

KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

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Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

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



Dragons deployed
130

'... unacceptable trend' DUIs, underage drinking on rise

By Master Sgt. Roger Drinnon

Keesler Public Affairs

Editor's note: This is the first in a five-part series on alternatives to the unsafe and illegal use of alcohol, and the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol, underage drinking and providing alcohol to minors.

Some Airmen could die and the careers of others may end needlessly if the current trend at Keesler continues.

Incidents of driving under the influence of alcohol more than doubled among Keesler military personnel in 2005 compared to the previous year. Incidents of underage drinking rose more than 60 percent.

"The statistics show an unacceptable trend," said Col. Douglas Hayner, 81st Training Wing vice commander. "I want our Airmen, Sailors and Marines to understand, underage drinking and driving under the influence are not mistakes, but crimes and not the responsible behavior we expect from our wingmen.

"These offenses threaten the safety and well-being of our people as well as our ability to take the fight to our enemies."

According to 81st Security Forces Squadron data, the overall number of DUIs among military members was down from 46 in 2004 to 43 in 2005. The num-

ber of underage drinking incidents fell from 57 in 2004 to 37 in 2005.

However, the base's military population shrank from about 10,600 in 2004 to about 4,500 in 2005. Proportionately, this accounts for a net increase in military DUIs of more than 100 percent.

The numbers also show about a 63 percent increase in incidents of underage drinking among military personnel.

Colonel Hayner said with so many safe alternatives at Keesler, no Airman needs to engage in irresponsible activities such

Please see **Alcohol**, Page 9

Another step forward



Photo by Kimberly Groue

Kuwaiti Air Force Staff Sgt. Khaled Al-Amer is welcomed to Keesler by Col. Deborah Van De Ven, 81st Training Group commander, Feb. 7. The sergeant is the first international student to report to Keesler for training since Hurricane Katrina. Story, another photo, Page 4.

Some retirees may see hike in Tricare cost

By Gerry Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department proposes working-age military retirees and their families pay higher premiums to help address health care costs that have doubled during the past few years.

The proposed changes would apply only to eligible military retirees under age 65 and their families, officials said. There would be no change for active-duty military or their families, or military retirees age 65 or older and their families.

When the Tricare health care program for active-duty and retired service members and their families was established in 1995, retirees were contributing about 27 percent of the cost of their benefit, said William Winkenwerder Jr., the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

However, military health care costs nearly doubled from \$19 billion in 2001 to more than

Please see **Tricare**, Page 9

COMMENTARY



Tech. Sgt. Charlene Morse, left, 81st SFS, writes up a report on the simulated break-in of a vehicle owned by Airman 1st Class April Clark, 81st Medical Support Squadron.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Keesler housing residents key players in curbing crime

By Tech. Sgt. Ezra Khan

81st Security Forces Squadron

Burglars just stole all of your belongings from your vehicle and home. They appreciate you not reporting them the last few nights when you saw one of them walking the fence line, and while they were moving things in the middle of the night.

There are ways to prevent crimes like this from occurring in your neighborhood.

If you have situational awareness and maintain vigilance, you'll be able to detect those times when something doesn't feel right. Go with your gut feeling and report it. Try to remember as many details as you can, such as strange individuals and vehicles that seem out of place or just don't belong in your neighborhood.

By dialing 911, you're connected to a police agency. Describe the event you are experiencing. At Keesler, if it's not an emergency, call the 81st Security Forces Squadron law enforcement desk. You can also report suspicious activity anonymously by calling Crime Stop, 377-2000.

Securing personal items is also important in preventing crime. Becoming a hard target reduces your chances of being a victim. By locking all the doors and windows to your residence and securing your vehicle, you remove targets of opportunity and make it hard on thieves. Avoid leaving keys or garage door openers visible in your vehicle or under the floor mat.

Security forces offers a quarters check program to military family housing residents, providing you peace of mind when you leave the area for an extended period of time. Stop

by the 81st SFS Control Center and fill out a quarters check form. Patrols then check on your home periodically while you're gone.

The No. 1 crime at Keesler is the theft of unsecured property such as bicycles, scooters, and skateboards. These items should be locked up in a secure location and not left outside and unlocked.

Speaking of children, their safety and protection is paramount. In base housing, residents are required to follow the current guidelines for the supervision of children. Children from infants to age 8 aren't left alone in or outside the home without parental sanctioned supervision. Children 9-11 can be left alone without adult supervision for up to two hours as long as they have emergency phone numbers and feel comfortable in the situation. Children 12-15 can be left alone up to 10 hours in daylight only and four hours after dark, and 16-17-year-olds may be left alone up to 72 hours.

Keesler's curfew hours are consistent with surrounding communities. Jan. 1-May 31 and Sept. 1-Dec. 31, curfew for those under 17 is 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Sunday-Thursday, 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Friday and 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. Saturday; June 1-Aug. 31, curfew is 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. seven days a week.

The crime rate in base housing is low. It can be reduced even further if everyone does the little things described here. Crime prevention is a two-fold pro-active approach — minimize criminal opportunities and encourage residents to be responsible for their own security and the security of others.

If you have any questions or concerns, call police services, 377-3762.

ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

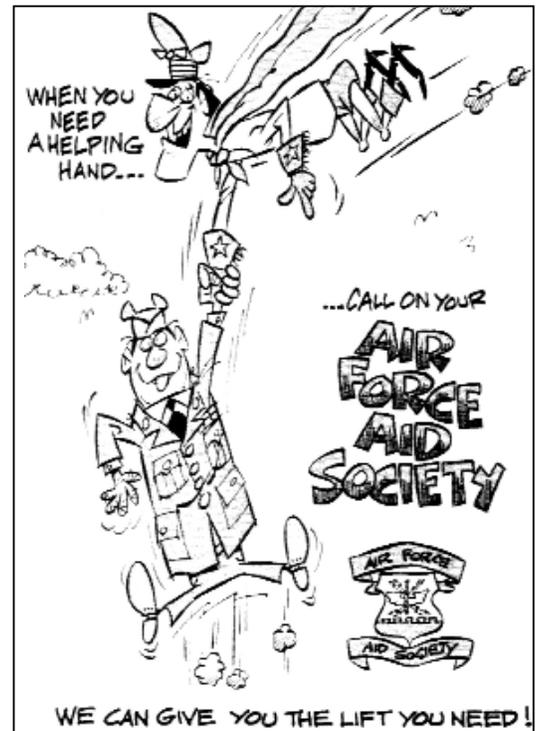
By Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

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



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Sergeant Al-Amer is guided through in-processing paperwork by Mr. Cooks.

Bulls poised for drill team title defense

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The 335th Training Squadron sets the stage to defend its 2005 drill down title in this season's first competition, 8 a.m. Feb. 24 at the drill pad adjacent to the Levitow Training Support Facility.

The Bulls won three of the four drill downs last year in a season abbreviated by Hurricane Katrina.

"The 335th TRS was the top drill team of 2005, regardless of Katrina," said Staff Sgt. Deanna Attaway, a military training leader from the 81st Training Support Squadron. "We were able to have four drill downs, so we had enough competition to name a winner."

Scoring for the annual title, based on the four monthly standings, gave 10 points for first place overall, nine points for second, eight points for third and seven points for fourth.

The Bulls, with 39 out of 40 possible points, edged the 332nd TRS Mad Dogs who earned the annual championship in 2003 and 2004.

The Mad Dogs tallied 35 points, followed by the 338th TRS Dark Knights, 29, 334th TRS Gators, 28, and 336th TRS Red Wolves, 25.

This season, drill downs are held every other month. In alternate months, student parades are planned.

Drill downs — 8 a.m. Feb. 24, April 21 and June 16; 7 a.m. Aug. 11 and Oct. 20.

Parades — 6 p.m. March 23 and Nov. 16; 7 p.m. May 18, July 14 and Sept. 21.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Kwame Felton, 377-9527, for drill downs and Sergeant Attaway, 377-2103, for parades.

International student training resumes

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Another component of the 81st Training Wing's return to pre-Katrina status began Feb. 8 with the arrival of Keesler's first international student since the storm.

Staff Sgt. Khaled Al-Amer from the Kuwaiti Air Force began air traffic control fundamentals training in the 334th Training Squadron. He remains at Keesler until May 22, when he's scheduled to graduate from the air traffic control tower apprentice course.

"We had 41 students from 20 countries — 29 officers, 11 enlisted and one civilian who were affected by Hurricane Katrina," said James Cooks Jr., chief of the Keesler International Military Student Office. "We're expected to have our maximum load of 43 students for this year in August."

The IMSO provides administrative support and monitors training for all international students. The office is the focal point for all international student matters. IMSO handles overall administration and welfare for foreign students in and out of the classroom, including airport pickups, in- and out-processing, identification cards, airline tickets, pay, field study tours, discipline and other matters.

Sponsors sought for foreign students

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The Spanish word for "friend" is the acronym for the American Members of International Goodwill to Others.

AMIGO is a sponsorship program that welcomes international students and their families and helps them adjust to life at Keesler, especially during their settling-in period.

"Since many things are strange during the first few weeks of their stay here, it's at this time that help and friendship are vital," said James Cooks Jr., chief of the international military

student office at Keesler.

A second purpose of the program is to acquaint the students with American ways and customs.

"Students want to correct erroneous impressions and to become better friends," Mr. Cooks remarked. "Many of our movies and television programs give the world a distorted image of us. While showing them our way of life, we also learn more about them and their countries, thereby developing mutual understanding."

To volunteer as a sponsor, call Mr. Cooks, 377-2921.

"Our office has a very challenging and sensitive job," Mr. Cooks explained. "We play a key role influencing the student's perceptions and attitudes about America, its government, people and military. Around the clock, we're called upon to do unique tasks that frequently require an awareness of different cultural value systems, sensitivity in interpersonal relations and innovative problem-solving."

IMSO ensures students are given the

opportunity to gain a balanced understanding of American government, social institutions, values, goals and people through the Department of Defense Field Study Program.

"The FSP is considered an integral part of the total training program and is second only to the military objectives for which the international student is in training," Mr. Cooks pointed out.

General Brady comes to Keesler for graduation of new course

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Friday, 44 officers graduate from a new course initiated when the manpower and personnel officer career fields were merged.

Lt. Gen. Roger Brady presides at the 10:30 a.m. ceremony in the Wolfe Hall auditorium.

General Brady, deputy chief of staff for personnel at Air Force headquarters at the Pentagon, is responsible for comprehensive plans and policies covering all life cycles of military and civilian personnel management.

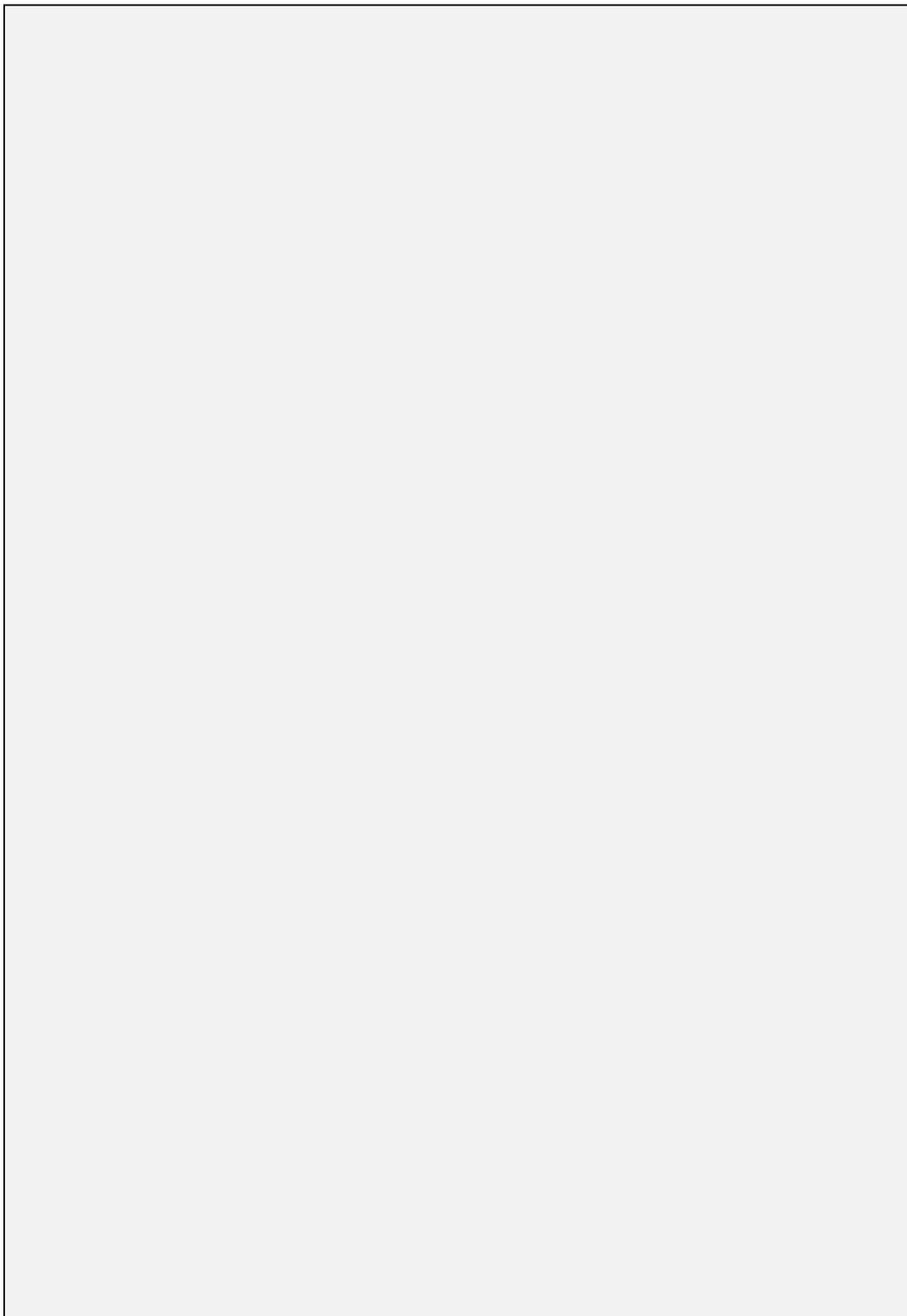
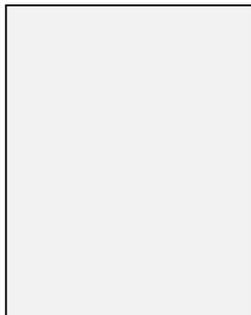
The 335th Training Squadron kicked off the 33-day course Jan. 5 to train officers for the new Air Force Specialty Code 37F.

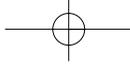
Combining manpower and personnel instruction added about two weeks to the training schedule.

The new course is designed to produce technical advisers for commanders to help them navigate the array of complex personnel and manpower programs.

Students learn not only how personnel authorizations are determined and filled, but how the Air Force manages a member's career.

The first course included active duty, Air National Guard and Reserve members ranging from second lieutenants to lieutenant colonels.





TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

CCAF deadline

Feb. 23 is the deadline to apply for the Community College of the Air Force spring graduation.

By that date, all supporting documentation must be on file at CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., including nomination action requests which are submitted by education office counselors.

To make an appointment with a counselor, call 377-2323 or 2171, or visit Room 212, old Cody Hall.

KOSC scholarships

March 17 is the deadline to apply for the Keesler Officers Spouses Club's annual scholarship program.

The four \$1,000 and four \$500 scholarships are for 2006

high school and home school graduates and military spouses.

Eligibility requirements and application packages are available from area high school guidance counselors, the base education office, family support center, the Fishbowl Student Center, McBride Library and Keesler Thrift Shop.

The thrift shop is one of the organization's fund-raising efforts that make the scholarships possible.

For more information, call Shannon Sanders, scholarship chair, 374-2368.

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/>.

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, call 377-2323.

MGCCC classes

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Keesler

Center's spring term is March 6 through May 18.

Registration by appointment in Room 214, old Cody Hall, begins Wednesday for active duty.

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

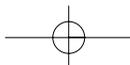
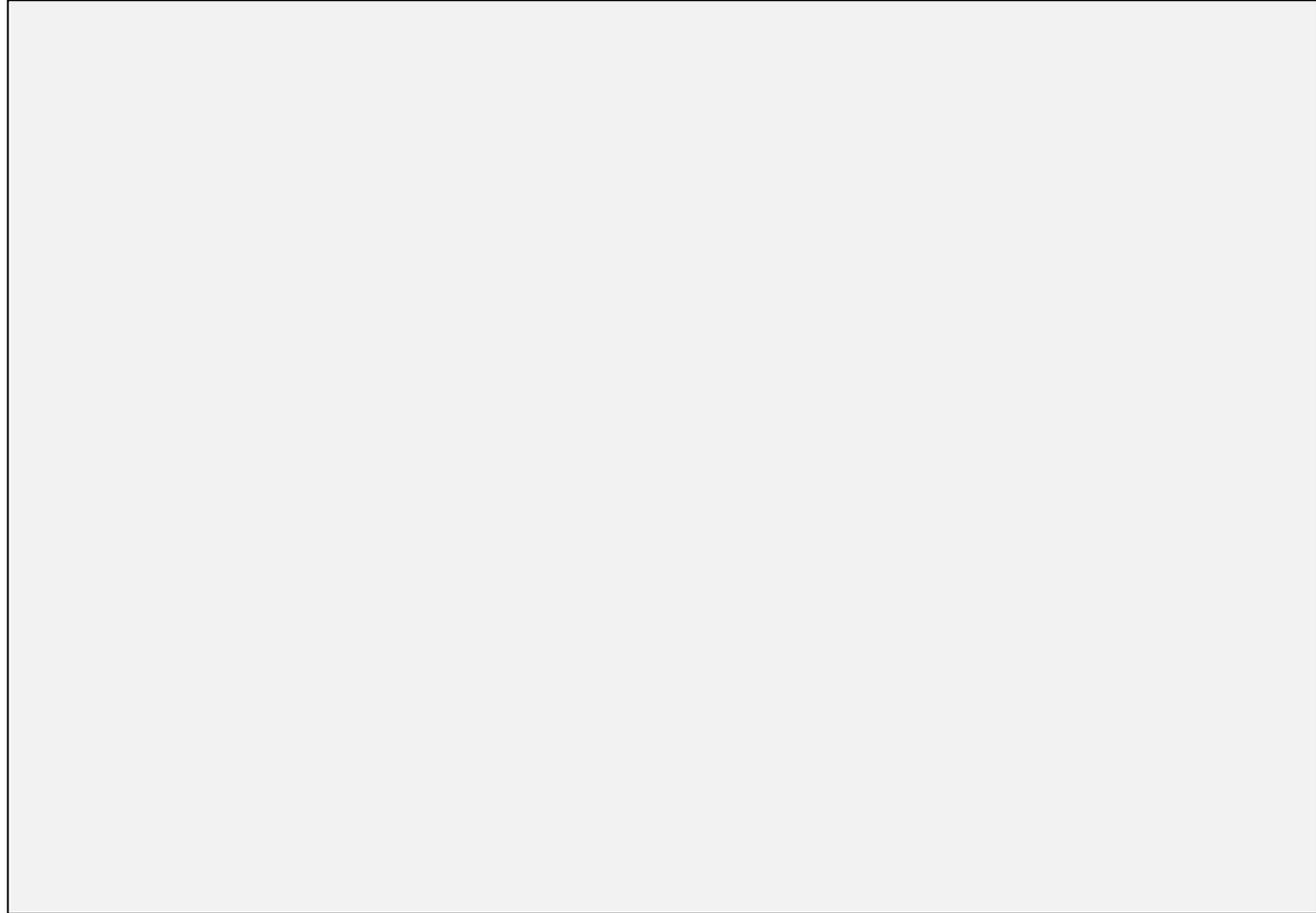
The schedule, including new classes in physics, calculus and study skills, is available at <http://www.mgccc.edu>.

For more information, call 377-2287.

\$1,000 scholarships

Military Officers Association of America scholarships are available to military children.

For more information or applications, go to <http://moaa.org>.



NEWS AND FEATURES

81st Mission Support Squadron wins 1 Air Force, 4 AETC awards

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

The 81st Mission Support Squadron received one Air Force-level award and four Air Education and Training Command mission support awards for 2005.

Master Sgt. Shawn Cosgrove, manpower support section chief, received the Air Force director of manpower and organization special recognition award for outstanding and dedicated service.

He's vice chairman of disaster service for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Red Cross and volunteered more than 500 hours with the Boy Scout and Venturing programs.

He was deployed with the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, from September 2004 to January 2005.

Phillip Ehemann, manpower and organization flight chief, is AETC's outstanding senior-level civilian.

Mr. Ehemann is in charge of 8,409 manpower resources valued at more than \$520 million.

Staff Sgt. Paula Guillard, military personnel flight, is personnel technician of the



Sergeant Cosgrove

year. While deployed to Honduras, she supported a multi-force medical facility.

Sergeant Guillard, who's moved to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, also created an evaluation, awards and decoration training system and processed 1,900 actions.

The civilian personnel flight was named the best middle-to-large CPF.

The flight revamped the civilian personnel management course, initiated an outstanding scholars program to employ top college graduates, and created a



Mr. Ehemann

database to produce automated applicant referral certificates for direct-hire medical and stay-in-school positions.

The family support center was recognized as an outstanding organization.

The center's 380,000 volunteered hours led to the base's Mississippi Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence award.

Two days after Hurricane Katrina, the center set up a family assistance center and supply distribution center that helped more than 5,000 families.

Contracting claims AETC honors



Sergeant Conway

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

The 81st Contracting Squadron won two Air Education and Training Command awards for 2005.

Staff Sgt. Michael Conway won the outstanding enlisted contingency contracting award.

The unit control center is the top contracting team.

Sergeant Conway supported 17,500 coalition forces at 21 different forward bases during a 130-day deployment to Afghanistan. As part of a five-man team, he awarded more

than 800 contracts valued at \$14 million, earning the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

The UCC ride-out team was recognized for its efforts since Hurricane Katrina.

The team procured \$19.4 million for recovery efforts, helping Keesler's mission come back online five months earlier than originally expected.

Fifty 81st CONS members were brought back systematically due to limited workspace to allow more efficient function. Members worked solely from mobility kits for more than 30 days with limited communications.

IN THE NEWS

AFAF campaign under way

Keesler's 2006 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicked off Monday and runs through May 5.

Last year, Keesler donated \$67,459.56. Air Force-wide, more than \$7.3 million was raised. This year's goal is \$5.4 million.

Tax-deductible contributions can be made through cash, check, money order or payroll deduction.

Project officers are Maj. Gregory Kendrick, 377-1766, and Capt. Stacey Van Orden, 377-6779. Each base unit has two representatives to answer questions and take donations.

Wing awards banquet Feb. 23

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

Tickets are \$20 and available from first sergeants.

New rules for cell phones, driving

To further promote safety on Keesler's roads, Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso, 81st Training Wing commander, is implementing Air Education and Training Command's new policy for cell phone use in vehicles.

"I'd like to thank everyone at Keesler for driving safely," the general said. "Your attention to the road directly impacts our ability to accomplish our mission."

As of Feb. 27, under new Department of Defense guidance, it's a primary offense for Keesler members to use a cell phone while driving on base without a hands-free device.

Violators can be stopped for this offense by the 81st Security Forces Squadron. For driver's license points assessment purposes, violations fall under the category violation, which includes other moving violations involving driver behavior only. Three points are assessed, and when two or more violations are committed on a single occasion, points may be assessed for each individual violation.

For more information, call 377-3762.

Prayer breakfast March 14

Keesler's 2006 National Prayer Breakfast is 7 a.m. March 14 in the 403rd Wing hangar, Building 4247.

For more information, permanent party members call Chap. (Capt.) Winston Jones, 377-2520, and students call Chap. (Capt.) Michael Howard, 377-2331.

Death notification

Senior Airman Valerie Soto, formerly assigned to the 81st Medical Support Squadron, died Jan. 29 in a one-car accident en route to a new assignment at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

For claims for or against Airman Soto's estate, call Capt. Braden Friday, Maxwell AFB, Ala., 1-334-224-1628.

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 today due to the Presidents Day federal holiday Monday.

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

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

Uniform changes for men, women effective immediately

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The 97th Air Force Uniform Board released its newest results for proper wear of the uniform.

These changes are effective immediately: Uniform

Approval to wear the blue nametag with the Air Force informal uniform — the member's abbreviated rank and name on one line. This uniform is worn by recruiters, honor guard, enlisted aides, chaplains, chaplain assistants, world-class athletes, and fitness center and health and wellness center staffs.

Cummerbund pleats face up in all cases.

If a temporary medical condition, such as chemotherapy, results in baldness, commanders authorize the approved American Cancer Society cap, wigs or baldness while in uniform.

Bracelet size is reduced to 1/2 inch. Bracelets that support a cause, philosophy, individual or group aren't authorized. Traditional POW/MIA bracelets are still permitted. Gemstone and tennis bracelets are only authorized while wearing the mess dress.

Rings are worn at the base of the finger and not on the thumb. Wedding sets count as one ring.

Eyeglasses aren't worn around the neck, on top or back of the head or hanging on uniform.

Epoxy blue nametag is optional on the blue shirt.

Wear of the firefighter duty badge is authorized while an individual is assigned a 3E7X1 duty Air Force specialty code, including periods of professional military education and staff tours above group level.

Wear of the security forces duty badge and beret is authorized while an individual is assigned a 3PXXX duty AFSC position and is also their primary AFSC, including professional military education attendance and staff tours above group level.

The Air Force Good Conduct Medal is no longer awarded. Previously earned medals are still permitted.

Mandatory wear of the physical training uniform is set for Oct. 1 as per the instructions released in November.

Cell phones, pagers and personal digital assistants must be solid or covered in black, silver, dark blue or gray,

and conservative. They may be clipped to the left side of the waistband or purse or carried in left hand. Only one may be worn on the uniform belt. Members won't walk in uniform while using phones, radios or hands-free headsets unless required in performing official duties using a government-issued device.

Permanent wear of the scuba badge is authorized on the battle dress uniform.

While not deployed, desert combat uniforms may not be worn unless en route to the basic combat convoy course. "Deployed" for this purpose includes members traveling en route to and from rest and recuperative leave from the Central Command area of responsibility, as outlined in policy announced in mid-2005.

A panel chartered to make recommendations on uniform standards for females resulted in these changes:

"Serunchies" are prohibited.

Hairpins and bands match hair color.

Hair color, frosting and highlights won't be faddish and match natural hair colors, i.e. blonde, brunette, natural red, black or gray.

No shaved head or flat-top hairstyles are authorized.

Synthetic hair can be worn, as long as it meets safety and mission requirements.

Braids, micro-braids and cornrows are authorized.

Nail polish won't contrast with complexion or detract from the uniform. Polish of extreme color, such as purple, gold, black, blue or any fluorescent color isn't authorized. Nail polish is also limited to one color.

French manicures are allowed, but fingernail length in all instances won't exceed one-quarter inch beyond the fingertip.

Purses with no more than two straps are authorized with mess dress.

Earrings are small, spherical, conservative diamond, gold, white pearl or silver with any uniform combination and must be worn as a set. For those with multiple ear piercing, only one set of earrings is worn in the lower earlobe and also conforms to these earring wear standards when performing duty in civilian clothes.

Male flight cap is optional.

Tricare,

from Page 1

\$37 billion in the 2006 defense budget, Mr. Winkenwerder said. And today's average military retiree contribution for health care coverage has dropped to about 10 to 12 percent.

"Their contribution did not change, while the value of the benefit continued to rise," Mr. Winkenwerder said.

If approved by Congress and signed off by the president, the proposed Tricare rate hikes for retirees under age 65 would be phased in over fiscal 2007 and 2008. That should bring up younger retirees' share of Tricare costs closer to the 1995 level, he said.

By comparison, Mr. Winkenwerder said, civilians under private plans generally pay between 35 and 40 percent of

their health care costs.

According to DOD documents, the current Tricare Prime annual enrollment fee is \$230 for individuals and \$460 for families for both enlisted and commissioned military retirees. The proposed changes would increase Tricare Prime enrollment fees for junior enlisted retirees at pay grades E-6 and below to \$325 per individual and \$650 for families by October 2008.

Enlisted retirees at pay grades E-7 and above would pay \$475 annually for individuals and \$950 for families by October 2008.

Retired officers of all ranks would pay \$700 annually per individual and \$1,400 per family.

After that, the share of health care costs paid by military retiree would be indexed to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program that covers federal workers and retirees.

Alcohol,

from Page 1

as drinking and driving to have fun.

"We have several recreation alternatives including our gyms and sports programs, Vandenberg Community Center and a myriad of other opportunities within the 81st Services Division," he said. "Life can still be exciting and fun without dangerous, unhealthy or illegal activities."

For Airmen who legally consume alcoholic beverages as part of their recreation, the base has programs to ensure safe travel to their residences.

Airmen need only call 547-1534 to get a safe ride home with no questions asked. Airmen Against Drunk Driving volunteers are available 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., beginning Thursdays before compressed work schedule Fridays, and remain available 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays preceding Monday federal holidays.

Keesler first sergeants offer the Home Safe program to ensure the safety of their

troops. Home Safe provides subsidized taxi voucher cards that can be purchased in advance for \$10 from first sergeants, the Katrina Kantina and Keesler Federal Credit Union. With the cards, potentially intoxicated members can secure a taxi ride to their residences or Keesler from any point from Highway 49 in Gulfport to Highway 57 in Gautier, and up to two miles north of Interstate 10. The cards are accepted for payment up to \$20.

In addition to the risk of death or injury, Colonel Hayner said alcohol-related incidents can ruin military and civilian career opportunities.

According to the legal office, the maximum punishment for DUI under the Uniform Code of Military Justice is a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to Airman Basic and six months confinement. If personal injury is involved, members may receive a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to Airman Basic and confinement for 18 months.

Commanders may impose Article 15 non-judicial pun-

ishment as an alternative for first-time offenders. Article 15 punishments may include forfeiture of pay, assignment to correctional custody, loss of base driving privileges and administrative discharge.

