



KEESLER NEWS



Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

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

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Mississippi Gulf Coast honors its veterans



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Members of the 335th Training Squadron carry the 50 state flags in Saturday's Gulf Coast Veterans Day Parade. More photos, Page 9.

First new Bay Ridge homes occupied

By Staff Sgt. Tanya Holditch
Keesler News editor

The completion of 34 Bay Ridge homes marks a new phase in Keesler's rebuilding effort after Hurricane Katrina left base housing in shambles.

Currently more than 350 of the 1,028 new homes have been turned over to the base housing office. The Bay Ridge neighborhood will have 181 homes when construction is complete.

Moves into the new Bay Ridge homes began in late October. Moving continues through December, with no forced moves from Dec. 10 through Jan. 6.

Those designated to move

will be contacted by the housing office to pick up their Air Force Form 150. Movers must take the form to the traffic management office to

Please see **Bay Ridge**, Page 9

AETC manages smooth flow of skilled Airmen

By Gen. Stephen Lorenz

AETC commander

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — I believe we should work our boss' boss' problems. I have found that if we see the bigger picture — if we understand the larger context of our challenges — we'll make better decisions. Since assuming command of Air Education and Training Command, I've been trying to understand where our challenges fit in the bigger picture.

My boss is our Chief of Staff, Gen. Norton Schwartz, and his boss is Secretary Michael Donley. Together, they're responsible for organizing, training and equipping the Air Force. They need AETC to provide Airmen of character and skill who can contribute on their first day in the larger Air Force. That's why we say that AETC develops Airmen today ... for tomorrow.

In the First Command, we recruit Airmen, give them their initial training and send them to advanced schools. I call this process the continuum of training for our Airmen. While an Airman may go through several different training programs before attaining "mission ready" status, each of these programs should work together in a continuum — a coherent and consistent progression of training that leads to the ultimate goal of

forging Airmen of character and skill.

Each of us has a role to play in this process. It's natural that we focus our efforts on making our individual portion of the continuum as good as it can be, but we cannot fall into the trap of viewing our individual roles in isolation. This is a team effort. If we understand where we fit into the continuum, we can make better decisions and produce better Airmen.

Much like a relay race, we run as hard as we can when it's our turn, then we hand off our Airmen to the next set of instructors much like a runner hands off the baton to the next teammate. While our portion is over, our race isn't complete until the last runner carries the baton across the finish line. In AETC, our race isn't finished until we deliver the Airman to the gaining unit. It takes each of us doing our part to make it happen.

In some ways, AETC is a factory that produces more than 200 different types of trained Airmen. We take raw material — the recruit — and change him or her into an Airman capable of defending the nation. The "assembly line" begins with the recruiter who finds and delivers the raw material to the factory.

Along the line, instructors mold and shape each Airman, then they send them down the line to the next

instructor. It's vital that the recruiter finds quality recruits, and each instructor must do their best to ensure an Airman with the right character and skill is sent to the next program. If they don't, future instructors will have to correct the mistake, or worse, take the Airman off the assembly line. Of course, our Airmen are much more important than objects on an assembly line, but this metaphor shows us how problems develop when we fail to ensure the quality of our people during the short time we have them.

While the quality of each individual Airman is important, producing the necessary quantity of Airmen is critical as well. We must deliver the right number of Airmen at the right time. If we don't, the consequence is that some career fields become dangerously undermanned, and the mission suffers. This is why we strive to create a "smooth flow" of Airmen through the training programs. Much like a pipeline, it's important to keep Airmen flowing through the training programs at the proper rate. Gaps and backups in the pipeline mean two things, and both are bad. First, our individual Airmen have to endure unnecessary breaks in training, and their skills inevitably atrophy.

Second, the pipeline can't deliver the

right flow of Airmen to the Air Force. This is why it's so important that our commanders and instructors manage the flow of Airmen through their individual training programs while ensuring each one meets the standards.

In AETC, we solve problems for the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force. They're responsible for building a healthy Air Force, and they need a steady flow of trained Airmen. Our job is to recognize the big picture — that we conduct a continuum of training for each Airman — and make decisions accordingly. We're a team, and our job is not finished until we deliver Airmen of character and skill to their new commanders.

We produce Airmen of the highest quality, which is why our recruiters work so hard to find the right people, and our instructors pour their hearts and souls into their students. At the same time, we produce the right quantity of Airmen to keep the Air Force healthy.

Consider where you stand in the continuum of training. When you have a tough decision to make, use this larger perspective to make it. Work your boss' boss' problems, and you will have few problems of your own. More importantly, our Air Force, and our Nation, will be stronger when you do.

Changing times for nation, Gulf Coast, Air Force

By Brig. Gen. Greg Touhill

81st Training Wing commander

We certainly live in historic times. During 2008 we have seen significant changes in our world, our nation, our Air Force, our community and even our base.

The world remains a complex place with conflict in every continent, economies in flux, and environmental issues in debate. People around the world are motivated to change things for the better.

Our nation remains an example for others to follow when it comes time for change. For example, nobody changes better than the United States. We just completed a major election period where we see the incredible power of our country in action. For more than 225 years, our country has peacefully transitioned presidential administrations every four years. I've traveled the world and seen our allies marvel at the wondrous miracle that is American constitutional change. This coming year, that miracle continues as we transition again under the popular mandate of "Change for the Better."

We are changing in our community and base too. All around the Mississippi Gulf Coast you see signs of change. New construction, a better U.S. Highway 90, and community cleanups remain visible indications of a community committed to change. Keesler is no different. We've made changes to our base infrastructure, worked hard to improve our customer service and processes, and even changed several organizational structures.

It has been said that the only one who likes change is a baby with a dirty diaper. I beg to differ. Americans typically like change and constantly look for better ways to do things. Change is a characteristic Americans historically value and cherish. What makes change in America different than in other places is that Americans want and expect their voices to be heard as part of the change process.

In the Air Force, how can your voice be heard by senior leaders? The best way is for you to participate in the Air Force Climate Survey. Gen. Norton Schwartz, our new Chief of Staff, is asking for our help in giving him feedback so he can chart the best

course for our Air Force. Because all Airmen (military and civilian) are vital members of the Air Force team, everyone needs to take the survey to ensure their voice is heard. You should have received an email invite to take the survey. Please follow the link to the survey in the email. If you didn't get an invite, please go to the Air Force portal and access it through there (it is on the right hand side of the main page.) When he visited Keesler two weeks ago, General Schwartz told me how valuable he regards the survey to give him feedback so he can chart our flight plan. Please join me in completing the survey this week.

I welcome change and look forward to your suggestions to make things better. Your ideas are invaluable in making our base a better place to live and work, so please don't hesitate to shoot me a note with your suggestions, submit a suggestion for improvement through the IDEA suggestion program, call the Commander's Action Line, or work through your boss your suggestions for doing things smarter and better. Thanks for your help!



DRAGON ON THE STREET

By **Kemberly Groue**

Keesler News photographer

What one quality do you admire most about your favorite supervisor?



I like his stories.

Tech. Sgt. William Mays,

81st Training Wing.



His perfection, because it made you bring your A-game to work every day.

Chief Master Sgt. Denise Rucker, 81st Mission Support Group



He's not a micro-manager; he trusts me to get the job done.

Doug Lee, 81st Training Support Squadron

Inspiration is supervisor's duty; performance is subordinate's duty

By **Chief Master Sgt. Jody Hanks**

81st Dental Squadron superintendent

Contrary to popular opinion, there's really nothing wrong with meeting the minimum standard.

One who meets the minimum standard is considered a "satisfactory" performer, right? If that's accurate, why would a supervisor expect to see some paperwork on a subordinate being rated a "3" on his or her enlisted performance report? The answer is simple, because we, sometimes as leaders and supervisors, have made exceeding the standard the minimum standard. I believe this is wrong and leads to, among other things, the artificial inflation of the enlisted evaluation system.

Promotion within the enlisted ranks is and should be tied primarily to performance, and those who are selected for promotion should be the cream of the crop. These are the individuals who truly excel at their specialty, are engaged in self-improvement efforts and demonstrate leadership within the unit and local community.

However, the Air Force needs and is actually organized around those satisfactory performers who simply and consistently do a good job every day. These individuals may have other goals besides an Air Force career, and who are we to say they have the wrong sight picture? The Air Force needs and expects a cer-

"So, how do we delineate between those who excel and those who perform?"

tain percentage of first-term and career airmen to separate from the service in order to facilitate the flow of new blood.

As supervisors, it is our duty and responsibility to accurately appraise our subordinates to ensure we're retaining the best and brightest and recognize that a satisfactory performer has, indeed, honorably served his or her country. So, how do we delineate between those who excel and those who perform?

Ultimately, it is the subordinate that makes the distinction. After all, this is the individual who performs the work as laid out by the supervisor. Thus, the supervisor plays a key role in ensuring the subordinate achieves his or her goals. A supervisor, who performs an initial feedback with a "this is what you need to do to get a '5' approach, has in reality set a minimum

standard of 5-level performance. Conversely, a subordinate whose initial performance feedback illustrates the true minimum standard he or she is expected to meet, can determine the best personal course of action. The supervisor simply holds the subordinate accountable for his level of performance and, as long as the subordinate meets the standard, his service is acceptable and honorable.

