



KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

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



INSIDE

COMMENTARY

Striving for safety, **2**
Personal fitness challenge, **2**
View through fresh eyes, **3**

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Tuition assistance, **4**
College registration, **7**

NEWS AND FEATURES

Sesame Street, **14**
Concrete crushing, **16**
'Green' transportation, **17**

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Flag football, **23**
Airmen at Olympics, **24**

SECTIONS

Commentary.....**2-3**
Training, education.....**4-7**
News, features.....**8-22**
Sports, recreation....**23-25**
Digest.....**26-28**
Classifieds.....**29**

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



Dragons deployed
183

Radar ready for refurbishment



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airman 1st Class Aaron Bryars, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, loosens bolts on a GPN-22 precision approach radar being dismantled for shipment to Tobyhanna Army Depot in Pennsylvania. The \$8.7 million radar, used to train ground radar apprentice students in the 338th Training Squadron, is being overhauled at a cost of \$1.9 million. Story, photo, Page 4.

DOD panel recommends retirement modifications

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A panel looking at military compensation has recommended dramatic changes in the military retirement system.

The recommendations are part of the second volume put out by members of the 10th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation.

The first volume, released in March, looked at cash compensation. Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Jan Eakle was director of the panel, and she briefed the press during a Pentagon news conference Aug. 5.

General Eakle said critics of the current military retirement system say it's not equitable, flexible or efficient.

"There is a perception that the system we have today is inequitable because only 15 percent of all enlisted personnel and less than half of officers will ever receive anything in the system," she said.

Reserve-component personnel also believe the current system discriminates against them, especially at a time when reserve forces are being called on more, she said.

The retirement proposal would offer a defined benefit, defined contributions, "gate" pays and separation pays.

The defined benefit would be 2.5 percent of the average basic pay for the highest 36 months of the individual's career multiplied by the number of years of service, with service members vested at

Please see **Retirement**, Page 9

Accepting some risk to accomplish our mission

By Gen. Stephen Lorenz

AETC commander

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — It's no secret. We're flying some old airplanes.

In fact, aging airplanes continue to consume much of our attention. We are currently replacing the wing boxes on our C-130s, first delivered in 1956.

Late last year, we grounded our F-15Cs, first delivered in 1974, after one literally broke apart in the sky. And more recently, we have focused on the T-38, which was first delivered in 1961.

In April, two Air Education and Training Command pilots died in a T-38 crash at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. The investigation board performed a thorough analysis of the wreckage, and we now know that the cause was a broken part — a lever in the wing. The lever broke as the airplane taxied, and this caused the flight controls to be ineffective on takeoff. This is the first time this part is known to have failed.

As soon as he found out about the levers, my predecessor, Gen. Bill Looney, directed a halt in flying to

allow inspection of every lever in the fleet. If a lever was cracked, or even if it had a nick, gouge or scratch, our team replaced it.

But we didn't stop there. We learned that the lever suffers high stress when flight controls are moved on the ground with no power, so we stopped this practice. In addition, our T-38 pilots paused to study the accident and the malfunction.

We have also teamed up with Air Force Materiel Command to take two important steps. First, we studied the levers in depth to react to the original problem. More importantly, we are being proactive by disassembling multiple aircraft to look for additional parts that may develop similar problems.

Because there's a very small chance that these levers may fail at some unspecified time in the future, AFMC is manufacturing new, stronger levers for all T-38s. As soon as these are available, we'll install them.

Some people will ask, "Why don't we stop flying until these levers are ready?" After a full discussion with commanders, flight engineers, mainte-

nance experts and instructor pilots, we decided that continuing to fly was the right thing to do. We weighed the risk of flying with that of not flying — including the loss of pilot proficiency. This decision wasn't easy, but the experience taught us important lessons about staying safe in the real world.

Safety is critical, but if we wanted to be perfectly safe, we would never fly. In fact, we wouldn't travel in our cars, play sports or walk to the park. In all of these activities, there is a small chance that an accident will happen. Even though we know this, we seldom think twice about driving to work, playing basketball or walking down the street. We all accept risk in order to live our lives.

In the Air Force, we must accept some risk in order to accomplish our mission. The T-38 is a very safe airplane to fly. You have my word that if I learn information to the contrary, we'll stop flying immediately. In the meantime, we will accept the inherent risks of flying to accomplish the mission of producing pilots.

Accepting that risk doesn't relieve us of the responsibility to be proactive.

Just as we are tearing T-38s apart looking for other parts that could break, we should look around our shops and seek out areas where our people are at risk.

When we find a dangerous situation, or one finds us, we must pause to consider our options. We should learn as much as we can and seek inputs from all levels. After taking time to think, commanders and supervisors should implement the safety measures that best minimize the risk to our people while allowing us to accomplish our mission. They should explain the problem and the plan of action to their people. After this, everyone should monitor the situation as they get back to work.

We can never drive risk to zero. We can, however, continuously strive to make our workplaces and processes safer. As Airmen, we have come a long way. My grandfather used to tell us how he participated in too many funeral processions when he attended pilot training in 1919. Since then, Airmen have been tremendously successful in reducing risk while training and fighting in the air. Now it's our turn.

Personal challenge: equal time for TV sports, fitness

By Col. Greg Touhill

81st Training Wing commander

Did you see the Olympic basketball game between the United States and China? Holy smokes! An estimated one billion people around the world saw some of the world's best athletes pound the hard court in a stunning victory for the Americans. Did you see Michael Phelps shatter the world record in earning his first gold medal of this Olympiad? Wow! How about the NFL preseason? I'm delighted the Steelers took home bragging rights in the "Battle of the Commonwealth" as they beat the Eagles. How about baseball? Will the Rays hang tough or will the Red Sox take 'em?

Americans typically love athletics. Gen. George Patton is attributed to have said that Americans have always loved to cheer the fastest runner, the



Colonel Touhill

toughest boxer, the strongest wrestler and the best team. Today, with TV ratings for professional sports at an all-time high, his words ring true. I'll bet each of you, man or woman, has turned on the TV and watched at least a few minutes of an athletic event

over the last week.

Folks, watching isn't doing, even if you're playing a Wii. Statistics show that a sedentary lifestyle directly contributes to numerous health problems, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, muscular atrophy and many medical terms I can't spell, let alone pronounce.

During this exciting sports period, I want to offer you a personal challenge: for every minute you spend watching sports on TV this week, try to spend an equal to or greater number of minutes engaged in physical exercise.

Air Force policy encourages military and civilian employees to work out. We have great gyms, a terrific health and wellness center, and authorize time during the duty day for fitness activities. Check out our wing fitness policy letter for details or see your squadron commander.

We don't dictate what type of exercise you engage in — we want you healthy and fit.

If you've been sitting on your duff and don't think you can keep up with the youngsters, start out smartly. Walk (yes, walk) over to the HAWC and get some advice on putting together a good plan that will get you in shape. Make time for exercise and incorporate wellness into your daily plan. Come to the gym and watch your sports favorites while working out on the treadmill, elliptical trainer or bikes. Keep a log to track your progress. There are so many healthy and fun options for military and civilians alike. I don't expect you to perform at an Olympic level, yet I do expect everyone to get out and exercise at least three times a week.

I've presented the challenge to you. I'm going to do it too. I'll be out there in my PT gear ... hope to see you soon!

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).

For personal responses, include your name, address and phone number. Items of general interest may appear in this column.



DRAGON ON THE STREET

What sport are you most looking forward to watching during the Olympics?



I like to watch soccer because I play it, but I'm also looking forward to track and field and swimming events.

— **Staff Sgt. Ranson Coleman, 81st Supply-Transportation Squadron.**



I'll be watching the basketball to see the US team take it to the world!

— **Master Sgt. Neil Sherman, 81st Force Support Squadron**



I like the new extreme mountain biking event introduced for Beijing 2008.

— **Capt. Ted West, 81st Training Wing**

Viewing Keesler with fresh set of eyes

By **Col. Jeffrey Jackson**

81st Mission Support Group commander

The last two months have been a blur — packing out at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, going-away luncheons, taking leave in Kentucky, the change of command, the chief master sergeant of the Air Force visit, the Innkeeper Award team visit and the list goes on.

It has been a power-packed two months since I took command of the 81st Mission Support Group. As we all know, when you first arrive at a new duty location you tend to see things differently than those who've been around for a while.

With a fresh set of eyes I'd like to tell you what I've seen in the last two months at Keesler — hard work, great customer service and a never-quit spirit!

When I found out I was headed for Keesler, I said, "Hallelujah!" As an Air Education and Training Command staffer for three years, I watched the entire Keesler rebuild epic unfold, and I was anxious to see the results for myself.

My next reaction was, "What kind of shape will I find the base in?" Fortunately, I went to Keesler on a temporary assignment about a month later, and as I drove on the base, I was immediately impressed by the progress you've made and the great shape the base is in.

As a 23-year Air Force civil engineer, the first thing I noticed was the outstanding job you have done executing an enormous military construction program while also progressing through the Air Force's largest housing rebuild project. The numbers are staggering — you've executed nearly \$1 billion in projects to include a physical plant which is now the best in the Air Force.

While the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron gets a large part of the credit for this amazing feat, it was everyone's teamwork that made this a reality. You've endured closed roads, water main breaks, power outages and multiple housing moves, but the payoff will be amazing. Keesler is poised to be the new "Showplace of the Air Force."

