



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

JAN. 20, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 3

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Our challenge — to build on Dr. King's legacy

By Michael Donley

Secretary of the Air Force

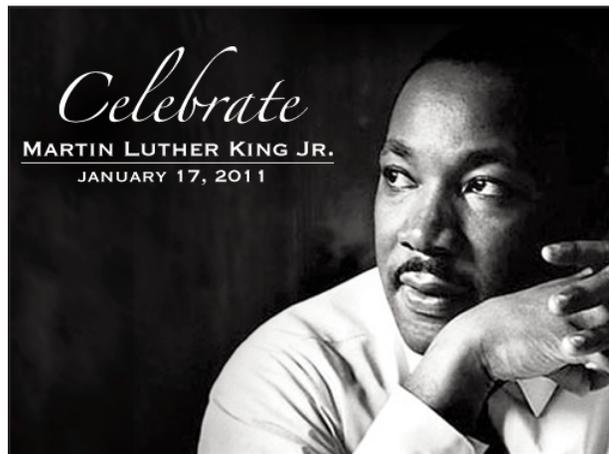
General Norton Schwartz

Air Force chief of staff

and James Roy

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

This year, on what would have been the 82nd birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., let us pause to reflect on the extraordinary leadership with which he forged our nation's path toward greater justice and equality for all, irrespective of color, creed, station or race. Although his life was tragically cut short by the very intolerance that he urged all people to forsake, Dr. King's powerful message has continued to inspire each of us to honor the timeless principles of freedom and opportunity. These concepts are embodied in our service core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do.



Our collective challenge is to build on Dr. King's legacy, and permeate his wisdom throughout our nation's culture — in our military and in our communities. The Air Force is dedicated to fostering a diverse force — one that draws strength and vitality

from our different perspectives. We seek empowerment from diversity beyond that of race, gender, religion and other conventional notions of personal identity. Indeed, we seek diversity of thought, education and experiences that have shaped each of us, and which will continue to strengthen our Air Force.

Dr. King's philosophy is as meaningful today as it was when he boldly championed it during the civil rights movement. He had a dream. We demonstrate our commitment to this dream by continuing to build a cohesive team of Airmen from all segments of our society, an Air Force in which each Airman is valued for his or her individual perspective while at the same time bound by shared values and common cause. This is a military necessity.

We encourage each of you, whether with family and friends, or while on faithful watch at one of our many worldwide locations, to ponder these truths and remember the legacy of Dr. King.

We thank you all for your service.

There's no shame in being enlisted members

By Senior Master Sgt.
Howard Teesdale

Air Force Special Operations Command
HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. —

While standing in line at an off-base post office recently, I overheard a woman talking to a man about her son. Apparently her son had recently enlisted in the Air Force against her better judgment. She told the man, who agreed with her, that commissioning as an officer is the best way to serve because "enlisted Airmen" just aren't respected and are considered second-class. Others who were waiting in line picked up on her conversation the same as I, and unfortunately agreed with her.

The gist of this conversation took me back to my childhood where I grew up as the son of a dedicated, retired enlisted Airman who stubbornly mentored me just before I stepped

on the bus at the local military entrance processing station by saying, "Son, stay true to yourself, the Air Force, and remember, no matter what you become, I'm proud of you!"

Well, what I've become is a chief master sergeant-select, which ultimately means I've reached or I'm about to reach the pinnacle of my career. Looking back over the years, the opportunities I've seized, the accomplishments I've made, the accolades I've earned and most importantly, the pride that has overwhelmed me while serving my country as an enlisted Airman are definitely nothing to be ashamed of.

I have no doubt that what the woman in line at the post office was mainly referring to with whom the others were agreeing, had to do a lot with pay, allowances and a valid perception of prestige when it comes to being a commissioned officer. Let's

face it, she's right! But I think what she and the others fail to realize is that today's enlisted Airmen aren't a bunch of rocks. We are doing some fairly amazing things that no others could and or would!

Depending on Air Force specialty, today's enlisted Airman aren't just standing on the frontlines in defense of our great nation. We're leading, advising, coordinating and deciding how to shape the air-battlesphere, which I must remind you, isn't limited to a single dimension.

From ensuring proper placement and orbit of satellites that control and monitor our position, controlling and sequencing an airspace full of multiple weapon systems and platforms, liaising with partners from countless countries in hopes of lessening our nation's burden and forming lasting peace and friendships, to clearing unexploded ordnance and roadside

bombs to help pave the path of freedom and securing the base perimeter from unauthorized entry while simultaneously protecting our freedom of movement. And we cannot forget those enlisted Airmen who embed themselves in obscure and unsafe locations to direct the weapons fire of overhead aircraft, prep unimaginable landing strips for aircraft to infiltrate cargo and personnel and ready a landing zone for the extrication of the injured and at times mortally wounded. We leave no Airman behind!

Although I stood quietly in line that day, my thoughts and pride of being enlisted Airman were about as high as ever. Knowing that there is more accuracy in the truth about being an enlisted Airman than she and the others in line are led to believe, there is no shame in her son enlisting in the Air Force.

I wish him well.

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

ON THE COVER

Chris Brantley from MCC Mechanical welds a pipe for a water line for the new permanent party dorm under construction east of the commissary, Jan. 13. The \$14.9 million structure is the first new dormitory to be built for Keesler's permanent party in 50 years. It will consist of four three-story wings to house 144 personnel in four room modules. For stories and more photos about this project and other construction at Keesler, see Pages 14-15.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



KEESLER NEWS

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DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist



"Doing your best day in and day out no matter the task to ensure the mission is completed successfully."

Airman 1st Class Brit-tany Green, 338th Training Squadron



"Dream big, set goals and believe in yourself."

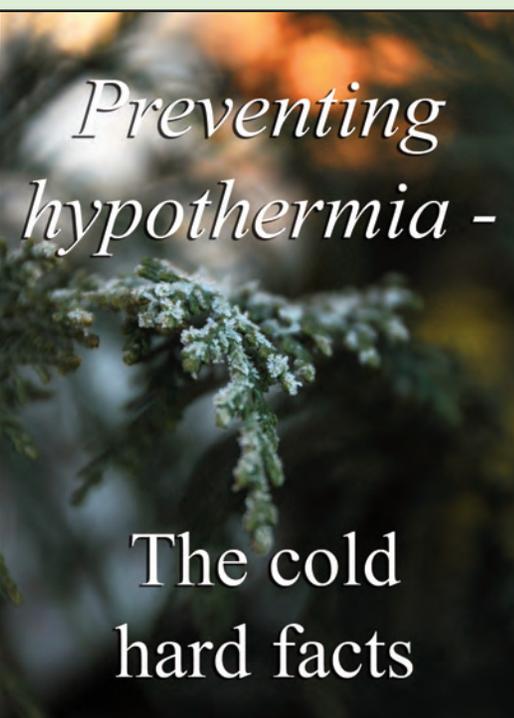
Tech. Sgt. Julie Hammond, 81st Training Group



"I like the new motto; it embodies the entire Air Force and what we stand for in a few simple words."

Senior Airman Christopher Hill, 81st Force Support Squadron

What do you think of the new Air Force motto, "Aim High... Fly - Fight - Win"?



Stay dry

Wet clothes lose 90 percent of their insulating value. Choose rain clothes that have proven effective against wind-driven rain. Cover your head, neck, body and legs.

Beware the wind

A slight breeze carries heat away from bare skin much faster than still air. Wind drives cold air under and through clothing. Wind refrigerates wet clothes by evaporating moisture from the surface. Two-piece woolen underwear, long wool pants and sweater and a knit cap to protect the neck and chain are the best type of clothing in cold weather.

Understand the cold

Most hypothermia cases develop in air temperatures between 30 and 50 degrees. Many people underestimate the danger of being wet at such temperatures. The cold that kills is cold water running down neck and legs, cold water held against the body by wet clothes and cold water flushing body heat from the surface of the clothes.

'Sheriffs of cyberspace' Enlisted course next step in cyber transformation

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Monday's launch of the enlisted portion of undergraduate cyber training closes the loop in the communication and information career force enhancement and transformation.

