

KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

Vol. 66, No. 13
Thursday, April 6, 2006

Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

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



Dragons deployed –
104

AFAF: Keesler drive tops goal

More than \$69,000 so far

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

Less than three weeks into the campaign, Keesler has surpassed its goal for the 2006 Air Force Assistance Fund.

As of Monday, Keesler has raised \$69,452.25. The goal was \$66,145.

Keesler's campaign began March 15 and continues through April 26, according to Maj. Gregory Kendrick, AFAF project officer.

"We passed last year's total during our first week, which was more than \$45,000," the major said. "We were only 17 days in when we passed 100 percent of our goal. That's pretty remarkable."

After Hurricane Katrina hit the Mississippi Gulf Coast in August, Keesler people received more than \$2 million from the Air Force Aid Society, one of the four com-

Please see AFAF, Page 9

Keeping up with Katrina



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Col. Elizabeth Bowers-Klaine, left, 81st Medical Group chief nurse executive, reviews construction progress in the Keesler Medical Center basement with Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne during his visit to the base Sunday. A briefing at 81st Training Wing headquarters was followed by a windshield tour with brief stops at Sablich Center and Bay Ridge military family housing to assess Hurricane Katrina damage and repairs.

This week in the Triangle

Keesler's newest technical training graduates

Communications-computer systems operations craftsmen, 9 a.m. today, Thomson Hall.
Communications-computer systems operations craftsmen, 5 p.m. today, Thomson Hall.
Computer network cryptographic and systems apprentice, 10 a.m. Monday, Bryan Hall.
Airspace control and warning systems apprentice, 9 a.m. Wednesday, Bryan Hall.
Weather forecaster apprentice, 10 a.m. Wednesday, weather training complex.

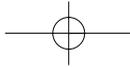


February Honor Flight

Student numbers

Total students — 3,411
Non-prior service — 2,306
Temporary duty — 1,077
Combat controllers — 28

Non-prior service arrivals — 154
Guard, Reserve — 710
International — 3



COMMENTARY

Your attitude is everything in face of difficult situations

By Maj. Joe Engelbrecht

Defense Force commander

ALI Base, Iraq — How do you view difficult situations?

If you sit back and think about it, there are always at least three ways to look at almost any difficulty: as a problem, a challenge or an opportunity.

The first reaction of many people is to immediately label any difficulty as a problem, often creating an overwhelming situation. The same situation could be viewed as a challenge to be overcome, or better yet, an opportunity to learn, grow and improve a process for the future.

I often ask my leaders, at a minimum, to approach any task as a challenge that can be overcome.

Less experienced Airmen may have a natural tendency to view many tasks, events or situations as problems. These Airmen look to their leaders, not only for know-how, but also for the proper attitude. If the person leading approaches difficulties with a view toward challenges to be met and overcome, or as opportunities to learn and improve, stress and anxiety will be eliminated and everybody involved will grow. When individuals grow, the unit and mission also improve.

The best leaders always strive to look at every situation as an opportunity. It may be an opportunity to improve the capabilities of the individual, team or unit. Some call it life experience, some call it tools for your tool-

box, but in all cases, your attitude affects your approach and impacts the end result.

For example, let's say your supervisor has asked you to teach someone from outside your unit about your duties and responsibilities. You could choose to look at the task as a problem, an additional burden to your already busy schedule; as a challenge, a task that will have to be balanced with your other duties, but something that you are prepared to accomplish (you were likely chosen because you are a good representative and spokesperson for your unit and mission); or my challenge to you, which is that you'd approach this and everything outside of your routine as opportunities.

The same task, which some see as a problem, could very well be an opportunity to forge mutually beneficial relationships, to learn about other aspects of the mission and to have others better understand and appreciate what you do. That problem or challenge is an opportunity to better yourself and strengthen the team.

Every Airman is important, but this organization is all about the team. Your teammates are counting on you, just as you count on them. Members of a team feed off each other. Your attitude, positive or negative, affects the team.

You'll always be faced with difficult situations, especially in the combat zone. Some events will be beyond your control, but you're the only thing controlling your attitude.

Attitude is everything. Attitude is infectious.

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.

The places your
O
can go!



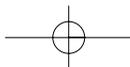
At home and around the world, all blood types are needed. Please donate regardless to what your blood type is, but if you are an O your blood type is especially needed.

"It feels so good to save a life!"
Donate Blood Today!

For more information please contact the Keesler Donor Center
377-9306 or 377-9304 **ASBP**



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TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Senior Airman Thomas Gerhart, left, and Airman 1st Class Robert Haddox, right, work on the wood frame for assembly of one of the hardbacks at the Trent Lott Training Center in Gulfport March 29.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Wartime building skills on Prime BEEF menu

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Members of the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron "beefed up" their deployment construction skills March 29 at the Mississippi Air National Guard's Trent Lott Training Center in Gulfport.

The base engineer emergency force, commonly called Prime BEEF, holds a monthly deployment training day to

acquaint civil engineering troops with tasks they're expected to do in a deployed environment that differ from home station duties.

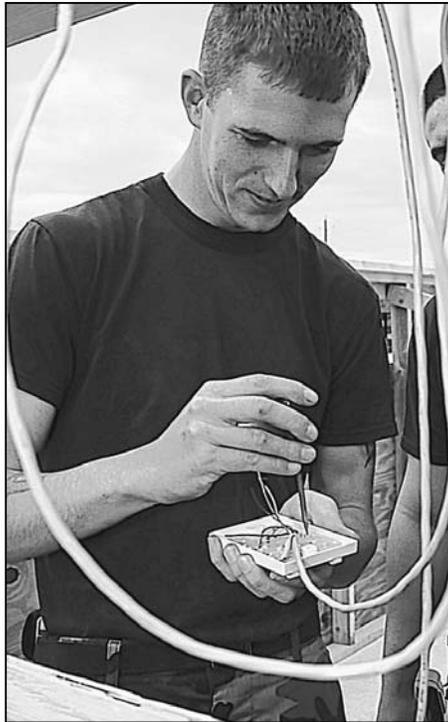
"Since Keesler doesn't have much expeditionary civil engineering equipment for training, we often turn to the local Guard and Reserve units to get hands-on experience," said 1st Lt. Michael Fuller, chief of the 81st CES readiness flight.

The training involved construction of temper tents and three hardbacks, which are more robust permanent facilities.

"The tents are for training only," Lieutenant Fuller pointed out. "The hardbacks are replacing units damaged in Hurricane Katrina."

"Before the age of the temper tent, structural Prime BEEF members were expected to perform hardback tent frame construction as part of our wartime capabilities," explained Master Sgt. Jacob Peetz, 81st CES heavy repair manager. "These tents act as more permanent, stable structures for shower units, mess halls and recreational facilities in field environments. The general purpose medium tent measures 16 feet by 32 feet and can house up to 12 personnel comfortably for long periods of time.

"Some of our senior enlisted members are familiar with hardback construction, but the



Airman 1st Class Andrew Moss covers power lines to a hardback.

Left, Airman 1st Class Lloyd Gray wires a thermostat for an air conditioning unit being installed in one of the hardbacks.



First Lt. Jorge Lopez, left, and Staff Sgt. Bradley Baker tighten the laces on a tent.

Gulfport center is providing all the equipment and supervision necessary for this training," Lieutenant Fuller commented. "Young Airmen and noncommissioned officers from all civil engineering Air Force Specialty Codes except firefighting are participating because they all need the experience."

Sergeant Peetz said the Air Force's annual Readiness Challenge pits teams from bases all over the world in a timed relay for hardback tent frame construction, along with many other "old school" Prime BEEF tasks.

"Teams have been known to complete this task in less

than 40 minutes, using only hand tools," Sergeant Peetz observed. "I seriously doubt that our capabilities are quite that fine-tuned, but the object of our day was not to expedite, but to introduce the younger generation of structures troops to new opportunities in the correct training atmosphere."

2nd Air Force's command chief moves to Air Mobility Command

Air Mobility Command News Service

The 2nd Air Force command chief master sergeant has been selected for a new assignment.

Air Mobility Command recently selected Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Barron Jr. as its next command chief. He assumes his new position April 15.

The 27-year Air Force veteran has been assigned as 2nd Air Force command chief since December 2004.

Originally an administrative specialist, the chief served in a variety of duties in that career