While all the new buildings will be very impressive, we all



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Lodging training manager Jurline Edwards, left, is interviewed by Alison Reid from the Air Force Services Agency during Air Force Innkeeper Award evaluations earlier this month.

know that without a "how can I help you?" customer service attitude, even the best facilities can feel sterile.

One of Keesler's hallmarks is great customer service. One example is the recent visit by the Air Force Innkeeper Award Evaluation Team. Keesler represented AETC in this year's competition because we're the best in the command. Our customer service spirit impressed the team who said they observed, "superior customer service in every interaction." They reported finding "many 'best seen' and 'beyond compare' programs." I want to thank the Inns of Keesler team and the entire base for outstanding support during the competition judging.

To finish my "new set of eyes" tour, let me say I am so proud to be a part of a team which doesn't know the meaning of quit. Your hard work, customer service spirit and never-quit attitude have attracted the attention of the Air Force and the world. Everywhere I go I can see that Keesler is back — the past is past and many scars remain, but for all practical purposes, Keesler is 100 percent up and open for Air Force business!

KEESLER NEWS

81st Training Wing commander

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Keesler on the Web

<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Photo by Dale Riggins

The GPN-22 radar antenna located between the supply warehouse and Cody Hall is lowered to be dismantled for shipment to Tobyhanna Army Depot in Pennsylvania. The depot, a major element of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, is the largest full-service electronics maintenance facility in the Department of Defense.

Radar readied for refurbishment

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

When the 81st Training Support Squadron needed to send a GPN-22 precision approach radar to Pennsylvania for refurbishing, three Keesler squadrons were there to support the project.

The 85th Engineering Installation Squadron sent a team to lower and dismantle the 30-foot antenna. The 81st Civil Engineer Squadron provided crane support, and the 81st Supply-Transportation Squadron prepared the equipment for shipment.

The GPN-22 is used in the 338th Training Squadron's ground radar apprentice course to train about 157 students annually.

The \$8.7 million unit is being sent to Tobyhanna Army Depot for a \$1.9 million overhaul expected to take about 10 months, according to Dale Riggins, who's responsible for equipment resources in the 81st TRSS.

The 11-member 85th EIS team used lifting

slings and a crane operated by Charles Koch and Staff Sgt. Michael Cleveland from the 81st CES to bring down the antenna. The five sections were bolted and strapped to wooden skids, and the equipment shelter was readied for shipment.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Bricker was team chief for the 85th EIS, and Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Noecker planned the teardown.

Team members from the 85th EIS included Master Sgt. Stephen Oldham; Tech. Sgts. Brenda Gibbs and Janet Holmes; Staff Sgts. Seth Stanko and Walt Ferrell; Senior Airmen Matthew Hoefing, Dustin Rogers and Ivan Guerrero; Airman 1st Class Aaron Bryars and Airman Cedric White.

Fred Breland from the 81st SUPS-TRANS directed packing and crating of the equipment.

"The total job was completed one week and three days ahead of schedule," Mr. Riggins pointed out. "We have two other GPN-22s, one refurbished recently, so training won't be impacted while the overhaul is taking place."

Tuition assistance forms can be completed online

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Airmen are now only a few mouse clicks away from financial support for their college education, thanks to the new tuition assistance feature on the Air Force's virtual education center.

Online since early 2003, the virtual education center helps Airmen pursue their education from a computer by allowing active-duty Airmen and guardsmen and reservists on Title 10 or 32 orders to complete tuition assistance paperwork online.

Tuition assistance contributed to the award of more than 22,000 associate degrees, 5,000 bachelor degrees and 5,000 master's degrees in fiscal year 2007.

"It's a continual process to make (the site) a one-stop-shop for the Airmen's educational needs," said Kendall McAree, the Air Force's education systems manager at the Pentagon. "We're very excited to be able to now make tuition assistance available online."

Air Force tuition assistance is a quality of life program that provides 100 percent tuition assistance and fees for college courses taken by eligible

Airmen during off-duty hours. It's capped at \$250 per semester hour (or \$166 per quarter hour) and at \$4500 per fiscal year. It is one of the most frequent reasons given for enlisting and re-enlisting in the Air Force, according to the Air Force virtual education center Web site.

Tuition assistance can also be used to help pay for some certification and licensing programs.

Now that all the application paperwork is online, Ms. McAree hopes more Airmen take advantage of the program.

"Airmen can now access the information anywhere at any time, whether they are at home or deployed somewhere," she said. "With the online signature, all the paperwork can be routed through the appropriate channels faster and more efficiently. The Airman never has to step foot in an education center, which is good, because some Airmen are in places where there are no education centers."

Before registering, Airmen need to have a few pieces of information. They must know the name of the school, the exact term dates, course information and registration fees. If attending multiple schools, the applicant must file a request for each insti-

tuition. If tuition exceeds the amount of tuition assistance authorized, applicants can elect the "VA top-up" option and eligible Airmen can request to use the Montgomery GI Bill to cover the balance.

Airmen may drop or change courses without penalty after completing a tuition assistance form, as long as the base education center and the school are notified. However, if Airmen drop classes after the drop period has closed, they must still notify both the school and the education office, but they are liable for the cost of tuition unless they qualify for a waiver of tuition assistance reimbursement.

Enlisted members repay tuition assistance if they fail a class, and officers and anyone taking graduate level courses must maintain at least a "C" average to avoid tuition assistance repayment.

Ms. McAree said the new online capability also frees up education center personnel, who spent a lot of time doing the paperwork involved with tuition assistance. Now, she said, they are able to devote more time to face-to-face counseling and assistance with customers.

There are a few instances when Airmen will get a "disapproved" notification after applying. Reasons for

rejection might include missing grades for classes taken more than 60 days ago, submitting an incomplete application, lacking a degree plan on file in the education office or requesting tuition assistance for classes more than 30 days from the application date or for classes that have already begun.

Once the application is approved, which is normally within 48 hours, Airmen send a copy of the approved form to the school, according to Carolyn McKenzie, a Keesler education office technician.

Some Keesler federal employees may also qualify for civilian tuition assistance. Courses must be job-related and approved by the education office. Since funding for the program is limited, access is based on a first-come, first-served basis. Money for the fiscal year 2007 program ran out in January, but new applicants will be considered Oct. 1. Interested applicants can apply at the education office and are limited to one class per semester.

The Air Force Virtual Education Center link is available through the Air Force Portal at <https://my.af.mil/afvecprod>.

Staff Sgt. Tanya Holditch, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report.

Registration dates

Registration dates for on-base colleges:

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College — through Aug. 21, active duty; Tuesday through Aug. 21, civilians. Classes begin Aug. 25.

William Carey College — through Aug. 22. Classes begin Aug. 25.

University of Southern Mississippi — classes begin Aug. 20.

Night monitor needed

The four colleges located at Keesler have a position vacancy for night monitor during evening classes, Monday through Thursday

Applicants from the 335th Training Squadron located in Allee Hall and other active-duty personnel are preferred.

Friday is the application deadline.



Academic ace

Airman 1st Class Jan Racoma graduated from the electronic principles course in the 332nd Training Squadron with a perfect score Wednesday. Airman Racoma, from Demarest, N.J., is an electronic warfare system apprentice and is headed to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, for follow-on training.

For more information, call Ann Norris, 376-8478, or Patti Holloway, 896-2510.

Parking lot closes

The parking lot on the southeast side of the Keesler

NCO Academy Building is closed until about 8:30 a.m. Aug. 27 and noon Sept. 10 for drill practice and evaluations.

In the event of inclement weather, the hours may change or the lot is open.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Greg Jackson, 377-2740.

Drill downs, parades

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

Parades — 6 p.m. Aug. 21 and Oct. 16.

Drill downs — 7 a.m. Sept. 19; 8 a.m. Nov. 14.

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

CCAF fall graduation

Aug. 28 is the deadline to apply for the Community College of the Air Force fall graduation class.

By that date, all supporting documentation must be on file at CCAF, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., including your nomination action request. For more information, call 376-8710 or visit the education office in Room 224, Sablich Center.

WAPS testing

The test administration period for Weighted Airman Promotion System Test Cycle 08E9 is Sept. 9-12.

If individuals are unavailable for the entire testing window, they're encouraged to test prior to the announced start of the test cycle.

Individuals who aren't tested prior to departure should be tested as soon as possible after their return to Keesler or arrival at a new base if there's a permanent change of station, unless they qualify for additional preparation time due to contingency operations.

Personnel projected to retire or separate during the promotion schedule must be scheduled to test or decline testing.

For more information, call Frances Thomas-Frye, 376-4415.

CCAF online

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

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

Student health center

The student health center in the Triangle is open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

For more information, call 377-7016.

ACSC options

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

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

For more information, call Joyce James, 376-8472.

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.

GI Bill benefits

Montgomery GI Bill benefits may be used in conjunction with tuition assistance.

For more information, call the education office, 376-8708.

Officer records

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

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

Student TMO

Short sheet briefings at the technical training traffic management office are 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

Briefings are held in Room 213, Levitow Training Support Facility in the Triangle.

For more information, call 377-3147 or visit Room 211, Levitow Training Support Facility.

Panel suggests Tricare changes

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Members of the Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation have recommended fee changes to Tricare, the military's health care system.

