



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train. Fight. Win.

NOV. 15, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 44



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81st Training Wing
commander

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Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing commander, **Col. Rene Romero**, 81st TRW vice commander and **Chief Master Sgt. Glen Usherwood**, 81st Training Group superintendent, lead Airmen from Keesler in the 12th annual Gulf Coast Veterans Parade Saturday in Gulfport, Miss. Other Keesler marching units included the honor guard, the 50 state flags carried by the 334th Training Squadron, student marching groups from the 335th TRS and 336th TRS and the 81st TRG's drum and bugle corps. Staff Sgt. Karen Moore from the 403rd Wing was the National Anthem singer. Approximately 1,400 marchers and 86 rolling units participated.

Photo by Adam Bond



Chief master sergeant selects released

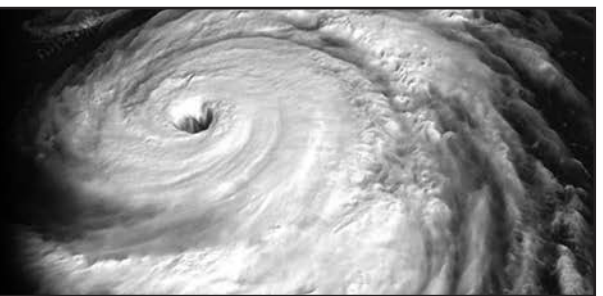


Photo by Adam Bond

Senior Master Sgts. John Jackson, 81st Training Wing, and **Phuoc Phan**, 335th Training Squadron, pose for a photo while wearing chief master sergeant rank insignia during a chief master sergeant promotion selection celebration Nov. 8, at the Bay Breeze Event Center. Jackson and Phan are the newest Chief Master Sgt selects at Keesler.

HURRICANE SEASON

runs from June 1 - Nov. 30. For more information and preparations tips,
visit www.keesler.af.mil/hurricaneinfo.asp



Airman shares lessons through court martial

By Airman 1st Class
Vernon Smith

56th Medical Support Squadron

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — When the military judge told my defense counsel and me to stand for the announcement of my sentence, my heart stopped, and my stomach sank. I thought about my son, my brothers and my fellow Airmen. I hoped and prayed that my 18 years of service were not about to end. And I felt sadness and regret about what I had done and the impact it had on others. I waited, and those silent moments felt like hours.

“This court-martial sentences you to be reduced to the grade of E-3 and to be confined for 90 days,” the judge said in a booming voice. As he stood and left the courtroom, I felt humbled. I would spend the next three months behind bars, but I hoped that my military career would survive.

I am a better father and Airman because of my court-martial. Back in April, I did not understand how much alcohol had consumed my

life. When I was in Las Vegas with my girlfriend, we got in a fight after a long day of drinking. Eventually, it became physical. I pushed her, hit her and put my hand over her face. I pled guilty at my court-martial because I knew what I did was wrong. In fact, I regret those things to this day. I should have never acted that way and should have never let alcohol affect me so much.

During my time in the Air Force, I have deployed to Honduras and Southwest Asia. I ran the hematology section of the medical laboratory at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., and managed the H1N1 swine flu testing program while deployed. I achieved the rank of technical sergeant. Here at Luke, I worked hard in the medical laboratory and tested for infectious agents. In fact, I may have drawn your blood at some point for testing. I learned everything I knew about serving in the Air Force from great commanders, chiefs, supervisors and fellow Airmen.

But I learned the true error of my ways during my time in confinement. It's a lonely place. There are three cells with

their own sink and toilet, one shower and a general population room. The first 72 hours were the hardest, because I was alone in a segregation cell with nothing else. During the days in segregation, I was required to sit on my bed — I was not permitted to lie down until it was nighttime. The rules were strictly enforced, so I was alone to consider what I had done.

After I got out of segregation, I spent 16 hours a day in the general population room, which is just a bit bigger than your average medical examination room. It has some old books and magazines, a small TV in the corner of the room, plastic seats and a metal table for writing and eating. I was monitored every second of every day, and there were no windows to the outside world. When you're in jail, all you can do is think — think about what you could have done differently and how you want to change.

The reason I am writing this article is to inspire my fellow Airmen to change their ways before they get in as much trouble as I did. I learned a few lessons while in jail that I want to share with you.

