



KEESLER NEWS



Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

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Thursday, Jan. 25, 2007

Developing America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

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



Dragons deployed
— 163

Commander's call Focus: Katrina recovery, ORI, A-76

Keesler News staff

Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso believes 2007 is going to be a time of unparalleled growth, opportunities and challenges for Keesler.

In two commander's calls last week, the dominant issues for the 81st Training Wing commander were post-Katrina construction progress, the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection and resumption of the A-76 competitive sourcing process.

"It's not going to be an easy year," General Capasso said. "Despite the fact that some of you are still rebuilding your homes and your lives, you continue to do amazing things for Keesler and the community. You come to work, you keep your head up as you do the impossible. Every day you're setting new standards for excellence, and I appreciate it."

Several major construction projects begin soon, and military family housing is the "long tent pole" for Keesler, according to the general.

A \$287.8 million military housing construction project begins in April, providing 1,067 new homes. The first home is scheduled for delivery in December. The project completion date is April 2010.

"We're not just building homes — we're building communities," the general emphasized. "All of the homes will have three or four bedrooms and garages. We're changing out streets and utilities to get the configuration and densities we want."



Photo by Kemberly Groue

General Capasso fields a question at commander's call Friday morning.

Please see **Commander's call**, Page 9

This week in the Triangle

- Communications-computer systems programming, 10 a.m., today, Thomson Hall.
- Computer networking cryptographic system, 10 a.m., today and Wednesday, Bryan Hall.
- Information management, 10 a.m., today, Thomson Hall.
- Airfield management, 10 a.m., Wednesday, Cody Hall.
- Aviation resource management, 10 a.m., Wednesday, Cody Hall.
- Command post, 10 a.m., Wednesday, Bryan Hall.
- Ground radio communications, 10 a.m., Wednesday, Bryan Hall.
- Communications-computer systems control, 10 a.m., Tuesday, Thomson Hall.



December honor flight

Student numbers

- Total students — 2,985
- Non-prior service — 2,021
- Temporary duty — 858
- Joint service — 67
- Combat controllers — 25
- Medical — 14
- Non-prior service arrivals — 288
- Guard, Reserve — 648
- International — 22
- Fiscal 2007 graduates — 6,675
- Total since 1942 — 2,241,047

'Just in case' training puts you in position to make difference

By Lt. Col. Kimberley Ramos

336th Training Squadron commander

We spend a great deal of time training in the Air Force.

We devote many hours to classroom, on-the-job and exercise training. We train our Airmen on diverse topics, from sexual assault and discrimination to functional job training.

With functional job training, Airmen are eager and avid learners because they see the direct relationship between the training and their job performance. With the other types of training, there's less emphasis from either the instructors or the students themselves because it's training that's applied infrequently, if ever.

It's training for the "just in case" situation.

I feel very fortunate that when "just in case" events actually happened to me, my instructors hadn't hurried through the material and I actually learned.

It was during my days as a missile crew member when a "just in case" event occurred. In the missile community, crews train on unauthorized entry scenarios.

"Who in the world would come to North Dakota during winter to try to gain access?" we asked ourselves. "How often in the history of missiles had someone tried to climb our fences? Surround the remote missile sites?"

One day in the middle of winter, three unidentified people started climbing the fence at Missile Alert Facility Golf-Zero. As we ran through the checklists, our training took over. There was no "What do we do now?" — everyone knew.

The intruders were three children fleeing from a man who became violent and shot their mother with a shotgun in front of them.

They ran out into a sub-zero night, without jackets, for the brightest lights on the horizon, our missile site.

Our "just in case" training allowed us to handle the situation.

Eventually, the children were turned over to civilian authorities, the man was captured and the mother received treatment and survived. A tragedy was averted because of Air Force "just in case" training.

At another base, I witnessed an 18-wheeler hit a car broadside. The occupants were thrown from the vehicle. They weren't wearing seat belts.

I stopped to see if I could be of assistance.

When I knelt next to one person, my first obstacle was the gruesome scene before me. Then my self-aid buddy care training took over. I used all the techniques taught in class to stop the bleeding and treat the woman for shock.

The other witnesses had no training at all and couldn't help. I was very thankful at that moment that I'd been through self-aid buddy care training so many times I could accomplish it in my sleep, because my mind couldn't accept that human flesh could be reduced to such a mess.

You never know when that "just in case" event might happen. They don't always occur when you're at your best, and wouldn't it be nice to know you could respond to a "just in case" event even though you're exhausted or stunned by what's happening around you?

As I look back on these two incidents, I appreciate that my "just in case" training kicked in, allowing me to make a difference.

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.

For your convenience, below is a list of key customer service phone numbers at Keesler:

Base locator — 377-2890	Lodging (reservations) — 377-9986
Base operator — 377-1110	Medical center information — 377-6550
Base taxi (official use) — 377-2430	Military equal opportunity — 377-2759
Career assistance adviser — 377-3697	Military pay — 377-7272
Central medical appointments — 1-800-700-8603	Pass and registration — 377-3893
Child development center — 377-2211	Pharmacy (refill call-in) — 377-6360
Civil engineering — 377-5561	Satellite pharmacy — 377-9791
Civilian personnel — 377-2268	Public affairs — 377-2783
Military personnel flight — 377-2276	Red Cross — 377-3030
Keesler Federal Credit Union — 385-5500	Sexual assault prevention and response team — 377-8635
Emergencies — 911	Law enforcement desk — 377-3040
Family campground — 594-0543	Shoppette, Class Six — 432-2367
Airmen and family readiness center — 377-2179	Telephone trouble — 377-2130
Finance — 377-4212	Traffic management (outbound) — 377-2446
81st Communications Squadron help desk — 377-0066	Traffic management (inbound) — 377-7813
Housing — 377-9741	Visitor center — 377-2595
Identification cards — 377-3203	Youth center — 377-4116
Inspector general — 377-3010	
Legal assistance — 377-3510	
Library — 377-2181	

Thumbs up, captain!

Comment — My compliments to Capt. Matthew Schwartz for his actions at the base dry cleaners recently.

A young Airman's Class A jacket had been lost by the dry cleaners, and he was concerned he wouldn't be able to go on leave without it.

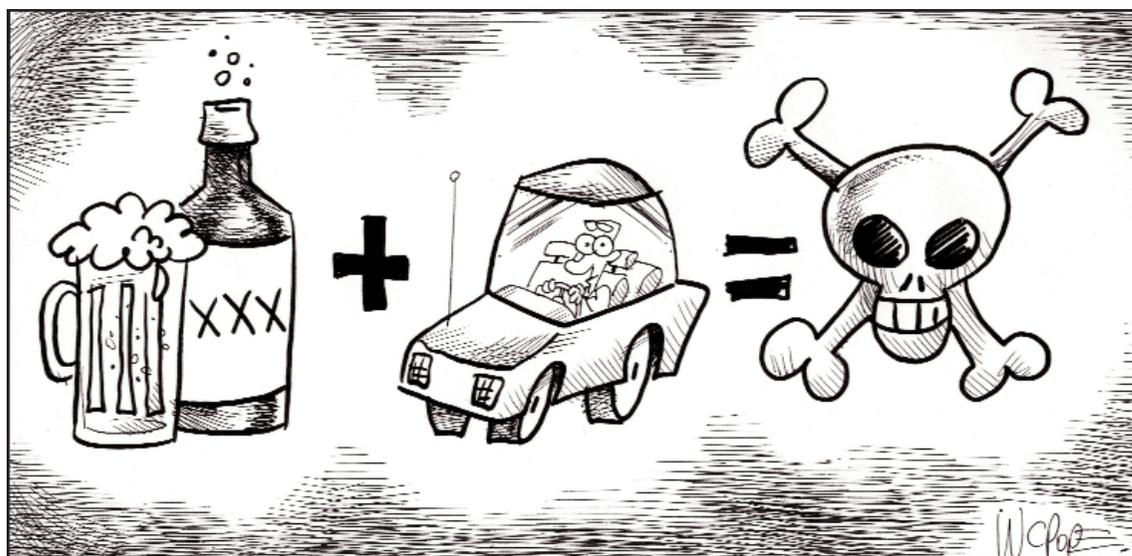
The dry cleaners tried to find him a replacement jacket at military clothing sales, but his size was out of stock.

Captain Schwartz made some phone calls and succeeded in getting the Airman a waiver on the jacket so he could go on leave.

Response — Thanks for taking the time to acknowledge the actions of Captain Schwartz.

Commendable as the captain's efforts on behalf of that Airman are, they're the norm at Keesler rather than the exception. Our people take their responsibility as role models seriously, as demonstrated by the compassion and initiative shown by Captain Schwartz.

I've no doubt the captain's actions will long be remembered by that young Airman, you and everyone else who reads your account of this incident.



KEESLER NEWS

No. 1 in Air Force,
2004, 1997.

No. 1 in AETC,
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No. 2, 2003, 2001,
1999, 1997, 1991;

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1995.

81st Training Wing commander

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If you've had too much to drink,
call Airmen Against Drunk Driving,
377-7283,

10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Thursdays
before dawn Fridays,
working Fridays and Saturdays.

Keesler's safety goals
Make safety ...
a core value,
a best business practice,
a competitive and asymmetric
advantage.

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

To report sexual assaults, call
Keesler's sexual assault response
coordinator hotline, 377-7278.



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To start, stop,
increase or decrease
Keesler News delivery,
or for display racks,
facility managers call
377-4130.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Florida certification benefits CCAF instructors

By Christine Harrison

Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL Air Force Base, Ala. — Qualified Community College of the Air Force instructors can now take a state-issued subject-knowledge exam to meet Florida's K-12 teaching certification requirements.

Florida legislators recently amended their educator certification statute to negate the need for additional schooling.

The new Florida provisions allow CCAF instructors to meet Florida's general knowledge, professional preparation and teacher competence requirements if they hold at least a bachelor's degree, taught at least two full-time semesters and pass at least one of Florida's subject-knowledge exams.

"We are very excited about the new Florida statute," said J.R. Breeding, CCAF's chief of licensure and certification programs. "We feel Florida was the first to step up to the plate to do the right thing, and we applaud the Florida Department of Education in their efforts. We hope other states will follow suit in time."

Cheri Yecke, Florida's chancellor of K-12 education, said CCAF's instructor requirements of CCAF already met two of the three required qualifications of Florida educators.

"CCAF's faculty development is closely aligned with colleges of education curriculum providing training in learning theory and instructional strategies," she said.

CCAF has a rigorous faculty development program that instructors must complete in order to receive the occupational instructor certification:

Completion of three semester hours of CCAF-approved instructor methodology course work.

Completion of 12 semester hour CCAF teaching internship.

At least 2,000 hours of documented practical

Alternate route available for would-be teachers

William Carey University has been approved for a program that enables non-education graduates to enter the teaching profession.

The program leads to full standard alternative licensure for grades 4-8 or 9-12 within one year and an option of earning a master's degree in one more year.

Because of the unique nature of this program, all work must be done at William Carey.

Students must have a bachelor's degree and 21 hours of undergraduate courses within an approved subject area and passing scores on the PRAXIS I and PRAXIS II specialty area examinations. The student then takes two graduate level education courses before applying for licensure and beginning a teaching internship.

For more information, call Amanda Craft, 377-0090, or visit the college's Keesler office, Room 208, old Cody Hall.

experience teaching a CCAF course.

At least two years CCAF teaching experience.

Being subject-matter qualified in the CCAF courses assigned to teach.

Holding an associate degree or higher-level degree from an accredited institution.

Recommendation by the affiliated school commander, commandant or professional military education flight chief.

"The advantage CCAF instructors have is that their experience is probably in the most diverse classrooms in the country," Dr. Yecke said. "Their

classrooms contain 17-, 18-, and 19-year-old students from all socio-economic backgrounds who bring the same learning issues from their high school classroom into the Air Force classroom."

CCAF is working with several state education departments and civilian educational institutions offering teacher certification programs to enhance recognition of the occupational instructor certification and gain advanced certification placement for instructors.

"Through Air University, the intellectual and leadership center of the Air Force, it is extremely heartening to see civilian recognition of the level of quality we have in our military training professionals," said Lt. Gen. Stephen Lorenz, Air University commander.

"This change in the way Florida certifies people who have been CCAF instructors recognizes the caliber of people we have in CCAF and its 102 affiliated schools," he said.

"This partnership will help the public schools in Florida by capitalizing on the teaching experience CCAF instructors bring to bear," General Lorenz said. "It will also enhance our instructors' credentials by giving them options after their Air Force careers. Finally, this will help us recruit the best and brightest; everyone wins."

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley praised the program because it opens doors for members interested in teaching after separation from the Air Force.

"Air Force instructors are among the most committed and capable anywhere," said Col. Thomas Klincar, CCAF commandant. "Florida's decision ... allows our instructors to serve just as ably on the home front as they have on the front lines.

CCAF, the only two-year institution exclusively serving enlisted Airmen, is accredited through Air University by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Free course deadline

Today is the deadline to apply online for a free virtual assistants course for spouses of active-duty members of any branch of service.

The course is Feb. 14 and 16, with a two-hour evening "Spouse with a Mouse" session for the spouse and military member on Feb. 15. The class size is from eight to 20 students per session.

Virtual assistants are self-employed people who provide off-site business support services, including administrative tasks, competitive research, Web site design, resume writing, accounting, bookkeeping services, marketing support, translation and graphic design.

Assignments are communicated through e-mail, phone,

fax, mail, diskette transfer and real-time online messaging.

The certified instructor is Lana Smith from the airman and family readiness center.

To apply, complete and submit the application at http://www.msvas.com/application_keesler.htm. For more information, call Lana Smith, 377-2179 or 8593.

