



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

JAN. 27, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 4



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www.keesler.af.mil

Professional military education vital to Air Force

By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

This week, I traveled to the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., to attend a six-week developmental education course for general officers titled CAPSTONE. This course is focused on the employment of U.S. forces in the joint and combined operations and the curriculum includes lessons in national security decision making, military strategy, joint doctrine, interoperability and developing partnerships with key partner nations. While six weeks is a long time to be away, professional developmental education remains extremely important to me for several reasons.

First, as Airmen, we must be well-versed in how air, space and cyber forces operate in a joint force to support the mission and requirements of the combatant commanders. This is not an easy task; however, this course will provide me another opportunity to examine ongoing joint operations to better understand how air, space, and cyber forces

integrate into today's joint force. A review of the current joint operations will update my understanding of how airpower integrates to joint operations. Equally important, this will improve my understanding of the latest capabilities, such as the MC-12, that the Air Force brings to the joint fight today.

Further, this course should offer me the opportunity to see if what we are training in the 81st Training Wing, particularly in the realm of cyber operations, is relevant to joint operations and joint commanders. To keep our wing relevant, it's imperative to ensure the skills we train are the skills necessary to meet the requirements of the joint warfighter. My class will meet with several of the combat commanders, and I look forward to hearing their requirements and expectations of our undergraduate cyber training graduates to ensure Keesler training will meet their needs.

During this course, my class will meet with all the service chiefs, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of Defense. These meetings should provide key insights into the latest

policy decisions that I can use to effectively implement them at Keesler. Sustaining our "excellent" rating in future compliance inspections requires us to remain aware of changes in existing policy and guidance and implement those changes effectively throughout the base. Senior leader insight to key policy decisions is certain to help as we look to sustain Team Keesler's excellence.

Keen insight into ongoing operations, improved understanding of the integration of air, space and cyber forces into joint operations, ensuring the relevance of our mission and gaining valuable insight into policy decisions which will shape our future Air Force are insights I'm certain to gain from this round of developmental education.

These are also areas in which you can improve if you challenge yourself to continue to complete developmental education throughout your career. As Airmen, remaining current and relevant in our profession is extremely important and developmental education is a vital tool to sustain this relevance. Yes, PDE is for me, too!

DUI prevention starts before that first drink

By Staff Sgt. Kenyatta Curtis
and Paul Ahlberg

81st Medical Operations Squadron

Perhaps one of the most pressing problems facing many of my fellow Airmen is preventing driving under the influence of alcohol. In the past year, 41 Team Keesler members were arrested for DUI and seen in the alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment clinic. Plan ahead! Don't be one of these people.

In the United States, 11,769 men and women were killed by drunk drivers in 2009. The 21-24 age group accounted for 33 percent of all alcohol impaired drivers who died in accidents in 2009. The 25-34 demographic accounted for 31 percent, while those from 35-44 years of age accounted for 25 percent. In Mississippi, car accident statistics for 2009 showed 783 fatalities, with 297 or 38 percent a direct result of drunk driving.

Like our civilian counterparts, getting a DUI results in many repercussions, a few of which are specific to the military world. For active-duty members, incidents involving drinking and driving can lead to disciplinary/legal actions and substance

abuse treatment requirements that include mandatory completion of the ADAPT program. Legal consequences in the military are severe and could include but are not limited to an Article 15, fines and forfeitures of pay, extra duty, loss of rank, loss of security clearance, loss of flying status and personnel reliability program, administrative discharge, court-martial conviction, bad conduct discharge and incarceration. Additionally, it can play a major role in your career and severely limit chances for promotion.

Despite consequences some individuals become involved in another DUI incident and must repeat the process again. The majority of incidents come from individuals thinking they are "fine" to drive or "I don't have that far to drive so I'll be OK."

Alcohol has many effects on the body, especially the areas of the brain that affect your ability to drive. We make poor decisions because our brain chemistry is altered and prevents us from thinking rationally. Regardless of the situation, it's never OK to get behind the wheel of a motor vehicle whether you consumed one or 10 alcoholic beverages — buzzed driving is drunk driving!

What happens to alcohol once it enters the body? It takes one hour for

the liver to process one drink and 1½ hours for alcohol to metabolize out of your system. I've heard different stories where individuals try to do the math and wait for the alcohol to leave their system. That's almost impossible because you have to take other things into consideration such as the type of drink you were consuming, body weight, how fast you drank and other variables.

To prevent DUI incidents:

- Ideally, if you're planning to drive, don't drink at all. Even small quantities of alcohol can impair performance.

- 0-0-1-3 is a great guideline to responsible drinking: 0 underage drinking, 0 DUIs, one drink per hour and no more than three drinks per setting.

- Plan ahead before drinking starts. Where are you going? Are you going to multiple places? How are you getting there and how are you returning home?

- Use the wingman system: Go out with a friend who isn't drinking or a group with a non-drinking designated driver and designated thinker.

- Have your Airmen Against Drunk Driving program card and numbers available. Use them and never give yourself a chance to drive.

Call 377-SAVE, a cab or your supervisor for a safe ride.

- Don't be "That Guy" or That Gal." DUI, driving while intoxicated and public intoxication are crimes. Just because the casinos are serving free drinks doesn't mean you give up your discipline.

- Eat before and while you drink and alternate alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

- Drink slowly and limit the amount you drink to no more than two or three drinks. Remember it takes up to 1½ hours for your body to process one drink. For most DUIs, the individual had five or more drinks. Time is the only thing that will sober you up.

- Be a responsible party host. Ensure your guests have a safe way home: Take keys, call a cab for them, take them home if you haven't been drinking or let them spend the night. Serve a variety of non-alcoholic beverages in addition to food at your parties. Have an enjoyable activity for your guests to prevent excessive use of alcohol.

- Always use good, common sense when you use alcohol. Never



ON THE COVER

Staff Sgt. David Flowers speaks to students at the Mathies NCO Academy Jan. 20. Sergeant Flowers, an instructor at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., lost his right leg in a landmine explosion while deployed to Afghanistan. He was one of 18 Airmen cited for their bravery and heroism in the fifth volume of the Air Force's "Portraits in Courage" released in December. Sergeant Flowers, who also spoke to students at Airman Leadership School, made the trip to Keesler while visiting family members in Biloxi and Diamondhead, Miss. Photo by Senior Airman Eric Summers Jr.



DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

What kind of music do you have on your iPod?



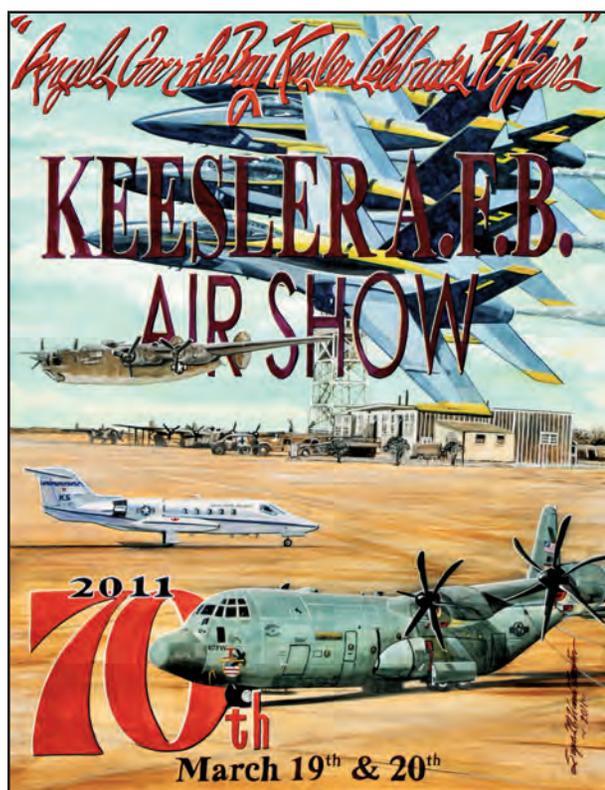
"I listen to anything that motivates me throughout the day."
Airman 1st Class Jimmy Chanthavong, 338th Training Squadron



"Korn and Disturbed."
Chief Master Sgt. Richard Boulanger, 334th Training Squadron



"Jazz — it reminds me of New Orleans and puts me in a good mood."
Michele Carroll, K-Mar Industries



Don't drink and drive.

Call
Airmen Against
Drunk Driving,
377-SAVE,
for a
safe ride home.

20 saves
so far this year

DUI prevention, from Page 2

let anyone drink and drive and never ride with someone who has been drinking.

- As active-duty members, we all need to look out for one other. Despite frequent prevention briefings, individuals continue to make poor decisions that lead to legal issues, medical problems and social consequences. Thankfully, there are more success stories of people learning from the mistakes of others and avoiding the same mistakes. With more education to military personnel, we can decrease the high number of DUIs and save the lives and careers of many military members.

For more information about alcohol facts, drinking and driving, services and assistance, call ADAPT, 376-3452.

KEESLER NEWS

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Team Keesler takes part in AETC Symposium

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Editor's note: Related story on Page 8.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — The 81st Training Wing and 2nd Air Force headquarters sent a contingent of 128 enlisted members, officers and civilians to the 2011 Air Education and Training Command Symposium, Jan. 20-21 in San Antonio, Texas.

The fifth annual event, cosponsored with the Alamo Chapter of the Air Force Association, showcased the most innovative technological advances in Air Force training.

More than 3,500 Airmen, civilians, civic leaders, sister-service members and foreign officials were offered an opportunity to participate in 113 seminars with topics ranging from information overload to installation energy security and from ice storm recovery operations to humanitarian missions.

The exposition hall featured presentations from the 81st Training Wing, 2nd Air Force, 68 other military booths and 66 vendor and sponsor exhibits

Guest speakers included Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, U.S. Southern Command Commander Gen. Douglas Fraser and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy.

A general officer panel included Gen. Edward Rice Jr., AETC com-



Photos by Susan Griggs

From left, Barry Davis and Jesse Cheeseman, 81st TRSS, talk to Airman 1st Class Sean Medlin about training innovations at Keesler. Airman Medlin is from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

mander; Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, 2nd Air Force commander; Lt. Gen. Allen Peck, Air University commander; Maj. Gen. Mark Solo, 19th Air Force commander; Maj. Gen. Jack

Ramsaur, AETC mobilization assistant, and Brig. Gen. Baylan Ayyar, Air Force Recruiting Service commander.

Chief Master Sgt. Linus Jordan, 2nd Air Force command chief, was one of five speakers on AETC's command chief panel.

Keesler claimed several awards.

The 81st Force Support Squadron won the inaugural award recognizing the top Heartlink program for military spouses in the command.

