



# KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

OCT. 21, 2010 VOL. 71 NO. 41



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[www.keesler.af.mil](http://www.keesler.af.mil)

## ARE YOU READY? YES!

By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

This Sunday, our 81st Training Wing 2010 Compliance Inspection begins when more than 130 fellow Airmen arrive at Keesler as members of the Headquarters Air Education and Training Command Compliance Inspection Team. Part of this team's motto is "Look Deep," and trust me, they will dig deep into our programs to ensure our wing is in excellent shape.

To prepare for this inspection, our wing has readied our facilities, exercised our installation readiness plans, implemented a computer-based self-inspection program, studied the regulations, and most importantly, reviewed tens of thousands of self-inspection items to ensure our wing's compliance with the latest directives. Each of you should be extremely proud of your effort to ready this wing for inspection.

But now is not the time to let up or think there's nothing more we can do. Instead, here are a few things you can do

to ensure our wing turns those first impressions into lasting impressions.

**First**, ready yourself and your facilities for the inspection team. Ensure your work area is clean and your dress and personal appearance reflect your individual professionalism. Challenge yourself to rigorously adhere to the customs and courtesies of our Air Force.

**Second**, take ownership and pride of our base. Don't walk past something you see wrong or out of place, regardless of where it is. Point it out to a supervisor or better, take ownership of the problem and take action to fix it. Don't walk past something that your individual effort can fix.

**Third**, when the inspectors arrive in your work area, don't be tentative about your program. Instead, showcase that program by being confident, knowledgeable and forthright about what you do for "Team Keesler." Don't hesitate to push your personnel forward to gain them recognition for their outstanding programs. Use this inspection as an opportunity to highlight something you

do — it might just be a "best practice."

**Finally**, the inspection team is comprised of handpicked subject matter experts. Based on their breadth of experience, they're certain to find a few discrepancies or areas of noncompliance. Don't take these findings personally. Instead, fix what you can on the spot while the team is still in your work area. Use the experience of the inspector by asking for advice on what to do to fix the discrepancy and how to ensure it doesn't happen again. Challenge yourself to learn something from the inspectors to better our team.

Over the past several months, our wing has reviewed over 90,000 items for compliance with the latest directives. This effort alone has made us a much smarter and better wing. Each of you should be extremely proud of what you do here at Keesler to ensure our mission success. Now is your chance to demonstrate your role on "Team Keesler" to some of the top Airmen in our Air Force. Don't hold back — you are ready! Train to Fight! Train to win!

## Couple epitomizes healthy relationship

By Paula Tracy

Family advocacy outreach manager

At least once a year, I write an article to remind Team Keesler that interpersonal violence is an issue for which all of us share responsibility. I usually include an overview of the dynamics of partner abuse, some relevant statistics and offer ideas on how everyone can assist in prevention. Since October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, it's the ideal time to do so. But this year, as a direct result of a recent experience at the 81st Medical Group, my focus is entirely different.

That morning I was, as is typical for me, moving quickly. I was ticking off the day's "to do" list in my mind as I headed down the hall leading to the hospital's tower exit. I had accomplished what I needed to get done and was

already planning my next stop.

I wasn't really paying much attention to the activity around me until I approached my exit. There, my gaze shifted to the form of a much older gentleman who was slowly pushing a wheelchair toward the tower entrance front doors. I work every weekend in a nursing home so I'm critically aware of the importance of dignity and respect when it comes to honoring a senior's independence. Yet this fellow appeared to be just a slight bit, well ... unsteady.

So as unobtrusively as possible, I quietly took a seat across the open foyer and waited, carefully monitoring just to make sure he wouldn't need my assistance. What I saw next touched me deeply. Slowly, but quite surely, he made his way out to the patient drop-off area in front

of the building. Initially I thought he was surely being picked up by a caregiver, but as I watched, I realized he was heading toward a parked car, where an equally elderly woman was waiting. As she glimpsed him approaching, her face simply lit up, a brilliant smile clearly meant solely for him. Smiling back, he made it to her passenger side door, opened it and reached over to unfasten her seat belt.

Exquisitely gentle, he helped her out of the seat, guiding her obviously fragile body with great tenderness. After expertly settling her into the wheelchair, he cradled the top of her head lightly between his hands, where he placed a lingering kiss. Only then did they begin the slow, laborious return to the foyer. I stayed right where I was — just in case — but clearly, they didn't need me. They had each other.

Obviously, I was observing a couple who had been partners for many years. I would say that together they had experienced virtually everything life can dish out — joy, despair, separation, fortune, loss, birth, death, illness. I'll bet if I had asked them, they would have joked about their aging bodies, their increasing dependency, their options for the future. These were very senior citizens with some serious mileage on their bodies, yet they still looked at each other with obvious appreciation. (By the way, in case you're wondering, I had completely forgotten about being unobtrusive by this point. I was openly staring. But in a good way; I was entranced!)

What also struck me was their ease with one another,

Please see **Couple**, Page 3

## ACTION LINE

### 377-4357

By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

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

Suggestions to help make this a more valuable and useful tool are welcome. Call the commander's action line, 377-4357; write to Commander's Action Line, 81st TRW/PA, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2603; e-mail 81st TRW Commander's Action Line (on-base) or commanders.line@us.af.mil (off-base).

**Comment** — I live outside the base on Forrest Avenue adjacent to where Pinehaven family housing used to stand. The houses were torn down and now there's just an open field. I've seen them cut the grass three times this summer, but there's no "weed eating" done along the fence line. We now have overgrowth and field mice coming through the bottom of the fence. Can you please clean up this area and keep it that way?

**Response** — We apologize for this situation and appreciate you bringing the problem to our attention. The area behind your home is in the construction zone for our new permanent party dormitories. We've contacted the Navy resident officer in charge of construction to have the contractor cut the grass and maintain the fence line. We'll follow up and continue to monitor the situation to prevent this problem from reoccurring.

## ON THE COVER

Six-year-old Milena Janton draws and colors a palm tree during one of Keesler's Protestant Sunday School classes, Sunday at the Triangle Chapel Annex. Milena's parents are Tech. Sgt. Mike and Celena Janton, 338th Training Squadron. The chapel offers a wide range of religious educational programs for toddlers through senior citizens. Story and more photos, Page 19.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



## DRAGON ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

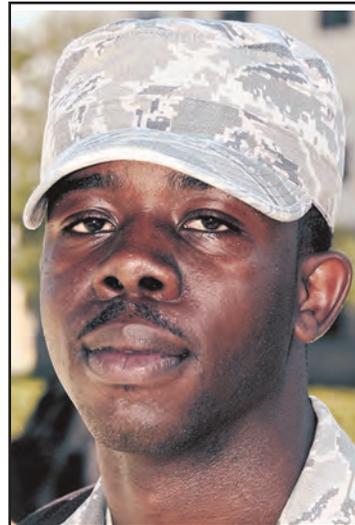
Keesler News photojournalist

What is the most important quality in a good leader?



"Integrity."

Misty LeBlanc, spouse of Master Sgt. Robert LeBlanc, 333rd Training Squadron.



"Leading by example; the rest will follow."

Airman 1st Class Adam Swaby, 338th Training Squadron student



"Integrity."

Jack Waldroup, 81st Training Support Squadron

## Couple, from Page 2

and the deep, unwavering love they clearly shared, even after all the time they have surely been together. Yet, it was more than that: it was respect, tenderness, gentleness, a generosity of spirit with one another that simply radiated from both of them.

OK, so what does this couple have to do with a domestic violence awareness article? First, they show us a shining example of what a healthy relationship can look like. Second, they remind us that sustained, vibrant love isn't about possessiveness, jealousy or ego — everything that a relationship in which violence flourishes is about. It's not about a beautiful unlined face, the sexy six-pack or that hefty bank account. You see, when relationships begin based on the wrong set of principles or unrealistic expectations, it's easy for the foundation to crack. Base it on the things that truly

matter, though, and you can defeat those threats that can ultimately topple a relationship.

Not long ago, Chaplain (Capt.) Mark Robertson and I co-facilitated "Friends for Life," a relationship enhancement class based on the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program. In the class we stressed one particular aspect of a healthy relationship. A couple, in order to become truly close, has to "get real," to be genuine with each other. Of course, in the process of becoming real we are vulnerable, leaving ourselves open for great injury if our partners choose not to treat us kindly or respectfully.

It's risky, it requires a great deal of trust — but we can decrease risk and protect that closeness by setting standards for safety in the relationship. For example, this should mean no hitting, ever. It means that separation or divorce is never threatened during an argument. Apologies are welcome and accepted graciously. All couples should

identify the super sensitive issues and, if necessary, declare them "sacred,"; they will never be used as ammunition in an argument. The bottom line is that emotional and physical safety is critical for both partners, and once achieved, intimacy naturally follows.

