



KEESLER NEWS



Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

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Developing America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

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



Dragons deployed
— 177

Air Force Assistance Fund Keesler campaign begins in March

Keesler News staff

A breakfast, 7:30 a.m. March 2 in Vandenberg Community Center, launches Keesler's Air Force Assistance Fund campaign.

John Lowe, Air Force Aid Society, is the speaker.

The base drive actually begins the day before the breakfast, according to Capt. Max Lemons, project officer.

This year's goal is \$48,913. Last year, Keesler raised \$95,550, nearly \$34,000 more than the goal of \$61,711.

The funds support four charitable programs:

AFAS — provides emergency assistance to Airmen and their families, sponsors educational assistance programs and offers a variety of base enhancement programs.

Keesler received \$102,075 in individual emergency loans and grants, \$42,000 in educational aid and \$24,698 for base enhancement programs from AFAS in 2006.

Air Force Enlisted Village — provides accommodations

near Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., for indigent widows of retired Air Force enlisted members. For more information, visit <http://www.afenlistedwidows.org>.

Air Force Village — provides retirement living, with access to continuing health care, for officers and their spouses in San Antonio, with priority to retired Air Force officer widows and widowers. For more information, visit <http://www.airforcevillages.com>.

Gen. and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation — helps widows of all Air Force retirees, officers and enlisted, through financial grants. For more information, visit <http://www.lemayfoundation.org/>.

For more information on the Air Force Assistance Fund visit <http://afassistancefund.org>.

For a list of unit AFAF representatives, see Page 27.

Perry Jenifer, Keesler News editor, and 2nd Lt. Nick Plante, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.

Stocking up



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Shoen Jackson, Army and Air Force Exchange Service softline supervisor at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., helps stock clothing items in preparation for the March 1 opening of Keesler's temporary base exchange. More photos, Page 9.

This week in the Triangle

Aviation resource management, 10 a.m. today, Cody Hall.

Communications-computer systems operations, 10 a.m. today, Thomson Hall.

Computer networking cryptographic system, 10 a.m. Thursday, Bryan Hall.

Ground radar systems, 9 a.m. Tuesday, Cody Hall.

Air traffic control radar, 9 a.m. Wednesday, Cody Hall.

Command post, 10 a.m. Wednesday, Cody Hall.

Communications-computer systems control, 10 a.m. Wednesday, Thomson Hall.



Student numbers

Total students — 3,287

Non-prior service — 1,951

Temporary duty — 1,174

Joint service — 101

Combat controllers — 35

Medical — 26

Non-prior service arrivals — 0

Guard, Reserve — 721

International — 26

Fiscal 2007 graduates — 8,737

Total since 1942 — 2,243,109

COMMENTARY

Inspection an opportunity to shine again, Team Keesler

By Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

81st Training Wing commander

Team Keesler's Operational Readiness Inspection has been posted on the Air Education and Training Command Inspector General Web site and is scheduled for the week of Aug. 19.

The concept of an inspector general isn't new. The first known inspector general was designated by King Louis XIV of France in 1668 to review his troops and report to him on the condition of the army. Nearly a century later, the Continental Congress named Thomas Conway, as America's first inspector general.

As the birth of our nation took roots, Gen. George Washington was faced with developing his Continental Army into a disciplined combat force ready to fight. In 1778, Baron Frederick William Augustus von Steuben was appointed as the inspector general of the Army. He served as General Washington's independent objective evaluator and was directed to assist commanders in preparing their troops for combat. Maj. Gen. Von Steuben was commissioned to be General Washington's eyes, ears and conscience on the front lines.

As we look ahead to the upcoming ORI, I've no doubt that we'll prove once again that Keesler is the "best of the best" in AETC. Our goal is simple and straight forward — to

receive an "outstanding" ORI rating. You deserve nothing less.

Each and every one of you plays an important role in our success. The ORI validates how well we do our job and test our ability to respond to deployment readiness, emergency management, and force protection scenarios. We started our preparations several months ago. I challenge each of you to continue delving into every one of your unit processes and functional programs to ensure we've "crossed every t and dotted every i" as we prepare for this inspection.

As we move forward, identifying problems, documenting them and putting action plans in place for those issues we can't solve by the time the inspection occurs is paramount.

Over the last 17 months, achieving excellence has been your mantra and you've risen to every occasion and made opportunities out of unprecedented challenges. You've shone in the darkest of hours and proven that through teamwork, nothing can stand in your way.

The dragon represented on the 81st Training Wing patch has a rich and proud heritage. Let "Here Be Dragons" be our roar as we put others on notice of the feats of excellence we have and continue to accomplish together.

It's your time to shine again. Are you ready?

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

AMERICA
SUPPORTS
YOU

★ OUR MILITARY MEN & WOMEN ★

AMERICASUPPORTSYOU.MIL



WHO'S YOUR WINGMAN?

THERE ARE SOME THINGS IN LIFE THAT JUST WEREN'T MEANT TO BE HANDLED ALONE ...

IF YOU NEED A WINGMAN THE BASE CHAPLAIN, THE LIFE SKILLS COUNSELORS, AND THE PEOPLE AT 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433) ARE READY TO HELP.

ONE SUICIDE IS ONE TOO MANY

KEESLER NEWS

No. 1 in Air Force,
2004, 1997.

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2004, 1998, 1996;
No. 2, 2006, 2003,
2001, 1999, 1997,
1991; No. 3, 2005,
2002, 1995.

81st Training Wing commander

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Capasso

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Tech. Sgt. Chuck
Marsh

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Kemberly Groue

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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 Air Force Base 2007

Safety Goals
Make Safety a Core Value

**Practice Risk Management 24/7
Provide a Safe Work Environment
Protect Our Most Valuable Resource...
PEOPLE!**



U.S. AIR FORCE EagleEyes

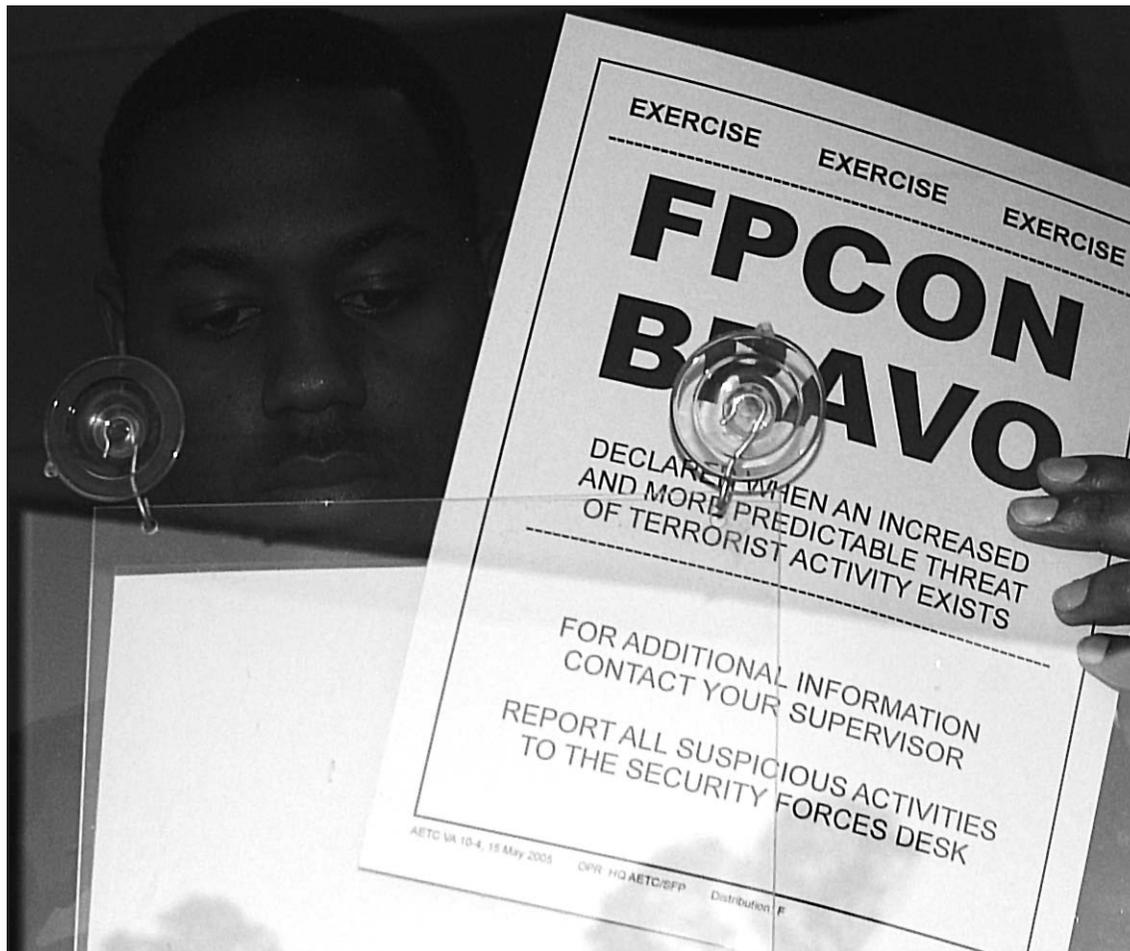
WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.

**TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES
CALL 377-3040**



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

TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Senior Airman Charles Lewis, 81st Supply Squadron, posts signs at a Taylor Logistics Center entrance during a force protection exercise Feb. 16. Larry Tabor, 81st Training Wing operations plans chief, said the exercise scenario involved a possible threat from terrorists who stole explosives and were targeting military installations in the area. Unauthorized persons were also trying to photograph the base from the railroad tracks.

Exercise emphasis: force protection

Staff Sgt. Toyshaline Young, left, checks Staff Sgt. Eric Hurtado's identification as he enters Taylor Logistics Center during a period of heightened security during the exercise. Both are members of the 81st SUPS.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Airman 1st Class Nadine Rudke guards the perimeter of a casualty collection point during a combat medical skills exercise at Moody AFB. Airman Rudke is an 823rd Security Forces Squadron fire team member.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Parker Gyokeres



This training ‘self-aid buddy care on steroids’

By Tech. Sgt. Parker Gyokeres

23rd Wing Public Affairs

MOODY Air Force Base, Ga. — Five Airmen lie broken, bleeding and screaming for help along the smoke-obscured tree line.

Gunfire crackles overhead and thunderous mortar blasts shake the ground at terrifyingly irregular intervals.

Through the smoke, a dismounted squad urgently approaches. The scene that confronts them is a roll call of traumatic injuries.

The rescuers have to quickly sort out the serious from the able and decide who to assist first. If they take too long, these Airmen will die.

This is the fifth time this unlucky foot patrol has been ambushed today, and they’re getting very good at dying. They’re role players for the combat medical readiness training course taught by the 823rd Security Forces Squadron.

The entire squadron participated in a four-day combat medical skills training course last month, preparing them for medical treatment in the face of nearly any battlefield emergency.

