



- An estimated 160,000 people attended Keesler's Open House and Air Show, Angels Over the Bay, in March 2011. The Navy Blue Angels and Army Golden Knights joined many other performers in celebrating Keesler's 70th anniversary.
- Keesler's dormitory housing construction project recently was cited by Vice President Biden as one of the top 100 Recovery Act Projects changing America.
- In 2010, Keesler completed the largest military family housing project in Air Force history. The \$287.8 million project involved construction of more than 1,000 new homes, with floor plans for the single family and duplex units that meet or exceed the Air Force's benchmark square footage standards.
- In May 2011, almost 1,000 athletes celebrated Keesler's 25th year of hosting the Mississippi Special Olympics by participating in the Summer Games.
- An estimated 12,646 military retirees live within a 50-mile radius of Keesler.



# Keesler Air Force Base

[www.keesler.af.mil](http://www.keesler.af.mil)

In 2011, the City of Biloxi joined Keesler Air Force Base in celebrating the base's 70th anniversary. In 1941, the City deeded 1,563 acres to the War Department, which activated the land as a U.S. Army Air Corps technical training center just a few months before the U.S. entered World War II. Since its activation, more than 2.2 million students have been trained at Keesler, with an average daily student load of over 4,000. According to its FY2010 Economic Impact Report, Keesler employed about 8,200 military personnel and approximately 4,000 civilian workers.

The host training unit, the 81st Training Wing, is the electronics training Center of Excellence for the U.S. Air Force. The unit hosts the 2nd Air Force, the 403rd Wing (Hurricane Hunters) as well as the 2nd largest Air Force medical treatment facility in the U.S., Keesler Medical Center.

## 81st Training Wing

The 81st Training Wing at Keesler is one of the Air Force's largest technical training groups, providing training for the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and other military and civilian federal agency personnel in computer and communications systems, electronics, air traffic control, weather, personnel, finance and force support. The 81st also provides advanced training for C-21 pilots.

As home to the Air Force's new cyber schoolhouse, in which officers and enlisted students are trained in new cyber operations specialties, Keesler is implementing 19 new cyber courses replacing 13 previous communications courses.

The 81st Medical Group, which has more than 1,600 military and civilian personnel, provides a comprehensive array of quality healthcare services and trains doctors, nurses and technicians in the second largest medical treatment facility in the Air Force. The 81st operates the only medical genetics center in the U.S. Department of Defense and is only one of three medical training facilities in Mississippi.

The Commander of the 81st Medical Group oversees the Gulf Coast Multi-Service Market, comprised of five military medical treatment facilities from Mobile to New Orleans, coordinating health care for 110,000 beneficiaries along the Gulf Coast.

The 81st Medical Group also provides personnel for five Air Force Expeditionary Medical Support hospitals; on average, 300 Keesler medical personnel are deployed annually to both combat zones and humanitarian efforts.

## 2nd Air Force

In addition to conducting basic military and technical training, the 2nd Air Force also manages nearly 5,000 active training courses taught annually to approximately 250,000 military personnel in locations around the world. Training operations range from intelligence to space and missile operations and maintenance. The group oversees training at four other training wings besides Keesler, and at more than 92 worldwide locations, with nearly 16,000 active duty and civilian personnel stationed at over 100 locations.

## 403rd Wing

The 403rd is the only Air Force Reserve Command Wing in Mississippi. It provides supervisory staff to squadrons and flights that support tactical airlifts, which include the movement of personnel, supplies and equipment. Composed of 1,400 reservists, including 250 full-time air reserve technicians, the 403rd Wing includes the well-known Hurricane Hunters weather reconnaissance squadron that has earned international respect through flight missions into tropical storms and hurricanes to collect meteorological data.

