



KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

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Rebuild the base ... Renew the community ... Reload the Air Force



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



Dragons deployed
— 350



Queens for a day

Sarah Padula, a student at a Gulfport cosmetology school, gives Dora Gelacio a manicure at Friday's Spouse Appreciation Day at Vandenberg Community Center. Mrs. Gelacio husband is Tech. Sgt. Jesus Gelacio, 81st Supply-Transportation Squadron, who's deployed to Southwest Asia. The annual event, intended to pamper military spouses and offer thanks for their contributions to the mission, was hosted by the airman and family readiness center. More photos, Page 14.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

2nd Air Force welcomes new leader

Keesler Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Alfred Flowers takes command of 2nd Air Force, 10 a.m. May 23 on the parade field adjacent to the Levitow Training Support Facility.

He succeeds Maj. Gen. Mike Gould, commander of the numbered Air Force for technical training in Air Education and Training Command since November 2005. General Gould's new assignment is operations and plans director for U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

General Flowers comes to 2nd Air Force headquarters at Keesler from Maxwell AFB, Ala., where he commanded the Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools at AETC's Air University.

The new leader for 2nd Air Force earned his

commission following graduation as a distinguished graduate of the December 1978 class of Officer Training School.

He first served as a budget officer at the squadron, major command and Air Staff levels. In 1990, he was assigned as chief of the budget operations division for the Air Combat Command at Langley AFB, Va., where he would later serve as the budget chief.

General Flowers has also served on the Joint Staff as defense resource manager. In 1999, he became the director of budget programs for the Department of the Air Force.

Prior to his current position, he was assigned as director for the Center for Force Structure, Requirements, Resources and Strategic Assessments, Headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, Fla.



General Flowers

Keesler proud of its Olympians

By Col. Greg Touhill

81st Training Wing commander

This weekend, Keesler airmen renew their ties with the community by hosting the 2008 Special Olympics of Mississippi. Members of the 81st Training Wing, the 403rd Wing, the 85th Engineering Installation Squadron and the 45th Airlift Squadron will once again join forces to host over 1,000 athletes as they demonstrate courage, strength, spirit and love on the field of play.

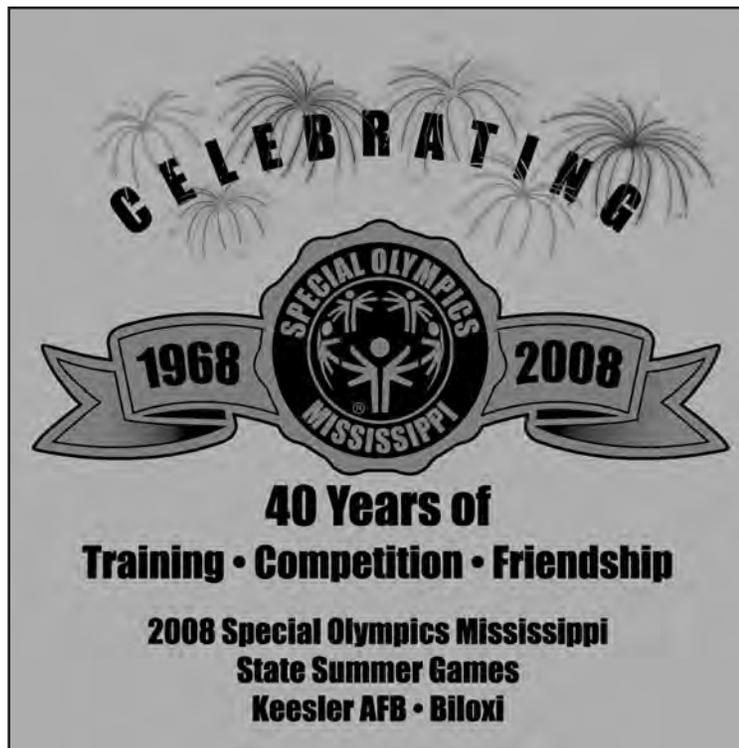
For many of us, Keesler hosting the state games is a time-honored event eagerly awaited by all. For over 25 years, Keesler airmen have been instrumental in not only providing the venue for the state games, but also in providing logistical support, billeting and messing, medical assistance, judging and competition support, and a whole lot of hugs.

This year will be no different as several hundred Keesler airmen will be helping under the leadership of Capt. Millie Ziebell, Jackie Pope, Tech. Sgt. Keith Trahan and Senior Airman Chris Freimann.

Like the United States Air Force, the Special Olympics has a proud heritage. The concept for the Special Olympics came from Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver who, in the early 1960s, hosted a day camp for athletes with disabilities.

The concept grew quickly and burst on to the international scene in 1968 with the inaugural International Special Olympics Games at Chicago's Soldier Field, where over 1,000 athletes from the United States and Canada participated in track and field as well as aquatic events.

That same year, the first Special Olympics of Mississippi event was held at



the University of Southern Mississippi with 150 athletes competing. This weekend, we carry forth that proud and honorable heritage.

Special Olympics makes a huge difference for not only the athletes and families, but for those who participate as volunteers and sponsors.

My first Special Olympics introduction was as a volunteer here at Keesler in 1984. Coming to the base that morning, I figured that the leaders would assign me a stop watch and a spreadsheet (back then we called it a blank piece of paper and pencil) and I would tally the results. Instead, I was told I was a hugger, which I wasn't quite sure I was cut out to do. Yet, after the first race, I was hooked for life.

While I gave hugs and encouragement to the athletes in each races, they gave back much, much more. It became readily apparent to me that these athletes embody the very best of what we hope of our citizens. They compete not against each other, but

against the challenge in front of them. They show their love for their sport and their fellow competitors. They run the race to the best of their ability and celebrate each and every accomplishment, no matter how great or how small; any accomplishment is a great stride forward. Their spirit, wisdom and accomplishment taught me a vital life lesson that I treasure; I was inspired by them then and remain so today.

I'm delighted that Keesler will once again host the Special Olympics of Mississippi and extend a special welcome to the wonderful athletes and their families as well as the great volunteers from around the state that make this event possible. I hope you'll have a chance to come out this weekend to join us, if not to directly volunteer, to cheer on the athletes as they give their best. I think you too will be inspired by athletes who live by the oath, "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

By Col. Greg Touhill

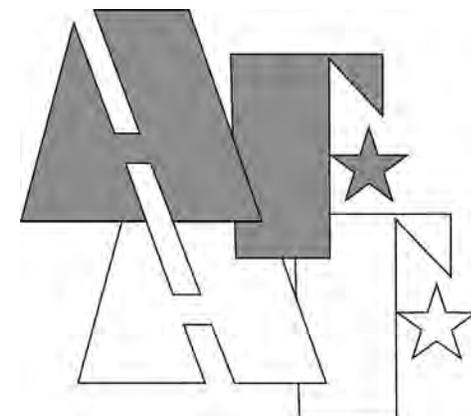
81st Training Wing commander

You're encouraged to work concerns through your chain of command or contact an appropriate helping agent. For unresolved issues, call the commander's action line for assistance.

Suggestions to help make this a more valuable and useful tool are welcome. 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).



Colonel Touhill



Congratulations, Team Keesler!

The 2008
Air Force Assistance Fund
campaign raised
\$80,787.

This year's goal was \$70,000,
\$20,000 more than last year.

The campaign raised
16 percent more than the goal,
with 1,431 Keesler members
contributing.

Thanks for taking care
of our own!

81st Training Wing commander

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Arrogance — roadblock to communication

By Col. Richard Pierce**81st Training Wing vice commander**

Editor's note: This is a continuation of Colonel Pierce's commentary on communication which began last week.

Get people together ... find the best solution ... and implement! Sounds easy, doesn't it? But establishing this type of culture is really much more difficult for people in positions of authority to accomplish than you might think for one very self-absorbed reason.

In a past article, I discussed having confidence, but not arrogance. Arrogance closes off communications ... period!

From my experience, it's not easy for some commanders and supervisors (notice I did not say leaders) to relinquish control of their power or let go of their ideas, even if there are better options on the table. I have seen multiple people in authority flatly refuse to swallow their pride and admit that others may have a better way of doing things. Ego, or maybe fear, got in their way. An arrogant supervisor tends to display one of two (lack of) listening patterns:

He won't even bother to seek out other opinions because he feels no one is better than him. Therefore, it's just a waste of his precious time.

More often, he asks for other ideas and just pretends to listen, knowing full well he is staying with his plan. In essence, he is patronizing his folks.

Arrogant people are not team players. It's all about them, at the cost of others. To be a true leader, you must be a team player, always ready to give credit to others.

Legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden said, "It's amazing what a team can accomplish when no one cares who gets the glory." Another saying that I often use says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility, consider others greater than yourself."

To truly embrace this philosophy, you must be able to honestly display a great degree of humility. If that's not your strong suit, you'll need to learn somehow or you'll never be able to reach your leadership potential. If you don't consider others to be at least as valuable to the organization as you, change your way of thinking now. People won't respond to you in the most positive manner if they feel you don't honestly care about them and value their service. The absolute best leaders are true servant-leaders that see the people they supervise as ones they need to serve, not dictate to. Only then can a supervisor gain their trust, their confidence, and most importantly, their respect.

Keep in mind that communication is much broader than just the audible form. Everything you do — words, actions and behavior — communicates something to those around you. The old axiom, "Actions speak louder than words," is perhaps more true today than ever before. With the ability for people to communicate almost instantaneously through cell phones and text messages, just about anything you do in public can be described in great detail by anyone who witnesses your actions. If you are incorporating all five of my leadership Cs in your daily life and not just at the office, then this "instant communication" fact shouldn't be a problem. You may discover that what others see you do both at work and during your free time becomes inspiring. John Quincy Adams, our nation's sixth president, said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, then you are a leader." Notice how he never said, "if your words inspire ...".

Today, we sometimes hear people say of a failing leader, "He talks the talk, but he doesn't walk the walk." Once again, how you act or react communicates much more than words can ever say.

Here are two self-evaluation scenarios:

Are you the type of person who tells your team how vitally important family is, but then your folks see you constantly ignore your own family, effectively placing them on the back burner?

Do you tell your folks that they need to absolutely embrace the Air Force core values of integrity, service and excellence, but occasionally dismiss these values, justifying that it's OK for you not to follow these principles?

You could come up with another dozen scenarios, but the temptation to violate these two tend to pop up more for people in positions of authority than others.

Here's a tragic career-ending example.

I once had a wing commander who absolutely hammered his folks for any violations of integrity, especially those involving alcohol — and rightly so. But he wasn't immune to these violations himself, as he received a DUI while in command.

After the DUI, we learned from many that he regularly drove while intoxicated — he just hadn't been stopped before. What do you think he non-verbally communicated to all the members of our wing? Without realizing it, this colonel was essentially stating to his folks that he wouldn't tolerate any integrity violations from them, but he was "above" all of them and didn't have to follow the same rules.