The couple I saw in the 81st MDG Hospital? They have no idea what they generated within me that morning and what they have now created with this article. But I'll bet they would be happy to help. A friend of mine, when I told him about this experience, commented, "You really are a hopeless romantic!" Perhaps. Nonetheless, they still reminded me that long-term loving relationships can exist, and that sometimes, in order to learn what not to be, we need to focus on what to be. And I, for one, am grateful that I had the opportunity to slow down and be a witness to the example they gave all of us.

## KEESLER NEWS

81st Training Wing  
commander

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

Public affairs director

Jerry Taranto

Editor

Susan Griggs

Photojournalist

Kemberly Groue

Graphic designer

Steve Hoffmann

Public affairs staff

Billy Bell

Tim Coleman

Jonathan Hicks

Airman 1st Class

Heather Holcomb

Staff Sgt.

Kimberly Moore

Senior Airman

Eric Summers

Joel Van Nice

1st Lt. Joost Verdunyn

YoLanda Wallace

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# TRAINING AND EDUCATION

## 'Civilian Airmen' play vital role in mission

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Air Force leaders have made development of about 143,000 "Civilian Airmen" a priority for the service. Civilian employees are seen as key to the total force and vital to performing the Air Force mission.

In a joint statement, Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz said, "As the Air Force moves forward, we find ourselves facing a dynamic set of new challenges. To meet these challenges we increasingly rely on our Air Force civilians as part of the total force team," said Secretary Donley and General Schwartz. "As the responsibilities of our civilian workforce have increased, so has the need for civilian force development."

"New Air Force civilian employees now have a required and consistent orientation program helping them get up to speed quickly," said Lt. Gen. Richard Newton III, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel. "This 'bluing' training is a vital investment in introducing them to our Air Force's mission, heritage and core values."

Timothy Beyland, assistant deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel, underscored the importance of the Air Force acculturation process for civilians.

"This training provides our new civilian employees the foundation to become successful members of the Air Force team," Mr. Beyland said. "As you become a member of the Air Force team, you need an understanding of who we are and what we do to contribute to the defense of our nation."

Civilian development poses challenges not faced by development of other parts of



Photo by Adam Bond

**Col. Lynn Connett, left, 81st Training Group commander, welcomes George Arthur, 332nd Training Squadron, as a new civilian employee during a pinning ceremony Oct. 14 at the Bay Breeze Event Center. Mr. Arthur is one of 19 civilian employees from the 81st TRG who recently completed the NEO course.**

the force. Civilians enter the Air Force at various grades and skill levels and have a wide range of experiences.

Investing in effective onboarding helps new employees get up to speed quickly, equips them with the information they need to excel at their jobs and creates a sense of commitment to the organization.

So nearly 15 months ago, a new employee orientation course became an integral part of launching Air Force civilian careers. The policy put in place requires all new

permanent, term and Student Career Experience Program employees to complete the NEO course within 90 days of assignment. Although Air Force Instruction 36-401 mandates the NEO course only for civilian employees, any civilian, military member or contractor may also take it.

The web-based training provides civilians with insight into the Air Force culture and mission through seven online modules — Air Force heritage, core competencies, customs and courtesies, force develop-

ment, health, safety and security, personnel administration and core values. The course ensures all Air Force civilians begin their careers with the same valuable and consistent information regardless of their position or location.

Graduates receive the Air Force Civilian Pin to symbolize the value they bring to the mission and the contributions they make to the enterprise. Seasoned Air Force civilians may also take the NEO course and earn the pin by completing all seven modules.

Renee Johnson and Anthony Fragello were among the 19 new civilian employees in the 81st Training Group who received their pins Oct. 14 from Col. Lynn Connett, 81st TRG commander.

Ms. Johnson, a secretary in the 332nd Training Squadron, is new to the Air Force, but not new to military life. She served 20 years on active duty in the Navy before coming to work at Keesler July 19.

"Although the goal of all the branches of service are ultimately the same, the NEO courses helped me to understand Air Force specifics," she pointed out. "This has allowed me to appreciate and renew the respect I already had for the Air Force. I thought the Navy had a lot of acronyms but the Air Force has even more — the difference is the Air Force uses the same acronym for several different meanings. Hopefully, it won't take me 20 years to learn them!"

Mr. Fragello began his job as an instructor in the 338th TRS cyber transport course Aug. 2.

Since he's an Air Force retiree, he was already familiar with working in a military environment, but he said, "It showed me the civilian side of the Air Force."

New employees receive a one-hour orientation at the Sablich Center and sign a memo notifying them of the requirement to complete NEO within 90 days. The course is accessed through AF Knowledge Now with a common access card at <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/AF-Orientation>. If you are new to AFKN, you'll need an AFKN account to register for the modules at <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/cop/Entry.asp?Filter=OO>



## Spouses in training

Mary Fitzgerald, center, and other members of the Keesler Spouses Club learn about a command post trainer simulator from Woody Wilson, 81st Training Support Squadron electronic design engineer, at the trainer development facility during an 81st Training Group tour Oct. 14. Mrs. Fitzgerald's husband is Col. Jay Fitzgerald, 2nd Air Force.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Base shuttle schedules are found at  
<http://www.keesler.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp>

# Cyber course now part of basic military training

## Cyber trainees headed to Keesler gain new awareness before tech school

By Mike Joseph

502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND Air Force Base, Texas — The importance of defending cyberspace was taken to a new level when cyber training became a permanent fixture of the Air Force basic military training curriculum.

The first trainees attended a four-hour course devoted to defending the Air Force networks and operations in cyberspace Oct. 4. The course teaches basic operating fundamentals on the Air Force network and the significance of protecting the network to meet the Air Force mission.

“We’re teaching about a warfighting domain that is essential to military operations: cyberspace,” said Col. Shane Courville, the 737th Training Group commander. “(The course) gives trainees a foundation to understand that we’re all cyber warriors.

“This course shows the importance of cyberspace to the Air Force mission and its impact. We are all cyber warriors and we all have a responsibility to ensure that we protect the cyber domain because military operations depend on it.”

Training takes place in the fourth week of BMT and uses curriculum developed by Air Force Institute of Technology specialists under the guidance of Air Force Space Command officials.

To supplement the training, Air Education and Training Command officials purchased 120 computers. Once the computers are installed in two classrooms, trainees will receive an additional three-hour, practical-application segment in the seventh week.

Specialists from 24th Air Force specialists are working with BMT administrators on the training. The numbered Air Force became fully operational



Photo by Robbin Cresswell

**Students in Air Force basic military training learn about defending cyberspace during a training class Oct. 8. The course teaches basic operating fundamentals on the Air Force network and the significance of protecting the network to meet the Air Force mission.**

at Lackland AFB Oct. 1 and aligns under Air Force Space Command. Its mission is to provide combatant commanders with trained and ready cyber forces to plan and conduct cyberspace operations.

Maj. Gen. Richard Webber, the 24th Air Force commander, said the BMT cyber training exposes trainees to the mission assurance concept. He said it also instills how critical cyber resources are to the Air Force and reinforces the basic knowledge to keep information and systems secure.

“We are trying to convey that every Airman is a cyber wingman, a fellow warrior in cyberspace,” General Webber said. “We are all on the front line, responsible for defending our network from all threats.

“Understanding what threats are in the cyber domain and how to follow the proper procedures to avoid compromising or damaging our sys-

tems is critical for all our Airmen,” he said. “The BMT cyber curriculum allows us to embed cybersecurity principles at the earliest point in their career.”

Dr. Laura Munro, an Air Force BMT advisor, said trainees are taught fundamentals about operating within the cyberspace domain and also become familiar with the Air Force portal.

One of the goals is to establish a protective mindset.

“It is extremely basic but also extremely important,” Dr. Munro said, emphasizing the significance of protecting common access cards, pins and passwords. “These things might be taken lightly, but they are very critical.”

Dr. Munro said before trainees entered BMT, they may have used computers and social networks but probably didn’t understand how information on those networks can create security issues.

“The primary advantage of providing cyber training in BMT is to ensure every Airman has a common baseline of behavioral and performance expectations, and an accurate understanding of their mission impact as a network user, regardless of their specific Air Force specialty.”

Among the first course participants were two trainees from the 331st Training Squadron, Flight 691. Both found the training beneficial.

“From personal research, I knew maybe half (of the course material),” said trainee Michael Mayes. “What I didn’t realize was how much the Air Force relied on computers every day, and I didn’t know attacks on the network were 24/7.”

Trainee Matthew Freking said he was familiar with most of the training from his college information-technology background and avionics career-field choice. He was impressed by the Air Force’s emphasis on cyber security.

