

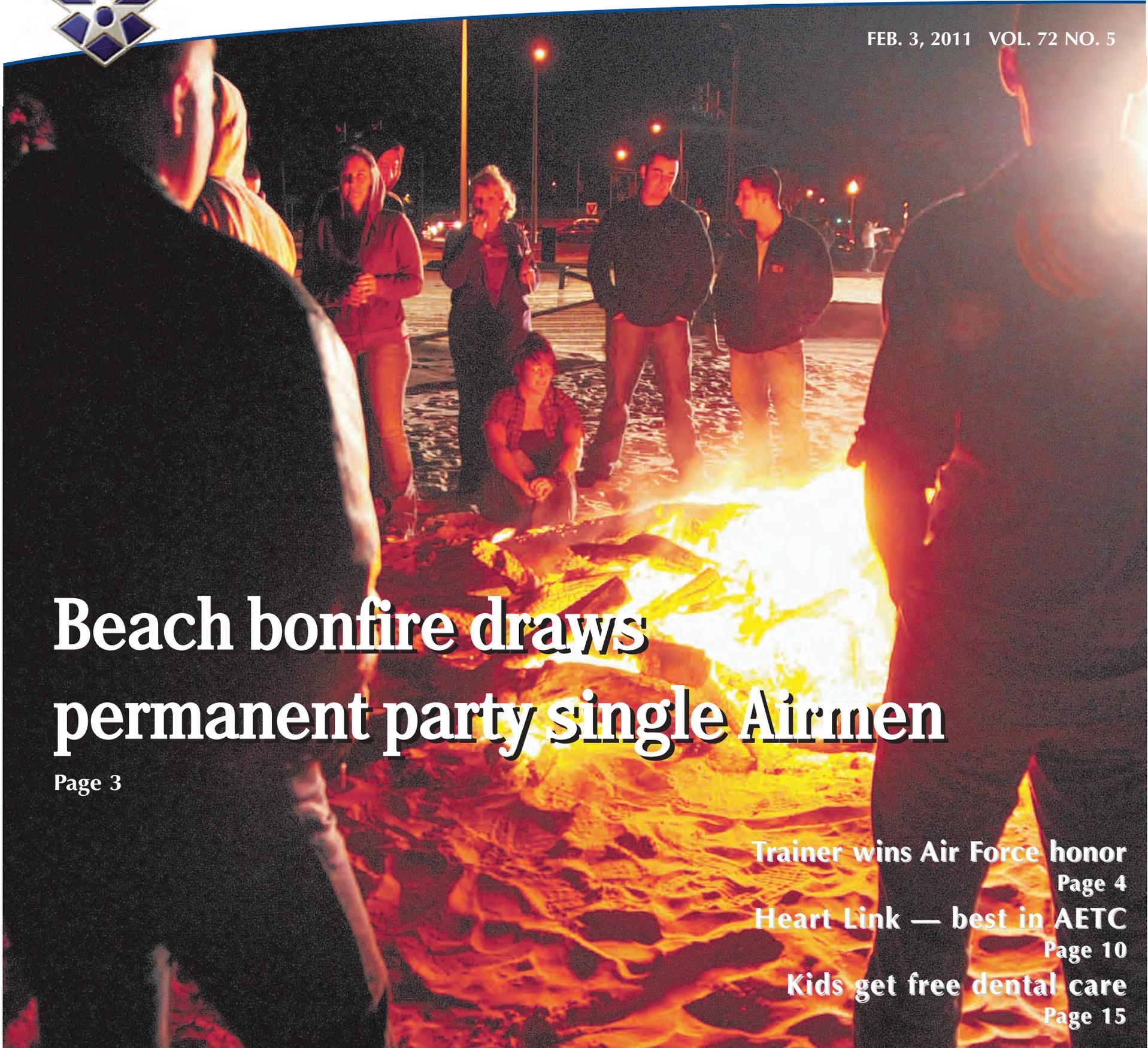


KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

FEB. 3, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 5



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Black History Month

Buffalo Soldiers had vital role in U.S. military history

By Rex Jones

21st Space Wing Equal Opportunity Office

PETERSON Air Force Base, Colo.
— Recently, my wife and I were walking through Manitou Springs when we overheard Bob Marley's classic "Buffalo Soldier" coming from the speakers in a nearby park.

I reflected back to the first time I heard the song live at a concert in Tacoma, Wash., where he and "The Wailers" performed. As we got closer to the park, we could see that many were familiar with the artist's lyrics and were singing along.

A portion of the song goes like this: "He was a Buffalo Soldier, dreadlock Rasta, he was a Buffalo Soldier fighting for America, fighting a rival, fighting for survival."

Bob Marley and his band sang a gritty ballad that tells the cruelly ironic story of black men being conscripted into the ranks of the Union Army to kill Native Americans. Although as a young teenager I enjoyed the song immensely, it took me a long time before I realized that he was singing about black soldiers and not Indian warriors. It wasn't until I attended a course on minority studies in 1988 that I realized African Americans played a far greater role in American military history than I ever imagined.

My curiosity piqued when the movie "Glory" was released in 1989. You may recall it was about the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, which was the first official black regiment to be organized in the Northern states with the U.S. Army during the Civil War.

Despite the significant contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers, they were usually dismissed with a bare mention, ignored completely, or their efforts mocked. Complicating matters, there simply wasn't much personal information available, such as letters, due to the fact that many troops were illiterate. Only a few pictures, personal interviews and a couple of congressional records proved helpful.

Nevertheless, here are a few tidbits that I learned:

The "Negro troops," as they were known at the time, marched in the



49th Fighter Wing History Office

In order to settle problems in 19th century New Mexico, the U.S. Army called upon a group of recently freed black men to form the 9th and 10th Cavalries. They subsequently became known as "Buffalo Soldiers."

ranks of George Washington's armies in the cause for independence and served with Andrew Jackson at New Orleans in 1815 to repress the British invaders. The first large-scale employment awaited the coming of the Civil War when the Confederate batteries fired on Fort Sumter, early in the morning of Apr. 1, 1861. Many black troops were eager to wear the Union blue, but found their service was neither wanted at the time nor contemplated for the future.

With the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863, the enlistment of blacks was on its way up. Again, this was not a popular decision.

In fact, one historian wrote, "This decision to use the Negro soldier did not necessarily grow out of any broad humanitarian resolve. It seems to have come more largely out of the dawning realization that since the Confederates were going to kill a great many more Union soldiers before the war was over, a good many white men would escape death

if a considerable percentage of those soldiers were colored."

Resistance to black troops eventually diminished. Once white officers discovered that a commission in the black regiments could lead to faster promotion, there was no shortage of candidates to lead these new regiments. Furthermore, as black soldiers proved their worth as soldiers, reluctant acceptance started to become the rule. Not to be misleading, however, race discrimination continued to be very prevalent.

By the end of the war, nearly 180,000 black soldiers served in the Union Army and 33,380 of them had given their lives for freedom.

July 28, 1866, Congress passed an act that allowed the black soldiers to serve in the regular army, and in 1867, Congress sent them out to fight "the Indians." It was at this time the Native Americans gave the troopers a nickname.

Called all manner of names, such as "moacs" and "brunettes," by all manner of people, they were dubbed

"Buffalo Soldiers," as a result of their skin color and hair texture, which seemed to resemble the mane of the buffalo. Most simply accepted the name and wore it proudly knowing the Native Americans worshipped the buffalo and wouldn't give somebody that name if they did not respect them.

Now, I find myself relocated to the Air Force's best kept secret, Peterson Air Force Base. In the short time I have been here, I have learned that nearly a third of the cowboys who helped build the West were black. In Colorado they were miners, soldiers, homesteaders, ranchers, blacksmiths, schoolteachers, lawmen and every other profession needed to build up the state.

