



KEESLER NEWS



Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

Volume 67, No. 10
Thursday, March 15, 2007

Deliver the nation's best trained, highly motivated expeditionary Airmen

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



Dragons deployed
— 194

Keesler, Biloxi test accident response



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Maj. Lynn Vix, 81st Aerospace Medical Squadron triage officer, treats the injuries of Airman Kyle Stewart, 334th Training Squadron student, during a major accident response exercise March 7. Keesler and Biloxi first responders participated. More photos, Page 5.

AFSO21 Trainers evaluate discharge process to save time, funds

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Maximizing value and minimizing waste ... that's what Air Force Smart Operations 21 is all about.

AFSO21 is an Air Force initiative that challenges people to look at ways to accomplish the Air Force mission more effectively and efficiently while maintaining quality and safety standards.

The 81st Training Group began its AFSO21 journey Feb. 27 through March 2 by tackling a costly and time-consuming action — the Airman discharge process.

Capt. Scott Lamont, Keesler AFSO21 program manager, said the team was guided by questions posed by Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne:

How can we do each task better?

Why are we doing it this way?

Is each task relevant, productive and value added?

Is it necessary at all?

Team members represented units involved in the student discharge process — 81st TRG, 81st Medical Group, 81st Mission Support and Comptroller squadrons, legal office and 2nd Air Force.

Lt. Col. Matt O'Donnell, 332nd Training Squadron director of operations, served as team leader. He praised Maj. Ken Theriot from Air Education and Training Command, who trained the team so members

Please see AFSO21, Page 9

This week in the Triangle

Aviation resource management, 10 a.m. today, Cody Hall.
Computer networking cryptographic system, 10 a.m. today, Bryan Hall.
Weather forecaster, 10 a.m. today, weather training complex.
Ground radio communications, 10 a.m. Friday, Jones Hall.
Aviation resource management, 10 a.m. Tuesday, Cody Hall.
Personnel, 10:15 a.m. Tuesday, Wolfe Hall.
Airfield systems, 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jones Hall.
Information management, 10 a.m. Wednesday, Thomson Hall.
Weather forecaster, 10 a.m. Wednesday, weather training complex.



Student numbers

Total students — 3,236
Non-prior service — 1,884
Temporary duty — 1,191
Joint service — 102
Combat controllers — 30
Medical — 29
Non-prior service arrivals — 150
Guard, Reserve — 741
International — 35
FY07 graduates — 10,300
Total since 1942 — 2,248,272

Lawn maintenance battle similar to nurturing Airmen

By Senior Master Sgt. Scott Sippel

338th Training Squadron

There I was ... picking weeds in the yard ... getting ready for the spring blooms.

This is just one ritual I perform in order to have a great looking lawn. As I was working, I started thinking about how this process relates to developing Airmen.

Think of a weed as a force of negativity on the overall goal of a lush, green lawn. This is much like a negative attitude or lapse of core values that can grow in a unit and affect the overall goal of a productive team. If you allow the weeds to grow, they multiply or grow large enough for people to recognize as a problem.

Some of my neighbors don't pull their weeds — after all, weeds are green and so is the lawn. What would it hurt to let them grow? Sometimes when you pull a weed, it leaves an ugly bare spot.

Others walk by those yards. I wonder if they notice the weeds, too.

I often talk to my neighbors about ways to develop a lush, green lawn. Sometimes, I even help them pull their weeds. By lending a helping hand, I build on our relationship and learn more about my neighbors. They realize their lawn has value and maintain it so the value isn't diminished.

However, there are a few neighbors who simply refuse to handle their weeds, and their lawns diminish the value of the whole neighborhood.

Think now about what we see in our Air Force when it comes to developing our people. We have people who live by our core values and "handle their lawn." They tackle their responsibilities such as physical training, uniform and professional military education while the issues are still small and easy to handle.

Strong Airmen reach out to their fellow Wingmen to lend a hand. This daily mentoring prevents new "weeds" from cropping up.

As Airmen, we're bound by our core values to fix uniform infractions, safety violations or pick up pieces of trash to help make the base look better.

Our people are our most valuable resource. We're charged with maintaining that resource in order to remain the best military force in the world. We're all neighbors in the military, whether at home or deployed, and I hope we can help each other pull the weeds.

I ask you to keep your lawn weed-free. Fertilize it to help it grow thick and be a great lawn for years to come. Branch out to your fellow Wingmen and help them as well.

Realize also that when you pull a weed, it makes a bare spot. It can be hard and may not look great initially, but the real grass will quickly grow to cover the spot and the whole yard will look better for it. The key is to pull those weeds while they're small.

ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

By Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

81st Training Wing commander

You're encouraged to work your concerns through your chain of command or to contact an appropriate helping agent. For matters left unresolved, call 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, 81st TRW/PA, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2603, e-mail 81st 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

Base operator — 377-1110

Base taxi (official use) — 377-2430

Career assistance adviser — 377-3697

Central medical appointments — 1-800-700-8603

Child development center — 377-2211

Civil engineering — 377-5561

Civilian personnel — 377-2268

Military personnel flight — 377-2276

Keesler Federal Credit Union — 385-5500

Emergencies — 911

Family campground — 594-0543

Airmen and family readiness center — 377-2179

Finance — 377-4212

81st Communications Squadron help desk — 377-0066

Housing — 377-9741

Identification cards — 377-3203

Inspector general — 377-3010

Legal assistance — 377-3510

Library — 377-2181

Lodging (reservations) — 377-9986

Medical center information — 377-6550

Military equal opportunity — 377-2759.

Military pay — 377-7272

Pass and registration — 377-3893

Pharmacy (refill call-in) — 377-6360

Satellite pharmacy — 377-9791

Public affairs — 377-2783

Red Cross — 377-3030

Sexual assault prevention and response team — 377-8635

Law enforcement desk — 377-3040

Shoppette, Class Six — 432-2367

Telephone trouble — 377-2130

Traffic management (outbound) — 377-2446

Traffic management (inbound) — 377-7813

Visitor center — 377-2595

Youth center — 377-4116

Promotion is event to celebrate — and share

By Lt. Col. Andrew Gale

42nd Communications Squadron commander

MAXWELL Air Force Base, Ala. — Promotion — what a momentous occasion for any individual.

As the promotion order states, it shows the Air Force believes in your abilities to perform at the next higher grade. It's a reward for hard work, dedication, discipline and sacrifice.

It's exactly the type of event that should be celebrated, yet many people opt to forego a promotion ceremony. They don't want to inconvenience others or have a big deal made about them. While these feelings are understandable, these individuals have missed the point — this ceremony isn't just about them.

Although the person being promoted is the focus of the ceremony, the event itself is as much about tradition and those in attendance as the honoree.

It's military tradition to celebrate achievements,

whether they're part of a team or an individual event. These celebrations take many forms and are intended to motivate others to excel and perpetuate our core values of service before self and excellence in all we do. The promotion ceremony is no different. At this event, we heap praise and recognition upon the person being promoted, hopefully, in such a manner as to inspire the audience to strive for their own goals.

Through our recognition of the individual's hard work and sacrifice, we not only remind junior members of the price to be paid, but reinforce the idea that these efforts aren't in vain and encourage the honoree to continue to excel and strive for the next grade.

Commonly overlooked is the fact that these ceremonies are as much about the attendees as the honoree. Rarely, if ever, are great accomplishments attained single-handedly. In attendance at the ceremony are co-workers who helped the honoree with that big project, picked them up when they were

down or helped explain the finer points of some technical issue. There are supervisors who mentored, trained, educated and motivated the honoree, often pushing him to accomplish that which he believed impossible.

Most importantly, there are family members who sacrificed with the honoree to help him reach his goals. Attendees have a stake in the honoree's accomplishments — they take just as much, if not more, pride in the promotion because it validates their confidence and investment in that person.

Skipping the ceremony deprives these deserving individuals of an opportunity to celebrate a great achievement in which they have played a major part.

The next time you or your co-worker gets that promotion, ensure there's a ceremony. Not only is it an important tradition that enables us to reinforce our core values, but it's also an opportunity to celebrate with and thank those who helped make the event possible. None of these things are an inconvenience.

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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.

For
straight talk
at Keesler,
call
377-3901.

Report
sexual
assaults
to
377-7278.



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

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Training flight commander earns AETC weather award

By Tech. Sgt. Chuck Marsh

Keesler News staff

A 335th Training Squadron captain is the Air Education and Training Command's weather company grade officer of the year for 2006.

Capt. Barry Hunte, weather training flight commander, was recognized for "superbly" commanding the largest Air Force weather flight with 85 Air Force, Navy and Marine weather forecasters on staff and roughly 278 students each day, according to his award package.

Among his many accomplishments was his ability to hit the ground running in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, leading the restoration of technical training in a matter of months vs. years.



Captain Hunte

With a post-Katrina staff shortage of roughly 45 percent, Captain Hunte stepped in and even taught the combat weather team officers course.

This was part of an acceleration plan he crafted for Katrina evacuees, which helped to turn 16 graduates to the field three weeks early, saving more than \$9,000 in temporary duty costs.

He led 33 course starts and 47 graduations, educating 786 Air Force, 178 Navy and 78 Marine weather forecasters. The captain also piloted a joint Air Force and Navy weather training project, certifying the first six Navy graduates from an Air Force course and enhancing U.S. European Command's joint weather operations.