Leaders are not above the rules — in

fact, they need to follow them even more closely because of what I have termed the "pedestal/microscope dichotomy." Leaders are looked up to as role models — examples of what others want to aspire to become. They are placed on the proverbial "pedestal." At the same time, leaders are constantly scrutinized. Their words, behavior, action and reactions are examined closely — placed under the "microscope."

This dichotomy goes for all of us in uniform. Americans regularly select the men and women who serve our nation — the military — as the most trusted, honored, and respected profession in our country. All of us have been placed on a pedestal by Americans who look up to us. Just think of how many times a perfect stranger has come up to you and said, "I just wanted to thank you for what you do."

But while we are on that pedestal, we are also under the microscope. People watch us. They aren't looking to see if we fail or betray their trust. But just by watching us, if we stumble, America will notice.

The same principle goes for leadership — all leaders face the "pedestal/microscope dichotomy" 24/7/365. Just remember this concept: the way we conduct our own lives will determine the culture of our organizations. Make that culture one of trust, respect, and integrity because that's how you live your life.

Let me close by reemphasizing the significance of the Olympic Circles emblem. All of my leadership "Cs" are interconnected, just like the Olympic circles, but perhaps none more so than communication. Without effective communication, you have zero chance of being a leader worth following. Your organization will suffer, your individual people and their families will suffer, and you and your family will suffer.

Communication is the grease that makes the whole machinery of true leadership work. This fact cannot be overstated. But effective communication can't and won't develop on its own — it takes creating an environment that embraces open, multi-directional communication flow without impediments.

Also, remember that verbal communication, while vital, is only part of the entire communication process. Never underestimate the power of non-verbal communication. Trust and respect develop more from what you do than what you say. And being a truly inspirational leader — the kind that President Adams described — is the ultimate goal. The next "C" of "Compassion" will take you one more step towards achieving that goal.

Leader of 333rd TRS retires

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Thirty years after beginning her Air Force career as an enlisted computer programmer, Lt. Col. Kay Spannuth is retiring as commander of the 333rd Training Squadron.

For almost two years, she's led 154 multiservice military, civilian and contractors at three locations in developing and executing training for active-duty, Guard, Reserve, civilian and international students. More than 6,000 students graduate from the squadron's 54 courses each year.

Nontraditional path

"I never thought of being a female an asset or a liability — my parents raised my brother and me to pursue whatever we wanted, no matter our gender," she said. "When I came into the Air Force, only 10 to 12 percent of the force was female, and they were concentrated in more traditional career fields like administration and medical.

"I was one of two females among 35 male computer programmers in my unit," the colonel recalled. "The two of us stuck out, and whether we did something good or bad, people remembered our names. Luckily, I feel I did mostly good things and that led to awards and recognition that eventually led to being selected to be an officer."

Joining officer ranks

After assignments at Brooks Air Force Base and Randolph AFB, Texas, she was selected for the Airmen Education and Commissioning Program at the University of Texas at Austin, where she earned a bachelor's degree in computer science. After Officer Training School, she came to Keesler for the basic communications officer course that she now oversees.

Colonel Spannuth's next assignments were at Langley Air Force Base, Va., as tactical battle management programmer



Colonel Spannuth

/analyst for the 1912th Computer Systems Group and chief of base communications for Tactical Air Command/Air Combat Command headquarters. While there, she earned a master's degree in human resource management from Golden Gate University.

Her first overseas assignment was chief of the communications-computer systems division at 303rd Intelligence Squadron at Osan Air Base, Korea. Then she headed to Royal Air Force Molesworth, United Kingdom, where she served as theater systems chief and systems implementation chief for the joint analysis center.

The colonel's next two assignments were as squadron section commander and support flight commander at McClellan AFB, Calif. Then she spent two years as communications-information assignments officer at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph.

She earned a second master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College, Newport, R.I., before assuming command of the 92nd Communications Squadron at Fairchild AFB, Wash.

Colonel Spannuth attended the Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va. Then she went to Brussels, Belgium, to serve as

deputy director and communications information systems planner for the U.S. delegation to the NATO military committee before assuming her current position in August 2006.

"My favorite aspect of the Air Force was the variety of jobs I've had that involved travel, leading people and having a hand in helping people grow," she remarked. "The greatest satisfaction is knowing I've helped people. They have, in turn, done super things and accomplished the mission better."

Command challenges

She said the biggest changes she's observed in the Air Force over the past three decades is the reduction of the number of people and bases and increased emphasis on joint and expeditionary activities.

"My biggest challenge as a commander has been getting the mission done with the manning levels we've had," she pointed out. "We have smart, motivated people, but we've been undermanned on both the civilian and military side. This is a result of a combination of the civilian hiring process, Air Force manning cuts, deployments and an increasing amount of additional duties."

Training future leaders

Colonel Spannuth described her time at Keesler as "another wonderful assignment. Seeing the rebuilding from Hurricane Katrina is a daily reminder of the perseverance and goodness of people. I can't think of a better final assignment than to have had a hand in training future enlisted and officer leaders. I leave knowing the Air Force is in good hands."

Her retirement plans are to return to Pennsylvania, her home state, which will serve as her home base as she travels. She plans to relax, swim, bike, do volunteer work "and maybe some paid work if the right opportunity comes along."

Medics gain skills during exercise in Nicaragua

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Three Keesler physicians recently returned from a medical readiness training exercise in Nicaragua.

Col. Kathleen Elmer, Maj. Robert Holmes and Capt. William Pomeroy, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, participated in the MEDRETE in Nicaragua from April 18-May 3.

The exercises are conducted under the auspices of Air Force Southern Command, headquartered at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. The exercises are designed to bring humanitarian assistance and free medical care to the people of the host country, stressing the concept of helping others while practicing important military skills in partnership with the host nation.

Colonel Elmer, 81st MDOS commander, served as the 15-member team's dermatologist, while Major Holmes, an infectious disease physician, and Captain Pomeroy, an internal medicine resident, handled internal medicine patients.

"The MEDRETE missions provide a wonderful platform to display our high regard for partner-nation cooperation and our commitment to improving health-care delivery in these countries," Colonel Elmer said.

The Keesler contingent augmented the lead element from the 17th Medical Group at Goodfellow AFB, Texas, where Colonel Elmer was previously chief of clinical services before coming to Keesler last July.

In addition to the 81st Medical Group



Photo by Maj. (Dr.) Robert Holmes

Captain Pomeroy listens to a patient's medical problems as volunteer translator Heather McKinnon interprets at a clinic in the village of La Dalia.

trio, the team was comprised of an optometrist and technician, a dentist and technician, a pediatric nurse practitioner, a pharmacist and technician, a women's health nurse practitioner, three medical technicians and a representative from AFSOUTH. Lt. Col. George Jones, a pharmacist and also the 17th MDOS commander, was the team chief.

They flew into Managua, the Nicaraguan capital, April 18 but were based in Matagalpa, the nation's fifth-largest city.

"We worked in two locations, La Dalia and El Tuma, which are villages about a 90-minute drive from Matagalpa," Colonel Elmer said. "The local infrastructure and transportation were challenging as we traveled back and forth to the clinics.

"We had support from local Nicaraguan medical personnel coordinated through the U.S. Embassy," she continued. "We saw more than 5,000 patients. I encountered a variety of skin diseases including many cases of scabies, head

lice, cutaneous ulcerations with some suspicious for cutaneous Leishmaniasis, a parasitic disease spread by the bite of infected sand flies

"The pediatricians saw a variety of respiratory diseases, parasitic infections, malnutrition and numerous cases of asthma. The optometry and dental representatives distributed numerous pairs of glasses and toothbrushes. Interestingly, tooth extractions were a popular requested procedure."

"Internal medicine had a variety of patients with various musculoskeletal pain, headaches, gastric complaints, etc. Major Holmes ensured that Captain Pomeroy, the internal medicine resident, also rotated through other sections to broaden his depth of patient exposure.

As an internal medicine resident, Dr. Pomeroy had a chance to see deployment medicine first-hand and encountered cases not treated on a routine basis in standard U.S. medical facilities.

Having an infectious disease expert enabled the staff to review food and hygiene practices more thoroughly. The team provided names of patients needing more urgent follow-up or close monitoring to the medical directors of the local clinics to ensure continuity care. A child with a bleeding disorder after a tooth extraction was referred for care and evaluation at a hospital.

Colonel Elmer said, "All team members had a very valuable and rewarding experience through this first-hand encounter with a developing nation's health-care needs."

Survive, evade, resist, escape

June 30 deadline for online training

Air Force Print News

LANGLEY Air Force Base, Va. — All active-duty Airmen are now required to complete Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape computer based training on the Advanced Distributed Learning System by June 30.

Air Force officials said the training is to ensure Airmen are equipped for the challenges faced on the battlefield as they find themselves fulfilling non-traditional roles in dangerous environments.

The level of training Airmen have received to this point didn't prepare them for the possibility of captivity, said Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Carroll, Air Combat Command superintendent for SERE operations and training. SERE 100 was created to ensure Airmen are prepared for what they would face in captivity.

The SERE 100 CBT is in the mobility and readiness section of ADLS. The training is required once every 20 months after the initial SERE 100 training is complete.

The SERE 100 CBT is about four hours of training, Sergeant Carroll said. The training will provide Airmen with a much higher level of baseline training that will prepare them for potential captivity in a wartime, peacetime governmental or hostage situation.

Commanders of Air National Guard and Reserve components can extend the deadline for their members until Oct. 30.

To access the SERE 100 CBT, click on ADLS or go through the Air Force Portal.

For more information on SERE 100 training, contact your unit deployment monitor.



Photo by Navy Airman Sharon Smith
Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Ryan Salisbury from the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit removes the roof from a shed damaged by Hurricane Katrina in East Biloxi.



Keesler Navy unit aids Katrina victims

May 2, CNATTU students and staff partnered with Urban Life Ministries to dismantle an East Biloxi home gutted by Hurricane Katrina nearly three years ago. Volunteers were helping to clear the property so the city wouldn't levy a fine against the homeowners, further compounding their indebtedness.

Photo by Navy Airman Robert Williams

Club member scholarships — apply by July 1

Air Force Services Agency

Air Force club membership can help combat the costs of higher education.

Across the Air Force, 25 students are being selected to receive \$1,000 scholarships in the Air Force club membership scholarship program.

Family members of current Air Force club members in good standing — spouse, son, daughter, stepchildren or dependent grandchildren — who are accepted by or are enrolled in an accredited college or university for this year's fall term as a part-time or full-time student are eligible.

Undergraduate or graduate students are eligible. Applicants must provide a copy of their college or university acceptance letter.

To enter, write and submit an essay, maximum 500 words, on "The Most Important Person in My Life."

The essay must be typed in MS Word 12-point Arial or Times New Roman font, single-

spaced with double spacing between paragraphs, have a 1-inch top and bottom margin and 1.25-inch left and right margins, must be submitted electronically on compact or floppy disk and have the applicant's name, date written and word count.

