintendent, reinforces standards and expectations of those assigned to technical training Aug. 21, 2012, at Matero Hall.

## Compliance begins with focusing on basics

By Chief Master Sgt.  
Glen Usherwood

81<sup>st</sup> Training Group  
superintendent

When does a good Airman need a haircut?

Now before you answer, let me say, the answer may seem very obvious, but I will tell you the only correct answer is one word and five letters long. That being said, if you don't know the answer, read on, I'm talking to you. If you think you know, or definitely know, read on, I need your help.

As we draw closer to the Consolidated Unit Inspection, you are going to hear more and more about compliance in all areas. Of course we know about the myriad of job-related checklists, but what about things we don't neces-

sarily have a checklist for like customs and courtesies and appearance standards. These are both easy kills, but for some reason we can experience difficulty with them at times. We shouldn't need to make this about inspection preparation; these are things we should make sure we are in compliance with 24/7.

Just like I tell the new Keesler student arrivals each week, we need to make dress and appearance a point of discussion because people just don't seem to get it -- they keep eating the hemorrhoid cream. The precautions on the tube actually tell the consumer that it is for external use only, and go on to say "DO NOT EAT." The only reason they have to tell you not to eat it is because people keep doing it.

Every time you turn around, there's another article in the paper about adhering to standards we all know we should follow. Just like that tube of cream, our very own Air Force Instruction that governs dress and personal appearance of Air Force personnel, AFI 36-2903. The AFI has a very important instruction -- right on the first page at the very top, it reads, "Compliance with this publication is MANDATORY." Note that it doesn't say compliance with portions, or parts that you agree with, or think are important, it says "this publication," meaning all of it.

So what can you do to help? First, look in the mirror, literally and figuratively. If you are one of those folks who know right, but make a

conscious decision not to do right...stop it, do the right thing and follow the guidance. The fact is, we should all know the rules that apply, if you don't, spend your next social media break doing something constructive and get in the instruction. Second, if you see something that needs to be corrected, be a team player, and make the correction. If you are the one on the receiving end of someone trying to help you out, lose the attitude, and in the words of Jack Nicholson in *A Few Good Men*, just say "Thank You" and go on your way, no discussion, excuses, arguments, attitude necessary. The majority of the time the reason people walk by issues is because they don't want the confrontation associated with trying to do

the right thing. When helping others out, utilize some tact, sometimes we really are educating and learning is good, we are all on the same team, and although it sounds cliché, we are only as strong as our weakest link...One Team, One Fight.

So back to the original question, when does a good Airman need a haircut, the answer of course is, never, a good Airman never NEEDS a haircut. If we all get on board, and decide to be part of the solution instead of the problem, I can quit telling people not to eat the Preparation-H and we can focus on what's really important, keeping our Air Force the most powerful on the planet and enabling our mission to Fly, Fight and Win.



Photo by Adam Bond

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kelsey Nutt, Staff Sgts. Adam Garren and Kerry Barber display coins they received from Col. Maureen Smith, 81<sup>st</sup> Training Group commander, Aug. 8 at Cody Hall for their heroic act on-scene of a vehicle accident on Interstate 10, near Bagdad, Fla.

## Keesler students heroes during interstate crash

By Senior Airman  
Heather Heiney

Keesler News co-editor

Three Keesler air traffic control students received coins from the 81st Training Group commander, Col. Maureen Smith, Aug. 8 for their life-saving efforts during a traffic accident Aug. 2.

Staff Sgt. Kerry Barber, Staff Sgt. Adam Garren and Airman 1st Class Kelsey Nutt, prior-service students currently assigned to the 334th Training Squadron, were on their way Panama City Beach, Fla.,

for the weekend when they witnessed the accident near Bagdad, Fla.

“We were just getting to the Bagdad exit, when I noticed an SUV in the westbound lanes swerve towards the median. As the car entered the median, it hit the grass and began to roll approximately five times before coming to a stop,” Garren said.

“I immediately began to slow down thinking it was going to collide with us. It stopped short of us and we pulled over to assist them. All that we heard upon getting out

was children screaming and I really didn’t know what we were going to find when we got there,” Barber said.

“It was definitely a sound you never want to hear,” Garren said.

“Thankfully all five occupants were wearing their seatbelts,” Nutt said.

“Once we got to the vehicle Sergeant Barber and myself helped the children out of the vehicle as Sergeant Garren got them settled down and started assessing their condition. Once the children were clear of the car I turned my atten-

tion to the male and female in the front,” Nutt said. “The male passenger had no injuries and I helped him out of the back passenger window. The female, who was complaining of neck and back injuries, I had remained in the vehicle as I assessed her condition.”

“After a few very long minutes, medical personnel arrived and we were able to let them know the status of the family,” Garren said.

“We stayed around for a while after medics and law enforcement arrived and gave our account to them,” Barber

said. “I am just glad that we were there to help out.”

Barber is originally from Birmingham, Ala., stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base, and will be assigned to Laughlin AFB upon graduation. Garren is currently assigned to Eglin AFB, and will move to Seymour Johnson AFB after graduating. His hometown is Asheville, N.C. Nutt, a Portsmouth, N.H. native, is a member of the New Hampshire Air National Guard to which he will return after his training at Keesler.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Col. Melanie Milburn, 602<sup>nd</sup> Training Group (Provisional) commander, receives an update on Joint Expeditionary Tasked Training status from Chief Master Sgt. Tim Servati, 602<sup>nd</sup> TRG (P) enlisted manager chief, Tuesday at Hewes Hall.