“It’s a sort of self-aid buddy care on steroids,” said Capt. Darrell Svatek, 823rd SFS medical cell physician’s assistant. “It is likely the most realistic training squadron members will receive in combat medicine.”

The exercise featured a small squad of five Airmen who were “ambushed” and “sustained” the most dangerous combat injuries likely to be encountered. There also were Airmen with less severe injuries.

These “injured” role-players tested the respond-

We have presented this exercise in terms of events that are happening to people in theater. Analysis of combat injuries has shown that these are the things that cause the most risk of death and kill you the fastest.”

— Captain Svatek

ing squad’s abilities to diagnose life-threatening injuries, said Captain Svatek.

“We have presented this exercise in terms of events that are happening to people in theater,” he said. “Analysis of combat injuries has shown that these are the things that cause the most risk of death and kill you the fastest.”

Using a series of practical classroom exercises leading up to the final scenario, 823rd SFS Airmen received training in the proper usage of every item in their individual first aid kit to treat the injuries. During the classroom lectures, they learned how

to implement the three phases of battlefield care.

The first phase, known as care under fire, is simply the act of securing the scene so they can deploy into the area. Often, Airmen injured in a firefight are still in a “hot” area when help arrives, explained Captain Svatek.

“We are going in there to extract five injured Airmen. We don’t want more than five injured people to come out,” he said.

The second phase is tactical field care, he said. This involves using the equipment carried into the field to administer life-saving aid. If the extent of the injuries exceeds the resources in the kit, the security forces use their training to fashion more aggressive tools from what’s readily available.

“The main point of this is to get the patient able to be moved to a safer area as rapidly as possible,” said Captain Svatek.

The final stage is evacuation care, which involves moving patients to a safer casualty collection area and stabilizing them for an evacuation. From start to finish, the process should last no longer than 10 minutes, said Captain Svatek.

The training, held at least annually, is regarded as essential by both the medics and the security forces who receive it.

“When this type of first aid is needed, somebody’s life is at stake. It would feel really horrible coming back to America without them because I didn’t know what I was doing,” said Senior Airman Thelma Christmas, 823rd SFS member.

“This is probably one of the most important parts of the training that we get here. I take it pretty seriously.”

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Pitsenbarger Award

The deadline for spring Community College of the Air Force graduates to apply for the \$500 Pitsenbarger Award is 4 p.m. March 22.

Applications are available in the education office, Room 212, old Cody Hall, or at <http://www.aef.org/aid/pit.asp>.

The award is sponsored by the Air Force Association and the Aerospace Education Foundation. Prior winners are not eligible.

Winners are announced at the graduation, 3:30 p.m. April 24 in Welch Auditorium.

For more information, call 377-2323 or 2171.

Education survey

An educational needs assessment survey is being conducted

online throughout this month.

Military and civilian employees, retirees and their family members can access the 10-question survey at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil/needs/>.

CCAF graduation

Today is the deadline to apply for the Community College of the Air Force spring graduating class.

For more information, visit or call the education office, Room 212, old Cody Hall, 377-2323.

MGCCC signup

Online spring term pre-registration is available for currently enrolled students at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Keesler.

Registration by appoint-

ment for active-duty begins today in Room 214, old Cody Hall. For appointments, call 377-2287.

Spring term begins March 5.

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.

Troops to Teachers

For information on Mississippi Troops to Teachers, call 1-800-MISS-TEACH.

Civilian tuition aid

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

Courses must be related to the Air Force mission.

For more information, call or visit the education office, 377-2323, Room 212, old Cody Hall.

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 pro-

vided 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, old Cody Hall, the AFAS Web site, <http://www.afas.org> or call 377-2179.

Supply classes

To schedule a general supply class, call 377-2270.

NEWS AND FEATURES

Red Cross returns

Volunteer office manager Bobbie Graham sorts brochures for the new American Red Cross Keesler office which opened Feb. 14 in old Cody Hall. The former office in Sablich Center was badly damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The office provides information on first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation classes, volunteering, hurricane and disaster preparedness and offers emergency communications to military members who are deployed, on temporary duty or who've made a permanent change of station. The office is open 1-5 p.m. workdays and hopes to extend its hours this spring. Volunteers are needed to staff the office. The office phone number is 377-0732. For more information or to volunteer, call Amanda Pierini, 896-4511.



Public affairs, Keesler News win 6 command-level awards

The 81st Training Wing Public Affairs office and Keesler News won six Air Education and Training Command awards for 2006.

The office placed second in the overall public affairs program category for a large wing.

Contributors to the award include Lt. Col. Claudia Foss, director; Master Sgt. Roger Drinnon, Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely, Staff Sgts. Carlos Diaz and Lee Smith, Senior Airman Sarah Stegman, Jerry Taranto, Perry Jenifer, Susan Griggs, Kemberly Groue and Michael Plummer.

The Keesler News won five command media awards.

The base newspaper placed second in the tabloid newspaper category. This is the sixth year in a row and 11th time since 1995 the Keesler News has placed in the top three, including firsts in 1996, 1998 and 2004.

Contributors to the award include Mr. Jenifer, editor; 2nd Lt. Nick Plante, Sergeant Smith, Airman Stegman and Ms. Griggs, staff writers; Mrs.



Mr. Jenifer

Groue, staff photographer; Sergeant Drinnon; and Steve Pivnick, 81st Medical Group Public Affairs.

Individual media contest award winners:

Print journalist of the year — Mr. Jenifer, first place. He also placed first in this category in 2001, 2003 and 2004, and second in 2002.

Series — Sergeant Drinnon, now retired, first place.



Mrs. Groue

Contribution by a contract or stringer photographer — Mrs. Groue, first place. She also placed first in this category in 2002 and 2004, and second in 2001.

Contribution by a contract or stringer writer — Mr. Pivnick, second place.

The Keesler News has won 121 AETC awards since Mr. Jenifer became editor in 1985, including 51 first-place awards.

IN THE NEWS

A-76 town hall meeting Monday

An A-76 town hall meeting is 9 a.m. Monday at Welch Auditorium.

Due to limited seating and parking, only personnel directly involved in the A-76 decision, commanders and first sergeants are asked to attend. Transportation is provided to the auditorium at 8 and 8:15 a.m. from old Cody Hall, corner of L and V streets between the 81st Supply and Civil Engineer Squadrons and in front of the 81st Communications Squadron building. Buses run after the meeting as well.

Annual awards banquet March 2

The 81st Training Wing's annual awards banquet is 6 p.m. March 2 in the 403rd Wing ISO hangar, Building 4247.

Two retired chief master sergeants of the Air Force, Paul Airey and Sam Parish, are guest speakers.

Friday is the deadline to purchase \$20 tickets from squadron representatives. Attire is mess dress or semiformal for military and formal or semiformal for civilians.

Care for some VA female patients

81st Medical Group

Resulting from a recent resource sharing agreement between the 81st Medical Group and the Veterans Affairs Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System in Biloxi, Keesler Medical Center's Women's Health Clinic soon begins seeing VA patients.

"Because Keesler Medical Center has the specialty providers and sees a wider spectrum of female patients, the local VA recognizes it as a 'center of excellence' in this area," according to Lt. Col. Richard Rowe, deputy director and chief of federal integration with the Gulf Coast Multi-Service Market Office at Keesler. "This will be the first Keesler clinic to see VA patients on a consistent basis and in larger numbers."

Keesler sees all non-routine gynecological VA patients, including patients needing surgery, as well as obstetrical patients. All routine VA patients continue to be seen at the VA.

"There are a lot of details that Keesler and the VA are finalizing, such as access, prescriptions, patient record information, referrals and billing," Colonel Rowe said. "Perfecting these procedures will serve as a benchmark for wider Air Force and VA collaboration in the future."

'Flat Mom or Dad' photos

One free life-sized "Flat Mom or Dad" photo enlargement is available to the spouse of a deployed parent with children from SFC Graphics, Toledo, Ohio.

Upload photo, 2 megabytes or larger, of the person deployed and e-mail to order@flatdaddies.com. Free and paid orders require the photo to be attached, along with your name, relationship to person in the photo, name and rank of the person in the photo, home base, shipping address and phone number.

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.

Medics select top performers of past year

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group annual award winners for 2006 were announced Feb. 12.

They are:

Airman — Senior Airman Leonardo Mora, 81st Medical Support Squadron.

Noncommissioned Officer — Staff Sgt. Holly Brose, 81st Medical Operations Squadron/81st MDSS.

Senior NCO — Master Sgt. Ronnie Tabor, 81st MDOS/81st MDSS.

First sergeant — Master Sgt. Jessica Liebegott, 81st Dental Squadron/81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

Company grade officer — 1st Lt. Renee McClennon, 81st MDSS.

Field grade officer — Maj. Sam Silverthorne, 81st MDSS.

Entry-level civilian — Jamie Boggs, 81st MDOS/81st MDSS.

Intermediate-level civilian — Lynette Biglane, 81st MDOS/81st MDSS.

Senior-level civilian —

Shooting of Airman attributed to road rage

A Saucier man accused of shooting a Keesler Airman Feb. 14 didn't like the way he was driving, according to Biloxi Police Department reports.

David Hayes, 23, was arrested on a drive-by shooting charge several hours after the early morning incident on Pass Road near Popp's Ferry Road. Police credited the arrest to eyewitness details of Mr. Hayes' vehicle.

Senior Airman Thomas Lynch, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, who was wounded, was treated at Keesler Medical Center and released.

Police said Airman Lynch was eastbound on Pass Road on his way to work when a motorist behind him slammed on the brakes. Lynch then heard a gunshot. A bullet came through the back window of his vehicle, grazed his neck and went through the windshield. No one else was injured.

Police said the driver of the other vehicle fled north on Popp's Ferry Road. Witnesses reported characteristics of the car including its faded paint job, a dent and a missing wheel cover and side-view mirror.

A few hours later, police found the suspect's car in the Edgewater Mall parking lot. Mr. Hayes, who was in the mall, was taken to the Harrison County Jail in Gulfport.

Investigators also recovered a firearm, said Capt. Darrin Peterson of the Biloxi Police Department.

Captain Peterson said Mississippi doesn't have a road rage law, but a drive-by shooting charge fit the situation. The maximum penalty for a drive-by shooting is 30 years in prison.

Justice Court Judge Albert Fountain set bond at \$150,000 pending an initial court appearance.

A 3- to 5-minute steady tone on the base siren is a TORNADO WARNING — take cover.



Temporary base exchange opens March 1

Above, Myra Portacio, an Army and Air Force Exchange Service sales associate at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, places price tags on items on a pegboard merchandise rack at Keesler's temporary mini-mart. The \$4,038,197 facility serves customers until a \$40 million base exchange is completed in late 2008, replacing the structure gutted by Hurricane Katrina nearly 18 months ago.

Left, Erlinda Howell, a Keesler AAFES sales associate, sorts and stocks DVDs. About 75 percent of the 40,000-square-foot facility is devoted to the sales floor. Merchandise includes clothing, shoes, health and beauty care, electronics, housewares, pet supplies, sporting goods, stationery, books, magazines and tobacco supplies.