The 81st Training Support Squadron received a plaque as runner-up in the command's third annual Learning Innovation Award program after winning top honors last year.

Lt. Col. Janet Pattison, 81st TRSS commander, said a fused deposition modeling system has improved training aid fidelity by 100 percent with realistic equipment reproductions. The machine saved \$625,000 in man-hours through digital manufacturing instead of hand crafting and saved \$200,000 in outsourcing costs by being able to make the training aids in-house. Other tools highlighted were the multi-cam numeric control router, embedded programming systems and a new powder-coat paint booth.

Master Sgt. Daryl Bagley, previ-

ously the noncommissioned officer in charge of plans and integration for the 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, won the Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award. He was recently assigned to United States Air Forces in Europe at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

"There were multiple training seminars each hour and you could choose the topic of interest, broadening the learning experience," said Capt. Jason Williams, 81st Security Forces Squadron. "It was a great networking tool, meeting new people from different bases and career fields and reconnecting with old friends I haven't seen in years."

"I was able to spend some time with AETC and defense contractor software developers," noted Staff Sgt. Dustin Beach, 81st TRSS. "I took away some great ideas and examples on how to keep the 81st TRSS on the cutting edge of technology."

Staff Sgt. Tammi Fish, 81st Medical Support Squadron, pointed out, "It's not very often that we get to hear the Chief Master Sergeant and the Secretary of the Air Force brief. I was very impressed with all of the seminars and key speakers — it was definitely an inspiring and rewarding experience."



Joanne Baquero, left, demonstrates 2nd Air Force's training continuum digital dashboard to Lt. Col. Janet Pattison, 81st Training Support Squadron commander. The digital dashboard, part of the Technical Training Management System, eliminates many data-crunching manhours in tracking the status of students in training.

Portrait in Courage

Wounded warrior visits Keesler

By Senior Airman
Eric Summers Jr.

Keesler Public Affairs

A wounded warrior featured in the Air Force's recent issue of "Portraits of Courage" spoke to students in the Mathies NCO Academy and Airman Leadership School Jan. 20.

Staff Sgt. David Flowers, now an explosive ordnance disposal instructor at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., spoke words of encouragement and experience as he told his story about how his life changed forever after a tour in Afghanistan.

"As EOD, we are sometimes imbedded with the Army," Sergeant Flowers explained. "We had been in the village all week looking for weapons when somebody gave up a lead to a weapons cache. When we walked in we saw a pile of weapons and ordnances.

"My team leader began working on the on the obvious hazards of the weapons as I continued to search for more following a wire," he continued. "During the initial sweep, I stepped forward on an anti-personnel mine, blowing my leg off and hurling my right foot at my face."

Despite the explosion that completely shattered his left leg and left him severely wounded, Sergeant Flowers continued performing his duties. He fell back into the blast hole to prevent other landmines from exploding and to save his team from similar injuries.

"After the blast, my friend sprinted across the field and put a tourniquet on my legs and gave me an IV," Sergeant Flowers recalled. "I then asked my friend to pick me up and carry me and he did. The doctor said if I would have been five minutes later that I would have lost too much blood and I would have died."



Photo by Senior Airman
Eric Summers Jr.

Sergeant Flowers, who lost his right leg when he stepped on a landmine while deployed to Afghanistan, is now an explosive ordnance disposal instructor at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

When asked how prepared he was for his ordeal, Sergeant Flowers responded, "I was very prepared for it and knew what could happen, but it was my spouse who was unprepared and I hold myself accountable.

"My wife found out through the appropriate channels," he said. "She received

a knock at the door and fell to the floor and started crying when she heard the news.

"I came out the surgery two hours later and talked to her," Sergeant Flowers stated. "She sat with me in the hospital. I think it was harder on her than it was on me, but she did what any good spouse would do.

"I think it's a personal thing how you prepare your family, but make sure they are prepared and aware of what could happen," he added.

Sergeant Flowers, who spent 18 months at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, told students, "The lessons that are taught may not make much sense right now, but they will later. A lot of things didn't make sense when I was here, but my experience has made sense of them now."

On the topic of recovery, Sergeant Flowers said, "That's something that varies from person to person, but for me from Day One, today is 100 times better than yesterday."

Sergeant Flowers also explained that injuries from war are not always external and may involve mental changes.

"Your job as supervisors is to look for signs in your Airmen — it's your responsibility to know and take care of your airmen," Sergeant Flowers stressed. "We as military members have a lot to deal with that most people will never deal with, such as going (on temporary duty), deploying to stressful environments and leaving our families."

Sergeant Flowers is currently going through the medical board process and hopes to be able to return to the area of responsibility as an EOD specialist.

"That's my goal — I want to be chief," he said.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

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 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.

MGCCC spring term

Pre-registration starts Monday for active-duty mili-

tary members for the spring session for Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Keesler Center.

All others may register Feb. 14-28. The term begins Feb. 28.

The spring schedule is found on the college's website, www.mgccc.edu.

For more information, call 376-8477 or visit the office in the Room 221, Sablich Center.

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 information are available at www.keeslerspousesclub.com or call 273-2489 or 243-7133.

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.

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.

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.

Four Keesler heroes honored during annual AETC Symposium

AETC Public Affairs
and Keesler Public Affairs

Editor's note: For another story about the AETC Symposium, see Page 4.

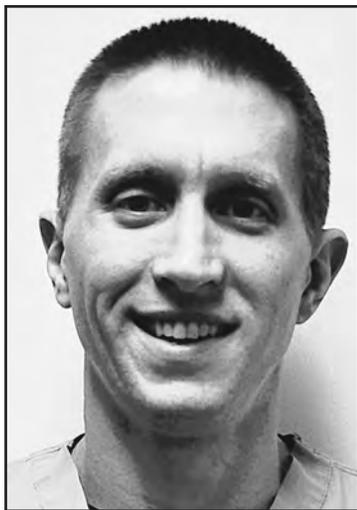
SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Nearly 1,000 Airmen from across Air Education and Training Command gathered here Friday to hear Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley during the Air Education and Training Command Ball.

The ball, the largest formal event hosted by the command, concluded the AETC Symposium and Exposition. More than 3,500 Airmen, civilians, civic leaders, sister-service members and foreign officials participated in the two-day event.

The ball's theme was celebrating AETC heroes, said retired Lt. Gen. John Hopper Jr., former AETC vice commander.

Six heroes, chosen by command officials for their courage, quick thinking and selflessness, were featured in a series of video vignettes that highlighted their life-saving actions.

Four of the six were from Keesler — Dr. (Maj.) Stephen Boskovich, Airmen 1st Class Anna Martin and Georgina



Dr. Boskovich

Floyd and Airman Floyd's husband, Jordan Floyd. Dr. Boskovich is from the 81st Medical Operations Squadron, Airman Martin is from the 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron and Airman Floyd is from the 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron.

Dr. Boskovich headed Keesler's critical care air transport team that cared for and evacuated patients injured during the catastrophic earthquake that devastated Haiti, Jan. 12, 2010. Airmen Martin and the Floyds rescued two victims from a submerged vehicle.

Secretary Donley spoke about the vital role Airmen play in our national defense, noting that it takes an entire Air Force to accomplish even the smallest mission.

"To talk about our Air Force is to talk about heroes," Secretary Donley said. "Many will claim that heroes save lives. True enough. We've heard stories of that this evening, and no one would argue the point. We honor the individuals tonight who've done exactly that.

"But in our Air Force, we're surrounded by everyday heroes," he added. "The word 'hero' is Greek for 'protector' or 'defender,' and each Airman in our Air Force has taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, so it sounds to me like you're defenders, which is English for that Greek word 'heroes.'"

"We are blessed as a nation, as an Air Force, to have so many heroes in our ranks," the secretary said. "Every Airman depends on every other Airman to accomplish important missions. All of whom will affect the outcome; all of whom are heroes, in that they too are part of the defense of our great nation and what America stands for."

Gen. Edward Rice Jr., AETC commander, concluded the evening's festivities by thanking the assembled Airmen for attending the symposium and ball.

More important than attendance, he said, was that the audience use what it saw and actively learned over the past two days to improve the Air Force.

"Take what we learned these past two days, and go out and use it to make a difference," he said.

Capt. John Severns, AETC Public Affairs, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

The Floyds and Airman Martin rescued two passengers from a submerged vehicle. The two Airmen went through basic training together. Airman Floyd arrived at Keesler in March and Airman Martin arrived in May.

IN THE NEWS

Wingman Day planned

From 1-4 p.m. Feb. 23, units of the 81st Training Wing stand down from technical training, support activities and non-emergency operations to observe Wingman Day.

The focus of Wingman Day is resiliency, which is defined as "the ability to withstand, recover and grow in the face of stressors and changing demands."

Wingman Day activities will start with a 30-minute commander's call, followed by 90 minutes of small group discussion and conclude with an hour of team building exercises.

Squadron points of contact have more information on Wingman Day activities, including event locations and small group assignments.

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.

Wing annual awards dinner

The 81st Training Wing's annual awards dinner is 6:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

For tickets or more information, call Master Sgt. Jakelyne Kamarakafego, 377-7338.

Office moves

The 81st Medical Group Hospital's Tricare patient registration and outpatient records customer service office has moved from Room 1A222 on the first floor to Room GF400 on the ground floor.

The new location is just off the outpatient clinic lobby behind the information desk.

Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday. The phone number for Tricare patient registration is 376-4742 and the phone number for outpatient records customer service is 376-4754.

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 Popps Ferry Road

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

Dragons deployed — 224



Reservist pins on first star

Staff Sgt. Ashley Brunson, left, serving as proffer, stands by as Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, 2nd Air Force commander, and Col. Andrew Cain, vice commander, pin stars on Brig. Gen. Norman Ham Jr., Jan. 5. General Ham has served as General Hertog's mobilization assistant since May 2008. He was commissioned in 1981 and served on active duty until 1990 as an aircraft commander, life support officer and assistant executive officer to the Air Force vice chief of staff. As a reservist, he's served as chief of an air traffic operations center, command and control officer, C-130H aircraft commander and operations officer. He was chief of operational plans, long range plans and flight safety at 22nd Air Force. He commanded an airlift squadron which deployed to Afghanistan and served as vice commander of an airlift wing, where he completed a 195-day deployment as a combined air operations center battle commander. He's a command pilot with more than 11,000 hours of military and civilian flying time, including combat missions in support of Operations Joint Endeavor, Joint Forge and Enduring Freedom. In his civilian capacity, he's been employed since 1990 by a major airline and is qualified as a captain on the B-737-800.

Photo by Adam Bond

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.

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.

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.

