



KEESLER NEWS



Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

Volume 68, No. 45
Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007

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

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



Dragons deployed
— 137



Blowing kisses

Senior Airman Tamera Ivy, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron, and her daughter, Tierra, 2, blow kisses to each other through a plastic bubble on playground equipment at the child development center during Family Fun Day at the facility Nov. 15.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

A-76-driven RIF moves to Sept. 30

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Next year's reduction in force driven by the A-76 competitive sourcing process is being changed from June 30 to Sept. 30.

Assignment eligibility dates for affected military members have moved to Sept. 30, too, but there's no change expected to the Oct. 1 target date for Computer Sciences Corp. to take over a portion of

Keesler's support operations.

A separate contract to keep communication services in-house is still in litigation in federal court.

At a town hall meeting Nov. 14, Col. Greg Touhill, 81st Training Wing commander, said that he decided to change the effective date for the RIF after consulting with base leaders and personnel specialists.

"It didn't make sense to me to do the

RIF before the transition period concluded," Colonel Touhill explained. "The transition phase involves an incremental assumption of responsibility by CSC from the government work force."

The colonel said that the decision to change the RIF date benefits Keesler's mission as well as its employees.

"We need people for continuity of the

Please see A-76, Page 9

This week in the Triangle

Network infrastructure, 10 a.m. Tuesday, Bryan Hall

Personnel, 10 a.m. Wednesday, Wolfe Hall

Commnad post, 10 a.m. Wednesday, Bryan Hall



October honor flight

Student numbers

Total students — 3,056
Non-prior service — 2,057
Temporary duty — 831
Joint service — 113
Combat controllers — 21
Medical — 34
Non-prior service arrivals — 114
Guard, Reserve — 721
International — 39
FY08 graduates — 2,530
Total since 1942 — 2,267,725

COMMENTARY

Keeping safety at forefront of Thanksgiving activities

By Col. Greg Touhill

81st Training Wing commander

As the commander of the 81st Training Wing, I have the honor of leading some of the most talented professionals in the Air Force.

Your dedication to duty and commitment to our mission continues to result in the highest achievements, and your efforts are vital to our continued success throughout the world.

During this year's busy Thanksgiving holiday, I'd like everyone to enjoy the season to the fullest with your families and friends.

Part of making the most of our time off is to keep safety in the forefront of our activities. Constantly being aware of your surroundings and taking proper measures to ensure you and yours are safe are of the utmost importance. A little caution and planning go a long way.

If you're going out of town for the holiday, pre-plan your trip and include safety in your planning. It reduces your stress and makes for a better trip. Don't be the person in your squadron who tries to drive a non-stop roundtrip across the country over the holiday weekend. Use good judgment, drive reasonable distances and follow speed limits. Include rest stops to reduce fatigue, and, most importantly, don't drink and drive. We want to see you back on duty safe and sound!

There's no reason we can't make the most of the season, and keep ourselves and those we love safe as well.

For those who are staying on the

Mississippi Gulf Coast, remember we have out-of-towners visiting for the holiday. It's a good bet they aren't familiar with coast traffic patterns or posted speed limits. So give a stranger a holiday gift this year — be patient with unsure drivers.

Being aware of safety issues is everyone's responsibility. In getting this message out, supervisors must be engaged with their troops and make sure they know safety is our main priority this holiday season. The wingman culture we foster in the Air Force is committed to safety, and it should be emphasized at every opportunity.

Make sure your co-workers know you're concerned with their safety — there's nothing wrong with letting your buddy know you care. It's all a part of the holiday spirit, but most importantly, it's the right thing to do.

This Thanksgiving there may be one less seat at the dinner table because of loved ones called away to carry out our country's business elsewhere. Because of their commitment to this unit, to the Air Force, the nation and their families, they've chosen to sacrifice this holiday in order to ensure our safety and security. I know we'll all do what we can to make sure the families of our deployed troops are comfortable and cared for this Thanksgiving.

Our precious freedom merits defending, and your efforts make a real difference ensuring this nation's continued security. I'm proud to serve with such patriots as you. Charlene and I send you our best Thanksgiving wishes — thanks for all you do.

ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

By Col. Greg Touhill

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

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



Colonel Touhill

may appear in this column.

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

Lodging (reservations) — 377-9986

Medical center information — 377-6550

Military equal opportunity — 377-2759

Military pay — 377-7272

Pass and registration — 377-3844

Pharmacy (refill call-in) — 376-1000

Satellite pharmacy — 377-9791

Public affairs — 377-2783

Red Cross — 377-0732

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



WHO'S YOUR WINGMAN?

Dec. 12 is Wingman Day at Keesler



KEESLER NEWS

Nb. 1 in Air Force,
2004, 1997.

Nb. 1 in AETC,
2004, 1998, 1996;
Nb. 2, 2006, 2003,
2001, 1999, 1997,
1991, 1989, 1986;

Nb. 3, 2005, 2002, 1995;
honorable mention,
1992.

81st Training Wing commander

Col. Greg Touhill

Public affairs director

Jerry Taranto

Editor

Perry Jenifer

Staff writers

Susan Griggs

Airman David Salanitri

Staff photographer

Kemberly Groue

Keesler News on
Web:

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Report
sexual
assaults
to
377-7278.

DIAMOND NOTES

Only solid black backpacks may be worn with blue uniform; solid black, olive drab or woodland are authorized with the battle dress uniform.

Carry in left hand,
on left shoulder or both shoulders.

— Master Sgt. Mike Worley, 81st Mission Support



Sergeant Worley



Phone numbers and Web sites
for information and accountability
for Keesler members:

Personnel Accountability Team
1-800-673-9356

Air Force Personnel Center
1-800-435-9941

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ndw>

81st Civil Engineer Squadron readiness
377-3811 or DSN 597-3811

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency

<http://www.msema.org>

National Weather Service
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov>

Keesler Public Web site
<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

Create a family checklist,
review it often,
make changes as needed
and activate it at the first sign
of a hurricane threat.



Could your work center
run more efficiently?

Is time being wasted
where you work?

Do you have an idea
to save money
or streamline your job?

If so, we want to know.

Contact
81st Training Wing
Air Force Smart Operations
for the 21st Century Office,
377-0123.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Airman Basic Garrett Guthrie, 336th Training Squadron, cranks up the music for the celebration marking the 30th anniversary of the chapel's Fishbowl student ministry. The event also included a cake-cutting ceremony, food, games, contests and prize drawings.

Fishbowl

Student ministry marks 3 decades



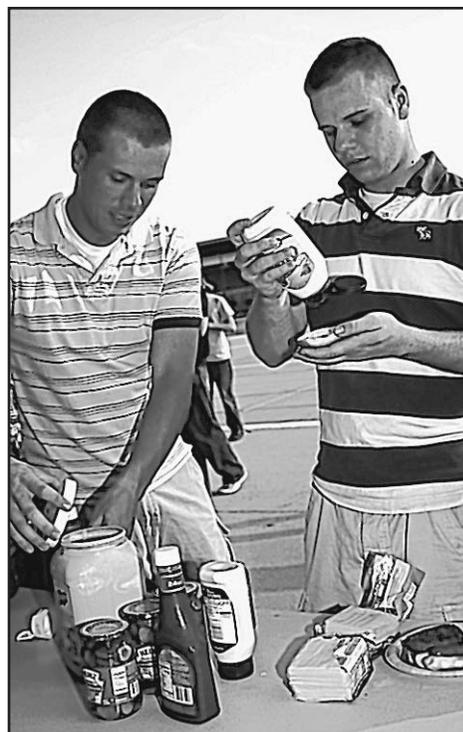
Photos by Kemberly Groue

Airman Basic David Bonnette, 335th TRS, bounces down the inflatable slide at Saturday's festivities.