The 333rd Training Squadron is responsible for providing the initial skills for a brand new Air Force Specialty Code, 1B4X1, cyber defense operations. The new course ensures the Air Force will have junior noncommissioned officers to lead Airmen and assist senior NCOs in managing and protecting the complex domain of cyber.

"I've heard people say that cyberspace is like the 'wild west,'" said Master Sgt. Manuel Matute, cyberspace defense operations instructor supervisor. "Well, we're like the sheriffs of cyberspace."

"Cyberspace defense operations training at Keesler is the first step in achieving cyberspace domination," Sergeant Matute continued. "We're bringing the Air Force into the future — this is where society and technology are heading, and we're at the forefront."

Much of the 1B4 training is identical to the 24-week 17D officer training course that Keesler initiated seven months ago. Officers and enlisted members must have the same knowledge level before they begin the second stage of training — intermediate network warfare training.

"In the field, 1B4s sit side by side with their officer counterparts," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Judge, one of the cyberspace defense operations instructors. "With all of the recent hype about (the officer course), people forget there's an enlisted piece to it."

In addition to content from the 17D initial course, enlisted 1B4 training consist of content from communication and infor-



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Sergeant Judge, left, and Sergeant Matute do a final equipment check on the industrial control systems equipment to ensure results of their first ICS exercise were correct.

mation officer network training, commercial Security + certification, undergraduate network warfare training, the network management infrastructure course and additional items identified by the 1B4X1 utilization and training workgroup.

Training will include information to design, secure, assess and defend a variety of networks: telephony, Internet protocol, satellite, land mobile radio, industrial control systems, integrated air defense and tactical data links.

The course is conducted at Stennis Hall, where the 11,000-square-foot facility has been expanded to 24,000 square feet to accommodate annual student throughput of roughly 70 students — 50 active-duty cross-trainees and 20 Air National Guard members.

The 1B4 initial instructor cadre of seven enlisted instructors and one career development course writer has been in place since September preparing for the first class of 12 students that graduates May 23.

The classes last 85 academic days and are scheduled to begin every six weeks. The first four classes are used for validation.

The 1B4 training team is brimming with enthusiasm about its task.

"With a hand-picked instructor cadre from across the Air Force, you couldn't have a better crew," noted Maj. Rodney Owen, advanced systems and concepts flight commander.

"We have a great cross-section of various cyber special-

ties among the 1B4 instructor cadre," Master Sgt. Wayne Bullock, CDC writer, pointed out. "It's amazing what these guys are capable of."

"It may not be an Air Force job with a window view, but it's a computer geek's dream job," acknowledged Tech. Sgt. Jason Roberts, one of the instructors.

"I feel lucky to be involved in the 1B4 schoolhouse," said Tech. Sgt. Dennis Wilson, another instructor. "This is a major development in the way the Air Force looks at and addresses cyberspace. This is a long-overdue paradigm shift."

Instructor Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Jones declared, "1B4X1 cyberspace defense operations is just the beginning of domain domination. Look out air and space — here we come!"

"This course symbolizes the last pillar of initial skills training fortifying the Air Force's cyberspace operations foundation," explained Capt. Claudette Johnson, advanced cyber training director. "The Air Force has now instituted cyber operations training on all fronts: senior leadership, junior officers, enlisted and young Airmen."

"We've launched the next generation Airman equipped with the aptitude, attitude and skills to fly, fight and win in cyberspace," Captain Johnson added. "It's truly humbling to have been a part of such a historic feat for the Air Force, Department of Defense and this great nation we all serve."

Airman 'on deck' maintains strong ties to home

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Holcomb

Keesler Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Tonya Jones is one of the very few Airmen stationed in a sea of Navy blue.

Sergeant Jones, a command post specialty career development course writer for the 334th Training Squadron, arrived at a Navy base in Bahrain Sept. 28.

Seven days a week she shows up to work as the non-commissioned officer in charge at the Office of Defense Representatives—Pakistan liaison office to Navy Central Command.

Sergeant Jones said that the most challenging part of her deployment has been learning how to work with Navy and Marine Corps personnel.

“My sponsor told me I would be working on both the middle and upper deck,” she said. “I assumed this meant I would be working on a boat. The next day when I went into work, I realized that the Navy calls the floors of a building the same as they do

as if they were on a ship.”

Her average day on deck consists of contingency planning and coordination between ODR-P and NAV-CENT. She has a daily video teleconference with the Vice Admiral in charge of ODR-P to update him on current operations.

Deployments provide a unique opportunity for self improvement that daily life at home may not afford, and Sergeant Jones is taking full advantage.

After duty requirements for the day are completed, she does physical training for an hour, then spends most of the evening doing homework. Each semester she takes two classes towards her bachelor's degree in organizational management.

“I handle the stress of being deployed by staying busy with schoolwork and going to the gym daily,” she said, “I also take several hours each week to relax and enjoy a book.”

Sergeant Jones has also had the opportunity to live off of the installation. This has



Courtesy photos

Sergeant Jones stands 'on deck' outside the Office of Defense Representatives-Pakistan building in Bahrain, where she serves as NCO in charge of the Office of Defense Representatives—Pakistan liaison office to Navy Central Command.

allowed her a chance to explore the local culture and enjoy the mild weather.

“Every other week, I go out to dinner with co-workers and we experience the local cuisine,” she said.

Not only has Sergeant Jones aided the Air Force mission and improved herself as a person, but she says that her marriage has benefitted from this deployment as well.

She is married to Tech. Sgt. Matthew Jones, instructor of the basic instructor course with the 81st Training Support Squadron.

“My husband has been so supportive, and we communicate our feelings for each other more than we did when I was home,” Sergeant Jones said.

Her husband said, “We took a lot for granted before she left and now we have learned the importance of expressing our true feeling about situations.”

She takes advantage of modern technology to keep in touch with her family and friends back home. She said

“It always brightens my day when I receive a card from my husband and daughter.”

— Sergeant Jones

she is fortunate to Skype with her husband and their 7-year-old daughter, Taylor, twice a week and e-mails her husband daily. She also calls her parents every other weekend and stays in touch with her friends and the rest of her family via e-mail.

But at the end of the day, nothing beats a letter or package from home.

“It's tough being away, and receiving mail from family and friends really makes a difference,” Sergeant Jones said. “It always brightens my day when I receive a card from my husband and daughter.”

She suggests that those about to deploy spend as much time with their loved ones as possible and to also pack a comfort item as a remembrance of home.

“Being deployed has definitely reminded me not to take simple things in life for granted,” Sergeant Jones said.

“Tonya will always find a positive in every situation and that takes a strong person,” her husband said. “Tonya never gives up and always strives to be the best at everything she does.”

She is scheduled to return home in April.



Sergeant Jones escorts her daughter, Taylor, to her first day of kindergarten in 2009 at Jeff Davis Elementary School in Biloxi. Mom and daughter stay connected through Skype twice a week and a steady diet of daily emails.

Nurses recognized at transition graduation

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Ten new nurses were recognized Dec. 15 as the 81st Medical Group's Nurse Transition Program held a graduation ceremony in the hospital's Don Wylie Auditorium, marking the end of their 11 weeks of training.

Class 100927 graduates are 2nd Lts. Janis Bosley, Sarah Jameson, Heather Marzan, Amanda Mullinix, Leslyn Heaston, Rebecca Herman, Danh Nguyen, Jessica Ramirez, Erica

Quarles, and Anna Wright.

Col. Allison Plunk, 81st Medical Group Chief Nurse, presented graduation certificates and also addressed the graduates and guests.

The class selected Maj. Barbara Susen, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron, to be their guest speaker and Capt. Reynel Garcia of the 81st IPTS to receive the Best Preceptor Award.

Among the special guests were Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing

Commander, and Col. Glen Downing, 81st TRW Vice Commander.

According to Capt. Iesiah Harris, chief of NTP, the primary goal of the Nurse Transition Program is to "provide novice nurses having less than one year of nursing experience with clinical and leadership skills to ensure a successful transition to the Air Force Nurse Corps.

