

Keesler will soar on all fronts in 2009

By Gen. Greg Touhill
Commander, 81st Training Wing



I am proud to report that your Keesler Airmen – military and civilian – are making great progress as we continue to Rebuild, Renew, and Reload at Keesler AFB.

As we soar higher in 2009, we're focusing our rebuilding not just on the brick and mortar, but on the policies, procedures and precision that made our Air Force great.

We want Keesler AFB to be known the world over as the best in the Air Force!

Here are some of the key areas we are focused on in 2009:

Engaged Warriors Reloading the Air Force

Keesler continues to reload the Air Force with the razor sharp, high-tech warriors needed to defend America. Last year, our 81st Training Group trained 27,459 Airmen, soldiers, sailors, and Marines in 38 specialties. Keesler Airmen reloaded combatant commanders by deploying 897 Airmen around the world to 47 locations.

Not only are we sending our Airmen to combat, but we're sending them to meet other national objectives. For example, our 81st Medical Group sent some of their finest Airmen to participate in a U.S. Southern Command humanitarian mission for four months, helping our partner nations recover from some of the worst natural disasters in 2008.

Economic Impact

In today's time of economic uncertainty, Keesler AFB remains a large, significant, and stable leader in the Mississippi Gulf Coast economy.

In Fiscal Year 2008, our economic impact to the region is estimated to be a total of \$1.8 billion impact in goods and services. Keesler AFB is proud of our role as one of the largest employers in the state of Mississippi!

Community Partner

Keesler Airmen continue to be active partners in the local community. You see our Airmen everywhere: Habitat for Humanity, Kaboom



Above: All the new 1,028 Keesler base housing units being built are Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified, making them 20 to 30 percent more energy efficient than standard homes. The development is the largest LEED certified project in the nation.



Right: Keesler members perform a kickoff exercise in Wingman Day, a base unit activity designed to strengthen camaraderie and cohesion.

Playground building, Coastal Clean-up, the Heart Walk and much more!

Our Airmen donated tens of thousands of volunteer hours last year and epitomize the Air Force core value of "Service Before Self." No matter where we came from, from around the United States, or around the world, this is now our home and we remain committed to making our community better.

Environmentally Conscious

We remain committed to great environmental stewardship and have launched some new initiatives. For example, we initiated the Falcon bike patrols, which have saved over 3,600 gallons of fuel every quarter while providing a healthier and more productive security forces team.

Since Katrina, we have planted more than 2,500 new trees and received the Arbor Society's Tree City Award for the 15th consecutive year. We recycled over 2,242 tons of construction waste and were awarded the AETC Environmental Flight of the Year award for 2008. In 2009 we'll continue our efforts and

look for opportunities to reduce our energy consumption further!

A Bright Future

Our reconstruction efforts are nearing completion and in the coming year folks will be seeing the new base exchange and commissary completed, initiation of the new hospital tower construction, and progress on the new housing area.

Other initiatives we continue to work toward are new dormitories, a Division Street gate for better force protection, and a Warrior Fitness Center. Finally, signature events, including Keesler's Thunder on the Bay Air Show, Mississippi State Special Olympics, and CISM Soccer championship, are great examples of how we are bringing folks to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and Keesler AFB.

This should leave no doubt that 2009 will be another banner year for all of us, including our fellow citizens and delivers the message loud and clear: we are back, better than ever!



Keesler Air Force Base Fiscal Year 2008 Economic Impact Analysis



| MANPOWER | PAYROLL |
|---|-------------------------|
| 3,784 In On-Base Housing | \$ 46,883,298 |
| 3,581 In Off-Base Housing | \$ 134,489,866 |
| 7,365 Keesler Employees Total Payroll | \$ 176,373,164 |
| Purchasing - Local Vendors/Contractors | \$ 107,264,169 |
| (Construction, Services, Healthcare, etc.) | |
| Secondary Jobs Created | \$ 130,197,479 |
| (Keesler Dollars Spent In Local Economy) | |
| TOTAL KEESLER DOLLARS | \$ 589,011,155 |
| ECONOMIC IMPACT FY 2008: | \$ 976,272,898 |
| (Using Standard Economic Multiplier*) | |
| Military Retiree Payroll | \$ 210,470,000 |
| (9,744 members within 50 mile radius) | |
| Appraised Value of Volunteer Hours: | \$ 353,560** |
| (18,122 Total Volunteer Hours Recorded) | |
| Keesler's Total Economic Impact FY 2008: ... | \$ 1,187,096,458 |
| | (\$1.18 Billion) |

*Standard Economic Multiplier: An accepted principal where initial dollars expended are re-spent again and again, creating jobs and income for businesses and other workers. A multiplier is used to determine the greater economic impact of Keesler's expenditures. **Standard average rate for non-agricultural wages, Source: U.S. Dept of Labor.