MGCCC signup

Online spring term pre-registration for currently enrolled students at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Keesler begins Feb 12.

Registration by appointment for active-duty begins Feb. 22 in Room 214, old Cody Hall. For appointments, call 377-2287.

Spring term begins March 5.

William Carey signup

William Carey University is accepting registrations and applications for the spring term, which begins Feb. 19.

Continuing students simply register, while new and students and those being readmitted are required to apply.

Discounted tuition rates are available to active-duty military, dependants, retirees and Defense Department civilians.

For more information, visit Room 208 in old Cody Hall or call 377-0090.

Senior leader course

The non-resident Air War College senior leader course is open to active-duty, National Guard and Reserve members selected for lieutenant colonel and above of any component of the armed forces and

Defense Department general schedule 13 and above civilian employees.

The distance learning program may be completed on your own or with a group seminar.

To enroll, go to <http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awchome.htm>.

For more information or to set up a seminar group, call Joyce James, 377-7159.

Hap Arnold grants

March 9 is the deadline to apply for the Air Force Aid Society's Gen. Henry H. "Hap" Arnold grant program for undergraduate studies.

The \$2,000 grants are provided to selected children of active-duty, Title 10 Air National Guard members and reservists on extended active duty, Title 32 guard members performing full-time active-

duty, retired, retired Reservists with at least 20 qualifying years of service, and deceased Air Force members.

Spouses of active-duty members and Title 10 Guard and Reserve members on extended active duty; and survivors of deceased members are eligible.

For more information, visit the airman and family readiness flight in old Cody Hall, visit the AFAS Web site at <http://www.afas.org> or call 377-2179.

JROTC openings

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

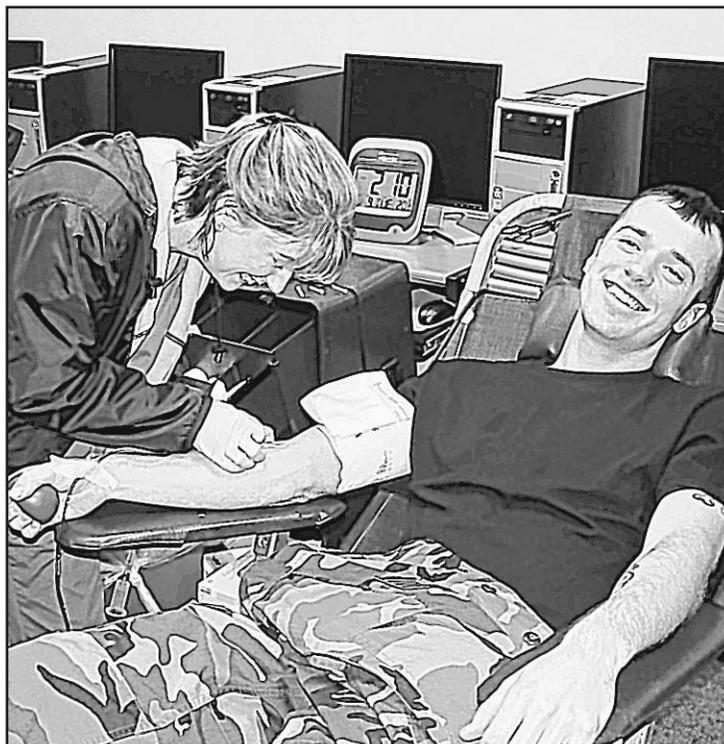
Call 1-866-235-7682, ext. 35275 or 35300, or DSN 493-5275 or 5300.

NEWS AND FEATURES

Blood saves lives

Shany Moore, a medical laboratory technician with the blood donor center, prepares Staff Sgt. Jeremy Bailey, 81st Transportation Squadron, to donate blood Jan. 9 at Stennis Hall in conjunction with National Blood Donor Month. Additional blood drives are 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. today at the blood donor center and Tuesday at Thomson Hall. To schedule an appointment or blood drive, call 377-9324 or 9306, or 251-367-4468.

Photo by Steve Pivnick



Human resource office captures AETC award

By 2nd Lt. Nick Plante

Keesler News staff

The 81st Services Division's human resource office is No. 1 in Air Education and Training Command for the second year in a row.

The office claimed the 2007 AETC Service Program Award.

The award considers performance for fiscal year 2006.

How the office faced the challenges of Hurricane Katrina, the worst natural disaster ever to hit the nation, had a big impact on winning the award.

The ability to fill over 150 of the over 200 nonappropriated fund employee positions left vacant because of Hurricane Katrina demonstrated the office's innovation.

The office successfully filled the NAF positions while competing against more resourceful businesses outside the gate. They were able to promote open positions at job fairs and offer immediate employment to sway

potential employees.

"An emergency job fair was held with on the spot hiring," said Sherry McGrath, 81st MSG human resources officer. "HRO teamed up with supervisors and managers to make this happen quickly."

The office's ability to replenish needed positions during a critical period, its unstopping drive to account for missing workers and its determination to fulfill their needs guaranteed NAF employees were available to support the base in a time of crisis. Management made it a priority to account for all missing employees. They contacted the missing member's friends and relatives, visited destroyed homes and shelters and searched temporary morgues until every member was accounted for.

The management team helped find housing for its employees. When no housing was found, they teamed up with the lodging office to convert office space into livable space.

Their efforts paid off.

The office's response enabled them to act quickly during a period when the base depended on their support.

"Our initial mission was to get military and civilians out of shelters and back in lodging," said Ms. McGrath.

The office's innovation and management skills saved thousands of dollars while maintaining the appropriate number of positions to get the job done.

The cost savings and innovative response to the natural disaster enabled the office to create policies that will be used by other bases in response to leave and pay issues for NAF employees during a natural disaster or emergency.

"Please join me in congratulating our terrific human resource office for receiving the AETC Human Resource Office Services Program Award," said Col. Richard Pierce, 81st Training Wing vice commander.

IN THE NEWS

Last C-130J-30 arrives

403rd Wing Public Affairs

A 815th Airlift Squadron crew recently delivered the unit's final C-130J-30 aircraft to Keesler after accepting it from the manufacturer at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

Delivery of the aircraft was the last step in the unit's conversion to the J-model. The conversion began Oct. 12, 1999.

Hennessy Award visit

A four-member Hennessy Award evaluation team arrives Jan. 31 to evaluate Keesler's food service program.

The evaluation begins with an ice breaker and inbriefing at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 1 at the Katrina Kantina and ends on Feb. 3.

Team leader is George Miller, Air Force Services Agency food service chief. Team members are Chief Master Sergeant Gina Tremmel, AFSVA food service manager; Michael Gibbons, National Restaurant Association, and Art Ritt, International Food Service Executives Association.

Keesler is Air Education and Training Command's nominee for the Air Force's top food service operation in the multiple facility category.

Health care pros meet

More than 60 health care professionals attended a provider collaboration meeting Jan. 18 at Keesler Medical Center.

The event offered a forum for the 81st Medical Group, Humana and network providers to discuss important issues and allowed the 81st MDG staff to thank coast providers for treating medical center beneficiaries following Hurricane Katrina.

The 81st MDG and Humana co-hosted the meeting, which included a tour of renovated areas of the medical center.

Columbus T-38 crashes

Air Force Print News

COLUMBUS Air Force Base, Miss. — A Columbus Air Force Base T-38 Talon crashed about 1:30 p.m. Jan. 18 approximately 40 miles south of Memphis, Tenn., while conducting a low-level navigation training sortie.

The two pilots on board ejected safely. They were examined by medical authorities, released and returned to Columbus.

4th quarter awards

The 81st Training Wing's fourth quarter awards ceremony is 3:30 p.m. today at Welch Auditorium.

Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for submissions to the Feb. 22 issue of the Keesler News is noon Feb. 15, four days earlier than usual.

The earlier deadline is due to the Presidents Day federal holiday, Feb. 19, and the Mardi Gras regional holiday, Feb. 20, which is observed by Gulf Publishing Co., contract publisher of the base newspaper.

The newspaper office is closed Feb. 19 in observance of the Presidents Day holiday.

Off-limits establishments

Off-limits establishments for military members are the Blue Note Lounge, Boulevard Nightclub and Henry Beck Park (except during daylight hours or official events) in Biloxi; Carver Village, Bunksmall Apartments and H&H Hideaway in Pascagoula, and Toni's Lounge in Moss Point.

Commander's call,

from Page 1

Another plan to meet Keesler's housing needs is the acquisition of 160 housing units near Vancleave that became available when Naval Station Pascagoula closed.

Stores come tumbling down

The general is excited about the demolition of the hurricane-ravaged base exchange and commissary within the next 60 days, which he sees as huge symbols of progress.

Contracts for the new structures should be awarded in February, with construction beginning in March. The 18-month project builds a \$40 million exchange and a \$38.6 million commissary just south of McBride Library and the temporary commissary.

Other signs of revival are the opening of a 40,000-square-foot Army and Air Force Exchange Service mini mart and reopening of the marina, both set for March 1.

General Capasso said the new AAFES complex that opens this summer houses a gas station, auto center, shoppette, Class Six, barber shop and fast-food outlet.

Events center in design phase

"We're also in the design stage for a new events center on the former site of the Bay Breeze Golf Course pro shop and pool," he noted. "We'll consolidate our enlisted and officers clubs, community center and pro shop in one location. We're going to have a golf course built to U.S. Golf Association standards later this year."

A multi-facility contract is being advertised soon for construction of two facilities with a completion target of summer 2008. A \$2.5 million post office is planned at the former playground site on Meadows Drive. A \$5.5 million library replaces McBride Library, which is being displaced by the new exchange and commissary. It's being located near the heritage center.

"At Keesler, we don't have a money crunch when it comes to construction — we have a labor crunch," said the general, who acknowledged the shortage of skilled craftsmen and laborers because of the rebuilding boom in the surrounding area since Katrina nearly 17 months ago.

ORI on tap for December

General Capasso's goal for December's ORI is an "outstanding" rating.

"You'd really tell the world that nothing can keep Keesler down — look what you've accomplished in spite of the challenges of the past year and a half," he said. "A big part of the inspection is paperwork. Some of you lost offices and paperwork in the hurricane — now's the time to plan how to put it back together. When inspectors come in, you'll be able to say, 'Here's my paperwork, here's my list of discrepancies, here's what we're doing to fix them.'"

The general said new procedures and new grading criteria for ORIs are in the works.

"The new checklists are supposed to be out by the end of January," he said. "With the new criteria, some of you may not even get inspected. But we

still have a lot to do to get ready — dig in, delve in, get back to the basics and figure out what needs to be done. You're going to see a lot of exercises over the next few months.

"We're going to send folks to Laughlin (Air Force Base, Texas) in the April time frame to look over their shoulders and find out what to expect," he explained. "Laughlin is the first base to be inspected under the new guidelines."

A-76 guidance on horizon

On the A-76 front, General Capasso acknowledged a Jan. 8 letter from Air Staff to Air Education and Training Command directed resumption of the A-76 process at Keesler. However, the second paragraph of the letter said the process could be implemented based on certain constraints, but without specific guidance on how to proceed.

"I expect milestones and guidance from Air Education and Training Command shortly," the general said. "As soon as we get the new guidance, we'll have a town hall meeting to explain what they want us to do, and we'll make the necessary notifications."

"I know it's been a long journey with A-76 and I know there's a lot of anxiety and frustration with the whole process," he said.

Other topics

Several other topics were covered, including force shaping, safety, permanent party dormitory upgrades, non-concurrent travel, basic allowance for housing, the current budget crunch and the 2007 hurricane season.

"Force shaping remains at the forefront of the Air Force's recapitalization efforts," said Lt. Col. Paul Valenzuela, 81st Mission Support Squadron commander.

"The good news is that on the enlisted side, the programs that the Air Force has in place are producing the desired results," he added. "The results haven't been as successful for officers, and a few of the programs have been expanded."

So far for fiscal 2007, the officer ranks have been reduced by 73 percent of the target, or 6,062 of the 8,317 that need to leave the Air Force. A reduction in force may be required to meet the goal.

Safety in focus

The Air Force's ground safety fatalities dropped from 935 in 1952 to only 46 in 2005. Even factoring in the reduction in force, that's an 86 percent drop, according to Lt. Col. Dave Pogue, wing safety officer.

"We do a good job of watching out for one another when we're on the clock and put a lot of energy into adhering to Air Force safety standards," he said. "But it's really important to talk about safety and incorporate personal risk management into our personal lives, after hours and as we travel back and forth to work."

One of 10 AETC ground mishap fatalities in FY06 was a Keesler member killed in an automobile accident on the way to a new assignment in another state.

General Capasso noted the improvements to Keesler's permanent party dorms, his top quality-of-life initiative. In the past three years, 380 rooms and 190 bathrooms in four permanent party dorms have been renovated with new closets, doors, vanities, fixtures,

ceiling fans, shower stalls and wall and floor tiles.

All dayrooms have new tile and furniture, and new bathroom stalls have been installed in common areas. The first and second floors of Building 4906 have new closets, vanities, sinks, carpet, medicine cabinets and paint. Additionally, the consolidated dormitory management office has been remodeled.

Future upgrades include new tile for all laundry rooms and common area bathrooms, replacement of pool tables in all eight dorms, a keyless entry system for all dorm rooms and construction of a pavilion in the courtyard of Building 4904.

Non-concurrent travel restrictions lifted

Jan. 1, non-concurrent travel restrictions were lifted, so people can make permanent change-of-station moves to Keesler with their families.

April 1, officials hope to begin allowing married non-prior service students to bring their families depending on the length of courses, but details are still being worked out. The housing office confirmed students compete for base quarters on the same level as permanent party members, but if family housing is filled and names are placed on a waiting list, students might not be eligible due to their time remaining at Keesler.