Don't get me wrong; I believe a supervisor's role is to inspire those in his or her charge to achieve excellence, but the responsibility to act lies with the subordinate. The supervisor's responsibility is to hold the subordinate accountable for the level of performance he achieves. Supervisors who fail to accurately and dispassionately exercise this responsibility by giving someone a rating higher than he or she deserves inflate the evaluation system and ultimately hurt those who truly do exceed the standard.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley said it best in his August 2007 Perspective, "Simply put, with performance report ratings affecting promotions, career job reservations and retraining selections, over-inflated ratings negate performance as a factor."

So, what's wrong with meeting the minimum standard? Absolutely nothing.

KEESLER NEWS

81st Training Wing commander

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



Photos by Staff Sgt. Desiree Palacios

A basic trainee provides defensive cover during the tactical assault course Oct. 29 at Lackland. The course tests their defensive tactics and communication skills.

Basic training 2 weeks longer

By Mike Joseph

37th Training Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND Air Force Base, Texas — The first group of Air Force recruits to experience expanded basic military training arrived Nov. 4 to Lackland Air Force Base.

These new recruits are the first to face the challenge of an additional 14 days of training from 6.5 to 8.5 weeks.

The added time is used to

enhance and reinforce BMT's current war skills training.

"I'm excited about it," said Col. Edward Westermann, the 737th Training Group commander. "I think our (military training instructors) are excited about it. We get to be a part of that historic transformation. This is something that 20 years from now, when we're no longer in uniform, we can talk about how we played a part in that change at BMT."

The extension of BMT was approved by the Air Force in 2006, and replaces a program that has been in place since the 1960s. Adding two weeks was a consideration in the mid-1970s but was set aside due to funding issues.

"It will enhance the capabilities of these young men and women that we are sending into the Air Force," Colonel Westermann said. "We are going to better prepare them to meet the challenges of the future."

The physical facility additions, such as the basic expeditionary airman skills training course at the Lackland Training Annex, are not the only changes to occur. Class time was added, instructors were retrained and courses have been added.

The expanded training comes at a time when the Air Force is looking to grow. As many as 4,000 more recruits are expected to pass through Lackland's gates during fiscal 2009, increasing the yearly average to 39,000 recruits.



Basic trainees take a break during briefings to eat lunch.

AETC seeks instructors, recruiters

By Tech. Sgt. Mike Hammond

AETC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Education and Training Command officials are seeking hundreds of members for immediate assignment as recruiters, technical school and basic military training instructors.

The need for instructors is in response to the Air Force end-strength increase of roughly 4,000 members and the basic expeditionary airman skills training buildup, according to Tony Taylor, chief of enlisted development.

This year, there are openings for about 500 recruiters, 205 technical school instructors, and about 200 MTIs.

Since basic military training just moved to an 8 ½-week training program, the elite MTI corps is searching for highly-motivated Airmen to join their ranks at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Members identified for the Fiscal 2009 NCO retraining program are allowed to apply for MTI duty.

Technical school podium instructors in various Air Force Specialty Codes are needed at Keesler and Goodfellow, Lackland and Sheppard AFBs in Texas. Those selected will be trained to teach classes within their primary career field. Members may not apply for podium instructor duty if they've been identified for the 2009 NCORP.

To volunteer for special duty assignments, members should check EQUAL Plus regularly and apply online as directed there.

More information about recruiting duty is available by e-mailing rst@rs.af.mil.

More information on MTI duty is available by e-mailing MTIR@lackland.af.mil or calling 210-671-1018 or DSN 473-1018

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey, Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs, contributed to this story.

To report
sexual
assaults,
call Keesler's
sexual assault
response
coordinator
hotline,
377-7278.



Top scores

Airman 1st Class Andrea Bell, 81st Medical Group, scored 93 on her career development course test. Other top scorers for October were Airman 1st Class Ariel Zuniga, 81st MDG, and Tech. Sgt. Timothy Hogan, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron.



U.S. AIR FORCE
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TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

Drill down, parade

The 81st Training Group's final drill down of the season is 8 a.m. Friday on the drill pad behind the Levitow Training Support Facility.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Trina Girley, 377-2737.

USM spring term

The application deadline for the University of Southern Mississippi's spring term is Dec. 1. Classes begin Jan. 12.

For more information, call Ashley Christian, 376-8479

Special testing dates

The education office has announced application deadlines and dates for special testing for fiscal 2008.

Test time is 7 a.m. Scheduling deadlines and test dates are:

ACT — Dec. 5 for Jan. 5; March 27 for April 27 and May 22 for June 22.

PRAXIS I and II — Dec. 15 for Jan. 12; March 16 for April 13 and June 14 for July 13.

SAT — Dec. 26 for Jan. 26 and April 24 for May 25.

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

GI Bill benefits

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

For more information, call 376-8708.

THE AIRMAN'S CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.
I AM A WARRIOR.
I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.
MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT, AND WIN.
I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE,
A TRADITION OF HONOR,
AND A LEGACY OF VALOR.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN,
GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE,
MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD,
ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER.
I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN:
WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR.
I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND,
I WILL NEVER FALTER,
AND I WILL NOT FAIL.

Warrior Care Month Base highlights medical resources

81st Medical Group

Warrior Care Month is being observed during November.

Keesler, in conjunction with other Department of Defense components, is making a concerted effort to inform all wounded warriors and their families about the programs and services Keesler has to offer.

"I want to send a clear message to our service members that there is no higher priority for Keesler Medical Center than to care for our military members who have made personal sacrifices in the defense of our nation," said Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Dan Wyman, 81st Medical Group commander.

About 350 wounded Airmen and their families are being supported under the Air Force's Warrior and Survivor Care umbrella. The medical center's staff is committed to providing the best services to all wounded military members. Offering superior medical care and professional support throughout their recovery and reintegration process is a major way to honor wounded military members.

In October 2007, Keesler Medical Center initiated a series of Warrior in Transition collaboration meetings. The sessions are intended to assure all wounded warriors, regardless of their branch of service, are receiving the best medical care and needed support. At each meeting, representatives of all military services and affiliated health-care agencies discuss how processes can be improved and problems can be identified to allow seamless care.

Supporting this program is a team effort involving the entire medical community. Donna Anderson, the 81st Medical Group Wounded Warrior care coordinator, coordinates with medical providers, other medical treatment facilities, the civilian network, Tricare and the military members' units to develop a concise treatment plan that fits the individual medical needs of each wounded warrior. She's coordinated care for 26 wounded warriors since January.

For Keesler Medical Center, care coordina-

Support service contacts for wounded warriors

Wounded Warrior care coordinator

— Donna Anderson, 376-3068.

Airman and family readiness center

— 376-8500. The center works with wounded warriors and their extended families by providing a thorough analysis of opportunities and benefits available to medically-retired and medically-separated combat veterans.

Transition service officer — Naomi

Kraima, 376-8518

Referral management center — 376-0490.

Health benefits adviser — 376-4752.

tion starts the moment Keesler is notified a wounded warrior is scheduled to be aeromedically evacuated here from the area of responsibility. Before the wounded warrior actually arrives, the coordination team has already made medical appointments and arranged lodging, expediting evaluation and treatment.

Ms. Anderson said, "Keesler is proud to provide the highest quality of care to all our service members and disabled veterans using resources such as Palace Heart, military and family support consultants, the airman and family readiness center and transition service officer."

Keesler Medical Center offers a variety of medical services to wounded warriors, including orthopedics, mental health screening for post-traumatic stress disorder, neurology, physical therapy, surgery, ophthalmology, urology and ear, nose and throat treatment.

IN THE NEWS

Keesler, VA co-host 'welcome home'

The Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Keesler co-host a "welcome home" for active-duty and reserve veterans who've served in Iraq and Afghanistan, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at marina park.

Food, information and games and prizes for children are planned. A free raffle includes items such as a charter fishing trip, fight tickets, PlayStation3, gift cards, an autographed Reggie Bush jersey and a recliner.

For more information, call 523-7783 or log on to <http://www.biloxi.va.gov>.

Government travel card transition

It's necessary for people who've received the new Citibank government travel cards to verify receipt, according to Maj. Bob Paleo, 81st Comptroller Squadron commander.

"Members can't use the cards until Nov. 30, but they still need to verify receipt," the major said.

Anyone who hasn't received a card yet should notify the unit GTC coordinator to make sure the address in the database is correct. Deployers should have their spouse, friend or unit GTC coordinator forward their new card to the deployed location.

Construction reroutes traffic

New student dormitory — Friday, Z Street south of L Street and north of the access drive to Building 4420 closes for about two weeks for underground utility work for the ninth new student dormitory in the Triangle.