I learned if the ideals of democracy are to prevail, America must continue to acknowledge, respect and appreciate the contributions of all people. That said, let's no longer ignore our history, but instead learn it, and provide it accurately and completely.



ON THE COVER

Saturday, Keesler's permanent party single Airmen gathered on the beach at the foot of White Avenue in Biloxi for an evening of food, fun and fellowship sponsored by the airman and family readiness center.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist



"Green Bay, because Mr. McKinley, my director, wants the Steelers to win."

Airman 1st Class Waylon Davault, 81st Communications Squadron



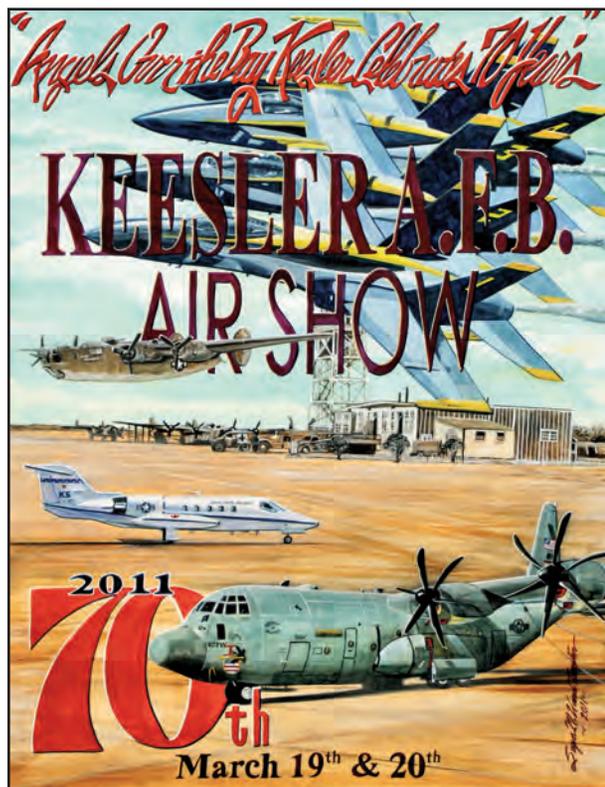
"Green Bay!"
Staff Sgt. Robert Shavers, 81st Training Wing



"I would have to pick the Steelers."

Airman Basic Andrea Aguayo, 336th Training Squadron

Who is your pick to win the Super Bowl?



Let the celebration begin!
Keesler's
70 years of service
to America
1941~2011

KEESLER NEWS

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Finance instructor earns Air Force award

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Staff Sgt. Brandon Harris, 335th Training Squadron, is the Air Force's finance educator of the year.

Sergeant Harris, an instructor for the enlisted financial management courses, has served in the Air Force for seven years, three of them at Keesler.

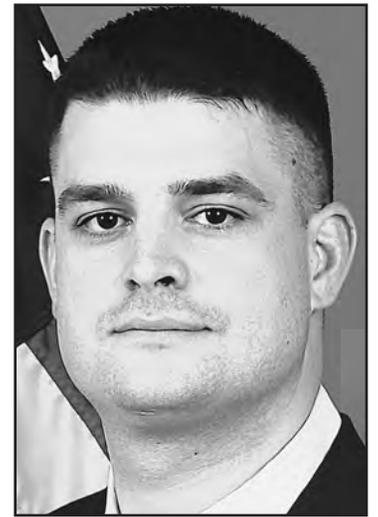
Sergeant Harris, who calls Arkoma, Okla., home, mentored 361 Airmen and motivated six marginal students to avoid wash-back.

He revitalized two blocks of instruction by updating 960 pages of course material. He's the financial management learn-

ing center's community of practice administrator and managed 18 self-inspection checklists. He conducted a financial management class online, curtailing instructor workload by 50 percent.

Sergeant Harris led two Keesler 5/6 fundraisers, served as a dispatcher for Airmen Against Drunk Driving, coached his squadron's softball team and recruited 12 volunteers to mentor 20 teens at Biloxi's detention center. He's earned 15 academic hours toward his master's degree in business administration.

"I've been very fortunate to be here at Keesler with a great team and good leaders," Sergeant Harris said. "My supervisor has really helped to progress my career. I am humbled and very appreciative to be getting this."



Sergeant Harris

Keesler's Sailors claim Navy Flagship Award

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The Navy has honored the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit at Keesler with its 2010 Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship Award in the medium shore category.

"My Sailors and Marines have worked very hard and volunteered many hours toward

local community service," Cmdr. Angie Walker, CNATTU commander, pointed out.

The unit's community service efforts have been coordinated by Petty Officer 1st Class Darius Sayers, winner of last year's Thomas V. Fredian Community Leadership Award from the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce. In recognition of this honor, Petty Officer Sayers attended

President Barack Obama's State of the Union address, Jan. 25 in Washington, D.C., as a guest of Mississippi Rep. Steven Palazzo.

CNATTU'S 60 staff members and 250 students performed more than 1,049 hours of community service in 90 separate events during 2010.

The unit's primary community service focus during the 2009-2010 school was mentoring and counseling underprivileged children at Nichols Elementary School in Biloxi. When the school closed at the end of the school year and merged with nearby Gorenflo Elementary School, CNATTU continued its commitment to Biloxi's children at the new location.

The Sailors spent about 2 1/2 hours every non-training Friday during the school year serving as role models to 215 students, individual tutoring in mathematics and science and teaching life and social skills through teamwork in sports.

In CNATTU's award package, Commander Walker noted that her unit's involvement in volunteer efforts with Biloxi children highlighted the Navy core values of honor, courage and commitment.

"Honor is exhibited by the quality of our Sailors who value community service and volunteerism," the nomination pack-



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Gorenflo Elementary School Principal Melissa Nance, left, presents handmade thank-you cards to Cmdr. Angie Walker, CNATTU commander, in recognition of the unit's support during a reaffirmation ceremony at the school Friday.



Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Michael Giardini surveys the students assembled for CNATTU's reaffirmation ceremony Friday at Gorenflo Elementary School in Biloxi.

age explained. "Courage is demonstrated through the physical and emotional demands placed on our volunteers who led and mentored classes of 22 children per event. Commitment is demonstrated by the high number of 'repeat volun-

teers' who are dedicated to our local community and the lives of others."

CNATTU's other projects benefited the American Heart Association, Girl Scouts of America and the DeSoto National Forest's river cleanup.

New fitness standards issued for JET Airmen

By Capt. Omar Villarreal

AETC Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Airmen preparing to attend Army-taught combat skills training prior to deploying to a joint expeditionary tasking in direct support of combatant commander or joint task force ground component missions will soon be required to possess a current and passing fitness assessment, according to new Air Education and Training Command guidance.

The new standards, which already apply to Air Force-taught combat airman skills training, went into effect Tuesday.

“Joint Expeditionary Training courses can range from 21 to 70 days, and are very physically demanding,” said Lt. Gen. Douglas Owens, AETC vice commander. “Due to the physical demands of the courses and requests from Air Expeditionary Group commanders, Airmen will be

required to have a passing fitness assessment on record before attending CST.”

If a wing wishes to deploy an Airman to CST without a current or passing fitness assessment, the Airman must provide a letter signed by a medical provider and that letter must be endorsed by the wing commander or equivalent certifying the Airman can complete specific physical tasks performed during training.

Col. Chuck Douglass, 602nd Training Group (Provisional) Commander, said that Airmen who attend CST are put through an intense simulation of what they may experience while deployed and must be physically fit to complete the rigorous training.

“Soldiers who have recently returned from a deployment, in Iraq or Afghanistan, train Airmen on what they went through and what could be expected,” Colonel Douglass said. “Airmen learn how to actively par-

ticipate in convoy operations, they are put in combat scenarios, they learn how to call for medical evacuations and perform combat lifesaving techniques.”