Captain Hunte also drove his military training flight computer project, coordinating development of two weather tutorials allowing for around-the-clock assistance.

Chili champs



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Timothy Van Prooyen
Maj. Paul Lips, left, and Master Sgt. Gerald Cross, 81st Training Support Squadron, judge entries in the unit's annual chili cookoff, March 2 in Hewes Hall. Winners are Staff Sgt. Brent Eggleston, first place and hottest chili; Tech. Sgt. Crista Auge, second; Senior Airman Christopher Bauman, third, and Staff Sgt. Michael Edwards, commander's choice.

Weather warrior STEPs up



Photo by Adam Bond

Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Owens, left, 81st Training Wing command chief, presents a battle dress blouse bearing her new rank to Tech. Sgt. Deanna Green, a weather instructor in the 335th Training Squadron. Sergeant Green was promoted through the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program.

Scam targets study guides that incur unnecessary debt

Education office

A new fraud scheme targets service members.

It involves a company advertising "educational services" and selling College Level Examination Program and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support examination study guides and encyclopedias.

The expensive services require a monthly payment contract and offer false information concerning college credit, degrees, the use of tuition assistance and GI Bill benefits. They also claim false affiliation with well-known schools in order to make the service member believe the service is legitimate.

Free CLEP and DANTES study materials are available on the Air Force Virtual Education Center Web site on the Air Force Portal. Scroll down to "featured links" and see AFVEC below the "Top Viewed: Career" title.

Although these companies aren't doing anything illegal, they're selling an unnecessary product that puts service members in debt. Service members who feel misled can call the legal office, 377-3510.

For more information, call the education office, 377-2323.



Left, Biloxi first responders block White Avenue, the southern route from U.S. Highway 90 to the base, during a major accident response exercise March 7. Keesler and the city hold an annual joint mass casualty drill.

Right, Airman Basic Cassie Holmes, 334th Training Squadron, plays the driver of a truck hit by a derailed train.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Base, city train with mass casualty exercise



The search team scours the area for body parts and debris to be bagged and tagged by the recovery team.



Airman Patrick Ervin, 334th TRS, plays an unconscious victim of a collision of a truck and a derailed railroad car, represented by a bus.



Airman 1st Class Shawn Edgecomb, a Keesler firefighter, attaches a fire hose to a hydrant to douse flames generated by the chemical spill from the derailed train.

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Zaleski, left, and Staff Sgt. Jason Haddock, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, carry Airman Kyle Stewart, 334th TRS student, who portrayed one of the people injured in the scenario, to a decontamination site. Some victims were exposed to spilled insecticide and diesel fuel, and others were burned in the resulting fire.



From left, Tech. Sgt. J.P. Kelly, 81st TRW safety office, and 2nd Lt. Jennifer Mapp and Tech. Sgt. Michael Conway, 81st Contracting Squadron, disaster control team members, are briefed about the exercise scenario by James Connett, Keesler's deputy fire chief. In the exercise, Keesler and Biloxi first responders worked together to contain a hazardous situation.

AIRMEN LOOKING OUT FOR AIRMEN

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

Trouble eating or sleeping
Drastic change in behavior
Withdraws from friends >
Gives away possessions
Makes out a will
Preoccupied with death
Takes unnecessary risks
Had a recent severe loss
Lost interests in personal appearance
Increased use of alcohol or drugs
Loss of interests in hobbies, work, school, etc.

1-800-SUICIDE

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

HAZMAT training

Hazardous waste management training is 8-11 a.m. March 22 in Room 254, Wolfe Hall.

Weapons custodians

For weapons custodian training, call 377-2270.

Chiefs aid scholars

The Keesler Chiefs' Group sponsors three scholarships for enlisted personnel seeking their first Community College of the Air Force degree.

Applications are available at the education office or from any permanent party chief master sergeant.

The deadline for applications is April 5.

For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Clarke, 377-1314.

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.

Parking lot closure

The parking lot on the southeast side of the Keesler NCO Academy is closed April 3 for drill evaluations.

In case of inclement weather, the lot is open. For more information, call Master Sgt. Rosetta Lee, 377-2740.

Club scholarships

April 13 is the deadline to apply for six scholarships being offered by the Keesler Spouses Club.

High school and home-schooled seniors and spouses in Jackson, Harrison and Hancock counties who are dependents of Keesler active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retirees, deceased members and Defense Department civilian employees are eligible.

Applications are available at high school counselor offices, Keesler Thrift Shop, McBride Library, the base education office in old Cody Hall, Fishbowl Student Center and online at the KSC Web site, <http://www.keeslerspousesclub.com>.

www.keeslerspousesclub.com.

For more information, call Tiffany Goodwin, scholarship chair, 374-2750.

Drill downs, parades

The 81st Training Group's drill downs are 8 a.m. April 20, 7 a.m. June 15 and Aug. 10, and 8 a.m. Oct. 19.

Student parades are held at 6 p.m. in alternating months — March 22, May 17, July 12, Sept. 20 and Nov. 15.

For more information on drill downs, call Staff Sgt. Kwame Felton, 377-3245, and for parades, call Tech. Sgt. Kathleen Pasquini, 377-2103.

Shadow program

The Keesler NCO Academy offers a shadow program for people interested in becoming professional military education instructors.

The purpose is to give prospective instructors an opportunity to see the activities that make up the PME instructor's day. Participants see classroom instruction, uniform inspections and test procedures, and participate in flag ceremonies and receive information on the career field.

For more information, call 377-0053.

Degree plans

The education office is now required to examine the degree plans for all active-duty service members requesting tuition assistance.

Tuition assistance requests must be approved before the start of classes.

For more information, call 377-2323.

Virtual education

The Air Force Virtual Education Center has been transferred to the Air Force Portal.

To access AFVEC, use the AFVEC URL, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>, or go directly to the Air Force Portal, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod/>. Use your Air Force Portal user identification and password to log on.

First-time users are prompted to re-register some of their profile information and then are taken directly into their AFVEC profile.

Tuition aid online

Air Force members can request tuition assistance online.

Members can accomplish this request from their workstation through the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

AFVEC may be accessed through the Web site, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod/>, or through the Air Force Portal using the portal's reduced sign-on technology. New My AFVEC users are required to create an account.

Upon registration, select the "Request TA" option. A PowerPoint tutorial in this section provides instructions on processing online applications.

It's important to know and enter basic course registration information in the request.

Officer records

For officers to update their academic records, the Air Force Institute of Technology requires an official transcript sent to this address:

AFIT/RRE, 2950 P St., Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-7765.

Weapons training

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

The range is for government weapons only and is not for recreational use.

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

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/awc/home.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.

JROTC openings

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

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

NEWS AND FEATURES

RIF board convenes in June

Voluntary separation pay offered to eligible officers through end of March

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force convenes an officer reduction-in-force board June 11 at the Air Force Personnel Center.

All eligible officers should've received an officer pre-selection brief around Feb. 15. Officers are responsible for reviewing their records for accuracy and ensuring information within their records are up-to-date.

The Air Force announced the possibility of a RIF in January. Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel, announced the force-shaping goal has been to reduce active-duty end strength through voluntary programs, but the goal wasn't reached.

The window for officers to voluntarily separate from the Air Force with the voluntary separation pay option is extended to March 31. As of March 1, the service had approved just over 2,210 applicants for the program.

Officers seeking more information about VSP, call the Air Force Contact Center, 1-800-616-3775, or visit its Web site, <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

The following eligibility requirements have been established for the RIF board:

Officers from accession year groups 1995-96 and 2000-01.

VSP-eligible officers with six to 12 years of total active service from March 1, 1995, through Jan. 28, 2002.

At least one year time in grade (a date of rank of June 11, 2006, or earlier).

May not be on a promotion list.

Must be in an overage Air Force Specialty Code or year group as reflected on the AFPC force-shaping matrix.

May not have an approved separation date of Sept. 29, 2007, or earlier; Jan. 29, 2008, for officers with a commission date between October-December 2001.

A retention recommendation form is written on each eligible officer for the board to consider.

"The RRF needs to be written by the senior rater and endorsed by the senior rater's rater," said Maj. Lorianne Hodge, chief of AFPC's force-shaping branch. "In addition to comments on performance and retention potential, the RRF will also contain a specific 'retain' or 'separate' recommendation.

"Although senior raters are free to stratify their officers, stratification is not mandatory on the RRF," she added.

Eligible officers in a permanent change-of-station student status have a narrative-only RRF written by the same senior rater who rates permanent-party officers assigned to the



school, or the host wing commander for students at Air Force Institute of Technology civilian institutions.

All eligible officers should receive a copy of their retention recommendation form no later than April 11 from their senior rater.

The RIF board also considers the following information from each officer's selection record:

Officer performance reports.

Training reports.

Decoration citations.

Officer selection brief with service dates, duty assignments and other demographic items.

A letter to the board if the officer elects to submit one.

"Each officer may correspond by letter with his board and address any matter of record concerning themselves that he believes important to their consideration," said Major Hodge. "The letter must be submitted in good faith and contain accurate information to the best of the officer's knowledge and must be signed by the officer."

Electronic signatures won't be accepted and all letters must arrive no later than June 10 at 11:59 p.m. CDT to be presented to the board for consideration.