Some questions focused on Keesler's relatively small basic allowance for housing increases for 2007, in spite of ongoing affordable housing issues.

Keesler has received about a 30-percent increase since Katrina struck.

"I don't know of any plans for midterm adjustments," General Capasso said.

Budget crunch

The general said the Air Force's current budget crunch may have an effect on permanent change-of-station moves, with extensions likely for some people.

One person asked why millions of dollars are being spent on landscaping on base since the hurricane, while major budget reductions are under way.

"We're talking about different pots of money here," General Capasso stressed. "Most emergency rebuilding funds for Keesler came through congressional approval, not the Air Force budget."

The current budget crisis is fueled by the need to recapitalize the Air Force's aircraft fleet, according to the general.

"The average age of our aircraft is more than 24 years," the general commented. "The B-52 is older than I am, but in better shape. We must begin to fund and start rebuilding our fleet. It's a long, expensive process and we must move forward now."

Heads up for hurricane season

General Capasso assured the audience that preparations are in the works to keep Keesler people safe if another major storm targets the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

"Hopefully, it will be another mild season, but since Katrina, we've become experts at dealing with hurricane threats, so we'll be ready for whatever heads our way," he said.

The hurricane season begins June 1.

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.

Combat-related special compensation

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Just because an Air Force veteran wasn't injured storming the beaches at Normandy doesn't mean he may not be entitled to receive combat-related special compensation.

Many Air Force veterans may be missing out on hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars every month because they haven't applied for the compensation, according to CRSC officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

CRSC is designed to restore military retirement pay that has been offset by Department of Veterans Affairs compensation when evidence exists to confirm the associated disabilities are combat-related.

Prerequisites to consider before submitting a CRSC application:

Be retired with 20 or more years of active-duty military service, or retired at age 60 from the Guard or Reserve.

Be receiving military retired pay. Veterans who waived military retirement pay for Civil Service credit aren't eligible to apply for CRSC.

Have a compensable VA disability rating of 10 percent or higher.

Receive military retired pay reduced by VA disability payments.

Copies of the Application for Combat-Related Special Compensation, DD Form 2860, and more information on the program can be downloaded from the AFPC Web site, <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>.

For more information, call the Air Force CRSC office, 1-800-616-3775, or e-mail afpc.dppdc.afcrsc@randolph.af.mil.

Updating duty history online

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Airmen are responsible for reviewing their duty history and requesting changes, additions or deletions online through the virtual military personnel flight.

Airmen can enter the vMPF by logging onto the Air Force Personnel Center's secure Web site where they can access their duty history under "Most Popular Applications" or "Self-Service Actions/Personal Data."

Members requesting an action related to duty history can log on to the Personal Services Delivery Transformation Web site and click on "duty history" at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/psd>. Check the related link for a tutorial.

Force shaping preparations

In preparation for the next officer force-shaping board in the spring, officers are encouraged to check their education levels in the virtual military personnel flight.

To correct errors, e-mail Air Force Institute of Technology's Academic Coding Branch, afit.coding@afit.edu, or send an official transcript from the college or university to AFIT Academic Coding Branch, 2950 Hobson Way, Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-7765.

MyPay item processing

For information on processing pay items through myPay, call the 81st Comptroller Squadron, 377-7272 or 4212.

For a personal identification number for myPay, e-mail TRAVEL@keesler.af.mil from a government computer.

Coming soon: Civilian version of personnel services delivery

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Force civilian employees soon see more functions within civilian personnel flights automated, much like Airmen have seen through personnel services delivery initiatives.

The PSD vision is to establish a common platform for delivery of personnel and pay services to the total force, anytime, anywhere through use of Web and voice response technology. As civilian PSD initiatives are implemented, many current civilian personnel flight services are consolidated to enhanced contact centers or other appropriate organizations.

Recent changes occurred at the Air Force Personnel Center here when the Directorate of Personnel Services stood up a new division, Civilian Integration, which is responsible for leading activities supporting implementation of civilian PSD initiatives.

Managing reductions in force

Civilian PSD efforts help the Air Force maintain professional, mission-oriented human resources services at a high level while meeting the challenges of tight budgets, according to Charles Huerta, deputy director of personnel services at AFPC.

"Improving our processes and gaining efficiencies under PSD will enable us to effectively manage overall reductions to Air Force manpower and implementation of the National Security Personnel System," said Mr. Huerta.

The goal of civilian personnel PSD transformation is to expand and enhance service delivery to the entire civilian personnel community. As AFPC leads the way ahead for personnel, a portfolio of services is provided to installations, major commands, and the Air Staff that meet commander and customer expectations, and redefine the role of manpower and personnel professionals.

'Looking at vital services'

"Civilian PSD will be looking at all vital personnel services to include recruiting, staffing, classification, employee development, labor and employee relations," said Mr. Huerta.

Two major tenets of PSD are to consolidate workload and standardize the processes that

enable the work to be performed accurately and in a timely manner. Through the use of a combination of methods including 'Lean,' the Air Force can better equip itself to handle future workload demands that will come about through several different on-going Defense Department and Air Force initiatives.

"PSD is not new to the civilian community," said Mr. Huerta. "We've actually been on the transformation path for many years — leveraging technology and process re-engineering, such as the Benefits and Entitlements Service Team and many of the automated Web processes associated with filling position vacancies."

More available on Web

While working closely with the business process owners, civilian personnel flights and subject matter experts, the Civilian Integration Division leads efforts to streamline and re-engineer identified business areas and processes to support consolidation of personnel programs and other transformation initiatives.

"For the typical civilian employee, PSD means most routine personnel and pay transactions will be available via the Web," said Mr. Huerta. "(Civilian employees) will spend less time searching for the information they need."

In addition to Web services, a contact center becomes available by phone; case management systems help customer service representatives follow issues so employees only need to explain the situation once.

More direct control

"Customers will have more direct control over career-affecting matters," Mr. Huerta said. "And our customers will spend far less time for travel and waiting in offices as they will be able to conduct business at their convenience via the Web or through the contact center."

For more information on the civilian PSD effort, go to the AFPC home page under the civilian employee site map, the civilian quick link or <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/CivPS/default.asp?prods3=2850&prods2=2026&prodsl=99>.

Safety's domain extends to office

Safety office

Your office is probably a safer environment than your home. But if you think there's no danger because there are no production machines or aircraft engines in your workplace, think again.

An untold number of serious mishaps occur in offices every year. In many cases, these mishaps go unreported or improperly investigated because most people don't think there's any real danger in the domain of desks, dictionaries, fax machines, telephones and computers. Unfortunately, modern offices appear so safe and sterile that often simple common sense precautions and practices are ignored.

A few examples:

People often lean too far back or sit too far forward in office chairs that can tip over backward or roll out from under the person. Be sure your chair is squarely behind and under you when you sit down.

Power cords for computers, printers or other electrical items can cause a nasty fall. Frayed, kinked or damaged cords present electrical shock and fire hazards in an area full of combustibles.

File cabinets are very heavy objects. Only one drawer should be opened at a time. A top-heavy file cabinet can



tip over with crushing results.

Open desk drawers can cause a tripping hazard.

If you have to lift a heavy item like furniture or a computer, get close to it, bend the knees, keep the back straight and lift by straightening the legs. Protect your spine.

Paper clips, toothpicks, rubber bands, pencils and other "harmless" little things left on a floor can set up an unexpected slip. If you drop it or see it, pick it up.

Water, coffee, soft drinks, oil or liquids of any kind on a floor can cause slips for the unexpecting pedestrian.

Be cautious when using scissors, staplers, razor knives and other sharp or pointed office tools.

Keesler's safety goals
Make safety ...
a core value,
a best business practice,
a competitive and
asymmetric advantage.
Make every employee ...
feel safe at work and home.

Nearly half of DUIs in 2006 occur in only four months

81st Security Forces Squadron and Keesler News staff

December marked the fourth month in 2006 in which nine cases of driving under the influence were recorded by the 81st Security Forces Squadron.

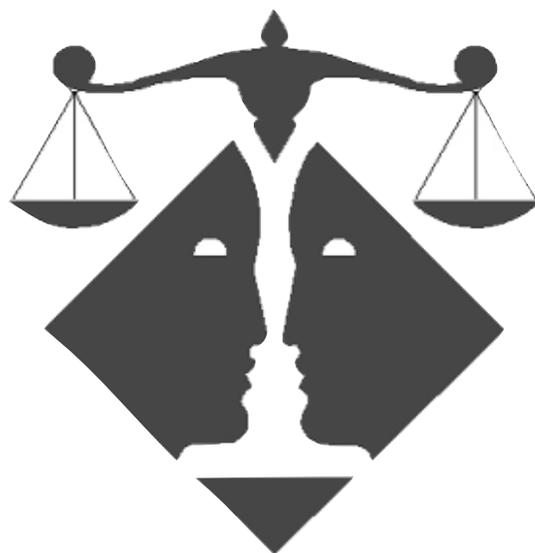
The other months were January, April and June.

Those four months accounted for nearly half of the 76 DUIs for the year.

November was the low month with two DUIs.

According to 81st SFS records, 18 DUIs involved technical training students, four were permanent party, one was an Air Force member not assigned at Keesler and the status of 53 wasn't available.

The numbers in 2006 were somewhat better for incidents of underage drinking. Fifty-nine such incidents were recorded by the 81st SFS.



MILITARY JUSTICE

September was the peak month with 12 incidents. None were recorded in May and November.

All but three underage drinking incidents involved

students. Permanent party members accounted for those three.

Tech. Sgt. James Kirk, 81st SFS, and Perry Jenifer, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report.

Special deliveries

Medical center opens new labor, delivery unit

81st Medical Group

After almost a year's delay due to Hurricane Katrina, Keesler Medical Center opened its new labor, delivery, recovery and postpartum unit Jan. 8.

The last baby was born at the medical center Aug. 29, 2005, during the hurricane.

Originally scheduled for completion a year ago, the unit offers beautiful surroundings and state-of-the-art equipment for patients who'll deliver at the medical center.

According to Cynthia Butz, a clinical nurse in the 81st Surgical Operations Squadron perinatal services department, the new unit offers large, airy rooms where women spend their entire stay throughout the delivery experience.

"I'm really impressed by the rooms," Ms. Butz said. "They have windows (which the hospital's former labor and delivery area lacked), are light-filled, decorated with pastel colors and have wood floors. The medical equipment in the rooms is state-of-the-art. Each has a TV and DVD player. Most important to mothers, the rooms have private bathrooms."

She added that eventually each room will have its own coastal theme.

Ms. Butz noted that babies will stay with their mothers most of the time. However, the unit also includes a transitional nursery for newborns who need more attention after delivery.

There are also antepartum rooms for expectant mothers who experience medical problems early in their pregnancies and two operating rooms for Caesarian deliveries.

The unit is staffed with six obstetrics/gynecology physicians, a nurse midwife, nine Air Force and three civilian nurses and seven medical technicians. More staff is arriving in the coming year.

Ms. Butz said having a midwife on staff is a definite plus.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Labor and delivery nurse Capt. Toni Olivieri provides care for simulated patient Senior Airman Tamara Ivy in one of Keesler Medical Center's new, state-of-the-art labor, delivery, recovery and postpartum rooms. Both are members of the 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron, Keesler's newest squadron, which was activated Jan. 11.

"Many people like the services midwives provide — it's a different kind of care," she pointed out.

Active-duty nurses were hand-picked for their clinical experience by the 81st Medical Group's chief nurse, Col. Elizabeth Bowers-Klaine.

"I'm really excited to have this unit open — we've known for a long time that our labor

and delivery was old and unappealing to many patients," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Michael Bashford, 81st MSGS obstetrics/gynecology flight commander. "Now we have a beautiful new unit with lots of space. It rivals any civilian hospital. I think our patients will be anxious to have their babies here when they see what has been done.

"I am also very happy with our new labor and delivery staff," he continued. "All of our nurses have many years of experience on labor and delivery. It is going to be a great team."

Construction was completed in August at a cost of \$9.4 million. Colonel Bashford noted that planning for the new unit began several years

Clinic services

With the opening of the new unit, obstetrical care in the clinic has resumed for eligible beneficiaries.

Patients may choose to be followed primarily by one provider through their pregnancy, or they can see different providers. All routine and most high-risk services are offered.

"We follow the same guidelines as physicians outside the military," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Michael Bashford, obstetrics/gynecology flight commander.

"Patients may not be aware of some of the recent changes in military obstetrics care," he continued. "For example, all patients have ultrasounds in both the first and second trimester. We also believe strongly in family-centered births and want to support the entire family's participation in the pregnancy and birth as much as possible. Old rules that don't allow children in the clinic are out. We have foldout sleepers for dads, too."

For more information, call 376-0436. Pregnant patients with after-hours concerns or family members of patients admitted to the unit, call 376-5621.

ago, and construction began before Hurricane Katrina.

"We were worried after the hurricane about what would happen to the construction, but were very gratified when the decision was made to complete the project," the colonel remarked. "From my point of view, it's all about giving our patients a great delivery experience."

Remembering fallen warriors across America

Capt. Terrill McCall, commander of Detachment 1, 333rd Training Squadron, Falls Church, Va., is flanked by wreaths he and four other members of the detachment placed on graves at Arlington National Cemetery recently. The captain, Master Sgt. Robert Mathis and Tech. Sgts. Lance Kent, Jeanine Russell and Jamie Sparks participated in the 15th annual Wreaths Across America program. More than 500 volunteers laid 5,000 wreaths in Arlington and at other sites in the Washington, D.C., area. Nationwide, wreaths were laid at more than 230 state and national cemeteries and veterans memorials.

Courtesy photo



Unit contest black history observance's first event

An organization day, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 8, kicks off Keesler's observance of Black Heritage Month.