11 Keesler first lieutenants selected for promotion

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Eleven Keesler first lieutenants have been selected for promotion to captain.

81st Inpatient Operations Squadron — Candida Davis, Amanda Matti, Jeanette Myers and Mary Peterson.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — Leigh Fuller, Nicole Huch and Thomas Stallworth.

81st Surgical Operations Squadron — Ashley King.

333rd Training Squadron — Shawn Adams, Kelly Lehman and Louis Nguyen.

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



Major Brown



Colonel Henriques



Captain Williams



Captain Garcia



Major Green



Major Cordry



Sergeant Grizzard



Captain Shirah



Ms. Gibson



Lieutenant Hyde

81st Medical Group wins 20 AETC awards

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Members of the 81st Medical Group earned 15 individual and five team honors in the 2010 Air Education and Training Command Air Force Medical Service awards competition.

Large dental clinic – 81st Dental Squadron. Commanded by Col. (Dr.) Nicholas Miniotis, the clinic was cited for leading a Panama dental readiness training (DENTRETE) mission in which 20 medics set up operations and treated patients in an austere environment. They treated 1,200 patients and completed 4,000 dental procedures plus 1,003 lab procedures. The staff also responded to humanitarian crises in Haiti and Chile by screening and clearing 100 81st MDG deployers.

Outstanding junior clinical dentist of the Year – Dr.

(Maj.) **Jeffrey Brown**, oral and maxillofacial surgeon. His nomination noted he was “the No. 1 clinical provider among 40 dentists, treating 1,260 patients, completing 4,300 procedures and 120 intravenous sedations.” He mentored 20 residents and guided oral maxillofacial surgery training with more than 420 staffing encounters and 250+ IV sedations.

Outstanding dental officer – Lt. Col. Andre Henriques, dental laboratory flight commander. He was recognized for leading the Panama DENTRETE. He mentored 20 residents, directing prosthodontic training and producing the civilian equivalent of more than \$500,000 in balanced clinical, teaching and management duties. In addition, Colonel Henriques was selected as program director for the new advanced clinical program in implant dentistry.

Critical care nurse – Capt. Patricia Williams, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron critical care flight element leader. During her deployment in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, she transported 47 critical patients during 30 incident-free aeromedical evacuation missions. As nursing critical care air transport team leader at Balad Air Base, Iraq, she served as AE liaison, streamlining 103 patient evacuations.

Medical surgical nurse – Capt. Reynel Garcia, clinical nurse with the 81st IPTS surgical inpatient flight. Captain Garcia was recognized for mentoring and being preceptor to 12 nurse transition program students, four civilian registered nurses and 37 Aerospace Medical Apprentice Phase II course students. He provided direct care to 437 patients and managed more than 800 cardiac, orthopedic, general sur-

gery and ear, nose and throat patients and was credited with saving \$7.3 million in referrals.

Best inpatient facility patient safety program – 81st IPTS. The unit “skillfully cared for 4,200 patients; precepted 240 registered nurses, technicians and students; and ‘grew’ 17 new physicians. They also saved \$24 million in civilian referrals.”

The team also securely opened new inpatient services, including continuous renal replacement therapy, vascular surgery, gynecology oncology, infertility and cardiac intervention.

Emergency clinical nurse – Maj. Suzanne Green, 81st Medical Operations Squadron emergency services nurse manager. Her nomination noted she had been hand-picked to be project officer for The Joint Commission review and Health Services Inspec-

tion, garnering an “excellent” rating for the medical group. In addition, she spearheaded the largest 81st MDOS self-inspection program, coordinating the survey for seven flights of 450 personnel. Major Green also instructed 30 RNs in advanced trauma skills, honing staff wartime readiness by 30 percent and saving \$12,000 in temporary duty funds.

John C. Flanagan Senior Psychologist Award – Maj. David Cordry, 81st MDOS mental health flight commander. His nomination noted he “excelled in an O-5 position in the dual role flight commander and element chief, leading a 50-member staff in the Air Force’s second largest mental health flight.” He directed outreach for the 81st Training Group’s suicide



Airman Reed



Sergeant Wiese



Sergeant Deveraux



Airman Del'etoile



Sergeant Khamphan

Awards,

from Page 12

prevention program, Wingman Day and stand-down facilitator training.

Outstanding behavioral health team — 81st MDOS mental health. Six members of the flight deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and supported three manning assists to augment patient care that saved the Air Force \$35,000. The flight also saw 3,700 patients in mental health and more than 1,200 patients each in the behavioral health optimization program and alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment program. Easy beneficiary access saved \$865,000 in network referrals.

Chief Master Sgt. Anton Zembrod Diagnostic Imaging Technologist Award — Staff Sgt. Casey Grizzard, noncommissioned officer in charge of radiography and fluoroscopy for the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron diagnostic imaging flight. She led the 34 staff members and nine students in the flight's largest element which conducts 2,200 exams monthly. She coordinated the workflow on \$9.5 million-worth of equipment, seeing 100 patients each day. She also led the mammography element during their NCOIC's absence, managing three staff members who served 700 patients.

Outstanding health or

medical physicist specialist — Capt. Jason Shirah, 81st MDTS radiation safety officer. Among his accomplishments, Captain Shirah was the command's top choice to review a new Air Force instruction. He identified six issues which resulted in \$160,000 in savings for the Air Force and averted a radiation oncology shutdown. He crafted the \$1.8 million nuclear medicine clinic renovation and led the \$12 million radiation oncology clinic revamp. The latter resulted in "\$3.5 million in exceptional care delivered to 500 patients per month."

Outstanding nutritional medicine civilian — Rubyanna Gibson, 81st MDTS food service worker. Ms. Gibson was recognized for optimizing creation of more than 250,000 meals. She was vital to the preparation of 18,000 inpatient meals and ensured diet compliance and patient satisfaction. She effectively communicated and fostered relations with four inpatient units and aided the setup and service of 10 theme and distinguished visitor meals.

Outstanding company grade dietician — 1st Lt. Justin Hyde, 81st MDTS clinical dietetics chief. While deployed, Lieutenant Hyde "drove nutrition operations for the (area of responsibility's) largest trauma center." The operation provided 150,000 meals, including 3,600 Halal meals sanctioned by Islamic law. The lieutenant also implemented a post-discharge phone consult for "at risk"

patients that "affording clinical care to 40 potentially malnourished patients and executed a massive revision of inpatient therapeutic menus."

Pharmacy team — 81st MDTS pharmacy staff.

The 93-member team led five geographically-separated units, Phase II, oncology and overseas contingency operations, dispensing \$30 million in medications to 78,000 patients. The pharmacy achieved an "outstanding" rating from The Joint Commission and an "rxcellent" from the Health Services Inspection. In addition, the pharmacy team completed the four-year, \$2.9 million BX pharmacy, "an Air Force model."

Olson/Wegner Outstanding Aerospace Medicine Award Airman — Senior Airman John Reed, 81st AMDS aerospace medical technician. Airman Reed managed ambulance equipment valued at \$455,000, built a sterile supply tracking tool and relabeled \$60,000 in material to ensure the flight medicine clinic was 100 percent mission ready. He also led three medics for life-flight emergency transportation, stabilized the patient with oxygen to safely transport the patient to the aircraft.

Olson/Wegner Outstanding Aerospace Medicine Award NCO — Tech. Sgt. Matthew Wiese, 81st AMDS flight medicine clinic. He was NCO in charge of two operational teams who led 11 medical technicians and three flight surgeons. He also

spearheaded the group's advanced trauma life support course program, creating a new course for 32 providers that provided \$138,000 worth in local training and saved \$86,000 in costs. Sergeant Wiese was nominated by the 81st MDG for the Lance P. Sijan Award and was hand-picked as an Air Mobility Command Inspector General team member.

Col. Cleveland L. Parker Award, senior NCO category — Senior Master Sgt. Jason Devereaux, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron public health flight chief. He was a design consultant and inspector for the new Armed Forces Retirement Home dining facility and saved the facility \$40,000 in yearly county fees. He managed Keesler food safety program, directing 262 food facility inspections which guaranteed the safety of \$53.6 million worth of food. He oversaw reviews of the medical records of 622 deployers with a 99.9 percent accuracy rate.

Outstanding biomedical equipment repair airman — Senior Airman Aaron De L'etoile, 81st Medical Support Squadron biomedical equipment technician. He was cited for managing the medical group's scheduled maintenance for a month, overseeing completion of 680 work orders with a 97.8 percent rate — 2.8 percent above the Air Force standard. He created 644 equipment data files and standardized 6,000 equipment records. He led maintenance on a \$200,000 dermatology

laser, eliminating patient down time and saving \$10,000 in off-base referrals.

Surgeon General's medical information services NCO — Tech. Sgt. Judy Khamphan, 81st MDSS medical information management flight NCO in charge. Sergeant Khamphan was cited for spearheading the Air Force trunking system, programming 47 radios, four stations and ambulances and bolstering emergency response to 11,500 people. She also orchestrated Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office transfers, redistributing 367 excess automated data processing equipment items that saved \$62,000 and increased the warehouse footprint by 300 square feet.

Outstanding resource management team — 81st MDSS resource management flight. The team executed more than \$85 million in the end-of-year closeouts, modified 14 contracts, de-obligated and re-directed more than \$2.1 million and funded 100 percent of the hospital's requirements. The flight also strengthened the more than \$7 million reimbursement program and reenergized the uniform business office compliance program. The flight corrected an inefficient \$3.2 million travel programs and eliminated a Defense Travel System training gap, resulting in 98 percent customer satisfaction.

AETC winners now compete at Air Force level.

Saturday's gospel fest kicks off base observance



By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler's February observance of Black History Month gets an early start at 6 p.m. Saturday with the annual gospel fest at Triangle Chapel.

Joining the Keesler Gospel Choir are Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, Amazing Grace Ministries, New Light Baptist Church, and the Gospel Singing-gairs.

There's a free dinner in the Triangle Annex following the program.

For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) Ralph Elliott, 377-2520.

Other AAHC events continue in February and spill over into March and April.

Black History Month luncheon — Today is the deadline to make reservations for the African-American Heritage Committee's annual event, noon Feb. 3 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Rip Daniels, owner of WJZD-FM Radio in Gulfport is the guest speaker.

Tickets for the buffet are \$15. For reservations, call Cynthia Lee, 377-9386, or Kurt Higgins, 377-5250.

Bowling tournament — 11:30 a.m. Feb. 11, Gaudé Lanes.

The event benefits the Col. Lawrence Roberts Scholarship Fund.

The cost is \$50 for a five-member team for the nine-pin no-tap event.

