

KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

Vol. 66, No. 8
Thursday, March 2, 2006

Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

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



Dragons deployed –
127

First phase of project in housing under way

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

More than 700 military family housing units are being vacated and demolished before June in preparation for the largest military construction project in Air Force history.

Residents in North Thrower Park, Northwest Falcon Park, Maltby Hall and the northwest corner of Bay Ridge are the first affected by the \$300 million project. They received letters from the housing office Jan. 30 explaining the relocation process.

These four areas must be vacated mid to late March, according to Brett Long, assistant housing chief.

"Affected residents received an initial notification in January informing them of the upcoming project and proposed timeframe," said Mr. Long. "The housing office sent the final 30-day notifications

Please see **Housing**, Page 9

Voice of experience



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Ellison, command chief master sergeant of Air Education and Training Command, addresses Airman Leadership School students during a visit to Keesler on Feb. 23. The chief is assigned at AETC headquarters, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.



Colonel Hayner

Vice commander retires March 15

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

Col. Douglas Hayner, 81st Training Wing vice commander, retires March 15.

His successor is Col. Richard Pierce, currently the dean of students and support at Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Colonel Hayner has served as vice commander here since July 2004. He's been in the Air Force 26 years.

Previous assignments for the Arizona State University graduate include 53rd Test Man-

agement Group commander, Eglin AFB, Fla.; 23rd Bomb Squadron commander, Minot AFB, N.D.; emergency action controller, Andersen AFB, Guam; B-52 pilot, Fairchild AFB, Wash., and 34th Bomb Squadron combat crew training school instructor pilot, Castle AFB, Calif.

Colonel Pierce, a graduate of California State University, received his commission in 1989. His previous assignments include inspector general staff officer, Langley AFB, Va.; combat readiness advisor to the 7th Air Force

Please see **Hayner**, Page 9

COMMENTARY

Air Force Assistance Fund – it's time to give back

By Gen. William Looney

AETC commander

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Our greatest privilege as Airmen is to care for our own, and the Air Force Assistance Fund is a tremendous opportunity to put that privilege into practice.

This year's "Commitment to Caring" campaign runs through May 5. During the campaign, we're asking Airmen to contribute to any of four Air Force-related charities. This is quite simply Airmen helping Airmen.

You don't need to look any further than the devastating aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to understand the benefits AFAP provides our Air Force community. When our people needed rapid assistance, AFAP's charitable organizations were ready and able to help.

Last year's campaign powerfully highlighted the importance of this tradition of caring. In 2005, our Airmen exceeded AFAP's campaign goal by contributing more than \$7.3 million. Air Education and Training Command contributed nearly \$1.2 million and received more than \$4.4 million in assistance, contributing almost half of that amount to our people in the aftermath of Katrina and Rita.

AFAP was established to provide an annual fundraising campaign for the four official Air Force charities that help Air Force people with emergency aid, with educational needs and with support of a secure retirement home for widows or widowers of Air Force members in need of financial assistance.

Now in its 33rd year, AFAP directly benefits active-duty, Reserve, Guard, and retired Airmen and their families by donating 100 percent of all contributions to these venerable organizations:

Air Force Aid Society provides Airmen

and their families with worldwide emergency financial assistance, education assistance, and an array of base-level community enhancement programs. Base family support centers have full details on programs and eligibility requirements. Information is also available online at <http://www.afas.org/>.

Air Force Enlisted Village near Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., was founded in 1967 to provide a safe, secure and dignified place for indigent widows of retired Air Force enlisted personnel. More information is available at <http://www.afenlistedwidows.org>.

Air Force Village in San Antonio provides excellent retirement living, with access to continuing health care for military officers who served honorably and their spouses, with priority to retired Air Force officer widows and widowers in need of financial assistance. The Air Force Village website is <http://www.airforcevillages.com>.

General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation helps widows of all Air Force retirees, both officers and enlisted, with financial grants of assistance. The LeMay Foundation Web site is <http://www.lemay-foundation.org/>.

The First Command received an overwhelming outpouring of support from last year's AFAP. Now, we have an opportunity to give back.

It's easy to specify which charities you want to support and all donations are tax deductible. Please take a look at their Web sites and give what you can.

Thank you all for your commitment to supporting our Air Force and our fellow Airmen — past and present — and their families in times of greatest need. Let's make the 2006 AFAP campaign the best yet for AETC and our Air Force.

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.

Thumbs up, Keesler!

Comment — Thanks to Keesler, all Temporary Early Retirement Authority retirees who started working at Keesler shortly after retirement can now get credit for public service which increases our retirement pay at age 62.

Lee Hathorn, civilian personnel officer, has registered the base. The link for anyone who needs information on applying for the program is http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/tera/owa/ShowPage?p=index&p_SID=.

Response — It appears little was known about the this program until you brought it to the forefront.

On behalf of other eligible military retirees who've been re-employed in a public service position, thank you.

We're exploring ways to identify current employees who retired from the military under this program.

How about more time to shop?

Comment — I'm in the 81st Medical Group.

The commissary was open until 7 p.m. before and for a while after Hurricane Katrina.

Now it closes at 6, which doesn't give those of us who work until 5 or later much time to do our grocery shopping.

Response — Our commissary officials have had to make some hard decisions since Hurricane Katrina.

Sales at the pre-Katrina commissary were \$40 million annually. After nearly five months, the temporary facility has done only about \$12 million. The drop in sales resulted in a budget cut of \$500,000.

Commissary officials chose the earlier closing time over their other option, closing one day a week.

Traffic tied up

Comment — Students are marched through the Triangle, looping one way and then another, tying up traffic.

Recently, I waited 25 minutes for student formations to clear the road.

Whoever is responsible for this practice showed no consideration for people who drive in the area.

Response — We apologize for your inconvenience.

It sounds like you were driving through the Triangle around lunchtime. We don't loop the students back and forth through the area. They're marched directly to their destination to save time.

Lunch is the busiest time of day for our 2,400 students marching in formation. They must eat at one of two dining facilities in the Triangle.

Release times for classes are staggered to minimize congestion. Students march to and from lunch between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. We suggest you take an alternate route during this period.

Seat belts:

1) save lives,

2) are the law.

What's your excuse?

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Bulls begin title defense with drill down victory



Airman 1st Class Kelvin Craig, 332nd TRS, twirls a rifle during a routine.

By Susan Griggs
Keesler News staff

The 335th Training Squadron Bulls won the overall title at the 81st Training Group's first drill down of the 2006 season Friday.

"The Airmen of all participating squadrons brought a high level of intensity to the competition, making it a very close event to judge," said Staff Sgt. Kwame Felton, 81st Training Support Squadron military training leader.

The Bulls, the defending champions, took first place in open ranks, third in regulation drill and fourth in freestyle drill.

Second place overall went to the 336th TRS Red Wolves, who placed first in regulation and freestyle, but fifth in open ranks.

The 334th TRS Gators, third place overall, were second in freestyle drill, third in open ranks and fourth in regulation drill.

The 338th TRS Dark Knights, fourth place overall, took second place in open ranks, third in freestyle drill and fifth in regulation drill.

The 332nd TRS Mad Dogs, fifth place overall, finished second in regulation drill, fourth in open ranks and fifth in freestyle drill.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Airmen Primmer, Ritsema, Chappotin, Porter and Whitman perform the Bulls' freestyle drill.

The Bulls' winning team is led by Airmen Basic Donald Chappotin, drill master, and Philip Primmer, drill instructor. Other team members are Airmen Basic Thomas Allender, Ashley Armour, Kyle Marshall, Andrew Reams,

Alexandria Reyes, Aisha Smith-Pepen and Adam Whitman; Airman Jacob Callahan, and Airmen 1st Class Aaron Barnes, Mercedes Hill, Hilary Porter, Zachariah Ritsema, Stephen Shiveley and Heather Tobin.

2 enlisted aircrew courses moving to Lackland

37th Training Wing Public Affairs and Keesler News staff

Enlisted aviator ground schools for seven different specialties are moving to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, to create the Career Enlisted Aircrew Center of Excellence.

Two Keesler courses, for 1A3 airborne mission system specialists and 1A4 airborne battle managers, move to Lackland later this year.

Capt. Michael Lewis, 332nd Training Squadron enlisted aircrew training flight commander, said the two courses will graduate about 350 students for fiscal 2006.

The airborne battle managers course is the first of the seven specialty courses to move to Lackland.

"We were hoping to start classes on April 11 at Lackland, but I don't think we'll make that date because we just started a class here Feb. 21 that isn't scheduled to graduate until April 7, so that date may change," Captain Lewis pointed out.

"The course, completed in 30 compressed academic days, has four instructors, but only two will make a permanent change of station from Keesler to Lackland," he continued. "Two new instructors from the field will PCS from other bases to replace the two that need to return to flying."

The airborne mission systems specialist course, which lasts for 50 compressed academic days, starts its move to Lackland in July and should

be completed by year's end.

"During this move, we'll continue to teach the course here at Keesler, while slowly moving instructors over the six-month period to Lackland," Captain Lewis explained. "We're going to double up the class load for our last class here and our first two classes at Lackland in January to prevent any loss to the annual trained personnel requirements that may be caused by the move."

Captain Lewis noted that nine of the course's 12 instructors will PCS to Lackland, and three new instructors will come from other bases to step in for the ones returning to flying.

Creation of the new center is expected to provide better

and quicker academic training at less cost, said Mark Smith, 344th TRS training manager and aircrew pipeline manager at Lackland.

Mr. Smith said the efficiencies and cost savings include elimination of hundreds of plane trips, wait time and per diem, since many of the aircrew students travel only twice instead of three times before arriving at their flying training units.

The 344th TRS currently trains 2,000 Airmen a year in the 14-day enlisted aircrew undergraduate course before they go to survival training, then to their 3-level specialty ground school, before going to their respective flying training units.

Only the ground school

portion of the training is moving to Lackland. The flight training portions remain at their current locations.

Initially, the 3-level courses are their current lengths at Lackland, according to Mr. Smith. But eventually, a utilization and training workshop will be held to rewrite the courses.

"We expect they will end up being shorter," Mr. Smith said, since common material will be moved into the basic course.

The courses are all different lengths. Since the 3-level courses would follow immediately at Lackland, wait and travel time are eliminated.

Please see **Courses**, Page 5

Courses,

from Page 4

“The intent is to take all the initial skills training for enlisted aviators from where they are now and consolidate them here to create a ‘common aircrew culture,’ and also get some cost savings and training pipeline efficiencies,” said Lt. Col. Rob Huber, 344th TRS commander.

