



KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

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Train to Fight — Train to Win

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Dragons deployed — 221



Jingle jail

Senior Airman Ernest Boaldin puts Master Sgt. Lisa Phillips into a holding cell Tuesday as part of the 81st Security Forces Squadron's Santa Police fundraiser. Airman Boaldin and Sergeant Phillips are members of the 81st SFS. The event continues 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today and Friday. People can be "locked up," \$10 for the first 30 minutes and \$5 for each additional 15 minutes. Confined persons can bail themselves out by paying the full amount of the warrant. Proceeds benefit the 81st SFS booster club and Fisher House. To buy a warrant, call 376-6623, 6604 or 6612.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

New standards take effect July 1

Biannual physical fitness testing starts Jan. 1

By Master Sgt. Russell Petcoff

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel announced the new Air Force fitness standards will officially begin July 1.

Lt. Gen. Richard Newton III said the service's top leaders sought feedback from commanders and senior NCO leaders throughout the Air Force when deciding to execute the updated program that will test Airmen twice during calendar year 2010 — once under the current program and once under the new program.

"Based on feedback from the field, we are implementing the July start date so Airmen have the opportunity to excel," General Newton said. "This implementation strategy will allow for a smoother

transition of the new Air Force Instruction and afford commanders adequate time to establish installation fitness assessment cells to include adequate manning for the FACs."

According to General Newton, a new AFI detailing the new fitness standards is due out within the next few weeks. This fitness AFI is the first to cover the total force of active duty, Guard and Reserve.

The general added that the July start date will provide commanders and Airmen plenty of time to be prepared and in compliance with the new AFI.

"We want to do this right," General Newton said. "It's about readiness and our continued commitment to ensure we have a fit force, ready to perform its global mission."

Col. Joan Garbutt, chief of military force

management for Air Staff Manpower and Personnel, said the new start date for the new fitness standards will "set our Airmen up for success." She believes Airmen will excel with the new standards.

"Every time you raise the bar, our Airmen reach higher to meet the standards," Colonel Garbutt said.

Biannual physical fitness testing begins Jan. 1 using current fitness standards. Units with FACs will use them to conduct the assessments. Units without FACs will continue to use their physical training leaders, or PTLs, to assess Airmen. Enlisted and officer performance reports will reflect fitness training scores based upon their reports closeout dates.

During the Jan. 1-June 30 testing phase, unit PTLs provide two scores — one for

Please see **Fitness testing**, Page 9



DRAGON ON THE STREET

By **Kemberly Groue**

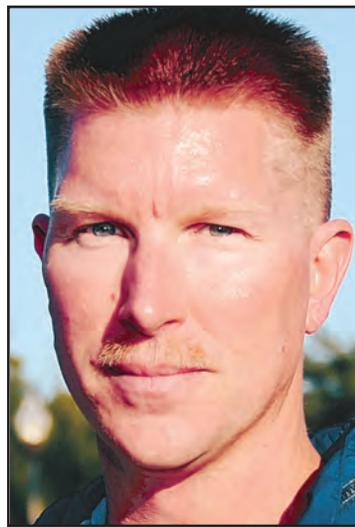
Keesler News photojournalist

What is your proudest Air Force moment?



The first time I raised my right hand.

Tech. Sgt. Antrina Alexander, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron



Coming back from my first deployment to Iraq and landing in my hometown.

Master Sgt. Chad Madore, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron



When someone outside the Air Force thanks me for my service and commitment.

Master Sgt. Anthony Fisher, 81st Training Support Squadron

Be thankful, cherish time with your heroes

By **Chief Master Sgt. Damian Orslene**

81st Force Support Squadron superintendent

Not all good advice is found in publications. The advice I often share comes from a foundation of wisdom laid by my heroes, my parents.

I was three quarters of the way through writing an article about change when the phone rang and my mother stated the doctors found two more masses in my dad, who has already fought and survived prostate and skin cancer. This information completely diverted the direction of this article from change to being thankful. My thoughts naturally turned to my heroes and how thankful I was to have parents who spent their entire lives investing in the true development of their children.

I'm thankful that my parents never passed up an opportunity to teach me a lesson that would help me later in life, and they continue to do so. My fondest memories come from my parents teaching and taking care of me. I remember my father shaking my hand in the Greyhound Bus parking lot outside Cleveland Ohio, on Dec. 1, 1982, as I left for basic training, and saying, "Remember just two things: Do more than they ask and always leave it better than you found it and you'll do just fine." Simple words, but not always easy to do. Quite often it is the simplest advice that is the hardest to perform. It was so easy to leave things until tomorrow, to do just what is asked and nothing more. It is easy to do only 10, when all is expected is 10. I would always remember my father's words and force myself to do more. It was easy to leave with everyone else when quitting time came and they filed out the

door. It required a lot of self-discipline to stay. I am thankful for that lesson.

Learning to leave things better than I found them required a different lesson. One Saturday morning when I was 12 years old, my father asked me to borrow our neighbor Paul Spitack's wheelbarrow and haul off some dirt from behind our garage and dump it in the woods before I went to play ball — which, of course, I did. Mr. Spitack's wheelbarrow was an ugly red, green, yellow painted wooden wheelbarrow that weighed a ton empty, but nonetheless, I hauled off the dirt, put the wheelbarrow back and scampered off to play ball.

I was standing on second base when a buddy of mine said, "Oh, this can't be good," and as I turned around, there was my father coming down the street. Oh, this can't be good. My dad was and still is a gentle giant. He spent 44 years in the steel mill, raised four kids on a foreman's salary, and we never wanted for anything. He did not yell or cuss — he just asked me to come home, which I did ... with the entire baseball team, both sides, following behind us. Nothing was more entertaining than seeing someone else get in trouble!

When we got home, he asked me if I had hauled off the load of dirt as asked, and after I assured him I had, he asked if I had returned the wheelbarrow, and I assured him I had. Then he asked, "Did you leave the wheelbarrow better than you found it?" I had not. For there in the driveway was that ugly wheelbarrow with the evidence of our dirt still caked in it. I immediately told my father I would wash it

out completely and be on my way. The opportunity to do this right the first time when no one was around to instruct or correct me had vanished. No, my dad said I was to tell Mr. Spitack his wheelbarrow would be busy for a while. I had to sand the entire wooden wheelbarrow, use my newspaper route money to buy the ugly green, red and yellow paint and repaint the entire wheelbarrow, and I could only do it on my only day off from school or family activities ... my only day I got to play ball ... Saturday. It took two whole Saturdays of sanding and paint, while all my friends watched and offered advice, to do what I should have done in the first place and leave that wheelbarrow better than I found it. A simple thing left undone had a tough price tag attached. I am thankful for that lesson. It has served as my foundation for many years.

I am thankful for the opportunity to share that story every chance I get, to help others learn from my mistakes. Each of us has a wheelbarrow story concerning our own lessons. My mother says, "Experience is a wonderful thing, but nobody says it has to be your experience." Learn from my mistake and help others learn from yours. Learning from each other's mistakes, taking care of each other, being good wingmen is the cornerstone of what we do.

Be thankful and cherish the time you have with your heroes, those people who inspire you. That time is truly priceless. Remember to do more than asked, leave it better than you found it; put your integrity first, serve others before yourself, be excellent in all you do...and you'll do just fine.

KEESLER NEWS

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Airman Leadership School involves more than classes

By Senior Airman
Kimberly Moore

Keesler Public Affairs

Like everyone I know, I absolutely dreaded the idea of having to attend Airman Leadership School. Everyone is far too busy in their own lives to devote six weeks to such an unnecessary course, right?

When I began this article I was only planning to do a quick feature on what ALS is and why we have to go. But soon after my initial interview, I was thrilled to learn I was a staff sergeant select and as such, I was quickly enrolled into the next ALS class. Thrill soon turned to frustration and the article was put on hold while I prepared for class.

I remember one of the first days in class an instructor asked who wanted to be there ... no one raised his or her hand. I took comfort in knowing I wasn't the only one who felt this way, but it made me wonder why we all do.

I think it's the fear of the unknown, so let me help quash some of those fears and uncertainties that lie in the ever-dreaded ALS.

Airman Leadership School is 24 academic days long (192 curriculum hours) and is the first level of professional military education. Graduates earn 10 college credits and are allowed to supervise and rate subordinates and become a noncommissioned officer.

The mission of PME is to provide the continuum of education necessary to inspire and develop enlisted leaders with the moral framework of integrity, service and excellence, while strengthening their commitment to the profession of arms by integrating sound leadership, communication skills and military studies, principles and concepts. Its guiding philosophy is to develop Airmen with a warrior ethos and a passion for leading in the cause of freedom.

Its objectives are to provide



the nation with military personnel skilled in the employment of aerospace power in the conduct of war and small scale contingencies; to provide Air Force personnel with skills and knowledge to make sound decisions in progressively more demanding leadership positions within the national security environment; and to develop strategic thinkers and war fighters.

Attending ALS is not optional, and students include senior airmen with 48 months time in service or those with a promotion line number for staff sergeant. They must also have six months minimum retainability from the projected graduation date.

"It's a busy and challenging schedule," said Senior Master Sgt. Vanessa Polk, ALS commandant. She advises supervisors that ALS students are in temporary duty status, so all work duties must be wrapped up before they begin class.

"In addition to the curriculum, students participate in

community projects, physical training and after-hour study groups, so it's also critical that loved ones are supportive during ALS," Sergeant Polk emphasized.

The thought of this is rather intimidating, but you'll be amazed at what you're capable of accomplishing through the support of your classmates and the ALS staff (and the lesson principles, of course).

In the classroom, you can expect guided discussions from the previous night's reading assignment. You'll learn techniques for counseling Airmen, how to write enlisted performance reports and memorandums, how to march a flight through drill and, yes, you'll have to do speeches.

I'll admit it, this was my greatest fear. I'm a writer, not a speaker, and I honestly had a panic attack before my first speech and then cried in front of the whole class. I know, embarrassing. But, thankfully, I had a great instructor who pushed me to work through the



Photos by Senior Airman Kimberly Moore
Above, Senior Airman Cassandra Dameron, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron, has her face "camo-ed" by 7-year-old Kylie Limrick, during Operation Hero. Kylie is the author's daughter.