First, put yourself and your family first. When I say “put yourself first,” I don't mean you should ignore the needs of others or the needs of the Air Force. What I learned is the importance of caring for yourself and being happy with who you are. Today, I have learned to forgive those who have wronged me. I surround myself with people who love me. I've also been re-energized to focus on the things that matter — my son, my family, my career in the Air Force and my future. By putting yourself and your family first, you will see how achieving great things in life (and in the Air Force) will benefit you forever.

Second, realize that alcohol affects you and those you care about. I don't blame alcohol for what I did — I made bad decisions and hurt those around me. But I realized how much alcohol can bring out the bad in me. I had deep-seeded anger that alcohol brought out in a way I didn't know how to control. Now that I am happy with myself, I know to keep alcohol out of my life so that I can improve myself and care for my family.

Finally, count your blessings. Every day you're on this earth and free to serve in the greatest Air Force the world has ever known, you are blessed. You may not know the degree of that blessing until it's gone. Take the time today to appreciate your Air Force service and thank your friends, supervisors and mentors. You have an amazing opportunity to serve your country, and I feel honored to still be serving alongside each and every one of you.

Today, I no longer work in the lab. Instead, I have to earn back the trust of my command. I am working with facilities management at the hospital, spending every day trying to show how much I've learned and how much I want to continue to serve in the Air Force. I have some great lessons to share, and I want all my fellow Airmen to learn from my mistakes. So if you are ever at the clinic, feel free to find me and ask about my experiences. If you can learn from my mistakes, the 90 days I spent in jail will not only have been a punishment for me — they would be a lesson to everyone.

Freedom is free because it's donated

By Tech. Sgt. Mike Andriacca

Air Force Central Command Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Both of my grandfathers and my uncle were veterans. And until the day he died, my dad's father had a yellow ribbon magnet of the back of his car that read “Freedom isn't Free.” After he passed away and I bought the car from my father and uncle, I kept the magnet there, firmly believing in the message.

I'm not so sure I do anymore. A few months ago I was participating in a professional forum with some peers when I came to a realization. For the vast majority of people who enjoy its benefits, freedom is free; it's supported by donations and, in return, the primary donors earn the title “Veteran.”

The more I thought about this idea, the more I began to realize it just felt

right and I became more excited about putting it into words.

Our nation's veterans have donated their time, many for 20 years or more, their sweat, their skills, some of their rights, and, for those who made the ultimate sacrifice, their futures.

But the donations aren't limited to those who wear the uniform. Their families make donations too. Children donate their first steps, their first home run or dance recital, high school graduation, even their births so their parents may serve the ideals of something greater than themselves.

Husbands and wives donate restful nights, a two-parent household, the ability to call their loved one just to say hello. Parents donate their ability to keep their child safe when he or she gets on a plane bound for a war zone. The list of donations is endless and,

just like other worthy causes, every little bit helps.