Applications are available at McBride Library, Blake Fitness Center, Katrina Kantina, Gaudé Lanes, arts and crafts center, outdoor recreation and <http://www.afclubs.net>.

July 1 is the deadline to submit essay packages to Dave Bowers, Room 5405, Locker House, Building 3101.

Winners are announced Sept. 19.

Services commanders or directors, division chiefs, deputy commanders, flight chiefs, club managers, assistant club managers, marketing directors and their family members aren't eligible.

The program is sponsored in part by Chase Bank and Coca-Cola.

TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

HHA scholarships

May 31 is the deadline to apply for the Swan 38 Memorial Scholarship from the Hurricane Hunters Association.

One or two \$500 scholarships are awarded, depending on funds raised.

For eligibility requirements, call Capt. Kaitlyn McLaughlin, 377-3457, or visit <http://www.hurricanehunters.com>.

Drill downs, parades

The 81st Training Group holds drill downs and parades on the drill pad behind the Levittow Training Support Facility.

The schedule:

Parades — 9 a.m. May 29; 6

p.m. Aug. 21 and Oct. 16.

Drill downs — 6 p.m. July 17, 7 a.m. Sept. 19 and 8 a.m. Nov. 14.

For drill down information, call Tech. Sgt. Trina Girley, 377-2737. For parade information, call Staff Sgt. Donald McNair, 377-9527.

Manpower openings

Senior airmen and staff sergeants with a mathematics background and in balanced or overage career fields with 4-15 years of service may be able to retrain into the manpower and organization career field.

For eligibility information, call the military personnel flight employment office, 376-8356.

Neonatal ICU reopens

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Belinda Walter holds daughter Amya Sanders April 23 in Keesler Medical Center's newly-reopened neonatal intensive care unit. She and Amya's dad, Petty Officer 2nd Class Terrell Sanders, are assigned to the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport. The seven-bed NICU reopened April 22 for the first time since Hurricane Katrina, and Amya became the first patient almost 24 hours later. The Level II facility can care for infants born at 32 weeks and older. The unit can stabilize and prepare infants requiring higher-level care for transport to tertiary facilities. Keesler's NICU has 11 nurses, nine medical technicians and two neonatologists.

Photo by Steve Pivnick



Dining halls juggle customers

By Earlene Smith

81st Force Support Squadron

When the Magnolia Dining Facility closed unexpectedly on April 24 due to a maintenance problem, the facility staff scrambled to relocate services to other dining facilities.

Approximately 2,400 of the meals served daily at the Magnolia Dining Facility were added to the 2,000 meals already being served at the Azalea Dining Facility. An additional 300 meals were transferred to the Live Oak Dining Facility. As many of the Magnolia staff as possible were dispensed to both areas to assist with the extra feeding.

"That first day was tough," said Glenn Jones, the food service officer. "So many people showing up at the same time for lunch created a temporary gridlock. We had customers lined up across the parking lot at Azalea, and many of them were unhappy."

Now, thanks to coordination between the school house and the dining facility staff, things have smoothed out. Students are being released from classes in increments resulting in a constant flow of diners and a much shorter waiting period.

Temporary duty personnel and authorized cash customers are welcome during normal hours of operation. However, it's recommended that they take their lunch breaks at 12:15

p.m. or later when the number of nonprior service students is less.

Azalea Dining Facility hours:

Breakfast — 4:15-7 a.m. Monday-working Fridays; 7:30-9 a.m. nonworking Fridays, weekends and holidays.

Lunch — 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-working Fridays; 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. nonworking Fridays, weekend and holidays.

Dinner — 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday-working Fridays, 4:30-6:30 p.m. nonworking Fridays, weekends and holidays.

Midnight meal — midnight to 1:30 a.m. Mondays-working Fridays.

Live Oak Dining Facility hours:

Breakfast — 5:15-7:15 a.m. Mondays-working Fridays; 7:30-9 a.m. nonworking Fridays, weekends and holidays.

On 403rd Wing unit training assembly weekends, breakfast is served 6-9 a.m.

Lunch — 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-working Fridays; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. nonworking Fridays, weekends and holidays.

Dinner — 5-7 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays; 4:30-6:30 p.m. nonworking Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

The monthly birthday meal served at Magnolia for nonprior service students, permanent party enlisted and essential station messing members, is now held 5-7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at Live Oak.

IN THE NEWS

Keesler Pride Day today

Today is Keesler Pride Day, an annual event for Team Keesler to pick up trash, plant flowers and shrubs, trim bushes and spruce up areas surrounding their homes and workplaces.

The self-help store provides tools and supplies such as weed eaters, paint, mulch and shrubs. The store is in Building 4039 at the corner of Z Street and Ploesti Drive.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Michael Johnson, 377-5565.

Wing commander's call Tuesday

An 81st Training Wing commander's call takes place 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in the parking lot between the Welch Auditorium and Triangle Chapel.

New leader for dental squadron

Col. (Dr.) John Embry takes command of the 81st Dental Squadron from Col. (Dr.) Kenneth Levin, 3:30 p.m. Monday in Keesler Medical Center's Don Wylie auditorium.

This is Colonel Embry's third Keesler assignment. He comes to Keesler from Wilford Hall Medical Center and the 59th Dental Training Group, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where he was director of pediatric dentistry.

Colonel Levin is retiring with 30 years of military service.

Inns of Keesler phone upgrade

The base lodging operation's phone system is being replaced in the coming weeks with a modern system that's capable of handling the volume that's required for an operation of its size.

System degradation may occur while the project is underway.

To reach the lodging office, call 377-3566, Muse Manor front desk; 377-7900, Tyler House front desk; and 377-5859, 9950, 9951 or 9961, reservations office, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

For more information, go to <http://www.keeslerservices.us> and click on the Inns of Keesler link.

Tax office open through May

The tax office, Room 229, Sablich Center, is open until May 30 for late filing, amended returns and other business.

For appointments, call 376-8141.

Early deadline for Keesler News

The deadline for the May 29 issue of the Keesler News is noon May 22, four days earlier than usual, because of the Memorial Day federal holiday, May 26.

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; Bunksmall Apartments and H&H Hideaway in Pascagoula and Toni's Lounge in Moss Point.

Mother's Day surprise Deployed medic, family reunited on air

By Tech. Sgt. Chuck Marsh
Keesler Public Affairs

Sunday was Mother's Day. Terry Ryder thought he'd have to wish his wife, Jeannine, a Happy Mother's Day through an e-mail or a 15-minute phone call, complete with four-second delay.

Instead, he and their three daughters — Christine, 14, Paige, 13, and Terra, 8 — were swept up into a whirlwind weekend courtesy of CBS, culminating in a live, on-air opportunity to wish Mom blessings for the day.

Mom, 17-year Air Force veteran Maj. Jeannine Ryder, is the 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron's maternal child flight commander at Keesler Medical Center and is currently deployed to Afghanistan.

Bob Jensen, working in Afghanistan on a communications team, approached the CBS Early Show and pitched the idea of surprising a deployed mom with Mother's Day greetings from her fam-

ily. He already had Major Ryder in mind as the perfect candidate. The producers of the show thought it was a great idea, but decided to surprise the family instead of the mom.

After explaining the event — with a little bit of fibbing — Col. Thomas Roshetko, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron commander and Major Ryder's boss, convinced Terry to go to New York and be highlighted on the May 10 edition of The Early Show.

Mr. Ryder and the family were under the impression they were going to be part of a show highlighting how tough it was to have a military mom deployed — they had no idea what was in store for them.

CBS flew the family to "The Big Apple" Friday, put them up in a hotel and got them to the studio Saturday morning for filming.

After a couple of questions about how hard it was being away from mom, the family



Major Ryder

was told that instead of having to e-mail mom, they could talk to her right then and there. At that moment, a live video shot of Major Ryder, complete with airman battle uniform and a smile, appeared on the studio's big screen. (Unfortunately, due to technical complications, Major Ryder would be able to hear, but not see them.

"It was quite stressful getting the girls ready and all the logistics before leaving, but when we arrived they took great care of us," Mr. Ryder said. "I wasn't sure what was going to happen, but when we saw Jeannine, it was fantastic. The girls were completely surprised."

Over the next few minutes, Mr. Ryder spoke with his wife and let her know they missed her, but were making the best of the separation.

"I was worried about saying something stupid on TV," he admitted, "but it was great seeing her." He said it was tough having her deployed and they miss her greatly, but go on taking each day one at a time.

"It is very hard as a mom," said Major Ryder about being away on her first deployment. "Terry and I work as a team to raise the girls. But, we have an important mission here and are seeing great changes every day."

After only a couple of weeks at the job, associate

producer Aaron Lewis, who ran the four-minute segment, said he was glad to be part of such a great project.

"It took a lot of coordination, but in the end it was entirely worth it," he said. "It was one of the best things I've done professionally. I even had the executive producer call and let me know it was the best segment of the show."

The family's New York experience didn't end with the telecast. The United Serviceman's Organization teamed with CBS to make the weekend as memorable as possible and arranged for a tour of the city, tickets to see The Little Mermaid play, new iPods, DVDs, books and "a phenomenal dinner," according to Mr. Ryder.

The Ryders returned home Sunday from their trip and prepared to get back to the weekly grind as Major Ryder, 9½ hours ahead and several thousand miles away, prepared to do the same.

A-76 NOTES

Big BOS — May 1, local union representatives met with Col. Greg Touhill, 81st Training Wing commander, and were given copies of the reduction-in-force guidance for local impact and implementation review.

Today is the deadline for the unions to submit responses. Once received, wing leadership will be working with Air Education and Training Command and Air Force Personnel Center officials to develop a firm timeline for the RIF and contract transition.

Colonel Touhill will convene an A-76 town hall meeting once he's assured Keesler's timeline is firm and achievable.

Little BOS — remains in litigation in federal court.



AFA is back

Maj. Gen. Mike Gould, 2nd Air Force commander, speaks at the Air Force Association's luncheon meeting May 8 at the Katrina Kantina. It was the first meeting of Keesler's John C. Stennis Chapter since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The independent nonprofit civilian education organization promotes public understanding of aerospace power and its pivotal role in the nation's security. For more information about Keesler's revived chapter and upcoming meetings, call Capt. Mike Zink, 377-1576.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

PERSONNEL NOTES

Beneficiary changes for death gratuity

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Starting July 1, service members can choose to whom a \$100,000 death gratuity will be disbursed if they are killed in action.

Currently, troops can assign half the posthumous payment to recipients of their preference, with the remainder paid according to a hierarchy determined by the Defense Department: first to the spouse, or if unmarried, to children, then grandchildren, follow.

“I think members need to realize that, with this added flexibility, there is responsibility,” said Gary McGee, a program analyst for the Compensation Directorate in the Office of Military Personnel Policy at the Pentagon, said. “They need to act in a mature manner when they make these decisions.”