Top, Airman 1st Class Christopher Ruter, 338th TRS, grills burgers on the drill pad behind the Levitow Training Support Facility, where the Fishbowl Student Center is located.

Right, Airmen Basic Eric Blakestad, left, and Beau Brouillette fix their plates at the cookout. Airman Blakestad is a student in the 338th TRS and Airman Brouillette is a student in the 336th TRS.



AFPC's centralization of formal training continues

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Scheduling of all Air Force directed formal training is being centralized at the Air Force Personnel Center here to streamline services and make maximum use of Air Force resources.

Formal training includes all Air Force-level supplemental training (security, communications, electronics, etc.) and instruction at 7-level in-resident schools, as well as training at in-resident senior NCO and NCO academies.

This initiative is another step for AFPC in delivering personnel services to all Airmen and was a part of major command personnel and manpower transformation. Currently, Air Force scheduling for these courses falls to training offices located at each major command. By March, those tasks become central-

ized at AFPC's Directorate of Personnel Services.

"As we bring this process to AFPC, with its service center environment, we believe scheduling efforts focused at one location will simplify the process for our Airmen," said Col. Bill Foote, DPS director. "We'll also be able to prioritize our training goals from an Air Force-wide perspective."

The first part of this initiative started in October when AFPC took over scheduling responsibilities from Air Education and Training Command for NCO Academy classes in the continental U.S. As a result, MAJCOMs now work their NCO Academy scheduling through AFPC as opposed to AETC.

For the NCO Academy and other Air Force-directed formal training, MAJCOMs are removed from the scheduling process by March and units will work directly with AFPC. Until that time, all units

continue to follow current guidelines for scheduling through their base and MAJCOM offices.

As part of the centralization process, designated e-mail boxes and a dedicated phone line are being added for training requests.

"Once we work out the details, it will be a great benefit to the Air Force," said Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Cunningham, chief of DPS' Air Force Education and Training Branch. "We'll be able to develop better relationships with the functional managers and meet the training needs of specific Air Force Specialty Codes more effectively."

"With reductions in manpower at the major commands, the centralization of formal training became a 'must do,'" said Colonel Foote. "Now, our focus is to do it as effectively and efficiently as we can for our customers."

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

HAZMAT training

The next hazardous waste management training is 8-11 a.m. Nov. 29 in the Wolfe Hall auditorium.

For more information, call Thomas Minton, hazardous waste manager, 377-3004.

USM spring term

The University of Southern Mississippi Keesler Center's spring semester starts Jan. 14.

Undergraduate degree programs in psychology, American studies and technical occupational education and classes in administration of justice and computer science are offered.

For more information, call Jennifer Williams, 377-2309; visit Room 208, Hangar 2, or visit <http://www.usmedu/gulfcoast/military/index.ph>.

ACSC options

Air Command and Staff College can be completed by correspondence or seminar.

Majors or major-selects of all services and civilians General Schedule-11 and above are eligible.

For more information, call or e-mail Edward Hodge, 377-7159, eddie.hodge@keesler.af.mil.

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.

USM degree

The University of Southern Mississippi-Keesler offers a degree in technical occupational education.

For more information, call the USM-Keesler office, 377-2309.

CCAF online

Visit the Air Force Virtual Education Center, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod>, to create MyAFVEC accounts to access

online customer service tools.

People can request and track Community College of the Air Force transcripts, view degree progress reports and see if a course counts toward a CCAF degree.

Enlisted-to-AFIT

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force Institute of Technology offers noncommissioned officers an advanced science, engineering or management degree.

These onsite AFIT programs are available at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

For more information, visit <https://afvec.langlely.af.mil/>

afvec/ or e-mail robert.hale@pentagon.af.mil.

Civilian tuition aid

Civilian tuition assistance for fiscal 2008 has been approved by Air Education and Training Command, according to the education office.

Courses that begin on or after Oct. 1 are eligible to be paid with FY08 funds.

AETC civilians are limited to one Air Force mission-related course per academic term.

For more information, call 377-2323.

Academic counseling

For college counseling, call 377-2323 or 2171.

NEWS AND FEATURES

Thanksgiving comes early

Airman 1st Class Lisa Spitter, 81st Medical Support Squadron, is served gravy by Capt. Hoon Jung, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron Nov. 15 at the Latrcher Chapel. The 81st Medical Group Top III and spouse club provided the early Thanksgiving meal for the group's permanent party dormitory residents.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Resources flight No. 1 in AETC

By Airman David Salanitri

Keesler News staff

The 81st Civil Engineering Squadron's resources flight is an Air Education and Training Command award winner for 2007.

The flight won Maj. Gen. Robert Thompson Award for outstanding products and services to its customers.

Among the flight's accomplishments:

Facilitated obligation of 50 projects dealing with five separate contracting offices resulting in building Keesler's future.

Decisively executed \$56.1 million program supporting 81st Training Wing, 403rd Reserve Wing, 2nd Air Force and 85th Engineering Squadron.

"The resources personnel work as a team to accomplish all tasks and challenges. Members within the different elements reach out to help their peers even if the answer isn't within their area of expertise," said Kristin Vollbrecht, resources flight chief.

"The 81 CES resources flight surged ahead of the other AETC bases by providing unparalleled support to customers, continued recovery of hurricane-damaged facilities, and total devotion to duty," he added.

The resources flight also won this award in 1999.

The award is named after retired General Thompson, who served as the Air Force director of engineering and services, 1975-78.

Cooling systems change over to heating

81st Civil Engineer Squadron

It's "nightmare time" for the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron — one of the two annual periods when facilities are switched back and forth between heating and cooling.

The impact to building occupants depends on the type of heating, ventilating and air conditioning system.

Many newer buildings have four-pipe systems that can provide both heating and cooling year-round automatically, but most older facilities have a two-pipe system that can only cool or heat at any one time and must be manually switched.

The two-pipe systems take about eight days to shift from heating to cooling and three days to convert from cooling to heating. The waiting time is required because temperature

changes can result in immediate system failure, with damage to compressors, tube ruptures and loss of refrigerant gases. Replacing refrigerant is an expensive proposition and an environmental concern.

The decision to end cooling and implement heating in older buildings has a degree of history and guesswork built into the process, so the change is made as late as possible to minimize inconvenience.

The 81st CES works closely with lodging management, the consolidated dorm management office and other affected users to determine the best days for the changeover.

Once units are switched to heating, crews begin equipment maintenance in preparation for the next cooling season.

IN THE NEWS

Fewer reservists in 2008

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force Reserve Command will operate with a smaller force in 2008.

The fiscal 2008 Defense Appropriations Act funds an end-strength of 67,500 reservists, compared to 74,900 last year.

The new legislation also approves 9,999 full-time air reserve technicians and 2,721 full-time Active Guard and Reserve reservists.

From this act, AFRC receives about \$1.36 billion for its reserve personnel appropriation and about \$2.82 billion in operation and maintenance funds to run the command.

Unit tax representatives needed

Requests have been sent out for volunteer individual tax assistants in preparation for the upcoming income tax filing season.

The legal office tries to have at least one VITA representative in each unit and several in large units. VITA representatives have the tax program loaded on the computer at his duty location and prepares returns during the duty day.

A tax office opens in 2008 in Room 229, Sablich Center, which is manned by a manager and volunteers.

For more information, call Dick Brock, 377-3510.