Left, Senior Master Sgt. Vanessa Polk, ALS commandant, discusses Operation Hero with Senior Airmen Austin Sutton, 81st Security Forces Squadron, and Matthew Martin, 81st Operations Support Flight. The class volunteered at the event sponsored by the airman and family readiness center that introduces children of military members to the deployment process.

fear and didn't let me give up.

By our third and final speech, I was not nearly as nervous and I survived it. Don't get me wrong — I'm by no means a confident public speaker now, but I know if I have to do it, I can.

"We can't make students experts in every aspect of leadership through a six-week course," Sergeant Polk stressed. "What we do is give them tools to establish a foundation in hopes that their supervisors will continue to develop and fine-tune them when they

return to their work centers."

I'm proud to say that every one of the 30 students in Keesler ALS Class 09-7 graduated and, surprisingly, I already miss class. I hope that future students take comfort in knowing that their fears aren't uncommon and hopefully knowing more of what to expect will put some of those fears at ease.

Enjoy class, enjoy your classmates and take pride in becoming an effective front-line supervisor.



ALS Class 09-7 presents arms during retreat outside the ALS building. In addition to classroom activities, students also participate in reveille and open ranks inspections.

Football season offers unique method for deployed instructor to mark time

Keesler News staff

Tech. Sgt. Michael May has developed a unique way of tracking how long he's been deployed to Iraq.

"It's based on the (National Football League) season," he explained. "The only days that I keep track of are Sundays. Each new week in the NFL is another week down. By the time the Super Bowl rolls around, I'll be close to going home!"

Sergeant May, command post craftsman course manager in the 334th Training Squadron, deployed to Kirkuk Regional Air Base in September and expects to return by March.

He's been at Keesler for three of his 11 years in the Air Force. This is his third deployment — he went to Turkey in 2003 and Qatar in 2005.

On an average work day, Sergeant May is on the job from 6:15 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The most memorable moment for him so far occurred the first time he experienced the base receiving indirect fire.

His housing and support facilities include living in areas called multiple occupancy dorms that could house up to



Sergeant May

12, but currently there are only three occupants. Other facilities include a mini base exchange, a recreation center, a library, a gym and a few Army and Air Force Exchange Service concessions.

"Basically, we have everything that we need here," Sergeant May said. "The base often hosts recreational events to keep everyone occupied."

He said the most challenging part of his deployment is being away from his wife and all the luxuries of home.

His wife, Tech. Sgt. Lauren May, works in the 81st Medical Operations Squadron mental health flight. The newlyweds married two weeks before he deployed.

"We don't have any kids, but we do have two Italian Greyhounds, Romi and Vino," he commented. "She and I keep in touch with phone calls a couple times a week and e-mail, and we try to Skype when we can."

When asked how his deployment experience will enhance what he brings back to students when he returns to Keesler, Sergeant May said, "As a CP controller, you are always training for the 'what ifs' — those things you never think will actually happen. It took more than 11 years, but the 'what ifs' are now happening.

"It will help being able to explain to the students that all the training and hard work may not seem really important while it's occurring, but they're crucial, especially with how our career field deploys nowadays," he added.

Angela Cutrer and Susan Griggs contributed to this report.

AETC unveils new suicide prevention site

By Ashley Wright

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Education and Training Command Medical Services and Training Directorate took another step in caring for the Air Force's most valuable resource by unveiling a new community of practice Web site for suicide prevention.

The purpose of the AETC Suicide Prevention Web site is to share pertinent information, educate, and provide tools which raise awareness about suicide prevention, reducing suicides and suicide attempts within the command.

All Airmen within AETC will be able to view and utilize the contents of the Web site, not just personnel in the mental health career field, said Lt. Col. Cheryl Scaglione, command mental health consultant.

The Web site, which can be accessed through the Knowledge Now virtual community, contains links to related Web sites, including the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline,

recent articles, official suicide policies, self-assessment questionnaires for issues like depression, post traumatic stress disorder, alcohol abuse and suicide prevention resources.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Varnell Johnson, AETC's alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment program manager, the Web site took about four months to complete and still has potential to grow. The sergeant envisions the site growing due to synergy from mental health personnel collaborating and sharing best practices or other useful information for the site. The suicide prevention site began as a strategic review board initiative and the plan is to add additional training resources such as briefings and handouts for Commander's Calls and Wingman Day.

Knowledge Now can be found at <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=OO-SG-AE-40> or via the Air Force Portal. Once the user is in the community, they can search for "AETC suicide prevention CoP" to locate the site.

Radiology students represent Keesler, career field at elementary school fair

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Six students from the Diagnostics Imaging Phase II class recently represented Keesler at a Gulfport elementary school career fair.

Airmen Zenita Encarnacion and Jada Forney and Airmen 1st Class Jacob Lindsey, Derek Willmott, Ashlyn Soucy and Amanda Devine responded to the request from Pass Road Elementary School in Gulfport to provide information about their Air Force duties during the Oct. 30 program for the school's 325 students.

Airman Lindsey said, "I was thoroughly impressed with the knowledge the kids displayed. I also enjoyed helping and teaching them about the anatomy of the human body. They were thrilled when our X-ray techs showed pictures of animals and things out of the normal. I found it was a learning experience and I'd gladly do it again."

"The experience of educating was a very rewarding one," commented Airman Willmott. "The children came in with a basic understanding of the anatomy of the body and were able to walk away able to identify what they previously learned in their science classes. It was fun to interact with a younger generation and I think they were educated on a career that otherwise they would never have known about."

Airman Encarnacion said, "I was surprised how smart the children were and how eager they were to answer the questions we asked and most of them got them right. They were also eager to get their candy too. We showed them X-rays of different parts of the human body and pointed out the problem areas. I had fun and I look forward to volunteering at that school again. I think they're



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Front row, from left are Airmen Devine, Willmott and Encarnacion; back row, from left are Airmen Soucy, Lindsey and Forney.

doing a great job with their kids. Their staff was also very polite and welcoming."

Airmen Soucy and Devine commented, "We showed students pictures of X-rays, from broken bones to the path food takes throughout the body. We were very impressed with the students' knowledge of anatomy. The children were very interested and excited to see different bones and wanted to see as many X-rays as they had time for. All in all, things went really well and we think the students had just as good a time as the radiology techs did."

"Being able to represent our job along with the military to a younger generation was very beneficial and fulfilling," said Airman Forney. "We enjoyed describing the X-ray

career field to them and watching their little eyes bulge when we showed them the entertaining films. We were impressed with their knowledge and enthusiasm to want to know more. We all enjoyed working together and shared many laughs throughout the day. I was also able to escort a group of kindergartners around to all the other booths and that was quite a thrill. There's nothing better than to get to act like a little kid again. They were full of spunk and kept me on my toes. Overall, I had a great time and got to learn more about my colleagues and how much I really love and enjoy the Air Force and the amazing job it has given me."

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Post-9/11 GI Bill

A Post-9/11 GI Bill briefing is 11:30 a.m. Dec. 17 in the Sablich Center Auditorium.

For more information, call 376-8708 or 8710.

Commissioning

Commissioning briefings are 10-10:30 a.m. in Room 224, Sablich Center:

Officer Training School — second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

ROTC — first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Parking lot closed

The parking lot on the southeast side of the NCO Academy is closed until 2 p.m. today and noon Dec. 16 for drill practice and evaluations.

In case of inclement weather, the hours may change or the lot will be open.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Greg Jackson, 377-3944.

House party

A UBU house party for nonprior service students is 8 p.m. Dec. 11 at the Legends Cafe in Vandenberg Community Center.

Students may pick up a free UBU card at the event, or show their current card and become eligible for prizes and giveaways.

The party is sponsored by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Keesler Federal Credit Union.

Be a physician assistant

The next board for Physician Assistant Phase I raining classes is March 16-17. Completed applications must be submitted by Jan. 25.

For more information, call the education office, 376-8708/8710.

Hap Arnold grants

Applications are available online for the Air Force Aid Society's Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program at <http://www.afas.org/Education/ArnoldEdGrant.cfm>

The \$2,000 grants are given to selected sons and

Academic ace



Airman 1st Class Justin Quintero graduated Nov. 25 from the electronic principles course in the 332nd Training Squadron with a perfect score. Airman Quintero, from Queens, N.Y., continues his training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, in the avionics systems apprentice school.

daughters of active duty, Title 10 Active Guard/Reserve, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired reserve and deceased Air Force members; spouses (stateside) of active duty members and Title 10 AGR/Reservists; and surviving spouses of deceased members for undergraduate studies.

The application deadline is March 12. The deadline to submit related family financial data forms and grade point average verification forms is April 15. Recipients are named in June.

For more information, call Linda Edison, 376-8517.

NECP deadlines

Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program deadlines are Feb. 26, notification of intent to apply; March 26, academic evaluation; and April 23, applications due.

For more information, call the education office, 377-8708.

Base shuttle schedules are found at

<http://www.keesler.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=15371>

Help wanted New command is building team

By Carla Pampe

Air Force Global Strike Command

BARKSDALE Air Force Base, La. — Air Force Global Strike Command officials are aggressively working to hire the best people available for one of the Air Force's top priorities: reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise.

Active-duty, civilians, Guard and Reserve, especially those with nuclear experience, are being encouraged to apply for positions at AFGSC headquarters here and at the units that fall under 8th and 20th Air Forces in six other states.

Because it is a new major command that is still building up to full operational capability, Lt. Gen. Frank Klotz, AFGSC commander, said there are a lot of opportunities for people looking for a unique challenge.

"Everyone at Global Strike Command is the 'first ever' in that job, for now and forever," he said recently. "I think the opportunity to create something new, to know that whatever you do is going to have a lasting impact on the command, is a powerful incentive for people to join our team."

Global Strike Command bases will include Minot AFB, N.D., Malmstrom AFB, Mont., F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., Whiteman AFB, Mo., as well as the headquarters at Barksdale. One squadron each at Vandenberg AFB, Calif., and Offutt AFB, Neb., also will fall under the command.

Jobs representing specialties across a range of functional areas are being advertised now through the Air Force Personnel Center Web site; the Air Force Portal; and the USAJobs Web site.



"I think the opportunity to create something new, to know that whatever you do is going to have a lasting impact on the command, is a powerful incentive for people to join our team."