## Keesler Air Force Base FY10 Economic Impact Analysis

| Manpower   | Payroll                |
|--|------------------------|
| 8,233 Keesler Military/Students for Total Payroll                    | \$ 195,602,777         |
| 4,095 Civilian Personnel for Total Payroll                           | \$ 211,407,706         |
| Purchasing – Local Vendors/Contractors                               | \$ 153,042,981         |
| Secondary Jobs Created Payroll                                       | \$ 147,364,577         |
| <b>Economic Impact</b>   | <b>\$ 708,999,617</b>  |
| <b>Economic Impact FY10 using State Standard Economic Multiplier</b> | <b>\$1,193,425,931</b> |
| (excludes retiree payroll & community services)                      |                        |
| Military Retiree Payroll (within a 50-mile radius)                   | \$ 386.5 million       |
| Military Retirees in Gulf Coast area                                 | 21,646                 |
| Total Volunteer Hours Recorded                                       | 38,620                 |
| Appraised Value of Volunteer Hours                                   | \$ 782,055             |

Source: Keesler AFB



## Other Federal Installations in the Biloxi Area

Biloxi is located in close proximity to other federal installations, expanding business and employment opportunities for Biloxi residents, who enjoy short commutes via Interstate 10.

### Naval Construction Battalion Center – Gulfport [www.cnic.navy.mil/gulfport](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/gulfport)

The Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), located in neighboring Gulfport, is home to Naval Mobile Construction Battalions 1, 7, 11, 74 and 133, known as the Atlantic Fleet Seabees. The NCBC's three missions are training, mobilization and logistics to support expeditionary forces. The Center also is responsible for preserving and storing war reserves, including construction materials and equipment, and for training an estimated 20,000 students every year.

In 2010, the base was home to about 4,900 active duty Seabees, 900 civilians, and 150 contractors. With an annual financial scope of \$150 million, which includes operating budgets and military payroll, base officials estimate it has an annual economic impact in South Mississippi of \$350 million. In 2011, on-going base improvement and expansion projects were valued at more than \$151.4 million.

### Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center [www.ang.af.mil](http://www.ang.af.mil)

The Trent Lott Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) is located on 220 acres at the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport; its mission is to provide an integrated, year round realistic training environment of supersonic airspace, gunnery ranges, systems, facilities and equipment for deployed units to enhance their capabilities and combat readiness. The CRTC supports units from all branches of the military, as well as National Guard and Reserve components.

The local facility trains nearly 17,000 military personnel each year and has a \$100 million economic impact on the region.

Home to the 255th Air Control Squadron and the 209th Civil Engineering Squadron, the CRTC also supports the Drug Enforcement Agency's "Blue Lightning" Strike Force, which is actively involved with drug interdiction.

### NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center [www.ssc.nasa.gov](http://www.ssc.nasa.gov)

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in October 2011, the Stennis Space Center is the nation's largest rocket engine test facility and is home to more than 30 federal, state, academic and private organizations and numerous technology-based companies. Located within a 13,800-acre area owned by the federal government, Stennis' 125,000-acre noise buffer zone is designated a national asset and Stennis itself was named a historic aerospace site in 2008 by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

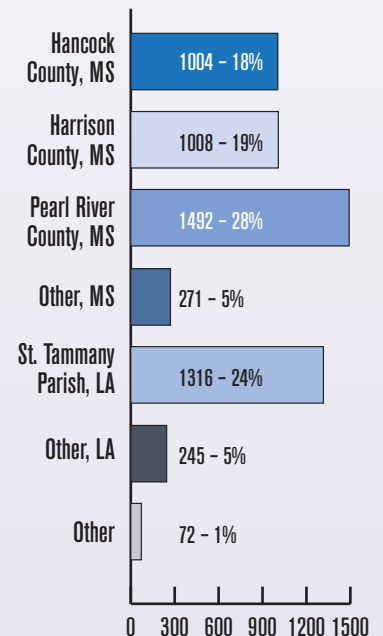
In 2010, the direct global impact of Stennis was \$875 million; the direct economic impact within a 50-mile radius of the facility was \$616 million. A Mississippi State University study estimates that Stennis had an impact of \$110.2 million on local government tax revenue in 2010. The workforce totals approximately 5,400, with an average salary with benefits of \$87,000.

NASA's new A-3 Test Stand, a \$175 million project that is projected to be complete in 2013, will be the only test stand in the nation with the combined capabilities to conduct long-duration tests on full-scale engines at simulated altitudes up to 100,000 feet, and to gimbal, or rotate, the engines during the test as they would operate during flight.

**Stennis is home to the largest concentration of oceanographers in the world.**



### 2010 Residential Distribution of Stennis Personnel



Source: [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)