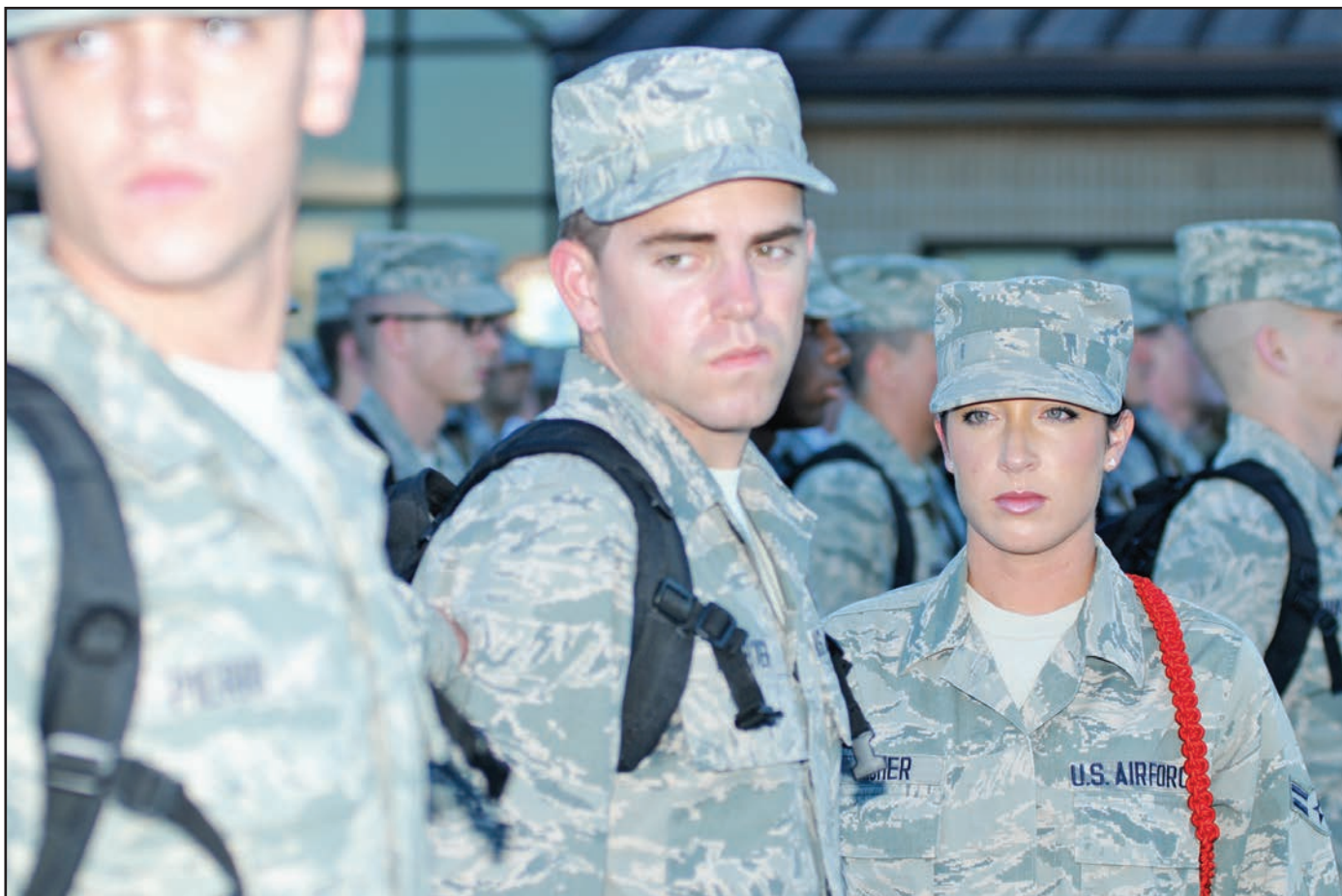
Veterans Day is a time to stop and reflect on the donations that allow us to enjoy our freedoms today. For the majority of Americans, freedom is free for one reason: someone else made the donation, freely and willingly. The veterans' cemeteries are full of donors who have earned my gratitude for their part in securing the freedom my family and I enjoy.

A donation is something freely given with nothing asked in return. That's what makes the donations of our nation's veterans so special. And there is something we can do in return to thank them, though they haven't asked. We can exercise that freedom. Without that, the sacrifices of our veterans are meaningless.

I am proud to see people using their

freedoms — freedom of speech, their right to assemble, and their freedom to elect their leaders. It doesn't matter who they vote for, if they gather in support of a cause I believe in (or not), or say something I don't agree with. It's enough to know they value the donation of others enough to avoid letting it go to waste.

Today I'm going to reflect on the many donations my grandfathers and uncle made, and I'm going to be grateful. I'm going to think about the donation I first made 15 years ago to support my family's freedoms. And I'm going to seek out a young Airman at the start of his career and make sure I thank him for his donation, because he's going to make sure that some day, when my children face the decision to donate or not, they have the freedom to choose. Happy Veterans Day.



Airman of the Month

Airman 1st Class Mary Archer, 334th Training Squadron, is the 81st Training Group's Airman of the Month for October. Her award was presented during a ceremony Nov. 6, on the drill pad at Keesler. Archer, from New Hampshire, is here for air traffic control training. The four squadrons that train nonprior service students each select one Airman to compete at a monthly group board. The Airmen respond to questions about customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, enlisted force development and current events from that week's issue of the Keesler News. They are also asked questions about the Airman's Creed. The 336th Training Squadron won the Military Training Flight of the Month.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



MTL of the Month

Staff Sgt. Marcus Hyatt, 334th Training Squadron won the Dragon Award for outstanding military training leader for October. 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 MTL job and perform 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. The 336th Training Squadron won the Military Training Flight of the Month.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Cody named Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force



WASHINGTON — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III has named Chief Master Sgt. James A. Cody to serve as the 17th chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

Cody will assume his new position on Feb. 1, following the Jan. 31 retirement of current Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy. Roy's retirement will culminate more than 30 years of service to the Air Force.

