



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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Siren call



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Four-year-old Esmeralda Zamora-Muñoz learns how to turn on the siren of an 81st Security Forces Squadron patrol car from Staff Sgt. Keishonda Signater during Friday's Transportation Day at Our Lady of Fatima Elementary School in Biloxi. Esmeralda's parents are Rodrigo Zamora and Juana Muñoz-Zecua. Students were introduced to different types of transportation, such as public safety units and construction vehicles.

Mission complete: contractor support team now in place

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Sunday marked the end of Keesler's three-month transition from support services provided by government employees to contract services provided by Computer Sciences Corp.

The journey to this milestone took nearly nine years, through a wide-ranging competitive sourcing study, a contract award delayed by Hurricane Katrina's \$980 million rampage across Keesler and a reduction-in-force process in which 311 civilian and 275 military positions were eliminated.

Brig. Gen. Greg Touhill, 81st Training Wing commander, said that now that the transition period has ended, "Keesler is moving full steam ahead — CSC is now an integral part of the team."

The general acknowledged the tremendous challenge the transition to contractor support services has presented to Team Keesler.

"Our focus has been on taking care of two things: the mission and our people," General Touhill emphasized. "When we started this transition, I ordered our civilian personnel team to treat everyone with dignity and respect. We started with more than 180 personnel at risk of being terminated and, thanks to the great work of our civilian personnel team and leaders around the base, we've whittled that number down to near zero."

Please see **Support**, Page 9

Anyone can be an MVP

By Brig. Gen. Greg Touhill

81st Training Wing commander

Did you hear that the Steelers won the Super Bowl?

Wow, what a game! I'll bet there has been a lot of talk in your shops about the game, the half-time show, and the commercials. While some folks were delighted with how the day went, not everyone was happy with the results. I am one of them.

You are probably wondering why I, a native of Pittsburgh and a Steelers fan, am not satisfied. After all, the Steelers won!

Frankly, I'm not satisfied with the choice of the Most Valuable Player. In my book, the most valuable player on the field was not Santonio Holmes, who had a heck of a game and caught the winning touchdown, but rather Kurt Warner, the losing quarterback.

Why Warner? His team lost! Unlike many folks who believe that an MVP can't play for the losing team*, I look for the competitor who was most valuable to his team on the field of conflict. The person whom I believe should be MVP is indispensable to the team. The MVP sustains a high level of play throughout the entire match and inspires others when the chips are

down. While Santonio Holmes paired with Ben Roethlisberger for an incredible fourth quarter drive that folks in Pittsburgh will celebrate for years, Kurt Warner demonstrated incredible leadership that I hope others will celebrate for just as long.

Kurt Warner was cool under fire. When the mighty Steeler defense was closing in all around him and thwarting his every move in the first half, Warner stayed calm. Panic was not part of his game plan. He knew he had a full 60 minutes to play and set the example for his teammates. He coached his teammates on the sidelines not to lose heart and to stick with the good plan. As a leader, are you just as cool when the going gets tough? Do you coach your colleagues to hang in there when times are tough?

Warner accepted responsibility for his own faults and kept trying; he never quit. After the interception ending the first half, he could have just thrown in the towel and said, "Nobody comes back from that kind of deficit." Instead, he came out for the second half and led one of the most impressive comebacks in Super Bowl history. You've likely heard the phrase, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." Kurt is tough.

Are you? Everyone will face adversity and challenges. The key for a leader is not to surrender. You have to continue to look for every opportunity to lead your team to victory.

Warner is a man of integrity. He didn't showboat when things went well. He praised his teammates and congratulated the victors, demonstrating his integrity and sense of fair play. Additionally, after the game he refused to talk about his own accomplishments without first showcasing the great game played by his teammates. Despite logging nearly 400 passing yards against the best defense in the NFL, he made sure to give credit to others before himself. He exemplified service before self... a great lesson for all of us.

Warner also kept perspective. He had faith. He had faith in his teammates, faith in his family, faith in himself, and faith in his beliefs. He knew that at the end of the day, the most important job title he had was "Dad." Win or lose, he knew he was coming home a winner because he had his priorities right. That's another great lesson for all of us.

Finally, Kurt Warner demonstrated excellence on the field of competition. He delivered one of the best

offensive performances in Super Bowl history against one of the most feared and respected defenses in NFL history. Preparation yields performance and Warner delivered. I know some readers will highlight the fumble to end the game (I think there is a good case to declare his arm was moving forward and it was an incompleteness) as an example of him falling short yet, as I look back through the whole game, I believe there is a great case to be made that without Kurt Warner taking the snaps, the Cardinals could not have come back and would not have made the game the classic it became.

For all the reasons above, Kurt Warner is my Super Bowl MVP. As a guy who grew up in Pittsburgh, I'm delighted the Steelers brought home "the six pack" for my hometown. I'm even more delighted that Kurt Warner played so well and demonstrated the values we as Airmen cherish: Integrity, Service, and Excellence. We can all learn a lesson from watching this MVP.

*Oh, by the way, Chuck Howley earned the MVP for the losing Cowboys in Super Bowl V, so it can be awarded to someone on the losing team!

Judging book by its cover can be short-sighted

By Chief Master Sgt. Denise Rucker

81st Mission Support Group superintendent

Did you know that within the first three seconds of meeting someone, you are evaluated ... even if it's just a glance? People appraise your visual and behavioral appearance from head to toe. They observe your demeanor, mannerisms and body language and even assess your grooming and accessories — uniform, shoes, watch, handbag, briefcase. Within only three seconds, you make a lasting impression. You may intrigue some and disenchant others. Do your part in making sure your first impression is always a good one.

On the other side, we have what is referred to as "judging a book by its cover." Do you judge people? I bet you do — we all do. Our society has raised us to judge on the basis of many things — sex, race, religion, you name it; we judge it. Is it wrong? Is there a difference between judging people and making a judgment call against someone? That's something to think about.

Why do we judge people? Giving a crappy glance

to an Airman in a uniform that's dirty or too tight, and talking about people who sometimes make mistakes — what gives anyone that right? I believe that at some time or another in our lives, all of us have done it at least once. Those that will admit they've done it will agree that nothing feels worse than judging someone, getting to know them a little better and knowing how wrong they were about the person. Often the circumstances that lead us to judge others are not true or simply not the whole story.

Relationships with your co-workers are very important ones. You simply can't afford to "judge a book by its cover" or jump to conclusions. We need to take a deeper, closer look at our people. Example: He dresses in plain clothes and drives an old car. Who would know he is the richest man in town?

The value of something isn't always obvious from what we see on the surface, so we should save our judgments until we have more information. For instance, that Airman who is slow and awkward might turn out to be one of the brightest minds in his career field.

One thing that I find interesting is the fact that for everyone, there is a gap between the way you think you are perceived, and how others really see you. I noticed the people I admire are those who are respected by a diverse group of people. They're usually confident, polite, good listeners. They always make the people they talk to feel important. They give sincere compliments. However, they also have the ability to relate to people I wouldn't imagine being in social circles with. They seem to be comfortable with everyone. You've seen them ... the ones that talk to a complete stranger like they've known them for years. This is the type of person we should strive to be; one that is able to connect better with more people and one that certainly does not "judge a book by its cover."

Success comes to those with integrity, those that are resourceful, and those that get to know the people who work with and for them. People love working for them; they strive to please this person and most importantly, accomplish the mission.



DRAGON ON THE STREET

By **Kemberly Groue**

Keesler News photographer

What is the most spontaneous thing you've ever done?



I bought a Yamaha V-Star motorcycle.

Staff Sgt. Troy Johnson,
Keesler Marine Corps
Detachment



I jumped off a bridge into a river.

Kim Holmes, Keesler
Federal Credit Union



I went to Windsor, Canada, on a weekend trip from Florida.

Senior Airman Ian Johnson,
81st Force Support Squadron

News tip? Call the Keesler News, 377-3837, 4130 or 9966.

KEESLER NEWS

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Keesler on the Web

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

Ground radio trainer keeps crews safe in Kuwait

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Deployment is nothing new for Staff Sgt. Stacy Stewart, a ground radio instructor in the 338th Training Squadron. Right now, he's on his third deployment to Kuwait, and he served in Iraq for eight months in 2003. He's also deployed to Poland, Germany, Italy and Denmark for training exercises.

So what's different this time?

"For the first time in my career, I'm in charge," said Sergeant Stewart, who joined the Air Force nearly 10 years ago and serves as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Army's 70th Medium Truck Detachment S-6 at Camp Arifjan. His partner is Staff Sgt Kermit Rollins, who's deployed from Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

The two NCOs are responsible for more than 500 accountable items, 72 trucks to keep road-ready with communications capabilities and \$5 million of communication equipment.

"S-6 is the Army equivalent for ground radio," Sergeant Stewart explained. "We're on an Army installation supporting the Army. We're using Army-owned equipment, spending Army money, and in many cases, following Army rules. The acronyms and the process to do most things are different than Air Force, so we had a learning curve when we arrived learning how the Army does business."

There's no such thing as an average day for Sergeant Stewart, who's been an instructor at Keesler for four years. The pace and tempo keep the two Air Force NCOs on the move constantly.

"Our responsibilities are driven by the mission," he said. "Some days the mission begins at 3 a.m. and ends at 8 p.m. On other days when there's not a scheduled mission, we arrive around 7:30 a.m. and leave at 5 p.m. We take advantage of any downtime because we know there'll be 16+ hour work days in the future."

When Sergeant Stewart arrived in Kuwait in October, he and Sergeant Rollins began taking mental notes on what could be done to improve the systems already in place. They noticed the communication cables for the trucks' radios were substandard and began the task of replacing them.

Sergeant Stewart is keenly aware of the importance of his duties in keeping convoy crews safe.

"I know that if we slack on our job, we jeopardize the safety of the crew in the convoy," he pointed out. "It's not uncommon for these guys to get shot at or blown up from roadside bombs, and if their communications equipment isn't working properly, they may not be able to call for help. Sergeant Rollins and I have taken this job personally and work whatever hours are necessary to ensure the safety of the convoy."

His most memorable moment so far was "seeing trucks returning from Iraq with bullet holes in them and everyone arriving safe, and knowing that part of the reason they're still alive is because Sergeant Rollins Rollins and I did our job."

Camp Arifjan has many of the same support facili-



Courtesy photo

It's Sergeant Stewart's job to maintain the communications capabilities of 72 trucks at Camp Arifjan.

ties of American bases, including an exchange, library, small clinic, recreational facilities, pool tables, telephones, an education office, a pool and several fitness centers, dining facilities and restaurants.

"We sleep in what are called PCBs – nobody seems to know what that stands for," he said. "They resemble a store-all measuring approximately 50 feet by 200 feet. There are no walls or partitions inside, so we use bunk beds and wall lockers to create makeshift walls to separate one 'room' from another.

"Your rank determines how many people are in your area and whether or not you share your bunk with someone," he continued. "I got lucky and ended up with one of the largest areas and only share it with two others — all three of us have our own bunk bed to ourselves. All E-1 thru E-4 have bunkmates, and most E-5 and E-6 do not. E-7 and up have their own area to themselves."

What makes this deployment the most difficult for Sergeant Stewart is that it's the first time he's left a family behind. His wife, Staff Sgt. Jamee Stewart, is also an instructor in the 338th TRS. They have two children — Clayton, 5, and Hannah, 2.

"I use e-mail and telephone to stay in touch with them, but the nine-hour time difference makes it a little difficult to talk to the kids — 9 p.m. here is noon there, so I can usually only talk to them on the weekend when they're out of school. We've also used the Web cam a few times to see each other, but the Internet connection here is very slow which results in a lot of blurry and choppy screens."

Although his six-month deployment is at the midway point, Sergeant Stewart has no problem staying focused on the mission at hand.

"Keeping the communications systems in these vehicles operating at their maximum potential does nothing less than enhance the safety and security of each of our operators," he emphasized. "If our radios fail, then we have failed our operators and put lives at risk. That's our motivation to come to work every day."

2nd deployment in year for Stewart family

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Staff Sgt. Jamee Stewart can give two different perspectives of deployment — as an active-duty member and the spouse left behind to keep the home fires burning.

"We're coming up on our third wedding anniversary, and we've only spent one together," said Sergeant Stewart, an instructor in the 338th Training Squadron's network infrastructure course.

She deployed to Kuwait January-May 2008 as a communications help desk representative.

"I think that being a military member myself doesn't necessarily make it easier, but it definitely makes me more understanding," Sergeant Stewart commented. "We learned from my deployment that you can't use your phone time fighting about things you can't change right then.

"After my deployment, I realized that it's important for the person at home not to complain about the kids or everyday things that the deployed member doesn't have or is missing," she continued. "It's very hard to hear your spouse talk about how bad the kids were that day when all you can think of is at least you have them."

Sergeant Stewart said she's appreciated the airman and family readiness center's monthly "Give Parents a Break" child care while her husband has been deployed, which her husband used while she was deployed.

"They also had a ton of family activities for the holidays," she pointed out.

"Our squadron has been pretty understanding of our situation since we're both assigned to the 338th TRS and this is our family's second deployment in a year," she added.

Sergeant Stewart said the most difficult part of her husband's deployment has been getting everything ready for the family to make a permanent change of station to Nevada 30 days after her husband returns home. She'll be assigned to Creech Air Force Base, and her husband is going to the Las Vegas area.



Sergeant Stewart

AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISTORY MONTH



U.S. AIR FORCE
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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.*

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Annual banquet

The 81st Training Group's annual award banquet is 6 p.m. today in the Locker House Dragon's Lair.

Attire is mess dress or semi-formal for military and suit and tie or comparable dress for civilians.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from Tech. Sgt. Martha Curley, 377-5456, or Master Sgt. Timothy Sheldon, 377-1576.

Parking lot closed

The parking lot southeast of the Mathies NCO Academy is closed until noon Feb. 12 for drill evaluations.

Hours may change due to inclement weather.

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

Drill downs, parades

The 81st Training Group's schedule for drill downs and parades for 2009 is:

Drill downs — 8 a.m. Feb. 20 and April 17; 7 a.m. June 12 and Aug. 7; 8 a.m. Oct. 2.

Parades — 6 p.m. March 5, July 23 and April 17.

Drill downs and parades are conducted on the parade field behind the Levitow Training Support Facility.

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

CCAF graduation

Feb. 27 is the deadline to apply for the Community

College of the Air Force spring graduating class.

By that date, all supporting documentation must be on file at CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., including the nomination action request.

For more information, visit the education office, Room 224, Sablich Center, or call 376-8708 or 8710.

Commissioning brief

Capt. Peter Beck from the University of Southern Mississippi's Air Force ROTC program gives a commissioning brief, 2-3 p.m. March 13 in the Sablich Center auditorium.

Register by March 11 by e-mailing 81FSS.education@keesler.af.mil with "commissioning — Capt. Beck" as the subject line.

Scholarship available

Applications are accepted through March 31 for the 2009 Hurricane Hunters Association Swan 38 Memorial Scholarship.

For eligibility requirements, instructions and application forms, log on to <http://www.hurricanehunters.com>.

William Carey

Registration is under way for William Carey University's spring trimester.

For more information, visit Room 219, Sablich Center, or call 376-8480.

GI Bill benefits

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

For more information, call 376-8708.

Special testing dates

Application deadlines and dates for special testing are:

PRAXIS I and II — March 16 for April 13; June 14 for July 13.

ACT — March 27 for April 27; May 22 for June 22.

SAT — April 24 for May 25. Test time is 7 a.m. for all.

For more information, call 376-8708.

Student health center

The student health center in the Levitow Training Support Facility is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.

The front desk phone numbers are 376-0324 or 0325.

ACSC options

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

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

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

CCAF online

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

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

Identity theft is a personal nightmare and security risk.

Shred bills, statements, letters, old journals, records, outdated application forms and any documents that contain your full name, Social Security number, duty title and job information, credit card, bank account numbers and names of family members. If you see documents being removed from trash cans, call the 81st Security Forces Squadron law enforcement desk, 377-3040.

President pledges troop support

By John Kruzel

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama thanked U.S. troops and pledged to provide the resources they need to accomplish their missions in his first visit to the Pentagon as commander in chief, Jan. 28.

President Obama spoke to reporters after meeting with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Defense Secretary Robert Gates to discuss military readiness, “difficult decisions” on Iraq and Afghanistan and other national security threats and objectives.

“I want to first of all thank all of the men and women in uniform who are represented here. They are the best that this country has to offer,” President Obama said.

“All of you who are serving in the U.S. armed forces are going to have my full support, and one of my duties as president is going to be to make sure that you have what you need to accomplish your missions,” he said.

The president said the first point he addressed with the Joint Chiefs was gratitude for the service and sacrifice of troops and military families, who he said were responsible for national freedoms sometimes taken for granted.

He also suggested that he’d relieve some of the pressure placed on the military by more evenly distributing responsibility among other U.S. government elements.

“We have for a long time put enormous pressure on our military to carry out a whole set of missions, sometimes not with the sort of strategic support and the use of all aspects of American power to make sure that they’re not carrying the full load,” he said. “And that’s something that I spoke to the chiefs about and that I intend to change as president of the United States.”

President Obama added that those involved in this after-



Defense Department photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Chad McNeeley
President Barack Obama addresses the media Jan. 28 during his first visit to the Pentagon since becoming commander in chief. From left, the president is flanked by Gen. Norton Schwartz, Air Force chief of staff; Army Gen. George Casey, Army chief of staff; Marine Gen. James Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

noon’s meeting in “The Tank,” the secure area in the Joint Chiefs of Staff wing of the Pentagon, agreed to make sure “the health of our force is always in our sights.” Participants included Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. The Coast Guard commandant, though not a member of the Joint Chiefs, also participated.

“We’re going to have some difficult decisions that we’re going to have to make surrounding Iraq and Afghanistan most immediately,” President Obama said. “Obviously, our efforts to continue to go after extremist organizations that would do harm to the homeland is uppermost in our minds. I have every confidence that our military is going to do their job, and I intend to make sure that the civilian side of the ledger does its job to support what they are doing.”

The president added that he had a “wonderful discussion” with the Joint Chiefs about short- and long-term threats

facing the United States.

“We talked about some of the broader, global risks that may arise, and the kind of planning and coordination that’s going to be required between our military and our civilian forces in order to accomplish our long term national security agendas,” he said.

During a Jan. 20 meeting at the White House on his first full day in office, President Obama directed key defense and military officials to plan for a “responsible military drawdown in Iraq.” The participants included Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen, well as Army Gen. David Petraeus, the commander of U.S. Central Command.

Army Gen. Raymond Odierno, commander of Multi-national Force Iraq, also joined the Jan. 21 meeting via teleconference. U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker, key cabinet members and senior national security officials also participated, collectively providing what President Obama called “a full update on the situation in Iraq.”

IN THE NEWS

Medical center parking reduced

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Ongoing construction projects will impact about 200 parking spaces on the north, east and west sides of Keesler Medical Center for at least three months.

Except for about 15 parking spaces on the north side of J Street adjacent to the emergency department, parking won’t be permitted on J Street north side of the medical center from 3rd Street to the medical logistics loading docks on 5th Street. This includes all parking spaces and lots on the south side of J Street from the generator courtyard eastward to 5th Street.

Also, since the current emergency room parking lot is in the demolition area for the old energy plant chiller and old computer room, parking won’t be allowed there for safety reasons.

Some parking spaces in front of the new EPC on the north side of J Street were blocked off Jan. 27 for work related to the new facility.

Heavy equipment and large trucks hauling debris will be in this area for at least 90 days.

Wing awards ceremony Feb. 19

“Honoring Keesler’s Wingmen, Leaders and Warriors” is the theme of the 81st Training Wing’s annual awards ceremony Feb. 19 at the Imperial Palace Casino Resort.

The social hour starts at 6 p.m., followed by the dinner and ceremony at 7.

The guest speaker is Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Sullens, Air Combat Command’s command chief.

Attire is mess dress or semi-formal for military and equivalent for civilians.

To respond, call Master Sgt. Bridgette Hopkins, 81st Medical Group, 376-3053; Master Sgt. Mandy Williams, 81st Training Group, 377-7481; Senior Master Sgt. Tavia Whitley, 81st TRW staff agencies, 377-8145; Master Sgt. Robin Sikes, 81st Mission Support Group, 377-6611, or the protocol office, 377-5566.

Biloxi Back Bay closes for air show

Biloxi’s Back Bay, north of the base, is closed to civilian and commercial maritime traffic in preparation for and during Keesler’s Thunder on the Bay Air Show and Open House, 12:30 to 5 p.m. April 2-5.

The Federal Aviation Administration directs closure of the waterway to “sterilize the show box” during performances by the Air Force Thunderbirds and other aircraft.

The event is April 4-5, with gates opening at 9 a.m.

For more information, visit Keesler’s public Web site, <http://www.keesler.af.mil>, and click on the Thunder on the Bay icon in the upper right portion of the screen.

Early deadline for Keesler News

The deadline for the Feb. 19 issue of the Keesler News is noon Feb. 12 because of the Feb. 16 Presidents Day federal holiday.

Medical center closes for power plant hookup

81st Medical Group

Keesler Medical Center closes Feb. 14-16 as contractors complete the switchover of electrical power to the new \$21.2 million central energy plant.

The process causes a series of rolling blackouts necessitating the closure. During the three-day period, power must be shut off so contractors can replace the automatic transfer switches that shift power between commercial and generator power.

Medical center officials expect the facility to be "up and running" as usual by 11 a.m. Feb. 17.

The emergency department is included in the shutdown, so anyone experiencing a medical emergency should call 911 or go to the closest civilian emergency room.

The emergency room actually goes on "divert" at

6 a.m. Feb. 13. However, if an uninformed emergency patient arrives during the outage, 81st Medical Group officials have arranged to have an ambulance onsite to transport the patient to an off-base hospital. In addition, even though the emergency room won't be functioning, a nurse and medical technician are there around the clock during the power outage.

The medical center has contacted local hospitals to advise them of the outage, notify them about the emergency room's closure and ask for their support to care for Keesler patients.

To prepare for the power outage, no major elective surgeries are scheduled starting Monday.

The last admission to the family birthing center is noon Wednesday. Expectant mothers have been given copies of their medical records and telephone

numbers of civilian hospitals.

Outpatient medical appointments won't be scheduled after 11 a.m. Feb. 13.

The student health center in the Triangle is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 14-16 to provide medical care to 81st Training Group students.

The central energy plant provides full backup during commercial power failures and houses the heating and cooling equipment for environmental control.

The new building, north of the main facility, is elevated above the flood plain to maintain health care operations during natural disasters. It replaces the facility damaged by Hurricane Katrina which resulted in the total loss of power to the medical center. It's a major step in completing the medical center's return to full pre-Katrina operations.

Support,

from Page 1

"All around this base, folks have come together to make this transition work," the general added. "It wasn't easy, yet our mission continues on an upward azimuth and we've found viable employment options for our affected personnel and their families. I'm proud of the entire team."

"It's been a lot of effort as we've worked with CSC to transfer equipment, files and vehicles," Maj. Patrick Breaux, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron commander, pointed out. "At the same time, we've been advising CSC's personnel on various processes and issues unique to Keesler. We've hit a few snags along the way, but we've worked through them and at the end of the day, the transition has gone relatively well."

New focus for civil engineering

The 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, which was impacted the most dramatically by the new support contract, is transformed into three flights with about 100 members under the 81st MSG'S new infrastructure support division headed by Brian Drake — fire emergency services, military family housing and the project management flight which oversees the base operating services contract as well as the Katrina recovery project management office.

"I'm very satisfied with the quality of the workforce and customer service attitude CSC has brought to Keesler in each of the contracted service areas," stated Mr. Drake, who previously served as the 81st CES deputy commander. "I look forward to working with them."

The performance management flight is now at 90 percent strength.

"Through the RIF and hiring actions, we've filled this new organization with highly-qualified people with the right functional knowledge and experience to evaluate the contractor's performance and facilitate CSC's success at supporting Keesler's mission," Mr. Drake commented.

"We're on the steep part of the learning curve since this is a new function for us on the staff, yet we're all excited about our new responsibilities," he continued. "We've initiated the evaluation process and are meeting with the contractor and the customers on a regular basis to facilitate a smooth assumption of responsibilities by CSC."

Challenge for civilian personnel

Civilian personnel chief Lee Hathorn recalls the past 13 months as the biggest challenge in his career.

"When the final decision was made to privatize those 311 civilian positions, it's safe to say that the entire base had to face the reality that hundreds of employees could end up in unemployment lines," Mr. Hathorn recalled. "If that wasn't enough, the first RIF retention register was received from the Air Force Personnel Center in January 2008 identifying 184 employees for separation."

Mr. Hathorn's team had been preparing for the worst and put its plan into high gear. Keesler had already gained approval from Air Education and Training Command to offer voluntary separation incentives and voluntary early retirement offers, and more than 300 employees from across the base applied for the packages.

"We had also stockpiled a number of vacancies in anticipation of the RIF," Mr. Hathorn reported. "From January through September of last year, our team worked feverishly with commanders and

supervisors throughout the base, exploring ways to create additional vacancies, and in some cases, waiving qualifications to assist surplus employees.

When the first RIF notices went out in September, 46 employees were changed to lower grade, 53 separations were issued and 99 people were enrolled in the priority placement program.

"We approved another 99 employees to retire with a \$25,000 VSIP cash payment," Mr. Hathorn stated. "The wing commander also allowed us to establish and use overhire positions to place 25 employees who would have been separated, which allows them to remain gainfully employed and provide additional time for possible PPP placement."

In the end, the RIF resulted in 50 changes to lower grade with no loss in pay, 35 reassignments within the same grade or pay band and one separation.

"Yes, only one separation — not 184," Mr. Hathorn stressed. "That one separation is an employee who's awaiting approval of a disability retirement."

"We'd like to thank Keesler supervisors, AETC RIF and personnel staffs and the AETC and DOD PPP units for their utmost support," he added.

CSC faces the future

Now that the CSC team is on the job, program manager Roger Condit observed, "It seems like we just started the transition yesterday because the time has really gone fast as we moved into each of the work areas.

"During the last three months, we've continued to interview, hire and bring employees into the work force," he explained. "Our focus was to hire as many of the incumbent workers as possible, and I believe we've been very successful with this effort. We attempted to interview everyone on the right-of-first-refusal list, and to date

have employed more than 40 of these individuals. We've also had a great response from workers in the local area. The result is a qualified work force, many with firsthand experience at Keesler and others with proven skills from the civilian community."

CSC has also assumed responsibility for more than 120 government vehicles and a huge inventory of tools, parts, supplies, and equipment valued in excess of \$6 million.

Mr. Condit said the concerted efforts expended during the transition have been worth it, considering the importance of Keesler's mission.

Spirit of cooperation

"I believe we'll continue to have tremendous support from the rest of the Keesler team," Mr. Condit remarked. "From Day 1 we've enjoyed a spirit of cooperation and a mutual feeling that we all want to be part of a successful effort. We've had a few bumps but no showstoppers, and certainly no obstacles we couldn't overcome."

Now that CSC is in place, the 81st CES plans a deactivation ceremony, 8:30 a.m. Feb. 19 at Welch Auditorium.

"We had a ceremony Friday for our civilians who were retiring, and we're sending many of our remaining personnel to their next duty station," Major Breaux said. "A few military members will remain after the deactivation awaiting retirement, report dates or special duty assignments."

"For all concerned parties, the transition has been a resounding success," said Col. Jeffrey Jackson, 81st MSG commander. "Since the start of the transition period, government employees, both military and civilian, have worked alongside CSC to make sure its employees are fully capable of taking over the mission."

PERSONNEL NOTES

2009 selection boards

Through Feb. 20 — senior master sergeant.

March 9-20 — colonel line of the Air Force; lieutenant colonel and major biomedical sciences corps/nurse corps.

May 18-22, Sept. 21-25 — special selection boards.

June 8-26 — lieutenant colonel and major BSC/NC.

July 13-24 — senior noncommissioned officer supplemental.

Aug. 17-28 — command screening.

Sept. 14-18 — colonel medical service corps, medical corps and dental corps; lieutenant colonel and major MC/DC.

Oct. 13-26 — chief master sergeant evaluation.

Nov. 2-13 — colonel and lieutenant colonel judge advocate and chaplain; major LAF, judge advocate and chaplain.

Dec. 1-11 — colonel LAF/BSC/NC, lieutenant colonel and major BSC/NC.

Feb. 20 deadline for FMLP packages

Air Force Personnel Center

Feb. 20 is the deadline for nominations to be submitted for the 2009 Financial Management Leadership Program.