Bay Breeze Events Center — access to Bay Ridge housing area from Ploesti Drive is rerouted to Curtis Drive, then to Patton Drive, and finally to Vandenberg Drive and other streets as desired. Detour signs are in place.

As part of the same project, the housing tie-in for the new Pine Lawn Boulevard requires relocation of the existing walkway used by children to access Rodeo Drive on the way to Jeff Davis Elementary School. Children are directed along the detour behind traffic barriers to temporary access to Rodeo Drive so they won't have to cross the street or come in contact with any construction equipment. When the new road is completed, new access will be provided.

New training aids facility — Q Street between Chappie James Avenue and L Street is permanently closed.

Flu shots available

Free flu shots are available at Keesler Medical Center's immunization clinic for Department of Defense beneficiaries, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays. No appointment is necessary.

For more information, call 376-3553.

Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for the Nov. 26 issue of the Keesler News is noon Nov. 20 because of Thanksgiving Day.

The newspaper is published and distributed a day early because of the holiday.



3 at Keesler selected for promotion

Senior Master Sgt. James Morrison, 81st Comptroller Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Danny Ogas, 2nd Air Force

Senior Master Sgt. Charles Watson, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron

Veterans parade through Biloxi

Chaplain (Col.) Richard Dunn, left, and Sam Foster, director of staff for the 81st Training Wing, get American flags from Carson Miller, 7, from Brownie Troop 512 of Gulfport before the start of Saturday's Gulf Coast Veterans Day Parade in Biloxi. Carson's parents are Jamie and Kelli Miller.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. A.A. Pilutti of Ocean Springs who served with Army Special Forces chats with Staff Sgt. Crystal Hollars, an Airman Leadership School instructor, at a reception at the Hard Rock Casino Hotel before the parade.



One-year-old Rebecca Cavin, daughter of Angela and Bob Cavin of Long Beach, watches the parade. Her uncle, Chris, is stationed at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport.

Bay Ridge,

from Page 1

arrange a contracted move or they can move themselves. For do-it-yourself moves, weight tickets of the moving truck both full and empty must be presented to TMO for reimbursement.

The new homes are Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design silver-certified homes. Silver is the third tier of four in LEED rating categories, with platinum being the highest rating.

For a green home to become LEED certified, it must be inspected by an independent third party, who rates its performance in such categories as the home's indoor air quality, energy efficiency, the use of water-conserving plumbing, the durability of its building materials and the sustainability of the building site. Credit for LEED certification also considers whether there are open spaces to encourage walking and other outdoor activities that lead to better overall health for its residents.

Houses are built to survive hurricane conditions. Thrower Park's new homes made it through Hurricane Gustav with no reported damage.

Windows can withstand a basic wind speed of 140 mph, while a specially-designed system of galvanized aircraft wire rope connects to key places on the house's structure to protect its integrity during high-force winds. Houses are also built above the FEMA flood plain, so they aren't prone to flooding when storms cause waters to rise along the coast.

The first set of keys to a Bay Ridge home was handed over to the tenant Oct. 27, putting Keesler in the third of six phases in the largest housing project in Air Force history.

"This is only going to keep getting better," said Mr. Brett Long, facilities chief of military family housing. "As we transition from old housing to new housing, the new houses fill up, but we accept new houses from the contractor daily. As we prepare to build new houses, we demolish the old."

On average, the builder turns over more than 2½ houses each day to the housing office.

The last of the old single-story Pinehaven houses, built in 1951, came down Oct. 30. South Pinehaven houses are scheduled to be demolished with tenants to begin relocation by July 2009, according to Michael Reese, housing flight chief.

The first houses in Southwest and East Falcon Park, which can be seen under construction from Pass Road, are scheduled to be completed as early as February, with final completion scheduled for the summer of 2009.

The current wait at Keesler for one of the new houses is 30-90 days depending on the pay grade and family make-up of the military member, according to Mr. Reese. The wait can be a little longer for four-bedroom houses, he said.

For more information, call the housing office, 376-8611. For housing maintenance or repair, call 377-5561.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Angie Lee and her children, Icy Jr., 5, and Dynasia, 9, stock the pantry in their new Bay Ridge home. Her husband is Maj. Icy Lee, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron commander.

New houses, new rules

Since new base houses are still under a two-year warranty, tenants must adhere to certain guidelines. Safety also plays a part in what residents can and can't do:

No parking on fire hydrant side of street or on the sidewalk in cul-de-sacs with an island.

No additional fencing or dog runs allowed.

No self-help painting, wallpaper or borders.

Plants can be added to the yard but existing plants can't be disturbed or removed.

No additional flag poles or ornamental fixtures may be affixed to the outside of the unit.

Occupants can't remove carpet for any reason and are held financially responsible for any damage. Black lights are used to determine cleanliness at final inspection.

Any structural modifications must be approved by an Air Force Form 332, including hanging wall-mounted televisions and satellite dishes. This doesn't include changing light bulbs, hanging curtains or pictures as long as the appropriate sized nails are used.

Trampolines and swing sets are allowed outside the privacy fence, but pools and sheds are not.

Refrigerators are the only appliance residents may switch out for their own.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Scheduling medical appointments

People needing appointments at Keesler Medical Center can book them online instead of calling the central appointment desk.

Log on to <http://www.tricareonline.com> and click on "My Health." After agreeing to the Web site terms, complete registration. Common access card holders may use their cards and personal identification numbers, while others must set up a username and password.

The site allows users to book urgent and non-urgent appointments based on their needs.

Appointments are automatically booked with the individual's primary care manager. If the PCM is unavailable, the user is given the option to make the appointment with another provider in the same clinic.

All active-duty members should register themselves at the online site when they arrive at Keesler.

Family members must be registered separately.

For more information, call 376-3101.

Health benefits open season

Federal employees health benefits open season runs through Dec. 8.

You can enroll or change your plans in the EBIS system by logging on to <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

For more information, call Cece Schefsky, 376-8326.

Online seminars for civilians

Air Force News Service

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Force officials now offer online seminars on retirement, benefits and financial literacy to civilian appropriated fund employees.

The retirement seminar includes details on the Thrift Savings Plan, Social Security, insurance and flexible spending accounts. This seminar also helps with planning for employees covered under special retirement like air traffic controllers or law enforcement officers.

The employee benefits orientation provides an understanding of each federal benefit program.

The financial literacy seminar explains taxes, investment options, insurance, investment planning and estate planning.

Employees can access these eSeminars as an additional module on the Web-based Employee Benefits Information System. Employees can access EBIS at their convenience in the office or at their home. The eSeminars are for user convenience and aren't mandatory activity.

For more information, contact local military personnel sections or call the Air Force Contact Center, 1-800-616-3775.

Health care questionnaire deadline

Air Force News Service

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The deadline for participating in the Military Health System questionnaires is Nov. 28.

The questionnaires, one for wounded, ill or injured service members and one for family members, are available at <http://www.health.mil/Pages/Page.aspx?ID=18>.

Phone numbers for military personnel

Military personnel section phone numbers are:

Customer support — 376-8738.

Career development — 376-8739.

Force management — 376-8740.

Student personnel center — 377-4111.

Testing — 376-4111.

Sharing records aids veterans, injured warriors

By Gerry Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs officials are making good progress in sharing information to the benefit of wounded warriors and veterans.

One of the chief goals of DOD-VA interoperability efforts is to supply computerized health data so providers in both departments "will have the necessary health information background to be able to provide better-quality care," said Dr. Steven Jones, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

For example, DOD's medical information on 4.5 million military patients now has been shared with VA, Dr. Jones said. About 68,000 inquiries for medical information are conducted weekly between DOD and VA.

Officials from DOD and VA have worked to improve administrative procedures related to assisting wounded troops and veterans, Dr. Jones said. He also cited improvements in providing medical information from DOD health care providers to VA case workers who assist disabled veterans.

The Military Health System also strives to make life easier for wounded warriors and their families, Dr. Jones said. One recent initiative, features teleconferences between pre-discharged military patients and families and caregivers at destination VA medical facilities.

DOD and VA officials also have established an interagency program office that will assist both agencies to share even more information and to work together to meet common goals, Dr. Jones said.

Disabled employees vital to Air Force's mission

Air Force Personnel Center and Keesler News staff

The Air Force strives to raise awareness of programs for people with disabilities, not just during National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month in October, but throughout the year.

Heather Williams, a Keesler civilian for more than two years, is one of 139,342 employees with disabilities currently working for the Air Force. She lost a leg to cancer when she was 13 and wears prosthesis.

Mrs. Williams went to work for a Gulfport law firm in 1996 after earning a bachelor's degree in paralegal studies from the University of Southern Mississippi.

When Hurricane Katrina slammed south Mississippi more than three years ago, she lost her job. She came to Keesler in October 2005 to work at Keesler Federal Credit Union. She began her federal career the following June as a secretary in the 81st Supply Squadron. Now she's a military pay technician in the 81st Comptroller Squadron.

"I just applied for a job and got it," Ms. Williams said. "My disability didn't come into play."

The only time she had any difficulty doing her job was when she had to give permanent change of station briefings in old Cody Hall while hurricane repairs were completed at Sablich Center.