"Chief Roy and his wife, Paula, have been a blessing for our Air Force. They have worked tirelessly for the past three-plus years as phenomenal advocates for our Airmen and families. Betty and I wish them all the best as they prepare for the next chapter in their lives," Welsh said.

"The quality and professionalism of our enlisted force is unrivaled due in great part to the remarkable commitment and dedication of Chief Roy and Paula to take care of Airmen

and their families," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley. "The Air Force must continue to develop the quality Airmen the service needs and we look forward to the experience that Chief Cody and his wife, Athena, herself a retired chief master sergeant, will bring to this effort."

Cody, who joined the Air Force in 1984, is currently the command chief master sergeant for Air Education and Training Command. His career includes various assignments in air traffic control and as the command chief master sergeant, 15th Expeditionary Mobility Task Force, Travis Air Force Base, Calif.; 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.; and 18th Air Force, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

"We are excited to welcome Chief Cody and Athena to the team as they take the baton from the Roys," Welsh said. "The next few years will be filled with many opportuni-

ties and challenges and our Air Force will greatly benefit from the leadership, experience and wisdom they bring."

"Chief Cody will do a fantastic job of representing the enlisted force," said Roy. "I have every confidence that he and Athena are prepared to handle the challenges that face our Airmen and their families in the years to come."

The office of the chief master sergeant of the Air Force represents the highest enlisted level of leadership, provides direction for the enlisted corps and represents their interests to the American public and all levels of government. The CMSAF serves as a personal advisor to the Air Force Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, proper utilization, and progress of the enlisted force and their families.

Air Force officials delay MilPDS upgrade

By Tech. Sgt. Steve Grever

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Air Force officials are delaying the upgrade of the Military Personnel Data System that was originally scheduled for December.

Delaying the upgrade is necessary to ensure the new system is thoroughly tested by the Air Force Personnel Center and other Department of Defense and Air Force agencies that use personnel information from MilPDS.

"Despite the best efforts of many, we must delay the upgrade," said Robert Corsi, Air Force assistant deputy

chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. "It's critical we ensure our Airmen have the best possible personnel data system, and to do that we need to complete testing on the new system before we upgrade MilPDS."

The delay will have minimal impact on total force Airmen as personnel processes have been established to allow Airmen to continue to submit early retirement and separation applications until Nov. 16, 2012. The personnel processes and programs identified below will revert back to the requirements and timelines outlined in their respective Air Force instructions:

- Scheduling oral proficiency inter-

views, Defense Language Proficiency Tests for foreign language proficiency bonuses

- Applying for reenlistments and enlistment extensions
- Completing base of preference applications
- Completing in-place base of preference applications
- Applying for voluntary retraining
- Updating Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance policies

MilPDS is the primary records database for personnel data and actions that occur throughout every total force Airman's career. MilPDS is also used to initiate Airman pay actions, maintain

Air Force accountability and strength data and support a host of interactions with other Air Force processes and systems that rely on personnel data.

Reserve and Guard members will receive specific instructions from the Air Force Reserve Command and Air Reserve Personnel Center concerning how the delay will impact their personnel programs. More information is available on the ARPC public website at <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil>.

For more information about personnel services and programs, visit the myPers website at <http://mypers.af.mil>.



Become a Keesler fan on Facebook www.facebook.com/keeslerafb

Keesler Hospital to hold open house Nov. 29

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

"The Keesler Hospital invites our patients to an open house for the new Back Bay Tower 1-4 p.m. Nov. 29," said Brig. Gen. (Dr) Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander. Visitors may enter through the new tower entrance on the northeast corner of the hospital or the A tower entrance on Fisher Street. The facility opens for patient care in December 2012.

The tower contains state-of-the-art medical and surgical inpatient wards, intensive care and recovery/peri-anesthesia care units as well as a new emergency department, physical-occupational therapy-chiropractic clinic, two new operating rooms and two cardiac catheterization labs. A new central sterile supply also is located in the new wing.

Open house visitors will have the opportunity to visit all four floors. Staff members from the respective units will be



Courtesy Photo

All Keesler Hospital patients are invited to an open house for the new Back Bay Tower from 1-4 p.m. Nov. 29.

available to answer questions.