When the policy takes effect, each service branch adopt sa revised version of Department of Defense Form 93, known as the Record of Emergency Data. Troops will then be able to select up to 10 beneficiaries, regardless of relationships, allotting the whole of the \$100,000 in 10-percent increments.

Mental health question changes

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Defense Department officials are changing a question on its long-standing security clearance form referencing an applicant’s mental health history because they believe it is needlessly preventing some people from seeking counseling.

Standard Form 86, Questionnaire for National Security Positions, asks the applicant to acknowledge mental health care in the past seven years. It does not ask for treatment details if the care involved only marital, family or grief counseling, not related to violence by the applicant, unless the treatment was court-ordered.

Officials said surveys have shown that troops feel if they answer “yes” to the question, they could jeopardize their security clearances, required for many occupations in the military.

As of April 18, applicants no longer have to acknowledge care under the same conditions, nor if the care was related to service in a military combat zone. The revised wording has been distributed to the services and will be attached to the cover of the questionnaire. The revised question won’t show up printed on the forms until the department depletes its pre-printed stock later this year, officials said.

Retirement annuity information

Personnel affected by A-76 can get estimates of their retirement annuities at the Air Force Personnel Center secure Web site, [https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/AFPCSecureMain Menu.asp](https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/AFPCSecureMainMenu.asp).

Click the link for the entitlements and benefits section. First-time users are required to register.

Personal retirement computations are also available by calling 1-800-616-3775.

For more information related to A-76, call 376-8176.

Mailing care packages

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service and Military Postal Service Agency process mail for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For more information, call 1-800-275-8777 or visit <http://www.usps.com>.

DRAGON OF THE WEEK

Name — Senior Airman William Haigood

Position — diagnostic imaging technologist

Unit — 81st Medical Operations Squadron

Time in Air Force — 2 1/2 years

Time at Keesler — one year

Hometown — Kemp, Texas

Noteworthy — named 81st Medical Group's "youngest, sharpest Airman" and his squadron's Airman of the Quarter for January-March of this year

Why did you join the Air Force? because it's known as the best branch of service and for the educational opportunities

Your favorite quote? "Without a struggle, there can be no progress."

What are your short- and long-term goals? short-term, to complete my



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Community College of the Air Force degree; long-term, to save money to buy a house

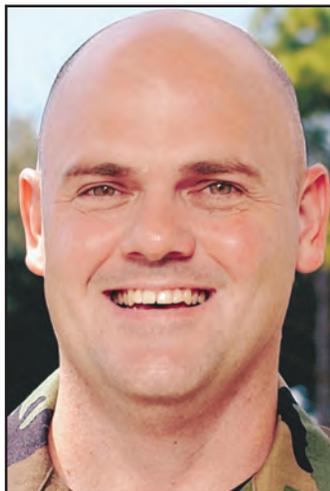
and to extend my cattle ranch.

What are your hobbies? fishing and hunting

DIAMOND NOTES

As leaders and mentors, remember that your legacy and the future of the Air Force rest on the shoulders of those you prepare for greater responsibility.

— Master Sgt. Steven Alford, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron first sergeant



Sergeant Alford



MEMORABLE MOMENTS

July 31, 1944

The War Department assigned its only emergency rescue school to Keesler. The 3704th Army Air Forces Base Unit was redesignated as the 3704th Army Air Forces Base Unit, including technical school, basic training center and emergency rescue school.

Dental commander retires

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Col. (Dr.) Kenneth Levin, 81st Dental Squadron commander, marks the end of a 30-year Air Force career May 23 during a 2 p.m. retirement ceremony at the Fishbowl in the Levitow Training Support Facility.

Colonel Levin is responsible for providing dental care to more than 48,000 active-duty military, family members, and eligible beneficiaries at Keesler and surrounding communities.

He's also responsible for a one-year advanced training program for general dentistry residents, a general practice residency and advanced specialty training in endodontics.

The 81st DS is the second largest Air Force dental service squadron with 20 dental officers, 14 residents, 66 enlisted members and 11 civilians.

Colonel Levin received his doctor of dental medicine degree in 1978 from the Boston University School of Graduate Dentistry. He was immediately commissioned as an Air Force captain and was assigned as a general dental officer at Weisbaden Air Base, Germany.

In 1982, he was assigned to Homestead AFB, Fla., as the officer in charge of the endodontic department and received additional training in periodontics. His last assignment as a staff general dentist began in 1988 at Luke AFB, Ariz., as chief of oral diagnosis and treatment planning.

In 1991, the colonel received a one-year special duty assignment to Eglin AFB, Fla., to attend the advanced clinical dentistry program.



Colonel Levin

Duties at his next assignment as base dental surgeon at Kunsan AB, Korea, included appointment as the deputy hospital commander overseeing all medical operations at this remote location.

In 1993, he was reassigned as the base dental surgeon at Los Angeles AFB, Calif., Space and Missile Systems Center.

In 1996, Colonel Levin became the 61st Medical Squadron commander for the Space and Missile Systems Center, directing all medical clinic operations for more than 70,000 beneficiaries. His efforts doubled TRICARE Prime enrollment and laid the foundation for a \$14.5 million military construction project. Fifteen months after assuming command, the Air Force Inspection Agency rated the clinic one of the top medical clinics in the Air Force.

In 1998, Colonel Levin assumed command of the 95th Dental Squadron, Edwards AFB, Calif. His additional duties included deputy commander of the

95th Medical Group, where he was instrumental in transitioning the hospital to a state-of-the-art outpatient clinic and establishing the Air Force's first all-military paramedic ambulance service. Colonel Levin was selected as the interim 95th Medical Group commander in 2000, leading Edwards to its most successful Joint Commission and Air Force Inspector General inspection on record.

In 2001, he was assigned to Langley AFB, Va., where he served as 1st Dental Squadron commander overseeing all dental operations at the largest dental treatment facility in Air Combat Command.

In 2004, he came to his current command at Keesler. His efforts included the recovery from this country's worst natural disaster, Hurricane Katrina, and pioneering a \$4 million dental clinic renovation expected to be completed in October.

Commenting on his career, Colonel Levin said, "I entered the military, July 4, 1978, planning to spend one assignment in the Air Force prior to opening a private dental practice. Here I am 30 years later — it's the fantastic working environment and quality of personnel that has kept me on active duty all these years. I wouldn't change one thing."

The colonel, a New York native, and his wife, Sabina, live in Ocean Springs. They have two daughters: Rachel, 27, and Rebekah, 23.

The Levins remain in Ocean Springs in their home that was extensively damaged by Hurricane Katrina flood waters only nine months after it was completed.

Catch Keesler News
on the base's public Web site,
<http://www.keesler.af.mil>.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Cosmetics consultant Lillie Jackson, left, gives Velma Felton a makeover at Friday's Spouse Appreciation Day at the Vandenberg Community Center. Mrs. Felton is married to Tech. Sgt. Kwame Felton, a military training leader in the 338th Training Squadron.

Special day honors
military spouses
for contributions
to Keesler's mission



Top, Yvette Richards samples sea salt scrub offered by cosmetics consultant Dawn Clayton. She's married to Senior Airman Rudolph Richards, chapel.

Right, Pat Pitts, wife of Staff Sgt. Alan Pitts, 81st Supply-Transportation Squadron, makes a selection from the snack table.



Bush, Gates laud spouses at ceremony

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — President Bush and Defense Secretary Robert Gates paid tribute May 6 to about 1,100 spouses at a Military Spouse Day celebration at the White House, where President Bush promised to continue pushing for more benefits for military families.

Following a tradition President Ronald Reagan established when he declared the first Military Spouses Day in 1984, Bush said he believes “we need to recognize military spouses every day.”

President Bush noted that he signed a change to the Family and Medical Leave Act into law this year, drawing applause from the group. The law allows a spouse, parent, child or next of kin to take up to 26 weeks of leave from work to care for a seriously injured or ill service member undergoing therapy or treatment.

The president said he hopes Congress moves quickly to pass legislation he sent to Capitol Hill to ease some of the burdens military families face. These initiatives, announced during his State of the Union address in January, would expand access to child care, create new authorities to appoint qualified spouses into civil service jobs and provide educational opportunities and job training for our military spouses.

But the initiative that drew the most cheers would amend the Montgomery GI Bill to allow troops to transfer their unused education benefits to their spouses or children.

“This legislation is moving. I hope to be able to sign it as quickly as possible,” the president told the spouses. “It is the absolute right thing to do. It should send a clear message that we care for you, we respect you and we love you.”

Joint staff examines programs for wounded

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — A joint team formed by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is looking at the broad range of care and support services for wounded warriors to find any gaps and tap into best practices to share across the force.

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen stood up the Joint Staff Wounded Warrior Integration Team in April and appointed his strategic plans and policy chief, Marine Lt. Gen. John Sattler, to head it up.

The team evaluate all programs that affect wounded warriors and their families to see which are working best, which can be improved and how to make the services they provide easier to tap into.

“A lot of things are being done across the spectrum by a lot of great people,” General Sattler said. “We just want to make sure that where there may be a duplication of effort, we can use those resources more wisely, and if there may be unintentional gaps and seams, we can overcome those.”

General Sattler noted improvements in the care and support for wounded troops and emphasized that the task force wasn’t formed to fix any particular shortcoming or problem.

“No commander stops raising the bar because they think they have hit the objective,” he said. “Even if we’re doing all we can do, the harder you look at things, the more often you find things you can do better.”

General Sattler conceded that wounded warriors and their families are a “hard-core crew” who don’t ask for much as they try to move forward with their lives.

“They want to take their own destiny into their own hands and they want to advance their cause,” he said. “Whatever their wound may be, they want to get back to where they can function in society. No one is looking for a handout.”



Volunteer Kathy Losco marks down clothing prices. Her husband is Col. Felix Losco, 2nd Air Force.



Volunteer Cheron Hollingsworth stocks the book shelf in the shop's hallway, where all items cost 25 to 50 cents. Her husband is Jim Hollingsworth, 2nd Air Force.



Three-year-old Rishard Money eyes the toys at the thrift shop. His parents are Sgt. 1st Class Robert and April Money. Rishard's dad is an Army recruiter in Gulfport.

Photos by Kemberly Groue

Thrift shop offers bargains, funds scholarships

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The Keesler Thrift Shop gives savvy shoppers the maximum value for their hard-earned dollars, while providing clutter cleaners a place to bring usable merchandise.

The shop, operated by the Keesler Spouses Club, is in a former chapel building at the corner of H and Second Streets, just west of Sablich Center and south of the dental clinic.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Consignments can be brought in 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays.

Proceeds from the shop fund KSC's annual scholarships and other charitable activities.

The stock includes paperback books, household items, clothing, furniture, toys, jewelry, plants and a variety of other items.

"Prices for our merchandise range from 25 cents to more than \$300," said manager Larry Jones, who's retired from the Army. "New stock is rotated in and tends to move quickly. We have some folks who come in every week to see what new things we have."

