

KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

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Thursday, Feb. 2, 2006

Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow



Dragons deployed
- 134

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Keesler News on Web:
<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

Gould sees mission from inside Keesler

2nd Air Force commander 'visits' wing

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

Maj. Gen. Michael Gould, 2nd Air Force commander, received an inside look last week at Keesler's mission — producing skilled, warfighting Airmen.

Keesler was his final orientation visit to 2nd Air Force bases. During his two-day tour Jan. 23-24, General Gould visited the Triangle, including dormitories, Vandenberg Community Center, training classrooms and lunched with non-prior service students at Azalea Dining Facility.

"I gave each base full rein to do what they wanted to help paint a good picture of what they do for our Air Force," the 2nd Air Force commander said. "I told them to let me see what is important for the 2nd Air Force commander to see so our staff can go back and work their issues."

Please see **Gould**, Page 9



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Brig. Gen. James Dougherty, left, 81st Medical Group commander, describes the damage to radiation therapy at the medical center by Hurricane Katrina to General Gould and his wife, Paula, during a tour of the facility which was rescheduled from Jan. 24 to Jan. 26.

81st Training Wing honors best of best for 2005 Feb. 23

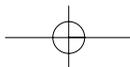
The 81st Training Wing's annual awards banquet is 6 p.m. Feb. 23 in the 403rd Wing hangar, Building 4247, 123 Phantom Street.

The event spotlights the wing's top individual military and civilian performers of 2005.

The meal is a catered buffet of roast turkey and beef sirloin with new potatoes and green beans, and peach cobbler for dessert.

Tickets are \$20.

For more information and tickets, contact your unit's first sergeant.



COMMENTARY

Airman learns hard way drinking, driving don't mix

By Airman 1st Class Mark Bannert

13th Intelligence Squadron

BEALE Air Force Base, Calif. — My blues are crisp. My low-quarters are highly shined. My hair is freshly cut and my face is closely shaven. I appear the consummate Airman.

My palms are sweating. I have a meeting with my commander.

I enter the room trying to be cool and confident, but uncontrollably, my face flushes. There are so many other scenarios where reporting to the commander would be a proud moment.

I stand at attention saluting my commander. As my reporting statement leaves my lips, my mouth feels as if I've just swallowed a cup of sand. The words are slow and forced. My head is spinning as I look into his eyes. The usually calming blue hue of his kind eyes has turned into something different.

'What were you thinking?'

I see red flames and feel the utter anger and disgust he feels toward me wearing the same uniform as him. He feels I've disrespected my country, my Air Force and my squadron. His voice is calm and confident. "What were you thinking?" Before I can speak, my mind is flooded with the memories of that night.

The night is cold and rain is falling all around me like little liquid spears. The fight I was in with my girlfriend has my blood flowing and my mind racing. The alcohol in my system does nothing to help calm me or collect my thoughts.

There are 85 miles between where I am and where I need to be. I could call Beale Airmen Against Drunk Driving or one of my co-workers and they'll surely come to get me, but I don't. I don't want to disrupt them. I'll just see how I do.

I get in the car; the ignition is difficult to find in my drunken stupor, but I'm finally able to find it and turn the key. My music is blaring, and I feel drowsy.

In the end, nothing helps

I'll just roll down the window. The cool air and rain hitting my face wakes me momentarily. I find my way out of the neighborhood and hit the freeway. The next hour and a half I go in and out of consciousness a few times, scaring myself.

I'm singing at the top of my lungs to stay awake; finally the alcohol and humming of the road take over.

Slam! My world is rocked by a loud crash, a plume of chalky air and my nose hurts. The airbags have deployed and I'm confused about what exactly has happened.

I instantly try to restart the car. I'm only

15 minutes from my friend's house and there's no way he'll deny me sleeping there.

The car won't start and I'm in a ditch. I turn off my headlights and decide I'll just walk to my destination. The car is totaled. Both the front and back of the car are smashed into the cabin. Miraculously, I'm uninjured.

No one will see the car and I'll get a tow truck to pick it up in the morning. I stagger down the road upset and confused until a black car stops and the driver asks me if I need help. He says, "Hop in, I'll give you a ride." I get in, and as he turns the car around he asks me, "Are you OK?"

Then he asks if I was involved in the car wreck. He tells me he has both good and bad news for me. I ask, "What's the good news?" not sure what exactly he means and he tells me he picked me up. I inquire further. "What's the bad news?" He says he's an off-duty cop and he's taking me back to the scene.

There's no way out

My heart races and the only thing I can think of is how to get myself out of this. They don't understand what I've been through tonight.

Next thing I know we're back at the scene. I only made it five miles before I was picked up. The police are amazed to see me unscathed after seeing the car and tell me I'm lucky.

As they're putting me in cuffs and reading me my rights, I'm not thinking I'm lucky. I'm thinking I'm screwed; my career is over. In a way, all that was true.

Any trust I'd developed with my co-workers over the past six months is gone. There are going to be repercussions from this for the rest of my career. Every base I go to will know, "This is the guy that got the DUI." Enlisted performance reports will be low, encouraging more low EPRs.

Keep to path of core values

When new people enter the squadron, they're notified quickly that I'm a troublemaker and someone not to be associated with — no matter that I've changed.

I want to be that same troop I was when I joined, full of promise and honor, morals and virtue guiding my everyday decisions. I must now try twice as hard to get half the distance as my peers.

So keep your path filled with character that expresses our core values — "integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all you do" and you'll lead a successful life of no regret.

ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

By Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

81st Training Wing commander

First, try to work concerns through the proper chain of command. When you've exhausted this recourse, turn to the commander's action line for assistance.

We welcome any suggestions to help make this a more valuable and useful tool. You may call the commander's action line at 377-4357, write to Commander's Action Line, 81 TRW/PA, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2603, e-mail 81 TRW Commander's Action Line (on-base) or commanders.line@keesler.af.mil (off-base). For a personal response, include your name, address and phone number.

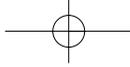
Items of general interest may appear in this column.



Seat belts:

- 1) save lives,
- 2) are the law.

What's your excuse?



TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Photos by Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

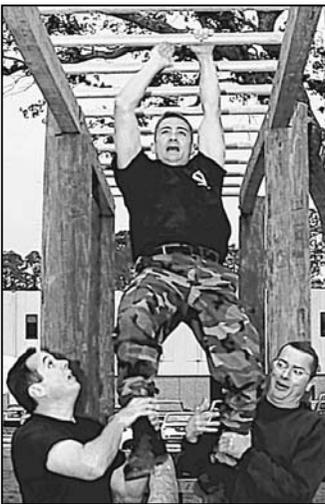
Staff Sgt. Michael Bangora, 334th Training Squadron, crawls through the live-wire stretcher carry obstacle during the 81st Training Group Challenge Jan. 26. Nine team members had to crawl under the wires without touching them with their bodies and pull the last team member through on a stretcher.



Master Sgt. Craig Pogue, left, climbs up the upside-down climber as Maj. Paul Lips waits to help him over the top. They're from the 81st Training Support Squadron, which placed first overall with 161 points. The Marine Corps detachment placed second, after losing the live-wire obstacle tiebreaker.

Trainers' challenge

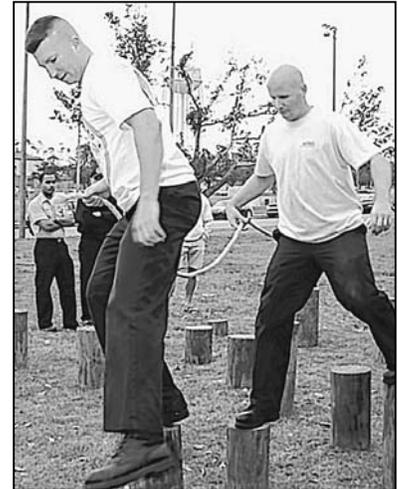
Squadrons conquer confidence course; 81st TRSS, Marines come out on top



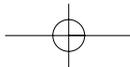
From left, Master Sgt. Dean Ross, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Hobbs and Maj. Matt O'Donnell breeze through the monkey bars. They're from the 332nd TRS, which placed third over-

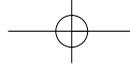


Staff Sgt. John Pickard, 336th TRS, runs to position in the Triple X obstacle. Team members cross through Xs to the other side and pass sandbags without dropping them inside the obstacle.



Navy Aviation Technician 2nd Class Brian Best, left, and Navy Aerographer Mate 1st Class Gary Hibbs go "island hopping." Ten team members had to cross the pole stumps holding onto a rope without falling.





Keesler's Navy unit forges ahead after Katrina

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

The Center for Naval Aviation and Technical Training Unit, like many other Keesler organizations, has been trying to return to business as usual since Hurricane Katrina.

According to Navy Chief Christopher Cantu, department head for the weather school, there have been very few changes for their students and faculty members since August.

"Prior to the storm, we had about 250 personnel: 85 staff and the rest students," he said. "Currently, we have 200 personnel, 75 of them staff members.

"We have 16 training classes, and all of them are fully functional," he added.

Navy Cmdr. Ken Schwingshal, CNATTU commanding officer, said the unit's biggest setback was an organizational change that began in July.

"We had decided to change our administrative procedures through the summer," he said. "Obviously, once the storm hit, we were into recovery mode."

The commander said the changes are not merely back on track, but progressing ahead of schedule.

"We wanted to have our organizational changes done by September," Commander Schwingshal said. "We are on schedule to have everything in place later this month."

The unit sends weather students through Keesler, graduating one class per month,

"A couple of weeks after the storm, we decided to resume classes. Soon after that, our Air Force counterparts started up their classes ... "

— Chief Cantu

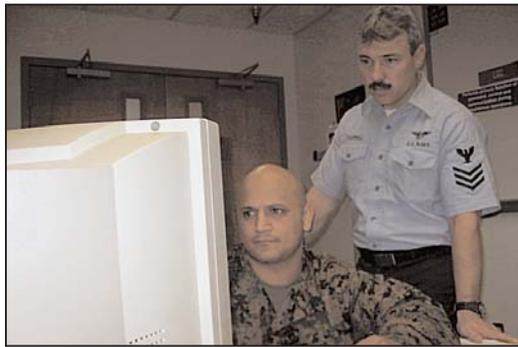


Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee Smith
Marine Sgt. Manuel Aguilar, left, does an assignment while his instructor, Petty Officer Trammell, looks on.

according to Chief Cantu.

"We were supposed to graduate a class before the hurricane, and we did get those students out of here a few weeks after the storm," he said. "We lost an estimated two weeks to a month of class time, but we've since made those up and are back on schedule.

"A couple of weeks after the storm, we decided to resume classes," the chief said. "Soon after that, our Air Force counterparts started up their

classes. I think when they saw we were trying to get back to business as usual, it sparked others to get going, too."

Navy students here train in four different facilities.

"We use Allee, Wolfe and Stennis halls, as well as the weather school, to teach," Chief Cantu said. "A couple of those buildings had some flooding, and there are some leaks we're still dealing with, but for the most part, we had minimal damage done."

Navy instructor continues on after losing everything in storm

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

Naval forecast instructor and aerographers mate first class Thomas Trammell is among the Keesler personnel who lost a lot to Hurricane Katrina.

"Our house was less than two years old," he said. "The house had 9 feet of water inside."

The house, valued at \$136,000, had all of the contents destroyed.

"We only received \$4,000 for wind and roof damage, so I made some repairs myself," Petty Officer Thomas said.

The worst moment for him was coming back to the shelter.

"My youngest son almost brought me to tears," he said. "As people were coming inside, and my son saw me, he said, 'I know we lost everything because Daddy doesn't have anything in his hands.'"

There was one thing that kept him focused: his job.

"It was actually an escape for me to teach," he said. "I had to concentrate on the students and make sure that they were doing what they needed to do."

His wife, Jessie, and their three children — Aaron, 15, Daniel, 8, and Kenneth, 7 — went to stay with a family member in Kentucky.