The offenses of underage drinking and providing alcohol to minors are considered willful dereliction of duties established by military directives. The maximum punishment that can be imposed by courts-martial is a bad-conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for six months and reduction to Airman Basic. Commanders have the option to impose Articles 15 as an alternative form of punishment for these offenses.

Colonel Hayner wants Airmen to think twice before engaging in unsafe or illegal alcohol-related activity.

"We want to develop our Airmen to be professionals with bright careers ahead," he said. "But most of all, we want everyone at Keesler to be safe — alive, healthy and happy."

Next week: Airmen Against Drunk Driving.

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.

Self-service system for civilians

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force test of My Biz, a new self-service system for Air Force civilians to view their personnel information, ended Wednesday.

The Web-based self-service application allows employees round-the-clock access to their personnel information from .mil domains. In My Biz, civilians can maintain their own personal information and profiles, and periodically provide input to their supervisors on employee performance plans.

The initial testing of the application was conducted at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.; Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.; Shaw AFB, S.C.; Fairchild AFB, Wash.; Laughlin AFB, Texas; Malmstrom AFB, Mont.; Schriever AFB, Colo.; Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, and Tinker AFB, Okla.

MyBiz is scheduled to be fully implemented by June and be accessible at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cfa/MyBiz/MyBiz.htm>.

Sexual harassment reporting

The Air Force wants military and civilian employees to remain aware of the service's sexual harassment hotline.

AFPC operates the hotline to receive sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination inquiries. The numbers are 1-800-558-1404, DSN 665-2949, or commercial 1-210-565-2949.

An AFPC call center representative answers each call to the hotline. Callers with a sexual harassment or discrimination concern are forwarded to a qualified military equal opportunity counselor.

Counselors ensure callers understand the avenues available to them and complaints are channeled to the proper authority. Counselors take calls during normal duty hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CDT. After normal duty hours, voice mail is available to leave messages for emergencies.

At Keesler, Liz Waters is the sexual assault response coordinator. She can be reached at 377-8635, 8637 or 8638.

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.

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.

One-stop pay, personnel service

One-stop customer service for pay and personnel information is available all day, every day by calling toll-free 1-800-616-3775 or online at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst/>.

KEESLER NEWS
Dobbins Air Force Base
Dallas, Texas
Vol. 48, No. 10
March 10, 2006

Base improves safety record in fiscal 2005
By Susan Green
The 81st Mission Support Squadron (MSS) at Keesler Air Force Base, Texas, achieved a significant safety record in fiscal 2005, with no major accidents and a low number of minor incidents.

Their first look at Keesler
A group of 112 basic training graduates who joined at Keesler Air Force Base for their first look at the base. The group, which includes members of the 81st Mission Support Squadron, is being welcomed to the base by the 81st Mission Support Squadron.

Congress reviews new civilian personnel system
The House of Representatives is reviewing a new civilian personnel system that would allow for more flexibility in hiring and promotion. The system is being tested at several Air Force bases, including Keesler.

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

Demolition is beginning of changes in base housing

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

Demolition is looming for military family housing areas on the brink of a \$300 million military construction project after Hurricane Katrina cut livable on base-housing in half.

"Before military construction can begin, 865 units have to be repaired and 232 more units located in Oak Park, south Pinehaven and south Harrison will be demolished," said Brett Long, housing office assistant chief. "The repaired homes eventually will be demolished as well, but serve as livable units during the transition to the new housing area."

Currently 583 units are liv-

able, but only 497 of them are occupied.

"The first areas to be vacated are north Thrower Park, northwest Falcon Park, Malby Hall and the northwest corner of Bay Ridge," Mr. Long said. "We won't know what areas need to be vacated next until a contractor is selected and provides a phasing plan."

The first phase of the demolition for the MILCON project begins next month and is expected to be finished in June.

"North Harrison Court, Oak Park, north Thrower Park, northwest Falcon Park and the northwest corner of Bay Ridge are the first areas to be demolished," Mr. Long explained.

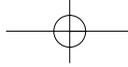
This is in preparation for

the first phase of the largest MILCON project in Air Force history.

The project ultimately demolishes the repaired homes and 1,067 new two-story units are constructed in their place. The new units have an average of 77 more square feet than previous homes, and each unit has at least a one-car garage.

All homes are expected to be at least 18 feet above sea level to ensure maximum protection from future damage, and all existing utilities — natural gas, water, storm and sewer — are replaced.

The contract to build the homes will be awarded in mid-April, and the reconstruction is expected to take about two years.



Religion: Air Force releases new guidelines

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force released a revised version of its religious guidelines Feb. 9, its latest step in a process started after a review at the Air Force Academy indicated a need for additional guidance.

Air Force Directorate of Personnel officials issued a first set of interim guidelines in August. The newly-revised version was written after getting diverse feedback and careful consideration of the Constitution, laws and military necessity.

“This interim guidance outlines the basic principles we expect all military

and civilian Airmen to follow as we solidify formal policy,” said Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, Air Force deputy chief of staff for personnel.

After the first set of guidelines were released, the Air Force received feedback from members of Congress, the public, religious groups, members of groups professing no faith, legal and civil liberties groups and individual citizens. More than 500 active, Reserve and Guard Airmen from eight Air Force bases were also interviewed.

“The feedback fell into three camps — that we got the guidelines about right, that we went too far in imposing constraints on religious expression, and that we didn’t go far enough in

avoiding establishment (neutrality) problems,” General Brady said. “Basically, the views of Airmen reflected those you hear from across the spectrum in the greater American population.”

The most obvious change in the latest set of guidelines is its length; it’s now one page long as opposed to four.

“We found that we could more effectively express them (the guidelines) with leaner, broader verbiage,” General Brady said. “These guidelines help clarify religious respect issues and provide a simple document that is easy for all Airmen to comprehend.”

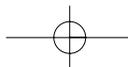
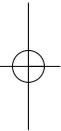
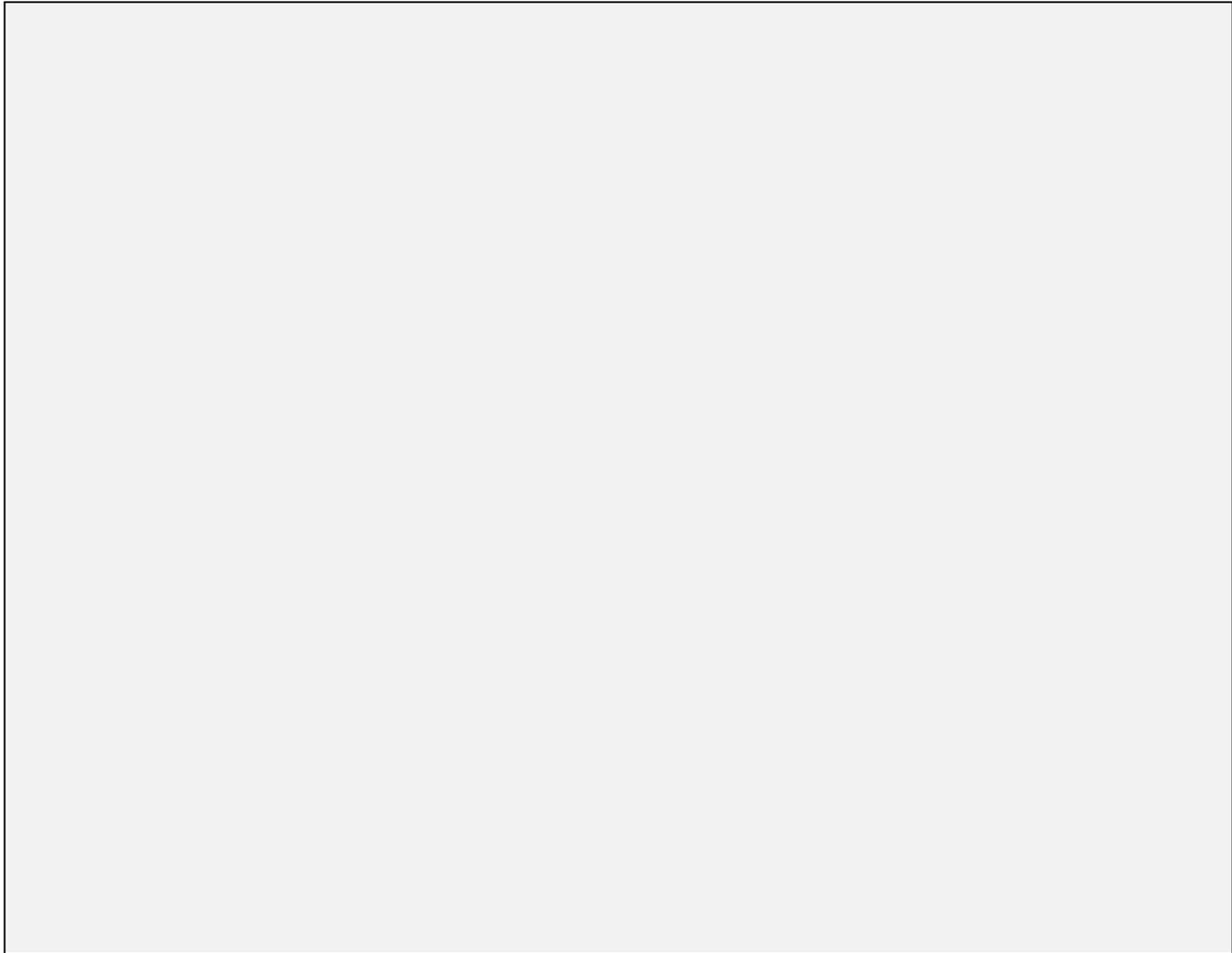
The Air Force’s guidance on the

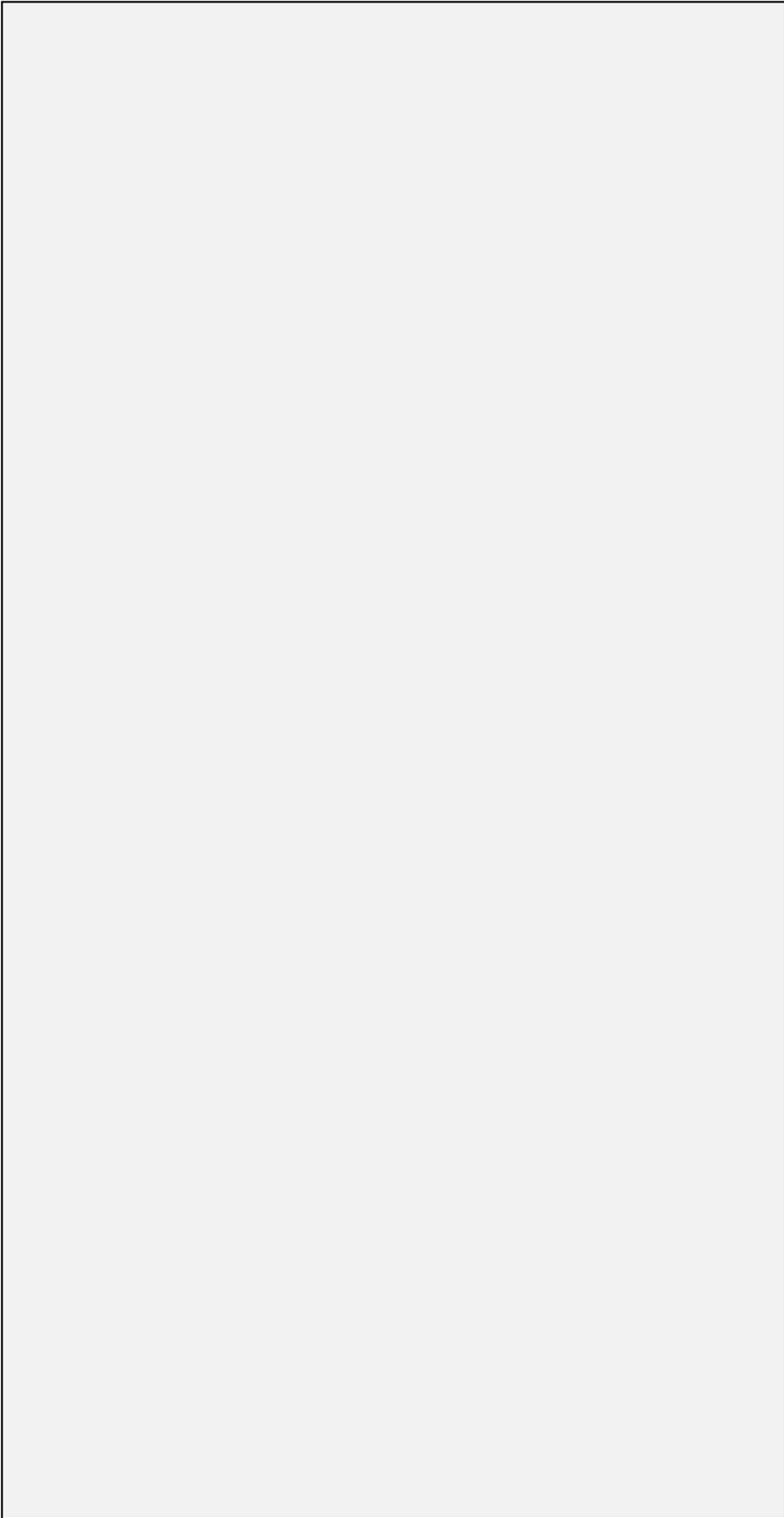
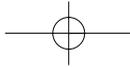
freedom of expression by chaplains is also clarified.

“The guidelines address prayer at military events, but in no way restrict private prayer or chaplains’ activities in religious settings,” General Brady said.

“We respect the rights of chaplains to adhere to the tenets of their individual faiths, and they will not be required to participate in religious activities, including public prayer, inconsistent with their faiths.

“This is an open and honest debate, so another interim period is appropriate prior to this (set of guidelines) being made the final version,” the general said.





Outbound Airmen

Virtual out-processing back

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

In another attempt to achieve normalcy at Keesler, virtual out-processing is back online.

"After Hurricane Katrina, more than 1,200 people had permanent change of stations, and vOP was eliminated to move people out as fast as possible," said Lt. Col. Doug Mullins, 81st Mission Support Squadron commander.

Anyone with a report-no later-than date after Feb. 28 must use vOP, which is accessed through the virtual military personnel flight, <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/>.

Out-processing virtually isn't a new concept — it's been used at Keesler for about three years.

"The vOP takes away the paper trail people used in the past, and it alleviates most of the running around from agency to agency," said Master Sgt. Sandra LePine, noncommissioned officer in charge of outbound assignments.

Utilizing virtual means for personnel issues is part of the career field's change to being electronic, and eliminates unnecessary middle men and face-to-face contact.

After attending the initial out-processing briefing, Airmen are added to vOP, and each person's checklist is uniquely their own.

"The out-processing checklist, whether it's a PCS, separation or retirement, is coordinated with their unit's orderly room," Sergeant LePine said.

Agencies such as the commissary, library, base exchange

All outbound Airmen must now out-process through vMPF if report date is on or after Feb. 28.

and housing are notified through e-mail that a person has been added to out-process through them.

Then, the agency determines whether an actual visit is required, or if they can be signed off through vMPF.

"For example, the library checks its records to see if the individual has a library card or outstanding fines. If so, the person goes to the library to be signed off; if not, the library signs them off without having the Airman make an unneeded trip to the library," Sergeant LePine explained.

"As the process becomes the norm again, it's important for agencies to get back in the groove of the vOP," the sergeant said.

Feedback from the person using vOP is also important.

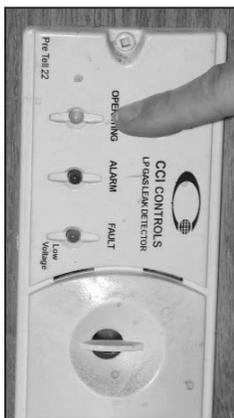
"If something needs to be fixed on the checklist, such as an agency being listed twice — once from us and once from the orderly room — we need to know," she said. "We won't know about it unless it's brought to our attention. Also, if there are suggestions on how to make the list more concise, we'd like to know that as well."

Outbound assignments can be reached at 377-4230.

CORRECTION

In the Feb. 9 issue of the Keesler News, the 81st Mission Support Group annual awards were incorrectly identified as the 81st Mission Support Squadron annual awards.





Photos by Kemberly Groue

Lt. Col. Monica Kopf, 335th Training Squadron commander, checks the propane tanks outside her trailer at the base "fam camp." Her Jackson County home was gutted by Hurricane Katrina's storm surge. Right, a green indicator light inside the trailer indicates that gas is operating properly.

Gas in temporary housing can hold hidden dangers

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

"Home sweet home" is a travel trailer or mobile home for many Keesler folks since Hurricane Katrina battered the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The temporary housing, furnished by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other sources, has features similar to those found in permanent housing so occupants can heat, cool and prepare meals. But some people are unfamiliar with the devices that make these functions possible, exposing them to injury, poisoning or death.

FEMA and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency urge occupants of travel trailers and mobile homes to avoid using internal combustion engines or grills indoors and to take precautions using propane-fueled equipment.

Improper use can cause explosions or poisonous carbon monoxide buildup. Carbon monoxide, an odorless, invisible gas, can cause dizziness, headaches or death.

"Travel trailers and mobile homes are safe if occupants know how to use the appliances placed in them," said MEMA Director Robert Latham. "It's

also important to know what not to use in these temporary homes."

To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning: **Make sure** the carbon monoxide detector is working correctly.

Don't burn anything in a stove or fireplace that isn't vented properly.

Never use a gas grill or camp stove indoors.

Don't heat a home with a gas oven.

Never run a generator indoors, in an enclosed space or near a window.

To use propane appliances in a trailer or mobile home correctly:

Know where the shutoff valve is located and how to operate it.

Be sure there's proper ventilation.

Keep flammable and combustible materials away from open flames.

Keep children and pets away from heaters to avoid burns.

Don't assume the smell of propane indicates the tank is low. Monitor propane tank fuel gauges.

Never place your head near or directly over the valves on the propane storage tank.

Make sure the smoke alarm is working, and replace batteries twice a year.

Make sure the heater fume vents on the outside of the trailer aren't blocked.

Extension ends Wednesday for safe haven per diem

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

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

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.

Other assistance sources:

BH Force Aid Society

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

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

BAH

Base housing residents who received basic assistance for housing after Hurricane 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 visit <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 or e-mail Tech. Sgts. Eric Alvarez, eric.alvarez@keesler.af.mil, or Anthony Bellocq, anthony.bellocq@keesler.af.mil.

FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency offers assistance at several disaster recovery centers.

Excused absences for civilian workers extended to May 31

The last day for civilians to use up to 30 days of excused absence to attend to personal issues caused by Hurricane Katrina has been extended to May 31, according to the civilian personnel office.

Employees don't get extra time added to the original 30 days approved by Air Staff, but can continue to take the leave to handle storm-related issues. Time is tracked on time cards in hourly increments.

For more information, call 377-3142.

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 — 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.

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.

Tax office provides advice, return preparation

Keesler News staff

Keesler's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Office relocated to Room 234, old Cody Hall.

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.

Open base facilities are:

81st Services Division

11th Frame Café — located in Gaude 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

Veterinary clinic — open 8 a.m. to noon Mondays-Fridays for sales. For



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Tech. Sgt. Shannon Sandoval, left, 81st Mission Support Group, assists Staff Sgt. Sean Pitre, 332nd Training Squadron, with filing his taxes. The office is open 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-working Fridays.

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 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.

Mini-mall — 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Subway — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Banking

BancorpSouth — lobby is open 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 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 former 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.

Moves

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

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 One next to the dental clinic, is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

Consignments are accepted 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays, but donations are accepted any time during hours of operation.

For more information, call 377-3217.

Medical appointment line open 7 days every week

81st Medical Group

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.

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.

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.

First aid station — in the area once housing the emergency room closes at 5 p.m., two hours earlier than normal, through Sunday due to electrical outages. The last appointment for check-in is 5 p.m. 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.

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 1D-103, 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 aren't available. A case management and social worker are available.