Trophies are awarded to the top three educational displays. To participate, call 1st Lt. Ernest Stewart, 377-1836.

Other events:

Cookout — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 15, marina park. Cost: \$6, with proceeds going toward college scholarships. For more information, call Byron Bryant, 377-4198, or Staff Sgt. Samuel Parms, 377-2860.

Bowling tournament — noon Feb. 16, Gaudé Lanes. Cost: \$10, with proceeds going toward college scholarships. For more information, call Kurt Higgins, 377-5356, or Mr. Bryant, 377-4198.

Gospel concert — 6-9 p.m. Feb. 23, location to be determined. Community choirs perform. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Anthony Thomas, 377-8628, or Mary Pleasant, 377-4198.

Food sampling — 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 28, Triangle Chapel Annex. Catered by African-American Heritage Committee and area restaurants. For more information, call Senior Airman Julia Jackson, 377-3009, or Cynthia McCall, 377-9386.

Sickle cell 5-kilometer run/walk — 6:45 a.m. registration and 7:30 a.m. start, April 12, Blake Fitness Center. Cost: \$10 for preregistration and \$15 day of event, with proceeds benefiting sickle cell anemia research and treatment. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Maranatty Martin, 377-0552, or Minnie Gray, 377-7001.

Mardi Gras 2007

Masking, merrymaking mark annual Gulf Coast festivities



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Tech. Sgt. Carrie-Ann Pogue, 336th Training Squadron, slices a king cake. She's from Rhode Island and is looking forward to her first Mardi Gras celebration. Hurricane Katrina destroyed her home and she wasn't able to participate in last year's festivities.

King cake — tasty tradition

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

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

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

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

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

Gulf Coast Carnival Association

The celebration of Mardi Gras goes back to pagan rites of spring taken over by the early Catholic Church for a day of feasting before the beginning of Lent and weeks of fasting preceding Easter.

As the years passed, in addition to feasting, many added mummery with its masking and merrymaking — a sort of letting go of all inhibitions before taking on the somber penitence of Lent.

Some countries in Europe celebrated this date of feasting on different dates, but the French restricted it to the day preceding Lent, and this custom was adopted by

the French colonies in the New World. In French, "Mardi" means "Tuesday" and Gras means "fat," or "to eat meat," thus Fat Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday.

Biloxi claims the first Mardi Gras celebrated in this area was at the newly-established Fort Maurepas, for wherever there was a Frenchman, a holiday and a bottle of wine, there was a celebration.

New Orleanians claim some of D'Iberville's men were exploring the mouth of the Mississippi River, and on the morning of Mardi Gras in 1699, formally took possession of the area and named a small stream near the mouth of the river

— Bayou Mardi Gras — a name still printed on maps of that region.

The boisterous buffooneries of the garrison at Mobile, Ala. generally made Ash Wednesday a day for military as well as priestly discipline. It was a completely American innovation to organize the carnival, to substitute regular parades for the old impromptu mummings in the streets and to unite into many social groups for the masked balls scattered throughout the season.

The first recorded carnival celebration other than private parties or balls was New Year's Eve in Mobile in 1831 when a group of young men, following an evening

of wining and dining, saw an intriguing array of rakes, hoes, tubs, buckets and cowbells in a hardware store window. They unceremoniously borrowed the implements and with cowbells clanging and tubs booming, paraded through the sleeping town serenading their friends.

Mobile's mayor graciously invited them in for refreshments, thereby giving official sanction to what turned out to be the organization of the Cowbellion de Rakin Society, forerunner of Coast Carnival Krewes and the fabulous parades themselves.

In New Orleans, the French colonists had their casual carnival balls and the

Spanish found the custom well established when they took over the city in 1766.

But they noticed with alarm that many residents were devoting the day to boisterous violence, so the Spanish put a stop to the custom of masking. Orleanians, masked or unmasked, continued to enjoy gallivanting around in costume.

In 1820, a group of young Creoles educated in Paris decided to liven things up with a masked procession of substantial size. But it soon got out of hand, and the celebration was suppressed until 1857, when a new organization was formed to present a parade with floats and torch lights.

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

Krewes, captains and kings

The older carnival traditions are carefully preserved. Rules of the "krewes," the men's organizations, dominate the lives of the city's social circles.

In New Orleans, Mardi Gras has become two celebrations — the first a genial free-for-everyone affair, and the other the revelry of exclusive societies.

The oldest krewes dominate, with membership ranging from one to 200. The man who really dictates is the krewe captain, not the king. No sooner is one season ended than work begins on another. For many workmen, Mardi Gras is a year-round job.

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

Crowning the queen

The queen is usually chosen from among the current season's debutantes. The expense is great, but so is the honor.

In this area, Mardi Gras is a school holiday, instead of Presidents Day that is celebrated in other parts of the country.

Biloxi was the first of the sister cities of the Mississippi Gulf Coast to celebrate with a formal parade of floats in 1908. Now a number of towns in south Mississippi celebrate with parades, but they space them at different times during the carnival season so all may come and enjoy each celebration. Biloxi still has its traditional carnival on Mardi Gras Day.



Laura and General Capasso and their daughter, Claire, enjoy the festivities at the Gulf Coast Carnival Association's 2006 parade in Biloxi.

Mardi Gras glossary

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



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Laura Capasso, left, and Paula Gould select a crepe paper flower from a member of the Biloxi Marching Club as he passes the reviewing stand in front of Biloxi's city hall last year. Mrs. Capasso's husband is Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso, 81st Training Wing commander, and Mrs. Gould's husband is Maj. Gen. Michael Gould, 2nd Air Force commander. The colorful flowers are coveted parade keepsakes often exchanged for a kiss.

Let the good times roll — parades take center stage

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Mardi Gras Day is Feb. 20 this year, but parades kick off this weekend. Here are the schedule, phone numbers for more information and Keesler participation.

Saturday

Ocean Springs Elks, 1 p.m.; 875-7046 or 872-2501; color guard and 335th Training Squadron 50-state flag team.

Feb. 3

City of Biloxi children's walking parade, 10 a.m., 435-6148.

Orange Grove Krewe of Kids, 2 p.m.; 234-5336.

Feb. 10

Second Liners Mardi Gras Club, Biloxi, 1 p.m.; 209-8113; color guard and 332nd TRS 50-state flag team. Orange Grove Carnival Association, 2 p.m.; 832-0079. Gautier Men's Club, 7 p.m.; 762-9265.

Feb. 11

Krewe of Nereids, Waveland, 1 p.m.; 586-2505 or 806-6471.

Long Beach Carnival Association, 2 p.m.; 343-3972.

Feb. 17

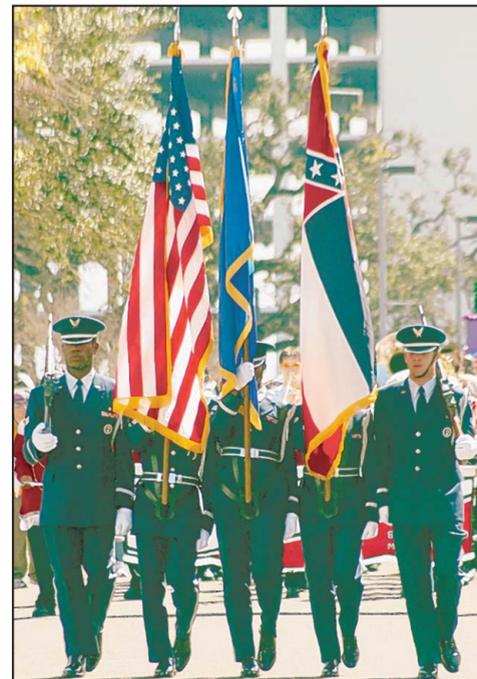
Krewe of Diamondhead, noon; 255-6922. Jackson County Carnival Association, Pascagoula, 1 p.m.; 497-3269.

Krewe of Gemini day parade, Gulfport, 2 p.m.; 831-0046 or 297-0377; color guard, 334th TRS 50-state flag team and drum and bugle corps.

Feb. 18

St. Paul Carnival Association, Pass Christian, noon; 452-4643.

North Bay Area Mardi Gras Association, D'Iberville, 1:30 p.m.; 365-3195 or 424-3637; 336th TRS 50-state flag team.



Members of the Keesler Honor Guard march past the reviewing stand at the 2006 Gulf Coast Carnival Association parade in Biloxi.

Feb. 28

Gulf Coast Carnival Association, 1 p.m., Biloxi; 432-8806; color guard.

Krewe of Gemini night parade, 6 p.m., Gulfport; 831-0046 or 297-0377; color guard, 334th TRS 50-state flag team and drum and bugle corps.

Vollmuth ends 5 decades of service to Air Force

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Nearly 51 years ago, J.J. Vollmuth left his home on a farm in North Dakota and joined the Air Force.

After 31 years of military service in which he attained the rank of chief master sergeant and more than 18 years of civil service, Mr. Vollmuth ends his federal career Jan. 30.

He came to Keesler in 1956 for air traffic control training before he was assigned to several bases in England. He returned to Keesler as an instructor for almost five years before senior and chief controller assignments at Grissom Air Force Base, Ind., and overseas duty in France, England, Thailand and Germany.

Busy skies over Ramstein

His toughest professional challenge came while he was the senior controller at Ramstein Radar Approach Control in Germany, where he was responsible for controlling arriving and departing aircraft at six different airports.

“The radar air traffic control equipment wasn’t as sophisticated as today,” Mr. Vollmuth recalled. “We didn’t have the alphanumeric readouts showing the aircraft call sign, speed and altitude.

“The airspace we controlled contained a high altitude mid-air refueling track and a night low-level route,” he continued. “The large number and variety of aircraft handled by the controllers created a very complex air traffic situation which required very close coordination among all facilities involved.”

In 1974, he was back at Keesler as an instructor supervisor in the air traffic control course, then headed to Osan Air Base, Korea, in 1978 as chief controller. When he returned to Keesler a year later, he became the course’s superintendent for more than five years.

Keesler’s top enlisted leader

From 1984 until he retired from active duty in 1987, he served as Keesler’s senior enlisted adviser.

A year later, Mr. Vollmuth returned to Keesler as an instructor in the air traffic control operator course in the 334th Training Squadron and was promoted to instructor supervisor in 1990. He managed the courseware development section from 1991-93, when he became the squadron’s resource adviser.

In 1994, he was promoted to the air traffic control course’s training manager position and moved on to manage the advanced training system implementation team.

Mr. Vollmuth assumed his present position as a program analyst in the 81st Training Wing’s plans and programs section in 1996.

His major projects for the 81st TRW included leading the development of the programming plan for the relocation of a communications course to Lackland AFB, Texas; Fort Gordon, Ga., and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, 29 Palms, Calif.

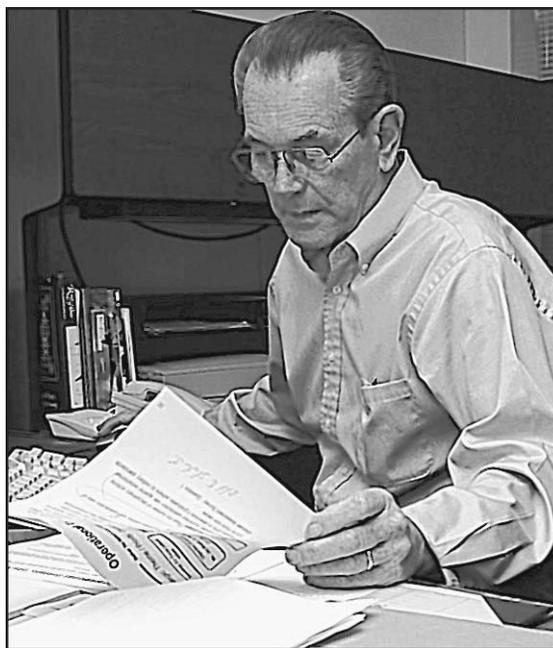


Photo by Kemberly Groue

Mr. Vollmuth has worked as a program analyst at 81st TRW headquarters for more than 10 years.

He also led programming plan development for the Air Force Centers of Excellence which relocated avionics training from Keesler to Sheppard AFB, Texas; the comptroller and education and training courses from Sheppard to Keesler, and the electronic principles course from Lackland AFB, Texas, to Keesler.

Mr. Vollmuth was also instrumental in the bed-down of the C-130J support operation and served as the wing’s trusted agent for the Base Realignment and Closure study. He’s developed many programming plans for changes of command, open houses, parades and other events.

He’s a member of the Air Force Sergeants Association, Noncommissioned Officer Association, Air Force Association, Disabled American Veterans Association and the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee.

Biloxi is home

He and Sherry, his wife of 45 years, have two married sons — Jay, a Biloxi businessman, and Michael, an Air Force lieutenant colonel — and four grandchildren.

“I married a beautiful Biloxi girl, so Biloxi is our permanent home,” Mr. Vollmuth said.

Hurricane Katrina gutted their home on Biloxi’s Back Bay, so his retirement plans include “completing home repairs, spending more time with Sherry and taking it easy.

“I appreciate and thank everyone I was fortunate enough to work with over the years — their support and effort made my jobs easier and much more enjoyable,” he continued. “Although we’re remaining in Biloxi, we’ll miss the close association with the people that work at Keesler. However, we’ll continue to be involved and we’ll see old friends at the Katrina Kantina on ‘wings night.’”

National Museum of Air Force

'Behind the Scenes Tours' run through May

National Museum of the Air Force
DAYTON, Ohio — Registration is open for the 2007 "Behind the Scenes Tours" at the National Museum of the Air Force.

Tours are scheduled every Friday through May at 12:15 p.m. and last approximately three hours. Tours are free, but space is limited so advanced registration is required.

During the tours, visitors are guided through the museum's restoration area located in hangars on the historic Wright Field flightline in Area B of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, about one mile from the main museum building. Visitors see a variety of aircraft in several stages of the restoration process.

Interested individuals can register for upcoming tours by calling 1-937-255-3286, extension 302. Registered participants meet in the museum's Carney Auditorium between noon and 12:15 p.m. No group reservations are accepted.

Participants must be at least 12 years old, and an adult must accompany those between 12 and 18. A government-issued photo identifica-



Air Force photo

Visitors view the restoration area of the National Museum of the Air Force during a "Behind the Scenes Tour."

tion (i.e., driver's license) is required of all individuals 18 and over. The museum provides bus transportation to the hangars. For security reasons, all bags are subject to search, and backpacks, packages and

large camera cases aren't permitted on the shuttle bus.

The museum is located on Springfield Pike, six miles northeast of downtown Dayton.

It's open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

seven days a week, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

For more information, call the museum, 1-937-255-3286, extension 302, or 1-937-255-8048, extension 462.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Air Force

New Year's Day, 1957 — Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, became the single site for Air Force basic training.

Air Education and Training Command

January-February, 1949 — Helicopters from San Marcos AFB, Texas, and a C-47 from Randolph AFB, Texas, helped provide medical supplies and food to snowbound families and stranded livestock in Nebraska and Wyoming during Operations Hayride and Snowbound.

Keesler

Jan. 13, 1948 — Keesler Field became Keesler Air Force Base.



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Behavioral survey:

Smoking, illegal drug use down; heavy drinking on rise

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense's 2005 Survey of Health Related Behaviors Among Active-Duty Military Personnel shows notable decreases in the use of cigarettes and illegal drugs since the first survey in 1980.

However, the survey revealed rates of heavy drinking remain elevated, especially among young people. Use of smokeless tobacco has increased, and even though most service members engage in moderate or vigorous exercise, more of them meet criteria for being overweight.

The 2005 survey indicates the majority of the armed forces, although under heavy work stress during the current wartime environment, use pos-

itive coping mechanisms to deal with stress.

"These survey findings provide very useful information for the department to target programs that continue to enhance the physical and mental well being of our troops," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "I am pleased, and even a little surprised, that despite the stresses of war and ongoing deployments, nearly all indicators of service members' health and well-being continue to be quite good compared with civilian populations."

This is the ninth in the series of anonymous surveys asking active-duty service members about various lifestyle and health-related behaviors.

In addition to substance use, the survey assesses national health status goals from the Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2010 objectives, nutrition and weight management measures, mental well-being of the force, and deployment issues. More than 16,000 service members, randomly selected to represent men and women in all pay grades of the active force throughout the world, completed the survey.

When comparing the 2005 findings to earlier surveys, there were both improvements in the past 25 years and some issues of concern. Between 1980 and 1998, the surveys show a continuing decline in the use of illegal drugs and cigarettes and an increase in alcohol abstainers or light drinkers.

When first surveyed in 1980, 27.6 percent of the active force acknowledged use of illegal drugs during the month prior to being questioned. In 2002, only 3.4 percent reported using illegal drugs. In 2005, because wording in some drug-use questions was modified, estimates can't be compared to those in prior years.

Heavy drinking (five or more drinks per occasion at least once a week) declined from 20.8 percent in 1980 to 15.4 percent in 1998, then rose to 18.5 percent in 2005. Cigarette smoking declined from 51 percent in 1980 to 29.9 percent in 1998, increased significantly to 33.8 percent in 2002 and declined slightly to 32.2 percent in 2005.

Please see **Survey**, Page 21

Survey,

from Page 20

Heavy cigarette smoking (one or more packs per day) showed a steady decline from 34.2 percent in 1980 to 13.1 percent in 2002 and a further significant decrease to 11.1 percent from 2002 to 2005.

In contrast, smokeless tobacco use showed a small increase from 12.2 percent in 2002 to 14.1 percent in 2005.

'Important finding'

"The 2005 survey is the first time that this series has evaluated behaviors related to mental well-being, work stress and family stress associated with deployment to Iraq, Afghanistan and other theaters," Dr. Winkenwerder said.

"An important finding is that overall, most military personnel are using positive coping mechanisms in dealing with the stresses of their current wartime environment," he said.

Rates of current (one month) post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms in the DOD population as measured by a self-report screener were 6.7 percent for total DOD and ranged from 3.7 percent to 9.3 percent for each service. An estimated 8.1 percent met screening criteria for further evaluation for serious psychological distress.

Deployment stress

"It is important to remember the results come from self reported data and may differ from information in official records or other data sources," Dr. Winkenwerder said. "These screening questions do not represent a formal clinical diagnostic evaluation, but suggest some of our personnel should be encouraged to obtain more evaluation."

Personnel deployed from 2002 to 2005, compared to

those who didn't deploy, had higher rates of work and family stress, heavy alcohol use, cigarette use and illicit drug use, and a greater number meeting criteria for depression, anxiety and PTSD symptoms on the screening questions.

Alcohol and stress

In contrast, there were no significant differences in self-reported mental health measures among those deployed to Operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom compared to those who didn't serve in an operational theater.

Statistically significant relations were observed among heavy alcohol use, stress and mental health issues. Compared with abstainers, heavy users of alcohol reported more problems with stress at work, 41.1 percent vs. 28.4 percent, or in their family, 24.7 percent vs. 15.3 percent; were more likely to meet screening criteria for anxiety, 17.5 percent vs. 10.1 percent, and depression, 31.2 percent vs. 19.1 percent; and reported more limitations in activities as a result of poor mental health, 4.8 percent vs. 2 percent.

Which came first?

Heavy drinkers were also more likely than those who drank less to meet the criteria for further evaluation for serious mental disorders and reported to have a history of suicidal ideation or physical or sexual abuse.

Because the survey is cross-sectional data, DOD officials are unable to ascertain which behavior — heavy alcohol use or the mental health problems — came first. However, this association points to potential intervention strategies in which reducing one would help reduce the other. Encouraging more positive coping strategies could both lessen use of alcohol and improve mental health.

Monitoring programs

DOD continually monitors the general health of its members, their modifiable lifestyle behaviors and the effects of combat and operational-related stressors through DOD-level programs such as the Defense Lifestyle Assessment Program, deployment health programs and Healthy Choices for Life initiatives.

Each service also has comprehensive programs in place to help returning service members and their families deal with their overall physical and mental health, especially with deployment experiences.

"We have continued this survey and initiated many new healthy lifestyle programs because the military health system and our defense leaders are committed to programs that improve healthy behaviors and reduce avoidable stress," Dr. Winkenwerder said. "And we will continue to do so in the future."

Safety a top priority

In 2005, for example, DOD expanded the scope of the active-duty surveys to include the National Guard and Reserve, as well as other special studies, the first of which is examining unit-level influences on alcohol and tobacco use.

DOD and Tricare also launched the Healthy Choices for Life initiative, focusing on the key health issues of weight management, tobacco cessation and reducing alcohol abuse, along with measuring their costs.

In addition, the secretary of defense has made safety, including safe practices and behaviors to reduce injuries and accidents, a top priority with the establishment of the Defense Safety Oversight Council.

The 2005 survey was conducted independently under a contract by RTI International.

E-mail = worldwide communications.

Use it securely.

KEESLER NOTES

AFCEA luncheon

Today is the deadline to sign up for the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday at the Levitow Training Support Facility.

For more information or to sign up, call 1st Lt. Andi Andrews, 377-2667, or e-mail carmen.andrews@keesler.af.mil.

Care for sick kids

The family child care program needs a caregiver for children in the noncontagious stages of a communicable illness or who have mild respiratory illnesses.

For more information, call 377-3189.

Technology Expo

The 12th annual Technology Expo is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 1 at the Imperial Palace Casino Resort.

The event is hosted by the 81st Training Support Squadron and Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

For more information, call 1-877-332-3976.

Dental observance

In observance of February as Children's Dental Health Month, the dental clinic is providing weekly dental readings for children of all ages at McBride Library, 10 a.m. Wednesdays.

Participating children receive dental "goodies bags."

Promotion party

Lt. Col. Charles Dunn, 81st Mission Support Group deputy commander, hosts a party marking his promotion to colonel, 5 p.m. Feb. 2 in Vandenberg Community Center.

The event includes live music and barbecue.

Misty



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Cpl. Brian Howard, Keesler Marine Corps Detachment instructor, is about to receive flu mist from Tech. Sgt. Loretta Scott, immunization clinic. The clinic continues to offer flu shots and mist to all those eligible for care at Keesler Medical Center.



Air Force photo

Mills gets in some of the 160 miles he runs every month in preparation for Antarctica.

'Marathon fever' takes runner to Antarctica

By Maj. Chris Hemrick

Air Force Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON — Running a marathon would be enough of a challenge for most people, but an Air Force weather officer here wants to take things to the next level by competing in a marathon in Antarctica.

Michael Mills of the Headquarters Air Force Weather Plans and Requirement Division is running 160 miles a month to train for the 200-person Antarctica Marathon scheduled for late February at Antarctica's King George Island.

Mills began running in September 2003 when the Air Force brought back the fitness test.

"I credit the fitness test for providing me the motivation to start running," he said. "Running has become such a big part of my life, but I try not to let it consume me. I don't run every day and my average run is around 6 miles. But without it I would not be in as good as shape as I am today."

Mills said he's lost 40 pounds and 7 inches off his waist since he started running.

A few months after he began a running

program, he started training for the Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Nine months later, in September 2004, he completed that race and caught the "marathon fever."

He's completed a total of seven marathons to date, with an average time of 3.5 hours and a Boston Marathon qualifying time of 3:15 in February 2006.

One day Mills saw publicity for the Antarctica Marathon and thought, "It would be pretty awesome to run one down there," he said.

While it's going to be summer in the southern hemisphere, it can still be quite cold on race day, with February temperatures ranging from 0 to 35 degrees Fahrenheit.

"The weather down there can change dramatically," Mills said. "A few years ago, they could not get off the ship to run the marathon. Another year they battled deep snow and 40 mph winds."

"My only concern for this trip has been the lack of cold weather here to train in. I was really hoping to get some cold weather runs in around here to test out some clothing, but that has not panned out this winter," he said.

Falcon football coaching staff complete

Air Force Print News

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Air Force head football coach Troy Calhoun completed his position coaching staff Jan. 17 with the hiring of Clay Hendrix and the retention of Ron Burton.

Hendrix coached the offensive line while Burton remains as the defensive line coach.

Hendrix comes to Air Force after 19 seasons at NCAA I-AA Furman as the offensive line coach, including the last five as assistant head coach. He was also a member of the American Football Coaches Association I-AA Coaches' Executive Committee.

Since joining the staff in 1988, he played a central role in Furman's success. His offensive lines helped the Paladins post a 147-73-1 record, win six Southern Conference titles and claim the 1988 NCAA I-AA national crown.

A 1986 Furman graduate, Hendrix was a three-year starter from 1982-85 when the

Paladins rolled up a 39-10-1 record. He played on three league title teams and four nationally-ranked squads.

Burton just completed his fourth year at the academy as the defensive line coach.

Before coming to the academy, Burton was the defensive line coach at Grand Valley State and helped the school to the NCAA Division II national championship in 2002, the first in school history.

Burton was a four-year letterman at North Carolina (1982-86), where he made three bowl appearances.

He spent four seasons playing linebacker in the NFL with the Dallas Cowboys (1987-89), Phoenix Cardinals (1989) and the Los Angeles Raiders (1990).

The Air Force coaching staff is complete in terms of position coaches. The program is still in search of two assistant coaching positions that are designated as military assistants.

SCORES AND MORE

Basketball

Women's varsity schedule

Feb. 10-11 — at Mayport Nacal Air Station, Fla.

Feb. 23-25 — Southeastern Military Athletic Conference tournament at Ft. Benning, Ga.

Home games: 2 p.m. Saturdays, 10 a.m. Sundays at Blake Fitness Center. If Blake is unavailable due to floor replacement project, games move to Dragon Fitness Center. In the event of scheduling conflicts at Dragon, some games may be moved off-base.

For more information, call Richard Vincent, head coach, 343-9951, or Teddy Johnson, assistant coach, 376-3057.

Bowling

Winter leagues — sign up for 6:30 p.m. Monday competitive "Bud" league; 6 p.m. Tuesdays, intramural; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday and/or Friday, adult family mixed; 9 a.m. Thursdays, women and seniors; 11 a.m. Saturdays, youth.

Tuesdays — Gulfport Seabee Base personnel bowl for half price.

Thursdays — teenagers bowl for \$5.

Saturdays — bowling birthday parties, \$7 per child includes two hours bowling, shoes and food package. Birthday child bowls free. Reservations required.

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

Bowl-a-rama — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, two hours for \$9.95 including shoes (\$16 value); 4 p.m. to closing Monday-Saturday, two hours for \$10.95 including shoes (\$17.25 value).

Nonprior service students open bowling special — show UBU club card to bowl for \$1.50 per game until 4 p.m. Saturdays, \$2 game Monday-Saturday after \$4. Shoe rental, \$1. Not applicable with other discounts or specials.

Fitness centers

Aerobics — openings for certified instructors.

For more information, call 377-8380.

Massage therapist — available by appointment only at Triangle Fitness Center. For more information or to schedule appointment, call 263-5515.

Blake Fitness Center — open 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. non-working Fridays; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The basketball court is closed for repairs and renovations.

Dragon Fitness Center — open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays. Basketball court is open. Parent-child fitness room open 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays. Parental supervision required.

For more information, call 377-2907.

Triangle Fitness Center — open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays and weekends; closed holidays.

