

Keesler Air Force Base



Keesler Air Force Base is located within the city limits of Biloxi, Miss, on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The host unit, the 81st Training Wing, is the electronics training Center of Excellence for the U. S. Air Force. 81TRW also hosts the 2nd Air Force, 403rd Wing (Hurricane Hunters) as well as the 2nd largest Air Force medical treatment facility in the U.S., the Keesler Medical Center. Keesler's training center handles 40,000 students annually, in 500 courses, with an average daily student load of over 4,000. In its status as a lead joint training installation, Keesler trains not only Air Force, but Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and other military and civilian federal agency personnel.

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[Keesler Air Force Base - Newcomers Guide](#)



[Brigadier General
Bradley Spacy](#)

Commander



[Colonel
Rene Romero](#)

Vice Commander



[CMSgt Angelica
Johnson](#)

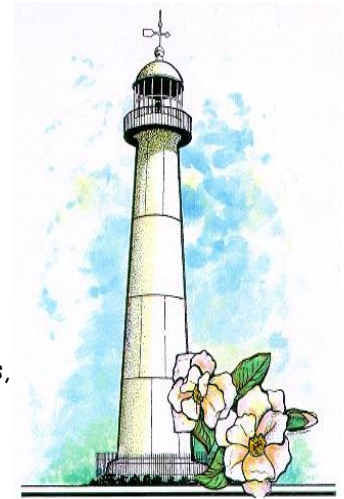
Command Chief



Airman & Family Readiness Center

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A key resource on your installation and a gateway to accessing all of the resources available to you, the Airman & Family Readiness Center provides information, support and services to help you balance the demands of family and the military lifestyle. The Airman & Family Readiness Center is one part of the overall installation family support system, which is the network of agencies, programs, services, partnerships and individuals that supports your personal and family life readiness, mobilization and deployment readiness, and mobility and economic readiness. The Airman & Family Readiness Center should be one of you first stops upon arriving at an installation; its programs and services will be an important resource for you and your family.



AIRMAN & FAMILY
READINESS CENTER

Keesler Air Force Base

To contact us:

81 FSS/FSFR
500 Fisher Street, RM 110
Keesler AFB, MS 39534

Phone: 228-376-8728 DSN: 591-8728

Fax: 228-377-3063

E-mail:

Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday
0800-1600

Friday
0800-1500

In case of an emergency
Contact the 81 TRW
Command Post @
228-377-4330
DSN: 591-4330

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Airman and Family Readiness Center (A&FRC) offers a wide variety of services available for all service members and their families. The merger of Services and Mission Support Squadron to Force Support Squadron added Casualty and SBP to our center. A Program Manager is assigned and oversees the operations of each program.

Relocation Assistance Services:

Inbound Services include: Child Care for PCS, Lending Locker, Individual Relocation Consultations, Community School Information, Newcomer Welcome packages, , and a Spouses Tour for newcomers.

Family Readiness Program:

Operation Hero: Semi-quarterly program focusing on deployment related issues. Spouse and children experience a deployment line setting where they learn about military deployments and the programs available to them while their loved one is gone.

Hearts Apart Program: One 15-minute morale phone call per week between family members and deployed individuals.

Phone Home Program: Calling cards donated by the Air Force Aid Society (AFAS.) These are provided to deployed members and significant others.

Video Telephone: A spouse can sign out a video telephone for a one-week timeframe.

Digital Cameras/Digital Camcorders: Available for check-out anytime. Digital photos can be turned into iron-on transfers for pillowcase/T-shirt or calendar.

Monthly Deployed Family Group Outing: Support group for deployed families.

Air Force Aid:

AFAS is a non-profit organization that assists the Air Force family in three broad areas: education grants, community programs and interest-free loans. Interest-free loans are made on a case-by-case basis for basic living needs. Community programs include Bundles for Babies, Give Parents a Break, Respite Care, Car Care Because We Care, and the Childcare for PCS or Childcare for Volunteers programs. The Society also supports the Youth Employment Skills volunteer program coordinated by the Youth Activities Center for high school students, allowing them to 'bank' funds to use for college!

Annually, the applications for the Hap Arnold Education Grant become available on line. These forms are completed by the individual, usually due by mid-March, to compete for \$2,000.

Transition Assistance Program:

Annual Spring Southern Region Military and Civilian Job Fair -- Largest job fair in the Southeastern region.

Transition workshop: Three-day workshop held monthly to educate individuals preparing to separate from the military.