Photos by Kemberly Groue

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.

Career job reservations available

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Most first-term Airmen serving in nine Air Force Specialty Codes are now eligible to apply for a career job reservation.

Airmen serving in the 2A0X1D, 2A5X3D, 2E0X1, 2M0X2, 3E0X1, 3E0X2, 3E1X1, 3E2X1 or 3E3X1 AFSCs are granted a career job reservation regardless of their window of eligibility.

Airmen who've already applied for and signed their approved retraining are excluded from this opportunity, according to Air Force Personnel Center officials.

For more information or to apply, eligible Airmen should contact their base military personnel flight. Consideration isn't automatic.

Travel health information

81st Medical Group

The travel medicine clinic at Keesler Medical Center, closed since Hurricane Katrina, is open again.

People planning vacations or permanent change-of-station moves outside the U.S. are encouraged to visit the clinic at least one month before departure.

The clinic staff provides the most current travel health information and determines the immunizations and prophylactic medications required based on destinations, planned activities, length of trips, health history, travel conditions and risks.

Walk-in hours are 8-10 a.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Bring immunization records.

OneSource for information

Military OneSource provides information and resources on a variety of issues ranging from everyday concerns to deployment and reintegration.

The service is funded by the Department of Defense and is available to active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen and their family members around the clock and 365 days a year.

To access Military OneSource, visit <http://www.militaryonesource.com> or call 1-800-707-5784.

Civilian employment information

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Civilian appropriated fund employees and prospective applicants can get answers to questions about employment opportunities, benefits and entitlements online at the Air Force's Customer Service Center.

A database at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst> includes hundreds of questions and answers. For online inquiries, users who don't find an answer to their specific question can submit a query through the "Ask-A-Question" tab at the top of the page.

Adoption leave of absence

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Airmen adopting children now may be authorized up to 21 days of non-chargeable leave per calendar year.

For more information, contact your commander's support staff or call the Air Force Contact Center, 1-800-616-3775, option 1, 2, or DSN 665-5000.

Ignoring common hazards is an open invitation to fire

Safety office and fire department

The National Fire Protection Association reports that every year fires in America kill more than 6,000 people, injure 30,000 seriously and cost industry more than \$600 million.

Almost every fire can be prevented, according to base safety and fire department officials.

Most fires are caused by people who fail to guard against these common hazards:

Open flame — unprotected burners, torches, dryers, incinerators, etc.

Spontaneous ignition — slow buildup of heat in piles of trash, oily rags and damp waste.

Hot surfaces — flammable materials placed too close to furnaces, flues, pipes, soldering irons, etc.

Mechanical sparks — metal objects dropping and bumping machinery, faulty equipment, etc.

Electrical equipment — motors, switches, lights, wiring that overheats and shorts.

Friction — objects or materials rubbing against each other, such as poorly-lubricated bearings.

Portable heaters — gas furnaces, salamanders, etc., too close to combustibles or poorly vented or left on by mistake.

Static electricity — sparks produced most often in dry, low humidity areas.

Flammable liquids and chemicals — gasoline, ethers, alcohol, sodium, potassium, etc., can be ignited by the



smallest spark or static electricity.

Smoking — failure to observe smoking restrictions or careless disposal of ashes, butts and matches.

Welding and cutting — failure to follow proper safety precautions. This should be done in a separate room, if possible.

Arson — fires deliberately started. Report suspicious persons or activities to security police promptly.

On the job, the key is preventing fires before they start by being safety conscious all the time, officials said.

For example:

Follow instructions — perform your job as it should be done. Know and follow all required safety procedures. Stay clear of prohibited areas. Don't cut corners.

Inspect equipment — the equipment and machinery you use should be inspected regularly and thoroughly. All fire-fighting equipment should be checked regularly to be sure it's in top operating shape.

Work safely — be aware of your work area and always keep it tidy. Know what materials around you could ignite accidentally. Wear proper clothing and keep it clean. Handle and store dangerous materials with care.

Use flammables carefully — use approved storage containers, properly grounded. Transport flammables carefully, avoid spills and drips, and follow accepted disposal procedures.

Correct hazards found on the job — report all unsafe conditions such as dirty machinery, frayed wires, overloaded circuits, poor connections, spills, unprotected flammables, lack of fire-fighting equipment, poor ventilation, lack of ashtrays, unattended flames, clogged flues, pipes and messy rubbish areas.

Remedy the dangerous situation yourself if it's something you're qualified to handle — fix and clean machinery. Don't let it overheat. Move combustibles away from flames and hot surfaces. Repair leaking flammables, pipes and gas lines.

Make on-the-job house-keeping part of your daily routine — keep the floor clear of shavings, trash and spills. Make sure tools, equipment and storage areas are clean and neat. Contain trash safely and out of the way. Ensure passageways and exits are clear and fire-fighting equipment nearby and inspected. Protect electrical equipment. Unplug unnecessary appliances.

**Review and practice
operational security procedures
— don't give away
critical information.**

Cocaine use, larceny costly for Airmen at courts-martial

Legal office and Keesler News staff

Two Airmen assigned at Keesler were convicted at courts-martial in January.

An airman first class from the 81st Medical Operation Squadron was convicted of cocaine use. The Airman was sentenced to a reduction to airman and confinement at hard labor for 30 days.

An airman basic in the 81st Communications Squadron was convicted of larceny of private property valued at less than \$500. He was sentenced to confinement for 20 days and forfeiture of \$850 in pay.

Brent Richardson, legal office, and Perry Jenifer, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report

MILITARY JUSTICE

Cops report 6 January DUIs

81st Security Forces Squadron and Keesler News staff

Six motorists were charged with driving under the influence in January, according to 81st Security Forces Squadron records.

Three of the drivers were civilians, two were permanent party military members and one was a technical training student. Both permanent party DUIs involved Air Force members. The student was a Sailor.

Three cases of DUI were discovered at base gates, one on base and the other two off-base.

Two incidents of underage drinking were recorded by 81st SFS officials last month.

Both cases involved technical training students, one from the Air Force and the other from the Navy.

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



**Drink
responsibly.
Have a plan.
If your plan
goes bad,
call
Airmen
Against
Drunk
Driving.
377-7283.**

IT WEIGHS 68 TONS.

IT CAN CROSS A DESERT AT 40 MPH.

IT CAN HIT A TARGET FROM 2.5 MILES.

WITHOUT EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE, IT MIGHT NOT MOVE AN INCH.

As the American military gets smaller, the role of the National Guard and Reserve has never been greater—and the support of their employers never more critical.

The Guard and Reserve make up half of today's military forces. Along with being trained and ready for combat, they support peacekeeping missions, rescue operations and humanitarian relief efforts. As soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, they'll be in a position to serve our country. As their employer, so will you.

For more information on how you as an employer can help, contact your state committee or our web site: www.esgr.org.

Ad
ESGR EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE.

Keeping deployed Airmen connected to their families

By Roger Drinnon

Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT Air Force Base, Ill. — Air Force officials continue to provide deployed Airmen and their families with Web-based communication tools, allowing e-mail and instant messaging from virtually anywhere in the world.

The Air Force Instant Messenger and Global Internet Mail programs help ease the stress of deployments by keeping family members in touch with their deployed spouse, mom or dad.

“These programs have been around for a while,” said Ivera Harris, chief of family matters for Air Mobility Command. “AFIM and GI Mail are tremendous morale builders. These communication tools (also) allow deployed members to stay in touch with extended family and friends such as parents, grandparents, and fiancés.”

AMC leaders want to increase awareness of existing programs among Airmen and their family members.

“Leadership is engaged at all levels in getting the word out,” said Ms. Harris. “Additionally, the airman and family readiness center staff includes this information in pre-deployment briefings, deployment packages, newsletters and other marketing avenues.”

Air Force family support agencies continually seek feedback from Airmen returning from deployments regarding communication with family members in order to assess programs like AFIM and GI Mail.

“Our airman and family readiness center provides reintegration briefings to all returning members,” said Master Sgt. Deb Teague, readiness noncommissioned officer for the 375th Mission Support Squadron’s center here. “During these briefings, we ask what helped with keeping in touch with their families (during deployment). Besides the weekly ‘morale calls,’ many members raved about the easy access for family members and how great the instant messaging is through (AFIM).”

To access AFIM:

Go to <http://www.my.af.mil>.

Under the heading, “Friends and Family,” click on “Access Friends and Family.”

A tutorial is available for new users to establish their login.

To access GI Mail:

Go to <http://www.gimail.af.mil>.

Enter your GI Mail user name and password (if already registered)

New users click on the “Sign Up” icon to register and establish their login.

AFIM is accessed via the Air Force Portal, and it enables real-time instant messaging with other portal users, including family members. The program alerts users when their contacts are online and allows families to communicate through private, online chat areas. AFIM enables one-to-one messaging, as well as simultaneous messaging to multiple contacts.

In addition to AFIM, deployed Airmen and some family members have the option of communicating via the GI Mail Web-based e-mail service.

GI Mail is for Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System-verified Department of Defense employees — active-duty, Guard, Reserve, civil service and their authorized family members.

However, current directives prohibit dependent children from using this service. GI Mail provides registered users with a portable e-mail account, accessible from any computer with Internet access and Web browser software. The program is secure and free of commercial advertising, but Airmen must adhere to their respective operational security guidelines while using GI Mail.

Plans for new event center take shape

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

One good thing that's rising from Hurricane Katrina's rubble is a new structure for special functions, dining and recreational activities.

The Bay Breeze Event Center combines an officers lounge, enlisted lounge, casual dining, ballroom, recreation rooms and a golf course clubhouse and pro shop under one roof.

Construction of the \$23.3 million facility begins in June and should be completed by June 30, 2009, according to Bob Moseley, head of the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron's project management office.

It replaces several buildings severely damaged by Katrina's high winds and storm surge.

Multipurpose facility

"It's going to be a great facility for the base and can be utilized for many events, from wedding receptions to graduations," Mr. Moseley said.

"We're in the design phase and are developing the request for proposal package," he explained. "This project will be bundled with nine other projects in an effort to attract many bidders and obtain good pricing."

The selected site encompasses land on Ploesti Drive previously occupied by the golf course clubhouse, cart barn, pool, pool house and parking.

The design maximizes views from the ballrooms, function rooms and lounges and features terraces toward Biloxi's Back Bay and the marina.

Architectural blend

In keeping with the architectural theme established on base over the past few years, the reinforced structure will have a concrete foundation, steel frame, masonry walls, brick stucco exterior walls, light bronze glazed windows and a standing seam metal roof.

The facility will house the information, tickets and tours office, recreation rooms with video games and pool tables, administrative offices, two music rooms and piano room for teaching and practice, storage space, loading dock and a kids play room with outdoor playground.

Golfers can look forward to a modern facility designed to host individual play or accommodate golf tournaments on an 18-hole course being reconstructed to meet U.S. Golf Association standards.