FMLP is a four-year program designed to develop future Air Force leaders by providing those officers who aren't in the financial management career field to gain leadership experience as comptroller squadron commanders.

For more information, contact the comptroller officer assignment team at afpc.dpasa@afpc.randolph.af.mil or call DSN 665-2304, extension 2 or 3.

Total Force Service Center

Air Force Personnel Center

Effective at 5 p.m. Feb. 22, a new 1-800 number will be available for regular Air Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve military and civilian Airmen when calling the Total Force Service Center to inquire about all centralized personnel actions.

The new number will be 1-800-525-0102; the commercial phone number 210-565-5000 and DSN 665-5000 will remain the same. This Total Force Service Center number will replace the current Air Force Customer Service Center phone number, 1-800-616-3775.

The new Total Force Service Center will connect, virtually, the contact centers for the Air Force Personnel Center in San Antonio and Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver. This will provide Airmen seamless access to personnel information, services, and tools — anytime, from any location — via the internet, telephone, or e-mail. This effort is part of the Personnel Services Delivery Transformation commitment to providing Airmen and their families reliable, secure customer service that is easy to access.

NCOs asked to complete survey

AETC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Noncommissioned officers are encouraged to share feedback with the Air Force Occupational Measurement Squadron through the online military knowledge and testing standard survey through March 6.

The survey, intended to give noncommissioned officers a voice in their own career advancements, is used in the professional development guide in 2011 and to develop future promotion fitness and supervisory examinations.

The survey is posted at <https://surveys.afoms.randolph.af.mil/survey124> until March 6. Participation requires the use of a common access card. Results are released in July.

Journey of faith



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, sponsors Yorda Hay and Louise Turpel rest their hands on the shoulders of Airman 1st Class Miguel Alaniz and Airman James Inghram during a confirmation ceremony conducted by Bishop Richard Higgins, assisted by Keesler Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Francis Lowe. Airman Alaniz is a student in the 332nd Training Squadron, and Airman Inghram is a student in the 334th TRS. Bishop Higgins, a retired Air Force colonel who serves as auxiliary bishop of the Military Services Catholic Archdiocese, confirmed eight people at Keesler Jan. 28.

DIAMOND NOTES

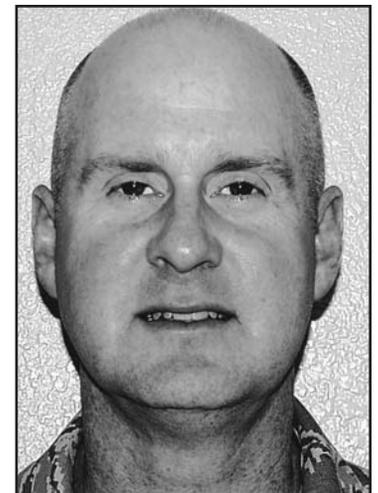
Multiple choice question —

I am _____ to a proud heritage,
A tradition of honor,
And a legacy of valor.

a: indifferent; **b:** callous;
c: apathetic; **d:** faithful

Which are you and how have you proved it?

Senior Master Sgt. Clayton French, 81st Medical Operations Squadron first sergeant



MEMORABLE MOMENTS



1966

All Air Force basic training
ceased at Keesler.

Air Training Command
assigned that responsibility solely to
Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

New leader for 403rd Wing

403rd Wing Public Affairs

Col. James Muscatell Jr. is the new commander of the 403rd Wing.

He assumed command last month from Brig. Gen. Rich Moss, who retired with 38 years of service and 4½ years as the wing's commander.

Colonel Muscatell came to Keesler from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., where he commanded the 302nd Airlift Wing.

An Air Force Academy graduate, Colonel Muscatell was commissioned in 1979 and entered the Reserve in 1986.

He's served as a pilot, operations support flight commander, operations officer and opera-



Colonel Muscatell

tions group deputy commander and commander.

More news and photos on the Web
at <http://www.keesler.af.mil>



Sergeant Johnson-Young



Sergeant Woodruff



Sergeant Khan



Sergeant Yocum



Sergeant Thomas

Keesler claims 10 AETC force support awards

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Keesler earned 10 awards in the 2008 Air Education and Training Command A1 Awards Program.

The announcement by Maj. Gen. Anthony Przybylski, AETC vice commander, explained that the program incorporates services functional awards and traditional mission support awards.

The 81st Force Support Squadron received three large base team awards for its civilian personnel program, family child care program and manpower program.

Seven individual awards went to:

Master Sgt. Andrea Johnson Young, NCO Academy instructor of the year.

Tech. Sgt. Jessica Woodruff, airman and family readiness center base level intermediate award.

Tech. Sgt. Ezra Khan, Airman Leadership School instructor of the year.

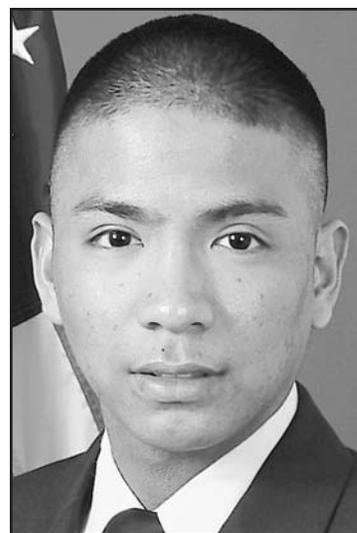
Staff Sgt. Joshua Yocum, 81st Communications Squadron, education and training manager of the year.

Tech. Sgt. Yvonne Thomas, base-level manpower noncommissioned officer of the year.

Airman Renton Espejo, services airman of the year.

Sheena Bressie, civilian personnel specialist of the year.

Award winners now compete for Air Force recognition.



Airman Espejo



Ms. Bressie

Mardi Gras 2009

Masking, merrymaking mark annual Gulf Coast festivities

Mardi Gras glossary

Beads — necklace thrown at parades.

Carnival — festival season which runs from the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 6, to Mardi Gras.

Colors — purple for justice, green for faith and gold for power.

Court — royalty for a carnival krewe or club.

Doubloons — commemorative coins.

King cake — crown-shaped pastry embellished with decorations in the Mardi Gras colors of purple, green and gold. King cakes resulted from European celebrations for Twelfth Night, or Epiphany, which commemorates the visit of the Wise Men to the Christ Child. To choose the king and queen for the festivities, a bean was tucked into the cake, and the person who found it received a year of good luck and the opportunity to pick a person to serve with him or her as royalty. Today's king cakes have a tiny plastic baby instead of a bean, so be careful when you bite into your slice of the treat. Many are filled with fruit, nuts or cream cheese. The finder of the baby traditionally has luck for a year, rules for the day — and has to supply the king cake for the next party.

Krewe — Mardi Gras organization.

Laissez les bon temps rouler — French phrase meaning “let the good times roll.”

Lent — a 40-day period of reflection and repentance observed by Christians preparing for Easter.

Mardi Gras — French



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Brig. Gen. Dan Wyman, 81st Medical Group commander, is decked out in medieval garb to crown the king and queen of the medical center's 21st annual Krewe of Medics ball, Saturday at the Imperial Palace Casino and Resort. This year's royalty are Maj. (Dr.) Charles Greeson, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, and Joann Griggs, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron.

for “Fat Tuesday,” signifying celebration or overindulgence before Lent begins. The date varies depending on when Easter falls during a particular year (first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21, the spring equinox).

Throw me something,

Gulf Coast Carnival Association

The celebration of Mardi Gras goes back to pagan rites of spring taken over by the early Catholic Church for a day of feasting before the beginning of Lent and weeks of fasting preceding Easter.

As the years passed, in addition to feasting, many added mummery with its masking and merrymaking — a sort of letting go of all inhibitions before taking on the somber penitence of Lent.

Some countries in Europe celebrated this day of feasting on different dates, but the French restricted it to the day preceding Lent, and this custom was adopted by the French colonies in the New World. In French, “Mardi” means “Tuesday” and Gras means “fat,” or “to eat meat,” thus Fat Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday.

Biloxi claims the first Mardi Gras celebrated in this area was at the newly-established Fort Maurepas, for wherever there was a Frenchman, a holiday and a bottle of wine, there was a celebration.

New Orleanians claim some of D'Iberville's men were exploring the mouth of the Mississippi River, and on the morning of Mardi Gras in 1699, formally took possession of the area and named a small stream near the mouth of the river — Bayou Mardi Gras — a name still printed on maps of that region.

The boisterous buffooneries of the garrison at Mobile, Ala. generally made Ash Wednesday a day for military as well as priestly discipline. It was a completely American innovation to organize the carnival, to substitute regular parades for the old impromptu mummings in the streets and to unite into many social groups for the masked balls scattered throughout the season.

The first recorded carnival celebration other than private parties or balls was New Year's Eve in Mobile in 1831 when a group of young men, following an evening of wining and dining, saw an intriguing array of rakes, hoes, tubs, buckets and cowbells in a hardware store window. They unceremoniously borrowed the implements and with cowbells clanging and tubs booming, paraded through the sleeping town serenading their friends.

Mobile's mayor graciously invited them in for refreshments, thereby giving official sanction to what turned out to be the organization of the Cowbellion de Rakin Society, forerunner of Coast Carnival Krewes and



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Chief Master Sgt. Damian Orslene, 81st Force Support Squadron superintendent, throws beads to students at a Mardi Gras parade at Gorenflo Elementary School in Biloxi last year.

the fabulous parades themselves.

In New Orleans, the French colonists had their casual carnival balls and the Spanish found the custom well established when they took over the city in 1766.

But they noticed with alarm that many residents were devoting the day to boisterous violence, so the Spanish put a stop to the custom of masking. Orleanians, masked or unmasked, continued to enjoy gallivanting around in costume.

In 1820, a group of young Creoles educated in Paris decided to liven things up with a masked procession of substantial size. But it soon got out of hand, and the celebration was suppressed until 1857, when a new organization was formed to present a parade with floats and torch lights.

The group was the Mystick Krewe of Comus, and there were two main floats, one carrying the king and the other showing Satan in a blazing hell. A new Mardi Gras was born with strong American overtones.

The older carnival traditions are carefully preserved. Rules of the “krewes,” the men's organizations, dominate the lives of the city's social circles.

In New Orleans, Mardi Gras has become two celebrations — the first a

genial free-for-everyone affair, and the other the revelry of exclusive societies.

The oldest krewes dominate, with membership ranging from one to 200. The man who really dictates is the krewe captain, not the king. No sooner is one season ended than work begins on another. For many workmen, Mardi Gras is a year-round job.

A king is chosen, a man who can afford the expense of providing his own costume, jeweled train and accessories. The king gives suppers and parties and buys gifts for the queen and her maids. In smaller towns, the king also pays for the cost of his float.

The queen is usually chosen from among the current season's debutantes. The expense is great, but so is the honor.

In this area, Mardi Gras is a school holiday, instead of Presidents Day that is celebrated in other parts of the country.

Biloxi was the first Mississippi Gulf Coast city to celebrate with a formal parade of floats in 1908. Now other south Mississippi towns celebrate with parades, but they space them at different times during the carnival season so all may come and enjoy each celebration. Biloxi still has its traditional carnival on Mardi Gras Day.

Let the good times roll — parades take center stage

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Mardi Gras Day is Feb. 24 this year.

Keesler units and representatives participate in some of the parades which kick off this weekend.

Saturday

Ocean Springs Elks, 1 p.m., 872-2501; 334th Training Squadron state flag team is participating.

Second Liners Mardi Gras Club, Biloxi, 1 p.m.; 209-8113; honor guard participates.

Orange Grove Carnival Association, 2 p.m.; 832-0079.

Feb. 13

Krewe of Selene, Diamondhead, 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 14

Krewe of Essence, 3 p.m., Moss Point, 935-2931 or 369-1243.

Gautier Men's Club, 7 p.m.; 623-3580.

Feb. 15

Krewe of Nereids, Bay. St. Louis and Waveland, 1 p.m.; 586-2505 or 806-6471.

Long Beach Carnival Association, 2 p.m.; 343-3972.

Feb. 21

Krewe of Diamondhead, noon; 255-6922.

City of Biloxi children's walking parade, 1 p.m., 435-6339.

Jackson County Carnival Association, Pascagoula, 1 p.m.; 497-3269.

Krewe of Gemini day parade, Gulfport, 2 p.m.; 297-0377; honor guard and 335th TRS state flag team are marching. Chief Master Sgt. Alex Perry, 81st Training Wing command chief, tentatively set to ride one of the floats.

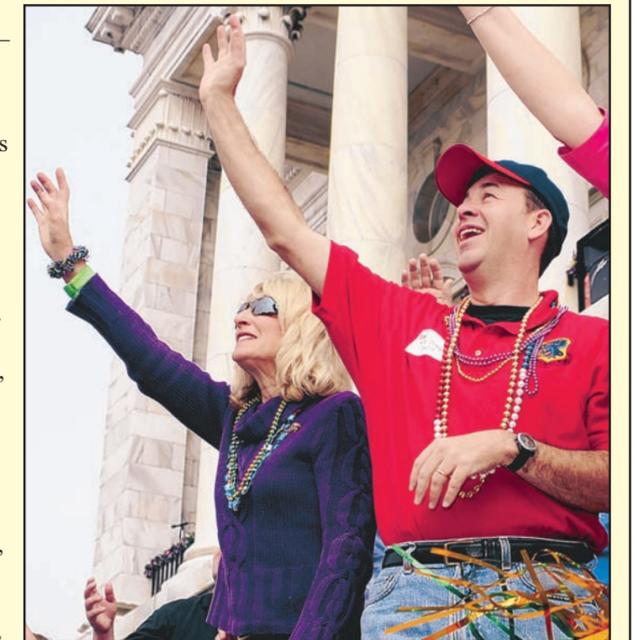


Photo by Kemberly Groue

Paula Gould, wife of Maj. Gen. Mike Gould, former 2nd Air Force commander, and Brig. Gen. Greg Touhill, 81st Training Wing commander, try to catch beads and other trinkets at last year's Gulf Coast Carnival Association parade in Biloxi.

Feb. 22

St. Paul Carnival Association, Pass Christian, 1 p.m.; 547-4873.

North Bay Mardi Gras Association, D'Iberville, 1:30 p.m.; 875-4538; Brig. Gen. Greg Touhill, 81st TRW commander, rides on one of the floats, and the honor guard and 336th TRS state flag team participate.

Feb. 24

Gulf Coast Carnival Association, 1 p.m., Biloxi; 432-8806; honor guard participates.

Hurricane Hunters fly Alaska winter storms

403rd Wing Public Affairs

Hurricane Hunter aircraft deployed to Anchorage, Alaska, Jan. 17 for a month-long mission in support of the 2009 winter storm reconnaissance program.

In addition to two WC-130J aircraft, the 403rd Wing put together a team of Air Force Reservists including aircrews, operations, maintenance, aerial porters, and others who will don their parkas and snow boots in their efforts to improve winter storm forecast models.

Operations are directed by the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, a part of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. Like their tropical reconnaissance missions, winter storm routes can keep crews in the air more than 12 hours at a time.

When a tasking for a flight comes in to the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron's deployed operations center, at Elmendorf Air Force Base, a crew is alerted and maintenance ensures there is an aircraft ready to fly.

Showtime and pre-flight are similar to the Hunters' normal missions except, depending on weather, maintenance teams de-ice the aircraft. Then it's off into the sky.

Winter missions require crews to fly at altitudes above 30,000 feet, which is higher than they normally fly in tropical weather systems.

"On average, the data we provide along with the (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration) aircraft lead to a 10-20 percent reduction in error in the targeted



Photo by Tech. Sgt. James Pritchett

A WC-130J prepares for takeoff at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Hurricane Hunters are deployed for a month to collect weather data ahead of pending winter storms which increases the accuracy of the National Weather Service forecast by 10 to 20 percent.

forecasts," said Lt. Col. Roy Deatherage, mission commander for the 53rd WRS and an aerial reconnaissance weather officer since 1988. "As a result, numerical forecast guidance issued 48 hours prior to the events become as accurate as 36-hour lead time forecasts."

Use of weather reconnaissance aircraft have improved the forecast models more since 1999 than the previous 25 years of satellite data, according to the NCEP.

Unlike in tropical storms, on a winter mission the crew is not trying to pinpoint the center of the storm — in fact, there may not even be a "storm."

"Often, the crews are flying from one to four days in advance of a potential storm system in the Pacific that appears headed for either Alaska or the continental U.S.," said Colonel Deatherage.

Onboard the aircraft, the aerial reconnaissance weather officer and weather reconnaissance loadmaster take atmospheric observations at predetermined points along a flight track where the measurements are expected to have the greatest chance of improving the forecasts.

The weather reconnaissance loadmaster drops highly sensitive devices called dropsondes, which fall at about 2,500 feet per second, in areas of the atmosphere as requested by NCEP. As they fall toward the ocean, the dropsondes measure temperature, wind speed, humidity and pressure. Aircraft follow what are called synoptic patterns, huge ovals sometimes more than 3,000 miles round-trip.

Colonel Deatherage explained that during a typical tropical mission, dropsondes are

released at certain points defined by the National Hurricane Center. This is usually four drops every time the aircraft passes through the eye with an additional four to eight per mission in the most significant wind bands. In contrast, Pacific winter missions average 16-22 sondes dropped. For impending Atlantic winter missions the average is lower, closer to five.

The information collected is checked onboard and then relayed by satellite to the NOAA Weather Service supercomputer which incorporates it into the agency's numerical prediction models. This information bolsters the data in computer climate models that forecast storms and precipitation for the entire U.S.

"The goal is to make a good forecast so that cities can be prepared with snow plows and other snow removal and mitiga-

tion equipment to diminish the impact of a winter storm on a city," said Colonel Deatherage. "If they are better prepared, they can recover more quickly. That can be crucial for residents living in harm's way. These forecasts provide people in the path of the storms with warnings that can save lives."

While the Hurricane Hunters are patrolling the north Pacific, NOAA is using its Gulfstream G-IV aircraft to fly missions from Honolulu, Hawaii. Between the two units, they are able to cover the parts of the Pacific that directly affect the U.S.

Each year, the 53rd WRS and NOAA rotate deployed locations to better improve the forecasting models. The G-IV flies higher and collects a slightly different data set than that of the WC-130J Hurricane Hunter.

Since 1996, the two organizations have been flying these frosty missions in support of the NCEP.

In addition, the 53rd WRS also receives taskings for the east coast of the U.S. to assist forecasters with pending "nor'easters."

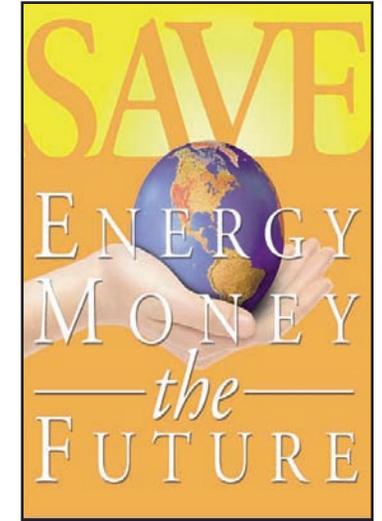
The Hurricane Hunters normally fly several of these missions in support of the National Weather Service from Dec. 1 to April 30.

In seasons past, the tropical storm season, beginning June first and officially ending Nov. 30, has crossed over into the winter storm season. In 2005, the Hurricane Hunters flew winter storm missions and tropical missions at the same time. That year, the final storm of the hurricane season was recorded in early January.

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

CORRECTION

Staff Sgt. Rick Rosales, 81st Dental Squadron, who was profiled in a story in the Jan. 29 Keesler News, also was awarded the Best of Show award, along with best male vocalist honors for a second time, at the Air Force's 2009 Worldwide Talent Competition, Jan. 11-19 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.



Heart Link

Heart Link, an orientation program for spouses with less than five years of Air Force affiliation, is Feb. 19 in Room 108A, Sablich Center.

Heart Link increases awareness of the Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocols and base and community resources and services.

Lunch and giveaways are provided. Limited child care is available.

To register, call the airman and family readiness center, 376-8728.

Peridontal patients

The dental clinic's periodontics department is looking for patients with gum problems for treatment in their dental residency program.

A limited number of eligible beneficiaries accepted as teaching cases receive their periodontal care at Keesler at no charge. Patients should be readily available for appointments, usually Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings.

For more information or to schedule a screening exam, call 376-5225.

Travel clinic

People planning international travel for pleasure or business should visit the travel medicine clinic at least one month before departure.

The clinic is located in the allergy clinic in the medical center's basement near the emergency department entrance.

For more information, call 376-3550.

Thrift shop hours

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

Consignments are accepted 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays.

Donations are accepted during regular hours.

For more information, call 377-3217.

It's not too late to get your flu shot

By Capt. Don Smith

81st Medical Group

Flu shots are available at Keesler Medical Center's immunization clinic, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays. Appointments aren't necessary, and vaccine is offered to high-risk individuals on a first-come, first-served basis.

The flu's peak season is expected to hit this month, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

After receiving the flu shot, it takes approximately two weeks before you are fully protected.

Other ways to help avoid the flu:

Wash your hands frequently.

Cover your coughs and sneezes.

Use tissues and throw them away after each use.

Use a germ-killing wipe to clean common surfaces like door knobs, shared keyboards and telephones.

Stay home if you have flu symptoms, stay home.

For questions, call your primary care provider or the Immunization clinic, 376-3553.



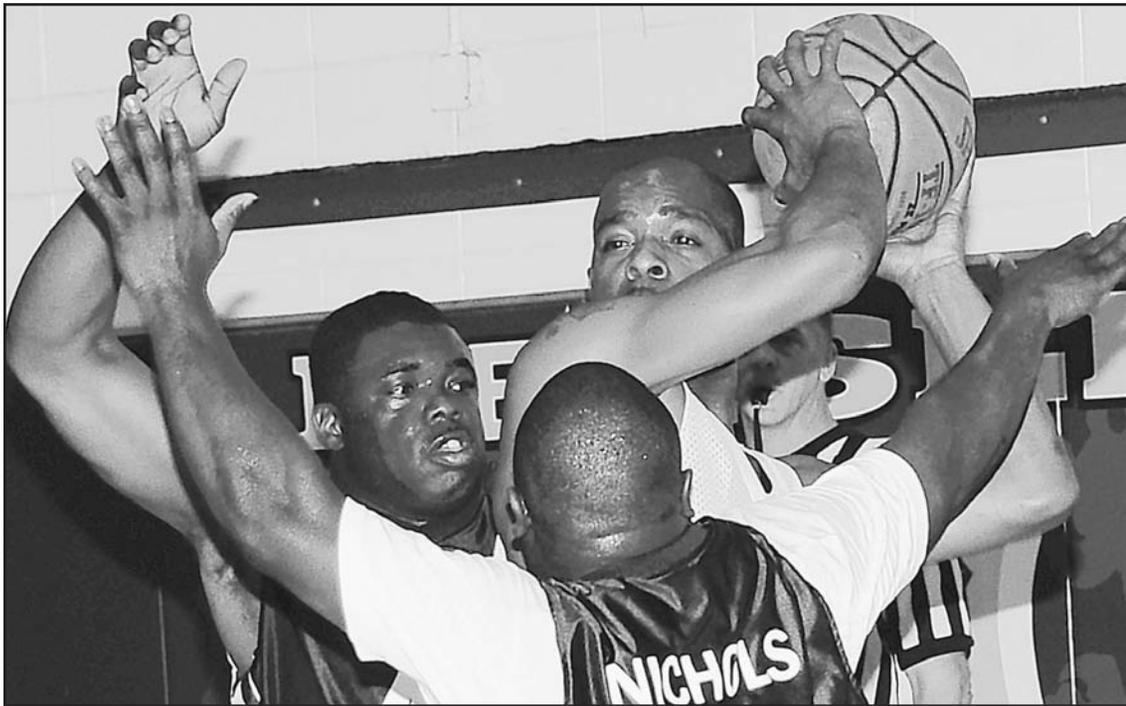


Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Patrick Harris and Ricky Nichols, 81st CES, encircle Teddy Poole, 81st SFS, as he searches for a shot in an Over-30 playoff game Jan. 28. The 81st CES won, 57-42, handing the cops their second loss in the double-elimination tournament.

Regular season leaders take charge in playoffs

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

If all goes as scheduled, Keesler's intramural basketball title is decided at 8 p.m. Monday and the Over-30 league championship is settled at 11 a.m. Wednesday.

The two intramural divisions completed the first round of double elimination playoffs last week.

Going into this week, the 81st Medical Group and 403rd Wing held their spots in the Western Division's winners' bracket, and the 81st Dental Squadron was eliminated with two losses. Still in the hunt are the 81st Force Support Squadron, 81st Medical Support Squadron and 335th and 338th TRS.

In the Eastern Division, the 81st Communications Squadron, MK Island, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron and 336th TRS remained undefeated in playoff action at week's end. The 81st Security Forces Squadron was eliminated, and the 332nd TRS, Marine Corps Detachment and 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron had lost one game each.

The top two teams during the regular season for the Over-30 League, the 81st FSS and 81st CES, continued their winning ways as the playoffs began. Teams in the losers' bracket included the 81st Training Support Squadron, 335th TRS, 81st SFS and 81st LRS.

For scores, see Page 20.

SCORES AND MORE

Basketball

Intramural Western Division PLAYOFFS

Jan. 26 — 81st FSS won over 335th TRS by forfeit; 81st MDSS 43, 338th TRS 37; 403rd Wing 61, 81st DS 45.

Jan. 28 — 338th TRS 35, 81st DS 32; 81st MDG 62, 81st FSS 40; 403rd Wing 42, 81st MDSS 36.

Intramural Eastern Division PLAYOFFS

Jan. 27 — 81st CS 82, 332nd TRS 46; MK Island 40; MARDET 26; 81st CES 36, 81st LRS 34.

Jan 29 — 336th TRS 44, 81st SFS 41; MARDET 42, 332nd TRS 32; 81st LRS 49, 81st SFS 37;

Intramural Over-30 League PLAYOFFS

Jan. 26 — 335th TRS 46, 81st TRSS 33; 81st SFS 71, 81st LRS 47.

Jan. 28 — 81st FSS 50, 335th TRS 34; 81st CES 57, 81st SFS 42.

Bowling

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.

Slow 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. For reservations, call 377-2817.

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

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

Boxing room — Triangle Fitness Center. Three speed bags and two heavy bags. Sign out gloves at the counter.

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

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

Wall of Fame — powerlifting event, 1-4 p.m. first compressed work schedule Friday 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 get your picture on the wall. Open to all Defense Department personnel 18 years of age and older.

For more information, call 377-3056.

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

Blake Fitness Center — open 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends and holidays.

Dragon Fitness Center — 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays. Parent-child fitness room has workout equipment and play area for ages 6 months to 7 years.

Golf

Active-duty military/spouse special — couples playing golf together pay one regular fee; second fee is half price. Special is good through January.

Nonprior service student special — show phase card or UBU card. Greens fee and cart, \$15 for 18 holes, \$10 for nine holes. Greens fee, cart and rental clubs, \$20 for 18 holes, \$15 for nine holes.

Free golf clinics for nonprior service students — noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21 and 28. Sign up at pro shop, 377-3832. Maximum 10 people per session.

New driving range open — 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Yardage markers are accurate and measured from the hitting mats. Bucket of balls \$2.

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

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

Outdoor recreation

10 percent discount — No. 1 camping package.

President's Day weekly special — Feb. 16-20, freed rod and use with boat rental.

Rental campers — \$50 day. Two available; one sleeps six, one sleeps eight. For more information and towing requirements, call 377-3160.

Fish of the month — weigh in the largest redfish during February and win \$100 savings bond; minimum three participants.

Back Bay fishing trip — \$20 per

person. Mississippi fishing license required; minimum four, maximum five people. For date and time, call 377-3160

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.

Nonprior service student special — 35000 Trek seven-speed bikes, \$5 day on nonworking Friday, Saturday and Sunday, or Saturday/Sunday.

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.

Running

Sweetheart 5-kilometer run — 11 a.m. Feb. 12, Blake Fitness Center. Prizes awarded.

Soccer

Varsity coaches needed — for play beginning in February. For more information, call Sam Miller, 377-2444.

Softball

Men's and women's varsity teams — coaches needed for play beginning in March. For more information, call Sam Miller, 377-2444.

NFL, military continue Super Bowl traditions

By Army Staff Sgt. Michael Carden

American Forces Press Service

From fighter jet flyovers to military performances at halftime shows, the National Football League and U.S. military have shared more than 40 years of Super Bowl history.