## An interview with new 602nd TRG commander

By Senior Airman Heather Heiney

Keesler News co-editor

**How would you describe yourself as a leader?**

I would have to say, people first, mission always. It may be a statement some feel is overused, but I firmly believe in it. It is known that a leader with no people who are willing to follow him or her is not a leader.

To lead with positive results I feel I must maintain effective interpersonal relationships with those who work for me and my bosses. One of my strongest assets is the ability to quickly observe how different people are motivated. I try to approach people in a manner that makes sense to them. Additionally, by knowing people as individuals, I can better direct the organization as a whole. Take care of the people and they will take care of the mission.

**What are you most looking forward to during your command?**

(I look forward to) getting to know

the Airmen in the group and the ones going through the Joint Expeditionary Training. I want them all to know they make a difference in our Air Force. The training we provide to these Airmen through the Army is tough and can be demanding, but it will prepare them for what could be the worst hour of their life. We hope they never need the training and come back from their deployments saying they never had to use it.

**What changes do you foresee in the group?**

As we draw down as a military force in Afghanistan and overseas, I see changes for the Air Force and our fellow service members that directly impact the mission of the 602nd Training Group. I see a change in the type of training that our Airmen will have to attend. We could be shifting more and more toward an advisory role rather than serving in a warfighter capacity. But if we continue on the current path, the 602nd Training Group will make changes needed to provide the best

joint training possible.

**Why is the 602nd so vital to the global mission?**

Our Airmen, worldwide, are requested by combat commanders and trained by the Army in advanced combat skills. The culture of joint expeditionary training is to learn to fight the enemy, shoot, move, communicate and treat injured on the battlefield. The training provided by the 602nd Training Group prepares both the body and mind for deployment.

**What do you hope to accomplish during your time as the 602nd Training Group commander?**

That every Airman returns home never having had to use the skills learned during their training.

**How have your past experiences prepared you for this position?**

I feel my past experience as a commander, deployed and home station, along with sitting in key leadership positions at different Air Force units and in the joint environment will be of

significant asset as I step into this position. I feel my ability to make good sound decisions, inspire, coach and develop our Airmen will be critical to our success and in moving the 602nd Training Group forward.

**What would you consider your greatest accomplishments so far?**

I love to solve problems by envisioning what needs to happen differently in the future. The smartest people often have their heads in the clouds, and they don't always get it. They don't know how to adapt to people by keeping their feet on the ground and using their emotional intelligence along with their intellect. If we lead people by staying focused on the balls in the air (juggling mission and people), and have the attention to detail needed, we will accomplish success.

**What do you like to do when not on official duty?**

Spend time with my two daughters, golf, read and ride my motorcycle.

# 'Motorsports Fest' to come to Keesler in Fall

By Master Sgt. Thelmo Frias  
81st Medical Support Squadron

The Gulf Coast Region of the Sports Car Club of America has teamed up with the 81st Force Support Squadron to offer Keesler community the inaugural "Keesler Motorsports Fest."

Sept. 22-23 will be full of motorsport activities on Keesler. There are two venues — the Keesler Marina will host their 9th annual "Cruising Keesler" classic car and bike show while the lot on the corner of Phantom Rd. and Hangar Rd., will welcome the auto and bike customization crowd. There will be several vendors profiling their cars, products and services, along with several of Keesler's private organizations offering food and drinks to purchase. Also, music will be played and raffles will be drawn at both venues.

While this is all happening, the Gulf Coast Region Sports Car Club Association will be conducting their 4th installment of the TireRack Street Survival Course on Keesler Air Force Base. The class is scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 22nd with a classroom portion at Professional Development Building 2902 and a hands-on portion on Ramp 3 of the flight line.

The aim of the school is to reduce deadly car crashes involving teenagers, beginner drivers, as well as experienced drivers by providing them a controlled setting where they can gain valuable hands-on experience in car control in real-world situations.

It's not a course for learning how to drive at high speeds — safety and car control are the objectives.

Space is limited to the first 30 participants. Those with driver's permits and parental consent are allowed based on space availability.

Registration must be received and a \$35 fee for participation must be paid by September 18.

To reserve a spot in the



Photos by Kemberly Groue

From left, Airman 1st Class Philip Gentile, 338th Training Squadron, and Airman Basic Nathan Little, 335th TRS, anxiously await their turn behind the wheel as Travis McClain shows Airman Basic Jonathan Hecky, 338th TRS, the ins and outs of his 1950 Ford Business Coupe at Cruisin' Keesler at marina park Sept. 24, 2011. This year's event takes place Sept. 22, 2012.

course, or for more information, call 228-376-3448 or email keeslerautox@gmail.com.

To see the class in action, search for "Keesler Street Survival" on YouTube.

As part of the Keesler's weekend events, the Gulf Coast Region's Sports Car Club will host their 9th Autocross of the season. Autocross is one of the fastest growing driving events. It's a sport in which you are timed while driving through a maze of cones in your vehicle. You compete with similar vehicles, and at the end, the fastest time with the least knocked over cones wins. This type of sport improves your reaction time and allows for a more vigilant driver out on the roads.

If you would like to sign up for the Autocross portion of the event, or would like more information email serendib@bellsouth.net.



Navy Chief Brian Oelke from the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport inspects the engine on a 1972 Chevy C-10 at Cruisin' Keesler at marina park Sept. 24, 2011. This year's event takes place Sept. 22, 2012.

