



Senior Airman Chad Warren/
U.S. Air Force

Ornaments with the age and gender of children hang on the Angel Tree at the Base Exchange on Barksdale. Each ornament corresponds to a less-fortunate child. Donors are able to pick an ornament and purchase a gift for that child.

Team Barksdale spreads cheer

By Senior Airman
Chad Warren

2nd Bomb Wing Public Affairs

As the holidays approach, the season for giving is upon us. The Barksdale Air Force Base community has a long history of giving charitable donations that ensure all members of the community have the opportunity to have a happy and fulfilling holiday. As home to the Air Force Global Strike Command headquarters, Barksdale has an even greater opportunity to lead by example during this season of giving.

Each year, the Airman & Family Readiness Center hosts the Angel Tree program, a charitable organization that allows less fortunate children to have a happier holiday season through donations of toys and other gifts.

"It has such an awesome impact," said Almeda Giles, Angel Tree project coordinator. "Kids who may not receive much otherwise get great gifts."

The angel tree program was started in 1975 by the West Knoxville Business and Professional Women's Club as a community service project to provide Christmas gifts for underprivileged children.

The program works by donors going to the tree

SEE CHEER, 5A



U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Brittany Y. Bateman

Fuel operators from the 2nd Logistics Readiness Squadron conduct a 140-point inspection on a R-14 fueling truck at Barksdale. The 2 LRS team consists of more than 491 personnel across seven flights consisting of material management, fuels management, readiness, management and systems, traffic management, vehicle management and vehicle operations.

POL Airmen add fuel to fight

By Senior Airman Allison M. Boehm

2nd Bomb Wing Public Affairs

"I love the smell of jet fuel in the morning." Not every Airman can say that, but for Staff Sgt. Robert Causey and other Airmen of the 2nd Logistic Readiness Squadron Fuels Flight, it's just another day on the job.

The fuels flight, which is dispersed into seven different specialties, bears the responsibility of storing, distributing and accounting for roughly 5 million gallons of fuel on Barksdale. They not only fuel all aircraft that fly into Barksdale, which is home to the Air Force Global Strike Command, but also provide fuel for all

"Without POL, our aircraft would never make it off the ground."

Senior Airman Brandi Rae
2 LRS fuels facilities operator

government vehicles on base, directly impacting the mission here.

The 2 LRS Fuels Flight distributes approximately 40 million gallons of fuel to the 2nd Bomb Wing, 917th Air Reserve Wing, 49th Test and Evaluation Squadron along with transient aircraft annually.

But for the fuels flight, the job doesn't stop when the fuel is distributed. They test and sample all types of fuel the base uses to ensure the quality of fuel is the best.

"We are responsible for ensuring we have the highest quality of fuel which the Air Force relies on to fly, fight and win," said Sergeant Causey, 2 LRS fuels laboratory technician. "We make sure the quality of ground products such as unleaded, diesel, and E-85



ethanol meets Air Force standards." POL Airmen also perform cryogenic sampling of liquid oxygen to ensure the pilots have pure oxygen to breathe during their flights as well as perform quality check on the JP-10 missile fuel for the munitions squadron.

"We go through great lengths to make sure our customers are taken care of," said Senior Master Sgt. Matt Sides, 2 LRS fuels management flight superintendent.

From ensuring clean storage of fuel, to

completing a speedy 12-minute aircraft response time, POL Airmen realize the importance of their job.

"Without POL, our aircraft would never make it off the ground," said Senior Airman Brandi Rae, 2 LRS fuels facilities operator. "It is a big responsibility making sure those jets are mission capable and we play a large role in that. At the end of the day, it's great knowing we make it happen."

From ensuring clean storage of fuel, to

**WHAT'S
INSIDE**

News



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Barksdale, community help local family

News



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917 CES trains for unimaginable

Showtime

FRIDAY

7 p.m.: "Hereafter" (PG-13)

SATURDAY

2 p.m.: "Jackass 3D" (R)

7 p.m.: "Red" (PG-13)

COMMENTARY: Take the time to see America, 2A

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It's time to see America

By Tech Sgt. Jeff Walston
 917th Wing Public Affairs

During a good portion of my childhood, Dad had two weeks of the summer with us kids to cram a year's worth of experiences into. Every summer Dad had a trip planned. Upon arriving at our second home, without fail, we'd load supplies into the pop-up trailer and head out on a two-week adventure. Carlsbad Caverns, Pikes Peak and the Ouachita National Forest were just a few of the places we visited during my childhood.

The traveling impacted me the most, because now I love the road. And today, when the stress of everyday life gets to be too much, I get in my car and drive. I don't need a place to go, just a place to be. It's what I do ... thanks to Dad.

For the young Airmen today who need to get away for whatever the reason but don't have a place to go or a large sum of money to get there, a family trip may just be the thing they need. But for some, going home is not an option.

Since joining the Air Force 10 years ago, I've heard about the Air Force family and just how big it is and what it means. It's true. I now have friends — I mean "family" — all over the world. Of course, some I consider to be the red-headed stepbrother. But that's OK. Every family has one.

Today, with Facebook at my fingertips, my Air Force family members, as well as my old Navy family members, are fairly easy to keep in touch with, and I do.