Colonel Douglass said the training is very physically demanding because of the movements required and the weight of protective gear worn by Airmen.

“Airmen who arrive at CST after Feb. 1 not in compliance will be eliminated from training and returned to home station as directed by AETC leadership,” Colonel Douglass said. “The 602nd TRG(P) has the mission to prepare Airmen for their deployments...it is up to each Airman’s home station to ensure they are prepared for CST.”

For more information on JET, log on to www.jetairmen.af.mil, www.facebook.com/jetairmenfanpage or visit www.keesler.af.mil/units/2ndairforce.asp.



Photo by Capt. John Severns

An Airman advances toward a hill during a live-fire exercise as part of combat skills training for provincial reconstruction team members. In the exercise, teams of Airmen and Soldiers leapfrog their way up a hill while firing at targets using live ammunition. Airmen preparing for Joint Expeditionary Taskings must be prepared for physically strenuous activities during their Army-led training courses.

Military training leader selected to attend scholarship and commissioning program

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Staff Sgt. Melissa Keith, a military training leader in the 336th Training Squadron, has been selected for the Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program.

Sergeant Keith enlisted in 2002 and arrived at Keesler 1½ years ago. She’s pursuing a computer science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi.

ASCP offers active duty enlisted personnel the opportunity to earn a commission while completing their bachelor’s degree as an Air Force ROTC cadet.

Those selected separate from the active-duty Air Force, join an Air Force



Sergeant Keith

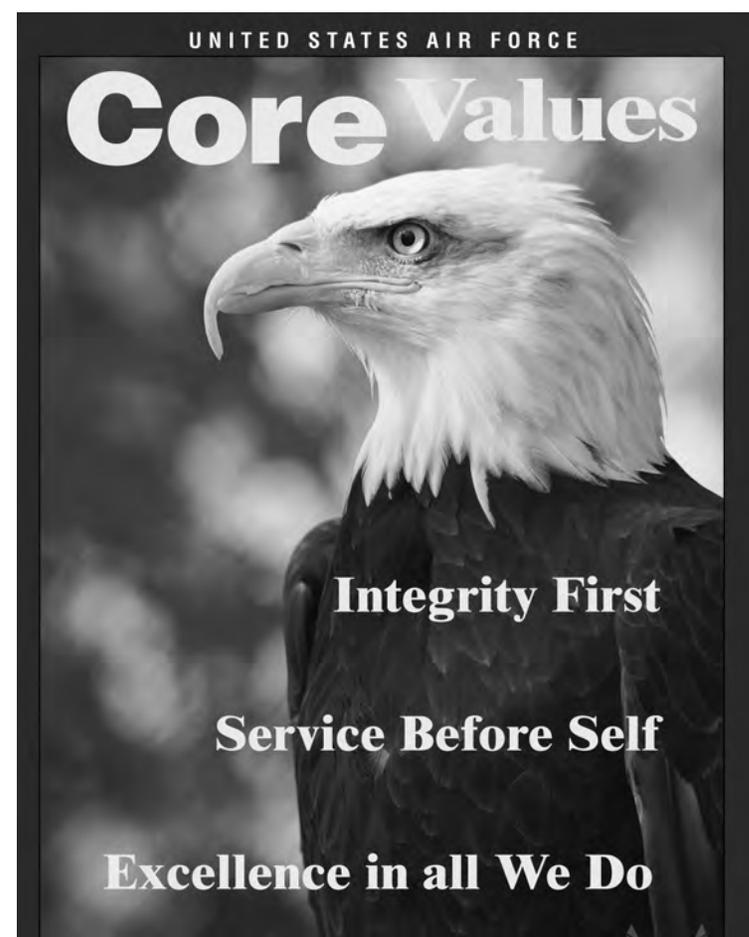
ROTC detachment and become a full-time college student.

“This program offers me the opportunity to finish my bach-

elor’s degree,” said Sergeant Keith, who’ll begin the program Aug. 24 as part of the 432nd ROTC Detachment at USM. “The Air Force will be taking care of the tuition and cost of books while I’m in school. Once I graduate, I’ll be commissioned as an officer.”

Annual boards consider the “whole person” concept to evaluate applicants, including a commander’s recommendation and the Airman’s duty performance history and academic performance.

“I appreciate all the guidance I have received during my duration in the Air Force,” Sergeant Keith said. “I’m grateful for this opportunity, and I’m ready to get started!”





Lieutenant Weeks

Cyber warrior gives briefing at security conference

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Second Lt. Matthew Weeks, a recent graduate of undergraduate cyber training in the 333rd Training Squadron, presented research on defense methods to stop cyber criminals and attackers at the Black Hat Technical Security Conference DC 2011 Conference, Jan. 16-19 in Washington, D.C.

Lieutenant Weeks completed the research before he graduated last May from Cedarville University, Ohio, with a bachelor's degree in computer science and mathematics.

He's headed to Hurlburt Field, Fla., for more training before moving on to an assignment with the 33rd Network Warfare Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.



Red Wolves honor young heroes

From left, Felix Rodriguez Jr. and A.J. and Audrey Simmons display coins they received during the 336th Training Squadron's commander's call Monday. The unit's Key Spouses arranged for the children of squadron members who deployed in 2010 to receive Little Heroes certificates for supporting their parents. Felix, 5, is the son of Tech. Sgt. Felix and Gina Rodriguez. A.J., 7, and Audrey, 12, are the children of Tech. Sgt. Joanne and Tony Simmons.

Photo by Herb Welch



Fun and games

Airman Jason Summers, a student in the 338th Training Squadron who serves as a "white rope" chaplain assistant, chats with Col. Lynn Connett as she checks out the new video room in the Fishbowl Student Center inside the Levitow Training Support Facility. Colonel Connett is commander of the 81st Training Group. The video room provides about 10 different gaming systems for students to enjoy.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Twin Airmen from Russia follow identical path

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Alyona and Marina Blizard have always been together ... from their birth in Russia 20 years ago, through their time in an orphanage and when they joined their adoptive family in West Virginia.

They joined the Air Force and went through basic training together. Now they're at Keesler together, sharing a dorm room in Holbrook Manor and attending technical training in Thomson Hall.

The twins arrived at Keesler Nov. 29. Alyona is taking the cyber systems operations course, while Marina is enrolled in the client systems course, both in the 336th Training Squadron. They'll finish their courses in March and remain at Keesler for additional training for a while.

"It's a lot better here than at basic," Marina said.

"It's a lot warmer here than at home," Alyona remarked.

The sisters were adopted by Paul and Pat Blizard eight years ago and moved to West Virginia. Their adoption gave them U.S. citizenship.

The Blizards have three sons and one other daughter. The twins also have an adult brother back in Russia.

"The Air Force offers us a great career and wonderful benefits," Alyona said of their decision to join the service.

"I like to travel and the educational benefits are good," Marina added.

After completing tech school, Alyona is headed to Langley Air Force Base, Va. The twins would like to be at the same base, but Marina isn't sure what her assignment will be yet.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Airmen Basic Alyona and Marina Blizard are students in the 336th Training Squadron.

Students earn perfect scores



Airman 1st Class Andrew Foldhazi, left, and Staff Sgt. Kelli Grunder have graduated from technical training in the 81st Training Group with perfect scores. Airman Foldhazi graduates today with a perfect score as top graduate in the 338th Training Squadron's cyber transport course, after previously earning a perfect score in the IT fundamentals maintenance course. Airman Foldhazi, from Vacaville, Calif., is the first "perfect student" for the cyber transport course, formerly the network infrastructure systems course, according to squadron officials. Sergeant Grunder graduated Jan. 26 from the personnel apprentice course in the 335th TRS. She returns to the 121st Air Refueling Wing Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Ohio.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Awards luncheon

The 81st Training Group's annual awards luncheon is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today 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 is under way for active-duty military members for the spring session for Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Keesler Center.