The existing building ground floor has services such as nutritional medicine and the dining facility. Connecting corridors, stairs and elevators provide access to the ground floor of the new Back Bay

Tower. A courtyard opposite the "Hungry Dragon" dining facility offers hospital guests and staff a place to relax.

The emergency department relocates to their new modern facility on the first floor. Central sterile supply is also locat-

ed on the first floor with a private conveying system to the new surgical suites located directly above. Joining the main campus from the Arnold Hall Medical Annex, physical therapy, occupational therapy and the chiropractic clinic also are on the first floor. Connecting corridors, elevators and stairs provide access to the first floor of the existing building and all other clinics and services.

Same-day surgery check-in is located on the second floor along with two additional ORs, the ICU and the cardiac catheterization center. For the convenience of patients and their visitors, two waiting areas, with wireless internet and vending machines, are co-located opposite same-day surgery and the ICU. A connecting corridor on the second floor allows access to the existing building and all other wings.

A 24-bed medical nursing unit occupies the entire third floor, providing spacious common areas, a consultation room, a waiting area and three

nursing stations. Each patient suite is equipped with a flat-screen TV, small office space with wireless internet, seating for guests, window views and state-of-the-art equipment. A ramped corridor links the new and existing buildings in addition to the primary elevators.

The fourth floor contains a 24-bed surgical unit, identical to the third floor medical nursing unit. This floor does not provide direct access to the existing facility.

The tower is a result of the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's recommendations. Construction of the \$55 million (\$40 million for construction and \$15 million for equipment) Back Bay Tower began in November 2009. The almost 140,000-square-foot structure is reinforced and elevated to 23 feet above sea level to help withstand potential hurricane storm surge damage.

Keesler member to attend Naval SNCO school

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News co-editor

Senior Master Sgt. Donald Crawford, 81st Contracting Squadron superintendent, has been selected to attend the Naval Senior NCO School in Rhode Island. The program is six weeks and begins in June 2013. There, Crawford hopes to hone his leadership skills within a joint service environment.

"It's the same strategic leadership skills that you would learn with any professional military education," said Crawford. "The difference here is that I get to see how other services do things and compare that to how the Air Force operates."

Crawford is one of only three in the Air Force selected to attend this program. There was a rigorous selection process that included a cost benefit return analysis. Crawford's application was then vetted through all the major commands and finally signed off on by Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy.

Crawford is looking forward to learning more about the Navy and how they operate.

"The Navy has a great camaraderie," said Crawford. "How did they get that? How did they get that tradition? I'm hoping to learn a skill set that gets me out of my comfort zone and bring a story back to the troops that we can survive with any service."

Crawford's last three deployments have been joint environments and he is hoping this experience will help him lead more effectively not only on his next deployment but here at Keesler.

"Being a strong leader is all about how you take care of your people," Crawford noted. "It's about being able to do the right thing at all times no matter the pressure. It's about being able to look outside of yourself and realizing that it's never about you but about adding value to others. If you're not adding value to others, you're taking away value."



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Senior Master Sgt. Donald Crawford, 81st Contracting Squadron superintendent, holds a weekly feedback session Tuesday, at the 81st CONS building.