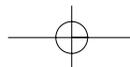
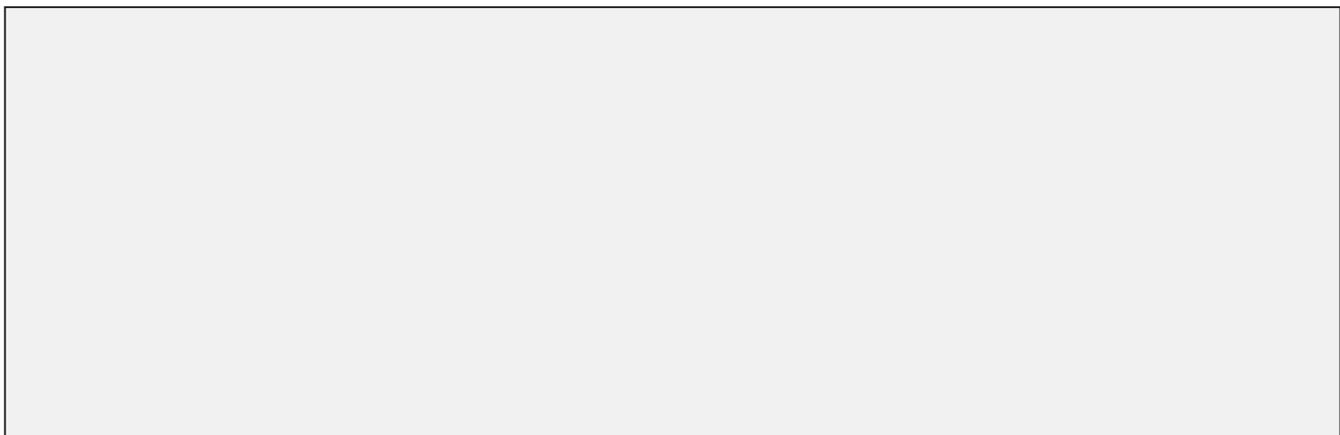
"Some of the students lived in the barracks and didn't lose much, if anything, but there were others who, like me, lost everything," he said.

"There were times I would pull a student aside and ask is everything OK," he said. "In some cases, they helped me out with information about filing claims, finance, etc. As an instructor, it's my responsibility to make sure that my students do everything they can to pass; at the same time, I have to be sympathetic."

Petty Officer Trammell said the storm was a setback for him.

"I've been in the Navy for 18 1/2 years," he said. "My wife and I just had a car payment and we just needed \$55,000 to pay off the house. Now we have to start over."

The family returned to Mississippi Nov. 28 and hopes to return to their house later this month.



After moving the mail, Airman polishes punches

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Hurricane Katrina extended Airman 1st Class Brian Lowie's first deployment to eight months, so he used the time to pursue a new love — boxing.

Airman Lowie was a postal augmentee at the Naval Support Activity in Bahrain, an island nation in the southern Persian Gulf. One of 14 Airmen at the base, he was responsible for supervising third country nationals who handled the mail.

"We had a good working relationship," said Airman Lowie, who returned to his job in the 81st Training Support Squadron Jan. 15.

"Many of the workers were from the Philippines, Nepal and India," he pointed out. "Most were Christian, so even though Bahrain is mainly a Muslim nation, we celebrated Christmas there. The entire country was covered with lights.

"There wasn't anything particularly difficult there," Airman Lowie said of his deployment. "The living conditions were better than I had expected, and I used my cell phone and e-mail to keep in touch with people back home."

Airman Lowie, who's been stationed at Keesler since attending technical training here in 2004, worked 12-hour days in Bahrain, four days on, one day off.

In his free time, he did laundry, saw the sights and boxed. One of his co-workers, a Golden Gloves champ from Chicago, helped him fine-tune his boxing skills.

"I had never boxed before, but I took karate when I was a kid," he said. "When my enlistment is up, I may try boxing professionally — I love it."

When Katrina struck, "I learned how small the world actually is," Airman Lowie said. "Most of the people in Bahrain knew more about Katrina than I did. I actually learned about the hurricane from one of the TCNs."

A dorm dweller at Keesler, he tried to find out if news



"Many of the workers were from the Philippines, Nepal and India. Most were Christian, so even though Bahrain is mainly a Muslim nation, we celebrated Christmas there. The entire country was covered with lights."

— Airman Lowie

reports were accurate, since "the media tends to exaggerate things sometimes." After he returned from deployment, he drove down Highway 90 which edges the coastline and was shocked at the destruction.

"Then I realized there just aren't any buildings on the beach anymore," he said.

The 20-year-old South Carolina native said he's "absolutely ready" to be deployed again.

FTAC back on track



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Keesler's newest Airmen listen as Maj. Tony Williams, 332nd Training Squadron commander, offers words of encouragement during their First Term Airmen Center graduation Jan. 26. The class was the first since Hurricane Katrina. For a list of graduates, see Digest, Page 24.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Carey registration

William Carey College spring registration begins Friday.

General studies majors register at the Keesler center. Other majors register at the First Missionary Baptist Church in Gulfport, 1-7 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

New students interested in attending William Carey College, call the Keesler center, 377-0090, or visit Room 208, old Cody Hall.

Training awards

The 81st Training Group honors its top performers at its annual awards banquet, Friday in Building 4247, the 403rd Wing ISO Hangar.

The 6 p.m. social hour is followed by dinner at 7. Military wear battle dress uniforms.

Spouse scholarships

These scholarship programs are available to spouses:

National Military Family Association — eligible are uniformed service spouses — active duty, retired, National Guard, Reserve or survivor —

studying toward professional certification or attending post-secondary or graduate school. The deadline to apply for the \$1,000 scholarships is midnight April 15. To apply, visit <http://www.nmfa.org/scholarships2006>.

Aerospace Education Foundation — eligible are civilian spouses of active-duty Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Reserve members. For more information or to apply for one of the 30 \$1,000 scholarships, visit the education office, Room 212, old Cody Hall, or go to <http://www.aef.org/aid/scholarships.asp>.

Education survey

An educational needs assessment survey is conducted online during February for military and civilian employees, retirees and their family members.

Access the 10-question survey at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil/needs/>.

MGCCC classes

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Keesler Center's spring term is March 6 through May 18.

Web registration for currently enrolled students begins Monday. Registration by appointment in Room 214, old Cody Hall, begins Feb. 22 for active duty.

Students who take English composition I, oral communication or mathematics for the first time must have an assessment of skills.

The schedule, including new classes in physics, calculus and study skills, is available at <http://www.mgccc.edu>.

For more information, call 377-2287.

Testing dates

The education office offers ACT, SAT and PRAXIS tests. Deadlines are:

ACT — March 9 for April 11 test, June 8 for July 11 test.

SAT — April 13 for May 16 test.

PRAXIS I — March 20 for May 1 test, June 26 for Aug. 7 test.

PRAXIS II — March 20 for May 2 test, June 26 for Aug. 8 test.

To schedule tests, call 377-2323.

NEWS AND FEATURES

Flags unfurled

Senior Airman Herschel Drane, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, hangs the North Carolina flag along the "Avenue of Flags" on Larcher Boulevard Monday. Airman Drane is a student in Airman Leadership School Class 06-B, the first class since Hurricane Katrina. The flags haven't been displayed since the storm. The class hung the banners in 30 minutes, a job that usually takes a half day. Five flags aren't displayed; three new flags haven't arrived and two damaged poles haven't been replaced yet.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



AETC realigns headquarters staff

AETC News Service

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Education and Training Command officials began implementation of the new A-staff structure Wednesday, with a final stand up date of May 1.

Capt. William Skinner, AETC A-Staff project officer, said, "The A-Staff configuration allows AETC to improve its ability to train warfighters, creates a more efficient headquarters structure and aligns the command with the joint arena and Air Staff structures."

Under the new structure, the headquarters is aligned as follows:

A1 — manpower and personnel

- A1D — force development.
- A1F — force management.
- A1L — senior leader management.
- A1M — manpower and organization.
- A1X — plans and readiness.

A2/A3 — intelligence and air operations

- A3T — training.
- A3F — aircrew training and standardization.
- A3I — interservice programs.
- A2O — operations.
- A3P — technical training programming and administration.
- A3R — resources and requirements.
- A3Z — training technology.
- A3X — operational readiness.
- A3O — current operations.

A4/A7 — logistics/installations and mission support

- A4M — maintenance.
- A4P — program integration.
- A4R — logistics readiness.
- A7C — civil engineer.
- A7K — contracting.
- A7S — security forces.
- A7V — services.
- A5/A8 — plans, requirements and programs.
- A5L — Air Force Research Laboratory liaison.
- A5R — flying training requirements.
- A5T — technical training requirements.
- A8P — programs.
- A6 — communications.
- A6O — operations.
- A6P — policy and resources.
- A6X — plans and requirements.
- A6I — information and technology integration.

Staff functions — chaplain, public affairs, judge advocate, historian, comptroller, inspector general, safety, international training and education, surgeon general, education, and recruiting — retain their current titles.

Second and 19th Air Force reorganize into A-staff structures as a follow-on action to the reorganization at the headquarters.

The new A-staff structure is re-evaluated after 180 days to determine if any adjustments need to be made.

IN THE NEWS

Changes at dining facilities

Starting Monday, lunch is served to Department of Defense civilians from 12:30-1:30 p.m. only at the Pecan and Live Oak dining facilities because of the increasing student load.

Civilians may also eat breakfast and dinner at the facilities until the end of the month.

March 1, the temporary authorization for permanent party civilians to use the dining facilities ends, in accordance with Air Force Instruction 34-239.

Common access card reset

Personal identification numbers for common access cards are reset through Feb. 9 at the Keesler NCO Academy.

Dates for each unit are available through commander's support staffs.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Jay McKerzie, 377-1910.

Red-blooded Red Wolves

The 336th Training Squadron donated 71 units of blood during a squadron drive Jan. 23, exceeding the goal of 30 pints and surpassing its total donation for 2005.

Tech. Sgt. Bud Evans and Staff Sgt. Robert Cowan Jr. organized the drive for the Keesler Blood Donor Center to support the Armed Services Blood Program, which directly supports service members. The Red Wolves plan monthly blood drives in the future.

"We rely heavily on the training squadrons to sustain the blood supply, and we hope their support continues to grow," said Jill Peterson, 81st Medical Group blood donor recruiter.

To schedule a blood drive, call Ms. Peterson, 377-9324 or 1-251-367-4468.

Railroad service resumes

CSX Transportation resumes rail service on the Mississippi Gulf Coast this month.

Railroad officials expect to build up from two or three to the pre-Hurricane Katrina level of 35 trains daily by the end of March.

Raptor flies operational sorties

LANGLEY Air Force Base, Va. — The F-22A Raptor flew its first two operational sorties over the United States in support of Operation Noble Eagle Jan. 21-22.

The mission came one week after the 27th Fighter Squadron converted to the Air Force's fifth-generation stealth fighter.

Early Keesler News deadlines

The deadline for submissions to these upcoming issues of the Keesler News is four days earlier than usual:

Feb. 23 — deadline is noon Feb. 16 due to the Presidents Day federal holiday Feb. 20.

March 2 — deadline is noon Feb. 23 due to the Mardi Gras regional holiday Feb. 28. The holiday is observed by Gulf Publishing Co., contract publisher of the base newspaper.

The newspaper office is closed Feb. 20 in observance of the Presidents Day holiday and open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 28.

Promotions: Keesler gains 6 captains

By Senior Airman
Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

Keesler has six of the 1,027 first lieutenants selected for promotion to captain.

Air Education and Training Command's 99 percent selection rate was slightly higher than the Air Force-wide 98.28 percent.

Keesler's newest captains are:

2nd Air Force — Parag Shah.

335th Training Squadron — Pamela Defazio.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — Amanda Brown and Nikki Tucker.

81st Surgical Operations Squadron — Ryan Gilkey.

81st Transportation Squadron — Roderick Dunmore.

Gould,

from Page 1

At Keesler, that also included a variety of technologically-advanced training methods like the air traffic control simulator that replicates Keesler's air space, the simulated command post and aerospace control and warning system.

General Gould also toured a hurricane shelter and the medical center.

As he made his rounds, the general reiterated his vision for 2nd Air Force.

"Second Air Force exists to help those who are doing the training to accomplish their mission, which is to produce well-trained, quality Airmen," he said.

"I've asked what specific things that the wings need, like manning, resources or advocacy at any level to help them do the mission.

"It's also important to remember that our focus is on the product — our Airmen in training — and to provide the best possible training for them to go out and serve in the Air Force."

General Gould explained that when Airmen receive the greatest training available, it's easier for them to become a part of the bigger picture.

"Every Airman — enlisted and officer — is touched by Air Education and Training Command and a large number come through 2nd Air Force," he said. "Just about every operational mission in the Air Force is done by someone who's come through 2nd Air Force training programs, so it's a critical mission to make sure Airmen are prepared and equipped for what they're going to see in the war on terror."

One way the Air Force is preparing Airmen for the war on terror is by improving and updating courses to instill the expeditionary mindset.

"Every day we're looking for ways to make sure we instill expeditionary skills and mindset in Airmen, like improving basic military training to include more basic combat skills," the general said. "One of my priorities is to reiterate the basic combat skills throughout training,



Photo by Michelle Freeck

Master Sgt. Michael Polley, center, 334th Training Squadron, explains air traffic control simulator radar training to General Gould and his wife, Paula, on Jan. 23.

since some Airmen train for more than a year. We're finding better ways for military training leaders to reinforce those skills throughout their time in technical training."

One example is the basic combat convoy course at Camp Bullis, Texas. As the Air Force continues to assist the Army in convoy operations, it's important for Airmen to sharpen the expeditionary skills they learned in training.