All others may register Monday through Feb. 28, when the term begins.

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

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

DeCA scholarships

Applications for the Defense Commissary Agency's 2011 Scholarships for Military Children program are available at the commissary, online at <http://www.commissaries.com> under the "news and info" tab under "scholarship info" tab; or at www.militaryscholar.org.

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.

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.

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.

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.

ENERGY AWARENESS

The Air Force is committed to energy efficiency. Everyone -- servicemembers, civilians and family members -- can help save energy and work toward a cleaner future. Here are some "Energy Facts" to think about:

- Each winter, the equivalent of all the oil in the Alaskan oil pipeline is lost as heat through American windows
- "Energy Star" makes a difference. Energy Star tagged appliances typically use 50 percent less energy than their older counterparts
- Every time an oven door is opened, 25-50 degrees of temperature is lost
- Each ton of recycled paper saves the energy equivalent of 380 barrels of oil
- Ceiling fans cost about \$2.40 a month to run 10 hours a day; they can reduce energy bills by \$10
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours

Make energy awareness a part of your day



Call
Airmen Against Drunk Driving,
377-SAVE,
for a safe ride home.
More than 43 saves in January!

Heart Link program wins award at AETC Symposium

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler's continuing efforts to bolster Air Force spouses were recognized at the annual Air Education and Training Command Symposium, Jan. 21 in San Antonio, Texas.

Keesler claimed the inaugural award recognizing the command's outstanding Heart Link program. Lt. Col. Richard Cole, 81st Force Support Squadron commander; Jackie Pope, airman and family readiness center director, and Cherrie Tiggeman, chief of airman and family services, were on hand to accept the award, cheered on by 125 others in the Keesler contingent.

The Air Force's Heart Link program is intended to strengthen military families and to enhance mission readiness in an effort to recruit individuals and retain families. Heart Link targets spouses with less than five years affiliation with the Air Force, but Keesler expanded the program to encompass seasoned spouses who need a "refresher course" on the changing Air Force environment. Heart Link attendance is also part of the training for Keesler's Key Spouses.

Icebreakers, games, skits and presentations link six activities in which vital information is presented in an interactive manner.

Topics include You and the Air Force -Where You Fit In, Introduction to the Air Force, Tool Kit for Preparedness, Communicating Within the Air Force, Healthy Families and Your Vital Importance to the Air Force Family.

Heart Link is promoted through a 20-video on the base's cable channel, three traveling kiosks, e-mails to spouses of students in techni-



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Laurie Berk, left, wife of Col. Rodney Berk, 81st Mission Support Group commander, and Leigh Short, wife of Lt. Col. Doug Short, 333rd Training Group commander, fill bags with various goodies at the airman and family readiness center in preparation for a Heart Link program. Keesler's Heart Link program won an award at the AETC Symposium Jan. 21 for the command's most outstanding Heart Link program.

cal training and introductions at base newcomer briefings and first term airman center classes. Participants are recruited by Key Spouses from across the base and members of the Keesler Spouses Club.

At Keesler, Heart Link provides not only an introduction to the Air Force family, but tangible ways for spouses to get involved with the base and the surrounding community. Heart Link has partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to offer quarterly tours of the city and provided weekend sessions to accommodate

spouses who work outside the home.

"Our Heart Link program was selected by AETC to host Purdue University as a model for its development of a computer-based program for spouses who are at geographically-separated units so they too can benefit from the orientation," Ms. Pope explained.

The next Heart Link is scheduled for March 24, and limited child care assistance is available on a first-come basis.

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

IN THE NEWS

AETC commander visits Keesler

Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr., commander of Air Education and Training Command, visits Keesler Monday and Tuesday.

General Rice holds a commander's call, 12:30 p.m. Monday in Welch Auditorium.

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.

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.

Wing annual awards dinner

The 81st Training Wing's annual awards dinner is Feb. 24 at the Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom.

Cocktails are at 6:30 p.m., with the meal starting at 7.

Dress is mess dress or semi-formal for military and dress casual for civilians.

Tickets are \$25.20 for club members and \$28.80 for nonmembers for the London broil meal. Tickets are available from Master Sgt. Sheila Hanley, 81st Medical Group, 376-4419; Tech. Sgt. Jay Cook, 81st Training Group, 377-0121; Master Sgt. James Gross, 81st Training Wing staff agencies, 377-5445; and Master Sgt. Jessica Woodruff, 81st Mission Support Group, 376-8508.

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

Clinics close for warrior training

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group conducts warrior training noon to 5 p.m. the second Thursday of each month except June, October and November, when training moves to the first Thursday of the month.

Staffing is reduced in family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics general surgery, pharmacy, radiology and laboratory services. For urgent situations, call central appointments at 1-800-700-8603 or report to the emergency room.

For emergency situations such as shortness of breath, chest or abdominal pain or bleeding with pregnancy, please go to the nearest emergency room. If this is an emergency, contact 911 for an ambulance.

Black History Month

Chapel's gospel fest leads off Keesler observance

Black History Month events continue in February and spill over into March and April.

Black History Month luncheon — noon today at the Bay Breeze Event Center. Rip Daniels, owner of WJZD-FM Radio in Gulfport is the guest speaker.

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.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

The Keesler Gospel Choir performed at the annual Gospel Fest at Triangle Chapel Saturday. Other groups on the program included Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, Amazing Grace Ministries, New Light Baptist Church and the Gospel Singingairs. A free dinner followed the concert.

To advertise in the Keesler News, call:
896-2380 (Classifieds)
896-2398 (Display)

PERSONNEL NOTES

Classes for job hunters

These upcoming classes are held in the airman and family readiness center in Sablich Center.

To register and for more information, call 376-8728.

Resumes for non-government jobs — 9-11:30 a.m. Feb. 8 and March 22, Room 108A. Maximum of 15 people per class; pre-registration is required no later than the day prior to the class.

Resumes for government or federal positions — 9-11:30 a.m. Feb. 16, March 16 or March 30, Room 108B, 9 am until 11:30 am. Pre-registration is required no later than the day prior to the class.

Skills assessment class — 9-11:30 a.m. March 10, Room 108A. Pre-registration is required no later than the day prior to the class.

Interviewing and salary negotiation class — 9-11 a.m. Feb. 24 or March 24, Room 108A.

Resume writing and job fair preparation — special class to assist in preparing for April's Southern Region Military and Civilian Job Fair in April; 2-4:30 p.m. March 29, Room 108 B, or 9-11:30 a.m. March 31, Room 108A.

Upcoming special classes — in May there'll be special civilian job resume writing, federal job resume writing and interviewing

classes for instructors or other personnel with inflexible work schedules. Each topic's class will be 45 minutes each day for three days. Participants are expected to attend all three class days.

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.

Tools are available to assess financial risk

Airman and family readiness center

Are you at risk financially?

If you answer "yes" to at least two of the these questions, you could be headed for trouble:

Have you been denied a security clearance?

Have you missed or made a late payment to a creditor within the last six months?

Do you share an account with someone who's missed or been late with a payment?

Have you been denied credit?

Have you fallen victim to identity theft?

Have you finalized a divorce or separation within the past 24 months?

If you're an active duty member or a spouse of an active -uty member, you're eligible for the free MyFICO financial tool.

By calling the airman and family readiness center, 376-8728, and requesting an appointment with Rose Janosik, you'll have access to MyFICO for 30 days.

"Ninety days after you first use MyFICO, you'll be advised that a second opportunity to use the tool is available," said Ms. Janosik, a community resource specialist at the center. "This allows you time to take actions based on initial report results to improve credit score, reflect improvements achieved and continue the financial education and literacy process.