Seven of the eight specialties move to Lackland. The eighth, 1A8 linguists, stays at the ground schools at Monterey, Calif., and Goodfellow AFB, Texas, because they have 18 months of language in a joint school with the Army.

In addition to the two Keesler courses, specialties moving to Lackland are 1A0 aerial refuelers from Altus AFB, Okla.; 1A1 flight engineers from Kirtland AFB, N.M., Little

Rock AFB, Ark., or Altus; 1A2 loadmasters from Altus or Little Rock; 1A6 flight attendants from Andrews AFB, Md., and 1A7 aerial gunners from Kirtland.

The consolidation was identified in December by Air Education and Training Command headquarters as the No. 1 “quick win” initiative for AFSO21, or Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century.

“This will get ... better-trained Airmen to the field quicker, which is really critical in today’s global war on terrorism,” Mr. Smith emphasized.

Career development course writers for each Air Force Specialty Code also move to Lackland.

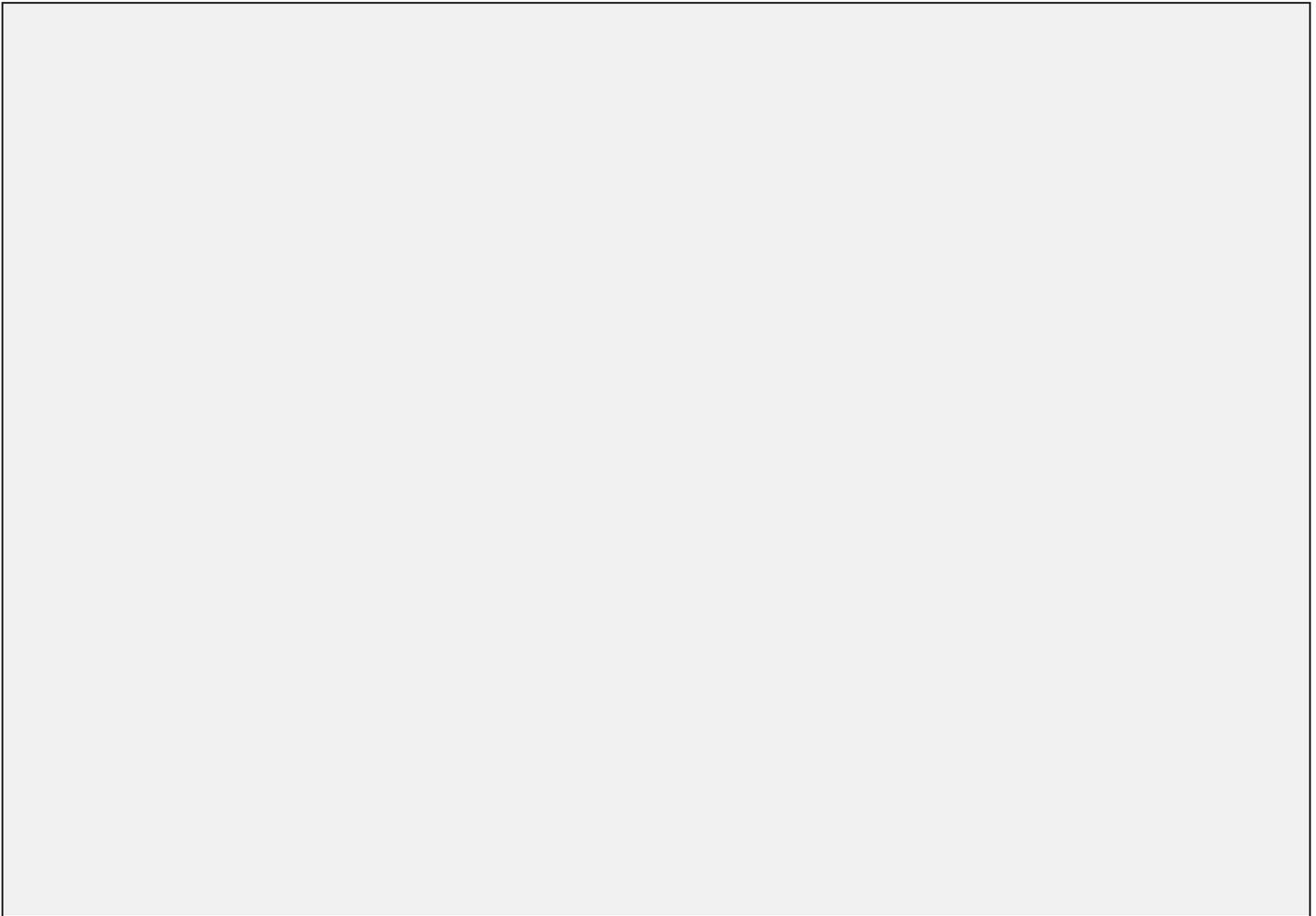
He said the center also plans to develop advanced training courses to support training needs of all of career enlisted aviators.

James Coburn, 37th TRW Public Affairs, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airman 1st Class Justin Mayfield, left, and Airman Basic Andrew Redd, students in the airborne mission systems specialist course, train on airborne communications equipment in Dolan Hall with their instructor, Tech. Sgt. Brian Sommers.



Senior NCO Academy

Alumni sought to instruct enlisted leaders of future

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Moorman

Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL-GUNTER Air Force Base, Ala. — The Air Force Senior NCO Academy here is reaching out to its alumni for help in shaping the future of the Air Force and the enlisted corps.

“We are not looking for instructors, we are looking for senior NCOs with character who desire to be instructors,” said Chief Master Sgt. Barbara Gill, the academy’s chief of programs directorate. “We have a very full and comprehensive training program to get our senior NCOs qualified as instructors.”

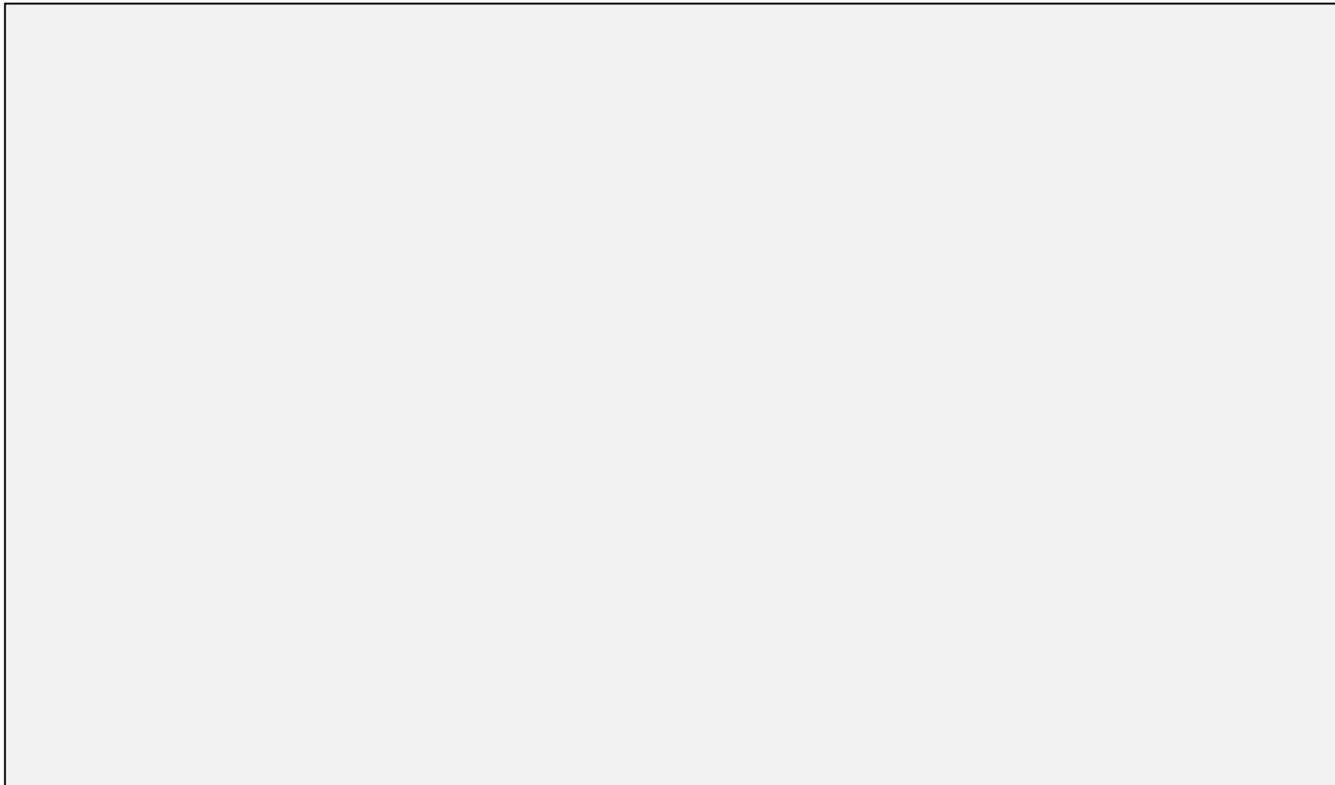
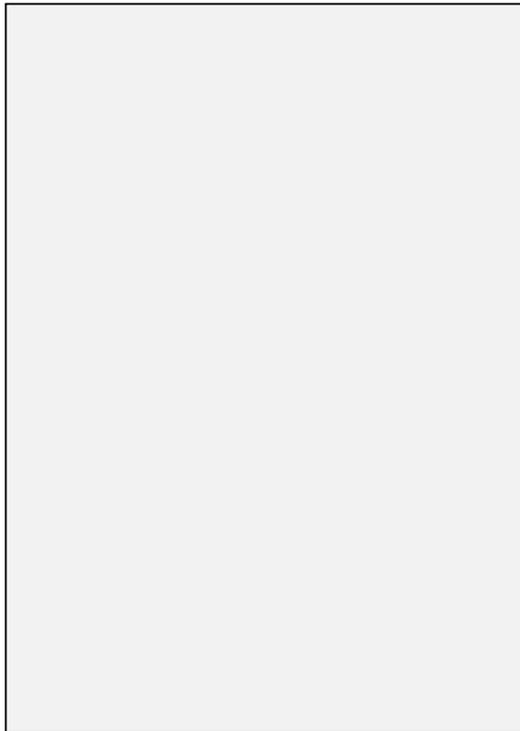
Candidates must be active duty master sergeants or senior master sergeants who’ve graduated in residence from the academy. Eligible senior NCOs must have a minimum of a Community College of the Air Force degree or equivalent, meet or exceed fitness standards, have or be able to obtain four years of retainability and meet time-on-station requirements for a permanent change of station to Maxwell-Gunter.