"Prior to each course, a few instructors are sent to the area of responsibility for about two weeks," the general said. "They roll in on convoys and get real-time, current information on how tactics are changing, and how the enemy is changing the way they're attacking.

"Once the instructors get back, the course is modified immediately for the next class so they will know things that are happening right now," he said.

"The course has a huge success rate and is paying great dividends," General Gould added. "There are fewer casualties and injuries due to improved training methods."

The general took command of 2nd Air Force shortly after Hurricane Katrina hit the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Each time he's returned to his headquarters at Keesler from visiting another base, he's been

impressed by the recovery efforts on and off-base.

"When I'm gone for a week to 10 days, outside the gates the recovery is really noticeable," he said. "There's less debris and reconstruction is ongoing. It's refreshing and encouraging to see what the community is doing.

"Keesler recovery is most apparent in how quickly we were able to reconstitute training. Most people thought we wouldn't be back for at least six months, but many courses were running within a couple of weeks," he pointed out.

"Virtually all Priority 1-3 courses are up and running. There's also tremendous progress in reconstituting training that hasn't started back up," he said.

The courses that haven't stood up are primarily up-grade training, which is being held up mostly due to lack of billeting space.

"We're gradually overcoming that by converting dormitories into billeting, and we also have mobile training teams out in the field, so Airmen are trained without having to bring them back to Keesler," General Gould said.

The general's formula for a successful career and life in the Air Force is simple — faith, family and fitness.

"I remind Airmen in today's Air Force that I'm really proud that they've stepped up to the call to

serve," he said. "While we appreciate their contribution in their service, it's important to maintain perspective across their lives, which goes well beyond the actual workplace.

"First, they must maintain a strong faith and make time to worship," he said.

"Airmen must also realize that taking care of families takes a conscious effort. Even young, single Airmen have families ... their moms and dads, the ones that have helped them get where they are.

"Finally, they need to take care of themselves. The Air Force has come a long way in our fitness program, but the idea behind that is to make fitness part of your lifestyle.

"If Airmen maintain that perspective of faith, family and personal fitness, it only follows that they'll be happy in what they're doing, they're going to have fun on the job and they'll find satisfaction in their contribution to their country," the general explained. "If you keep that type of outlook in your time in the Air Force you'll be productive and live a good, happy life."

PERSONNEL NOTES

Editor's note: This column is a service of the Keesler News. Contributors include the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and the 81st Mission Support Squadron's military and civilian personnel flights.

Deployment checklist

Physical condition — Pursue a regular exercise program of cardiovascular, strength, flexibility and endurance training. If your shots aren't up to date, call immunizations, 377-6543.

Training requirements — See your unit deployment manager for these training schedules: chemical warfare, combat arms, and self aid and buddy care. Update your training records.

Deployment documents — For current uniform identification cards, visit pass and registration, located in a tent adjacent to the visitors center at the White Avenue Gate. For current dog tags, visit the military personnel flight, old Cody Hall. For current Geneva Convention cards for medical personnel or chaplains, see your unit deployment manager or visit or contact the 81st Mission Support Squadron. Have a copy of your current leave and earnings statement.

Your bags — Pack personal/mobility bag, tools and team equipment/cargo.

Family concerns — To process wills and powers of attorney, visit or call the legal office, Room 246, Levitow Training Support Facility. If you and your spouse are both vulnerable to deploy, prepare a dependent care statement, Air Force Form 357. For a family readiness plan, visit the family support center, old Cody Hall.

Verifying deployment credit

For information on verifying deployment credit, call the Air Force Personnel Center's field activities office, DSN 665-2671, or commercial 1-210-565-2671.

Mailing care packages

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service and Military Postal Service Agency process mail for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. A letter takes seven to 14 days and a package 14-24 days.

For more information, call 1-800-275-8777 or visit <http://www.usps.com>.

Hurricane relief medals

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Service members and civilians who took part in Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita relief efforts may be eligible for a medal.

The director of the Joint Staff has approved awarding the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Armed Forces Service Medal for military personnel. Department of Defense civilians may receive the Armed Forces Civilian Service Medal.

For more information, contact the local military personnel flight or civilian personnel office.

Force shaping

For information on force shaping, visit the Air Force Personnel Center Web site, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape.htm>, or call the AFPC contact center, 1-800-616-3775.

Long-term care insurance

For information on the long-term care insurance program and how to enroll, go online to <http://www.ltcfeds.com> or call 1-800-582-3337 or TDD 1-800-843-3557, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.



For Keesler News delivery or newspaper display racks, base facilities managers call 377-3163.

No emergency services available at medical center

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Keesler Medical Center is unable to provide emergency services.

A first aid station in the area once housing the emergency room is open to Tricare Prime enrollees 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. The first aid station staff is able to treat only new, acute health care problems. They don't have the capability to treat urgent and emergency problems.

Patients with urgent and emergent problems — difficulty breathing, chest pain, abdominal pain, etc. — go to the nearest off-base urgent care facility or emergency room.

Ambulance coverage for Keesler is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the base 911 line. Patients are taken directly to off-base medical facilities by the contracted ambulance service.

Active-duty sick call at the first aid station is scheduled through the central appointment line, 1-800-700-8603.

Other services available through the 81st Medical Group:

The appointment line is open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to noon Sunday. Active-duty personnel may begin calling at 5 a.m. Monday-Friday.

To access care on the first floor of Keesler Medical Center, enter through the "A Tower" at the top of the steps leading from Fisher Street. Signs directing patients to the respective clinics are posted along the route from the entrance to the clinic areas. The security staff is also available to provide directions.

Clinic hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. working Fridays. The family practice, internal medicine and pediatric clinics see patients 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays.

Mental health flight is in 1D in the medical center. Services include life skills (377-6216), family advocacy and exceptional family member program (377-7006) and alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment (377-8960). Signs to the applicable check-in areas are posted at the entrance.

Patients may use the entrance at the west end of the building. Call 377-7006 or 6216 to confirm appointments or the information desk, 377-6550.

The off-base civilian prescription pharmacy currently occupies room 1D103, the first office on the right where life skills customers previously were checked in.

Tricare office is in Room 1A-200. For patient registration or eligibility, call 377-6149 or 6276. For Tricare enrollments or MEB, call 377-9962. For the referral management office, Room 1A-201, call 377-6177. For health benefits advisors, visit Room 1F-306 or call 377-6580. Tricare Prime beneficiaries, call 1-800-700-8603 for appointments, leaving phone consults for their primary care managers or requesting authorizations for any non-emergency services. Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. working Fridays.

Family practice staff, in the former medical specialties clinic, sees acute uncomplicated illnesses, handles personal health assessments and provides medication refills. Urgicare and walk-in services



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Col. (Dr.) Ann Farash, pediatric flight commander, examines 10-week-old David Dingle during a well-baby appointment as his mother, Stephanie, watches. David's father is Staff Sgt. Derek Dingle, 81st Security Forces Squadron.

aren't available. A case management and social worker are available.

Clinical laboratory is in its medical center location. The lab's phlebotomy station is open in the main lab and routine blood testing is provided for Tricare Prime patients seen at the medical center.

Blood donor center is open. To arrange to donate blood, call 377-9324.

Radiology is back in its previous location. Provided are routine radiographs, computerized tomography and ultrasounds for Tricare Prime patients seen at the medical center.

Immunization clinic in the former urology clinic provides all inoculations to active duty, retirees and dependents. Flu shots and limited allergy services are available.

Temporary pharmacy is in the medical photo/oral surgery area. Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. For remaining refills from on-base prescriptions, call 377-6360. Pick up refills at least four duty days later at the temporary pharmacy distribution area in Building 5 of the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Veterans Boulevard, just off Pass Road. To renew prescriptions, see your primary care manager or another Tricare network provider.

Internal medicine on the first floor sees active-duty, dependents and Tricare Prime enrollees. Services are acute medical care, limited evaluation and treatment of chronic medical illnesses, medical

consultation and referral for select subspecialty services.

Optometry clinic is on the first floor within the internal medicine clinic area. The staff sees active duty patients only. All exams are by appointment only through the Tricare appointment line, 1-800-700-8603. The clinic can order spectacles and gas mask inserts for active duty and eligible retirees provided they have a current prescription (within two years).

Pediatric clinic in the former oncology/hematology clinic area provides scheduled acute medical care for children, well baby/child visits, routine appointments, Q Code exams, and exceptional family member program and special needs family paperwork. For appointments, use the Tricare appointment line. A child psychologist and social worker are available. Appointments are by PCM referral.

Women's health in the former general surgery clinic, next to the new flight medicine clinic, provides routine women's health care to active duty, dependents and Tricare Prime enrollees. Other patients are seen on a space-available basis. Services are general gynecological problems, annual Pap smear exams, birth control and follow-up of abnormal Paps (dysplasia). No obstetrical services are available. The clinic can initiate profiles for pregnant active-duty patients. Eligible patients with questions, call 377-6920. For appointments, call 1-800-700-8603.

Flight medicine in the surgical specialties clinic furnishes walk-in acute care, duties-not-involved-in-flying paperwork, profiles and physical health assessments.

General surgery and orthopedics share the former orthopedic clinic. Surgery is available by primary care manager consult only.

Medical records are in the Wylie Auditorium. Original records are maintained by the medical center. For copies, complete a request form at the outpatient record's customer service desk. Allow five to seven days for copies.

Endocrine services are available by appointment only in the internal medicine clinic. Call the Tricare appointment line.

New dermatology patients are seen by referral only. Established patients may be seen by calling 377-1673 or the appointment line.

Triangle clinic, Levitow Training Support Facility, sees only non-prior service students.

Services at the dental clinic include routine care, cleanings and routine outpatient oral surgery for active-duty members only. Dental emergencies for all patients are seen through dental sick call. Call 377-4510 for appointments.

Physical and occupational therapy see patients at the health and wellness center. Physical therapy sees active duty only; occupational therapy sees active duty, retirees and adult dependents. Services include assessment and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders such as upper and lower extremity dysfunction and neck and back pain. Treatment is limited to gym and home exercise programs, heat, ice and ultrasound modalities.

For the director of customer relations, call 377-9498.

Excused absences for Katrina end March 11

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

March 11 is the termination date for excused absences to attend to personal issues caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso, 81st Training Wing commander, pointed out in a Jan. 24 memo to all squadron commanders that until now, a timeframe for ending hurricane-related absences hadn't been established.

"I realize that many, if not most, employees are still in the early stages of repairing property, while others have greater problems and have not begun to rebuild," the general said.

"I have decided to use the flexibility allowed under current directives (Air Force Instruction 36-815) and will allow excused absence to continue up to 180 days from the date it was initially approved (Sept. 13)," he stated.

"I hope this additional time will be useful in your recovery from the nation's worst national disaster, without exhausting your hard-earned leave," the general continued.

No hurricane-related excused absences are authorized after March 11. In the meantime, General Capasso directed squadron commanders to continue to ensure the validity and necessity of all excused absences.

For more information, call the civilian personnel flight's employee management services element, 377-3142.

Here's a list of other assistance sources.

Air Force Aid Society

Hurricane Katrina assistance requests are accepted at the family support center, Room 117, old Cody Hall.

Air Force active-duty members, retirees, widows of Air Force retirees, and Army retirees and their widows must complete the entire application and provide supporting documentation.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cartier, 377-2593.

BAH

Base housing residents who received basic assistance for housing after Hurricane

Relief act protects service members negatively impacted by hurricane

Legal office

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act provides numerous protections to service members negatively impacted by Hurricane Katrina, or who are facing deployments or permanent change of station orders.

Evictions and foreclosures — service members, including dependents, may not be evicted from residential leases of primary residences without a court order. The SCRA requires banks and other mortgage lenders to obtain a court order to foreclose, repossess or sell (based upon breach of contract) real property that was purchased prior to the service member entering active duty.

Landlords or lenders who violate the SCRA through "self-help" measures such as lacking a court order may be criminally prosecuted and subject to a \$1,000 fine and one year in jail.

Termination of residential leases — service members may terminate a residential lease without penalty if the member receives PCS orders or deployment orders in excess of 90

days. Many residential leases contain military termination clauses, but the SCRA doesn't require leases to have military clauses to be effective. Service members must give written termination notice, generally 30 days, and provide their landlords a copy of the orders.

Termination of vehicle leases — service members may terminate without penalty motor vehicle leases if they receive PCS orders outside of the continental United States or deployment orders in excess of 180 days.

Keesler's legal offices are in the Levitov Training Support Facility.

Attorneys are available 8-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. workdays in Room 238 to provide advice regarding landlord tenant law, automobile leases, insurance claims, family law and a host of other legal issues.

For appointments, call 377-3510.

Katrina claims are taken 8 a.m. to noon Mondays-Wednesdays in Room 159. Claims briefings are 10 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays in Room 122.

For Katrina claims, call 377-3630.

