



Shreveport-Bossier Military Affairs Council

The MAC impact happens every day through our faithful members, military and community partners. Please visit our website to see regular news and events of the organization and our partnering Barksdale Air Force Base community!

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MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

**Colonel (Ret) Michael "Mike" Dilda
(AEM) Veterans Health Administration**

Colonel Dilda is an Area Emergency Manager (AEM) with the Veterans Health Administration. His role, as Coordinator for the Shreveport Federal Coordination Center (FCC), facilitates federal patient movement operations to area hospitals in Northwestern LA. He started working with the VA following his job with Louisiana Tech Research Institute's (LTRI) Center of Excellence in Secure and Resilient Systems (CESARS). While at LTRI, he led curriculum development and delivery of the Air Force's first Nuclear Command, Control, Communications (NC3) intermediate and advanced academic learning programs. He has also worked with MediaDyne Systems Engineering developing the Air Force's Programming Plan to transfer all E-4B Airborne Command Post authorities and responsibilities away from Air Combat Command and to Air Force Global Strike Command; and for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Operational Energy – developing Air Force Global Strike Command's Operational Energy Program.

Colonel Dilda retired from the Air Force in December 2014 with extensive experience as a nuclear enterprise staff officer, exercise planner, war planner, and aviator. He is a combat veteran of Operations DESERT STORM, ALLIED FORCE, IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM; a key combat planner in Operations DESERT FOX, JOINT TASK FORCE NOBLE ANVIL and ALLIED FORCE; and served 15 months at Camp Taji, Iraq as an Expeditionary Training Squadron Commander and Director of the Base Support Unit. He is a Master Navigator with 3,232 flight hours including 178 combat hours in the B-52. He received his undergraduate degree from Baylor University, his Masters of Science in Computer Systems Technology from Louisiana State University-Shreveport, and Masters of Military Operational Art and Science from Air University. Mike has been with the MAC since 2019, and is the Military Officer's Assoc. of America (MOAA) Ark-La-Tex Chapter President and President of the MOAA Louisiana Council of Chapters. He also volunteers with Louisiana's North Board of the American Red Cross, and Military Relations Committee of the Bossier Chamber. His wife, Mary Beth, is a native of Shreveport.

**GREAT DAY AT THE
CELEBRATE BARKSDALE
FAMILY FESTIVAL**
3 OCT, 2025



The MAC's 28th annual family festival celebrated Barksdale's military personnel and their commitment to preserving America's freedom. This year's event was attended by a big crowd of Airmen and family members from the 2d and 307th Bomb Wings and featured a festival area including playground and bounce houses, clown & balloon animal maker, face painter, a Master Falconer from Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park, funnel cakes, New Orleans Ice sno-cones, great food and live music. Celebrate Barksdale is a terrific way to meet other MAC members and deliver a big "Thank You" to the men, women and families serving at Barksdale. If you're interested in helping out next year, please let us know!



OKTOBERFEST

Following Barksdale's Flightline 5K run and the Celebrate Barksdale Festival the MAC partnered with the base to host an awesome event with live Oktoberfest music, awesome food, and plenty of fun. This year's event took place at Barksdale's MWR Multi-plex facility (the old golf course building), and besides being plenty of fun was a fundraiser for Operation Bright Holiday! If you're interested in helping out or just want to attend next year and interact with military members in a social setting, please contact West Anderson at west.anderson@boeing.com.

IN CASE YOU MISSED THE MAC IN THE NEWS!

28th Annual Celebrate Barksdale cookout shows appreciation for airmen, personnel

More than 3,000 personnel served



Celebrate Barksdale is held every year for military personnel at BAFB and their families.

CHECK OUT THESE NEWS STORIES

[Military families & personnel enjoy 28th Annual Celebrate Barksdale cookout](#)

[Shreveport-Bossier Military Affairs Council announces lineup for 28th annual Celebrate Barksdale | Shreveport-Bossier Journal](#)

[28th annual Celebrate Barksdale Family Cookout and Festival | Calendar | ktbs.com](#)

[Barksdale Air Force Base hosts first-ever Balloon Glow as part of Red River Balloon Rally.](#)

WELCOME OUR NEW COMMANDERS



General Stephen L. Davis will take command of Air Force Global Strike Command in a ceremony on BAFB **Tuesday, 4 November 2025**.



General Ty W. Neuman will assume command of Eighth Air Force at a change of command ceremony on BAFB **Friday, 7 November 2025**.

MAC ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Another successful fundraiser for OPERATION BRIGHT HOLIDAY



This year the MAC's annual golf tournament was held at Southern Trace Country Club. There were 20 teams comprised of military members and community members who spent the day together on the links; the weather was amazing and the competition even better! Our golf classic is a fundraiser for OPERATION BRIGHT HOLIDAY, and we can't think of a more fun way to show support for Barksdale's Airmen. Big thanks to our event sponsors, team sponsors, hole sponsors, and MAC volunteers who make this happen. If you'd like to participate or sponsor next year's event, please contact Luke Groninger @ LGroninger@firstcommand.com.