"The briefings were held upstairs and there were no elevators in that old building, so they moved the briefings downstairs," Ms. Williams remembered.

"Heather has provided exceptional dedication to mission accomplishment, extraordinary job performance and demonstrated unparalleled technical expertise in her position," said Tech. Sgt. Freda Burks, 81st CPTS financial services flight chief. "Her efforts have been extraordinary, yielding numerous accolades for her professionalism and job knowledge from countless members. In fact, one customer stated that she gave the best and most comprehensive finance briefing that he has ever attended.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Mrs. Williams' flight chief describes her as "an absolute treasure to work with and be around."

"She's solely responsible for all processing of commanders, colonels and general officers at Keesler and has been commended from every level for her outstanding performance," Sergeant Burks mentioned. "She's been our squadron's civilian of the quarter, Dragon of the Week in the Keesler News and earned our flight's most valuable peer award."

The Air Force provides reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities. This includes ensuring work areas are handicap-accessible, providing licensed practical nurses or assistants for employees, offering Braille or large print documents and other assistance.

The federal Client Assistance Program can provide scooters, special chairs, computer and teleconferencing equipment and other aids for employees with disabilities.

Across the Air Force, other employees have overcome physical challenges to accomplish the mission.

At Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Raymond Jenks is instructional technology flight chief for the 37th Training Support Squadron. Although the 14-year employee is paralyzed from the neck down because of a spinal injury, he's recognized as a mentor, problem-solver and the go-to guy for the toughest projects, according to Lt. Col. Stephen Landry, his squadron commander.

"He's a great guy and his expertise is invaluable," said Colonel Landry remarked.

"There are so many (disabled) people out there who are so smart," Mr. Jenks pointed out. "They are just not very assertive. Frankly, a lot of people are scared and don't know how to move forward when something like this happens."

Susan Boyd, a senior engineer at the National Air and Space Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, doesn't let multiple sclerosis slow her down. The disease prevents her from walking and affects the dexterity of her hands, but she's frequently seen zipping through the office on her scooter or wheelchair, always hard at work.

"I've found that persistence and a positive attitude are the keys to success and happiness in both your career and personal life," said Ms. Boyd. "My MS has changed the way I work only in that I have a lot more difficulty with mobility. It just makes the general logistics of the job more difficult. I have to do a lot more planning for things I'm going to attend.

"When another co-worker and I had trouble accessing our boss' office with our scooter and wheelchair, they redesigned the doorway," she added.

At Keesler, the manager for the People with Disabilities program is June Clemenens, 376-8720.

Second Lt. Gina Vaccaro, AFPC Public Affairs, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.

DRAGON OF THE WEEK

Name — Tech. Sgt.
Sherrod Brown

Unit — 81st Mission
Support Group

Position — executive
assistant to the 81st MSG
commander

Time in Air Force — 16
years

Time at Keesler — one
year

Hometown — Atlanta

Noteworthy — Deployed
to Camp Al Sayliyah, Qatar,
in support of Operation Iraqi
Freedom. Nominated by the
81st Training Wing as the
Air Education and Training
Command representative to
work on the Air Force Chief
of Staff team

**Why did you join the Air
Force?** I was an Air Force
brat and admired the way
my father's career touched
so many others. I wanted
to be part of the Air Force
family and do my part



Photo by Kemberly Groue

while serving my country

**What are your short-
and long-term goals?** short
term, finish my Community
College of the Air Force
degree and make master ser-
geant; long term, earn my
bachelors degree.

What's your favorite

quote? "We must have the
faith that things will work
out somehow, that God will
make a way for us when
there seems no way." —
Martin Luther King Jr.

What are your hobbies?
Spending time with my family
and playing sports

DIAMOND NOTES

When wearing

the physical training uniform,
all hats and winter knit caps are authorized.

Bandanas or similar headscarves,
headbands and headgear aren't authorized
unless due to medical waiver condition.



Master Sgt. David Brown, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron first sergeant

MEMORABLE MOMENTS



Nov. 9, 1949

Airplane and engine
mechanics training
ended at Keesler.

Restricted reporting empowers assault victims

American Forces Press Service
and Keesler News staff

WASHINGTON — Many sexual assault victims in the military are using an option that allows them to disclose the details of the assault confidentially and receive medical treatment and counseling without triggering the official investigative process.

Since the “restricted reporting” option became available in June 2005, more than 1,800 service members who were victims of sexual assault or rape have used it, said Dr. Kaye Whitley, director of the Defense Department’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office Oct. 30.

“At Keesler, we’ve had victims stress the importance of being able to choose between restricted and unrestricted reporting,” said Liz Waters, chief of the sexual assault prevention and response office. “They can now make the choice of whether or not to involve law enforcement, and at the same time can seek medical care if they choose not to involve law enforcement.”

Upon notification of a reported sexual assault, SARCs immediately assign a victim advocate to provide accurate information on the processes of both restricted and unrestricted reporting to the victim. If the victim chooses to use restricted reporting, health care providers initiate the appropriate care and treatment and report the sexual assault to a SARC in lieu of reporting the assault to law enforcement or the command.

Drive provides comfort to assault victims

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Keesler’s sexual assault prevention and response program is hosting its second annual book back drive to benefit the Gulf Coast Women’s Center for Nonviolence.

Each bag contains a clean, new set of clothing to give to sexual assault victims following a forensic exam at an area hospital. The goal is to collect enough backpacks, clothing and toiletries to prepare 100 bags, 90 for women and 10 for men.

“The victim’s clothing is taken as part of evidence collection, leaving nothing but a hospital gown for

At the victim’s discretion, an appropriately trained health care provider will conduct a sexual assault forensic examination, which may include the collection of evidence. In the absence of a Defense Department provider, the service member is referred to an appropriate civilian facility for the exam, Dr. Whitley said.

The command isn’t notified of the victim’s identity, but the command is notified that a sexual assault took place. This gives the commander an opportunity to take protective or awareness measures for the installa-

the person to wear home,” said 1st Lt. Stephanie Lutz, deputy sexual assault response coordinator.

“Giving them a set of clothes helps to return some of the dignity which was lost in their attack.”

In addition to back packs, other needed items are sweat pants, T-shirts, flip flops and sports bras ranging from small to extra-extra large. Monetary donations are also needed.

The drop-off location is the SAPR program office on the third floor of Locker House, using the stairwell entrance closest to the intersection of Third and D streets.

For more information, call 377-8635 or 7278.

tion’s population, she said.

“It’s really important that people come forward, because anyone that has ever worked with any type of trauma victim knows that early intervention is key ... so our goal in having restricted reporting is to get that victim in there to get the medical care and counseling that they need,” Dr. Whitley said.

The option of restricted reporting in the military has provided victims of sexual assault or rape the same option as those in the civilian sector who may involve authorities about the assault, Dr. Whitley said.

The SARC implements and manages the command’s sexual assault prevention and response program and serves as consultant to the commander. Dr. Whitley calls this position the “center of gravity” for the entire program.

“The program on any given installation is only as good as the SARC,” she said. “They have a huge responsibility. This is a command-sponsored program, so that SARC has to have a good working relationship with the commander, and the commander has to be involved.”

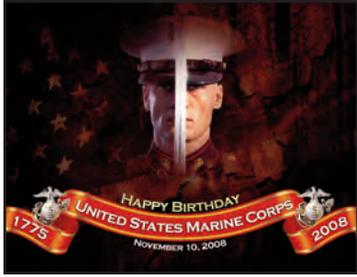
Besides the SARC, a whole team works together when a victim reports a sexual assault or rape.

Training provided to all of the members of the team that assist victims of sexual assault is key to the success of the program, Dr. Whitley said.

“There are the chaplains. There are the trained doctors, the forensic nurses, the mental health counselors, the lawyers, the investigators, so there’s a whole team of people that work together on behalf of the victim,” she said.

“We have established guidelines for medical personnel, commanders, first sergeants or law enforcement in how to notify the SARC if a sexual assault is reported to them and are constantly discussing ways to better support the victim,” Mrs. Waters noted.

Navy Lt. Jennifer Cragg, American Forces Press Service, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.



Marine Corps observes 233rd birthday

**Air Force News Service
and Keesler News staff**

WASHINGTON — The Air Force saluted the Marine Corps Monday, its 233rd birthday.

More than 350 Keesler members celebrated the birthday at the annual Marine Corps Ball Monday at the Hard Rock Casino Hotel.

Originally founded on Nov. 10, 1775, the Marine Corps was composed mainly of infantrymen serving aboard Navy ships. They were primarily responsible for the security of the ship, offensive and defensive boarding parties. They also helped protect the ship's officers from mutiny.

In 1921, Marine Gen. John Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47, Series 1921 that directed the history, traditions and mission of the Marine Corps to be read to all Marines on Nov. 10 to honor the service's creation. And in 1925, the first formal Marine Corps Birthday Ball was held in Philadelphia.

Today, the Marine Corps is an amphibious expeditionary force that also support missions from the White House and the State Department.