Coumadin clinic in Room 1F-158 in the family practice clinic area is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays. Coumadin is an anticoagulation medication requiring close monitoring of certain blood levels. The staff monitors and manages the dosage for patients. Patients are seen by referral only, requiring a physician at Keesler to submit a consult for the patient to be enrolled. For more information, call 377-6104.

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/hematol-

ogy 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.

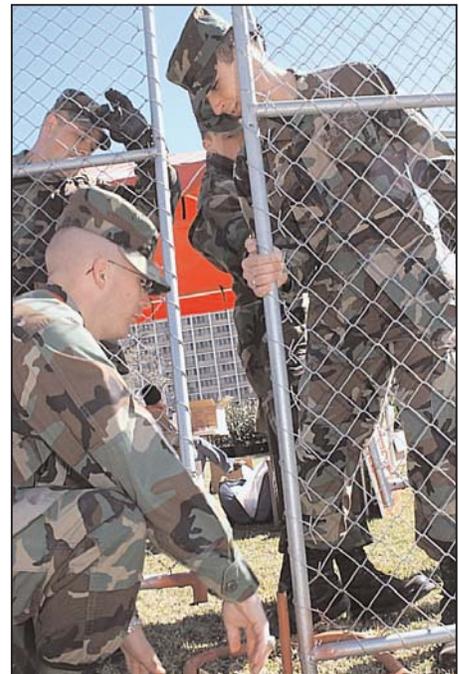


Airmen 1st Class Pedro Rivera, left, and Gia Nguyen, 81st Transportation Squadron, load debris into the front end loader of a tractor during Monday's beach cleanup in Biloxi. In addition to the 220 Biloxi volunteers, another 140 volunteers from Keesler and other area military installations worked on beach debris removal Saturday in Hancock County.

Beaches get post-Katrina facelift; Airmen volunteers get involved with Extreme Makeover Home Edition



Photos by Kemberly Groue
Staff Sgt. Michael Davis, 81st Communications Squadron, adds to a hurricane debris pile in Biloxi during Monday's beach cleanup.



Airman Basic Shane Capps, left, and Airman 1st Class Ramon Silvia, 338th Training Squadron, set up a perimeter fence to hide the Biloxi Town Green until Extreme Makeover Home Edition completes its restoration. The completed construction was unveiled Wednesday.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Judges Capt. David Robinson, left, 81st Training Group; Pamela Tunstall, 81st Comptroller Squadron, and Master Sgt. Teddy Johnson, 81st Medical Group, check out the 81st Supply Squadron's Organization Day display Feb. 9. The top three displays of the event are announced Feb. 25 at the gospel fest.

AAHC sponsors cookout today in marina park

African-American Heritage Committee's cookout — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today, marina park. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Clifford Massey, 377-1305.

Third annual bowling tournament — 11:30 a.m. Feb. 17, Gaude Lanes. For more information, call Kurt Higgins, 377-5356, or Tech. Sgt. Byron Bryant, 377-4198.

Food sampling/tasting — 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 23, Larcher Chapel Annex.

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, Welch Auditorium. Guest performers include Mount Calvary Church, Grace Temple, Victory Full Gospel Outreach Center, Triumphant Choir and Keesler Community Choir.

For more information, call Capt. David Robinson, 377-1920; Kim Johnson, 377-2453, or Tech. Sgt. Anthony Thomas, 377-8628.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Senior Airman Rachel White, a dental technician, reads to Sarah Alexander, left, and Ariana Miller at McBride Library Feb. 8 as part of National Children's Dental Health Month. The 3-year-olds' parents are Maj. Ronald and Mireya Alexander, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, and Lt. Col. Richard and Yolany Miller, 334th Training Squadron.

Starting early secret to healthy smiles

By Staff Sgt. Sheila Strain

81st Dental Squadron

February marks National Children's Dental Health Month.

Dental professionals are focused on promoting healthy smiles. Good oral habits developed early and teaching children to care for their teeth are essential.

The American Dental Association recommends regular dental checkups, including a visit to the dentist within six months of the first tooth erupting and no later than a child's first birthday. This gives dentists an opportunity to spot the beginnings of tooth decay and teach parents how to care for their child's teeth.

Practicing good oral hygiene habits should start long before a child's first tooth appears, according to dental professionals. Establishing a routine early helps both parent and child get into the daily habit of caring for teeth and gums. Gently wipe a baby's mouth and gums with a wet washcloth or gauze at least once a day. When the first molars come in, usually by the age of 10 months, it's time

AT KEESLER

Today — 4 p.m., dental clinic staff visits youth center, ages 5-12.

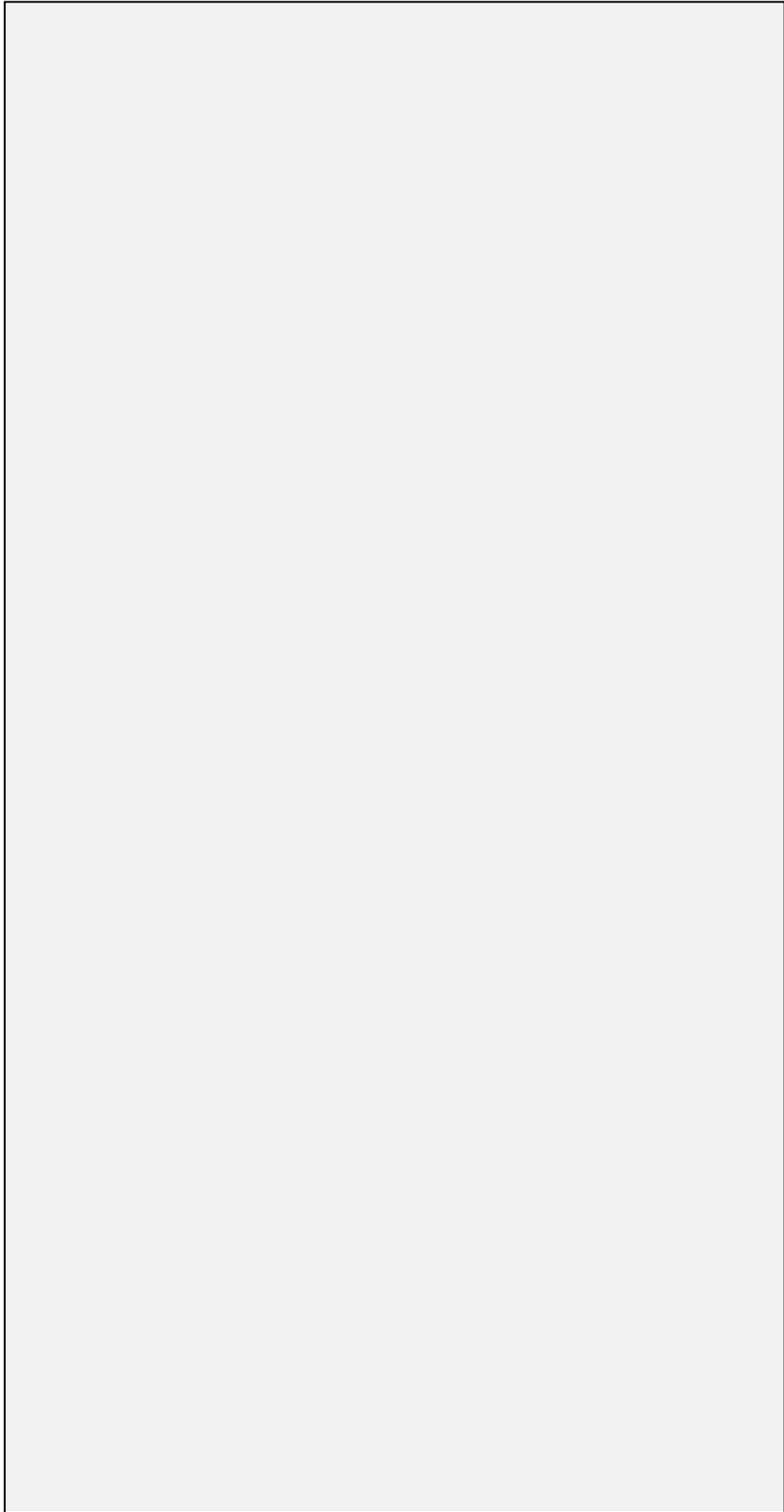
Wednesday — dental clinic staff visits McBride Library, 10 a.m.

to start daily brushing with a small soft toothbrush and warm water. Move the brush back and forth gently in short strokes, brushing the front, back and chewing surfaces of the teeth.

Start flossing a child's teeth as soon as he has two teeth that touch together.

The ADA and American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry don't recommend using fluoride toothpaste until a child is 2 years old. Help a child brush using a pea-sized amount of toothpaste. It's important that a child spits out and doesn't swallow the toothpaste.

When selecting a toothpaste, check the label as some aren't recommended for children under 6 years old.



DOD sexual harassment, assault surveys focus on reservists, academy cadets

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense released the results of two reports on sexual harassment and sexual assault in the military: the 2004 survey of the reserve components and the Academic Program Year 2005 assessment at the three military service academies.

Reserve components

The survey of about 76,000 selected Reserve members found that sexual assault rates are lower than in previous studies of reserve component veterans, and they parallel the sexual assault rates from the 2002 DOD survey of active-duty women (3 percent) and men (1 percent).

Survey results indicated that 19 percent of reserve women reported experiencing sexual harassment, about 10 percent of women reported experiencing sex discrimination and 2 percent reported that they had been sexually assaulted.

Men reported experiencing comparable behaviors at far lower rates than women: 3 percent reported experiencing sexual harassment, 2 percent reported experiencing sex discrimination and 1 percent reported that they had been sexually assaulted.

Reserve members gave good marks to DOD on the training and leadership provided on sexual misconduct issues.

Nearly three-fourths of reserve component members indicated they received training in the previous year on how to prevent and respond to sexual harassment.

More than 90 percent thought the training was effective. More than 85 percent reported that DOD's sexual harassment policies and complaint procedures were well publicized at their installations and aboard ships.

A majority of reserve members said their leaders were making honest and reasonable efforts to stop sexual harassment.

Sixty percent of men and 46 percent of women said sexual harassment had become less frequent and less of a problem in the past few years.