"The Air Force Nurse Corps is committed to the success of its nurses and chal-

lenges novice nurses to exceed their goals. The Nurse Transition Program provides a stable foundation, reinforcing what was learned in nursing school to help the novice nurse gain proficiency and build confidence skills," she explained.

NTP nurses are paired with staff nurses who act as preceptors. The preceptor and NTP nurse work together closely, sharing a team of patients.

As the NTP nurse functions more independently, the preceptor become a resource,

ensuring course objectives are met. Upon completion of NTP, nurses are armed with skills to function as clinically competent nurses.

Five of the newest Air Force nurses — Lieutenants Bosley, Jameson, Marzan, Mullinix and Wright — remain at Keesler. Lieutenant Heaston has been assigned to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, Lieutenant Quarles to Travis AFB, Calif., and Lieutenants Herman, Nguyen, and Ramirez are going to Nellis AFB, Nev.

NO DRUGS NO EXCUSES DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Dry wall technician David Lynn from Birmingham Industrial Construction applies skim coat on wallboard on the second floor of Allee Hall Friday.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Training facilities get facelift

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Several current renovation projects are improving key facilities for technical training and professional military education at Keesler.

Sixty years ago, Allee Hall was one of three two-story concrete block buildings constructed to serve Keesler's technical training needs. Students from many different courses have passed through the 120,000-square-foot structure.

A central hallway splits the building and is

crossed by three tributary passageways. The west side of Allee Hall currently "belongs" to the 335th Training Squadron, while Keesler's Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit occupies the east side.

Several previous projects have refurbished the first floor of Allee Hall, but the second floor has been sorely in need of renovation.

The \$2.3 million project that began in November is expected to be completed in June, according to CSC architect Bill Allen.

Asbestos abatement is being completed before other work starts. The 335th TRS has vacated its side of Allee Hall, while CNATTU is moving its classes from room to room as the project progresses.

There are no major changes to room layouts, but ceilings are being gutted and replaced, new flooring is being replaced and walls are being "furred out" before new gypsum board is put in place, Mr. Allen said. Restrooms are being remodeled to provide greater accessibility wherever possible.

"We're doing extensive air conditioning renovation and electrical reworking," he added. "A lot of new communication drops are being installed."

A few blocks away, Airman Leadership School and the Mathies NCO Academy, wood-frame structures built in 1942, are getting facelifts. The price tag for the renovations, scheduled to be completed by the end of February, is \$510,000.

Work is nearing completion at Airman Leadership School, a 20,000-square foot wood frame structure, where restrooms have been totally renovated, including additional showers for women. Throughout the building, new tile and flooring are in place and most walls have been repainted.

The breakroom/kitchen is being transformed with new sinks and flooring. New cabinets should arrive soon.

Similar upgrades are progressing at the 20,000-square-foot NCO Academy next door, where major restroom work is under way.

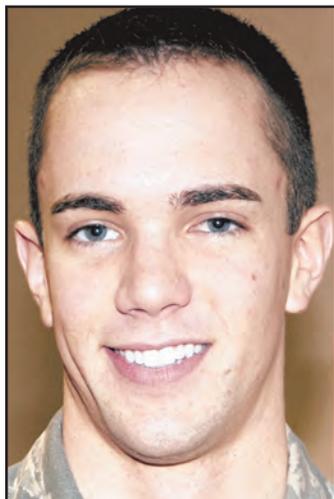


Carpenter Kenneth Jones from J.O. Collins Construction hangs tile backer board at the Mathies NCO Academy Friday.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Academic ace

Airman Basic Bo Taylor graduated Jan. 11 from the personnel apprentice course in the 335th Training Squadron with a perfect score. He is a reservist from Hill Air Force Base, Utah.



Education fair

The education office is partnering with the 81st Medical Group Hospital for an education fair, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today in the hospital's Don Wylie Auditorium.

There will be representatives from 25 area and distance learning schools on hand.

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

81st TRG annual awards luncheon

The 81st Training Group's annual awards luncheon is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Clinton Brawley, 377-0288.

William Carey spring term

William Carey University's spring trimester begins Feb. 21.

The university offers flexible degrees that allow for the transfer of many Community College of the Air Force credits. Courses are also available to complete Civil Service 1750 qualification requirements.

Discounted tuition rates are available for active-duty military, dependents, retirees and Defense Department civilians.

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

Annual tech expo

The 16th annual Training Technology Products and Information Services Expo is 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

The expo is devoted to all types of distance learning and resident education and training. Civilian and military vendors display the latest in technical and support gear. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call 377-7799.

CCAF graduation

Feb. 25 is the last day to apply for the Community College of the Air Force spring graduating class.

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

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

Hap Arnold grants

The application deadline for the 2011-2012 General Henry H. Arnold education grant program is March 11.

Application forms and eligibility requirements and other information to apply for the \$2,000 grants are found at the Air Force Aid Society's website at www.afas.org.

Spouses club

Applications are now being accepted for 2011 Keesler Spouses Club scholarships.

Eligible applicants include high school seniors entering a college, university or vocational studies as well as spouses pursuing a degree or vocational studies.

Applications and more eligibility information are available at www.keeslerspousesclub.com or call 273-2489 or 243-7133.

Professional manager certification

The Community College of the Air Force awards professional manager certification that formally recognizes an individual's advanced level of education and experience in leadership and management, as well as professional accomplishments.

The program provides a structured professional development track that supplements enlisted professional military education and the career field education and training plan.

For more information, log on to <http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/certifications.asp> or call the education office, 376-8708 or 8710.

ROTC at USA

The University of South Alabama offers a four-year ROTC program for qualified students wishing to pursue an Air Force commission.

The campus is 60 miles from Keesler and offers Alabama in-state tuition rates to residents of George, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Perry and Stone Counties in Mississippi.

For more information, call 1-251-460-7211 or e-mail robertpatt@usouthal.edu.

Drill downs, parades

The 81st Training Group's 2011 drill down and parade schedule is:

Drill downs — 8 a.m. Feb. 18, April 29, June 24, Aug. 19 and Oct. 28.

For more information, call 377-2103.

Parades — 6 p.m. March 17, July 21 and Sept. 29 and during Special Olympics, May 13-15.

For more information, call 377-2789.

Swan scholarship

May 31 is the deadline to apply for the Hurricane Hunters \$2,000 Swan 38 scholarship.

The scholarship is open to active and retired 403rd Wing members and their dependents.

For more information, log on to www.hurricanehunters.com.

Civilian training

Information about civilian training opportunities is available from the civilian force development corner on the Keesler public Web site, <http://www.keesler.af.mil/civilianforcedevelopmentcenter.asp>

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.

Active-duty assignment notification becomes automated this Friday

By Tech Sgt. Steve Grever

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force is automating active-duty assignment notifications for Airmen in the ranks of lieutenant colonel and below beginning Jan. 21.

Airmen will receive an e-mail notification about their new assignments and have seven days to acknowledge their assignments through the Virtual Military Personnel Flight website. Colonels, general officers, basic military training and pipeline students will still use the current assignment notification process.

The Air Force is consolidating and modernizing many of its business processes, and transforming online personnel services was one initiative to help the service accomplish its goals.

Maj. Gen. A.J. Stewart, Air Force Personnel Center commander, said the center continues to research and develop new online solutions to reduce

the amount of time Airmen spend on individual personnel actions.

“AFPC is here to take care of the needs of all Airmen by making the personnel process easier for them so they can focus on the mission,” General Stewart said. “The new assignment notification process will automate how Airmen receive new assignments and make it easier for local military personnel sections to manage this program.”

Master Sgt. Kathi Glascock, AFPC’s relocation operations manager, said the new notification process not only gives time back to active-duty Airmen, but also streamlines the amount of personnel actions associated with managing the assignment notification program.

“AFPC processes about 153,000 assignment actions ever year,” Sergeant Glascock said. “The new notification system will save Airmen time as well as base personnelists who manage assignments and relocations programs for their installations. It also con-

densed the new assignment RIP (Report on Individual Personnel) from six to two pages.”

AFPC developed and tested the automated capability for almost two years and sought feedback from personnelists at Lackland and Randolph Air Force bases.