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

Deployed Keesler surgeon treats traumatic injuries in Afghanistan

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Maj. (Dr.) Kerry Latham recently returned from an eye-opening deployment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

The major, the 81st Surgical Operations Squad-ron's only plastic surgeon, served at the country's largest hospital from May to September, returning to Keesler Sept. 21.

The only U.S. plastic surgeon in Afghanistan, Major Latham performed more than 350 surgeries and procedures during what she said was the busiest air and space expeditionary force cycle.

"I mainly cared for traumatic wounds and burns (suffered by coalition forces)," she said. "I also did humanitarian work to 'win the hearts and minds' of the Afghan people. It probably would have taken me four years stateside to take care of the same number of cases I treated at Bagram. There's no way I would see this much trauma in the U.S."

Discussing the medical team at Bagram, the major stated, "I'm proud of all who I met and worked with, all the doctors, nurses and technicians. It was truly a team effort. We worked long hours and were all 'on the same page' to complete the mission. We were there as part of an international team to help rebuild Afghanistan."

She had special praise for two other Keesler medics deployed to Bagram.

"Tech. Sgt. Nackeesia Holmes (81st MSGS) and Maj. Stacey Van Orden (81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron) were tireless workers who represented Keesler well," the major remarked. "They had such positive attitudes — I was proud to have served with them."

The humanitarian procedures Major Latham performed involved mainly cleft lips and burn reconstruction. While she repaired only about five cleft lips, she estimated



Courtesy photo

Major Latham performs hand surgery and instructs a group of Afghan physicians.



Major Latham

she cared for about 50 children who had suffered wounds to their extremities, in many instances saving their limbs.

"We would get e-mails about babies requiring treatment from British troops in border towns," Major Latham explained. "They would bring the cleft lip children to me for treatment and when they returned to their villages, the villagers would look at our soldiers in a more favorable light. In this way, I could assist our soldiers by helping the babies."

Working an average of 14 hours a day, seven days a week, made the time pass quickly. For the most part, the Bagram hospital served as a

collection point where they cleaned up and stabilized coalition wounded for transport to the next level of care, usually to Germany. About the only combatants to stay for any length of time were wounded Afghan soldiers and police.

"Salvaging limbs was really rewarding," Major Latham said. "This included kids who stepped on land mines."

"I didn't expect to get to know the Afghan people so well," she commented. "I was able to bond with them. They love their kids just like we love ours. They have tight-knit families."

"The father of a baby whose cleft lip I repaired returned for a follow-up appointment a couple of months later," she continued. "He presented me a man's hat, one usually worn by a village leader. The Afghan men treated me with great respect; I never experienced any gender issues."

Summarizing the experience, Major Latham remarked, "I was proud to have served there with such an awesome American medical team and care for such a wonderful population of people. I believe we made a huge impact in a short time. I got to understand a lot more about what we're doing there and the impact the coalition forces are having."

Merger enhances capabilities to tell Keesler's story



Photographer Adam Bond takes shots of students from the 335th Training Squadron outside of Wolfe Hall.



Suzy Templin, military fine artist, works on a painting for display at Keesler.



Susan Griggs, left, and Staff Sgt. Tanya Holditch, Keesler News editor, plan layouts for the weekly base newspaper. Ms. Griggs works for The Sun Herald, contract publisher of the Keesler News.

By Michael Plummer

81st Training Wing Public Affairs

Ask anyone in the 81st Training Wing's Public Affairs Office the best part of the move from the Taylor Logistics Center to Wall Studio last year, and the most likely response would be "windows" — not the computer kind, but the glass kind.

But the truth of the matter is the relocation of public affairs to Wall Studio is a bold move sanctioned by the Air Force chief of staff. The move brings together the multimedia experts at Wall Studio and the wing's public affairs professionals, a merger that combines their capabilities, giving both new windows on the world of strategic communication.

Although a full merger was delayed until the implementation of the A-76 contract announcement in July, once the PA office opened on the second floor of Wall Studio, the synergy of the two units became apparent almost immediately.

"We began by inviting multimedia personnel to our weekly staff meetings, so they could get an idea of what PA is all about," said Jerry Taranto, director of public affairs. "This allowed us to get to know each other better and learn each other's capabilities and concerns."

The result of this move is most readily apparent to anyone who visits Keesler's public Web site, <http://www.keesler.af.mil>, where the number of online videos initiated and produced through collaboration between public affairs and multimedia is constantly growing. The graphic artists on staff also have a hand in the look of the Web site's imagery, which is a work in progress.

"This collaboration gives the customer the best of both worlds," said Mr. Taranto. "While PA still provides coverage for base and community events, we now consider how both public affairs and multimedia capabilities can enhance these activities."

"Our goal has always been to deliver world-class multimedia and visual information products and services," said Scott Corey, project manager for K-Mar Industries, the base's multimedia contractor. "This merger won't change that. If anything, it gives both PA and multimedia an opportunity to see what two great organizations can do as one."

With the addition of professional video capabilities to the public affairs arsenal, the team can cover what happens at Keesler and how it impacts the Air Force mission in a real and immediate way. Similarly, what Wall Studio brings in terms of photographic expertise allows public affairs to tell the story of how Keesler Airmen perform their jobs in a focused, mission-oriented manner.

"Our capabilities have increased exponentially with this merger," said Mr. Taranto. "We are in the business of telling Keesler and Air Force stories through pictures, words and video. This merger leverages combined talents to achieve our vision — to be the No. 1 communications team in the Air Force."



Graphics illustrator Terry Lee prepares a poster for lamination.

Available services

- multimedia support — imagery, video and graphics
- video teleconferencing
- cameras on loan for unit photography
- base newspaper
- public Web site
- commander's access channel
- marquees and signage
- contingency communication plans
- communication training
- information hotlines
- onsite internal information support such as commander's calls
- public information and media relations
- news releases
- media training
- response to public queries
- media outreach
- media escort
- media engagement and interview preparations
- community relations
- special event coordination
- community liaison
- community support requests
- tours, embarkation and orientation flights
- speeches and speakers bureau
- legislative liaison
- customer project consultation

For more information, call public affairs, 377-2783, or visit <http://www.keesler.af.mil/publicaffairs.asp>.

For more information on multimedia services, call 377-4378 or visit <http://www.keesler.af.mil/units/multimedialogue/index.asp>

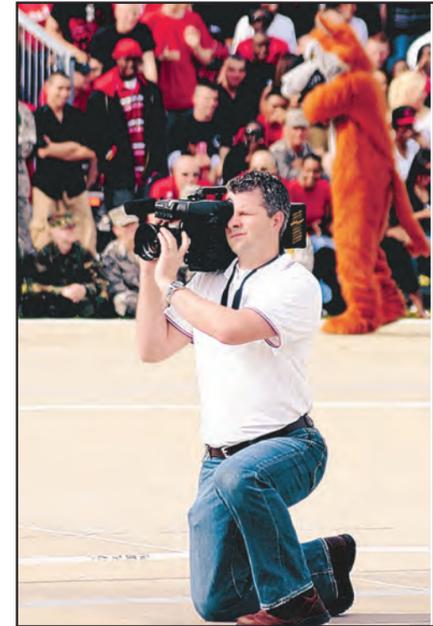


Digital media artist Barbara De Blasi updates information on the commander's access channel.

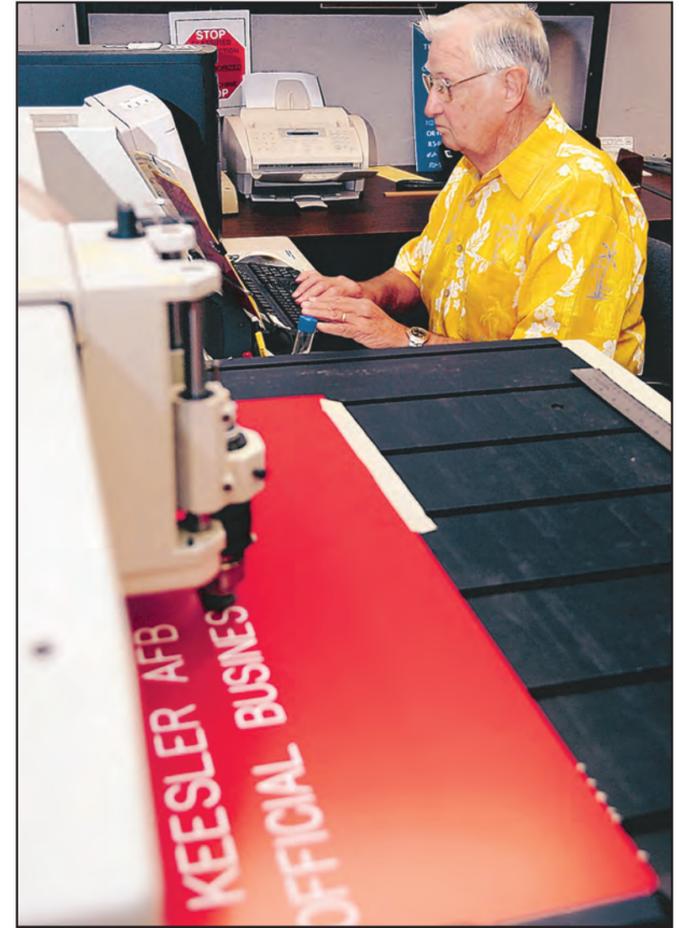


Top, graphics illustrator Michele Carroll works on a project at Wall Studio.