There'll be a pro shop, maintenance

Bay Breeze
Event Center
combines an
officers lounge,
enlisted lounge,
casual dining,
ballroom,
recreation rooms
and a golf course
clubhouse
and pro shop
under one roof.

space and storage for up to 80 golf carts.

The showplace of the center is the ballroom, which seats up to 400 guests at 10-seat round tables. It has a 16-foot ceiling, a raised stage and a built-in bar. It can be divided into up to four rooms of different spaces to accommodate a variety of activities.

Large restrooms and a distinguished visitor area are adjacent to the ballroom.

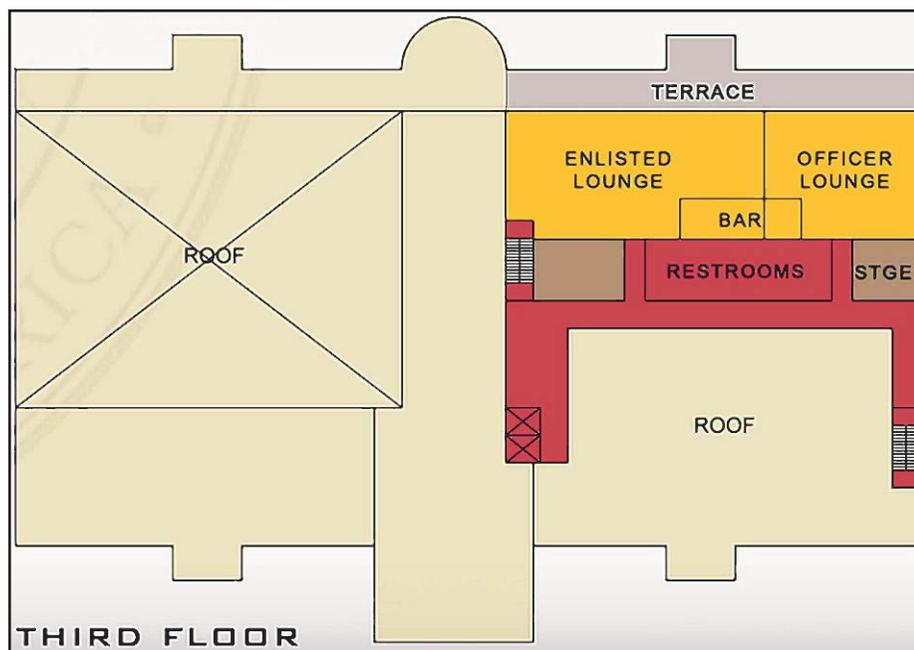
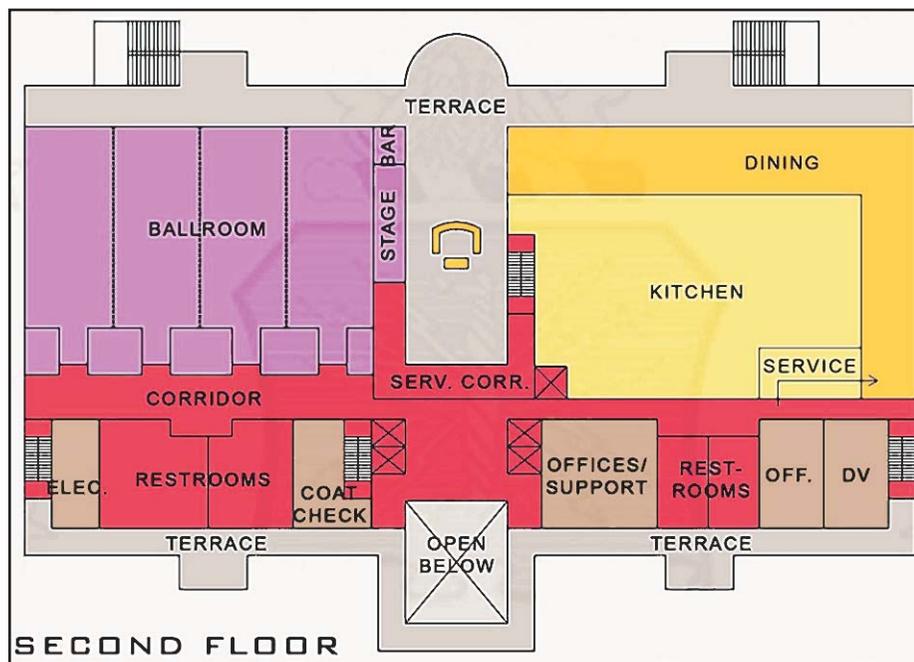
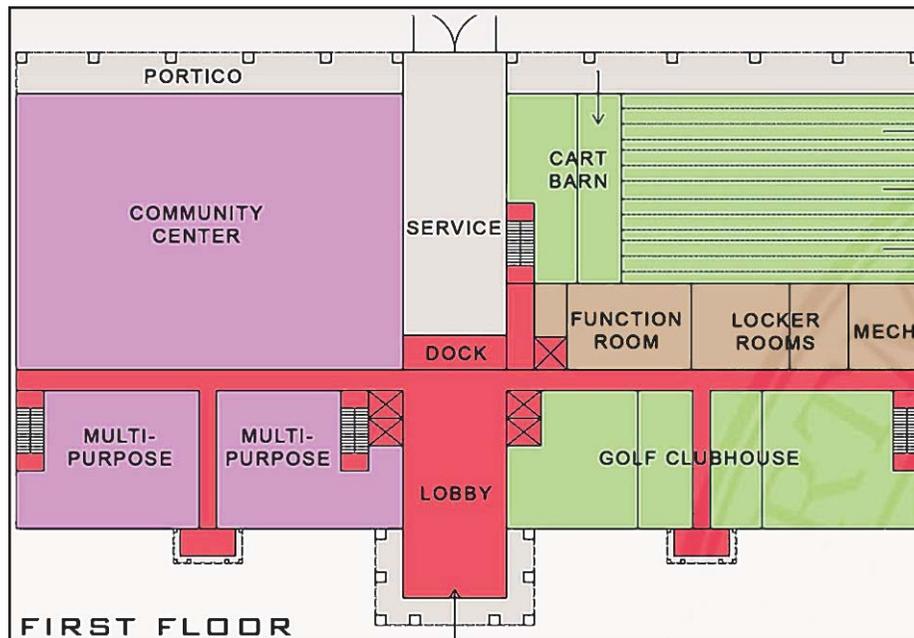
The kitchen allows a full range of menu options for the casual diner, lounge customers or groups using the ballroom or one of the special function rooms.

Both the officer and enlisted lounges have outdoor terraces, men's and women's restrooms and built-in bars with beer coolers and liquor storage. The enlisted lounge has a disk jockey room for parties.

The tee boxes for the driving range must be relocated because of the project.

In addition to onsite parking to accommodate 120 cars, two remote lots will be developed to accommodate the parking overflow during major events.

The facility is designed to be fully compatible with accessibility requirements for the disabled.



Online tax services available at no cost

By Gerry Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department's Military OneSource family support program is once again offering free, online tax preparation and filing for service members and their families.

The service began Jan. 15. It's available to active-duty service members, National Guardsmen and reservists and their families.

This is the second year of the program. Last year, more than 327,000 tax claims were filed using a similar program, said Jane Burke, the principal director in the office of the deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy.

Ms. Burke added service members can put their tax refunds to good use as a deposit in a savings or retirement account or to pay off debts.

"How to use the refund may be the first financial decision of the year" for service members in improving their financial readiness, Ms. Burke noted.

DOD is launching a campaign called "Military Saves"

Base tax office

The tax office is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. working Fridays in Room 234, old Cody Hall.

To ensure preparers are available to assist with your paperwork, call 377-4454.

to encourage service members to save money and eliminate or reduce their personal debt.

Filers who use Military OneSource's online system can expect to receive their refund within 10 days, Ms. Burke said. Military OneSource tax consultants, she said, are trained to answer questions on preparing and filing taxes and provide other financial management information.

Through the Military OneSource Web site, <http://www.militaryonesource.com>, service members and their families can also get guidance and answers to questions, Ms. Burke said.

Tax-filing assistance also is available through the Internal Revenue Service's electronic filing program.

Two-year-olds Phoenix Fyffe, left, Jaya Thomas and Julien Smith enjoy the new playground at the child development center under the watchful eye of staff member Debbie Hendricks. Their parents are Senior Airman Seth and Kim Fyffe, 81st Medical Support Squadron; Staff Sgt. Yvonne Thomas, 81st Mission Support Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Jermaine Thomas, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron; and Staff Sgt. Audrey and Julien Smith, 81st Medical Group.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Officials explain child development center charges

By 2nd Lt. Nick Plante

Keesler News staff

The child development center follows Air Force instructions to establish rates and offers two contract options to accommodate parents' work schedules.

One option is 10 hours per day designed specifically for people who work five days a week and aren't on a compressed work schedule, according to Maria Ochoa, director.

The other is based on an 11-hour day, accounting for CWS schedules.

The center is open 5:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. on weekdays, including CWS Fridays, and is closed weekends and holidays.

"If parents are on the 11-hour daily contract and would like care on a down Friday, they can make a reservation and pay \$3.50 per hour for drop-in care," said Ms. Ochoa. "If 11-hour care contract parents have duty on a CWS Friday and have to work, they need to notify the center's front desk and their fees will be prorated based on their weekly fee category."

The center also charges a prorated fee if parents occasionally have to work beyond the 10-hour contract day. For example, a parent in the Cate-



Ms. Ochoa, left, and clerk Carole Dixson discuss child care fees with Staff Sgt. Darin Ginder, 81st Transportation Squadron.

gory I fee range would pay a prorated hourly rate of \$1.25 compared to the normal \$3.50 rate. Parents are required to provide proof from their supervisors in order to qualify for the reduced rate.

"When the center closes on

a business day other than a federal holiday, parents' fees are prorated for the week, meaning they get credit for that day," said Ms. Ochoa.

The staff posts care signup sheets for Air Education and Training Command "family

days" to determine if a sufficient need exists. If there are at least 30 children requesting care, the center opens; if not, parents are referred to off-base care.

"To make it fiscally prudent, the center would need at

least 30 children to justify opening the facility," said Ms. Ochoa. "Based on history, the attendance has been extremely low on family days, and some families sign up and don't show up."

According to the child development system fee policy, fees are based on the family's combined income and cover what Congress doesn't subsidize. The Military Child Care Acts of 1989 and 1996 direct parents pay approximately half of the care costs. The money parents pay goes toward three-fourths of the wages and benefits provided to caregivers, supplies and the food program.

The staff computes the total family income to measure the family's ability to pay for care. There are seven different categories, ranging from \$43 to \$126 per child per week.

"These fees are for 50 hours of care weekly and annualized, which means fees for the year are collected over a 50-week period, allowing families two weeks during which they do not have to pay child care fees," said Ms. Ochoa.

For more information, call 377-2211.

Keesler couple closes book on 70 years' federal service

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

High school sweethearts, married almost 43 years and serving their country — he for 42 years, she for almost 28 — Gene and Sherry Olesen retire together Wednesday.