— General Klotz

As the command approaches the assumption of the ICBM mission Dec. 1 and the nuclear-capable bomber mission Feb. 1, the need is critical for Airmen and civilian experts ready to take on these special missions and responsibility for the most powerful weapons in the nation's arsenal, officials said.

"We are actively hiring active-duty, Guard, Reserve, government civilians, retired and former military as we steadily grow to our authorized strength," General Klotz said. "This requires developing skilled Airmen being fully involved in the mission."

Not only is the nuclear mission a top priority of Air Force senior leaders, it is also vital to the security of the nation, according to senior defense officials.

During the activation cere-

mony for AFGSC in August, Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Norton Schwartz said, "In this organization, we will have many of the Air Force's brightest minds focusing on the operations, resourcing and management of America's nuclear missiles and nuclear-capable bombers, and leaders who will foster a culture of exacting compliance, critical self-assessment, and uncompromising excellence and performance."

Military members interested in joining the command should update their assignment preference worksheets, look for announcements on the AFPC Web site, and discuss options with their respective assignment managers. There are also up to 250 civilian positions open, with an emphasis on people with specialized nuclear experience.

IN THE NEWS

Pass Road Gate update

Lanes on the north side of the Pass Road Gate reopen at 6 a.m. today as the southbound lanes of Ploesti Drive from the gate to Hercules Street close for 10 weeks for construction of denial barriers.

All traffic entering the base at the Pass Road Gate will be detoured north on Ploesti around Bay Breeze Golf Course and marina park.

Curtis and Patton Street entrances into Bay Ridge housing area reopened Monday.

The Rodenberg Gate is open daily, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Officers club demolition

Demolition of the old Officers Club on Larcher Boulevard is under way and is scheduled to continue for about three weeks.

The building, which is located in a flood plain, was heavily damaged during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The cleared area will be retained as green space.

Road closure

Parts of J Street and 5th Street that loop Keesler Medical Center close Monday for construction of the new inpatient tower.

Holiday greetings available online

Air Force News Service

SAN ANTONIO — Members of the Joint Hometown News Service here recently posted more than 8,000 holiday greetings from service members and their families stationed around the world on its Web site.

To see the holiday greetings, family members, service-members and their families can visit at <http://www1.dmasa.dma.mil/hometown/webpages/holidaygreetings.htm>.

Greetings are categorized by state and then service-members are listed alphabetically.

Shortly after Labor Day, broadcast teams began taping greetings by visiting more than 60 locations worldwide until mid-October.

This is the 26th year the Joint Hometown News Service has sent teams around the world to tape holiday greetings.

Phones, seatbelt, car seat rules

Cell phones — It's a primary offense to drive on base while using a cell phone without a hands-free device.

For military members, offenses are subject to citation for points, and for civilian employees, dependents, retirees and contractors, citations carry a fine.

For all offenders, driving privileges can be suspended for seven days for the first offense, 30 days for a second offense and one year for a third offense.

Seatbelts must be used by driver and passengers. Children at least 4-7 years old or less than 65 pounds or under 4 feet 9 inches tall must be in a booster/child seat of vehicles in operation on the installation. For violations, driving privileges can be suspended seven days for the first offense, 30 days for the second offense, 90 days for the third offense and one year for the fourth and subsequent offenses.

For more information, call the 81st Security Forces Squadron, 376-6600, or the wing safety office, 377-2007.

Keesler medic travels to Egypt to revise publication

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Brian Casleton, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander, served on an international team of volunteers tasked by the World Health Organization to revise a publication in Cairo last month.

According to Colonel Casleton, the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office asked the nine-member group to update a 1994 edition of "Health Laboratory Facilities in Emergency and Disaster Situations." The team traveled to Cairo to finalize the changes.

The colonel was selected for the team based on his knowledge and background in transfusion medicine and blood-donor collection operations.

"The team consisted of members from New Zealand, Australia, Sweden, Norway, Canada, Germany and the U.S.," Colonel Casleton explained. "The publication is designed to provide insight into what might be needed as a laboratory response to a variety of disaster situations in the region. The book is based on modules that can be tailored to meet situations ranging from malaria to cholera outbreaks to basic chemistry, hematology analysis to emergency blood collection and transfusion.

"This particular region covers a wide spectrum of possibilities as it encompasses Africa and the Middle East. The book is designed as a guide to aide other non-government organizations in what might be a typical laboratory response to a wide range of emergency situations. It also goes into

detail about water and power considerations in disaster response in the region.

The colonel noted the most interesting aspect of the trip, other than the culture and the topic, was the group dynamics.

"This event brought together nine people who had previously only communicated by e-mail. It was a textbook lesson in group dynamics. Over the course of the week, it was interesting to watch the stages of 'forming, storming, norming, conforming and performing.' Team members initially were tentative about voicing opinions, but by the end of the week no one hesitated to present an opinion or idea. Ultimately the leader felt that the team produced a quality revision. In fact, the WHO has decided to expedite a Web-based version with the published text to follow."



Colonel Casleton

Federal ethics regulations include gift-giving limits

14th Flying Training Wing Judge Advocate's Office

COLUMBUS Air Force Base, Miss. — The holidays have always been a time for exchanging gifts. All Department of Defense personnel, however, should remember that federal ethics regulations sometimes restrict these activities. Here is a summary of the rules regarding gift giving in the workplace:

First, DOD personnel may not accept gifts offered because of their official positions or offered by a prohibited source, such as a contractor (or anyone who wants to become a contractor). There are several exceptions to this general rule, though. The main exception is that DOD personnel may accept gifts (other than cash) not exceeding \$20, as long as the total amount of gifts that the recipient accepts from that source doesn't exceed \$50 for the year. This exception is often known as the "\$20/\$50 Rule."

Second, DOD personnel may attend receptions and other events with free refreshments in a widely-attended gathering, if the employee's supervisor determines that the employee's attendance is in the agency's best interest. Also, DOD employees may accept invitations (even from contractors) to events that are open to the public, to all government employees or all military personnel. A DOD employee can also accept invitations to open houses, parties, and receptions and other personal hospitality at the residence of subordinates that are customarily provided on the occasion. Finally, a



For legal advice,
call 376-8601
or visit Room 227,
Sablich Center.

DOD employee may also accept an invitation from a boss or co-worker. Understanding that parties, gatherings, and receptions are often part of the holidays, contact the legal office if you have questions about holiday parties.

A third important rule involves gift exchanges. When exchanging gifts between DOD personnel, the general rule is that supervisors may not accept gifts from subordinates or DoD personnel who receive less pay. However, there are important exceptions that allow a supervisor to accept gifts (other than cash) of \$10 or less from a subordinate on an occasional basis. These occasions may include holidays and birthdays, so the rule allows a subordinate invited to a social event at a supervisor's residence to give the supervisor a hospitality gift of the type and value customarily given on such an occasion. There are no legal restrictions on gifts given to peers or subordinates; however, common sense and good taste should still apply.

Always avoid any perceptions of favoritism.

Exchanging gifts with contractors may only be done on an occasional basis. Remember the \$20 rule as stated above. If you're considering giving a gift to a contractor, you should first check with the contractor, since many contractors have codes of ethics that are similar to federal rules and therefore may preclude the acceptance of gifts.

There are a host of other rules and instructions. The main point is to exercise common sense, moderation, and good taste in all gift giving and holiday events.

Fitness testing, from Page 1

the current system and one for the new standard so Airmen can gauge their performance. Starting July 1, Airmen will officially test under new requirements with the new scoring. Scores will be annotated on EPRs and OPRs.

Under the new standards, the aerobic run counts for 60 percent of the test. Body composition will count for 20 percent. Under the current standard, they count for 50 and 30 percent, respectively. Sit-ups and push-ups remain at 10 percent each. The new standards have differently valued waist measurements and 15 seconds, rather than 30, separating run scores.

Passing the test requires a composite score of 75 while also meeting a minimum level for each component. The new physical fitness test places Airmen in one of five age groups: less than 30, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60-plus. Results fall into one of three categories: 90 and above, excellent; 75-90, satisfactory; and under 75, unsatisfactory.

Information on the Air Force fitness program is online at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/affitnessprogram/index.asp.

Support to deployed members tops \$2.5 million through gift card program

DALLAS — An effort to support troops downrange while trying to minimize the amount of mail sent into a war zone has produced an outpouring of support in just five short years.

Since the Army and Air Force Exchange Service implemented its gift

card program, people have contributed \$2,507,440.

Chief Master Sgt. Jeffry Helm, AAFES senior enlisted advisor, said "AAFES gift cards are a win/win for all involved; the sender saves money on postage and the recipient can go into any

exchange in the world and redeem the gift card for exactly what they want or need."

Only authorized military shoppers can redeem the cards, but anyone can send them by calling 800-527-2345 or logging on to www.aafes.org and clicking the "Gift Cards/Certificates for Our Troops" icon.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Health benefits open season

81st Force Support Squadron

The health benefits open season runs through Dec. 14.

A health fair is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. today in Room 108A, Sablich Center. The fair features representatives from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Mail Handler Benefit Plan, Government Employees Hospital Association and other dental and vision providers to answer questions and provide information and materials on their different plans.

For more information, call 376-8326. For a copy of the 2010 federal employee health benefits guide, log on to <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/planinfo/guides/index.asp>.

Community support information

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON —Manpower and personnel force development officials have taken a look at the official community Web site of the Air Force to increase its effectiveness.

Transition of the Air Force Crossroads Web site is underway, but officials want to ensure Airmen and their families realize this important capability will continue to exist.

As of Tuesday, the Web site transitioned to an Air Force hosted portal, www.usafservices.com to offer official community information, secure Spouse Forums, and social networking applications.

Additionally, Department of Defense Web portals, Military One Source and Military Home Front, continue to provide valuable information and referral resources and social networking communities to Air Force families.

Military One Source (www.militaryonesource.com) and Military Home Front (www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil) are Web sites for official military community and family program information, policy, and guidance designed to help Airmen and their families, leaders, and service providers.

Air Force Crossroads' most popular features were GI Mail, an e-mail messaging system, and the Spouse Forum, a real-time discussion board where Air Force spouses offer peer support.