"This tool rate factors in your credit report that are hurting or helping your score," she added. "All information you share with MyFICO is only between you and MyFICO."

Court-martial ends command chief's career

Air Force News Service

SCOTT Air Force Base, Ill. — The week-long court-martial of Chief Master Sgt. William Gurney, former command chief of Air Force Materiel Command, concluded Friday with a six-member panel of male officers sentencing the chief to 20 months confinement, reduction to rank of airman basic and a dishonorable discharge for 15 violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Of those violations, Chief Gurney initially had pleaded guilty to seven violations of Article 92 for dereliction of duty for failing to maintain a professional relationship with seven different female Airmen, all who were junior in rank to him; one violation of Article 92 for wrongful misuse of government property for other than official purposes; one violation of Article 120 for indecent conduct with a female master sergeant; and four violations of Article 134 for committing adultery with four separate female Airmen, all who were junior in rank to him.

During the court-martial, the panel found the chief guilty of two violations of Article 93, maltreatment. They found him not guilty of one violation of Article 120, unwanted sexual contact; and two violations of Article 134, misuse of official position. When the court-martial began, there were 19 charges against him. One charge of obstruction of justice was dismissed by the judge during the arraignment portion of the trial.

Before sentencing, Chief Gurney stood before members of the court to apologize for his actions.

"I would not wish this on my worst enemy," he said.

He said he hopes that this trial brings a measure of closure for all involved, and he publicly apologized to the 10 women named in the case and to his family. He also offered an apology to his commanders and Airmen "for not living up to the core values that are instilled in us."

Following sentencing, Chief Gurney's case will move into legally required post-trial proceedings, during which he will have the opportunity to present matters for the convening authority's consideration in determining a final sentence. However, by regulation, that sentence cannot exceed that which the court hands down.

Tops in Blue heads to Super Bowl

By Erin Tindell

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO — Tops In Blue, the Air Force's expeditionary entertainment unit, is scheduled to perform "America the Beautiful" during festivities leading up to Sunday's Super Bowl XLV in Arlington, Texas.

The group will perform alongside actress Lea Michele during pre-game activities. Tops In Blue performed in the halftime show during Super Bowl XIX in 1985.

Tops In Blue is composed of 35 active-duty vocalists, dancers, musicians and technicians. For the past 57 years, Tops In Blue has traveled to more than 20 countries to perform more than 120 times each year for Airmen and families around the world.

Super Bowl XLV will be televised on FOX Feb. 6, with kickoff scheduled for 5:25 p.m. CST. Tops In Blue will perform shortly after 5 p.m.



Staff Sgt. Harron Elloso sings Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" at Tops in Blue's Nov. 4 performance at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum in Biloxi. Sergeant Elloso is from Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Gates: Congress must address budget crisis

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

OTTAWA, Canada — The failure of Congress so far to pass the fiscal 2011 defense appropriations bill, which creates the possibility of funding the department under a year-long continuing resolution instead, is "the crisis on my doorstep," Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Jan. 26.

Failure to pass the funding legislation will represent a \$23 billion cut in the defense budget in the current fiscal year, the secretary noted.

"It's the worst of all possible kinds of reductions, in significant measure because it comes halfway through the fiscal year," Secretary Gates told reporters.

The budget request was for \$549 billion, and the continuing resolution would come in at \$526 billion.

War funding won't be affected, however. The Defense Department will receive \$159 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan this fiscal year, a figure that drops to \$120 billion in fiscal 2012.

DOD officials likely would use operations and maintenance accounts to compensate for the difference between the budget legislation funding and that provided by a continuing resolution, through stretching out programs and making cuts in training and readiness, Secretary Gates said.

"Frankly that's how you hollow out a military, even in wartime," the secretary added. "It means fewer flying hours, fewer steaming days, cuts in training for home-stationed ground forces, cuts in maintenance, and so on."

The current continuing resolution runs out March 4. Secretary Gates said that if lawmakers don't pass the appropriations bill before that date, "this new Congress would be responsible for a cut that's nearly twice the size of our fiscal '12 proposal, and much, much more damaging."

Forces deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan probably will be protected from the more draconian cuts, but forces reconstituting, or on watch in other areas of the world, will be affected, the secretary said.

"Depending on how it comes out, as I say, it could have an impact on training across the entire force, on maintenance, on facilities maintenance," he added.

"I will do everything in my power to protect all the money associated with family programs, and I mean that," the secretary said. "I will protect the money associated with family programs and with wounded warriors."

Secretary Gates questioned the seriousness of members of Congress who are up in arms about cuts to defense in fiscal 2012, but are ignoring the effect the continuing resolution will have on the services.

"In short, talk about not cutting defense in (fiscal 2012), as far as I'm concerned, is simply rhetoric without action on the (fiscal 2011) defense budget that's already in front of the Congress," he said.

Secretary Gates also discussed some of the congressional concerns over his proposed \$78 billion cut in the projected defense budget over the next five years.

The impact on the services is very modest, he said. Of the \$78 billion, \$54 billion in savings come from reductions in defense agencies and other cuts.

About \$14 billion of the cut comes from changes in assumptions, Secretary Gates explained.

For example, he said, inflation is lower than anticipated and pay raises will be smaller than the ones that were figured into budget projections.

"So \$68 billion of the \$78 billion don't touch the services, really, at all," he said. "An additional \$4 billion comes from restructuring the joint strike fighter program, and I would argue that's actually to the advantage of the services. And \$6 billion is from the force reductions in '15 and '16."

The bottom line, Secretary Gates said, is that "only about \$10 billion come out of anything having to do with the troops or investment funds or capabilities."

The fiscal 2011 budget is getting mixed into issues that range far beyond the Defense Department, Secretary Gates said, adding that he is addressing his responsibilities to the department.

"My view is these issues are not optional," he said. "This has to do with the security of the country."



Airman Pyszka



Sergeant Fish



Sergeant Leblanc



Captain Williams



Mr. Ahlberg



Mr. Gunn



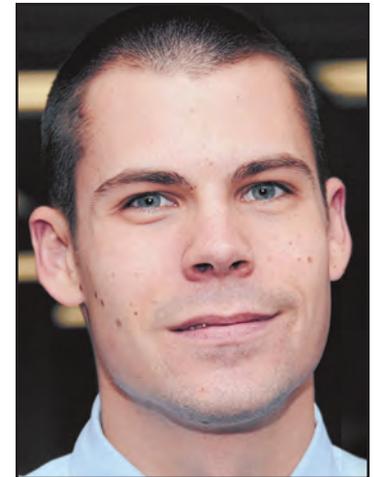
Ms. Atchley



Mr. Rhoades



Airman Davault



Sergeant Cox

Wing's top performers earn quarterly awards

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The 81st Training Wing presented awards to its top performers for October-December during a luncheon Jan. 27 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Airman – Senior Airman Andrea Pyszka, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron.

Noncommissioned officer – Staff Sgt. Tammi Fish, 81st Medical Support Squadron.

Senior NCO – Master Sgt. Robert Leblanc, 333rd Training Squadron.

Company grade officer – Capt. Jason Williams, 81st Security Forces Squadron.

Civilian category 1 — Paul Ahlberg, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

Civilian category 2 — James Gunn, 334th TRS.

Civilian supervisor category 1 — Ruthie Atchley, 81st Communications Squadron.

Civilian supervisor category 2 — Lawrence Rhoades, 81st SFS.

Honor guard Airman – Airman 1st Class Waylon Davault, 81st MSG.

Honor guard NCO – Staff Sgt. Travis Cox, 333rd TRS.

Super Bowl trophy at exchange Friday

The New Orleans Saints Super Bowl trophy is at the base exchange Friday.