Mr. Jones and two other paid staff members run the shop

— assistant manager Pam Hoebeke, wife of an Army retiree, and bookkeeper Cathy Miceli, whose husband, Chris, is a retired lieutenant colonel who works as a contractor on base. About 10 KSC members volunteer on a regular basis.

"Last year, we had \$7,000 profit, with \$6,000 earmarked for scholarships," Mrs. Miceli said. "We're only four months into the year and we're at \$5,000 profit already."

"Traffic has slowed somewhat since the housing office moved back over to Sablich Center," she explained. "When I started working over here, I expected more young folks, but a lot of retirees shop here. We still get a lot of people looking for items to replace what they lost in Hurricane Katrina."

"Consignments are OK, but we really like donations because they're pure profit," Mr. Jones pointed out.

Because of limited storage space, clothing donations have seasonal limits — March through October for summer items and October through February for winter merchandise.

"If it doesn't sell, we donate it to someone that can use it," Mr. Jones remarked.

For more information, call 377-3217.



Retiree spouse Gerry Dotson of Biloxi checks out the jewelry.

Patient satisfaction surpasses Air Force goal

81st Medical Group

"My goal is to make Keesler Medical Center our patients' health-care provider of choice," said Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Doug Robb, 81st Medical Group commander. To attain this goal, the staff constantly reviews results of feedback tools, particularly the Service Delivery Assessment.

The SDA is a customer service survey that allows the medical center to monitor customer satisfaction rates as they relate to Air Force goals.

"Although Air Force standards are high, we strive to raise that bar daily," said Maj. Bradley Olsson, 81st MDG performance improvement and regulatory compliance department chief. "Patients expect prompt, courteous health care. Without this assessment, we have no way of gauging our success and, ultimately, the patients' success."

The SDA provides feedback to the facility within a week of a patient's visit to any primary care clinic such as family practice, pediatrics,

Contented customers

For the week ending May 2, about 93 people were surveyed at Keesler Medical Center for the Service Delivery Assessment. Numbers may vary per question.

Overall satisfaction with visit?

Air Force Goal 95 percent

Keesler 96.8 percent

Very unsatisfied — 1.1 percent

Unsatisfied — 1.1 percent

Neutral — 1.1 percent

Satisfied — 55.9 percent

Completely satisfied — 40.9 percent

How well did your provider and/or staff answer questions about your condition and treatment?

Air Force Goal 90 percent

Keesler 98.9 percent

Very unsatisfied — 0 percent

Unsatisfied — 0 percent

Neutral — 1.1 percent

Satisfied — 55.7 percent

Completely satisfied — 43.2 percent

internal medicine and flight medicine; specialty-care clinics such as cardiology, obstetrics and gynecology, dermatology, urgent care, optometry and general surgery clinic; or ancillary services, such as the pharmacy, laboratory and diagnostic imaging.

Since response time is a priority with this assessment, the staff compares past data from Keesler Medical Center and all Air Force medical facilities. This allows the medical facility

staff to see where improvements are necessary. Since patient privacy is a primary concern, those called can be confident that personal information available to the phone surveyors is extremely limited. They see a phone number and are only aware there was a patient visit to the medical center.

The surveyor asks the patient several questions focusing on the visit to the particular clinic and to respond using a scale of 1-5 to rate the service.

Questions include:

How would you rate this clinic on the ease of making this appointment?

How would you rate the courtesy and respect extended to you by the staff during your check-in to the clinic?

How satisfied were you with the clinic overall, during this visit?

How well did your provider and/or staff answer your questions about your medical condition and treatment?



Ratings and comments are documented and sent directly to the medical center.

"We document all responses, positive and negative, and the results are reported to General Robb," Cynde Adams, 81st MDG customer relations director, explained. "His personal attention ensures the level of care we provide meets or exceeds Air Force standards. He believes our customers' opinions of our service and facility reflect both on our efforts as well as their involvement."

"Although customer relations fields patient concerns, I'm always pleased to forward favorable comments to our senior leadership," she added.

Adams encourages anyone who believes his or her visit needs closer scrutiny to contact her at 376-3092, or stop by her office in Room BF403 in the medical center basement.

Military ready to aid Burma after cyclone

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Navy vessels, rotary- and fixed-wing aircraft, Air Force planes and thousands of service members are ready to assist Burma's cyclone-stricken people, if asked, a Defense Department official said May 7.

“We still are prepared and stand ready to provide assistance if Burma should request it and permit access,” Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman told reporters.

Burma was hit by a powerful cyclone May 1-2. Officials estimate that the storm has killed as many as 30,000 Burmese, with hundreds of thousands likely injured and homeless. But efforts to persuade Burma's military council to allow humanitarian aid to flow into the country have been fruitless thus far, according to news reports.

The Pentagon has identified resources that could be tapped to assist the Burmese, including aircraft carriers and other Navy vessels posted in and around the region. Air Force cargo aircraft that can fly in food and clean water also are available.

Burma is an eastern Asian nation on the Bay of Bengal that's sandwiched among neighbors India, China and Thailand.

American military ships and planes would provide “not an insignificant amount of resources that might be available” if Burma were to request humanitarian assistance from the United States, Mr. Whitman said.

The U.S. military has conducted previous humanitarian missions in the Pacific region, such as when Indonesia was battered by a massive tsunami in December 2005.

After that experience, the U.S. military knows it would need portable water purification systems and airfield opening and operating teams for a possible humanitarian-aid mission to Burma, Mr. Whitman said.

Contest salutes military spouses

DALLAS — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service holds a Patriot Family Salutes the Military Spouse Calendar contest through July 28.

Entrants write an essay of up to 300 words explaining what the nominee has done to support the military community during a deployment. Nominees must be authorized AAFES shoppers.

Twelve winners each receive a \$500 AAFES shopping spree. Their essays and photos are published in a calendar that will be available at all AAFES exchanges in November.

A complete description of the “Military Spouse” contest rules can be found online at <http://www.AAFES.com>.

The contest is open to all authorized exchange shoppers. Entries must be post-marked or e-mailed to Patriot Family at aafes.com no later than July 28.

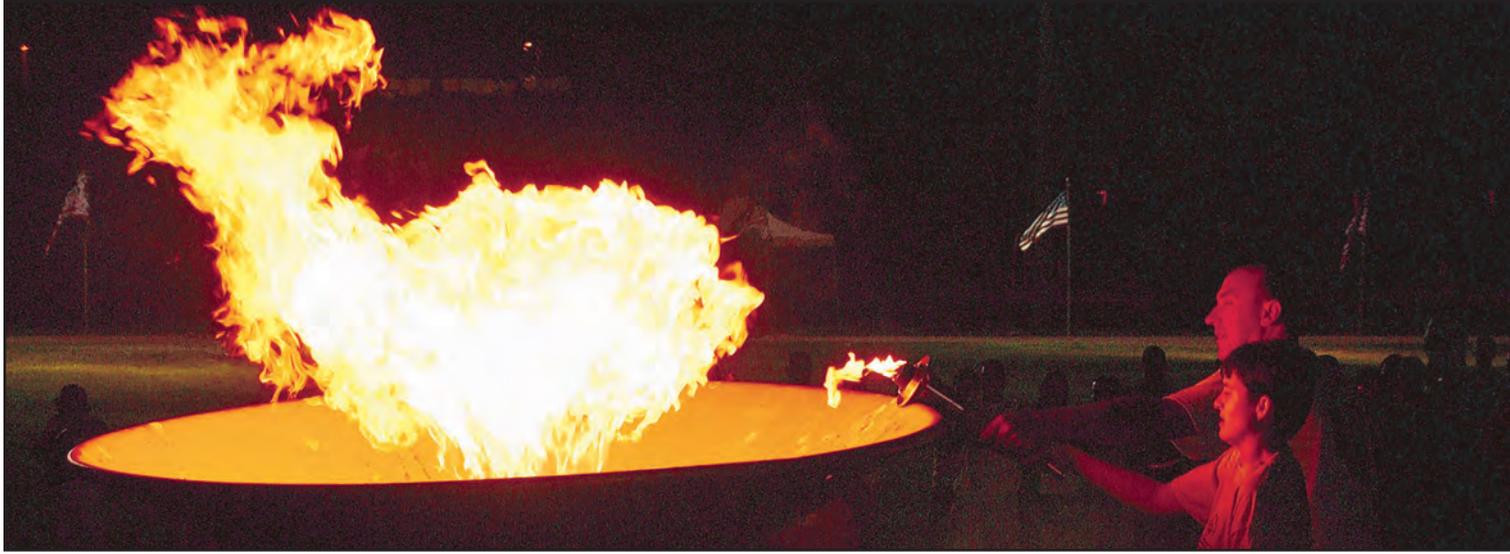
No purchase is necessary to win.

AAFES offers reusable bags

DALLAS — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is introducing environmentally-friendly reusable bags to military shoppers. Made of non-woven polypropylene mesh, the bags are now arriving in U.S. store, with worldwide distribution expected by June.

The recycled-reusable bag line, capable of carrying up to 35 pounds, consists of a small shopping bag and wine bag for 99 cents each, a large shopping bag for \$1.49 and a thermal bag for \$1.99.

AAFES is implementing other “green initiatives” at facilities around the globe including Energy Star vending machines, inventive “pollution solutions” in fast-food restaurants, compact fluorescent lighting options within the stores and real estate efforts that focus on energy and water reduction and incorporate earth friendly materials into building design.



Wendy Cumberland, an athlete from Pearl, stands in front of Louis Beck, Biloxi Police Department, as they light the cauldron for the 2007 Mississippi State Special Olympics Summer Games. The pair brought the torch on the final leg of its journey to the Levitow Training Support Facility where the cauldron was set up.

Photos by Kemberly Groue

Base rolls out red carpet for Mississippi Special Olympics

By Tech. Sgt. Chuck Marsh

Keesler Public Affairs

For more than two decades, Keesler has hosted the Mississippi State Special Olympics Summer Games. As the size and scope of the games have increased, so have the logistical needs and the numbers of volunteers.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Special Olympics and the need for another significant undertaking by the Keesler volunteer crew. More than 800 athletes are expected to pass through Keesler's gates this weekend, with several hundred parents, coaches and caregivers by their sides.

In order to make the games successful, more than 3,000 volunteers have stepped up and donated their time.

For some, this is their first experience — for others, it's been a tradition for many years.

"I've been at Keesler almost three years and I have helped with Special Olympics all three years," said Capt. Millie Ziebell, 81st Supply-Transportation Squadron, Keesler's Special Olympics project officer. "The first year, I helped with the feeding tent, and the last two years I've been project officer."

The scope of the games means planning starts well in advance.

"We begin planning in late December and early January and spend between 30 to 40 hours a week depending on the event a committee is heading," said Captain Ziebell. "It becomes a primary job a few weeks prior to games weekend, though."