GI Mail no longer exists because of network security and unauthorized access concerns. However, the Spouse Forum offers a secure Air Force environment for spouses to help spouses.

A new feature is the social networking area, My Journal, under the "Share" tab. This feature allows Air Force users to invite friends, join groups and post photo albums. Like commercial sites, users can restrict access allowing only those known to them to view their information and post messages.

Military personnel contacts

Military personnel section phone numbers:

Customer support — 376-8738.

Career development — 376-8739.

Force management — 376-8740.

Student personnel center — 377-4111.

Testing — 376-4111.

Identification card requirements

To be issued an identification card, two forms of legal identification are necessary. Dependents are required to be accompanied by their sponsor unless they have power of attorney or a Defense Department Form 1172.

For more information, call 376-8339.

Base
construction
sites
are off-limits
without
authorization.

Wounded warrior program assists Airmen, families

By Master Sgt. Stan Parker

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON— Air Force leaders remain committed to the service's top investments: Airmen and their families.

In support of a Defense Department initiative to return wounded warriors to productive military service or civilian life, Air Force officials have revised several personnel policies. These policies afford seriously wounded Airmen additional opportunities despite having suffered significant wounds of war, according to the Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel.

"Our wounded warriors have much to share with their fellow Airmen," said Lt. Gen. Richard Newton III. "Their battle-tested experience and ability to overcome, sometimes extreme adversity, make them valuable members of our Air Force team. Those who want to stay a part of our Air Force will be offered every opportunity to remain on active duty."

The policy change focuses on classification, promotions, evaluations, retraining and retention and allows wounded Airmen to continue their careers and compete for promotion while undergoing treatment and rehabilitation.

Those Airmen who are no longer able to continue in their career field, due to disqualifying conditions, will be afforded priority retraining opportunities so they can continue contributing to the Air Force

"Our No. 1 goal is to keep these wounded warriors in uniform," said Maj. Gen. Darrell Jones, the former director of force management policy. "If needed, we are dedicated to transition them into a career field that meets with their talents ... to make a valuable contribution."

The road to recovery would be nearly impossible without the support system of many, to include the family liaison officers and the recovery care coordinators, he added.

An FLO is assigned to each wounded warrior, whether the Airman is being medical evacuated from an area of responsibility or other overseas location.

FLOs help wounded warriors and their families in all aspects of their move from the point of departure to a hospital in the United States.

FLOs become a lifeline in a time of crisis. They arrange local transportation, assist with travel requests and emergency family travel orders, and answer questions and help with access to military facilities.

Keesler's team

Active duty wounded warrior care coordinator

— Donna Anderson, 376-3068

Recovery care coordinator — Daniel Ransom, 376-3076

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

Transition service officer — Naomi Kraima, 376-8518

Referral management center — 376-0490

Health benefits adviser — 376-4752

Army liaison — Staff Sgt. Erick Majano, 376-5112

Once the member is identified as a wounded warrior, the warrior care team begins providing assistance and services for five years after separation or retirement.

The recovery care coordinator is designed to be an "ultimate resource" for seriously wounded, ill or injured service-members. RCCs work closely with family liaison officers, patient liaison officers, medical case managers and a host of support agencies to ensure the right level of support and entitlements are delivered to recovering Airmen and eligible family members.

While family liaison officers remain a critical part of the team and share experiences with ill, injured and wounded Airmen, the RCC is trained to streamline processes and guide the member and their family through the nonclinical recovery process, program officials said.

General Jones said the service is completely committed to the wounded member and has developed a comprehensive recovery plan to manage expectations.

"When we feel like we have given Airmen the maximum benefit of our medical care, they are then found fit for duty with no limitations, fit for duty with an assignment limitation status, or recommended not fit for duty, apply for an assignment limitation status to remain in the Air Force," General Jones said.

The assignment limitation status refers to assigning members where there is robust medical care, consistent with their physical condition, the general added.

"We really look at our care for wounded warriors as a solemn obligation," General Jones said. "We hope we have gone to the appropriate lengths to make sure whenever someone's injured and whatever their doing in today's fight ... that we take care of them."

Officials acknowledge 580 members in the wounded warrior program status, of which 120 are still on active duty. Some remain on active status in varying levels of their cases or awaiting separation or retirement. Sixteen have been returned to duty and five have been returned to duty with assignment limitations. More than 460 have chosen to separate rather than remain on active duty in some capacity, but they don't lose their wounded warrior status.

"The wounded warrior program is not just a care for you on active duty but a lifetime commitment," he said.

Access to AETC bases is going high tech

Keesler conversion planned for FY 2010

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs and Keesler News staff

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Access to Air Education and Training Command installations is going high tech.

In the near future, gate guards will use Defense Biometric Identification System to scan ID cards to validate authorization to enter AETC bases.

DBIDS installation is scheduled to begin in November and December at eight Air Education and Training Command installations: Lackland, Randolph, Goodfellow, Sheppard and Laughlin Air Force Bases, Texas; Altus AFB, Okla.; Luke AFB, Ariz., and Tyndall AFB, Fla. All base personnel, to include dependents and retirees, will be required to register their ID cards in the DBIDS database.

“Keesler is projected to receive DBIS in the next round of installations — fiscal year 2010 — once the funding is secured and installation is coordinated with the Defense Manpower Data Center and Air Force Security Forces Center,” said Donald Bleistein of AETC’s DBIDS program office. “If everything falls in line, the funding could be secured January-

May, and the installation would be scheduled before December 2010.”

Registration is a quick and easy process; it usually takes less than five minutes to register. Registration stations will be available at multiple locations throughout the base, such as the fitness center, base exchange and the commissary.

Each unit will have a scheduled time, date and location for their members to register, said Derrick Austin, AETC DBIDS program manager.

The only thing registrants will need to register is their Department of Defense-issued identification card, such as the common access cards, dependent or retiree identification cards.

DBIDS ID cards will be issued to vendors and other civilians who require access to a DoD installation, but do not qualify for a CAC. The temporary cards will have an expiration date embedded in their data, Mr. Austin said.

Gate guards will use handheld scanners to electronically scan ID cards instead of relying on a visual inspection. The scanners will be wirelessly connected to a DOD database where identity data is stored. The database will include biometric data such as eye color, weight and other physical identifying information from the defense enrollment eligibility system.

The scan should take about the same amount of

time as a visual inspection, but will make it easier to detect individuals who should not be on base as well as finding people in an emergency.

If a member is barred from the base, information will come up immediately on the scanner to alert the gate guard. This system is an integral part of the AETC long-term plan to improve force protection throughout the command.

DBIDS is new to AETC, but it has been in use in other DOD locations in the United States and abroad since 2001.

“AETC just waited for the best version to provide our command the best return on investment,” Mr. Austin said. “Additionally, the goal is to become the first (major command) to install DBIDS command-wide.”

From January to July, 2009, more than two million CACs were scanned using DBIDS in the continental U.S. Of those, DBIDS identified more than 52,000 personnel trying to enter bases without proper authorization, including members using expired, suspended or duplicate CACs.

“Our goal is to provide AETC with state-of-the-art technology for first rate security, but not to disrupt the day-to-day operations in the process,” Mr. Austin said.

Airman 1st Class Brian McGloin, AETC Public Affairs, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report.

Federal job opportunities open for qualifying military spouses

By April Rowden

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — A new executive policy has pushed open the door for qualifying military spouses to enter the federal workforce, enabling them to apply for more jobs advertised on USAJOBS.

Executive Order 13473, effective Sept. 11, 2009, identified three groups of qualifying spouses eligible to apply for temporary, term and permanent employment in all pay grades:

The spouse of an Airman who has been issued orders for a permanent change of station that requires relocating.

The spouse of an Airman who retired with a disability rating at the time of retirement of 100 percent; or retired or separated from the Air Force and has a disability rating of 100 percent from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The un-remarried widow or widower of an Airman killed while in active-duty status.

Those military spouses will find more job announcements open to them.

“While not a promise for employment, the new policy does increase their eligibility for referral and consideration for federal jobs, providing they meet the qualifications required for the job,” said Air Force Personnel Center’s Deborah Keating, program manager of the noncompetitive appointment of certain military spouses.

Department of the Air Force positions being advertised on USAJOBS using this authority will list the authority on the “Qualifications and Evaluations” tab. With the specific job announcement open, select the “Qualifications and Evaluations” tab, and under the “Qualifications Required” heading, look for “Appointment of Certain Military Spouses.” This indicates that the position is open to spouses meeting the qualifications listed above.

“This executive order is clearly another positive step that takes care of the military family. Military spouses face many life-changing events during a military career that can significantly impact the household income,” said Brenda Liston, chief of airman, family, wounded warrior and community operations at AFPC. “By giving military spouses expanded job opportunities, the President is providing an

opportunity that can help restabilize the family budget and start military spouses in a portable career.”

Once a spouse becomes eligible, they have a two-year window to use this benefit.

For spouses who relocate through a PCS, the eligibility period starts the date the orders are issued.

The eligibility phase for spouses of Airmen with a service-connected disability of 100 percent is based on the date of the documentation verifying the 100 percent disability.

Un-remarried widows or widowers have two years from the date of the documentation verifying the member was killed while in active-duty status. Ms. Keating emphasized the date of documentation starts the clock, not the date of death.

Similar to other status candidates, such as veterans, non-Department of Defense transfers or prior federal employee reinstatements, the hiring official within each office has the discretion to use this hiring authority. To ensure the new spouse benefit is included with positions announced for “status candidates,” applicants should review the job announcement carefully.

With contractor-to-civilian conversions, new organizations standing up and overall increases in positions, the Air Force is hiring more than 9,000 new positions in fiscal year 2010. The Air Force is projecting an even larger hiring surge in fiscal year 2011 with an estimated 25,000 new positions by fiscal year 2013. Positions are already appearing on USAJOBS.

“This is the perfect time for spouses to visit their local Airman and Family Readiness Center to get professional assistance with creating resumes for vacancies listed on USAJOBS,” Ms. Liston said. “If our professionals find that the spouse is missing critical skill sets in the desired career field, we can help the spouse build those skills by guiding them to the proper education or volunteer channels.”

For specific details on the noncompetitive appointment of certain military spouses, go to www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/ and Quick Search “RIN 3206-AL73”.

For more information on the noncompetitive appointment of certain military spouses, call the , 1-800-525-0102.

AAFES expands discounts at online mall

AAFES Corporate Communications

DALLAS – The addition of Fingerhut, Government Vacation Rewards and 21 additional name-brand websites is driving sales growth of 26 percent at the All-Service’s Exchange Online Mall.

AAFES Chief of Staff Col. Virgil Williams said, “When

military shoppers log on, they see the same products and services as the general public sees, but through the Exchange Online Mall interface receive additional savings anywhere from 8 to 40 percent off.”

The online mall has 102 partner Web sites that offer exclusive military discounts

and accept the Military Star® Card. With everything from mufflers to movies, available categories include toys, kids and baby, tactical military and electronics.

The Mall is open to all authorized exchange shoppers at www.exchangeonlinemall.com.

Leaders make Thanksgiving visit to Afghanistan

By Staff Sgt. Larry Reid Jr.

NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan Public Affairs

CAMP EGGERS, Afghanistan — The Air Force's top officer and enlisted member paid a Thanksgiving visit to Airmen who are deployed to the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan and Combined Air Power Transition Force here.

During an Airmen's call, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy spoke about the Air Force's role in the current conflict in Afghanistan and thanked the Airmen and their families back home for their unwavering sacrifices.

The visit was special for the two Air Force leaders as they were able to spend some of their time meeting and speaking to the Airmen who are deployed alongside sister services and coalition forces to train, equip and mentor Afghan forces to secure their country against terrorism.

"For me and Chief Roy, this is a moment of thanksgiving...to be with you, to be with the folks who are on the front line doing the nation's business as well as you are," General Schwartz said.

"The key message from the United States leadership is that what is happening here is important," the general said, "for the security of our country and for the security of friends and allies here in this region. What we are doing is training the Afghans to be able to help secure their own space."

"What you're doing is worth your separation from your families. What you're doing is worth the sacrifices you will make as individuals."

— General Schwartz

The general also emphasized the importance of each and every Airman's contribution to the coalition fight, and how joint-force cohesion can mean overall success in Afghanistan.

"All of you play your position well and on the front line you represent your Air Force so well," the general said. "You are credible with your joint teammates, which is important because we are doing this together. I just want to emphasize the fact that what you're doing is worth your separation from your families. What you're doing is worth the sacrifices you will make as individuals."

During the Airmen's call, Chief Roy briefly

touched on the Year of the Air Force Family by talking about program improvements to better serve Airmen and their family members who are back home.

"The sense of community at many of our stateside bases has diminished, so we are trying to bring that back and make sure that the programs available on our installations are useful to the members," said Chief Roy. "We are not looking at having new programs, but to make sure the programs that we have are suited for members who are utilizing them."

Airmen who were present during the Airmen's call were reminded to make morale calls back home during the Thanksgiving holiday and to reassure their loved ones that they are safe.

The general noted the importance of working hard today and every day and to make every day count towards helping the Afghans reach self-sustainability.

"As we go forward for the next couple of years, we need to make the best of each and every day," he said. "We need to work as hard as we can to make the Afghan Army Air Corps credible and capable so that they can move the Afghan National Army and police to where they can secure their own space and protect them while they're out doing their nation's business.

"We need all of you — we are grateful that you are here doing this work," General Schwartz said. "Chief Roy and I and the leadership of your Air Force are all in, in making sure that what you are doing here and will do, will be valued for years to come."

Deploying Airmen count on logistics readiness team

By Senior Airman David Salanitri

Keesler Public Affairs

Every day, Airmen from Team Keesler have to be able to rapidly deploy and take the fight to the enemy, but this also means that every day, Airmen have to be able to quickly and efficiently get the equipment and training that will allow for them to effectively deploy.

With about 4,000 active-duty permanent party Airman on Keesler, it's the job of the 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron to make sure the installation has the means to rapidly deploy all Airmen forward.

The installation deployment readiness cell is responsible for all Keesler deployment actions to include ensuring that all deploying members and equipment are fully capable of performing their deployed missions.

"The IDRC has deployed 800 personnel and more than 70 tons of cargo to the many areas of responsibility throughout the world this year alone," according to Master Sgt. Kevin Benjamin, 81st LRS operations and compliance section chief.

To compliment the IDRC, every Airman is assigned a unit deployment manager to keep the Airman on task with his or her specific pre-deployment requirements. Each UDM is responsible for 115-120 Airmen at all times.

"UDMs provide mission-ready war fighters to combatant commanders in support of global contingencies," said Master Sgt. Wilbert Collier. "The UDM makes sure their Airmen remain highly qualified at all times for the unit, wing and Air Force to meet highly-demanding mission requirements."

The 81st LRS traffic management flight's mission is to provide both passenger travel services and coordinate movement of vehicles being shipped to the AOR.

"Every Airman and every vehicle that leaves Keesler gets its travel arrangements from our traffic management office," said Sergeant Benjamin.

"The 81st LRS stands ready to provide unparalleled logistics support to the war fighter, both at home and abroad, while continuously preparing for tomorrow's mission," concluded Sergeant Benjamin.



Photo by Adam Bond

Sergeant Collier reviews the records of Airman Kelly Metcalf, 81st LRS, in advance of her upcoming deployment.

Holiday happenings at Keesler

Toys for Tots — campaign continues through Dec. 14.

Donation boxes are set up across the base for new unwrapped toys.

In addition to the regular toy collection, Lt. Col. Scott Solomon, 333rd Training Squadron commander, plans a musical light display at his residence, 717 Vandenberg Drive in Bay Ridge housing area as another opportunity to donate to the toy drive, from dark until 10 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Dec. 11-13. Toys for Tots shows last about 20 minutes. Admission is one toy.

For more information on the drive, call Cheryl Moore, 377-3900.

Project Cheer — a charitable initiative coordinated and sponsored by the first sergeants council to help permanent party Airmen with families who are experiencing financial difficulties and need assistance during the holidays.

First sergeants are in front of the base exchange and commissary to collect donations, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 20.

Christmas card making — 5:30-7 p.m. today at the arts and crafts center. \$10 including materials. For more information, call 377-2821.

Christmas card contest — Organizations wishing to compete in this year's Christmas card contest must register their entry at the outdoor recreation office and erect their card in the marina park no later than noon Wednesday.

This year's theme is "Year of the Air Force Family."

Cards must be free standing and painted on a piece of plywood no smaller than 4 foot by 8 foot. The back of the card is to be painted a solid color and must show the name of the squadron and point of contact. Participants are responsible for their own materials.

Winners are announced at 6 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Christmas in the Park celebration, with prizes awarded for first, sec-

ond and third place.

All cards must be removed by Jan. 4.

For more information, call 377-3160.

Christmas in marina park — Dec. 10. Hay rides begin at 4 p.m. Tree lighting at 6 p.m. followed by a visit with Santa. Photo opportunities with Santa; bring your camera. Festivities include live nativity scene, horse and buggy rides, balloon artist, arts and craft booths, free food, hot chocolate and cookies, and holiday music. Sponsored by Keesler Federal Credit Union and Budweiser. For more information, call 377-3160.

Magic Christmas in Lights — trip to Bellingrath Gardens in Mobile, Ala., 5:30-10 p.m. Wednesday and Dec. 16. \$20 for transportation and admission ticket. Tickets only, \$10 adults, \$5.75 ages 5-12. For more information, call the information, tickets, and tours office at 377-3818.

Give parents a break — 4-10 p.m. Saturday at child development center and youth center. Air Force Aid Society program offers free child care at the child development and youth centers for Air Force families who are referred by base helping agencies such as the airman and family readiness center and family advocacy, as well as first sergeants, commanders and chaplains. Certificates must be coordinated through the airman and family readiness center. For more information, call 377-2211, 377-4116 or 376-8728.

Holiday camp — 5:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Dec. 21-23 and Dec. 28-30 at the youth center, ages 6-18. For more information, call 377-4116.

Project Elf Vandy — provides goodie bags for Keesler personnel who must work after 6 p.m. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. To register personnel, commanders call 377-3308 Monday through 5 p.m. Dec. 18 with the number of bags required. Goodie bags are picked up 2-4 p.m. Dec. 24 at Vandenberg Community Center. Spon-

sored by Keesler Federal Credit Union and National Productions.

Christmas story time pajama party — 5-6 p.m. Dec. 15, McBride Library, ages 3 and older. Children are invited to wear their pajamas aboard the "library story-train" and listen to Van Allsburg's The Polar Express. Arts and crafts fun, hot chocolate and brownies. For more information, call 377-2181.

Jingle bell 5-kilometer run — noon, Dec. 16, Blake Fitness Center; registration begins at 11 a.m. Prizes awarded to the first place male and female winners. Safe holiday running attire encouraged. For more information, call 377-4385.

Free golf — Christmas Day and New Year's Day at Bay Breeze Golf Course. Golf carts and rental clubs not available. For more information, call 377-3832.

Christmas dinner — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 25 in the Magnolia and Live Oak Dining Facilities. Retirees and their families are welcome at Live Oak.

Holiday lodging — Inns of Keesler accepting reservations for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. For reservations or more information, call 374-0088.

New Year's Eve party — 8 p.m. to midnight, Dec. 31 at Vandenberg Community Center for nonprior service students only. Free admission, party favors and entertainment. Sponsored by National Productions and Rex Distributing.

New Year's Eve party — 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31 at Gaude Lanes. Bowling, dancing, music, party favors, finger foods, prizes, nonalcoholic midnight toast. Alcoholic beverages sold separately. \$30 adults, \$25 ages 6-17. Ages 5 and younger admitted free. Ages 14 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets on sale at the desk.

Service with a smile



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Cols. Stephanie McCann, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron commander, and David Garrison, 81st Medical Group deputy commander, serve Thanksgiving meals during lunch Nov. 19 in the Hungry Dragon cafeteria. They joined other members of the senior leadership who volunteered to assist the nutritional medicine flight staff provide turkey, ham and trimmings to almost 650 diners. This included 369 servings of roast turkey, 200 of holiday ham, plus sweet potatoes, cornbread stuffing, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, baby carrots and desserts. On Thanksgiving Day, Keesler's senior leaders served the holiday meal at Live Oak and Magnolia dining facilities.