“World Champs,” the official behind-the-scenes perspective of the Saints’2010 Super Bowl victory, will be on sale. Former player Michael Lewis, now team ambassador for the Saints, will be available for autographs and photographs with the trophy, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. He’ll also be in the foot court to greet fans, 1-2 p.m.

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



Friday is 'Smile Day' for kids without dental coverage

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

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

The program provides unin-

sured children ages 3-12 years from active-duty and retired military families, not enrolled in the Tricare Dental Program (United Concordia), free dental services ranging from screenings to fillings as part of the national event.

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

Dr. Gasparovich explained, "The 'Give Kids A Smile'

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

Dr. Gasparovich noted, "According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly one in four children ages 2 to 11 years has untreated cavities in their baby teeth. The National Institutes of Health report that 80 percent of tooth decay is found in just 25 percent of children, primarily from low-income families. This event will raise awareness of the epidemic of untreated dental disease occurring here and across the country and raise awareness of the need to build local and public partnerships to increase access to oral health care to solve this crisis."

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'Blu-Med' provides mobile patient reception

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group has a new mobile tool at its disposal to support a variety of disaster field response mission requirements.

The "Blu-Med" system consists of a 28-foot trailer and tents that can be erected almost anywhere to support National Disaster Medical System Federal Coordinating Center patient reception area operations, serve as an alternate medical facility, provide isolation capabilities and offer contingency expansion requirements.

"This system is compatible with the Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Medical Assistance Teams, National Guard units, National Fire Department and Veterans Affairs disaster response tent assemblages," according to Robert Tash, 81st Medical Support Squadron readiness flight NDMS FCC emergency management area coordinator. "It meets the requirement to have an equipment package to support Keesler's FCC patient reception area mission."

To aid setup operations, a newly-established 14-member cadre team of medical group personnel was trained Jan. 19 as setup facilitators supporting three separate medical missions: air show medical support, emergency room expansion and NDMS FCC patient reception area requirements. Mr. Tash noted the newly-trained team will assist annual setup training exercises to maintain proficiency with the system.

Mr. Tash added, "Blu-Med can be used to help meet existing FCC PRA mission requirements and strengthen the 81st Training Wing's overall homeland defense posture. It will enable the 81st MDG patient reception area team to deploy rapidly to a pre-designated airfield and establish patient reception activities in support of FEMA NDMS operations and training."

The cadre team set up the



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Airman 1st Class Karla Martinez and Airman Yan Cruz, 81st Medical Support Squadron, and Airman 1st Class Erica Gilbertson, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, pull the exterior canvas layer over the smallest of the three tents as they train to erect the "Blu-Med" system Jan. 19.

system in a 24-bed configuration in an area behind the hospital's emergency department. Homero Elizondo, a representative of Alaska Shelter Systems, Blu-Med manufacturer, instructed the team how to assemble the two large tents plus a third, smaller shelter using a train-the-trainer approach.

The trailer included in the package serves as a command and control communications center and is used for storing the tents and generators when the system is not in use. Assembly included installing power, lights, environmental control units, setting up two

generators and putting together the 24 contingency beds.

The initial effort took four hours, but Mr. Tash expects the setup time to be reduced to two to three hours as the team receives additional training. In addition to powering the facility, the two generators can accommodate and power most medical equipment required in a disaster.

Ultimately the system will help save lives, Mr. Tash pointed out.

"Previously, Keesler's FCC patient reception area operations were completely reliant upon outside civilian agency

support, such as the DMATs," he explained. This 'mobile' assemblage now enables the medical group to deploy autonomously and rapidly the minimum essential equipment to meet its mission."

"FEMA DMAT medical teams, National Guard units and Veterans Affairs use their specific equipment for FCC PRA activities and patient care," Mr. Tash continued. "Mission requirements dictate that 81st MDG patient reception area equipment seamlessly integrate with other responding agencies to ensure maximum interoperability with minimum set-up time.

At \$190,000, this equipment provides that seamless integration capability and allows for multi-purpose assistance from routine patient care to FCC contingency operations. The equipment can be set up in a hangar, at an airfield or most remote areas."

He mentioned the Blu-Med manufacturer also provides expeditionary medical support tent packages to the Air Force which makes the Keesler system compatible with EMEDS. It also is adaptable for use with similar equipment from a different manufacturer employed by other area medical emergency responders.

Officials to issue new camouflage uniforms to Afghanistan deployers

By Tech. Sgt. Jess Harvey

Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON —Airmen deploying to Afghanistan in 2011 will see a new uniform issued to them as part of their deployment gear beginning in March.

While Airmen have been faced with a slew of uniform changes in recent years, this new uniform is not a matter of image or heritage but instead has resulted from a joint initiative that ensures all outside-the-wire deployers in Afghanistan, regardless of branch of service, have the best ground combat uniform in order to enhance combat effectiveness.

According to Lt. Col. Shawna McGowan, the Air Force future programs branch chief, Air Force leaders collaborated with Army experts to develop a solution to meet evolving camouflage and fire-retardancy demands in theater.

The new uniform, called the Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern, or OCP, is the same uniform recently fielded in Afghanistan to U.S. Soldiers, Colonel McGowan said.

“At first, Airmen receiving the (Airman Battle System-Ground, or ABS-G) uniforms with mission responsibilities outside the wire in Afghanistan will have priority for the OCP.”

But the plan is for the OCP uniform to eventually become the only ground-combat uniform worn by Airmen in Afghanistan both inside and outside the wire, she said. This also will minimize the number of bags Airmen will carry into and out of the theater.

“The OCP uniform is scientifically developed to blend in with Afghanistan’s terrain, which will make our Airmen safer and more effective on the battlefield,” she said. “The new material is also flame resistant and lighter weight than either the ABS-G or the (Airman Battle Uniforms, or ABUs).”

The material also contains a bug repellent to protect our deployed Airmen, she added.

And, the colonel said, not only is this uniform better than its predecessors, but working jointly with the Army to use a tested uniform is the fiscally responsible thing to do.

“It’s not only a joint use of the best ground combat uniform available,”

Colonel McGowan said, “it saves fiscal resources and also aligns with the National Defense Authorization Act language that encourages collaborative efforts between the services.”

Since the OCP is replacing the other uniforms, there also will be a savings that will come from not needing to store and supply both the ABS-G and ABU, she said.

This won’t be the first time Airmen have worn this camouflage pattern in Afghanistan, though.

“Some Air Force personnel who are assigned to Army units were already issued the OCPs in the Army fielding initiative that began in August,” said Colonel McGowan, who restated that these uniforms will be issued to individuals, and they won’t be covered out-of-pocket by Airmen.

Individual units won’t even be authorized to purchase

these uniforms for the foreseeable future, the colonel said.

“The only authorized OCP uniforms are those purchased and issued by Air Force Central Command,” Colonel McGowan said. “While some units are interested in procuring the OCP for training, future deployments and such, they won’t be authorized to do so because those orders would take away from supplies that are prioritized for the most at-risk deployers.”

The colonel emphasized that patience and teamwork are critical during any individual equipment transition and while actions to field the OCP as quickly as possible are ongoing, Airmen should be reassured they will have them as soon as they can be fielded.

She also discouraged individuals from purchasing their own uniforms as that could result in them receiving non-tested, non-compliant uniforms that ultimately could put lives at risk. With any new uniform, ‘knock-offs’ are readily available and Airmen need to use sound judgment and not spend personal funds on potentially non-compliant OCP assets, she said.

“Essentially, any unauthorized purchase of the OCP uniforms could result in putting Airmen at risk either on the front lines or at home,” the colonel said.

She said switching to the OCP and having AFCENT as the sole issue point for these uniforms will meet the ultimate goal of ensuring that Airmen are equipped with the best, most advanced uniform available today.

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

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.

