

# KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base  
Biloxi, Mississippi

Vol. 66, No. 12  
Thursday, March 30, 2006

Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

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



Dragons deployed —  
**106**

## Penny war



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Barry Newman makes a donation to the penny jar at 81st Training Wing headquarters. Keesler's first sergeants are sponsoring a basewide penny war fundraiser for the Air Force Assistance Fund. The organization that collects the most pennies receives a \$100 pizza party. Mr. Newman is the sexual assault response coordinator office program technician. For the latest information on AFAF contributions, please see Page 8.

## Homeowner grant program

# Katrina victims may schedule appointments

By Master Sgt Roger Drinnon  
Keesler Public Affairs

Eligible Keesler personnel may schedule appointments with the Hurricane Katrina Homeowners' Grant Program Service Center by calling 377-1378, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

"In order to help 81st Training Wing instructors and others who can't get away from work during the regular day, the Keesler Service Center will be open on down Fridays," said Lt. Col. Gregory Stanley, 2nd Air Force director of operations and of the service center. "We are here to ensure all eligible members of the Keesler community can apply for compensation for Katrina flood-related damage outside the flood zone."

The center is open April 17 through May 19 to process grant applications at the 2nd Air Force headquarters' conference room.

The Mississippi Development Authority is administering grants of up to \$150,000 for those who meet the eligibility criteria.

Eligible personnel include all active-duty members and their dependents, military retirees, Guardsmen, Reservists and Defense Department civilian employees who lived outside established flood zones and who also had uninsured flood damage when Katrina struck.

Other eligibility criteria include:

**Applicant owned** and occupied the affected home as of Aug. 29.

**Home was located** in Harrison, Hancock, Jackson or Pearl River counties.

**Affected home** was the applicant's primary residence Aug. 29.

Please see **Grants**, Page 9

## This week in the Triangle

### Keesler's newest technical training graduates

Weather forecaster apprentice, 10 a.m. today, weather training complex.  
Computer network cryptographic and systems apprentice, 10 a.m. today, Bryan Hall.  
Personnel apprentice, 10 a.m. Friday, Wolfe Hall.  
Basic instructor, 2 p.m. Friday, Hewes Hall.  
Communications-computer systems control, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Thomson Hall.  
Radio communications apprentice, 11 a.m. Wednesday, Thomson Hall.  
Information management apprentice, 11 a.m. Wednesday, Thomson Hall.  
Communications-computer systems planning and implementation management craftsman, 11 a.m. Wednesday, Thomson Hall.



February Honor Flight

### Student numbers

Non-prior service — 2,246  
Non-prior service arrivals — 124  
Temporary duty — 1,237  
Guard, Reserve — 788  
International — 3  
Total — 3,511

# COMMENTARY

## You're keeping your family, friends, American public safe

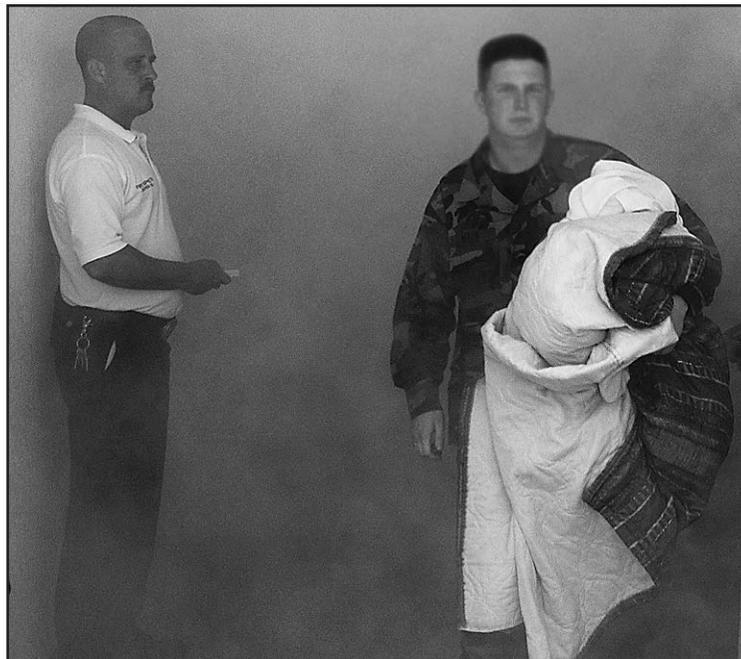
**Editor's note:** In the following "Letter to Airmen," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley remembers the third anniversary of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Your innovation and flexibility made the difference, whether it was Airmen decisively striking Republican Guard formations; in orbits over every Iraqi airfield; embedded with ground forces; launching and orbiting satellites high overhead; controlling armed

unmanned aerial vehicles; or airlifting critical supplies and troops.

You're protecting America by monitoring intelligence, sitting aler, and flying patrols over our cities. By protecting our homeland and fighting the enemy on their turf, you're keeping your family, friends and the American public safe.

Our mission is to fly and fight and win our nation's wars — and you're doing just that.



Darrin Hill, left, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, watches as an Airman exits Holbrook Manor through a smoke-filled stairway during a fire drill. The proper procedure is to evacuate away from the smoke.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

## Take fire alarms seriously, Keesler

By Matt Backeberg

### Fire department

When a fire alarm sounds, your first reaction should be to get out as quickly and safely as possible.

This wasn't the case when the fire department conducted random tests at some buildings on base. The required time to completely evacuate a building is three minutes. In our tests, evacuation took as long as 10 minutes — the average for failed drills is seven minutes.

To put this in perspective, a free-burning fire is out the window after seven minutes.

During one fire drill, it took more than five minutes for someone to notice smoke

infiltrating their building, and to take action.

Someone walked around asking why the front entrance of the building was full of smoke. It was explained to them a fire drill was in progress. Their response was, "Oh."

In another drill, a fire inspector emitted smoke from a smoke machine he was carrying. Several people who saw the smoke stood around and did nothing. After six minutes had elapsed, someone finally took action, yelled for people to evacuate and pulled the fire alarm.

Even then, people didn't use the nearest exit, there was no sense of urgency in trying

to evacuate and it took more than five minutes to get everyone out of the building and to the rally point across the street.

People aren't taking fire alarms seriously. Excuses range from "I thought they were working on the system," to "I didn't hear it" to "I'm waiting on a fax" to "I need to finish this e-mail." In the event of a real fire, these may be the last excuses these people will ever make.

The next time a fire alarm goes off in your building, take the initiative to call 911 and evacuate. If there's a real fire, pull a fire alarm, call 911, use a fire extinguisher if it's a small fire and evacuate.

## ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

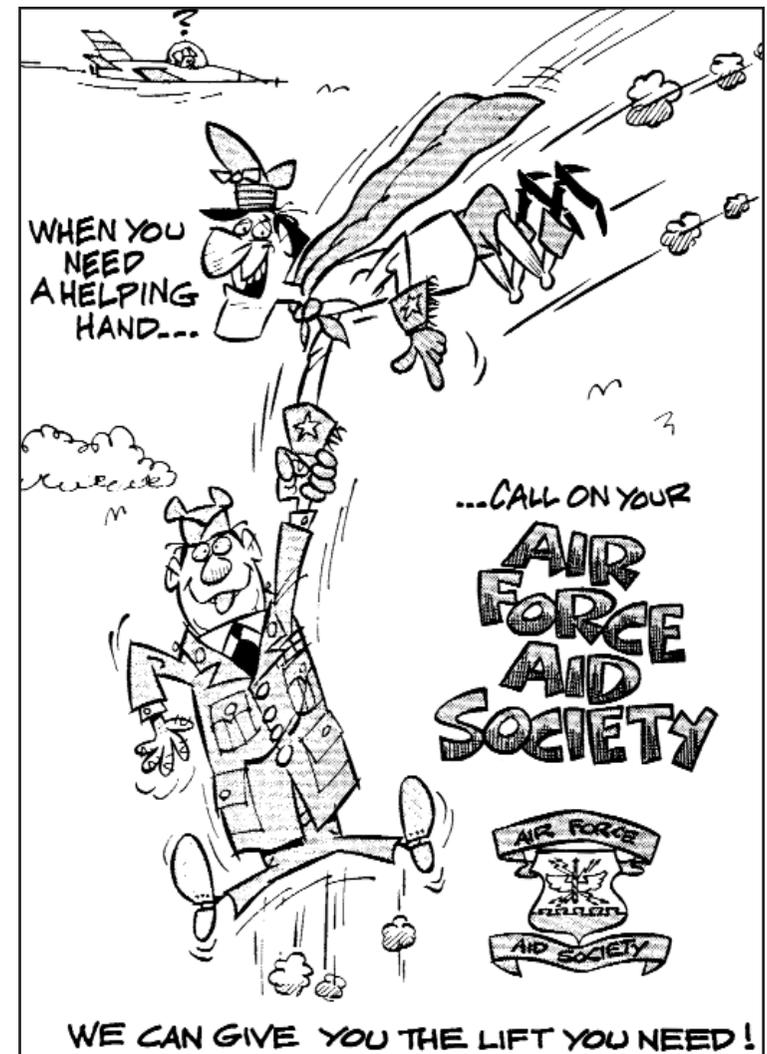
By Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

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.



Drinking  
+  
driving  
=  
deadly duo

## KEESLER NEWS

No. 1 in Air Force,  
2004, 1997.

No. 1 in AETC,  
2004, 1998, 1996;

No. 2, 2003, 2001,  
1999, 1997, 1991;

No. 3, 2005, 2002,  
1995.

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**Protect your wingman**

—  
**DUI ... it's a crime,  
not a mistake**

## Keesler's 2006 safety goals

**Make safety ...**

a core value,

a best business practice,  
a competitive and asymmetric  
advantage.

**Make every employee ...  
feel safe at work and home.**

# TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Photos by Tech Sgt. Carl Fresia

Instructor Tech. Sgt. Jeanine Russell reconfigures a classroom computer for the next GCCS database administrator course.

## No detachment for this detachment

By Tech. Sgt. Carl Fresia

### 333rd Training Squadron Detachment 1

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Far from Keesler but close to the mission of the 81st Training Wing, seven Air Force members are hard at work in the national capital region.

The 333rd Training Squadron's Detachment 1, led by Capt. Terrill McCall, provides technical training for the Joint Global Command and Control System.

Captain McCall's team includes five instructors and a personnel specialist who provide training to a wide variety of high-profile customers.

The Defense Information Systems Agency sponsors the detachment by providing two classrooms in Falls Church and one at the Pentagon, office supplies, graphics support and computer equipment.

Bolling Air Force Base, D.C., handles administrative functions for the detachment's personnel.

The detachment's current course repertoire consists of four classes focusing on Unix, Windows, Oracle and Sybase technologies.

During fiscal 2006, the instructors expect to get three



**Instructor Staff Sgt. Jamie Sparks changes out removable hard drives for the upcoming GCCS Level 1 system administrator course.**

more courses on line to complete the Unix track.