One volunteer saddled with a large workload saw it increase recently with closing of the Magnolia Dining Facility for unanticipated repairs. Tech. Sgt. Tony Wallis, 81st SUPS-TRANS chief transportation dispatcher, has the task of ensuring nearly 1,000 athletes, Airman sponsors, coaches and caregivers have daily transportation back and forth for meals and any event where transportation is needed.

"Basically, it's all about planning, manning and sourcing at the right time," said Sergeant Wallis, a four-year committee member and 12-year volunteer.

For more information and map, click the Special Olympics link at <http://www.keesler.af.mil>.

Sergeant Wallis has pulled assets from Camp Shelby, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Naval Construction Battalion Center-Gulfport and area vendors. These include buses, golf carts and refrigeration trucks.

"The joy I get seeing the athletes on the day of the events and the ceremonies makes all the work worthwhile," said Sergeant Wallis. "It's truly a sense of accomplishment when it all comes together."

Many times, making it "come together" comes down to the last minute where favors are called in and reliable people come through.

Captain Ziebell recalled one person who went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the event was a success, Tech. Sgt. David Hollyman, 81st SUPS-TRANS.

"Last year, the Thursday before the games, we discovered we needed more bocce courts," the captain explained. "He didn't have anything to do with the games and wasn't on any committee. I just knew he was handy because he made clocks and shadow boxes for going-aways and retirements. I called him at about 5 p.m. and asked for his help. He got a team together to build the courts and save the day."

The planning committee has spent many hours of preparation planning so issues like that don't come up, but with volunteers from many base agencies represented on the committee, they know if they need anything, the right folks are there.

"There's a lot of behind the scenes logistical planning," said Captain Ziebell. "I am just grateful to have such a supportive squadron commander that allows me to dedicate the time needed and a great group on the committee — we all help make this year's games a success."



Dale Seymour from St. Martin competed in aquatic events at the 2007 state games.

Schedule of events

Friday

9-10 a.m. — dorm judging, Triangle

Noon to 1 p.m. — torch run from Veterans Boulevard, Highway 90, Larcher Boulevard, Meadows Drive, ending in Triangle at Welch Auditorium

1:30-5 p.m. — golf, Bay Breeze Golf Course

7-8 p.m. — reception, Vandenberg Community Center

8:30-10:30 p.m. — opening ceremonies, Levitow Training Support Facility

Saturday

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

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

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — bocce, Triangle track

9:30 to noon — roller skating, Skate Zone, Ocean Springs

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — aquatics, Blossman YMCA, Ocean Springs

9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. — volleyball, base soccer field

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — sailing, Ocean Springs

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. — Olympic Village, LTSF

Noon to 1 p.m. — parent luncheon, Fishbowl, LTSF

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

7:30-8 p.m. — closing ceremonies, LTSF

8-11 p.m. — victory dance, LTSF

8-9:45 p.m. — movie, Welch Auditorium

Sunday

8 a.m. to noon — athletes depart

Errors about social networking site clarified

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Recently, erroneous information has circulated around the Air Force about the commercial social networking Web site, <http://www.airforce.togetherweserved.com>.

The inaccurate information first appeared in an operational security briefing that received wide dissemination across the Air Force, primarily via e-mail.

“After subsequent research, some of the information in the briefing, created by an Air Force officer, was found to be inaccurate,” said Lt. Col. Melinda Morgan, the chief of products and information for the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs. “The author of the brief sent out a subsequent e-mail to retract the inaccurate information. Additionally, the Air Force has since requested the briefing cease to be propagated and will continue to take action to remove the briefing if instances of its use are discovered.”

According to the company’s Web site, Togetherweserved.com Inc., is a California-based corporation engaged in the creation of heritage Web sites for the various branches of the U.S. armed forces.

The Air Force site was created in December, and is the third TWS heritage community, following the Marine and Navy Web sites which launched in November 2003 and October 2006, respectively, according to the site.

The site is owned and operated by the TWS Advisory Group, composed primarily of retired or prior military members.

Airmen are expected to comply with operational security guidelines when using this, or any, social networking Web site.

This article doesn’t constitute Air Force endorsement of <http://www.Togetherweserved.com> or the information, products or services it contains.

Self-help store hours

New self-help store hours are 8 a.m. to noon Mondays and Fridays, including compressed work schedule Fridays, and 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays.

The store is closed Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The new schedule applies to both base and housing self-help needs.

Airmen's Attic hours

Airmen's Attic is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays and 3-5 p.m. Fridays during May and June.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Steven Dickinson, 377-3814.

Vehicle sale

A non-appropriated fund vehicle sealed bid sale ends today.

The five vehicles have data

sheets in the driver's window and can be viewed at the auto hobby shop back lot during normal operating hours. For information, call 377-3872.

Bids are delivered 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today to Room 5426, Locker House, Building 3101.

Printed bids must contain bid amount, bidder's name and local contact phone number.

All sales are final. Cash, money orders or cashier's checks are accepted, but not personal checks or credit cards. Vehicles must be moved by May 29.

Squadron picnic

The 81st Supply-Transportation Squadron's annual squadron picnic is May 23. Minimal manning begins at 11:30 through close of business.

Also, the ammunition flight is closed during the period, but

a point of contact can be reached at 697-1853.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Patrick Key, 377-2573.

Christian summer fest

A Christian summer fest is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 24 at marina park, sponsored by the contemporary worship service and outdoor recreation.

The free event features a 10 a.m. concert by "Testify," jambalaya, hot dogs, dragon jumper and other activities.

Military family special

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center in Gulfport is offering free admission to military families, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 24.

Active duty, retired and reserve families are eligible for the free day. Children can create a unique painted patri-

otic picture during their visit.

For more information, call 897-6039.

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 and Pinehaven, with Tuesday as the recycling day. Items must be at the curb by 6 a.m.

For more information, call 377-2781 or 8612.

Auditions

Wall Studio is conducting auditions for people to go on camera for a series of video projects in support of the 81st Training Group.

Positions are open to military members and civilians.

For more information and

to schedule an audition, call Bruce Norton, 377-2793.

Audiology clinic

Audiology and hearing aid services are available at the audiology clinic.

For appointments, call 1-800-700-8603.

Patients sought

The pediatric dentistry clinic seeks patients for the advanced education in general dentistry residency.

Eligible are children ages 4-12. Patients must be available Thursday mornings.

For more information, call 376-5144.

Zero overpricing

Submit zero overpricing items on Air Force Form 1046 to 81SUPS/LGSPQ, Attn: Kevin Lane, 377-8891, or e-mail kevin.lane@keesler.af.mil.

Groundbreaking is Tuesday for events center

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Keesler breaks ground Tuesday on the Bay Breeze Event Center, a 67,346-square-foot facility that replaces several structures damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The 8 a.m. ceremony takes place at the former Bay Breeze Pool site just north of the driving range.

The multipurpose building is part of a \$73.8 million “mega package” awarded Nov. 26 to W.G. Yates and Sons Construction Co. The package also covers a new student dormitory and a fire/crash/rescue station to replace facilities damaged by Hurricane Katrina.



Artist's rendition of new Bay Breeze Events Center.

The event center on Ploesti Drive adjacent to Bay Breeze Golf Course will have three stories to house a three-story recreation center that replaces the consolidated club facility, golf course clubhouse and community center. The facility is designed to be fully compatible with accessibility require-

ments for the disabled.

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

The ballroom seats up to 400 guests at 10-seat round tables. It has a 16-foot ceiling, raised stage, built-in bar, restrooms and an adjacent area for distinguished areas. The space can be divided into up to four rooms of different sizes to accommodate a variety of activities.

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

The construction project also includes a golf pro shop, maintenance space and storage for up to 80 carts.

The new location also will house the information, tickets and tours office, recreation rooms with video games and pool tables, administration offices, two music rooms and piano room for teaching and practice, storage space, loading dock and a children's playroom with outdoor playground.

Medics claim intramural basketball championship

By Senior Airman Carlos Rodriguez

Keesler News staff

The perfect record for the season was gone, but in its place came something better: the base intramural championship.

The 81st Medical Group intramural basketball team outscored a determined 81st Communications Squadron, 48-44, to secure the 2008 intramural basketball title at Blake Fitness Center May 8.

The rivalry between the two teams continued throughout the season and into the playoffs. The 81st CS's only losses this season came at the hands of the medics. The medics' only loss this season came at the hands of ... you guessed it, 81st CS.

Going into the championship game, 81st CS had to win to set up a second deciding game, and win they did. Handing the medics their first loss of the season when the stakes couldn't be any higher, the 81st CS triumphed 57-49 to force a second game.

“We gave up a lot of open shots and a lot of open three-point shots,” said Jonathan Settles, player/interim coach for the medics.

Most of those three-pointers came



Paul Richard, left, and Quincy Harris, 81st CS, surround medic Al Holmes in a battle to gain control of the ball during the intramural basketball championship's final game, May 8.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

from Quincy Harris, who finished the game as the 81st CS's leading scorer with 21 points.

“We had a common goal — we wanted it,” said Stacey Norman, 81st CS coach. “We played together as a cohesive unit.”

Going into the second game, the medics knew they had to come up with a plan to prevent the 81st CS from steamrolling its way to the title.

“Defensively we had to get tighter,” said Settles. “We started to switch it up on them, going from zone to man-to-man and back to zone again.”

Another tactic Settles employed during the second game was to render one of the 81st CS's high-scoring players ineffective.

“We got Taveres Simpson, one of their best players, into foul trouble,” said Settles. “He had to sit out most of the second half.”

With one of its best players on the bench for half the game, the writing was on the wall for 81st CS.

“We got into foul trouble with Simpson,” said Norman. “That crushed us.”

The tactics proved to be decisive as

the 81st MDG came back from the first-game loss to take the second game, and with it the championship, 48-44.

“These guys are big-time ballers,” said Settles. “They've been playing on this team for a while and this is their first championship. (The 81st MDG) finally got over the final hurdle.”

It was a bitter end for the 81st CS, who could only rue how close they came. The team is already looking to the future, though.

“We'll see them in the summer league,” said Norman. “They have a debt to pay to us.”

Parade of punches



Jacob Blanchard, left, of Chalmette, La., is knocked into the ropes by Chris Kissam, 81st Training Wing, at Friday's Slugfest V in Hangar 4. Kissam went on to win the match, but was later defeated by Darius Graves of Gulfport, who won the heavyweight title.



Photos by Adam Bond

Kent Sellier of Hattiesburg, left, lands a punch on Jeremy Marcotte, 332nd Training Squadron, during the first fight of the light-weight division. Adam Pellerano of Biloxi went on to win the division.

SCORES AND MORE

Bowling

Armed Forces Day special — 1-7 p.m. Saturday, active duty military show their identification card and bowl one free game including bowling shoes.

League registrations — for Monday trio, Tuesday family, Thursday intramural and Thursday morning seniors; call 377-2817.

Penny a pin — Tuesdays. Your score is what you pay rounded out to the nearest nickel. Bowl 225 or over and game is free.