For more information, call 377-3056.

Golf

Bay Breeze — course closed until October. Seabee Base's Pine Bayou Course in Gulfport is available. For more information, call 871-2494. These Mississippi Gulf Coast courses offer military discounts: St. Andrews, Gulf Hills, Bay Vista and Great Southern Club.

Bay Breeze driving range — driving range open 7 a.m. to dusk daily. Bucket of 30 balls costs \$2.

Golf lessons — \$25 for 30 minutes. For an appointment, call 377-3832 or 348-7589.

Outdoor recreation

January fishing tournament — weigh in the largest catfish for the month and win \$100 savings bond.

Back Bay fishing trips — Saturday; \$15 per person, maximum eight people. Call for reservations.

Children's wildlife poster contest — win \$100 or \$50 savings bond. For more information, call 377-3160.

January special — 10 percent off rental equipment.

Pontoon boat training — required before rental.

For more information, call 377-3160.

Marina park pavilions — to reserve, call 377-3160.

Soccer

Base team — coaches and players interested in forming a Keesler team for tournament at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, call Laurence Wilson, 377-2444.

Tennis

Women's clinics and league — beginner and intermediate (2.5-3.0) clinics, 9 a.m. Mondays, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Jefferson Davis campus, Debuys Road, Gulfport. League play begins in February.

For more information, call Shannon Howard, 239-5827.

Youth center

Taekwondo — 5 p.m. ages 3-5 and 6 p.m. ages 6 and older, Mondays and Wednesdays; \$35 per month members; \$40 non-members.

For more information, call 377-4116.

DIGEST

HONORS

Quarterly awards, October-December

81st Training Wing staff agencies

Airman — Staff Sgt Gerald Kelley, 81st Operations Support Flight.

Noncommissioned officer — Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Chandler, legal office.

Senior NCO — Master Sgt. Nicole Pearson, protocol office.

CGO — 1st Lt. Michael Chandler, command staff.

Entry level civilian — John Fox, 81st Comptroller Squadron.

Intermediate level civilian — Teresa Ess, plans office.

Senior level civilian — Joyce Sloan, 81st CPTS.

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic John Avera, Michael Carnley, Craig Clouatre, Michael Eddy, Robert Hardison, Johan Holtz, Aaron Ivcovassi, Jeremy Jones, Christian Koshaba, Christopher Livingston, Patrick Merwin, Lisa MacDavid, Eric Miles, Justin McKinny, Matthew Milles, Billy Patrick, Alisha Pochmara, Ryan Rehanek, Scott Robinson, Lanae Rosser, Emma Sanchez, Joseph Scelfo, Bobby Sebring, Andrew Steeves, Joshua Stockton, Alexander Tobin, Adam VanDyke and Matthew Wilkerson; Airmen Walter Campos, Scott Fischer, Jordan Gunter, Christopher Hynes, Tamila Metzger, Krystal Miller, Cody Pratt, Nelson Reistaveira, Randell Roundtree, Ian Voelkel, Zachary Vuiller and David Williams; Airmen 1st Class Emmanuel Aguilar, Eric Atkinson, Stephen Carsuso, James Caulder, Sean Cercone, Stephen Collins, Joel Crowley, Phillip Dangelo, Caleb Degroot, Gino Dottavio, Adam Drew, Michael Garner, Raymond Jennings, Kathern Kohler, Nicholas LaFollette, Robert Lahmann, Kenneth Lemke, Philip Mayes, Daniel Melancon, Shawn Meyer, Richard Owen, Aaron Pederson, Anthony Prince, Benjamin Salazar, Roger Sheets, Jade Songne, Jason Speaker, Ian Thomas, Michael VanderSys, Taylor Warren, Garrett Wiseman and Allen Wright; Senior Airman Brad Bishop, Gregory Garcia, John Fusco, Boris Opachich and Dawn Rodocker; Staff Sgts. William Adams, Joshua Baxley, Eric Breault, Drew Davisson, Bradford Brake, Alan Ebanks, Michael Franz, Matthew Lemmerman, Richard McAlexander, Micah Weeks and Justin Weitenbeck

334th TRS

Aerospace control and warning systems — Senior Airman

Jason Landry; Master Sgt. Thomas Wilson.

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Darren Campo, Timothy Kenney, Brandon Lee, James Lewis, Cara Musick and Oaul Owen; Airmen 1st Class Kevin Green, Kevin Gronnvoll and John Stacy; Staff Sgts. Steven Schuyler and Jeff Sienkiewicz; 2nd Lt. Alexious Kachenje.

Aviation resource management apprentice course — Airmen Basic Bradley Brock and Sabrina Rivera; Airmen 1st Class Patrick Gray and Jeffery Jones; Senior Airmen Adam Turner and Sean Robbins; Staff Sgt. Adam Gobbo.

335th TRS

Comptroller training flight — Airmen Basic Jennifer Meshaw and Joshua Sanford; Airmen Richard Haas and Matthew Long; Airmen 1st Class Teresa Davis and Grace Wesley; Staff Sgts. Sherry Holmes, Tiffany Tatum and Jeffrey Tengonciang; Tech. Sgts. Paul Butts and Michael Johnson.

Weather training flight — Airmen Basic Leah Kermalyan and Benjamin Schmidt; Airmen 1st Class Crystal Moses and John Read; Staff Sgt. Michael Furnare; Tech. Sgt. Sandra Downing; Master Sgt Shannon Defeo.

336th TRS

Communications-computer systems training flight — Airmen Basic Nathaniel Bargar, Matthew Bryan, Troy Butolph, Rocio DeLaTorre, Tyrone Flores, Christopher Garlington and Andrew Hughes; Airman Jeffery King; Airmen 1st Class Jeffrey Burniston, Joseph Ciaravino, Dustin Dugger and Patrick Gray; Senior Airmen Eric Markum and Karl Schultz; Staff Sgts. Allen Henne, Marcel Hildebrand, Scott Hopper and Sheila Larry; Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Castle.

Communications and information flight — Airmen Basic James Burton, Lorenzo Crawford and Eliezer Falcon; Airmen 1st Class Howard Clay and Timothy O'Conner; Senior Airman Daniel Turillo; Staff Sgts. Richard Cleary, Joseph Doise, Jerry Kremin, Dennis Maldonado, Joshua Newlin, Shannon Revit, Jenny Robinson and Byron Stuart; Tech Sgt. James O'Brien.

338th TRS

Ground radio apprentice course — Airmen Walter Heidelberger Jr., Jonathan Hempfing, Curtis Lee and Scott Zumwalt; Airmen 1st Class Mark Ellis, Eric Huff, Marci Jones and Timothy Velasquez; Senior Airman Rodney Sale; Staff Sgts. Nathaniel Lytle and Justin Magers.

Radar systems flight — Airman Charles Boyd; Airmen 1st Class Jennifer Demaris, Ian Fitchpatrick, Jessica Hayes, Teddy Knapp II and Manny Rivera; Senior Airman Osvaldo Figueroa-Lopez.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 07-2 — graduation Feb. 16.

Class 07-3 — Feb. 27-April 5.

Class 07-4 — April 17-May 24.

Class 07-5 — May 30-July 10.

Class 07-6 — Aug. 2-Sept. 11.

Class 07-7 — Sept. 18-Oct. 26.

Keesler NCO Academy

Class 07-2 — graduation Feb. 16.

Class 07-3 — Feb. 27-April 5.

Class 07-4 — April 17-May 24.

Class 07-5 — May 30-July 10.

Class 07-6 — Aug. 2-Sept. 11.

Class 07-7 — Sept. 18-Oct. 26.

Auto hobby shop

Beginner auto care classes for groups — oil changes, tune-ups or brakes. For more information, call 377-3872.

Arts and crafts center

Parent 'n' me kids crafting — 11 a.m. Saturday. \$10. Sweet

Please see **Digest**, Page 26

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

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

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	332nd TRS, Building 6957
:01	338th TRS, Building 6965
:02	Welch Auditorium
:04	AAFES Furniture Store
:06	Jones/Bryan/Hewes Hall at gazebo
:08	Thomson Hall
:09	New Cody Hall
:11	Supply, civil engineering
:12	Rental store
:13	Shaw House
:14	Old base exchange
:15	McBride Library
:16	Credit union, Blake Fitness Center
:17	Medical center, Tyer House
:18	Sablich Center
:19	Dental clinic
:20	Allee and Wolfe Halls
:21	Base operations
:22	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 Wal-Mart

:54 Arrive Edgewater Mall

:00 Depart Edgewater Mall

:09 Pass Road Wal-Mart

: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

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2520.

Roman Catholic

Saturday Mass

Triangle Chapel.....5 p.m.

Sunday Mass

Triangle Chapel9 a.m.

Daily Mass

Triangle Chapel.....11:15 a.m.

Protestant

Sunday worship

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

Triangle Chapel contemporary worship service...10:30 a.m.

Triangle Chapel gospel service.....Noon

Islamic

Building 2003 — 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 p.m. Sundays, Triangle Chapel. For more information, call 396-5274 or 1-616-881-1994.

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treats for Valentines. Ages 7 and under need parent involvement.

Free cooking demonstration — 2 p.m. Saturday. Valentine treats.

Beginning pottery — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$40 including five pounds of clay and firing for three pieces. Call for date.

Beginning intarsia — 10 a.m. Saturday. \$15. Intarsia is art form of inlaying pieces of wood in a decorative pattern.

Advanced matting — 5-8 p.m. Wednesday. \$25. Beginner framing class prerequisite.

Chapel

All classes are held at the Triangle Chapel Annex through May. For more information, call 377-2520.

Protestant Sunday school — 9:15-10:15 a.m. for infants, children, teens and adults.

Team Kids Sunday — 4-5:30p.m. grades K-6.

Men's luncheon Bible study — Tuesdays noon-1 p.m.

Women's Wednesday morning Bible class — 9-11 a.m.

Wednesday night Bible study — 6-7:30 p.m.

Women's breakfast Bible study — 10 a.m. to noon first Saturday of the month.

Men's breakfast Bible study — 9 a.m. to noon second Saturday of the month.

Friday night youth teens — call 377-2520.

Family advocacy

Anger management — 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays. For more information, call 377-6216, 376-3458 or e-mail susan.pyles@keesler.af.mil.

1-2-3 Magic— parenting class; to register call 376-3457.

McBride Library

Computer orientations, Gale Databases — 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays including Student Resource Center Gold, Opposing Viewpoints and Infotrac 1. Articles can be searched, downloaded, printed or e-mailed.

Book display — new books for new year.

Tours — for more information, call 377-2827.

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Vandenberg Community Center

Pool tournaments — 6 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays.

Game night and dance revolution — 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

Karaoke — 6 p.m. Thursdays.

Dances — 6 p.m. to midnight Thursdays before nonworking Fridays, and Fridays and Saturdays. \$3.

Super Bowl party — 3-9 p.m. Feb. 4. Free food and prizes. Register to win Xbox 360.

Katrina Kantina

All ranks invited — open 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays. Snacks, beverages and music.

It's your choice — select between two club cards.

Football Frenzy — noon to 6 p.m. Sundays.

Taco Tuesdays — members two tacos for \$1, nonmembers \$2.

Thirsty Thursday — 5 p.m. today. Western night.

Catering — experts can assist with event planning.

Youth center

TRAIL Keystone Club meeting — 10 a.m. Saturday, ages 13-17.

FitFactor aerobics — 6 p.m. Saturday, ages 6 and older. \$4 members, \$5 guests. Sign up and prepay by Wednesday.

Connect four contest — 5 p.m. Tuesday; prize for monthly champ.

Home alone workshop — 6 p.m. Wednesday, ages 10 and older accompanied by parent; sign up by Friday. Minimum three participants required.

Torch Club — 4:30 p.m. Monday, ages 9-12. Leadership programs, activities, community service, fun and friends.

Creative corner — 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, ages 9 and older. Make an art project. Sign up by Monday.

Tiny tots program — preschool equipment and training materials available for sign-out. For more information, call 377-3349.

Power hour — 4:30-5:30 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, ages 9-18.

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

4-H Club — 5 p.m. Tuesdays, ages 13-17.

Smart girls and passport to manhood programs — ages 8 and older. For more information, dates and times, call 377-3349.

TICKETS AND TRIPS

Discounted tickets — for many attractions including Busch Gardens, Sea World, Universal Studios and Disney World in Florida. For price list, log on to <https://www.mil.keesler.af.mil/81svs/WhattoDo/ITT/index.htm>.

Information on local and out-of-state attractions — free brochures for Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

New Orleans Mardi Gras parades

\$20 per person for transportation to each parade.

Ponchartrain and Shangri-La — Feb. 10. Sign up by Feb. 7. Leave 8 a.m., return 8 p.m.

Carrollton and King Arthur/Merlin — Feb. 11. Sign up and prepay by Feb. 7. Leave 9 a.m., return 7 p.m.

Iris and Tucks — Feb. 17. Sign up and prepay by Feb. 14. Leave 8 a.m., return 6 p.m.

Bacchus — Feb. 18. Sign up and prepay by Feb. 14. Leave 1 p.m., return 11 p.m.

TRANSITIONS

Workshops, briefings

Veterans benefits briefing — 1-4 p.m. Feb. 15, March 15, April 5, May 10, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 13, Oct. 18, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13 in Room 151, old Cody Hall. To pre-register, call Lana Smith, 377-8593 or 2179 or e-mail lana.smith@keesler.af.mil.

Mandatory pre-separation briefings — Tuesdays at 8:30-9:30 a.m. for those separating with honorable discharges and 9:30-10:30 a.m. for retirees. Afternoon sessions are Thursdays at 1-2 p.m. for those separating with honorable discharges (not general under honorable conditions) and 2:30-3:30 p.m. for retirees. Briefings are in Room 122, old Cody Hall. Bring one copy of separation or retirement orders. This appointment is required by law, and must be accomplished 90 calendar days before the separation/retirement date. For short-notice separations or retirements, the briefing should be done as soon as possible.