For more information, call Mr. Higgins, 377-5250, or Master Sgt. Yolanda Jerry, 377-1201.

Soul food sampling — 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 25, youth center. Donations are accepted. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Rochelle Harden, 376-8662, or Staff Sgt. Ashley Brunson, 377-0378.

AAHC golf tournament — March 11, Bay Breeze Golf Course. \$50 per person for four-person team. For more information, call Mr. Higgins, 377-5250.

Sickle cell 5-kilometer run/walk — April 8, Blake Fitness Center. Registration 6:45 a.m., race time 7:30 a.m. Coast is \$10-\$15. For more information, call Sergeant Jerry, 377-1201, or Tech. Sgt. Tyrone Deckard, 376-6603.

Retirement Thrift Savings Plan contribution limits set for 2011

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board members announced the 2011 elective deferral limit for regular Thrift Savings Plan contributions will remain \$16,500, and TSP catch-up plan contribution limits will remain at \$5,500.

TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan that gives investors an opportunity to lower their taxes each year they contribute, because taxes are deferred until the employee withdraws from the account after retirement.

“It’s a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans,” said Kathryn Iapichino, a human resources specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center. “Funds come directly from each paycheck, so you never have to think about it. That makes it easier to pay yourself first,” she said.

TSP options include stocks, government securities or lifecycle funds.

Regular TSP contributions stop when contributions reach the annual maximum limit and automatically resume the next calendar year.

Catch-up contributions are additional tax-deferred contributions, separate from regular TSP contributions. To be eligible for catch-up contributions, investors must be age 50 or older the year the first deduction from pay occurs. Contributors must also be in a pay status and able to certify they will make, or have made, the maximum regular contributions by the end of the year.

Catch-up contributions automatically stop with the last pay date in the calendar year or when the maximum catch-up dollar limit is reached. Eligible employees must submit a new election each year.

Military members

Service members can contribute any whole percentage up to 92 percent of basic pay, as long as the annual total of the tax-deferred investment does not exceed \$16,500. Airmen may also invest all or part of their bonuses, special pay or incentive pay.

Members may enroll and adjust contribution amounts through their Defense Finance and Accounting Service myPay account, and elections made in the current month will be reflected on the leave and earnings statement for the next month.

Those serving in tax-free combat zones may contribute up to \$49,000 in annual contributions for 2011. The \$49,000 total includes tax-exempt combat zone contributions and regular deferred contributions.

Service members’ monthly contribution amounts are limited.

For more information, contact a TSP representative at 877-968-3778. Military members must complete and forward TSP-U-1-C, TSP Catch-Up Contribution Election Form, to their local finance office to make catch-up contributions.

Civilians

Civilians can contribute any whole percentage of their basic pay or a whole dollar amount each pay period to a regular TSP account. Air Force-serviced civilians may submit regular TSP enrollment elections or changes at any time, and contributions automatically continue into the new calendar year for those already in TSP.

Employees covered by the Federal Employees’ Retirement System must contribute at least 5 percent of their basic pay every pay period in order to receive maximum agency matching contributions throughout the year. Employees must designate a whole-dollar amount per pay-day for catch-up contribution elections.

Air Force-serviced civilians submit contribution elections through the Employee Benefits Information System web application, accessible through the Air Force Portal and AFPC personnel website (enter “Employee Benefits Information System” in the search function). Civilians can also submit elections through the automated phone system.

From duty locations outside the United States, dial the country-direct access number, then 800-525-0102, and follow the voice system prompts. Direct-access numbers can be found by logging on to <http://www.usa.att.com/traveler>. Hearing impaired employees may reach a benefits counselor by dialing toll free TDD 800-382-0893 or 210-565-2276 if calling within the San Antonio area.

For more information about TSP, go to www.tsp.gov, visit the Air Force personnel services website or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

**Raise your voice — honor your country.
If you’re interested in singing the National Anthem
at base or community ceremonies,
call YoLanda Wallace, 377-1179.**



Childbirth simulation

Second Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, right, observes members of the 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron family birthing center staff as they begin an obstetric emergency simulation Jan. 12. From left, staff members are medical technician Senior Airman Katadrian Handley and nurses Cindy Butz and Lidia Landry. According to Maj. Amber Barker, maternal child flight commander, the exercise used patient simulator "Katrina" to replicate a breech delivery. Seven medics participated in the event, including medical technicians, nurses, a midwife and pediatrician. One simulation each month covers a variety of topics such as postpartum hemorrhage and emergency cesarean sections, and are held multiple times so all staff are covered.

Photo by Steve Pivnick

Registration continues for Defense Biometric IDs

81st Security Forces Squadron

Registration continues for Defense Biometric Identification System cards at sites across the base.

Active-duty members and Defense Department employees register through March 31. Registration for retirees and dependants is April 1 through June 31, but the pass and ID office won't turn away those wishing to register earlier.

Registration sites are at the pass and registration office in the visitor center across from the White Avenue Gate, the military personnel section in Sablich Center, the exchange pharmacy, the 81st Medical Group Hospital's information desk and A tower lobby, 403rd Maintenance Squadron, Hewes Hall and the Levitow Training Support Facility.

With DBIDS, ID cards are scanned by gate guards with a hand-held device that provides real-time data that verifies identity electronically.

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

Registration takes five minutes and involves 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 section at the Sablich Center.

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.

For more information, call 377-3844.



Photo by Steve Pivnick
Kevin Davis, right, 81st Medical Support Squadron, has his electronic fingerprint taken as part of DBIDS registration in the 81st Medical Group Hospital outpatient clinic lobby Jan. 12. Staff Sgt. Christopher Jenkins, 81st Security Forces Squadron, conducted the processing. Another hospital processing point is located in the hospital's A Tower lobby.

Path of prayer leads chaplain, priest to Keesler

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

Many of us have interests or hobbies outside our work life, passionate pursuits that motivate us. But often they are merely a hat that we wear from time to time that only a select few know about. But Chaplain (Maj.) Henry Close wears his like a robe, literally, and is even known by a different name, Father Stefan Close, priest of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Biloxi.

"Henry was the name I was born with," Chaplain Close explained. "But when I became a priest, as a way to mark the transition, I was given a new name." And in 2009, Holy Trinity was given a new priest.

"It really was a blessing that just happened, an answer to prayer," said Chaplain Close about coming to Keesler and finding Holy Trinity.

"I was in Iraq when we learned of my assignment to Keesler," he recalled. "We knew nothing about this area. My wife began to ask around and got stories about hurricanes and horrible weather, alligators, snakes and cockroaches.

"But when we got here, we found the weather was actually quite nice," he continued. "The housing was brand new and the base had a good ministry attached to it. People actually drive 35 miles an hour down the main road, they're friendly, the food is really good and we're right on the water. It doesn't get any better than that!"

Chaplain Close arrived at Keesler in the summer of 2009. At that time there were only four Orthodox chaplains in the Air Force.

"I really thought I was going to have to start something from scratch," explained Chaplain Close when faced with that reality. "So I prayed."

It just so happened that there was a Greek Orthodox church just a few miles off base. It also just so happened that when Chaplain Close



Photos by Kemberly Groue
Chaplain Close briefs a room full of incoming students at the Levitow Training Support Facility on the various worship services they will find both on and off base.

went to church on the Sunday after he arrived, he learned they had been without a priest for almost a year. He spoke with his bishop and checked with his boss and the next thing he knew, a whole community of believers came to know Chaplain Henry Close as Father Stefan Close.

"It saved me from having to reinvent the wheel here," explained Chaplain Close on finding Holy Trinity. "Now our students can have a real church, with real little ol' grandmas, coffee, cookies and a choir."

Every Sunday, Chaplain Close picks up a handful of students from base and takes them to church. Attendance at Holy Trinity has doubled over the past year, and church members enjoy a vibrant community experience with youth activities, pastry sales and an annual Greek Festival.

Chaplain Close volunteers his time at Holy Trinity free of charge and received an award last year from the city of Biloxi for his services.

"But I am adamant about having them prepare for the time when I have to leave," said Chaplain Close. "They know I won't be here for long so I told them to start praying and start saving their nickels and dimes so that when the next guy comes, he won't have to worry about a year's salary."

This same search for selfless compassion and caring

for the next guy was the motivation that began Chaplain Close's Christian journey.

"In high school, I didn't see much love going around. I wanted love. I wanted to see more of it, but didn't really know where to find it," explained Chaplain Close. "Then someone said, 'Turn to Jesus, that's where love is.' I did and it changed my heart forever. It wasn't 'Kaboom!' But after a while, I started to notice I wasn't as mean as I used to be and I thought, 'This is helping me. I want to live this way.'

"I was sort of a Jesus freak kind of guy when I was in college," Chaplain Close recounted. "I really loved doing mission work. I worked with drug addicts and alcoholics. I spent time in Chicago, New York and Amsterdam and began to feel a call to combine my new Christian commitment with community."

Chaplain Close was in Amsterdam when he found what he was looking for.

"I spoke Russian and there was a Russian Orthodox church in town," Chaplain Close explained. "Unfortunately, the whole service was in Dutch. I didn't understand a word of it. So I just prayed, 'OK, God, what do you want me to get out of this?'"

"When I opened my eyes, everyone was standing and I saw that God was being hon-



Surrounded by icons, candles and incense, Father Stefan Close, aka Chaplain Henry Close, prepares to read the Gospel at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Biloxi where he serves as priest.

ored," he remembered. "It was beautiful. I saw the icons all around and the candles and the procession of the scriptures. I heard the choir and could smell the incense. With my head, I didn't understand a word of what was going on. But my heart was melting and I knew this was the place where I needed to be."

"Pray for this man" was the instruction written on a poster underneath a picture of an imprisoned Russian Sunday school teacher that Chaplain Close saw when he walked by the bulletin board in college.

"So I did, right there," Chaplain Close said. "I thought, here is a guy who could hardly possess a Bible, much less have resource to an education and he was teaching Sunday School so faithfully that he got himself imprisoned. I prayed, 'What can I do about this?' 'Prepare' was the tangible response I received."

And so he did — for seminary. He was ordained and serving at a church in Montreal, Canada, when he received his next assignment from God.

"There was a priest in the Reserves who knew of an active-duty guy who had just retired," explained Chaplain Close. "He thought I would be good at it. He was right. I've been in the Air Force now for 16 years."

Chaplain Close was serving

at Ramstein Air Base in Germany during the height of the Iraq war. And like so many other times before, he found himself in a position where all he could do was pray.

"Medevac flights would arrive from the battlefield early in the morning in the fog and snow," Chaplain Close described with a hushed voice. "When they dropped the tail, I would be one of the first ones on. The guys who were in the worst shape would be at the tail end so they could be the first ones off."