Katrina and have returned to a habitable unit need to stop by the base housing office in Chapel One east of the dental clinic to stop their BAH.

Residents should check their leave and earnings statements to verify they aren't receiving BAH anymore.

Civilian assistance

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund Emergency Assistance Program may provide assistance to federal civilian employees affected by Hurricane Katrina.

For more information, call Sheila Noel, 377-7973, or go to <http://www.feea.org/emergency/shtml>.

Civilian employees may donate unused annual leave to other employees adversely affected by the hurricane.

Up to 104 hours of leave can be donated, but it can't be given to a specific person. Submit an Office of Personnel Management Form 1638 through the civilian personnel flight.

Coins, patches

The sale of Operation Dragon Comeback coins and

patches benefits the base's Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

Coins are \$7 and patches are \$5.

Contact unit representatives to purchase or e-mail Tech. Sgts. Eric Alvarez, eric.alvarez@keesler.af.mil, or Anthony Bellocq, anthony.bellocq@keesler.af.mil.

Extended child care

Military and civilians who are eligible for on-base day care and work more than 50 hours a week are eligible for free or subsidized child care under the Air Force's extended duty child care program.

For more information, call 377-3189 or 5935.

FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency continues to offer assistance to hurricane victims at these disaster recovery centers:

Biloxi — Donal Synder Community Center, 2520 Pass Road, and Biloxi Community Center, 591 Howard Avenue.

Gulfport — Disabled American Veterans Hall, 2600 23rd Avenue.

Ocean Springs — old K-Mart Building, 3164 Bienville Blvd. (Highway 90).

Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

For more information, call 1-800-621-3362 or visit <http://www.fema.gov>.

Government travel card

People who used government travel cards for prepaid transactions that weren't used as a result of Hurricane Katrina can dispute the charge for credit.

Before filing a dispute, try to contact the merchant to see if charges can be credited to the account. If that isn't possible, submit the dispute form found at <https://www.gcsuthd.bankofamerica.com/forms/maintenance.asp>. Use reason code 10 and use your own words to reference Hurricane Katrina. To fax the form, call 1-888-678-6046.

IRS publication

Internal Revenue Service Publication 4492, Information for Taxpayers Affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, is available at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irspdf/p4492.pdf>.

Katrina relief fund

The Keesler Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund is a central location for money donated by other bases and sources.

For more information, call Maj. Teresa Roberts or Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cartier, 377-2179.

Retirees, annuitants

Military retirees and annuitants who've relocated or changed banking information, call 1-800-321-1080, 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekdays. They can also use myPay to update information; call 1-800-390-2348.

Changes to mailing and banking information can be sent by fax to 1-800-469-6559, with "Hurricane Katrina" at the top of the page and a contact phone number listed.

Safe haven

The safe haven per diem rates payable to dependents of Keesler's uniformed members were extended to 180 days, or through CHECK DATE.

Reimbursement rates are 100 percent for dependents 12 and older and 50 percent for those under 12.

Lodging reimbursement is limited to the actual cost not to exceed the authorized amount; receipts are required.

Receipts aren't required for the meals and incidentals expense that's reimbursed as a flat amount.

SGLI

The Defense Department extended the deadline for reducing or declining increased Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage for service members affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Sept. 1, eligible members were automatically insured for the maximum coverage of \$400,000.

These changes don't affect coverage under Family SGLI.

To keep the \$400,000 coverage with the same beneficiary designations don't take any action.

To decline or reduce coverage, complete a new SGLV 8286 at <http://www.insurance.va.gov>, indicating the amount of coverage desired.

Houses come down so new ones can go up

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

Military family housing areas are being demolished due to damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Currently, northwest Pinehaven and Oak Park housing area units are being torn down in preparation of an estimated \$300 million military construction project slated to begin in June, which provides 1,067 homes.

Open base facilities are:

81st Services Division

11th Frame Café — located in Gaudé Lanes bowling alley. Open 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-9:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday; 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-9:30 p.m. Thursday; 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, and 1-7 p.m. Sunday.

Arts and crafts, frame and engraving shops — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Auto skills center — 1-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and non-working Fridays. The car wash is open 24 hours a day.

Child development center — 5:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. For more information, call 377-2211.

Family child care — providers are accepting children in their homes. Children are also being accepted at the mildly-ill family child care home.

For more information, call 377-3189.

People interested in becoming licensed family child care providers, call the family child care office, 377-5935, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Half Time Café — 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-working Fridays, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. non-working Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Inns of Keesler — open 24 hours.

Information, ticket and travel — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays-working Fridays in Vandenberg Community Center.

Katrina Kantina — a lounge, located in the main marina building, is open for all ranks over 21 years old. It opens at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, with snacks and beverages available.

McBride Library — open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday – Thursday; noon to 5 p.m. Friday and Sunday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Vandenberg Community Center — open 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to midnight working Fridays and Saturdays and 10 a.m. to midnight non-working Fridays and noon to 6 p.m. Sundays.

Veterinary clinic — open 8 a.m. to noon Mondays-Fridays for sales. For appointments to have pets vaccinated or for sick pets, call 377-6883.

Wood shop — 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Pinehaven family housing behind the old commissary is being demolished due to Hurricane Katrina damage. The new base exchange and commissary complex is going to be built in this area.

and non-working Fridays.

Youth center — 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. workdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Before- and after-school program is 6-8:30 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. for children in kindergarten through grade 6.

AAFES

Car care center — 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Service bays close at 3:30 p.m.

For more information, call 432-2404.

Class Six/Shoppette — open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays.

The main exchange, dorm shoppette and medical center exchange are closed indefinitely.

Home furnishings store — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at 220 Ploesti Drive with an entrance on Hercules Street.

Welch Auditorium — movies shown 7 p.m. Friday; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday. For more information, see Digest, Page 25.

Banking

BankcorpSouth — bank lobby is now open during normal business hours, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday. Automatic teller machines are operational.

Keesler Federal Credit Union — open during regular banking hours, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, in the

trailer located in the credit union's parking lot. ATMs on base are now operational 24 hours a day.

Gates

Oak Park Gate is open 5:30-7:30 a.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Pass Road, White Avenue and Meadows Drive gates are open around the clock. Judge Sekul Gate is closed.

Housing

The housing office in Chapel One is reassigning homes to families whose base housing is uninhabitable. For a list of available off-base housing, call Mary Krystosek, 377-9741.

Mini-mall

Alteration shop — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Barber shop — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Beauty shop — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Laundry and dry cleaners — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Military clothing sales — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Subway — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Moves

Area Defense Counsel — Keesler's office is now in Room 5703, Locker House. The office, an independent office

of the Air Force Legal Services Agency, provides representation for investigations, administrative actions and discharges, nonjudicial punishment, court-martial and other adverse actions. For appointments, call 377-2429.

Contracting — now located in Room 101, old Cody Hall.

Education office — now located in Room 212, old Cody Hall. For assistance, call 377-2323 or 2171.

Family support center — now located on the first floor, old Cody Hall. A student office remains open in the Fishbowl.

Finance — now located on the second floor, Vosler Center. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays.

For military and travel pay questions, call 377-7272 or 4212.

Legal office — aid is available from attorneys, 8-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. workdays; notaries and powers of attorney, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. workdays, Room 246, Levitow Training Support Facility. For appointments, call 377-3510. For Katrina claims, call 377-3630. The fax number is 377-3630.

Personnel finances — now located in Room 119, old Cody Hall. For more information, call 377-8601 or 2179.

Personnel offices — now located in Room 218, old Cody Hall. The civilian personnel office has relocated to the Airman Leadership School building.

Retiree activities center — now located in Room 104, old Cody Hall.

Traffic management office — for technical training students in Room 211, Levitow Training Support Facility, is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call 377-0174, 1263, 7448 or 3147.

The main TMO is located in old Cody Hall, Room 166, and is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Phone numbers are inbound issues, 377-7291, and outbound counselors, 377-5471.

Self-help store

The self-help store is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday for facility managers, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for housing residents and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays. For more information, call 377-5397.

Thrift shop

The Keesler Thrift Shop, located in the former Chapel 1 next to the dental clinic, is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

The consignment shop has slightly used items.

Consignments are accepted 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays, and only 15 items are allowed per consignor each week.

Donations are accepted at any time during hours of operation.

For more information, call 377-3217.

Mardi Gras 2006

Masking, merrymaking mark annual Gulf Coast festivities



Then Brig. Gen. William Lord, former 81st Training Wing commander, and his wife, Cindy, were among Keesler representatives at last year's Biloxi Mardi Gras festivities. They're draped in Mardi Gras beads tossed from floats during the parades.

Mardi Gras glossary

Beads — necklace thrown at parades.
Carnival — festival season which runs from the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 6, to Mardi Gras.
Colors — traditionally used are purple for justice, green for faith and gold for power.
Court — royalty for a carnival krewe or club.
Doubloons — commemorative coins.
Krewes — Mardi Gras organization.
Laissez les bon temps rouler — French phrase which means "let the good times roll."
Lent — a 40-day period of reflection and repentance observed by Christians preparing for Easter.
Mardi Gras — French for "Fat Tuesday," signifying celebration or overindulgence before Lent begins. The date varies depending on when Easter falls during a particular year (first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21, the spring equinox).
Throw me something, Mister — traditional cry of parade-goers to catch the attention of someone riding on a float to toss them a trinket.
Throws — necklaces, plastic cups, stuffed animals, candy, toys, coupons, pens, pencils, doubloons, paper flowers and other items tossed to parade spectators.

Gulf Coast Carnival Association

The celebration of Mardi Gras goes back to pagan rites of spring taken over by the early Catholic Church for a day of feasting before the beginning of Lent and weeks of fasting preceding Easter.
 As the years passed, in addition to feasting, many added mummery with its masking and merrymaking — a sort of letting go of all inhibitions before taking on the somber penitence of Lent.
 Some countries in Europe celebrated this date of feasting on different dates, but the French restricted it to the day preceding Lent, and this custom was adopted by

the French colonies in the New World. In French, "Mardi" means "Tuesday" and Gras means "fat," or "to eat meat," thus Fat Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday.
 Biloxi claims the first Mardi Gras celebrated in this area was at the newly-established Fort Maurepas, for wherever there was a Frenchman, a holiday and a bottle of wine, there was a celebration.
 New Orleanians claim some of D'Iberville's men were exploring the mouth of the Mississippi River, and on the morning of Mardi Gras in 1699, formally took possession of the area and named a small stream near the mouth of the river

— Bayou Mardi Gras — a name still printed on maps of that region.
 The boisterous buffooneries of the garrison at Mobile, Ala., generally made Ash Wednesday a day for military as well as priestly discipline. It was a completely American innovation to organize the carnival, to substitute regular parades for the old impromptu mummers in the streets and to unite into many social groups for the masked balls scattered throughout the season.
 The first recorded carnival celebration other than private parties or balls was New Year's Eve in Mobile in 1831 when a group of young men, following an evening

of wining and dining, saw an intriguing array of rakes, hoes, tubs, buckets and cowbells in a hardware store window. They unceremoniously borrowed the implements and with cowbells clanging and tubs booming, paraded through the sleeping town serenading their friends.
 Mobile's mayor graciously invited them in for refreshments, thereby giving official sanction to what turned out to be the organization of the Cowbellion de Rakin Society, forerunner of Coast Carnival Krewes and the fabulous parades themselves.
 In New Orleans, the French colonists had their casual carnival balls and the

Spanish found the custom well established when they took over the city in 1766.
 But they noticed with alarm that the mulattos and Americans were devoting the day to boisterous violence, so the Spanish put a stop to the custom of masking. Orleanians, masked or unmasked, continued to enjoy gallivanting around in costume.
 In 1820, a group of young Creoles educated in Paris decided to live things up with a masked procession of substantial size. But it soon got out of hand, and the celebration was suppressed until 1857, when a new organization was formed to present a parade with floats and torch lights.

The group was the Mystick Krewe of Comus, and there were two main floats, one carrying the king and the other showing Satan in a blazing hell. A new Mardi Gras was born with strong American overtones.

Krewes, captains and kings

The older carnival traditions are carefully preserved. Rules of the "krewes," the men's organizations, dominate the lives of the city's social circles.
 In New Orleans, Mardi Gras has become two celebrations — the first a genial free-for-everyone affair, and the other the revelry of exclusive societies.
 The oldest krewes dominate, with membership ranging from one to 200. The man who really dictates is the krewe captain, not the king. No sooner is one season ended than work begins on another. For many workmen, Mardi Gras is a year-round job.

A king is chosen, a man who can afford the expense of providing his own costume, jeweled train and accessories. The king gives suppers and parties and buys gifts for the queen and her maids. In smaller towns, the king also pays for the cost of his float.