“The Air Force is extremely conscious about security, and from the setup, know what they’re doing,” he said.

Colonel Courville said incorporating cyber training into the BMT curriculum now creates a benefit when the new Airman Training Complexes begin to come online.

“(As the ATCs are completed over the next six years), trainees will be using computers in the classroom for the first time in BMT history,” he said. “We don’t have that capability right now, but we will with the new complexes. (That will allow) us to reinforce the training they get in the classroom.”

“We want trainees to be aware that (our enemies) are trying to get information from the government and how they do it,” she said.

Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Slater observed one of the first training classes. The 24th AF command chief came away impressed, but not surprised, with the depth of questions trainees asked the instructor.

“Our basic trainees have spent their entire lives operating in the cyber domain and are comfortable with it as a discussion topic,” he said.

# NCO provides communication support in Iraq

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Master Sgt. Michael Estensen celebrates 21 years in the Air Force this month on deployment at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, with the 362nd Electronic Reconnaissance Squadron.

Sergeant Estensen has been the software development program manager for the 81st Training Support Squadron since February 2008. It's his second Keesler assignment — he served as an instructor in the 333rd and 336th Training Squadrons from 1998 to 2004.

Deployment is nothing new to Sergeant Estensen. He supported Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm in Qatar from August 1990 to March 1991. During Operation Provide Comfort, he was deployed to Turkey, for four months. He was in Somalia from July-November 1993 in support of Operation Restore Hope. He also supported Operation Iraqi Freedom with two deployments to MacDill

Air Force Base, Fla. — from September 2005 to January 2006 with U.S. Central Command and June to November 2007 with Special Operations Command Central.

Sergeant Estensen's current deployment began May 27. He expects to return home in late November or early December.

During his current deployment, Sergeant Estensen is responsible for communication support and security and serves as the support flight superintendent.

He conducts operations checks, troubleshoots problems and loads current cryptographic keying material on all controlled cryptographic equipment on aircraft prior to missions. He issues communication kits to aircrew prior to departure and manage frequency allocations and updates radios as required.

He also monitor communications of aircrew on missions via classified chat to provide requested support. He manages and maintains



Sergeant Estensen

cryptographic keying material including effective dates, issuing and destruction. He provide communications security management support to exploitation cells throughout the area of responsibility and ensures full motion video is collected and distributed to intelligence analysts.

His job performance earned him his squadron's

Tuskegee senior noncommissioned officer for September.

The biggest challenge for him on this deployment has been "learning to work directly with and understanding aircrew, their operations and the operations group."

Sergeant Estensen's most memorable moment so far happened on July 17, his son Dakota's 15th birthday. He flew a combat mission on an MC-12W to observe aircrew's interaction/use with communications equipment. The MC-12W is the Air Force's only manned intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft. It was developed in less than a year and flown for the first time in combat in 2009.

"I took an American Flag on board and had the flag and certificate signed by the four aircrew members and myself to present to my son."

Sergeant Estensen said the base's support facilities are similar to those found on any permanent Air Force base.

"We have a 24-hour fitness

facility, indoor and outdoor pools, chapel, education center, movie theater and exchange," Sergeant Estensen said. "Airmen are housed in dormitories, typically four to a room. Containerized housing units provide housing, usually two to a room for NCOs and most company grade officers, with the exception of first sergeants and those on year-long tours who don't have roommates."

Sergeant Estensen uses Skype to stay in touch with Dakota, who lives in Arizona, as well as his wife, Gessica; his 12-year-old stepdaughter, Katlyn Foster; and his 7-year-old son, Zachary.

"But since I haven't been deployed overseas since the mid '90s, I've gained a better understanding and can relate to what our current generation of Airmen and their families experience during deployment and can relay expectations and sources of support," he noted.



**CLICK IT  
OR  
TICKET**

**Seat belts  
are required  
by state law  
and  
Air Force  
regulation.**

# First-time CCAF graduates participate in Air Force-wide test

## Air University and Keesler Public Affairs

First-time Community College of the Air Force graduates will be receiving their degrees Nov. 9, but some may have one more exam to finish.

Eight CCAF grads from Keesler will be chosen to participate in the Education and Testing Service's Proficiency Profile that began Oct. 1 and ends Nov. 15. The test will see how CCAF graduates compare to their counterparts in civilian institutions.

"The test assesses the four core skill areas — critical thinking, reading, writing and mathematics — to see how we are doing compared to civilian associate degree programs," said Harry Reichner, an education counselor in Keesler's education office.

As a college under the Air University, CCAF programs are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. By participating in the testing, Air University fulfills a biennial SACS requirement of identifying college-level general education competencies and the extent to which graduates have attained them.

"Keesler is one of 60 Air Force and Air National Guard bases chosen to conduct the testing," said Mr. Reichner. "Eight of the 124 graduates will be contacted via phone and then will receive a follow-up letter of notification."

Lt. Col. Timothy Albrecht, CCAF commandant, said the ETS Proficiency Profile is a critical part of the CCAF's biennial plan to demonstrate the quality of the Air University's academic progress to SACS.

"We need the help of education and training Sections at bases across the Air Force to ensure the necessary number of CCAF graduates take the profile," Colonel Albrecht said. "With their support and that of our graduates and their supervisors, we can ensure CCAF programs will continue to support the educational goals of more than 325,000 total force Airmen into the future."

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Tech. Sgt. Brannon Parish, Air University Public Affairs, and Senior Airman Eric Summers Jr., Keesler Public Affairs, contributed to this report.



## Biomedical Sciences Corps announces training, commissioning opportunities

The Air Force has announced its fiscal 2011 Biomedical Sciences Corps training and commissioning program opportunities.

### Physical therapy

The U.S. Army-Baylor University doctoral program provides students entry-level competence in traditional physical therapy skills. Air Force enlisted students are commissioned in the Air Force Medical Science Corps at the rank of second lieutenant. Open to active duty Air Force enlisted, officers and Air Force Academy and ROTC cadets in their final semester, Airmen join the Air Force BSC upon successful completion of training and are awarded a doctor of physical therapy degree from Baylor University.

### Clinical psychology

The Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences graduate training program in military clinical psychology is



designed to prepare broad-based clinical psychologists with doctoral degrees and to emphasize appreciation and understanding of the needs of the military and public health. The program trains clinical psychologists to be effective providers of mental health

Services, creative problem solvers, critical thinkers sensitive to organizational needs and constraints, effective managers and communicators, and professionals with the ability to evaluate processes and outcomes designed to improve quality of health care.

### Physician assistant

The Interservice Physician Assistant Training Program is 29 months long. Phase I is 14 months and Phase II is 15 months.

Phase I is conducted at Fort Sam Houston. Graduates are awarded a bachelor of science degree.

Phase II consists of clinical rotations through the different departments of a major medical facility, primarily Andrews Air Force Base, D.C.; Langley AFB, Va.; Eglin AFB, Fla.; Nellis AFB, Nevada, and Offutt AFB, Neb. Phase II graduates attain a master of physician assistant studies and are commissioned as first lieutenants.

Interested applicants should visit the AFPC/DPAMW website, <https://kx.afms.mil/afbscu> for available specializations, board dates and application details.

For information, e-mail [afpc.dpamw@randolph.af.mil](mailto:afpc.dpamw@randolph.af.mil) or call DSN 665-3821 or 1-210-565-3821.

# Training group names top student, MTFs

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Oct. 8, the 81st Training Group announced its Airman of the Month for September and the top military training flights for September and the third quarter of 2010.

Airman of the Month is Airman 1st Class John Adams, 338th Training Squadron.

Each of the five squadrons that train nonprior service students selects one Airman to compete at a monthly group board.

Airmen are graded on personal appearance, communication skills and military bearing. They also respond to questions about customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, selected entries in the Airman's Manual and current events from that week's issue of the



**Airman Adams**

Keesler News.

Airman Adams, who hails from Dublin, Ga., has a 98.6 grade point average in the radio frequency transmission systems course and is scheduled to graduate Feb. 17.

The MTF of the month

for September is from the 335th TRS. The MTF from the 334th TRS earned top honors for the third quarter of the year.

The MTF of the month scores the highest overall in areas such as marching, physical training, room inspections, open ranks, Airman's Manual, charge of quarters and retreat. The flight receives a roving sign to put in the front of its squadron to recognize its achievement.

The MTF of the quarter receives \$1,500 for its building for sports equipment, pool tables, air hockey tables and other morale and welfare enhancements.

The training group MTLs judge the squadrons and maintain scoring throughout the month.

## TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

### CCAF graduation

The Community College of the Air Force fall commencement ceremony is 3:30 p.m. Nov. 9 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

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

### Drill down

The 81st Training Wing's final drill down of the year is 8 a.m. Oct. 29.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Julie Hammond, 377-2103.