Tears welled up in his eyes as he continued.

"They were all sedated. Some of them still had dirt and grass on them and they were covered with machinery and medical personnel trying to keep them going. And there wasn't a thing I could do except stand there and pray. Those times were such holy, holy moments."

Chaplain Close's office is at the Fishbowl Student Ministry Center where he spends most of his time doing what he describes as 'basic chaplain stuff.'

"Students will come in and need a person to talk to," he said. "Whether it's 'I'm stressed out from class,' or 'I flunked this class,' or 'I'm a failure,' or 'my girlfriend is breaking up with me' — they just need someone who'll listen. Most of it isn't religious. But sometimes we'll just pray."

Fisher House program growing after 20 years

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

BETHESDA, Md. — The Fisher House Foundation isn't basking in past achievements as it prepares to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the opening of its first home on the grounds of the National Naval Medical Center here.

As the first military families move this week into one of three new Fisher Houses just across the street from the original, the foundation is moving full steam ahead on nine more being built nationwide, many to be completed by the year's end.

The Fisher House program started as a relatively modest endeavor, with Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher donating a home to provide free temporary lodging for military families while their loved ones received care at the Navy's flagship medical center, said foundation president Dave Coker. That original Fisher House opened its doors June 24, 1991.

Soon, the Fishers presented the second Fisher House, which opened a month later on the grounds of the Army's Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. Within a few short months, the third opened at the Air Force's Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio.

By the time of Zachary Fisher's death in 1999, he and his wife had personally financed more than 20 Fisher Houses.

The Fisher House Foundation, led by the Fishers' grandnephew, Ken Fisher, is keeping their vision alive.

Today, 53 Fisher Houses grace the grounds of dozens of major military and Veterans Affairs medical facilities in the U.S. and in Landstuhl, Germany. They've served more than 142,000 families since the program's inception. During 2010, their 651 guest suites accommodated 12,000 families.

With the last of 10 Fisher

Houses donated in late 2010 about to begin receiving families, and more houses under construction, Mr. Coker said, he hopes to see capacity increase to 16,000 families this year.

Among the newest Fisher Houses is one at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Mr. Coker called it "one of our greatest achievements," because of its impact on families of the fallen. Unlike other Fisher Houses that accommodate families of hospitalized service members and veterans, the Dover house serves grieving families as they prepare to witness the dignified transfer of their loved ones.

"Having the house there lets us how these families how much we appreciate their loved one's sacrifice. That's number one," Mr. Coker said. "Hopefully, it provides an environment where they can receive a little bit of comfort."

Loving comfort always has been at the heart of the Fisher House mission.

"When you have a loved one who is catastrophically



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Mary Burley, housekeeper at Keesler's Fisher House, polishes a bronze statue of Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, founders of the Fisher House program. By the time Zachary Fisher died in 1999, he and his wife had financed more than 20 Fisher Houses.

injured or has died, your world turns upside down," Mr. Coker said. "So if we can help provide a little stability during that time, something to

make these families' loads a little lighter, that's our priority.

"This isn't charity," Mr. Coker said, borrowing Ken

Fisher's mantra. "It's our duty, our way of giving back for all that the military has

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Fisher House is home away from home for patients, families

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler's Fisher House served 456 families in 2010. Built in 1993, it was the sixth Fisher House opened of the 53 in operation today.

Keesler's facility is on Fisher Street, just a short walk from the 81st Medical Group Hospital and across the street from Sablich Center. Keesler's Fisher House is a 5,000 square foot, two-story residence for ill or injured patients and their loved ones being treated at either Keesler or the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Biloxi. It can accommodate nine families at a time.

Patterned after the Ronald McDonald Houses, the Fisher



Mr. Vetter

House serves a full range of active duty, retired military, and veterans from all branches of the armed services. The criteria for occu-

pancy is the guest should be a member of the "support team" of the patient hospitalized or being treated at the Keesler or the Biloxi VA medical facilities or a patient in an outpatient status.

Manager Larry Vetter said the facility has provided a home away from home for 6,374 families since he arrived in 1998.

The average occupancy rate is 94.5 percent and the average stay per family is 8.7 days. A family of four staying at Fisher House for a week saves an average of \$950.

"There's no charge to the guests for their stay," Mr. Vetter pointed out. "One hundred percent of our donations go toward operations

— there are no administrative costs."

The Keesler Fisher House team also includes administrative assistant Patricia Morris and housekeeper Mary Burley.

"In this job, I've experienced some of the most rewarding times a person can with our greatest national treasure — our armed forces men and women and their loved ones," Mr. Vetter said. "I see them struggle at the most difficult times and yet be so joyful for what they have during the worst times of their lives. I'm so proud of our troops and they deserve the best we have to offer. The Fishers have done a wonderful thing providing these beautiful homes for us."

Fisher House,

from Page 20

enabled us to do, and for protecting our freedoms.”

For the Fisher House Foundation, that mission requires always looking ahead so it's ready to respond to military families' needs, he said. For example, three new Fisher Houses were built here to accommodate an expected surge in demand as the hospital merges with Walter Reed Army Medical Center later this year.

“It was very important for us to have these open before Walter Reed closed,” Mr. Coker said. “(Washington) D.C. has always been underserved, and we wanted to get ahead of the game.”

One of the new Bethesda houses already is accommodating families, and another is expected to accept its first families this week. The third, to be dedicated to families whose loved ones are being treated at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence for Traumatic Brain Injuries and Psychological Health



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Otis Hall, an Army veteran from Pensacola, Fla., eats his cereal, reads the morning newspaper and enjoys the comforts that the Fisher House provides while he receives his medical treatment.

Problems, will house its first families soon.

Meanwhile, a new Fisher House is being built at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. The foundation will

be laid as soon as the weather allows so the project can be completed by year's end, Mr. Coker said.

Another new Fisher House, under construction at Wright-

Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, will replace the Nightingale House, which is scheduled to be torn down along with the aging family housing that surrounds it. Mr. Coker said he hopes to see the new house finished by late March and dedicated in April.

In addition, several Fisher House projects are under way at VA medical facilities. While they weren't part of the Fisher House Foundation's original vision, Mr. Coker said, he called the VA houses a natural extension of the support provided at military hospitals.

The Minneapolis VA Medical Center in Minnesota will receive its second Fisher House in the spring to accommodate families whose loved ones are receiving level 1 polytrauma care.

Also in the April-May time frame, other Fisher Houses are expected to open at VA medical centers in Washington, D.C., and Augusta, Ga.

Construction is also expected to begin on new Fisher Houses at VA medical centers in Salt Lake City,

Pittsburgh, San Antonio, and Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Mr. Coker called their dedicated staffs, along with armies of volunteers, the unsung heroes who maintain what the Fisher House Foundation set out to accomplish. They ensure the pantries and refrigerators are stocked, the rooms are clean and the washing machines are in working order, complete with complimentary laundry soap.

And as families gather to share morning coffee or a quick dinner between hospital visits, they're close at hand, ready to provide an understanding ear or, when needed, a shoulder to cry on.

Even after passing control of the Fisher Houses at the dedication ceremonies, the Fisher House Foundation quietly maintains contact with its houses by picking up the \$10 per night fee the services must charge by regulation for families to stay in a Fisher House. This year alone, the foundation will pay more than \$1 million to cover that cost.

The foundation receives more than \$40 million a year in donations.



Photos by Jonny Blair

A flock of geese gathering along the shore of Biloxi's Back Bay looks harmless until their flight path crosses with a C-130.

'Don't feed birds' among many strategies to prevent bird strikes

By 1st Lt. Joost Verduyn

Keesler Public Affairs

Feeding the birds around Keesler, whether intentionally or by leaving bait on the docks, attracts further birds into the area and puts aircraft and aircrew at risk.

"Here at Keesler we average about 3.5 bird strikes per month," said Andrew Przytarski, 81st Training Wing flight safety manager. "Bird strikes can be catastrophic, leading to loss of life and severe damage to the aircraft."

Keesler has a unique airfield with its own unique bird strike problems. Water at the end of the runway and a marina, golf course and ball fields nearby create a great habitat for wildlife.

"Our usual culprits involve doves and starlings, but our major concerns are the larger birds such as the seagulls, geese and pelicans that patrol Biloxi's Back Bay," Mr. Przytarski explained.

Larger birds can cause catastrophic damage to an airplane. In a recent example, US Airways Flight 1549, was forced to land on the Hudson River after damage caused by geese. The bird strikes to this plane caused the failure of both engines, resulting in total loss of thrust for the flight.

According to Air Force bird strike data, the American white pelican, which is found at the end of the runway on



A white pelican landed on top of the airfield manager's truck at the north end of the runway during a routine runway inspection.

Back Bay, has accounted for more airplane damage than any other bird, causing more than \$257 million worth of damage to Air Force aircraft.

Keesler does many things to keep birds away. Airfield grass is kept at 10 inches in order to keep doves away. Doves are community birds that prefer shorter grass so that they can see each other while they feed. There's also a significant effort to ensure weeds that produce seeds, a favorite food source for doves, are kept at bay.

Starlings, another common bird at Keesler, feed on insects from early May until temperatures start cooling later in the year. Insecticides are sprayed in order to keep their food sources scarce on the airfield.

Another familiar way to scare off the birds is loud

noises. Base operations personnel use noisemakers called "bangers" and "screamers" fired from a basic starter's pistol. A truck equipped with a butane cannon is also used to create a big boom to scare away the birds.

"These techniques work to a point," said Mr. Przytarski. "Sometimes the birds realize it's just an inconvenience for them, and only move a hundred yards down the way."

"We are always looking for more ways to keep the birds away from the airfield," he continued. "The base populace can help by not feeding the birds. Feeding one seagull can bring in 20 more in less than a minute. Once a food source becomes accessible, birds can, and will, come from miles around to get a part of that food."

Invitations being sent for survey to assess community well-being

Air Force News Service

SAN ANTONIO — Invitations to take the 2011 Air Force Community Assessment were sent out Tuesdays.

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

Survey answers vital to Keesler's future

By Susan Griggs

Keesler5 News editor

The Keesler Integrated Resource Team is urging the Keesler community to participate in the 2011 Community Assessment Survey of service members, spouses, reservists, spouses of reservists and civilians.

“This survey is the best way for Air Force community members to make their opinions and needs known,” said Paula Tracy, KIRT chair and family advocacy outreach manager. “The results of the survey will be used by base leadership and the Air Force to target resources where they are most needed and enhance the well-being of the community.”

Participation is crucial to the success of the project; so Ms. Tracy urges anyone selected to take part.