At right, engraver Bill Wade prepares a sign for a customer.



Videographer Jamie Foster films a recent 81st Training Group drill down.



Photos by Kemberly Groue



Postal service announces schedule for holiday mail

Dec. 4 deadline for Iraq, Afghanistan;
Dec. 11 cutoff for other overseas bases

By Samantha Quigley

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — As the holidays approach and people start thinking about what they are going to send loved ones and friends serving overseas, there are a few dates to keep in mind.

“The earliest deadline is for troops that are serving in the Iraq (and) Afghanistan area,” U.S. Postal Service Al DeSarro said. “You want to send all your holiday mail and packages (to those areas) by Dec. 4.”

Holiday packages and cards going to military bases in other parts of the world should be shipped by Dec. 11.

People who can’t beat those dates have another option to get holiday goodies to their destinations in time: Express Mail. But it costs more and isn’t available for military members serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Priority mail flat-rate boxes are the best value when shipping to military members serving at home or anywhere overseas, Mr. DeSarro said.

The largest flat-rate box costs \$10.95 to ship to an APO or FPO address. That is a \$2 discount, and the boxes are free.

The flat-rate boxes come with another bonus. If it will fit in the box, and weighs 70

pounds or less, it ships at the established rate.

“We also offer a special military package kit, and this applies even if you want to send to our troops here in the U.S.,” Mr. DeSarro said.

“If you call 1-800-610-8734, they’ll send you a free kit of packaging materials — priority mail boxes, tape, labels and stuff that can make your holiday packing much easier,” he added.

When shipping any holiday package, there are some basic guidelines to take into consideration, he added.

If a USPS-provided box isn’t being used, use a sturdy box.

Don’t use wrapping paper or string on the outside of the package.

Print both the shipping and return addresses clearly.

Contents should be packaged securely and in leak-proof containers.

Consider the country’s customs to ensure the items are appropriate and acceptable.

Including the mailing address, return address and the contents of the box on a slip of paper with the other contents is a good idea, according to USPS officials, just in case something out of the ordinary should happen.

Officials expect 20 million pounds of mail to be sent to U.S. troops this holiday season.



Airman Turknett



Sergeant Cleveland



Sergeant Heilman



Captain Phillips



Mr. Collins



Ms. Price

81st Training Wing Quarterly Awards — July-September

Airman — Senior Airman Christopher Turknett, 81st Security Forces Squadron

Noncommissioned officer — Staff Sgt. Michael Cleveland, 81st Civil Engineering Squadron

Senior NCO — Master Sgt. Chad Heilman, 332nd Training Squadron

Company grade officer — Capt. Mildred Phillips, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron

Civilian Category 1 — James Collins, 81st Medical Operations Squadron

Civilian Category 2 — Vernesta Price, 81 Force Support Squadron

Civilian supervisor Category 1 — Jamey Simmons, 81st FSS

Civilian supervisor Category 2 — Julie Love, 81st FSS

Honor guard — Airman 1st Class Rupert Laco, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron



Ms. Simmons



Ms. Love



Airman Laco

KEESLER

NOTES

Thanksgiving guests

The chapel is sponsoring the Home Away from Home Thanksgiving dinner program for nonprior service Airmen.

Host families volunteer to provide a holiday meal for two or more students. Active-duty, civil service and retirees are invited to participate.

Host sign-up forms must be turned by Nov. 24 at the Triangle Chapel or the Fishbowl Student Center in the Levitow Training Support Facility, by e-mail to charles.mallory@keesler.af.mil, or by calling 377-8256 or 2331.

Host and student registration forms are also available at the Keesler public Web site, <http://www.keesler.af.mil>.

Student sign-up forms are also available at the Fishbowl.

Pediatric dentistry

The 81st Dental Squadron's pediatric dentistry clinic is looking for patients for the advanced education in general dentistry residency.

Children 4-12 are evaluated for restorative needs. No orthodontic treatment or use of oral sedation is available. Patients must be available for treatment on Thursday mornings.

For more information, call 376-5144.

Housing maintenance

The new phone numbers for family housing maintenance service calls are 377-5561, 5562 and 5563.

Airman's Attic

The Top III is looking for volunteers to support Airman's Attic, a program that assists junior enlisted members with free basic household supplies.

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.

Team raises funds for injured comrades

Keesler Marine completes 177.5-mile, 5-day run

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

After running 13 marathons in the past 12 months, Jimmy Shields was ready for a new challenge ... a five-day run spanning 177.5 miles to raise funds for the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund.

Shields, a gunnery sergeant in Keesler's Marine Corps Detachment for nearly three years, read about the Esprit de Corps Ultra Run in the Marine Corps Times and decided "to use my talents to benefit others, as well as to test myself and my abilities."

Dennis Miranda, a gunnery sergeant from the 4th Marine Corps District, Harrisburg, Pa., organized the event. Other team members were Brandon Richardson, a sergeant assigned to Marine Corps Recruiting Command, Quantico, Va.; and former Marines Andrew Strohecker and Joe Garcia who work for Naval Sea Systems Command.

The event was interwoven with historical significance for the Marines.

The course length of 177.5 miles signified the year the Marine Corps was founded. The Oct. 22 starting point was the site of Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, where the first two battalions of Marines were raised.

"We became known as the Tun Tavern Runners," said Shields, a weather instructor in the 335th Training Squadron.

The last leg of the run on Oct. 26 was the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington which ended at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va. The memorial is modeled on the image of five Marines and a Navy corpsman raising the American flag during the Battle of Iwo Jima.



Shields, a gunnery sergeant in Keesler's Marine Corps Detachment for nearly three years, read about the Esprit de Corps Ultra Run in the Marine Corps Times and decided "to use my talents to benefit others, as well as to test myself and my abilities."

Every stride in the run honored Marines who've been wounded in action. As of Monday, the Marine Corps' 233rd birthday, the Tun Tavern Runners raised nearly \$14,150, with donations for the IMSFF still coming in.

The fund, established four years ago by Karen Guenther, a nurse at Camp Pendleton, Calif., who served in Iraq, has provided more than 8,000 grants totaling more than \$21 million to help families of injured Marines with living and travel expenses.

The run wasn't a relay — the five team members ran the entire race with a pledge that no one would be left behind,

regardless of injuries, exhaustion or other problems. A two-man support crew in a Marine Corps recruiting Humvee blocked intersections and protected the runners from traffic as the course wound through city streets and country highways in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

"I've been running since I can remember — I've always been a runner," explained Shields, a member of the Gulf Coast Running Club. "I've done anything from local 5Ks to ultra marathons."

About a month before the race, he stepped up his mileage from doing one long

run a week of 16 to 26 miles to doing two or three on back-to-back days to get his body accustomed to running while hurting and fatigued.

Shields and the team ran 37.8 miles on three days, 37.9 on one day and 26.2 miles on the last day for the Marine Corps Marathon.

"Our daily agenda was to wake up and get started," Shields recalled. "After 15 to 20 miles, we'd duck out and enjoy some lunch — pizza — and change our socks and other clothing articles. Then we'd get back at it.

"The days were fun and I was lucky to run with the group I did," he continued.

Shields begins his run in the protective shadow of a Marine Corps recruiting Humvee which carried a two-man support team. The vehicle ensured the five runners were safe at intersections and along busy roads.

Courtesy photo

"Saturday was the only day with bad weather — the area was taking a front and it rained on us almost the entire day. Surprisingly, I never really got sore muscle-wise, but I did have some discomfort in my left Achilles tendon."

When he returned home, he took six days off with absolutely no running, but then began hitting the pavement again, with a 9-mile run Nov. 2.

"Being married to a runner can be a lonely job," Shields admitted. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have three children — Brenden, 12; Erin, 10, and Ryan, almost 8. He tries to do his runs before they wake up or when he's at work.

He's been able to spend more time with his family since he's been assigned to Keesler. Before becoming an instructor, he was deployed all over the world, from Norway to Iraq. His last deployment was in 2004 with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit for a humanitarian relief mission in the wake of the tsunami in the Indian Ocean.



Photos by Kemberly Groue
 Ryan Vaught, left, and William Pence, right, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., team up to block Keesler's Al Holmes during Southeastern Military Athletic Conference action, Saturday at Blake Fitness Center. The Dragons defeated Eglin, 84-73.

Varsity basketball Keesler men, women take home-court wins



Keesler's Tomeika Washington powers past D. McClendon from Eglin in Saturday's women's contest. Keesler came out on top, 72-59.