Transition assistance program workshop — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 12-14, March 12-14, April 2-4, May 7-9, June 18-20, July 16-18, Aug. 13-15, Sept. 10-12, Oct. 15-17, Nov. 5-7 and Dec. 10-12 in Room 151, old Cody Hall. Dress is business casual; no jeans, T-shirts or uniforms. To pre-register, call Lana Smith, 377-8593 or 2179 or e-mail lana.smith@keesler.af.mil.

Retirement briefings — intended for those with less than a year until retirement, 8-11 a.m. Feb. 8, March 8, April 12, May 3, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1 and Dec. 6, in Room 151, old Cody Hall. To pre-register, call Lana Smith, 377-8593 or 2179 or e-mail lana.smith@keesler.af.mil.

Palace Chase briefings — 10 a.m. first two working Fridays of the month, Room 203, Garrard Hall. For more information, call Master Sgt. Joseph Walker, 377-2116.

Web sites

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

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

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

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

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

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

New military spouse career center — <http://www.military.com/spouse>. Extensive job board including public and private

Please see **Digest**, Page 27

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

Lunch — orange-spiced pork chops, braised liver with onions, fried fish, huah puppies, 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.

Dinner — 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.

Friday

Lunch — 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.

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

Saturday

Lunch — 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.

Dinner — 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.

Sunday

Lunch — oven fried fish, spareribs, 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.

Dinner — 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.

Monday

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

Dinner — 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.

Tuesday

Lunch — 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.

Dinner — 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, barbeque beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Wednesday

Lunch — Chinese five-spice chicken, beef and broccoli stir fry, Cantonese spareribs, vegetable egg rolls, shrimp fried rice, stir fry vegetables, chow mein noodles, fried cabbage, chicken gravy, lemon sesame green beans, Mexican coleslaw, pasta fagioli soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.

Dinner — lemon-herb chicken, jalapeno corn bread, spareribs, stuffed pork chops, scalloped potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, Mexican corn, tempura vegetables, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.

Announcing EXPO 2007...

You Are Invited!

2007
GSA
EXPO
ORLANDO
FLORIDA
MAY 15-17, 2007
Orange County Convention Center

Mark Your Calendars NOW!

GSA's International Products and Services EXPO 2007

is a dual Training Conference/Exposition designed for all levels of government personnel who make or impact procurement decisions.

EXPO Exhibits will be open all day Wednesday and on Thursday morning.

EXPO Training classes are held all day Tuesday, and Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. By attending the GSA EXPO, you can receive valuable training in a vast array of topics ranging from procurement, e-tools, GSA Global Supply, IT, Service Solutions, Travel and Transportation - just to name a few. The majority of classes offered at the GSA EXPO grant Continuous Learning Points (CLPs) to support your continuing education efforts.

EXPO 2007 Highlights

- Three days of training, over 200 offerings
- Earn Continuous Learning Points (CLPs)
- Classes taught by federal experts
- Over 1,000 Exhibits!

GSA is offering FREE meeting rooms to Federal activities as part of the GSA EXPO in Orlando May 15-17, 2007.

- Quarterly Meeting?
- Agency Special Studies Group?
- Nationwide key associates need to meet?

This is a great opportunity to gather your people, yet save meeting room rental expense and maximizing meeting time by adding it to the EXPO experience for your attendees.

- Your agency-wide meeting will be easier and more cost effective!
- Meeting space is available now. Be the first to get the day you want!
- Contact Adrienne.Shaw@gsa.gov

Attendance at the EXPO is
FREE, FREE, FREE!



Watch our website expo.gsa.gov for details.

Digest,

from Page 26

sectors. For more information, call Vince Patton, 703-269-0154, or e-mail at vince@militaryadvantage.com.

Military Connection — online resources database for military family members seeking civilian employment at <http://www.militaryconnection.com>

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

Computer use

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

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

Employment opportunities

Executive transition assistance program — <https://www-r.aetcf.af.mil/dp/etap>. Online registration dates are March 5-15 for May 8-11 program at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; June 5-14 for Aug. 21-24 at Little Rock AFB, Ark.; and Sept. 12-21 for Nov. 27-30, 2007 program at Randolph.

Junior ROTC — immediate employment opportunities for retired or retiring Air Force officers and noncommissioned officers. Those who retired within the past 10 years or are six months from retirement may qualify to be an instructor. To apply or for more information, go to <http://www.afaots.af.mil> and select "AFJROTC" or call Jo Alice Talley, toll free 1-866-235-7682, extension 7742; DSN 493-7742, or commercial (334) 953-7742.

Opportunities for medics — for members separating from active duty interested in the Air Force Reserve or the Palace Chase programs, call Master Sgt. Joseph Walker, 377-7116, for an appointment. His office is in Room 229, old Cody Hall.

Opportunities for medics — the Air Force Reserve needs flight surgeons, doctors, dentists and nurses. Some opportunities are available with the 403rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Keesler. Eligible members enjoy many military benefits of being in the military and earn retirement credit, while serving two days per month of inactive training and two weeks of active-duty training each year. Some members may be eligible for signing bonus or loan repayment. For more information call Tech. Sgt. George Adams, health professions recruiter, 377-7655, or e-mail george.adams@keesler.af.mil.

MEETINGS

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

Recurring

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, Vandenberg Community Center. 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.

Airmen Against Drunk Driving — 3:15 p.m. first Tuesday of the month, Vandenberg Community Center second floor conference room. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Brian Yelton, 377-0167, or e-mail keesler.aaddofficers@keesler.af.mil.

At Eze Toastmasters Club — 11 a.m. Tuesdays, Building 1101 conference room. For more information,

call Chief Master Sgt. Don Seaton, 377-5958, or Fred Blache, 377-1048, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

Keesler Amateur Radio Club — 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Hangar 3, Room 215. Check out the club repeater on 146.79 negative offset. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Justin Meyer, 377-4149 or 324-5806, or e-mail justin.meyer2@keesler.af.mil.

Keesler Christian Home Educators Association — meets 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month, September-May, Larcher Chapel. For more information, call Michelle Durkin, 872-9393, or e-mail chelle1m@yahoo.com.

Keesler Spouses Club — meets the second Tuesday of the month. For time and location, call Tammie Searfoss, 273-4324, or visit <http://www.KeeslerSpousesClub.com>.

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

Retired Enlisted Association Magnolia Chapter 81 — 6:30 p.m. second Thursday of the month, Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call Larry McKean, 377-3252 or 374-5922.

Rising VI Association — 3:15 p.m. third Wednesday of the month in Room 121, Thompson Hall. For more information, call Staff Sgts. Patrick McKimmie, 377-1513, or James Pope, 377-1305.

Tuskegee Airmen Inc., Col. Lawrence E. Roberts Chapter — 11 a.m. third Wednesday of the month, Gaude Lanes. For more information, e-mail Charles Bowers at crb1939@yahoo.com or call Tech. Sgt. Kirk Jackson, 377-4532.

MISCELLANEOUS

Movies

Editor's note: Movies are 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 recording about current features, call 377-6627.

February weather outlook

February is usually the worst month of the year at Keesler for flying. The main problems are fog and stratus. Migratory frontal systems continue to affect the area, bringing rain, gusty winds, isolated thunderstorms and in rare case, snow showers.

Extreme maximum temperature (F).....	81
Mean daily maximum temperature (F).....	62
Mean daily minimum temperature (F).....	48
Extreme minimum temperature (F).....	15
Mean relative humidity (percent).....	76
Mean monthly precipitation (inches).....	4.64
Mean number of days with precipitation.....	8
Mean number of days with thunderstorms.....	3
Maximum 24-hour rainfall (inches).....	4.34
Percentage of observations with ceiling less than:	
2,000 feet.....	19.0
1,000 feet.....	12.0
300 feet.....	3.3
Percentage of observations with visibility less than:	
6 miles.....	28.1
3 miles.....	10.7
1 mile.....	4.3
Percentage of observations with wind:	
0-3 knots.....	27.5
4-10 knots.....	61.5
11-21 knots.....	10.9
22 knots or greater.....	0.1

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

Sparky's®

Safety Spot™

Stand by your pan!

Don't leave cooking food unattended.



The name and the image of Sparky® are registered trademarks of the NFPA

ARMED FORCES VACATION CLUB

Space-available accommodations — for Department of Defense-affiliated personnel at more than 3,500 resorts around the world.

Affordable price — seven nights and eight days for two to six people, \$299.

To reserve — log on to <http://www.afvclub.com> or call 1-800-724-9988. Keesler's installation number, 121, is required at time of reservation. No membership, enrollment or annual fees.

ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER

Editor's note: Preregistration is required for all classes. Registration opens the first of the month prior to scheduled date at craft sales, Building 5904. Space is limited. For more information, call 377-2821.

Multi-crafts shop

Free ceramic knowledge workshop — 5-8 p.m. Thursdays. Feb. 1, cleaning greenware; Feb. 8, overglazes and decals; Feb. 15, brushes; Feb. 22, air brushing.

Ceramic mold pouring — 10 a.m. Feb. 3, ages 13 and older. Learn to pour your own ceramics. \$25 including first firing. Pour a project to keep and finish as you like.

Ceramic painting — 10 a.m. Feb. 3, paint a Mardi Gras mask. \$15.

Pasta-making cooking class — 11 a.m. Feb. 10. Learn how to make fresh ravioli for two, then recreate it at home for your sweetie on Valentine's Day. \$20, includes supplies.

Parent 'n' me kids crafting — 11 a.m. Feb. 17. Make a quick and easy king cake. \$10. Ages 7 and younger require parent's involvement.

Scrapbooking — 1:30 p.m. Feb. 23. Capture the fun of Mardi Gras in your scrapbooks. \$10 including all supplies.

Beginning pottery — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 24. Learn basics of pottery taught by a master from the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum. \$40 includes five pounds of clay and firing for three pieces.

New classes coming soon — photography, cooking and beading.

Frame shop

Treasure boxes — 5:30 p.m. Feb. 7 create a one-of-a-kind item, perfect for Valentine's Day or a wedding gift. Customize with your own photo. Register by Feb. 2. \$25, includes supplies.

Custom shadow boxes — great for retirements. Order early.

Beginners framing — One class, four sessions, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22. \$60.

Advanced matting — for those who have completed a beginners framing class. \$25; call for time and date.

Engraving shop

Custom items — available for gift giving, special mementos and squadron awards.

Snack mug gifts to go — great for the last minute office gift. Get a décor mug filled with goodies; a variety available for \$10 each.

Wood shop

Beginners woodworking — 5-7:30 p.m. Feb. 14. \$25. Earn your safety certification and get your operator's card for future shop use.

Beginning intarsia — 10 a.m. Feb. 3 and 17. \$15. Create something special. Intarsia is the art form of inlaying pieces of wood in a decorative pattern.

Advanced intarsia — 10 a.m. Feb. 10 and 24. \$20. A new project each month.

Auto hobby shop

Beginner auto care classes — oil changes, tune ups or brakes, available to groups.

Oil collection site — for privately-owned vehicles.

24-hour coin-operated car wash — features foamy-brush wash, high-pressure rinse, wax system, towelettes and Armorall, and a vacuum station.

RESALE LOT

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2821. Located on Tingle Avenue behind the Keesler Club.

Buy, sell, trade — \$5 for two weeks. Register with the arts and crafts center prior to parking on the lot. Registration, proof of ownership and insurance required.

VANDENBERG COMMUNITY CENTER

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-5576 or 377-4355.

Valentine's Day special — 6-8 p.m. Feb. 14. Free flowers and candy to first 100 customers.

Pool tournaments — 6 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays.

Dance revolution — 6 p.m. Wednesdays. Free. Sign up early.

Game night — 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

Karaoke — 6 p.m. Thursdays.

***Late night dances** — 6 p.m. to midnight Thursdays before down Fridays, Fridays and Saturdays. \$3 admission.

***Birthday dance** — 6 p.m. Feb. 16. Free admission for people with February birthdays.

*Sponsored by National Productions.

YOUTH CENTER

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-4116.

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

Give parents a break and parents night out — 4-10 p.m. Feb. 3, youth in kindergarten through grade 6.

Torch club — 4:30 p.m. Feb. 5 and 26, ages 9-12. Leadership programs, activities, community service, fun and friends.

Sweetheart dance — 6-10 p.m. Feb. 10, ages 9-17. DJ, dance contest, games and challenges. Sign up by Feb. 7. Minimum 10 people. \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers.

TRAIL, Keystone Club meeting — 10 a.m. Feb. 10 and 17, ages 13 and older. Community service, volunteer opportunities, field trips, art projects, games and more.

Free home alone workshop — 5 p.m. Feb. 12, ages 10 and older accompanied by a parent. Minimum three youth participants. Sign up by Feb. 8.

Creative corner — 5 p.m. Feb. 13, ages 9 and older. Create Valentine gifts. Sign up by Feb. 8. Free for members, 50 cents for guests.

4-H Club — 5 p.m. Feb. 13 and 26, ages 13-17, focus on outdoor adventures and community service.

Congressional award program — 6 p.m. Feb. 14, ages 14-21. Set and achieve personal goals in four areas to become eligible for the Congressional award medal.

Wipe-out Wednesday — 5-6 p.m. Feb. 14 and 27, ages 9 and older. Wipe out the current table tennis, pool and various table games champions. Free for members, 50 cents for guests.

FitFactor aerobics — 5 p.m. Feb. 15 for ages 9 and older. Free for members, 50 cents for guests.