Native American powwow

A Native American Heritage Month benefit powwow is 9 a.m. Dec. 1 and 11 a.m. Dec. 2 at the D'Iberville Sports Complex.

Admission is \$5 per person, \$3 for children 6-12 and senior citizens and free for children under 6 and emergency services personnel, firefighters, police and military in uniform with identification.

For more information, call Capt. Elizabeth Taillon, 377-6242, or Laquana Whiteside, 863-0479, of the Native American Heritage Committee.

Dec. 26 is 'Family Day'

Dec. 26 is an Air Education and Training Command "Family Day."

The day off applies to military members only.

Civilian employees who normally work Wednesdays must take leave to get the day off.

Last Keesler News of 2007

By contract, the Keesler News doesn't publish the weeks in which the Christmas and New Year's federal holidays fall.

The last issue of the base newspaper for 2007 is Dec. 20. The first issue of 2008 is Jan. 10.

The newspaper office is closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 in observance of the holidays.

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.

A-76,

from Page 1

mission during the 90-day transition period," he pointed out. "Now both military members and civilians will be available during that time to keep Keesler functioning."

Civilian employees impacted by the RIF now have 90 additional days of employment and 90 more days to find federal employment through the Priority Placement Program. The date change also helps affected NSPS employees, since now their RIF will be run with performance ratings earned.

The extension gives military members a second opportunity to apply for overseas assignments, according to military personnel flight chief Adrien Augustine.

The enlisted overseas EQUAL listing for October-December 2008 assignments become available Feb. 6, and members have until Feb. 15 to update their preferences via the virtual MPF. Also, Jan. 31 is the deadline to submit three stateside bases for consideration for base of preference assignments.

Deatrice Jimerson of the civilian personnel office gave a briefing on how the date change for the RIF affects the timeline for civilian employ-

"We want to take the guesswork out of this ... we want to take good care of our Keesler family."

— Colonel Croslen

ees impacted by A-76.

She said the RIF register was requested from the Air Force Personnel Center Sept. 20. The first RIF retention register is expected in February, and the list is forwarded to CSC immediately to offer current employees the right of first refusal for proposed jobs.

Once Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay buyouts are accepted, AFPC runs the final RIF list and forwards the names to Keesler in March or April. RIF notices are issued in April or May in advance of the Sept. 30 date for affected civilians to move, retire or be released from their jobs.

AFPC and Defense Department officials are coming to Keesler in March to assist Keesler's civilian personnel office in enrolling employees for PPP consideration.

Colonel Touhill addressed the concerns of one audience member who asked if having employees in place during the transition period meant that they would be expected to

train the contractors who are taking their jobs.

He emphasized CSC employees won't need to be trained by Keesler employees. With the exception of some government-furnished training promised in the performance requirements document, CSC is responsible for showing up with a fully-capable workforce able to perform all duties in the PRD.

The colonel stressed that although the contract has been awarded to CSC, the legal documents are still being finalized and should be signed early next month at Air Education and Training Command headquarters, Randolph AFB, Texas.

Brian Mooers, Keesler's competitive sourcing chief, emphasized the importance of the actual date the contract is signed.

"A lot of civilian personnel actions can't be done until a legal document is signed which binds CSC to perform the work and binds the government to have CSC do the

work," Mr. Mooers said.

In the meantime, Keesler is doing everything it can to ensure a smart, efficient and successful transition, according to Mr. Mooers.

"Col. (Rodney) Croslen (81st Mission Support Group commander) is really leading the way with weekly group meetings with his leaders to make sure every "i" is dotted and every "t" is crossed.

"The reason we stopped updating it was that every time we put in amendment to change a process, it caused extra costs to the bidders when they had to recalculate and restructure their bids," Mr. Mooers continued. "AETC and Keesler made a decision to freeze it so we could get through the process with a level playing field and get the bids on the table."

Mr. Mooers said each bid has a shelf life, "and CSC extended the shelf life on its bid, saying the numbers it gave us in 2005 are still good," he added.

Colonel Touhill intends to meet with CSC officials after the contract is signed to firm up the projected timeline as soon as possible.

"We want to take the guesswork out of this," he remarked. "My guiding principle to our staff is that this is a family affair, and we want to take good care of our Keesler family."

Keesler gains 2 new chiefs

Air Force Personnel Center and Keesler News staff

Two Keesler senior master sergeants, Ramsey Robinson and Nicholas Slater, are among the 416 names on the chief master sergeant promotion list released Nov. 14.

Sergeant Robinson is assigned to the 81st Medical Support Squadron and Sergeant Slater is assigned to the 81st Training Support Squadron.

This is the first time those being promoted received virtual promotion notification, which is part of the Air Force's personnel services delivery concept to provide Airmen the information they need when they need it.

The promotion board, which convened at the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, Oct 15-25, considered 2,476 senior master sergeants for a 16.80 per-

cent select rate. Last year's selection rate was 16.85 percent.

The average score for those selected was 671.39, with an average time in grade and time in service of 3.04 and 23.49 years, respectively. The average score was based on these point averages:

- 135 for enlisted performance reports;
- 27.75 for time in grade;
- 23.75 for time in service;
- 24.29 for decorations;
- 66.35 for Air Force supervisory examination; and
- 394.25 for board score.

Those selected are promoted beginning in January.

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

PERSONNEL NOTES

Civilian retirement seminars

Three one-day civilian employee retirement planning seminars are scheduled this month.

Federal Employees Retirement System employees — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday.

Civil Services Retirement System employees — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 29.

All three seminars are in Room 5, NCO Academy, Building 2901.

Those who don't make reservations are considered on a space-available basis the day of the seminar.

Spouses may attend and aren't counted against the 50-person limit.

WAPS test schedules

Weighted airman promotion system test schedules:

Senior master sergeant — Dec. 3-14.

Master and technical sergeant — Feb. 1 to March 31.

Staff sergeant — May 1 to June 15.

Members should be prepared to test on the first day of the cycle.

For more information, contact unit WAPS monitors.

Travel health information

81st Medical Group

Current travel health information is available to personnel planning vacations or permanent change-of-station moves outside the U.S. at the travel medicine clinic in the basement of Keesler Medical Center.

Clinic officials suggest travelers drop by at least one month before departure.

Coordinated appointments for entire families may be arranged with ample advance notice. Travel medicine clinic is usually Thursday mornings, but alternate appointment times are considered. Patients should bring their immunization records.

For more information, call 376-3550.

Household goods option

SmartWebMove is a new option allowing service members to set up their household goods moves on the Internet.

It can be used to set up household goods moves within the continental U.S. Sailors can also use SmartWebMove to arrange shipments overseas.

It can't be used for do-it-yourself moves, shipment of privately-owned vehicles, boats or mobile homes, or by first-time movers.

Personnel moving for the first time, call the personal property office, 377-9439 or 3436, to schedule counseling briefings.

For more information, go to <http://www.smartwebmove.navsup.navy.mil>. Users need their permanent change-of-station orders, proof of dependents, current power of attorney (if move is being set up by someone other than the service member) and an e-mail address that's in effect until the move date.

Move authorizations

81st Transportation Squadron

Upon receipt of Air Force Form 150 from the housing office authorizing a local move into or out of base housing, contact the traffic management flight, Entrance 5, Building 4202, 700 Hangar Road.

The date the form or permanent change-of-station orders are issued is when the entitlement begins for the personal property move.

For more information, call the traffic management flight, 377-9439 or 3436.

Holiday decorations have fiery potential

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Decorating your home is a way to set the stage for the holiday season.

Keep in mind those magical twinkling lights are electrical products that can increase the possibility of fire in the home.