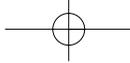
Instructors assist in developing leading-edge curriculum and educate senior NCOs across the Department of Defense and allied nations, said Chief Master Sgt. Pamela Darrow, academy commandant.

“Instructors also lead the chief of staff of the Air Force-directed combined operations initiative between senior NCOs of the Air Force Senior NCO Academy and junior officers attending the air and space basic course. Combined operations focus on mentorship, leadership and followership between senior NCOs and junior officers,” said Chief Darrow.

Chief Gill said the benefits of instructing at the academy are working with a professional, motivated staff, opportunities to improve communications skills and “being in the know” about what is happening to our future enlisted professional military education. Selected members attend a four-week enlisted Professional military education instructor course at Maxwell-Gunter.

For more information, call Chief Gill, DSN 596-1572.





TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Teaching seminar

A Troops to Teachers seminar is 3 p.m. today in Room 131, old Cody Hall.

Chris Carey, Troops to Teachers director for Mississippi, answers questions on teacher certification and benefits offered through the program.

Register with Ron Bublik, transition assistance program manager, 377-8592.

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 spouses of military members.

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 — for civilian spouses of active-duty Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Reserve members. For more information or to apply, 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.

USM program

The University of Southern Mississippi offers a technical and occupational educational bachelor's degree program on Keesler. The next term starts 30 May.

An academic adviser is at

Keesler Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons.

For more information, call 377-2309 or Room 208, old Cody Hall.

\$1,000 scholarships

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

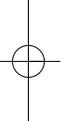
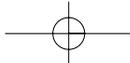
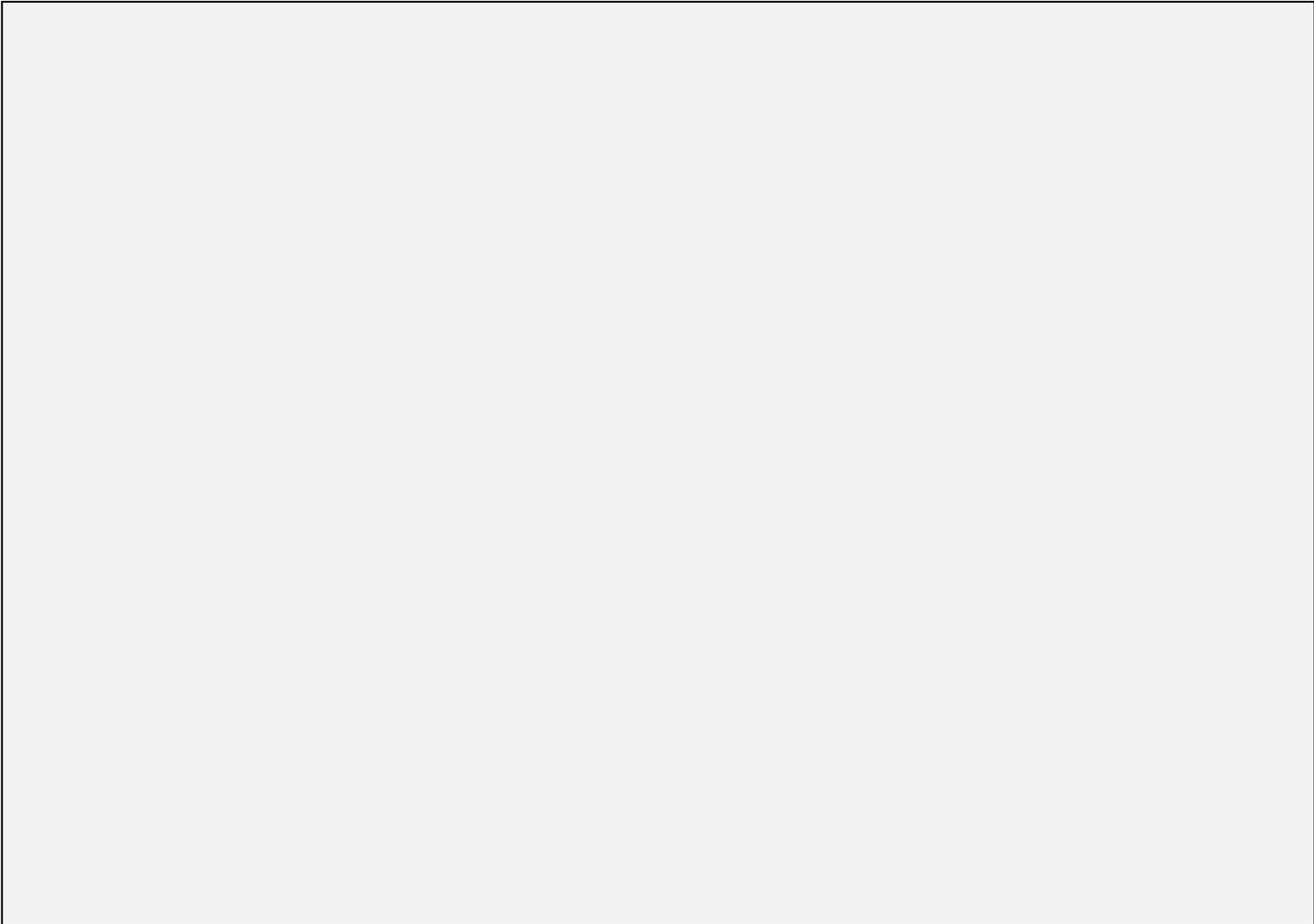
For more information, go to <http://moaa.org>.

Weapons training

Weapons training is conducted by the 81st Security Forces Squadron at Camp Keller in Woolmarket.

Entry and firing privately-owned weapons for unofficial use is prohibited.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Barry Hardy, 377-3354.



NEWS AND FEATURES



Colonel Foss



Sergeant Diaz



Ms. Griggs

Public affairs, Keesler News claim AETC honors for 2005

The 81st Training Wing Public Affairs Office and the Keesler News won eight awards in Air Education and Training Command competition for 2005.

The office won the AETC Public Affairs Director's Award for Special Achievement in a Crisis Situation for the second straight year.

The award recognizes "exceptional public affairs performance in a crisis situation above and beyond the day-to-day activities." The crisis situation was Hurricane Katrina.

Significant contributors were Lt. Col. Claudia Foss, Staff Sgt. Lee Smith, Jerry Taranto, Perry Jenifer, Susan Griggs and Kemberly Groue.

Colonel Foss, director of public affairs, was named the command's outstanding public affairs field grade officer. The colonel was only two months into her assignment at Keesler when Katrina struck Aug. 29. She was recognized for her leadership of the office leading up to, during and in the aftermath of the most destructive natural disaster in U.S. history.

Colonel Foss won the same award for Air Mobility Command last year while stationed at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Staff Sgt. Carlos Diaz was selected as AETC's outstanding public affairs noncommissioned officer. He served in both the internal information and community relations divisions and covered seven combat missions during a deployment to Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait.

The Keesler News won five AETC media contest awards for 2005.

The newspaper placed third in the tabloid category, the ninth time in the last 10 years it has ranked among the top three.

Contributors included Mr. Jenifer, editor, staff writers Sergeants Diaz and Smith, Senior Airman Sarah Stegman and Ms. Griggs, and

Public affairs won the special achievement in a crisis situation award for the second straight year for its performance before, during and after Katrina. The Keesler News ranked among the top three tabloid newspapers for the ninth time in 10 years.

staff photographer Mrs. Groue.

Ms. Griggs placed first in the category for contributions by a contract writer or stringer. She has now won eight command awards since joining the staff in 1996.

Mr. Jenifer, Keesler News editor since 1985, placed second in the news and feature article categories. He has won 27 AETC awards in seven different categories over the years.

Airman Stegman placed third in the photo-journalism category. A member of the staff for about two years, she also placed third in the new writer category one year ago.

The 2005 results bring the number of awards won by the Keesler News in AETC competition during Mr. Jenifer's tenure to 116. Ms. Griggs' award is the 48th for first place since 1985.

IN THE NEWS

Sidewalk closed

The sidewalk along Ploesti Drive leading to the turnstile entrance to Jeff Davis Elementary School is closed until further notice for fence replacement, but the turnstile remains open and accessible.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Vivian Burgess, 377-5858 or 348-2697.

Tops in Blue performs March 13

Keesler Public Affairs

Tops in Blue performs a free concert, 6-8 p.m. March 13 at the parade field behind the Levitow Training Support Facility.

Capt. William Middleswart, 334th Training Squadron, and Senior Airman Brook Hoffman, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, are part of this season's team. The 35 vocalists, musicians and dancers are all active-duty Air Force members who competed for spots with the group.

Prayer breakfast March 14

The 2006 National Prayer Breakfast is 7 a.m. March 14 in the 403rd Wing hangar, Building 4247, 123 Phantom Street.

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

AFAF drive kicks off March 15

Keesler's annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign is March 15 through April 26.

Last year, Keesler raised more than \$46,000. In return, the AFAF gave \$2.1 million to aid Hurricane Katrina victims. This year, the base goal is more than \$60,000.

For more information, contact your unit representative, or call Maj. Gregory Kendrick, 377-1766.

2 Airmen, 8 Marines die in crash

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Two Airmen and eight Marines, including one from south Mississippi, were killed in a Feb. 17 when two helicopters crashed into the Gulf of Aden in northern Djibouti while flying a training mission.

The Airmen killed were Senior Airman Alecia Good, 23, Broadview Heights, Ohio, and Staff Sgt. Luis Melendez-Sanchez, 33, Bayamon, P.R. Airman Good was with the 92nd Communications Squadron, Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., and Sergeant Sanchez was with the 1st Communications Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.

Sgt. Donnie Levens, 25, Long Beach, Miss., was one of the Marines killed. The others were Lance Cpls. Samuel Large Jr., 21, Villa Rica, Ga., and Nicholas Sovie, 20, Ogdensburg, N.Y.; Cpl. Matthieu Marcellus, 31, Gainesville, Fla.; Sgts. James Fordyce, 22, Newton Square, Pa., and Jonathan McColley, 23, Gettysburg, Pa.; 1st Lt. Brandon Dronet, 33, Erath, La., and Capt. Bryan Willard, 33, Hummelstown, Pa.

Air Force civilian dies in Iraq

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — Daniel Kuhlmeier, 30, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., a civilian who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, died in Baghdad Feb. 20 when his convoy was struck by an improvised explosive device.

Housing,

from Page 1

for residents to come into the office to be offered a government relocation to other housing areas.”

Once residents receive keys to their newly-assigned units, they have five duty days to move out of their old home and turn in those keys.