The recommendations mostly would affect retirees and won't affect active-duty service members or their dependents, said retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Jan Eakle, director of the study, in a Pentagon briefing Aug. 5.

"Retiree fees ought to relate to how much the plan is worth," she said. "Higher-value plans should have higher premiums associated with them."

The panel believes fees need to be fair to all retired military members, General Eakle said.

"They ought to reflect how much income an individual has, so that if they make more money and are therefore better able to pay for a system, they should do so," she said.

One problem is the Tricare fee structure hasn't changed in 13 years, the general said.

"When Tricare started out in 1995, military members, retirees were charged \$230 per individual, \$460 per family," she said. "Today in 2008, they're charged \$230 per individual, \$460 per family."

In 1995, service members paid 27 percent of their health care cost. Today that share is less than 12 percent.

Over-65 military retirees using the "Tricare for Life" program have been paying the Medicare Part B program fee of 25 percent which is due to rise.

"Essentially what this says is that we are asking our older retirees, who are in fact the least likely to hold jobs and therefore have the lowest incomes, to pay the most for their system," General Eakle said.

But Tricare for Life is a much more generous program than Tricare Prime, she said.

"We need to get some parity

between our older and younger retirees," General Eakle said.

"We believe that the under-65 retirees should begin paying 40 percent of the Medicare Part B premium using the same fee structure that is laid on by the Medicare system," she continued.

"We believe the under-65 retirees ... who elect to use Tricare Standard and Extra need to pay a small fee for that, and we suggest that fee be set at 15 percent of the Medicare Part B," General Eakle said. "We think the family rate should be set at double the individual rate and the premium increase needs to be phased in over four years."

Other recommendations include using establishing an open enrollment period for Tricare; adopting the Medicare deductible rate for Tricare, and providing all co-pays and co-insurance for any preventative service at no cost to all members and retirees with access to Tricare.

Travel regulation change protects renters whose landlords default

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A change to the Joint Federal Travel Regulations authorizes the military to pay to move service members and their families whose landlords default on property the military members are renting.

The change, approved Aug. 8, is retroactive to July 30, the date the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 was signed. That law strengthened regulation of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac government-backed mortgage companies and created a new program to help about 400,000 families save homes from foreclosure.

The federal regulation change is designed to help military members forced to relocate locally when landlords default on their mortgages. It doesn't apply to military members who own their own homes and default on their loans.

Army Lt. Col. Les Melnyk, a Pentagon spokesman, said the change comes as welcome news to the high percentage of service members who rent rather than buy their homes due to frequent moves. While more than 65 percent of

Americans own their homes, only about 25 percent of service members are homeowners, he said.

Because they rent their residences at disproportionately high numbers, service members haven't been impacted as heavily by the foreclosure crisis facing many communities, he said. But anecdotal evidence indicates that a growing number experience the second-hand effects of the crisis when their landlords default and they're forced to quickly find new housing nearby.

"When that happens, the service member shouldn't have to incur the cost of the move," Colonel Melnyk said. "This change in the Joint Federal Travel Regulation ensures that they are financially protected when this happens and shows that we as a department care about our troops and their welfare."

Colonel Melnyk encouraged service members to contact their housing or administrative officers if they believe the new JTFR change may help them. In addition, he urged all service members to take advantage of free legal and financial counseling offered at all military installations and through the Military OneSource Web site.

IN THE NEWS

Hurricane preparedness meetings

Hurricane preparedness is the focus of three town hall meetings at Welch Auditorium — 8 a.m. Monday, 4 p.m. Tuesday and 10 a.m. Wednesday.

"We'll cover the new hurricane plan, timelines, new policies, an explanation of 'storm mission essential' and what that means to personnel and dependents, preparedness, coping, compensation and other topics," said Staff Sgt. Bradley Baker, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron readiness and emergency management flight.

Sergeant Bradley's flight gives a briefing, along with representatives from Keesler Medical Center and the finance, legal, safety and life skills office. Spouses are invited to attend.

Commitment to End Violence

Wednesday, two sessions are scheduled for the Commitment to End Violence seminar in the Airman Leadership School auditorium.

From 8 a.m. to noon, there's domestic violence and sexual assault training. From 1-5 p.m., the topic is emergency department care for victims of sexual assault.

For more information or to register for either or both sessions, call the sexual assault prevention and response program office, 377-8635.

Tyer House reception desk closing

When the lodging reception desk at Tyer House closes Aug. 22, customers are required to use the reception desk at Muse Manor to check in, check out or conduct other business.

For more information, call 377-4900 or 9986.

Q Street closure

Q Street between Chappie James Avenue and L Street closes permanently Aug. 28 to allow for construction of the new training aids facility

New travel cards on the way

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Citibank officials are mailing out new government travel charge cards through Sept. 19.

Cards are mailed to Mississippi cardholders Aug. 29 through Sept. 9.

New cards are sent to addresses on file with Bank of America, so cardholders must ensure their information is current. Any mail sent to an incorrect address is returned to Citibank. Those who don't receive a new card by Oct. 1 should contact their base program coordinator.

Cards won't be active until Nov. 30, so cardholders continue to use Bank of America cards until then. Cardholders need to verify receipt of the new card by following enclosed instructions.

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.

Retirement,

from Page 1

10 years of service. Payments to retirees would begin at age 60 for those with less than 20 years of service and at age 57 for those with 20 years of service or more.

Service members could opt for an immediate annuity, but the payout would follow the Federal Employee Retirement System methodology: a 5 percent penalty per year for early withdrawal.

The defined contribution portion would be an automatic government-funded Thrift Savings Plan. Service members wouldn't have to match any government payment. The government wouldn't put in any money for the first year, but would put in 2 percent of base pay for two years of service, 3 percent for three and four years of service, and 5 percent for five and more years of service. Contributions would be vested after 10 years of service.

The military also would make "gate pays" to service members who reach specific years of service. These would vary by years of service and skills, General Eakle said.

"This is a payment made for achieving a particular year of service," she explained. "And within the services, they would have the flexibility to vary this by year of service as well as by skill. That way, they could begin to shape the skills by dragging people further into their career by offering them an incentive."

Finally, the system would include separation pay to service members that would

"The recommendation of this (Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation) is that the Department of Defense conduct a multi-year test of this system."

— General Eakle

also vary by years of service and skills.

"The separation payments would be made available by the service to members that they wished to entice to leave," General Eakle said. This would be a permanent tool services would have available, she added.

The panel used a Rand Corporation computer model to test the recommendations, but General Eakle said the panel members would like a large-scale test in the Defense Department.

"Therefore, the recommendation of this QRMC is that the Department of Defense conduct a multi-year test of this system," General Eakle said. "The way the test would work is this: All four services would be asked to identify some skills that have different types of retention patterns — some that stay not very long, some that stay longer periods of time and ones they wish to influence."

The test would offer people in those skills in the first eight

years of service an opportunity to volunteer.

"If someone was selected for the test, they would be paid all of the TSP that they should have earned up until that point, and it will be put in their TSP account for them," she said. "The program's vesting rules would in fact apply to all those individuals. So should they achieve 10 years of service while they are in the test, they would fully own it."

At the end of the test period, people who are in the new system who wish to revert to the original retirement system would be allowed to do so, she said.

Any change in the retirement system would require action by Congress. DOD officials said they will carefully examine the panel's recommendations and then decide if they should move forward. The study will take at least six to 12 months, so any decision would be made by the next administration, DOD officials added.

Drive drunk and you're sunk



Staff Sgt. Christopher Lanier, 81st Security Forces Squadron, apprehends a drunken driver in this photo illustration by Kemberly Groue. Driving under the influence arrests have decreased — 18 in the first four months of 2008, and only nine since May. Airmen Against Drunk Driving has taken 245 calls for free rides home since May, compared to 88 calls for the first four months of the year. If you've been drinking, call 377-SAVE (7283) for a free ride home, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Thursday-Saturday on compressed work schedule weeks and Friday-Saturday during regular work weeks.

CORRECTION

An outdated phone number for the legal office appeared in the Aug. 7 issue of the Keesler News.

The current phone number, which went into effect when the office moved back to Sablich Center earlier this year, is 376-8601.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Waiver for reservists on active duty

Air Force Print News

ROBINS Air Force Base, Ga. — More than 1,600 reservists have received or will receive a waiver to stay on active duty after Sept. 30.

Nearly four years ago, reservists through the rank of colonel received permission to serve up to 1,095 man-days of the previous 1,460 days in a rolling four-year calendar.

The program encourages reservists to volunteer and makes service more predictable for them, their families and their employers, according to Ed Turner from the readiness operations branch at Air Force Reserve Command headquarters.

"A waiver is required for a member to go beyond 1,095 days in a rolling 1,460-day period," he said. "We have numerous volunteers and we want to encourage volunteerism."

Headquarters officials received more than 2,200 requests from reservists asking to stay beyond 1,095 man-days this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30.

The top three Air Force specialties requesting waivers are security forces, civil engineering and aerial port.

The 1,095 waiver program was enacted as part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2005. The program will remain in effect until rescinded.

Quarterly EQUAL posting

The Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing for April-June 2009 is available through the Assignment Management System accessible through the Air Force Portal.