Power hour — 4:30-5:30 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays. Homework help for ages 9-12.

Movies and snacks — 4 p.m. Mondays, ages 9 and older. Free for members, 50 cents for guests.

Mini-Munyons Taekwondo — 5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, ages 3-5. \$50 per month.

Taekwondo — 6-7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, ages 6 and older, \$35 for members, \$40 for nonmembers.

Gymnastics — Tuesdays. 4 p.m. ages 3-5; 5 p.m. ages 6 and older. \$35 for members, \$40 for nonmembers.

Dance class — Thursdays. 4:15 p.m. ages 3-5, \$30. 5 p.m. ages 6 and older. \$30 for members, \$40 for nonmembers.

VETERINARY SERVICES

Editor's note: Located on 3rd Street, Building 0408. All animals in base housing must be registered with the veterinary office. For appointment, call 376-7495.

Authorized patrons — active duty, retirees, reservists and National Guard on active-duty status for more than 72 hours with orders may use the veterinary clinic.

HomeAgain® microchip identification — recognized worldwide, \$20. Protect your pet with this tiny microchip injected under the skin of your family pet.

Veterinarian on staff — call for an appointment.

HAPPENINGS is a monthly supplement to the Keesler News and is produced by the 81st Services Division. Information is subject to change without notice. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

Nicole Cote, marketing specialist/commercial sponsorship coordinator; Earlene Smith, publicist; Cindy Milford, graphics illustrator.

PLEASE PULL OUT AND KEEP THIS SUPPLEMENT
AS A HANDY REFERENCE FOR MONTHLY EVENTS
OF THE 81ST SERVICES DIVISION.

OPERATION SLUGFEST

MARD GRAS BRAWL

7 p.m. Feb. 16 ~ Hangar 4
Gates open 6 p.m.

Tickets

available at Gaudé Lanes
and Vandenberg Community Center.

\$15 general admission

**\$20 per person for
reserved tables of 10**

**\$25 per person
for reserved
ringside tables of 10**

Tickets available off-base for \$25 each.
On-base price reflects military discount.

3 weight divisions ~ 8 fighters each division
24 military and civilian fighters
slug their way to the top;
the last man standing is "King of the Ring."

Sanctioned by Mississippi State Athletic Commission

Presented by Bomber Promotions

Sponsored by Planet Beach Tanning and Spa

\$1,000 cash prize in each division
Food and beverages available
Entertainment between rounds

For more
information, call
669-8700 or
377-7858.



Photos by Kemberly Groue

February 2007

Keesler AFB
SERVICES
Dormant Support & Community Center

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EXTRA! Here's what's happening! EXTRA!

11TH FRAME CAFÉ

Editor's note: Located inside Gaudé Lanes. For more information, call 377-2036.

Serving lunch and dinner — enjoy sub sandwiches, hot dogs, buffalo wings, nachos, chef salads, soup, chili, coleslaw, chips, assorted drinks and more. Dine in or take out; call-ins are welcome.

BAY BREEZE GOLF COURSE

Course closed — for renovation through Sept. 30.

Driving range — open daily 7 a.m. to dusk. \$2 for a bucket of 30 balls.

Golf lessons — \$25 for a half hour of instruction. To schedule, call 377-3832 or 348-7589.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2211.

Give Parents A Break* — 4-10 p.m. Feb. 3. This program, funded by The Air Force Aid Society, offers free child care for Air Force families who are referred by base helping agencies. Also eligible are family members of deployed Air Force military members.

Parents Night Out* — 4-10 p.m. Feb. 3, offers child care for ages 6 weeks to 12 years at \$3.50 per hour per child.

* School age children go to the youth center. For more information, call 377-4116.

DINING FACILITIES

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2200.

Wondering what's on the menu today? — call the Dine Line at 377-DINE (3463) or log on to <https://wwwmil.keesler.af.mil/81svs/Wheretoeat/diningfac/dnghall.htm>.

FAMILY CHILD CARE

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3189.

Be your own boss — now recruiting military spouses on and off base who wish to care for children in their homes.

Child caregiver needed for mildly ill program — to provides safe place and quality care to children in noncontagious stages of communicable illness, or who have mild respiratory illness. The mildly-ill program relieves parents from having to stay home with a sick child, which is especially difficult in families where one parent is deployed, in training or on temporary duty in another location. Call for more information.

FITNESS

Free Valentine's Day 5-kilometer Sweetheart Run — 11 a.m. Feb. 14, Blake Fitness Center. Prizes to first five couples to cross the finish line together; sweets for all participants. For more information, call 377-4385.

Free turbo-core exercise class — 11 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Dragon Fitness Center. Work your core and define your abdominal muscles in this new, hard-core conditioning class. For more information, call 377-2907.

Massage therapist now available — by appointment only, Triangle Fitness Center. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 263-5515.

Basketball court closed — at Blake Fitness Center for repairs and renovations. Dragon Fitness Center's basketball court is available. Call 377-4385 for hours of operation.

Certified aerobic instructors needed — call 377-8380.

GAUDÉ LANES BOWLING CENTER

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2817.

Strike up some fun — open bowling lanes are available first come, first served. Some lanes are limited due to league bowling.

Tuesday Seabee special — Seabee personnel bowl for \$1.50 per game Tuesdays.

Bowling birthday parties — call during the week for information and reservations.

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

Bowl-a-rama — 4 p.m. to closing Mondays-Fridays and all day Saturdays bowl two hours for \$10.95, shoe rental included (\$16 value).

Nonprior service students' open bowling special — show your UBU Card Saturdays and bowl for \$1.50 per game until 4 p.m. and Mondays-Saturdays after 4 p.m. open bowling is \$2 per game. Shoe rental \$1. Not applicable with other discounts or specials.

Bumpers — available on 12 lanes for ages 11 and younger. Call to reserve.

HELP WANTED

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-9032.

Nonappropriated fund jobs — apply noon to 5 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and noon to 4 p.m. working Fridays at the human resource office, Locker House, 505 C Street, Building 3101, Room 5417. For current job openings, call the 24-hour job line, 377-9055. Employment information pamphlet and complete job listings are available at the NAF employment web site, <http://www.aetcsv.us/employment.html>.

HALF TIME CAFÉ

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2424. Located inside Vandenberg Community Center.

Temporarily closed — for renovations.

INFORMATION, TICKETS AND TOURS

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3818. All tours depart from and return to Vandenberg Community Center.

Information — on local and out of state attractions available.

Tickets — discounted tickets available to major attractions in a three state area. For a complete price list, log on to <https://wwwmil.keesler.af.mil/81svs/WhattoDo/ITT/index.htm>.

Gulf Island Water Park season pass special — call for more information.

MCBRIDE LIBRARY

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2181. Fax service and copy machine available for a nominal fee. Free checkout of music CDs, VHS and DVD movies. Free Internet service.

Research orientations — 6:30 p.m. Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28.

Story time — 10 a.m. Feb. 7 and 21, ages 3-5.

African American heritage — display throughout the month.

Paperback swap — swap one for one. Books must be in good condition and of same genre.

KATRINA KANTINA

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2219.

All ranks invited — snacks, beverages and music. Located in the marina building overlooking Biloxi's Back Bay.

Mardi Gras specials — Feb. 20.

Taco Tuesdays — members get two tacos for \$1, nonmembers \$2.

Wings and things — 5 p.m. Feb. 7 Keesler Club members get in free, nonmembers pay \$3 at the door. Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and \$1 domestic draft beer.

Dr. Dick's karaoke show — 5-9 p.m. Thursdays starting Feb. 8.

Thirsty Thursday — 5 p.m. Feb. 22, members enjoy catfish dinner for \$6, nonmembers pay \$8.

It's your choice — two club cards to choose from; stop by for details.

We cater — let our expert caterer assist you with planning weddings, holidays, birthdays, official functions and other occasions.

MUSE MANOR MINI-MART

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2752.

Convenience store — snacks, cold drinks, health and hygiene products. Open 24 hours a day.

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND MARINA

Editor's note: Located in the enclosed pavilion in marina park. Recreational equipment rental; RV and dry storage available. Mississippi hunting and fishing licenses available.

Ground hog special — Feb. 2-9, free rod-and-reel use with every boat rental.

Valentine special — 10 percent off our No. 11 camping package through February. Package includes a four-person tent, four sleeping bags, lantern, stove, 48-quart ice chest and camper's bow saw.

Need wheels? — Rent one of our new 3500 Trek, seven-speed bikes; \$3 a day or \$15 a week.

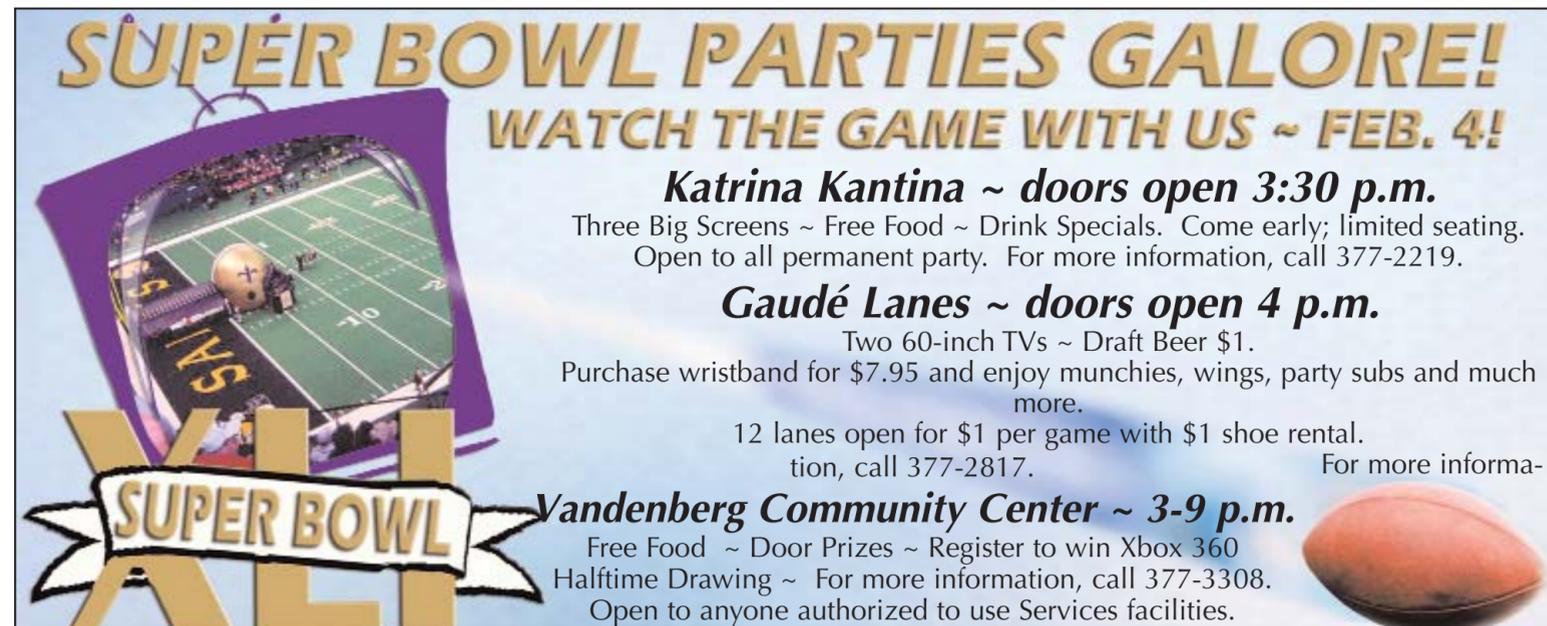
February fishing tournament — weigh in the largest crappie and win a \$100 savings bond.



Call for a good time.

Call the Services "4 Fun" line for information on weekly events.

377-4FUN (377-4386)



SUPER BOWL PARTIES GALORE!
WATCH THE GAME WITH US ~ FEB. 4!

Katrina Kantina ~ doors open 3:30 p.m.
Three Big Screens ~ Free Food ~ Drink Specials. Come early; limited seating. Open to all permanent party. For more information, call 377-2219.

Gaudé Lanes ~ doors open 4 p.m.
Two 60-inch TVs ~ Draft Beer \$1.
Purchase wristband for \$7.95 and enjoy munchies, wings, party subs and much more.
12 lanes open for \$1 per game with \$1 shoe rental. For more information, call 377-2817.

Vandenberg Community Center ~ 3-9 p.m.
Free Food ~ Door Prizes ~ Register to win Xbox 360
Halftime Drawing ~ For more information, call 377-3308.
Open to anyone authorized to use Services facilities.



ITT takes you to the New Orleans Mardi Gras Parades

\$20 per person for transportation

Pontchartrain and Shangri-La ~ Feb. 10
Depart 8 a.m., return 8 p.m. Register and pay by Feb. 7.

Carrollton and King Arthur/Merlin ~ Feb. 11
Depart 9 a.m., return 7 p.m. Register and pay by Feb. 7.

Iris and Tucks ~ Feb. 17
Depart 8 a.m., return 6 p.m. Register and pay by Feb. 14.

Bacchus ~ Feb. 18
Depart 1 p.m., return 11 p.m. Register and pay by Feb. 14.

Times and parades subject to change without notice.
For more information, call 377-3818.
Sign up early — space is limited.



Prime Rib Special Valentine's
Enjoy a casual dinner for yourself or with your significant other.
6-8 p.m. Feb. 14 at the Katrina Kantina overlooking Biloxi's Back Bay.

Menu includes prime rib or smokehouse chicken, baked potato, tossed salad, vegetable medley, loaf bread with butter, tossed salad, strawberry pie and iced tea.

Members \$10, nonmembers \$13.

Champagne available for purchase.
Space is limited.