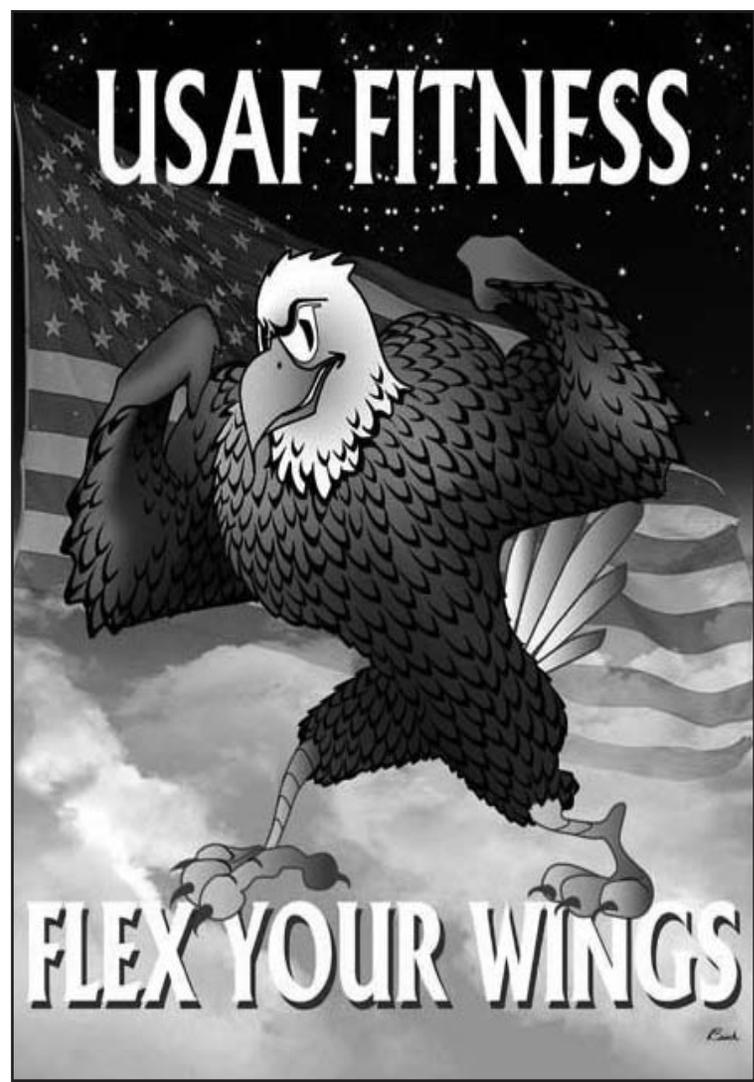
The tradition continued Sunday in Tampa, Fla., during Super Bowl XLIII, with Army Gen. David Petraeus, commander of U.S. Central Command, performing the ceremonial coin toss for the Arizona Cardinals and Pittsburgh Steelers. The Steelers won a thriller, 27-23, for a record sixth Super Bowl title.

"It is a privilege to represent our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen in the coin-toss ceremony," General Petraeus said. "And it is an honor to thank the NFL commissioner and the teams and players for all that they have done in recent years to recognize the service of our troops and their families."

The Air Force Thunderbirds aerial demonstration squadron did a pregame flyover, and an all-service U.S. Special Operations Command color guard presented the nation's colors during the game's national anthem.

Tech. Sgt. Holly Bracken, Air Force color guard representative, said she was privileged to represent her service and the military.

"It's such an honor to go there and present the colors," said Sergeant Bracken, who grew up near Pittsburgh rooting for the Steelers. "You can't have the presentation of the colors without (military) representation."



HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Nicholas Aaseng, Joshua Ainslie, Kenneth Argenbright, James Barber, Daniela Barahona-Rojas, Jason Beam, Jarriott Bennett, Ronald Brandtman, Kurt Brechnkenridge, Brandon Brown, John Burns, Arthur Cardenas, Terrell Cheeks, Matthew Conkey, Michael Conley, Alexander Constance, Jareth Courtney, Christopher Culver, Richard Dale, Duane Davis, Troy Debolt, Jose DeJesus, Jesse Dick, Andrew Dickens, Andreon Downs, Peirce Duffey, Kevin Duffy, Derek Fackler, Corey Farnam, Nicholas Fields, Joel Fitzgerald, Steven Fox, Jonathan Gebhardt, Aaron Gibbs, Zachary Golla, Adrian Gonzalez, Jona Green, Joshua Greer, Stephen Gregory, Grant Halazon, Kenneth Hammons, Robert Harden, Joshua Hayes, Craig House, Jordan Howell, Joshua Jackson, Andrew Jennings, Nathan Jones, Scott Kababik, Edward Kauffman, Aaron Kempf, Justin Kugleman, Benjamin Lockwood, Michael Lopez, Jonathan Lovell, Louis Martin, Travis Mason, Ian Matson, James Mautz, Michael McHam, Matthew McKinney, Devin McMillen, Phillip McNamara, Edward Mitchell, Zachary Moore, Brandon Morgan, Herbert Mullens, Timothy Murphy, Collin Osting, Christopher Padgett, Marcell Pemberton, Cheylene Pollard, Kamar Priestly, Jerome Punderson, Thomas Reed, Jordan Rogers, Ronald Rouse, Stephen Sanchez, Joshua Schickedanz, Charles Sharpe, Marcus Sharpe, Ryan Shumaker, Peter Sigmund, Gerald Sorsen, Tyler Starkey, Daniel Swann, Tyler Swanson, Raymond Taylor, Ian Trusedell, Thomas VanEngen, Jeremy Waid, Christopher Walka, Harry Weiss, Nicholas Wellenbrock, Corby Wilson and Stephen Yount; Airmen Aubrey Able, Jared Bennett, Douglas Bohl, John Brigadier, Deschzunell Catlin, Payton Clanton, Robert DeBone, Roman DeLaGarza, Joseph Downey, Matthew Dry, Diana Garcia-Sanchez, Nicholas Holpuch, Jamie Jamison, Woodrow Keith, Phillip Lozano, Timothy Manuel, Ryan McKee, Gregory Miller, Jon O’Hearne, Joseph Pena, Colin Rainey, James Ringler, Christopher Sisney, Sarah Stewart, Dennis Vilorina and Acye Wilson; Airmen 1st Class Christopher Adams, Keith Ammons, Victor Baillif, Andrew Batson, Matthew Belt, Jarod Bierman, Jeffrey Birchenough, Erik Borgeson, Jeremy Branham, David Briest, Matthew Bryson, Isaac Candelaria-Herrera, Steven Childers, Ricardo Childress, Javier Cintron-Rodriguez, Gunder Coaty, Kevin Cox, Nicolas Craven, Lori D’Entremont, Christopher Delude, John Derby, Curtis Floyd, Caleb Frisbie, Nicholas Garrison, Reginald Graves, Kyle Greene, Matthew Grove, Monte Hall, James Hamilton, Cody Hard, Andrew Harmon, Nathaniel Hayden, Robert Hockenhull, Tartiana Houston, Michael Jaquier, Cody Keller, Matthew Kelly, Thomas Lee, Eric Litteken, Christopher Mancini, Justin Martin, Annette Martinez, Thomas Mayotte, Kevin Monroe, Ryan Mowen, Thorval Munksgaard, Daniel Nichols, Nicholas Norris, Kelsey Parker, Cory Paya, Rachel Phillips, Rafe Pierce, William Prothro, Jonathan Quezada, Nathan Reese, Jonathan Roche, Richard Roggensack, David Salinas, Octavious Sams, Robert Schroeder, Raymond Shaw, Derrick Sherwood, Matthew Warnock, Sarah Watson, Matthews Wiens, Edward Willocks and Nicholas Wilt; Senior Airmen Karen Alvarez-Rivera, Justin Apple, Marcone Cangussu, Daniel Carboneau, Jeffrey Crump, Kevin Fowler, Delandon Jackson, Kristin Layton, Michael Lewis, Richard Marsteller, Shelly Matthews, Casey Robison, Irving RuizLopez, Bradley Snyder, Alex Szwet, Alvaro Torrez, Kenneth Wagner and Shawn Whitney; Staff Sgts. Doyle Allen, Charles Barkheimer, Raleigh Carlson, Rob Fiscus, Joel Geddings, Daniel Hayden, Scot Husler, Joshua Johnson, Roger Jones, Keith Kinsey, Nicholas Leuschen, Deron More, Daniel Perkins, Patricia Quigley, Samuel Rodriguez, Rocco Scaccia, Thai Ton and Robert Walker; Tech. Sgts. Adam Blair, Jeffrey Denotter, Joshua Jopling, Michael Tate and Eric Wiley; Master Sgts. Andres Crespo, Keley Merrell, Christopher Randall and Kirk Winslow; Raymond Klinger.

Metrology basic course — Airman 1st Class Mitchell Forde.

334th TRS

Aerospace control and warning systems — Airmen Basic John Fulbright, Michael Markivee, and Brian Park; Airmen Holly Maze; Airmen 1st Class Christopher Keogan and Jacob Marenberg; Staff Sgts. Christopher Inman and Marc Whitman; Tech. Sgt. Michael Lopez.

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Jonathan Alexander, Eron Anderson, Jeremy Ayala,

Markus Bautista, Brian Bradshaw, Kevin Conner, Kaleb Desmet, Gary Hatten, Joanne Higgins, Thomas Robinson, Lindsey Seaton, Alexander Stromberg, Marcus Williams and Andrew Worden; Airmen Jamaal Baker, Rene Fachini and Kristofer Gibeau; Airmen 1st Class Kayla Bailey, Elijah Chamberlin, Amanda Fairbanks, Courtney Johns, Marcus Knight, Jacob Richards, Jeremy Sawyer and Ronald Westlake; Staff Sgt. Luis Irizarry.