Thanksgiving meal provides taste of home for deployed members in Southwest Asia

American Forces Press Service

PHILADELPHIA — How do you plan Thanksgiving dinner for 180,000 people more than 6,000 miles away? If you're a food buyer at the Defense Logistics Agency, you start by making a shopping list in April for meals to be served to U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Providing superb meals to our U.S. troops is a critical mission of the Defense Logistics Agency, and one we put a great deal of effort into," said Air Force Brig. Gen. Scott D. Chambers commander of the DLA Philadelphia field activity, which provides all the food for U.S. military personnel worldwide, 365 days a year.

"It's very important to us to give our troops a taste of home during the holidays, so we start planning the traditional Thanksgiving meal even before Memorial Day rolls around," General Chambers said.

DLA employees in the Philadelphia-based subsistence supply chain start their Thanksgiving meal planning this early to make sure that food items and ingredients will arrive overseas in time for the holiday. Many ingredients for

the meals are on hand at prime vendor locations by September, and bigger dining facilities start receiving high-volume items, such as turkeys and large beef roasts, in October.

Navy Capt. Ed Rackauskas, who leads DLA's subsistence directorate, said deliveries began in Iraq and Afghanistan in mid-October to allow for unexpected changes or possible redistribution due to movement of troops.

"No matter where troops are stationed, they can expect DLA to provide the best possible meal for Thanksgiving," he added.

He said putting together these meals is challenging, particularly in supplying some of the bigger dining facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan where holiday meals are served all day to accommodate service members working different shifts.

The cost for Thanksgiving meals for service members in Iraq totaled \$2,741,483.49 and in Afghanistan totaled \$1,301,292.42. Food items included turkey, ham, beef, shrimp, stuffing, potatoes, sweet potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce, pies and cakes.

KEESLER

NOTES

Thrift shop hours

The Keesler Thrift Shop is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

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

For more information, call 377-3217.

Visitor center hours

The Keesler Visitor Center is open 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and closed on weekends.

Housing maintenance

Phone numbers for family housing maintenance service are 377-5561, 5562 and 5563.

Supply source

The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office is a free source of supplies and equipment.

For more information, visit the CSC supply customer service element, Room 126, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002; call Michael Cashion, customer liaison, 377-5206, or e-mail michael.cashion.ctr@keesler.af.mil.

Travel medicine clinic

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

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

For more information, call 376-3550.

Immunization clinic

Immunization clinic hours:

Immunizations — 7 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday; closed 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays.

Allergy shots — 1-4 p.m. Monday; 7:30-10:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

The clinic is closed noon to 5 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month for training.

For more information, call 376-3553.



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Above, Edward Goodnite enjoys his first day of retirement at the newly-renovated Gaudé Lanes as Tarvin Atkins, below right, cooks on the new equipment in the snack bar.

Bowling center renovations offer updated features



By Angela Cutrer

Keesler News staff

If you, your family and your friends are feeling the need to work off some of that Thanksgiving pie, grab your bowling bags and head over to Keesler's bowling center, Gaudé Lanes, for some old-fashioned exercise. Thanks to recent renovations, you may be surprised at the difference from your last trip.

"We've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go," said center manager Bart Bosarge.

That doesn't mean you can't bowl right now, though.

"Bowling is available — we've never closed because of renovations," Mr. Bosarge said. "We're just waiting for the rest of the furniture to arrive, and things like the projections systems, the televisions and the new pit furniture — you know, just waiting for the last of the bits and pieces." Funded by Air Education

and Training Command and local nonappropriated funds, the renovations paid to rebuild all 24 pinsetters and renovate the snack bar. It took about three months to do the main upgrades that should make the bowling experience more fun.

Why all the work?

"It was a matter of raising the quality of a bowling center that was behind the times," said Tom Golden, 81st Force Support Squadron community services flight chief.

"A year ago, it was archaic. The pinsetters were more than 30 years old and the snack bar equipment was at least 10 years old."

Mr. Golden said the center, which employs 18, was losing league games because the equipment would break down and cause long wait times.

"And the snack bar took longer to get things done," he said. "Now we can be more efficient and have a better quality operation."

"We did some self-help projects to retile the floor and pull up old carpet," Mr. Golden added. "The center is now more handicapped accessible with a more open layout."

When all is said and done, Mr. Bosarge said, the center will be like what other local centers offer, but at a much lower cost.

The bowling center opens at 6:30 a.m. each morning except Sundays, when the center is closed all day. It closes at 3 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, at 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, and at midnight Fridays and Saturdays.

The center features a lunch special, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Saturday, when games and shoes are \$1 each. Daily games from 1-5 p.m. are \$2.75 and shoes are \$2. Bowling after 5 p.m. is \$3.50 a game, with shoes \$2.

For more information, call 377-2919.

Bowling

New Year's Eve party — 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31. Bowling, dancing, music, favors, finger foods, prizes and nonalcoholic midnight toast. Alcoholic beverages sold separately. \$30 adults, \$25 ages 6-17. Ages 5 and younger admitted free. Ages 14 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets on sale at the desk.

Bowling fund raisers — for more information, call 377-2817.

Youth bowling — for any child old enough to throw the bowling ball down the alley. League meets 9:30 a.m. Saturdays; instruction available. For more information, call 377-2817.

Glow bowling — 9 p.m. Fridays and 7 p.m. Saturdays.

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 — 1-3 p.m. Mondays-Wednesdays, 1-5 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays. Bring your employees bowling for \$1 a game plus shoe rental. For reservations, call 377-2817.

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

Intramural basketball registration — Regular division and 30 and over division. Letters of intent due today. Coaches meeting 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, at Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call 377-2444.

Jingle bell 5-kilometer run — join Santa Claus at Blake Fitness Center, noon, Dec. 16. Registration begins at 11 a.m. Prizes awarded to the first place male and female winners. Safe holiday running attire is encouraged. For more information, call 377-4385.

Free fitness classes — boot camp, self-defense, cycling, yoga, step aerobics, Tae Kwon-do, core fitness, kick boxing and pilates at Dragon Fitness Center. For more information, call 377-2907.

Free fitness testing, exercise prescription and personal training — at Blake, Dragon and Triangle Fitness Centers. For more information, call for appointment.

Free blood pressure machines — available at all fitness centers.

Boxing room — Triangle Fitness Center. Six heavy bags, three speed bags and one double-end

Intramural basketball tips off

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The intramural basketball season tipped off this week with eight teams in the Eastern Conference, seven in the Western Conferences and six in the Over 30 League.

Last year's intramural crown went to the 81st Communications Squadron, the Eastern Division's undefeated regular season leader. The undefeated 81st Medical Group led last year's Western Division. Neither organization has a team in the league this year.

The Eastern Conference opened its season Monday and plays its games at 6:15, 7:15 and 8:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesday at varied locations. The league includes a combined team from the 81st Force Support Squadron and 81st Comptroller Squadron, along with the 81st Security Forces Squadron, 81st Medical Support Squadron A-team, 332nd Training Squadron-B team, 333rd TRS, 334th TRS, 336th TRS and 338th TRS-A team.

Tuesday was opening day for the Western Conference. The 332nd TRS-A team, 338th TRS and 81st MDSS-B teams, 81st Mission Support Group, 403rd Wing, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron and 81st Dental Squadron compete in this division at 6:15, 7:15 and 8:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The 81st FSS and 81st CPTS join together for one of the Over 30 teams. The 81st FSS was last season's champ. Other teams include the 332nd, 333rd and 335th TRS, 81st SFS and 81st LRS. The games take place at 11:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Dragon Fitness Center.

For specific schedules and locations, call 377-2444.



bag. Boxing gloves available.

Fit to fight incentive program — Dragon slayers, dragon readers, dragon gliders and dragon riders available at no cost at Blake, Dragon and Triangle fitness centers. Awards presented. For more information, contact the fitness center of your choice.

Parent/child fitness room — at Dragon Fitness Center. Workout equipment; play area for ages 6 months to 7 years.

Massage appointments — at

Triangle Fitness Center. For more information, call 348-6698.

No smoking — on Crotwell Track across from Blake Fitness Center.

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 — Due to water damage to the basketball court, the center's hours have been extended to accommodate customers who wish to play full-court basketball: 6 a.m.-11 p.m. Mondays-working Friday; 8 a.m.-1 p.m. non-working Friday and Saturdays. Parent-child fitness room has workout equipment and play area for ages 6 months to 7 years. For more information, call 377-4385.

Golf

Free golf — Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Golf carts and rental clubs not available. For more information, call 377-3832.

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

Twilight special — 1 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays; play unlimited golf until closing. Fees: E1-E4, \$12; E5-O3, \$20; O4-up, \$22, guests \$22.

Nonprior service student special — show phase card or UBU card. Greens fee and cart, \$15 for 18 holes, \$10 for nine holes; add \$5 for rental clubs.

Outdoor recreation

Back Bay fishing trip — \$20 per person. State fishing license required; minimum four, maximum six people. For more information, call 377-3160.

Christmas in the marina park and tree lighting — Dec. 10. Hay rides begin at 4 p.m. Tree lighting at 6 p.m. followed by a visit with Santa. Photo opportunities with Santa, so bring your camera. Festivities include live nativity scene, horse and buggy rides, balloon artist, arts and craft booths, free food, hot chocolate and cookies, and holiday music. Sponsored by Keesler Federal Credit Union and Budweiser-Responsibility Matters. For more information, call 377-3160.

Catamaran sailboat for rent — \$10 per hour, minimum 2 hours, or \$75 per day. Trailer and take-off site \$100 per day or \$175 for a weekend. Must be sailboat certified.

Camping packages — available, including sleeping bags, lanterns, camp stoves and tents.

Canoes, kayaks — for rent.

Deep sea fishing private charter — rent Dolphin II, \$750 for first 10 people, \$50 each additional person. No license needed. \$100 deposit.

Deep sea fishing trips — Nonworking Fridays and Sundays on the Keesler Dolphin II. \$75 per person includes everything you need to fish. Payment due upon reservation. Minimum 10, maximum 22 people. For more information and to reserve, call 377-3160.

Delacroix, La. fishing site — Outdoor fishing/hunting camp in Delacroix, La. Rent a self-contained camper, sleeps four, \$50/night, \$125/weekend (Friday noon to Monday noon) or \$300/week (seven days noon to noon). Bring food, beverages, cooking utensils, and sleeping bag or bedding. Louisiana license is needed for fishing. For more information, call 377-3160.