The overseas listing was posted Friday. Assignment preferences need to be updated by Aug. 23, and the overseas assignment release is scheduled for Aug. 25 through Sept. 15.

Military members affected by A-76

All military members affected by A-76 should have an assignment by Sept. 30.

Members who didn't receive an overseas assignment during the last cycle are reconsidered during the upcoming cycle. Assignment locations are included in the Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing. Eligible personnel must have their assignment preferences updated in the virtual military personnel flight by Aug. 23 to be considered for an assignment. The Air Force Personnel Center begins flowing assignments about Aug. 25 for those who are selected.

The AFPC assignments team is expected to return to Keesler in September to speak to with the individuals that weren't selected for one of their eight choices. Once these individuals have been identified, AFPC will offer assignment choices that the Air Force may be able to support.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Sharon Cleveland, 376-8380.

AFPC secure Web site upgraded

A new, updated version of Air Force Personnel Center Secure is now available.

Users should replace any bookmarked links for AFPC Secure with new links. The changes incorporated in this version improve security by requiring passwords that are a minimum of 15 characters. Users using the common access and exclusively are forced to either update their passwords or delete them.

For more information, visit the AFPC "Ask" Web site at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>, or call the 24-hour Air Force Contact Center, 1-800-616-3775.

Retraining provides NCOs career-shaping opportunities

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Volunteers are needed to accept jobs in more than 1,077 shortage career field and special duty positions during the 2009 Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program which began Aug. 1.

Officials especially need NCOs to work in the Office of Special Investigation career field or to lead Airmen in the first sergeant career field.

NCOs were notified Aug. 6 that they have been identified to retrain. They must choose from the listing of shortage career fields when submitting their retraining packages which are due no later than Sept. 30.

"NCOs have the opportunity now to volunteer and establish a career path of their own choosing," said Chief Master Sgt. Christine Williams, Air Force Personnel Center enlisted skills management branch chief. "Last year, volunteers filled 62 percent of shortages, and we hope to eclipse that percentage this year."

Eligible NCOs can now apply for retraining

Paralegal possibilities

Retraining opportunities exist in the paralegal career field.

Qualifications include rank of at least senior airman with a minimum 5-skill level in any Air Force Specialty Code, minimum score of 51 on the general Airman Qualifying Exam; type at least 25 words per minute and have no convictions by court-martial, punishment under Article 15 or conviction by civilian court excluding minor traffic violations.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Tavia Whitley, 376-8145.

through AFPC's online applications process. When needed, personnel assistance is available for retraining questions through the 24-hour Air Force Contact Center.

Retraining eligibility listings by grade and Air Force Specialty Code were posted on AFPC's virtual military personnel flight Web site Aug. 6. By selecting a particular grade or projected grade, NCOs may view their ranking on the list and apply for retraining.

"AFPC is making personnel services as easy as online banking," said Chief Williams. "If you need to submit a package, you do it all on line."

"The Air Force will take additional steps if necessary to fill these shortage career fields, but would prefer to fill them with volunteers," said Master Sgt. Deitra Mathis, AFPC's

enlisted retraining superintendent.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Kelle Turner, Keesler's career assistance adviser, 377-3697, or the Air Force Contact Center, 1-800-616-3775 or DSN 665-5000.

Extra copies of the Keesler News hurricane supplement are available in the public affairs office, Room 201-A, Wall Studio.

Keesler's hurricane preparedness video is available at <http://www.keesler.af.mil>.

Sing your way to shopping spree

DALLAS – The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is issuing a casting call for aspiring entertainers to perform a rap or jingle that could net them a \$500 shopping spree and a chance to be heard on the exchange's worldwide television and radio networks.

Open to authorized shoppers 18 years or older, the contest is a chance for members of the military community to write and perform an original jingle or rap song up to 30 seconds in length.

Contest submissions can be about these four themes:

What AAFES means to the entrant.

The benefit AAFES provides military shoppers.

Savings found at base and post exchanges. Information is available at <http://www.aafes.com/docs/valuestory.htm>.

What the AAFES "community connection" means to the military community. Information is found at http://www.aafes.com/Patriot_Family/home.asp.

Each of the 12 winners receive a \$500 AAFES shopping spree.

Entries are accepted electronically through <http://www.aafes.com> or PatriotFamily@aafes.com or by mail through Oct. 6.

Submissions are judged on style and creativity, suitability to be an AAFES official jingle, overall performance and portrayal of the themes.

For more information, including a selection of approved backing tracks, go to http://www.aafes.com/Patriot_Family/rapjingle.asp

AAFES, Hanes gift card giveaway

DALLAS – The Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Hanes, maker of clothing, socks and underwear for men, women and kids, are giving away 30 \$1,000 exchange gift cards, Friday through Aug. 21.

Eligible shoppers fill out an entry form at their nearest exchange over the six-day period.

DRAGON OF THE WEEK

Name — Tech. Sgt. Elvin Muniz
Position — dental laboratory technician
Unit — 81st Dental Squadron
Time in Air Force — eight years
Time at Keesler — one year

Hometown — Aguadilla, Puerto Rico
Noteworthy — I barely understood English when I joined the Air Force. This motivated me to challenge myself, and with a lot of effort and dedication, I managed to make technical sergeant in seven years.

Why did you join the Air Force? I joined the Air Force to serve my country and to provide my beautiful family a high quality of life.

What are your goals? Short term, I want to become a better leader and



Photo by Steve Pivnick

mentor, and to make master sergeant next year. In my personal life, I want to become a better Christian. Long-term, I want to stay in the Air Force and apply for a commissioning program.

Your favorite quote? “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
— Philippians 4:13

What are your hobbies? Softball and automotive work, especially old Volkswagens

DIAMOND NOTES

To present the proper military image,
umbrellas carried in uniform
will be plain black
and carried in the left hand.

Senior Master Sgt. Roger Coates
366th Training Squadron, Detachment 6, first sergeant



MEMORABLE MOMENTS



Aug. 1, 1981

As a result of a strike by the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Association, Keesler's 3300th Technical Training Wing had to increase its production of air traffic controllers.



Promotion list released Wednesday

Staff sergeant promotion results are released at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

Keesler's list appears in the Aug. 21 issue of the Keesler News.

The Air Force list is available online at the Air Force Personnel Center home page "spotlight" at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>



Courtesy photo

“The Sesame Street Experience for Military Families” helps children of service members to cope with the challenges of homecomings, deployments and changes.

Sesame Street comes to Keesler

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

“The Sesame Street Experience for Military Families” is coming to Keesler, 6 p.m. Sept. 3-4 at Welch Auditorium.

Sesame Street is partnering with the USO to bring the furry, fuzzy, friendly characters to entertain military families at about 40 military installations across the country.

Although admission is free, tickets are required. There are 650 tickets available for each performance through Aug. 29. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at the airman and family readiness center in Sablich Center for families of deployed members,



who receive priority seating for the hour-long event. Tickets are also available for military families at the child development center and youth center.

Staff Sgt. Laureen Hardee from the mental health flight is project officer for the program. She said the Keesler Integrated Resource Team submitted a request last year to bring the event to Keesler.

“The presentation is intended to entertain military families and to educate the base community to help children cope with the challenges of homecomings, deploy-

Dinner is served

Legends Café, adjacent to Welch Auditorium, offers an early bird pizza buffet, 4-6 p.m. before both performances.

The cost is \$3 for children and \$6 for adults, which includes a soft drink.

ments and changes,” Sergeant Hardee explained. “There’s a live 20-minute Sesame Street mini-show with special songs and dance, plus free Sesame Street giveaways and educational resources on various important topics.”

For more information, call 376-0385.



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Concrete crushing

Recycled materials used for road beds, fishing reefs

By Staff Sgt. Tanya Holditch

Keesler News editor

The 81st Civil Engineer Squadron's concrete crushing program is making an impact on both the environment and the Air Force budget.

The program began in 2001 as a joint partnership between 81st CES and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources to recycle concrete salvaged from on-base demolition projects.

The excess concrete came from Triangle Vision projects," which called for the demolition of 12 three-story dormitories. The crushed concrete helped form 26 artificial reefs in local coastal waters. They were built to promote growth of aquatic life, which would in turn stimulate the local economy through tourism and consumer purchases such as boats, bait, licenses and tackle.

The fact that the concrete didn't go into a landfill was a huge plus, said Teddy James, 81st CES environmental flight chief.

"Keesler wasn't filling up landfills with something that wasn't going to decompose," Mr. James explained.

Hurricane Katrina brought the project to a halt.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Concrete is processed at the former Harrison Court military housing area east of the base.

"Now that the reef program was on hold, the concrete still needed a place to go," said Mr. James. "The road base project thought process was conceived by the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment and 81 CES engineers — we firmly believed that concrete didn't need to go into a landfill. We didn't have the reef program anymore, so we had to figure out what to do with the concrete."

Planned demolitions included the base exchange, the commissary and military family housing units. Now 81st CES uses the crushed concrete for road base.

"Not only are we not filling up a landfill, but we don't have to buy the product to build the base of the roads," said Mr. James. "With all of the development in military housing, we have to build new roads to accommodate the construction development."

So far, Keesler has diverted more than 30,000 tons of concrete for the road bed base in 2008 alone, but that amount continues to climb as home

Keesler has diverted more than 30,000 tons of concrete for the road bed base in 2008 alone. Nearly 97 percent of the waste is diverted into a reusable source. The Air Force goal for recycling all solid waste is currently 40 percent.

demolition continues. In the past year, 270 homes have been leveled.