# Fire department issues workplace safety tips

By James Palmer

Keesler Fire Prevention assistant chief

Fire prevention is the key to a fire-safe workplace. Many of the nation's 5,000 office fires could have been prevented if organizations and personnel followed basic on-the-job fire safety practices.

Housekeeping is essential to fire prevention. Keep waste paper, empty boxes, dirty rags, cleaning supplies, and other non-combustibles to a minimum, out of exits and stairways and stored correctly.

**The fire prevention section recommends the following fire safety tips for your work place:**

- Leave space for air circulation around heat producing equipment and appliances such as copy machines, coffeemakers and computers.

- Keep appliances away from anything that might catch fire. High drawing electrical appliances and equipment must be plugged directly into the wall outlet.

- Designate personnel to turn off and unplug all appliances at the end of the workday.

- Replace any cracked, frayed, or damaged electrical cords on equipment and appliances.

- Extension cords are used only on a temporary basis and highly discouraged for permanent use. If used, do not run extension cords across doorways where they can be stepped on, pinched or run over by chairs. Do not plug extension cords and surge protectors into one another and avoid plugging more than one extension cord into an outlet. Only use approved six-outlet surge protectors for permanent use.

- All seasonal decorations in the work place must be non-combustible and fire retardant. Do not cover doors with decorations unless they are non-combustible. Fire doors with fire frames and windows will not be covered with any type of decorations. Decorations will not be hung from ceilings and fire sprinklers in the facility. Decorations will not obstruct installed fire protection devices nor will they block or obstruct egress routes and exits from the facility.

**Keesler's fire prevention section recommends the following for your specific work area:**

- Know where your nearest fire exits are located.

- Know two ways out of the facility.

- Know the location of the nearest fire alarm pull station and fire extinguisher and learn how to use them both.

- Post fire report emergency number on the phone or near all telephones in the facility.

- Evacuation plans should be posted prominently and discussed during new employee orientation.

- Include any special needs personnel who may be working in your facility in the fire emergency planning process.

**If a fire or emergency should take place:**

- Pull the nearest fire alarm to alert all personnel in the facility. Call the fire department by dialing 911, no matter how small the fire appears to be or even if the fire has been extinguished.

- Remain on the phone until all information is given and you are told to hang up by the 911 operator. Try to extinguish a small fire if possible. If there is any doubt about controlling the fire or your safety

do not attempt to fight the fire.

- Leave the area quickly, closing all doors behind you as you leave to contain the fire and smoke keeping the fire from spreading from one area to another.

- All personnel should assemble at the designated assembly point to be counted.

- If you encounter smoke or flames during your evacuation use an alternate exit.

- Heat and smoke rise, leaving cleaner air near the floor. If you must exit through smoke, crawl on your hands and knees, keeping your head in the safety zone 12 to 24 inches above the floor.

- Test doors before you open them. Kneeling or crouching at the door, reach up as high as you can and touch the door, the knob, and the space between the door and its frame with the back of your hand. If the door is hot, use another escape route. If the door is cool, open it slowly.

- Once outside, move away from the facility at least 75 feet out of the way of firefighters. Remain outside until the fire department says you may go back into the facility.

Remember to report all fires to the fire department via 911 regardless of the size, nature or extent of damage, whether extinguished by individual or group effort, citing all pertinent details. Also, report as an emergency via 911, any smell of burning that is detected or when any situation that may indicate a potential fire is discovered. If there are any questions concerning fire prevention in the work place or in general, contact the base fire prevention section at (228) 377-3330/8440.



## Keesler participates in Shrimp Bowl parade

The Keesler 50-state flag team led the Biloxi Shrimp Bowl parade in downtown Biloxi Friday. Lisa and Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81<sup>st</sup> Training Wing commander, also participated in the parade by riding in the Biloxi Tour Train.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

# Keesler member chosen for 'Portraits in Courage'



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Christopher Jarrell, 81st Security Forces Squadron kennel master, poses for a photo with Military Working Dog, Toki, while deployed in Afghanistan. Jarrell has been selected for the Secretary of the Air Force's "Portraits in Courage" for 2012.

## By Susan Griggs

### Keesler Public Affairs

In the nightmare of bullets racing past his head and rounds impacting in front of him, Staff Sgt. Christopher Jarrell focused on a symphony ... not Beethoven or Bach, but the harmony of a warrior and his dog facing the enemy together.

Jarrell, a military working dog handler from the 81st Security Forces Squadron, was one of 20 Airmen recognized Aug. 19 to be featured in the seventh volume of the Air Force Chief of Staff's "Portraits in Courage." Jarrell was one of five "Portraits in Courage" recipients chosen to participate in sporting events, special tours, a heroes' luncheon and other activities during Air Force Week, Aug. 19-21 in New

York City.

Jarrell, who arrived at Keesler in March 2011, was deployed from September through February to Afghanistan with Toki, his 4-year-old German shepherd partner. The job required frequent duties "outside the wire."

"Keesler has one of the most combat-proven kennels I've ever worked in," said Jarrell, who's been a dog handler for six years. "Toki is probably the best dog I've ever teamed with. Working with Toki was like a concert, with all of the instruments blending together.

"I can honestly say that's why Toki and I came back from Afghanistan unharmed for the most part," Jarrell stated. "When he goes out and finds those (improvised explosive devices), he

knows that's his job, he does what he's supposed to do and protects 'Daddy.' I tried to show Toki that same devotion."

Nov. 21, 2011, while assigned to the U.S. Army 3-71 Cavalry in the village of Rangrazan, Jarrell and his platoon came under direct fire from an unknown number of Taliban fighters.

"One minute I'm sitting in the middle of this field breaking into my lunch and giving Toki some attention because we had pretty much been walking all day," Jarrell remembered. "The next minute, bullets were flying past our heads and rounds were impacting in front of us. It was chaos, hell on earth."

Jarrell, Toki and four Soldiers were pinned down by sniper and machine gun fire and separated from the rest of their platoon

for about 45 minutes during a firefight that lasted more than three hours.

"Afghanistan is one big minefield," Jarrell explained. "You're always thinking ... did we clear the path to get up here? Every step you take, you're watching, thinking, second-guessing. Is this step going to be it? Is this going to be it? That comes from the subconscious, and you have to push it away."

When Jarrell began his Air Force career 10 years ago, he admits that he questioned the necessity of technical school exercises like the rush-and-roll, tactical bounding techniques and overwatches.

"As a trainee, you wonder if you'll ever use any of it," he admitted. "But when you find yourself in a firefight and use

those skills that our leadership has ingrained in us, it's like muscle memory. You don't even realize what you're doing. Canine leads the way – it's what we're trained to do instinctively.

"It's like football – like learning pages out of a playbook. You run the plays over and over again and when game time comes, you're ready. When your adrenaline is pumping and bullets are flying past you, that survival instinct kicks in."

When they made their way back to the rest of the platoon, Jarrell immediately provided suppressive fire that allowed other U.S. forces to recover those wounded or killed in action and move back to safety.

As U.S. forces prepared to evacuate the casualties, the platoon leader realized that two

Army AH-64 Apache helicopters and half of his Soldiers were out of ammunition. To make things worse, the platoon's mine-detection equipment operator didn't have the necessary equipment to clear a route because he'd been forced to leave it in the field where they'd been pinned down.

Jarrell stepped up and put Toki on mine-sniffing duties. During their sweep, Jarrell and Toki detected and marked a possible IED, allowing the platoon to clear a safe landing zone for casualty evacuation and resupply operations.

"It wasn't my first firefight, but it's the first time I thought that if I got out alive, it was going to be one of those 'God saved me' stories," he pointed out. "There's no other way to explain it ... it was a miracle."

Army intelligence later reported that 14 enemy insurgents, including the regional commander, had been killed during the engagement.

Jarrell's courage under fire was credited with keeping a precarious situation from deteriorating and directly contributed to saving the lives of several service members. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Force Combat Action Medal and the Army Combat Action Badge for his actions. At first he was very uncomfortable in the spotlight, but now he can direct that spotlight as a public service to show what it takes to get the mission done.

"They recognized me for my actions out there, but I wasn't the only one," Jarrell insisted. "It gave me a sense of pride to know that I could perform at that level — but man, I don't want to see myself there again."

Not long ago, Jarrell began seeing a counselor to help deal with the panic attacks that have affected him since he returned from deployment.

"Canine tends to be an 'alpha male' career field and I had to get over the perceived stigma of reaching out for help," he pointed out. "My family and friends wanted me to talk to somebody, but I thought I could handle things on my own."

It's hard to predict what will trigger one of the attacks – even crowds at the base exchange or social situations are sometimes hard to handle.

Jarrell is glad that he sought help and wants other handlers to understand that something they may think is abnormal is really normal.

"It's going to be a long road to recovery, but I've taken that first step," he added. "Our commander, Maj. Matt Pignataro, is one of the best commanders I've ever had. He sits down with us one on one, gives us tremendous support and lets us know he's proud of us. He took the time to give us a 'fit check' and makes sure we have the time and help we need to reintegrate. But the mission still takes priority and we understand that – we can be tasked at any moment to pick up a dog and go."

"Sergeant Jarrell is a great example of how the Air Force's military working dog handlers have collectively risen to new levels of combat expertise during the past decade," Pignataro said. "He's a quiet professional who would never brag about his accomplishments. I'm very proud to have him and the rest of our experienced MWD handlers as part of our squadron."

Jarrell is on the fence about whether to continue his Air Force career when his enlistment is up in two years. He remembers the close calls in Afghanistan as he looks to the future with his wife, Dani, and the child they're expecting.

Earlier this year, Jarrell became Keesler's kennel master and had to step back so Toki and his new handler could bond. That new canine team is currently deployed to South-west Asia.

"It's part of our career progression — I'll pin on tech sergeant this fall," he observed. "Folks move on, new handlers move in, older guys tend to get pushed out of canine. It's good to make rank, but sometimes it hurts to move on. My days of pushing dogs are winding down. I'm coming to grips with that and trying to ease the transition for others."



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Jarrell and military working dog, Densy, demonstrate how military working dogs can attack on command to the members of Team Focus during career night July 16 at the Sablich Center.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Jarrell reviews military working dog release policy letters in his office at Keesler's MWD facility.



# Remember to salute all marked, occupied staff vehicles



81st Training Wing



2nd Air Force



81st Mission Support Group

## High year of tenure changes take effect in 2012

By Debbie Gildea

Air Force Personnel Center

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - RANDOLPH, Texas — High year of tenure changes announced in December will go into effect in September 2013, Air Force Personnel Center officials reminded affected Airmen on Aug. 16.

Changes will affect senior airmen, staff sergeants and technical sergeants, said Lt. Col. Tara White, AFPC retirements and separations chief, who explained that high year of tenure refers to the maximum number of years enlisted Airmen in each grade may remain on active duty.

In 2003, HYT was adjusted upward to retain experienced Airmen during a robust economic era. In 2010, the Air Force began the process to normalize HYT, reducing senior airman, technical sergeant, master sergeant and senior master sergeant levels. In December 2011, the Air Force announced that HYT would continue to be adjusted beginning in 2013.

Beginning in 2013, high year of tenure limits for senior airmen will be reduced from

10 years to eight years; staff sergeant 20 years to 15 years; and technical sergeant 22 years to 20 years.

As a result of HYT, AFPC cancelled some assignments, but those cancellations have no effect on promotion eligibility, White said. Airmen who are otherwise eligible to test for promotion will be able to test during the next cycle.

Although Airmen affected may be selected for promotion before they reach HYT, assignments are selected in most cases between 15 and 18 months in advance, and Airmen must have retainability at the time of selection to ensure a last-minute assignment decision isn't necessary.

"Normalizing HYT helps develop and maintain the right balance of experience in the Air Force," said White. "The future of the Air Force depends on balance in numbers, ranks, experience levels and career fields, so HYT is one way we can achieve that."

For more information on high year tenure, assignments and other personnel issues, visit the Air Force Personnel Services website at <http://mypers.af.mil>.

## Seabee center opens Navy lodge expansion

NCBC Gulfport Public Affairs

GULFPORT — Officials at the Naval Construction Battalion Center open a new 43,930 sq. ft., 50-room expansion to the Navy Lodge here Aug. 14, bringing the total number of rooms available to 80. The ground breaking ceremony for the expansion was April 6, 2011.

"We are so excited to be opening this new lodge for our military guests," said Janice Baker, general manager of the Navy Lodge Gulfport. "Guests will find all the latest amenities and comforts that are offered in civilian hotels, but at a significant savings. Navy Lodges offer a 40 percent savings compared to other hotels and there are no extra-person charges."

The new Navy Lodge expansion, built by Yates Construction, features three different types of rooms to fit the needs of all its guests. There are 10 two-bedroom family suites that include full kitchenettes with dishwashers and a balcony off of living area. There are 12 business-class rooms that feature one queen bed, microwave and refrigerator. Finally, guests can stay in one of the 28 extended-stay rooms which have two queen beds and a full kitchenette with dishwasher.

The \$10.7 million Navy Lodge expansion also offers guests a fitness room, vending areas, guest laundry, patio area with gas grills and free wireless internet access. Guests can also take advantage of the free continental breakfast offered each morning.

To make reservations at any Navy lodging facilities or to receive a Navy Lodge directory, call 1-800-NAVY-INN, 24 hours a day, seven days a week or go online at [www.navy-lodge.com](http://www.navy-lodge.com). Reservations are accepted on an as-received basis without regard to rank.

The base, in conjunction with, the Navy Exchange Command also breaks ground on a new \$4.1 million mini-mart gas station Aug. 14. The new facility being constructed by Asset Group Inc., out of Oklahoma City, Okla., replaces the old mini-mart which was built in the 70's.

The new facility should be completed in less than a year and will be more than 7,000 square feet; nearly three times bigger than the current 2,500 square foot store. It will also feature three additional gas pump islands, which will include an additional six gas pumps. And, unlike the current store, diesel fuel will be offered.



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## NCO Academy wins membership drive

Heather Ramey, Bay Breeze Collocated Club event coordinator, Chief Master Sgt. Robert Nolan, Mathies NCO Academy commandant, and Major John Ponton, 81st Force Support Squadron commander accept a donation check. The Mathies NCO Academy was recently awarded 1st place in the small group competition of the Bay Breeze Collocated Club's annual membership drive. NCOA registered 18 new members to the Air Force Club and received \$500 to use toward a unit party at the BBEC.

Courtesy photo

# Hotel tax exemptions could help save millions

By Staff Sgt. Clinton Atkins

AETC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — During a time of increasing DoD budget constraints, the Air Force continuously looks for innovative solutions that save money and positively impacts the mission.

Air Education and Training Command's Financial Management office said Air Force travelers could help save millions of dollars by taking advantage of tax exemptions while using the government travel card at hotel in select states.

Those traveling to Alaska, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas or Wisconsin and stay in off-base lodging are exempt from paying state

sales tax for the hotel room. Visit <https://smartpay.gsa.gov/about-gsa-smartpay/tax-information/state-response-letter> for a list states hyperlinked to more information about the tax exemptions.

Temporary duty budgets have been significantly reduced across the command, and has increased the use of online meeting capabilities such as Defense Connect Online and video teleconferences to save money. However, there are times when using web-based capabilities or VTC are not the best methods for conducting the meeting.

"When that's the case and TDYs are required to fulfill the mission, we can do more to stretch our dollars," said Judy Griffis, a financial specialist with AETC.

"The resources we have to

accomplish our AETC mission are declining," said Col. Charles Fiquett, director of AETC Financial Management. "As a result, and across the command, we're looking at every Airman at every level to do whatever they can to save dollars while becoming more efficient. The Cost Conscious Culture initiative is designed to do exactly that--sustain excellence while responding to declining resources."

While most formal training classes require students to be billeted on installations, that's not always the case.

"In just one month, AETC's TDY to school program paid more than \$3,200 in sales taxes on hotel rooms--that's more than \$40,000 a year!" Griffis said.

The financial specialist said the cost in hotel taxes doesn't account for frequent travelers.

The potential overall savings within AETC is even greater when considering this.

For a TDY to San Antonio there are three taxes that are added on to room rates: six percent room state tax, nine percent room city tax and 1.75 percent county tax. Since the lodging rate for San Antonio is \$106 per day, travelers are potentially unnecessarily paying \$17.76 in taxes daily for their hotel room. Those kinds of expenditures can add up quickly across the command.

