

**Airman 1st Class  
Katie Leigh Bowling**  
902nd Security Forces Squadron



Photo by Airman 1st Class Alexis Siekert

# Showplace Showcase

**Hometown**

Edinburgh, Ind.

**Hobbies**

I enjoy reading, dancing, walking my dog, cooking, learning to play my acoustic guitar, watching new movies and going to school.

**Greatest Accomplishment**

My greatest accomplishment is that I am the first person in my family who has enlisted in the armed forces as active duty.

**Personal Inspiration**

My grandmother has been the most influential person in my life. She taught me to be responsible, considerate and to respect others and myself.

**Pet Peeve**

People who are exceptionally loud for no reason.

**Personal Motto**

"Health is the greatest gift, contentment the greatest wealth, faithfulness the best relationship." – Buddha

**Goals**

My short-term goal is to complete my associate of science in criminal justice. I am also pursuing a bachelor of science in nursing in hopes of becoming an officer.

**Commander's Comments**

"Airman 1st Class Katie Bowling is a consummate professional with a work ethic that is second to none. As a base defense operations center controller, she has dealt with hundreds of emergency situations with an uncanny focus and positive attitude. The Air Force is very fortunate to have such a phenomenal Airman."

**Capt. Antwan Floyd**

902nd Security Forces Squadron operations officer

## First Sergeants spread cheer through Operation Warmheart

By Airman 1st Class Alexis Siekert  
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Public Affairs

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph First Sergeants Council's Operation Warmheart spreads hope and cheer for the holiday season through the support of base-wide volunteers and donations, Master Sgt. Terrence Link, 902nd Mission Support Group first sergeant, said.

"Operation Warmheart is here to ensure JBSA-Randolph military members, Department of Defense civilians and their families are taken care of during the holiday season, and to offer emergency aid throughout the year," he said.

Operation Warmheart funds can be used to finance any nonprofit function supporting the health, welfare and morale of JBSA-Randolph service members and their families.

The funds for Operation Warmheart are collected in part with the assistance from the base chapel and personal donations, but mostly by volunteers from different units who take shifts as bell ringers at collection stations outside the base exchange and commissary on duty days throughout the season. Also, twice a year, the chapel designates two offerings to help raise money for Operation Warm Heart, collecting between \$8,000 and \$10,000, cumulatively.

"Without community support, Operation Warmheart would not be possible," Master Sgt. Jose Silva, 359th Medical Group first sergeant, said. "Every single bit of the money raised goes back to Airmen and their families."

The first sergeants use the Operation Warmheart money throughout the year; however, "our busiest time of the year begins in November and goes through Christmas," Link said.

"Last year, we gave a total of \$25,000, \$14,000 during the holiday season alone," he said. "We give turkeys, gift cards from the base commissary and off-base grocery stores, and we also organize "Angel Tree" – these are just some of the things we do on base."

The Angel Tree is a toy collection run by the first sergeants, open for base contributions.

As part of Angel Tree, a child from a family who may be unable to provide gifts for the holidays is given a paper angel on which they write three toys they would like to receive. The paper angel is then placed on the Angel Tree. Anyone interested picks an angel off the tree and buys presents for the child. The gifts can be given to the first sergeants to ensure they make it to the right child or are turned into the chapel.

The Angel Tree will be placed in the chapel by the beginning of December for people to participate.

The first sergeants, through Operation Warmheart, are surprising junior enlisted members with "Random Acts of Kindness" for the first time on base.

As part of Random Acts of Kindness, the council randomly targets Airmen and staff sergeants and assists them in some way once a month.



Photo by Rich McFadden

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Clay Cowley (right), Defense Readiness Medical Training, Houston, with his son, Ian, donate money to Operation Warmheart Nov. 18 at the base commissary as Senior Airman Eddie Green (left), Air Force Personnel Center, takes a shift volunteering as a bell-ringer for the cause.

"We do things like put \$30 in an Airman's gas tank, go to the food court and buy lunch for any E-5 and below, pay for haircuts, dry cleaning, and we even take care of the bill of an Airman in line at the commissary or BX," Link said. "It's just little random acts of kindness that can really make someone's day."

Typically, the first sergeants set aside about \$500 per month for random acts; however, during the holiday season, random

acts will take place each week until right before Christmas, he said.

"We want to make everyone aware of Operation Warmheart and know it is available during the holidays," Link said. "If you need help, contact your first sergeant. They will find a way to support you through most issues that arise."

For more information on Operation Warmheart, contact Silva at 652-3212. All questions about the Angel Tree may be directed to Link at 652-4899.