Nearly 97 percent of the waste from these demolitions is diverted

into a reusable source, according to Mr. James. The Air Force goal for recycling all solid waste is currently 40 percent.

"The performance management office in CE does a very good job of diverting the waste and reusing it," said Mr. James.

The PMO was created as a temporary solution to manage the nearly \$1 billion in military construction projects generated by Hurricane Katrina.

"When Katrina came, engineering work (at Keesler) increased exponentially, so we needed a flight to take care of the engineering process for the projects taking place over the next several years," Mr. James pointed out.

As rebuilding is completed, concrete recycling efforts won't be terminated.

"We'll look for alternatives such as sending concrete from future projects to private sector recycling companies that use the material for items such as federal or state highway road base," said Mr. James.

Transporters embrace 'green' initiatives

By Staff Sgt. Carlos Rodriguez

Keesler Public Affairs

According to the Energy Information Administration, the United States is the biggest polluting nation in the world. The U.S. has the highest greenhouse emissions and uses the most energy of any country, despite having a population one-fifth that of China.

Despite these statistics — or perhaps because of them — many Americans are going “green.” An example of this attitude shift can be found right here at Keesler where the 81st Training Wing commander, Col. Greg Touhill, is a great supporter of a spate of new and existing green initiatives.

“Going green’ is all about being good stewards of America’s resources,” said Colonel Touhill. “As Americans, we should all be striving to preserve our environment and conserve resources.”

One agency on base dedicated to making a concerted effort to fight global warming and reduce energy consumption and greenhouse emissions is the 81st Supply-Transportation Squadron, winner of the 2008 Arbor Day Foundation award for a program run by the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron to find the “greenest” unit on Keesler.

“We’re really going with the vision set forth by Colonel Touhill and our commander, Maj. Clarence Lee,” said Master Sgt. Kevin Benjamin, the unit’s vehicle management superintendent. “From an environmental perspective, it’s important that Keesler’s going green.”

Among the many initiatives already in place, vehicle managers place a lot of emphasis on recycling.



Tech. Sgt. Yolanda Jerry, 81st SUPS-TRANS, checks fluid levels on an LSV.

“We currently purchase only recycled oil, recycled antifreeze and recycled tires,” said Capt. Tyrone Hill, vehicle management flight commander. “We also recycle all of our used oil, antifreeze, oil filters and tires.

As well as these current initiatives, the squadron also plans to introduce even more environmentally-friendly policies in the next two years.

“We are introducing low-speed vehicles into our fleet,” said Captain Hill. “They have automatic speed limiters, are 50 percent cheaper than regular four-door sedans and get almost double the fuel economy.

“We already have one LSV in our fleet and are forecasted to receive 12 by 2010 and a total of 20 by 2011,” he added.

LSVs are only one type of energy-saving vehicle planned to become part of Keesler’s future fleet.

“We also plan to introduce alternative fuel vehicles such as those that run on E85, a blend of ethanol and gasoline, and are also slated to start

leasing gasoline-and-electricity hybrid vehicles,” said Captain Hill.

The impetus behind these myriad changes comes not only from the wing, but also from the federal government.

“Some of the new federal rules do dictate some of our policies,” said Sergeant Benjamin. “But, I believe that Keesler is among the Air Force’s leaders in these new eco-friendly initiatives.”

Even with all of these changes, the vehicle management team takes its “green” commitment further.

“We send out monthly newsletters to all of our base vehicle control officers with tips on how to conserve fuel and be energy efficient with their government-owned vehicles,” said Sergeant Benjamin.

These green policies, while saving energy and reducing the base’s carbon footprint, also save the wing money.

“The intention of the ‘go green’ initiatives is not to save budgetary monies, though,” said Captain Hill. “The initia-



**Photos by Kemberly Groue
Tech. Sgt. Steven Lyonnais, 81st SUPS-TRANS, crushes oil filters for recycling.**

tives are designed to reduce harmful emissions in the air and chemical contamination in landfills and groundwater. The savings to the environment carry significant ethical importance.”

For more
news
and photos,
visit
[http://www.
keesler.af.mil](http://www.keesler.af.mil)



Foreground from left, Tech. Sgt. James Malone and Master Sgt. Chad Heilman, and back row from left, Capt. Michael Zink, Tech. Sgt. Jesse Goodwin, Petty Officer 1st Class Youssef Saab, Master Sgt. Michael Babbitt and Tech. Sgt. Joel Desjardins design, measure and paint the “combo court” at Pecan Park Elementary School in Ocean Springs. All are instructors in the 332nd Training Squadron. Petty Officer Saab is assigned to the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit.

Mad Dogs upgrade Pecan Park playground

Sergeant Malone paints the center circle on the Pecan Park playground court. The all-in-one court is designed to be used for basketball, tennis and volleyball.

Photos by Kemberly Groue





Free book bags help Keesler kids get ready for school

Four-year-old Alyssa Padro and her dad, Staff Sgt. Carlos Padro, get a free book bag and school supplies from Airman 1st Class Lauren Davidson, a student volunteer from the 334th Training Squadron, at a back-to-school bash, Aug. 5 in marina park. Sergeant Padro is assigned to the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, and his wife, Michell, works at the child development center. About 200 book bags were distributed. The event featured food, drinks and a variety of activities. The chapel sponsored the event, with support from the airman and family readiness center, drug demand reduction office and outdoor recreation.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

KEESLER NOTES

Breakfast is served

The 11th Frame Café at Gaudé Lanes now serves breakfast, 6:30-10 a.m. weekdays.

DAPS open house

The Defense Logistics Agency's Document Automation and Production Service holds an open house, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at 708 Fisher St., Suite 102.

Open house

The Keesler Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program holds an open house in its new offices on the third floor of Locker House, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday.

For easy access, use the stairwell entrance near the intersection of Third and D Streets.

Refreshments are served.

For more information, call 377-8635.

Spouses club event

The Keesler Spouses Club holds its annual information fair and activities social, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sept. 9 at the youth center.

The open house provides information about the base to members and those interested in joining the group.

Door prizes are awarded.

For more information, contact Mary Valle, 273-2713, e-mail marykayvalle@hotmail.com, or Jeanne Newberry, 424-2348, e-mail waphyl@aol.com.

Housing office hours

The military family housing office, Room 118, Sablich Center, is now open on compressed work schedule Fridays.

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday.

For more information, call 376-8611.

Airman's Attic

The Top III is looking for volunteers to support Airman's Attic, a program that assists junior enlisted members with obtaining basic household supplies at no cost.

Airman's Attic, in the former chapel building adjacent to Sablich Center, is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays and 3-6 p.m.

Wednesdays when enough volunteers are available.

The program also needs donations in good condition and volunteers with trucks to assist with occasional pick-ups.

For more information, call 377-3814 or 7801.

Special Olympics

Keesler's Special Olympics committee needs two volunteers to take on two roles formerly handled by civil engineers. — set-up leader and tear-down leader. The duties are complex and require many additional hours.

Applications are due Nov. 1. For more information, call Senior Airman Chris Freimann, 377-5857.

Endodontic services

The 81st Dental Squadron's department of endodontics has resumed the endodontic residency.

All authorized beneficiaries, including military retirees and dependents of active duty and retired, may be eligible for care.

Patients accepted for treatment are treated by either the endodontic specialty program residents or general dentistry program residents.

Referrals from civilian dentists for root canal treatment are considered.

For more information, call 376-5227.

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.

Thrift shop

The Keesler Thrift Shop, in the former chapel building adjacent to Sablich Center, is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

Consignments are accepted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays. Donations are accepted during regular hours.

Volunteer — get connected.

Retirees honor combat heroes



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airman Basic Nichole Stone, a student in the 335th Training Squadron, views a display recently set up by retiree volunteers in the lobby of Sablich Center. The display features photographs of Air Force members who've received the Medal of Honor, both before and after a separate Air Force Medal of Honor was established Nov. 1, 1965. The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest military honor awarded by Congress for risk of life in combat beyond the call of duty.

3 front-runners emerge in flag football



Chris Turknett, left, 81st SFS player-coach, and Andre Torres, 81st MDSS, both miss the cops' throw near the goal line.

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

As of Friday, three intramural football teams boast undefeated record after two weeks of action.

The 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, 3-0, is the only unbeaten team in the American League. The 81st Communications Squadron and the Marine Corps Detachment are one game back at 2-1.