The intense courses, one to three weeks long, cover lecture and hands-on assignments.

Most of the detachment's 200 to 300 students each year are from DISA, primarily through its Joint Staff Support Center. Other customers come from throughout the Defense Department, including the National Security Agency, Armed Forces Communica-

tions and Electronics Association and the Joint Staff.

After Hurricane Katrina disrupted Keesler operations, the detachment took on the 333rd TRS' entire GCCS course load. The detachment provides the use of its classrooms and system administration support for all active courses and aids Keesler instructors with course administration while on temporary duty. The added support is expected to continue through July.

"Without the detachment's support, the 333rd TRS would have lost approximately 27 weeks of GCCS training for the fiscal year," Captain McCall pointed out. "Newly-assigned Keesler instructors wouldn't have the opportunity to get qualified in their respective courses, and current Keesler instructors would not have a way to stay qualified in their current course track.

"It was good to know that we were able to take some of the burden off of those that were hit so hard," Captain McCall continued. "We're fortunate to have the ability to pick up the course load and support the mission from 1,000 miles away."

## Red Wolves' lair gets window art

Master Sgt. Michael Staley, left, and Michele Carroll put the finishing touches on window art at Thomson Hall that highlights the Red Wolves, mascots of the 336th Training Squadron. Sergeant Staley, one of the squadron's career development course writers, and Ms. Carroll, a graphics artist at Wall Studio, collaborated on the finished product.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



# TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

## Quarterly awards

The 81st Training Group quarterly awards ceremony for January-March is 7:15 a.m. April 13 in Welch Auditorium.

For more information, call 377-0315.

## Drill downs, parades

The 81st Training Wing holds drill downs every other month, and student parades in alternate months.

**Parades** — 7 p.m. May 18, July 13 and Sept. 21; 6 p.m. Nov. 16.

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

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

## ASMC scholarships

The Mississippi Sound Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers offers a \$1,000 scholarship to an outstanding high school senior entering collegiate financial or resource management study.

Application packages have been forwarded to area high school guidance counselors.

Application deadline is Friday.

For an application or for more information, call Kristin Vollbrecht, 377-7013.

## Pitsenbarger Award

Fall 2005 and spring 2006 Community College of the Air Force graduates are eligible for \$500 Pitsenbarger Awards from the Aerospace Education Foundation.

Monday is the application

deadline for graduates pursuing bachelor's degrees. Prior winners aren't eligible.

For more information, call 377-2323 or 2171.

## Spouse scholarships

These scholarship programs are available to spouses:

**National Military Family Association** — for 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 in-

formation, visit the education office, Room 212, old Cody Hall, or go to <http://www.aef.org/aid/scholarships.asp>.

## USM program

The University of Southern Mississippi offers a technical and occupational educational bachelor's degree program on base.

The next term starts May 30.

An academic adviser is at Keesler Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons in Room 208, old Cody Hall.

For more information, call 377-2309.

## Nursing assistant class

The family support and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College partner to train 15 Air Force spouses as certified nurse assistants.

Classes are at the MGCCC

Jeff Davis campus in Gulfport, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 12-Nov. 9.

The course requires more than 80 hours of class time and practical application sessions in medical facilities.

Non-military spouses of active-duty personnel are eligible.

For more information, call Lana Smith, 377-8593.

## Testing dates

The education office offers ACT, SAT and PRAXIS tests.

Deadlines are:

**SAT** — April 13 for May 16 test.

**ACT** — June 8 for July 11 test.

**PRAXIS I** — June 26 for Aug. 7 test.

**PRAXIS II** — June 26 for Aug. 8 test.

To schedule, call 377-2323.

# NEWS AND FEATURES

## Tops in Air Force Comptroller squadron wins 3 awards

By Staff Sgt. Michael Eaton  
Keesler Public Affairs

The 81st Comptroller Squadron earned three awards in the Air Force's Financial Management and Comptroller competition for fiscal 2005.

**Maj. Richard Fogg**, 81st CPTS commander, is financial management and comptroller of the year.

**First Lt. Jeffrey Smith**, the squadron's former financial services officer, is financial services officer of the year.

The 81st CPTS received a special acts and services award for its response during hurricanes Dennis and Katrina.

Major Fogg was recognized for balancing people and mission in leading his squadron through the worst natural disaster in U.S. history and the Air Force's largest evacuation entitlement effort.



Major Fogg

He and his staff provided service to evacuees, area agencies and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Lieutenant Smith led the unit's six-person Katrina ride-out team and orchestrated the squadron's relocation from its badly-damaged building, re-



Lieutenant Smith

suming full operations within 48 hours.

The lieutenant also developed and presented financial deployment line procedure briefings to more than 800 members and gave financial guidance to more than 50 spouses in the Heartlink program.

## 2 medics claim Air Force honors

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Two members of the 81st Surgical Operations Squadron received Air Force Medical Service awards for 2005.

**Capt. David Eisenach**, audiology services chief, is the outstanding audiologist/speech pathologist.

Master Sgt. Adrean Thomas, noncommissioned officer in charge of the urology clinic, won the surgical service award.

Captain Eisenach restructured the audiology clinic, saving more than \$500,000 and increasing direct care access by 32 percent.

The captain revamped the 81st Medical Group's state-mandated newborn hearing program, resulting in 720 newborns tested per year and a 15 percent increase in newborn hearing-loss detection.

He organized care for 30 Hurricane Katrina victims at other facilities. He coordinated



Captain Eisenach

manpower operations during the 2005 hurricane season, ensuring the safety of 2,200 people, organized the movement of more than 300 people during flooding and directed the safe transport of 24 patients.

Sergeant Thomas completed the surgical service specialty knowledge test rewrite which validated the promotion process for 32 technicians



Sergeant Thomas

She led an 18-member team in the emergency evacuation of 1,338 people sheltered at the medical center during Hurricane Katrina.

Sergeant Thomas was also team chief for a humanitarian mission to Honduras during which she treated 69 patients, assisted with 78 surgeries and was credited with saving the lives of two infants.

## IN THE NEWS

### It's time to spring forward

Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday.  
Set clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday.

### Air Force Assistance Fund

As of Monday, Keesler has raised \$47,572 for the Air Force Assistance Fund, 72 percent of the base's goal of \$66,145.

The campaign runs through April 26.  
For a list of unit representatives, see page 25.

### Community survey available

The Keesler community survey for permanent-party active-duty members and their spouses, retirees and their spouses and civilian employees is available through Friday.

The anonymous Web-based survey is intended to assess the needs of the base community, availability of resources, effectiveness of information flow and ways to improve morale.

Access the survey at <http://www.keesler.af.mil>. For people who don't have a computer, survey sites are available at the military personnel flight and retiree activities office in old Cody Hall, the Keesler Thrift Shop, McBride Library and the Triangle Shoppette.

For more information, call Capt. Kristi DiVirgilis, 377-2308.

### 7-digit phone numbers coming

Keesler starts a seven-digit intrabase calling plan Saturday. Customers dial 377-XXXX instead of 7-XXXX for base extensions. Units using modem services with on-base dial-up capability and phones with call-forwarding features must be reprogrammed to accommodate the new system.

For more information, call 377-2130.

### New service station project begins

81st Civil Engineer Squadron

Demolition of the base service station to make way for a complex that includes a service station, shoppette and fast food restaurant begins April 10.

The demolition is expected to take about six weeks. Two gas pumps remain in operation throughout the demolition and construction period.

When demolition is completed, construction of the complex begins. Completion is expected within 15 months at a cost of \$5.9 million.

### Switching from heating to cooling

81st Civil Engineer Squadron

Facilities affected by the eight-day process of converting from heating to cooling are the military family housing office, Muse Manor, 81st Training Wing headquarters, NCO Academy, Airman Leadership School, Locker House, Larcher Chapel, 81st Transportation Squadron, Avery Manor, Triangle Chapel, and 20, 48, 49 and 50 block dorms.

These facilities have two-pipe heating and cooling systems that must be manually switched. These systems require several days for the water to heat or cool.

Weather is the factor determining when 81st Civil Engineer Squadron officials begin the conversion from heating to cooling.

## Grants,

from Page 1

**Applicant maintained** homeowners insurance on the property.

**Applicant resided** outside the pre-Katrina established flood zone Aug. 29, yet the home received flood damage from the hurricane.

Officials advise applicants to bring this information and documents when applying for the grants:

**Contact information**, including the address where the damage occurred. Provide an e-mail address when possible.

**Driver's license** or other government issued identification.

**Proof of citizenship** or immigration status.

**Social Security** number.

**Date of home purchase.**

**Insurance information**, including type(s) of insurance, all coverage information, name of insurer, policy number, etc.

**The home/property** value and amount of any claims already paid.

**Name of** the applicant's mortgage lender, loan number and any balance remaining for the primary mortgage.

**Secondary mortgage** information, if applicable.

**Home equity** line(s) of credit or other lien(s), if any.

**Documentation on** any Katrina-related assistance received from the Small Business Administration for structural damage to the residence.

**Documentation on** any Katrina-related assistance received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for structural damage to the residence.

**Receipts for** any repairs in progress or completed.

In addition, applicants are advised to bring a Deed of Trust or at least the name(s) listed on the Deed of Trust for the affected residence, if different from the applicant's current name. For mobile homes, applicants are advised to provide the name(s) listed on the titles of the mobile homes, as well as a deed to the land-lot, if applicable.

"Appointments are for one hour, and if an applicant has

all their paperwork together, we can finish in an hour," said Colonel Stanley.

Officials said single-family homes, owner-occupied duplexes and manufactured housing (including mobile homes) are eligible for grants under this program. Homeowners may qualify for up to \$150,000 or the insured value of their home times the percentage of damage the home received (whichever is less), minus any insurance, SBA or FEMA payments for structural damage.

Officials said homeowners who must elevate their homes when rebuilding may qualify for an additional \$30,000 to cover the higher cost of construction.

The service center offers the following guidance for applying for the grant:

**Review the program** and determine eligibility at: <http://www.MSHomeHelp.gov>.

**Review the guidebook** available on line.

**Collect all required** documentation.

**Make an appointment** for the required in-person application by calling 377-1378.

**Bring all required** documents to appointments.

The service center is prepared to make special arrangements to accommodate military people who meet all the above requirements, but are no longer in the area. Officials advise reassigned and/or dislocated personnel to call the service center or to contact their former organization at Keesler.

Colonel Stanley encourages anyone at Keesler who thinks they're eligible to call for an appointment.

"Everyone who thinks they may qualify should go to the MSHomeHelp.gov Web site, get the latest information and see if they are eligible," he said. "As soon as a person thinks they qualify, they should call us for an appointment; we'll help them from there."

The program is co-sponsored by the state of Mississippi and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

For more information, call 377-1378, or go to <http://www.MSHomeHelp.gov>.

# AFSA chapter names medic outstanding Airman of 2005

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

The Air Force Sergeants Association recently named Senior Airman Kelly Bergelin-Lomeli, 81st Medical Support Squadron, as its Airman of the year.