Crowning the queen

The queen is usually chosen from among the current season's debutantes. The expense is great, but so is the honor.
 In this area, Mardi Gras is a school holiday, instead of Presidents Day that is celebrated in other parts of the country.
 Biloxi was the first of the sister cities of the Mississippi Gulf Coast to celebrate with a formal parade of floats in 1908. Now a number of towns in south Mississippi celebrate with parades, but they space them at different times during the carnival season so all may come and enjoy each celebration. Biloxi still has its traditional carnival on Mardi Gras Day.

Katrina impacts Coast celebrations this season

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News Staff

Hurricane Katrina dealt a blow to this year's Mardi Gras season in south Mississippi — carnival balls and parties have been cancelled, and some parades have been called off or their routes shortened.

Some cities can't parade on their usual courses because of debris, damage and limited law enforcement capabilities.

Mardi Gras Day is Feb. 28 this year, but parades kick off this weekend:

Saturday

Ocean Springs Elks, 1 p.m.

Feb. 11

Orange Grove Krewe of Kids, 2 p.m.

Feb. 18

Krewe of Diamondhead golf cart parade, noon.
 Orange Grove Carnival Association, 2 p.m.
 Gautier Men's Club, 7 p.m.

Feb. 19

Krewe of Nereids, Waveland, 1 p.m.
 Long Beach Carnival Association, 2 p.m.

Feb. 25

Jackson County Carnival Association, Pascagoula, 1 p.m.

Krewe of Gemini day parade, Gulfport, 2 p.m.

Feb. 26

St. Paul Carnival Association, Pass Christian, time to be announced.
 North Bay parade, D'Iberville, 2 p.m.

Feb. 28

Gulf Coast Carnival Association 98th annual parade, 1 p.m., Biloxi.
 Krewe of Gemini night parade, 6 p.m., Gulfport.



Photos by Kimberly Guro

Revelers ride on decorated floats in Mardi Gras parades.

Shopping cart parade Feb. 18

"Circus, Circus" is the theme of the fifth annual Army and Air Force Exchange Service Mardi Gras shopping cart parade, 10 a.m. Feb. 18.

Since the base exchange complex was gutted by Hurricane Katrina, this year's parade's route is on the service drive between the service station and the Class Six Store.

Squadrons decorate shopping carts as floats and wear costumes to portray the circus theme. They're invited to toss candy and beads to parade-goers.

Trophies and AAFES gift cards are presented to the top three winners — \$100 for first, \$50 for second and \$25 for third. To register and get a cart, call April Roberts, 436-3683.



Members of the Keesler Honor Guard march past the reviewing stand at the 2005 Gulf Coast Carnival Association day parade in Biloxi.



First Lt. Rod Dunmore, 81st Transportation Squadron, slices a king cake.

King cakes — tasty tradition

By Susan Griggs

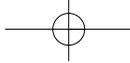
Keesler News Staff

A king cake is a crown-shaped pastry embellished with purple, green and gold that often replaces the doughnuts by the coffee pot during the Mardi Gras season.

King cakes resulted from European celebrations for Twelfth Night, or Epiphany, which commemorates the visit of the Wise Men to the Christ Child. To choose the king and queen for the festivities, a bean was tucked into the cake, and the person who found it received a year of good luck and the opportunity to pick a person to serve with him or her as royalty.

Today's king cakes have a tiny plastic baby instead of a bean, so be careful when you bite into your slice of the treat! Many are filled with fruit, nuts or cream cheese.

The finder of the baby traditionally has luck for a year, rules for the day — and has to supply the king cake for the next party.



Airman Marie Ostro, left, and Airman Basic Lindsay Stewart, 332nd Training Squadron, replace inscribed marble plates in front of the demolished Biloxi Chamber of Commerce building Jan. 24. The slabs were washed away by Hurricane Katrina's storm surge.

Airmen bolster Biloxi's Katrina recovery efforts

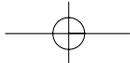
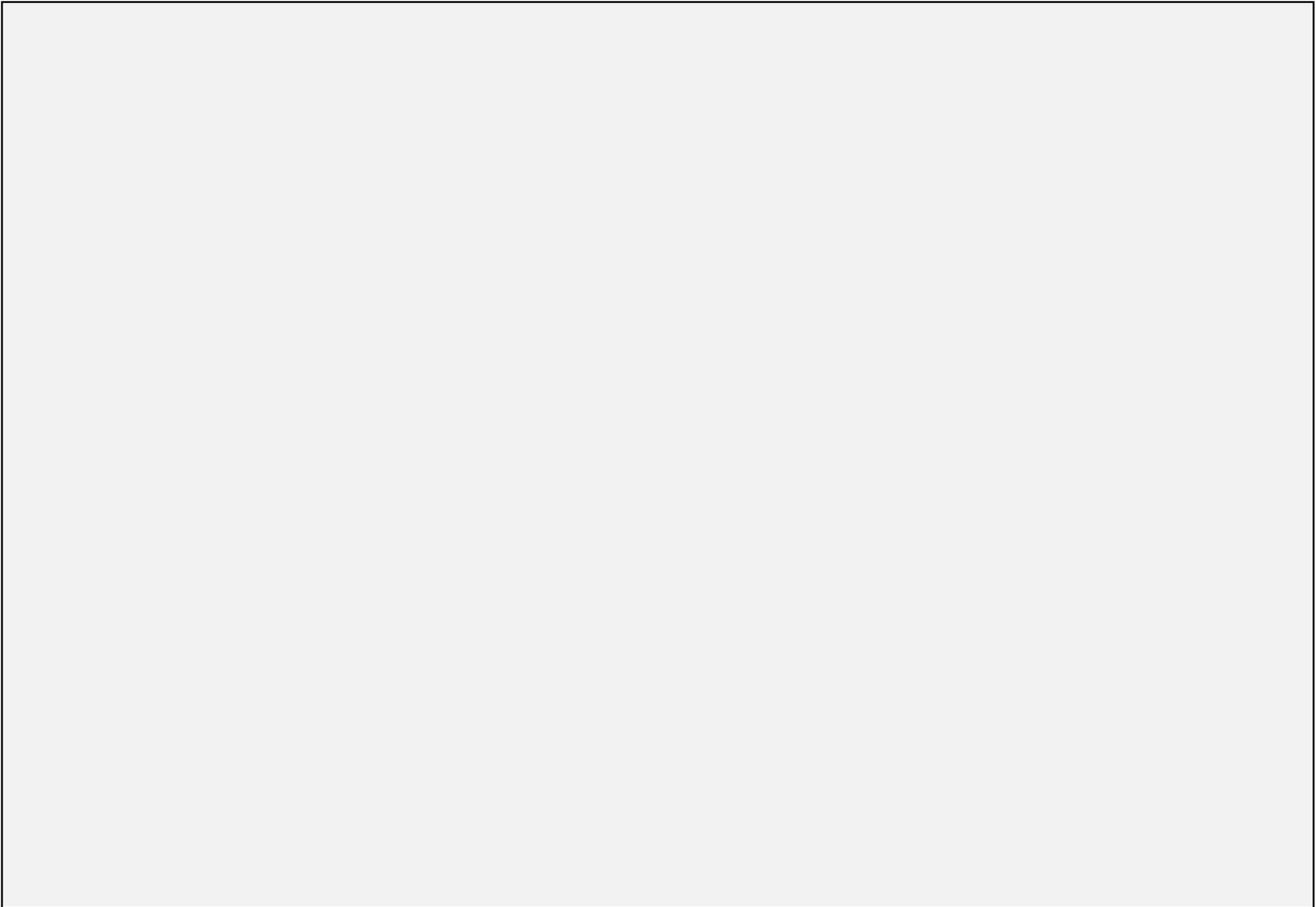


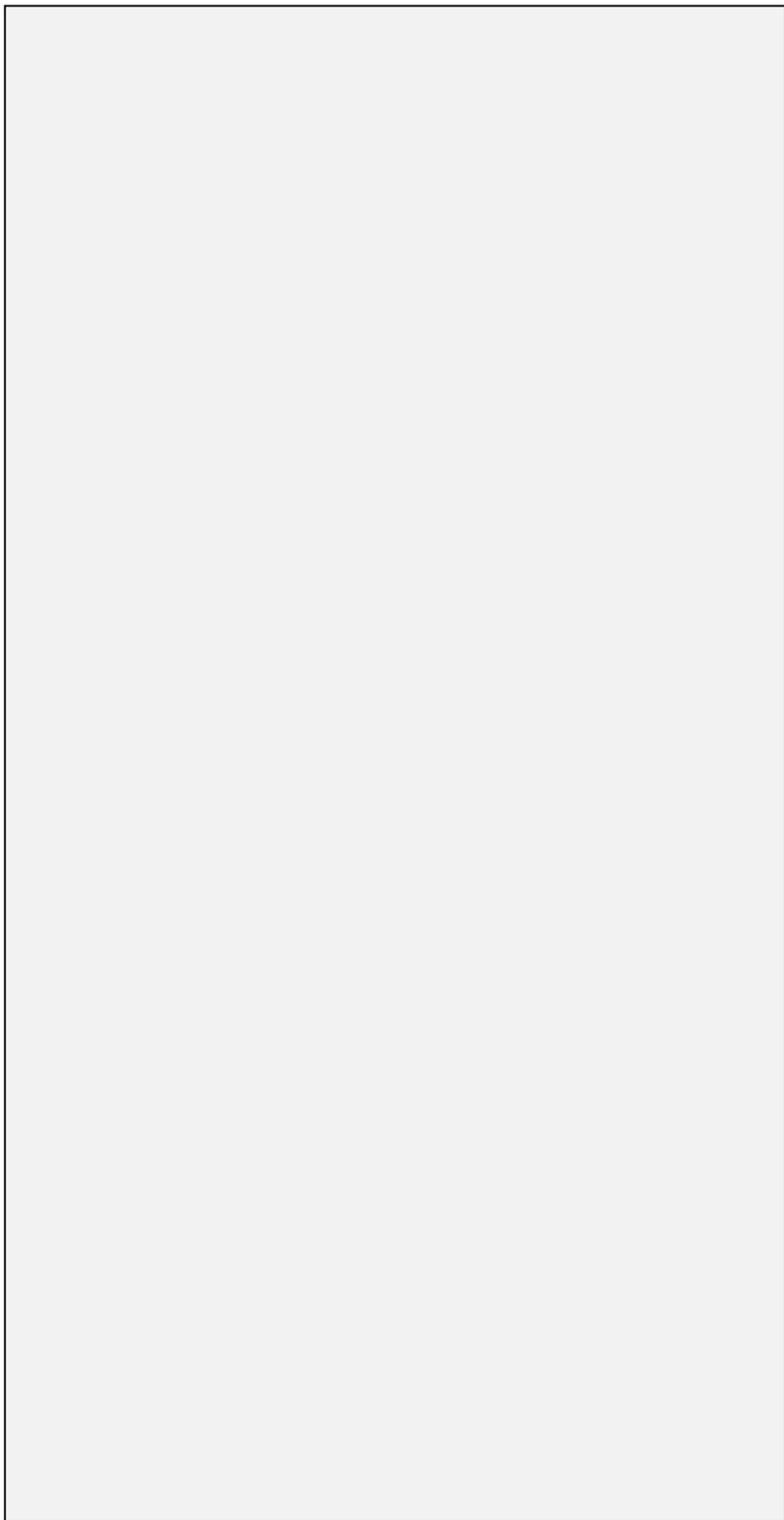
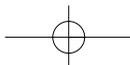
From left, Airmen Basic Chad Paul, Damian Reyes and Jereme Brown, 336th TRS, prepare bed frames for Katrina victims at Biloxi's Yankee Stadium Jan. 24.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Airman Basic Eric Tucker, 336th TRS, stains a board for a bed frame at Yankee Stadium.





Dentists visit kids for yearly check ups

Keesler's Dental Clinic is visiting the child development and youth centers during February's National Children's Dental Health Month.

Children get their yearly check-ups and learn about proper dental hygiene.

Events are:
Wednesday and Feb. 22

— a dental reading is 10 a.m., McBride Library.

Feb. 13 — 8 a.m., CDC, dental clinic visit for children ages 2-3.

Feb. 14-15 — 8 a.m., CDC, dental clinic visit for ages 3- 5.

Feb. 16 — 4 p.m., dental clinic visits youth center, ages 5-12.

Organization day: next black heritage event

Organization Day — 5356, or Tech. Sgt. Byron Bryant, 377-4198.

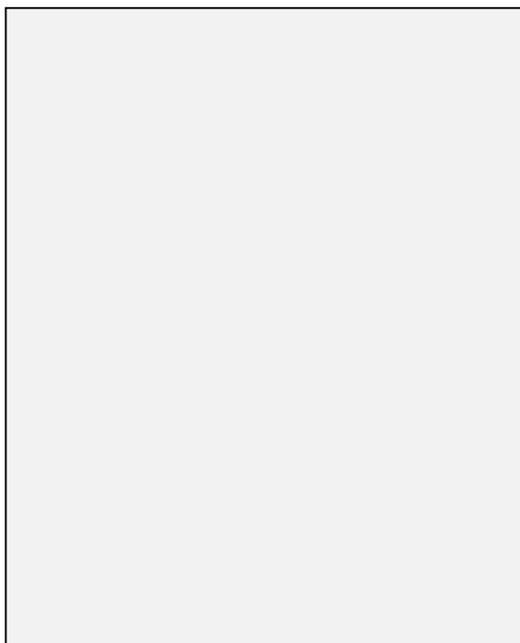
judging is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 9. For more information, call Pamela Tunstall, 377-4212, or Senior Airman Tanisha Lofton, 377-2493.

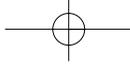
AAHC cookout — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 16, marina park. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Clifford Massey, 377-1305.

Third annual bowling tournament — 1 p.m. Feb. 17, Gaude Lanes. For more information, call Kurt Higgins, 377-

Three-on-three basketball — Feb. 24, Blake Fitness Center. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Calvin Oliver, 377-3967, Sergeant Massey or Sergeant Bryant.

Gospel fest — 6-9 p.m. Feb. 25. Location will be announced at a later date. For more information, call Capt. David Robinson, 377-1920; Kim Johnson, 377-2453, or Tech. Sgt. Anthony Thomas, 377-8628.





KEESLER NOTES

Tax office open

Keesler's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Office is on the second floor of Vandenberg Community Center.

The office provides free tax advice and preparation services, 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. workdays.

Each squadron has at least one VITA representative who prepares income tax returns at his or her duty location.

For filing, bring an identification card, the Social Security cards of everyone on the return or a copy of last year's tax return if it was prepared elsewhere, as well as all relevant W-2 forms, 1099 forms, documentation for itemized deductions and supporting evidence for hurricane casualty losses.

For more information, call 377-4454.

Vehicle decals

Vehicle decals are available in the trailer on the south side of visitors center at the White Avenue Gate.

For more information, call pass and registration, 377-2143 or 2595.

DRMO withdrawals

Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office withdrawals for organizational requirements must be for assets normally authorized for requesting organizations and specific customer requirements.

For audit purposes, base activities other than nonappropriated fund activities must request all property in DRMO

through the retail supply activity. This ensures the requester is an authorized representative of the requesting organizational activity.

Children's art

The Military Child Education Coalition is looking for artwork, poems, and essays from Keesler children for On The Move Magazine.

Entries must be postmarked by Feb. 17.

For more information, call Lana Smith, 377-2179.

Speed limit up

The speed limit on Bayview Avenue behind Keesler Medical Center has been increased from 15 to 25 mph, according to safety officials.

Zero overpricing

Submit zero overpricing items on Air Force Form 1046 to 81SUPS/LGSPQ, Attn: Terry Brandenburg, 377-4252, or e-mail to terry.brandenburg@keesler.af.mil.

Supply visits

Supply customer liaison is available to visit organizations for feedback on support.

To schedule a visit, call Terry Brandenburg, 377-4252 or e-mail terry.brandenburg@keesler.af.mil.

Child care

The family child care program is available to all active-duty military, Defense Department civilians including non-appropriated fund,

and Army and Air Force Exchange Service employees and others who support the base mission.

To assist with finding a FCC provider, the staff prepares monthly listings of all current licensed providers.

For updated listings and more information, call 377-3189 or 5935.

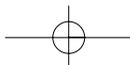
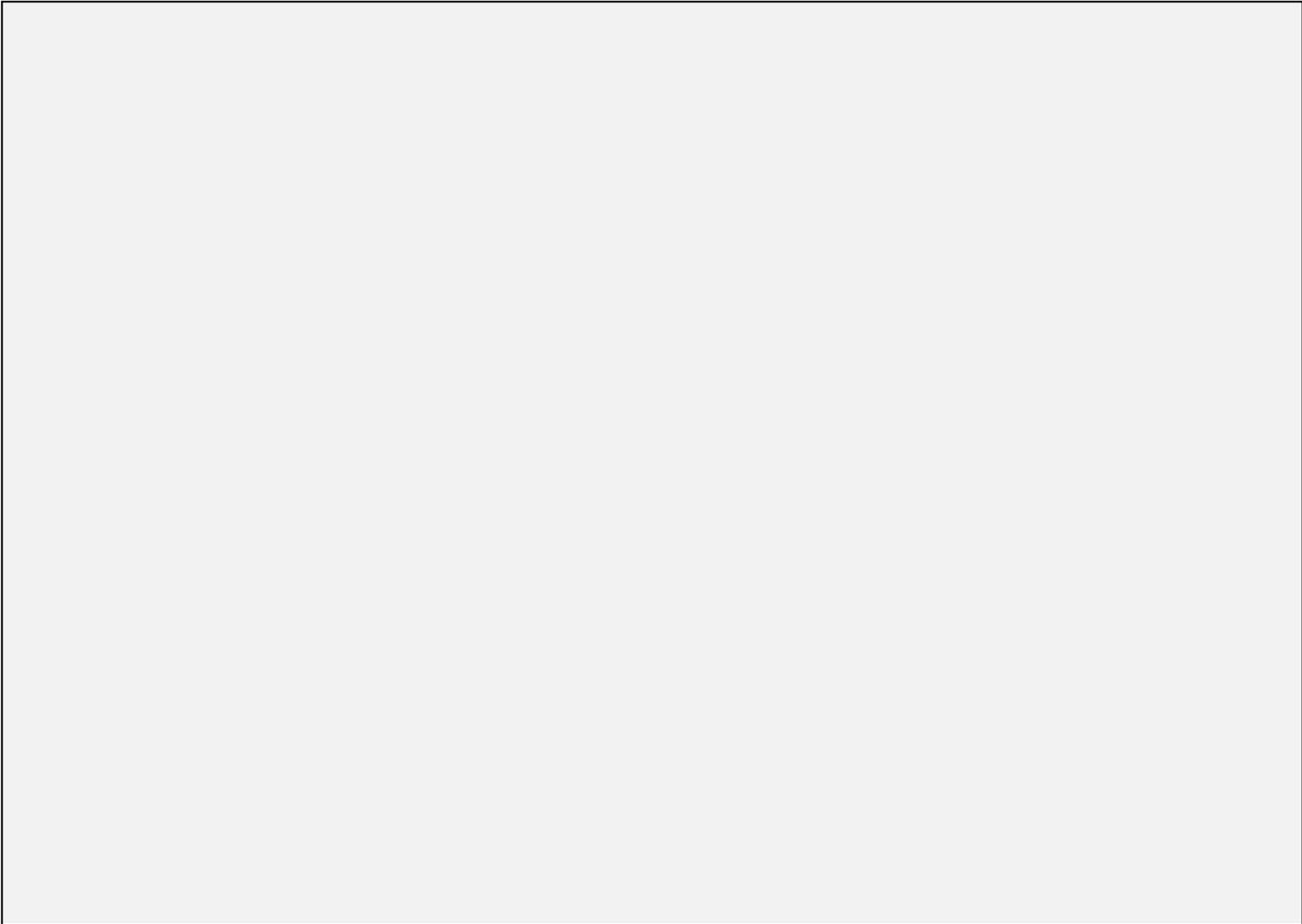
Preschool program

The part-day preschool program has openings for 3-5-year-olds in the 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m. sessions.

Classes are Mondays-working Fridays at the youth center.

Enrollment is at the child development center.

For more information, call 377-2211.



SPORTS AND RECREATION



ID check

Wayne Cox, left, a 403rd Wing reservist assigned to the 81st Services Division, checks the identification card of Kassie Montalvo, an Air Force ROTC cadet at the University of Southern Mississippi's Detachment 432, at the Blake Fitness Center Monday. The Dragon and Blake fitness centers are doing random ID checks. The fitness center staff has been instructed to check IDs for personnel not in uniform and not recognized by the staff. Montalvo is married to Staff Sgt. Angel Montalvo, 81st Comptroller Squadron. Photo by Kemberly Groue

9 boxers qualify for championships

By Tech. Sgt. Larry Simmons

Air Force Print News
SAN ANTONIO — After two weeks and one tournament, nine Airmen have been selected to represent the Air Force at the Armed Forces Boxing Championship at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., Monday through Feb. 11.

The boxers are Rodney Ellison and Celsa Reyes, both from F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.; Richard Mora, Tinker AFB, Okla.; Charmaine Carrington, Lackland AFB, Texas; Emma Atolagbe, Langley AFB, Va.; Hector Ramos, Travis AFB, Calif.; LaJoyce Gossett, Osan Air Base, South Korea; Andre Penn, Ellsworth AFB, S.D., and Gary Griffin, Stuart Air National Guard Base, N.Y.

"First thing I looked for when selecting the team is the ability the individual showed in following instructions, the coaches during the camp and matches," said Ronald Simms, Air Force Boxing

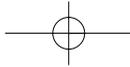


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Larry Simmons

Hector Ramos, left, connects with an over-the-top hook to Kevin Leggett in the second round of their Jan. 20 match.

Team coach. "They also need to have a strong work ethic and had to show the ability to execute the technical aspects being taught to them here."

The 30th annual event has been dominated by the Army. The Army has won 27 of the 29 team competitions held since its inception in 1976.



Air Force monster



Photo by Senior Airman Brian Ferguson

Afterburner, the Air Force's new monster truck, flies toward the finish line at the San Antonio Monster Jam. This is only the second race in which the truck, one of the newest Air Force recruiting tools, has competed. Afterburner, driven by Paul Cohen, made the finals Jan. 14, but was edged out by Grave Digger.

SCORES AND MORE

Bowling

Give Parents A Break night — Saturday. Parents registered in the program bowl for \$1 a game with free bowling shoes. Registration is verified.

Super Bowl party — begins one hour before game time Sunday. Watch the game on 60-inch screen. Bowl for \$1 per game plus \$1 for shoes. Purchase a \$5 wristband for assorted snacks, \$1 draft beer and prizes.

Possible contractors' bowling league — any Keesler contractor interested in forming a contractors' bowling league with a 12-week season, call 377-2817.

Play and save cards — bowl 21 games for \$29.95.

Fitness centers

Blake Fitness Center — 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays-through working Fridays; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. non-working Fridays; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Sweetheart 5-kilometer run for couples — 7 a.m. Feb. 14, Blake Fitness Center. Male, female pair must cross finish line together. Prizes to top five couples.

Dragon Fitness Center — open

Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; closed non-working Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The basketball court area isn't available.

Free aerobic and yoga classes available. For more information, call 377-2907.

Triangle Fitness Center — closed until further notice.

Football

Pre-Super Bowl flag football tournament — 5-9 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the football/soccer field. Single-elimination format. For more information, call 377-4409.

Golf

All 18 holes of the Bay Breeze Golf Course are available. The golf course is open 7 a.m. to dusk daily. Free for walkers only. Retrieve your own balls due to loss of ball picker. Driving range opens at 7 a.m. daily for free use.

Outdoor recreation

Katrina Kantina — a lounge for adults age 21 and over is in the main marina building. All ranks invited. Opens at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. For more information, call 377-3160.

Fam camp — available for mission-essential active-duty, civilian and contractors, and non-mission essential active-duty who've been displaced. For more information, call 594-0543.

Back bay pontoon boat tours — 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. \$5 per person. Minimum four, maximum eight people.

Children's wildlife poster contest — for all ages. Enter by Tuesday. First prize \$100 savings bond, second prize \$50 bond.

February special — camping package No. 1 discounted 10 percent. Package includes four-person tent, four sleeping bags, lantern, stove, 48-quart ice chest and camper's bow saw.

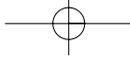
February fishing tournament — weigh in the largest redfish during the month and win a \$100 savings bond.

Bicycle rental — new 3500 Trek, 7-speed, \$3 a day or \$15 a week.

Resale items — hunting and fishing licenses, snacks, and a variety of beverages.

Youth center

Open recreation — Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., ages 6 and older.



Air National Guardsman plays in Super Bowl

By Army Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

SEATTLE — Bryce Fisher the "Guardsman" can earn a medal or a ribbon or receive a commander's coin for a job well done.

Now, Bryce Fisher the "football player" has a shot at a Super Bowl ring and a title his hometown has been waiting for 30 years. The Seahawks, National Football Conference champions play the American Football Conference champion Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XL on Sunday in Detroit.

Fisher, 28, is the Seahawks' starting left defensive end, No. 94. Since being sworn in last November, he is also Capt. Bryce Fisher, a Washington Air National Guard public affairs officer.

After the Seahawks' 34-14 victory over Carolina in the NFC championship Jan. 22, Fisher ran onto Qwest Field, a place that owner Paul Allen designed to be deliberately deafening.

With the crowd noise rivaling the roar of two F-16 Fighting Falcons at full throttle, Fisher hugged his teammates. He reached into the stands to grasp the hands of fans. But most of all he smiled a huge, toothy grin.

Being a Guardsman helped him get here, he said, yelling to be heard above the crowd.

"The Air Force gave me my opportunity to succeed and play football in college, and if it hadn't been for the things I learned — the discipline, the teamwork — I don't think I ever would have got to be a part of a thing like this," he said.

He jogged off to embrace another teammate and watch the trophy presentation at midfield.

His roles as a Guardsman and pro football player work two ways. He brings the discipline of the military to the team. As he soars with the Seahawks, he highlights the role of the National Guard to the nation.

"It puts my name out

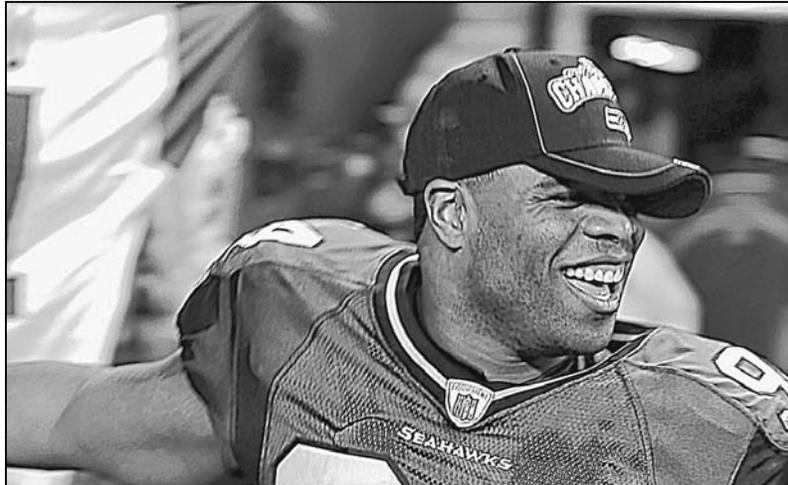


Photo by Army Sgt. Jim Greenhill

Fisher sports a championship cap and a big smile after the Seattle Seahawks punched their tickets to Super Bowl XL by defeating the Carolina Panthers, 34-14, in Seattle Jan. 22. When he's not playing, Fisher is a public affairs officer in the Washington ANG.

there," Fisher said in the locker room after the game. "And it gives me a chance to shed some light that there are a lot of people who are Soldiers in a lot of different environments — doctors, lawyers — and they're doing their one weekend a month and two weeks a year, doing great things."

As the 6-foot-3, 268-pound Fisher changed into a sweatshirt and jeans, Tim Ruskell, the Seahawks' president of football operations, said the qualities that the defensive end honed in the Guard are an asset to the team.

"We're just so proud of what he's accomplished," Ruskell said. "Not his numbers — I mean, the sacks are great and everything — but the character that he brings to our locker room, the discipline and the preparation and the work ethic. And that permeates throughout the locker room — certainly along the defensive line — and it adds to what this team has done."

Seahawks head coach Mike Holmgren was looking for exactly that kind of discipline when he brought Fisher

to Seattle as one of the "tweaks" that turned the team from also-rans into Super Bowl contenders.

"He brought the type of character that we're looking for," Coach Holmgren said, "and the type of never quit, high effort, 'go until I can't go anymore' attitude."

Fisher was quick to talk up the Seahawks' offense. It is said the best offense is a good defense, and Fisher is having the best season of his five-year NFL career. He's part of a team that can claim to be the only defense to shut down Panthers' wide receiver Steve Smith this year.

He made 34 solo tackles, assisted on 13 others and sacked quarterbacks a team-high nine times during the Seahawks' 13-3 regular season. He has recorded five tackles, four assists and one sack during Seattle's playoff victories over Washington and Carolina.

When Fisher came to the Seahawks from St. Louis for this season, he came home. He was born in Renton, Wash., May 12, 1977. That made the NFC title especially sweet. It was the Seattle franchise's first champi-

onship in its 30-year history.

"Man, you can't beat this at all," he said during those gleeful moments on the field after the victory. "Thirty years for a thing like this. It's time for us to bring this thing home. It's time for us to finish this thing off. All these analysts that said, 'Seattle can't do this, can't do that,' all they know is there's 30 teams at home wishing they were where we are."

That's the competitive spirit that pushed Fisher through the Air Force Academy. He graduated in 1999.

"I wasn't focused on the NFL at the academy," he said. "I was focused on graduating and learning to be a good officer. Then the opportunity presented itself to convert my commitment to Reserve time, and I took that."

He spent two years on active duty before negotiating to serve nine years of Reserve time to complete his military commitment. He picked the National Guard. His father, Richard, was in the Army Reserve.

Fisher is a family man. His decision to play for Seat-

tle was focused on a good place for his wife, Bobbi, and their two children to live. So did being close to his parents. The Jan. 22 victory, like the playoff win over Washington the previous weekend, was as much for his family as anyone.

"My family's been rooting for this team for so long," he said, "especially my dad and my brother.

"This is where I grew up. I'm on the middle to back half of my career. This is the kind of place that I wanted to be (with) my wife and kids. This is the kind of city and kind of organization that I wanted to be a part of.

"We wanted to be close to one of our families, either mine or hers. Now I'm getting a chance to start in the Super Bowl."

If Fisher's Super Bowl XL appearance is followed by orders deploying him for duty with the National Guard, he'll still have his game face on.

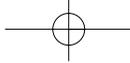
"If they say it's time for me to go, it's time for me to go," he said. "When I signed on to be in the military, I knew what I was signing on for. It's part of my commitment. I've been blessed to have some great commanders that have put me in great positions.

"If the president says, 'Look, we want the public affairs officer of the Washington National Guard,' then it's time for me to go do that."

Fisher says the National Guard can offer young adults a great start in life.

"I really believe that young men and women can benefit from serving and learning to be in a team environment," he said. "Learning that it's not all about me. It's about the organization. It's about doing something higher."

"As a member of the Guard now instead of active duty, I get to still be a part of that and I'm thankful."



DIGEST

GRADUATIONS

First Term Airmen Center Class 06-2

81st Civil Engineer Squadron — Airman Jeffery Duckett Jr.
81st Medical Operations Squadron — Airman 1st Class Joshua Olszen.

81st Medical Support Squadron — Airmen 1st Class Christina Adams, Jessica Bludau, Ami Hammond, John Jones and Nornil Villaflores.

81st Security Forces Squadron — Airman Basic Christian George; Airmen 1st Class Philip Hanson, David MacDonald, Natalie Murphy, Khandijan Perkins and Lindsay Taggart.

HONORS

Quarterly awards, October-December

81st Mission Support Group

Airman — Airman 1st Class Cheyenne Youngbird, 81st Communications Squadron.

Noncommissioned officer — Tech. Sgt. Kimberley Alvarez, 81st Contracting Squadron.

Senior NCO — Master Sgt. Sandra LePine, 81st Mission Support Squadron.

Company grade officer — 1st Lt. Randall Gibbs, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron.

Entry level civilian — Pamela Jackson, 81st MSS.

Intermediate level civilian — David Bowers, 81st Services Division.

Senior level civilian — Glenn Jones, 81st SVD.

81st Training Wing staff agencies

Airman — Senior Airman Chiquita Green, 2nd Air Force.

Noncommissioned officer — Staff Sgt. Vicki Gonsalves, legal office.

Senior NCO — Master Sgt. Lorne Ryland, legal office.

Company grade officer — Chaplain (Capt.) David Barnes.

Field grade officer — Chaplain (Maj.) Bruce Kite.

Entry level civilian — Misti Brown, chapel.

Intermediate level civilian — Ron Reagan, legal office.

Senior level civilian — Debbie Lizana, 81st Comptroller Squadron.

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Anthony Banister, Abigail Bjorkman, Joshua Cabaniss, Jose Charlesworth, Isaac

Cunningham, Kyle Dehart, Jonathan Duchene, Seth Edmonds, Lary Eyre, Allen Goodger, Jeffery Haviland, Darcy Kumm, Michael Lee, Gabriel Lopez, Eric McCord, Cory Menchhofer, Justin Mongoso, Alejandro Mora, Michael Moulin, Benjamin Parag, Elizabeth Parsons, Jeremy Plumb, Skyler Poole, Robert Rhoads, Gramm Roberts, Daniel Scheiner, Daren Schiele, Orora Sezenias, Daniel Sleeter, Joshua Smith, Lee Striebich, Brandon Tapp, Jason Unovitch, Daniel Uerness, Roger Walkup, Trent Wilson and Christopher Zoglmann; Airmen Antonio Austin, Anthony Gray, Michael Keany, Adrian Leal, Stephen Liska, Elyse Miller, Edward Sayers, Christopher Stroup and Jansen Velante; Airmen 1st Class Walter Anderson, Kyle Amburn, Alexander Babbie, Peter Bernheim, Artur Brozyna, Justin Buchholz, Brandon Cousin, Brandon Dawson, Ryan Fukunaga, Ian Handley, Randall Hodkin, Timothy Joneau, Christopher Konze, Tom Kwiczor, Kelvin Ma, Joseph Masei, Justin Morgan, Zane Nelson, Christopher Pazton, Laverne Pettit, Kyle Reece, Vernon Reed, Byron Romero, Jonathan Seaman, Tyler Smith, Ayron Solomakos, Steve Soto-Mejias, Cody UpDegrave and Kevin Wolff; Senior Airmen Michael Christensen, Matthew Moser and Peter Pederson; Staff Sgt. Aaron Mabray; Tech. Sgts. Gerald Blatt, Edward Clark, Stephen Schwartz and Anthony Tribelli.

334th TRS

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Alan Abraham, Trey Garner, Noah Jenkins, Gregory Navickas, Shane Ooten, Jeremy Rueda and John Ward; Airmen 1st Class Royce Bockelman, Matthew Miller, Leon Montroy, Felix Nazario and Ernesto Rivera; Senior Airmen Mason Mathews and Christopher Spencer; Staff Sgts. Tony Araiza, Marty Bettelouin, Jerry Poth, Richard Taylor and Bryan Vails.

335th TRS

Comptroller training flight — Airmen Basic John Bridges, Tiffany Chaffin, Alexander Cueva, Jawann Hazzard, Jodi Nicholson, Winnie Otieno and Douglas Wolf; Airmen 1st Class Angela Bolo and Maria Proano; Senior Airmen Mark Joseph De Vega, Sonia Jones and Melissa Menck; Staff Sgts. Bruce Comer, Lisa Krejci, Stephen Libertini, Kevin Harrison-Lombardi and Kimberly Spencer; Tech. Sgt. Mark Morgenstern.

Weather training flight — Airmen Basic James Abby, Janice Anderson, Rory Berg, Mason Cairns, Stephanie Clark, Andrew Farley, David Ford, Houston Green, Jonathan Lash, Andrew Massung, Christopher McIntyre, Laura Mickus, Kimberly Savitz and Tyler Walker; Navy Airmen Recruit Dustin Covault and Sarah Hebbeln; Airmen Robbie Nicpon and Joseph Solis; Navy Airmen Apprentice Nicholas Burt and Stella Swartz; Marine Pfc. Jamie Clark, Geoffrey Donohue and Christopher Lebron; Airmen 1st Class Angela Campbell, Donald Chappotin, Sean Doyle, Christopher Guyne, Michael Haight, Daniel Harris, Jessica Isom, Melissa Perry, Christopher Ramos and Zachary Scott; Navy Airmen Elizabeth Clements, Thomas Graves and Michael Madore; Navy Seamen Lindsay Moore and Misty Sutherland; Senior Airman Justin Kuiper; Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jesus Suarez; Tech. Sgts. Keith LeBlond, William Stones and Timothy Tackett.

336th TRS

Communications and information flight — Airmen Basic Jung Park and Carlos Rodriguez; Airman 1st Class Stephanie Singleton.

Communications-computer systems training flight — Airmen Basic Jason Fowler, Steven Lybbert, Noah Rainey and Matthew Yard; Airman Jeremy Stokes; Airmen 1st Class Matthew Fuger, Christopher Nordhogen and Andrew Reindl; Senior Airmen Ryan Cray, James Gordon, Sang Lee and Derek Perrault; Staff Sgts. Johnny Baker, Bradley Bolbach, Jonathan Eastwood, Phillip Ramil and Nicholas Walker; Tech. Sgt. Billie Wolfe.

338th TRS

Computer, network, cryptographic systems course — Airmen Matthew May, Thomas Wehmeyer and Joshua Yennie; Airmen 1st Class David Decker, Christopher Mahoney, Kevin Mayo, Michael Perkins, Dustin Reeves, Luke Rials, Matthew Smith and David Whitby; Staff Sgt. Dante Adams.