Master Sgt. Charyl Samson, 802nd Force Support Squadron relocations superintendent at Lackland AFB, Texas, said her office will be able to eliminate several manual processes that will allow them to accomplish their mission more efficiently.

“From a personnel standpoint, we will save a tremendous amount of time from processing new assignment notifications and suspending members,” Sergeant Samson said. “I’m looking forward to seeing it in action in the field.”

For more information about the automated assignment notification process, visit the Air Force personnel services website or call the Total Force Service Center, 1-800-525-0102.

Prompt travel bill payments enable Keesler to claim rebate

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

When you pay your travel card bill on time, Keesler reaps the benefits, according to 2nd Lt. William Kiser, 81st Comptroller Squadron financial services flight commander.

“The more you charge on your Government Travel Card or Controlled Spend Account, the more rebates we receive — as long as you pay the bill,” Lieutenant Kiser said.

Earlier this month, Keesler received a \$12,800 rebate, its first in more than a year. The amount was based on the size of the base and card usage.

Air Education and Training Command

received a total of \$223,000 in rebates.

“We’ve now met the 2 percent delinquency standard for seven months in a row,” the lieutenant pointed out. “Our delinquency rate last quarter was only .76 percent.”

The rebate funds are available for Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, to allocate as he sees fit.

“We are primed to receive the next quarter’s rebate,” Lieutenant Kiser added. “A lot of people have worked hard over the months to accomplish this — the financial services office, squadron GTC agency program coordinators, commanders, chiefs, first sergeants and the members who pay their bills on time.”

IN THE NEWS

Chiefs induction ceremony

Keesler’s chief master sergeant induction ceremony is 6 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

More information and tickets are available from any active duty chief.

New vice chief of staff

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Gen. Philip Breedlove took over as vice chief of staff of the Air Force Friday, succeeding Gen. Carrol “Howie” Chandler who held the position since August 2009.

General Breedlove most recently served as the Air Force deputy chief of staff for operations, plans and requirements, a position he held since August 2009.

The vice chief of staff assists the chief of staff with organizing, training, and equipping 680,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian forces serving in the U.S. and overseas. General Breedlove also presides over the Air Staff and serves as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Requirements Oversight Council and Deputy Advisory Working Group.

Road closure for gas line repair

Z Street from L Street to M Street in front of Building 4705 (civil engineering) is closed through Feb. 11 for gas line repair.

For more information, call Clabert Buillory, 377-5856.

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 Popp’s Ferry Road

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

Service members are ordered not to enter or patronize these off-limits establishments or their locations. This restriction doesn’t apply to armed forces police on duty or others on official business. Violations of this order are punishable under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Wing calendar event planning

The 81st Training Wing events calendar at <http://www.keesler.af.mil/events/index.asp> is designed to help organizers avoid conflicts with other events.

Once an official date is set, event planners should send details to the public affairs organizational box, 81trw.pa@keesler.af.mil. Most items are posted within one business day.

Items that must be included are the name of event, date, time, location and a point of contact.

Dragons deployed — 253



**CLICK IT
OR
TICKET**

Promotion list has 5 Keesler senior airmen

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Five senior airmen have been selected for promotion to staff sergeant in the January in-system supplemental release announced Jan. 13.

81st Force Support Squadron — Jonathan Brown.

81st Mission Support Group — Sabine Andrew.

81st Security Forces Squadron — Stephen Showmaker, Ryan Steelman and Shannon Tessmer.

Heart attack symptoms

Men and women may experience some common symptoms, but there are differences.



- Nausea/vomiting
- Jaw pain
- Back pain



- Chest discomfort
- Arm pain
- Shortness of breath

PERSONNEL NOTES

Classes for job hunters

These upcoming classes are held in the airman and family readiness center's conference room in Sablich Center.

There's a limit of 10 per class, and registration is required.

Interview skills and salary negotiation — 9 a.m. today or Feb. 24.

Federal format resume writing — 9 a.m. Feb. 2.

Civilian format resume writing — 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Career skills assessment — 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10 or March 10.

For more information, call 376-8728.

Change for MTI opportunities

The military training instructor corps has received authorization to pursue 18-month time-on-station waivers. First term Airman must be within their career job reservation window.

For more information, call the MTI recruiting team, DSN 473-1016 or 1018.

Use-or-lose leave guidance

For guidance on special leave accrual for members in use-or-lose leave status, call the military personnel section's customer service element, 376-8347 or 8348.

Stop loss special pay extension

American Forces Press Service

The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for retroactive Stop Loss special pay has been extended to March 4.

Congress established the retroactive pay to compensate service members who served involuntary extensions or whose retirement was suspended between Sept. 11, 2001 through Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible members and their beneficiaries are required to submit a claim to their respective military service to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in stop-loss status.

Service officials estimate 145,000 service members, veterans and beneficiaries are eligible.

Because most of those eligible had separated from the military, the services have engaged in persistent outreach efforts throughout the year. Efforts, including direct mail, engaging military and veteran service organizations, social networks and media outlets, will continue throughout the period of eligibility, Defense Department officials said.

Transition assistance briefings

The airman and family readiness center has mandatory pre-separation briefings for members planning to separate or retire — 1 p.m. Tuesdays for those separating with honorable discharges and 2:30 p.m. for retirees in Room 110, Sablich Center.

Bring one copy of separation or retirement orders. This appointment is required by law, and must be accomplished 90 calendar days before the separation or retirement date. For short-notice separations or retirements, the briefing should be done as soon as possible.

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.

Pay freeze won't affect awards, promotions, longevity increases

By Karen Parrish

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON —Defense Department civilian employees affected by the federal pay freeze for 2011 and 2012 will still have the opportunity to receive performance awards, promotions and normal longevity increases, a senior defense official said.

Pasquale Tamburrino Jr., the deputy under secretary of defense for civilian personnel policy, said senior leaders are working to ensure that employees are treated fairly during the freeze.

“We value the contributions of our career federal employees, and we value their service to the nation,” he said. “Nothing has changed there.”

From the time the pay freeze was announced, the emphasis has been on ensuring all federal employees receive equal treatment, he said.

“Whether you’re the most junior civil servant on the first day of the job or you’re a member of the executive leadership team, it applies to you,” he said.

Defense leaders, he noted, have been “very clear” in directing that the freeze should affect all employees equally.

“Not everything is covered by statute,” Mr. Tamburrino said, noting that heads of agencies have some administrative discretion in some dimensions of pay.

Guidance on the pay freeze instructs agency heads to manage administrative privileges the same way the president treated general pay increases in the executive order, he said.

“You should not use that privilege to grant a pay raise,” he said.

Mr. Tamburrino said he encourages managers to use the tools that always have been available to them, and still are, to reward employees.

“When it’s appropriate, you give somebody a performance award,” he said. “If you tell them the organization has five

“We value the contributions of our career federal employees, and we value their service to the nation. Nothing has changed there.”

— Mr. Tamburrino

or six goals, and they do a lot of heavy lifting to help you get to those goals, then I think you should sit down as a leader and say, ‘We have to recognize that.’”

Most employees, he said, want three things: clear guidance on the management team’s priorities, the tools and resources necessary to complete their work, and coaching and feedback.

“Financial compensation is important because it is; we all have financial obligations that have to be satisfied,” he said. “But what’s really important as well is (that) you want to tell your employees, ‘You’re doing a really fine job.’”

President Barack Obama announced his intent for a two-year pay freeze for federal civilian workers Nov. 29. Congress approved the proposal, and President Obama signed it into law Dec. 22.

Officials at the Office of Personnel Management issued a memorandum Dec. 30 to heads of executive departments and agencies, detailing how the freeze applies to the federal work force in accordance with existing law and presidential guidance. Defense Department officials issued guidance in line with OPM’s the same day.

“It’s a response to the difficulties the country is facing, and I think what’s really good about it is (that) it’s universal,” Mr. Tamburrino said. “You have to have a very clear understanding of what’s in and what’s out, because that’s what affects employees.”