“Housing residents also have the option to move off base once they receive their notifications,” Mr. Long pointed out. “Either way, the move is necessary and is paid for by the government.”

When moving out of old units, members need only to meet minimum cleaning standards.

“Housing inspectors will basically be looking to make sure appliances are clean and yards are up to standard,” Mr. Long said.

“If housing residents are moved into a smaller unit and need to store some household goods, they may make an itemized list and put those items into non-temporary storage at government expense,” said Sally Johnston, housing assignment counselor.

Airmen may have to move more than once during the construction project, depending on the length of their

assignments at Keesler.

“If Airmen are required to move more than once, every attempt will be made to relocate them to one of the newly-constructed homes,” Mr. Long said.

“We’re going to keep housing residents informed during this process,” he added. “Once the contract is awarded and the project’s construction phasing is set, we will be sending out more relocation notification letters.”

The goal is to award the construction contract in April with a start date in June.

The project gives Keesler 1,067 new homes and is expected to be completed by November 2008.

Hayner,

from Page 1

commander, Osan Air Base, Korea; operations officer and commander, Eglin; Royal Air Force Lakenheath, U.K.; chief of the intercolle-

giate division, Air Force Academy, Colo., and instructor pilot, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, and Cannon AFB, N.M.

Colonel Pierce is a command pilot with more than 1,700 flying hours in a wide-variety of fighter and trainer aircraft.

Up in smoke



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Staff Sgt. Darnell Walls, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, exits Shaw House after helping extinguish a four-alarm fire which broke out at approximately 3:30 p.m. Feb. 22 on the fourth floor of the five-story lodging facility. One person was transported to Biloxi Regional Medical Center for smoke inhalation and burns; all other occupants were safely evacuated. Keesler and Biloxi fire departments responded to the fire in the combined effort. The initial damage assessment is \$200,000, and the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

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.

No need for Good Conduct Medal

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force director of Airman development and sustainment recently explained the Air Force Uniform Board's decision to reasons behind the decision to cease awarding the Good Conduct Medal.

"The quality of our enlisted personnel today is so high, we expect good conduct from our Airmen," said Brig. Gen Robert Allardice. "It begged the question, 'Why do we have a Good Conduct Medal?'"

One must look at the history of why the medal was created in the 1960s. The military was using the draft and involved in the Vietnam War. The Air Force didn't have any other method to recognize Airmen.

Today, the Air Force Achievement Medal recognizes outstanding Airmen.

Airmen who have previously earned the Good Conduct Medal are still authorized to wear it.

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.

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.

Civilian career information

Air Force civilians can access the virtual Civilian Career Brief through the AFPC secure Web site, <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure/default.asp>.

Once on the AFPC secure Web site, select "Civ Career Brief" from the button menu.

New CCB users need to establish an account.

E-mailing deployed troops

Stars and Stripes features "Messages of Support" to deployed service members from family and friends free of charge.

E-mail no more than 60 words to messages@estripes.com.

AFOQT score reporting

Members taking the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test are able to access their scores on the test management section Web page, <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/testing>, within two to four weeks after receipt of answer sheets at AFPC.

Those taking the test must test well in advance of deadlines for submitting commissioning application packages to ensure receipt of test scores prior to deadlines.

KEESLER NEWS
 Monday, March 6, 2006
 Volume 10, Number 10
 Publishing Schedule: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

Base improves safety record in fiscal 2005
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For Keesler News delivery or display racks, facility managers call 377-3163.

Home Safe – economical alternative to DUI

By Master Sgt. Roger Drinnon

Keesler Public Affairs

Editor's note: This is the third 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.

The intent of the Home Safe program is to reduce the number of driving under the influence incidents involving active-duty personnel, their dependents, and Defense Department civilian employees.

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.

More than 50 vouchers were purchased in 2005, according to Master

Sgt. Alan Lis, 81st Medical Operations Squadron first sergeant. He said last year's voucher sales were down from previous years. One possible explanation is Hurricane Katrina — there was a mass evacuation of technical training students, civilian employees and military family members prior to the storm, and not all have returned yet.

Home Safe cards provide potentially intoxicated members with a taxi ride to their residence or to Keesler from any point within the boundaries of the program — from Highway 49, Gulfport, to Highway 57, Gautier, and up to two miles north of Interstate 10. The cards are accepted for payment up to \$20. The member using the card is responsible for paying the taxi driver any charges exceeding the \$20 limit.

The card covers transportation for up to four people provided they all have valid military or DOD identification cards. However, the taxi company doesn't provide transportation beyond the first drop-off point without charging full fare for the ride from that point forward.

During heightened security levels, the taxi company may not have access to the base. Under such circumstances, patrons would be dropped off at one of the base gates.

Voucher card prices normally are lowered to \$5 during the Christmas and New Year's holiday season. They're redeemable at any time only through the Biloxi City Cab Company.

To redeem Home Safe vouchers:

Call the cab company using the

phone number provided on the voucher card and inform the dispatcher a Home Safe card will be used.

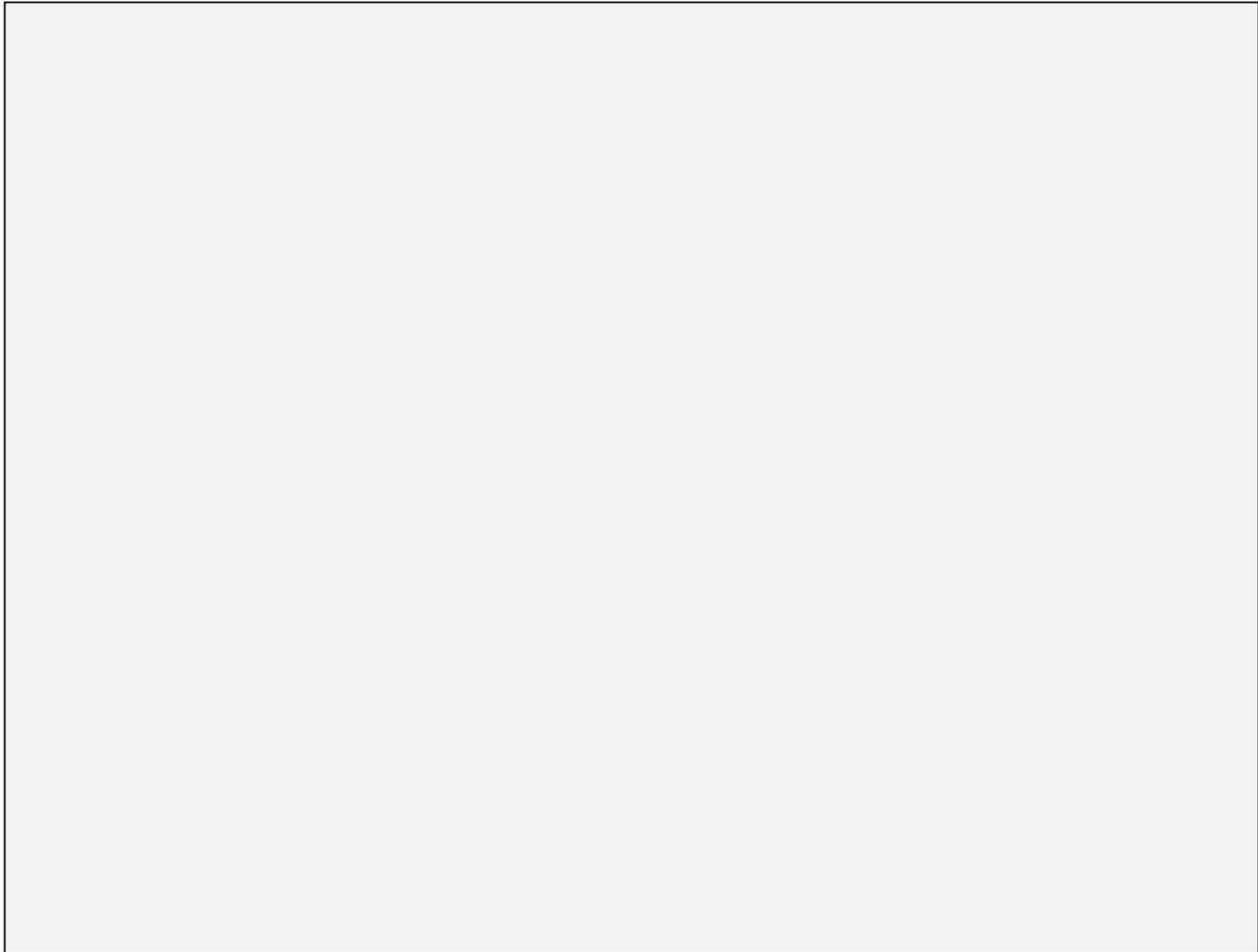
Show a valid military, dependent or other DOD identification card to the driver for all members requiring transportation.

Give the Home Safe card to the driver when being picked up.

Pay any charges in excess of \$20 and pay charges incurred after the first requested drop-off point. The taxi company determines rates.

Cards may be used only to go from the pickup point to a member's residence or a designated location on base. The cards aren't accepted for travel to another drinking establishment.

Next week: ADAPT.



Bone marrow matches Civilian gets chance to help leukemia patient

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Answering the phone can be a joy, an aggravation, a mindless routine — or an opportunity to save a life.

Seven years ago, when Cindy Milford participated in a bone marrow registration drive at Keesler, she was told the odds of being contacted as a donor were very slim.

She put that prospect out of her mind until three months ago, when she got the call to donate bone marrow to help a cancer patient.

62-year-old man needs donor

Mrs. Milford, the 81st Services Division's graphics illustrator for the past nine years, returned Wednesday from the Greenebaum Cancer Center at the University of Maryland. She donated blood stem cells for transplantation into a 62-year-old man suffering from leukemia.

"You could've knocked me over with a feather," said Mrs. Milford of the late November phone call from the Department of Defense's Bill Young Marrow Donor Center in Rockville, Md.

"I was in shock to hear that I was a potential match for someone — it hit me like a ton of bricks," she remembered. "I got a little teary to think that I might be able to help someone overcome a terrible disease."

Diane Moore, senior donor services coordinator for the DOD center, forwarded a kit to Keesler Medical Center for more of Mrs. Milford's blood to be drawn and returned to the center.

Chance of match 10 percent

"Diane said the sample would determine if I was the best match, and that I had a one in 10 chance of being a match," Mrs. Milford recalled. "She said it usually took three to four months before they notify the matching donor, so I put it on the back burner, thinking it would be March before I heard any news."

In early January, she got another call — she was the best match.

"I just wanted to cry and cheer all at the same time," Mrs. Milford remarked.