To prevent fires from holiday decorations, the fire department recommends:

Use materials that are non-combustible or flame resistant and retardant.

Keep candles away from decorations and Christmas trees.

Use only electrical decorations that have an independent testing lab label, and follow the manufacturer's guidelines.

Inspect new and used light cords and replace damaged ones.

Don't overload extension cords.

Don't mount lights with nails or clips that can damage wiring.

Keep children and pets away from light cords and electrical decorations.

Turn off lights and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.

People who live in military family housing have additional rules for holiday decorating.



Displays and decorations must be tasteful, appropriate for the occasion and not oversized.

Roof top decorations aren't allowed.

Decorations mounted along the roofline must be fastened to the gutters or roofing shingles with plastic hangers that won't damage the housing unit. Holes can't be made in vinyl or metal siding or gutters. Small nails or staples may be used on wood surfaces.

Lights aren't allowed on metal trees.

Exterior decorative lighting must be turned off between midnight and 5 a.m.

Christmas decorations are authorized from the day after Thanksgiving through Jan. 6.

DRAGON OF THE WEEK

Name — Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Jones

Unit — 333rd Training Squadron

Position — network management infrastructure instructor

Time in Air Force — six years

Time at Keesler — 11 months

Noteworthy — deployed to Qatar in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom from May-September 2005; recently completed second Community College of the Air Force associate degree.

Hometown — Orrville, Ohio.

Why did you join the Air Force? for the educational benefits and the opportunity to learn a valuable trade.

What are your short- and long-term goals? complete my bachelor's degree in management information systems and be promoted to technical sergeant.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

What's your favorite quote? "Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far." — Theodore Roosevelt.

What are your hobbies? playing and watching golf, baseball and football and watching NASCAR races.

Tricare offers enrollment via Web

Air Force Print News

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Tricare Prime and Prime Remote beneficiaries in the U.S., including Hawaii and Alaska, can enroll online with the new beneficiary Web enrollment, known as BWE.

Prime and Prime Remote beneficiaries can log on to <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/ap/pj/bwe/> to enroll, withdraw, choose primary care managers, transfer regions, update personal information, add other health care information and request enrollment cards. BWE allows Standard beneficiaries to update personal information, add other health care information and enroll in Prime.

BWE's link to the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System allows beneficiaries to update their personal information for both Tricare and DEERS at the same time. Sponsors and family members can access their Tricare information by using their common access card and Defense Finance and Accounting Service "myPay" personal identification number or family member account PIN.

Enrollments and primary care manager changes are pending until approved and approval may take up to six calendar days. Beneficiaries can log onto the site to view the status of their account anytime and can cancel pending enrollments and/or primary care manager changes within 48 hours of initiating the transaction.

To date, the US Family Health Plan, a Tricare Prime option, isn't available for enrollment on the BWE Web site.

In addition to the new Web service, enrollment forms are still available at <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/Medical/Enrollment> to fill out and mail to a Tricare regional office.

Beneficiaries can also visit a Tricare Service Center to enroll and get assistance.

Honor guard funeral teams get smaller

**Air Force Print News
and Keesler News staff**

Nov. 1, the Keesler Honor Guard implemented an Air Force-wide change, reducing retiree funerals from 10 honor guardsmen to seven.

“Yes we have to do more with less, and that is what we will do,” said James Taylor, director of mortuary affairs. “We will continue to provide honors.”

The formal 10-person funeral is no longer authorized for retiree funerals. The seven-person funeral detail serves as pallbearers, flag folders, flag presenter, bugler, spare and firing party. The change provides 30 percent manpower relief for retiree funeral details and 21 percent relief for overall funeral details, according to Air Force officials.

In the new funeral sequence, the noncommissioned officer in charge of pall bearers is also the NCO in charge of the funeral, the number of firing party members is reduced to three and a spare position is added.

For more information, call 377-1986.

Airman David Salanitri, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.

Some reservists get opportunity to retire early

Air Force Reserve Command

WASHINGTON – Starting this year, 126 Air Force Reserve lieutenant colonels and 30 colonels get to retire after two years time in grade instead of three years.

The secretary of the Air Force authorized reducing the time-in-grade requirement on March 22. However, the law specifies that no more than 2 percent of a grade's authorized end strength can retire each year.

The change in policy covers all colonels. For lieutenant colonels, it specifically applies to those affected by base realignment and closure actions, Programmatic Budget Directive 720 and other force structure changes.

Traditional reservists, members of the Active Guard and Reserve and air reserve technicians are eligible. However, AGRs and ARTs have certain restrictions.

Authority to retire with two years time in grade isn't retroactive and it doesn't apply to any previous retirements.

More information about the policy is available at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil>.

Holiday shoppers get early start at base exchange

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The holiday tradition of hitting the stores the day after Thanksgiving returns to Keesler this year.

Hurricane Katrina hindered Christmas shopping at the base's Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities for the past two seasons. However, the opening of the temporary base exchange last March gives shoppers the opportunity to start their bargain hunting early.

"We're really excited about this holiday season — it's our first in our temporary building," said store manager Bill Buell.

The base exchange opens at 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday with special doorbuster items, including electronics, small appliances, sporting goods, tools, cosmetics, clothing and jewelry for the entire family.

The first 100 customers all three days receive \$20 AAFES gift cards (one per family). Shoppers can also register to win a 52-inch color television.

For more information, call 435-2216.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Capt. Pamela Rabe, an intensive care unit nurse in the 81st Inpatient Support Squadron, checks out the Christmas decorations while shopping at the temporary base

exchange. The Four Seasons store, which shares the same building as the Class VI store, also carries a wide variety of Christmas supplies.

HOLIDAY NOTES

Santa's Attic

Registration begins Monday for Santa's Attic, a free shopping event for children age 12 and under sponsored by the chapel.

From 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Fishbowl Student Center, children of active-duty military can pick two gifts for their parents.

Students serve as Santa's helpers to help children select and wrap their gifts.

To register or donate items, call 377-2331.

Santa Police' The 81st Security Forces Squadron's annual Santa Police fundraiser is 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 4 and 6.

For \$10 for 30 minutes and \$5 for each additional 15 minutes, participants can buy warrants to "lock up" anybody they choose at the 81st SFS "jail."

Warrants are available in Rooms 130 and 133, Building 3501, or by calling 376-6611, 6616 or 5671.

'Christmas Shoppe'

A "Christmas Shoppe" is 5-8 p.m. Dec. 11 at Vandenberg Community Center.

Vendors are invited to participate in this Keesler Spouses Club-sponsored event.

For more information, visit keeslerspousesclub.com.

Mailing deadlines

Army and Air Force Exchange Service

Mail to deployed service members going first class must be sent by Dec. 10 to arrive by Dec. 25, according to the Military Postal Service Agency.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service offers "Gifts from the Homefront" gift certificates. They can be sent to deployed troops by going to <http://www.aafes.org> or calling 1-877-770-4438.

Toys for Tots

The annual Toys for Tots campaign runs through Dec. 18.

For more information or to volunteer to assist with the campaign, call Cheryl Moore, 81st Communications Squadron, 377-3900.

KEESLER NOTES

Advocate training

Victim advocate training is Wednesday, Nov. 29 and Dec. 5-6.

Times and locations may vary, according to sexual assault prevention and response officials.

For more information, call SARC, 377-8635.

Services hours

For hours of operation of 81st Services Division facilities, go to <http://www.keesler-services.us>.

Public affairs moves

The public affairs office is in Room 201-A, Wall Studio.

Phone numbers are unchanged.

Lactation services

Lactation services are available at Keesler Medical Center.

Included are prenatal teaching, breast-feeding education, breast-feeding assistance following discharge from the medical center, care for infants with special needs and breast care for non-breast-feeding mothers.

For additional information, call Brenda Valdez, the lactation consultant, 376-3121.

Supply visits

Supply customer liaison visits units for feedback on support.

To schedule visits, call Kevin Lane, 377-8891, or e-mail

kevin.lane@keesler.af.mil.

Fingerprinting process

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

For appointments, call 377-4660 or 5404.

Cycle courses

For information on motorcycle safety courses, call the safety office, 377-2910.

Data disposal

For appointments to shred personal data, call the records management office, 377-2571.

DRMO withdrawals

Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office withdrawals for organizational require-

ments must be for assets normally authorized for requesting organizations and specific customer requirements.

For audit purposes, base activities other than nonappropriated fund activities must request all property in DRMO through the retail supply activity.

DAPS services

For information on document automation and production services, call 377-4057.

Multimedia services

For information on multimedia products and services available at Wall Studio, call the multimedia manager, 377-2793, or multimedia quality

assurance personnel, 377-4636.

Vehicle decals

Base decals and expiration stickers are no longer issued Air Force-wide.

People may remove and destroy the decals on their vehicles, according to 81st Security Force Squadron officials.

When visiting other bases, obtain passes or decals there.

For more information, call 377-3844.

Historical items

For information on loaning or donating historical items for display at Keesler Medical Center, call Steve Pivnick, 376-3018, or Capt. Neil Clark, 376-6000.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Clad in kilt, Adams sweeps Highland Games

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The thrill of victory, the agony of defeat — Jerome Adams experienced both ends of the spectrum during the 22nd Scottish Highland Games Nov. 10-11 in Gulfport.

Adams, a weather radar instructor in the 335th Training Squadron, won every event in the heavy athletics competition to earn nine medals and a sword.

When he returned to the second day of the festival with his family, he spied the Celtic wrestling tournament and decided to give it a try. Before he knew what happened, he was headed to Keesler Medical Center with injuries to his left leg and knee.

“I was feeling invincible about my success the previous day,” the 11-year Air Force veteran admitted. “In Celtic wrestling, you wrap your left arm over your opponent’s right shoulder and lock hands behind his back. The technique involves weight shifts, and the other guy was bigger than me. It was really humbling to land on the sawdust.”



Power lifting triggered his interest in strength sports.

“I stumbled onto the highland games,” he said. “After we watched the games in 2004, I ordered my kilt and couldn’t wait to throw in the next year’s competition.”

Left, Adams donned his kilt and an Air Force T-shirt for a heavy athletics demonstration for base spectators last month.

Photo by Brenda Arin-Corayan

Right, Adams competes in the caber toss at the 2006 Scottish Highland Games in Gulfport, his first heavy athletics competition. The caber toss, the hallmark event for highland games around the world, involves picking up a large pole, 16-20 feet long and 65-125 pounds, and running with it, attempting to flip it end over end.

Courtesy photo



The 2005 event was cancelled due to Hurricane Katrina, but he was finally able to compete in 2006.

“I connected with a group of athletes who train in Gulfport on Saturdays,” Adams recalled. “The week before the games,

they showed me the basics. I went to the games and had a blast, finishing fifth overall out of seven competitors.”

Highland games usually include seven to nine different competitive events.

“We throw one or two

stones similar to the Olympic shot put,” Adams explained. “The open stone is about 16 pounds with a 7 1/2-foot approach before you throw. The braemar stone is heavier, 22-28 pounds, and it’s a standing throw with no approach.

“Then we throw a heavy (56 pound) and light (28 pound) weight for distance,” he continued. “The weights are attached to a metal ring and you have a 9-foot approach. Most do a double spin and then throw.”

The hammer throws employ a lead ball on the end of a 4-foot handle — 16 pounds for the light throw and 22 pounds for the heavy throw. Competitors can’t move their feet as they swing the hammer before release.

The sheaf toss, Adams’ favorite event, uses a burlap sack stuffed with 16 pounds of twine or rope. The competitor sticks it with a pitchfork and throws it over a high bar.

The weight-over bar involves throwing a 56-pound weight over a high bar.

The caber toss consists of picking up a large pole, 16-20 feet long and 65-125 pounds, and running with it, attempting to flip it end over end.

Since getting involved in heavy athletics a year ago, Adams placed third out of 14 contestants in Panama City, Fla.; first out of four in Gonzales, La., and first out of four in Pace, Fla. He also holds several field records.

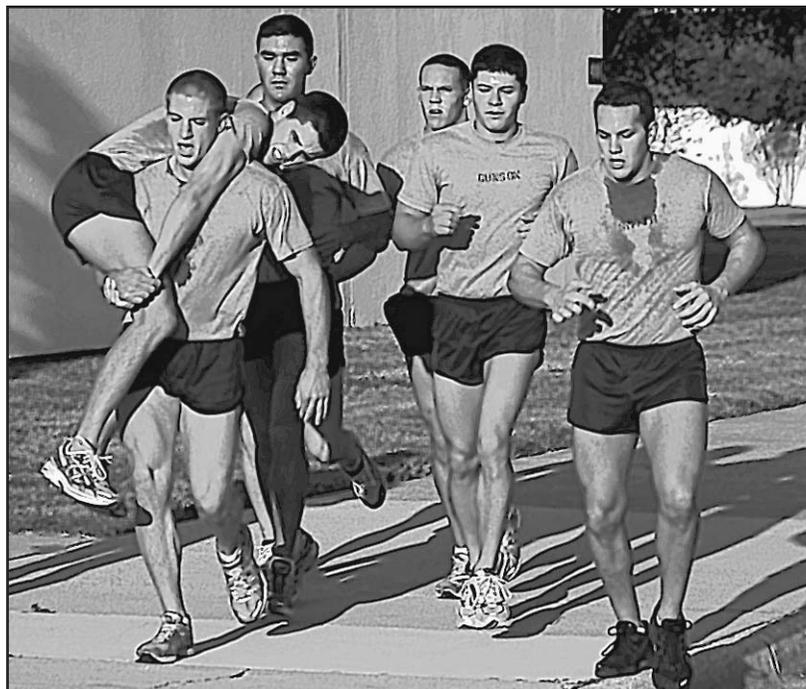
“Each game maintains its own records due to differences in equipment and fields,” Adams pointed out.

“I enjoy the highland games so much more than power lifting — maybe because I’ve had more success in one year than in eight years of power lifting,” he commented. “Highland festivals are great fun for the whole family.”

Smokin' feet

From left, John Kane is carried by James Sparks, followed by Chris Akin, Johnny Yellock, Gilbert Gunson and Wade Smith in the Great American Smokeout "Run Your Butts Off" 5-kilometer fun run. Kane twisted his ankle during the run, and his fellow combat control students from the 334th Training Squadron carried him across the finish line. Another combat control trainee, Jeremy Schaubach, won the men's race with a time of 18 minutes, 52 seconds. Eunice Savage, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, was the first woman to finish at 23:39. The annual event was sponsored by the health and wellness center and 81st Services Division.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Air Force wins another hoops title

Air Force Print News

MARINE CORPS Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. — The Air Force team swept the competition to win the Armed Forces Basketball Tournament Nov. 13.

The Air Force captured the gold for the second year in a row by going undefeated in the tournament.

Final standings were Air Force, 6-0; Marines, 3-3; Army, 2-4, and Navy, 1-5.

Basketball

Varsity home schedule

Editor's note: Home games played at Blake Fitness Center. For more information, call coaches Jesse Harris (men), 228-257-7756 or 376-3398, or Richard Vincent (women), 228-343-9951.

Dec. 8 — Ft. Benning, Ga., women 2 p.m., men 6 p.m.

Jan. 5 — Eglin AFB, Fla., women 2 p.m., men 4 p.m.

Feb. 9 — Mayport Naval Air Station, Fla., men only, noon.

Bowling

League standings

Monday Budweiser (as of Nov. 5)

Team	Won	Lost
Perry's Refrigeration	41	15
3 Steps Forward	38	18
Slater's Shooters	35	21
Old Skool	34	22
Gannon's Cannons	33.5	22.5
Wayne's World	33	23
Endangered Species	32.5	23.5
Team 3	30	26
Our Gang	30	26
Man On	28	28
Hoops Gang	28	28
Team 2	25	31
Pin Heads	23	33
Unpredictables	23	33
B-Busters	20	29
Ghost Riders	19	37
The Corner Pins	13	36
Martini's	11	45

Wednesday Mixed (as of Nov. 7)

Team	Won	Lost
Oceans Eleven	52	18
Jokers Wild	44	19
Clyde's Team	47	23
Hang Chunky	46	24
70s Plus	38	32

Ichiban	37	33
3DR	35	35
2 Old 2 Bowl	34	36
Neighbors + 1	28	35
Misfits	31	39
MUDD	28	42
Lucky Strikes	20	43
Team 13	22	48
Team 14	0	0

Thursday Retired Seniors Mixed (as of Nov. 18)

Team	Won	Lost
Team 16	44	26
Team 1	43.5	26.5
6-Pack	42.5	27.5
Freda's Kids	41	29
Dummys Dummies	41	29
Team 5	39.5	30.5
Delema	39.5	30.5
2 Bees & a D	38	32
Team 2	36.5	33.5
The Very Best	35	35
Team 12	34	36
Team 15	31	39
Full Speed	29	41
Guys and Dolls	28	42
Friends	28	42
Amy's Bunch	28	42
Team 13	28	42
Barb's Boys	23.5	46.5

Thursday Federal Intramural (as of Nov. 1)

Team	Won	Lost
Team 3	54	10
85th EIS	48	16
332nd TRS	42	22
Team 14	38	26
Team 4	38	26
81st MSS	38	26
Team 5	34	30
GCCS Squad	32	32
81st TRSS	32	32
403rd Rolling Thunder	30	34
Misfits	28	36
81st CPTS	26	38
Team 10	24	40
403rd MXS	24	40
338th TRS	22	42
Ghosts	2	62

Friday Mixed (as of Nov. 2)

Team	Won	Lost
Lady and the Tramps	43	20
Team 10	41	22
Team 3	41	22
Pin Busters	39	24
Sandbaggers	28	35
Harry's Team	27	36
3 Guys and A Babe	26	37
Pin Pals	23	40
Dreamers	23	40
Jax Hax	19	44

Other

Logo apparel — wear your college logo clothing on Saturdays and get \$1 off shoe rental. Wear Mississippi Sea Wolves apparel anytime and get \$1 off shoe rental.

Holiday youth special — 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today. Youth 17 and younger bowl for 50 cents a game.

Open play on league nights — first come, first served. For lane availability, call 377-2817.

Children's birthday party package — available 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1:30-3 p.m., or 3:30-5 p.m. Saturdays. Includes bowling and food package. Call for more information.

Youth special — ages 17 and younger, \$1.50 game.

Open bowling — for days and times, call 377-2817.

Lunch and bowl — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays. Bowl free with purchase of a lunch combo or buffet.

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

Nonprior service students special — 5-9:30 p.m. Thursdays, all nonprior service students bowl for \$1.50 game including shoe rental.

Glow bowling — 9 p.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays.

Hurricane alley, fundraisers — for more information, call 377-2817.

Fitness centers

Walk your way through the holi-

days — record your daily steps Thursday through Jan 1. Register and pick up a free pedometer and log book at Dragon Fitness Center or health and wellness center. Turn in log books Jan. 2-3. Medal ceremony and 1-mile walk, 11 a.m. Jan. 10, Crotwell Track.

Fitness classes — for more information, call 377-2907.

Golf

Free golf — 7 a.m. to dusk Thanksgiving Day; no golf carts or rental clubs available.

Air Force Sergeants Association fundraiser tournament — Dec. 6, Bay Breeze Golf Course. Registration and lunch begin at 10:30 a.m.; shotgun start at noon. Three-person teams (scramble). \$45 person includes green fee, cart and lunch; mulligan and skins together, \$5; assortment of prizes. Respond by Dec. 2 to Chris Aric, 376-3779 or 731-0522, christopher.aric@keesler.af.mil; Curt Maley, 376-3810, curtis.maley@keesler.af.mil, or Lisa Arnold, 377-2740, lisa.arnold@keesler.af.mil.

Course open — 7 a.m. to dusk daily. For tee times, call 377-3832.

Pro shop — Open 7 a.m. to dusk daily. Limited merchandise available.

Driving range — open 7 a.m. to dusk daily; 40 balls, \$2.

Golf lessons — \$25 for 30 minutes. For appointment, call 424-0479.

Martial arts

Editor's note: Classes at Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call 377-3308.

Shaolin pentjak silat — 7-8 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, all ages. \$65 month. Striking, kicking, grappling, weapons and internal energy; sash ranking system.

Pukulan pencak silat tempur — 6-7 p.m. Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays. \$65 month. Closequarters combat class; used for personal protection.

Mixed martial arts — 8-9 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays. \$65 month. Consists of muay thai, western boxing, kung fu, wrestling, judo and jujitsu.

Women's self defense — 6-7 p.m. Wednesdays. \$25 month. Mental, physical and tactical training.

Outdoor recreation

November fish of the month — weigh in the largest crappie for the month and win \$250 savings bond.

Deep sea fishing — charter the Boston Whaler for \$600. Captain and tackle provided. \$300 deposit.

Back Bay cruiser — 17-foot vessel for rent. Mississippi boater registration card required. For prices, call 377-3160.

Deep sea fishing trips — compressed work schedule Fridays and Saturdays. \$60 fee includes everything you need to fish. Payment due upon reservation. No fishing license required. Bring food and beverage. Minimum 10, maximum 22.

Canoe trips — for more information, call 377-3160.

Pontoon boat training — required before rental. For more information, call 377-3160.

Recreational vehicle, boat and trailer storage — \$15 per month. For more information, call 377-3180.

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

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

Disk golf — distance, fairway, multi-purpose, putt and approach disks for sale or rent.

Paintball

Paintball course — open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays for recreational play. Group play by reservation only, compressed work schedule Fridays and Sundays. For more information, call 377-3160.

DIGEST

HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Steven Bell, David Boucher, Jared Clark, Steven Cooper, Dijon Cousins, Jacob Epperly, Joshua Fielder, Katie Guzzo, Crispin Hasley, Jennifer Hilsngen, Eric Kniffer, Nickolas Lesley, David Levesque, James Little, Anthony McAlexander, Larry Mitchell, Arcenio Muniz, Aaron Munro, Joey Navarro, Isiah Puma, Dominic Reid, Zachary Rossiter, Denis Shchetina, Zachary Stites, Daniel Teel, Tyler Weese, Joshua Williamson and Nicholas Youmans; Airmen Drew Bellah, Brandon Bottemer, Ortiz Burgos, Justin Houghton, Aldridge Maurer, Michael Nyman, Christopher Pillsbury and Shane Swiatlowski; Airmen 1st Class Anthony Avance, Escamillio Davis, Stephen Glosser, Caleb Hill, Jonathan Lawrence, Nolan Mortensen, Jasmine Nartowicz, Thomas Nelson, Jason Rogers, William Stanford, Michael Thompson, Chester Tyson, Barry Veale, Daniel Wass and Mark Wojdylo; Senior Airmen Clinton Carr, Kiel Hughes, Nicholas Jenks, James Tykwinski and Derek Wilson; Staff Sgts. Michael Forte, John Juelich, Sam Maniche, Michael Nesburg, Robert Raap and Marc Robertson; Tech. Sgt. Marcos Saldana.