The award is given to senior airmen and below serving in their first six years of service who best exemplifies the overall full-person concept, to honor and encourage them to continue with their desire to be exceptional representatives of the Air Force.

Airman Bergelin-Lomeli has been a member of AFSA since 2005 and is the Airman's activity coordinator for the association.

As a medical materiel journeyman, Airman Bergelin-Lomeli deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, for four months last year where she inventoried 27 war reserve projects one week ahead of schedule. She also helped prepare eight



Airman Bergelin-Lomeli

aircraft pallets, weighing six short tons of cargo in less than 24 hours.

She is the go-to Airman for emergent orders and top materiel buyer, placing more than 160 contracting orders for critical medical items valued at \$682,000.

More of Airman Bergelin-Lomeli's accomplishments

include inspecting and replenishing 3,000 first aid kits, supporting the 81st Training Wing and 403rd Wing deployments and contributing to the conversion of 662 items for the tri-service standardization program.

Off-duty, Airman Bergelin-Lomeli is heavily involved with community service and physical fitness.

She participates in the Adopt-A-Highway program by cleaning-up a 2-mile stretch of Highway 67, she volunteered at last year's Special Olympics, and created a booth and ran for American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Currently, she's training for San Diego's Rock 'N' Roll Marathon with the help of Teams in Training, an organization that helps individuals train for endurance events in honor of local patients with blood related diseases, while the participant raises money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

## Civilians review parade



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Honorary commanders Bob Carson, left, and George Lawrence, review troops during the parade March 23 on the base parade field. Mr. Carson is the military liaison in the office of Mississippi Congressman Gene Taylor. Mr. Lawrence is a Biloxi city councilman.

# 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.

## Commander selection meetings

### 81st Mission Support Squadron

During May and June, Air Force Personnel Center hosts calendar year 2007 medical squadron commander candidate selection development team meetings.

Candidates are selected to fill C-prefix squadron commander positions scheduled to rotate in 2007. Many units are reorganizing to the new Air Force Medical Service flight path, and the goal of the meetings is to provide wing commanders enough qualified candidates to choose medical squadron commanders based on their new organizational structure.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Shirley Bailey, 377-2244.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:messages@estripes.com).

## Hurricane relief medals

### Air Force Print News

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

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

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

## Sexual harassment reporting

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

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

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

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

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



Photo by Stanley Morgan

Hurricane Katrina's rising storm surge Aug. 29 sweeps through a parking lot, flooding vehicles and buffeting Dolan Hall.

## Base applies Katrina lessons to storm readiness

By Master Sgt. Roger Drinnon

Keesler Public Affairs

As Keesler continues to rebuild and recover from Hurricane Katrina, base officials are finding ways to mitigate the effects of future storms.

"We learned a few lessons from Katrina in hurricane preparedness and response," said 1st Lt. Mike Fuller, readiness flight chief for the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron. "We are in the process of improving our facilities, as well as honing our response plans in order to enhance our ability to respond effectively to the challenges of storms like Katrina."

Lieutenant Fuller said base officials continue to explore more effective ways to take care of personnel while also assisting the Mississippi Gulf Coast community.

"Our primary focus has been finding a way to evacuate 4,000 Airmen students — who don't own vehicles — to other bases," he said. "Reducing our responsibilities on base will allow us to turn more attention to the off-base recovery effort and to host support forces."

In addition to evacuation, the base also continues to prepare for hurricane sheltering measures.

"We are in the process of re-verifying that the on-base shelters are suitable for continued use during the upcoming hurricane storm season," said Lt. Col. Ray Mottley, base civil engineer. "The shelters fared pretty well during Katrina with most having only some roof damage from the high winds."

Lieutenant Fuller emphasized coast military installations and civilian response agencies each have unique capabilities in responding to hurricanes. One of Keesler's capabilities is the ability to accommodate some types of aircraft.

"Keesler doesn't have the rapidly deployable construction capability of the Navy Seabee Base," he said. "The most valuable asset Keesler brings to the Gulf Coast in a Katrina-type situation is its airfield — the ability to receive airlifted aid and then work with the local area to distribute it."

Utilities such as electrical power, natural gas and water are major considerations for base civil engineers, as they prepare for the next hurricane season.

"We're upgrading our generator systems for this sea-

son," said Master Sgt. Lonnie Bacon, noncommissioned officer in charge of infrastructure electrical systems for the base. "We have requested manpower augmentation from the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency, and we're being advised by a civil engineer maintenance and repair team who are the experts in the area of power production."

Alfred Watkins, base infrastructure manager, said post-Katrina utility improvements include automatic switching for generator power if commercial electrical power is lost during future storms.

Mr. Watkins said base civil engineers are also installing new natural gas system pressure regulators that prevent blockage in the ventilation using a more modern form of regulator diaphragms. Keesler's system had significant blockage after Katrina due to storm debris.

Repairs continue for Keesler Medical Center with a goal of minimizing damage to the facility from any more storms like Katrina, whose surge flooded the basement and caused significant damage to the electrical system.

"We've completed refurbishment of the generators and

the main switching gear in the basement," said Brig. Gen. (Dr.) James Dougherty, 81st Medical Group commander. "We're working on the five substations and should have them completed in the next couple of months. Then we'll be working on other parts of the electrical system from there."

General Dougherty said those involved with the repair and restoration of the medical center continue to look at creative, but practical ways to limit hurricane and flood damage.

"We've started a process to do risk vulnerability reduction before this coming year's storm season," the general said. "To keep water from getting in the generator area we will seal the walls and doors, put check valves in the drains where the water tends to come back in, put sump pumps in key vulnerable areas, and barriers inside our external entrances and exits so water won't cross-flow from one area to the next. That should all be completed by June."

"There are different ways to try to keep from having any flooding occur," he added. "For example, we are conceptually discussing placing a

barrier in the northeast corner — like a berm — that would raise the level of the ground and divert any storm surge.

"We are also conceptually discussing how you could keep the hospital's entire circumference defended by building up around it so water couldn't approach any part of it. There are many other projects being considered, planned and put in place," he added.

Lieutenant Fuller said all preparations for the next hurricane season take into account what will be considered the most efficient initiatives in terms of money spent.

"We want to make the best choices possible to ensure safety without unnecessary costs," said Lieutenant Fuller. "We are committed to the safety of our people and to being good stewards of taxpayer dollars."

"Our people and their families are priority one," said Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso, 81st Training Wing commander. "We will ensure that our personnel have safe evacuation and sheltering options."

"Also, our commitment to humanitarian support for the Mississippi Gulf Coast will continue should we face another storm like Katrina this year."

## Harrison Court before, after damaged units demolished



Courtesy photo

Keesler's military family housing areas received irreparable damage due to Hurricane Katrina. Pictured is the corner of Pershing and LaSalle streets in North Harrison Court. Demolition to remove the storm-damaged units began March 6 and is scheduled to be completed by May. In the near future, this site in Harrison Court will be used to store building materials for 1,067 new base housing units.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

tered units began March 6 and is scheduled to be completed by May. In the near future, this site in Harrison Court will be used to store building materials for 1,067 new base housing units.

# Safe haven entitlement for military ends Friday

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The safe haven per diem entitlement for dependents of Keesler's uniformed members displaced by Hurricane Katrina ends Friday.

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.

All entitlements for civilian personnel and their dependents terminated Feb. 23.

Basic allowance for housing also ended Feb. 23 for members receiving single rate BAH living in government quarters.

Final approval is still pending for nonconcurrent travel entitlements.

### 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, 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.

### Civilian absences

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.

### Coins, patches

Operation Dragon Comeback coins and patches are still available.

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

Contact unit representatives or e-mail Tech. Sgts. Eric Alvarez, [eric.alvarez@keesler.af.mil](mailto:eric.alvarez@keesler.af.mil), or Anthony Bellocq, [anthony.bellocq@keesler.af.mil](mailto:anthony.bellocq@keesler.af.mil).

### Grants for area schools

The Gulf Coast Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association is offering area schools two \$2,500 grants to enhance their science and math programs.

Schools in Jackson, Harrison and

Hancock counties are eligible to apply for the grants. The application deadline is April 6.

For more information, call Capt. Grace Beck, chapter vice president, 377-2669.

### 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.

## Coming soon: Post-Katrina portable storage return deadline

Portable on demand storage units must be returned to the contractor by April 7.

PODS located behind the tennis court or in the Sablich Center parking lot need to be cleared by April 6.

If a POD unit is still

required, the individual can continue using it at his own expense.

Monthly cost is \$129, and the unit must be moved to their property, which costs \$75 to \$150 depending on where the unit is moved.

Items not removed prior to the deadline are treated as abandoned property and disposed of accordingly.

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

### No more breakfasts

Vandenberg Community

Center no longer offers daily breakfast.

However, requests are accepted in advance for special events breakfasts.

For more information, call 377-3308.

# Katrina Homeowner's Grant Program



For appointments to complete an application call Keesler's Service Center, 228-377-1378.

Located at 2nd Air Force Headquarters  
Appointments begin April 17.

Sponsored by the Mississippi Development Authority  
Homeowner Assistance Call Center: 1-866-369-6302  
[www.mshomehelp.com](http://www.mshomehelp.com) or [www.mshomehelp.gov](http://www.mshomehelp.gov)

## Military dog handler receives relief check from hurricane fund

By Senior Airman  
Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

Staff Sgt. Daniel Short, 81st Security Forces Squadron, received \$500 from Keesler's Hurricane Relief Fund.

"The money was a big help to get my house back in line after the hurricane," the explosive detector dog handler said.

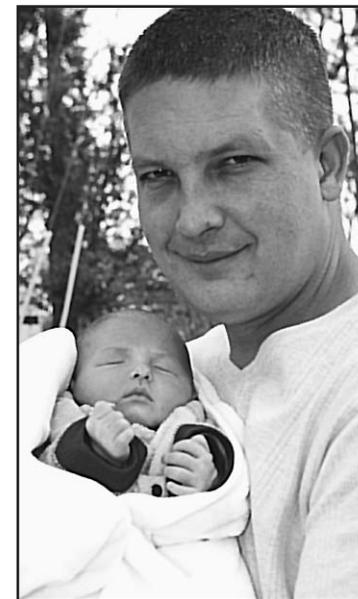
Before Hurricane Katrina, Sergeant Short prepared for the storm by sending his pregnant wife, Stephanie, and 6-year-old son, Tyler, to Montgomery, Ala., to stay with his brother.

After sheltering in Bryan Hall, Sergeant Short returned to their Ocean Springs home to find 3 1/2 feet of water inside.

Initially, while Sergeant Short made repairs to his home, he lived in a small camper behind his damaged house. Later, he moved into a trailer provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In Montgomery, Mrs. Short was able register their son for school, and he attended classes there for three months before coming back to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

"Tyler didn't have to go to school, but I registered him to



Braeden and Sergeant Short

help him keep his mind off of what was going on around him," Mrs. Short explained.

"My family was able to come back in mid-December, and we're back in our house," Sergeant Short said.