He enlisted in the Air Force in July 1963, attended technical school at Gunter Air Force Base, Ala., graduated as a pharmacy technician and was assigned to Kincheloe AFB, Mich. — but only for one night. Luck must have been with them as the very next day, he was transferred to Truax Field in Madison, Wis., and much closer to Sherry. During this assignment, they were married and remained at Truax four years.

In 1968, Mr. Olesen was reassigned to the hospital at Perrin AFB, Texas. However, after only four months, he was reassigned to U-Tapao Royal Thai Airfield, Thailand, in support of the Vietnam War.

Just in time for Camille

Returning in 1969, the couple vividly remembers arriving at Keesler just 48 hours before Hurricane Camille slammed into the area. They were here until 1974 when he was reassigned to Wiesbaden Air Base, Germany. After spending four years at the Wiesbaden Hospital, the Olesens returned to the states to serve the next three years at Scott AFB, Ill.

In 1980, Gene applied for retraining as a first sergeant and returned to Keesler in 1981 to serve in that position for the next 10 years. His first “first shirt” assignment was in a training squadron. He later moved on to the air base group and finally to Keesler Medical Center, where he spent five years as the only first sergeant to 2,500 people.

In 1990, after serving 27 years, he retired from the Air Force as a chief master sergeant.

Following his retirement, Mr. Olesen worked for Owen Health Care at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Biloxi before being selected for a civilian position at Keesler Medical Center.

'It's all been terrific'

He's worked in the patient administration and managed care flights, and has been in the forefront of Tricare since its inception. He retires as chief of Tricare operations, managing the database, referral management and access to care. In addition, he has been the quality assurance evaluator for appointment services.

He's also been the civilian representative to the 81st Medical Group executive team and has served on numerous committees.

Reminiscing about his four decades of service, Mr. Olesen stressed, “It's all been terrific. I loved each assignment, long or short. The people and constant challenges made such a positive difference. I absolutely loved my time serving the Air Force, both on active duty and as a civilian employee.”



The Olesens

Mrs. Olesen began her federal career in 1979 at Scott AFB. Previously, she worked various jobs in the private sector as she moved around with her husband.

“I never thought of working in civil service; however, it was easier at that time to get a government job than one in the civilian community,” she explained.

She began her career at Air Force Communications Command headquarters. She was promoted to the civilian personnel office, then assigned to the Keesler civilian personnel office upon their assignment here in 1981.

After several years, she requested reassignment as a secretary, a field she said she dearly loves. In that capacity, she worked at the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, military personnel office, 81st Mission Support Squadron and the 81st Training Wing vice commander's office — each move a promotion. In 1993, she was selected as the secretary to the wing commander, the position she occupies today.

Noting that she's worked for 11 center and wing commanders, Mrs. Olesen said, “The best part of my job has been the opportunity to work in the nucleus of Keesler, to get to know and assist in every facet of Keesler's mission. By learning the mission, you obtain a working knowledge of what the commander is responsible for. It's so gratifying to be able to assist the boss with what is required to perform the job. It's a tremendous challenge.

“In addition, I've had the pleasure of interacting with members of the civilian community, as well as our congressional leadership. I've had the best of both worlds — 43 years of association with the Air Force and, for the past 26 years, living and getting to know the citizens of Biloxi,” she added.

The Olesens' main retirement objective is to spend more time with their three children and six grandchildren.

More Air Force suicides not trend indicator

Air Force Print News and Keesler News staff

The number of suicides among Airmen in fiscal 2006 rose about 14 percent above a 10-year average for the service, but the increase isn't likely the start of a trend, an Air Force official said.

"The suicide rate for 2006 is most indicative of the random variations year-to-year of suicides," said Lt. Col. Steven Pflanz of the Air Force Medical Operations Agency suicide prevention office.

For FY 2006, none of the Air Force's 40 suicides involved Keesler Airmen, according to Capt. Elizabeth Najera of the 81st Medical Operations Squadron Life Skills Support Center.

Suicide remains the second leading cause of death in the Air Force, according to the captain.

The Air Force measures suicides in terms of deaths per 100,000 Airmen. The suicide rate for 2004 was 15.2. In 2005, the rate dropped to 7.8, and in 2006, it rose again to 11.4.

However, the Air Force's average for the 10-year period beginning in FY 97 is just 10, a 28-percent decrease in suicides from the previous decade.

"If we had a drug that reduced the death due to an illness by 28 percent, it would be flying off the shelves," Colonel Pflanz said. "Yet, that is what our suicide prevention program is doing."

The colonel said the Air Force has had more success in reducing suicides than any other organization or group in the world, due largely to implementation of the Air Force's suicide prevention program in 1996.

"Much of the rest of the world and the country look to the Air Force suicide prevention program as a model for preventing suicide at the community level," he pointed out.

The colonel explained that in the Air Force, the suicide prevention program is successful because it is community driven.

"Suicide prevention is a community responsibility," he said. "The wing commander and wing psy-

Suicide prevention briefings

Suicide prevention briefings are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday for those who still need to complete the training.

Capt. Elizabeth Najera, 81st Medical Operations Squadron Life Skills Support Center, presents the briefings at 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tuesday in Welch Auditorium and 7 a.m., noon and 4 p.m. Wednesday in the dining facility at Keesler Medical Center.

All Keesler personnel must receive the training by March 1.

For more information, call Captain Najera, 376-0385.

chiatrist don't know everyone who is in distress, so if we wait until people get to their offices, we are going to miss the boat. Our program asks that Airmen of all ranks be looking for folks who are having trouble every day, so we can bring assistance to them as early as possible."

At Keesler, all civilians and Air Force members attend suicide prevention briefings at least every 15 months. Personalized briefings can be conducted by life skills staff members on request.

"For example, we were asked to do several stress management briefings after Hurricane Katrina," Captain Najera pointed out.

To reduce suicide risks, the captain explained it's important to increase protective factors, the things that prevent an at-risk person from harming himself.

"It's helpful to listen, share your concerns and refer them to people and agencies that can help — life skills, chapel, health and wellness center, family, friends and supervisors, as well as Military OneSource for active-duty members," Captain Najera stated.

There are a variety of reasons why people with suicidal tendencies avoid seeking help — denial,

avoidance and fear that the chain of command will be contacted or that seeking help will impact professional relationships.

Asking someone if they're suicidal is an important step, said Maj. Samantha Timm, a clinical psychologist at Kadena Air Base, Japan. Chances are they've already expressed feelings of hurting themselves in one form or another.

"They tell someone they're thinking of suicide," Major Timm said. "About half of the individuals actually show signs of depression prior to committing suicide. So, if as wingmen we're looking for these things and listening, we can do something to intervene and help the individual."

Depressed people may try to give away valuable possessions and say things like, "I'm not going to need these where I'm going." They may just suddenly stop caring about things they normally showed a lot of interest in, such as a favorite sport or team. Another sign of depression is someone showing a lowered productivity at work.

When urgent help is needed, notify a supervisor or family member and escort the distressed person to the nearest emergency department or counseling service. After hours, call the emergency room or command post for assistance and involve security forces if necessary. Don't leave the person alone, and remove any weapons or means for self-harm.

"Statistics show for every suicide, there are at least six people intimately affected," Major Timm said. "In a close-knit military community, that number increases and the mission begins to fail."

Before things get to be too much to handle, life skills or mental health counselors are available to listen and guide service members in the right direction. They can discuss clearance issues, limits to confidentiality and any other concerns prior to starting treatment.

Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez, Air Force Print News, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.

'Flying sergeants' wrote aviation history

AETC News Service

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — They weren't paid much, their opportunities for promotion were limited, and they were treated harshly in training, but that didn't stop three generations of enlisted aviators from becoming pilots in the Army Air Corps.

Beginning in 1912, enlisted pilots played an important role in writing the aviation history.

These enlisted pilots were known as "flying sergeants" for the staff sergeant rank they received upon graduation from flight training irrespective of their previous rank. Enlisted men seized this once-in-a-lifetime chance to fly, said retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Edward Wenglar, a former enlisted pilot.

Mr. Wenglar, who served overseas during World War II from November 1942 through July 1944, holds the distinction of achieving the highest rank of any former enlisted pilot.

In Lee Arbon's book about enlisted pilots, *They Also Flew*, Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Fisk compared pilots to precious stones, with the shiniest of all U.S. aviation achievements being those of the sergeant pilot.

Allowing enlisted airmen to earn their wings as pilots was a temporary response to drastic shortages of qualified pilot candidates during wartime.

Enlisted pilot training in the late 1920s initially was informal, practical in nature and not a product of the flying schools, which developed in the early 1940s with World War II enlisted pilots.

Instead, Mr. Arbon said, "If fortunate enough, these early, World War I enlisted pilots grew up in the local organization learning under a generous officer in



Chuck Yeager graduated with the last class of enlisted pilots.

their unit. For the initial enlisted pilots, the World War I generation, many came out of the ranks of mechanics to become successful pilots."

An enlisted man's opportunity to train to fly was many times luck of the draw, Mr. Arbon said. Such was the case in 1912 for Cpl. Vernon Burge, the first enlisted pilot, who was a mechanic accepted into pilot training.

Mr. Arbon, who attended pilot training in 1942, recalled, "Training conditions were fiercely competitive, attrition was very high, half of us were cut after the medical physical and only one fourth made it out of training."

Enlisted pilot candidates trained six days a week in class or in the air and

spent Sundays doing drill, Mr. Wenglar said. One of his strongest memories was training in the hot July sunshine in Arizona with temperatures in the hundreds, which made the flight line surface even hotter.

"While waiting your turn to fly, the instructors would order us to complete one push-up after another, our hands burning," he said. "When we couldn't do any more push-ups, the instructors would make us (get on our backs and) hold our feet up six inches from the ground. Looking back, it's amazing we got through. They worked hard to wash us out, especially considering they needed us so badly."

According to Mr. Wenglar, enlisted pilots flew in 22 campaigns from the Mexican-American War to World War II.

"Name a combat plane or theater and you'll find a number of sergeant pilots in each of those units," Mr. Arbon said. "We did everything. It took us a long time to acquaint the world to the fact that we did indeed exist. When we did get acknowledged, people realized we had done a grand job.

"We destroyed a total of 249.5 enemy planes," he noted.

Seventeen enlisted pilots became fighter aces, and 11 became general officers.

The opportunity for enlisted men to become pilots ended in late 1942. Retired Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, famous for breaking the sound barrier, was in the last class of the program.

To learn more about the history of the enlisted pilot, visit the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute Web site, <http://www.au.af.mil/au/cepme/heritage/homepage.htm>.



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MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Air Force

Feb. 3, 1995 — Air Force Lt. Col. Eileen Collins became the first woman to pilot a space shuttle. She was at the helm of Discovery.

Air Education and Training Command

Feb. 28, 1966 — Responsibility for all Reserve and Air National Guard basic military training was transferred from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, to Amarillo AFB, Texas.