Keesler joins in celebrating veteran heroes



Photos by Adam Bond

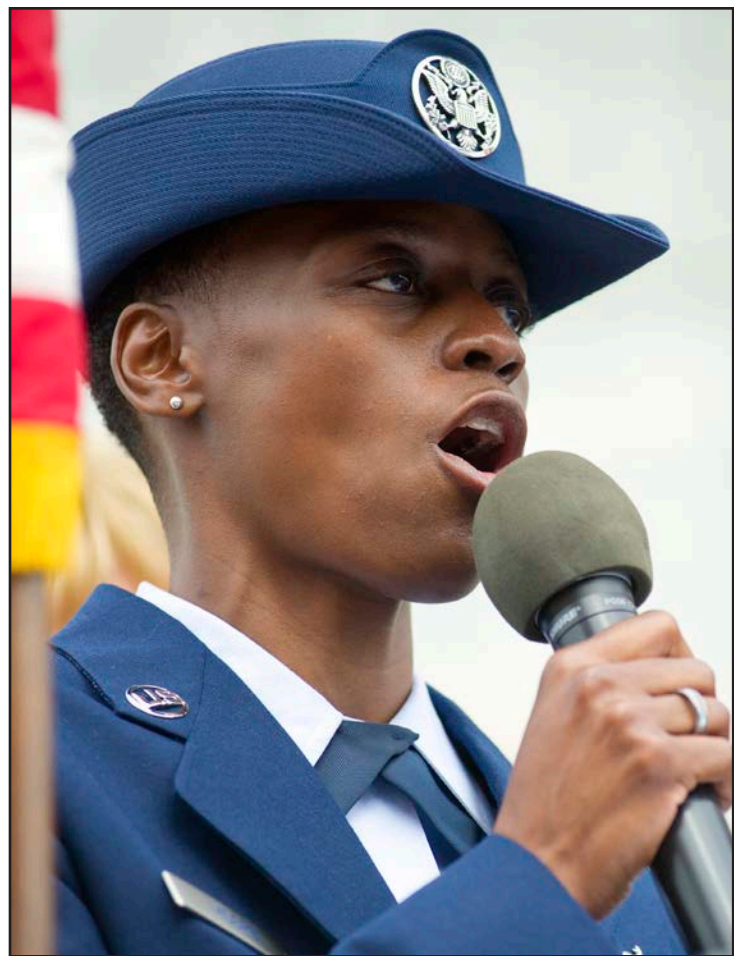
George Schloegel, Gulfport Mayor, and Brig. Gen. Brad Spacy, 81st Training Wing commander, watch the 12th annual Gulf Coast Veterans Parade Nov. 10 from a reviewing stand in Gulfport, Miss.



Members of Keesler Drum and Bugle Corps march down the streets of Gulfport during the Gulf Coast Veterans Parade.



Airmen salute during the singing of the national anthem. Keesler marching units included the honor guard, the 50 state flags carried by 334th Training Squadron Airmen, student marching groups from the 335th TRS and 336th TRS and the 81st Training Group's drum and bugle corps.



Staff Sgt. Karen Moore, 403rd Wing, sings the national anthem.



Staff Sgt. Johnathon Turner, 334th TRS, salutes during the singing of the national anthem.

KEESLER NOTES

Great American Smokeout

Keesler will participate in the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout today by encouraging everyone to walk away from tobacco for 24 hours. GASO is the American Cancer Society's nationally recognized day that rallies thousands of smokers to become smoke-free for a day, ultimately the rest of their lives.

To help smokers walk away, and stay away from tobacco, the Health and Wellness Center offers the American Cancer Society's Freshstart program every Wednesday at noon or 5 p.m. The HAWC also offer access to the American Lung Association Quitline at 1-877-695-QUIT(7848). For those who prefer online support, the DOD offers help at ucanquit2.org

In recognition of GASO the HAWC will have a 5k run starting at noon today from the HAWC with registration

at 11:30 a.m. Free t-shirts and information to help quit tobacco will be available for anyone who participates.

Finance office

Finance will close at 10:30 a.m. Monday for training and reopen 8 a.m. the 20th. If you have a finance emergency during this time call 228-365-6630.

Handel's Messiah

The 2012 fall performances of Handel's Oratorio, Messiah, take place 7 p.m. Nov. 29 at the Keesler Triangle Chapel, 7 p.m. Dec. 1 at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park Campus Fleming Auditorium and 3 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Saint Joseph Catholic Church. Admission is free for all three performances.

Central selection board

The CY113A Col (LAF-J), and Lt. Col. (LAF/LAF-J) central selection board will convene March 18, 2013 at

Air Force Personnel Command headquarters. To be eligible for the P0613A (LAF-J) and P0513A (LAF/LAF-J) CSBs the officer must have an extended active duty date of Sept. 19 or earlier with a date of separation of June 16, 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. Listed below are the junior and senior eligible officer in each category.

For more information call 228-376-8356.

Tuition assistance

Active-duty members requesting tuition assistance may do so no earlier than 30 days prior to their class start date.

Gospel worship move

The gospel worship service is moving from the Triangle Chapel to the Larcher Chapel

beginning Sunday and the service will now be held at 11 a.m.

Immigration assistance

From 8 a.m. to noon today, a representative from the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will be 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 at 228-376-8601.

Impact Aid Survey

Impact Aid funding is a reimbursement for revenue lost because Federal property is not taxed.