Pharmacy technician's attention to detail earns award during deployment to Iraq

By Senior Airman Tong Duong

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Whether sorting out medication for a splitting headache or antibiotics for battlefield injuries, filling the correct prescriptions can literally save lives.

Staff Sgt. Davitric Jackson, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group pharmacy technician, singlehandedly filled 1,417 prescriptions and provided 63 medications for 20 short-notice medically-evacuated patients, which enabled 100 percent survivability. His efforts earned him the Tuskegee Airman of the Week award for Jan. 9 - 15, 2011.

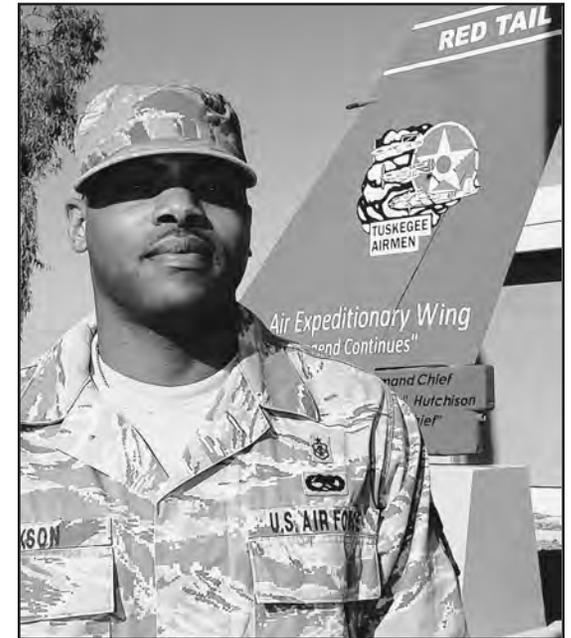
“Very detailed work with a lot of responsibility for a young noncommissioned officer to shoulder, not only in terms of accuracy in prescription, but inventory as well. You have to get it perfect,” said Brig. Gen. Kurt Neubauer, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander.

Sergeant Jackson, who deployed from Keesler's 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, was an A-10 Warthog maintainer and knows the importance of doing the best job possible. He secures more than 700 line-item medicines worth \$34,000 each day.

In the Air Force, when weapons systems are mentioned, most people will think of airplanes, but the general wants them to think of people.

“Airmen are the chassis of every weapons system that we field in the United States Air Force, and Sergeant Jackson takes care of that chassis for us,” General Neubauer said.

The general not only lauded the sergeant on the great job he does at work, but also on his



Sergeant Jackson

personal time. Sergeant Jackson, an Albany, Ga., native, arrived in December and got involved in the Joint 5/6 council, volunteered at the USO, Red Cross and Honor Guard because, ‘It feels good to help others.’

“He’s a guy who’s working on the body, mind and spirit of not just himself, but more importantly, the lives he touches either directly with his work at the pharmacy or through volunteering,” the general said. “I think that speaks volumes as to where his future lies hereon as far as providing leadership.”

CSC leader honors top performers

By John Prior

CSC base operating support contract program manager

Last month, Alan Weakley, president of CSC's Applied Technology Group, visited Keesler to observe CSC's performance on the base operating support contract.

As well as observing CSC operational day-to-day performance, Mr. Weakley visited with key 81st Training Wing leaders and recognized outstanding CSC performers.

Mr. Weakley presented the President's Coin to Greg Stoeger, Jeff Light and Rebecca Mason.

Mr. Stoeger manages the Keesler's real property account and is responsible for managing all facility space requests received from Keesler units. During the 2010 Air Education and Training Command Unit Compliance Inspection, these areas were rated “excellent.”

Mr. Light, a CSC weather forecaster, has produced products with a 99.8 percent accuracy rate over the past six months. assigned to the CSC weather Department and over the past 6 months the products he produces have maintained an accuracy rate of 99.8 percent. He

was also a major contributor to the 93.7 percent score the CSC weather department on the standardization and evaluation program for weather operations conducted during the UCI.

Ms. Mason has been CSC's superintendent of water operations since September and reports directly to CSC's civil engineering manager. Ms. Mason has developed procedures for her section to ensure base water production and operations meet all federal and state regulatory requirements and provide the base with safe drinking water.

Mr. Weakley presented Jim Holt, CSC manager for hospital facility maintenance and operations, his certificate of successful completion of ALPINE, CSC'S Accelerated Leader Program Infusing Next-generation Excellence. He was also certified for completing and passing the project management professional examination. ALPINE is an internal CSC training program designed to develop skills and accelerate the professional growth of program managers through a diverse combination of experimental assignments and formal learning in program and business management topics.

Sign of the times



Photo by Kemberly Groue

A display heralding the upcoming Keesler Air Show and Open House, March 19-20, has been placed in the median of Larcher Boulevard west of the base exchange and commissary. As a tribute to Keesler's 70th anniversary celebration this year, the roadside signs were painted in the Burma-Shave scheme, which was featured prominently from the 1920s to the 1950s. The six signs conclude with Keesler Field, which was the installation's moniker in 1941. After the Keesler Field sign is a 4-foot by 8-foot display featuring a six-aircraft formation of the Blue Angels and an American Flag over blue skies. The display was created by Lt. Col. Jonathan Wright, 81st Contracting Squadron commander.

Volunteer — get connected.



Spouses meet

Today's the deadline to sign up for the Keesler Spouses Club luncheon meeting, 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Lunch is \$10 for a salad and baked potato bar. To sign up, call 660-864-1100.

The theme of luncheon is "Day in the Life of a Military Spouse -- How to Stretch Your Dollar." It's hosted by the Keesler Thrift Shop staff and volunteers. Cleaning supplies such as paper towels, spray cleaners and hand sanitizer for the shop are being collected at the event or may be dropped off at the shop.

Singers sought

Vocalists are needed to sing the National Anthem at base or community ceremonies.

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

Tax office

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.

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.

DBIDS registration

Registration continues for Defense Biometric Identification System cards.

Active-duty members and Defense Department employees register through March 31. Registration for retirees and

Worship schedule

Roman Catholic

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

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

Protestant

Traditional service, 8:30 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-Jummah 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.

dependants is April 1 through June 31, but the pass and ID office won't turn away those wishing to register earlier.

Register 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.

eight days a week

Arts and crafts center

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

Friday — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., pen and ink drawing, \$30 includes supplies; 6 p.m., ladies' night, have a fun-filled night that includes games, snacks, drinks (non-alcoholic) and buy one get one half off ceramics special, \$5 admission fee.

Saturday — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., love mugs, paint a customized mug for your sweetheart. \$7.50 per mug; 10 a.m., beginning woodworking, \$25 includes supplies; 10 a.m. to noon, intarsia woodworking, \$25 includes supplies.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

Sunday — 9 a.m., Super Bowl scramble, four-person, select shot tournament. \$25 for inclusive member, \$30 for greens member and \$45 for nonmember. For more information, call 377-3832.

Monday-Feb. 10 — 2 p.m., twilight special, play unlimited golf until closing. For information on fees or tee time, call 377-3832.

Monday-Feb. 12 — golf lessons with a professional, by appointment only. \$30 per half-hour.

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

Bay Breeze Community Center

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

Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center

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

Saturday — 7 p.m. casino bowling night, \$15 per person for three games.

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

McBride Library

Wednesday — 3:30 p.m., healthy smiles dental program, ages 5-9.

Nonappropriated fund sale

Tuesday-Feb. 10 — at the former shoppette on Meadows Drive. 8-11 a.m. Tuesday open to active-duty, reservists and/or their dependents only; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. to 1

p.m. Wednesday and Feb. 10 open to all Department of Defense card holders. All sales are cash and carry. Limitations apply. For more information, log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us> or call 377-3160.