Keesler

Feb. 27, 1942 — The first airplane mechanics class graduated.

Call for volunteers

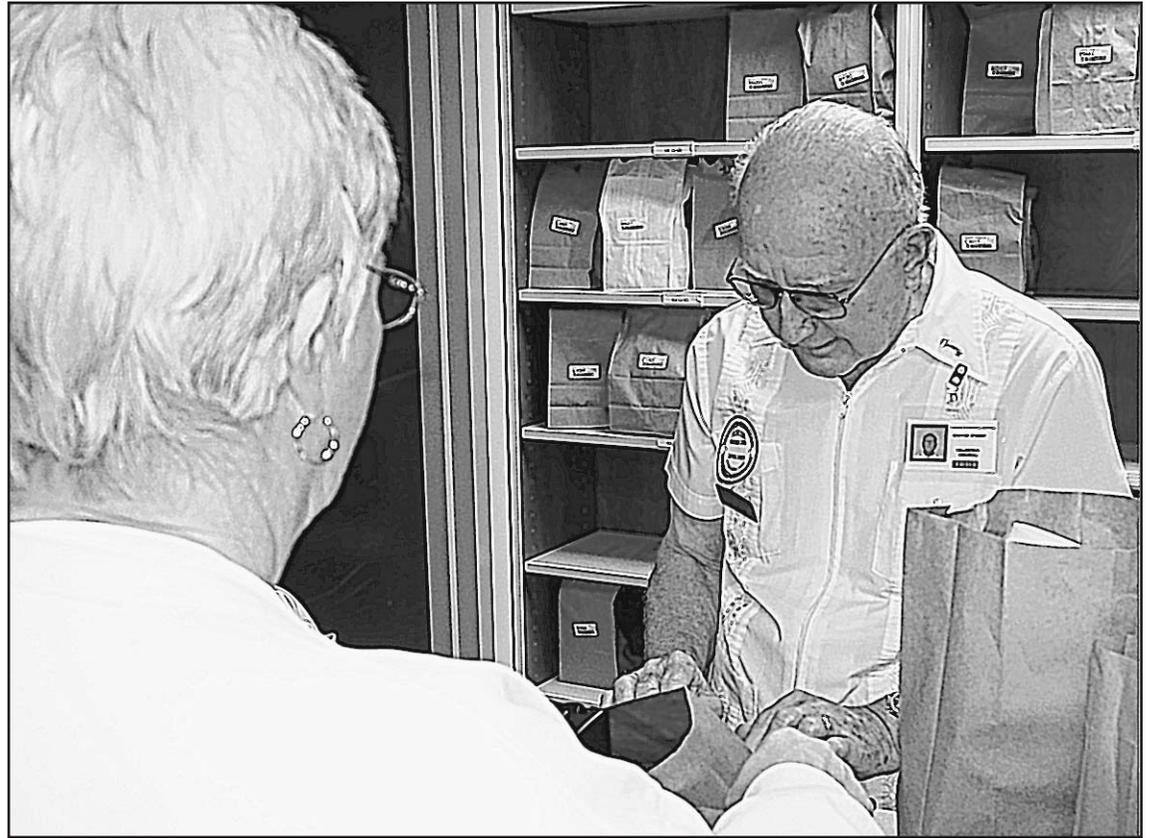


Photo by Steve Pivnick

Keesler Medical Center volunteer Grover Stuart hands a prescription to a patient in the main pharmacy. Mr. Stuart, a retired senior master sergeant, has been providing assistance in the facility for 15 years. He's one of approximately 70 people serving as medical center volunteers. Emily Shelton, volunteer supervisor, said this is fewer than half the people on the rolls before Hurricane Katrina. More volunteer help is needed as additional services return to the facility, she noted. For more information, call Mrs. Shelton, 388-6841 or 669-2263.

Black Heritage Month: Something's cooking

Black Heritage Month activities at Keesler:

Cookout — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today, 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.

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. — Col. Lawrence Roberts chapter membership meeting, 11 a.m. Friday, Katrina Kantina. For more information, call or e-mail Tech. Sgt. Kirk Jackson, chapter secretary, 377-4532, 424-7915, ijack@ cableone.net.

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

Luncheon — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 22, Triangle Chapel Annex. Hosted by Col. Richard Pierce, 81st Training Wing vice commander. For more informa-

tion, call Capt. Millie Ziebell, 377-7055.

Gospel concert — 6-9 p.m. Feb. 23, Welch Auditorium. 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.

Dental health lesson

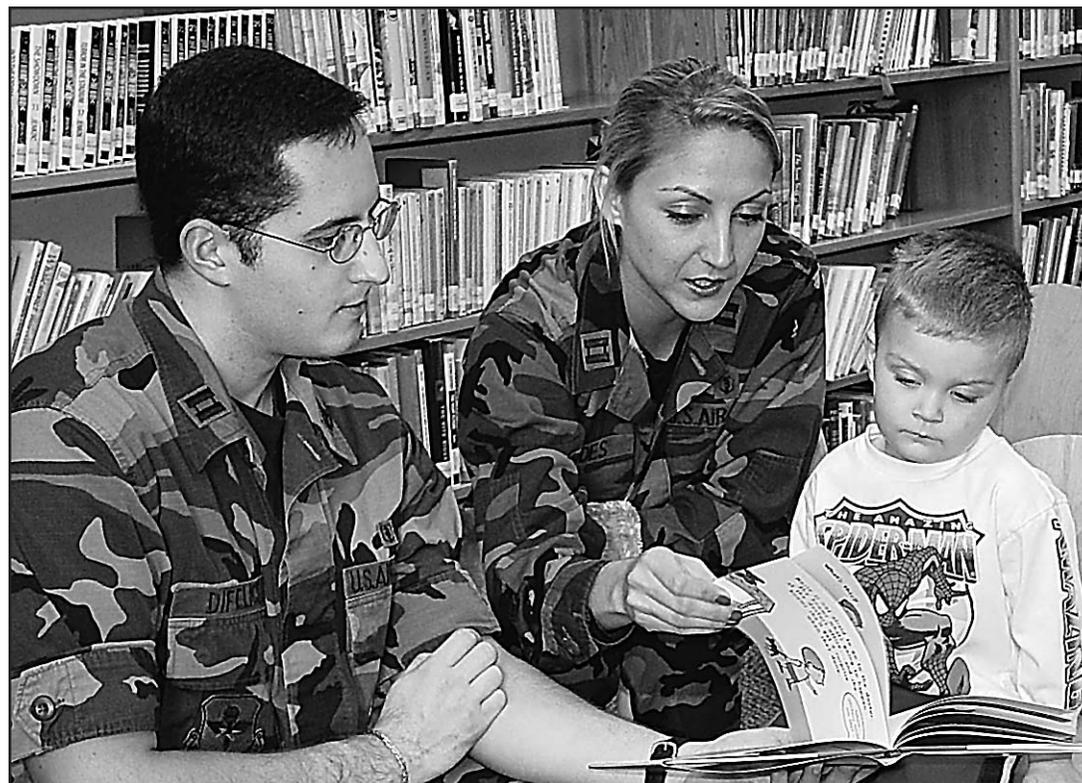


Photo by Steve Pivnick

Cpts. (Drs.) Michael DiFelice, left, and Caroline Rhodes, 81st Dental Squadron, read to Andrew Euler, 3, at McBride Library Feb. 7. The dental clinic staff provides readings for children of all ages, 10 a.m. Wednesdays throughout February, Children's Dental Health Month. Andrew's parents are Navy Chief Petty Officer Matthew and Kristen Euler. His father is an instructor with the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit.

New phone numbers

Five Keesler Medical Center functions have new telephone numbers:

Immunization clinic — 376-3552 and 3553.

Medical readiness — 376-5610.

Dental clinic appointment line — 376-0511.

Bioenvironmental engineering — 376-0590, effective Friday.

Physical and occupational therapy — 376-0446.

Excess property sale

A nonappropriated fund excess property sale ends today in the Keesler Club on Larcher Boulevard.

For more information, call 377-0002.

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 "goody bags."

Heart Link

Heart Link, a free orientation program for Air Force spouses with five years or less affiliation with the Air Force is 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 22 at the Triangle Chapel Annex.

Limited child care is available by calling Jackie Pope, 377-5346.

To register, call the airman and family readiness center, 377-2179.

Library display

A display of models and photographs depicting the land battles of World War II is featured at McBride Library through March.

The exhibit is from the personal collection of retiree

Defending against flu



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Navy Chief Petty Officer Chris Butler, an instructor with the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit, receives a flu shot from Staff Sgt. Javon Craig, immunization clinic, in Alho Hall. The clinic continues to offer flu shots and mist to all those eligible for care at Keesler Medical Center. The staff stresses that flu immunization is a mandatory annual requirement for active-duty members. If there are significant numbers of personnel in a unit who still require the flu shot, the clinic staff can arrange to go to that unit. The clinic staff anticipates providing immunizations into March.

Charles Stewart of Biloxi.

Claims closure

The claims office is closed March 16 for training.

Entrance closed

Keesler Medical Center's A-Tower entrance is closed until late March for renovation.

Child Pride Day

Child Pride Day is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 14 in marina park.

Data disposal

For appointments to shred documents containing personal

data, call the 81st Communications Squadron's records management office, 377-2571.

DAPS services

For information on document automation and production services, call the DAPS office, 377-4057, or the DAPS customer account manager, 1-850-452-3025, extension 3118, or DSN 922-3024, extension 3118, or visit <http://www.daps.dla.mil>.

Blood drives

To schedule mobile blood drives, call 377-9324.

Airmen's Attic

Airmen's Attic is a Top III program that helps junior enlisted personnel with families obtain basic household items at no cost.

It's open 3-6 p.m. Fridays in Building 823, the former chapel next to the dental clinic.

The program is supported by donations of household items in good to excellent condition.

For more information, call or e-mail Master Sgts. James Henry, 377-0886, james.henry@keesler.af.mil, or Marion Fletcher, 377-1457, e-mail marion.fletcher@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.

Fingerprinting process

The 81st Security Forces Squadron no longer accepts walk-ins for fingerprints.

For appointments, call 377-4660 or 5404.

Food handler training

Food handler training is required for unit fundraisers involving food, according to base public health officials.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Ronald Miller or Airman 1st Class Daniel Sims, 376-3161 or 3155.

Honor guard

The Keesler Honor Guard has openings for officers and senior noncommissioned officers to serve on the Brass Team.

Brass Team members supplement the rotational honor guard and perform details in Mississippi and Louisiana.

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

Spouse program

The Career Focus Program at the airman and family readiness center assists spouses seeking employment on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

For more information and appointments, call Ron Bublik, 377-8592, or e-mail ronald.bublik@keesler.af.mil.

Tax office

The tax office is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. working Fridays in Room 234, old Cody Hall.

SPORTS AND RECREATION



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Stapp, white trunks, bores in on Brawley.



Referee counts Deleo out as Brown looks on after delivering the blow that won him the heavyweight championship.