The first person she shared the news with was her husband, Roger, Services' training manager.

Jan. 22, the Milfords made their first trip to the Greenebaum Cancer Center, where Mrs. Milford had a thorough physical examination to confirm she was physically fit for the marrow donor



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Feb. 16, more of Mrs. Milford's blood was drawn for tests to rule out any infections that could be passed to the bone marrow recipient.

program, including drawing another 15 tubes of blood for various tests, a blood pressure check, a chest X-ray and an electrocardiogram.

Feb. 16, she returned to Keesler Medical Center to have more blood drawn for two tests which had to be done within 15 days of the procedure to assure that she wouldn't transmit any infections to the recipient.

Mrs. Milford and her husband flew back to Maryland Feb. 23 to begin the marrow harvesting procedure.

"The recipient's insurance pays the expenses for the donor and a companion to fly to the GCC for the treatment," she explained. "They'll even pay for child care and pet kenneling if needed. The length of stay depends on which harvest method is recommended by the doctors for the best chance of survival of the recipient."

Rather than drawing marrow from the pelvic bones, Ms. Milford donated marrow by the peripheral blood stem cell collection process, which doesn't require anesthesia.

Friday, she began receiving daily injections of a growth hormone called filgrastim, which boosts circulating stem cell production 500 percent.

For the first two days, she felt well enough to do some sightseeing in

Washington, but by Sunday, the side effects of the drug began to kick in — headaches, nausea, body aches and extreme fatigue. She was given medication to ease the symptoms.

Blood out, blood in

Tuesday, her marrow was retrieved by apheresis, a process in which blood is removed through a sterile needle in one arm, passed through a machine that separates the stem cells and the remaining blood is returned through the other arm.

"The technicians were extremely pleased with the results — they said it was the highest white count they've ever seen, which is great for the recipient," Mrs. Milford said.

Two technicians were on standby during the procedure to get the marrow ready for transport and transplantation.

Before the cells could be transplanted directly into the recipient's bloodstream, he had to undergo chemotherapy and radiation treatment to completely destroy his diseased bone marrow. In a successful transplant, the blood stem cells travel to the marrow, where they begin to grow new, healthy marrow and blood cells.

"I wasn't worried about the procedure for myself, but I was very concerned about the recipient," Mrs. Milford admitted. "He had to go through chemo to kill all of his bone marrow, which puts him at a terrible risk. My part seems pretty simple."

"I'm really proud of Cindy — she has so much inner strength," her husband said. "I wasn't worried about the procedure, because it's basically 'blood out, blood in.' She has an aversion to flying, which she's put behind her to do this for another person."

"The resolve she's shown since being identified as a match, to stay healthy and make sure she was able to donate, is amazing," Mr. Milford continued. "She'll be the first to tell you that it isn't about her — it's about the recipient."

Outcome difficult to predict

It's difficult to predict the outcome for an individual marrow recipient. How well a transplant works depends on many factors — what disease is being treated, the stage of the disease, the patient's age and general health and the degree of tissue match between the donor and patient.

"I just hope the transplant will prolong this patient's life so he'll have more time with their loved ones," Mrs. Milford said.

Base donor drive set for April 6

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Keesler hosts a bone marrow donor registration drive, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 6, at Welch Auditorium in conjunction with a base-wide blood drive.

"With the new typing process, you don't even have to get stuck," said Staff Sgt. Samantha Moore, 81st Communications Squadron, one of the drive's organizers. "All it takes to register is an oral swab sample and a consent form."

Healthy people age 18-60 are eligible to donate.

"There are fewer restrictions for bone marrow donors than there are for blood donors," Sergeant Moore pointed out.

The drive is coordinated by the Department of Defense's Bill Young Marrow Donor Center, one of more than 94 donor centers across the country that fall under the National Bone Marrow Donor Program headquartered in Minneapolis.

The national registry has facilitated more than 20,000 transplants for patients who didn't have a tissue-matched donor in their family.

Military donors are essential to the success of the program, according to center officials, because the military is the nation's largest source of whole blood donations and military personnel meet strict health and age requirements more than any other large organization.

Marrow donor drives are placing special emphasis on minority populations. Someone from the same ethnic background has a greater chance of being a suitable match. Currently, nearly 70 percent of the donors on the DOD registry are Caucasian, so the chance of finding a suitable match for minority patients is considerably less.

For more information, call Sergeant Moore, 377-9520; Jill Peterson, 377-9324, or visit <http://www.dodmarrow.com>.



Airman Madrigal



Sergeant Byrd



Sergeant Orslene



Captain McCall

Keesler honors top military, civilian performers for 2005

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

Eight Team Keesler members claimed 81st Training Wing annual awards Feb. 23 at the 403rd's ISO Hangar.

Winners for 2005 are:

Airman — Senior Airman Jose Madrigal is a telephone systems technician assigned to the 81st Communications Squadron. Airman Madrigal was raised in Tulare, Calif., and enlisted in the Air Force in August 2003.

Airman Madrigal installed, relocated and repaired key telephone service to facilitate the rapid restart of Keesler's mission after Hurricane Katrina. He manages the section's tool and safety programs.

He completed his Community College of the Air Force degree in electronic systems technology, and is currently attending classes through Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College pursuing an associate's degree in telecommunications from Tulane University.

After Hurricane Katrina, Airman Madrigal volunteered more than 100 hours to help set up the Biloxi Community Center with 48 computers for displaced citizens to contact loved ones.

He also volunteered to serve on the base's honor guard team and tutors two elementary school students.

Airman Madrigal won his unit's Airman of the quarter, and earned promotion to senior airman below-the-zone.

NCO — Tech. Sgt. William Byrd, 81st CS, is the

airfield systems maintenance assistant noncommissioned officer in charge. The Huntsville, Texas, native graduated from Pearl High School, Pearl, Miss. in May 1992 and enlisted in January 1993.

He has held the positions of maintenance support technician and base land mobile radio frequency manager.

Sergeant Byrd manages the Web-based paging server upgrade ensured equipment compatibility and saved \$62,000 in software fees. He was recognized as Keesler's 2005 Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez maintenance technician-supervisor of the year, which recognizes maintainers who demonstrate the highest degree of job performance.

He was a key communications player in the Department of Homeland Security's Lifesaver 2005 exercise and modernized an air-to-ground communication system.

During Hurricane Katrina, Sergeant Byrd led a three-man team that stabilized the medical center's communications. He also made numerous trips to rescue personnel sheltered in the hospital.

After Katrina, Sergeant Byrd helped to reopen Keesler's Airman's Attic.

Senior NCO — Senior Master Sgt. Damian Orslene, 81st Mission Support Squadron, is the military personnel flight's customer support superintendent. The Warren, Ohio, native enlisted in December 1982 and has been assigned to Keesler since August 2004.

Sergeant Orslene was handpicked to lead a shelter accountability tiger team that was charged to simplify accountability for active-duty military, Defense Department civilians and their family members sheltering on base during natural disasters.

In Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, the resulting database programs his tiger team created not only accomplished its task, but exceeded it by providing instant strength accountability, resulting in an Air Education and Training Command best practice.

Sergeant Orslene finished in the top 1 percent of his Senior NCO Academy class of 420 as a distinguished graduate.

He's also president of Keesler's Top III Association and chairman of the quality of life council.

First sergeant — Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Jordan is the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron's first sergeant. He's from Deer Park, Wash., and joined the Air Force in September 1981. He's a ground radio communications technician by trade.

After Katrina caused extensive damage to the Keesler Club and the Warrior Lounge was demolished to make way for the temporary commissary, Sergeant Jordan advocated for a new consolidated club and was tasked to come up with a solution.

After his site surveys targeted the right location, the marina, he organized and headed a moving crew to relocate the 81st Services Division marina supplies while preparing the new club for its grand opening.

Sergeant Jordan also helped reduce his unit's overall alcohol-related incidents 90 percent in one year.

He finished in the top 1 percent of his Senior NCO Academy class of 430 as a distinguished graduate.

Sergeant Jordan graduated the First Sergeant Academy in May 1999 and arrived at Keesler in January 2002. He has served as a first sergeant for the 81st Medical Support Squadron, 81st MSS and 355th Training Squadron, and was selected as the wing's First Sergeant of the Year in 2003.

He's also the vice president of the Top III Association, and is an active member of the Keesler First Sergeants Council and the Air Force Sergeant's Association.

Sergeant Jordan has three CCAF degrees and a bachelor's degree in human resource management from Faulkner University.

Company grade officer — Capt. Terrill McCall is the commander of Detachment 1, 333rd TRS in Falls Church, Va.

The New Castle, Ind., native received a commission through officer training school in 1999 after receiving a bachelor's degree from Ball State University.

Captain McCall stood up six classes for 60 students who relocated to his detachment due to Hurricane Katrina so no training time was lost. He also led a 12-person team for evacuee preparation and personally sponsored 15 displaced personnel.

Captain McCall has won the Lance P. Sijan Leader-

ship Award twice, once in 2004 at the 67th Information Operations Wing Lackland, Air Force Base, Texas, and in 2005 at the 70th Intelligence Wing, Fort Meade, Md.

Entry level civilian — Robert O'Mara, a retired master sergeant, is a quality assurance inspector in the 81st Transportation Squadron.

Mr. O'Mara coordinated baggage shipments and staged briefings for 350 Navy Seabees with one week notice. He also manually routed and processed more than 500 Navy shipments to destinations worldwide.

Mr. O'Mara is a trusted professional and maintains a quality assurance inspection rate of 80 percent, which exceeds AETC's standard by 30 percent.

Following Hurricane Katrina, he inspected 37 warehouses and reported damages in two days. He also helped transport countless salvaged items from the commissary and base exchange to people still sheltered on base.

Mr. O'Mara was awarded the 81st TRANS commander's Trailblazer award and the transportation management flight's performer of the month.

Intermediate level civilian — Robert Elliott is an air traffic control specialist with the 81st Operation Support Flight.

Mr. Elliott aided in 73 Coast Guard search and rescue missions in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He coordinated maneuvering airspace and deconflicted non-participating aircraft in the local area, making him a key link in the recovery of 23 survivors.

Mr. Elliott also provided support to more than 8,600 humanitarian operations without any mishaps despite a 400 percent increase in air traffic.

He co-authored an extensive air traffic control training program and updated internal facility training programs and evaluator procedures.

Mr. Elliott orchestrated movements of 160 presidential and congressional flights to view coastal hurricane damage, and kept wing leadership informed by charting Federal Emergency Management Agency's relief efforts.

He hosted a high school career day and briefed more than 100 students and teachers on air traffic control and Air Force benefits.

Senior level — Adrian Augustine, 81st MSS, is the military personnel programs chief.

The retired chief master sergeant filled in as flight chief for five months while an individual was deployed, and then again for another four months while the 81st MSS commander was deployed.

Mr. Augustine oversaw the student processing center, meeting the personnel needs of more than 10,000 nonprior service students.

He initiated an automated customer log-in station that improved customer flow and wait times.

Mr. Augustine led massive outbound assignment efforts after Hurricane Katrina. He also implemented stop movement orders for Hurricanes Dennis and Katrina, ensuring personnel safety.



Sergeant Jordan



Mr. O Mara



Mr. Elliott



Mr. Augustine

Days are numbered for portable storage units

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

Portable on demand storage units must be returned to the contractor by March 13 and April 7, depending on the location of the unit.

"PODS located next to the gas station, Bay Breeze Golf Course or on Hercules Drive need to be cleared out no later than March 12," said Ray Turner, housing office. "PODS located behind the tennis court or in the Sablich Center parking lot need to be cleared out by April 6."

If a PODS is still required, the individual can continue using the unit at his own expense. Monthly cost is \$129, and the unit must be moved to their property off base, which costs \$75 to \$150 depending on where the unit is moved.

If items aren't removed prior to the deadline, the remaining items are treated as abandoned property and disposed of accordingly.

For more information, call Mr. Turner, 377-7201.

Open base facilities are:

81st Services Division

11th Frame Café — located in Gaudé Lanes. 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 — 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-working Fridays, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. non-working Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The cafe offers breakfast 6-9 a.m. Monday-working Fridays.

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. A mini arts and crafts center is located in the Vandenberg Community Center. Hours are 5-9 p.m. Thursday, noon to 5 p.m. non-working Fridays, and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays following down Fridays.

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 informa-



Photo by Kemberly Groue

PODS located on Ploesti Drive next to Bay Breeze Golf Course must be vacated before March 12 to return to the contractor. If a unit is still needed, it can be moved to an off-base location at the expense of the individual.

tion, call 377-2211.

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 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 2-10 p.m. Saturdays. Before- and after-school program is 6:30-8:30 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.

Concessionaires — Backyard Burger and Cat's Catering, from Hattiesburg, have trailers set up in front of the Class Six/Shoppette on Meadows Drive.

Hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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.

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 377-5949.

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

Tax assistance — 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.

For more information, call 377-4454.

Traffic management office — 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.

For more information, call 377-3217.

Civilians have until May 31 to use excused absences for Katrina-related issues

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

May 31 is the last day for civilians to use up to 30 days of excused absence to attend to personal issues caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Employees don't get extra time added to the original 30 days approved, 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.

Other assistance sources:

Air Force Aid Society

Assistance requests are taken at the family support center, Room 117, old Cody Hall.

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

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.

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

Commemorative coins, patches still available

Operation Dragon Comeback coins and patches are still available.

The \$7 coins and \$5 patches benefit the base's Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

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

found at <https://www.gcsuthd.bankofamerica.com/forms/maintenance.asp>. Use reason code 10 and use your own words to reference Hurricane Katrina. To fax the form, call 1-888-678-6046.

IRS publication

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

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.

Safe haven extensions

The safe haven per diem entitlement for dependents of Keesler's uniformed members displaced by Hurricane Katrina has been extended through March 31.

The office of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness approved additional authorization for evacuation allowances until Aug. 1.

The per diem travel and transportation allowance committee approved 100 percent entitlements for military dependents through March 31.

That extension provides authority until the military advisory panel can work changes to the joint federal travel regulation. Those changes are expected to be approved by April 1 to give the services the authority and responsibility to make determinations on a case-by-case basis on payment of safe haven allowances.

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.

Extensions weren't approved beyond Feb. 24 for in-place per diem entitlements for civilians and their dependents or single-rate basic allowance for housing.

SGLI

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

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

These changes don't affect coverage under Family SGLI.

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

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

Wanted: Blood donors for armed forces program

81st Medical Group

Services available through the 81st Medical Group:

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

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 is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The last appointment for checkin 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 emergency 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

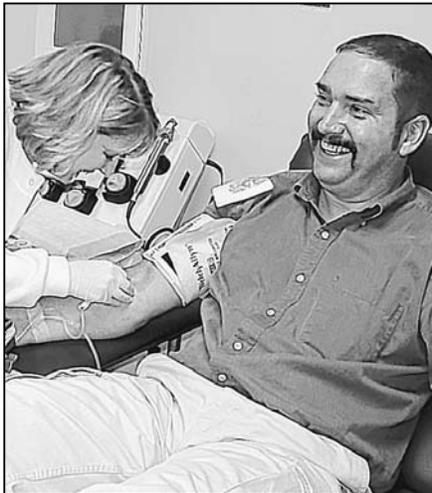


Photo by Sreve Pivnick

Laboratory technician Shany Moore, 81st Medical Support Squadron, prepares Mark Vogelmeier, a retired Navy chief gunner's mate from Ocean Springs, to donate blood Feb. 22 at Keesler Medical Center. The Keesler Blood Donor Center conducted the drive at the hospital as part of its ongoing mission to support the Armed Services Blood Program. A new donor center is under construction at the Arnold Medical Annex and is expected to open within the next two months.

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.

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

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

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

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

and treatment of chronic medical illnesses, medical consultation and referral for select subspecialty services.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Physical and occupational therapy see patients at the health and wellness center. 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, ultrasound and electrical stimulation modalities. modalities. Once patients receive referrals from their primary care managers, the referral management center calls them to schedule the appointment.

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

Trains are running again
on the Mississippi Gulf Coast —
don't get trapped on the tracks.
Stop — look — listen.



Airman Basic Alex Hight, 334th Training Squadron, stocks housewares for Hurricane Katrina victims at the Biloxi Salvation Army Center.



Keesler Airmen become soldiers in Salvation Army's Katrina recovery battle

Airman Basic Gabriel McDonald, 334th TRS, moves cases of baby formula at the Salvation Army's storage facility.



Airman Basic Laura Jiminez, 334th TRS, organizes men's underwear in a bin for the Salvation Army's clothing distribution site. Airmen volunteers worked at the center Feb. 22.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Staff Sgt. Susan Tennant, left, 81st Mission Support Squadron, is served fried catfish by Sharon Floyd, 338th Training Squadron, during the soul food sampling at Larcher Chapel Feb. 23.

Food sampling is good for soul

From left, Staff Sgt. Anthony Borganier, 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Byron Bryant, 403rd Maintenance Squadron, and Master Sgt. Ray Reynolds, 53rd WRS, grill ribs and chicken. The African-American Heritage Committee hosted the event in celebration of Black Heritage Month.



Medical law assistant retires Friday

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Janet Sellers, medical law assistant with the 81st Medical Group, ends more than 35 years of federal service Friday.

Ms. Sellers began working at Keesler Medical Center in June 1971 as a clerk stenographer. She joined the medical law office in November 1984.

Before Keesler, she worked at Stennis Space Center in Hancock County and the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport.

Medical law consultants support Air Force medical facilities throughout the southeastern United States. Their area is from Barksdale Air



Ms. Sellers

Force Base, La., to Charleston AFB, S.C., and all bases in Florida.

The consultants provide

legal advice to medical treatment facility commanders, and review and provide advice on medical malpractice claims against the Air Force.

Since 1990 (earlier statistics were not available), Ms. Sellers has been involved in the review of 603 medical malpractice suits totaling more than \$2.4 billion in claims.

She's also served as a notary public for patients and staff at the medical center, notarizing more than 17,000 documents including 3,453 powers of attorney since 1990.

Ms. Sellers and her husband, David, plan to remain in the Biloxi area.

KEESLER NOTES

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.

Tax office

The tax office is now in Room 234, old Cody Hall.

The office provides free tax information and preparation to base personnel, 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. workdays.

For more information, call 377-4454.

Playgroup

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

The program provides sup-

port for anyone with military privileges and is directed mainly at preschoolers.

For more information, call 377-8612.

Preschool openings

The part-day preschool program has openings for 3-5 year olds in the 12:30-3:30 p.m. afternoon session

Classes are Mondays through working Fridays at the youth center, and are suspended on federal holidays and Christmas holidays for area schools.

Enrollment is at the child development center. The fee is based on family income.

Learning experiences are balanced between active and quiet, indoors and outdoors, child-initiated and teacher-directed, individual and group-oriented, and spontaneous and planned.

For more information, call 377-2211.

Preschool playgroup

A preschool pals playgroup is offered 9:30-10:30 a.m. Thursdays in Room 100-B of the former Chapel One.

The group is a joint venture of the chapel and the family support center. The hour offers toys, games, music and a chance for parents to visit.

For more information, call Chap. (Capt.) John Vander Kaay, 377-2520, or the family support center, 377-2179.

Zero overpricing

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

DRMO withdrawals

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

For audit purposes, base activities other than nonappropriated fund activities must request all property in DRMO through the retail supply activity. This ensures the requester is an authorized representative of the requesting organizational activity.

Lithographs

Air Force lithographs on these subjects are available for unit display on a first-come, first served basis through the public affairs office:

Air Force core values.
Safety/operational risk management.

Air Force History and Art Program series, including 60th anniversary of World War II.

Publicity posters from past Keesler open houses, including the canceled 2005 event.

Lithographs may be picked up by first sergeants in Room 113, Taylor Logistics Center (Building 4002).

Speed limit up

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

Supply visits

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

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

Child care

The family child care program is available to all active-duty military, Defense Department civilians including non-appropriated fund, and Army and Air Force Exchange Service employees and others who support the base mission.

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

For more information, call 377-3189 or 5935.

Preschool program

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

Classes are Mondays-working Fridays at the youth center.