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

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

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.

Paddle boats for rent — two-person and four-person paddle boats for \$5 per hour for a minimum of two hours; first hour free through November. For more information, call 377-3160.

Pontoon boat training — test to become certified to rent a pontoon. For more information, call 377-3160.

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

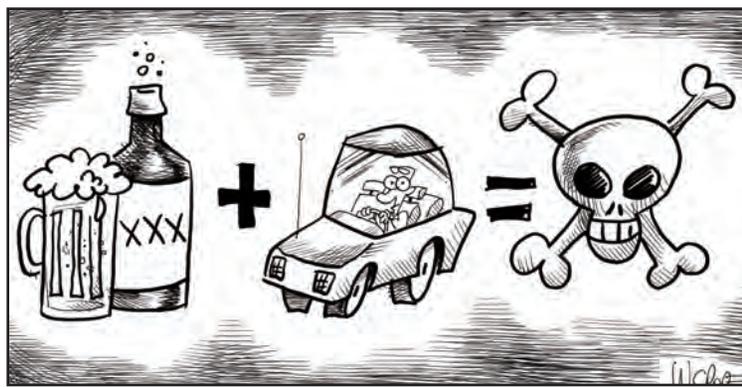
Rent a bicycle — 3500 Trek, seven speed, \$3 day, \$15 week, \$35 month.

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

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

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

Wet slip fees — monthly, 32 feet plus, \$3.75 per foot; under 32 feet, \$2.50 per foot. Overnight, \$5 per boat.



HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Brent Admire, Michael Alarcon, Kendrick Alltop, Rick Baron, Dillon Barron, Shante Bolden, Adam Burr, Michael Cabigting, Will Campbell, Mark Cortez, Alexander Davis, Joshua Duquette, Nicholaus Eddy, Joseph Fowlkes, Dannielle Fulgham, Jose Garcia, Jeffrey Good, Roberto Herman, Joshua Hutchings, Devin James, Nicholas Krug, Dominique Manipol, Stephen Manzanara, Donald Matney, Nicholas Millard, Anthony Miller, Kyle Miller, Marcus Molock, Jordan Nash, Jordan Outzen, Derek Paterson, Christopher Reagan, Cameron Rhodes, Joshua Richardson, Wesley Risley, Luke Sawyer, Alexander Skalski, David Smith, Daniel Spangler, Millis Stokes, Dylan Thomas, Kyle Topasna, Thomas Troxle, Brian Valdeiso, Phillip VanWyk, Jesse Velasquez, Matthew Vile, Mitchell Wheaton and Devin Zayas; Airmen Gregory Collins, Ronaldo Hernandez, Jonathan Hess, Randall Margritz, Jeffrey Mayberry, Calvin Peterson, Ashlynn Schmidt, Nathaniel Stabley and Stephen Virbitsky; Airmen 1st Class William Acosta, Kacie Allred, Shawn Backer, Monique Brooks, William Brown, John Bryant, Joseph Cadavos, Mitchel Carroll, Steven Carter, Cassidy Cervenka, Cynthia Espinosa, Eugenio Henriquez, Anthony Jaros, Kyle Jenkins, Nathan Jolley, Seth Knight, Nicholas Loftin, Christian Lozada, Timothy Matteson, Jeffrey May, Timothy Parker, Joshua Ryan, Jessica Sails, Voss Shaw, Darren Stebbins, Alan Tanner, Scott Vickers, Nathaniel Vincent, Heather Voorhees, Patrick Wade, Mark Webb, Corey Whitmire, Brandon Wicks and John Wildey; Senior Airmen Michael Meneses, David Savage and Earl Wright; Staff Sgts. Christina Justice, Jessie Morgan and Daniel Rodgers; Tech. Sgt. Holly Jadlocki.

Metrology basic course — Airmen Basic Garrett Dixon and Shawn Meyer; Airman Steven Janca; Airmen 1st Class Jared Burrows, Edel Melendez Fred, Christopher Guhl and Ryan Stewart; Staff Sgt. Michael Taylor.

334th TRS

Aerospace control and warning systems — Airmen Basic Sean Leffler, Laurence Shilatz, Maurilio Solorio and Bryan Trowbridge; Airmen 1st Class Nathaniel Antonio, Shatoyah Pollard and Andrew Rutledge; Senior Airmen Bakiden Gordon; Staff Sgts. Kim Dagata and Jimmy Rojas; Master Sgt. Carl Kancir.

Aviation resource management apprentice course — Airmen Basic Rachel Chandler, Christopher DaCosta, Zaccari Dunham, Anthony Fountain, Brandi Graham, Tyrone Hobbs, Achelle Joseph, Morgan McGrew, Amelia McIntosh, Taylor Monroe, Alsatia Montasser, Sam Pupillo, Alise Richey, Claudia Segovia, Amanda Smith, Brihana Stewart, Kevin Valeriano and Deandra Wilson; Airmen Tyler Armstrong, Lee Broome, Eric Hall and Cale Yarkosky; Airmen 1st Class Yonique Bell, Heather Braundmeier, Jessica Bulluck, Mary Carter, Jenna Chapman, Tyree Davis, Keith Duncan, Kristen Harmening, Kierra Howell, Laura Olson, Tanisha Sedberry, Katherine Stein, Olivia Trombley, Jason Villaruz and Lydia White; Staff Sgts. Deidra Graham, Emily Wigg and Keith Wilkins; Tech. Sgts. Ava Reed and Reynaldo Rodriguez; Master Sgts. Laurie Olson and Barbara Tarvin.

Command post apprentice course — Airmen 1st Class Lanier Cameron, Justyna Melnyczok, Contona Thomas, Ramon Torres and Ross Viperman; Senior Airmen John Bermudez, Erin Davidson, James Davis, Gregory Gay, Tamika Hill, Michael Johnson, Theresa Kupsky, Ricky Lavergne, Esther Park, Julius Priestler and Jonathan Sullivan; Staff Sgts. John Basinger, Brenda McCoy and Robert O'Loughlin; Tech. Sgts. Heidi Figura, Justin Jones and Sandra O'Fallon; Master Sgt. Brian Parr; Senior Master Sgt. Edward Cartossa.

335th TRS

Weather training flight — Marine Pvt. Megan Smith; Airmen Basic Tony Aguilera, Brandon Brown, Wesley Cook, Michael Massie, Guy Meyer, Cody Newcomer and Keith

Taylor; Navy Airman Apprentice Peter Vogel; Pfc. David Colarusso Jr., Paul Johnson and Daniel McDonald; Airmen Amy Kraxberger and Hason Thomas; Airmen 1st Class Bryan Castro, Nathan Cline, Benjamin Herbert and Courtney Street; Navy Airmen Renne Issawi and George Langlois; Senior Airman Rolando Saenz; Marine Sgts. Rene Duran and Joseph Thompson; Staff Sgts. Thomas Boaz, Matthew Hui, David Perry, Eric Sanford, Susan Turek, Troy Vickers and Melvin Watson; Petty Officer 1st Class Kenneth Fara; Master Sgt. Albishi Abdulrahman.

Comptroller training flight — Airmen Basic Brittany Carlisle, Alex Collins, Joshua Ingram, Christy Jones, Cody Rios, Thomas Tarantella, Sara Wilson and Amber Young; Airmen Brandi Blea and Brandon Gibbs; Airmen 1st Class Alfredo Baking, Timothy Byrd, Clarissa Christensen, Melissa Fatz, Erik Huss, Matthew Holguin, Malcolm McNair, Lloyd Morris, Logan Pendergraft, Ruby Scharon and Torika Thompson; Senior Airmen Tahasa Brixton, Christopher Brosseau, Marquette Jones, Gustavo Reyes and Jarrod Sanchez; Staff Sgt. Ryan Christmann; Master Sgt. Marla Suter.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 10-1 — graduation Dec. 18.

Mathies NCO Academy

Class 10-1 — graduation Dec. 17.

Arts and crafts center

Beginning woodworking — 5-7 p.m. Wednesday and Dec. 16. \$25 includes shop use, instruction and materials. Make a cutting board to give as a gift. Class certifies you to use the equipment in the future. For more information, call 377-2821.

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, Triangle Chapel.....11:15 a.m.

Jewish

Jewish services are held Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the Congregation Beth Israel, 12277 Three Rivers Rd., Gulfport. Call Master Sgt. Michael Raff, 377-5235 or 207-2196.

Islamic

Prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jumma congregational prayer, noon Friday. Building 2003, across from the Magnolia dining facility. 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. Call 396-5274 or (801) 787-1990.

Orthodox

Divine Liturgy 10 a.m. Sunday at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 255 Beauvoir Rd, Biloxi. Call 388-6138 or Father Stephen Clos, 377-4105.

Christmas card making — 5:30-7 p.m. today, craft class at the arts and crafts center. \$10 including materials. For more information, call 377-2821.

Engraving shop — squadron, office and individual orders.

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.

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

Chapel

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

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

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

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.

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

Keesler Medical Center

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.

Lodging

Need room for your holiday visitors? — the Inns of Keesler accepting reservations for Christmas and New Year's holidays. For reservations or more information, call 374-0088.

McBride Library

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

Christmas story time pajama party — 5-6 p.m. Dec. 15 at McBride Library for ages 3 and older. Children are invited to wear their pajamas aboard the "library story-train" and listen to Van Allsburg's The Polar Express. Arts and crafts fun. Hot chocolate and brownies. For more information, call 377-2181.

Chief of Staff professional military reading list — titles available for checkout from the special book collection.

Free wireless Internet — check at circulation desk.

Paperback book swap — swap one for one. Must be in good condition and of same genre.

Playaway — self-playing digital audio books available with content preloaded; select from large assortment of titles. Pop in a battery, plug in almost any type of headset and enjoy.

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.

Overdrive audio online book program — individual or family accounts allow download/playing of full-length audio books on a personal computer. Check with library staff for details.

Research databases — comprehensive research capabilities. Many specialty areas.

Rosetta Stone online language learning center — 30 foreign languages, including Spanish. For more information, check with the library staff.

Tours/orientations — for more information, call 377-2604.