Recently, I needed to get away. I made contact with my Air Force family to find out who didn't think of me as the red-headed stepbrother. I found one. Jerry was in school in Pensacola, Fla. We decided I should make the drive to Florida for a fun-filled weekend with my brother.

Now, the drive could've been made in one day, but I decided on two. I took the small-town route to see the sights off the beaten path because I believe that's what getting away is all about.

I also believe you need to see the things that make you proud to be an American, especially today. You need to see things that you, as an Airman, fight for every day.

America, bottom line, is the reason we work so

hard at what we do. So, put a few dollars away every month. Call it your getaway money, but put it away. And, when the time comes, find a family member who can tolerate you for a weekend and go. If you're like me, you'll find someone close enough to you to make the trip worth taking. Take a friend if you must, split the costs, but go.

It's time to see America. It's time to see the things that may be gone in the years to come. You've worked hard ... it's time to experience what you have sacrificed for. I believe that as a member of the United States Air Force, you've earned the time with your family.

SAFETY CORNER

Winter barbecue tips

By Airman 1st Class Kendall Walters

2nd Civil Engineer Squadron
 A Louisiana winter has temperatures that are warmer than most areas of the United States. This warmer weather brings with it the opportunity to barbecue.

Winter is not the time to be relaxed on fire safety. With the holidays just around the corner, it is the time of year to be more vigilant.

Barbecues are a great way for families and friends to hang out and have a good time, sharing laughs. Although the temperature is cooler than hot summers, a fire can still result from improper barbecue safety.

Barbecuing with charcoal, turkey fryers and propane gas grills all have similar safety instructions when it comes to fire safety. A list of rules specific to Barksdale can be found in the Barksdale Air Force Base Instruction 32-2001.

Some basic rules to follow:

- ▶ Keep grills, smokers and gas fryers located at a minimum of 15 feet from buildings when in use.
- ▶ Do not use any type of barbecue equipment indoors or under carports. The heat can be trapped and catch the roof of the structure on fire.
- ▶ Do not store propane bottles inside any facility on base.
- ▶ Do not leave the grill unattended.

The No. 1 cause of fires involving barbecues is the improper disposal of charcoal after cooking is complete. Completely saturate hot coals with water before disposing of them in an approved metal container. Do not throw away lighter fluid in the same container as the coals as a hot coal may ignite the fluid.

It is the little things that can have a big payoff. Doing it the right way reduces the causes of many fires. For any holiday fire-related questions, call the fire prevention office at 456-2573.

Barksdale's finance cutover to AFFSC in early 2011

The Air Force Financial Management community is focused on continuously improving service to Airmen to ensure your pay is processed accurately and on time.

As you have probably heard by now, the FM community is consolidating back-shop operations currently handled by base finance office locations worldwide into the Air Force Financial Services Center at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. This means that, among other responsibilities, the AFFSC will handle all active-duty military pay documents, nondefense-travel-system travel vouchers, all Air Force Reserve Command travel vouchers, and military permanent-change-of-station vouchers.

These processes that are currently performed at bases will migrate to the AFFSC by major command. The Financial Services Transformation cutover team and AFFSC personnel will support each base as it prepares for this migration. Barksdale will cutover on Jan. 27.

With this migration, Airmen have a responsibility to ensure their information is accurate and complete. To date, the AFFSC rejects 10 percent to 15 percent of documents because of incorrect or missing information and these errors can significantly delay processing. By following a few simple rules, you help support a smooth

transition and prevent any delays to your payment:

- ▶ Use automated systems such as DTS, myPay, and LeaveWeb whenever possible for transactions.
- ▶ Claim all of your reimbursable expenses and annotate proper modes of transportation.
- ▶ Have a complete set of orders when you file.
- ▶ Have the proper signatures on your travel voucher.
- ▶ Indicate the amount you would like disbursed to your Government Travel Card.
- ▶ For GTC issues, visit your Unit Agency Program Coordinator, rather than the local finance office.
- ▶ Type forms so documents can be easily read, handwriting doesn't have to be deciphered.
- ▶ Conduct a quality check before you take the documents to your finance office.

Finance is changing the way it conducts business in order to enhance the financial service options available to Airmen and their families. While the finance office here will continue to serve your financial service needs, Airmen are encouraged to make the virtual finance page on Air Force Portal their first stop for financial services. Through an ever-increasing suite of online services on virtual finance, Airmen can resolve issues quickly and efficiently wheth-

er it involves initiating processes through a variety of helpful applications, calculating entitlements or finding answers to frequently asked questions.

If you have specific questions on your claim or want to check on the status of a document, please visit your finance office. Personnel at your finance office have the resources to determine the status of your document and can help expedite processing should a delay exist. In the future, customers will be able to call the contact center at the AFFSC rather than visiting the finance office. More information will be distributed to Airmen as further progress is made toward making this capability operational.

The FM community appreciates your support and patience as each base migrates its workload to the centralized processing center at the AFFSC. Stay up-to-date on changes and get more information by visiting virtual finance on the Air Force Portal homepage. From there, just select the "life and career" tab, and then click on "money — welcome to virtual finance."