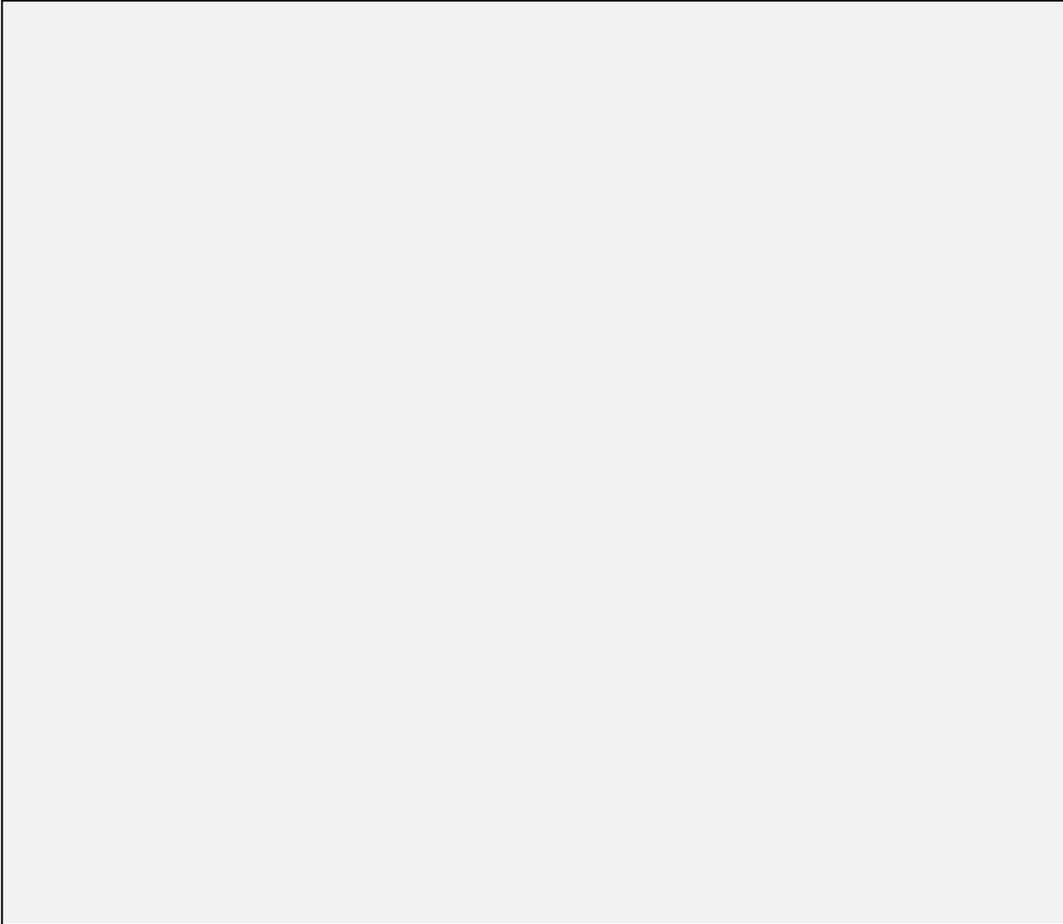
Enrollment is at the child development center.

For more information, call 377-2211.

CORRECTION

An article in the Feb. 23 Keesler News listed an incorrect phone number for the inspector general's office.

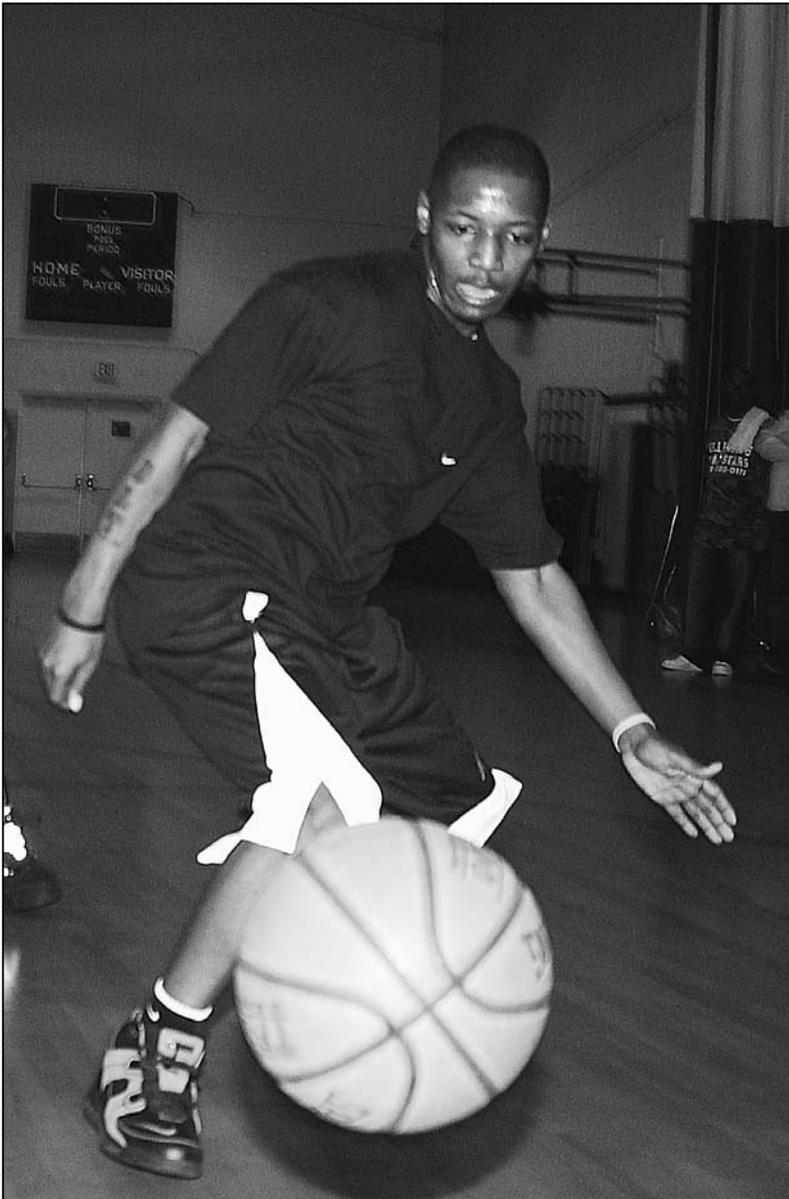
The number listed, 377-7053, is the fraud, waste and abuse hotline. The correct office number is 377-3010.



SPORTS AND RECREATION

Basketball

Legends win African-American Heritage Committee tourney title



Demetrio Tyler of the Ballaholics rushes for a loose ball during a Friday tournament game at Blake Fitness Center.

Photos by Kemberly Groue

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

The African-American Heritage Committee hosted a three-on-three basketball tournament at the Blake Fitness Center Friday and Saturday.

The teams were comprised of Keesler personnel, as well as local high school basketball players and teams. The tournament was part of the ongoing celebration of Black Heritage Month.

In addition to a weekend-long double-elimination tournament, other events, featuring members of the participating teams were held.

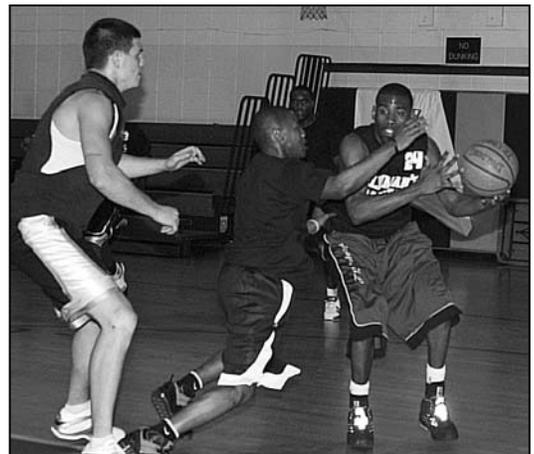
Here are the results:

Three-on-three tournament championship game: The Legends (Edward Simpson, Christopher Geiger, James Burnett and Kenneth Dukes) defeated Villiman's Trap Stars, 28-26.

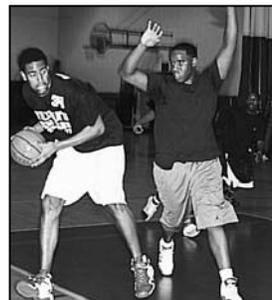
Tournament MVP: Dukes (Legends).

Three-point shooting contest winner: Devin Butler (Trap Stars).

Slam dunk contest winner: DeCarlos Riley (Trap Stars).



Doug Treisch, left, and Demetrio Tyler, center, both from the Ballaholics, defend against Devin Butler from the Villiman's Trap Stars.



Butler, left, Villiman's Trap Stars, runs down the court as Jejuan Brown, center, Villiman's Trap Stars, drives by Angelo Badea from the Ballaholics during one of Friday's games.

Round 2 coming up



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Aaron Lyons, left, and Alan Belcher slug it out at the first Operation Slugfest at Hangar 4 in December. A second Operation Slugfest is scheduled for 7 p.m. March 17. Tickets can be purchased at Gaudé Lanes and Vandenberg Community Center.

SCORES AND MORE

Bowling

Youth special — ages 17 and younger bowl for \$1 per game.

Number of lanes available for open bowling — evenings 10 Monday, 12 Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 Thursday and 14 Friday. Twenty-four lanes are open 1:30-10 p.m. Saturdays and 1-7 p.m. Sundays.

Reserve a lane for your child's birthday — for more information, call 377-2817.

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

Fitness centers

Free wearin' o' the green 5-kilometer run/walk — 3 p.m. March 17 at the marina. Sign up day of the race. Wear green and get a 4 leaf clover. T-shirts to top finishers.

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 — closed today and Friday for renovations.

Triangle Fitness Center — closed until further notice.

Golf

Bay Breeze Golf Course — 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.

Two for one golf lessons — schedule a half hour lesson for \$25 and receive a second half-hour lesson free. For an appointment, call 377-3832 or 348-7589.

Outdoor recreation

St. Patrick's Day special — March 17. Wear green and get a 10-percent discount on all rental equipment.

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

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

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.

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

Youth center

Free Junior Olympic tennis skills competition — 2 p.m. March 25 for ages 8-13. Sign up through March 23.

Baseball/T-ball — accepting registrations for ages 5-12.

Operation Night Hoops — for ages 13-18. For more information, call 377-4116.

Classes — gymnastics, tae kwon do and dance. For more information, call 377-4116

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

DIGEST

HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Jayson Bethell, Megan Boren, James Brooks, Robert Cloys, Shawn Cotter, Isaac Cunningham, Joshua De Amusatogui, Kyle Duley, Timothy Ely, Lary Eyr, Seth Fouts, Aaron Hetman, Charles Howard, Brian Jares, Jesse Leslie, Christopher Madsen, Christopher McClanahan, Richard Martin, Charod Moore, Marques Moore, Justin Mongoso, Joe Munoz, Gamu Olanrewaju, Brenton Pistek, Jose Polanco, Michael Scarlata, Daniel Sleetor, Rodrigo Soza, Robert Thomas, Kyle Waddle, Mark West, Trent Wilson and Hyon Yi; Airmen Anthony Gray, Kevin Hart, Michael Lofaro, Edward Lum, Joseph Murray, Nick Salsman and Edward Sayers; Pfc. Richard Oglesby; Airmen 1st Class Kyle Aburn, Shawn Beck, Christopher Beumer, Robert Drake, Joseph Fields, Ian Handley, Randall Hodkin, Brian Housholder, Michael Jackson, Christopher Konze, Jonathan Langdon, Nathan Lindeman, William Mullins, Nicholas Owens, Cameron Rau, Michael Roseboro, Nicholas Rudder, Jereme Sampson, Nathaniel Steele, John Tiger, Luke Titre, Brian Westgate and Patrick White; Senior Airmen Jonathan Grigg, Luke Martens and Roger Rouse; Staff Sgts. Steven Bolli, Jason Desrosiers, Christopher Flaten, David Hart, Robert Hatcher, Leslie Hubbard, Seraphim Resendes and David Whanger; Tech. Sgt. Robert Butterfield; Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Mendoza.