Executive Transition workshop: Scheduled Sep 8-11, 2008

Veterans' workshop: One-day workshop held in conjunction with transition. This workshop educates members on the benefits and programs available to them.

Transition Employment Opportunities Public Folder-more than 900 jobs listed for easy access.

Retirement Benefits Overview Briefing – Educates individuals on entitlements available to them and their families as retired military members.

Wounded Warrior (previously known as Palace HART) – CRC assigned to individual; followed up to 5 years

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) – offer one-on-one counseling and reviews claims



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Volunteer Resource Program/Information and Referral

Functions as the military community's resource for base-wide and surrounding community volunteer activities

In FY07, over 87,316 volunteer hours provided to various projects, including rebuilding a 72 year old widow's home, creating a handicap ramp for 90 year old widow, Special Olympics, and much more!

Personal Financial Readiness Program (PFRP):

PFRP developed 200-page financial guide, a benchmark Office of Secretary Defense posted on his Web site!

[How to Fund Child's College Education, 101s: Educational IRAs, Roth IRAs, Mutual Funds and Life Insurance](#)

[How to Build Sound Financial Plan Topics: Thrift Savings Plan, Mutual Funds, IRAs Survivor Benefit Plan \(SBP\), Spouse SGLI](#)

["Car Buying Do's and Don'ts" video](#)

[Falcon Loans](#)

Career Focus Program:

[Job Search classes:](#) Prepares spouses and family members to excel at finding employment or starting their own business.

[Guide to Gulf Coast Employment.](#) Pamphlet with scores of local businesses, includes web sites/email addresses/locations for a variety of industries. Assists newcomers in job search.

[Air Force Aid Society Grant-Funded Classes.](#) Annually, apply for funding for employment education classes to give spouses better job skills. Have been successful for more than five years in receiving funds - \$5K+ for office practices, MICROSOFT suite courses, medical billing & coding, and certified nursing assistant are trainings which have been offered to approximately 30 spouses annually.

[Resume' review.](#) Individual consultation to provide guidance on preparing résumé's.

[On-base employer 'fairs.'](#) Invite employers & employment agencies, on base for a day to meet military spouses and family members, explore job opportunities & take applications on the spot.

[Military Spouse Virtual Assistant course:](#) Help spouses find ways to work over the internet, fax, and email – portable careers to operate world-wide! 'Graduates' receive special access to job offers through the Staff Centrix company at no cost.

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Military Family Life Consultant (MFLC)

New program to assist members and their families deal with every day stresses but also, deal with deployments and reunions

Consultants rotate every 45 days.

Casualty/SBP

Currently all under the A&FRC, but Mortuary may move to Operations and Honor Guard under the Protocol

Casualty/SBP provide benefits to families upon member's injury or death

Personal and Family Life Programs

Formerly Family Life Education, goal is to enrich and improve the quality of the individual and family life of our military families by providing knowledge and skills needed for an effective life. Our services are to assist in easing the adaptation to military lifestyle and to facilitate the empowerment of our Airmen and their families increasing their effectiveness of their skills in daily living, relating to others, coping with life events and realizing their personal potential. To this purpose, multiple programs are established across Keesler AFB that can improve communication, relationships, parenting personal growth and their work life. Examples of these programs are: Key Spouse, Heart Link, Exceptional Family Member Program, Adoption Options, Elder Care/Medicare/Medicare.

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<u>Air Force Portal</u>	Manage your military information from any location	<u>City of Biloxi</u>	
<u>Military One Source</u>	Consultants at your convenience	<u>City of Gulfport, Mississippi</u>	
<u>Military HOMEFRONT</u>	Find additional information about your new base	<u>Keesler services</u>	
<u>Air Force Move</u>	PCS Info	<u>City of Ocean Springs on the Mississippi Gulf Coast</u>	
<u>Air Force Link</u>	Official public Air Force Website	<u>Dept of Veteran Affairs</u>	VA Info
<u>Commissaries</u>	Official site of Defense Commissary Association	<u>Air Animal</u>	
<u>Relocation Council</u>	Resource for relocation trends	<u>Gulf Coast Information Systems</u>	Infor on public schools
<u>PCS-TDY</u>	Guides for military relocation	<u>Welcome to Mississippi</u>	
<u>Military Acclimate</u>	PCS Travel Assistance	<u>Firstgov</u>	Official Govet Web Portal
http://www.gulfcoast.org/	Convention and Visitor's Bureau Website	<u>Dept of State</u>	Official Dept of State Website