Parents or guardians who are active-duty military, DOD/Federal employees and contractors, and residents who live and/or work on Federal property should turn in an Impact Aid Survey. Personal data is

kept confidential. Gulf Coast School Districts have different release dates for forms. Biloxi School District will be sending forms home in November. If you have questions, contact the Keesler school liaison officer at 228-376-8505.

USM counselor

University of Southern Mississippi admissions counselors and a USM academic advisor and student services coordinator for the college of nursing, will be in the Keesler Medical Center 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday. Stop by and check out what USM has to offer for Spring 2013.

Keesler Airman's Attic

The Keesler Airman's Attic provides free donated items to enlisted members of any branch, E-5 and below. The facility is located at the corner of Meadows Drive and First Street and is open Mondays, Wednesdays and every non-training Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The last Saturday of the month is an "all ranks" day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call 228-377-3814.

Keesler Events Calendar

Today

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

— Child Development Center family fun day for enrolled families.

10 a.m. — VA federal jobs briefing at the Airman and family readiness center.

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

6:30 p.m. — Bingo at the bay Breeze Event Center.

Friday

5 p.m. — Clydesdales, family dinner and pie contest at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

6 p.m. — Intro to machine sewing class at the arts and crafts center.

— Cocktails and canvas at the arts and crafts center.

Saturday

8 a.m. — "Hard Time Turkey Shoot" at the Bay Breeze Golf Course.

9 a.m. — Teen volunteers clean up Marina Park followed by a hot dog roast.

10 a.m. — Glass painting class at the arts and crafts center.

10:30 a.m. — pottery hand building class at the arts and crafts 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.

Nov. 22

10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Thanksgiving Brunch at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Nov. 27

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.


Nov. 28

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



Recycling Guide

Keesler AFB Recycling Center

 Shredded paper	 Wood Based Items	 Yard Waste	 Electronic Waste
 Mattresses	 Mixed Plastics	 Concrete and Dirt	 Pens
 Mixed Paper	 Cardboard	 Mixed Metal	
 Used Furniture	 Aluminum Cans		
 Toner Cartridges			

NO

- Light Bulbs
- Batteries
- Wet Paint
- Motor Oil
- Chemicals

Please recycle these items through the base environmental office.

(228) 377-5802

Questions?

Call

Douglas Smith,
Project Manager

Zero Waste Solutions

(228) 377-4546



Keesler celebrates 'Excellent' rating with picnic on Wingman Day



Photos by Kemberly Groue

The 81st Training Wing hosted a picnic Nov. 7 at the Marina Park in celebration for receiving an "Excellent" rating during the consolidated unit inspection, held Oct. 29-Nov. 2. Food, games, drinks, fun and great weather helped make the celebration a success.



Members of the 335th Training Squadron smile for the camera as they join in the celebration.



Airman 1st Class Brody Forbes, and Airman Basic Christopher Frietsch, 335th TRS slide down the back side of the inflatable rock climb.

Have you booked your holiday getaway?

By Lisa Campbell

CSC Marketing director

Skyrocketing airfare rates might leave you thinking holiday travel is no longer an option, but there are many travel deals still available.

Belinda Kahapea, Leisure Travel Specialist for the 81st Force Support Squadron, Information, Tickets and Travel Department, ensures holiday travelers that there are still good rates for those longing to go home for the holidays. "When people look online, the rates can be very intimidating, but when they call or visit we're able to reduce those prices by applying military or senior discounts that are not available on travel websites," says Kahapea. The process is simple, all a prospective traveler needs to do is call or visit the Leisure Travel Office.

"We can pull the travel rates or offer package options within minutes."

The price and arrangements can be locked-in on the spot; active military members or dependents phoning in will need to verify eligibility

by coming in and showing their military identification card. After that, depending on the type of travel being booked, tickets will either be emailed to the traveler or can be picked up at the Leisure Travel Office.

A common misconception is that big-name travel websites offer the best rates for air travel, but Kahapea explains that most of the time she can beat it. "Travel websites purchase airline tickets in bulk and only when they have a large volume of unsold tickets, which is seldom, do their rates drop below the discounted military rate." Additionally, Kahapea is able to see all the airlines and airports at one time; most travel sites only work with a select group of air, hotel and rental car companies, meaning more work on the traveler if they want to compare prices.