Birthday party package — Saturdays 1:30-3 p.m. or 3:30-5 p.m., and Sundays 2:30-4 p.m. Basic party with bowling and food \$8.95 per child. Mid party, including table supply and T-shirt, \$11.95 per child. Premium party with games and a pin, \$15.95 per child. Reservations required.

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.

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

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

Fitness centers

Triangle Fitness Center — open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays and weekends; closed holidays. For more information, call 377-3056.

Blake Fitness Center — open 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

compressed work schedule Fridays; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends and holidays.

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

Free fitness classes — yoga, step aerobics, turbo-core, spin/cycle, slobotics, boxing workout and fencing at Dragon Fitness Center. For more information, call 377-2907.

Massage appointments — at Triangle Fitness Center, call 263-5515.

Wall of Fame — powerlifting event, 1-4 p.m. first compressed work schedule Friday of every month, Triangle Fitness Center. Squat, bench press and dead lift; one attempt in any or all three events; 12 weight classes for men, 10 for women. Set a record for most pounds lifted or break an existing record and get your picture on the wall. Open to all Defense Department personnel 18 years of age and older.

For more information, call 377-3056.

Golf

Intramural

Division A (as of May 6)

Team	Points
81st MDG	37
335th TRS	26
333rd TRS	23
81st CPTS	23
81st CS-A	21
81st CES-B	13
81st TRSS	12
81st CES-D	0

Division A (as of May 6)

Team	Points
81st MDOS	35
81st FSS-B	33
81st CES-A	28
334th TRS	24
338th TRS	20
81st MDSS	8
81st SUPS-TRANS	7
81st CES-C	1

Other

Golfing for wellness — today through May 31. Golfers receive an award at Blake Fitness Center each time they walk a round of golf at Bay Breeze Golf Course.

Keesler vs. Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce annual tournament — 12:30 p.m. shotgun start May 23, Bay Breeze Golf Course. Registration deadline May 16. Twenty Keesler teams available; first-come, first-serve, must sign up as twosomes. \$50 per player in advance includes green fees, carts, prizes, food and beverages, giveaways and two mulligans.

To register, e-mail tama.manu@keesler.af.mil or billy.bell2@keesler.af.mil, or call 424-0479. or 377-3832.

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

Driving range — 40 balls, \$2.

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

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; 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

Back Bay fishing trip — May 24. Call for time. \$15 per person; minimum four, maximum seven people; Mississippi license needed.

Base pools — open May 24. Call for schedule and fees.

Delacroix, La. fishing site — two self-contained trailers for rent, \$50 per night. Maximum four per trailer. Bring linens and cooking utensils. Louisiana fishing license required. Call for more information.

Pontoon boat training — to rent a pontoon you must take a test and be certified. Call for information.

May fish of the month — weigh heaviest ground mullet, take home \$10 savings bond.

Bicycles for rent — 3500 Trek seven-speed bikes, \$3 day, \$15 week.

Wet slip fees — monthly, boats more than 32 feet, \$3.75 per foot; less than 32 feet, \$2.50 per foot. Overnight, \$5 per boat.

Deep sea fishing trips — compressed work schedule Fridays and Sundays aboard the Keesler Dolphin II. \$60 per person includes everything you need to fish. Payment due

upon reservation. Minimum 15, maximum 22 people. For reservation, call 377-3160.

Deep sea fishing private charter — rent Dolphin II, \$700 for first six people, \$35 each additional person Mondays-Thursdays, \$40 weekends and holidays. \$350 deposit required.

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

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

Recreational vehicle, boat and trailer storage — \$15 per month. For more information, call 377-3160.

Pontoon boat training — to rent a pontoon you must take a test and be certified. Call for information.

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

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

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

Softball

Women's varsity team — is recruiting players. For more information, call Jody Deknikker, 377-0222 or 376-6354.

Men's varsity team — for team information, e-mail joseph.hudson@keesler.af.mil, or call 860-8040.

Youth center

Free track and field day — 3-7 p.m. May 22, youth athletic fields. Fun competitions, games, T-shirts, prizes and refreshments.

HONORS

Quarterly awards, January-March

81st Training Wing

Airman — Airman 1st Class Patsy Chambers, 81st Supply-Transportation Squadron.

Noncommissioned officer — Tech. Sgt. Jill Higgins, 81st Dental Squadron.

Senior NCO — Master Sgt. John Coleman, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

Company grade officer — Capt. Tanya Balyeat, 81st Medical Support Squadron.

Civilian nonsupervisory category 1 — Guy Chadwick, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron.

Civilian nonsupervisory category 2 — Michael Wieand, 335th Training Squadron.

Civilian supervisory category 1 — Len VanSittert, 81st MDSS.

Civilian supervisory category 2 — Gary Schafer, 81st Force Support Squadron.

Honor guard — Airman 1st Class Kwadwo Agyen-Frempong, 81st Comptroller Squadron.

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Austin Barham, Andrew Bennett, Kenneth Breneman, Brandon Burbridge, Christopher Carron, David Caudle, Catalin Chandler, Lauren Chong, Daniel Cox, Anthony Crisistino, Blane Defriend, Dustin Dopson, Frank Ellis, Isaac Granados, Bryce Higley, Jason Hlavaty, Alex Johnson, Derek Johnston, Shawn Johnston, Timothy Lowe, Jeffrey Miller, Joshua Miller, Ruben Mullins, Gerald Nila, Jose Perez-Torres, Erick Peterson, William Poole, Angus Quaid, Adam Razani, Timothy Rice, Deric Scott, David Stoneking and Zachary Wooters; Pvt. Mark Plummer; Airmen Sean Champenois, Devin Christensen, Nathan Coley, Brian Ellis, Caleb Johnson, John Laux, Drew Manoram, Matthew Spagnola, John Tkach and Stace Welsh; Airmen 1st Class Odeb Allen, Eric Berry, Alexander Bode, Joshua Bond, Oscar Calhoun, Alexandro Carmona, Dane Casson, Cody Corley, Anthony Cosentino, Christopher Derocher, Kyle Eckert, Tyler Eggold, Jesse Erickson, Cody Foltz, Adam Frans, Charles Hayden, Ryan Hehl, Robert Herndon, Zachary Hughes, Derrick Jazwinski, Kevin

Kasper, Andrew Krebs, Michael Kretschmer, Brandon Knapp, Philip Lawson, Joshua Lehman, Phillip Mann, Patrick Martin, James Miller, Joseph Moody, Jeremy Norman, Jeffery Phillips, Dustin Roberts, Xavier Rubio, Erica Shark-Thomas, Bart Simon, Josiah Smith, Tamrin Swearingen, Bradley Trapp, Michael Twarozynski, Casey Volk and Joshua Wilkinson; Senior Airmen Anthony Fuentes, John Malinao, Brian Olsen, Bradley Pike, Joshua Ratcliff and Nathan Smith; Staff Sgts. Hamed AlAbarwi, Randy Corona, Telshaun Davis, Richard Grubb, Robert Murphy, Shane Rehm and Andrew Vantress; Tech. Sgt. Craig Bailey and Ricky Ellison; Master Sgts. Juma AlBulushi, Russell Atwater and YanalSalah Taimour; Capt. Wesam AbuHazeem.

334th TRS

Aerospace control and warning systems — Airmen Quinterro Richard; Airmen 1st Class Sean Flynn and Brandon Steinberger; Staff Sgt. Christine Degarmo; Senior Master Sgt. Enrique Ganibe.

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Jacob Colley, Ryan Connors, Victor Gugler, Shantelle Johnson, Kyle Mauthe, Barry McCaffery, Sean Neilan, Jason Nolte, David O'Connell, Sara Stockinger, Alex Tabor; Airman Bryan Lemire; Airmen 1st Class Tiffany Adams, Kevin Bryant, Matthew Chancellor, Bruce Cohoon, Daniel Hesson, Myke McAfoose, Darrel Prior, Stephen Vanhooser and Brianna Wills; Senior Airman Lucas Kelsey.

Airfield management apprentice course — Airman Basic Joshua Handel; Staff Sgt. Valerie Tindle.

Aviation resource management — Airmen Basic Daniel Ches, Taneshia Fierro and David Hoch; Airmen 1st Class Amanda Torres and Jenna Wayman; Staff Sgt. Marcia Dickerson; Tech. Sgts. Henri Berthinet and Carmine Castaldo; Master Sgt. Maria Ortega.

335th TRS

Comptroller training flight — Airmen Basic Crystal Arnold, Mark Atkinson, Maxwell Bowes, Jillian Bradshaw, Todd Coleman, Amanda Compton, Tiffany Holmes, Felicia Lorocco, Margaret Prokop, Elizabeth Stegman and Jonnicos Walker; Airman Willie Hogan; Airmen 1st Class Marcus Ayala, Janene Douglas, Nicholas Gidaly, Fritz Julian, Kenneth Leavell, Jeremy McCray, Clinton Pettey, Mark Rosone, Christina Sanchez, Jaclyn Scott and Jason Wiggins; Senior Airmen Mildred Cassidy, Nicholas Gould and Christopher Lucskay; Staff Sgts. Jeffrey Brooks, Alisha Caton, James Moore, Jaime Roberts, Rhonda Souter, Kayci Speer and Stephen Swanson; Tech. Sgt. Lonnie Carrillo.

Weather training flight — Navy Airmen Recruit Carey Bowman, Jason Fisher and Jason Majerus; Airmen Basic Charles Colclasure, Andrea Cruz, Brandon Howe, Edward Schafer and Amy Welsh; Marine Pfc. Francisco Agosto-Lopez and Luke Peterson; Airman Nick Elwell; Marine Lance Cpl. James Bragg; Airmen 1st Class Aaron Hero, Kaitlin Karaszewski, Jared Lindley, Amanda Stephens and Julio Torres; Navy Seaman Vince Berry; Senior Airman Thomas Teckmyer; Tech. Sgt. Thomas Weideman.

338th TRS

Airfield systems — Airmen Daniel Egert, Saben Leinbaugh and Joshua Williamson; Airmen 1st Class Steven Briski, Jeffrey Campbell, Kiley Hickok, Kaitlyn Linde and Samantha Nellis; Senior Airman Colin Teal; Master Sgt. Wayne Werth.

Ground radar — Airmen Basic Jonathan Johnson and Randall Pierce; Airmen Kelly Darr and Jones Gold; Airmen 1st Class David Arceneaux, Kevin Kruse and Joseph McCauley; Staff Sgt. Jackson Parnell.

Ground radio — Airmen Basic Michael Butz, Bradley Corporon, Eugene Harding, Aldo Lotito, Patrick McNamara, Thomas Sherrill, Stephen Shockey, Gregory Stanley and Charles VanVoorhis; Airmen Lance Brown, Preston Flolo, Alexander Hennen, Joey Pregont and James Reynolds; Airmen 1st Class Cory Baker, Alvaro Cermen, Keith Dengel, Michael Diehl, Garvey Garcia, Justin Gresavage, Ian Hitchcock, Jason Johnson, Sean McVeigh, Joshua Meyers, Torres Quirindongo and Janell Stokes; Staff Sgts. Geoward Eustaquio, James Hastings and Randall Main; Tech. Sgts. Michael Goth, Anthony Tribelli and William Walsh; Master Sgt. Michael Walsh.