Fifty-three percent of men and 33 percent of women said sexual harassment was less frequent in mil-

SAPR office is assault accountability hub

By Gerry Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A new Defense Department organization is dedicated to address the needs of service members who've been sexually assaulted.

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office is DOD's central point of accountability for sexual assault incidents, the office's deputy director, Dr. Kaye Whitley, said. The office began operations Oct. 1.

"We focus only on (sexual) assault, not harassment, in the military," Whitley said.

The SAPR office's mission, Whitley said, is three-fold.

Reduce the number of sexual assaults in the military, including the service academies.

Assist sexual assault victims in obtaining care.

Ensuring offender accountability.

The SAPR office was created as a result of the Joint Task Force for Sexual Prevention and Response that was established in October 2004 and headed by Air Force Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain, Whitley said.

The task force's recommendations prompted DOD to establish a new sexual assault policy and an office to oversee it, Whitley said. The policy employs a standardized system that all service members can use to report sexual assaults and to obtain the care they need.

"We are now transitioning to a permanent office, based on the findings from the task force," Whitley said.

itary workplaces than at civilian jobs.

Many women (44 percent) also saw no difference in the rates of sexual harassment at military and civilian workplaces.

Military academies

The U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy academic program year 2005 assessments provide Congress an annual overview of sexual harassment and assault incidences at the three academies.

In addition, the assessments highlight policies, procedures and processes implemented from June 2004 through May 2005, as well as program changes planned for the following years.

Throughout APY 2005, the three military service academies expanded and enhanced programs to prevent sexual harassment and assault and

Trained sexual assault response coordinators assigned at military installations worldwide are available to assist victims to obtain medical care, counseling and access to other support resources, Whitley said.

Keesler's SARC can be contacted at 377-7278, or paged at 169-2017.

"There's a whole system in place for victim care," she said.

The chain of command is kept in the loop, since the sexual assault response coordinators have direct access to senior installation commanders, Roger Kaplan, the SAPR office's director of communications, said.

"The key here is that the commander is responsible for the training (of the coordinators)," Kaplan said, noting his office stands ready to help. SARC personnel, he said, also coordinate monthly case management meetings involving base chaplains, health care providers and law enforcement and legal representatives.

"This is a military readiness issue as much as it is an issue of human dignity," Kaplan said.

Military sexual assault victims can opt to file a confidential, restricted report, Kaplan said.

"Health care will notify the SARC ... but the command isn't going to be told that 'Sally Jones' or 'Bob Richards' was (sexually) assaulted," Kaplan said.

"They will learn that an assault took place," he said, "and they'll get certain information that'll allow them to take, hopefully, preventive action for the future."

improve care for victims and increase system accountability.

They started implementing of DOD's new comprehensive sexual assault policy and expanded training to include staff and faculty.

They also integrated the preparatory schools into their sexual harassment and sexual assault programs.

As part of the assessment, the department surveyed cadets and midshipmen. The survey showed that most cadets and midshipmen believe that sexual assault and sexual harassment training has contributed to the reduction of sexual misconduct at the military service academies.

Moreover, a majority of cadets and midshipmen feel that sexual assault and sexual harassment are becoming less of a problem.

However, the confidential responses show that cadets and midshipmen still encounter or commit

sexual misconduct and sexist behavior such as insulting or offensive behavior and actions that don't constitute harassment.

"This is the Department's first survey of reservists that focuses on sexual harassment and assault and provides a baseline against which we can measure future progress," said David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"The survey of cadets and midshipmen builds on the earlier work of the inspector general, but gives us estimates that are formed in the same way as those for the force as a whole," Mr. Chu said.

"We are reviewing the findings carefully and examining our policies, programs and leadership efforts to determine how such incidents can be prevented and to ensure we respond effectively if they do occur," he said.

KEESLER NOTES

Children's art

Friday is the deadline for entries for artwork, poems and essay for On The Move Magazine.

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

Awards luncheon

The 2006 communications and information awards luncheon is 11:30 a.m. March 3 in the Katrina Kantina.

This event recognizes individuals selected to compete for Air Education and Training Command information management, communications-computer, communications-electronics systems, communications-electronics maintenance and group awards.

Cost is \$8. The deadline for

reservations is Feb. 23.

For reservations or more information, call 377-8885 or 2440.

Hypertension briefing

The medical center sponsors a hypertension educational offering, 8-9 a.m. March 17 in the medical specialties classroom, Room 1F-121, family practice clinic.

Playgroup

The family advocacy staff sponsors a playgroup 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesdays at the youth center.

The program provides support for anyone with military privileges and is directed mainly at preschoolers.

For more information, call 377-8612.



Sailors reaffirm ties to school

Cmdr. Ken Schwingshaki addresses fellow members of the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit, staff and students of Jeff Davis Elementary School in Biloxi Friday as the sailors reaffirmed support of the school. Commander Schwingshaki is the commander of the CNATTU, an associate unit at Keesler.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

SPORTS AND RECREATION



Gregory Owens, left, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, checks the blood pressure of Clinton Shirley, 333rd Training Squadron, at the smoking cessation clinic at the health and wellness center Feb. 8.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

HAWC provides help tips to Keesler members, families

By Steve Pivnick
81st Medical Group

"Fit to Fight" is not just a slogan; it's the primary mission for Keesler's Health and Wellness Center located by Dragon Fitness Center.

The HAWC staff includes a health educator, registered dietitian and exercise physiologist who manage various fitness, nutritional and healthy living programs.

These programs support not only the wartime and peacetime missions, but strive to keep military members and their families healthy.

According to flight commander Ron Leczner, the impact of Hurricane Katrina here has mandated that the HAWC embrace a vision of "rebuilding our people."

He emphasized that active duty must be prepared to go to war.

"Every deployer is a valuable link in the chain of mission success; if one member is not physically prepared, an injury or illness can downgrade the entire mission," Leczner said.

According to Maggie

Landry, health education program manager, the HAWC provides two categories of programs.

"One of those categories supports the Air Force Fitness Program," Landry said. "The other targets the health and wellness of the base population, retirees, Department of Defense employees and their dependents. The Air Force Fitness Program classes include the healthy living workshop, fitness improvement program and body composition classes to improve fitness scores."

She added that programs targeting health and wellness include a variety of topics from tobacco use to proper nutrition and fitness.

"Tobacco use is a concern and the HAWC offers a program to address this," she said. "The tobacco cessation program is a seven-week course that focuses on health effects of smoking, behavior modification, stress management, nutrition and fitness."

"Nutrition and fitness is addressed in 'the sensible weigh,' a two-step program

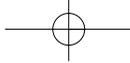
that provides participants an opportunity to learn new cooking skills, behavior modification and healthy living directions," she said.

Jami Woodham, HAWC dietitian, facilitates many of the classes and said that many of the programs have similar themes.

"In many programs, healthy portions are discussed and in our tobacco cessation class we talk about fitness and nutrition, which is also discussed in our body composition class. There's some overlap where healthy living is concerned, so the HAWC tries to include as many pertinent topics as possible," she said.

The HAWC is developing additional programs to address the levels of stress the base population has been faced with in the post-Katrina world, Leczner said.

"Everyone here has been affected by Katrina," he said. "With all the good work that done to rebuild this base, we can't allow the health and wellbeing of our people go by the wayside."



National Football League Military Challenge Air Force wins in overtime

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Munsey

15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

HICKAM Air Force Base, Hawaii — In an event sponsored by the National Football League, the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy battled it out in six events that comprised Friday's NFL Military Challenge.

The Air Force team, made up of Hickam Air Force Base footballers, took top honors, using overtime to capture the trophy.

The bluesuiters made a mad dash for the lead as each six-person relay team member sprinted 40 yards. Claude Jennings, Chad Raper, Nathan Allen, Lester LaFrance, Daray Davis and Ryan McGovern combined to cover the 240 yards in 29.86 seconds, topping the Marines' time of 30.67.

The second event, field-goal kicking, was indicative of the competitive and skilled nature of the challenge. McGovern split the uprights on an impressive seven of 10 attempts, but that was good for only last place among the five kickers.

Soldier Mark Welch booted a perfect 10, soliciting a "my Colts are looking for a kicker" cry from a horseshoe-emblem-hatted spectator.

Next, Sailor Joe McGill hit the long-snap target three of eight times, taking top honors over Jennings, who converted twice during the snapping competition.

The punting competition had Raper sacrificing distance to ensure accuracy in swirling winds. Raper took second, booming three kicks for 92 yards, seven hash marks short of the Army's 99-yard winning tally.

Heading into the final event, the Army led by one point over Air Force, two points over

Navy and three points above the Marines.

The passing competition was helmed by Jennings, who used the same skills that have earned him to a 32-game winning streak.

The point system rewarded completions of specific distances over 60 seconds. A receiver couldn't break the line of scrimmage until the previous pas was either caught or hit the ground. The Marines took first place and the five points. With the Air Force coming in second, and the Army third, the bluesuiters and grunts were knotted in first place after regulation.

The overtime toss off was just what Jennings was hoping would come to pass.

"We're playing for all the glory going through the air," he said. "It played right into our strengths."

Having figured out the timing scheme from the first round, the five receivers that had earlier blazed to the sprint win took advantage of Jennings' perfectly-timed tosses.

The Air Force quarterback timed the throws to allow his receivers to run under each bomb, completing a perfect 10 in a row. None were more spectacular than Lester adjusting to a wind-rattled pass, twisting his body around and sliding under the pigskin just before it hit the ground.

For Allen, the victory was sweet, but the camaraderie better.

"It was great to have a chance to challenge the sister services in this friendly competition, especially knowing that at any time we might be fighting right alongside them under different circumstances," he said.

SCORES AND MORE

Bowling

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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

Soccer

Keesler Classic Soccer Tournament — championship game today at 8 p.m.

Youth center

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



DIGEST

HONORS

Quarterly awards, October-December

81st Training Wing

Airman — Airman 1st Class Heather Hines, 81st Medical Support Squadron.

Noncommissioned officer — Staff Sgt. Tasha Thomas, 81st MDSS.

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

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

Field grade officer — Chap. (Maj.) Bruce Kite, 81st Training Wing.