Griffis gave a few tips on how save money when staying in off-base lodging in the states mentioned above:

"When going to a location that offers the state tax exemption, use it," she said. "Save the link above to your browser.

"Print the form out from the website, or better yet —

embed the form into your orders, just like you embed your receipts into your voucher. This will give you access to the form from anywhere," Griffis said.

"Also, give the tax exempt form to the hotel clerk when you check-in," she said. "And last but not least, support a cost conscious culture (C3)."

Fiquett said it takes a Total Force effort to get everyone in AETC to think deliberately about saving money.

"Thanks to everyone who is helping AETC to become a more cost-conscious command," he said. "You're helping AETC stretch dollars so that we can continue to do what we do best--deliver the best trained Airmen possible to serve our Nation."

## 2012 Heart Walk

Team captains are needed for the 2012 Heart Walk "Walkin' on Sunshine" 7:30 a.m. Sept. 29 at Jones Park in Gulfport. To join the Keesler team at the 3-mile walk call (228) 376-3501.

## Cell phone use

Cell phone use without using hands-free device prohibited on all Department of Defense installations since April 2005. In 2011 there were 73 cell phone violation tickets issued at Keesler. So far in 2012 there have been 25 cell phone violation tickets issued and one major distracted driving accident.

The first offense is a seven-day suspension, the second offense is a 30-day suspension and the third offense is a one-year revocation of on-base driving privileges.

## Equipment custodians

Did you know the submission of a new equipment custodian appointment letter does

not relieve the present equipment custodian of the account. Until information technology management, the last signer, signs the loss/gain inventory the present equipment custodian is still assigned to the account. The new primary assigned on an appointment does not have the authority to request changes, turn in assets to Defense Reutilization and Marketing Offices, submit found on base requests or any modifying requests. Also if the primary is on virtual out processing (virtual military Personnel Flight) the name cannot be cleared until the loss/gain inventory is completely signed.

For more information call 228-377-1752.

## USM admissions

A University of Southern Mississippi admissions counselor will be at the USM office in the Sablich Center, Room 219 2-5 p.m. Sept. 4th and 18th to meet with students interested in programs at USM.

To make an appointment, call 228-276-8479.

## Saving energy

Energy savings is a key to success at Keesler. With reduced budgets and efforts to improve the efficient use of resources, the Keesler energy team needs the support of all members to reduce and conserve our finite natural resources. Currently, the energy bill at Keesler averages around \$1 million per month! We need your support to reduce and save where we can. One of the simplest to conserve energy is to turn your computer monitor off when you do not need it. However, the CPU needs to stay on so that it can be updated.

Contact the resource efficiency manager with any ideas for energy conservation or if you see an area where energy is being wasted. For more information call (228) 377-5859.

## CCAF deadline

The last day to apply for the Community College of the

Air Force fall 2012 graduating class is Aug. 31. By that date, all supporting documentation must be on file with the CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base including your nomination action request. For more information contact the education services office in Room 224 of the Sablich Center, or call (228) 376-8708.

## 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. - 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Consignments are accepted 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays. Visit [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 (228) 377-3217. Quarterly Supply classes are held in Room 121B, Taylor Logistics Building.

## Central selection board

The CY12C colonel (BSC/MSC/CHAP), lieutenant colonel (BSC/CHAP) and major (LAF/BSC/CHAP) central

selection board will convene Dec. 3 at HQ AFPC. To be eligible the officer must have an extended active duty date of June 6, 2012 or earlier with a date of separation of March 3, 2013 or later. Also, officers on active duty under the Voluntary Recall Program or any other Reserve Recall Program must have at least one year on active duty as of the board convening date, starting from their new EAD date. For more information call (228) 376-8356.

## New childcare provider orientation

Family Child Care will host New Provider Orientation from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today at the Child Development Center. Participants completing the orientation will receive a license to care for children in their home.

Training will cover topics such as CPR, pediatric first aid, nutrition, safety, parent relations and more. Sign up for the orientation by calling (228) 377-3189. To learn more about Family Child Care visit [www.keesler81fss.us](http://www.keesler81fss.us).

# Keesler Events Calendar

## Today

**9 a.m.** — Bundles for babies at the Sablich Center Room 108B.

**1 p.m.** — Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

**6 p.m.** — Wreath & Bow making at the arts and crafts center.

## Friday

**3:30 p.m.** — 345th Airlift Squadron change of command at the Robert's Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Facility.

**6 p.m.** — Ceramic painting at the arts and crafts center.

## Saturday

**10:30 a.m.** — Pottery wheel class.

— Chainmaille I jewelry-

making class at the arts and crafts center.

**1:30 p.m.** — Chainmaille II jewelry-making class at the arts and crafts center.

**7 p.m.** — Latin night at the Bay Breeze Events Center.

## Tuesday

**9 a.m.** — Pre-separation counseling at the Sablich Center Room 110.

— Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

**1 p.m.** — Retirees pre-separation counseling at the Sablich Center Room 110.

## Aug. 30

**1 p.m.** — Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

## Aug. 31

**6 p.m.** — Ladies Night at the arts and crafts center.

## Sept. 3

Labor Day holiday.