The freeze covers what have traditionally been known as general pay increases, he

said, which normally take effect each January and consist of a combination of base pay and locality pay increases for most civilian employees.

Federal civilian pay increased an average of 3.5 percent in 2008, 3.9 percent in 2009, and 2 percent in 2010, according to government figures.

“The president determined, based on the state of the economy, that those pay raises that are statutory in nature should not be granted (during the two-year freeze),” Mr. Tamburrino said.

According to the OPM guidance, the freeze, which extends through Dec. 31, 2012, affects some 2 million federal civilian employees in most pay systems: general schedule, executive schedule, senior executive service, senior foreign service, senior-level and scientific, and professional. Postal employees and military service members are not affected by the freeze.

However, OPM officials said, the pay freeze policy may not apply to any increase that is required by a collective bargaining agreement that has already been executed.

Except for minor instances in Alaska, Hawaii and other nonforeign areas, locality pay also is frozen, Mr. Tamburrino said.

“I think everybody recognizes (the pay freeze) was a really difficult decision,” he said. “I think we did a tremendous job in issuing some very clear guidance, and I think the leadership of the Department of Defense did a really good job in making it very level and even across the department.”

The new structure will house two new operating rooms, recovery area, intensive care unit, and medical and surgical inpatient units, cardiac catheterization unit, emergency department, central sterile supply, physical therapy, occupational therapy and chiropractic clinic.

Photo by Steve Pivnick



Inpatient tower slated for completion this fall

Inpatient tower construction facts

Concrete — More than 11,000 cubic yards of concrete have been placed, the equivalent of about four Olympic-sized swimming pools full of concrete.

Rebar — More than 900 tons of reinforcing steel have been used in the concrete structure. This is four times the weight of the Statue of Liberty.

Manhours — As of September, more than 115,000 man hours had been worked, the equivalent of more than 13 calendar years of labor.

Tower crane — It's more than 194 feet tall and has a 28-inch by 26-inch by 4-inch foundation of solid, reinforced concrete.

By Capt. Matthew Clugston
and Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Cabe

81st Medical Support Squadron

As a new year begins, two major construction-related projects continue at the 81st Medical Group Hospital.

Inpatient tower construction

The inpatient tower is a Base Realignment and Closure-funded project costing more than \$50 million. The four-story structure will provide modern facility design solutions for accessibility requirements, required space for today's mission and functional facility requirements suitable for delivering today's health care.

The four-story inpatient tower, scheduled for completion this fall, will feature new state-of-the-art locations for two new operating rooms, recovery/peri-anesthesia (post-operative) care unit and a cardiac catheterization lab, as well as the intensive care unit and medical and surgical inpatient units.

In addition, the structure will include a new emergency department, central sterile supply, physical therapy, occupational therapy and chiropractic clinic

Between April and October, the inpatient tower progressed from a basic excavation to a complete concrete structure attached to the northeast corner of the 81st Medical Group Hospital. About one floor was added to the building each month starting in May and the structure was topped out Sept. 24. Rain or shine, the work continues at a feverish pace.

Over the next few months, the construction crane that has loomed over the project is coming down. The next phase of the project involves closing in the building and finishing the roof. Work is also underway on the tower's interior. Elevator

shafts are being installed, electrical and mechanical work has started and interior metal studs and masonry are in progress.

The layout maximizes staff efficiency and enhances patient safety. As an integral part of the Gulf Coast community, these synergistic benefits bolster the 81st MDG's ability to compete in the managed-care environment.

Infrastructure repair and energy management

The infrastructure repair and energy management project is a massive \$32 million undertaking with a two-fold purpose: to upgrade present building systems and meet current building code compliance standards

One part of the project that's nearly complete includes heating, ventilation and air conditioning infrastructure upgrade repair. This entails replacing 17 air-handling units, overhauling the nutritional medicine kitchen hood and cooling systems, repairing the A tower exhaust system and changing the veterinary clinic chiller.

Another element of the project that's almost finished involves structural infrastructure. Roof surfaces have been renovated, exterior surfaces have been improved, sealed and painted, and sediment and debris has been removed from sub-basement crawl ways.

Elevator upgrades that modified five elevators and restored three elevator controls are done

Another aspect of the project, electrical infrastructure upgrade repair, is about 55 percent complete. This includes refurbishing the electrical substation grounding system; validating and labeling all critical, life safety and equipment essential systems; installing and improving transient voltage surge suppression; and restoring all motor control centers.

3 construction projects address Keesler priorities

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler's students live in modern dormitories, but permanent party dorm dwellers live in structures built more than five decades ago. Law enforcers and prospective deployers want to hone their shooting skills without the impediment of inclement weather. Reservists need a modern facility for aircraft and equipment maintenance.

All three of these priorities are being addressed by current construction projects at Keesler.

Permanent party dorm

Just over a year ago, Keesler broke ground on its first permanent party dormitory in 50 years. If Mother Nature cooperates, the project should be completed in late summer.

The \$14,453,279 contract calls for a 57,000-square-foot main building with four three-story wings to house 144 personnel in

four-room modules. Each module provides a private bedroom and bathroom along with a common kitchen, living space and laundry room for the four occupants.

There'll also be a single-story commons building, central chiller plant and recreational spaces in an outdoor courtyard."

Storm, sewer and parking lot site work is under way. Brick placement is ongoing in all buildings, and window installation has begun. Metal stud framing is ongoing and interior sheet rock work started last month. Roofing being installed on all buildings.

Construction will achieve LEED Silver certification, a national benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

Indoor small arms range

Foundation fill work is taking place at the site on Chappie James Boulevard near Larcher Chapel for this \$5,328,543 facility. Work

should be completed in October.

The new indoor range will incorporate state of the art technology to train security forces and other base personnel on shoot, move and communication techniques that are vital to the war-fighting effort, rain or shine. It will allow the use of high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles that enable Airmen to practice firing techniques used during convoy operations.

Aerial port facility

Work was scheduled to begin this week on this \$6,826,767 year-long construction project. The new structure will provide space to support and maintain the 403rd Wing's aircraft and equipment.

The parachute dryer tower is being redesigned to meet current height restrictions. New monitoring wells are being added in a contract modification to address any storm water runoff environmental concerns at the site.



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Cedric Ward from Coast Concrete, left, and Cliff Delk from Doleac Electric Company work on the base for a light pole outside the new dormitory Jan. 13.

Health plan remains free for troops

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Though Defense Secretary Robert Gates seeks modest premium increases for working-age military retirees who use the Tricare Prime health plan, the benefit will remain free to service members, defense officials emphasized Jan. 7.

Secretary Gates unveiled sweeping, cost-cutting initiatives Jan. 6, including a recommendation to increase Tricare Prime premiums for working-age retirees in fiscal 2012, the first increase in the plan's 15-year history.

"For some time, I've spoken about the department's unaffordable health costs, and in particular the benefits provided to working-age retirees under the Tricare program," he said.

"Many of these beneficiaries are employed full-time while receiving their full pensions, and often forego their employers' health plan to remain with Tricare," he said. "This should not come as a surprise, given that the current Tricare enrollment fee was set in 1995 at \$460 a year for the basic family plan, and has not been raised since."

Secretary Gates noted the dramatic increase in insurance

premiums during that period for private-sector and other government employees. Federal workers pay roughly \$5,000 a year for a comparable health insurance program, he said.

"Accordingly, with the fiscal year 2012 budget, we will propose reforms in the area of military health care to better manage medical cost growth and better align the department with the rest of the country," Secretary Gates said. "These will include initiatives to become more efficient, as well as modest increases to Tricare fees for ... working-age retirees, with fees indexed to adjust for medical inflation."

These initiatives could save the department as much as \$7 billion over the next five years, he said.

Military retirees automatically are enrolled in one of two Tricare plans, program spokesman Austin Camacho explained. Retirees who join Tricare Prime, the system's managed-care option that covers active-duty members, pay an annual enrollment fee of \$230 per year for an individual, or \$460 for a family. Those in TRICARE Standard, a fee-for-service plan, pay no enrollment fee or premium. Instead, they pay a yearly

deductible of \$150 per person or \$300 per family, as well as co-payments or cost shares for inpatient and outpatient care and medications, up to a \$3,000 annual cap on out-of-pocket expenses.

Military retirees aren't required to report whether they have jobs that offer insurance plans, Mr. Camacho said, noting that having other insurance does not take them off the Tricare rolls. Rather, he explained, TRICARE becomes the "second payer" for health care, picking up co-payments and deductibles from the primary insurance plan.

Meanwhile, the senior Tricare officer said the system is poised to support Secretary Gates' new efficiency measures and already is making progress as it strives to provide the best health care at the best cost.

"All of these things help us work together to help us achieve the secretary's goals, and we are already starting to make progress," Navy Rear Adm. (Dr.) Christine Hunter said. "We need to be very aware that there is a pressure (to improve efficiency and control costs) and the resources are not infinite. But we are all part of the solution."

New policy initiated for late arrivals to family health, pediatric appointments

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Operations Squadron is initiating a policy to assist patients who arrive late for appointments in the family health and pediatric clinics through no fault of their own.

According to Col. Julia Stoshak, squadron commander, "Patients who arrive within 10 minutes of their scheduled appointment time are not considered late and will be treated as being on time. If there is a line at the check-in counter and patients arrive at the line before their appointment, they will be considered as being on time; the benefit of doubt goes to the patient."

The colonel continued, "Patients who are on time should not be penalized due to the tardiness of another. Therefore, patients who arrive more than 10 minutes after their appointment are con-

sidered a "no show" but will be offered options.

For an acute appointment, the patient is offered the opportunity to be seen during any no-show appointment time when another patient fails to make an appointment or at the end of the day. The patient also can choose to be rescheduled.

"For a routine, established or well appointment, the patient can be rescheduled if they choose or the clinic nurse will evaluate the patient's needs as necessary," Colonel Stoshak said. "In any case, the provider has the final discretion regarding patient disposition."

Colonel Stoshak added that if the patient feels it is an emergency and needs to be seen right away, he or she can choose to go to the hospital's emergency room.

She noted, "Patients have the right to speak with the clinic's patient advocate if they have reasonable extenuating circumstances."

Hurricane Hunters fly winter storm missions

403rd Wing Public Affairs

The Hurricane Hunters have closed out hurricane season and are in full swing with winter storm missions in Anchorage, Alaska.

With winter season beginning Nov. 1 and hurricane season ending Dec. 1, the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron has had no downtime with the overlapping missions. They have stayed busy with the winter season this year working through the holidays with the blizzard that swept through the Northern regions.

With operations in winter storms, the name Hurricane Hunter does not reflect the entirety of their mission, though the goals are basically the same.

Operations are directed by the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, a part of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. Like their tropical reconnaissance missions, they will collect the data and add it to forecast models for more accurate predictions.

“The aircraft acts as a mobile observation platform gathering horizontal information by looking out across the storm,” said Capt. Tobi Baker, 53rd WRS aerial reconnaissance weather officer. “We fly a pre-laid track with specific points to gather data with dropsondes. The points are determined by NCEP.”

Dropsondes are highly sensitive devices which fall



Photo by Master Sgt. Randy Bynon
The Hurricane Hunters deploy to Elemendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, each year to fly winter storm missions.

nearly 2,500 feet per second measuring temperature, wind speed, humidity, and pressure. One mission can use up to 25 dropsondes and last from six to 12 hours.

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

“The goal is to make a good forecast so that cities can be prepared with snow plows, and other

snow removal and mitigation equipment to diminish the impact of a winter storm on a city,” said Lt. Col. Roy Deatherage, 53rd WRS ARWO. “If they are better prepared, they can recover more quickly. That can be crucial for residents living in harm's way. These forecasts provide people in the path of the storms with warnings that can save lives.”

According to Captain Baker, when it comes to the formations of the different storms, there is no comparison. While hurricanes tend to be independent having their own entities, winter storm missions deal with general weather.

“There are pros and cons to both missions,” said Captain Baker. “Winter missions are much colder, but less turbulent because of the altitude.”

Hurricane Hunters fly winter storms anywhere from 30,000 to 34,000 feet, which is at least 20,000 feet higher than hurricane missions.

Not only do the Hurricane Hunters observe the weather in the Pacific, they operate the same mission in storms off the Northeast coast and sometimes the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA's Gulfstream IV-SP aircraft flies from Japan to collect data on Pacific storms as well. With the research from all sources, forecast models can have more specific information about storms that directly affect the U.S.

The winter missions through Apr. 30.

Community health, family readiness assessment survey to be sent Jan. 25

Air Force News Service

SAN ANTONIO — Invitations to take the 2011 Air Force Community Assessment will be sent out Jan. 25.

The assessment is designed to assist chaplains and people working in installation-level Airman and family readiness centers, family advocacy programs, health and wellness centers, mental health clinics and child and youth programs to better meet the needs of service members and their families.

“This important survey provides ... a means to ensure that community interventions are timely, focused and data-driven,” said Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Charles Green, Air Force surgeon general. “In its 20-year history, the Community Assessment has been instrumental in determining the strengths and needs of Air Force communities and tailoring programs at the installation, major command and Air Force levels.”

Topics covered in the survey include personal and family adjustment, individual and family adaptation, community

well-being, deployment, resiliency, post-traumatic stress and help-seeking stigma.

Approximately 160,000 active duty members, 40,000 reservists, 160,000 spouses of active duty members and 10,000 spouses of reservists will be randomly selected to participate in the survey. All appropriated fund civilians also will be asked to participate in the survey. The survey will be available through March 25 and is anonymous.

A notification letter including a link to the Web-based survey will be sent out to the work e-mail address of each service member selected to participate. Spouses will be sent a postcard in the mail with the Web link. Everyone selected is encouraged to participate to aid in the success in the project.

The survey should take service member and spouse participants 30-45 minutes to complete.

Data collected from the survey will be analyzed and briefed to wing and Air Force leaders. The information will help make community-wide

program planning and resource allocation decisions, which ultimately enhance the quality of life, readiness and retention of Air Force personnel.

During an address to members of the Air Force Sergeants Association, Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley noted that Airmen perform to their highest potential if they are unencumbered by home-front or family issues.

“The Air Force has long been recognized as the service for its exceptional commitment to people and to families,” he said.

Previous survey results are credited with expanding financial counseling programs to members and their families, developing a user-friendly support network for Air Force single parents and setting up marriage-support seminars for junior enlisted members and their spouses.

This survey is not to be confused with the Caring For People Survey which assesses quality of life and base support programs. The Caring For People Survey ended Dec. 31.

Patient survey provides vital feedback

By Lt. Col. Jerry Harvey

Air Force Medical Service

Office of the Chief Information Officer

WASHINGTON — Patient feedback through the service delivery assessment, a centralized telephone survey program, provides Air Force clinics with direct, rapid and relevant feedback vital to national security, Air Force Medical Service officials said.

“Improving the health of Airmen and their families is our mission and patient feedback is vital to our efforts to continuously improve,” said Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Charles Green, the Air Force Surgeon General.

Since 2003, Air Force Medical Service officials have relied on SDA to assess and improve upon the patient experience at all Air Force clinics. Survey questions are customized by each facility. The results are disseminated in a weekly report to the facility’s staff and AFMS leadership.

The weekly report allows Air Force clinics to quickly take corrective action in areas where there are shortcomings or improvement needs. It also helps Air Force clinics understand what

is working well at their facility, promote and perfect best practices, and share successes with other facilities through lessons learned.

The reports have shown that Air Force health care providers and staff members are succeeding in this mission by upholding the highest standards of care and delivering that care with courtesy, respect and dignity to every patient.

The way SDA works is simple, officials said. A trained caller contacts the patient by phone within 48 hours after the patient’s visit to an Air Force clinic. The interviews typically last less than five minutes, and as with all matters related to a patient’s health, complete patient privacy is maintained.

Questions focus on the patient’s observations about the facility and the patient’s health care providers, including ease of setting the appointment, check-in and wait time, staff courtesy and attention, overall satisfaction with the facility, and overall satisfaction with the provider.