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

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

Minutes after hour	Bus stop	
:00	:30	332nd TRS, Building 6957
:01	:31	338th TRS, Building 6965
:02	:32	Welch Auditorium
:04	:34	AAFES Furniture Store
:06	:36	Jones/Bryan/Hewes Hall at gazebo
:08	:38	Thomson Hall
:09	:39	New Cody Hall
:11	:41	Supply, civil engineering
:12	:42	Rental store
:13	:43	Shaw House
:14	:44	Old base exchange
:15	:45	McBride Library
:16	:46	Credit union, Blake Fitness Center
:17	:47	Medical center, Tyer House
:18	:48	Sablich Center
:19	:49	Dental clinic
:20	:50	Allee and Wolfe Halls
:21	:51	Base operations
:22	:52	Hangar 4

Technical training route

5:10-5:37 a.m. weekdays

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:10	Building 5025
:12	Building 5022
:14	Shaw House
:16	Muse Manor
:18	Tyer House
:20	TLQ east side 2000 block
:21	TLQ east side of Locker House
:25	332nd TRS
:28	Welch Auditorium
:33	Thomson/Dolan/Cody Halls
:34	McClellan Hall
:36	Allee/Wolfe Halls
:37	Stennis Hall/Weather

Prior-service students lodged off base

Call vehicle operations, 377-2432, to coordinate taxi service to and from the base.

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.

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.

Jewish

For worship opportunities, call Tech. Sgt. Michael Raff, 377-5235.

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 1-801-694-8900.

Digest,

from Page 26

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 08-4 — graduates Wednesday.

Keesler NCO Academy

Class 08-4 — graduates May 22.

Airman and family readiness center

Get the best car deal — 11 a.m. to noon today, Room 108B, Sablich Center, presented by Keesler Federal Credit Union. To register, call 376-8728.

Build a budget and gain financial peace of mind — 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. May 22, Room 108B, Sablich Center, presented by Keesler Federal Credit Union. To register, call 376-8728.

How identity thieves get your information — 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. May 29, Room 108B, Sablich Center, presented by Keesler Federal Credit Union. To register, call 376-8728.

Arts and crafts center

Multi-craft shop

Summer craft camp — 12:30-4 p.m., Tuesdays-Thursdays, June 3-July 24, ages 8 and older. New craft each week. \$28.50 weekly includes all supplies and daily snack. Sign up for individual weeks or entire session. Space limited.

Pottery wheel — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. \$40 includes 5 pounds of clay and project firing. Bring a bag lunch. Must preregister.

Ceramic mold pouring — 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. May 24. \$25 including mold use, all supplies and first firing. Learn to cast ceramics and the use of different paints for finishing techniques.

Wood shop

Beginning intarsia — one-day class, 10 a.m. May 24. \$15 including project and tool use for cutting and shaping pieces of wood in decorative patterns for wall hangings.

Advanced intarsia — one-day class, 10 a.m. Saturday or May 31. \$20 including materials and tool use; new project each month.

Frame shop

Framing and matting — one class, four sessions, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays. Matting, frame building and glass cutting. \$60 including materials, shop use and completed framing.

Auto hobby shop

Editor's note: open shop use, preregister for classes.

Vehicle resale lot — one block west of Larcher Boulevard on Tingle Street north of the 81st Security Forces Squadron building. Register at multi-craft shop. Registration, license and proof of insurance required. To place a car on the lot, call 377-2821.

Qualified mechanics — can assist with vehicle maintenance.

Oil collection site — for personal vehicles.

24-hour coin-operated car wash, vacuum and tire air pump — wash, rinse, wax system, towlettes, Armorall and vacuum.

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 preschool, 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.

Dinner and the Bible — 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Triangle Chapel Annex.

McBride Library

Patron appreciation day — 2-4 p.m. Tuesday; new book display, cookies and punch.

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

Free wireless Internet available — check at circulation desk.

Overdrive — information available at front desk.

Tours/orientations — call 377-2827.

Mental health clinic

Post-traumatic stress disorder — 1:30 p.m. Mondays.

Healthy thinking — 2 p.m. Tuesdays.

Stress management techniques — 10 a.m. Wednesdays.

Relaxation techniques — 9 a.m. Mondays.

To register, call 376-0385.

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Vandenberg Community Center

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

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

Editor's note: In the marina building overlooking Biloxi's Back Bay.

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

Thirsty Thursday — 5-7 p.m. May 29 with barbecue chicken, beef kabobs, baked beans, potato salad, rolls and apple cobbler with ice cream. \$6 club members, \$8 nonmembers.

Luncheon specials — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays. New menu each week. \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers. For more information, call 377-2219.

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

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

Catering — experts can assist with planning weddings, holidays, birthdays, official functions and other special occasions.

Youth center

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

Free track and field day — 4 p.m. May 22. Pre-registration required; refreshments available.

School's out disco — 6:30-10:30 p.m. May 23, ages 13 and older. \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers. DJ, table tournaments, video games, sack race, craft table, food and prizes.

Three-on-three basketball tournaments — 5 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays through May, ages 6-12. \$10 including T-shirts. Sports physical required. Call for more information.

Registration for summer camp/teen camp — ongoing for ages 6-12 and 13 and older. Camps are 11 weeks, beginning May 27. Sign up for as many or as few weeks as needed; fees based on family income.

Saturday night shots — 6-10 p.m. Hot-shot competition and 3-on-3 basketball tournament, ages 6-12. \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers. Refreshments and prizes.

Art, FitFactor, sewing clubs — 4-7 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, ages 9 and older. Free for members; pr-registration required.

Cooking club — Tuesday, ages 9 and older. Call for times. Free for members; space limited. Preregistration required.

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

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

Classes — 9 a.m. Saturdays. Dance and gymnastics, \$50 for members, \$55 nonmembers, ages 3 and older. Piano \$70 for members, \$75 nonmembers, ages 6 and older. Karate for ages 6 and older meets one week on Mondays and Tuesdays, following week Wednesdays and Thursdays; \$70 for members, \$75 for nonmembers; call for times.

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

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

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

Friday

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

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

Saturday

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

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

Sunday

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

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

Monday

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

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

Tuesday

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

Dinner — country captain chicken, meatloaf, turkey a la king, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, tempura vegetables, mustard greens, okra tomato gumbo, macaroni salad, cottage cheese salad, beef pot roast soup, vegetable soup, chicken chili, sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Wednesday

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

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TICKETS AND TRIPS

Gulf Islands Water Park — season tickets available.

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.

Here's to the Heroes — program provides a single day's free admission to any Sea World or Busch Gardens park, Sesame Place, Adventure Island or Water Country USA for any active duty, active reserve, ready reserve service member or National Guardsman and as many as three direct dependents. Register online at <http://www.herosalute.com> or in the entrance plaza of a participating park and show Department of Defense photo identification. Also included are members of foreign military coalition forces in Iraq or Afghanistan or attached to American units in the U.S. for training.

For more information, visit <http://www.4adventure.com> or call toll-free 1-800-4ADVENTURE.

TRANSITIONS

Workshops, briefings

Congressionally-mandated pre-separation briefings — counseling by airman and family readiness center for active-duty military members of any branch of service who'll receive honorable discharges and no extra transition benefits. Briefings Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 108A, Sablich Center, 1 p.m. for personnel who are separating and 2:30 p.m. for those who are retiring. Individuals with less than honorable discharges, receiving extra benefits such as second enrollment opportunity in Montgomery GI Bill, Reserve or Guard personnel coming off 180-day deployments or entering the disability system, call 376-8728 for individual counseling appointment. To register, call 376-8728.

Transition assistance program — planned dates are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 19-22, June 16-19, July 14-17, Aug. 11-14, Sept. 15-18, Oct. 20-23, Nov. 17-20 and Dec. 8-11, Room 108A, Sablich Center. For military personnel who are 12 months or less from separation or 24 months or less from retirement, and Department of Defense civilians; spouses welcome. Military members should complete congressionally-mandated pre-separation counseling in advance. Attire is business casual — no uniforms, jeans, shorts or T-shirts. To sign up, call 376-8728.

Military retirement benefit seminars — 8-10:30 a.m. June 5, July 10, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4, Room 108A, Sablich Center. Tricare, Survivor Benefit Plan, movement and storage of household goods, military and retired pay issues and other topics covered. Spouses encouraged to attend. To sign up, call 376-8728.

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 in Room 108B, Sablich Center. For an appointment, call Ron Bublik, 376-8502 or 376-8728, or e-mail ronald.bublik@keesler.af.mil.

Air Force Office of Special Investigations — senior airmen with less than six years time in service, and staff and technical sergeants with less than 12 years time in service are eligible. Foreign language, computer or technical skills are desired, but not required. Those accepted attend the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Ga. for training in instruction in law, report writing, forensics, interview techniques, firearms and defensive tactics and other subjects related to the challenges of investigative duty. For more information on applying, contact AFOSI Detachment 407, 377-3420.

Air Force Reserve opportunities — for members sepa-

rating within 180 days, visit Room 216, Sablich Center.

Palace Chase — for information about how to apply for a program to attend college full time and work part time, visit Room 216, Sablich Center.

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 Chapter 652 — 4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month, Katrina Kantina. For more information, call Master Sgt. Kat Hataway, 377-1389, 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 — For more information, call Senior Airman Aaron Eden, 1907; Staff Sgt. Brad Mills, 377-1714, or call 377-SAVE.

Asian Pacific-American Heritage Committee — 11:30 a.m. first Wednesday of month, Room 111, Sablich Center. For more information, call Lucy Belles, 377-2179, or Larry McKean, 377-3252.

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; Arleen Stewart, 377-2440, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

Blacks in Government — 5:15 p.m. second Thursday of the month, Taylor Logistics Building conference room. For more information call Florence Clay, 377-8681, or Paulette Powell, 377-2270.

Company grade officers council — meets first Wednesday of the month. For time and location, call 1st Lt. Michael Newson, 377-7626, michael.newson@keesler.af.mil.

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 — 3:30 p.m. third Thursday of the month, Katrina Kantina. For more information, call Master Sgt. Michael Krejci, 376-6346.

Tuskegee Airmen Inc., Col. Lawrence E. Roberts Chapter — 5 p.m. first Thursday of the month, McBride Library. 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 adults and \$1.50 children for regular features, and \$2.50 adults and \$1 children for matinees. For recording about current features, call 377-6627.

Friday — 6:30 p.m., 21 (PG-13, 118 minutes).

Saturday — closed.

Sunday — 1 p.m., Nim's Island (PG, 100 minutes).