Courtesy of the 2nd Comptroller Squadron Financial Management

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Barksdale stays safe through holiday season

By Senior Airman Alexandra M. Boutte

2nd Bomb Wing Public Affairs
The 2nd Bomb Wing Safety Office hosted two safety briefings Nov. 23 for Barksdale Air Force Base personnel.

The briefings included spokespersons from the fire department, Airmen Against Drunk Driving and Mothers Against Drunk Drivers guest speaker and Col. Tim Fay, 2 BW commander.

Safety Day is a day where Air Force Global Strike Command Airmen assigned here focus on different aspects of safety from home life events to workplace practices.

"Safety Day is important to Barksdale because it centralizes the wing's focus on personal risk management and encourages the wingman concept, especially through the holiday season," said Master Sgt. Shutesia Dupree, 2 BW Safety Office, mishap prevention NCO in charge. "Safety Day is the last opportunity the bomb wing has for leaving an impressionable message that stresses the consequences of drinking and driving."

In 2009, there were 100 alcohol-related incidents on Barksdale, according to the 2nd Security Forces Squadron records. So far there have been 57 incidents this year.

"It is important that we all pull together and look out for one another," Sergeant Dupree said. "The key to being safe is paying attention to details and following the rules."

Commanders and supervisors should pay close attention to what is going on in the lives of their Airmen. If noticing a change in an Airmen, supervisors should ensure their Airmen are getting the proper help they always feel they have someone they can turn to in the time of need.



Senior Airman Alexandra M. Boutte/U.S. Air Force Vanessa Braggs, member of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, speaks during the Safety Day briefing. Braggs told of how three of her family members were taken away by an impaired driver. She emphasized that people's choices and decisions not only hurt themselves but other people.

"My biggest safety concern is Airmen making good decisions over the holidays so we can have

every single Airman back safely to the 2 BW after the holidays," Colonel Fay said.

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Assuming command



Tech Sgt. Jeff Walston /U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Kenneth Ratliff (right) assumes command of the 917th Force Support Squadron in a ceremony at Barksdale on Nov. 6. Col. Kevin Wolfe, 917th Mission Support Group commander, served as the officiating officer for the event. Colonel Ratliff was the commander of 917th Mission Support Flight and assumed command of the 917 FSS, after the 917 MSF was redesignated, effective Oct. 15. The new designation combines several units under one commander, which will increase the efficiency of support operations within the 917th Wing.

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Team Barksdale, community join forces to help local family

By 2nd Lt. Victoria Lalich
2nd Bomb Wing Public Affairs

During the Christmas season, many families spend weeks in anticipation, dreaming of the presents they wish Santa to place under their ornament-laden tree. However, for one Barksdale family, the best present they could receive won't be delivered by a sleigh of reindeer; instead it will come from the generous connection Barksdale Airmen have with each other and the local community.



Courtesy photo

Benjamin, Babboni, 4, son of Julie and Maj. Joseph Babboni, 11th Bomb Squadron assistant director of operations, is developmentally delayed and the family is receiving support from Barksdale Airmen, the local community and the nonprofit organization 4 Paws for Ability.

the danger of traffic, deep water or the ill intentions of a stranger," Julie Babboni explained. "He also has a huge fascination with water and will go play in it whether it is the faucet or a pool. We cannot 'Benjamin proof' every place we go. When he does escape from us, he thinks it's a game, so he runs faster with no regard to his surroundings."

Fortunately, a friend referred the family to the 4 Paws organization, which could provide not only relief to their fears for Benjamin's safety, but also an opportunity for Benjamin to become more independent.

The Babboni's dog will be trained specifically for them and will know how to find Benjamin if he loses track of his family. The dog will walk with a tether, which is a type of lead and harness Benjamin wears so he can walk freely out of his parents' reach. The dog will also know how to disrupt certain behaviors. This means the dog is cued to

keep Benjamin from dangerous situations, such as standing between the child and a hot stove.

The organization provides dogs at no charge to the families; however, the families do commit to raising a certain amount of money for the continuation of the 4 Paws mission and goals. The Babboni's goal is to raise \$13,000 for the organization — the overall cost for a trained multipurpose service dog exceeds \$20,000.

"Through educating people about 4 Paws, spreading the word about Benjamin's specific needs and the generosity of local businesses, we have raised about two-thirds of our goal," Major Babboni said. "The response from the local community and Team Barksdale has been so amazing. They have made our cause their cause."

Once the Babbonis achieve their fundraising goal of \$13,000, 4 Paws will begin training their dog — a process that will take around six months, with an additional 10-day course with the entire family. "We are raising this money and promoting the 4 Paws mission because we truly believe that when families in need and service dogs team together, amazing things happen and the entire family's quality of life is vastly improved," the Babbonis said.

The Babbonis have several more fundraisers planned during the holiday months, including one Monday. For more information as to which local businesses are participating in the fundraising effort or how you can help, visit the Babboni's web site, www.babboni.com, or join the Facebook group "Paws 4 Benjamin."

Benjamin also has several medical conditions that hinder his balance and coordination. Though their eldest son's conditions do not keep the family from enjoying normal activities together, Benjamin's deficiencies are often the cause for alarm to his parents.