Board-eligible officers are encouraged to request a copy of their personnel records by completing a selection record request worksheet, found on the AFPC Web site by typing "selection record" into the search engine.

The completed worksheet should be e-mailed to records.review@randolph.af.mil or faxed to either DSN 665-2693 or commercial 1-210-565-2693. Selection records are only forwarded to an authorized military e-mail account.

Air Force Instruction 36-3003 grants everyone the opportunity to request permissive temporary duty to review their record in person at AFPC.

The RIF board is expected to achieve about 600 officer reductions. Officers not selected for retention are separated by Jan. 29, 2008.

For more information, visit <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/forceshape/>.

IN THE NEWS

A-Tower entrance remains closed

Due to construction delays, Keesler Medical Center's A-Tower entrance is closed through May for renovation.

AFAF campaign under way

Keesler's 2007 Air Force Assistance Fund raised \$13,618 since it began March 1.

That's 28 percent of the base's goal of \$48,913.

For more information, call Capt. Max Lemons, project officer, 377-3703, or your unit representative.

For a list of unit representatives, see Page 27.

Birthing center open house

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Keesler Medical Center holds a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house for its new birthing center, noon to 2 p.m. Monday.

The new unit on the third floor opened for patient care on Jan. 8 after almost a year's delay due to Hurricane Katrina.

AAFES partners with Energy Star

AAFES Corporate Communications

DALLAS — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is promoting the energy and climate-saving benefits associated with Energy Star products to help military shoppers save money while protecting the environment for future generations.

A joint program of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy, Energy Star will help AAFES communicate the benefits of energy-saving products to more than 11.5 million authorized shoppers.

"AAFES carries hundreds of Energy Star qualified major appliances and electronics," said Lt. Col. Dean Thurmond, AAFES communications chief.

The EPA introduced the Energy Star label in 1992 to recognize energy efficient computers. It now identifies efficient products across more than 35 product categories. Last year, with the help of Energy Star, Americans saved the energy required to power 15 million homes and reduced air pollution equivalent to taking 14 million cars off the road, while saving \$7 billion on energy bills.

F-16 crashes in Florida waters

Air Force Print News

HOMESTEAD Air Reserve Station, Fla. — An F-16 Fighting Falcon from the Air Force Reserve Command's 482nd Fighter Wing crashed Monday about 75 miles from Homestead in the Florida Straits.

The aircraft, from the 93rd Fighter Squadron, was flying a routine training mission. The pilot ejected safely and was rescued.

A board of officers investigates the accident.

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.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Colonel O'Donnell adds a note to the value stream map for the process.

AFSO21,

from Page 1

could implement “lean tools” to the process.

Lean tools include various techniques and concepts designed to help the Air Force with its improvement strategy.

To guide its deliberations, the team used one of the lean tools, value stream mapping, a technique that identifies wasted time or resources within a process. VSM defines the steps of the process, data pertinent to each step and overall metrics.

The resulting map shows how information flows, where repetition occurs and where quality issues result. For this project, the team charted the sequence from student test failures to discharge, with the estimated time for each step.

“The training was an eye-opening experience for the team — it makes you look at things in a different way,” Colonel O'Donnell pointed out. “We started looking for better ways to do everything. We discovered one of the big benefits of doing the airman discharge process was that we could now see what it involved from start to finish — we had never captured that before.

“I knew my piece of the pie and everybody else knew their piece, but no one knew how they all fit together — now we do,” he added.

Currently, about 250 Keesler trainees go through the discharge process annually. The process takes 32.2 days at a daily cost of \$137.50 per Airman. The total cost per Airman is \$4,428, for a grand total of \$1.1 million each year.

By mapping and annotating the existing procedure involving multiple interviews, signatures, checklists, in-boxes, out-boxes, transit time and non-working days, a clearer picture came into focus.

The team determined whether each step was necessary or added no value to the process.

“From that foundation, we worked to make the process far more efficient,” Colonel O'Donnell said.

“I knew my piece of the pie and everybody else knew their piece, but no one knew how they all fit together — now we do.”

Colonel O'Donnell

An action plan was devised with nine proposed solutions that fell into one of three descriptive categories — just do it, rapid improvement event and project — along with an estimated start date and person in charge.

“We came up with a two-stage end process,” Colonel O'Donnell explained. “The first part involves changes we know we can make and will work to implement quickly.”

If the process is accomplished according to plan, it will take 18.2 calendar days, instead of the current 32.2 days, to discharge a trainee. Keesler would save \$481,355, or 43.4 percent, for a streamlined process that costs \$625,761 annually, rather than the current \$1.1 million.

Colonel O'Donnell said the second stage involves making the discharge process completely electronic.

“When we get to that point, we can save an additional \$137,500 each year on top of the savings resulting from the first stage of the change,” the colonel stated.

The evaluation was based on the discharge process for the 332nd TRS, but Captain Lamont indicated that there are plans to standardize and implement the results across the 81st TRG.

Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso, 81st Training Wing commander, was briefed March 2. Col. Deborah Van De Ven, 81st TRG commander, was involved in the team's efforts and is responsible for implementation of the plan.

5 Keesler master sergeants selected for promotion

Air Force Personnel Center and Keesler News staff

Five Keesler master sergeants have been selected for promotion to senior master sergeant.

Those selected are:

81st Communications Squadron — Joseph Brennan.

81st Medical Support Squadron — Nicole Pearson.

81st Transportation Squadron — Robert Mayor.

85th Engineering Installation Squadron — Kyle Watkins.

334th Training Squadron — Leo Wood.

Two others at area installations administered by Keesler were selected — Roger Coates, 366th TRS Detachment 2, Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, and Corey Prentice, Air Force element at Gulfport/Biloxi International Airport.

The selection board, which convened at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, Feb. 5–23, considered 14,626 master sergeants and selected 1,282 for an 8.77 percent select rate. Last year's rate was 8.63 percent.

Officers make next rank

Three Keesler officers have been selected for promotion:

To lieutenant colonel — Kenneth Harp, chapel, and Troy Sanders, 335th Training Squadron.

To major — Kharna Clifford-Allmon, legal office.

The average score for those selected was 663.89, with an average time in grade and time in service of 4.50 and 20.53 years respectively. The average score was based on the following point averages:

134.99 for enlisted performance reports;

32.88 for time in grade;

21.52 for time in service;

21.12 for decorations;

65.42 for Air Force supervisory examination;

387.97 for board score.

Those selected are promoted beginning in April.

The complete list is on the AFPC Web site, <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/sitemaps/enlisted/promotions.asp>.

Biloxi mayor takes flight on “Spirit of Biloxi”

403rd Wing Public Affairs

Biloxi Mayor A.J. Holloway took his first flight aboard the recently christened “Spirit of Biloxi,” a C-130 cargo aircraft assigned to the 403rd Wing's “Flying Jennies.”

“It's very nice to be able to go on a trip like this,” said Mayor Holloway, who journeyed with a group of 29 other civic leaders to Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., as part of the wing's annual civic leader tour. “The relationship between our community and the Air Force Reserve is important; it's important to know what they do here and it's nice to know them on a personal basis.”

Brig. Gen. Rich Moss, 403rd Wing commander, joined the group on the tour to Patrick AFB and Cape Canaveral.

The group visited pararescuemen at the 920th Rescue Wing and watched demonstrations of their lifesaving skills.

At the 45th Space Wing, they visited the mission control center and learned about its integral role in space operations.

After a windshield tour of other historical sites and places of interest, the group returned to Keesler on the “Spirit of Biloxi.”

On the return flight, Mayor Holloway surveyed the progress of rebuilding on the Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina.

“Our civic leader tours are valuable because they reinforce the partnership between the community and the 403rd Wing, and it's important for them to see the critical role our citizen Airmen play in our nation's defense,” said General Moss.

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.

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.

EQUAL listing available April 11

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing for Airmen returning from overseas and continental U.S. mandatory movers for August through October 2007 is available April 11.

Individuals can update their assignment preferences on the virtual Military Personnel Flight's self-service application. If problems occur, call the Air Force Contact Center, DSN 665-5000 or toll-free (800) 616-3775 options 1, 1, 2. Questions can also be addressed through base military personnel flights or commander's support staffs. Assignment preferences must be updated by April 27. If they are selected, Airmen are notified no later than May 15.

Airmen can view the lists on the Assignment Management System accessible via the AFPC home page, under military quick links, or at local MPFs.

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, options 1, 2, or DSN 665-5000.

Data theft protection resources

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — For information on data theft protection resources and how to protect against identity theft, visit First Gov, the federal government's official Web portal.

Force shaping preparations

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

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

Biking with safety — only way to ride

Safety office

Bicycle transportation is becoming more prominent, and for good reason. Bikes are practically maintenance free, use no fuel or oil and there's always a place to park them.

By Keesler base regulation, bicycle riders are granted all rights and are subject to all duties applicable to the driver of a motorized vehicle.

Cyclists are required to ride in single file as close to the right side of the road as possible. While the safest place to ride is on Interstate 81, which contours the flight line, that isn't always the possible or preferable route to travel.

Cyclists should ensure that their bikes have the necessary equipment. When operating during the hours of darkness or inclement weather, the bike must be equipped with a white light in the front and a red light or reflector in the back. The light must be visible from at least 500 feet to the front.