2 Keesler fighters claim titles at Slugfest III

By Perry Jenifer

Keesler News editor

Two of three champions crowned at Slugfest III Friday in Hangar 4 are Keesler members.

John Brown, 81st Mission Support Squadron, knocked out all three of his opponents to claim the heavyweight title.

The 233-pounder stopped Troy Glover, Columbus, in his opening bout.

His semifinal victim was another Keesler member, Jarmin Blanton, 334th Training Squadron.

Brown knocked out John Deleo, Long Beach, in the finals to complete the sweep.

David Stapp saved face for the 334th TRS by winning the middleweight championship.

He outpointed James Lee over three rounds, then knocked out another 334th TRS fighter, Eric Minor, before beating K.C. Brawley, 81st Training Support Squadron on points for the title.

Stapp weighed in at 186 pounds.

The lightweight champion, 149-pounder Adam Pellerano, Biloxi, fought his way through three Keesler members.

He started by knocking out Steve Garcia, 336th TRS, then stopped Ricky Hart, Marine Corps Detachment, and outpointed Derrick James, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, over three rounds in the finals.

Each of the champions earned \$1,000.

Bowlers add dollars to scholarship coffers

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The African-American Heritage Committee's scholarship fund is \$500 richer after its annual bowling tournament Friday at Gaudé Lanes.

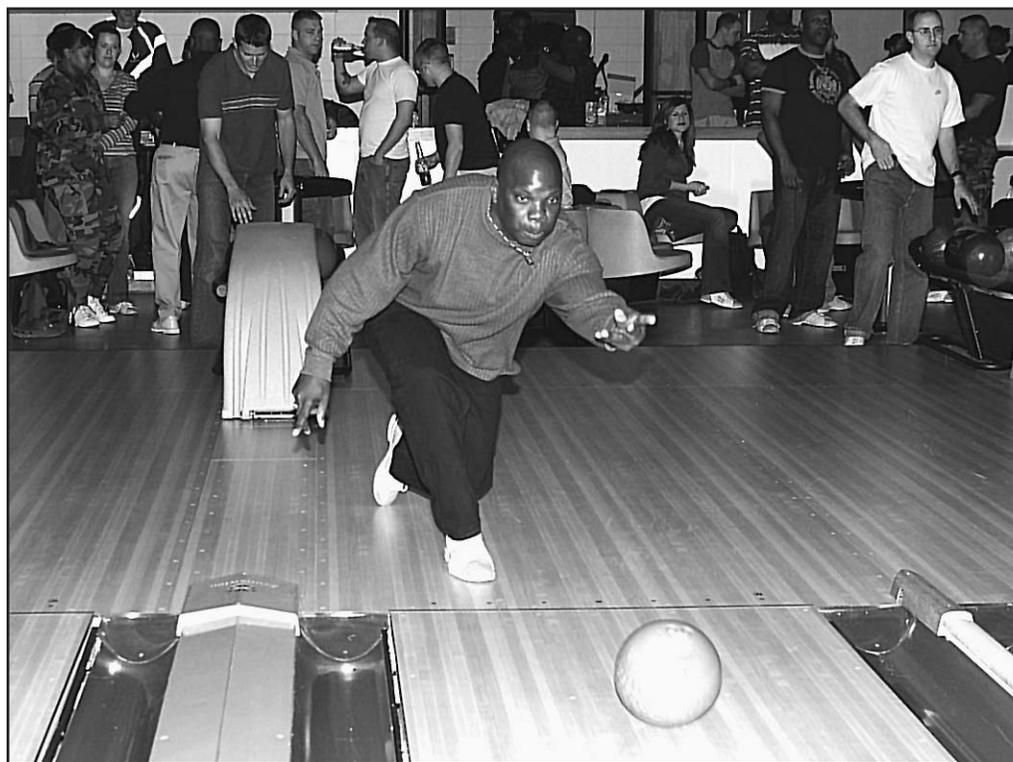
Diana Macie, 81st Medical Support Squadron, claimed high game and high series wins in the women's division. She bowled a 240 game and a 669 three-game series.

Josh Wiggs, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, bowled a 272 to earn high game honors in the men's category.

Jeff Jackson, 81st Training Support Squadron, was the high series male bowler with a 786.

The 81st CES Zone 2 was the first place team. Members are Wiggs, Trevor Baryo, Bruce Hamilton, Melvin Jackson and Steve Hart.

AAHC representative Kurt Higgins, 338th Training Squadron, said 101 bowlers competed this year.



Ken Powell, 338th TRS, eyes his shot as the ball travels down the alley during Friday's AAHC tournament at Gaudé Lanes.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Sweethearts cross finish line together



Photo by Kemberly Groue

The Plantes finished the race in 21:43.

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Sweaty sweethearts pounded the pavement for Keesler's Valentine's Day 5-kilometer sweetheart run Feb. 14.

Winning couples crossed the finish line together.

Nick Plante, public affairs, and his wife, Jennifer, were the first couple to cross the finish line in 21 minutes, 43 seconds. They won two candy-filled champagne flutes and two \$25 Academy Sports gift certificates.

Mike Deaton, 335th Training Squadron, and Naomi Henigin, 336th TRS, came in second at 24:19. They received two champagne flutes and two Slugfest tickets.

Third place finishers at 25:27 were Kelvin McElroy, 403rd Maintenance Group, and Maria McElroy, 403rd Wing, followed by David and Jennifer Eisenach, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, at 26:28. The McElroys and Eisenachs received Valentine's chocolates.

Jimmy Jordan, 81st Medical Support Squadron, and Terri Jordan, 81st AMDS, finished in fifth place at 26:56 and won Valentine's Day gift sets from the arts and crafts center.

SCORES AND MORE

Basketball

Friday-Sunday — Women's varsity in Southeastern Military Athletic Conference tournament at Ft. Benning, Ga.

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.

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).

Birthday parties — Saturdays. For more information and reservations, call 377-2817.

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.

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 renovation.

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 8 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. Smoothie bar open. For massage therapist appointments, call 263-5515.

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

Valentine's special — 10 percent discount on No. 1 camping package throughout February. Includes four-person tent, four sleeping bags, lantern, stove, 48-quart ice chest and camper's bow saw.

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

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

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.

Sports council

Meeting — April 18. Time, location to be announced.

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 this month.

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

Youth center

Gymnastics — 4 p.m. Tuesdays, ages 3-5; 5 p.m. Tuesdays, ages 6 and older. \$30 per month for members, \$35 per month for guests.

For more information, call 377-4116.

Identity theft
is a personal nightmare and security risk.
Shred billing statements, letters,
outdated application forms
journals, records, and any documents
that contain your full name,
Social Security number, duty title,
job information, credit card
and banking account numbers
and names of family members.
If you see documents being removed
from trash cans,
call the 81st Security Forces Squadron
law enforcement desk,
377-3040.

DIGEST

HONORS

Student honor roll

334th Training Squadron

Aerospace control and warning systems — Airmen Basic Daniel Grabowski, Sabrina Horner, Matthew Rosenbaum and Keir Stahlsmith; Airman Daniel Waters; Airman 1st Class Larry Cepeda; Senior Airman George Parkhurst; Staff Sgt. Eduardo Figueroa.

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Kenneth Campbell, Jason Cruz, Jonathon Giam, Brian Giles, Joshua Jobe, Timothy Kenney, Brandon Lee, James Lewis, David Martinez, Sean McGinnis and Joseph Quinones; Airman Jeffrey Matthews; Airmen 1st Class Christopher Dodd, Bradley Eakin, Kevin Green, Kevin Gronnvoll, Evan Hume and Trymaine Kelley; Senior Airman Eric Hohman; Staff Sgts. Carlos Henry and Eric Hohman; 2nd Lt. Alexious Kachenje.

335th TRS

Personnel apprentice course — Airmen Basic Michael Day and Loree McKnight; Airmen Wade Beckwith, Heather Blackham and Megan Renadette; Staff Sgts. Gerry Gerardo, Morgan Herbert, Kelly Kinley, Torrey Miller, Nehemiah Mosqueda and Lacharley Sherrod; Tech. Sgts. Ryan Fichtner, Mary Rodney, Bradley Salmond and Carlotta Taylor.

Weather training flight — Airmen Basic Elizabeth Lockemer and Gloria Smith; Navy Airmen Recruits Jeremy Bacon, Stephen Kowalski and Uriah Vigil; Airmen Kasey Fenimore, Vanessa Gonzales, Steve Hannah and Jakira McCampbell; Marine Lance Cpl. Angela Hoffa and Justin Lecklider; Senior Airman Patrick Gerow; Staff Sgts. Amber Goodman and Matthew Jenkins; Marine Sgt Jacob Wooten.

336th TRS

Communications-computer systems training flight — Airmen Basic Matthew Bryan, Christopher Garlington and Andrew Hughes; Airman Michael Deaton; Airmen 1st Class Joseph Arenas, Joseph Ciaravino, John McGill and Michael Yaude; Senior Airman Keith Shafer; Staff Sgts. Sheila Larry and Brian Whitcraft; Master Sgts. Chad Demro and John Torres.

Communications and information management flight — Airmen Basic James Burton, Eliezer Falcon, Robert McDermott, Marvin Tucker and Elpidio Villalpando; Airmen 1st Class Arthur Buck, Howard Clay, Robert Ernst, Jaysiel Garcia, Kevin Joslin, Charles Landgraf, Ryan Luedke, Stephanie McCord, Timothy O'Conner, James Schuckenbrock and Jay Vanvranken; Senior Airmen Bren Calpin, Christopher Pruett and Daniel Turillo; Staff

Sgts. Sarah Beamer, Joseph Doise, Corey Engle, Dennis Maldonado, Jeffrey Melson, Joshua Newlin, Shannon Revit and Byron Stuart; Chief Master Sgt. Mishaal Al-Khammash.

338th TRS

Radar systems flight — Airman Charles Boyd, Airmen 1st Class Manny Rivera and Tyler Stacey; Senior Airman Osvaldo Figueroa-Lopez; Staff Sgts. Jeffery Barrett, James Anderson and William Murray; Master Sgt. Hong Jeong.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 07-3 — Tuesday through 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 07-3 — Tuesday through 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.

Arts and crafts center

Beginners framing — one class, four sessions, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays. \$60.

Free ceramic knowledge workshop — 5 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, call 377-2821.

Advanced intarsia — 10 a.m. Saturday. \$20. A new project each month.

Scrapbooking — 1:30 p.m. Friday. \$10 including supplies.

Beginning pottery — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$40 including 5 lbs. of clay and firing for 3 pieces. Call for date.

Advanced matting — \$25. Beginner framing class is a prerequisite. Call for time and date.

New classes coming soon — photography, cooking and beading.

Auto hobby shop

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

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

Research orientations — 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Story time — 10 a.m. Wednesday, ages 2-4.

African-American heritage display — throughout the month.