"He has no awareness to

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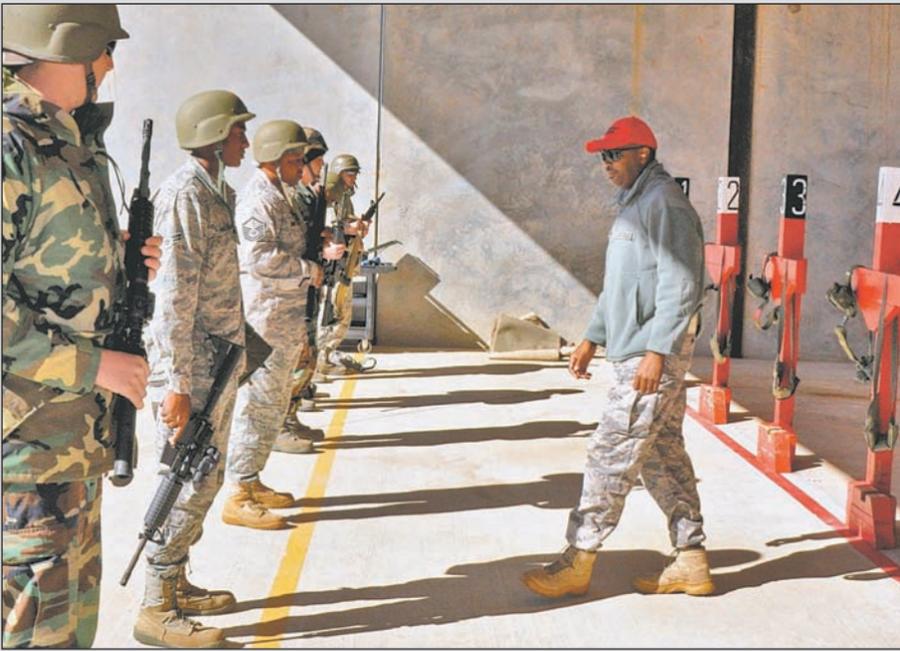
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917 CES Airmen train to fight



Tech Sgt. Jeff Walson/U.S. Air Force

Master Sgt. B.K. Nelson, NCO, 917th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms, instructs Airmen from the 917th Civil Engineer Squadron in the proper handling of weapons at the firing range at Barksdale on Nov 5. The 917 CES Airmen are completing the annual weapons training to keep current in their war fighting skills. The training is necessary to keep the unit ready to deploy with little or no notice in defense of the United States and its interests.

Never too young to learn



Betty Stephens/U.S. Air Force

Capt. Mike Matthews, instructor navigator, from the 11th Bomb Squadron, who is attached to the 93rd Bomb Squadron's Formal Training Unit, explains the camera capabilities of the B-52 Startofortress to a group of fifth-graders from Meadowview Elementary School during a tour of a B-52 on the ramp at Barksdale on Nov. 9. The Meadowview students are attending STARBASE Louisiana at Barksdale, one of 60 national STARBASE sites. It is sponsored by the 917th Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command. The program presents an exciting 25-hour hands-on/minds-on aviation and aerospace curriculum to area fifth-grade students and their teachers. The DoD program is committed to addressing the critical needs in STEM education — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — STARBASE Louisiana introduces its students to exciting STEM education topics, inspiring these young minds to further explore these topics in future course work.



Senior Airman Chad Warren/U.S. Air Force

Alma Giles, Angel Tree project coordinator, and Sema Trost, Barksdale Base Exchange sales and marketing manager, hang ornaments on the Angel Tree at the BX.

Cheer

Continued from Page 1A

located inside the Base Exchange and choosing an angel ornament from the tree. Each ornament corresponds to a specific child, but only gives the age and gender of the recipient. The donor then purchases a gift for the child.

This is the fourth year Team Barksdale has participated in the Angel Tree program, and in the past years the men and women of Barksdale Air Force Base have been very generous. Last year, the program received gifts for 177 children from 87 different families. With no limit set on the value of the gifts, people can spend as much as they see fit on the gift of their choice.

"The men and women of team Barksdale are such generous givers," Giles said.

The Base Exchange is taking the involvement one step further this holiday season in support of this worthy cause. Friends of Family Support, a program within the Airman & Family Readiness Center, has partnered with the Base Exchange to offer a 20 percent discount on items purchased to support the Angel Tree program.

"It is the largest discount we have offered as part of the Angel Tree program," said Phillip Capshaw, Barksdale Air Force Base Exchange store manager. "It is important for us to partner with agencies that have a positive impact on the community."

The program runs through Dec. 13. For more information on the Angel Tree program, contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center.

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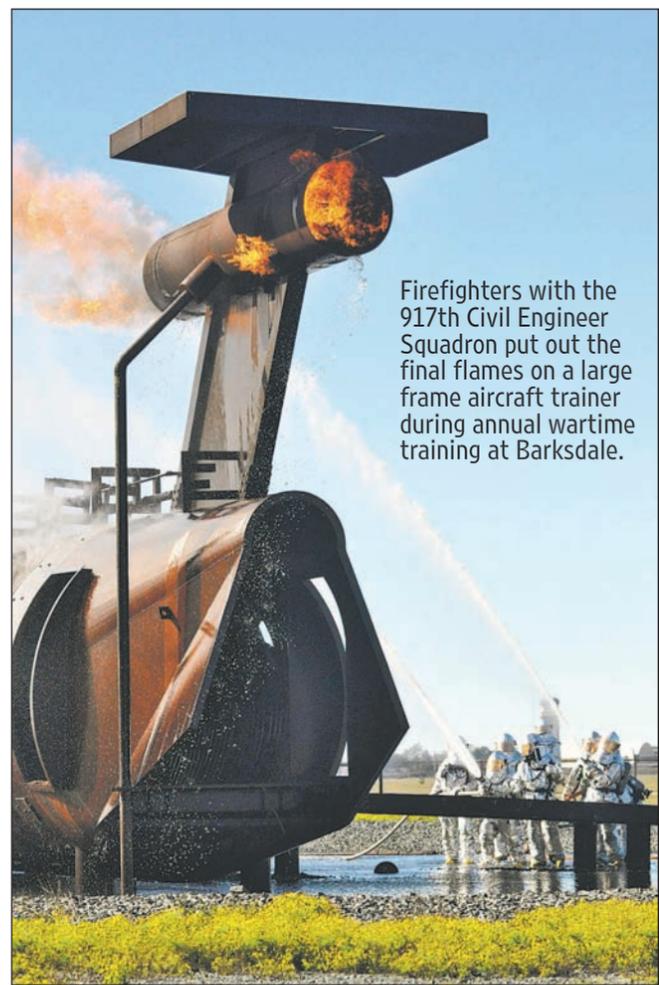
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917 CES trains for the unimaginable



Firefighters with the 917th Civil Engineer Squadron put out the final flames on a large frame aircraft trainer during annual wartime training at Barksdale.

U.S. Air Force photos by Tech Sgt. Jeff Walston

Firefighters with the 917th Civil Engineer Squadron attack a fire outside a large frame aircraft trainer during annual wartime training at Barksdale. Approximately 20 members of the 917 CES were involved in this phase, which included extinguishing fires on both the outside and inside of the aircraft trainer. It was a part of their annual Air Force Certification process for Airport Rescue Firefighting.



Col. John J. Mooney III, commander, 917th Wing, dons a mask in preparation for learning to extinguish a fuel fire on board a jet aircraft at Barksdale. Colonel Mooney decided to take up the challenge, in order to experience and get a feel for what Airmen in his command go through on a daily basis. He joined approximately 20 members of the 917 CES in this phase of wartime training.



RIGHT: Members of the 917th Civil Engineer Squadron gather for a critique of their professional skills by Master Sgt. Charles Mitchell, a firefighter for the 917 CES, and incident commander during the annual wartime training at Barksdale.

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Briefly

BESG Christmas card project

Through Dec. 14, the Enlisted Spouse Group will be collecting signed Christmas cards for local veterans.

You can help by dropping off signed cards at any of the drop-off locations or by contacting the group at barksdaleenlistedspousegroup@hotmail.com. Drop-off locations on base are Airman's Attic, Airman & Family Readiness Center, BX, and The Landings at Barksdale housing office. Off base is Broadmoor Baptist Church, 4110 Youree Drive, Shreveport.

On Dec. 18 at 10 a.m., the group, along with active duty volunteers, will hand deliver the cards to the veterans at Overton Brooks VA Medical Center in Shreveport. If you would like information on how you can be apart of that, contact Rachel Penwell at rachpenwell@suddenlink.net. Active duty members who will be participating are asked to wear their uniform of choice for the event.

The Landings at Barksdale December events

- ▶ Dec. 3: Noon is the deadline for Letters to Santa.
- ▶ Dec. 6: The Welcome Center will be closed for staff training. The maintenance office will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- ▶ Dec. 7: Main base firetruck parade with Santa starting at 5 p.m.
- ▶ Dec. 8: Barksdale East firetruck parade with Santa starting at 5 p.m.
- ▶ Dec. 9: Holiday Light Contest at 6:15 p.m.
- ▶ Dec. 9: Hot chocolate and pictures with Santa.
- ▶ Dec. 14: Dessert contest. Bring your delicious dessert by the Welcome Center at 2 p.m. The winner will receive a \$50 spa gift card.
- ▶ Dec. 17: Holiday craft day from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We will also be baking and decorating cookies.
- ▶ Dec. 23: Offices close at noon.
- ▶ Dec. 24: Offices closed.
- ▶ Dec. 30: Offices close at noon.
- ▶ Dec. 31: Offices closed.

TRAC briefing

The re-enlistment Transaction Reporting and Control briefing is a mandatory briefing for members who are pursuing a re-enlistment. The re-enlistments office will now be holding a TRAC briefing Wednesdays at 3 p.m. in the MPS building T-4353, Room 22. Appointments are not required. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the briefing. Any questions, contact the Re-enlistments Office at 456-7656.

SEE BRIEFS, 10A

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

sat.04

CLASSIC ARMS GUN & KNIFE SHOW

When: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 4; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 5. Riverview Hall, 600 Clyde Fant Memorial Parkway, Shreveport.
Featuring: buy, sell or trade new and old guns, ammo, gun parts, books, knives, knife sharpening, coins, jewelry, camouflage, militaria and related items at discount prices. Persons under 18 must be accompanied by a parent.
Admission: \$2-\$7.
Info: (985) 624-8577, www.greatsoutherngunshow.com.

sun.05

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY LUNCHEON

When: 1-3 p.m. Barnwell Garden & Art Center, 601 Clyde Fant Memorial Parkway, Shreveport.
Featuring: luncheon before the matinee performance of "The Nutcracker."
Admission: \$10-\$15.
Info: 866-9916 or www.shreveportmetroballer.org.

QUOTA CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES

When: 1-5 p.m. Bossier City Homes, Bossier City.
Featuring: Quota Club International of Bossier

City presents the annual Christmas tour of homes, showcasing six holiday decorated homes. Homes are located in the Bay Hills, River Bluff, Stone-Bridge, Old Oakes and Lucky Estates. Raffle will be held for a basket full of treats.

Admission: \$15, tour of homes; \$1-\$5, raffle tickets.
Info: 470-4116.

CHRISTMAS IN NORTH BOSSIER

When: 7 p.m. Asbury United Methodist Church, 3200 Airline Drive, Bossier City.

Featuring: Asbury United Methodist Church Chancel Choir, Centenary College Camerata presenting George Frideric Handel's "Messiah."
Admission: free. Tickets are required for entry.
Info: 746-5349.

See: Classic Arms Gun & Knife Show, sat.04

mon.06

HURLEY ORCHESTRA CONCERT

When: 7:30 p.m. Hurley School of Music, 2911 Centenary Blvd., Shreveport.

Featuring: The Hurley School of Music will present "Classical to Mystic Minimalism."
Admission: free.
Info: 869-5235.

wed.08

TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA

When: 8 p.m. CenturyTel Center, 2000 CenturyTel Center Drive, Bossier City.
Featuring: Theatrical light show with magical Christmas theme.
Admission: \$27-\$59.75.
Info: 747-2501.

fri.10

MUDBUGS VS. MISSISSIPPI RIVERKINGS

When: 7:05 p.m. CenturyTel Center, 2000 CenturyTel Center Drive, Bossier City.
Featuring: a professional hockey game.
Admission: \$17-\$36.
Info: 747-2501 or www.ticketmaster.com.

sat.11

CHRISTMAS IN THE HILLS 2010 OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS PARADE

When: 4:30 p.m. Southwood High School, 9000 Walker Road, Shreveport.
Featuring: lights, floats, bands, candy, beads and music. The parade will begin at Southwood High School, to Walker Road, to Mackey Lane, into Summer Grove Baptist parking lot ending at the Sheriff's Safety Town.

Admission: free.
Info: 687-8746 or 687-7808.

MUDBUGS VS. TEXAS BRAHAMS

When: 7:05 p.m. CenturyTel Center, 2000 CenturyTel Center Drive, Bossier City.
Featuring: a professional hockey game.
Admission: \$17-\$36.
Info: 747-2501 or www.ticketmaster.com.

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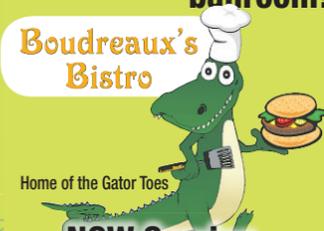
When: 7 p.m. Dec. 3-4; 2 p.m. Dec. 5. East Bank Theatre, 630 Barksdale Blvd., Bossier City.
Featuring: a production by the Academy of Children's Theatre.
Admission: \$10-\$15.
Info: 741-8310.

CHRISTMAS IN ROSELAND FESTIVAL

When: 5:30-10 p.m. through Dec. 19. Gardens of the American Rose Center, 8877 Jefferson-Paige Road, Shreveport.
Featuring: lighted displays, Christmas Cards to the Community, entertainment, photos with Santa, Roseland Express train and more. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. with last car admitted at 9:30 p.m., Fri.-Sun.
Admission: \$5, per person; \$20, per carload. Group rates are available.
Info: 938-5402.