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

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

Weekdays — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., all-you-can-eat lunch buffet and salad bar in the casual dining area. \$6.95 members, \$8.95 nonmembers. For more information, call 377-2334.

Saturday — 4-7 p.m., social hour in collocated lounge.

Sunday — 4 p.m., Super Bowl party, in the ballroom. Tailgate buffet, drink specials and giveaways. Prize for the wackiest dressed football fan. \$10 club members, \$15 nonmembers and \$8 nonprior service students. Purchase tickets from the cashier. Round-trip transportation starts at 3:30 p.m. from Shaw/5000 block, Live Oak/2000 block, Tyr House and Welch Theater.

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

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

Vandenberg Community Center

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

Airman and family readiness center

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

Saturday — 4-10 p.m., Give Parents a Break, free child care at the youth and child development centers for Air Force families that are referred. For more information, call the airman and family readiness center, 376-8728.

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

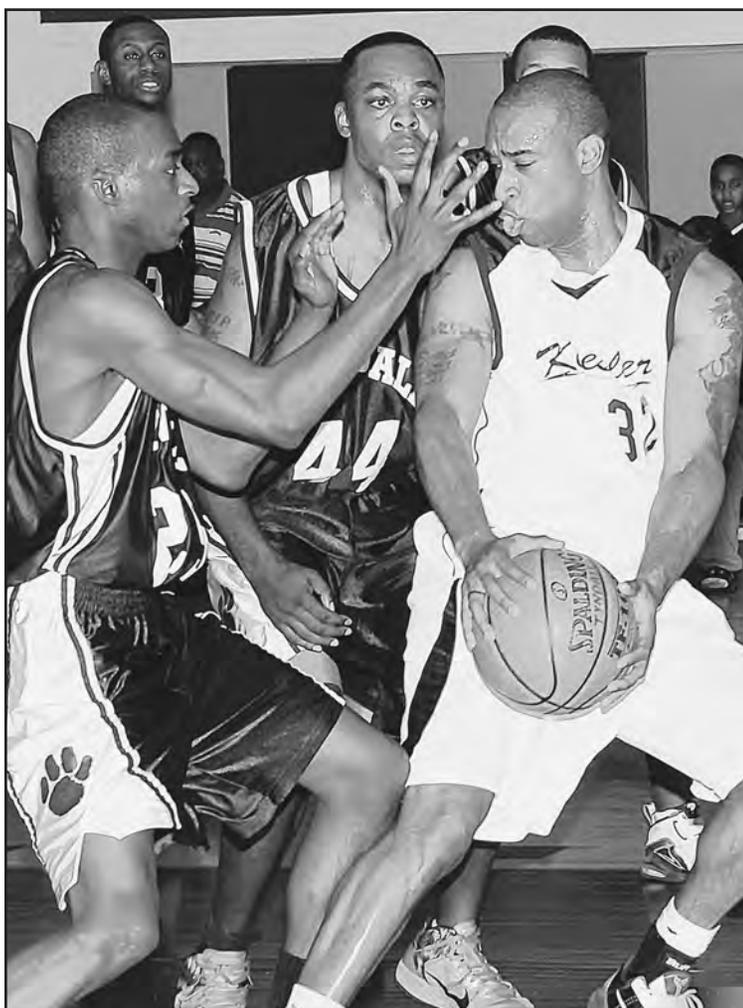
Wednesday — 9-11:30 a.m., newcomers' orientation, Room 108A, Sablich Center.

NO DUIS NO EXCUSES DRINK RESPONSIBLY

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Southeastern Military Athletic Conference basketball

Keesler Dragons take 2 from Tyndall Tigers



From left, Tyndall Tigers Jonathan Lee and Marquez Armour surround Keesler's Sherrod Brown as he searches for a fellow Dragon clear to receive a pass during Saturday's game. Keesler won, 72-68.



By Sam Miller

Intramural sports director

The Keesler Dragons men's and women's varsity basketball teams were victorious in Saturday's contests against the Tigers from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

Keesler's men's team took a 72-68 win and the Lady Dragons topped the Lady Tigers, 67-62 in Southeastern Military Athletic Conference action at Blake Fitness Center.

Lady Dragons

The Lady Dragons came into the contest against the winless Lady Tigers with a record of 5-1 in SEMAC play and 7-3 overall. A victory would secure first place and a regular season title for the Lady Dragons who spent the 2009-10 season dormant because of lack of women's SEMAC teams.

The Lady Dragons finished 1-1 in the Martin Luther King Tournament Jan. 15-16 at Eglin AFB, Fla. The Lady Dragons were anxious to repeat their 2008-09 SEMAC finish with another conference title.

The Lady Dragons struggled most of the first half of play before taking a 33-27 lead to end the period.

Tyndall kept the game close for most of the second half, but came up short despite 29 points from Madel Madden of Tyndall who led all scorers.

Brittany Austin led the Lady Dragons with 16 points and Wanda Farmer followed up with 12 points.



Photos by Kemberly Groue

From left, Lady Dragon Veronique Williams works her way around the court with teammate Brittany Austin coming in for backup as Bernadette Crimbley from Tyndall guards the net. The Lady Dragons claimed a 67-62 win.

Coach Richard Vincent said he's looking to have a good showing and repeat success in postseason play, but knows that staying on a roll will be hard with a three-week layoff before the playoffs start Feb. 18 at Eglin.

Dragons

The Keesler men's team, coming off the 2009-10 season in which they won the Southeastern Military Athletic Conference championship and National Military Athletic Association title, were hoping to repeat the success of last year. Unfortunately, last season's success hasn't carried over. With two games remain-

ing, the Dragons have posted a 5-4 SEMAC record.

The 8-2 Tyndall Tigers led for most of the game, and Tyndall's guard play looked like no match for Keesler. But with less than five minutes left, the Dragons tied the game.

Keesler's All Air Force forward Dan Nwaelele led all scorers with 36 points and helped secure a 72-68 win for the Dragons. Sherrod Brown and Alvin Holmes contributed 10 points each for Keesler. Kevion Smart was Tyndall's top scorer with 23 points.

The Dragons return to action on the road against Eglin Saturday.

Feb. 26 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.

Medics compete in 'Goofy's Challenge'

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Yekaterina Karpitskaya and Christopher Johnson participated in the Walt Disney World Marathon "Goofy's Challenge" in Orlando, Fla. A half-marathon took place Jan. 8 and the full marathon Jan. 9.

Karpitskaya, an 81st Surgical Operations Squadron orthopedic surgeon, was among 23,000 runners completing the half-marathon and 17,000 who finished the full marathon.

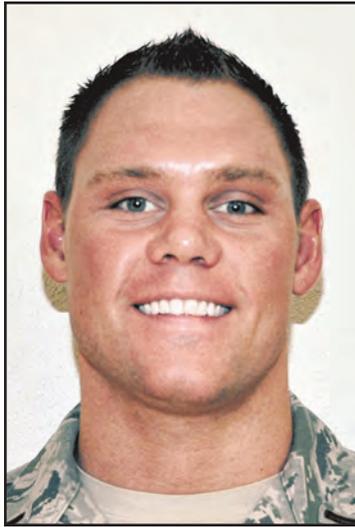
Karpitskaya's time in the half-marathon was 1:55:38 (2,267th overall, 587th among all women and 117th in her age group) and 4:14:31 for the full marathon (3,069th overall, 817th among all women and 162nd in her age group).



Karpitskaya

In the military category, she was 16th out of 193 runners in the half marathon and 18th out of 40 in the full marathon.

Johnson, a nurse in the 81st



Johnson

Inpatient Operations Squadron, ran in the half marathon, placing in the top 5 percent overall and top 9 percent in the male military category with a time of 1:45:30.

**For information on the Keesler Open House and Air Show,
log on to www.keesler.af.mil.**