"The house is pretty much repaired — all we have left to do are the minor things, like adding trim around the doors."

Mrs. Short, who was 28 weeks pregnant, was glad to be able to return home.

On March 13, their second son, Braeden, was born.

# Prescription processing reduced from 4 days to 1

## 81st Medical Group

The pharmacy has reduced processing time for prescriptions from off-base providers from four days to one.

The pharmacy began accepting prescriptions from off-base civilian providers Jan. 23. Off-base prescriptions were input into the pharmacy computer system, transmitted to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where they were filled, and then delivered to the Keesler refill pick-up station at the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center for pick-up four duty-days later.

Recently, the pharmacy acquired additional space that allows stocking a greater quantity and variety of medications needed to fill off-base prescriptions locally. Off-base prescriptions are now filled by the night shift in the pharmacy and delivered for pick-up at the VA site after noon the next duty day.

Refills continue to be processed at Lackland for pick-up at the VA site four duty-days later.

Service hours for processing off-base prescriptions are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday in Room 1D-103 of the medical center.

"Because the pharmacy continues to work out of a temporary location with extremely limited space, we are still running a very make-shift operation," said Col. Frank Jacobs, commander of the 81st Medical Support Squadron Pharmacy Flight. "The limited space does not permit us to fill prescriptions from Keesler clinics and off-base at the same time, so we've had to find alternatives.

"We hope our pharmacy customers find this change beneficial," he added. "We expect to have our pre-Katrina level of prescription services fully restored sometime in May."

The status of other services through the 81st Medical Group:

**The first aid station** closes at 5 p.m., two hours earlier than usual, Fridays and Saturdays until sometime in April, as an electrical contractor completes repairs and upgrades to the medical center's electrical system. Otherwise, the hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The last appointment for check-in is 5 p.m. The first aid station staff is able to treat only new, acute health care problems. Patients with urgent and emergency problems — difficulty breathing, chest pain, abdominal pain, etc. — can 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.

**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 the 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.

**Genetics** is located in the medical center. The office provides case-by-case genetic counseling and cystic fibrosis testing for Tricare Prime beneficiaries only who are referred through their primary care managers.

**Nutritional medicine** is in the health and wellness center. The flight provides nutritional consultations through consults from clinic PCMs.

**Chiropractic clinic**, in the medical center's surgery clinic, sees active-duty military only. Active-duty members need to see their primary care provider for a referral and then can call 377-6608 to schedule an appointment. Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. working Fridays.

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

**Mental health flight** is in 1D in the medical center. Services include life skills (377-6216), family advocacy and exceptional family member program (377-7006) and alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment (377-8960). Signs to the applicable check-in areas are posted at the entrance. Patients may use the entrance at the west end of the building. Call 377-7006 or 6216 to confirm appointments or the information desk, 377-6550. The off-base civilian prescription pharmacy currently occupies Room 1D-103, the first office on the right where life skills customers previously were checked in.

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

**Family practice** staff, in the former medical specialties clinic, sees acute uncomplicated illnesses, handles personal health assessments and provides medication refills. Urgicare and walk-in services aren't available. A case management and social worker are available.

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

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

**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.

**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** is in the former orthopedic clinic. Surgery is available by primary care manager consult only. No orthopedic services are available.

**Medical records** are in the Wylie Auditorium. Original records are maintained by the medical center. For copies, complete a request form at the out-patient 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. 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.



Photos by Adam Bond

Cadet 2nd Class Reed Wildman, Squadron 13, assembles gymnasium bleachers Monday at Dukate Elementary School in Biloxi. The school sustained major damage during Hurricane Katrina. He's one of 135 Air Force Academy cadets participating in Alternative Spring Break this week.

# Academy cadets take on Katrina's aftermath

Air Force Print News

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — In a collective effort known as Alternative Spring Break, 135 Air Force Academy cadets are spending their vacations at three different locations building houses, cleaning up and rebuilding in areas heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Cadets are joining thousands of other college students across the nation working with Habitat for Humanity and other relief groups in Biloxi and Hattiesburg, Miss., and Covington, La.

Alternative Spring Break coincides with this week's normal spring break for academy cadets. It's part of the cadet service learning program sponsored by the academy's Center for Character Development.

"Our cadet service learning programs are centered around one of the Academy's main core values — service before self," said Maj.



**Cadet 4th Class Randi Keyes, Squadron 16, puts a fresh coat of paint on the gym walls at Dukate.**

Eric Ecklund of the academy's Center for Character Development. "CSL attempts to take this core value from the theoretical concepts of the classroom and training environment, allowing cadets to put it to the test in real situations, meeting real community needs."

Cadets volunteer more than 20,000 hours per year for community service, according to Major Ecklund.

"The Alternative Spring Break program is one of the pinnacle events for the CSL program," he said. "The cadets are sacrificing their vacations to do things from providing a home to a family in need to helping rebuild a school."

The academy has participated in Alternative Spring Break for the past six years.



**Cadet 4th Class Greg Retter, Squadron 8, works on a construction project at Biloxi's Yankee Stadium.**



# 'Phishing' scam targets Thrift Savings Plan

By Samantha Quigley

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Participants, as well as some non-participants, in the Thrift Savings Plan are targets of a "phishing" scam, according to an official with the board administering the program.

TSP is a retirement savings plan for 3.6 million federal civilians and service members.

Tom Trabucco, director of external affairs for the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, said phishing is an "attempt to get recipients of

the unsolicited e-mail to compromise themselves by giving up their personal financial information."

Thrift Savings Plan administrators would never request personal or financial information via e-mail, Mr. Trabucco said.

"Do not respond to unsolicited e-mail, and never give out information of a personal nature (through) unsolicited e-mails," he said.

The investment board alerted TSP coordinators to the scam in a March 17 memo, the day after the scam was discov-

ered. The memo described it as an unsolicited e-mail with a link to a bogus Web site appearing to be TSP's account-access site.

The bogus site asks for a recipient's social security and TSP personal identification numbers. Entering this information takes users to another screen where they're asked for financial information, including a credit card number, he said, adding that this information can be used to steal an individual's identity.

As long as participants haven't responded to this

scam e-mail, their accounts haven't been compromised, investment board officials wrote in the memo. Those who did respond should contact their financial institutions immediately for guidance. They should also call the TSP at 1-877-968-3778 and ask to have their account access blocked, according to the memo.

Phishing e-mails generally appear to be from businesses or organizations recipients may deal with, according to a Federal Trade Commission consumer alert issued in June. It may request that the recipi-

ent update, validate or confirm account information, the alert said.

Participants are encouraged not to attempt to access their accounts by clicking links offered in any e-mail, according to the memo. Only by opening a new Internet browser and typing TSP's Web site into the address field can a participant be sure of accessing the authentic thrift plan Web site.

Officials don't know how many plan participants the scam has affected, but the FBI is investigating.

# Clower concludes 43-year federal career

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

A clerk-stenographer who worked her way up the civil service ladder to one of Keesler's most challenging positions retires Friday with more than 43 years of service.

Linda Clower, chief of the 81st Training Wing's competitive sourcing office, has spent all but three years of her federal career at Keesler.

She came to Keesler in 1962 as a General Schedule-3 employee in the 3380th Technical School and leaves as a GS-13 managing the A-76 base operating support cost comparison study.

In her current position, Mrs. Clower has managed, organized and directed all aspects of the \$540 million study which covers 740 military and civilian positions in 39 functional areas across six squadrons.

A New Orleans native, she grew up in the Kiln community north of Bay St. Louis. She graduated from Bay High School, attended Soule Business College and completed two years at the University of Mississippi.

After beginning her civilian career at Keesler, she worked for three years as a secretary for the Army Corps of Engineers.

She returned to Keesler in 1966 as a secretary in civil engineering for 13 years before becoming the base vice commander's secretary.

"After two years, I realized I probably maxed out in that field," Mrs. Clower recalled. "I applied for an upward mobility position as a manpower technician, which was probably the most significant event in my career.

"Although I had to take a two-grade cut, there was no pay cut," she pointed out. "My training plan was the same as military personnel entering the manpower career field, and I achieved the target grade in three years."

Mrs. Clower began her 25 years in the manpower career field as a management analyst and moved up to support



**Mrs. Clower**

requirements section chief, manpower and organization office chief, support requirements section chief and base commercial activities manager before promotion to her current position.

Along the way, she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with highest honors from the University of Southern Mississippi.

"Time management was a challenge while I was working full-time, but my degree opened more doors for me," she added.

Mrs. Clower's honors include Air Training Command manpower management civilian of the year in 1985 and 1992, and Air Education and Training Command manpower and organization civilian of the year in 2003.

"The thing I liked most about working at Keesler is being part of an organization whose people have provided me encouragement, support, motivation and appreciation for my work," she observed. "I'll never be able to repay all that's been done for me over the years, but I will try to pay it forward."

She and Mac, her husband of 43 years, lost their Biloxi home in Hurricane Katrina and won't rebuild on the site. They plan to buy another home in the area.

"Volunteering and traveling are also in our plans," she said.

# Sexual assault reports increase with new options

Air Force Print News  
and Keesler News staff

The release of the Department of Defense's second annual report on the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program comes just before the April observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

DOD's theme for the month is "Sexual Assault Prevention Begins with You."

"This slogan serves to remind us that each of us can play a role — as a leader, a teacher, a friend or co-worker — in sexual assault prevention," said Liz Waters, Keesler's sexual assault response coordinator.

Ms. Waters explained that under new DOD policies that became effective almost 10 months ago, a "climate of confidence" has been developed to stress three guiding principles:

**Sexual assault** and the attitudes that promote it aren't tolerated.

**Sexual assault victims** receive the care and support they need.

**Offenders** are held accountable for their actions.

The DOD report addresses data on alleged sexual assaults that were reported during 2005 in which members of the armed forces are victims or offenders.

The Air Force received 584 reports of alleged sexual assault — an increase of 28 percent over the prior year.

However, the increase was expected

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

because of the new confidential restricted reporting option implemented in June. The option allows those who've been sexually assaulted to receive medical treatment and support without automatically triggering a criminal investigation.

The 181 reports made in 2005 under the restricted reporting option accounted for the increase. Twenty-nine of the restricted reports later moved to an unrestricted report, which means an investigation was opened.

"This is exactly what we expected would happen," said Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, Air Force deputy chief of staff, manpower and personnel. "Increased reporting gets people the help they need, and hopefully will lead to a more complete report from which we can take appropriate action."

"Through our educational efforts, we are strengthening a culture where Airmen step up, hold each other accountable and help in preventing sexual assault," he said. "This cannot and will not be a one-time effort. It must become part of the very fiber of who we are in order to effect lasting change."

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, sexual assault is the nation's most underreported violent crime.

There are a number of barriers that discourage victims from reporting to investigators and the command, said Claudia Bayliff, chief of the Air Force sexual assault prevention and response office.

"The Air Force has been aggressively addressing this national problem," said Ms. Bayliff. "The message from senior leadership is clear — sexual assault is criminal behavior and contrary to the high standards of the service."

She said the Air Force encourages victims to report the crime so it may be investigated and prosecuted. However, the restricted reporting option provides victims who aren't ready to take that step with the care, support and time to make an informed decision.

Significant strides have been made in Air Force prevention and response efforts over the past year, said Air Force officials. More than 360,000 Airmen worldwide have received awareness training. Sexual assault

### Upcoming events

**Friday** — 2-5 p.m., information booth, commissary.

**April 18** — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., information booth, mini-mall. 6 p.m., TRAIL program, youth center.

**April 24** — 6-8 p.m., candle-light vigil with the Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence, Biloxi Town Green.

Keesler's sexual assault response coordinator's office is available for briefings or to set up an information booth for individual squadrons.

To arrange a time and date, call 377-8635.

response coordinators and victim advocates have been trained and are engaged in prevention efforts and providing assistance to victims.

In addition to Ms. Waters, Keesler's SARC office is staffed by Capt. Charles Murchie, deputy SARC, and Barry Newman, program technician.

A hotline number, 377-7278, offers 24/7 assistance to sexual assault victims. For more information during duty hours or to arrange training opportunities, call 377-8635.

Susan Griggs, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.

## Open communication essential for prevention of children's sexual abuse

By Paula Tracy

81st Medical Operations Squadron

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, as well as Sexual Assault Prevention Month.

According to the Sexual Assault and Trauma Resource Center, one in five children will be a victim of sexual abuse before she or he reaches the age of 18. In most cases, the offender is someone the child knows.

Many parents aren't aware of the prevalence of sexual abuse and find it very difficult to talk openly with their children. However, the more truthful and comfortable you are with them, the more comfortable they will be in return.

Here's how to get started:

**Know the facts** — one in four girls and one in six boys experience the trauma of sexual abuse by their 18th birthday. Only one of those 10 children ever reports the abuse. In 93 percent of cases, the abuser is a relative, family friend or other trusted adult.

Please see **Child abuse**, Page 19

## Child pornography Air Force prosecutions on the rise

By Capt. Louis Eldredge Jr.

Legal office

Child pornography is a growing problem that's now a \$3 billion a year industry.

Air Force members shouldn't engage in viewing, possessing, creating or trading child pornography, but there have been recent increases in the number of Air Force prosecutions for these offenses.

Although the use of sexually explicit images of children to gratify sexual desires isn't a new problem, technology has made the creation and distribution of child pornography much easier and faster.

The Internet provides criminals with a place to trade and market child

pornography like never before.

Statistics indicate more than 20,000 images of child pornography are posted on the Internet each week, and that there are currently at least 100,000 Internet sites which contain child pornography.

Child pornography can have serious, irreparable effects on the child victim's life. The term "child pornography" includes a broad spectrum of materials ranging from nude pictures of children to video images of children involved in sexual intercourse.

Child pornography can be any sexually explicit image of a person under 18. How the

image was created, willingly or by force, isn't a factor.

Studies show that one of the fastest growing methods of creating child pornography is by soliciting children through e-mail and convincing them to expose themselves in front of an Internet Web camera. Predators send the child a pornographic image or video and ask the child to mimic the image in front of their own Web cam.

Most children, regardless of age, don't understand the long-term consequences of sending these types of photos or videos over the Internet. These children may be haunt-

Please see **Child porn**, Page 19

## Child abuse,

from Page 18

**Reduce the risk** — be aware that abusers often become well acquainted with prospective victims by gaining their trust. This gradual process allows increased bonding with the child and minimizes the parents' suspicions of the parents.

Make sure your child understands that it's your job and desire to protect them. Let them that it isn't only strangers who might try to hurt them.

**Talk to your child** — make sure she or he understands that abuse is a topic you can and want to talk about. Start early and talk often with children about their bodies, what unsafe and secret touching is and let them know it's never OK. Tell them no one has the right to



touch them in ways that feel uncomfortable.

Listen quietly and attentively, because it's difficult for children to talk about these issues. Be patient — kids often feel ashamed and responsible for the abuse and may not tell the entire story right away.

**Be aware** — often there are no obvious signs of sexual abuse, but certain behaviors can signal that a child is being abused. He or she may show fear or dislike of certain people, may exhibit sexual

behaviors in social settings and during play, may begin to wet the bed or create drawings with sexual themes. Some children withdraw, while others become perfectionists. Emotional signs are much more common than physical signs, and in some kids there are no indications at all.

**Be prepared to take action** — your reaction is the most powerful influence on the degree of openness your child is willing to risk. Children are afraid of disappointing their parents or disrupting the entire family balance. Believe your child and make sure they know you're behind them 100 percent. Stay calm and reassuring and never blame them for the abuse.

If you have suspicions or your child admits sexual abuse, call family advocacy, 377-7006.

## Child porn,

from Page 18

ed by the idea that these images are out there for all to see.

Unfortunately, this isn't the only way these disturbing images are created.

Often hard-core child pornography is created by filming the rape of a child or children. Whether by still image or video, the molestations of children are forever frozen in these images and can be distributed to millions of viewers.

Often the victim is identified, and he or she must relive the terror, shame, and fear every time a person is convicted for possessing and viewing the image. Even if the child never hears anything about their images, someday the victim realizes that these images are out there being used to gratify the same desires for which they were originally molested.

Child pornography affects children of all ages. In a study of possessors of child porn, 80 percent had images of children as young as 6, 40

percent had images of children as young as 3, and 20 percent had images of children 2 and under.

Children are unable to process the significance of being molested, let alone having the molestation recorded and shared. It's beyond their ability to comprehend and deal with in a healthy manner, so buried feelings, thoughts, and emotions from the experience may resurface later with lasting effects.

Child pornography also affects those who view it for the purpose of gratifying their sexual desires. Statistics show that as many as 80 percent of viewers of child pornography are active child molesters.

Even those who claim they wouldn't molest a child may become desensitized after viewing images in which victims appears to enjoy and want the experience. They may begin to see the rape of a child as a consensual interaction. The viewer will be more easily aroused by images of molestation and rape because they have trained their mind to think the victims are enjoying it, and more disturbingly, that children want these things done to them.

A conviction for the simple

possession of child pornography carries stiff punishment. Under federal law, possessors of as few as four images of child pornography face a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in a federal prison as well as being labeled a sex offender for life.

In the military, there are no mandatory minimum sentences, but lengthy confinement, in addition to punitive discharges, are possible. The appropriate sentence for child pornographers is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Punishments for child pornography are severe for a reason. Society has no place for those who abuse children or get sexual gratification from them.

Child pornography has become a social problem — and an Air Force problem. To avoid a social epidemic, Air Force members need to be aware of dangers and monitor children's access to the Internet.

Air Force members should also use good judgment when surfing the Internet and avoid sites related to child pornography.

# KEESLER NOTES

## Sidewalk reopens

The sidewalk along Ploesti Drive leading to the turnstile entrance to Jeff Davis Elementary School is scheduled to reopen Monday.

In the meantime, the turnstile remains open and accessible.

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

## Promotion ceremony

The 81st Training Wing non-commissioned officer promotion ceremony is 3 p.m. Friday at Welch Auditorium.

## Child Pride Day

“Coast on the Comeback for Kids” is the theme of this year’s Child Pride Day, April 8 at marina park.

The event kicks off at 9

a.m. with an Easter parade in the park, followed at 9:30 with an Easter egg hunt for children through age 12.

Child Pride Day activities are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and include free displays, demonstrations, food, rides, games, food tasting, visits with costumed characters, giveaways and prizes.

There’s an 11 a.m. performance by Imagination Movers. The four musicians in trademark blue coveralls use rap, alternative and upbeat folk songs to educate children about essentials such as cleaning their room, brushing their teeth and eating healthy snacks.

In case of rain, activities move into the youth center. April 15 is the rain date for the Easter parade and egg hunt.

## Plants, anyone?



Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Cryste Berry shops for geraniums at the Four Seasons March 23. The spring plant sale at the store continues through Sunday. Cryste’s husband is Maj. Keith Berry, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron.**

# SPORTS AND RECREATION

## March Madness

### Triple Threat takes hoops title with four straight tournament wins

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

With one weekend left in the phenomenon known as March Madness, Keesler has already crowned a basketball tournament champion.

Triple Threat, made up of players from various Keesler units such as the 333rd and 338th Training Squadrons and the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, earned the championship even before they took the floor for the final game of the round-robin tournament.

Play began at Dragon Fitness Center March 13 and concluded at Blake Fitness Center Monday.

Triple Threat earned the tournament title by winning its first three games: a 70-41 victory over 'Dem Boys March 13, a 61-56 win over

the Old School Ballers March 15 and a 61-55 triumph over the Green Team March 22.

The final game of the tournament saw Triple Threat finish undefeated with a 67-56 victory over Outkast Monday.

In the round-robin format, each of the five participating teams plays against each other. The team with the best record wins the tournament.

With each team playing one game against each other, in case of a tie, whoever won the head-to-head game during the tournament would be declared the tournament champion.

In this case, it was Triple Threat's victory over the Old School Ballers, who ended up as the tournament's runner up.

This was the first basketball tournament at Keesler since Hurricane Katrina hit in August and put a hold on

intramural sports.

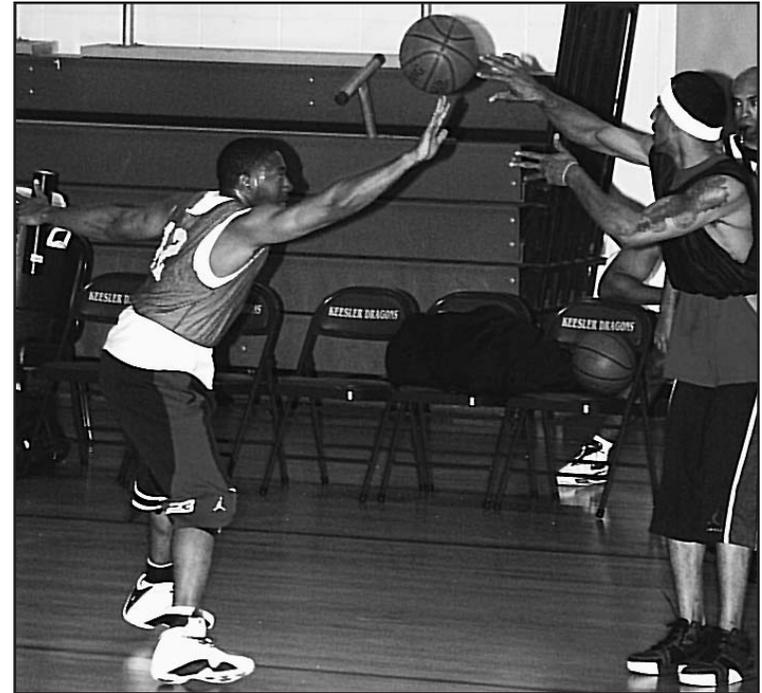
The base intramural basketball season is normally held from December through early-March.

The opening games of the tournament at the Dragon were the first time the court had been used since hurricane repairs have been completed.

Damage to two of the three fitness centers, along with not having a sports official's contract and a lack of unit sports representatives, limited the base to elimination tournaments for sports.

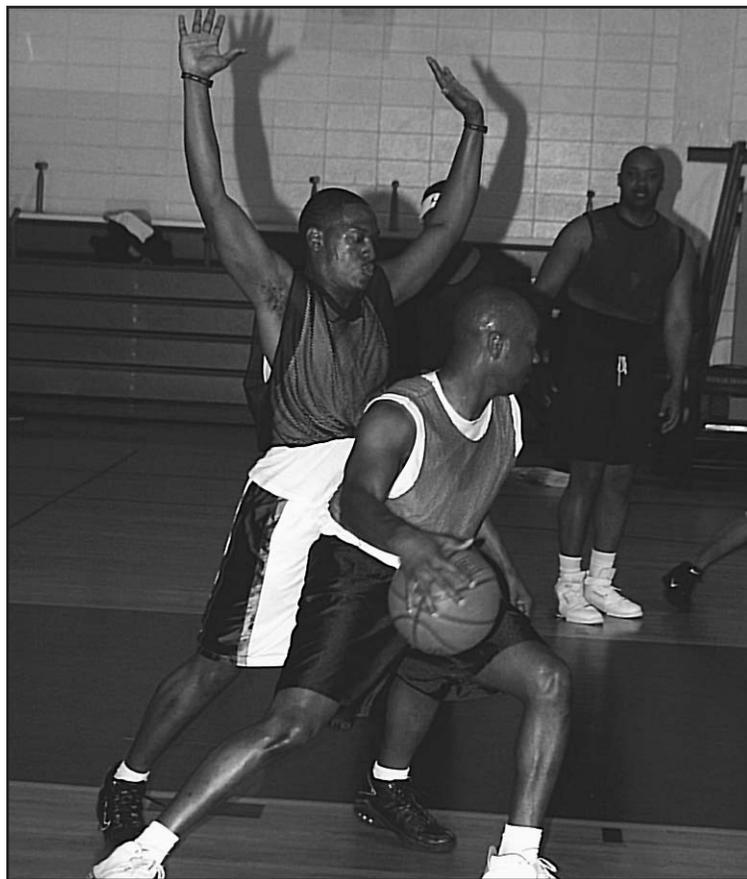
An intramural softball season is being planned for later this year.

The members of Triple Threat are Al Brewster, Kenneth Dukes, Chris Geiger, Chris Mayfield, Robin Sikes, Edward Simpson, Kenneth Barren and Ryan Tatum.

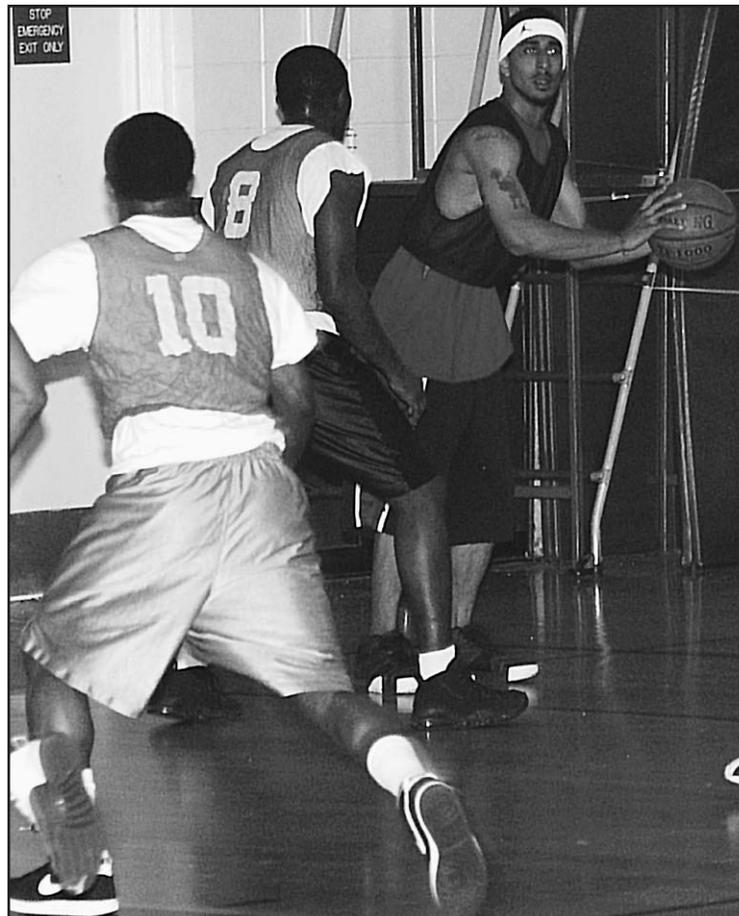


Photos by Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

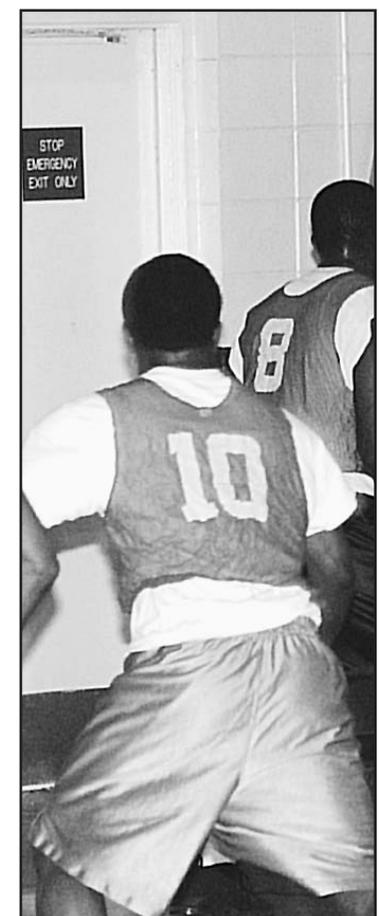
Triple Threat's Chris Mayfield, left, defends against a pass in the post by Dejuan Warrior of the Outkast.



Jamarcus Reese, left, Outkast, blocks the path of Triple Threat's Ryan Tatum to the basket as Tatum's teammate Ed Simpson, right, looks on.



Triple Threat defenders Kyle Brewster, 10, and Chris Geiger, 8, guard against a pass by Outkast's Warrior.



Reese takes a jumper during the first half.

# Academy football schedule announced

**Air Force Print News**

**AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo.** — A visit to Falcon Stadium by perennial power Notre Dame, a season-opening game at national power Tennessee and conference home games against Brigham Young University, Colorado State, New Mexico and Utah highlight the Air Force football schedule for 2006.

The Falcons sandwich the opener with the University of Tennessee between open weeks on Sept. 2, parents weekend at the academy, and Sept. 16.

Following the second bye, the Falcons play 11 consecutive weeks to include games on Thanksgiving weekend and the first weekend in December.

Playing 11 consecutive weeks is nothing new to the Falcons. Air Force played 10 straight weeks in 2001 and 2002 and 12 straight weeks in 1997.

The Thanksgiving weekend game is the first since the team played at Hawaii on Nov. 24, 2001.

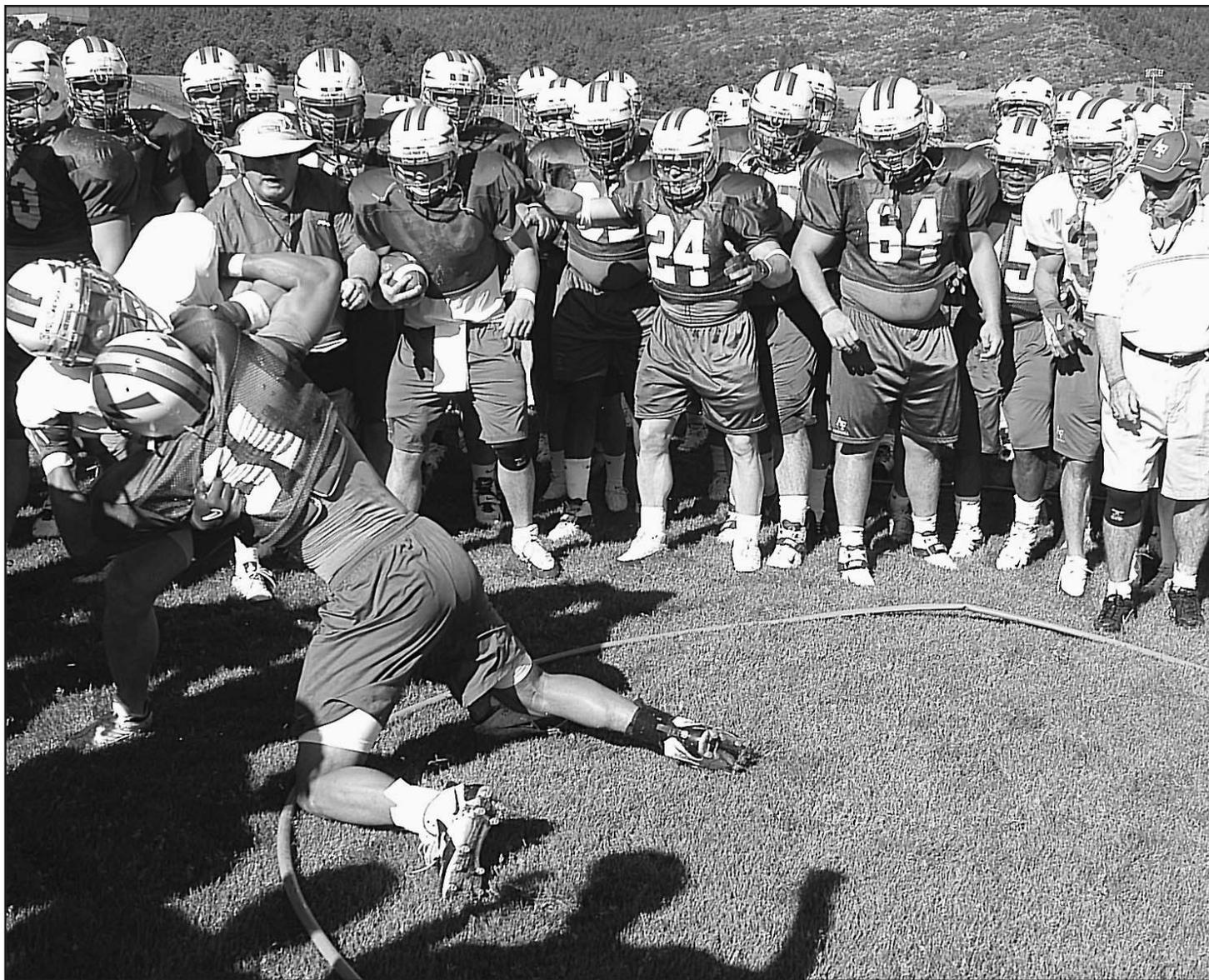


Photo by John Van Winkle

Falcons head coach Fisher DeBerry (wearing a blue hat and white shirt) and Falcon players watch the end of a "toughness drill" during practice last season. During the drill, two players try to block each other outside of a small circle for bragging rights. The Falcons have already begun spring practice in preparation for the 2006 season March 13 at Garry Berry Stadium in Colorado Springs, Colo. Practice continues Tuesday, Wednesday, April 8, 11, 12 and 13, with the annual "blue-and-silver" scrimmage April 15.

## Former academy lineman nominated for College Football Hall of Fame

**Air Force Print News**

**AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo.** — Former Air Force great Chad Hennings is on the ballot for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame. Hennings is one of 77 players and seven coaches listed on the 2006 ballot by the National Football Foundation.

He joins Randall Cunningham (University of Nevada at Las Vegas), Ahmad Rashad (University of Oregon), Bruce Smith (Virginia Tech) and Emmitt Smith (University of Florida) as players on the ballot for the first time.

A unanimous first-team All-American, Hennings won

the Outland Trophy in 1987 as the nation's top lineman, and led the nation with 24 sacks that season.

He was also the Western Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year in 1987 and was named to the WAC All-Decade Team for the 1980s.

A two-time Academic All-American, Hennings was inducted into the Academic All-American Hall of Fame in 1998.

After graduation from the academy, he served four years in the Air Force and was an A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot during the Gulf War in 1991.



**Hennings**

Hennings joined the Dallas Cowboys in 1992 and played nine years in the National Football League, winning

three Super Bowl rings with the Cowboys.

He's been inducted into the Iowa High School Football Hall of Fame, the National High School Hall of Fame, the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame and the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame.

Of the 4.4 million individuals who have played college football, only 796 have earned induction into the College Football Hall of Fame. The ballot was mailed to more than 12,000 national football foundation members whose votes are tabulated and submitted to the Honor Court.

The class is announced at a press conference May 16 in

New York City.

The class is inducted at the NFF's 49th awards dinner Dec. 5 in New York City. They're officially enshrined at the hall of fame in South Bend, Ind., in the summer of 2007.

To be eligible for the ballot, players must have been named a first-team All-American by a major/national selector and utilized by the NCAA for their consensus All-America teams, played their last year of intercollegiate football at least 10 years prior, played within the last 50 years and be retired from professional football.

# Air Force doctor improves Iditarod time by 47 hours

By Tech. Sgt. Keith Brown

## 3rd Communications Squadron

NOME, Alaska — After finishing last year's Iditarod Sled Dog Race, Thomas Knolmayer said it would be his one and only running of the 1,150-mile trek across Alaska's wilderness.

But anyone who knows the 38-year-old surgeon stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, knew better.

After getting the blessing from his wife, Tina, the doctor threw his name in for this year.

"I still had all the dogs and they can't just sit around doing nothing," he said, referring to his kennel of 21 Alaskan Huskies.

After a good season of running the sled dogs for three to four hours, four to five nights a week, Knolmayer felt good about the team.

With an upcoming assignment and having to leave Alaska, Knolmayer said he knew this would be his last Iditarod. That made this year's race that much more special.

That wasn't the only thing that made it special. This year he ran with a purpose — a 10-year-old girl with cancer was cheering him on.

Katie Powell, the daughter of Chris Powell, a KC-10 Extender boom operator at Travis AFB, Calif., has Ewing's Sarcoma, a bone cancer. Through the generosity of several units at Travis, she fulfilled her dream of meeting an Iditarod musher and riding on the sled. She

was also the doctor's personal guest at the start of this year's Iditarod after riding with him during his last training run.

"The sled ride was great," Katie said. "It lasted a long time, but seemed like it was only a few minutes."

Besides the lack of sleep, extreme weather also takes its toll. Teams face temperatures as warm as 40 degrees and as cold as 45 below zero. The warmer temperatures are hard on the dogs and can reduce their ability to pull long distances.

Trail hazards also make the race a challenge. Stumps in the trail and sharp turns can send a musher into the trees.

Being on ice in high winds is also a risk.

"At one point, the wind was sending the sled and the dogs sideways across the ice. All I could do was crawl on my hands and knees trying to get control of the sled and team," the doctor said.

Knolmayer crossed the finish line at 1:10 p.m., meeting his goal of a finish under 12 days by one hour. It was 47 hours better than last year.

After greeting his wife and 15-month-old son, Zane, and bedding down the dogs, the doctor posed under the arches at the finish line with a poster that said, "We did it for you, Katie Powell!"

## SCORES AND MORE

### Boxing

**Professional event** — 7 p.m. April 7, Hangar 4. Featured attraction is North American Midwest Association heavyweight title fight featuring Cliff Couser, half brother of former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson. Tickets are \$15-25; available at Vandenberg Community Center and Gaude Lanes. For more information, call 377-1597.

### 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, eight 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.

### Fitness centers

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

**Dragon Fitness Center** — basketball court is now ready for use. Cardio equipment has LCD

TV/DVD players. Users must supply their own headphones.

Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-working Fridays. The center is closed compressed work-schedule Fridays, weekends and holidays.

**Triangle Fitness Center** — closed until further notice.

### Golf

**Bay Breeze Golf Course** — all 18 holes 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

**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.

**For sale** — hunting and fishing licenses, snacks and a variety of beverages.

### Softball

**Coaches meeting** — 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Vandenberg Community Center.

**Free pre-season tournament** — April 17-27 for the first 20 teams to enter.

### Special Olympics

**Concessions booths** — deadline to sign up is April 6. Meeting of concessionaires is April 10. For more information, call 377-4152 or 377-4543.

**Golf tournament** — noon, April 14, Seabee Base golf course. Cost \$35 per person. For more information, call 377-1694 or 377-2784.

### Youth center

**Free Junior Olympic tennis skills competition** — 2 p.m. Saturday, ages 8-13. Sign up through today.

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

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

**Classes** — gymnastics, taekwondo 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 Roy Ballentine, Caleb Blake, Richard Blessley, Megan Boren, James Brooks, Mark Cline, Nick Chamberlain, Kenneth Dawson, Damantha Dews, Kyle Duley, Seth Fouts, Olanrewaju Gamu, Kevin Gibson, Jason Hart, Charles Howard, Lloyd Kelly, Paul Lawrence, Christopher Madsen, Richard Martin, Dustin Matchinski, Alex Miller, Marques Moore, Joseph Nevil, Christopher Ritchie, Michael Simmons, Rodrigo Soza, Kyle Thiele, David Vanderloop, Kyle Waddle, Roger Walkup, Ronald Williams and Hyon Yi; Marine Pvt. John Schaffer; Army Pfc. Scott Suess; Airmen Brent Barrow, Kenneth Derkatz, Jacob Duede, Peter Guillen, Dallas Koecke, Mitchell Mead, Matthew Miller, Lazaro Ortiz and Nick Salsman; Airmen 1st Class Shawn Beck, Gabriel Flynn, Billy Dykes, Fred Egan, David Fouts, Michael Downs, Thomas Grimes, Mary Guiang, Oscar Hernandez, Joseph Hill, Brian Housholder, Freddie Hudson, Sarah Jones, Jonathan Langdon, David Leon, Nathan Lindeman, Patrick Linsley, Stephen Moore, Gregory Nyahay, Nicholas Owens, Randi Owens, James Randolph, Naomi Reyes, Juan Roman, Michael Roseboro, Nicholas Rudder, Jeremy Sampson, Jonathan Short, Philip Spradley, Joshua Travis, John Tiger, Nathan Vincent, Parrick White and Taylor Williams; Senior Airmen Jeremy Baca, Steven Bik, Jonathon Bowles, Larry Dorsey, Stephanie Foreman, Michael Nuterman, Travis Oder, Timothy Pasquale and Jason Roeske; Staff Sgts. Steven Bolli, Donald Burnette, Adam Crawford, Ray Duke, Christopher Flaten, Macarthur Fountain, Chad Gibson, David Hart, Leslie Hubbard, Rafael Lara, Phillip Lopez, Jason Morris, Michael Mulder, Christopher Pygott and Seraphim Resendes; Tech. Sgts. Philip Barry, Robert Butterfield, Bradley Ellsworth and Robert Wisniewski; Master Sgts. Willie Kinsey and Wallace Phillips; Stephen Holtorf.

#### 334th TRS

**Air traffic control operations training flight** — Airmen Basic Andrew Boyden, Thomas Carrel, Bradley Ford, Janice Goldstein, Crystal McNee, Jonathan Pelletier, Ramson Rivera, Kayla Smith, Jaelyn Syrony and Clay Welsch; Airmen Chad Bailey, Amanda Boettcher, Stephen Clay, Jennifer Hullak and Timothy Sports; Airmen 1st Class Aaron Adock, Darryl Brown, Joseph Carvalho, Brian Chisham, Dustin Lientz, Justin McElvaney, William O'Daniel, Earl Pruet, Jesse Quinata, Brian Sicher, Caleb Skipper and Elena White; Senior Airmen Aaron Bell, Charles Butler, Tina Hawkins, Marsha Holmes, Michael Hutchins, Steven Sorensen and Ryan Thomas; Staff Sgts. Christopher Casey, James Duncan, Bryce Hamilton, Cephus McMillian, Erich Schumann and Justin Wutzke.

#### 335th TRS

**Personnel apprentice course** — Airmen Basic Kayla Ezell, Esteba Granados-Lizama and John Staal; Airman Elcke Fromm; Airmen 1st Class Matthew Eichenfels, Edwin Hailey, Anna Kaleta-Nielsen, Aaron Massey, Kenneth Payne and Swani Philipp; Senior

Airmen Mark Cuth and Heather Fields; Staff Sgt. Michael Smith; Tech. Sgt. Amber O'Neal; Master Sgt. Sheri Pearson.

**Weather training flight** — Airmen Basic Richard Psculkowski and Tara Stone; Navy Airmen Recruit Joseph Green, Joseph Sloop and Adam Stern; Airman John Porter; Marine Pfc. Patrick Burke, Justin Grantham, Erick Martin and Matthew Noack; Airmen 1st Class Steven Gentry, Matthew Johnson and Matthew Schart; Navy Airmen Dustin Brown, Kristian Shelley and Eric Wojnarowski; Navy Seaman Charles Portwood; Senior Airmen Michael Reilly and Brad Ritenour; Navy Petty Officers 3rd Class Stephen Padgett and Shane Tupa; Staff Sgt. William Smith; Tech. Sgt. Bryan Drake.

#### 336th TRS

**Communications-computer systems training flight** — Airman Basic Matthew Jensen; Airman Thomas Schaefer; Airmen 1st Class Adam Allen, Andrew Burton, Debonnae Cheeks, Clark Davis, Stephen Hillman, Daniel Ogburn and Daniel Routier; Senior Airmen Kenyouth Benloss, Benjamin Lawson, Jake Monroe, Amber Stanley and Yolanda Yu; Staff Sgts. Patricia Appleton, Michael Bence, Elijah Blackwell, Michael Branson, Keith Browning, Jeremy Flint, Galen Heimbach, Christopher Parker, Thomas Sheffer, Brian Smith and Dale Tompkins; Tech. Sgt. Derick Spruel; Master Sgt. Mark Petot.

**Communications and information flight** — Airmen Basic Heather Day, Travis Foster, Justin James, Ross Tosakowski, Minerva Phan, Jamie Wilkinson and Tannis Wilson; Airmen Regine Ellis, Eric Morris and Brandon Nelson; Airmen 1st Class Jessica Lord and Rolanda Wesley; Staff Sgts. Christopher Carlisle, Ruben Cantu, Mary Fontanella, Anna Kelly, Lovelyn Ramil, Lisa Rodriguez, Melanie Sampson, Patrick Shannon, Shane Woodard and Sherlyn Wilson; Master Sgt. Robert Dove.

#### 338th TRS

**Computer, network, cryptographic and switching systems course** — Airmen Basic Joey Anderson, Bryan Hassler, Steven Hauptmann, Darcy Kumm, Joseph Quitano, Matthew Smither, Jason Unovitch, William Watkins and Thomas Williams; Airmen Carley Demore, Rodolfo Garcia, Michael Gray, Benjamin Hawkins, Michael Hutchings, Caleb Jones, Cory Jones, Christopher Stroup and Jonathan West; Airmen 1st Class Walter Anderson, George Black, Toan Chu, Sean Curtis, Jason Hall, Nicholas Hazen, Randall Hodkin, Thomas Kimmel, Keith Kuzniar, Nathan Lehmann, Jeffrey Lemmer, Ryan LeVoy, Franklin Pickett, Michael Romabiles and Oni Ung; Senior Airmen Jeremy Armstrong, Christopher Ferguson, Bradley Grundy and Kacy Whalen; Staff Sgts. Brandon Alexander, Peter Chevalier, Gene Fish, Gary Graham, Arquelio Martinez-Perez and Gonzalo Roman; Tech. Sgt. Larnell Camble; Master Sgt. Clay Hardy.

**Ground radio** — Airmen Basic Nicholas Berardino, Grant Gaskin, Benjamin Leavey and Aaron McLees; Airmen Christopher Flesner and Seth Lane; Airman 1st Class Author Arce, Cory Hisel, Cory Menchhofer, Brain Schmiedlin, Brandon Slavens and Kevin Wolff; Staff Sgt. Matthew Hayes.

## CLASSES

### Airman Leadership School

**Class 06-C** — graduates May 1.  
**Class 06-D** — May 10-June 15.  
**Class 06-E** — July 12-Aug. 12.  
**Class 06-F** — Aug. 24-Sept. 29.

## TRANSITIONS

### Workshops, briefings

**Veterans benefits briefing** — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 6, 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. Monday-Wednesday, Room 122, old Cody Hall. To pre-register, call Ron Bublik, 377-8592, or e-mail ronald.bublik@keesler.af.mil.

## CLUBS AND CENTERS

### Katrina Kantina

**Wing night** — 4:30 p.m. April 5. Club members show card and get in free; \$3 nonmembers. Wings, meat balls, veggie tray, and \$1 draft beer.

### Vandenberg Community Center

Please see **Digest**, Page 25

## SHUTTLE BUS SCHEDULE

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

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	:30 332nd TRS, Building 6955
:01	:31 338th TRS, Building 6965
:02	:32 Welch Auditorium
:05	:35 AAFES Furniture Store
:08	:38 Jones/Bryan/Hewes Hall
:10	:40 Thomson Hall
:11	:41 New Cody Hall
:13	:43 Supply, civil engineering
:14	:44 Shoppette
:16	:46 Shaw House
:17	:47 Muse Manor
:19	:49 McBride Library
:21	:51 Medical center, Tyer House
:22	:52 Sablich Center
:23	:53 Dental clinic
:24	:54 Allee and Wolfe halls
:25	:55 Base operations
:27	:57 Hangar 4

### 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	McClelland 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.**

## COAST AREA TRANSIT

**Keesler Express** — runs between the Triangle and Edgewater Mall. Bus service begins from the base, 5:50-8:30 p.m. work days, 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. down Fridays and Saturdays, and 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sundays.

The route is limited to specific pickup and dropoff points:

### Minutes after hour, bus stop

:30	Hercules Street bus stop
:32	Welch Auditorium
:45	Pass Road WalMart
:54	Arrive Edgewater Mall
:00	Depart Edgewater Mall
:09	Pass Road WalMart
:22	Welch Auditorium
:24	Hercules Street bus stop

The regular adult fare is \$1. An unlimited one-day pass is \$5 and one-month pass is \$45.

For more information, call 896-8080.

## CHAPEL SERVICES

### Roman Catholic

#### Sunday Mass

Larcher Chapel .....10 a.m.

#### Daily Mass

Larcher Chapel.....11:15 a.m.

### Protestant

#### Sunday worship

Larcher Chapel traditional service.....8:30 a.m.

Fishbowl student contemporary service.....10 a.m.

Larcher Chapel praise and worship service .....11:30 a.m.

Larcher Chapel gospel service.....1 p.m.

### Islamic

**Building 2003** — for international students, temporary duty and permanent party; prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jummah 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

**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, tae kwon do; Tuesday, 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.

**Baseball/T-ball registration** — throughout March, ages 5-12.  
**Operation Night Hoops registration** — throughout Friday; 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.

## MEETINGS

**Editor's note:** To list time, place and 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.

**Air Force Sergeants Association Auxiliary** — 6 p.m. third Thursday of the month, youth center, J Street. For more information, call Desarae Chereskin, 341-0988.

**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>.

**Grief support meeting** — 11:00 a.m. Sundays, Larcher Chapel bridal room; open to military and civilian personnel. For more information, call Glenda Woodard, 377-5032; Delphine McIntyre, 313-4761; or Chap. (Capt.) Winston Jones, 377-2761.

**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 [chelle1m@yahoo.com](mailto:chelle1m@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., Firewall (PG-13).  
**Saturday** — 2 p.m., Final Destination 3 (R); 7 p.m., The Pink Panther (PG).

**Sunday** — 2 p.m., Curious George (G).

### Air Force Assistance Fund contacts

**Project officers** — Maj. Greg Kendrick, 377-1766, and Capt. Stacey Van Orden, 377-6850.

**2nd Air Force** — 1st Lt. Horace Lynch, 377-1342, and Master Sgt. Ronald Warr, 377-1433.

**81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron** — Staff Sgt. Kevin Williams, 377-7909.

**81st Communication Squadron** — Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Bonham, 377-0066, and Senior Airman Taveres Simpson, 377-0066.

**81st Contracting Squadron** — Tech. Sgts. Todd Erp, 377-1839, and Kevin Albertson, 377-1836.

**81st Dental Squadron** — Senior Airman Danielle Hindel, 377-0956.

**81st Medical Group** — 1st Lt. Jennifer Lepper, 377-6545, and Master Sgt. Steven McCrum, 377-8359.

**81st Medical Operations Squadron** — Staff Sgt. Elyot Selman, 377-6216.

**81st Medical Support Squadron** — Master Sgt. Tammy Down, 377-6640.

**81st Mission Support Group** — 2nd Lt. Mark Williams, 377-4480, and Master Sgt. Aaron McKenzie, 377-1091.

**81st Security Force Squadron** — 2nd Lt. Schneider Rislin, 377-3040, and Senior Airman Cecilia Cardenas, 377-3721.

**81st Supply and Transportation Squadrons** — Master Sgt. Chad Jacob, 377-7800, and Tech. Sgt. Desmond Johnson, 377-5886.

**81st Surgical Operations Squadron** — Maj. William Gress, 377-6305.

**81st Training Group** — Master Sgt. Brent Misita, 377-0931, and Tech. Sgt. Larry Bright, 377-2325.

**81st Training Support Squadron** — Tech. Sgt. Eric Alvarez, 377-0872, and Staff Sgt. Craig Hawthorne, 377-2243.

**81st Training Wing staff agencies** — Staff Sgt. Lee Smith, 377-7340, and Staff Sgt. Joseph Rella, 377-4330.

**85th Engineering Installation Squadron** — 2nd Lt. Jennifer Danner, 377-2100, and Tech. Sgt. Aaron Bernard, 377-1045.

**332nd Training Squadron** — Staff Sgts. Kenneth Grasle, 377-5049, and Len Kedrow, 377-0737.

**333rd TRS** — Tech. Sgts. Sidney Hataway, 377-1928, and Jason Motte, 377-0019.

**334th TRS** — Tech. Sgt. Tisha Bradley, 377-0886, and Staff Sgt. Phyllis Amos, 377-0476.

**335th TRS** — Staff Sgts. Deanna Green, 377-0217, and Breanna Sage, 377-5142.

**336th TRS** — Tech. Sgts. Robert Cowan, 377-5269, and Larry Bright, 377-2325.

**338th TRS** — Staff Sgt. Lance Davis, 377-5432, and Master Sgt. Eric Crawford, 377-1780.

### April weather outlook

A warming trend occurs in April and near-freezing temperatures are rare. Precipitation is primarily in the form of showers or thunderstorms associated with fronts or squall lines. The major storm track is generally west of Keesler through Louisiana to Arkansas. Fog and stratus can be prevalent during the first part of the month.

<b>Extreme maximum temperature (F)</b> .....	93
<b>Mean daily maximum temperature (F)</b> .....	75
<b>Mean daily minimum temperature (F)</b> .....	61
<b>Extreme minimum temperature (F)</b> .....	36
<b>Mean relative humidity (percent)</b> .....	71
<b>Mean monthly precipitation (inches)</b> .....	4.68
<b>Mean number of days with precipitation</b> .....	7
<b>Mean number of days with thunderstorms</b> .....	5
<b>Maximum 24-hour rainfall (inches)</b> .....	10.61
<b>Percentage of observations with ceiling less than:</b>	
<b>2,000 feet</b> .....	12.1
<b>1,000 feet</b> .....	6.9
<b>300 feet</b> .....	1.1
<b>Percentage of observations with visibility less than:</b>	
<b>6 miles</b> .....	18.2
<b>3 miles</b> .....	5.2
<b>1 mile</b> .....	1.7
<b>Percentage of observations with wind:</b>	
<b>0-3 knots</b> .....	39.7
<b>4-10 knots</b> .....	51.5
<b>11-21 knots</b> .....	8.7
<b>22 knots or greater</b> .....	0.1

Base personnel can access radar and satellite data and a general forecast on the local area network in the public folders under 81 OSF Weather.

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

**Dinner** — 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.

### Sunday

**Lunch** — 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.

**Dinner** — 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.

### Monday

**Lunch** — 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.

**Dinner** — 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.

### Tuesday

**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.

**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.

### 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** — Caribbean jerk chicken, jalapeno cornbread, beef porcupines, chicken enchiladas, scalloped potatoes, rice, gravy, Mexican corn, peas, baked beans, coleslaw, cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.