“The survey is the best way for us to listen to community members and then provide services to help them meet their needs and the needs of their families,” Ms. Tracy explained. “It allows them to express their opinions anonymously so participants can respond openly and honestly to issues that affect them every day.”

This year's survey at Keesler will be particularly important, according to Ms. Tracy. As part of a Department of Defense-sponsored initiative, this year's community assessment, along with some supplemental questions, will be used to direct additional resources to help service members and families base-wide. Keesler agencies will be working with researchers to ensure that this year's survey results are used to maximum benefit.

For more information, call 376-3457 or 3479 or e-mail paula.tracy@us.af.mil.

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. That survey ended Dec. 31.

Air Force chief of staff releases 2011 recommended reading list

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — The Air Force chief of staff announced his latest professional reading list Friday.

“Effectively operating within our increasingly dynamic, interconnected and complex world requires steadfast commitment to personal and professional growth,” Gen. Norton Schwartz said in a letter to Airmen.

“Therefore, professional reading will continue to be vital as we maintain our initiative today and prepare for the future,” General Schwartz said.

“I am pleased to announce my 2011 reading list, which provides worthwhile options for all Airmen to further their professional education and augment their leadership skills.”

This year’s list contains 14 books divided into three categories: leadership, strategic context and military heritage. General Schwartz will highlight these books throughout the year, and for the first quarter recommends three selections.

“Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time,” by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin is part of the leadership category and offers an account of a dedicated individual striving to establish peace in Central Asia one school at a time.

“Technology Horizons: A Vision for the Air Force Science and Technology,” by Dr. Werner Dahm is a selection from the strategic context category that highlights the need for Airmen to anticipate emerging science and technology advances that have the greatest military potential.

“The All Americans,” by Lars Anderson is featured in the military heritage category and gives a unique insight into the lives of four football stars who, after playing each other in the 1941 Army-Navy football game just days before the attack on Pearl Harbor, were later united in fighting the Axis powers during World War II.

Other books in this year’s reading list are:

“Partners in Command: George Marshall and Dwight Eisenhower in War and Peace,” by Mark Perry.

“The Lost Peace: Leadership in a Time of Horror and Hope, 1945-1953,” by Robert Dallek.

“Secrets of Special Ops Leadership: Dare the Impossible; Achieve the Extraordinary,” by William Allen Cohen.

“Monsoon: The Indian

“Professional reading will continue to be vital as we maintain our initiative today and prepare for the future.”

— General Schwartz

Ocean and the Future of American Power,” by Robert Kaplan.

“Cyber War: The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do About It,” by Richard Clarke and Robert Knake.

“The Return of History and the End of Dreams,” by Robert Kagan.

“A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962,” by Alis-tair Horne.

“Descent into Chaos: The United States and the Failure of Nation Building in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia,” by Ahmed Rashid.

“Fighter Pilot: The Memoirs of Legendary Ace Robin Olds,” by Robin Olds, Christina Olds and Ed Rasimus.

“Red Eagles: America’s Secret MiGs,” by Steve Davies.

“Cataclysm: General Hap Arnold and the Defeat of Japan,” by Herman Wolk.

To read General Schwartz’s letter to Airmen and for more information on the 2011 reading list, log on to <http://www.af.mil/information/csaf/reading/index.asp>.

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.

Center closed

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

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.

Top III meeting

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

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 furniture, area rugs, cutlery, dishware, infant wear and maternity clothes which are clean and in good condition. Bring donations to Airman's Attic during regular hours, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, non-training Fridays and the last Saturday of the month.

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.

Supply classes

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

Worship schedule

Roman Catholic

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

Sunday Mass, 9 a.m., Triangle Chapel.

Protestant

Traditional service, 9 a.m. Sunday, Larcher Chapel.

Contemporary service, 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

Gospel service, noon Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

Jewish

Services take place at 8 p.m. Fridays at Congregation Beth Israel, 12277 Three Rivers Road, Gulfport.

Saturday services are scheduled at 10 a.m. Feb. 12, March 19 and April 9.

For more information, call 377-4050, 207-2196, 539-1655 or 1-405-740-9077.

Islamic

Prayer is five times daily; Salaat ul-Jumma congregational prayer, noon on Friday, Building 2003.. For more information, call 377-2520.

Latter-Day Saints

Student group service, 2 p.m. Sunday, Triangle Chapel. For more information, call 396-5274 or 1-616-881-1994.

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 all other

custodians annually.

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

Be Well class

The health and wellness center offers a "Be Well Class," 8-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, for Keesler military, retired, their families and federal 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.

Periodontal patients

The 81st Dental Squadron periodontics department is seeking people with gum problems for the general dental residency teaching program.

Limited numbers of patients, including retirees and eligible military dependents, accepted as teaching cases receive free periodontal care at Keesler.

Patients accepted for periodontal care will be treated by our Air Force general dentistry residents under specialty supervision. Patients must be readily available for lengthy recurring appointments, generally Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings.

For more information, call 376-5225.

Speakers bureau

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

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

Visitor center hours

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



U.S. AIR FORCE
EagleEyes
WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Safe paths are 'happy trails'

AETC Safety Office

The crisp cool air draws many people to hiking trails.

For "happy trails," follow these safety guidelines:

A global positioning system can help you keep track of exactly where you are.

Check local weather reports before you go hiking and dress accordingly.

Try to hike in groups of no less than four people, so if one person gets hurt, one can stay with that person while the other two go for help.

Hikers should have a waterproof jacket and trousers, sturdy hiking boots, an extra sweater, gloves, a hat, water, food, a whistle, a flashlight, a pencil and paper.

Always wear hiking boots and long pants when hiking.

Stick to established paths and trails.

Good food choices on a hike include trail mix, chocolate, peanut butter and dried fruit. Keep food inaccessible to wild animals, especially bears, whenever you stop along the trail.

Allow four quarts of water per person per day.



Carry a map, compass, auto flare, first aid kit and snake bite kit.

Let someone know where you're going and when you plan to return. Check back with that person when you return.

Learn how to read a map and compass, especially if you plan to veer off the beaten path.

Note landmarks so you can retrace your steps.

To avoid snakes, try not to step on or put your hand on a surface you can't see.

Learn how to recognize poisonous snakes in your area.

Study first aid for snakebites as outlined in your first aid manual and snakebite kit.

Consider joining an orienteering, hiking or naturalist club if you plan to do extensive hiking on upcoming camping trips.

ENERGY AWARENESS TIP

Lead by Example in the Office with Smart Energy Choices



- Switch off all unnecessary lights
- Turn off lights when you leave at night
- Use natural lighting when possible
- When working late, use task lighting for work areas
- Unplug equipment that uses energy when not in use
- Turn off printers and monitors at the end of the day
- Use efficient ENERGY STAR® products
- Reduce cooling needs by closing window blinds
- Photocopy and print only what you need
- Take the stairs instead of the elevator

Each of us can make an impact to reduce Keesler's energy consumption. For more energy saving tips visit http://www.energysavers.gov/your_workplace/

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.

BAY BREEZE COLLOCATED CLUB MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

February 2011

Bay Breeze Collocated Club Membership Drive will start at 4 p.m. Feb. 6 as the club hosts a Super Bowl Party in the ballroom.

The membership drive will run from Feb. 6 to March 21.

One of the best reasons to join the club is our new location inside the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Located on the second and third floors, overlooking the Biloxi Back Bay and Keesler's marina and golf course the club offers a wealth of opportunities for dining and entertainment.

Whether you're enjoying a daily lunch, champagne brunch or kicking back in our lounge, the club has everything you need for your next outing, special event or meeting.

With its inviting décor, variety of activities, professional service and breathtaking views, it's easy to see why the Bay Breeze Collocated Club is a preferred choice for rest and relaxation among Keesler's finest.

AMENITIES INCLUDE:

- Free Wi-Fi
- Casual dining room
- Ballroom - seats up to 250 (500 standing)
- Officer and enlisted collocated lounge
- DV/VIP room
- Daily grill

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES:

- Casual or fine dining
- Catering services and event coordination
- Official and private functions
- Singles and family programs
- Monthly dinner nights
- Sporting events in the collocated lounge

Stop by, sign up for membership and start reaping the benefits of club membership today!

For more information, call (228) 377-2334.

Benefits of Club Membership

Club members receive special pricing on dining, entertainment and catering services; free facility rental for special events such as weddings and family reunions; scholarship opportunities, prize opportunities, reciprocal privileges at Air Force bases where agreements have been established and much, much more. Pay with your club MasterCard and earn cash back on every eligible dollar you spend.

Lagniappe "a little something extra" for Bay Breeze Club members. Present your club card and receive these great benefits:

- **Bay Breeze Golf Course**
10 percent off cart rentals Monday-Friday
- **Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center**
25 percent off open bowling
- **Youth center**
10 percent off Friday fun nights and
10 percent off youth sports
- **Outdoor recreation**
10 percent off camper rentals
- **Auto hobby shop**
25 percent off stall fees

Club membership pays so join today!



CLUB MEMBERSHIP DRIVE KICKOFF SUPER BOWL PARTY

Pregame starts at 4 p.m. Feb. 6 in the Bay Breeze Event Center Ballroom

- Jumbo Screens
- Drink Specials
- Tailgating Buffet
- Giveaways
- Happy Hour 4-7 p.m.

General Admission - \$15
Club Members - \$10
NPS Students - \$8

Prize for the
wackiest dressed
football fan.

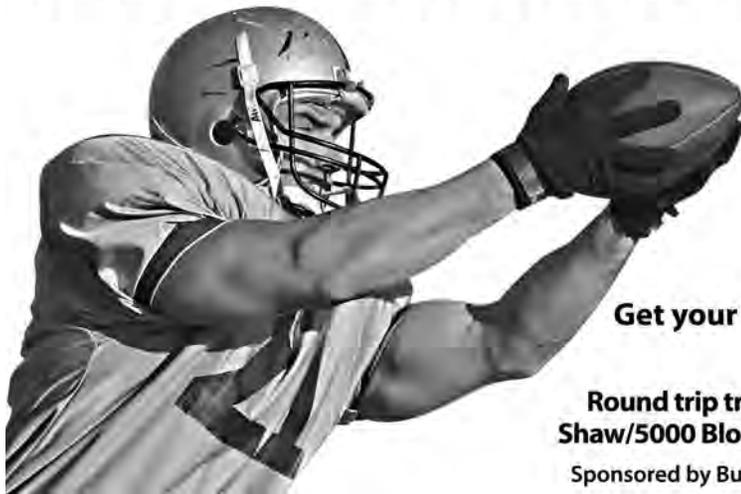
Get your tickets early from the Bay Breeze Event Center cashier!
For more information, call 377-2334.