Besides the rates, one of the greatest benefits of booking travel through the Leisure Travel Office is a live person. When travelers need to change their itinerary or adjust special needs like arranging

Exchange to open at 4 a.m. on 'Black Friday', Nov. 23

AAFES Public Affairs

DALLAS — Military shoppers can come early and gobble up the savings as the Army and Air Force Exchange Service will open its Main Stores doors in CONUS, Alaska and Hawaii at 4 a.m. Friday, Nov. 23 for "Black Friday" sales.

"From our family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving," said the Exchange's Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Tony Pearson. "The day after is the unofficial holiday season for many Exchange shoppers. The deals we will be serving up

will offer plenty of incentive to get up early."

Beginning 4 a.m. Nov. 23, locations across the United States will pass out take-a-tickets for the most popular "doorbuster" items as well as bounce back coupons that can be used throughout the weekend that add value and excitement to this year's event.

Authorized shoppers can call their nearest Exchange for additional information. Contact information is available through the "Exchange Stores" at shopmyexchange.com.

Travel tips for holiday travel

- Give yourself plenty of time, at least two hours, and be prepared for airport delays. Remember, Dec. 22, 2012 through Jan. 2, 2013 is exodus for all Air Education and Training Command bases, in addition to being a peak travel time for civilians.

- Buy travel insurance. Travel companies have become more stringent on waiving change fees. Previously, military members were granted flexibility when unforeseen circumstances interrupted travel, but today,

those companies will often remind you, "that's why we offer insurance."

- Save money by traveling on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Monday and Friday are considered weekend travel days and can still be costly, but mid-week travel rates are noticeably cheaper.

- If you prefer to shop online, before you purchase call the Leisure Travel Office at 228-377-1658 to ensure you're getting the best rate.

for children, pets or assistance for disabled travelers, Kahapea is there to help. She comes to Keesler with an abundance of experience in both the travel industry and the military. After marrying her husband, Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kahapea, 81st Medical Support Squadron, more than 22 years ago, Belinda took a job in the Air Force Services travel department and has been here ever since.

A Hawaii native, Belinda's dedication to the travel industry stems from her life experiences and passion for seeing

the world.

"I just love to travel, and I enjoy telling people about places we've been and our experiences cruising. I want to share all these beautiful places with other people by helping them go there too." Of all the travelers that visit her office, retirees excite her the most.

"I enjoy their visits because they have seen so much — I learn from them."

The Leisure Travel Office offers a variety of travel services including, but not limited to: airline travel, hotel accommodations, cruises and

travel packages to Europe, Asia and domestic locations such as Orlando, New York, Las Vegas, California and Hawaii. Packages can be customized to include flights, lodging, entertainment, rental cars and transportation services.

To make travel arrangements for the holidays, or anytime, visit the Leisure Travel Office on the first floor of the Bay Breeze Event Center or call 228-377-1658, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

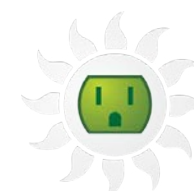
WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SAVE ENERGY?

ENERGY

- TURN OFF LIGHTS WHEN LEAVING AN AREA
- SEEK WAYS TO REDUCE AND ELIMINATE CONSUMPTION
- SET THERMOSTATS TO HEATING AND COOLING SET POINTS
- END OF THE DAY CHECKS ON MONITORS, PRINTERS, AND AREA LIGHTS
- REMOVE UNUSED APPLIANCES/REPLACE WITH ENERGY STAR EQUIPMENT
- RECURRING EMPHASIS ON CONSERVATION AND EDUCATE NEW PERSONNEL

WATER

- LOOK FOR AND REPORT LEAKS IN AND AROUND FACILITIES
- REDUCE POTABLE WATER USE FOR EXTERIOR WATERING/IRRIGATION
- IMPROVE INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES TO REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION



MAKE ENERGY A CONSIDERATION IN ALL YOU DO!

Varsity basketball



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Justin Gachett and John Moore, Keesler, and Stanton Simmons, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., battle for a rebound during a varsity basketball game Saturday at the Blake Fitness Center. Keesler defeated Eglin, 80-71. The women's varsity team also defeated Eglin, 83-48.



Moore drives the ball the court on a fast break as Gachett follows. David Cason, Eglin, hurries to get back on defense.



Mario McKnight, Keesler, drives the ball toward the goal as Devron Heron, Eglin, plays tight defense.



Dion Baynard, Eglin, tries to maintain control of the ball as he is swarmed by Keesler players.