### Commissioning briefings

Commissioning briefings are 10 a.m. second Tuesday of the month in Room 224, Sablich Center.

### CCAF program

The Community College of the Air Force's General

Education Mobile is a partnership between CCAF and civilian academic institutions that offers clustered online general education courses to meet CCAF degree requirements.

For more information, call 376-8708. or 8710.

### OTS boards

The Officer Training School recruiting services board schedule is:

**11OT01** — rated board; application cutoff Dec. 2; board date Jan. 24-28, estimated release date Feb. 25.

**11OT02** — nonrated board; application cutoff Feb. 24; board date April 11-15; estimated release date June 2.

**11OT03** — rated as needed; application cutoff June 23, board date Aug. 8-12; estimated release date Sept. 9, 2011.

Joint Expeditionary Tasking Airmen now on Facebook — [www.facebook.com/jetairmenfanpage](http://www.facebook.com/jetairmenfanpage)

## Hospital water main restored

Thomas Walker operates a backhoe while Ryan Callagy guides him as they excavate the 81st Medical Group Hospital's "A" tower ramp to locate the 8-inch water main that ruptured early Oct. 8. Don Kinman, CSC civil engineer manager, estimates the pipe may have been 50-60 years old. The line, buried between 15 and 18 feet under the ramp, is one of three serving the hospital so the facility was not without water while the pipe was being repaired. CSC completed repairs Oct. 9, but the ramp remains closed until the roadway is repaired. Mr. Walker and Mr. Callagy are from CSC civil engineering equipment operations.

Photo by Steve Pivnick



## Officials publish new cyberspace doctrine

By Airman 1st Class Christopher Stoltz

Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL Air Force Base, Ala. — The LeMay Center for Doctrine Development and Education approved and published the newly developed Air Force Doctrine Document 3-12, Cyberspace Operations.

Maj. Gen. David Fadok, LeMay Center's commander, said cyberspace operations are critical to effective operations across the range of military operations.

"The Air Force is a key member on the joint warfighting team and is dedicated to developing and presenting highly skilled forces to joint

force commanders who can deliver decisive effects in, from and through cyberspace," General Fadok said.

The doctrine outlines Air Force cyberspace operations and their importance. A few items discussed in the new doctrine include: cyberspace fundamentals, command and organization information, and the design, planning, execution and assessment process.

The document also defines cyberspace operations as the employment of cyber capabilities, where the primary purpose is to achieve objectives in or through cyberspace. Such operations include: computer network operations and activities to operate and defend the global information grid. The

global information grid includes owned and leased communications and computing systems and services, software (including applications), data, security services, other associated services and national security systems.

"Today, our society relies on technology and cyberspace more than ever, and this medium must be secure," General Fadok said. "The joint warfighting team, including the Air Force, must lead the way in cyberspace to ensure we maintain a distinct advantage over our adversaries in this contested domain."

For more information on AFDD 3-12, visit the LeMay Center website at <http://www.cadre.au.af.mil>.

## IN THE NEWS

### Combined Federal Campaign

As of Friday, \$51,303.77 has been collected for this year's Combined Federal Campaign, nearly 37 percent of this year's goal of \$135,542. The campaign runs through Nov. 3.

### Gas line repair closes Ploesti Drive

Ploesti Drive on the south side of the Triangle adjacent to the railroad tracks remains closed until at least Monday to repair a natural gas line from Hercules Street to Z Street.

### Salute to the Military is Tuesday

The 32nd annual Salute to the Military is 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum Convention Center in Biloxi.

The guest speaker is Marine Corps Gen. James Cartwright, vice chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Free tickets are available for E-6s and below and their spouses or dates through group superintendents. Ticket recipients must attend the entire event. Other tickets are \$40 for military and spouses or dates and \$50 for civilians. Attire is mess dress for military and formal wear for civilians.

For tickets, call YoLanda Wallace, Keesler Public Affairs, 377-1179, or Laura Wilson, Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, 604-0014.

### Trick-or-treat in base housing

Trick-or-treat hours in base housing are 6-9 p.m. Oct. 31.

### Wing quarterly awards Nov. 4

The 81st Training Wing quarterly awards luncheon is 11 a.m. Nov. 4 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

The cost is \$12 for members and \$14.40 for nonmembers. Payment is required in advance by cash or check payable to the Keesler Club.

To respond, contact your group awards representative by Oct. 29.

### Tops in Blue coming to Biloxi

Tops in Blue performs a free show at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum Nov. 4.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7.

### Off-limits list

These establishments have been declared "off-limits" to all armed forces personnel by the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board::

**Biloxi** — Ya-ya's, 2623 Pass Road.

**Pascagoula** — Bunksmall Apartments, 708 S. Pascagoula Street.

**Ocean Springs** — Pugs, 6213 Washington Avenue.

**D'Iberville** — Guitars and Cadillacs, 4031 Popps Ferry Road

**Gulfport** — Herbal Alternatives, 1909 East Pass Road and 11530 U.S. Highway 49.

# Base instructor nominated for Fredian Award

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Staff Sgt. Geoffrey Gagnon, 338th Training Squadron, is Keesler's nominee for the annual Thomas V. Fredian Community Leadership Excellence Award.

Enlisted service members from military installations throughout south Mississippi have been nominated for the award. It's presented Tuesday at the 32nd annual Salute to the Military sponsored by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce.

Sergeant Gagnon, who's been in the Air Force for eight years, went through his technical training at Keesler and returned in 2007 as an airfield systems instructor.

Sergeant Gagnon is responsible for developing and producing 180 skilled technicians annually through direct supervision, classroom instruction

and academic tests. He achieved a perfect student pass rate for his courses that include theory, maintenance procedures and operations on tactical and strategic communications equipment. He counsels and mentors students and enhances training products based on feedback from warfighting units to support air expeditionary force mission readiness.

He's earned two Community College of the Air Force degrees and achieved an "outstanding" rating during a no-notice instructor evaluation by the 2nd Air Force and 81st Training Wing standardization/evaluation teams. He was also recognized as his squadron's noncommissioned officer of the quarter and instructor of the quarter.

Sergeant Gagnon coordinated volunteer programs which led to his squadron receiving the City of Biloxi's



**Sergeant Gagnon**

Volunteer Organization of the Year for 2010. He was responsible for monthly support to Habitat for Humanity, including door and window framing, flooring supports, roofing, installing insulation, hanging wallboard, painting, building porches and sheds, and planting a community gar-

den at a new housing complex.

He orchestrated a block cleanup, landscaping and construction of a stage for a Hurricane Katrina anniversary event in Long Beach. He facilitated a partnership with Hope Community Development Agency to scrape mold to prepare a hurricane-damaged home for renovations.

Sergeant Gagnon was recognized as a "Star Performer" by the Keesler Top III for his efforts after Hurricane Gustav struck the base in 2008. He also served as a volunteer with the rapid response medical team for Special Olympics. He earned his American Heart Association CPR instructor certification, enabling him to instruct two courses for health care providers and private citizens.

"I don't volunteer for awards or recognition, but because I strongly believe it's the right thing to do," Sergeant

Gagnon said. "Offering a helping hand to those in need not only assists the individuals receiving aid by enabling them to get back up on their feet where they can make their own contributions to society, but also helps the entire community by restoring property values and enticing businesses to move in to the area.

"I consider it my responsibility to share the message with those who otherwise would just observe from a distance, not realizing the difference they could be making with just a small commitment to help others," he continued. "Many of my co-workers and trainees have returned time and time again once they have experienced the pride and profound joy of helping another person."

Sergeant Gagnon is married to Staff Sgt. Christina Gagnon, 81st Medical Group. They have two children.

# PERSONNEL NOTES

## Military training instructors sought

Airmen interested in becoming military training instructors can learn about requirements and qualifications at the MTI recruiting team website, <https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-af/USAF/ep/browse.do?programId=t6925EC2BA3F40FB5E044080020E329A9>

First term Airmen don't have a time-on-station requirement in order to apply for MTI duty, but must be in their career job reservation window or have a secured CJR even though the CJR process is currently automatic.

The CJR window opens at the 35th month of service for four-year enlistees and the 59th month of service for six-year enlistees. Second term or career Airmen must have been on station at least 24 months in order to start the application process and won't be approved for a permanent change of station until their 36th month of time on station for this particular special duty.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Steve Mullens, 81st Training Wing career assistance adviser, 377-3697.

## Classes for job hunters

Job hunters can improve their chances for success with several upcoming classes at the airman and family readiness center.

Classes are held in the center's conference room in Sablich Center. There's a limit of 10 people per class.

After attending a class, call 376-8728 to have your resume reviewed.