CURRENCY OF CARING

The MAC is pleased to announce a new partnership in this program to support military members; Steve Watkins has added his two Bossier City, Zaxby's Chicken locations as participating locations and the feedback from Airmen has been tremendous.

This is our newest program, launched 12 November 2024, that works to combat food insecurity among junior enlisted military families. A recent Pentagon study revealed that approximately 25.8% of U.S. military personnel struggle to access healthy food, with 15.4% of those being active-duty service members.

Like all other MAC other programs all of the money collected is used to directly support the Airmen and families of Barksdale AFB. Currency of Caring is a tokenized program where local participating restaurants are reimbursed for providing pre-selected meals to Airmen purchasing meals with the CoC tokens. Airmen receive the meal tokens from the Wing Commander and Command Chief based on need. If you are interested in donating, you can easily do so on our website: <https://sbmilitaryaffairs.com/product/donation/> or you can send a check to Military Affairs Council, P.O. Box 1661, Shreveport, LA 71165.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board Meetings

18 November
Beard Tower 3d Floor Board Room;
Downtown Shreveport

Quarterly Membership Update Luncheons

Wednesday, 5 November
@ Petroleum Club

Operation Bright Holiday

Fundraising for Operation BRIGHT HOLIDAY was a huge success. Thank you for helping us meet our fundraising goal again this year! BRIGHT HOLIDAY is our annual program partnering with the Company Grade Officers on Barksdale. The program's goal is to raise money to send young first-term Airmen stationed at Barksdale Air Force Base home to spend the

Guest speaker is Major General Jason Armagost, the commander of 8th Air Force, headquartered at Barksdale AFB.
Get Tickets [Here](#)
*If you have a Premium Membership, you and a guest are already paid for. We just ask you to RSVP to ensure a proper headcount for the venue/catering.

Our final Quarterly Membership Update Luncheon of 2025. Please come out and spend lunch together and hear from our guest speaker., Bomb Wing Commanders at BAFB and Major Gen Armagost.

Volunteer Opportunities

The MAC has three volunteer opportunities left in the 2025 calendar year programs and events that support BAFB, military members and their families. Please sign up to help:

SciPort Discovery Center Military Appreciation Day
Saturday, 8 November
9am - 5pm (or some portion of that)
- Serve concessions to and interact with military families.

Louisiana State Fair
Sunday, 16 November
TBD (roughly 11am - 2pm)
- Serve concessions to and interact with military families in the corporate tent (private military entrance)

Barksdale Independence Bowl Tailgate Party
Tuesday, 30 December
TBD (roughly 9am - 1pm kick-off)

MAC Christmas Social

2 Dec. 2025
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Ernest's Orleans Restaurant & Cocktail Lounge



holidays with their families. This year, the MAC raised and donated \$16,500 to this program with a goal of sending 54 Airmen home to spend Thanksgiving or Christmas with their families.

If interested in donating, please go to our website <https://sbmilitaryaffairs.com/product/donation> to select the program and amount you would like to donate...every little bit helps.

Display Your MAC Pride with a MAC POLO!

The online store is open 1 November for a limited time to purchase your MAC Polo shirts. "MAC Member" will be on the left-hand sleeve and the chest embroidered with the MAC logo. Your purchased item will be mailed directly to you.

Note: the vendor will collect orders for the month of November, at the end of the month all orders will be placed and shipped directly to you. Expect 12 business days for production after the store closes on 30 November for delivery. The cost of the polo shirts is \$48 for S to XL with additional costs for larger sizes.

Deadline to purchase shirts is 30 November 2025.

Purchase by clicking [HERE](#)



Adopt-an-Airman / Roots for Boots

Our MAC team has been working hard to match Airmen and local families for our Roots for Boots program. This program pairs host families with single airmen on base. The host families provide a family-away-from-home experience for single airmen who are seeking mentorship and family activities throughout the year and who might otherwise spend Thanksgiving and/or Christmas dinner alone. If

you are interested in being a host family and "adopting" an Airmen to occasionally join you and your family for family events, or if you want more information on the program please contact me or Kem Smelser at Kem_smelser@yahoo.com.

2d BOMB WING STRIKER OF THE MONTH



The monthly **Striker of the Month** award recognizes an individual as a stand-out among his or her peers for outstanding personal achievement and contribution to Barksdale's mission.

The MAC supports this program through a modest cash award and presentation of a commemorative MAC coin.

MAY Winner - Airman First Class Meadison Blackburn from the 2d Bomb Wing Command Post

JUNE Winner - Senior Airman Nya Phillips from the 2d Operational Medical Readiness Squadron

JULY Winner - Airman First Class Israel Coward from the 2d Dental Squadron

2d Bomb Wing Commander, Colonel Chris Cain, and the Military Affairs Council President, Trey Giglio, cordially invite you to attend a Curated Tour of Barksdale Air Force Base

Our Military Affairs Council tour of Barksdale Air Force Base is currently scheduled for **14 November 2025, starting at 9:00am and ending at 3:15pm**. Reporting instructions will be provided to attendees after the RSVP deadline of 7 November 2025.

*Space is limited for this event! If you wish to attend, please **RSVP to me** @ executivedirector@sbmilitaryaffairs.com no later than 7 November 2025.*

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