Entry level civilian — Amy Dye, 335th Training Support Squadron.

Intermediate level civilian — Patrick Myers, 334th TRS.

Senior level civilian — Franklin Hogue, 81st TRSS.

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Dante Adams, Derek Beck, Jarrett Bowling, James Brooks, Smedley Butler, Cordara Chance, Jose Charlesworth, Shawn Cotter, Arron Cysensky, Kyle Dehart, Kyle Duley, Timothy Ely, Seith Emmons, Rayce Evenson, Lary Eyre, Seth Fouts, Devon Gallo, Jeffery Haviland, Aaron Hetman, Tyson Jaggard, Jodie King, Jens Knudsen, Richard Martin, Matthew McAllister, Eric McCord, Micahel McDaniel, Daniel Miller, Justin Mongoso, Joe Munoz, Richard Nowroski, Brandon Oehlke, Terry Owens, Brenton Pistek, Phillip Powell, Jason Rains, Brandon Robinson, Christopher Roeckel, Ryan Sarsfeld, Michael Scarlata, Daren Schiele, Cory Schwartz, Jorge Silva, Jonathan Sims, Daniel Sleeter, Jeffrey Smith, Robert Thomas, Daniel Urness, Kyle Waddle, Roger Walkup, Mark West, David Williams, Trent Wilson and Adam Zucker; Airmen Christian Camacho, Mary Huggins, Michael Keany, Joseph Murray, Robert Riley, Edward Sayers and Jeffrey Simmons; Airmen 1st Class Daniel Anderson, Alexander Babbie, Patrick Bailey, Christopher Beumer, Richard Blessley, Samuel Blunck, Brandon Boorse, Artum Brozyna, Justin Buchholz, Wendell Carpenter, James Casson, Brandon Dawson, Xavier Detagle, Paul Gillon, Randall Hodkin, Brian Housholder, Stephen Johnston, Timothy Kolnity, Christopher Konze, David Leon, Nathan Lindeman, Christopher Lynch, Sergio Molas, Michael Morrow, William Mullins, John Osborne, Danielle Owens, Nicholas Owens, Cameron Rau, Vernon Reed, Naomi Reyes, Nicholas Rudder, Petri Shawn, Tyler Smith, Matthew Soucy, Torres Walker, Jarod Yates and Abraham Yi; Senior Airmen Jeremy Baca, Malcolm Boston, Michael Christensen, Jonathan Garro, Luke Martens, Matthew Moser, Roger Rouse, Bobby

Trichel and Lester Welch; Staff Sgts. Robert Adams, Michael Connor, Jose Costoya, Adam Crawford, Jason Desrosiers, Rodger Gayle, Michael Goodman, Robert Hatcher, Leslie Hubbard, Micahel Kuhl, Aaron Mabray, Benjamin Millspaugh, Victor Namking, Seraphim Resendes, Robert Stielow, Kyle Strait, Keith Tyska and David Whanger; Tech. Sgts. Edward Clark, Emmanuel Lumbres, Toraino Peoples and Stephen Schwartz; Senior Master Sgt. Ronald Mendoza.

Metrology — Airmen Basic Jacob Jurotich and Justin Offett; Airmen 1st Class Toby Ketchman and Derrick Dugay.

334th TRS

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Christopher Bahlman, Matthew Calhoun, Salvador Canales, Michael Coyne, Trisha Cramer, Anthony Cross, Jared Dunn, Jeremy Holman, Noah Jenkins, Phoeteama Neal, Shane Ooten, Aaron Sitton, Joseph Sievert, Cynthia Springer, Joshua Stinar, Benjamin Turnipseed and John Ward; Airmen 1st Class Royce Bockelman, Sara Fitzpatrick, Roger Henthorn, Leon Montroy, Felix Ortiz, Ernesto Rivera, Robert Rohlfing, Isaac Shreves, Ryan Towns, John Weisensee, Daynesha Worsham and Isaac Yi; Senior Airmen Laura Andrews, Justin Barger and Christopher Spencer; Staff Sgts. Antonio Araiza, Alexander Collozo, Mark Darrigo, Christopher Dyer, Jessie Jackson, Elizabeth Jones, Christopher Martinez, Joshua Paugh and Richard Taylor.

335th TRS

Personnel apprentice course — Airmen Basic Amanda Ahlers, Crysandon Aveyard, Johnathan Brown, William Cornell, Andrew Reams, Ashley Valletta and Kevin Wilson; Airman Jennifer Lee; Airmen 1st Class Michael Marsden and Ryan Middleton; Senior Airmen Angel Gonzalez, Lindsay Medin, Leah Miller and Patricia Waters; Staff Sgts. Samantha Birk, Mary Clark and Kathryn Fontenot; Sheryl Lawrence.

Weather training flight — Airmen Basic Katherine Beaver, Jason Bohnet, Andrew Bower, Mason Cairns, Stephanie Clark, Blake Cook, David Ford, Houston Green, William Hashman, Charles Henderson, Jason Jarman, Andrew Massung, Peter McAward, Stephen Perkins, Kyle Roberts, Kimberly Savitz and Brittaney St. Dennis; Navy Airmen Recruit Dustin Covault, Shane McAleer, Eric Wojnarowski and Glenn Zubler; Navy Airmen Apprentice Nicholas Burt, Randy Ruddick and Stella Swartz; Marine Pfc. Jamie Clark; Airmen 1st Class Sean Doyle, James Gragg, Eli Johnson and Louis Torres; Navy Airmen Sherai Bangs, Dustin Brewer and Richard York; Navy Seaman Lindsay Moore; Marine Lance Cpl. Kayee Bair; Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jesus Suarez; Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Karen Aquino.

336th TRS

Communications and information flight — Airmen Basic Nne-Nna Asagwara, Donnel Etheridge, Meghan Higgins, Joshua Muse, Shanelle Parker, Jeremiah Platt, Lateia Quarterman, Angela Sutton and Nicole Welsh; Airmen 1st Class Kevin Boyd, Chaison Griffin, Maria Lactaon, Daniel Melendez and Yohanna Vasquez; Senior Airmen Penny Chard, Daniel List, Toshona Smith and Patrick Steele; Staff Sgts. Orasa Glenn, Matthew Manning, Seumas McDermott, Laurence Millis, Leslie Raney, Benjamin Stephenson and Timothy Switzer; Tech. Sgts. Cesar Alvarez, Bonnie Atkinson, Michael Brooks, Leslie Coffman, John Hahn, Christopher Kolness and Michael Resler; Master Sgts. Harlan Freer and Michael Mullin.

Communications-computer systems training flight — Airmen Basic Matthew Jensen, Timothy Joseph, Steven Lybbert, Christopher Miller, Damian Reyes and Matthew Saum; Airman Jeremy Stokes; Airmen 1st Class Adam Allen, Richard Brown, Charles Maguire, Edwin Nieves and Daniel Ogburn; Senior Airmen Sang Lee, Carlos Sober and Yolanda Yu; Staff Sgts. Johnny Baker, Scott Blair, Nicholas Cichon, Jonathan Eastwood, Jeremy Flint, Phillip Ramil, Thomas Sheffer and Nicholas Walker; Tech. Sgt. Julie Clark.

338th TRS

Computer, network, cryptographic systems course — Airmen Nicholas Bishop, Matthew Huntsman, James Little, Luck Rials, Joseph Skopic and Dylan Terrell; Airmen 1st Class David Johnson, Kevin Mayo, Keith McDowell, Jesse Pentecost, Jonica Scott and Jeremiah Smith; Senior Airmen Jeremy Armstrong, Kelly Finn and Kary Whalen; Staff Sgt. Peter Chevalier.

Ground radio — Airmen Basic Mitchell Haas and Alexis Moreno; Airman Steven Brumley; Airmen 1st Class Paul Amasol, Joe Garcia, Anthony Luckert, Matthew Metzger, Robert Miller, Eric Ratajczak and Ryan Stine; 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
:04	:34
: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

- Beginning intarsia woodworking — 10 a.m. Saturday. \$15.
- Advanced intarsia — 10 a.m. Feb. 25. \$20.
- Pottery wheel training — 4-8 p.m. today, Vandenberg Community Center. \$10 for one hour; pick a convenient time.
- Beginning woodworking — 4-6:30 p.m. Wednesday. \$25.
- Advanced matting class — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 24. \$25.

Chapel

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

McBride Library

- Orientations — 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.
- Orientations and tours — for more information, call 377-2181.

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 service.....11:30 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,

from Page 24

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. today, 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. 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.tgray.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/efif/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

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. today; catfish buffet 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. work Fridays.

Youth center

Annual membership — \$25, 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.

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

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

Free Junior Olympic soccer skills competition — 2 p.m. Saturday, ages 8-13; register through Friday.

Teen aviation camp — applications accepted through Monday. 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 today.

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 Tuesday 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.

Rising VI Association — 3 p.m. third Wednesday of the month, Keesler NCO Academy auditorium. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Shanda Yarborough, 377-3653, or Tech. Sgt. Kevin Benjamin, 377-7924.

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., Casanova (R).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Fun with Dick and Jane (PG-13); 7 p.m., Grandma's Boy (R).

Sunday — 2 p.m., Hoodwinked (PG).

Mardi Gras parades

Saturday

Army and Air Force Exchange Service 5th annual shopping cart parade — 10 a.m., 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.

Krewe of Diamondhead golf cart parade — noon.

Orange Grove Carnival Association — 2 p.m.

Gautier Men's Club — 7 p.m.

Sunday

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 — Gulfport, 2 p.m.

Feb. 26

St. Paul Carnival Association — Pass Christian, noon.

North Bay Carnival Association — D'Iberville, 2 p.m.

Feb. 28

Gulf Coast Carnival Association 98th annual parade — 1 p.m., Biloxi.

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 almondine, 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 — President's Day menu: shrimp cocktail, French onion soup, steamship round, fried catfish, dion chicken, peas and carrots, O'Brien potatoes, corn combo, broccoli, rice, gravy, fruit salad, spinach salad, cornbread, candies, 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 — Mexican baked chicken and pork chops, beef fajitas, jalapeno cornbread, refried beans, corn, gravy, pinto beans, peas and carrots, 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.