Volunteers needed — to shelve books, assist with children's story time and create displays. For more information, call 377-2181.

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CLUBS AND CENTERS

Vandenberg Community Center

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

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

Legends Café — Buffet specials 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Project Elf Vandy — each year the elves at Vandenberg Community Center put together goody bags for Keesler personnel who must work on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Commanders and first sergeants should sign up personnel who will be working after 6 p.m. Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day. Call 377-3308 Monday through 5 p.m. Dec. 18 with the number of bags required. Goodie bags may be picked up 2-4 p.m. Dec. 24 at Vandenberg Community Center. Sponsored by Keesler Federal Credit Union and National Productions.

New Year's Eve party — 8 p.m. to midnight, Dec. 31 for non-prior service students only. Free admission, party favors, entertainment. Sponsored by National Productions and Rex Distributing.

Pool tournaments — 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Katrina Kantina

All ranks invited — open 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays. Snacks, beverages and music; \$5.25, chips and salsa, DJ Wayne and his karaoke machine.

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

Lunch — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays. \$6 for club members, \$8 for nonmembers. Menu changes weekly.

Youth center

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

TRAIL — 6-8 p.m. Mondays.

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

Classes — Guitar, piano and gymnastic classes available. For more information, call 377-4116.

Give parents a break — 4-10 p.m. Saturday. A great opportunity to get your holiday shopping finished. This Air Force Aid program offers free child care at the child development and youth centers for Air Force families who are referred by base helping agencies such as the Airman and Family Readiness Center (AFRC), and Family Advocacy, as well as first sergeants, commanders and chaplains. Certificates must be coordinated through the AFRC. For more information, call 377-2211, 377-4116 or 376-8728.

Holiday camp — 5:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Dec. 21-23 and Dec. 28-30 at the youth center. Ages 6-18. For more information, call 377-4116.

Open recreation — 3-5:45 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 front desk.

Youth employment service — earn money for college tuition. For more information, call 377-4116.

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

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

TICKETS AND TRIPS

Discounted tickets — for more information, log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us> and click on the ITT link.

Information on area and out-of-state attractions — free

brochures for Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

Disney special continues — Salute to Military program continues. For more information, call 377-3818.

Magic Christmas in Lights tours — to Bellingrath Gardens in Mobile, Ala. 5:30-10 p.m. Dec. 2, 9 and 16. \$20 for transportation and admission ticket. For more information, call the information, tickets and tours office at 377-3818.

Magic Christmas in Lights at Bellingrath Gardens (ticket only) — \$10 adults, \$5.75 ages 5-12. For more information, call the information, tickets, and tours office at 377-3818.

Tour bus — available for group rental, seats 23.

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 separating/retiring under special circumstances, call 376-8728 for appointment.

Transition assistance program — briefings are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 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. For more information, 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.

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

MEETINGS

African-American Heritage Committee — 3:30 p.m. second Tuesday of the month, Room 109, Taylor Logistics Building. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Yolanda Jerry, 377-2157, or Kurt Higgins, 377-5250.

Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 652 — 7 a.m. third Tuesday of the month, Live Oak Dining Facility. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Rich Striggow, 377-4800, or visit <http://chapter.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.

Airman's Council — meets every first and third Tuesday at 4 p.m., Sablich Auditorium. For more information, call Senior Airman Alonda West, 377-2994.

Airmen Against Drunk Driving — For more information, call Staff Sgt. Aaron Eden, 377-1907; Staff Sgt. Brad Mills, 377-1714, or 377-SAVE.

Asian Pacific-American Heritage Committee — 11:30 a.m. first Wednesday of month, Room 111, Sablich Center. For more information, call Lucy Belles, 376-8500, or Master Sgt. Ernesto Alvendia, 376-8501.

At Eze Toastmasters Club — 11 a.m. Tuesdays, Building 1101 conference room. For more information, call Dewi Clark, 377-2714, or e-mail dewi.clark2@keesler.af.mil; Arleen Stewart, 377-2440, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

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

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

Company grade officers council — 4:30 p.m. every second Wednesday at the Katrina Kantina at the marina. For more information, call Capt. Naomi Henigin, 377-0779.

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DINING HALL MENUS

Today

Lunch — baked chicken, cornbread, beef and noodles, fried catfish, black-eyed peas, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, peas, fruit salad, potato salad, chili, broccoli soup, bean and ham soup, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

Dinner — roast pork loin, jaegerschnitzel veal, chicken cordon bleu, potatoes, rice, gravy, carrots, pinto beans, corn combo, fruit salad, potato salad, chili, broccoli soup, bean and ham soup, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

Friday

Lunch — Mexican baked chicken, country-style steak, stuffed peppers, baked macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn on the cob, Spanish beans, peas and carrots, pasta salad, three-bean salad, chile con queso, Tuscan vegetables, chicken noodle, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

Dinner — lasagna, spaghetti with meat sauce, chicken cacciatore, rice, gravy, broccoli, cauliflower parmesan, Italian-style beans, corn O'Brien, pasta salad, three-bean salad, chile con queso, Tuscan vegetables, chicken noodle soup, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

Saturday

Lunch — crispy baked chicken, beef yakisba, baked ham, baked potatoes, spicy brown rice pilaf, gravy, broccoli, french-style peas, glazed carrots, fruit medley salad, kidney bean salad, raisin sauce, chili, minestrone soup, baja chicken enchilada and buffalo wings.

Dinner — fish almondine, stir-fry chicken with broccoli, pork chops, rissole potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, calico corn, club spinach, fried okra, fruit medley, kidney bean salad, chili, minestrone soup, baja chicken enchilada and buffalo wings.

Sunday

Lunch — baked fish, sauerbraten, chicken parmesan, au gratin potatoes, egg noodles, gravy, cauliflower combo, mixed vegetables, fried cabbage, tomato salad, German coleslaw, chili, broccoli soup, chicken with rice and cheese pizza.

Dinner — barbecue chicken, fried shrimp, seafood cocktail sauce, beef manicotti/cannelloni, potato wedges, mashed potatoes, gravy, blackeyed peas, collard greens, corn O'Brien, tomato salad, German coleslaw, chili, broccoli soup, chicken with rice and cheese pizza.

Monday

Lunch — Swiss steak, baked chicken, sausage, peppers and onions, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, carrots, cucumber onion salad, macaroni salad, chile con queso, Tuscan vegetable, cheeseburger chowder, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

Dinner — roast turkey, ribeye steak, tempura fried fish, mashed potatoes, cornbread dressing, chicken and turkey gravy, succotash, tempura vegetables, herbed green beans, cucumber and onion salad, macaroni salad, chili con queso, Tuscan vegetables, cheeseburger chowder, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

Tuesday

Lunch — lemon garlic fish, pork schnitzel steak, yakisoba, ginger rice, mashed potatoes, mushroom gravy, pinto beans, spinach, summer squash, spinach salad, Waldorf salad, chili, minestrone, baja chicken enchilada, steak and cheese sub and tacos.

Dinner — roast pork loin, barbecue beef cubes, garlic toast, chicken fajitas, potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower, corn on the cob, lima beans, Waldorf salad, spinach salad, chili, minestrone soup, baja chicken enchilada, steak and cheese subs and tacos.

Wednesday

Lunch — Mexican baked chicken and pork chops, beef fajitas, Mexican rice, cheesy refried beans, Mexican corn, gravy, Spanish-style pinto beans, Mexican coleslaw, peas and carrots, coleslaw, tomato salad, chicken soup, clam chowder, chicken gumbo, cheese fishwich and pizza.

Dinner — spaghetti with meat sauce, Swiss steak, fried chicken, brown rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, fried cauliflower, asparagus, cabbage, coleslaw, tomato salad, chicken soup, clam chowder, chicken gumbo, cheese fishwich and pizza.

Digest,

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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 Amateur Radio Club — Net with news-line and echo-link is held Wednesdays on 146.79, minus offset, no PL tone. Monthly meeting is 7 p.m. second Mondays at Locker House. Enter courtyard near Second Street. Enter door marked "T flight" and go straight ahead to sign saying "K5TYP."

Keesler Spouses Club — second Tuesdays. For more information, e-mail Devalynn Solomon, deesolomon@cableone.net, or visit <http://www.KeeslerSpousesClub.com>.

Retired Enlisted Association Magnolia Chapter 81 — 5:30 p.m. second Thursdays, Sablich Center, Room 108-B. For more information, call Charles Partin, 313-3267.

Top III — 3:30 p.m. third Thursday of the month; location varies. For more information, call Master Sgt. Tammy McElroy, 376-3164.

Tuskegee Airmen Inc., Col. Lawrence E. Roberts Chapter — 5 p.m. first Thursdays, McBride Library. For more information, call

Glenda Mosby, 243-1992, gmosby1@bellsouth.net, or Charles Bowers, 860-3665.

MISCELLANEOUS

Movies

Editor's note: Movies shown in Welch Auditorium; \$3 adults, \$1.50 children for regular features; \$2.50 adults and \$1 children for matinees. For upcoming features, call 377-6627.

December weather outlook

Though very rare, snow sometimes occurs in December. In December 1963, Keesler received a record 8 inches of snow. More common conditions include restricted visibilities due to fog in the morning and evening hours and overcast skies. Frontal systems frequently make it into the Gulf, bringing colder air that averages three days of below-freezing temperatures during the month.

Extreme maximum temperature (F)	81
Mean daily maximum temperature (F)	62
Mean daily minimum temperature (F)	48
Extreme minimum temperature (F)	12

Mean relative humidity (percent)	75
Mean monthly precipitation (inches)	4.71
Mean number of days with precipitation	9
Mean number of days with thunderstorm	2
Maximum 24-hour rainfall (inches)	5.71
Percentage of observations with ceiling less than:	
2,000 feet	15.2
1,000 feet	10.2
300 feet	2.6
Percentage of observations with visibility less than:	
6 miles	21.0
3 miles	7.8
1 mile	3.3
Percentage of observations with wind:	
0-3 knot	30.9
4-10 knots	60.8
11-21 knots	8.2
22 knots or greater	0.1

Radar, satellite and a general forecast is available on the local area network in the public folder under 81st OSF Weather.

For more news, videos and photos, visit Keesler's public Web site,
<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

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.