Through programs like SDA, AFMS officials can continue to build on successes, and fulfill their pledge to maintain a healthy, steady and ready fighting force.

Pediatric care clinic provides quality care through prevention

By Maj. (Dr.) Eric Flake

81st Medical Operations Squadron

Keesler's pediatric clinic currently cares for more than 6,500 children from birth to 18 years of age and welcomes an average of 50 newborns to the clinic each month.

The clinic staff strives to provide the highest quality of care and a medical home for all military children. In accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the clinic's four pillars of prevention are:

Immunizations — The clinic's goal is to have 100 percent of children up-to-date with the latest immunizations, including the annual flu vaccine, since the benefits far outweigh the risks. At every clinic visit, providers will have the immunization record available for review with the parent to identify any needed vaccinations.

Breathe Easy — This monthly preventive asthma education is available and recommended to all patients with asthma. This proactive approach has significantly reduced clinic and emergency department visits as well as hospitalizations.

Obesity prevention — Keesler pediatricians have teamed up with the inaugural task force of the Southern Regional Institute to Conquer Childhood Obesity. The task force addresses this health crisis by working with multiple government agencies and corporations to empower the family and community in which military members reside to make healthy nutrition and physical activity choices.

Reach Out and Read — Early literacy promotion provides new books to children during well-child visits. This is the longest clinic-based literacy initiative in the Department of Defense and has been a part of Keesler's pediatric clinic for the past 10 years.

The last two pillars are of particular significance since Mississippi has the highest rates of obesity and illiteracy in the nation.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Capt. (Dr.) Laura Voegele, 81st Medical Operations Squadron pediatrician, examines 5-year-old Kevin Evatt Jan. 12 in the pediatric acute care walk-in clinic located within the Keesler emergency department. Kevin's parents are Staff Sgt. Jeffrey and Mary Evatt, 334th Training Squadron.

Pediatric acute illness walk-in clinic available

By Maj. (Dr.) Eric Flake

81st Medical Operations Squadron

The 81st Medical Operations Squadron's pediatric clinic and the 81st Medical Group Hospital's emergency department have teamed up to provide a pediatric acute care walk-in clinic during the cold and flu season.

Services are available within the emergency department, 8-11 a.m. weekdays, in an effort to provide the best quality service and access for Keesler's military children.

Parents wanting their child seen that day for an acute illness should check in at the emergency department where patients will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis by a member of the pediatrics staff. The walk-in clinic is in addition to the current 100+ daily appointments available in the pediatric and adolescent clinic.

Other services provided by Keesler's pediatric team include evaluation and treatment of mental health concerns and behavioral difficulties through the Supporting Toddlers to Adolescents Reach Success clinic. A pediatrician is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to answer acute concerns.

Parents and patients are encouraged to complete customer comment cards that are reviewed weekly to continue to improve services.

Diamond Sharp Airmen



From left, Staff Sgt. Ashley Brandmeier, 338th Training Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Tahisha Morgan, 81st Force Support Squadron, and Senior Airman Hana Webb, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron, received Diamond Sharp awards from the first sergeants council Jan. 11. The monthly awards recognize outstanding professionalism and dedication to duty.

81st Dental Squadron set to host 'Smile Day' for uninsured children

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Dental Squadron dental clinic hosts "Give Kids A Smile Day," 8 a.m. to noon Feb. 4.

The program provides uninsured children ages 3-12 years from active-duty and retired military families who aren't enrolled in the Tricare Dental Program (United Concordia) with free dental services ranging from screenings to fillings as part of the national event.

Pediatric dentist Maj. (Dr.) Stephen Gasparovich said appointments are on a walk-in basis the morning of the event and will be limited to the first 75 children.

He explained, "The 'Give Kids A Smile' national event is intended to provide free, desperately-needed dental services. It is part of the American Dental Association's 'Give Kids a Smile Program.' Last year, more than 46,000 team members nationwide participated.



"According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly one in four children ages 2 to 11 years has untreated cavities in their baby teeth," Dr. Gasparovich noted. "The National Institutes of Health report that 80 percent of tooth decay is found in just 25 percent of children, prima-

rily from low-income families.

This event will raise awareness of the epidemic of untreated dental disease occurring here and across the country and highlight the need to build local and public partnerships to increase access to oral health care to solve this crisis."

Caution advised for social media geotags, location-based services

By Tech Sgt. Karen Tomasik

Air Force Public Affairs Agency

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Social media offers many Airmen another way to keep in touch with colleagues, friends and family, but users need to be aware of the risks associated with technical tools that help them share information, officials said Jan. 7.

As more Airmen and their family members use smartphones to take pictures and access social networking sites, they could be inadvertently posting information showing the exact geographic location of their home, work location, or daily travel patterns through technology known as "geotagging."

"When Airmen post photos to the web or post their location via location-based software applications such as 'Foursquare' and 'Facebook Places,' a savvy terrorist or criminal can easily track where they live and work, their route of travel and even determine if they're away from home," said Maj. Gen. John Weida, the assistant deputy chief of staff for operations, plans and requirements. "These slips in innocent communication between, family, friends and colleagues can potentially cause an operations-security vulnerability."

Because geotagging adds geographical identification to photographs, video, websites and SMS messages, people can tag a location on their photos, even if their camera or smartphone does not have a GPS function.

"Geotags and location-based software updates are just the latest challenge; a simple search for 'Afghanistan' on sites such as Flickr or Google Images can reveal thousands of location tagged photographs that have been uploaded," General Weida said. "We need to encourage all Airmen, civilians, contractors, and family members to

practice good OPSEC and remain aware of what information they are placing in the public domain."

Many phones are automatically set up to capture this information by default, and users will have to navigate through their phone settings to disable this function.

Whether global contingency operations are classified or non-classified, the missions may be still be sensitive in nature and Airmen should not tag uploaded photos with their locations, General Weida said.

"When taking photos, Airmen should be aware of the surrounding area, understanding that even objects in a photo can give away critical, unclassified information such as the location, type of personnel or type of weapons being used during the mission," General Weida explained. "Publishing photos of mission locations can be detrimental to mission success."

The general added that Airmen often take smartphones or MP3 players to deployed locations, possibly enabling adversaries to develop a composite of uploaded images and information through the spectrum of commercial programs available.

"Exposing Airmen and unit locations gives the adversary an advantage that could impact the entire mission," General Weida said.

The general lauded the Army for its comprehensive product concerning geotagging that will also help educate the Air Force.

"It is well worth reading by Airmen at every level," General Weida said.

For more information, see the top 10 tips for social media on page 17 of the "Social Media and the Air Force" handbook available at www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-091210-043.pdf.

Master Sgt. Amaani Lyle contributed to this story



Keesler nurse greets president

First Lt. Erin Cornman, left, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron medical inpatient unit nurse, is among members of the 455th Expeditionary Medical Group at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, to meet President Barack Obama during his December visit to the hospital. The president addressed hundreds of base personnel during his visit.

White House photo

It's National Blood Donor Month

Armed Services Blood Program

January is National Blood Donor Month and the Armed Services Blood Program salutes the thousands of dedicated donors who give so that military men, women, retirees and their families have a fighting chance when ill or wounded.

Keesler is one of 20 ASBP centers in the continental United States, Hawaii, Japan and Germany.

"We at the Armed Services Blood Program know that the dedication of our loyal donors is what keeps the military blood program successful," said Col. Francisco Rentas, director. "It is because of them that our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines serving around the world receive the blood they need. We are sincerely thankful for their endless dedication and support."

Because blood is perishable and can be needed at any time, it must be collected continuously, making regular donors key to ensuring that blood is available year-round.



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Staff Sgt. Travis Gray, left, and Sheila Mitchell, laboratory technicians with the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, process blood after a unit blood drive last August.

Base donations keep flowing

The Keesler Blood Donor Center is located in the Arnold Medical Annex, off Meadows Drive just north of the base post office.

Last year, Keesler hosted 58 blood drives and collected 5,520 units of blood

"The ASBP plays a key role in providing quality blood products for all active-duty personnel and their families through a joint operation among the Air Force, Navy, Army and Marine Corps," said Lisa Lynn, Keesler recruiter. "Its many components work together to collect, process, store, distribute, and transfuse blood worldwide."