**Career skills assessment** — noon to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 28.

**Interview skills and salary negotiation** — 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23 and Dec. 28.

**Federal format resume writing** — 9 a.m. Nov. 4; 2 p.m. today, Nov. 18 and Dec. 8; and 3 p.m. Oct. 28. Registration is required.

**Civilian format resume writing** — 2 p.m. today, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2 or 15.

For more information, call 376-8728 or e-mail [lane.smith.1@us.af.mil](mailto:lane.smith.1@us.af.mil).

## First sergeant symposium

Registration is under way for the Air Education and Training Command Additional Duty First Sergeant Symposium, Nov. 15-19 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy Training Center, Building 7356.

The symposium provides tools to prospective and current additional duty first sergeants. The event is unit-funded for members traveling to Lackland, and those attending must coordinate with their first sergeant or command chief prior to registration.

For more information, call 210-671-3897 or DSN 554-2641.

**Information dominance wins wars — protect it!**

# Air Force reinstates captain central selection board

By Beth Gosselin

Secretary of the Air Force  
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Promotion opportunities for active duty line of the Air Force first lieutenants competing for promotion to captain is being adjusted to 95 percent, Air Force officials announced here Oct. 13.

Since the promotion opportunity to captain will now be less than 100 percent, the Air Force will reinstate a captain central selection board for LAF officers, officials said, citing 2002 as the last previous captain promotions board. The new change will be effective with the next captain LAF promotion board, scheduled for July 2011.

This falls in line with recent changes to the LAF promotion opportunity to major, which went from 95 percent opportunity to 90 percent opportunity, effective with the December 2010 major LAF board convening at the Air Force Personnel Center.

"These are efforts to ensure the Air Force selects only the best qualified officers for promotion to the ranks of captain and major," said Col. Julie Boit, military force policy chief at the Pentagon.

"It's important that our young officers understand that selection for promotion to the next higher rank is competitive, and promotions become increasingly competitive with each higher grade," Colonel Boit said. The colonel added that junior officers, more than ever, must ensure their personnel records are in order.

"We've always encouraged our officers to review their personnel records at least annually; this drives the point home even more," she said. "Lieutenants and captains will now compete for fewer captain and major opportunities, resulting in a more highly competitive selection process for officers preparing to enter our field grade ranks, which typically demand much greater responsibility."

The colonel explained that as the Air Force continues to hone its force development plans and select officers to fill positions at the higher grade, the service will remain committed to selecting the best qualified officers for promotion.

New LAF promotion opportunity rates are not unusual and the new promotion opportunities will still be well within Department of Defense guidelines, the colonel said.

"These changes will better align us with the promotion rates of the other services," she added. "This is a move that makes sense in light of the increasing joint nature of the military."

**Base  
construction sites  
are off-limits  
without  
authorization.**

# Base records manager receives service award

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Ruthie Atchley, who's worked at Keesler for nearly 39 years, has earned a special act or service award and a cash bonus from the Air Force.

She assumed added responsibilities without a corresponding pay increase, saving the government \$150,000 in salary.

Ms. Atchley has been the base records manager since 1988 and also serves as Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act officer.

In addition to those duties, she led the 81st Communication Squadron's six-member knowledge operations work center for 2½ years when the position became and remained vacant.

Ms. Atchley assumed additional responsibility for oversight of the base's publications and forms programs as well as management of official mail center operations. She also handled quality assurance for the postal services contract and was an integral team member in the design, construction and opening of the new postal center.

Force shaping efforts cut work center manning by 28 percent, but squadron leaders said the knowledge operations shop didn't miss a beat — Freedom of Information and Privacy Act responses even surpassed legal deadlines.

Ms. Atchley, who was recognized for her leadership and administrative skills during last year's Air Education and Training Command's staff assistance visit, began her career at Keesler in 1972 as a GS-1 trainee in Keesler Technical Training Center's training evaluation division.

"I never worry about my records management shop with Ruthie in charge," John McKinley, 81st CS director, pointed out. "She's truly an expert in her field and is an asset not only to our squadron, but to the entire base."

"I've had great mentors throughout my career," Ms. Atchley said. "We're a team and we support each other.



Ms. Atchley

I'm blessed to have great co-workers and leadership in the our squadron and a director who believes in recognizing his personnel."

## 2010 Air Force Climate Survey under way

By Erin Tindell

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Total force Airmen and Department of Defense civilians have an opportunity to voice their concerns to Air Force leaders during the 2010 Air Force Climate Survey.

The purpose of the survey is to assess the opinions and perceptions of Air Force active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian personnel on a wide range of issues, including overall job satisfaction, resources and unit performance.

"Maximum input is very crucial in providing valuable feedback to Air Force leaders so they may create positive changes in units," said Col. Brian Norman, the Air Force Manpower Agency commander. "Survey answers directly impact leaders' decisions on issues that affect the total force."

The results of the last survey conducted in the fall of 2008 revealed that more than 90 percent of the nearly 250,000 respondents indicated they were happy with their Air Force jobs and the performance of their organizations. They also indicated they generally had trust in their unit's leadership.

Major concerns revealed by the 2008 survey showed that the strain on manpower and time was an issue for many employees. The majority of home-station Airmen reported an increase in levels of stress, workload and hours due to deployments.

AFMA officials said the average time to complete this year's survey is around 25 minutes, and respondents may save their progress and return at a later time.

As with past surveys, unit leaders will have access to their respective results for improving their organization and their organization's ability to accomplish the mission. However, AFMA officials stress that maximum participation is the only way the Air Force Climate Survey can produce meaningful results.

"It's imperative for our Airmen and DOD civilians to speak today in order to shape tomorrow," Colonel Norman said.

Officials began sending individual e-mail invitations Oct. 8 for the confidential survey that will be conducted in stages.

For more information, visit the Air Force Portal.

**Don't drink and drive.**

Call

Airmen Against Drunk Driving,

377-SAVE,

for a safe ride home.

More than 300 saves

so far this year



Photo by Staff Sgt. Phillip Butterfield

DBIDS is already being used at other military installations, such as this one at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

# DBIDS

## Planned biometric identification expected to increase base security

By Airman 1st Class Heather Holcomb

Keesler Public Affairs

Security is a priority on every military installation. Beginning Nov. 29, Keesler transitions into a new element of security by adopting the Defense Biometric Identification System.

DBIDS is a force protection system used to manage personnel and installation access, ensuring that every person who enters the base is authorized to do so. It differs from the current identification check system in that ID cards are scanned by gate guards with a hand-held device. The hand-held scanner provides real-time data that verifies identity electronically.

This device displays a photo of the person entering the base as well as the name, ID number, ID type, age, gender and physical description, clearly stating whether access is authorized or unauthorized. This prevents the use of expired or counterfeit cards and identifies those who may have lost driving privileges on the base.

DBIDS was developed using barcodes and biometrics. It's currently the largest physical access control system in the Department of Defense.

Everyone over the age of 16 who requires access to Keesler for more than three weeks must register in DBIDS.

Registration only takes five minutes and consists of three simple steps— scanning an ID card's barcode, verifying information and taking an electronic fingerprint.

All ID cards must have a barcode. Retirees who have ID cards without a barcode must obtain a new ID card from the military personnel flight office at the Sablich Center.

Six registration sites are being set up to accommodate the Keesler population during the six-month registration period — three at the pass and registration office in the visitor center across from the White Avenue Gate, one at the MPF office in the Sablich Center, one at the exchange pharmacy and one at the 81st Medical Group Hospital's information desk.

The 81st Security Forces Squadron targets registration for active-duty members and DOD employees Jan. 4 through March 31. Official registration for retirees and dependants is April 1 through June 31, but the pass and ID office won't turn away retirees or dependants wishing to register earlier than the scheduled dates.

Individuals without a DOD ID card who requires long-term access to Keesler, such as a caregiver for a dependent child, must be accompanied by the person requiring their services to the MPF to obtain an agent card. This card, along with state-issued ID, vehicle registration and proof of insurance, must be presented to pass and registration to obtain a DBIDS Access ID card.

Full implementation of DBIDS is scheduled for mid 2011.

For more information, call 377-3844.

# 'Home Away from Home' creates family atmosphere

By Steve Hoffmann

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Keesler News staff

For 14 years, the chapel's Home Away from Home program has paired non-prior service Airmen with host families for Thanksgiving.

This program gives host families to welcome two or more students into their home, providing them with home cooked meal and a family experience on Thanksgiving Day.

"Many of our students are away from home for the first time," said Chaplain (Capt.) Ruben Covos. "After basic training, they are just now beginning to let their guard down and feel again. They miss being home. They miss their parents, spouses, girlfriends and boyfriends so anything we can do to introduce a home and family experience into that is helpful."

Many of the host families are retired military and welcome the opportunity to have an impact on a young airman.