Bicycles must be equipped with brakes that will enable a cyclist to stop within 25 feet from a speed of 10 mph on dry, level and clear pavement.

In addition, bikes should have a bell or other devices capable of being heard from at least 100 feet away. Sirens



or whistles aren't authorized on bicycles except for official government business.

Approved protective helmets must be worn at all times when riding bicycles, roller blades and skateboards. Additionally, skateboarders, roller bladers and roller skaters are highly encouraged to wear personal protective gear of arm and knee pads.

During the fall and winter seasons when most early-morning cyclists travel in fog and darkness in the early morning and early evening hours, it's recommended that riders wear highly-reflective clothing. When in uniform, especially in the battle dress uniform, reflective vests and belts should be used.

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Infrastructure demolition moves forward in Oak Park

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Now that all but three houses in Oak Park military housing area have been leveled, infrastructure demolition is under way.

D&G contractors are removing water, sewer, electrical and gas systems in the area before the land is graded and the area is seeded, according to Lt. Col. Eddie Richards of the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron's program management office.

Next, a perimeter fence is being put in place to bring Oak Park back within the base's borders, while providing an offset area to allow green space and better aesthetics for Keesler's civilian neighbors.

New lighting is also being installed to provide safety and security to area residents.

Keesler is also locating an entrance for contract workers and their trucks just north of the ball fields from Oak Park to the flight line to allow the



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Utility lines in Oak Park are being removed before the land where houses once stood is graded and seeded.

delivery of building materials to different base locations.

The contractor for the base's new military housing project will have a lay-down area about the size of a football field just south of the new gate near Oak Park's southwest corner.

A power plant is being

placed in Oak Park just north of Keesler Medical Center which will be a couple hundred feet in diameter.

The last three houses standing in Oak Park are being used for contractor office space and will be demolished after the military housing construction project is completed.

Laser eye surgery center reopens

81st Surgical Operations Squadron

Keesler Medical Center's Warfighter Refractive Surgery Clinic reopened Monday.

Surgery is slated to resume at the clinic in May.

The mission-readiness program is available to all active-duty military personnel with near-sightedness, farsightedness or astigmatism. Laser vision correction can reduce or even eliminate dependence on corrective lenses.

Keesler's program, which stood up in 2001, received Air Force awards in 2002, 2003 and 2004. However, the center was destroyed when Hurricane Katrina struck the base.

"Almost all of our pre-Katrina refractive surgery team is back," said Master Sgt. Rickey Mann, the center's noncommissioned officer in charge. "Our military personnel turned down reassignments and civilian personnel returned from outside clinics. The Air Force let us build this center from the ground up, equip it with the best instruments and keep our experienced team together so we can hit the ground running."

"I think our team was kept at Keesler because military leadership recognizes this is a readiness issue," observed Maj. (Dr.) Keith Berry, director of refractive surgery services. "Our troops operate instruments, use equipment and launch jets in all environments. Glasses and contacts can be difficult to use in rain, fog, sand and mud. On

average, troops who deploy after having refractive surgery shoot better, their gas masks fit better and there is less risk of down time due to broken or lost glasses.

"There are numerous troops who spent their first tour in the (area of responsibility) wearing glasses and then had refractive surgery before their second tour," he continued. "They credit the surgery with increasing their combat effectiveness and overall confidence to perform the mission."

A state of the art refractive surgery center under construction will house two lasers, on-site preoperative and postoperative care suites and a large day-room for friends and family members accompanying patients.

Laser vision correction surgeries, including advanced surface ablation and laser in-situ keratomeileusis will be performed using the latest wavefront-guided technologies.

Those interested in having refractive surgery at Keesler must complete a screening process. Active-duty personnel permanently assigned within about 50 miles can have all screening done at Keesler. Others must complete screening through their local optometrist.

Forms are available through the clinic or online at <http://www.kafb310.keesler.af.mil>.

For more information, e-mailing the clinic at 81mdg/refractivesurgery@keesler.af.mil.

Airmen urged to keep duty records current

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The one constant among Airmen is the desire to be promoted.

There are many things Airmen can do to affect their chances for promotion. Perhaps the most important is ensuring their personal information is correct.

Missing or inaccurate enlisted or officer performance reports, decorations, awards and citations can affect promotion scores for senior airmen through general officers.

While some decorations may earn points toward scoring for enlisted Airmen, winning quarterly awards or academic awards from professional military education schools can help strengthen records for both officer and enlisted members.

Fortunately, the Air Force makes it easy for Airmen of all ranks to check their records online through the virtual military personnel flight.

“Every Airman is responsible for his or her career and should review his or her record on a routine basis or prior

to any board where the record may be reviewed,” said Maj. Gen. Tony Przybyslawski, Air Force Personnel Center commander. “Each and every one of us takes the time to prepare our vehicle prior to taking a long trip or in preparation for winter temperatures ... that’s what we’re looking for ... each and every Airman taking the time to be proactive in taking control of his or her career.”

Airmen receive e-mail notifications around their birthday each year advising them to review their electronic personnel records maintained within the military personnel data system.

Officials suggest after Airmen log onto vMPF and accomplish a records review, a hard copy should be printed for personal safekeeping. If all record information is correct, no further action is required until the next annual review.

If errors are discovered and individuals can make the needed changes to those parts of the record where update links are provided, they should do so. Other errors should be directed to the

commander’s support staff or Air Force Contact Center for resolution.

AFPC’s promotion board records branch is responsible for providing Airman a copy of the selection record within 30 duty days of receipt of a valid request. This time frame actually stretches to about 45 calendar days when non-duty days are added. Each request is accomplished in a “date precedence order” from the time it is received at the promotion board records branch.

There are two categories of requests: “As Is” and “As Met.” Officers and senior noncommissioned officers may request one “As Is” copy and one “As Met” copy of their selection record within a consecutive 12-month period per each request.

The “As Is” request provides a copy of the record “as it is” when requested. To request an “As Met” copy, the record must have met a selection or evaluation board within the past 12 months. “As Met” copies can’t be requested until after promotion results have been publicly released. “As Met”

copies reflect the selection record “as it met” the selection or evaluation board for which the person is requesting it.

Officers and senior NCOs can request a copy of their personnel records by completing a selection record request worksheet by visiting the AFPC Web site and typing “selection record” into the search engine.

The completed worksheet should be e-mailed to Records.Review@randolph.af.mil, or faxed to either DSN 665-2693 or commercial 1-210-565-2693. Selection records are only forwarded to an authorized military e-mail account.

Finally, Air Force Instruction 36-3003 grants everyone the opportunity to request permissive temporary duty to review their record in person at AFPC.

For more information, visit your commander’s support staff or call the Air Force Contact Center at 1-800-616-3775, commercial 1-210-565-5000 or DSN 665-5000.



Left, Master Sgt. Wayne Hanes, 81st Medical Group medical mobility flight, adjusts Senior Airman Jose Madureira's gas mask during the chemical warfare training segment. The 81st MDG held its Warrior Day training March 8.

Right, Maj. Kimberly Vollmer, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, cordons off a suspected unexploded ordnance site behind the bioenvironmental facility and the veterinary clinic.

Photos by Steve Pivnick



Trainers, medics polish warrior skills



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Tech. Sgt. Crista Auge, left, and Airman Ashley LeDuc, 81st Training Support Squadron, use self-aid and buddy care tactics to bandage Airman Patrick Ervin's head wound. Airman Ervin is a student in the 334th TRS.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Capt. Toni Olivieri, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron, takes aim during M-16 training.



Left, Master Sgts. George Arthur, left, and Rogers Trahan, 336th TRS, collect equipment from a post-attack reconnaissance kit to identify unexploded ordnance and to secure the area.

Right, Staff Sgt. Sharon Cleveland, left, and Senior Master Sgt. Nicole Watkins, 336th TRS, refer to their Airman's Manuals to prepare for weapons familiarization training.

Photos by Kemberly Groue

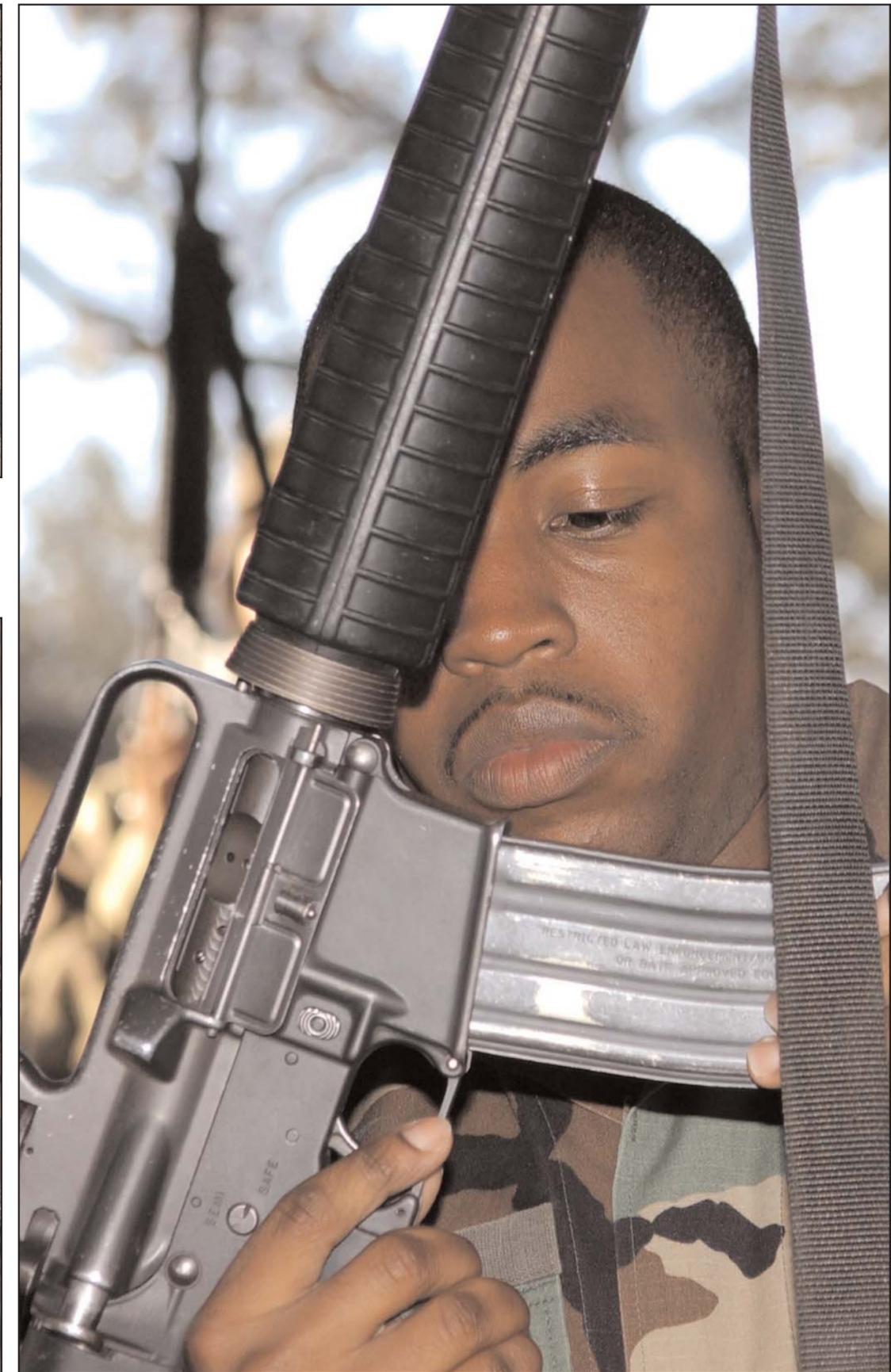


Photo by Kemberly Groue

Staff Sgt. Reginald Brooks, 338th Training Squadron, weapons familiarization training at the 81st Training Group's Warrior Day, March 6 at marina park.

New trauma team meets specific needs

By Capt. Celina Guisinger

81st Medical Operations Squadron

The 81st Training Wing now has a traumatic stress response team that would respond following a potentially traumatic event.

It replaces the critical incident stress management team. Unlike the CISM team concept, TSR is specifically tailored to the needs of the unit or individual given the particular potentially traumatic scenario.

A potentially traumatic event may include an air or ground mishap involving loss of life or major injury or threat of death or injury, as experienced first- or second-hand by a group

or individual. The main purpose of the team is to foster resiliency in those who may be exposed or have been exposed to potentially traumatic events so they can quickly and effectively recover and continue to focus on the mission.

The TSR team provides pre-exposure preparation training for individuals who may be at high risk of exposure to traumatic stress. This is training designed to facilitate psychological preparation for scenarios the individual is likely to experience, because everyone is vulnerable to the emotional impact of intense duty-related stress. Unit leaders may also request this training for their troops.

Following a potentially traumatic event, the TSR team is equipped to offer undocumented group and individual sessions of education, consultation and psychological first aid to those who've been exposed. This includes the option of referral should the individual require more intensive services. The level of services needed is determined by unit commanders in collaboration with the TSR team chief.

Another difference between CISM and TSR is that under the latter, services are voluntary. This is because not every individual exposed to a potentially traumatic event may require the services in order to cope in a healthy manner. However, a com-

mander may mandate the unit attend the educational component of TSR services following a potentially traumatic event.

The TSR team is composed of a life skills support center mental health provider serving as team chief, a chaplain and chaplain assistant and a community readiness consultant from the airman and family readiness center.

The TSR team is designed to support the needs of the base, surrounding community, neighboring bases and deployed settings. The team is on call 24/7 and can be initiated through the command post.

Dental debut

Boy Scout Chaz Murphy, 15, drills a tooth under the guidance of Capt. (Dr.) Merrill Alley, 81st Dental Squadron, March 7. Dental clinic staff members volunteered after-duty hours to assist almost a dozen Boy Scouts on their dentistry merit badges. The scouts, from Troops 219 and 251, were shown dental techniques, such as drilling teeth and making custom sports-guards, and then allowed to try them. Troop 219 is led by Maj. (Dr.) Peter Drewes, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, and Troop 251 is led by Lt. Col. Steven Reese, 81st Medical Support Squadron commander. Both scoutmasters have two sons in their troops. Captain Alley and Capt. (Dr.) Jared Richardson, both dental residents, developed the training program.

Photo by Steve Pivnick



Air Force requires licensing of home day care operations

By Earlene Smith

81st Services Division

People living in base housing who care for children in their homes could be breaking the rules.

Air Force Instruction 34-276, which governs day care in on-base quarters, states "any individuals caring for children more than 10 hours a week on a regular basis must get approval."

It states that the "installation commander may revoke the housing privileges of individuals who provide child care but refuse to become licensed or who continue to provide care after their license has been suspended or revoked."

The rule applies whether or not caregivers are compensated for their services.

"People living in base housing who regularly care for children without being licensed may be unaware of the regulation," said Mary Allgood, family child care program coordinator.

Licenses are granted by the 81st Mission Support Group

commander, usually within 30 days of completion of initial family child care provider training, background screenings and home inspections.

Training includes child guidance, play environments, nutrition, ages and stages of development, child abuse and neglect, recordkeeping, business management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid.

"Family child care providers are professionals trained to give the best possible care to the children left in their charge," said Ms. Allgood.

Once licensed, providers may care for children from 2 weeks through 12 years old. They're assisted by the FCC staff in setting up their home and have access to an extensive library for toys, equipment and materials to keep costs down.

Providers set up their own hours and fee structure.

For more information, call 377-3189, 5934 or 5935, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

HPV vaccine is available at Keesler

81st Medical Group

Human papillomavirus vaccine is now available in the Keesler Medical Center immunization clinic.

All Tricare beneficiaries are eligible to receive the vaccine.

Tech. Sgt. Loretta Scott, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the clinic, said the vaccine is only recommended for females ages 9-26. Routine vaccination is recommended for all girls ages 11-12; however, it may be given to girls as young as 9.

Pregnant women shouldn't get the vaccine, according to Sergeant Scott.

The sergeant explained genital human papillomavirus is the most common sexually-transmitted virus in the United States. There are about 40 types of HPV. This virus has affected about 20 million people in the U.S. so far and about 6.2 million more get infected each year.

The new vaccine targets the HPV virus. It's an inactivated vaccine which protects against four major types of HPV. These include two types that cause about 70 percent of cervical cancer and two types that cause about 90 percent of genital warts.

Sergeant Scott noted HPV vaccine can prevent most genital warts and most cases of cervical cancer.

Protection from HPV vaccine is expected to be long-lasting; however, it's important that vaccinated women still receive cervical cancer screening because the vaccine doesn't protect against all HPV types that cause cervical cancer.

The clinic is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays. It's closed weekends, holidays and the second Thursday of every month.

For more information on HPV, visit the Centers for Disease Control Web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv> and <http://www.cdc.gov/nip>.



Left, Sergeant Morbach and Senior Airman Shea Dodson review award packages at Balad. Photo by Senior Airman Candace Romano

Right, Sergeant Morbach shares custody of Kyle, 9, and Alyssa, 5, with his ex-wife. Back home, he's a member of the Nebraska Air National Guard 155th Air Reserve Wing.



Courtesy photo

Single dads, faraway warriors Deployed Airmen maintain bond with kids

By Staff Sgt. Carlos Diaz

U.S. Central Command Air Forces

BALAD Air Base, Iraq — Many would agree that parenting is one of the toughest tasks a person can do.

If being a parent is difficult enough, try coupling that with a demanding military career and being a single parent. That same task just got a little harder to accomplish.

According to Air Force Personnel Center figures, there are approximately 1,220 male single parents currently deployed in the area of responsibility.

Four men at Balad who fall in this category are Master Sgts. William Newman and James Morbach, Tech. Sgt. Wayne Sinclair and Senior Airman Brian Miles. Some have shared custody, while others raise their children by themselves.

Sergeant Morbach, 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron first sergeant, is the custodial parent of his two children, Kyle, 9, and Alyssa, 5. He shares custody with his ex-spouse and states he's become very good at time management.

"Every day requires me to have a backup plan," the 34-year-old father said. "If I'm running late from work, I need to have a place for the kids to go.

"I have a very good professional relationship with my children's mother, who makes working out disciplinary issues and deployments a lot easier to deal with," he added.

Sergeant Morbach said his children are doing extremely well in school and they're happy, fun-loving individuals.

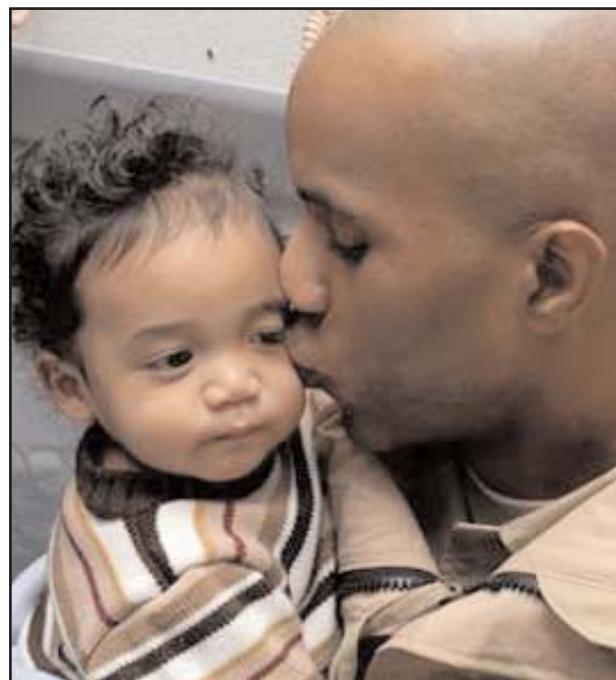
"I attribute that to the professional relationship I have with their mother," he said. "It sure makes life a lot easier."

Airman Miles, who's assigned to the 510th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, found some difficulties in leaving his infant son behind.

"It's been very difficult, but that's just part of the contract I signed so I have a responsibility to fulfill it," he said.

In Airman Miles' absence, his mother is taking care of 10-month-old Brian.

"My son's mother is supportive," Airman Miles said. "She's a blessing, and I'm so grateful.



Courtesy photo

Airman Miles kisses his son, Brian, before his deployment. He's deployed from Kadena Air Base, Japan.

"We don't argue, there are no big custody issues or any of the typical problems that come with being single parents," Airman Miles said.

For these single fathers, having a sense of accomplishment and worth from being deployed gives them the inner strength to deal with the separation from their children.

"I'm doing this job to make sure they'll have the choice to do anything they want when they grow up," Sergeant Newman said of his daughters, Amanda, 16, and Samantha, 14.

"I want them to know the feeling of freedom in a world that's safe from terrorism," he said.

Sergeant Morbach said being a first sergeant helps him deal with the separation factor.

"I build my strength by helping others," the 15-year Air Force veteran said. "I'm not afraid to ask for help when I need it. Most importantly, though,

I use my children as my motivation for being here."

Sergeant Sinclair attributes patriotism to giving him the determination he needs. He emphasized the freedoms that American citizens enjoy.

"We're trying to give some of those freedoms to others," he said. "Since 9/11, we've found that we're not as safe as we once thought. By being over here, we're helping to ensure our children are safe."

The 41-year-old sergeant is the father of Brittany, 13, Austin, 12, and Quinn, 10.

"I call them every other Saturday, and we e-mail each other about six times a week," the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group biomedical equipment repair technician said. "I send them pictures of myself so that they can see that I'm OK."

Sergeant Sinclair's children often flood his inbox with e-mail messages like:

"I still have the teddy bear you gave me. He's the closest thing I have to you to give bear hugs to. Please, come home soon," wrote Brittany.

"Hey daddy, I miss you a lot and did you see the Super Bowl? I love you and miss you," Austin wrote.

"I love and miss you, daddy, and could you send me another big hug?" Quinn asked.

Airman Miles, a weapons system graphic technician, is a father who wants to lead by example.

"I never concerned myself with anything that didn't revolve around me," he said. "Now, I live for my son and that's important. Everything I do in some way is for him so he becomes a great young man who's responsible, respectful, hardworking and positive — all these things must start at home."

If home is where the heart is, then these four Airmen can't wait to get there.

"I've already planned things to do and places to go with him when I return," Airman Miles said.

Sergeant Morbach looks forward to coaching his son's Little League team and taking his children on vacation.

"Words can't describe how anxious I am to see my children," said Sergeant Sinclair, a 17-year Air Force veteran.

"I would give up my next breath," Sergeant Newman said about seeing his children again.

Sergeant Diaz is deployed from the 81st Training Wing Public Affairs Office.

KEESLER NOTES

Special Olympics

Organizations interested in running a concession stand during Special Olympics, May 19, need to sign up by April 6.

For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Heidi Gygi, 377-4152, or Tech. Sgt. William Irvine, 377-4543.

New location

Keesler Medical Center's customer relations office has moved to Room 1G305 in surgical specialties. The phone number remains 376-3092.

Family fishing trip

The airman and family readiness center is hosting a Back Bay fishing trip for the families of deployed troops, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 24.

Pontoon boats and lunch are provided.

For more information, call 377-2593 or 2179.

Claims closure

The claims office is closed Friday for training.

Recipe contest

Nutritional medicine sponsors a healthy recipe contest in observance of National Nutrition Month in March.

To enter, e-mail your name, phone number, nutrition facts and recipe to Tech. Sgt. Tammy Pfeifer, tammy.pfeifer@keesler.af.mil, by March 30.

Hosting students

Second Lt. Ernest Moore, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, is international exchange coordinator for the Education First Foundation for Foreign Study for the Gulfport-Biloxi area.

The foundation provides host families for high school students from nearly 40 countries for as long as one year.

For more information, call or e-mail Lieutenant Moore, 615-347-0597, mooreef@gmail.com, or visit <http://www.effoundation.org>.

Commissary closed

The commissary is closed April 8 for Easter.

Child Pride Day

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

Tax office

The tax office is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thurs-

day 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.

Bundles for Babies

A Bundles for Babies class for expectant parents is 9 a.m. to noon May 11. Participants receive baby items valued at \$75. To register, call the airman and family readiness center, 377-2179.

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.

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, ex-tension 3118, or visit <http://www.daps.dla.mil>.

Thrift shop

The thrift shop in the former Chapel One building is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, with consignments accepted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays.

For more information, call 377-3217.

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.

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.

Data disposal

For appointments to shred documents containing personal data, call the 81st Communications Squadron's records management office, 377-2571.

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>.

Trash, recyclables

Monday and Thursday are garbage pickup days in East and West Falcon Park, with Monday as the recycling day.

Tuesday and Friday are garbage pickup days in Bay Ridge, Shadowlawn and Pinehaven housing areas, with Tuesday as the recycling day. Items must be at the curb by 6 a.m. For more information, call Master Sgt. Willie Fairley, 377-5822.

Blood drives

To schedule mobile blood drives, call 377-9324.

TeamKid

TeamKid, a chapel program for children, meets 4-5:30 p.m. Sundays in the Triangle Chapel Annex.

For more information, call 377-2520.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Post-Katrina basketball tips off

By Tech. Sgt. Chuck Marsh

Keesler News staff

Keesler's first intramural basketball season since Hurricane Katrina kicked off March 5 when the 81st Communications Squadron took on the 336th Training Squadron.

The game started the season off with a lot of excitement with a one-point victory for the 336 TRS team, 41-40.

There are 14 teams in the league broken into Eastern and Western conferences.

"I'm very pleased with the participation from the squadrons and the fan base," said Laurence Wilson, 81st Mission Support Group sports director. "So far, the training squadrons are packing the house nightly with their fans.

"I think this was something missed by the base," said Wilson. "Competing against other squadrons brings out that competitive nature in everyone. I think on or off the court, you root for your team — your squadron — to win and, in some cases, when you lose, you still have fun. I believe that sports are all about having fun."

Coaches and players agree with Wilson.

"We're very glad the season has started back up," said Romanuel Carter, 81st Supply/Transportation Squadron coach. "(The 81st Services Division) has done a wonderful job, and everything is well organized. Everyone is enjoying themselves, the competition and even the referees. It's a wonderful morale booster and good entertainment for everyone to enjoy."



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left in white jerseys, Paul Richard, Ish Woodard and Joshua Warren, 81st CS, surround Joshua Wilson, 81st MDG. The medics won the March 7 game, 34-14.

In Eastern Conference action March 5, the 81st SUPS/TRANS defeated the 335th TRS, 64-48, and the 81st Medical Group won over 2nd Air Force, 58-31.

March 7, the 81st SUPS/TRANS team defeated 2nd Air Force, 53-28; 81st MDG won 81st CS, 34-14, and 81st Security Forces Squadron beat 335th TRS, 64-50.

The Western Conference had its share of close games that drew the crowd to its feet.

March 6, the 338th TRS defeated Navy, 50-26; 85th Engineering Installation Squadron beat the 81st Dental Squadron, 30-27, and the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron passing up the 334th TRS, 41-33.

March 8, the 81st Training

Group defeated the 85th EIS, 52-28; 338th TRS beat the 334th TRS, 53-29, and 81st CES edged the 81st DS, 49-47.

With the first week down, Wilson already considers the season a victory, mainly due to the enthusiasm of the players and their fans. He said he's been to each game and can see and feel the energy from the teams and the fans.

"The league, conference and every team are so competitive," said Carter. "You enjoy playing, and no team is a pushover."

The top team earns commander's trophy points, a team trophy and individual trophies, while the second-place team earns a team trophy, T-shirts and commander's trophy points.

Falcons score top seed in NIT West regional

Air Force Print News

Air Force hosted the Austin Peay Governors in the first round of the 2007 Mastercard National Invitation Tournament Wednesday.

Scores weren't available at press time.

The Falcons, No. 1 seed in the West Region of the 32-team tournament, finished the 2006-07 regular season at 23-8 and tied for third place in the Mountain West Conference with a 10-6 record. The Falcons lost to Wyoming, 67-62, in the quarterfinals of the MWC champi-

onships March 8 in Las Vegas.

Austin Peay, 21-11 overall, won the Ohio Valley Conference regular season title with a 16-4 record, but lost to Eastern Kentucky, 63-62, in the conference tournament final March 3.

The winner of the Air Force-Austin Peay game faces the winner of the Georgia-Fresno State game Monday. If Air Force defeats Austin Peay, the game is played at the Air Force Academy's Clune Arena.

SCORES AND MORE

Basketball

Intramural

Eastern Conference

(at Dragon Fitness Center)

Team	Won	Lost
81st SUPS/TRANS	2	0
81st MDG	2	0
336th TRS	1	0
81st SFS	1	0
81st CS	0	2
2nd Air Force	0	2
335th TRS	0	2

March 5 — 336th TRS 41, 81st CS 40; 81st SUPS/TRANS 64, 335th TRS 48; 81st MDG 58, 2nd Air Force, 31.

March 7 — 81st SUPS/TRANS 53, 2nd Air Force, 28; 81st MDG 34, 81st CS 14; 81st SFS 64, 335th TRS 50.

Monday — 6 p.m., 81st MDG vs. 81st SUPS/TRANS; 7 p.m., 81st CS vs. 335th TRS; 8 p.m. 336th TRS vs. 81st SFS.

Wednesday — 6 p.m., 2nd Air Force vs. 81st CS; 7 p.m. 81st CS vs. 335th TRS; 8 p.m. 81st SFS vs. 81st MDG.

Western Conference

(at Dragon Fitness Center)

Team	Won	Lost
338th TRS	2	0
81st CES	2	0
81st TRG	1	0
81st DS	1	1
85th EIS	1	1
Navy	0	1
334th TRS	0	2

March 6 — 338th TRS 50, Navy 26; 85th EIS 30, 81st DS 27; 81st CES 41, 334th TRS 33.

Thursday — 81st TRG 52, 85th EIS 28; 338th TRS 53, 334th TRS 29; 81st CES 49, 81st DS 47.

Today — 6 p.m., 85th EIS vs. 81st EIS; 7 p.m., Navy vs. 81st DS; 8 p.m., 81st TRG vs. 81st SUPS.

Tuesday — 6 p.m., 81st DS vs. 334th TRS; 7 p.m., 85th EIS vs. 338th TRS; 8 p.m., 81st TRG vs. Navy.

Varsity

Coach needed — for men's team. For more information, call Laurence Wilson, 377-2444, after noon.

Bowling

Summer leagues — sign up for Monday night (three bowlers four games), Thursday morning seniors and Friday night mixed.

Tuesdays — teenagers bowl for \$5. Ten lanes available.

Saturdays — birthday parties available. For information and reservations, call 377-1817.

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

Bowl-a-rama — 5 p.m. to closing Monday-Friday and all day Saturday. Bowl two hours for \$10.95, including shoe rental.

Nonprior service students open bowling special — show UBU club card to bowl for \$1.50 per game until 4 p.m. Saturdays, \$2 per game; Monday-Saturday, \$2 per game after \$4 p.m.

Shoe rental, \$1. Not applicable with other discounts or specials.

Limited bowling — March 31, due to tournament.

League standings

Monday Night Budweiser

(as of March 5)

Team	Won	Lost
Man On!	51	12
Slater's Shooters	39	24
Bam! Bam! Bam!	39	24
Wayne's World	35	28
Perry's Refrigeration	34	29
Hoop's Gang	32	31
Spare Time Pro Shop	31	32
Gannon's Cannons	28	35
Martini's	27	36
Endangered Species	26	37
Our Gang	20	43
Wicked Women	16	47

Wednesday Night Mixed

(as of March 7)

Team	Won	Lost
JSOT-B	60	24
MUDD	59	25
Go Getters	49	35
WEJUSWANAHAVFUN	48	36
Select Few	45	39
70's Plus	41	43
Bowling Express	41	43
Whatever It Is	40	44
David's Rejects	38	46
Misfits	36	48
Beef O'Brady's 1	36	48

Tuesday Night Federal

(as of March 8)

Team	Won	Lost
332 TRS-A	48	24
85 EIS-A	48	24
81 TRSS-A	44	28
85 EIS-B	42	30
333 TRS-A	42	30
332 TRS-B Vicious Pups	42	30
81 MSS-A	40	32
81 CES Lite Crew	40	32
335 TRS-A	36	36
SVS Misfits-A	34	38
338 TRS-A	30	42
81 MDS Dental Demons	26	46
333 TRS-B	26	46
CPTS 5 and Dimes	18	54

Friday Night

(as of Friday)

Team	Won	Lost
We'll Think of a Name	52	32
That Won Team	51.5	32.5
Sandbaggers	46	38
Beef O'Brady's	43	41
I Don't Care	42	42
Team 12	42	42
Harry's Team	34	43
Team 6	40	44
Pin Pals	39	45
We Don't Have a Name	37.5	46.5
Bringing Up the Reer	36	48
Team 3	34	50

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

St. Patrick's Day special — wear green Saturday for 10 percent discount on equipment rentals.

March fishing tournament — weigh in the largest croaker 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.

Recreational vehicle, boat and trailer storage — \$15 per month. Call 377-3180 for details.

Resale area — snacks, beverages, fishing and rental equipment, and Mississippi hunting and fishing licenses available.

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

Running

Wearin' o' the Green 5-kilometer run/walk — 3:30 p.m. today, marina park. Top five men and women earn Commander's Trophy points for their units. Prizes for top finishers in each category.

Softball

Coaches needed — for varsity men's and women's teams. For more information, call Laurence Wilson, 377-2444, after noon.

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.

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

DIGEST

HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Mitchell Arne, Jonathan Barnes, Gregory Brook, Jon Clemenson, Terry Davies, Jennifer Depew, Joshua Gallagher, Christopher Gregerson, David Harris, Robert Jepson, Jeremy Jones, Thomas Leclair, Paul Millar, Olaf Moore, Alexander Ortiz, Anthony Ralph, Mark Remien, John Richardson, Ruel Rutledge, Austin Schibler, Charles Shepard, Michael Schmidt, Ales Sielaff, Scott Thomas, Harry Walker, Nolan Wemett and Gabriel Wills; Airmen Andrea Caldwell, Jonathan Gay, Jarod Martinez, Zachary Milne, Michael Ryan, Brandon Sale, Loren Supernaw, William Thoen and David Toler; Airmen 1st Class Benjamin Baker, Michael Brown, John Burdick, William Chambers, Cody Chiasson, Beau Dicken, Matthew Harden, Manuel Hernandez, Jiles Herron, Daniel Hoffman, Robert Houle, Evan Kurosu, Jonathon Miller, Christopher Raines, William Randolph, Patrick Revels, Chad Roberts, Douglas Shyers, Chadwick Smith, Travis Tackett, Zakery Tawes and Devin Thompson; Senior Airmen David Amely, Joseph Blakley, Braid Bishop, Gregory Garcia, Evait Hayes, Jason Krohn, Carlos Lewin, Christopher Raulerson and Regis Williams; Staff Sgts. Jonathan Byrd, Chunming Dia, Bradford Drake, Patrick Gracey, Medwin Hernandez, Ronald Holmbeck, Samuel Palacios, Micah Weeks and Justin Weitenbeck; Tech. Sgts. Warren Vanvelzer and Adam Witt.

334th TRS

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Kenneth Campbell, Jason Cruz, Jonathon Giam, David Martinez and Brett Nisson; Airmen Benjamin Ayala, Joseph Cooper and Savannah Wynn; Airmen 1st Class Jabob Bring, Christopher Dodd, Bradley Eakin, Elizabeth McClure and Sean McGinniss; Senior Airman Kalan Moyer.

335th TRS

Comptroller training flight — Airmen Basic Kathleen Abling, David Edwards, Michelle Garcia, Teresa Jordan, Wilfredo Mateo, Ashley Novak, Jeffrey Polser, Chihoa Sihapanya, Jason Slagle and Makenzie Tibbetts; Airman Karrie Conway; Airmen 1st Class Jessy Babcock, Benjamin Forrest, Flavia Grey, Illithia Jefferson, Jared Martin, Cassiopeia McMillan, Porshia Middleton, Keisha Mitchell, Emerson Schiess, Daniel Thurston and Anna Zyska; Senior Airmen Shane Burpee, Jason Emrick, James Hudnall and John Moyer; Staff

Sgts. Shara Evans, Ronnie Stokey and Heather Vongrey; Tech. Sgts. Heather Arnold, James Gamble and Kevin Nichols.