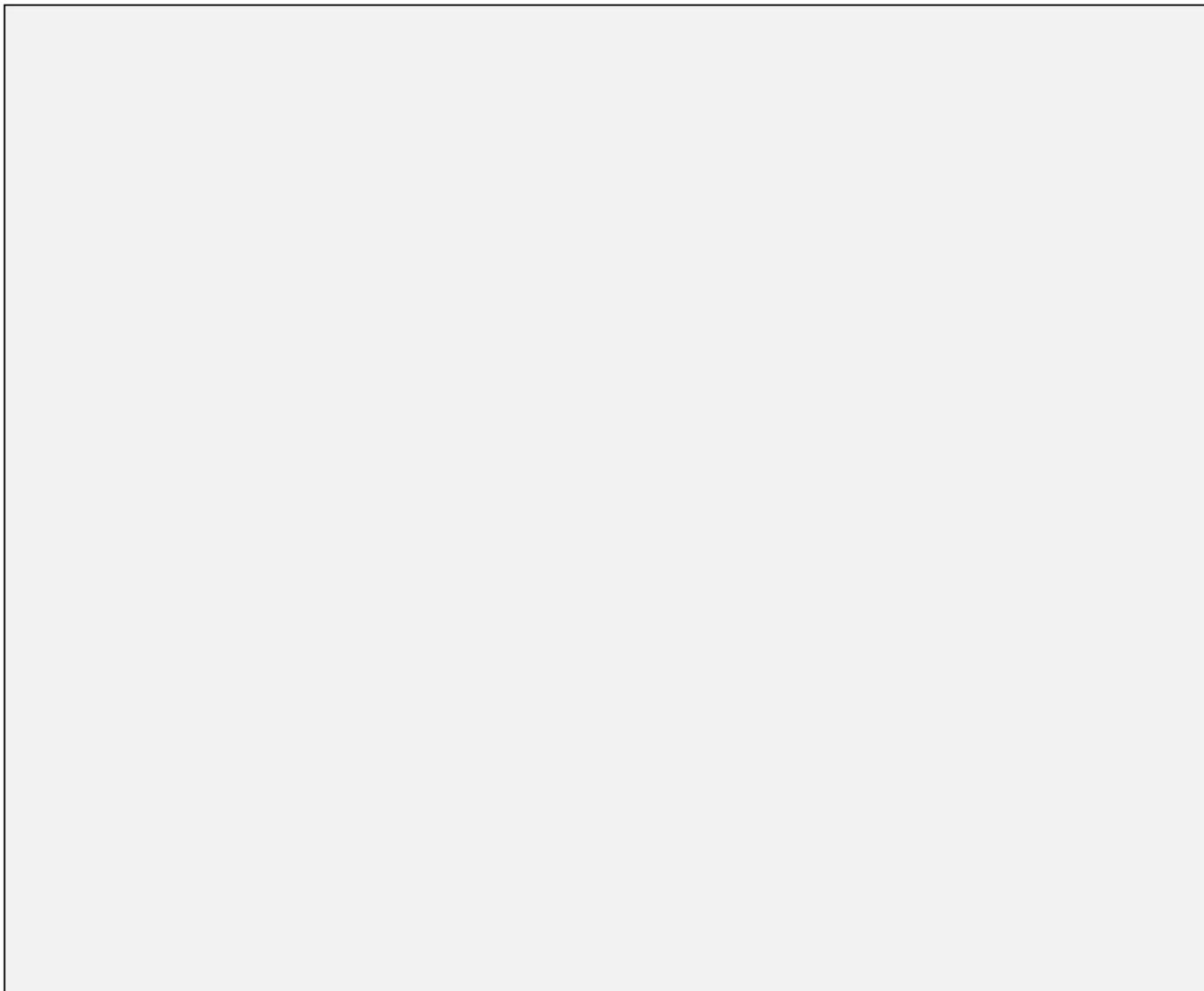
field, ranging from a maintenance administrative specialist to the noncommissioned officer in charge of information management programs. He's held several special duty assignments, including tours with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and Air Force Recruiting Service.

Chief Barron was also assigned to the military training manager career field, served in various units as first sergeant and was command chief of the Air Warfare Center.

Chief Barron's replacement hasn't been named.



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Staff Sgt. Sarah Hoover, left, 2nd Air Force, talks with Chief Barron at 2nd Air Force headquarters about his new assignment March 30.



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 14 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 Master Sgt. Deanna Attaway, 377-2103, for parades.

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 information, 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.

MOAA scholarships

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

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

Civilian tuition aid

College tuition assistance is available for permanent civil service employees at Keesler.

Courses must be related to the Air Force mission.

For more information, call or visit the education office,

377-2323, Room 212, old Cody Hall.

Weapons training

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

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

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

JROTC openings

Air Force Junior ROTC positions are available to retired or soon-to-be retired officers and noncommissioned officers.

For more information, call 1-866-235-7682, ext. 35275 or 35300, or DSN 493-5275 or 5300. For a list of current openings, go to <http://www.afaots.af.mil/AFJROTC/instructors.asp>.

NEWS AND FEATURES

Pierce in place

Col. Richard Pierce, left, new 81st Training Wing vice commander, fills out his Air Force Assistance Fund form for Maj. Greg Kendrick, 81st TRW director of staff and AFAP project officer. Colonel Pierce succeeds Col. Douglas Hayner, who retired March 15. Colonel Pierce formerly served as dean of students and support at Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. He's a command pilot with more than 1,700 flying hours in a wide variety of fighter and trainer aircraft.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



IN THE NEWS

Blood, bone marrow donor drive

A bone marrow donor registration drive is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at Welch Auditorium in conjunction with a base-wide blood drive.

Healthy people ages 18-60 are eligible to register with the Department of Defense's Bill Young Marrow Donor Center, one of more than 94 centers across the country affiliated with the National Bone Marrow Donor Program.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Samantha Moore, 377-9520, or Jill Peterson, 377-9324.

7-digit phone numbers in effect

Keesler's new seven-digit intrabase calling plan is part of an Air Force mandate to standardize all new and existing telephone systems with a seven-digit dialing plan.

Since Saturday, customers now 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.

"This standard was directed nearly a year ago, but our implementation was delayed due to Hurricane Katrina," said Maj. Alan Estes, 81st Communications Squadron commander. "This also helps the base as we add another telephone prefix for Keesler Medical Center.

"Additionally, this standard helps the base as we prepare to implement a new telephone technology called 'voice over Internet protocol,'" Major Estes continued. "Currently, contractors are installing the necessary equipment in the hospital for use this summer."

For more information, call 377-2130.

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.

NCO sentenced for test cheating

Air Force Print News

KADENA Air Base, Japan — Master Sgt. Ulysses Dotson was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, demotion to airman basic and two months confinement March 20 after pleading guilty to cheating on a promotion test in 2004.

Sergeant Dotson used an advance copy to cheat on exams that assessed job-related and general military knowledge. He was wrongfully promoted in April to master sergeant.

He got the tests from his former supervisor, another master sergeant, at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany. That supervisor received a dishonorable discharge, demotion to airman basic and a 3 1/2-year prison sentence for his part in the cheating scam.

Some inconvenience expected during service station project

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

In the summer of 2007, Keesler customers can expect shopping convenience when a new Army and Air Force Exchange Service facility opens on Meadows Drive.

Work is scheduled to begin Monday on a complex which includes a new gas station, car care center, shoppette, Class 6 and fast-food outlet with drive-up window service, according to Daniel Schmidt, AAFES general manager.

The entire \$5.9 million project is expected to take at least 450 days.

"Since the new store is going to be located in the same area as the current store, customers will see some temporary changes and inconveniences," Mr. Schmidt said.

During the first phase of the project, expected to last about four weeks, only five gas pumps serving regular unleaded fuel are in operation.

"During this time, our customers will experience a slowdown in the availability of products and services in our shop and retail store at the car care center as we start removing equipment and merchandise to prepare for the next phase of construction," branch manager Phyllis Diot pointed out.

"When the second phase of the project begins, customers can expect a shutdown of all gas pumps for several days or until a conversion is made from the old pumps to some

of the newer pumps," Mr. Schmidt explained. "Once we're in Phase 2, AAFES will also close down the service station operation and only sell gas with limited gas pumps during the duration of this project."

During this phase, the existing building and pumps are removed.

"A temporary location at the southwest side of the current grounds near Bancorp South will have four pumps or eight fueling stations that provide unleaded regular gas only," Ms. Diot said.

"Our customers will love the new gas pumps," she continued. "The current ones are so old that they have trouble finding parts for them, and it's a real issue with some of our customers. They'll get a trial of these new pumps during the construction process."

With hurricane season just around the corner, Mr. Schmidt encourages AAFES customers to plan ahead for their gas purchases, considering the limitations the construction process will cause.

"We don't want our patrons to get caught in all the last-minute gas buying we all experienced this past season," Mr. Schmidt stressed. "The limited fuel pumps greatly reduce our capacity, but AAFES recognizes the necessity to provide this limited service. It's a huge benefit to our customers, and the sacrifice made today for the future store is well worth it."

New civilian personnel system means more pay

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Most of the first 11,000 Defense Department civilian employees to convert to the new civilian personnel system this month receive a pay increase, an official said.

About 85 percent of people see an initial bump in pay when they're enrolled in the new National Security Personnel System, said Joyce Frank, spokeswoman for the system.

The first employees to make the switch in "Spiral 1.1" of the phase-in process automatically convert to the new system April 30, she said.

"No one loses pay" as they convert from the old civil service system to the

new pay-for-performance NSPS, she said. Most, in fact, qualify for a one-time, prorated within-grade increase buy-in.

Employees in Step 9 or lower of their current civil service GS grade and with acceptable performance receive credit toward their next scheduled within-grade step increase, Ms. Frank explained. The credit is based on the number of days accumulated toward the increase and is factored in for eligible employees before their positions are converted to pay bands.

The NSPS Web site offers a conversion tool within the next few days so employees can determine where they fall in the pay band system when their

positions convert to NSPS, Ms. Frank said. Another new feature on the Web site is a training program for employees to learn about NSPS.

A new publication on the Web site, to be issued in hard copy to Spiral 1.1 employees, explains details of the new system, which ultimately affects more than 650,000 DOD civilian employees.

"HR Elements for Managers, Supervisors and Employees: A Guide to NSPS," gives employees an overview of the critical elements they need to understand as they convert to NSPS, Ms. Frank said. It covers pay increases and bonuses, pay bands and job objectives, among other topics.

On the guide's opening page, Mary Lacey, program executive officer for the NSPS, encourages employees to work with their supervisors to establish job objectives and discuss evaluation criteria and how to improve their on-the-job performance.

"NSPS is a system that is good for the department and it is good for you," Ms. Lacey wrote. "It will strengthen our ability to accomplish our national security mission and provide opportunities to enhance your personal growth and development."

Implementation of the new system represents "the beginning of a long journey for all of us, and we will learn from one another," she wrote.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Blaze, Keesler's dragon mascot, congratulates Master Sgt. Eric Crawford, 338th Training Squadron AFAF project officer, on the Dark Knights' \$12,152 contribution to AFAF, 17 percent of the total raised by the base so far.

AFAF,

from Page 1

ponents of AFAF. The others are the Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund, Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widows' Fund and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

"I think people here realize how important the AFAF is," Major Kendrick said. "A lot of the base benefited in one form or another, and this is their opportunity to give back. People here also see how the money came back to the base, and that is inspiring more people to donate this year."

Major Kendrick said the most significant contributors to the effort are the key workers and unit representatives.

"They are the face of the AFAF. By going out to each of the units and telling them what AFAF is, they really helped us," he said. "Without them, this wouldn't be possible."

The most generous unit so far is the 338th Training Squadron. The Dark Knights have raised \$12,152, which is 17 percent of the base total.