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Please see **Digest**, Page 26

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

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

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	:30 332nd TRS, Building 6957
:01	:31 338th TRS, Building 6965
:02	:32 Welch Auditorium
:04	:34 AAFES Furniture Store
:06	:36 Jones/Bryan/Hewes Hall at gazebo
:08	:38 Thomson Hall
:09	:39 New Cody Hall
:11	:41 Supply, civil engineering
:12	:42 Rental store
:13	:43 Shaw House
:14	:44 Old base exchange
:15	:45 McBride Library
:16	:46 Credit union, Blake Fitness Center
:17	:47 Medical center, Tyer House
:18	:48 Sablich Center
:19	:49 Dental clinic
:20	:50 Allee and Wolfe Halls
:21	:51 Base operations
:22	:52 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.

Digest,

from Page 25

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.

Halftime Cafe — closed for renovations.

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.

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

Catering — experts can assist with event planning.

Thirsty Thursday — 5 p.m. today. Fried catfish.

Youth center

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

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-Thursday, ages 9-18.

4-H Club — 5 p.m. Monday, ages 13-17. Outdoor adventures and community service.

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

Wipeout Wednesdays — 5-6 p.m. Tuesday, ages 9 and older. Compete to overthrow current champions in a variety of indoor games.

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.

TRANSITIONS

Workshops, briefings

Veterans benefits briefing — 1-4 p.m. 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 or for more information, call 377-2179.

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. 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 or for more information, call 377-2179.

Retirement briefings — intended for those with less than a year until retirement, 8-11 a.m. 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 or for more information, call 377-2179.

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.

Employment opportunities

Career focus program for spouses — information on area employment opportunities, job Web sites, human resources contacts, temporary jobs, on-base listings and free training pro-

grams. Computer lab available for resume preparation or job search; located in Room 121, old Cody Hall. For an appointment, call Ron Bublik at the airman and family readiness flight, 377-8592, or e-mail ronald.bublik@keesler.af.mil.

Executive transition assistance program — <https://www.r.aetc.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.afoats.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.

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 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.

MEETINGS

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

African-American Heritage Committee — 3:30 p.m. second Tuesday of the month, Room 109, Taylor Logistics Building. For more information, call Paulette Powell, 377-2270, or Kurt Higgins, 377-1390.

Air Force Sergeants Association — 7 a.m. third Tuesday of the month, Live Oak Dining Hall. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Scott Sippel, 377-2337, or visit the group's Web site, <http://www.afsa652.org>.

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,

Please see Digest, Page 27

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

Lunch — pork chops, braised liver with onions, fried fish, hush puppies, rissole potatoes, rice, gravy, broccoli, peas and carrots, corn, fruit salad, potato salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken chili, cheeseburger soup, buffalo wings and roast beef subs.

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, cheeseburger soup, chicken chili, buffalo wings and roast beef subs.

Friday

Lunch — shrimp scampi, beef stew, turkey, egg noodles, rice, gravy, corn on the cob, cauliflower, collard greens, three-bean salad, chicken and wild rice soup, French onion soup, chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

Dinner — chili macaroni, barbecue chicken, fried catfish, potato wedges, Spanish rice, gravy, fried cabbage, carrots, broccoli, pasta salad, three-bean salad, chicken and wild rice soup, French onion soup, chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

Saturday

Lunch — baked chicken, Swedish meatballs, creole shrimp, mashed potatoes, rice, gravy, creamed corn, asparagus, steamed squash, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, clam chowder, chicken chili and chicken nuggets.

Dinner — baked fish, knockwurst, Chinese five-spice chicken, potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, stir-fry vegetables, baked beans, spinach, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, clam chowder, chili and chicken nuggets.

Sunday

Lunch — oven fried fish, spareribs, chicken breast parmesan, macaroni and cheese, O'Brien potatoes, gravy, peas, sweet potatoes, broccoli combo, German coleslaw, tomato salad, chicken tortilla soup, baked potato chowder, chili and cheese pizza.

Dinner — stir-fry beef with broccoli, turkey nuggets, pork chop suey, sauteed mushrooms and onions, baked potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, corn on the cob, green beans, German coleslaw, tomato salad, chicken tortilla soup, baked potato chowder, chili and cheese pizza.

Monday

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

Dinner — spaghetti with meat sauce, loin strip steak, turkey, baked potatoes, pea and pepper rice, gravy, squash, carrots, broccoli, sauteed mushrooms and onions, macaroni salad, cucumber/onion salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone, chili with beans, grilled sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Tuesday

Lunch — teriyaki chicken, veal parmesan, baked fish, rice, parsley buttered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, succotash, steamed carrots, macaroni salad, cottage cheese salad, beef pot roast soup, vegetable soup, chicken chili, sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Dinner — country captain chicken, meatloaf, turkey a la king, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, tempura vegetables, mustard greens, okra tomato gumbo, macaroni salad, cottage cheese salad, beef pot roast soup, vegetable soup, chicken chili, 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, sweet and sour pork, jambalaya, scalloped potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, Mexican corn, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, chicken noodle soup, cream of potato soup, chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.

Digest,

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377-0167, or e-mail keesler.aadd officers@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

Keesler Thrift Shop
is in the former Chapel One
adjacent to Sablich Center.

Open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Mondays and Wednesdays.

Consignments accepted
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays.

Donations accepted
during regular hours.

For more information,
call 377-3217.

e-mail chelle1m@yahoo.com.

Keesler Spouses Club — meets the second Tuesday of the month. For time and location, call Tammie Searfass, 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, Room 121, Thompson Hall. For more information, call Staff Sgts. Patrick McKimmie, 377-1513, or James Pope, 377-1305.

Top III — 7:00 a.m. second Wednesday of the month, Live Oak Dining Facility. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Marotte, 377-6000.

Tuskegee Airmen Inc., Col. Lawrence E. Roberts Chapter — 11 a.m. third Wednesday of the month, Gaude Lanes. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Kirk Jackson, 377-4532 or 424-7915, or e-mail kijack@cablone.net.

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.

Friday — closed for gospel fest.

Saturday — 2 p.m., Stomp the Yard (PG-13, 114 minutes); 6:30 p.m., Freedom Writers (PG-13, 123 minutes).

Sunday — 2 p.m., Happily Never After (PG, 87 minutes).

Air Force Assistance Fund drive

Project officer — Capt. Max Lemons, 377-0231, assisted by Master Sgt. Josh Turnier, 377-0231.

2nd Air Force — Staff Sgt. Frances Gulley, 377-8525.

81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron — Staff Sgt. David Banks, 377-6545.

81st Civil Engineer Squadron — Master Sgt. Michael Garrett, 377-0338, and Staff Sgt. Anita Pascual, 377-1730.

81st Communications Squadron — Master Sgt. Isaac Brown, 377-4144.

81st Contracting Squadron — Staff Sgt. Kevin Weaver, 377-1813.

81st Dental Squadron — Staff Sgt. Stephanie Smith, 377-4510.

81st Inpatient Operations Squadron — Staff Sgt. Craig Hutchinson, 376-3327.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — 1st Lt. Maryann Edwards, 377-9281, and Staff Sgt. Laarni San Agustin, 376-5922.

81st Medical Support Squadron — Staff Sgts. Michelle Coleman, 376-3050, and William Smitko, 376-4754.

81st Mission Support Group — Master Sgt. Lonnie Bacon, 377-1669.

81st Mission Support Squadron — Staff Sgt. Juanita Dukes, 377-2227, and Senior Airman Ashanta Conway, 377-9628.

81st Security Forces Squadron — Master Sgt. Steven Jones-Johnson, 377-8600, and Tech. Sgt. Michael Smith, 377-0959.

81st Services Division — Staff Sgt. Alice Bacon, 377-3680.

81st Supply Squadron — Staff Sgt. Roshunda Jones, 377-3490.

81st Training Group — Capt. Keith Malancon, 377-4219.

81st Training Support Squadron — Tech. Sgt. Sam Parns, 377-2860; Kerry Brann, 377-0027.

81st Training Wing staff agencies — Tech. Sgt. Kat Hataway, 377-5566.

81st Transportation Squadron — Tech. Sgt. Brian Langley, 377-3009.

85th Engineering Installation Squadron — Staff Sgt. Sheyney Burkhalter, and Senior Airman Steven Bird, 377-4377.

332nd Training Squadron — Staff Sgts. Kenneth Grasle, 377-0549, and Len Kedrow, 377-0737.

333rd TRS — Capt. Keith Malancon, 377-4219.

334th TRS — Capt. David Clontz, 377-5544.

335th TRS — Tech. Sgt. Asha Gray, 377-0244, and Staff Sgt. Jodi Schmidt, 377-7679.

336th TRS — Senior Airman Vanna Johnson, 377-1780.

338th TRS — Master Sgt. Eric Crawford, 377-1780; Tech. Sgts. Joseph Carello, 377-4177, and John Strickler, 377-0785; and Gary Robinson, 377-5642.

Income tax volunteers

81st Communications Squadron — Airman 1st Class Christopher Allen, 377-4633; Tech. Sgt. Shawnni Morris, 377-7500.

81st Medical Group — Airman 1st Class Ebony Hodges, 376-3154; Staff Sgts. Earnest Everett, 377-4510, and Angel Lopez-Torres, 377-4510; Tech. Sgt. Wendell Wigfall, 376-3327; Master Sgt. Alvin Holland, 376-4953; Arnold Emerson, 376-4909.

81st Security Forces Squadron — Theresa Arbogast, 377-9101; Staff Sgt. Derek Dingle, 377-8383; Tech. Sgt. Jose Selva-Castillo, 377-2713.

81st Supply Squadron — David Weekley, 377-2936.

81st Surgical Operations Squadron — 376-5513.

81st Training Group — Vickie Simants, 377-3122.

81st Training Support Squadron — Tech. Sgt. Jerold Strauss, 377-9041.

81st Transportation Squadron — Staff Sgts. Candice Hayes, 377-5626, and Steven Lyonnais, 377-5225.

85th Engineering Installation Squadron — Tech. Sgt. Mark Wakeam, 377-3929; Master Sgt. Alan Klein, 377-2693;

332nd Training Squadron — Master Sgt. Timothy Sheldon, 377-0288.

333rd TRS — Michael Rohner, 377-3881.

335th TRS — Kerry Bartels, 377-0338; Gloria Lewis, 377-0153; Ed Ring, 377-0364.

Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit — Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Jeffrey Smouse, 377-0307.

Keesler NCO Academy — Master Sgt. Celeste Jones, 377-2780.

Legal office — Richard Brock, 377-3510.

Marine Corps Detachment — Sgts. Stephen Dunning, 377-5080; Randy Muehe, 377-2253; and Adam Romnek, 377-5080.

At retreat:

All personnel in uniform

who aren't in formation should stand and face the flag,
or in the direction of the music if the flag isn't visible, and salute.
Hold the salute until the last note of the music is played.

All military personnel

in civilian clothes should face the flag
or the sound of the music if the flag is not visible,
and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart.

All vehicles in motion

should come to a stop at the first note of the music,
and the occupants should sit quietly until the music ends.