"Some of them are missing their own sons and daughters," Chaplain Covos pointed out. However, host families can be active duty, Reserve, Guard, retired or civil service with access to the base and the ability to host two or more Airmen.

In 2009, 235 students were placed in 78 host homes. The chapel is expecting to increase those numbers this year with larger numbers of people living in base housing.

Host registration forms are available and must be returned to the Fishbowl Student Ministry Center or at any base chapel by Nov. 22. Online registration is also available at <http://www.keesler.af.mil>.

For information, call Chaplain Covos or Staff Sgt. Tawny Crutcher, 377-2331.

# Program aids special needs family members

By Staff Sgt.  
Kimberly Moore

## Keesler Public Affairs

More than 100,000 military families include individuals with special needs. The Air Force Exceptional Family Member Program allows sponsoring Airmen to procure assignments to locations where suitable medical or educational resources are available to treat special needs family members.

These special needs include physiological, psychological, medical or educational conditions that require treatment. The EFMP is limited to the Airman's spouse, child or

other person in the Airman's household who is dependent on the sponsor for more than half of their financial support and who meets enrollment criteria.

Military Homefront is the Department of Defense website for official military community and family policy program information. The website is [www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil)

According to the website, "EFMP refers to two functions: a personnel function and a family support function. The EFMP personnel function is a mandatory program for all active duty service members. DOD policy on family centers

allows, but does not require, the military services to offer family support services to exceptional family members."

"EFMP has received increased recognition and support by Air Force and the program is being energized," said Rebecca Stanley, 81st Force Support Squadron community readiness consultant.

"We recognize our people are our greatest asset, including our family members," Lt. Gen. Richard Newton III, the Air Force's deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel, said during a "DOD Live" bloggers roundtable. "Our focus and attention of

our senior leaders throughout the ranks is indeed helping our families..."

At Keesler, 132 families benefit from the EMFP.

Major (Dr.) Eric Flake, 81st Medical Operations Squadron developmental behavioral pediatrics, said, "I feel Keesler's program works diligently to ensure families with special needs moving to and from Keesler are carefully reviewed, and case-managed if required, to ensure they get the best possible medical care."

Several Keesler sections work closely to ensure the program is successful.

"There are multiple players

with distinct roles in the EFMP," Ms. Stanley said. "Some of the players are the special needs identification and assignment coordinator, the military personnel section and the airman and family readiness center. There are other key personnel such as the family member relocation coordinator who provides crucial identification and referral for the EFMP."

Dr. Flake said he believes the EFMP improves communication and can ease the transition for some families moving to this area and provides a warm hand-off to those headed to another base.

"I think the last point I would raise," General Newton said, "is that we keep the momentum going, that we again continue to listen to our men and women and their family members."

For information, visit Air Force Community website at <http://www.afcommunity.af.mil> or reference the DOD Live Bloggers roundtable at <http://www.dodlive.mil/index.php/tag/air-force-exceptional-family-member-program/>.

The logo for "Lost & Found" is written in a bold, stylized font. The letters are orange with a yellow-to-orange gradient and a 3D effect, giving them a metallic or glowing appearance. The words "Lost" and "Found" are stacked vertically, with an ampersand between them.

For lost and  
found items,  
call the 81st  
Security Forces  
Squadron  
investigations  
office,  
377-4500,  
7 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
weekdays.

## 'Spooktacular' provides Halloween fun for children with deployed parents

Left, Parker Zurbrugg, 12, shows his 3-year-old brother, Logan, dressed as a puppy, his "chick magnet" attire that won the costume contest at Spooktacular, Saturday's Halloween party for children whose parents are deployed. Their parents are Maj. Karl and Melissa Zurbrugg, 81st Training Wing. The event, sponsored at the youth center by the airman and family readiness center, also included games and refreshments.

Right, 4-year-old "firefighter" Alex Runquist, son of Tech. Sgt. Adam and Amanda Runquist, 81st TRW, enjoys a cupcake.



## Blessing God's creatures



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Chaplain (Capt.) Charles Mallory blesses Stephanie Cyr's miniature schnauzer, Winter, Sunday in East Falcon Park. Mrs. Cyr's husband is Tech Sgt. Nathan Cyr, 332nd Training Squadron. The annual ecumenical blessing acknowledges the importance pets play in the lives of their owners. There were 28 pets blessed in Bay Ridge, East Falcon and West Falcon Parks.

## Coast leaders tour Keesler



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Staff Sgt. Garrett Hamilton, center, 815th Airlift Squadron, gives a tour of a C-130J aircraft to Leo Manuel, left, Ann Magruder, Todd Bradford and Fallon Ramage Oct. 13 during Leadership Gulf Coast's tour of Keesler. Leadership Gulf Coast is a program sponsored by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce to prepare the area's current and potential leaders for the future, to understand real problems and opportunities in our community, and to create a communication network between present and emerging leaders dedicated to the improvement of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

News tips? Call the Keesler News, 377-4130, or e-mail keeslernews@us.af.mil

# Religious education builds strong foundations

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

Where do you go after you ‘go in peace’? When the celebration has ended and you’re sitting behind your monitor on Monday morning, how do you practice what the preachers preach? The answer might be found in one of the numerous chapel religious education programs for children and adults.

Keesler offers men’s and women’s Bible studies, prayer breakfasts, prayer rooms, fellowship ministries, children’s church, Sunday school, outreach ministries and even a class on how to speak Hebrew.

“These programs are designed to take what we’ve learned on Sunday and activate it throughout the week,” explained Chaplain (Capt.) Ralph Elliott.

For children, there is the traditional Sunday school during and after church on Sunday and then some not-so-traditional programs. The Protestant Youth of the Chapel meets 5-7 p.m. Sundays following training on Fridays where they do activities, games and have a meal. One recent activity was a role playing scenario where they practiced maintaining calm, cool,

Christian character on the school bus when confronted with bullying.

If you’re Catholic and want your children to have a more hands-on worship experience, there is the new Children’s Church for ages 3-6 that occurs shortly after the adult Mass begins. This vibrant program is designed to translate the theme of the adult Mass into singing, dancing and activities that small children can understand and grasp.

“It’s more hand-on,” said Nicole Wakeley, parish religious coordinator. “Little activities like gluing letters onto foam crosses helps them stay engaged.”

The Protestants also have church for children during their worship service. Children from ages 3-5 can attend this program. Off to the side of the Triangle Chapel is the preschool room where a lively experience is prepared for the toddlers.

“Everything is prepared. The crafts that need to be cut are cut, the drinks are poured and the snacks are ready,” said Sheila Shepard, Protestant religious education coordinator. The program uses a curriculum developed by Cokesbury called Live B.I.G.



Photos by Kemberly Groue

**Jennifer Mallory, center, wife of Chaplain (Capt.) Charles Mallory, leads a lesson at Sunday's Protestant Children's Church. From left, Jennalyn Mallory, 3, joins Beth Janton, 6; Beth's brother Sammy, 3, and Beth's twin, Milena, in coloring palm tree cutouts. Tech. Sgt. Mike and Celena Janton, 338th Training Squadron, are Beth, Sammy and Milena's parents.**

designed to help children ‘hear, see and live their belief in God.’

“They really get up on their feet. They love to sing and dance. It’s wonderful to see,” Ms. Shepherd said.

“Every step of the way, the children’s programs and Sunday school classes are designed to help the children matriculate to the next level,” said Chaplain Elliott. “It’s where the fundamentals are being taught and the foundation is being laid.”

If the children’s programs are providing a good foundation, interior decoration and housekeeping happens in the adult bible studies. For Protestant men, women and teens, there are Bible studies that happen throughout the week. They usually follow a Christian-themed book and have discussions based on the week’s reading. These Bible studies give people a chance to ask questions, to go deeper into their faith and talk and pray with others in a more intimate setting.

“I’m a big question asker,” said Chaplain Elliott. “When I was in Bible study, I loved to ask questions and now that I’m leading them, I love to receive questions. I might not have the answers, but we’ll

pray and find the answer.

“When we share our testimony, we encourage others. I’m always amazed at what God does,” exclaimed Chaplain Elliott.

And sometimes, there are opportunities to visit the homes of those in need. Chaplain Elliott also leads a men’s prayer breakfast ministry that meets on the second Saturday of every month. Often the men visit local nursing homes and spend time with the residents. The nursing home residents get very excited when Chaplain Elliott and his team arrive on the scene.

“They don’t want us to leave,” said Chaplain Elliott. They start off play bingo for an hour. The choir will sing and a short sermon will be delivered. Then gifts will be given followed by many hugs and much love.

“They are smiling and laughing. It really brightens their day,” said Chaplain Elliott. This ministry provides a much needed dose of love and attention to the residents. Most are in their 90s and 100s and rarely get visits from family members or friends.