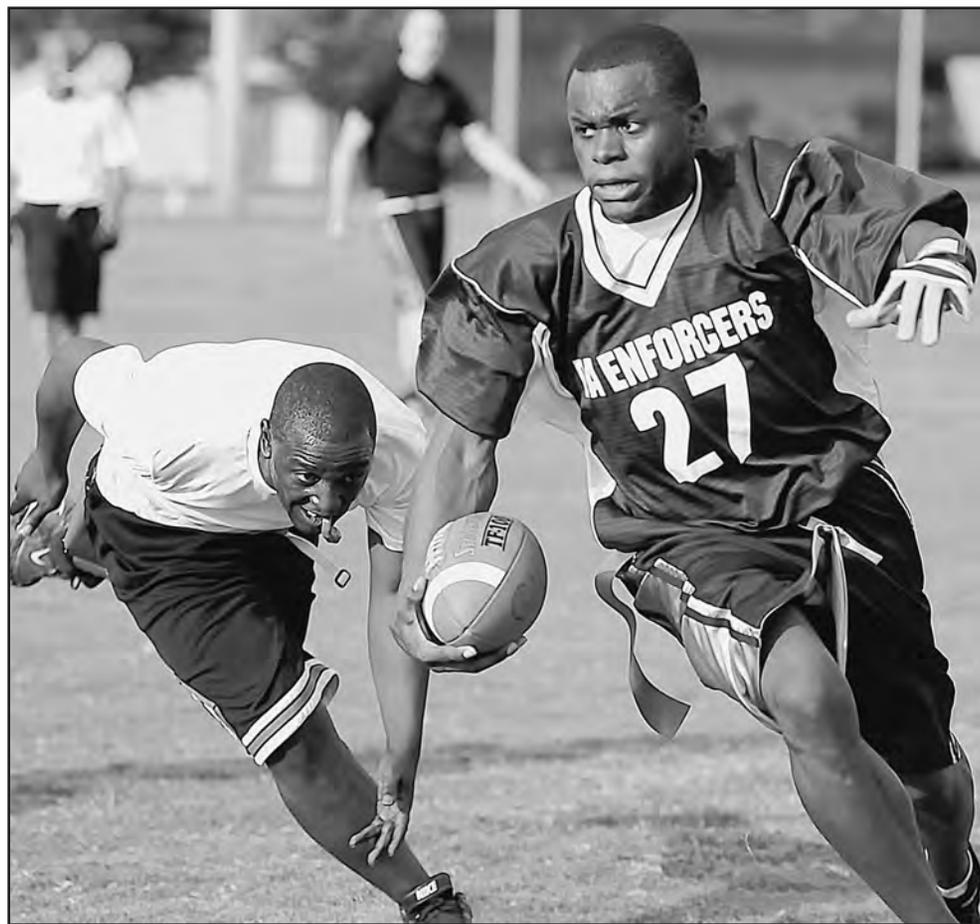
In their only game of the week, the civil engineers outpaced the 81st Force Support Squadron, 17-14.

In the National League, the 81st Medical Group and the 81st Security Forces Squadron share the top spot in the standings with 3-0 records.

Aug. 7, the medics overpowered the 333rd Training Squadron, 58-0, in their only game of the week.

The cops claimed two victories last week — a 7-0 win over the 332nd TRS Aug. 5, followed by a 14-0 defeat of the 81st Medical Support Squadron Aug. 7.

The American League plays at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesday, while the National League plays at the same times Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Tony Hannah, 81st MDSS, tries to snatch Marvin Walker's flag as he hustles down the field during an Aug. 7 National League battle between the the medics and the 81st SFS. The cops maintained an unblemished record with the 14-0 win. The 81st MDSS dropped back to 2-1.

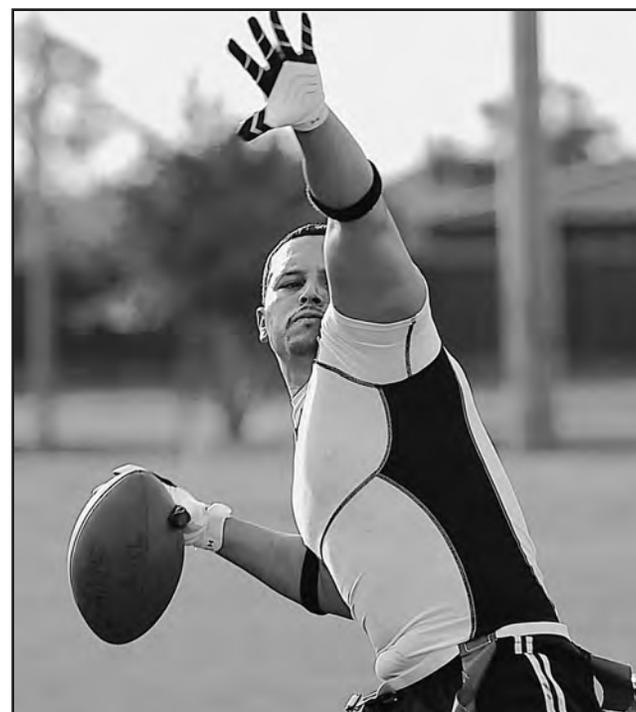


For scores,
schedules and standings,
see Scores and More,
Page 25.

Left, Sterling Winn, 81st SFS, left, and Tony Hannah, 81st MDSS, close in on Kerry Tillman, 81st MDSS, who intercepted a pass from the cops.

Right, Andre Torres sets up a throw for the medics.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Airmen 'go for gold' at Olympics

By Tech. Sgt.
Matthew McGovern

Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO — Four Airmen will discover how they measure up with the world as they compete at the 2008 Olympics that began Friday in Beijing.

Dominic Grazioli, from Randolph Air Force Base, Texas; Kevin Eastler, Buckley AFB, Colo.; and Seth Kelsey, and Eli Bremer, Colorado Springs, Colo., represent the Air Force at the Olympic Games.

"When you're competing at this level, the biggest competitor is yourself," Bremer said. "I'm not really worried about other competitors. I'm trying to go out there and have the best day I can. If I have a good day, it can definitely generate a medal."

Bremer is currently training for the modern pentathlon, a one-day-event scheduled for Aug. 21. It consists of five disciplines: swimming, pistol shooting, fencing, horseback riding and cross-country running.

During training, Bremer has shooting practice four days a week, fences three to four days a week and horseback rides once a month. He also runs approximately 60 miles a week and swims about 25 miles a week, six days a week.

"Many people say I have the best job out there — they



don't see me throw up a couple of times a week because of training," Captain Bremer said.

This strenuous training is likely the recipe for producing a medal and Grazioli, trap shooter, wanted to be on the podium as well. However, he placed 16th of 35 trap shooters in Sunday's finals.

"Winning a medal at the Olympics would be a tremendous honor," Grazioli said. "At this level, any time you can stand on the podium after the competition, you have done very well. It shows that on that day you were one of the best in the world."

Grazioli's background in trap shooting stemmed from the influence of his father who was also in the Air Force.

"My father, worked at gun clubs at various Air Force

bases while I was growing up," Grazioli said. "Having spent quite a bit of time at these ranges as a child, I eventually got the opportunity to shoot. It turns out that I was pretty good at it."

Grazioli's accuracy and the abilities of other military athletes received the notice of leadership from the top. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs recognized and applauded them in an interview July 31 in Washington.

"Wherever I travel around the world — whether it's Iraq, Afghanistan or even the Far East — I see so many spectacular young people who are members of the military," said Navy Adm. Mike Mullen. "So, to have these (service members) competing in the Olympics is certainly a real accomplishment."

"An achievement like this, it's got to be a peak for them in their career, and certainly we're very proud of them," Admiral Mullen said. "I wish them the best of luck, and I know they'll do well and represent not just our military, but they'll represent our country well."

Kelsey participates in fencing. The men's competition begins Sunday.

Easter competes in race walking, either Saturday or Aug. 22.

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

The Keesler Honor Guard needs officer and enlisted volunteers to represent the Air Force at funerals and other ceremonies in south Mississippi and Louisiana from the Alabama border to the Texas border.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Andrea Turner, 377-0795; Tech. Sgt. David Warren, 377-1986; or James Taylor, 377-2081.

SCORES AND MORE

Basketball

Varsity teams — organizing for the 2008-09 season. Games are played on a collegiate skill level.

Men's tryouts are 2-5 p.m. Sept. 6-7 at Blake Fitness Center. For more information, call Jesse Harris, 376-5723.

For women's team, call Richard Vincent, 343-9951.

For more information, call Laurence Wilson, sports director, 377-2444.

3-on-3 tournament — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Blake Fitness Center. Teams must pay \$15 fee and register by Friday.

For more information, call Scott Kunowsky, 376-3411.

Bowling

Summer league

Monday Night (as of Aug. 4)

Team	Won	Lost
Speer Family	51	19
Fantastik 4	48	22
Fosters	46	24
SELOHSSA	44	26
Team 12	42	28
Team 9	41	29
Team 8	39	31
Mudd	37.5	32.5
Booker's Bowlers	37	33
High Gas Strikers	35	35
Braves	35	35
Pot Luck	35	35
Hoops Gang	34	36
403rd	29	34
Night Hawks	24	46
Team 7	21.5	48.5
Team 2	14	49

Thursday Retired Seniors Mixed (as of Aug. 7)

Team	Won	Lost
Team 12	57	27
Krauts	55	29
Team 7	54	30
TNT Express	53	31
Shot in Foot	46	38
Team 2	41	43
Team 9	40	44
Oldies But Goodies	40	44
The "A" Team	32	52
Team 3	31	53
Left-Right-Left	29	55

Other

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

Lunch and bowl special — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. Bowl for \$1 a game plus \$1 for shoes.

Red, white and blue specials — wear red, white and blue anytime in July and bowl for \$2 a game with free shoe rental and receive \$1 off a meal consisting of a main, side and medium drink.

Team building special — 1-5 p.m. working Fridays. Bring your employees bowling for \$1 a game

Main base pool closes today

The main base pool closes for the season today.