334th TRS

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Christopher Bahlman, Matthew Calhoun, Jacob Cline-Smith, Michael Coyne, Anthony Cross, Brandon Dick, Jared Dunn, Christopher Gustavson, Phoeteama Neal, Zachary Pack, Tabitha Paul, Matthew Roberts, Joseph Sievert, Aaron Sitton, Joshua Stinar, Tyler Wynne and Zebulon York; Airmen Noel Foley and Dirk Shelton; Airmen 1st Class Aaron Adock, Brian Chisham, Sara Fitzpatrick, Roger Henthorn, Bobby Koonce, Stephan Mir, Marc Passarino, Robert Rohlfing, Isaac Shreves, Garrick Steber, Ryan Towns, John Weisensee, Kristen White, Daynesha Worsham and Isaac Yi; Senior Airmen Laura Andrews, Justin Barger, Christopher Dyer, Michael Hutchins, Candace Kingdom and Steven Sorensen; Staff Sgts. Alex Collozo, Mark Darrigo, Jessie Jackson, Elizabeth Jones, Chris Martinez, Joshua Pugh, Vanessa Smith, Eric Wagner and Justin Wutzke.

Command post apprentice course — Airmen Basic Alan Alexander, Marie Moore and Kayelynn Perkins; Airmen 1st Class Jennifer Krukta and Stefanie Walker, Senior Airmen Christopher Marrazzo, Moses Souchet and Benjamin Zeringue; Tech. Sgts. Ruth Agnew-Gilmore, Randall Borton, John Bratcher, Antonious Brooks, Peter Hawk, Michelle McCormick and Michael Vasser; Master Sgt. Shannon Simon.

335th TRS

Comptroller training flight — Airmen Basic John Bridges, Fawn Lawrence, Aaron Rabold, Joshua Rotondo and Thomas Starling; Airmen Lourditha Quintina and Aaron Yoder; Airmen 1st Class Jessica Camacho and Jerod Foley; Senior Airmen Charlie Belton, Mark DeVega, Sonia Jones, Melissa Menck and Brian Pereira; Staff Sgts. Lisa Krejci, Stephen Libertini, Marshall Lorenzo, Charles Moore, Lance Terrel and Holly Tompkins; Tech. Sgts. Caroline Cousineau and Mark Morgenstern; Rachell Wood.

Weather training flight — Airman Rachael Wilt; Airmen 1st Class Nathan Bezner and Brandon Knight.

335th TRS

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

Communications and information flight — Airmen Basic Heather Day, Brittany Dubray, Travis Foster, Justin James, Jessica Lord, Phan Minerva, Brandon Nelson, Jeremiah Platt, Rolonda Wesley and Jamie Wilkinson; Airmen 1st Class Kaycee Ash, Kevin Boyd, Sunny Chance, Edgar Del Rio, Chaison Griffin, Daniel Melendez, Bailey Sutherland and Yohanna Vasquez; Senior Airmen Christopher Johnson, Daniel List, Juan Matias, Angel Ramirez, Toshona Smith and Patrick Steele; Staff Sgts. Jessie Carpenter, David Erickson, Anna Kelly, Brian Langford, Ramil Lovelynn, Matthew Manning, Seumas McDermott, Shannon Patrick, Patricia Perez, Steven Reynolds, Wilson Sheryn, Benjamin Stephenson, Rance Streeter, Timothy Switzer and Ryan Talbot; Tech. Sgts. Cesar Alvarez, Bonnie Atkinson, Michael Brooks, Leslie Coffman, Michelle Egger, Bernard Green, John Hahn, Christopher Kolness and Michael Resler; Master Sgt. Michael Mullin; Cornell Billingsley and Doris Nash.

338th TRS

Computer, network, cryptographic systems course — Airmen Basic Billy Austin, Andrei Mills and Christopher Zoglmann; Airmen Christopher Carrothers, Grant Lehmann and Joshua Yennie; Airmen 1st Class Dennis Anderson, Michael Baba, Joshua Beavers, Jessica Bonsack, Alex Chavez, Nathan Christensen, Joshua Fuller, Ryan Gall, Daniel Hancock, Matthew Hixon, Dimarko Holloway, Thomas Kimmel, Keith Kuzniar, Ian McDevitt, Eric McElfresh, Ferdinand Nacin, Edgar Olivares, Kyle Partridge, Kendall Priest, Dustin Reeves, Michael Romabiles, Jeremiah Smith, Dylan Terrell, Joseph Vermiglio, William Walker and Walter Wood; Senior Airmen Jeremy Armstrong and David Pitcher; Staff Sgts. Brandon Alexander, Frederick Bond, Gene Fish, Gary Graham, Arquelio Martinez-Perez, Jason McCash, John Park and Gonzalo Roman.

Ground radio — Airmen Basic Daniel Carr, Mitchell Haas and Virginia Liranzo; Airmen Christopher Flesner, David Jones, Sam Lombardo and David Palmiter; Airmen 1st Class Paul Amasol, Diunte Bridges, Donnell Carey, Thomas Connors, Kenneth Dietrich, Matthew Metzger, Eric Ratajczak, Brandon Slavens and Ryan Stine; Staff Sgt. Matthew Hayes.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

- Class 06-B** — graduation 2 p.m. Friday, Welch Auditorium.
- 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

National Craft Month — drawings, special demos, promotions and giveaways in each shop throughout the month.

Open house — noon to 4 p.m. Friday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Snacks, displays, demonstrations, special projects and giveaways in each shop. Bingo at 1 p.m. and scavenger hunt drawing at 3 p.m. Saturday.

Beginning intarsia woodworking — 10 a.m. Saturday or March 18. \$25.

SHUTTLE BUS SCHEDULE

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

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	:30
:01	:31
:02	:32
:05	:35
:08	:38
:10	:40
:11	:41
:13	:43
:14	:44
:16	:46
:17	:47
:19	:49
:21	:51
:22	:52
:23	:53
:24	:54
:25	:55
:27	:57

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, have excess baggage, medical appointments at off-base hospitals or clinics or unable to ride the base shuttle, call 377-2432 for the base taxi. For more information, call 377-2430. Until further notice, weekend shuttle service isn't available. Taxi service is available on an "as needed" basis.

Framing class — one class, four sessions, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday and March 15, 22 and 29. \$60. Sign up in multi-craft shop.

Craft shop demonstrations — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 10-11. **Kids crafting class** — 1 p.m. March 11. \$10 including supplies. St. Patrick's Day project.

Advanced intarsia woodworking — 10 a.m. March 11 or 25. \$20.

Frame shop demonstrations — 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. March 18.

Advanced matting — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 24. \$25.

Mold pouring — 10 a.m. March 25. \$25, two-for-one special; ages 13 and older.

Wood shop demonstrations — 2:30 and 3:20 p.m. March 25.

Beginning woodworking — 5-7:30 p.m. March 29. \$15. Receive safety certification and operator's card.

Mini crafts center

Editor's note: Located at Vandenberg Community Center. **New hours** — 5-9 p.m. Thursdays, noon to 5 p.m. Fridays and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays after working Fridays. Closed Saturday for arts and crafts center open house.

Please see **Digest**, Page 25

CHAPEL SERVICES

Roman Catholic

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

Protestant

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

Islamic

Building 2003 — for international students, temporary duty and permanent party; prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jumma congregational prayer, noon Friday.

For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

Latter-Day Saints

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

Digest,

from Page 24

Ceramic painting — every Thursday. Complete kit \$10.
St. Patrick's Day T-shirts — 6-8 p.m. March 16. \$10 including supplies. Sign up by March 10.

Pottery wheel class — 4-8 p.m. Thursdays. \$10 for one hour; pick convenient time. Maximum four students.

Air Force photography contest — photos accepted now for the student base-level competition in April.

McBride Library

Electronic reference orientations — 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.
Orientations and tours — for more information, call 377-2181.
Umbrella month — stop by and see our umbrella display.

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. 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.togray.com>.

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

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

Department of Veterans Affairs — <http://www.va.gov/eff/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>.

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Vandenberg Community Center

Free concert — 313th Army show band and rock band, 7-8:30 p.m. Friday for non-prior service students.

Tops In Blue — free show 6-8 p.m. March 13, Triangle parade grounds. Open to all personnel eligible to use Keesler facilities.

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 Thursdays before nonworking Fridays, Fridays and Saturdays. \$3.

Half Time Café — open for breakfast 6-9 a.m. workdays. Open for lunch and dinner. Buffet specials 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Wednesdays, Italian, \$5.95; working Fridays, catfish, \$6.50.

Youth center

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

Classes — Mondays, gymnastics; Mondays and Wednesdays, taekwon do; Tuesdays, dance. For more information, call 377-4116.

Self-directed activities — 3-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, ages 9-18.

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.

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

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

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

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

Congressional award program — 6 p.m. March 13 for ages 14-21.

Ten aviation camp — applications accepted through March 20 from current sophomores and juniors. For more information, call 377-4116.

Free Junior Olympic tennis skills competition — 2 p.m. March 25, ages 8-13. Sign up by March 23.

Baseball/T-ball registration — throughout March, ages 5-12.

Operation Night Hoops registration — throughout March; late night basketball league, ages 13-18.

Youth of the year — quarterly nominations for January-March accepted now. For more information, call 377-4116.

Instructors needed — for programs including those for ages 3-5 and special classes. For more information, call 377-4116.

TICKETS AND TOURS

Editor's note: Located inside Vandenberg Community Center.

Hours — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays-working Fridays. For more information, call 377-3818.

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., Glory Road (PG).

Saturday — 2 p.m., The Last Holiday (PG-13); 7 p.m., Tristan and Isolde (PG-13).

Sunday — 2 p.m., Hostel (R).

Reunions

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

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

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

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

Friday

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

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

Saturday

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

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

Sunday

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

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

Monday

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

Wednesday

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

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