“It’s tough when we have to leave. Our visits to area nursing homes are rotated and we

might not be back to the same one in five or six months,” Chaplain Elliott lamented. “But they really embrace us when we’re there. There are no other ministries in the area that do what we do.”

But there are other ministries and churches in the area that partner with the chaplaincy at Keesler. This provides Airmen with opportunities to practice their faith and get involved with the local community at the same time.

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Biloxi partners and prays with the Catholic community on base and regularly invites them to participate in functions such as Bible studies and retreats.

*Kevar hodesh ani lomd ivrit* — If you’re of the Jewish faith and would like to learn the meaning of this phrase, there’s a new six-week course on how to read Hebrew at Beth Israel Synagogue in Gulfport. Keesler members are also welcome at the synagogue’s monthly Torah study and weekly children’s Sunday school for kindergarten through eighth grade.

For more information on these and other religious education programs available on base and at local churches, call 377-4859.



**From left, Christie Johnson and Tiffany Bell listen as LaShae Snider shares her insight into “The Way of the Master” by Ray Comfort, the book being studied at the Oct. 6 women’s Bible study at the Triangle Chapel Annex. Mrs. Johnson is the wife of retired Coast Guard Senior Chief Harry Johnson, Mrs. Bell is the wife of retired Master Sgt. Kenneth Bell, and Mrs. Snider is the wife of Master Sgt. Wendell Snider, 366th Training Squadron Detachment 6 at the Seabee Base in Gulfport.**

# Breast Cancer Awareness Month

## Oncology clinic newest weapon in Keesler's cancer fighting arsenal

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group Hospital offers breast cancer patients a trio of treatments to try to defeat the disease. Surgery, chemotherapy and radiation are all available.

The facility's new radiation oncology clinic, while treating a relatively few breast cancer patients to date, provides care with its state-of-the-art linear accelerator.

According to Maj. (Dr.) Clayton Chen, chief of radiation oncology for the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, "We have recently treated two breast cancer patients and may have two more starting treatment in the next month or so." He noted that the disease affects a relatively small number of active-duty military women.

The major explained surgery is almost always involved in attacking the disease, usually through a mastectomy or lumpectomy.

"Lymph nodes are evaluated in some manner," he explained. "The surgeon injects a blue dye containing a radioactive element which travels to an affected lymph node — normally the first node affected by the cancer — and locates it using a Geiger counter. Then the lymph node (or nodes) is removed."

Major Chen said if a woman — or man, since only about 1 percent of breast cancer cases involve men — undergoes a mastectomy, she may or may not receive chemotherapy and/or radiation treatment.

He added that the lumpectomy, probably the most popular option in the U.S., involves removal of the cancer while leaving the breast intact. Surgery would be followed by radiation. Depending what the surgeon finds during surgery, chemotherapy may also be recommended.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

**Radiation therapists Bridget Peterman, center, and Cheryl Barrett place volunteer "patient" Senior Airman Jack Nierva, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, into position for simulated radiation therapy treatment. Each 20- to 30-minute session would be administered five days a week for five to seven weeks. Eric Walker, chief radiation therapist, mentioned that 1 percent of all breast cancer patients are men and they receive the same treatment as women. He said patients don't feel or see anything during the procedure.**

If breast cancer is detected during a primary care provider-referred mammogram and surgery is performed to remove the cancer, the surgeon would then refer the patient to radiation oncology if he or she determines that to be the next step in the treatment.

Major Chen said the normal treatment course lasts five to six weeks during which patients receive daily external-beam therapy.

"Patients don't really feel anything while on the table," he commented. "However, over the course of the treatment, the skin can become irritated, similar to a bad sunburn."

He added, "One of the newer experimental treatments is high-dose rate brachytherapy. We place a small radioactive source within the lumpectomy cavity. Instead of irradiating the

entire breast, we limit treatment to just the surgical cavity. The benefit of this experimental course is that it lasts just one to two weeks versus five to six."

The major stressed this is an experimental treatment which the department hopes to begin here in the next few months — they have the necessary equipment but are awaiting licensing. Once available, it will only be recommended for highly selected patients at very low risk for tumor recurrence, as the long term efficacy remains unknown.

The success rate in treating all types of cancer depends on the stage it is detected — Stage One is the earliest and Stage Four the most advanced.

Major Chen emphasized that patients requiring cancer treatment — surgery, chemotherapy and radiation — can receive all at the Keesler hospital.

# Receiving flu shots early is key to prevention

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — With flu season already under way, the top Tricare military health plan official encourages the system's almost 9.7 million beneficiaries to get their flu shots as early as possible at a military medical facility, network provider or participating pharmacy.

Military hospitals and clinics and Tricare network providers are stocked with this year's flu vaccine, ready to administer them now, said Navy Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, Tricare Management Activity deputy director.

It's available to every Tricare beneficiary over 6 months old, with no copayment or preauthorization required, even for people enrolled in programs that typically require one, she said.

"We want you to get the shot," Admiral Hunter emphasized, calling flu shots "an essential preventive service." Nine out of 10 healthy people who get the shot won't get the flu, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Unlike last year, when people needed two vaccines — a conventional flu shot and another developed specifically for the H1N1 virus — one shot will suffice this year, Admiral Hunter noted. Its formulation covers two of the most common seasonal influenza strains, A H3N2 and B virus, as well as H1N1.

Although the flu typically doesn't hit some regions for another few months, research shows it's better to get the vaccine early.

Last year, for example, when manufacturing shortages delayed flu shots for Tricare beneficiaries along with the general population, 486,000 Tricare beneficiaries who hadn't been immunized developed flu symptoms before Nov. 1.

"We went back and looked at our data and realized that if we had been able to get everyone immunized in October rather than later in the year, we would have prevented almost 500,000 people from getting sick," Admiral Hunter said.

Not all required a doctor's care and most didn't experience any serious complications, she said, but almost all could have avoided the flu if the vaccine had been available sooner.

"This year, there is no delay in the distribution of the shots," Admiral Hunter said. "You can get it now.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

**Airman 1st Class Benjamin Crespo, an aerospace medical apprentice Phase II student at the 81st Medical Group Hospital, inoculates Senior Master Sgt. Laura Herring, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, with flu vaccine Oct. 13 in the hospital auditorium. As "first responders," medical personnel are among the first to be inoculated. Due to limited quantities of flu vaccine, only certain high-risk categories of patients are receiving flu shots now, such as people with chronic lung, heart, kidney, liver or metabolic disorders, including diabetes, and those 9 years of age and older with a weakened immune system and/or conditions that can compromise breathing such as spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders or neuromuscular disorders. These patients may receive shots in the immunization clinic during normal duty hours, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday. The hospital will notify the rest of the Keesler community once adequate quantities of vaccine arrive.**

It's available in military hospitals and clinics and through Tricare now. So we would like to encourage people to get it now."

To make that as convenient as possible, Tricare has entered into agreements with about 50,000 retail pharmacies nationwide. Like military hospitals and clinics and Tricare network providers, they'll admin-

ister the flu shot at no cost to Tricare beneficiaries.

Many of the retail pharmacies offer flu shots at night and on weekends, and most don't require appointments.

Tricare introduced the pharmacy option during last year's flu season, and Admiral Hunter said she hopes more people will take advantage of it this year as they learn about the program.

"People really value convenience in their health care," she said. "This is part of a campaign to bring preventive care as close to where people live and work as possible."

The Tricare website lists participating pharmacies, with a locator button identifying the closest one, based on the beneficiary's ZIP code.

While encouraging people to get their flu shot wherever it's most convenient, Hunter emphasized that some Tricare beneficiaries should consult their medical provider first. These include people with a serious chronic illness, young children who have never had a flu shot and other at-risk groups.

Retail pharmacies will administer flu shots to active-duty military members and can provide documentation for their official shot records.

However, Admiral Hunter recognized that some service members may be required to get their shots along with the rest of the members of their units. That way, she explained, the information is recorded immediately in unit shot records, with no delay.

In addition to getting a flu shot, CDC officials offer additional tips for avoiding the flu and its spread:

**Cover your nose and mouth** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

**Wash your hands often** with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. You also can use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.

**Avoid touching** your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.

**Try to avoid** close contact with sick people.

**Stay home** if you are sick until at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever — 100 degrees Fahrenheit or 37.8 degrees Celsius — or signs of a fever without the use of a fever-reducing medicine such as acetaminophen.

**While sick**, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.

## Air Force to increase solar energy production

Air Force Print News

TYNDALL Air Force Base, Fla. — For nearly three years, a 14.2-megawatt solar array spanning 140 acres at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., has held the title of the largest renewable-energy project in the Air Force.

Now, Air Force engineers are set to outdo that achievement with plans to build three new solar arrays by 2013 that

are as big as or bigger than the current Nellis project.