Weather training flight — Airmen Basic Melissa Knoblauch and Ryan Nevius; Navy Airman Recruit Johnathan Novotny; Airmen Jameel Lemon and Jakira McCampbell; Airmen 1st Class Jarod Bjork, Justin Davis, James Fey, Natasha Palmer, Rebecca Rodriguez, Joshua Thorn and James Wilson; Marine Cpl. Justin Lecklider; Staff Sgt. Robert Taylor; Marine Sgt. Hermann Kruppa; Tech. Sgts. Christopher Hodgson, Charles Horton, Steven Montgomery, Matthew Thewes and Kimberly Thornton.

336th TRS

Communications-computer systems training flight — Airman Ryan Manecke; Airmen 1st Class John Gill, Dominic Mulley and Mathew Musick; Senior Airmen Eric Markum and Keith Shafer; Staff Sgts. Johnathan Herndon, Sheila Larry, Nathan Mueller, Eric Sasano and Brian Whitcraft; Tech. Sgts. Cosme Battalas, Michelle Sivertson and Carole Urban; Master Sgts. Chad Demro and John Torres; Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Castle.

Communications and information management flight — Airmen Basic James Burton and Robert McDermott; Airmen 1st Class Arthur Buck, Howard Clay, Gaysiel Garcia, Charles Landgraf, Ryan Luedke, Christopher Toney, Jay VanVranken and Elpidio Villalpando; Senior Airman Bren Calpin; Staff Sgts. Diana Le and Joshua Newlin; Tech Sgt. Becky Adam; Anthony Le.

338th TRS

Airfield systems basic course — Airman Basic Aaron Iacovazzi; Airman 1st Class Kyle Wagner; Senior Airman Derrick Glover; Staff Sgts. Antonio Turner and Michael Van Aman.

Ground radio apprentice course — Airman Basic Julie Miller; Airmen Jacob Bidwell, Colby Blocker and Melissa Lemons; Airmen 1st Class Glory Bilang, Justin Cordova and Ricky Flynn; Tech. Sgt. Carlos Pabonrespo.

Radar systems flight — Airman Drew Sermon; Airman 1st Class Manny Rivera.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 07-3 — graduates 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 — graduates 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.

Airman and family readiness center

Resume writing and job fair preparation — 8:30 a.m. March 26. To register, call 377-2179.

How to buy a home seminar — 1 p.m. Tuesday. To register, call 377-2179.

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.

Beginning pottery — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$40 including five pounds 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.

New stamp card — pick up card and have it stamped for selected purchases. Redeem filled card for shop specials.

Please see **Digest**, Page 26

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

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

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	:30
:01	:31
:02	:32
:04	:34
:06	:36
:08	:38
:09	:39
:11	:41
:12	:42
:13	:43
:14	:44
:15	:45
:16	:46
:17	:47
:18	:48
:19	:49
:20	:50
:21	:51
:22	:52

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-Jummah congregational prayer, noon Friday.

For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

Latter-Day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — student group service, 2 p.m. Sundays, Triangle Chapel. For more information, call 396-5274 or 1-616-881-1994.

Digest,

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Free hobby classes — 5 p.m. March 22, beginning ceramics; March 29, beginning ceramic painting and glazing.

National Craft Month specials — Saturday, wood shop; March 24, auto hobby shop.

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

Advanced intarsia — 10 a.m. March 24. \$20. New project each month.

Free craft and hobby show — 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. today. Booths feature new products, projects and available classes; facility tours.

Ceramic painting — 10 a.m. Saturday. \$56. Sunsets Duncan technique class.

Cooking with kids for kids — 11 a.m. Saturday. \$20. Easy dishes. Children must be accompanied by parent.

Scrapbooking — 1:30 p.m. March 23. \$10 including supplies.

Advanced pottery — 1-3 p.m. March 24. \$40. Wheel work to fit individual skill levels.

Advanced matting — 5-8 p.m. March 29. \$25. Beginner framing class is prerequisite.

Prize giveaway reception — noon March 30. Cake, punch, drawing for prize winners from each shop.

Parent 'n' me kid's crafting — 11 a.m. March 31. \$15. Decoupage; ages 7 and under need parent involvement.

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 — 4-5:30 p.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.

Orientations — 6:30 p.m. Thursdays. Basic computer use.

Women's History Month — poster and book display throughout the month.

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Vandenberg Community Center

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

Dance revolution — 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

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

Halftime Cafe — closed for renovations.

St. Patrick's Day dance — 6 p.m. Saturday. \$3 per person.

American Idol night — 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Watch the TV show and be a judge.

Board game night — 6 p.m. Tuesdays.

Survivor night — 7 p.m. Thursdays. Can you be the ultimate survivor?

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.

St. Patrick's Day party — 3:30 p.m. today. Beer, brats, corned beef and cabbage.

Thirsty Thursday — 5 p.m. March 29. Cook your own steak. \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

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-Thursdays, ages 9-18.

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

Smart Girls/TRAIL groups — 2-4:30 p.m. Saturday, bowling at Gaudé Lanes.

Parents' day out — 1-5 p.m. Saturday, 24 and 31.

4-H Club — 5 p.m. March 27, sign up by March 23. Ages 13-17. Outdoor adventures and community service.

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

FitFactor aerobics — 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, ages 9 and older. Sign up Friday prior to scheduled event.

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/TTT/index.htm>.

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

Trip to New Orleans French Quarter — 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 23. \$25 per person. Sign up and prepay by March 21.

TRANSITIONS

Workshops, briefings

Veterans benefits briefing — 1-4 p.m. today, 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. 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. 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

Employer network — 9-11 a.m. today, Room 151, old Cody Hall. Meet with two or three area employers about careers, resumes and other information. For more information, call 377-2179.

Troops to Teachers — 4-5 p.m. today, Room 122, Sablich Center. Discuss opportunities as an educator after leaving military service. For more information, call 377-2179.

Please see **Digest**, Page 27

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

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

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

Friday

Lunch — Mexican baked chicken, country-style steak, stuffed peppers, macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn on the cob, beans, Spanish beans, peas and carrots, pasta salad, three-bean salad, chicken with wild rice soup, onion soup, chili, barbecue pork sandwiches and burritos.

Dinner — lasagna, spaghetti with meat sauce, chicken cacciatore, rice, gravy, broccoli, cauliflower, Italian baked beans, corn O'Brien, pasta salad, three-bean salad, chicken with wild rice soup, onion soup, chili, barbecue pork sandwiches and burritos.

Saturday

Lunch — baked chicken, beef yakisoba, canned ham, baked potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, broccoli, peas, carrots, fruit medley, kidney bean salad, raisin sauce, clam chowder, tomato florentine soup and buffalo wings.

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

Sunday

Lunch — baked fish, sauerbraten, chicken breast parmesan, au gratin potatoes, egg noodles, gravy, cauliflower combo, mixed vegetables, fried cabbage, tomato salad, German coleslaw, cheesy chicken tortilla soup, baked potato chowder, chili and cheese pizza.

Dinner — ginger barbecue chicken, fried shrimp, beef manicotti, potato wedges, mashed potatoes, gravy, black-eyed peas, collard greens, corn O'Brien, tomato salad, German coleslaw, cheesy chicken tortilla soup, baked potato chowder, chili and cheese pizza.

Monday

Lunch — Swiss steak, baked chicken, sausage, peppers and onions, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, carrots, cucumber and onion salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumplings soup, minestrone, chili with beans, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

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

Tuesday

Lunch — lemon garlic fish, pork schnitzel steak, beef and yakisoba, ginger rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, pinto beans, spinach, squash, spinach salad, waldorf salad, frontier chicken chili, beef pot roast soup, vegetable soup, steak and cheese subs and tacos.

Dinner — roast pork loin, barbecue beef cubes, chicken fajitas, O'Brien potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower, corn on the cob, lima beans, waldorf salad, frontier chicken chili, beef pot roast soup, vegetable soup, steak and cheese subs and tacos.

Wednesday

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

Dinner — spaghetti with meat sauce, Swiss steak, fried chicken, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, fried cauliflower, asparagus, simmered cabbage, coleslaw, country style tomatoes, chicken noodle soup, potato soup, chili with beans, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

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Career focus program for spouses — information on area employment opportunities, job Web sites, human resources contacts, temporary jobs, on-base listings and free training programs. 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 June 5-14 for Aug. 21-24 at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.; and Sept. 12-21 for Nov. 27-30, 2007 program at Randolph AFB, Texas.

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 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 mili-

tary 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, 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 e-mail chelle1rn@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 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, Katrina Kantina. For more information, call Master Sgt. Glenda Mosby, 377-0178, or e-mail gmosby1@bellsouth.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 — 6:30 p.m., Blood and Chocolate (PG-13, 98 minutes).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Epic Movie (PG-13, 86 minutes); 6:30 p.m., Because I Say So (PG-13, 101 minutes).

Sunday — 2 p.m., Dreamgirls (PG-13, 131 minutes).

Air Force Assistance Fund contacts

Project officer — Capt. Max Lemons, 377-3703, assisted by Master Sgt. Josh Turnier, 377-0231.

2nd Air Force — Staff Sgt. Frances Gullely, 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 Parms, 377-2860; Kerry Brann, 377-0027.

81st Training Wing staff agencies — Master Sgt. Kat Hatway, 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 — Tech. Sgt. Lavada Singleton, 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 Lyonais, 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.



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377-1676.**