Exceptions
 to Keesler's
25 mph
 speed limit:
15 mph
 in housing areas,
 Ploesti Drive
 construction site,
 flight line and
 unpaved surfaces;
10 mph
 in close proximity
 to marching
 formations
 and when waved
 through
 base gates;
5 mph
 in parking lots and
35 mph
 in some sections
 of perimeter roads.

SCORES AND MORE

Basketball

Varsity teams — for men's team, call Jesse Harris, 376-5723. For women's team, call Richard Vincent, 343-9951.

Intramural season — preseason tournament was played Wednesday. As of Monday, teams include 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, 81st Training Support Squadron, 81st Force Support Squadron, 403rd Wing, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, 335th and 338th Training Squadrons, 81st Dental Squadron and 81st Mission Support Group.

Over-30 league — starts play 11 a.m. Monday at Dragon Fitness Center. Teams include 335th TRS, 403rd Wing, 81st TRSS and 81st FSS.

Bowling

Gaudé Lanes now open Sundays — 1-6 p.m.

Registration — continues for Keesler Youth Bowling Association at Gaudé Lanes. Any child old enough to throw the bowling ball down the alley is eligible. League meets 9:30 a.m. Saturdays. Instruction available. For more information, including fees, call 377-2817.

Glow bowling — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, \$1 per game and \$1 for shoes; 9 p.m. Fridays, 7 p.m. Saturdays, \$5.50 adults, \$3.50 ages 17 and younger, including shoes.

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

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

Fitness centers

Walk your way through the holidays — Nov. 20 through Jan. 1. Annotate your daily step total. Register Monday through Nov. 19 at the health and wellness center. Get a free pedometer and walking log book; medals awarded.

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

Wall of Fame — powerlifting event, 1-4 p.m. first compressed work schedule Friday each 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 record for most pounds lifted or break an existing record and

Bowl-O-Rama benefits Project Cheer

Wednesday is the deadline to register for the Keesler First Sergeants Project Cheer Bowl-O-Rama.

Profits from the event, Nov. 20 at Gaudé Lanes, enable the "shirts" to assist Keesler families during the holidays.

Sign-in is at noon, and bowling begins at 1 p.m.

The nine-pin no-tap tournament is limited to the first 20 five-person teams to sign up. The \$10 per person charge covers three games and shoe rental.

For more information, call Rogers Trahan, 376-4302, or e-mail rogers.trahan@keesler.af.mil.

get your picture on the wall. Open to all Defense Department personnel 18 years of age and older.

For more information, call 377-3056.

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

Computerized fitness assessments, counseling — available by appointment at Dragon Fitness Center. To schedule, call 377-2907.

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.

Golf

Membership drive — through Saturday. Giveaways and special prizes or new members. Current members in good standing who enlist new member eligible for special prizes. Winners announced Tuesday.

Turkey shoot tournament — shotgun start 8 a.m. Nov. 22; sign up by Nov. 18. Two-person team; must have verifiable handicap. Annual members \$15, inclusive members \$10, nonmembers \$30 including greens fees, cart, food and beverages, prizes and awards.

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 twosome or single. \$20 per person including greens fee, cart, food, beverages and prizes. Format decided by draw each week. Limit 44 golfers.

Twilight golf special — 2 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays. Pay nine-hole fee and golf until course closes.

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.

Outdoor recreation

Back Bay fishing trip — 7 a.m. to noon Nov. 22. \$20 per person; bring your own food and drinks. Mississippi fishing license required. Minimum four, maximum seven people.

Turkey casting contest — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 21; winner receives a \$50 savings bond.

Discount on skiff rental — bring a friend, get 10 percent discount.

Fish of the month — weigh in largest flounder for the month and win \$100 savings bond.

One-day fishing trips — to Horn, Ship or Cat Islands; pick the date. Charter trip in Delacroix and Reggio, La. with professional fishing guide. For more information, call 377-3160.

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

HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Nathan Andrews, Nathan Asher, Joshua Atencio, Keith Bivens, Andrew Blair, Shawn Blair, Amanda Booth, Kayla Bourboulis, Joseph Brandon, Cody Bucy, Sean Bundles, Adam Caplette, Brandon Capley, Majed Chaaban, Jessica Clark, Jonathan Clay, Zachary Donelson, Frank Draper, Forrest Edelman, Seth Evans, Brandon Everett, Curtis Filkins, Miguel Flores, Patrick Forbes, Donald Frye, Charity Gary, Nathan Grilley, Evan Hall, Michael Henderson, Richard Hiort, Jeremy Hoagland, Richard Hollingworth, Jason Hudson, Daniel Jones, Nicholas Kadish, Adam Karnowski, Daniel Kennedy, Matthew Lavalleur, Jlene Lieberg, Adam Litterer, Evan Maddux, Matthew Mitchell, Eric Molinaro, Collin Osting, James Owen, Randolph Patterson, Mark Pomory, Ray Ramos, John Robert, Dominick Santo Pietro, Bryan Senger, Tyler Shatzer, Matthew Sherman, Arron Stamey, Jesse Taylor, Michael Tully, Mitchel Upson, Damen Vanover, Drew Wells, Ryan Wilson and Robert Wood; Airmen Joshua Coop, Michael Harrold, Kemsley Herrera, Shawn Jewell, Dorothy Litoff, Matthew O'Connell, Sean Purcell, Alejandro Rodriguez and Scott Thompson; Airmen 1st Class Justin Adams, Michael Allday, Steven Archibald, Dale Armstrong, Mark Babjak, Christopher Barnes, Kellen Barnes, Christopher Barrera, Luke Beckwith, Brian Bernal, Benjamin Byers, William Cashman, Steven Catlin, Scott Champion, Shawn Cummins, Ian Daniel, Daniel Dansereau, Benjamin Dellheim, Christopher Farris, Alexander Fawcett, Owen Filion, Stephen Gagnon, Lynnrae Grisham, Matthew Harbin, Robert Hubbard, Michael Huss, April Jasso, Justin Jones, Jared Kramer, Ethan Labonte, Brett Lawrence, David Lindsay, Lauren List, Derek Lopez, Jared Lucci, Robert Mattix, Asa McQueen, Janacyn Mertilien, Bryan North, Corey Paden, Steven Pagano, Jose Perez-Brunet, Joel Rodriguez, Thomas Sanchez, Andrew Senica, Jason Skelton, Samuel Smith, Kristopher Stanage and Matthew Weber; Senior Airmen Kenneth Barbera, Rachel Chamberland, Judson Hickey, Matthew Lee, Collin Ossianer, Marlon Patterson and Steven Scott; Staff Sgts. Glenn Brackin, Devin Card, Thomas Elliott, Brian Gunkelman, Robert Quinn and Forrest Wyble; Tech. Sgt. Barbara Jean Nesbitt; Master Sgt. Paul Gunnoe; Senior Master Sgt. Edward Williams.

334th TRS

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Jordan Allison, Raymond Betchley, Nathaniel Cannon, Todd Cole, Christian Muri, Jeremiah Storey, Taryn Summers, Jeffrey Villa and Dylan Younglove; Airman Justin McWhite; Airmen 1st Class Brandon Burgess, Hugh Cross, Tyler Dierickx, Justin Kobler, Miller Matthew, Kyle McDorman, Matthew Nabors, Whitney Parker, Leon Thompson, and Nicole Walker; Staff Sgt. Raymond Armijo; Tech. Sgt. John Barr.

Airfield management apprentice course — Airman Basic Jonathan Hillyard and Brooke Young; Airman 1st Class Glen Graham; Staff Sgt. Billy Prather; Tech. Sgt. Clarence Johnson; Master Sgt. Thomas Goodwin.

Command post apprentice course — Airman Whitney Byers; Airman 1st Class Shauna McMahon; Senior Airmen Chad Green and Brittany Faulk; Staff Sgts. Jason Brown, Andre Nesbeth, Julitssa Ortiz and Michael Torbett; Master Sgts. David Derenski and Ivan Yelverton; Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Bell; Brian Ailinger.

335th TRS

Weather training flight — Airman Basic Evelyn Bowen, Gregory Evenson, Cody Howk, Patrick Knapp, Morgan Johnson, Lilly Samaniego, Zachary Sura, Matthew Trimmings and Anthony Zamora; Pfc. Jonathan Oliver; Marine Lance Cpl. Amy Smith; Airman 1st Class Marcus Becker, Carlos Calle, Samuel Carter, Ronald Falleck, Thomas Heath, Mary Jo Laumbach, Sherondra Magee-Bailey and Justin Worrell; Marine Cpl. Joshua Whittaker; Senior Airman Chris Dobyna; Staff Sgt. Rose Selko; Coast Guard MSTC William Stewart.

336th TRS

Communications-computer systems flight — Airmen Basic Charles Beaver, James Kulikowski, Joshua Leffler, John Marchetti, Alexander Palmer, Andrew Pratt and Donald Smith; Airmen 1st Class Daniel Boggs, Zach Cahill, Christopher Marcelli, Robert Robinson and David Vennen; Staff Sgts. Christopher Carder and Matthew Meyers; Senior Master Sgt. Mohammed Alraqa.