In addition to Nellis AFB, officials at Davis Monthan AFB and Luke AFB, both in Arizona, are planning expansive solar arrays.

Davis-Monthan officials awarded SunEdison a solar photovoltaic utility contract in September. They plan to purchase electricity from a 14.5-megawatt photovoltaic solar

array to be constructed, designed, owned, operated and maintained by SunEdison on 130 acres of under-utilized base property. Engineers expect the array to deliver 35 percent of the energy needed to operate base facilities.

Luke officials have teamed up with Arizona Public Service Company to build a 15-megawatt solar array on 100 acres of under-utilized base

property. The project could produce enough energy to satisfy 50 percent of the base's energy needs and save up to \$10 million on utility bills over 25 years, according to Lt. Col. John Thomas, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron commander.

In addition, Air Combat Command and Nellis leaders have plans to construct a 17-megawatt phase-two project in

2012 to add to the 14.2-megawatt array built in 2007.

"The Air Force continues to aggressively pursue cleaner sources of energy," said Maj. Gen. Timothy Byers who, as the Air Force Civil Engineer, is responsible for overseeing all Air Force facilities. "Sustainable installations provide an advantage to our force and we are excited by the momentum in this arena."

# KEESLER NOTES

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## Clinic holiday hours

The 81st Medical Group Hospital's primary care and specialty clinics maintain operating hours aligned with the 81st Training Wing schedule during the Christmas and New Year's period.

Except for the actual holidays, the clinics are open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays. Clinics have reduced staffs on non-training Fridays.

Clinics are closed on federal holidays and Air Education and Training Command family days, Nov. 26, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3.

The emergency department is always open.

## Adoption options

Adoption Options, a seminar for military families considering adopting a child, is 5:30 p.m. Nov. 18 in Room 108A, Sablich Center.

The airman and family readiness center is partnering with several base and community agencies to present the program.

Topics include legal aspects of adoption, emotions and preparing the current family, reimbursement of adoption expenses according to Defense Department guidelines, home study process, and information from Mississippi state and private agencies.

To register, call 376-8728 by Nov. 10.

## Speakers bureau

The public affairs office is looking for people who enjoy public speaking to tell the Air Force story.

The Keesler Speakers Bureau is a community relations program developed as a public service and information vehicle. It's comprised of military and civilian Air Force employees who volunteer

their time and information to speak to community groups.

Speakers come from a variety of experiences and backgrounds that offer a variety of presentations. Topics include aircraft maintenance, aviation, computer operations, communication skills, health, military life, military law, combat experience, financial management, child development, Air Force history and more.

For more information, call YoLanda Wallace, 377-1179.

## 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, 377-8891, or e-mail michael.cashion.2.ctr@us.af.mil



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81TRW Keesler AFB, MS

## Company grade officers gather for mutual support

By 1st Lt. Joost Verduyn

Keesler Public Affairs

As a junior officer, sometimes it's hard to find a place where you can help Keesler

and know that what you do makes a difference. The Company Grade Officers Council should be your first place to look.

The CGOC is an outlet to be with other CGOs and to make a difference, to grow as an officer and even to just meet and hang out with people like you.

Keesler's CGOC has been representing the interests of CGOs for years now. So far this year, the CGOC has participated in several community service projects, such as raising more than \$2,000 for the American Cancer Society through the Ocean Springs Relay for Life, providing Keesler's Airmen a hot meal or hosting a table at this year's Diversity fair.

If you're looking for professional development, the CGOC Book Club meets quarterly with Col. Glen Downing, 81st Training Wing vice commander and CGOC adviser, to discuss books on themes including leadership and Air Force or military history.

The CGOC also works with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Officers Association and the Air Force Association. Members have opportunities to host cadets from the Air Force Academy or ROTC programs as part of Operations Air Force or collaborate with Keesler senior NCOs to host a women's symposium with some of Keesler's senior leaders.

If you just want to blow off steam with fellow officers, the CGOC has events such as bonfires on the beach, a night out in New Orleans and a tour of the National World War II Museum.

The CGOC meets at 4:30 P.M. the second Wednesday of every month on the third floor of the events center chaired by Capt. Donna Burrowes, president. The group also has a Facebook page.

## Stretching is key to effective exercise program



Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Shamika McNair, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, stretches after a short warm-up at the Triangle Track Monday.**

**By Airman 1st Class Kursie Shaffer**

**81st Surgical Operations Squadron**

With winter just around the corner, it's a great time to emphasize the importance of stretching when exercising.

Why is it necessary to stretch? It's done to improve flexibility. Flexibility improves muscle balance and posture. It also increases blood and nutrient supply to muscles and it reduces the chance of injury when performing high-impact activities. Tense, tight muscles result in decreased sensory awareness, increased blood pressure, decreased blood circulation and decreased coordination which could result in injury.

Stretching shouldn't be confused with a warm-up — stretching shouldn't be done as a warm-up prior to an activity because this could injure the muscles. Never stretch cold muscles. Stretching after a short warm-up before a workout helps loosen the

muscles. When stretching, hold the position for 30-60 seconds and don't bounce when holding the stretch. Bouncing places excess strain on muscles and could possibly tear them.

Increased flexibility allows more oxygen to reach the body's muscles. The heart pumps more blood, making muscles more effective. It's also important to stretch after physical activity.

The goal of stretching is to develop and maintain range of motion around joints. When muscles perform any exercise, they tighten and shorten. Stretching muscles helps improve their length which maintains and may improve range of motion. And stretching just feels good, often relaxing tense muscles that come with everyday stress.

Incorporate stretching before and after normal routines. It only takes a few extra minutes to ensure maximum results from workouts.

# Football title game is tonight

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The base intramural championship game is at 6:30 p.m. today on the multipurpose field on Meadows Drive.

The eight-team playoffs began this week with undefeated powerhouses at the top of each conference's standings.

In Monday's American Football Conference games, 81st Security Forces Squadron (10-0) took on the 334th Training Squadron (6-4) and the 338th TRS-A (8-2) met the Marine Corps

Detachment (6-4). The winners of these two games faced off at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Tuesday night's National Football Conference contests pitted the 81st Medical Group (10-0) against the 338th TRS-B (5-5) and the 81st Medical Support Squadron's A-team (9-1) against the 332nd TRS (6-4). The winning teams met at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Scores weren't available at press time, but there'll be a story and photos from the championship game in the Oct. 28 Keesler News.

For more information, call 377-2444.

## Bay Breeze plans Nov. 4 Night Crawlers Scramble

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Just because the sun goes down doesn't mean Keesler golfers can't have fun.

The Bay Breeze Golf Course holds a "Night Crawlers Scramble" golf tournament Nov. 5 with a 6:30 p.m. shotgun start. A putting contest starts at 4.

The tournament format is two-person teams with nine-hole select shot.

The fee is \$25 for members, \$30 greens members and \$40 nonmembers. The fee covers greens and cart, dinner, glow ball and sticks, prizes, beverages and giveaways. Each team brings a flashlight for the golf cart.

Tuesday is the sign-up deadline. There's a minimum of 16 teams and a maximum of 24 teams.

"This is always the most fun golf tournament I've ever participated in, so hopefully the golfers will come out and have fun," said Bay Breeze golf pro Tama Manu. "By the way, this is even more fun with husband-and-wife teams."

To register or for more information, call 377-3832 or 435-5297.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Outdoor recreation employee Sean Hoda arranges camping equipment available for rent.

## Fall's pleasant weather boosts outdoor ventures

By Jonathan Hicks

Keesler Public Affairs

Even though fall's cooler weather has finally arrived, Keesler's outdoor recreation center still has plenty of fun outdoor activities to offer.

"A lot of new Airmen don't even know we're here," said Wayne Cox, assistant director of outdoor recreation. "Even some folks that have been at Keesler for awhile still are unaware of our services. But our goal is to keep getting the word out because we have so much to offer."

Currently, outdoor recreation has several opportunities for airmen and their families to spend time together enjoying everything from camping to deep sea fishing.

"We have boating and fishing tours that teach families how to fish in the Biloxi Back Bay," Mr. Cox pointed out. "Also, we have kayaks and small boats that come with trailers so they can be taken off base. If Airmen are interested in hiking and camping, they can rent all the equipment they need right here from us."

Outdoor recreation has also benefited from new technology with a popular outdoor sporting activity called geocaching.

"Geocaching is really just a treasure hunt that works with your GPS system in the car or a handheld system or even one on your cellular phone," Mr. Cox explained. "There are members all over the country — all it takes is to sign up on the geocaching website and follow the instructions. Although it's not difficult to participate, we have a tour set up that will guide new members through the process." For more information on outdoor activities and services, call 377-3160, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.