## Sept. 4

**9 a.m.** — Pre-separation counseling at the Sablich Center Room 110.

— Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

**1 p.m.** — Retirees pre-separation counseling at the Sablich Center Room 110.

**3:30 p.m.** — 81st Training Wing enlisted promotion ceremony at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

## Sept. 5

**8 a.m.** — Newcomers' orientation at the Sablich Center Room 108B.

# Did You Know ?

## Keesler Public Affairs

While performing a reconnaissance mission behind German lines in the late afternoon of Oct. 8, 1918, 2nd Lt. Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., (for whom the base is named) and his pilot, 1st Lt. Harold W. Riley, came under heavy gunfire from four enemy aircraft. Riley quickly lost control of the badly damaged airplane while Keesler continued to fend off the attackers even as they plummeted to the ground.

Seriously wounded during the battle and ensu-



Keesler

ing crash landing, German ground troops eventually captured and held Keesler and Riley prisoner. Unable to receive immediate medical attention, Keesler died from his injuries the following day. He was posthumously awarded the WWI Victory Medal with silver star device for his gallantry.



Photo by Master Sgt. Jeremy Locke

Capt. Jennifer Curtis, Capt. Darrel Deleon, Staff Sgt. Christopher Jarrell, Capt. Blake Luttrell and Staff Sgt. Vanessa Salzi Bibb are recognized at Yankee Stadium during Air Force Week in New York City. They are five of the 20 Airman honored in the 2012 Portraits in Courage.

## Air Force Week kicks off in NYC

By Desiree Palacios

Air Force News Service

NEW YORK — The Air Force kicked off one of its biggest outreach programs in America's largest city Aug. 19 with a combination of opening day remarks, flyovers, interactive displays and performances by Air Force bands.

The opening ceremony at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum on Pier 86 marked the start of Air Force Week here, three days of events aimed at showcasing the Air Force, and its men and women, in front an audience of more than 8 million New Yorkers.

"Air Force Week shines a big spotlight on our Airmen's essential contributions to America's national security, and America's Airmen in the fight," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley during his remarks.

He told the audience that no matter how advanced the Air Force becomes technologically, its success will always depend on its people.

"We give our men and women responsibility beyond their years, and we expect them to perform their missions, and innovate and improvise, to get the job done," Donley said. "We can never take them for granted. Our Airmen make us exceedingly proud...and we couldn't ask for finer role models for examples of selfless service."

The ceremony included other top Air Force and local civic leaders, as well as a flyover by the Air Force's Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team. An open water rescue

demonstration with an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter and rescue team from the 106th Rescue Wing, Westhampton Beach, N.Y., followed.

There were also interactive displays featuring the Air Force Recruiting Service exhibit "Command Center Alpha," a 3-D tour that includes computer graphics, videos and a Thunderbird display.

"This week, Airmen will interact throughout the five boroughs of New York, sharing their stories, educating citizens about the many contributions of the Air Force and their impact to national defense," said Gen. Edward A. Rice, commander of the Air Education and Training Command and one of the guest speakers at the ceremony. "These activities will allow America's largest city to engage with the most powerful weapon system in our arsenal: our Airmen."

New York Fire Commissioner Salvatore Cassano, who represented the city during the ceremony, compared today's Air Force and its Airmen to the city of New York.

"The city continues to rise," Cassano said. "It brings us to new, never seen before heights. Our Air Force is the most technologically advanced and most highly trained aerial fighting force the world has ever seen. You literally bring our country to new heights through your dominance in the sky."

During the activities, Donley unveiled the 2012 edition of the "Portraits in Courage" series, which highlights Airmen who have displayed bravery and determination in the

face of especially challenging or dangerous circumstances. Five of the 20 Airmen portrayed in the series were honored during the ceremony, to include:

- Capt. Jennifer Curtis, a family nurse practitioner with the 75th Medical Operations Squadron, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, who pulled six injured service members into her medical facility to provide aid after her camp in Afghanistan was attacked;

- Capt. Darrel Deleon, a space and missile commander with the 1st Space Operations Squadron, Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., who saved the lives of injured Soldiers during an attack on his camp in Afghanistan;

- Staff Sgt. Christopher Jarrell, a military working dog handler with the 81st Security Forces Squadron, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., who provided suppressive fire that enabled the recovery of wounded service members during an attack in Afghanistan;

- Capt. Blake Luttrell, a special tactics officer with the 21st Special Tactics Squadron, Pope Field, N.C., who recovered a wounded Soldier and provided critical medical care before coordinating a show of force with attack helicopters during an Afghanistan battle; and

- Staff Sgt. Vanessa Salzi Bibb, an aeromedical technician with the 59th Medical Wing, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, who helped provide treatment for 14 wounded service members after an attack on a provincial reconstruction team.



## Teamwork on display at MARDET field meet

A team of Marines from the general purpose calibration and maintenance school compete in a tug-of-war competition at the Keesler Marine Corps Detachment field meet Aug. 3 at the Triangle track. The Marine Corps regularly organizes events like these to build unit cohesion and camaraderie.