Command post apprentice course — Airman Basic Sarah Coressel; Airmen 1st Class Joseph Cardamone, Kristabel Elam, Jonathan Khattar, Gregory Nakamura and Mitchell Smith; Senior Airmen Heather Johnson and Samantha Paige; Staff Sgts. Timothy Daley, Dusty Littleford and Marisol Rodriguez-Velez.

335th TRS

Comptroller training flight — Airmen Basic Aaron Coleman, Sean Evans, Michael Giammo, Joshua Tibbit and William Uriniuk; Airman Cherrelle Collins; Airmen 1st Class Precious Akitoye, Vincent Bulatao and Michael Millar; Senior Airmen Austria Martinez and Patrick Salmon; Staff Sgts. Jennifer Baker, Edgardo Garcia, Jolynn Howse and Bradford Myers; Tech. Sgts. Michael Herrell and Tamesha Rayes; Master Sgt. Amanda Colvin.

Weather training flight — Navy Airman Recruit Joshua Townsend; Airman Basic William Weaver; Pfc. Levi Simmons; Airmen Zachary Matuscin and Douglas Young; Lance Cpl. Brad Escobar; Staff Sgts. Tristan Carden and Joshua Glattfelt.

336th TRS

Communications-computer systems programming flight — Airmen Basic Joshua Bice, Richard Coler, Sean Hofstadter, Bryant Noel and Justin Perez; Airman Timothy Hagberg and Steven Jakus; Airmen 1st Class Jullian Cawthon, Jarrett Chestnut, Alfred Theriot and William Tschudin; Senior Airman Paul San; Staff Sgt. Mario Chavez; Tech. Sgts. Aduanne Schultz and Stephen Wall; Master Sgt. Allen Faust.

Communications and information flight — Airmen Basic Brett Adams, Michael Butler, Christopher Cianfrone-Adams, Grace Enriquez, Joshua Perry, Julian Pfister, Evan Soriano, Brandon Tyler and Sean Williamson; Airman Eric Leyva; Airmen 1st Class Raeann Batz, Matthew Benoit, Michael D’Amico, Jacquelyn Delauder, Joshua Deville, Joseph Donald, David Foeller, Brian Haddad, Julian Perez, Juan Rivera-Puig, Jared Silva, John Valadon and Aaron Vonderharr; Senior Airmen Kenneth Butler, Travis Casey, Claude Jackson, Daryl Keith and Daniel Marshall; Staff Sgts. Daniel Ball, Aaron Copeland,

Donna Doyon, Tremaine Joseph, Thomas Knoll, Nathan Langston and Russell Warren; Master Sgt. Jascha Patton; Senior Master Sgt. Robert Tice; Chief Master Sgt. James Boswell.

338th TRS

Airfield systems — A.

Ground radar — Airmen 1st Class Richard Ataman, Travis Bates, Ryan Frankland and Michael White; Senior Airman Christopher Bartlett.

Ground radio — Airmen Basic Herman Hoffman and Anthony Thornton; Airmen 1st Class Bryan North, Pedro Santaigo and John Shirah.

Network infrastructure systems — Airmen Basic Derek Moran and Shawn Sikes; Airman Manual Aragon; Airmen 1st Class Michael Allday and Larry Johnson; Senior Airman Nicole Davis; Master Sgt. Arlen Eiteljorge.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 09-2 — graduation Feb. 12.

Mathies NCO Academy

Class 09-2 — graduation Feb. 13.

Airman and family readiness center

Resume writing for private sector jobs workshop — noon to 2 p.m. Feb. 17, Room 108A, Sablich Center, for all Keesler personnel and family members. To register, call 376-8728.

College financial aid seminar — 3:30 p.m. Feb. 18, Room 108A, Sablich Center. Presented by representatives of the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College for all Keesler personnel and family members. To register, call 376-8728.

Troops to Teachers and Spouses to Teachers briefing — for people interested in becoming a school teacher in Mississippi or another state, 4 p.m. March 5, Room 108A, Sablich Center. To register, call 376-8728.

Arts and crafts center

Thursday crafting — 5-7:30 p.m. crafting pleasure, painting, pottery, scrapbooking.

February classes — ceramics, card making, jewelry making, baking, pottery and intarsia woodworking.

Mardi Gras mask decorating — open until 8 p.m. today and Feb. 12. For more information, call 377-2821.

Special Valentine gift — mugs filled with candy. Customize or use an engraving shop design.

Multi-crafts center — potter’s wheels, ceramic molds, air brushing and tools are available for use in the shop. Craft classes for beginners, intermediate and advance levels. Craft supplies for sale.

Engraving shop — squadron, office and individual orders are our business.

Wood shop — stocked retail lumber and a large assembly area adjacent to the machine room are available. Call for information on beginners and advanced woodworking classes.

Frame shop — today through Feb. 14, 10 percent discount on framing pictures of your sweetheart.

Auto hobby shop

Open shop use.

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

Car care — 24-hour coin-operated car wash, vacuum and tire air pump; features foamy brush wash, high pressure rinse, wax system, towelettes and Armorall, and a 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 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Registration, license and proof of insurance required. \$10 per month per stall for regular vehicles, \$20 per month for recreational vehicles and boats.

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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-Jummah congregational prayer, noon Friday.

For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

Latter-Day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — student group service, 2 p.m. Sundays, Triangle Chapel. For more information, call 396-5274 or 801-787-1990.

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Tickets and trips

Mardi Gras parades — in Mobile, \$15 per person, Friday, Saturday, Feb. 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 24. For reservations, call 377-3818.

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 pre-school, elementary, teens and adults.

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

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

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

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. Romeatrus 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

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

Homework help — 4-5 p.m. Tuesdays for middle school and up.

Valentine story time — Feb. 12. 11 a.m. ages 3-5, 6 p.m. ages 6-12. All children are asked to bring a picture of themselves, a loved one or a friend to be placed on a decorated heart.

President's Day story time — Feb. 26. 11 a.m. ages 3-5, 6 p.m. ages 6-12. All children complete an appropriate craft project.

February display — books and posters in observance of African-American History Month.

Volunteers needed — dancers, singers, musicians, artists to share their talent with the children during the summer reading program. For more information, call 377-2604.

Online catalog — to search the inventory of books, DVDs, CDs, videotapes, magazines, periodicals and more, log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us>, click on the link for McBride Library, then the link for the online catalog.

Available — two large meeting rooms, audio room, typing room and children's library.

Wireless Internet — information available at the front desk.

Free wireless Internet — check at circulation desk.

Tours/orientations — call 377-2604.

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Vandenberg Community Center

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

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.

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

Movie nights — 7 p.m. Wednesday; free popcorn.

Katrina Kantina

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

Valentine dinner for two — 6-8 p.m. Feb. 14; \$30 for member couple, \$35 nonmember couple. Reservations must be made no later than Feb. 11 by calling 377-3818.

Karaoke — 6-8 p.m. Feb. 27; DJ Wayne and drink specials.

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

Tuesday special — 5 p.m., red beans and rice, \$1 bowl.

Karaoke — 6-9 p.m. Jan. 22; DJ Wayne, drink specials.

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

Youth center

Editor's note: All children registered in a youth center program receive free membership.

Open recreation — 3-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 3-6 p.m. Fridays and 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, ages 9 and older. Boys and Girls Club programs including computer media center, homework assistance "Power Hour" program, and triple-play sports and recreation activities. Students sign themselves in at the front desk.

Friday night fun — 6:30-9:30 p.m., ages 6-12. Free skating music and games.

Youth center action council — meets monthly. If you're interested in military youth programs and have a child age 6-18, call and join this focus group.

Military home schoolers — meet monthly at the youth center. 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.

Classes — gymnastics, karate, children's theater and guitar; \$50 month. Classes meet Saturday mornings. For more information, call 377-4116.

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.

Commissioners and coaches needed — for youth sports. For more information, call 377-4116.

Shuttle service — parents interested in a shuttle service for ages 9 and older for Biloxi area schools and base housing to youth center, sign up at the center as soon as possible.

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 Tuesdays in Room 111, Sablich Center, 1 p.m. for those who are separating and 2:30 p.m. for those who are retiring. If someone is separating/retiring under special circumstances, they can schedule an appointment by calling 376-8728.

Transition assistance program — briefings for 2009 are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Feb. 12, March 9-12, April 13-16, May 11-14, June 8-11, July 13-16, Aug. 10-13, Sept. 14-17, Oct. 19-22, Nov. 16-19 and Dec. 14-17, 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.

Air Force Reserve opportunities — for members separating within 180 days, call Master Sgt. Charlene Morse, 377-7116; e-mail charlene.morse@keesler.af.mil or visit Room 125-F, Sablich Center.

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DINING HALL MENUS

Thursday

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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Palace Chase — for information about how to apply for a program to attend college full time and work part time, visit Room 125-F, Sablich Center. For more information, call Master Sgt. Charlene Morse, 377-7116; e-mail charlene.morse@keesler.af.mil or visit Room 130, Sablich Center.

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 376-8728.

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.afaots.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.

To change information
in Digest listings,
call
377-3837 or 4130.

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

Web sites

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEETINGS

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 Staff 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 Wed-nesday 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 princess92@gmail.com or visit <http://www.keeslercap.org>.

Company grade officers council — meets

first Wednesday of the month. For time and location, call 1st Lt. Stephanie Lutz, 377- 8638.

Keesler 5.6 — 3:15 p.m. third Wednesday of the month; location varies. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Sturdivant, 377-1813.

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. For recording about current features, call 377-6627.

Friday — 6:30 p.m., Valkyrie (PG-13).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Yes Man (PG-13); 6:30 p.m., Seven Pounds (PG-13).

Sunday — 1 p.m., Marley and Me (PG).