Ground radio — Airmen Monique Barnum and Steven Brumley; Airmen 1st Class Paul Amasol, David Gomez, Mitchell Haas, Jesse Herre, Anthony Luckert, Matthew Marentette, Matthew Metzger, Robert Miller, Eric Ratajczak, Michael Reynolds, Ryan Stine, Isaiah Ward. Tech. Sgt. Charles Hollingsworth.

SHUTTLE BUS SCHEDULE

6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	:30
:01	:31
:02	:32
:03	:33
:04	:34
:05	:35
:06	:36
:07	:37
:08	:38
:09	:39
:10	:40
:11	:41
:12	:42
:13	:43
:14	:44
:15	:45
:16	:46
:17	:47
:18	:48

Technical training route 5:10-5:37 a.m. weekdays

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:10	Building 5025
:12	Building 5022
:14	Shaw House
:16	Muse Manor
:18	Tyer House
:20	TLQ east side 2000 block
:21	TLQ east side of Locker House
:25	332nd TRS
:28	Welch Auditorium
:33	Thomson/Dolan/Cody Halls
:34	McClellan Hall
:36	Allee/Wolfe Halls
:37	Stennis Hall/Weather

Prior-service students lodged off-base

Call 377-2432 for transportation needs. Traffic in the local area impacts base taxi times.

Editor's note: Duty passengers have priority over "space available" riders. Schedule may be impacted by increased official operations or severe weather. Those who are physically challenged or have excess baggage, call 377-2432 for the base taxi. For more information, call 377-2430.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

- Class 06-B — graduation March 1.
- Class 06-C — April 3-May 9.
- Class 06-D — May 22-June 27.
- Class 06-E — Aug. 1-Sept. 6.
- Class 06-F — Sept. 18-Oct. 25.
- Class 06-G — Nov. 1-Dec. 12.

Arts and crafts center

- Valentine card making** — 1 p.m. Saturday, Vandenberg Community Center. \$5.
- Beginning intarsia woodworking** — 10 a.m. Saturday or Feb. 18. \$15.
- Beginning ceramic painting** — 1 p.m. Feb. 10, Vandenberg Community Center. \$10. Paint a Mardi Gras mask.
- Kids' crafting class** — 11 a.m. Feb. 11. \$10. Valentine project.
- Advanced intarsia** — 10 a.m. Feb. 11 or 25. \$20.
- Pottery wheel training** — 4-8 p.m. Feb. 16, Vandenberg Community Center. \$10 for one hour; pick a convenient time.
- Beginning woodworking** — 4-6:30 p.m. Feb. 22. \$25.
- Advanced matting class** — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 24. \$25.

Chapel

Please see Digest, Page 25

CHAPEL SERVICES

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass
Larcher Chapel10 a.m.
Daily Mass
Larcher Chapel.....11:15 a.m.

Protestant

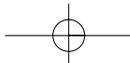
Sunday worship
Larcher Chapel traditional service.....8:30 a.m.
Fishbowl student contemporary service.....10 a.m.
Larcher Chapel praise and worship service11:30 a.m.
Larcher Chapel gospel service.....1 p.m.

Islamic

Building 2003 — for international students, temporary duty and permanent party; prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jumma congregational prayer, noon Friday.
For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

Latter-Day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — student group service, 3 p.m. Sundays, Fishbowl. Family home evenings, 7 p.m. Mondays, Fishbowl Student Center.



Digest,

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Journey to financial freedom — 6-9 p.m. Feb. 24, continuing 8:30-noon Feb. 25, Fishbowl Student Ministry Center. For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) John VanderKaay, 377-2331.

McBride Library

Orientations — 6:30 p.m. Wednesday and Feb. 15 and 22.
Music, punch and cookies — 2-4 p.m. Feb. 14.
Valentine stories — 10 a.m. Feb. 14, ages 2-5.
Orientations and tours — for more information, call 377-2181.

Health and wellness center

Tobacco cessation — for more information or to register, call 377-5305.

TRANSITIONS

Workshops, briefings

Veterans benefits briefing — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 16, March 16, April 6, May 11, June 15, July 13, Aug. 17, Sept. 14, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 14, Room 122, old Cody Hall. To pre-register, call Ron Bublik, 377-8592 or e-mail ronald.bublik@keesler.af.mil.

Transition assistance program workshop — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 13-15, March 13-15, April 3-5, May 8-10, June 12-14, July 10-12, Aug. 14-16, Sept. 11-13, Oct. 16-18, Nov. 13-15 and Dec. 11-13, Room 122, old Cody Hall. To pre-register, call Ron Bublik, 377-8592, or e-mail ronald.bublik@keesler.af.mil.

Web sites

Defense Manpower Data Center — <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dors> or <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/tbb>.

Air Force Blue to Corporate Gray — <http://www.blue.togray.com>.

Air Force Federal Employment Resume and Information — <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/resweb>.

Civilian job certification and licensing requirements for military personnel and veterans — <http://www.dol.gov/dol/vets>.

Department of Veterans Affairs — <http://www.vba.va.gov/efil/index.htm>; for members returning from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Southern Region Military and Civilian Job Fair — <http://www.mesc.state.ms.us/jobfair>.

New military spouse career center — <http://www.military.com/spouse>. Extensive job board including jobs from public and private sectors. For more information, call Vince Patton, 703-269-0154, or e-mail at vince@militaryadvantage.com.

America's Job Bank — <http://www.ajb.dni.us>.

Computer use

Government computers — commanders may authorize their use for preparation of personal resumes by people separating or retiring from the service on an "as available" basis as long as use doesn't adversely affect the mission.

Transition employment opportunities public folder — go to e-mail "public folders" and click on "transition employment opportunities" for job opportunities for active duty and family members. For more information, call 377-8592 or 8593.

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Vandenberg Community Center

Comics on duty — free show 7:30 p.m. today for Vandenberg patrons only.

Super Bowl party — 4 p.m. Sunday for all Keesler personnel. Free hot wings and pizza; prize giveaways.

Texas Hold 'Em — 1 p.m. Feb. 25 for all persons eligible to use Keesler facilities. \$10 entry fee; limited seating. Prizes sponsored by Budweiser.

Eight-ball pool tournament — 6-9:30 p.m. Mondays.

Nine-ball pool tournament — 6-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

Game night — 6 p.m. Wednesdays. Board games, ping pong tournament and more.

Karaoke — 6 p.m. Thursdays.

Late night dance and DJ — 6 p.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays. \$3.

Half Time Café — open for breakfast 5:30-9 a.m. workdays. Open for lunch and dinner. Asian buffet 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 2 and 16; catfish buffet 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. work Fridays.

Katrina Kantina

Super Bowl party — 1 p.m. Sunday. Free food, beer specials, prizes. Limited seating. Open to all Keesler personnel; contractors welcome.

Youth center

Annual membership — \$25 for ages 6 and older. Discounted prices for programs, classes and sports.

Self-directed activities — 3-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, ages 9-18. Free for members, 50 cents daily guest fee.

Movies and snacks — 5 p.m. Mondays, ages 9 and older.

Smart girls — 5 p.m. Tuesdays, ages 9-16. Girls-only topics.

Training responsible adolescents in leadership/Keystone Club — 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays, ages 13-17.

Game room tournaments — 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

Torch Club — 5 p.m. Thursdays, ages 9-12.

FitFactor fitness club — 5 p.m. Fridays, ages 9-18.

Friday dances — 6:30-10 p.m., ages 9-15. \$4 members, \$5 nonmembers.

Super Saturdays — 2-5 p.m., ages 6-12; 6-10 p.m., ages 13-18.

Creative corner club — 4:30 p.m. today and Feb. 16.

Read by mail program — 4:30 p.m. today and Feb. 16.

Free home alone safety workshop — 6 p.m. Feb. 9, ages 10 and older. Parent must accompany child.

Congressional award program — 6 p.m. Feb. 13, ages 14-21.

Free Junior Olympic soccer skills competition — 2 p.m. Feb. 18, ages 8-13; register through Feb. 17.

Teen aviation camp — applications accepted through Feb. 20. Open to current sophomores and juniors. For more information, call 377-4116.

Mardi Gras camp — Feb. 27-March 1, kindergarten through grade 6; sign up by Feb. 23.

TICKETS AND TOURS

New Orleans Iris and Tucks Mardi Gras parades — 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 25. \$15. Sign up and prepay no later than Feb. 16.

MEETINGS

Editor's note: To list time, place and point of contact for organization meetings, call 377-3837 or e-mail KN@keesler.af.mil.

African-American Heritage Committee — 3:30 p.m. second Tuesday of the month, Room 109, Taylor Logistics Building. For more information, call Paulette Powell, 377-2270, or Kurt Higgins, 377-1390.

Air Force Sergeants Association — 11 a.m. third Thursday of the month, Keesler NCO Academy auditorium. For more information, call Master Sgt. Scott Sippel, 377-2337.

At Eze Toastmasters Club — noon Tuesdays, Building 1101 conference room. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Don Seaton, 377-5958, or Fred Blache, 377-1048, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

Keesler Christian Home Educators Association — 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of each month, September-May, Larcher Chapel. Open to all military home educators. For more information, call Michelle Durkin, 872-9393, or e-mail chelle1rn@yahoo.com.

Keesler Officers Spouses Club — for more information, call Jeanette Jackson, 872-0626.

Native American Heritage Committee — for more information, call R.I. Whiteside, 863-0479, or Capt. Elizabeth Taillon, 377-6242.

MISCELLANEOUS

Movies

Editor's note: Movies are shown at Welch Auditorium. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children for regular features, and \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children for matinees. For a recorded message about current features, call 377-6627.

Friday — 7 p.m., Rumor Has It (PG-13).

Saturday — 2 p.m., The Chronicles of Namia (PG); 7 p.m., King Kong (PG-13).

Sunday — 2 p.m., Cheaper by the Dozen 2 (PG).

Reunions

Torrejon Air Base, Spain — Sept. 1-3, Oklahoma City, for all years. For more information, call William Hardin, 1-405-672-8939, or e-mail torrejonspainreunion@yahoo.com.

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

Lunch — herbed baked chicken, cornbread, stuffed cabbage rolls, fried catfish, blackeyed peas with rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, baked sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, peas, fruit salad, potato salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

Dinner — roast pork loin, cornbread, jaegerschnitzel, veal, glazed cornish hen, potato halves, orange rice, gravy, carrots, pinto beans, corn combo, fruit salad, potato salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

Friday

Lunch — Mexican baked chicken, Swiss steak, stuffed peppers, macaroni and cheese, rice, gravy, corn on the cob, beans, peas and carrots, pasta salad, three-bean salad, clam chowder, garden vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork sandwiches and burritos.

Dinner — lasagna, spaghetti with meat sauce, Italian sausage, garlic toast, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli polonaise, cauliflower, Italian baked beans, corn O'Brien, pasta salad, three-bean salad, clam chowder, garden vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue port sandwiches and burritos.

Saturday

Lunch — crispy baked chicken, cajun meatloaf, ribeye steak, baked and mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, French peas, glazed carrots, fruit medley, kidney bean salad, bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and buffalo wings.

Dinner — fish almonde, stir-fry chicken with broccoli, pork chops, rissole potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, calico corn, club spinach, fried okra, fruit medley, kidney bean salad, bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and buffalo wings.

Sunday

Lunch — tuna and noodles, sauerbraten, chicken breast filet parmesan, au gratin potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, peas, fried cabbage, tomato salad, jellied spring salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Dinner — ginger barbecue chicken, fried shrimp, spinach lasagna, orange rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, black-eyed peas, lima beans, corn O'Brien, tomato salad, jellied spring salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Monday

Lunch — baked chicken, Swiss steak, baked Italian sausage, peppers and onions, mashed potatoes, rice, gravy, broccoli polonaise, carrots, cornbread, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

Dinner — turkey, cornbread, ham, raisin sauce, fish and fries, mashed potatoes, cornbread dressing, gravy, succotash, tempura vegetables, green beans, garden cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone, chili with beans, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

Tuesday

Dinner — onion lemon baked fish, pork schnitzel steak, beef and spaghetti, garlic toast, baked and mashed potatoes, gravy, pinto beans, spinach, stewed tomatoes, spinach salad, waldorf salad, white chicken chili, seven-bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup and steak and cheese subs.

Lunch — paprika beef, barbecue beef cubes, chicken fajitas, garlic toast, O'Brien potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower, corn on the cob, lima beans, waldorf salad, spinach salad, white chicken chili, seven-bean with ham soup, steak and cheese subs and tacos.

Wednesday

Lunch — fried chicken, cajun baked fish, jalapeno cornbread, barbecue ribs, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn on the cob, okra and tomato gumbo, fried cabbage, cole slaw, garden cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

Dinner — pita pizzas, country-style steak, fried chicken, potatoes, gravy, fried cauliflower, bean combo, cabbage, coleslaw, cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.