



# The Eagle's Eye

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## MAC SCHOLARSHIP

As many of you know at the beginning of Sequestration, Tuition Assistance for Airmen was discontinued. As the MAC became aware of the hiatus in the Tuition Assistance Program, we began to explore ways to help soften the financial blow for some of the Airmen who found themselves covering their own tuition expenses.

The MAC embraced the opportunity to be of assistance to the men and women of Barksdale and made a pledge of \$100,000 to support a multi-year MAC Scholarship Program. A five-year program (2013-2017) was developed to provide \$1,000 scholarships to 20 deserving Airmen each year. This program was so valued by Barksdale, that it was highlighted during a briefing to the Secretary of the Air Force's Installation Excellence Evaluation Team and was part of the award-winning presentation on support and cooperation between Barksdale and the surrounding community.

While the initial 5-year program came to a close in 2017, the MAC Board of Directors voted to continue this program for an additional five years. We are currently looking for anyone who would like to support our Active Duty and Reserve Airmen continue their education. If you are interested in donating to our scholarship program, please contact our Executive Director, Kathi Smith at [maceagle@shreve.net](mailto:maceagle@shreve.net) or 429-2418.



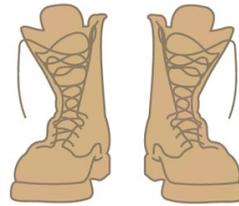
## MAC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DRIVE

The Military Affairs Council is currently in its Membership Renewal Drive for 2021. We hope you will continue your membership, as it is even more critical now than ever, that we maintain our support to our Barksdale warriors and their families. If you haven't already done so, please send in your dues for 2021. You can mail a check to MAC, P.O. Box 1661, Shreveport, LA 71165 or pay on line on our website [sbmilitaryaffairs.com](http://sbmilitaryaffairs.com). With the challenges of 2020 behind us, we are hopeful to again support the Defenders of Liberty Air Show, Celebrate Barksdale, Operation Hero and our many other programs this year.

We are always looking for community members who are interested in joining us in our support for Barksdale and the Airmen that serve there. If you know of anyone that you think might be interested in becoming a member of the MAC, please email Kathi Smith at [maceagle@shreve.net](mailto:maceagle@shreve.net).

You can also contact Mike Busada, Membership Chair, at [mike.busada@butlersnow.com](mailto:mike.busada@butlersnow.com) or phone number 518-4105. They can also check out our website: [sbmilitaryaffairs.com](http://sbmilitaryaffairs.com).

## Roots for Boots (Adopt an Airmen Program)



The Military Affairs Council and Barksdale Air Force Base introduced the Roots for Boots (Adopt an Airmen Program) in December 2016. This program is designed to provide Airmen with an avenue to form friendships and gather support beyond the formal work environment. If

you can remember leaving behind the comfort and security of your parents' home, then you will understand the needs of the young men and women in this program. Rigorous military standards can tax even the best of spirits, producing feelings of great stress to make the grade in some Airmen, and in others, moments of loneliness, homesickness and doubt. The official relationship lasts for the duration of time that the Airman is assigned to Barksdale AFB, or when one of the two parties decides to terminate the relationship.

The goal of the program is to have individuals from the community serve as the Airman's mentor, friend, and advisor, providing a caring environment to relax away from the pressures of work and future deployments. Participants are also in the position to serve as a positive adult role model helping Airmen understand their role as a career Air Force Airman and reinforcing positive social values. We will attempt to match host families with Airmen who share the same basic characteristics. Airmen can request "by name" host families.

The Roots for Boots Program is run by the Military Affairs Council (MAC) but families are not required to be MAC members to participate in this program. The MAC is a 501 © 3 non-profit with a history of service and ties to Barksdale AFB.

If you have the desire and commitment to make a difference in a young Airman's life, this is the program for you! Kem Smelser is the Program Manager. If you interested in being involved in the program or have questions, please contact him at [ksmelse@aol.com](mailto:ksmelse@aol.com) or 318 208-2386.



**Barksdale Air Show**

8-9 May 2021

**Celebrate Barksdale Golf Tournament**

20 September 2021, Stonebridge

**Celebrate Barksdale Picnic**

15 Oct 2021

**MAC Christmas Social**

TBD

## Volunteers needed for annual Celebrate Barksdale Picnic



Please join your fellow MAC members and volunteer to work at “Celebrate Barksdale” on Friday, October 15. This is our annual way of extending a great big THANK YOU to all the men, women and their family members serving Barksdale. We need your help with cooking and serving hot dogs, hamburgers and all the trimmings to our guests. In addition to showing our appreciation to Barksdale Team Members and their families, working at “Celebrate Barksdale” is a terrific way to meet other MAC members, interact with Base personnel and enjoy a Friday outside in October weather.

The four major areas of work are listed below along with the responsible Committee Chair. If you can work and are interested in serving in a particular area, please contact the committee chair directly; otherwise contact George Fritze, Vice President Celebrate Barksdale or Kathi Smith, Executive Director, and we will work you into a slot. Please let us know your availability when signing up to work.

Daryl Pruitt  
[dpruitt@citizensnb.com](mailto:dpruitt@citizensnb.com)  
 Cell 318 469-0758

Cooking Committee - Responsible for cooking and delivering food to serving tent.

Brad Gosslee  
[bgosslee@cbgosslee.com](mailto:bgosslee@cbgosslee.com)  
 Cell 318 272-0822

Tent Committee - Responsible for food serving process and routine cleaning of dining tables.

Dave Lay  
[davidljl@yaho.com](mailto:davidljl@yaho.com)  
 Cell 318 426-1221

Refreshments Committee - Responsible for icing and distributing soft drinks/water; oversight on Beer distribution.

[maceagle@shreve.net](mailto:maceagle@shreve.net)  
 318 429-2418

Logistics Committee - Responsible for ordering supplies, coordinating electrical needs, coordinating stage/children’s activities and organizing trash details.

George Fritze  
[kinggpf@yahoo.com](mailto:kinggpf@yahoo.com)  
 Cell 318 455-9100

Vice President Celebrate Barksdale - Coordinates all aspects of event.

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## Air Show President’s Club

We are proud to host The Thunderbirds as the headline act for the 2021 Barksdale Airshow. The Airshow will be May 8 - 9, 2021. The purpose of military airshows is to stimulate interest in the mission of the U.S. military and recruit our best and brightest young people to protect and lead our military in the future.

In addition to The Thunderbirds, we have secured the Aeroshell Aerobatic Team, Kevin Coleman, Tora, Rob Holland, Shockwave, Randy Ball, and other acts.

**The MAC provides financial support for the Barksdale Airshow, and since a majority of the expenses are funded by the MAC, your support is very important. These donations are used to pay for fuel, attracting the best aerobatic pilots in the world, lodging and transportation, and ensuring Barksdale is the performer's best airshow experience.**

Over the past few years the Barksdale Airshow has become a world class show and we need your support to continue to rise to the next level. Please consider supporting the show and become a President's Club member. Matt Locke is the Vice President of the Air Show and you can contact him at [mlocke@inspiredclosetsdfw.com](mailto:mlocke@inspiredclosetsdfw.com), cell 318-208-7641 or President’s Club Chairman Parker Maxwell at [pmaxwell@hss-law.net](mailto:pmaxwell@hss-law.net), cell 318 464-5219.