Communications and information management flight — Airmen Basic Christopher Barrow, Gregory Bowman, Wilmer Rivera Bruno, Steven Campbell, Daniel Chaffee, Daniel Chung, Darren Diones, Ian Fischer, Bryan Napier, Alexis Rivera, Ana Anya Segura, Francisco Serrano, Brandon Smith, Evan Soriano, Cody Trenda, William Twomey, Luchia Warfield, Gary Williams, Collin Wilson and Daniel Yockey; Airmen Eric Byrne, Randall Ciardetti, Gregory Jordan, Eric Leyva and Mark Quinlan; Airmen 1st Class Austin Carroll, John Delarma, Benjamin Harmon, Jasmine Harmon, Chelsea Kline, Jonathan Martin, Kevaghn Murray, Ryan Poster, Juan Rivera-Puig, Luis Rodriguez, Michael Trum, Patrick Weller and David Whittaker; Senior Airmen Jeni Ahearn, Jose Alvarez-Vargas, Christopher Enright, Hyun Lee, Maurice Miller, Teresa Baker-Opland, Victor Pineda and Tamara Thompson; Staff Sgts. Shadrick Bowe, Pedro Cancel, Jayson Maxwell, Valerie Mrzyglod, Erica Neubauer, Mark Schramm and Nicanor Vigil; Tech. Sgts. Jesse Carter, Jay Goodman, Herry Stallings and Miguel Valdivia; Master Sgts. Lorri Heneveld, Timothy Norton, Jascha Patton and Daniel Whalen; Senior Master Sgt. Terry Rigelman.

338th TRS

Ground radar — Airman Basic Eugene Smith; Airmen Garrett Adams, Isaac Chiellini and Greg Pollash; Airmen 1st Class Jeffery Alexandre, Ryan Frankland, Jennifer Hurley, Casey Raynes and Mark Woodfin; Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Finchum.

Ground radio — Airmen Basic Tyler Coleman, Patrick Cox, Michael Craven, Jonathon Hunziker and Kristofer Lee; Airman Zachary Couch; Airmen 1st Class Steven Elliott, Joshua Huckstep, Joshua Kessinger, Mckenzie Lauber, William O'Brien, Christopher Oshell and Michal Szczepanik; Senior Airmen Shawn Hopper and Christopher Johnson; Staff Sgts. Carl Denuna and Samuel Turman; Tech. Sgts. Daniel Howard, Jason Kruenegel and Jeremy Roering; Master Sgt. Dale Mulkey.

CHAPEL SERVICES

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

Protestant

Sunday worship

Larcher Chapel traditional with children's ministry.....8:30 a.m.
Triangle Chapel contemporary 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 Master Sgt. Michael Raff, 377-5235 or 273-2226.

Islamic

Building 2003 — prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jumrah 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 801-787-1990.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 09-1 — graduation Dec. 16.

Mathies NCO Academy

Class 09-1 — graduation Dec. 18

Arts and crafts center

Specials

Fall festival and craft fair — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Booth reservations now accepted. Costume contest, fall and holiday crafts for sale, turkey bingo, door prizes, fun and food. Open to everyone eligible to use the center.

Teen time crafts — 3:30-5:30 p.m. Thursdays. Today, bake holiday cookies. Call for prices.

Holiday bread making — Nov. 22. Make refrigerator rolls; call for time and price.

Bob Ross painting workshop — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 22. Wet-on-wet technique on 16x20-inch canvas. \$65 includes materials, instruction and light lunch.

Multicraft shop

Fall and holiday crafting — 5-7:30 p.m. Thursdays. Make project for holiday gift-giving.

Holiday card workshop — 5-7 p.m. today; \$10 includes supplies and instruction.

Holiday moose ceramic project — 5-7:30 p.m. Nov. 20. \$27 includes supplies and instruction. Preregistration required.

Pottery on the wheel — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 22; \$60 includes clay, firing and instruction.

Wood hobby shop

Advanced intarsia — 10 a.m. Nov. 22. \$20 including all materials and tool use; new project each month.

Frame shop

Picture framing and matting — noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. Pre-registration required. Learn equipment use and basic techniques of matting and frame assembly. Qualify for operator's card for self-help shop use.

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.

Engraving shop

Perfect gifts — personalized mugs and coasters, laser-engraved pen and desk sets and prints by local artists.

Auto hobby shop

Open shop use.

Free auto care briefing — 4:30-6:30 p.m. Nov. 20.

Vehicle storage lot — for a secure place to store your vehicle, call 377-3872.

24-hour coin-operated car wash — features vacuum and tire air pump, features foamy brush wash, high pressure rinse, wax system, towelettes, Armorall, and vacuum station.

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; \$10 per month per vehicle per stall. Registration, license and proof of insurance required. To place a car on the lot, call 377-2821.

Chapel

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

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

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

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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.

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.

McBride Library

Gale data base orientations — 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Fax special — 50 cents a page this month.

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

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

Free wireless Internet — check at circulation desk.

Tours/orientations — call 377-2181.

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Vandenberg Community Center

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

Family and teen talent show — 5 p.m. Friday, Welch Auditorium.

Football frenzy — 7 p.m. Mondays. Club members are eligible for prizes.

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, Gaude Lanes, 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

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

Luncheon specials — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays; \$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.

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

Youth center

Teen turkey challenge — 6-8 p.m. Monday; sport games

and competitions, snacks and prizes.

Fun night — 5-9 p.m. Nov. 22, ages 6 and older. Skate, dance, games and video games. \$3 includes snacks and prizes.

Basketball registration — throughout month for ages 6-15. Play begins in January; volunteer coaches needed. For more information, call 377-4116.

Power hour — 4-6 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. Homework help and tutoring, ages 6-12. No charge for those registered in the youth program.

Torch Club — 6-7 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, ages 6-12. Focus on club and community service, education, athletics and fitness.

TRAIL (Keystone Club) — 6 p.m. every other Monday; leadership club for teens.

Book collection — drop off new and used children's books to be distributed to the Keesler Medical Center's pediatric clinic.

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 Saints games at New Orleans Superdome — Nov. 24, Green Bay Packers, game time 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 7, Atlanta Falcons, game time noon; Dec. 28, Carolina Panthers, game time noon. \$60 per person including admission; limit two tickets per trip. Sign up at the Vandenberg Community Center customer service desk. Limit 20 passengers; first come, first served.

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

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 those who are separating and 2:30 p.m. for those who are retiring. Those 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. Monday through Nov. 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. 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.

Air Force Reserve opportunities — for members separating within 180 days, call Master Sgt. Neil Sherman, 377-7116; e-mail anthony.sherman@keesler.af.mil or visit Room 130, 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. For more information, call Master Sgt. Neil Sherman, 377-7116; e-mail anthony.sherman@keesler.af.mil or visit Room 130, Sablich Center.

Web sites

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

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DINING HALL MENUS

Today

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

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

Friday

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

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

Saturday

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

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

Sunday

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

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

Monday

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

Wednesday

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

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

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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.

New military spouse career center — <http://www.military.com/spouse>. 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>.

Southern Region Military and Civilian Job Fair — <http://www.jobfairs.ms.gov>.

Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program — <http://www.Turbotap.org>.

Military Homefront — <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil>.

Military One Source — <http://www.militaryonesource.com>.

Employment opportunities

Career focus program for spouses — information on area employment opportunities, job Web sites, human resources contacts, temporary jobs, on-base listings and free training programs. Computer lab available for resume preparation or job search in Room 108B, Sablich Center. For an appointment, call Ron Bublik, 376-8502 or 376-8728, or e-mail ronald.bublik@keesler.af.mil.

Air Force Office of Special Investigations — senior airmen with less than six years time in service, and staff and technical sergeants with less than 12 years time in service are eligible. Foreign language, computer or technical skills are desired, but not required. Those accepted attend the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Ga. for training in instruction in law, report writing, forensics, interview tech-

niques, 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.

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.

MEETINGS

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. Rich Striggow, 377-4800, 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 Staff Sgt. Aaron Eden, 377-1907; 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, 376-8500, or Master Sgt. Ernesto Alvendia, 376-8501.

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 Camo.princess92@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 5.6 — 3:15 p.m. third Wednesday of the month; location varies. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Toyshaline Young or Tech. Sgt. Jodi Evans, 377-4885.

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 Leanne Ramsay, 377-3217, or visit <http://www.KeeslerSpousesClub.com>.

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.

Top III — 3 p.m. third Thursday of the month, Katrina Kantina. For more information, call Master Sgt. Michael Krejci, 377-4451.

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 shown at Welch Auditorium. Tickets are \$3 adults and \$1.50 children for regular features, and \$2.50 adults and \$1 children for matinees.

Friday — 6:30 p.m., Ghost Town (PG-13, 102 minutes).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Beverly Hills Chihuahua (PG, 91 minutes); 6:30 p.m., Eagle Eye (PG-13, 118 minutes).

Sunday — 1 p.m., Flash of Genius (PG-13, 120 minutes).