334th TRS

Aerospace control and warning systems — Airmen Basic Andrew Barker, Kevin Nelson and Jeremiah Tatum; Airmen Kailaigh Cabral and Kao Saechao; Staff Sgts. David Baker and Jessica Pena; Tech. Sgt. Julia Vazquez.

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Joshua Arias, Michael Clay, David Comeford, Lee Davis, Kyle Gibson, Ashley Heidel, Molly Piepenburg, Lane Strunk, Steven Titus, Kenton Wagner and Kristina Zacherl; Airmen 1st Class Bryan Bentley, Mark Forester, Morgan Ghetti, Nathanael Price and Jeremy Sebesta; Senior Airmen Thomas Bauhs, Robert Bonello, Alex Lee, Frankie Perez and Christina Wegmann; Staff Sgts. Jeff Davis and Theodor Hofknecht; Capt. Eftichios Charalampakis.

335th TRS

Comptroller training squadron — Airmen Basic Nicholas Ehlers, Courtne Johnson and Evan Poster; Airman Larissa Lilie; Airmen 1st Class Ian McClenney and Robin Smallwood; Senior Airmen Michael Mechaley and Jacqlien Treager; Staff Sgts. Timothy Chambers and David Hamilton; Tech. Sgts. Joey Lease and Debra Zimny.

CHAPEL SERVICES

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

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

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass

Triangle Chapel.....9 a.m.

Weekday Mass

Medical Center chapel.....11:15 a.m.

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.

336th TRS

Communications-computer systems training flight — Airmen Basic Eric Baird, Anthony Carter, David Palas, Reid Parker, Christopher Reynolds, Steven Roland, Robert Stanley, Mark Stuetzel and Kyle Young; Airman Travis Rich; Airmen 1st Class Austin Heller, Larry Morales, Michael Norton, Ryan Orr, Taj Preciado, Quentin Schmick and Christopher Wade; Senior Airman Eric Jochens; Senior Master Sgt. Fahad Al'Harbi.

Communications and information flight — Airmen Basic Cyleese Davis, Vivian Farmer, Michael Fowler, Amani Phillips, Samantha Rogers, Jarvis Smith and Joshua Story; Airmen Warren O'Brien, Saur Philip and Saunder Simmons; Airmen 1st Class Bryan Behr, Steele Cary, Geoffrey Estes, Robert Fontelroy, Tiffany Gantt, Kevin Glynn, Brandon Hamilton, Kayla Kyle, Philip Newquist, Jacob Palmer, Luke Sanders, Stephen Shambra, Andrew Stuhlmiller, James Walker and Benjamin Wilkie; Senior Airmen Loretta Jackson, Bryant Marzan, Justin Pratt and Ronald Wood; Staff Sgts. Kendall Bearden, Jason Crossley, Latisha Davies, James Griffis, Honorio Moya, Sileon Murray, Johnny Noguera, Damian Scott, Walter Shivel and Chad Wallace; Tech. Sgt. Angela Armstrong; Master Sgt. Terry Grant; Capt. Ahmed Youssef; Maj. Aamir Abro; David Forney, Gregory Hunter and Keith Lucas.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Thanksgiving Day

Editor's note: Hours reflect changes in observance of the Thanksgiving Day federal holiday, Thursday. Hours are for Thursday only unless otherwise indicated.

Keesler News — closed Thursday and Friday.

Commissary — closed.

Inns of Keesler — open 24 hours.

Car wash — open 24 hours.

Mini-mart — open 24 hours.

Fam camp — open 24 hours.

Arts and crafts center — closed Thursday and Friday.

Auto hobby shop — closed Thursday and Friday.

Bay Breeze Golf Course — closed; driving range open 7 a.m. to dusk.

Child development center — closed.

Family child care office — closed.

Live Oak Dining Facility — 7-8 a.m., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m.

Magnolia Dining Facility — 7-8 a.m., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Azalea Dining Facility — closed.

Blake Fitness Center — 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dragon Fitness Center — closed Thursday and Friday.

Triangle Fitness Center — closed.

Gaudé Lanes — closed Thursday through Sunday.

11th Frame Cafe — closed Thursday through Sunday.

Information, ticket and tours office — closed.

Katrina Kantina — closed Thursday and Friday.

McBride Library — closed Thursday and Friday.

Outdoor recreation — closed.

Vandenberg Community Center — noon to midnight today through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Nov. 25.

Veterinary clinic — closed Thursday and Friday.

Child development center — closed Thursday and Friday.

Youth center — closed Thursday and Friday.

Main base exchange — closed Thursday; open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday.

Mini-mall — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

Furniture store — closed Thursday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

Class Six — closed Thursday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday.

Service station — closed Thursday for attended fuel.

Military clothing sales — closed Thursday and Friday.

Mobile units — closed.

Charley's Grilled Subs — closed Thursday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday.

Anthony's — closed Thursday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday.

Seattle's Best — closed Thursday; 6:30-10:30 a.m. Friday.

Subway — closed Thursday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

6:30 a.m. to 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

Morning pickup from hotels north of Keesler — 5 a.m., Red Carpet Inn; 5:10, Travel Inn; 5:15, Beaujolais Villas; 5:20, Suburban Inn and Super 8.

Afternoon pickup to return to hotels north of Keesler — 3:30 and 5:30 p.m., street side of Hewes Hall for Bryan, Jones, Hewes and Garrard Halls; 3:33 and 5:33, Cody Hall bus stop for Hangar 3, Thomson, Cody and Dolan Halls; 3:36 and 5:36, E Street side of McClellan Hall; 3:38 and 5:38, back side of Allee Hall for 7-level building, weather training center and Allee, Wolfe, and Stennis Halls; 3:41 and 5:41, front of Muse Manor.

Wait at the main entrance of hotels for pickup. Allow a five to 10 minute window on arrival time. Traffic in the local area impacts base taxi times.

Call 377-2432 for transportation needs for classes starting after 6:30 a.m. or for service to hotels not listed.

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.

Please see **Digest**, Page 22

Digest,

from Page 21

General Nutrition Center — closed Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.

Beauty Shop — closed Thursday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.

Barber shop — closed Thursday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.

Nail station — closed Thursday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday.

Optical shop — closed Thursday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday.

Sprint — closed.

Force One Rental — closed Thursday and Friday.

Laundry/dry cleaners — closed Thursday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.

Enterprise Car Rental — closed Thursday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 08-1 — graduates Dec. 13.

Class 08-2 — Jan. 4-Feb. 13.

Keesler NCO Academy

Class 08-2 — Jan. 8-Feb. 15.

Arts and crafts center

Thursday night special in the multi craft shop — Nov. 29, holiday gift workshop. Fees based on chosen craft.

Youth gift workshop — Dec. 1. Early registration encouraged.

Chapel

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

Catholic religious education — after 9 a.m. Sunday Mass.

Protestant Sunday School — 10:30-11:30 a.m. for pre-school, elementary, teens and adults.

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

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

Tuesday Bible study — 6-7:30 p.m. at the Haven.