There's no change to the hours at the Triangle Pool until Monday. Until then, hours are noon to 7 p.m. daily, with lap swimming from 11 a.m. to noon.

Starting Monday, Triangle Pool is open 3-7 p.m. weekdays except Wednesdays, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Hours are expected to change again in September, depending on availability of lifeguards.

plus shoe rental. Call 377-2817 for reservations.

Open bowling — limited on league days; first come, first served. Reservations accepted with groups of 20 or more. Discounts available with groups of 25 or more.

Club member special — show current club card Thursdays and bowl for \$1.50 per game with free shoe rental.

Birthday party package — 1:30-3 p.m. or 3:30-5 p.m. Saturdays. 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.

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

81st Training Wing logo shirt — available in the pro shop. Short sleeve with collar, \$22.

Flag football

American League

(as of)

Team	Won	Lost
81st CES	3	0
81st CS	2	1
MARDET	2	1
81st FSS	1	2
81st TRSS	1	2
81st DS	1	2
403rd Wing	1	2
336th TRS	1	2

Aug. 4 — 403rd Wing 25, 336th TRS 7; MARDET 33, 81st FSS 7; 81st CS 37, 81st TRSS 7.

Aug. 6 — 336th TRS 43, 81st DS 14; 81st CES 17, 81st FSS 14; MARDET 20, 403rd Wing 2.

Monday — 6 p.m., 81st TRSS vs. 403rd Wing; 7 p.m. 81st DS vs. 81st CES; 8 p.m., 81st CS vs. MARDET.

Wednesday — 6 p.m., 81st FSS vs. 403rd Wing; 7 p.m., 81st CES vs. 336th TRS; 8 p.m., 81st TRSS vs. 81st CS.

National League

(as of)

Team	Won	Lost
81st MDG	3	0
81st SFS	3	0
81st MDSS	2	1

81st SUPS/TRANS	2	1
338th TRS	2	1
333rd TRS	0	3
332nd TRS	0	3
85th EIS	0	3

Aug. 5 — 81st SFS 7, 332nd TRS 0; 338th TRS 7, 333rd TRS 0; 81st SUPS-TRANS 46, 85th EIS 26.

Aug. 7 — 81st SFS 14, 81st MDSS 0; 81st MDG 58, 333rd TRS 0; 338th TRS 12, 332nd TRS 0..

Tuesday — 6 p.m., 81st SUPS/TRANS vs 332nd TRS; 7 p.m., 81st MDSS VS. 81st MDG; 8 p.m., 85th EIS vs. 338th TRS.

Aug. 21 — 6 p.m., 333rd TRS vs. 332nd TRS; 7 p.m., 81st MDG vs. 81st SFS; 8 p.m., 81st SUPS/TRANS vs. 81st MDSS.

Fitness centers

Practice group ride on mini-triathlon cycling route — 4 p.m. Aug. 27; meet at Triangle Pool.

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

Computerized fitness assessments and counseling — available by appointment at the Dragon Fitness Center. To schedule, 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 Department of Defense personnel 18 years of age and older.

For more information, call 377-3056.

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 has workout equipment and play area for ages 6 months to 7 years.

Massage therapist — available at Triangle Fitness Center by appointment only; call 263-5515.

Golf

Survey — Air Force Service's annual golfer survey, "Have a Nice Play," run through Aug. 31, giving Keesler golfers the chance to provide valuable feedback on Bay Breeze Golf Course. Keesler golfers who participate can win one of 13 golf course gift certificates to be awarded Air Force-wide.

For more information or to respond to the survey, go to <http://www.keeslerservices.us/Golf2.html>, or visit the pro shop for an off-line survey.

Twilight golf special — 5 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays. Pay the nine-hole fee and golf until the course closes.

Dragon fun league — Thursdays. Meet at 4 p.m., shotgun start 4:30 p.m. Four-person teams; two-person blind draw. Sign up as two-some or single. \$20 per person including greens fee, cart, food, beverages and prizes. Format decided by draw each week. Limit 44 golfers.

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 — Aug. 23; call for time. \$20 person; bring your own food and drinks. Mississippi fishing license required; six to eight people for trip.

Trip to Chandeleur Island — Tuesday and Wednesday. Bring food, drink and lures. Reserve early; call for current prices.

One-day fishing trips — to Horn, Cat and Ships Islands; select the date. Also one-day charters in Delacox and Reggio, La., with professional fishing guide, Capt. Darren Schaff. For more information, call 377-3160.

Fish of month — weigh in the heaviest red drum for the month; take home \$100 savings bond.

Camping packages — for rent include sleeping bags, lanterns, camp stoves and tents. For more information, call 377-3160.

RV, boat and trailer storage — \$20 per month.

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.

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

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 on the Keesler Dolphin II. \$75 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, \$850 for first six people, \$60 each additional person. \$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.

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.

Paintball

Paintball course — open by reservation only; for reservations or more information, call 377-3160.

HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Brandon Auwaerter, Gregory Barron, Travis Bates, Steven Chapman, Mark Christian, David Cohea, Brian Coleman, Lonnie Collins, Patrick Cox, Paul Davies, Joshua Dishner, Blake Edington, Joshua Ervin, Ly Espinal, Frank Fauland, Jeffrey Frenz, Christopher Garza, Jessica Gillespie, Nathan Gubler, Cody Gunter, Chelio Guzman, Ryan Hart, Matthew Helget, Ryan Hoffman, Chad Honeycutt, Adam Houghtaling, Jason Hovey, Bradley Hudson, JesseLee Kahaloo, Kristofer Lee, James Leeman, Anthony Leonor, Roby McCool, Michael McKenna, Sean McNulty, Drae Moss, Cameron Pierce, Daniel Rankin, Seth Richmond, Troy Riley, Kurt Rutherford, Eric Tedor, Scott VonKnoblauch, Colin Warren, Dustin Williams and Dean Wood; Airmen Kendrick Brown, Joseph Cassell, Glenn Flick, Ryan Fox, Dallas Gilbertson, Anthony Gonzalez, Scott Green, Lee Hartvigsen, Andrew Heckerman, Joshua Heinecke, Andrew Ilgenfritz, Marc Porter, Ruben Salaslerma, Brian Stephenson and Shelby Wyse; Pfc. James Grove and Daniel Omlor; Airmen 1st Class Richard Ataman, Brent Bender, Nicholas Brandau, Johnny Brascom, Ryan Brennan, Matthew Brindle, Adam Brock, Luke DeLaCruz, Mario Difranco, Axel Echevarria, Michael Erdbacker, Brian Field, Gabriel Felix, Ryan Frankland, Sidney Garay, Benjamin Hanke, Rodney Heller, Joshua Huchstep, Sean Janicik, Krista Johnson, Andrew Kruckman, Benjamin Ladew, Deric Litteral, Anthony Mans, Avaris Murray, Stephanie Navarro, Adam Neiderhiser, Russell Owen, Jan Racoma, Casey Raynes, Vincent Russo, Daniel Simmons, Matthew Sosby, Matthew Tarpley, Michael White, Brian Wiedmeyer and Thomas Wilent; Senior Airmen Paul Ballard, Juan Duran, Gary Ervin, Shawn Hopper, Neal Kirsch, David March and Timothy Nester; Staff Sgts. Daniel Ahrens, Ronald Brennand, Ronald Caasi, Douglas Giles, Joseph Hudson, Charles Kvochick, Heber Laing, Mario Sanchez and Francisco Solares; Tech. Sgts. Fahad Abdulrahman, Terence Dartz and Daniel Howard; Master Sgt. Ibrahim AlAhmari.

334th TRS

Aerospace control and warning systems — Airman Basic Richard Bolden; Airmen Raymond Morace and Jonathan Turner; Airmen 1st Class Evelyn Arroyo, Johnathan Munizcora and Joshua Owen; Tech. Sgt. Keith Johnson; Capt. Chulho Choi.

Aviation resource management apprentice course — Airman Basic Lidia Gomez; Airman 1st Class Jacob Davis; Senior Airman Joe Wiskur; Staff Sgts. Tiffeny Dozier and Cory McCray; Tech. Sgts. Theresa Jones and Diana Lealaimatafao; Master Sgt. Rebecca Torres.

Command post apprentice course — Airmen 1st Class Pablo Badillo, Lauren Davidson and Daniel Lecureaux; Senior Airmen William Daugherty, Jonathan Leetham and Justin Loza; Staff Sgts. Andrew Brice, Rebekah Burger, Ricky Diaz, Dennis McCray, John Sandoval, Shannon Riley, Gina Moten, Ryan Shydlinski and Chad Yunk; Tech. Sgts. Jordan Acosta, Latesha Byers, Colleen Callahan and Bryan Gustafson; Master Sgt. Michael Vaurigaud.

335th TRS

Comptroller training flight — Airmen Basic Maria Aguilar-Santiago, Tiffany Coleman, Joshua Lowry, Jace McCarthy, Timothy Sanders, Nichole Stone and Daniel Welker; Airmen Kalin Anderson and Matthew Salter; Airmen 1st Class Terri Baker, Cristina Buzgau, Cory Damico, Logan Fuller, Steven Mifflin, Chris Moore, Pepper Palmer, Stacy Som, Wesley Tuttle, Jessica Wills and Nathanael Wood; Senior Airmen Jeannette Dineros- Edie, Jonathon McWhirter and Jasin Nesmith; Staff Sgts. Patrick Judicpa, Noel Moreno, Leah Rogers, Kathleen Smith and Bethany Vital; Tech. Sgt. Francis Johnson; Master Sgts. Cynthia Cropper, Karen Inman and Kelly Longacre.