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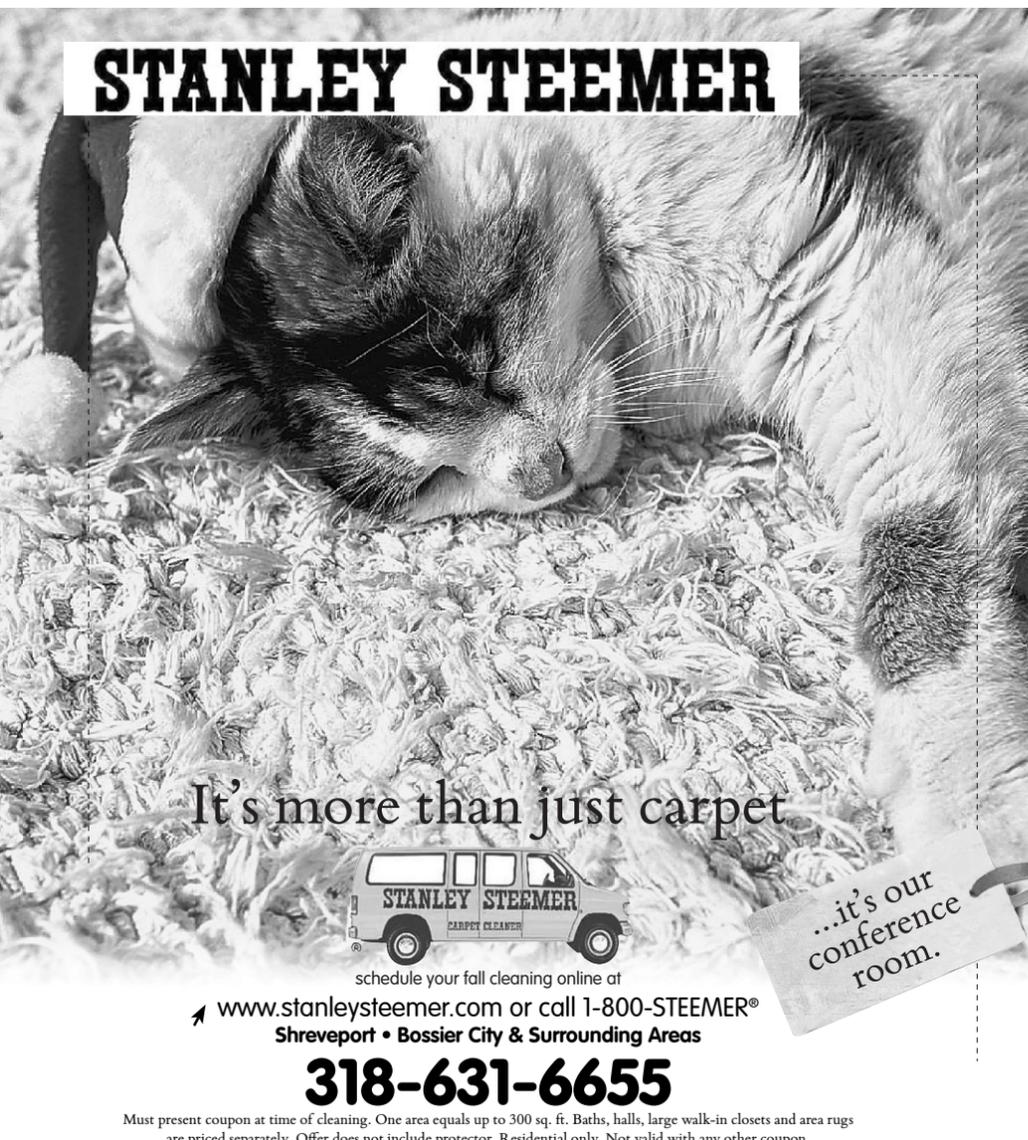
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Briefs

Continued from Page 7A

Caregiver network

Military families now have free access to an online network of quality caregivers who can assist with everything from baby-sitting to dog walking. Sittercity is the nation's largest online source for local baby sitters, nannies, elder care providers, dog walkers, housekeepers and tutors, and contains more than 1 million caregiver profiles. Military members and their families can activate their membership at www.sittercity.com/dod. The Sittercity Corporate Program, funded by the Defense Department, offers military families — including active duty, Guard and Reserve — with a paid membership to the site.

Shipping your pet

Department of Defense regulations limit pet shipments to members traveling in a Permanent Change of Station status only. Pet shipments on AMC flights are limited to two pets per family and are considered dogs and cats only. The traveler is responsible for all expenses related to the pet shipment and must comply with the carrier(s) regulations. All charges will be paid directly to the servicing airline at the check-in counter. Reimbursement for shipping pets is not authorized. Travelers must be aware they are responsible for obtaining all required documentation, immunization, and border clearance requirements. For questions, contact TMO at 456-4901.

Retirement webinars

The Air Force Personnel Center will conduct a series of webinars every quarter highlighting the retirement process for active-duty officers and enlisted members.

The next webinar to educate Airmen about submitting retirement applications will be held at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Dec. 9 at <https://connect.dco.dod.mil/retirementapplicationvmpf>.

AFPC will conduct another webinar at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Jan. 13 at <https://connect.dco.dod.mil/afpcapprovedretirementnowwhat>.

For more information, call the Total Force Service Center at (800) 525-0102.

MISA forms

The following information is for all military servicemembers with dependents attending Bossier and Caddo parish schools.

Each year, the school district is required under federal law to conduct a "first count" on a specified date. The "first count" is an actual form parents/guardians are asked to complete for each child enrolled in the Military Impacted Schools Association like Bossier and Caddo parish schools. These forms are then used to determine MISA's eligibility and funding through the Impact Aid Program. Impact Aid is a federal program that provides funding to local school districts because of the presence of a federal installation.

Soon your school-age children will bring home the "First Count" form that is required under federal law to be completed for each child enrolled in the MISA schools. The information you provide on the form is confidential and will be available only to school and federal officials.

Your cooperation in completing and returning this form for each child is greatly appreciated. If you have questions, contact your school principal or the Barksdale School Liaison Officer at 456-8400 or e-mail SchoolLiaison@barksdale.af.mil.