McBride Library

Commanders, first sergeants, instructors orientations — 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Pick a day to celebrate — Friday, National Flossing Day; pick up information on dental care.

Native American Heritage month — poster and book display.

Data base reference orientations — 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

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

Tours/orientations — call 377-2827.

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. compressed work schedule 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.

Sexual assault prevention, response

Commitment to End Violence — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 5, Building 2902, Airman Leadership School Auditorium. First session, 8 a.m. to noon, features Heather Wagner, special assistant and director of domestic violence division of Mississippi Office of the Attorney General, who speaks on domestic violence and sexual assault training. Topics covered include victim dynamics, state and federal laws, effective investigation and prosecution techniques and special consideration for military members and dependents. Second session, 1-5 p.m., covers emergency department care for victims of sexual assault, presented by Elise Turner of the Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Topics include initial care, victimology, offender typology, nursing assessment, documentation, evidence collection, medical management and military procedures. Class awards nursing and social work continuing education units. Participants may register for one or both sessions. For more information or to register, call 377-8635.

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Vandenberg Community Center

Editor's note: All events, except dances, are open to all Keesler personnel.

Football on the big screen — noon Sundays, 6:30 p.m. Mondays. Free popcorn.

Karaoke — 6 p.m. Thursdays before working Fridays.

Texas hold'em tournament — noon Friday; nonprior service students only. Sign up early.

Movie day — 12:30 p.m. Friday. Free popcorn.

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

Movie night — 6 p.m. Wednesdays. New releases, popcorn.

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

Katrina Kantina

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

End of hurricane season party — 5 p.m. Nov. 29. Cajun dinner, tropical music and hurricane drink special. \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

Catering — experts can assist with event planning.

Karaoke night — 5 p.m. Thursdays before compressed work schedule Fridays.

Taco Tuesdays — members two tacos for \$1, nonmembers \$2.
Lunch specials — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays. \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers. Different menu each week. For menu information, call 377-2219.

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

Youth center

Annual membership — \$25, ages 9 and older. Discounts on programs, classes and sports.

TRAIL — Training responsible adolescents in leadership; 6 p.m. Monday and Nov. 26, ages 13-17. Plan games, trips, activities and more.

Art club — 4:30 p.m. Mondays, ages 9 and older. Learn about arts and complete a project.

Sewing club — 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, ages 9 and older. Learn basic hand stitch and how to sew on buttons.

FitFactor Club — 4:30 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, ages 9 and older. Call for more information.

Open recreation — 4-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, ages 9 and older.

Friday night frenzy — 6:30-11 p.m. ages 13-17. Games, skating, music, snacks. \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers.

Super Saturdays — 1-5 p.m. Saturday, ages 6-12. Assorted activities.

Classes — registrations being accepted for martial arts, gymnastics, ballet, tap and jazz.

Auto hobby shop

Air conditioning checks — no reservation required.

Qualified mechanics — can assist with vehicle maintenance.

Oil collection site — for personal vehicles.

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DINING HALL MENUS

Today

Lunch — Mexican baked chicken and pork chops, beef fajitas, jalapeno cornbread, refried beans, corn, gravy, pinto beans, peas and carrots, cole slaw, garden cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

Dinner — lemon-herb chicken, sweet and sour pork, jambalaya, scalloped potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, Mexican corn, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, chicken noodle soup, cream of potato soup, chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.

Thanksgiving Day

Lunch and dinner — prime rib, roast turkey, ham, gravy, sweet potatoes, shrimp cocktail, French onion soup, chicken gumbo, macaroni salad, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, cornbread dressing, rice pilaf, green beans, corn, peas, carrots, pies, devil's food cake, candy and soft-serve yogurt.

Friday

Lunch — 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, chicken cacciatore, rice, gravy, broccoli, cauliflower, baked beans, corn O'Brien, pasta salad and three-bean salads, chicken 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 almonline, stir-fry chicken, pork chops, rissole potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, corn, club spinach, fried okra, fruit medley, kidney bean salad, clam chowder, tomato 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.

Nov. 28

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, chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

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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24-hour coin-operated car wash — wash, rinse, wax system, towelettes, Armorall and vacuum station.

Vehicle resale lot — to place a car on the lot, call 377-2821.

TICKETS, TRIPS

Discounted tickets — for many attractions including Busch Gardens, Sea World, Universal Studios and Disney World in Florida. For price list, log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

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

University of Southern Mississippi vs. Arkansas football game — Saturday in Hattiesburg. Vandenberg Community Center is offering a free trip, including game tickets. Bus leaves the center at 10 a.m. To register or for more information, call 377-3308.

TRANSITIONS

Workshops, briefings

Veterans benefits briefing — Dec. 13, Room 151, Hangar 2. To pre-register or for more information, call 377-2179.

Mandatory pre-separation briefings — 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays for those separating with honorable discharges and 2:30 p.m. for retirees. Briefings are in Room 122, Hangar 2. 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 4:30 p.m. Dec. 10-12, Room 151, Hangar 2. 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. Dec. 6, Room 151, Hangar 2. To pre-register or for more information, call 377-2179.

Employment opportunities

Career focus program for spouses — information on area employment opportunities, job Web sites, human resources contacts, temporary jobs, on-base listings and free training programs. Computer lab available for resume preparation or job search; located in Room 121, Hangar 2 (old Cody Hall). For an appointment, call Ron Bublik at the airman and family readiness center, 377-8592, or e-mail ronald.bublik@keesler.af.mil.

Air Force Reserve opportunities — for members separating within 180 days, call Master Sgt. Neil Sherman, 377-7116; visit Room 229, Hangar 2 or e-mail anthony.sherman@keesler.af.mil.

Palace Chase — for information about how to apply for a program to attend college full time and work part time, call Master Sgt. Neil Sherman, 377-7116; visit Room 229, Hangar 2 or e-mail anthony.sherman@keesler.af.mil.

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.foats.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.

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.bluetogray.com>.

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

Civilian job certification and licensing require-

ments for military personnel and veterans — <http://www.dol.gov/dol/vets>.

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

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

New military spouse career center — <http://www.military.com/spouse>. Extensive job board including public and private sectors. For more information, call Vince Patton, 703-269-0154, or e-mail at vince@militaryadvantage.com.

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

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

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 Master Sgt. Kat Hataway, 377-5566 or visit the group's Web site, <http://www.afsa652.org>.

Air Force Sergeants Association Auxiliary — 6 p.m. third Tuesday of the month. For more information, call Michelle Foster, 273-4591 or e-mail auxiliary.president@afsa652.org.

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 Dewi Clark, 377-2714 or e-mail dewi.clark2@keesler.af.mil; Fred Blache, 377-1048, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

Company grade officers council — meets first Wednesday of the month. For time and location, call Chaplain (Capt.) Michael Howard, 377-4859.

Keesler Amateur Radio Club — 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Hangar 3, Room 215. 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 — 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month, September-May, Larcher Chapel. For more information, call Heather Melancon, 831-8895.

Keesler Spouses Club — second Tuesday of the month. For time and place, call Gretchen Gorline, 374-8024, 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; location varies. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Toyshaline Young, 377-0591, or Tech Sgt. Jodi Evans, 377-2835.

Top III — meeting times and locations vary. For more information, call Master Sgt. Nicole Pearson, 377-6510.

Tuskegee Airmen Inc., Col. Lawrence E. Roberts Chapter — 11 a.m. third Wednesday of the month, Katrina Kantina. For more information, call Glenda Mosby, 243-1992, gmosby1@bellsouth.net, or Charles Bowers, 860-3665.

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.