Weather training flight — Navy Airmen Recruit Scott

Chanin and Tylor Horning; Airmen Basic Michael Emery, Jason Hughes, David Labrie, Chris Vidal and Christie Yanchun; Navy Airman Robert Arguello; Airmen 1st Class Amber Baumgarten, Jonathan Cortopassi, Adrian Guest and Michael Naughton; Marine Cpl. Richard Duran; Senior Airmen Gregory Goodnight and Jill Thompson; Marine Sgt. Kenneth Pullum; Tech. Sgt. Angelique Gunton.

338th TRS

Airfield systems — Airmen 1st Class Nicole Huallpa, Steven Hayward and Derrick Shelton; Master Sgt. Joel Martinath.

Ground radar — Airmen Benjamin Kanoff and Drew Manoram; Airmen 1st Class Zachary Hughes and Kevin Hurley; Senior Airman Nathan Smith; Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Finchum.

Ground radio — Airmen Basic Austin Barham, Amos Hommel, Aldo Lotito, Aaron Lowery, Charles Mizer and Aaron Pickern; Airman Stephen Shockey; Airmen 1st Class Ryan Gallo, Bradley Hinote, Andrew Krebs, Michael Mitchell, Gregory Stanley, Michael Twarozynski and Joshua Wilkison

Network infrastructure systems — Airmen Basic Phillip Benn, Katherine Gonzales, Christopher Langevin and Mathias Turbessi; Airmen Joshua Johnson, Justin McDowell, Malcom McKnight and Ruben Mendoza; Airmen 1st Class Benjamin Kuchmuk, Ryan Landis, Benjamin Mellon, Todd Mulroy, Mark Savage, Joseph Tidwell and Antwan Williams; Senior Airmen Anthony Fuentes and Christopher Pawlowski; Staff Sgts. Christopher Anders and Jeremy Drechsel; Tech. Sgts. Larry Endecott and Daymen Valentine; Senior Master Sgt. Donald Taggart; Gary Saucier, Glen Haslem and Anthony Wilson.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 08-6 — graduation Sept. 10.

Keesler NCO Academy

Class 08-6 — graduation Sept. 11.

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.

Airman and family readiness center

Home buying seminar — 10 a.m. to noon Aug. 21, Room 108A, Sablich Center. For more information or to register, call 376-8728.

Eldercare seminar — 5:15-7 p.m. Sept. 25, at Mississippi State University Coastal Research Center, Popps Ferry Road, Biloxi. Legal issues in aging, caregiver resources, self care and how to make your parent a dependent are discussed. Refreshments provided. To register, call 376-8728 or e-mail sandra.brzovic@keesler.af.mil.

Arts and crafts center

Multi-craft shop

Ice cream social — noon to 2 p.m. Aug. 23 in multi-craft shop. Free sundaes, banana splits and tours of center.

Youth division artist/craftsmen contest — ages 5-17; entry deadline Friday. Drawing, painting, paper/fabric/leather, pottery/ceramics/glass/metal/wood. Forms available at shop.

Pottery-hand building — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Learn clay crafting; \$40 includes five pounds of clay and project firing; bring a bag lunch.

Nonprior students and friends ceramics — noon to 3 p.m. Aug. 22. Learn to cast ceramics and use paints for finishing techniques. \$8 includes two chessmen, all supplies and first firing.

Wood shop

Beginning framing — 12:30-4 p.m. nonworking Fridays. \$30. Call for more information and to preregister.

Shop use with assisting woodcrafter — hardwoods for sale.

Frame shop

Customized picture framing and military flag and show box design — self-help framing area is available for certified hobbyists, or pick matting and molding and shop will do the work.

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, towelettes, 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 pre-school, elementary, teens and adults.

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

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

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

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

McBride Library

Orientations for commanders, instructors and first sergeants — 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

School orientations — 6 p.m. Wednesday, grade school students; Aug. 27, family night with tours and refreshments.

Summer story times — 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, and 2 p.m. Thursdays, ages 3-5.

Digest,

from Page 26

Available for use — children's library and meeting, audio and typing rooms.

Free wireless Internet — check at circulation desk.

Fax special — 50 cents a page, incoming and outgoing, throughout August.

Tours/orientations — call 377-2181.

Keesler Medical Center

Pediatric subspecialty clinic

Baby Boot Camp — 11 a.m.-1 p.m. second Thursday of the month in conference room BF 400, located off the outpatient clinic entrance. Classes cover infants from birth to 6 months of age. Classes address common concerns of new parents such as booking appointments, colic, immunizations, safety, feeding issues, developmental milestones, dental care and infant cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Gifts, prizes and refreshments are included. Classes open to members of all branches of the military and their dependents. To sign up, call Capt. Romeatrius Moss, 376-5375. For more information, call Capt. Moss, Maj. Muriel Gatlin, 376-5387, or Staff Sgt. Jihan Brown, 376-5579.

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.

Free shuttle service — 6-9:30 p.m. Thursdays before nonworking Fridays; 1-11 p.m. nonworking Fridays and Saturdays and 6-11 p.m. working Fridays. Also stops at Muse Manor, McBride Library, arts and crafts center, Tyer House, bowling center, outdoor recreation, Katrina Kantina and Bay Breeze Golf Course.

Legends Café — open 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 5-9 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 5-11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

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.

Dinner and music — 5 p.m. Aug. 28. Cook your own steak \$6, chicken \$5 for members; add \$2 for nonmembers. Hot dogs and chips for children, \$1.50. Music by Eddie McDaniel One-Man Band.

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

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

Tuesday special — red beans and rice, \$1 bowl.

Martini and jazz night — 5 p.m. Thursdays before nonworking Fridays.

Membership special — sign up for club membership and receive scratch-off for change to win up to \$100 on the spot. All members register to win one of 10 \$1,000 cash prizes. Club dues are free.

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

Youth center

Back-to-school registration — sign up for before- and after-school program.

Classes — register for dance, gymnastics, piano, tennis and assorted sports clinics.

Youth employment service — earn money for college tuition; call for more information.

Congressional Award program — ages 14-21; self-directed merit program promoting personal development, physical fitness and community involvement.

Volunteers needed — for sports, open recreation, crafts, cooking, computers, arts, reading, sewing and general cleaning and decorations. Must be 18 or older. For more information, call 377-4116.

TICKETS AND TRIPS

Trips to New Orleans Saints games at Superdome — Sunday, Buffalo Bills; Aug. 30, Miami Dolphins. \$60 per person includes transportation and admission. Sign up at Vandenberg Community Center customer service desk. Seating limited to 20 passengers, first come, first served.

Gulf Island Water Park tickets — daily adult \$18, daily child under 42 inches \$13, season pass \$74.95.

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.

TRANSITIONS

Workshops, briefings

Executive transition assistance program — open to chief master sergeant, senior master sergeants, colonels and lieutenant colonels in Air Education and Training Command planning to retire or separate within 18 months. Participants should have advanced degrees and management and leadership experience.

Training provides the necessary skills and knowledge to seek employment in U.S. corporations. Registration is Sept. 16-25 for the Nov. 18-21 session at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. For more information or to register, visit <https://www-r.aetc.af.mil/dp/etap>.

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 are Thursdays in Room 111, 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. For more information, call Jackie Pope, 376-8505.

Transition assistance program — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 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. 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

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

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

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

Friday

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

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

Saturday

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

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

Sunday

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

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

Monday

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

Wednesday

Lunch — fried chicken, cajun baked fish, jalapeno cornbread, barbecue ribs, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn on the cob, okra and tomato gumbo, fried cabbage, cole slaw, garden cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

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

Please see **Digest**, Page 28

Digest,

from Page 27

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 separating 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.

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

Web sites

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEETINGS

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

Upcoming

Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 652 — 4 p.m. Tuesday, Katrina Kantina. Out-of-cycle election for president, vice-president and three trustees is being held because most executive council members are departing Keesler or deploying for extended periods of time. Offices are held until regular annual elections in February.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Richard Striggow, 377-4800.

Air Force Association John C. Stennis Chapter — luncheon meeting, 11 a.m. Aug. 26, Katrina Kantina. Elections for staff positions and discussion of upcoming events planned. Lujnch is \$12. Civilians and military invited; don't have to be members to attend.

For reservations or more information, call Capt. Mike Zink, 377-1576, or e-mail michael.zink@keesler.af.mil.

Recurring

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

Air Force Sergeants Association 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.

Civil Air Patrol Col. Berta A. Edge Composite Squadron — 7 p.m. Tuesdays upstairs in Hangar 3 for youth and adults. For more information, call 1-601-528-4337, e-mail Camoprincess92@gmail.com or visit <http://www.keeslercap.org>.

Company grade officers council — meets first Wednesday of the month. For time and location, call Capt. Ted West, 377-7343.

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., Wanted (R, 110 minutes).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Wall-E (G, 98 minutes); 6:30 p.m., Hancock (PG-13, 100 minutes).

Sunday — 1 p.m., Wall-E (G, 98 minutes).