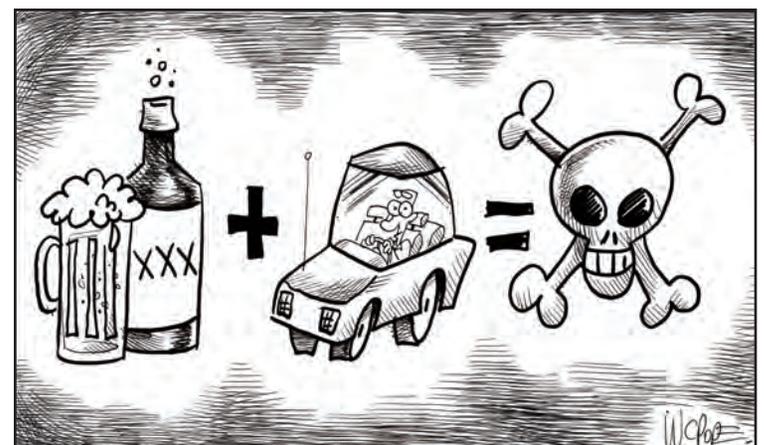
Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, and walk-ins are welcome.

For more information, call 376-6100.

Keeping the dream alive

Rev. Eric Dickey, pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church in Biloxi, was the guest speaker for Keesler's annual memorial luncheon honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Jan. 13 at the Bay Breeze Event Center. Retired Chief Master Sgt. Chris Moore was the vocalist and sang "If I Can Help Somebody."

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Tax office opens

The base tax office in Room 229, Sablich Center, is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on training Fridays.

For more information and appointments, call 376-8141.

Parenting class

The family advocacy class is sponsoring a three-session effective parenting program.

“1-2-3 Magic Parenting Class for Children 2-12,” is a humorous look at parenting and a serious look at discipline, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 25 and 27 and 11 a.m. to noon Jan. 28 in the Arnold Medical Annex conference room.

Seating is limited and participants are encouraged to attend all sessions.

To register, call 376-3457 or 34599 by Friday.

For more information about the program, log on to www.parentmagic.com.

Center closed

The airman and family readiness center is closed for leadership training Feb. 1.

Preseparation counseling and post-deployment briefings won't be conducted. Only emergency financial aide travel requests will be worked; call 376-8728 to schedule assistance.

Center closed

The Top III meets at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 8, third floor of Bay Breeze Event Center.

Supply classes

Quarterly supply classes are held in Room 109, Taylor Logistics Building.

Block I basic supply class is 9-10 a.m., March 17, Jun 16, Sept 22 and Dec 15.

All newly-assigned supply custodians and resource managers are required to attend.

Block IIA-Bench Stock and **Block IIB-Repair Cycle** are held 9-11 a.m. March 16, June 15, Sept. 21 and Dec 14.

Block III supplemental training is 1-2 p.m., Mar 17, Jun 16, Sep 22 and Dec 15. All newly-assigned supply equipment custodians are required to attend, as well as

eight days a week

Arts and crafts center

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-2821.

Friday — noon to 2 p.m., framing class, bring a 5x7-inch photograph to frame, \$25 includes supplies.

Saturday — 10 a.m., beginning wood-working, \$25 includes supplies; 10:30 a.m. to noon, glass painting, \$25 includes supplies

Sunday — 4-6 p.m., beginning ceramics, \$35 includes supplies.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

Monday-Jan. 27 — 2 p.m., twilight special, play unlimited golf until closing. For information on fees or tee time, call 377-3832.

Monday-Jan. 29 — golf lessons with a professional, by appointment only. \$30 per half-hour.

Daily — 6-9 a.m., breakfast in the snack bar.

Bay Breeze Community Center

Tuesday — 7-8 p.m., ballroom variety dance. Learn the cha-cha, swing, foxtrot and waltz. \$10 per class, per person. For more information, call 377-2509.

Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center

Friday — p.m. to midnight, glow bowling.

Saturday and Sunday — Nine-pin, no-tap tournament, bowl as many three-game series as you want. \$15 per person, per series.

Weekdays — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., bowling lunch special, buy any combo meal at the 11th Frame Café and get one free game of bowling.

all other custodians annually.

For more information, call 377-4480 or e-mail edmund.lee.3.ctr@us.af.mil.

Thrift shop

The Keesler Thrift Shop, operated by the Keesler Spouses Club, is at the corner of Meadows Drive and First Street.

Profits benefit base and area charities and provide scholarships.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Consignments are accepted 9

a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays.

Pickup is available for donations, such as kitchen items, small appliances, furniture, rugs, household items and infant and children's items.

For more information, call 377-3217.

Airman's Attic

Airman's Attic, at the corner of Meadows Drive and 1st Street, assists junior enlisted members with obtaining free basic household items.

Donations are needed such as

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

Editor's note: Must be age 18 or older to enter collocated lounge.

Weekdays — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., all-you-can-eat lunch buffet and salad bar in the casual dining area. \$6.95 members, \$8.95 nonmembers.

Friday — 5-8 p.m., jazz night in the lounge; 8 p.m. to midnight, dance night in the lounge.

Saturday — 4-7 p.m., social hour; 8 p.m. to midnight, Motown sounds in the lounge.

Sunday — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. champagne brunch in the ballroom. \$14.95 members, nonmembers \$16.95. For information or reservations, call 377-2334.

Wednesday — 4 p.m., Wingman Wednesday in the lounge. \$5 domestic draft pitchers. Wings and things free for members, nonmembers pay \$3 at the door.

Vandenberg Community Center

Weekdays — 6-7 p.m., tae kwon do for ages 18 and older; \$75 per month per person.

Airman and family readiness center

Editor's note: To register for classes, call 376-8728.

Tuesday — 9-11:30 a.m., civilian jobs resume writing, Room 110, Sablich Center. Learn about formatting options and how to concisely present accomplishments. Bring a resume if you have one.

Wednesday — 9-11:30 a.m., career skills assessment, Room 108A, Sablich Center.

Jan. 27 — 3:30-5 p.m., Airmen on the move, Room 110, Sablich Center.

eral civilian employees.

The three-part class focuses on exercise, nutrition and behavior modifications. It's recommended for people who aren't sure how to start an exercise program or make improvements in overall health, fitness and diet. It's taught by an exercise physiologist, the HAWC dietician and a mental health technician.

Specific modules are offered each month that members can attend, such as running, strength training and healthy weight.

For more information, call the HAWC, 376-3170.

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

Visitor center hours

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

Intramural basketball season winds down

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Intramural basketball teams in two leagues are wrapping up regular season play and are getting ready for the postseason tournament.

A coaches meeting at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday firms up the details for this year's championship competition. Intramural sports director Sam Miller said the top four teams in the Eastern and Western Conferences advance to a double elimination playoff within their division. Divisional winners face off in the championship game. The playoff schedule will be available Jan. 28.

At the end of last week, the undefeated 81st MDG remained atop the Eastern Conference at 6-0. The medics' closest competitors are the newcomers from the Seabee Base, 6-2, and the 81st Security Forces Squadron, 5-1.

The top Western Conference team at the end of last week was the 403rd Wing, 7-1. Two teams are tied at 5-2 for second place — the 338th Training Squadron's A-team and the 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Kevontay Wright, left, and Calvin Lyons, 332nd Training Squadron surround Jonathan White as he attempts to get control of the ball in a Western Conference matchup Jan. 13. The 332nd TRS took the win, 46-41.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



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

Race benefits Fisher House

The Fighting for Freedom race is Feb. 26 in Gulfport at 9138 Carl Leggett Road at Cowan-Lorraine Road.

The race benefits Keesler's Fisher House.

The 5-k starts at 9 a.m. and the 1 mile "fun run" begins at 9:30.

The race is open to runners, joggers and walkers of all ages and abilities.

Early registration is \$15 and must be post marked by Feb. 1. Late registration, available up until race day, is \$20.

For more information call 604-2227.

FIT FOR FREEDOM