U.S. Marine Corps photos by  
Marine Staff Sgt. Christopher Lambert



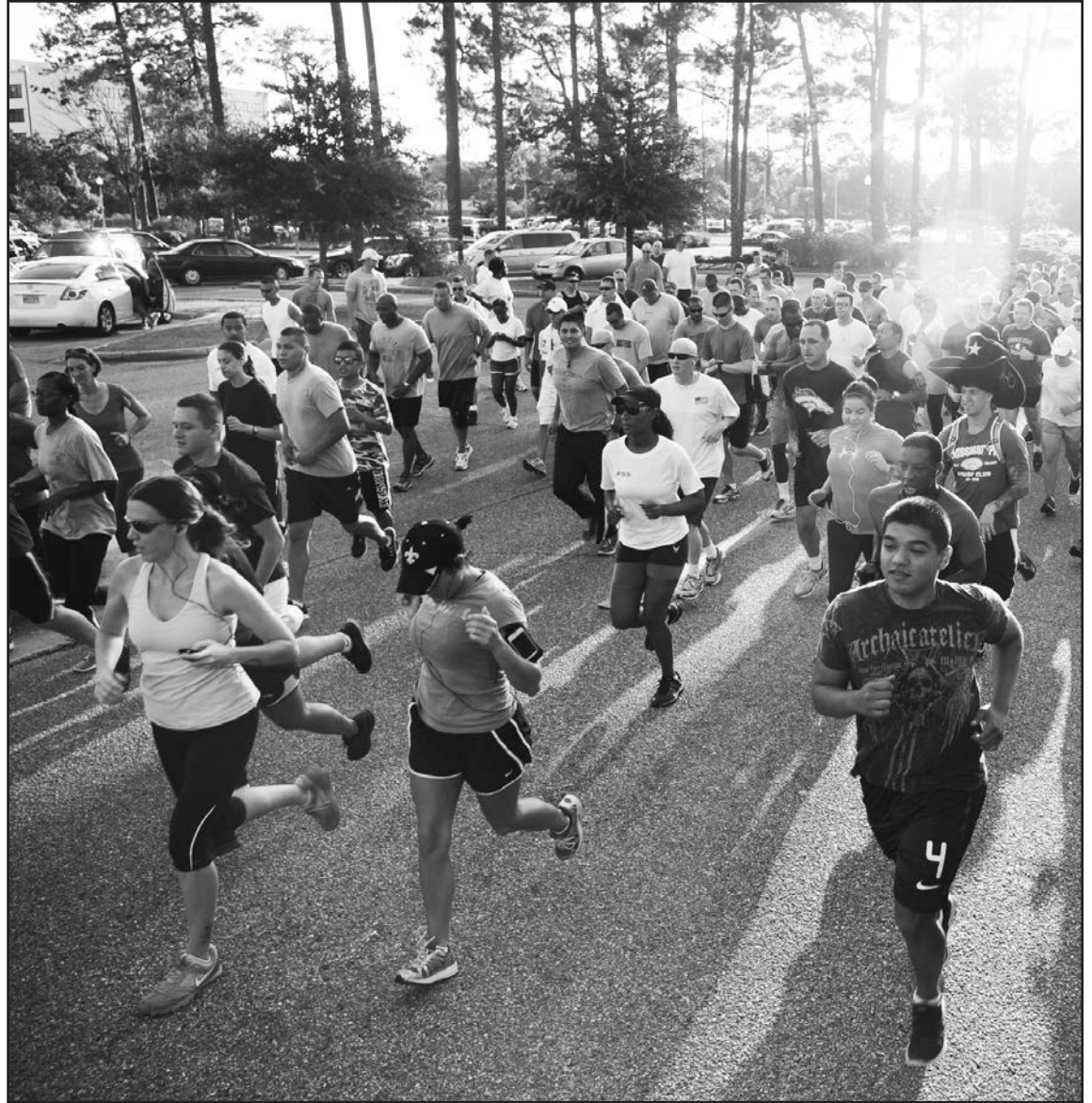
Keesler Marine Corps Detachment members, Lance Cpl. Kaechung Hou carries Lance Cpl. Jessica Ramos in the 400 meter fireman's carry event. Hou and Ramos are students in the General Purpose Calibration and Maintenance School at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit at Keesler.

Sgt. Daniel Krause, Pfc. Matthew Davis, and Sgt. Jacob Urban, Keesler Marine Corps Detachment and meteorology and oceanographic analyst forecast schoolhouse flip a 200 pound tire in the MARDET Field Meet relay race. Aug. Each team had to flip a tire around a 400 meter track to complete their portion of the relay.

## Fisher House run has big turnout



Jennifer Flanery, first place female, verifies her time of 22:17 with Maria Creel, CSC, following the Fisher House 5K benefit run/walk. Jennifer is the fiancée of Phillip Poundstone, 333<sup>rd</sup> Training Squadron. David Lane, 81<sup>st</sup> Inpatient Operation Squadron, finished first with a time of 20:55.



Photos by Kemberly Groue

The Fisher House 5K benefit run/walk had a large turnout with 183 participants Aug. 17, 2012, beginning and ending at the Blake Fitness Center, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. Prizes were awarded to the first, second and third place male and female. The event raised \$946.50, which will be donated to the Keesler Fisher House.

## Intramural soccer schedule

### Today

**6 p.m.** — 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron vs. 333rd Training Squadron.

**7 p.m.** — 335th TRS vs. 334th TRS.

**8 p.m.** — 338th TRS vs. 81st Force Support Squadron.

### Tuesday

**6 p.m.** — 338th TRS vs. 81st Medical Group.

**7 p.m.** — 333rd TRS vs. 335th TRS.

**8 p.m.** — Marine Detachment vs. 334th TRS.

### Aug. 30

**6 p.m.** — MARDET vs. 85th Engineering Installation Squadron.

**7 p.m.** — 338th TRS vs. 333rd TRS.

**8 p.m.** — 81st MDG vs. 334th TRS.

**\* note all games take place on the multi-purpose field.**



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Roger Alvarez, 338<sup>th</sup> Training Squadron sends the ball across the field toward a teammate for closer access to the goal during an intramural soccer game against the 335<sup>th</sup> TRS Aug. 16. The Dark Knights defeated the Bulls 4-3.