Education grant program

Concerned about the soaring cost of higher education for your children? Maybe the Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) can help. Under its General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program, the society awards \$2,000 each to selected applicants. The program continues to be offered to dependent sons and daughters of active duty, Title 10 AGR/reservists on extended active duty, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired reservists with 20-plus qualifying years of service, and de-

ceased Air Force members. Spouses (residing stateside) of active duty and Title 10 AGR/reservists on extended active duty; and surviving spouses of deceased members are also eligible candidates.

Last year, 23 children and eight spouses from Barksdale were awarded \$2,000 education grants from the Air Force Aid Society through the General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program. For questions, contact an Air Force Aid representative at the Airman & Family Readiness Center at 456-8400, or visit www.afas.org.

Base deer season, hunter safety class

This year's hunting dates are:

Deer (rifle): Dec. 3, 9-12, 17-19, 26-27; Jan. 7-9, 21-23.

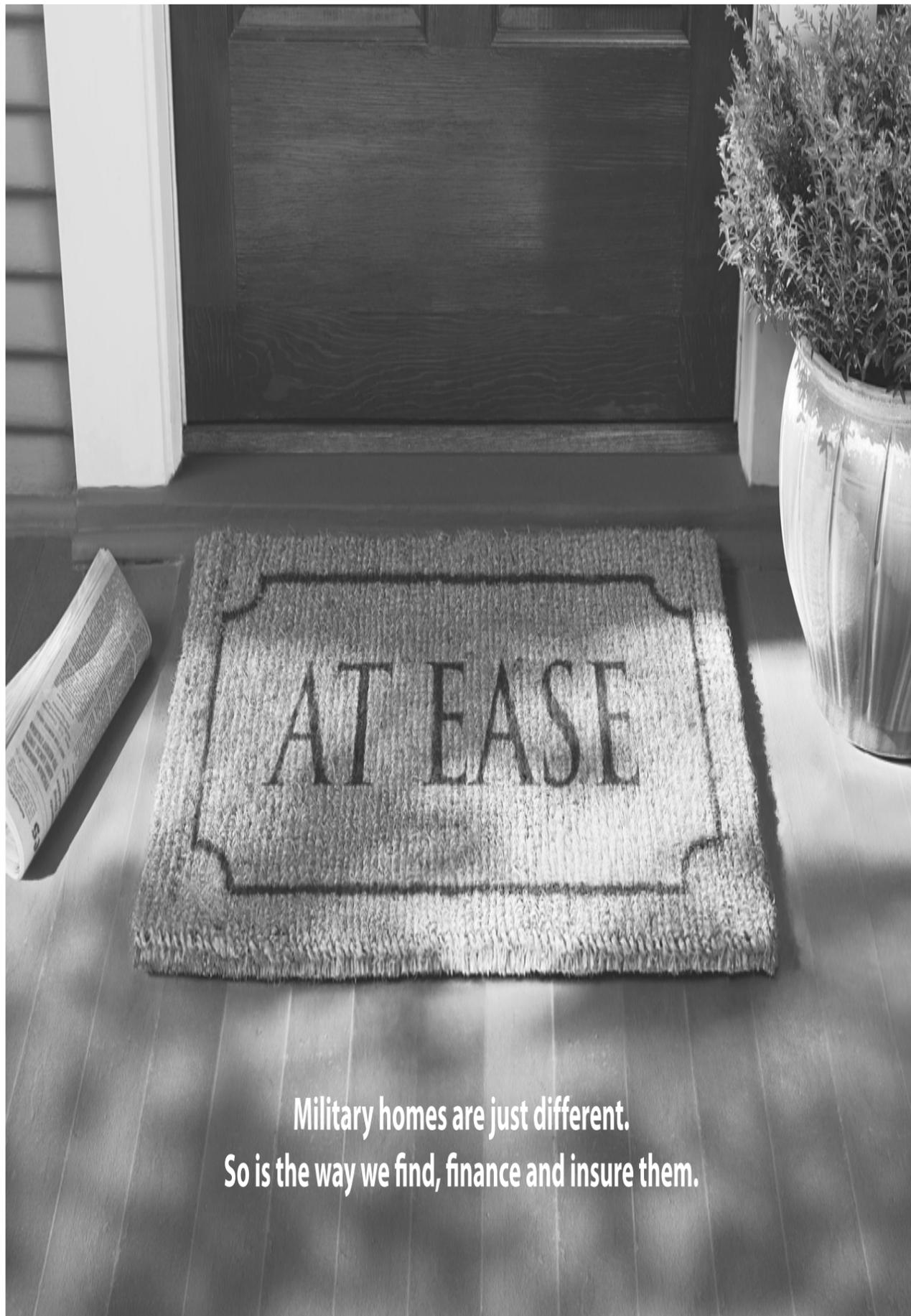
Deer (primitive rifle): Jan. 28-30.

Deer (archery): through Feb. 15.

Small game and waterfowl follow state set season dates.

Base hunter safety dates are Dec. 7, 21 and Jan. 6.

All base hunter safety classes begin at 6 p.m. and are held at the Barksdale Natural Resources Office located at 6141 Range Road, first building on the right before Clear Lake Bridge (by Fam Camp). No preregistration is required. Come a few minutes early to sign in.



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