Round trip transportation provided from the following locations:
Shaw/5000 Block, Live Oak/2000 Block, Tyler House and Welch Theater.

Sponsored by Budweiser-Responsibility Matters and Keesler Federal Credit Union.



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EXTRA! Here's what's happening! EXTRA!

AIRMAN AND FAMILY READINESS

Editor's note: Registration is required for all briefings, classes and workshops below, call 376-8728. Space is limited.

Pre-separation counseling — Tuesdays, 1 p.m. for members separating, 2:30 p.m. for retirees. Mandatory suspense for completion is 90 days prior to separation/retirement.

Post-deployment brief — 9 a.m. Tuesdays or 1 p.m. Thursdays for all those returning from deployment.

Civilian jobs resume writing course — 9-11:30 a.m. Feb. 8, learn about formatting and how to concisely present your accomplishments. Bring a resume if you have one.

Newcomer's orientation — 7 a.m. to noon Feb. 9 and 23, get acquainted with the base.

Pre-deployment briefing — 7:30-9 a.m. Feb. 10, for all those deploying. See your UDM to schedule attendance.

Sponsor training — 10-11 a.m. Feb. 14 and 28, for those sponsoring inbound personnel. Learn resources, Air Education and Trainin Command deadlines and tips for welcoming newcomers.

Transition assistance workshop — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 14-16. Help with transition to the civilian work force, conducted by the Department of Labor. Open to those 12 months or less from separation or 24 months from retirement. Spouses are invited.

Career skills assessment — 9-11:30 a.m. Feb. 15.

Federal resume writing/job search — 9-11:30 a.m. Feb. 16. Print a federal job announcement and bring to class.

Veterans Administration benefits brief — 8-11 a.m. Feb. 17.

BAY BREEZE COLLOCATED CLUB

Editor's note: All ranks and contractors welcome. Club members must show club card to receive discounts. For more information, call 377-2334.

Love and happiness comedy show — 6-9 p.m. Feb. 4 in the ballroom. Advance tickets available at the cashier; \$45 per couple, \$25 for single and \$30 per person at the door.

Mongolian barbecue — 5-8 p.m. Feb. 10 and 23 in the ballroom. Club members pay 95-cents per ounce, nonmembers \$1.10 per ounce.

Champagne brunch — 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 27 in the ballroom. \$16.95, members receive \$2 discount. Ages 4-10 eat for half-price; ages 3 and younger eat free.

Daily lunch specials — served 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For menu, log onto <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

Pasta station — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays.

Catering — professional services for your special occasions.

Collocated Lounge

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

Social hour — 4-7 p.m. daily. Domestic beer specials: pitchers \$5, draft by the glass \$1.50 and bottles \$2.

Fridays — 5-8 p.m. jazz; 8 p.m. to midnight dance music.

DJ Dynamite — 8 p.m. until Feb. 12.

Motown night — 8 p.m. Feb. 26.

Crud room — available. Bring your own cue sticks for pool.

Wingman Wednesdays — 5 p.m. Wednesdays domestic draft pitchers \$5. Wings and things free for members, nonmembers \$3.

Bonanza bingo — cards \$1, available at the cashier or ask your bartender; you could win a \$500 prize.

BAY BREEZE COMMUNITY CENTER

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2509. Free Wi-Fi.

Father/daughter day — noon to 3 p.m. Feb. 26, spend an afternoon to remember with fun, food and games.

Father and son pool tournament — 7 p.m. Feb. 11. Take a shot at family fun and prizes.

Free pool — enjoy a game of billiards on the house. Brand new tables and a flat screen TV, what more could you ask for?

Internet gaming — the cybersports room has computers dedicated solely to internet gaming. Play for free.

Tae kwon do classes — 6-7 p.m. Monday-Friday for ages 18 and older. \$75 per month. Class held at the "V."

Private guitar lessons — \$50 per month for ages 18 and older; your first class is free.

Ballroom dance lessons — 7-8 p.m. Tuesdays, \$50 per month. **Voice and drums instructors needed** — please call if you're interested in becoming an instructor.

Book your next event at the Bay Breeze Event Center — a variety of rooms and services are available for both personal and official base functions. We can accommodate parties up to 500 people. For more information, call or email bos.svc@us.af.mil.

BAY BREEZE GOLF COURSE

Editor's note: For more information or tee time, call 377-3832. Open 6 a.m. to dusk. Free Wi-Fi.

Breakfast — now served 6-9 a.m. in the snack bar.

February twilight special — 2 p.m. until closing Monday and Wednesday and all day on Tuesday and Thursday, play unlimited golf. E1-E4, \$12; E5-O3, \$20; O4 and up, \$22; and guests \$22. Fees include cart.

Super Bowl golf scramble — 9 a.m. Feb. 6. Four-person, select shot tournament. \$25 for inclusive members, \$30 for annual members and \$45 for nonmembers. Fees include greens, cart, food and beverages. Prizes awarded. Sponsored by Keesler Federal Credit Union. Call to sign up.

Valentine's Day golf special — Feb. 14 your beloved golfs a round free with your paid round. Call for tee time.

Golf lessons with a teaching professional — \$30 for a half-hour lesson for any level golfer, from those learning the basic fundamentals to fine tuning the most advanced golfers' skills. Lessons are by appointment Monday-Saturday; call to schedule.

"UBU" nonprior service students' special — \$15 for 18 holes or \$10 for nine holes includes greens fee and cart; \$20 for 18 holes or \$15 for nine holes includes greens fee, cart and rental clubs.

DINING FACILITIES

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2200.

Daily menu — call 377-DINE (3463).

Monthly birthday celebration — 5:30 p.m. Jan. 12 for all non-prior service students, permanent party enlisted, and Essential Station Messing members. Reservations must be made in advance by the 25th of the previous month; call 377-3854. Those collecting Basic Allowance for Subsistence must pay cash and surcharge.

GAUDÉ LANES BOWLING CENTER

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2817. Bumpers are available on 19 lanes by reservation for ages 10 and younger. Free Wi-Fi.

Casino Night — 7 p.m. Feb. 5 and 19. \$15 per person for three games, shoes included. Prizes awarded.

Sweetheart mixed-doubles tournament — 5 p.m. Feb. 12. Nine-pin, no-tap. Prizes awarded to the top three teams.

Valentine's special — Feb. 14, bring your sweetie and they'll bowl a game free with every game you bowl. Sponsored by Budweiser, responsibility matters.

Bonanza bingo — \$1 per card, daily drawings. You could win \$2,000.

Team building — 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays and 1-5 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, bring your employees and bowl for \$1 a game plus shoe rental. Call for reservations.

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

Birthday parties — 1:30-3 p.m. or 3:30-5 p.m. Saturdays. The birthday child is free, you provide the cake. Parties range in price from \$8.95 to \$15.95 per child. Reservations are required.

"UBU" special — show your UBU card and bowl for \$1.50 per game before 5 p.m., \$2 per game after 5 p.m., shoes included.

Fundraiser idea — score over \$450 cash for your organization and have fun doing it.

11th Frame Café

Editor's note: Located inside Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center, 377-2036. Free Wi-Fi. Contractors welcome. Menu subject to change without notice.

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

Kingpin daily specials \$6.95 — 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. Call-in orders accepted 10-11 a.m. Mondays feature grilled smothered chicken, Tuesdays choose barbecue pulled pork sandwich or barbecue brisket sandwich, Wednesdays enjoy meat loaf, Thursdays get chicken fried steak or chicken and Fridays fill up on chicken Parmesan and spaghetti with marinara sauce.

New menu items — now serving pizza and milkshakes.

Lunch punch card — purchase nine combos or Kingpin daily specials and your tenth one is free.

INNS OF KEESLER

Editor's note: For reservations and more information, call (228) 374-0088 or DSN 597-4900.

Check-in/out — at Tyer House located on Fisher Street. If arriving after 6 p.m., please call with credit card information to hold reservation. A business center with free Wi-Fi access is on site for your convenience.

Rooms available — space-available reservations can be made three days in advance. Rooms offered are visiting airmen's quarters \$34.75 with a queen bed, refrigerator, microwave and shared bathroom; visitor's quarters \$39 with a queen bed, refrigerator, microwave and private bathroom; and temporary lodging facility \$41.50 for one- and two-bedroom units with full kitchen. Pet TLFs are available for an additional \$10 per night.

INFORMATION, TICKETS AND TRAVEL

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3818.

Mississippi Surge hockey tickets — \$12, get your tickets now. **New Orleans Audubon Nature Institute** — tickets available now for Audubon zoo, aquarium, insectarium and IMAX® theatre.

Armed Forces Vacation Club® — A space available vacation program. No membership fee, no dues; just a great vacation value for members of the uniformed services, Department of Defense and nonappropriated fund employees. \$369 for a week in a resort condominium. Log onto <http://www.afvclub.com> to reserve. Please designate installation #121 as your base when reserving.

Leisure travel

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-1658.

Travel discounts — on cruises, airline tickets, hotels and more.

Seven-day Caribbean Cruise aboard the Norwegian Spirit, Aug. 7-14, 2011 — inside cabin \$673.86, ocean view \$703.86, balcony \$1023.86. Departs New Orleans to Costa Maya, Roatan Bay Islands, Belize City, Cozumel and back to New Orleans.*

Five-day Caribbean Cruise aboard the Carnival Ecstasy, Oct. 31-Nov. 5, 2011 — inside cabin \$372.19, ocean view \$417.19, balcony is available on request. Departs New Orleans to Progresso, Cozumel and back to New Orleans.*

Seven-day Valentine's Caribbean Cruise aboard the Royal Caribbean Voyager of the Seas, Feb. 11-18, 2012 — inside cabin \$619.76, ocean view \$789.16, balcony \$949.16. Departs New Orleans to Falmouth, Grand Cayman, Cozumel and back to New Orleans.*

*Prices are per person, based on double occupancy and include taxes, transfers, all meals on board the ship and entertainment. Passports are highly recommended.

LEGENDS CAFÉ

Editor's note: Dine-in or take-out. Located inside Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call 377-2424.

A fast and inexpensive place to grab a bite — serving pizza, wings, chicken tenders, hamburgers, wraps, quesadillas, sandwiches, salads and more. Open evenings Thursdays-Saturdays.

"UBU" special — nonprior service students show your UBU card and get a free large fountain drink with a \$5 purchase.

MCBRIDE LIBRARY

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2181.

Healthy smiles dental program — 3:30 p.m. Feb. 9 for ages 5-9 and 3:30 p.m. Feb. 14 for ages 10-12. Co-hosted by the Keesler Dental Clinic.