A base-wide AFAF fundraiser sponsored by the first sergeants has been dubbed "penny war." The unit that collects the most pennies wins a \$100 pizza party.

For more information, contact your unit representative.

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.

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.

Force shaping

For information on force shaping, visit the Air Force Personnel Center Web site, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsec/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.

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.

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.

One-stop pay, personnel service

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

Civilian emergency contacts

The emergency management data system is a Web-based method for civilians to input personal emergency contact information.

For more information or to register, visit <https://ww2.afpc.randolph.af.mil/emds/default.htm>.



For Keesler News delivery or display racks, facility managers call 377-3163.

A 3 - 5 minute steady tone on the base siren is a tornado warning — take cover.

Survey highlights people, jobs

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — More than half of all Airmen participated in the 2005 chief of staff organization climate survey.

The survey allows participants to voice their opinions on issues affecting them and their jobs.

Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. T. Michael Moseley released the results of the survey to all major commands Friday.

Strong leadership focus on the survey was credited for the 53 percent total force participation rate, an increase from previous years.

Overall, many of the numbers stayed the same, with only minor declines in some areas.

“The results are encouraging on a couple of fronts. First, the responses were from our total force team, and secondly, there was no noticeable difference in overall satisfaction from those deployed and those at home station,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray.

He said job satisfaction is an important area of concern as Air Force expeditionary commitments continue to rise.

According to the results, active-duty senior airmen are

“The results are encouraging on a couple of fronts. First, the responses were from our total force team, and secondly, there was no noticeable difference in overall satisfaction from those deployed and those at home station.”

— Chief Murray

the least satisfied among active-duty personnel, although job satisfaction remained about the same overall.

Trust in leadership was also an area introduced in the recent survey. From a total force perspective, middle enlisted member’s trust in unit senior leadership is significantly lower than all other ranks.

“There will always be areas where we need to focus and improve,” Chief Murray said. “From the enlisted perspective, ensuring NCOs and sen-

ior NCOs are stepping up to their leadership responsibility is critical.”

The majority of Airmen indicated, too, that Air Force leaders used the results from the 2003 survey in a positive way, and Chief Murray vowed that will continue with the 2005 results.

“We’ll take data from this survey and continue enhancing our professional development at all levels,” he said. “Our core value — excellence in all we do — is a goal of constant pursuit.”

Keesler telephone directories are available online at <https://wwwmil.keesler.af.mil>. Click on "phone directory" to bring up a quick reference. For an organizational listing, click on "listing" then "organizational." For more information, call public affairs, 377-2783.

Today is deadline for AFCEA grant applications

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Today's the deadline for schools in Jackson, Harrison and Hancock counties to apply for two \$2,500 grants from the Gulf Coast Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

The grants offer area schools an opportunity to enhance their science and math programs, said Capt. Grace Beck, 333rd Training Squadron, vice president of AFCEA's Gulf Coast chapter.

"These grants have a potential to help with any math or science projects that weren't funded this year or were degraded due to Hurricane Katrina," Captain Beck said last week.

"We've had numerous phone calls and four applications so far," she added.

Recipients are selected Tuesday. For more information, call Captain Beck, 377-2669.

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 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, or Anthony Bellocq, anthony.bellocq@keesler.af.mil.

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.

Retirees can 'give back' during AFAF drive, too

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

When the Air Force Aid Society distributed \$2.1 million to Keesler families in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, about 629 Air Force retirees were on the receiving end.

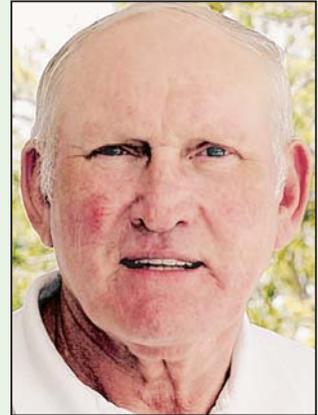
Now, during the 2006 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign, retirees are among the potential donors, according to Lonnie Arnold, director of the retiree activities office.

AFAS is one of the four agencies that benefit from this year's drive.

"Up to \$2,000 was given to each recipient in the form of a loan, and most of those were later converted to grants," said Jackie Pope, who heads Keesler's AFAS office.

"After Katrina, many retirees and annuitants benefited from AFAS grants or interest-free loans," Mr. Arnold pointed out. "Now that we've had time to recover, it's important for us to contribute during the drive."

Mr. Arnold, a retired chief master sergeant, lost his D'Iberville home and all of his belongings in the storm. He was grateful for AFAS



Mr. Arnold

assistance in getting back on his feet.

Retirees can send checks payable to AFAF to the Retiree Activities Office, 700 Hangar Road, Room 104, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2355.

The office returns a copy of the donation form to the sender.

Hurricane season looms – check insurance now

By Tech. Sgt. Bradley Ellison

Legal office

Editor's note: This article was written by a paralegal under the delegation and supervision of a licensed attorney who retains overall responsibility for the article and its contents. This article isn't intended to constitute or substitute for legal advice in any way.

Hurricane season is fast approaching, so now's the time to make sure your insurance coverage is in order.

It's vital to plan ahead, because insurance companies won't write policies if your property is in area under an imminent hurricane threat. There's usually a 30-day waiting period for new policies, too.

To guarantee complete coverage:

Document the contents of your property, including the make, model and year purchased.

Take photographs of all possessions if you can – at least the expensive, antique and hard-to-replace items.

Keep proofs of purchase, appraisals, invoices and shipping documents for expensive items.

Store these documents in sealable bags and take them with you when you evacuate. It may be worthwhile to send copies of your photos to a family member not living in a hurricane area. Remember to update the list and photos periodically as you



acquire and dispose of property.

There's no excuse for not insuring your property. If you have no insurance or are underinsured, your family could suffer catastrophic financial loss.

Military members and civilians living off base can't submit damage claims to the government.

Military members living on base are covered generally up to \$40,000.00 under the Personnel Claims Act. However, military members are advised to pur-

chase private insurance for the full property value because the claims act standards are very high.

There are generally two types of insurance: homeowners or renters policies and perils insurance for flood or wind damage. Don't assume your homeowners or renters policy covers flood or hurricane wind damage – it probably doesn't.

The National Flood Insurance Program provides flood insurance and Mississippi Wind Pool covers wind damage. These are separate policies, usually inexpensive, but well worth the additional cost.

Read your policy and ask questions to determine what is covered, under what conditions and for how much money. Know what deductibles apply to your policy, and for what amounts.

If you aren't satisfied with the extent of your coverage or with its terms, shop around for a policy that suits your needs best. For example, you might consider purchasing a policy that features "replacement cost coverage," which will pay the full replacement price of your property without applying depreciation.

Attorneys in the base legal office can review your policy and answer 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. workdays. The legal office is in Room 246, Levitow Training Support Facility.

For appointments, call 377-3510.

Temporary living facilities before, after damaged units repaired



Courtesy photo

Keesler's temporary living facilities received interior and exterior damage from Hurricane Katrina. The interior of these facilities received up to two feet of flood water which damaged flooring, sheetrock and furniture. The exterior of the facilities received damage to gutters, downspouts and roof



Photo by Kemberly Groue

panels. Repairs began Nov. 1 and were completed in mid-February. They included the removal and replacement of gutters, downspouts, roof panels, flooring and sheetrock. New furniture was purchased and installed. The total cost of the repairs was \$897,862.

Ophthalmology clinic staff now available part-time

81st Medical Group

The ophthalmology clinic is up and running part-time in the general surgery clinic in the medical center.

The staff see patients for standard, non-surgical consults and follow-ups. Appointments are limited because the staff shares equipment with the optometry clinic and is unable to see patients every day.

Consults are sent to the referral management center and reviewed by the ophthalmology staff.

PRK/LASIK patients who didn't receive all of their required postoperative exams (monthly for one year following the procedure), call or e-mail Master Sgt. Rickey Mann, 377-6671, or Rickey.Mann@keesler.af.mil.

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

Coumadin clinic is now located in Room 1F-167, in the family practice clinic. Hours are 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 taking this medication. Patients are seen by referral only, meaning a physician at Keesler must submit a consult for the patient to be enrolled in the clinic. For more information, call 377-6104.

All clinics are closed 1-5 p.m. the second Thursday of every month for training. Family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics and general surgery each have one doctor available for urgent appointments. For such appointments, report to the appropriate clinic or call central appointments, 1-800-700-8603.

First aid station closes at 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday until at least June as an electrical contractor completes repairs and upgrades to the medical center's electrical system. The work requires 12-hour power outages from 6 p.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Saturday and 6 p.m. Saturday to 6 a.m. Sunday until the electrical work is complete. 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 escalator for the outpatient clinic lobby arrived in four sections March 29. Installation is expected to take a few weeks. Replacement of the Katrina-damaged escalator and elevator at the rear of the lobby are essential to the reopening of the clinic entrance in early May, officials said.

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.

Clinical laboratory is in its medical center. 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 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 outpatient record's customer service desk. Allow five to seven days for copies.

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

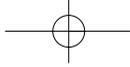
New dermatology patients are seen by referral only. Established patients may be seen by calling 377-1673 or the appointment line.

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

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

Physical and occupational therapy see patients at the health and wellness center. Services include assessment and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders such as upper and lower extremity dysfunction and neck and back pain. 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.



Coming soon: Temporary satellite pharmacy

81st Medical Group

A temporary satellite pharmacy is being constructed to provide services to Keesler patrons.

The modular facility is being set up in the parking lot east of the Four Seasons/Class 6 store on Meadows Drive. This service will be available until the new base exchange complex is built.

Patrons may remember this as the site of the temporary satellite pharmacy put in place in 1999 prior to the opening of the base exchange pharmacy in 2002.

It takes approximately eight weeks to set up and configure the modular building as a pharmacy.

Once complete, the facility will offer the same services



In about eight weeks, this modular building opens as a temporary satellite pharmacy.

Photo by Steve Pivnick

previously provided by the base exchange pharmacy destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

The satellite pharmacy becomes the dedicated service

site for prescriptions from off-base and for pickup of call-in refills.

Same-day service for new prescriptions and next-day service for call-in refills is

going to be provided at this location, with the convenience of drive-through pickup.

Patients who see providers in Keesler Medical Center clinics will continue to be

served at the temporary pharmacy in the medical center until the main pharmacy reconstruction is completed, which is estimated to be sometime in May.



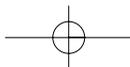
Airmen Basic Jack Ramsay, left, and Andrew Kelso, students from the 336th Training Squadron, measure a board to be used for construction of a bunkhouse for Habitat for Humanity volunteers Monday at Biloxi's Yankee Stadium.

Habitat for Humanity bunkhouse gets boost from Keesler volunteers



Airman Basic Sherese Faulkner, 336th TRS, secures hurricane straps to the bunkhouse frame.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Personnel Services Delivery transformation starts

By Tech. Sgt. Ryan Mattox

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force Contact Center's Web-based services and contact center officially began taking calls Friday at the Air Force Personnel Center.

The center is part of a new initiative called Personnel Services Delivery transformation which uses technology to place the capability for conducting routine personnel transactions into the hands of Airmen via Web-based services and contact centers.

"PSD is the road from good personnel service delivery to great personnel service delivery," said Roger Blanchard, assistant deputy chief of staff for personnel at Air Force headquarters in Washington. "The call center is here to execute that vision.

Military personnel flight is here to stay

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Keesler's military personnel flight isn't going away, even though the new Personnel Service Delivery system gradually moves many of its actions online.

"We'll walk anyone through any personnel matters they need help with as processes move online," said Adrian Augustine, chief of personnel programs for the 81st Mission Support Squadron.

Keesler's preparation for PSD's imple-

mentation included three briefings for all Airmen in Welch Auditorium which reached more than 2,000 military members.

Additionally, Mr. Augustine conducted two briefings for personnel/manpower specialists and spoke at a couple of commander's calls and a stand-up for senior leadership.

The PSD rollout is a gradual procedure, Mr. Augustine said. Retirements are expected to be the new release, probably around April 15.

For more information, call 377-2166.

We are on the cutting edge of delivering services to the Air Force community. That's the road we are on today."

The center's opening is just the beginning of many changes Airmen will see in the way they handle tasks concerning their careers — tasks they normally had to visit

their military personnel flight to complete.

The idea behind this transformation is to provide a convenient and secure way from any telephone or Internet-ready computer, allowing Airmen to avoid waiting in lines, save time and fit their personnel business into their own schedule.

The goal is to move 85 percent of MPF actions online. Once the transformation begins, however, it doesn't mean Airmen still can't get personal customer service.

"This is a centralized effort, and centralization is the beauty of this. We are relieving the pressure from those in the

field," said Maj. Gen. Tony Przybyslawski, AFPC commander. "We are simplifying the process. Now Airmen can make a 90-second transaction at their convenience, instead of what normally might have taken a couple of hours by going to the MPF."

Several processes like retraining and retirements, currently worked through base-level military personnel flights, will be self-initiated via the Web, and centrally managed and processed at the center.

The transformation is a four-phase program that will continue through 2011. The first phase begins with transferring active-duty personnel actions and will then be further broken up into seven segments called spirals.

Airmen are able to access the Web-based services through the virtual MPF.

Records correction process enhanced

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Airmen can now find detailed information regarding Board for Correction of Military Records in the Virtual Military Personnel Flight.

This process was enhanced as part of the Personnel Service Delivery transformation to centralize support for Airmen and provide better guidance for completing all requirements for BCMR applications.

The process requires Airmen to complete the Department of Defense Form 149 "Application for Correction of Military Records," attach applicable supporting documentation and mail the package to the address on the reverse side of the DD form.

All requests must be received in hard copy with the original applicant signature.

Applicants should complete all applicable sections of the DD Form 149, including:

Name under which the member served.

Member's Social Security Number or Air Force service number.

Applicant's current mailing address.

Specific records correction being requested.

Proof of proper interest if requesting another person's records.

For more information or assistance in completing the BCMR application, call the Air Force Contact Center, 1-800-616-3775, option 1, option 1, option 2; commercial 1-210-565-5000; or DSN 665-5000.

Retraining centralized for active-duty enlisted

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The active-duty retraining program is going virtual and applications are now being processed by the Air Force Contact Center.

It's part of the first phase of the Personnel Services Delivery transformation initiative.

Airmen interested in voluntary retraining, as well as those identified for involuntary retraining, initiate the process online via the Virtual Military Personnel Flight.

The retraining self-service application in the vMPF give Airmen step-by-step instructions on retraining under the Career Airmen Reenlistment Reservation System and the Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program.

The new process consists of these basic steps:

Review the retraining advisory to identify potential Air Force Specialty Codes.

Review Air Force Manual 36-2108, "Enlisted Classification" for AFSC descriptions.

Review retainability requirements in Air Force Instruction 36-

2626, "Airman Retraining Program" Table 3.3.

Submit a retraining request to the Air Force Contact Center using the retraining request link. Once received, contact center personnel verify career field eligibility and qualifications to retrain into the AFSCs listed. Then they notify Airmen of any additional requirements to be completed.

Complete the retraining application, including selection of desired assignment preferences. The application is then routed electronically for coordination to the unit commander, who forwards it back to the contact center to be submitted to the Air Force Personnel Center Retraining Office for a final decision.

Base military personnel flights continue to process retraining applications and work any actions or related case files opened before Friday.

For more information, assistance or to check on the status of a submission, call the contact center, 1-800-616-3775, option 1, option 1, option 2; commercial 1-210-565-5000; or DSN 665-5000.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

An American is sexually assaulted every 2 1/2 minutes.

One in five American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape.

About 10 percent of sexual assault victims are men.

At least two-thirds of sexual assaults are committed by someone who is known to the victim.

About 44 percent of rape victims are under age 18; 80 percent are under age 30.

New airman battle uniform is available in fiscal 2007

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The new airman battle uniform is ready for production and becomes available in fiscal 2007, said the Air Force deputy chief of staff of personnel.

Many factors were considered in developing the final uniform selection, with the concern for Airmen being at the top of the list, said Brig. Gen Robert Allardice.

"We were looking for a uniform that would be easier to maintain," he said. "We wanted to provide a uniform that the Airman wouldn't need to spend a lot of out-of-pocket expenses to maintain."

Also, Airmen's feedback throughout the process was beneficial in adding new pockets on the uniform.

"We listened to the Airmen's request where they wanted pockets to hold small tools, and when they wear body armor the existing shirt pockets are not accessible or usable," General Allardice said. "It will have the four pockets on the front of the shirt, and also a small pencil pocket on the left forearm and two pockets on the lower legs. In addition, inside the side pockets and inside of the breast pockets there will be smaller sewn-in pockets to hold small tools, flashlights or cell phones."

The new uniform design is a pixilated tiger stripe with four soft earth tones consisting of tan, grey, green and blue. The ABU has a permanent crease and is offered in 50-50 nylon-cotton blend permanent press fabric, eliminating the need for winter and summer weight uniforms.

Will the new ABU need to be starched and pressed?

"Absolutely not," the general said. "Our uniform requirement is we want a uniform that you wash, pull it out of the dryer and wear it. This requirement meets the ease and cost effec-

tiveness needs in maintaining a uniform."

He speaks from personal experience and added that in the long run, the new uniform is going to save Airmen money on dry-cleaning costs.

"I tested this uniform. I wash it, take it right out of the dryer and wear it," General Allardice said. "We don't want people putting an iron to it."

The fit of the uniform was also a concern for Airmen.

"Were making them available in more sizes to fit the body better," he said. "We've taken the time to produce more sizes and tailored them for men and women."

Some other ABU accessory items:

A tan T-shirt is worn; Airmen are required to maintain one tan T-shirt with an Air Force logo on the front and Air Force written on the back.

Suede cowhide boots in matching green-gray color; like the desert boot, these are polish-free and available in men's and women's sizes.

The word color for the name, U.S. Air Force and rank is midnight blue; nametapes and rank insignia background are tan and sewn on using a matching tan thread.

The ABU adopts the battle dress uniform hat style for primary use and the floppy hat design is used in some deployed areas.

"This is the uniform of the future," General Allardice said. "Eventually when enough of these uniforms are manufactured, we will phase out the BDU and desert combat uniforms."

The current projected mandatory wear date for the new ABU is fiscal 2011.

The only thing that needs to be determined is if patches are going to be worn, and the Air Force chief of staff will make that determination soon, General Allardice said.

Career assistance adviser gives insight to job

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

Tech. Sgt. Kelle Turner, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, replaces Master Sgt. Greg McClain as the 81st Training Wing's career assistance adviser.

Sergeant Turner has been in the Air Force for 17 years, and is promoted to master sergeant May 1. Sergeant McClain moved to a new assignment at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

After a thorough interview process, Lt. Col. Doug Mullins, 81st Mission Support Squadron commander, selected Sergeant Turner to fill this important position.

"I feel that I'm a very approachable and caring person. I have a passion to develop people at all levels," Sergeant Turner said.

"I enjoy providing quality information to people so they can make informed career decisions, as well as opportunities that may be available to them, such as retraining and special duties, and how they can go about applying for those jobs," she explained.

"Due to my position, I have some extra time to spend with people that a mentor or supervisor may not always have," she said.

The CAA is the wing's focal point for enlisted professional enhancement, and is responsible for viable programs to meet the base's needs.



Sergeant Turner

At Keesler, Sergeant Turner heads up the noncommissioned officer's professional development course, flight commander's professional development course and the monthly right decision briefing, which is aimed toward first-term Airmen who are nearing the decision to reenlist or to separate.

The NCO professional development course is for staff sergeants to link the gap between Airman Leadership School and the NCO Academy.

Staff Sgt. Joe Rella, 81st Training Wing command post, compared the

"Many of our most valuable resources — people — may choose to separate rather than stay if we don't provide them with a good basis of information about benefits and programs."

course to a scheduled tune-up.

"The course allowed me to see areas where I was complacent in, not for the lack of trying but because I didn't have the opportunity to supervise anyone after ALS," he explained.

"The course covers all areas of an NCO's responsibilities so anyone who attends the course can acquire full exposure," he added.

During the courses, subject matter experts brief on topics like personnel issues, promotion roadmap, the enlisted force structure and ethics and core values.

"This course is crucial in the intermediate development of staff sergeants who haven't had formal professional military education in a few years," said Master Sgt. Scott Sippel, 338th Training Squadron first sergeant.

"Interaction between newer supervisors and more seasoned ones is a precious asset, and is well worth the time.

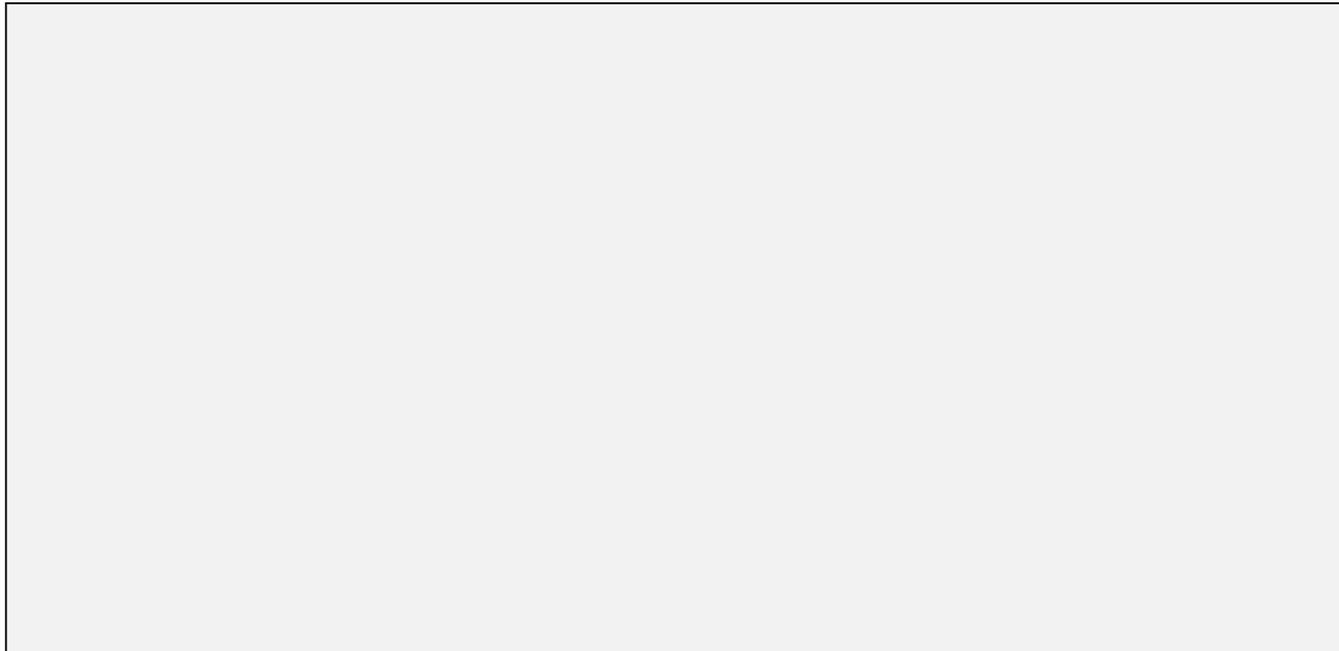
"The professional development seminars also give students time to interact with peers from other parts of the base and to learn from other's ideas and experiences," Sergeant Sippel added.

Sergeant Turner said that through the courses, seminars, unit visits and briefings, about 400 individuals are helped quarterly.

"The informed decision information that my program provides is vital during a first- or second-term Airman's career," she said.

"Many of our most valuable resources — people — may choose to separate rather than stay if we don't provide them with a good basis of information about benefits and programs," Sergeant Turner pointed out.

"These courses play an important role in providing our officers, NCOs and senior NCOs with a wealth of knowledge from those who have a great deal of experience in the mentor, supervisor and flight commander roles already."



Medics see battle-injured patients on deployment

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Nineteen Keesler medics returned March 16 from a four-month deployment to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany.

They were among 59 members of the 81st Medical Group staff — representing 18 different career fields — who departed here Nov. 14. All were deployed to provide manning assistance after LRMC medics were sent to Pakistan to provide medical support after the catastrophic November earthquake that ravaged that nation. Several others returned earlier, and the rest come home in the next couple of months.

Two of the returnees, Capt. Vickie Skupski and Lt. Col. Frank Glenn, spoke about their experiences shortly before beginning post-deployment leaves.

Captain Skupski, assigned to the 81st MDG as a medical surgical clinical nurse specialist, served as a clinical nurse in the LRMC emergency department. While not trained as an emergency room nurse, she quickly received necessary instruction.

"Most of the patients we saw were local-area active duty and dependents," the captain said. "However, we would sometimes treat 'walking wounded' from 'down range' (Iraq and Afghanistan) sent to the medical center for specialized treatment and then returned to duty. The majority of severely-wounded patients would arrive at the facility and be sent immediately to intensive care or the inpatient floors," she explained.

The level-three emergency



Colonel Glenn

department saw mainly acute, family practice-type patients.

"In the midst of the acute care provided, emergencies requiring immediate interventions, such as chest pain and shortness of breath, would occur," Captain Skupski noted. "Their great staff was always prepared for the worst.

"We worked 12-hour shifts. The ED saw 50 to 90 patients daily. They have 10 rooms with one triage nurse to evaluate patients and another nurse in the treatment area, plus a physician and medical technicians."

Two Keesler physicians also worked in the department.

Keesler's medical technicians proved a boon to the short-handed department.

"They usually only had two techs per shift," Captain Skupski noted. "When our people arrived, this increased to four to five per shift. In addition, the department had new permanent-party staff coming in, so the Keesler techs were able to help with their training."

"It was a pretty big shock because most of us hadn't seen this type of injury 'up close and personal.'"

— Colonel Glenn



Captain Skupski

similar to those we'd see at Keesler, such as sports injuries. The rest were sent from 'down range' with battle or non-battle injuries."

Patients included U.S. service members, coalition forces and civilian contractors.

"We also saw some intensive-care unit patients," the colonel added.

More seriously-wounded patients were stabilized at the medical center and airlifted back to the United States.

Seeing battle injuries for the first time was a bit difficult for Colonel Glenn and other Keesler medics.

"It was a pretty big shock because most of us hadn't seen this type of injury 'up close and personal,'" he commented.

One patient he treated sticks in his mind.

"He was a young Marine private, probably 19 years old, who had been shot in the head, chest and hip. I saw him 24 to 36 hours after he had been wounded. He was awake and talking. His hip

was shattered, which will cause him the most long-term problem.

"Incidentally, his dad was a three- or four-star Marine general who flew in from the Pentagon to visit his wounded son."

Neither Colonel Glenn nor Captain Skupski suffered major damage due to Hurricane Katrina.

Captain Skupski and her husband, Michael, had minor damage to their home; it needed a new roof and some windows and screens had to be replaced.

During Katrina they evacuated briefly to her daughter's home in Alabama, then to Ohio where most of her family is located.

The captain said the hardest part of being deployed was missing her family and family events, like birthdays.

"I've been overseas before," she remarked. "There's nothing like being home."

Colonel Glenn was fortunate to have had no damage at all to the North Biloxi home he shares with his wife, Lori; their two sons, Dean, 7, and Drew, 3; and dog Molly, 10.

"I missed my family most, and Molly," he said. "She was mad at me when I came home, ignoring me for a few hours. I guess it was because I couldn't talk to her on the phone or e-mail her like I did with my wife and children."

The colonel is a Hattiesburg native and this is the closest he's been assigned to home in 20 years.

However, he's about to be reassigned to Moody Air Force Base, Ga., as commander of the 347th Medical Operations Squadron.



Ex-Keesler leader recounts gains by military women

By Tech. Sgt. Karen Brun

92nd Air Refueling Wing

FAIRCHILD Air Force Base, Wash. — During her three-day visit here in observance of National Women's History Month, retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Karen Rankin said she attributed her interest in the military to her aunt.

"My dad's sister had been in the Navy in World War II. I was a little girl, but I remember seeing her in uniform after the war and hearing her talk about it. I was very impressed that she would have tried something like that," said Ms. Rankin.

During her career, the retired general served as the executive assistant to the secretary of the Air Force, commanded two training wings, including the 81st Training Wing at Keesler (1993-95), and directed the plans and programs division at Air Education and Training Command headquarters.

Because of the major demand for manpower during World War II, women were looked at as replacements for men. However, she said, "they did not expect us to stick around."

Society played a huge role in the evolution of women's rights, Ms. Rankin said.

"The biggest thing people need to understand is that society was different then. So the kinds of things I dealt with were common in society at that time, but very much different than the way the country is now," she said.

"The expectation for women, in the military or not, was very restrictive. They

were just going to get married and have kids. It was just a given that was going to happen, and quite frankly in my own head, I thought that was going to happen, too. I never expected to have a 31-year-career. That's not what society had conditioned me to expect."

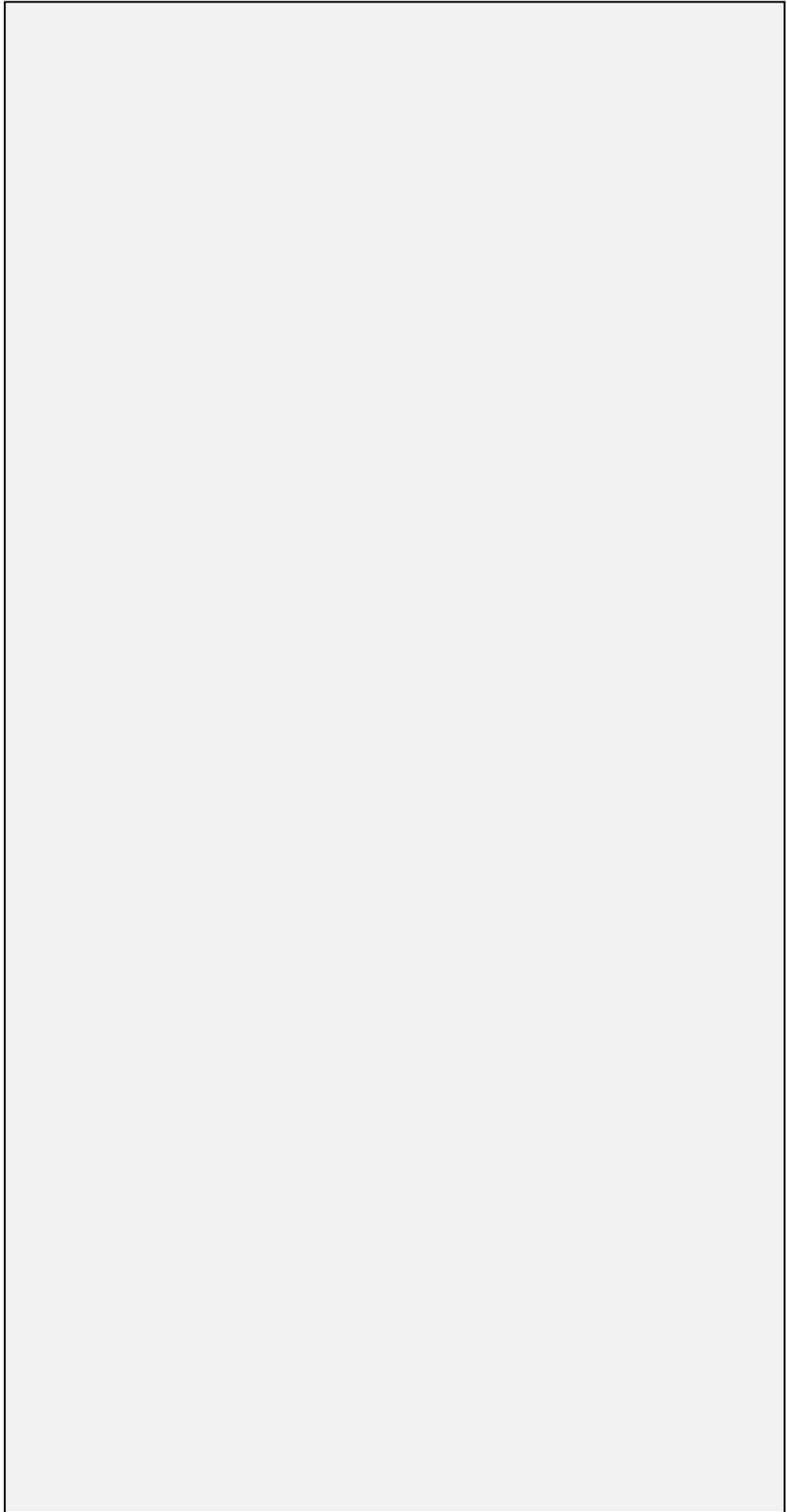
During her career, she witnessed the abolishment of separate organizations for women and saw an increase in recruitment and career fields for women. However, she believes the most significant event that helped the advancement of women was Operation Desert Storm.

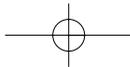
"Desert Storm was the seminal event that will continue to change things appreciably for women," Ms. Rankin said. "Most importantly, the services and the country saw that women performed well in a lot of different areas."

She spoke about women's achievements and said, "Don't be afraid to risk it. Take a risk every now and then."

Since her retirement in 1998, the former general has taken the lead, through continued military and community involvement, to promote emphasis on military issues.

"I don't think you can be active duty, then retire, and forget that you are a part of a family. I think you have to keep working for that family," she said. "As builders of today's communities, I personally think the single most important thing you can do is to maintain involvement with associates."





KEESLER NOTES

Child Pride Day

“Coast on the Comeback for Kids” is the theme of this year’s Child Pride Day, Saturday 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.

Officials urge participants to wear sunscreen or protective clothing due to the loss of trees in the park to Hurricane Katrina.

Sponsors are Cellular South, Domino’s Pizza, family support center, First Command Financial Planning, Keesler Federal Credit Union, Home Depot and USAA.

Assault awareness

These events are scheduled for the observance of Sexual Assault Awareness month:

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., candlelight vigil with the Gulf Coast Women’s Center for Non-Violence, Biloxi Town Green. One of the speakers is Tricia Van Prooyen, spouse of Tech. Sgt. Tim Van Prooyen, 81st Training Support Squadron.

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.

Housing closure

The housing office is closed 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday for an official function.

Playgroup

Tuesday, the preschool

playgroup sponsored by the family advocacy staff is having an Easter egg hunt and party, 9:30-11 a.m. at the youth center.

They meet at the same time, day and location each week.

The program provides support for anyone with military privileges.

For more information, call 377-8612.

Honor guard

The honor guard has openings for officers and senior noncommissioned officers.

For more information, call 377-1986, or visit <https://wwwmil.keesler.af.mil/honor/index.htm>.

PT uniform wear

Air Force members are required to wear physical train-

ing shorts and T-shirts together, not mixed with other items.

However, the running suit may be worn in any combination or with civilian clothes.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Jay McKenzie, 377-1091.

Tax office

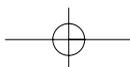
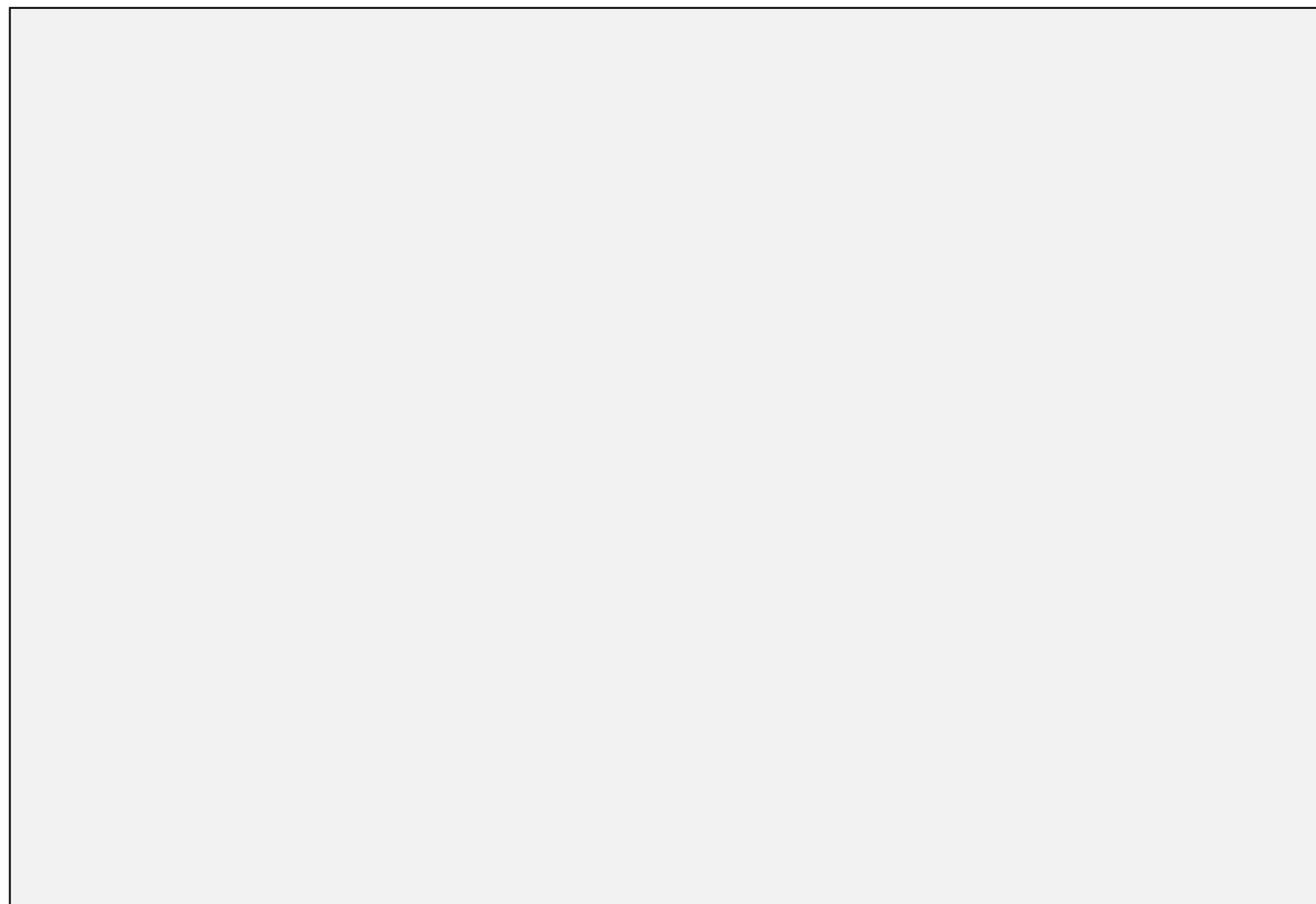
The tax office in Room 234, old Cody Hall, is open 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. workdays.

For more information, call 377-4454.

Wing awards

The 81 Training Wing first quarter awards ceremony is 3 p.m. May 3 in Welch Auditorium.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Dean Ross, 377-1189.



SPORTS AND RECREATION

Marines strike up bowling challenge victory



Randy Muehe was one of the bowlers leading the MARDET charge.

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

A traveling trophy passed from one King to another at the 81st Training Group Bowling Challenge March 30 at Gaudé Lanes.

Dale King, 81st Training Support Squadron commander, relinquished the traveling dragon-embazoned trophy to another King, Keesler Marine Corps Detachment commander Byron King.

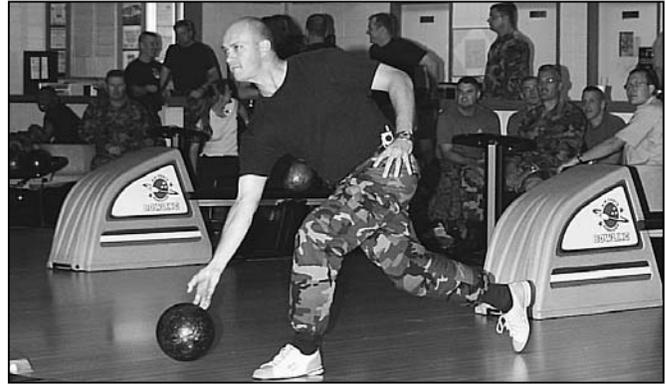
The 81st TRSS won January's challenge, which involved conquering a series of obstacles on the base's confidence course, but the Marines came out on top in the bowling event.

"We emphasized having fun and building unit morale, rather than the competitive aspects," Dale King said.

The challenge featured two teams from each of the group's squadrons, as well as MARDET and Keesler's Center for Naval Aviation and Technical Training Unit.

The bowling challenge had a number of different twists, according to Dale King.

"The winning team had the lowest score based on a two-game series," he



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Michael Staley has his eye on the pins for the 336th Training Squadron.

explained. "Since it's a low-ball tournament, a gutter ball on the first attempt in a frame is penalized and awarded a strike for that frame. If the second ball in a frame is either a gutter ball or hits no pins, that ball is penalized and scored a spare for that frame. You must hit at least one pin per ball or be penalized."

"To increase the difficulty, the five members of each team had to share two bowling balls, and they had to be house balls, instead of customized equipment," he added.

The group's next challenge is planned for May.

Keesler gearing up for 2006 Mississippi Special Olympics

By Master Sgt. Roger Drinnon

Keesler Public Affairs

Keesler continues to gear up for the 2006 Mississippi Special Olympics Summer Games May 5-7.

Today is the deadline for units to sign up to operate concession booths May 6, the date more than 500 athletes compete in a variety of events on base and in Biloxi and Ocean Springs.

A meeting of concessionaires is 9 a.m. Monday at Wolfe Hall. For more information on concessions, call 377-4152 or 4543.

A kickoff luncheon for volunteers and sponsors is 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Katrina Kantina.

A fundraiser golf tournament is noon April 14 at the Seabee Base golf course in Gulfport.

Cost is \$35 per person. For more information, call 377-1694 or 2784.

To sign up as a Special Olympics volunteer, call the hotline, 377-4263.

Event schedule for the games:

May 5

Noon — completion of the statewide Olympic Torch Run by Mississippi law enforcement officers, moving from Veterans Boulevard along Highway 90 and entering the base through the White Avenue Gate, then along Larcher Boulevard and Meadows Drive to the Triangle area and Welch Auditorium.

1 p.m. — golf at Bay Breeze Golf Course.

6 p.m. — opening reception at Muse Manor for sponsors and distinguished visitors before opening ceremonies.



8 p.m. — opening ceremonies at the parade field adjacent to the Levitow Training Support Facility.

May 6

9-10 a.m. — wheelchair races, Triangle track.

9 a.m. to noon — roller-skating, Skate Zone, Ocean Springs; tennis, base courts.

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. — track and field events, Triangle track.

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — aquatics, Biloxi Natatorium.

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — bocce, Triangle track; volleyball, Meadows Drive soccer field.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — sailing, Ocean Springs Yacht Club.

noon to 1 p.m. — parent luncheon, dining facility.

1:30-4 p.m. — running and standing long jumps, Triangle track; shot put, behind Field 4; softball throw, Field 4; tennis ball throw, Field 5.

7 p.m. — closing ceremonies, parade field.

8 p.m. — street dance at the training support facility; movie at Welch Auditorium.

May 7

8 a.m. — breakfast for athletes and coaches at designated dining facilities, followed by their departure.

Base hosts pro boxers

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

The base hosts professional boxing, 7 p.m. Friday at Hangar 4, featuring the relative of a former heavyweight champion.

Six professional boxing matches are scheduled, highlighted by the heavyweight title bout with Cliff Couser, half-brother of Mike Tyson, against James Johnson, a Mississippi Gulf Coast native.

Five other fights are also on the card.

Food and beverages are available.

Tickets are available at the Vandenberg Community Center and Gaudé Lanes for \$25.

For more information, call 377-1597.

Academy gymnast closes out career at NCAA championships

Air Force Print News

Senior Brian Moore closes out his collegiate career by representing the Air Force Academy at the 2006 NCAA Men's National Collegiate Gymnastics Championships.

The championships are today through Saturday at the Lloyd-Noble Center in Norman, Okla.

A two-time team captain, Moore qualified for the all-around competition after setting a national qualifying score

of 45.920. Contributing to his score were four season-high marks set last weekend at the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championships, where he finished sixth in the all-around with a season-best 47.050.

He also set season-best marks on the pommel horse (7.650), still rings (7.900) and vault (8.500) at the conference meet.

His other best marks this year are 7.950 (floor exercise),

8.300 (parallel bars) and 7.750 (high bar).

This is the second time in his career Moore was chosen to compete at the national meet.

In 2003, he was an NCAA qualifier on the floor exercise. Moore is the first academy athlete since 2004 to compete in the all-around at the national qualifier.

Moore competes in one of two national qualifying sessions today.

Falcons run wild at spring track meet

Air Force Print News

Six event winners highlighted the opening day of the Air Force track and field team's spring break.

Air Force accounted for 23 top-five finishes at the Spring Break Collegiate Classic, March 25 at Irvine, Calif.

Backed by Marcus Wells' winning throw of 186 feet, 11 inches, Air Force claimed four of the top five spots in the javelin throw.

Air Force also picked up three top-five marks in the 400-meter dash, backed by junior Nick Luina's winning time of 48 minutes and 21 seconds.

Sophomore Travis Picou won the 100- and 200-meter dashes with respective times of 10:63 and 21:41.

The Falcons also collected first-place finishes from sophomore David Lissy and senior Dan St.

Clair. Lissy won the shot put after earning a distance of 52 feet, 7 1/4 inches, while also finishing fifth in the discus throw with a toss of 151 feet. St. Clair threw 177 feet, 7 inches to win the discus.

On the women's side, sophomore Kate Papenberg and junior Casey Johnson each picked up third-place marks.

Papenberg ran the 3,000-meter steeplechase in 11:22.82 — a personal-best time that is the fourth best in Academy history, while Johnson recorded a career-best triple jump distance of 38 feet, 5 inches — a mark that is also on the Academy's all-time list.

Air Force remained in California this week, as the multi-event athletes could compete in the Cal Multi-Meet in Berkeley, March 29-30.

The rest of the team went to Palo Alto for the Stanford Invitational Friday and Saturday.

SCORES AND MORE

Bowling

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

Number of lanes available for open bowling — evenings: 10 Monday, 12 Tuesday and Wednesday, 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.

Limited open bowling — April 22 and 23 due to scheduled bowling tournament.

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

Fitness centers

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

Dragon Fitness Center — basketball court is ready for use. Cardio equipment has LCD TV/DVD players. Users supply own headphones.

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

Free aerobic and yoga classes — for more information, call 377-2907.

Triangle Fitness Center — closed until further notice.

Golf

Bay Breeze Golf Course — 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

Easter egg hunt — 9 a.m. Saturday, marina park. Three age groups. Prizes in each group.

Bicycle rental — new 3500 Trek,

7-speed, \$3 a day or \$15 a week.

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

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

Softball

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

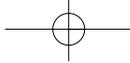
Youth center

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

Operation night hoop registrations — through April; late night basketball league, 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

GRADUATIONS

First Term Airmen Center

81st Mission Support Squadron — Airman Basic Jonathan Brown.

81st Security Forces Squadron — Airman Steven Espinoza; Airmen 1st Class Ernest Boaldin, Naomi Espinoza and Joseph Rodriguez.

81st Transportation Squadron — Airman Basic Michael McBride.

336th Training Squadron — Airman Basic Brittany Bush.

HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Aimen Basic John Abad, Caleb Blake, Megan Boren, Aaron Bray, Stephanie Brown, Shelle Burke, William Butterfield, Joshua Ciota, Colby Citte, Robert Cloys, Shea Coleman, Isaac Davis, Joshua DeAmusatgeui, Shaune Fernandez, Jamie Filkins, Bradley Filiault, Dustin Gaines, Olanrewaju Gamu, Kevin Gibson, Adam Glogovac, Timothy Goen, Jason Hart, Charles Howard, Jerome Ibanez, Casey Johnson, Paul Lawrence, Kevin Leshner, Christopher Madsen, Bryan Malinak, Kirk Martin, Christopher McClanahan, Jason McKenzie, Kyle Meyers, Brian Morris, Modesty Mullins, Michael Nuterman, Audra Oberloh, James Perez, Patrick Ridlon, Michael Roberts, Tommie Russell, Robert Sherman, Rene St. Julien, Travis Staudohar, Benjamin Sturgeon, Matthew Tilley, Matthew Turner, David Vanderloop, Jennifer Villaneva, Brent Wallace and Jarrett Willis; Marine Pvt. John Schaffer; Army Pfc. Richard Oglesby, Scott Suess, and Andrew Strode; Airmen Travis Banz, Thomas Clonts, Kenneth Derkatz, Joshua Donati, Dallas Koeneke, James Lackey, Justin Moore, Richard Nazario, August Richards, Nick Salsamm and Nathaniel Vieira; Airmen 1st Class Eric Adducchio, Justin Booker, Bryan Branham, Dustin Brown, Angus Coy, Robert Drake, Andrew DeBardelaben, Dane Dellarossa, Sarah Dorris, Joseph Fields, Shane Flot, David Fouts, Darrin Govan, Mary Guiang, Aaron Haygood, Ason Hultgren, Josue Laboy, Yong Lu, Peter Maile, Ron Mercado, Joshua Mettillie, Andrew Miech, Matthew Miller, Stephen Moore, Gregory Nyahay, Paula Olson, Kermit Peneztorres, Jesse Rhealut, Anthony Richardson, James Robins, Juan Roman, Francisco Rosa, Michael Roseboro, Jereme Sampson, Matthew Strand, Brian Westgate, Daniel White, Patrick White and Robert Woodham; Army Spc. Bruce Virgillo; Senior Airmen Jonathon Bowles, Phillip Davis, Larry Dorsey, Stephanie Foreman, Lawrence Gabriel, Kale Hall, Jason Hofstetter, Brian Kendall, Timothy Pasquale and Michael Schmidt; Marine Sgt. Steven Mayo; Staff Sgts. Lyza Beaudreault, Steven Bolli, Chad Gibson, Mearthur Fountain, David Jacobson, Mark Labes, Rafael Lara,

Danny McNeil, Kris Oshiro, Matthew Powers, Christopher Pygott, Timothy Sherman, Gabriel Stock and Jeremy Thornton; Tech. Sgts. Clovis Carter, Angelo Frangoulis, Edward Hart, Michael Pafford and Robert Wisniewski; Stephen Holtorf.

335th TRS

Comptroller training flight — Airmen Basic Kwadwo Agyenfrempong, Jed Daux, Fawn Lawrence, Kenneth Newton, Aaron Rabold, Brandi Romaella, Joshua Rotondo and Thomas Starling; Airmen Vickie Erickson, Jenna Pennington, Lourditha Quintanilla and Christopher Thomas; Airmen 1st Class Andreea Amadi, Jessica Camacho, Jared Felix, Kurt Saine and Seth Yates; Senior Airmen Charlie Belton, Brian Pereira, Laura Rissler and David Warner; Staff Sgts. Misty Brumitt, Marshall Lorenzo, Charles Moore, Lance Terrell, Holly Tompkins and Barou Yoplo; Tech. Sgts. John Bey, Caroline Cousineau, Katrina Cruz, Jill Miller and James Moneyhun; Rachell Wood.

Weather training flight — Airmen Basic James Abbey, Andrew Farley, David Ford, Brandon Gilliland, Houston Green, Charles Henderson, Jason Jarman Jonathan Lash, Herbert Makimaa, Peter McAward, Stephen Perkins, Kimberly Savitz and Tyler Walker; Airmen Scott Lowrey, Francisco Machado and Shawn Morris; Airmen 1st Class Alison Archangeli, John Gaston, Krastina Mitzina and Angela Warren; Navy Airmen Christopher Hanson, Dana Pander and Justin Reed; Senior Airman Craig Dunbar; Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Maria Alfaro; Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Corder; Tech. Sgts. Victor Byrd and Michael Hanks.

336th TRS

Communications-computer systems training flight — Airmen Basic Rachel Chesser and Matthew Jensen; Airman Jason Gronau; Airmen 1st Class Andrew Burton, Matthew Fuger, Jennifer Hall, Charles Henry, Bradley Kohlbase and Daniel Ogburn; Senior Airmen Mickey Gibbs and Ronald McVicker; Staff Sgts. Elijah Blackwell, Keith Browning, Bryan Hofman, Stephen McGlamery, Douglas Morales, Brian Smith and Dale Tompkins; Tech. Sgts. Rodney Thompson and Michael McWater; Tracy Mangino.

Communications and information flight — Airmen Basic Misty Boshell, Alicia Clark, Nadia Ehsan, Kristina Laub, Stephanie Page and Melanie Sepulveda-Hunter; Staff Sgts. Richard Hidalgo, Justin Moore, Stephen Morgese, Benjamin Northcutt and Michael Wilson.

338th TRS

Ground radio — Airmen Basic Nicholas Berardino, Grant Gaskin, Benjamin Leavey, Aaron McLees, Jovan Nieves and Trent Wilson; Airmen John Castro, Christopher Flesner, Seth Lane and Angelica Stamper; Airmen 1st Class Author Arce, Jonathan Arnold, Cory Hise, Brandon Johnson, Cory Menchhofer, Kristopher Miller, Aaron Mitchell, Ace Ranada, Luis Rodriguez, Brian Schmedlin, Brandon Slavens, Kevin Wolff and Xiong Yang; Staff Sgt. Matthew Hayes; Master Sgt. James Schlehuber.

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.

Arts and crafts center

Scrapbooking — 1 p.m. Friday. \$15 including supplies; bring your photos.

Youth craft camp — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through April 13. \$20 per day or \$55 for three days, including lunch and supplies.

Beginning intarsia woodworking — 5 p.m. April 14 or 28. \$15.

Advanced intarsia woodworking — 10 a.m. April 15 or 29; new project each month.

Advanced matting — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 21. \$25.

Beginning woodworking — 5:30-7:30 p.m. April 26. \$25. Earn safety certification and operator's card.

Mold pouring — 10 a.m. April 29. \$25 including first firing. Ages 13 and older.

Air Force photography contest — entries accepted at Vandenberg Community Center for student base-level competition.

McBride Library

Orientations — 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays for commanders, first sergeants and instructors.

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 Sablích 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	McClellan Hall
:36	Allee/Wolfe Halls
:37	Stennis Hall/Weather

Prior-service students lodged off-base

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

Editor's note: Duty passengers have priority over "space available" riders. Schedule may be impacted by increased official operations or severe weather. Those who are physically challenged, have excess baggage, medical appointments at off-base hospitals or clinics or unable to ride the base shuttle, call 377-2432 for the base taxi. For more information, call 377-2430. Until further notice, weekend shuttle service isn't available. Taxi service is available on an "as needed" basis.

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 Chapel10 a.m.

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

Protestant

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

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

Larcher Chapel praise and worship service11:30 a.m.

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

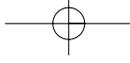
Islamic

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

For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

Latter-Day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — student group service, 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Fishbowl. Family home evenings, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Fishbowl Student Center.



Digest,

from Page 24

Storytime — 10 a.m. Wednesdays, ages 2-5.
April special — send/receive faxes for 50 cents a page; international fax service unavailable.
Orientations/tours — for more information, call 377-2181.

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Katrina Kantina

Comics on duty — free show 7:30 pm. today with four top entertainers.

Vandenberg Community Center

Comics on duty — free show 7:30 pm. today with four top entertainers; nonprior service students only.

Chess tournament — 5:30 p.m. April 13; sign up by 1 p.m. Monday. Open to active duty, retirees and Department of Defense civilians.

Interactive comedy dinner theater — 6 p.m. Apr 20 for all personnel. Tickets \$30, cash or checks only, available Vandenberg Community Center and Gaudé Lanes.

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

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

Karaoke — 6 p.m. Thursdays.
Late night dance and DJ — 6 p.m. to midnight Thursdays before nonworking Fridays, Fridays and Saturdays. \$3.

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

Youth center

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

Classes — Mondays, gymnastics; Mondays and Wednesdays, taekwon do; 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.

Creative corner club — 4:30 p.m. today and April 20.
Read by mail program — 4:30 p.m. today and April 20.

Free home alone safety workshop — 6 p.m. April 13, ages 10 and older. Parent must accompany child.

Congressional award program — 6 p.m. Monday, ages 14-21.
Summer camp registration — school age program, cheer-leading, basketball, theater and teen camp. For more information, call 377-4116.

Operation Night Hoops registration — through April; 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.

TRAVEL AND TOURS

Discounted tickets — for many attractions, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays-working Fridays. For more information, call 377-3818.

MEETINGS

Editor's note: To list time, place and 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 — 11:30 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.

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., Date Movie (PG-13).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Pink Panther (PG-13); 7 p.m., Freedomland (R).

Sunday — 2 p.m., Eight Below (PG).

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.

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

Lunch — baked chicken, pepper steak, pasta primavera, mashed potatoes, rice, gravy, mixed vegetables, fried okra, green beans, potato salad, fruit salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, buffalo wings and roast beef subs.

Dinner — orange-spiced pork chops, braised liver with onions, fried fish, rissole potatoes, rice, gravy, broccoli, peas and carrots, wax beans, fruit salad, potato salad, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, buffalo wings and cream of broccoli soup.

Friday

Lunch — corned beef, cornbread, pineapple chicken, Yankee pot roast, potato wedges, simmered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, carrots, blackeyed peas, three-bean salad, clam chowder, garden vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

Dinner — seafood newburg, bean and corn pie, roast turkey, cornbread, franconia potatoes, pea and pepper rice, gravy, corn on the cob, stewed tomatoes, mustard greens, pasta salad, three-bean salad, clam chowder, vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork and burritos.

Saturday

Lunch — baked fish, Hungarian goulash, barbecue chicken, potatoes, rice, gravy, stir-fry vegetables, baked beans, creamed corn, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

Dinner — baked chicken, Swedish meatballs, creole shrimp, baked potatoes, rice, gravy, creamed corn, asparagus, steamed squash, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

Sunday

Lunch — stir-fry beef with broccoli, turkey nuggets, loin strip steak, mushroom and onion sauce, baked potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, corn on the cob, green beans, jellied spring salad, tomato salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Dinner — oven fried fish, spare ribs, grilled mustard chicken breast, macaroni and cheese, egg noodles, gravy, peas, sweet potatoes, broccoli combo, jellied spring salad, tomato salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Monday

Lunch — chili macaroni, cornbread, beef canelloni, fried chicken, cottage fries, mashed potatoes, gravy, steamed squash, glazed carrots, peas, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone soup, chili with beans, grilled sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Dinner — beef pot roast, baked stuffed fish, cornbread, pork loin, potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, succotash, green beans, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone soup, chili with beans, grilled sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Tuesday

Lunch — country captain chicken, meatloaf, turkey a la king, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, garlic toast, harvard beets, mustard greens, okra tomato gumbo, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbecue beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Dinner — teriyaki chicken, veal parmesan, salmon cakes, garlic toast, filipino rice, parsley buttered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, succotash, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbecue beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Wednesday

Lunch — lasagna, garlic toast, spaghetti with meat sauce, chicken cacciatore, noodles, baked potatoes, baked beans, green beans, simmered squash, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.

Dinner — barbecue ham steak, baked turkey and noodles, jalapeno cornbread, beef ball stroganoff, egg noodles, mashed potatoes, gravy, calico corn, spinach, lima beans, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.