Children's story time — 10 a.m. Feb. 16 for ages 3-5.

"One Page at a Time" — ages 5-13 choose books from reading lists through March and earn prizes for completed readings.

Free Wi-Fi — available 24/7. Ask the front desk for login.

Search our online catalog — search for print and audio books, DVDs, CDs, VHS, magazines, periodicals and more, log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

Free Rosetta Stone online language learning — a web-based program with access to 31 languages. Check with the library staff for more information and eligibility requirements.

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND MARINA

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3160.

Valentine special — Feb. 12-13 get 10 percent off of our #1 camping package.

Presidents' Day special — Feb. 21 get a free rod and reel rental when you rent a boat.

Back Bay fishing trips — \$20 per person. Mississippi State fishing license is required. Minimum four, maximum six people.*

Deep sea fishing trips — walk on or sign up trips are \$75 per person. Spend the day fishing the barrier islands and platforms of the gulf. Price includes everything you need to fish. Fishing license is not required. Trips run nontraining Fridays and Sundays. Minimum 12 people and at least 14 people for a trip to the rigs.*

Private fishing Charters — schedule your group, we can accommodate up to 22 passengers for whatever you may have in mind. We offer island fishing trips, rig fishing trips, Cat Island kayaking trips, and two day/overnight trips up to 100 miles offshore for the hard core fishermen. Specialty cruises are also available. Call to reserve.*

*Weather permitting; bring food, beverages and personal items.

RESALE LOT

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

Buy, sell, trade — \$10 per month to place your vehicle on the lot, \$20 for recreational vehicles and boats. Located on Meadows Drive; register at the arts and crafts center 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Registration, license and insurance required.

SPORTS AND FITNESS

Editor's note: Keesler has three fitness centers for your convenience — Blake Fitness Center, 377-4385; Dragon Fitness Center, 377-2907, and Triangle Fitness Center, 377-3056.

5K healthy heart run/walk — noon, Feb. 11. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. Start and finish at Blake Fitness Center. Wear red for National Heart Month.

Varsity softball men's tryouts — 5-7 p.m. Feb. 14, 15, 17, 23 and 24; and 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 19 and 21 at the Triangle softball fields. Call 377-2444 for eligibility requirements.

Intramural Volleyball — letters of intent are due Feb. 3. Coaches' meeting is 3:30 p.m. Feb. 9 at the Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call 377-2444.

Free fitness classes — Zumba, Pilates, cycling, step aerobics, yoga and more are offered at the Dragon Fitness Center. For class descriptions and schedule, log onto <http://www.keeslerservices.us> and click on the fitness center link or stop by any of the base fitness centers.

Massage therapy — Swedish, deep tissue, aromatherapy, reflexology and La Stone hour and half-hour appointments by our certified therapist are available at Triangle Fitness Center. Call (228) 348-6698 to schedule an appointment.

*Valentine's Dinner
for Two Feb. 14
5-8 p.m.
In the BBEC Ballroom
\$30 per couple*
for club members*

*Dinner includes your choice of a New York Strip Steak or
Creole Shrimp Stuffed Chicken Breast
accompanied with seasoned green beans, baked potato with
toppings and featuring the Chef's choice dessert,
tea, water and coffee.*

*Music by
"Red Velvet"
smooth jazz
pianist*

**nonmembers
pay \$34
per couple*

*Purchase your tickets at the BBEC cashier.
For more information, call 377-2334.
Sponsored by the MGS Gulf Coast Coliseum.*

ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER

Editor's note: Preregistration is required for all classes. Register at craft sales, Building 5904. Space is limited. For more information, call 377-2821.

Specials

Souvenirs/gifts to go — get a décor mug filled with goodies, just \$10 each. Choose one with a picture of a magnolia and the Biloxi lighthouse for a souvenir.

Sale — check-out our discount bin; selected products reduced by up to 50 percent.

“UBU” special — UBU card holders get 10 percent off all items in the crafts resale store.

Multi-crafts shop

Editor's note: Potter's wheels, ceramic molds, air brushing, and tools are available for use in the shop. Class fees include instruction and materials.

Ladies' night — 6 p.m. Feb. 4. \$5, ladies kick back and have a fun-filled night that includes games, snacks, drinks (non-alcoholic) and buy one, get one half off ceramics special.

Love mugs — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 5, show your love with a customized mug. Paint a mug for your sweetheart. \$7.50, mugs will be available for pick-up Feb. 12.

Pottery class — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 12 and 16. \$30.

Glass painting — 10:30 a.m. to noon Feb. 12 and 26. \$25 includes a completed painted project.

Pen and ink — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 4. \$30, learn techniques of drawing using pens & pencils.

Acrylic painting — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 18. \$30, learn techniques for painting and leave with a finished piece of art work. \$30 includes supplies.

Frame shop

Custom orders — we will customize all work to individual orders. We can coordinate framing awards with engraving shop accessories.

Auto hobby shop

Editor's note: Indoor and outdoor stalls and lifts available. For more information, call 377-3872.

Qualified mechanics — on hand to help with car care needs.

Tire service/air machine — coin-operated, available 24-7. Located at the vacuum station.

Collection site — for privately-owned vehicle oil, antifreeze, transmission and brake fluids.

24-hour coin-operated car care — vacuum station and car wash featuring foamy brush wash, high-pressure rinse, wax, towelettes and Armorall.

Wood shop

Editor's note: Hardwoods and plywood in stock for sale. Stock includes walnut, mahogany, pecan, maple, oak, poplar, cypress and cedar.

Beginning woodworking — 10 a.m. Saturdays. Learn how to use over 20 woodworking machines and make a cutting board to take home. \$25 includes shop use, instruction and materials. Class certifies you to use the shop equipment in the future. Watching a safety video is required.

Intarsia woodworking — 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 5 and 19. Learn the art of piecing wood together in a decorative pattern to create artwork. Beginner class is \$25, advanced class is \$35.

Engraving shop

Custom items — we can etch glass items and customize your order of plaques, trophies, awards, mugs and writing pens for gift giving, special mementos and squadron functions. Organizational name tags are our specialty.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2211 or 377-4116.

Give parents a break — 4-10 p.m. Feb. 5. This Air Force Aid program offers free child care at the center for Air Force families who are referred by base agencies such as the airman and family readiness center and family advocacy, first sergeants, commanders and chaplains. Certificates must be coordinated through the airman and family readiness center. School-age children go to the youth center.

FAMILY CHILD CARE

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3189.

Child care slots — call for availability.

Be your own boss — we're recruiting military spouses on and off base who wish to care for children in their homes. Providers are also needed to care for children with special needs including asthma, allergies, cerebral palsy and other physical impairments, and to work swing and evening shifts.

Child care assistance programs — Air Force Aid Society, returning home care, expanded duty care and Air Force subsidy programs are available to assist parents with child care. Call for guidelines.

HELP WANTED

Editor's note: The 81 Force Support Squadron's human resource office is located in Sablich Center, 500 Fisher St., Room 211.

Nonappropriated fund positions — apply in house or online. A computer lab is now available for job seekers to use on site during normal business hours; or apply online at <https://nafjobs.afsv.net>.

Current job openings — for complete list, call the 24-hour job line at 377-9055 or log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

VANDENBERG COMMUNITY CENTER

Editor's note: All events, except dances and weekend competitions, are open to all Keesler personnel. For more information, call 377-5576.

* \$3 cover charge applies.

DJ scratch match — 9-11 p.m. Feb. 4. DJs will compete in a no-limit mixing/scratching contest.*

“That's my line” — 6-9 p.m. Feb. 10. We provide the props and you provide the line.

“V” dance squad competition — 9-11 p.m. Feb. 11. Squadron crews will take to the floor to show who can “bring it.” Winner will receive a trophy and \$100 gift card. No entry fee to compete.*

Black light party — Feb. 18, the lights will be out all night long.*

Club “V” grand re-opening — 4-7 p.m. Feb. 25. Come in and check-out our newly renovated “V.” There will be food, music and so much more.

“V” after party — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Feb. 25. Celebrate the re-opening of Club “V” with us.*

Comedy night — 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays. Enjoy a gut busting, laugh-out-loud night of comedy.

Improv at the “V” — 6-9 p.m. every Wednesday,

the stage is yours to laughably entertain the crowd.

Late night dances — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursdays before nontraining Fridays and every Friday and Saturday.

Karaoke — 9 p.m. every Saturday.*

Last player standing pool tournament — 6-9 p.m. every Wednesday in February. Players are allowed to bring their own pool sticks. Prize will be awarded to a winner.

VETERINARY TREATMENT FACILITY

Editor's note: Located on 3rd Street, Building 0408. All animals in base housing must be registered with the veterinary office. For appointment, call 376-7495.

Eligible patrons — active duty, retirees, reservists and National Guard on active duty for more than 72 hours with orders may use the clinic.

Sick call and vaccines — by appointment only, call to schedule.

Health certificates — available for interstate and overseas travel.

YOUTH CENTER

Editor's note: All children registered in a youth center program receive free membership. For more information, call 377-4116.

Random acts of kindness week — Feb. 14-18, volunteer to work on special projects to help your youth center.

Kids' citizenship challenge essay contest — Feb. 22-25, call or stop by for rules.

Friday night fun — 6:30-9:30 p.m. Fridays for ages 6-12. \$10 for the first child, \$5 for each additional child. Games, snack bar, skating, movies, holiday parties, video games and more. Preregistration is required; drop-ins are welcome provided space is available. Feb. 4, celebrate the Chinese New Year; Feb. 11, Valentine's party; Feb. 18, team building.

Homeschoolers — meet 1-3 p.m. Thursdays.

Open recreation — 3-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 3-6 p.m. Fridays. Computer media center, homework assistance, sports and fitness.

Instructional classes — tennis, tae kwon do, piano and guitar. Call to schedule.

Teen open recreation/TRAIL meetings — 4-8 p.m. Saturdays. Recreational and sports activities, video games and tournaments, team building games, computer center and more.

Mardi Gras Camp — March 7-9, registration begins Tuesday. Breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack provided. Activities include bowling, kids' parade and more. Fees are base on family income.

HAPPENINGS is a monthly supplement to the Keesler News produced by the CSC marketing department. Information is subject to change without notice. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

Lisa Campbell, marketing director; Diana Egger, marketing specialist; Cindy Milford, publications administrator; Hank D'Aquila, graphics illustrator; Tanja Smith, commercial sponsorship coordinator.

PLEASE PULL OUT AND KEEP THIS SUPPLEMENT AS A HANDY REFERENCE FOR MONTHLY EVENTS OF THE 81ST FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON.