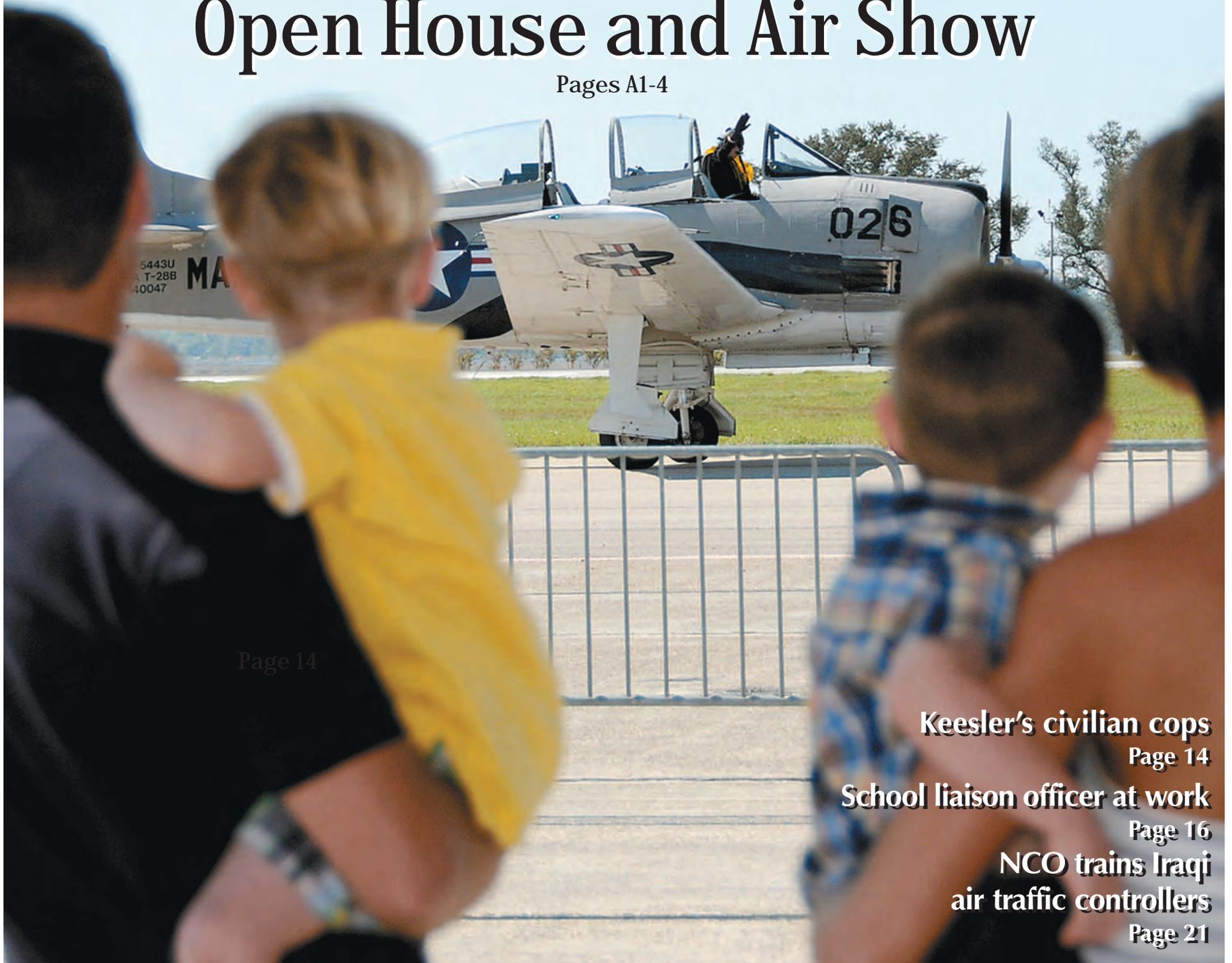




70th Anniversary Open House and Air Show

Pages A1-4



Page 14

Keesler's civilian cops
Page 14

School liaison officer at work
Page 16

**NCO trains Iraqi
air traffic controllers**
Page 21

Team Focus molds young men into leaders

By Lt. Col. Rich Cole

81st Force Support Squadron commander

A boy growing up without a father figure cries out for affirmation. A father affirms a child, builds character, gives him self-esteem, worth and confidence.

Through summer camps and ongoing, year-round mentoring and educational programs, Team Focus provides young men ages 10 to 18 with role models and positive influences that change their lives while encouraging them to reach for the stars, and helping them to achieve victories in their lives.

Team Focus was founded by Mike and Mickey Gottfried. Coach Gottfried, a former Division I NCAA football coach and ESPN analyst, lost his father at a young age, so he understood the void a young man has whose father is missing. Coach Gottfried spent a lifetime leading and molding young men as a coach to be their best in life and desired to provide a place for young men without a father figure in their lives to be encouraged, motivated and challenged.

The first Team Focus summer camp was funded in 2000. Now in 2011, Team Focus is still growing and impacting young men's lives, as over 2,000 boys have matured through this leadership program. Team Focus has expanded to 13 states and Keesler has partnered with the program to become the first military installation to host one of its chapters, the Mississippi Chapter.

Team Focus at Keesler provides fatherless young men across Mississippi with leadership skills, guidance, godly values and a continual relationship with a mentor. It also reaches out to young men whose fathers are deployed from all branches of the service.

What will Team Focus do for your child?

At Team Focus, the young men are motivated to do their best and are taught



Related story,
Page 13

educational, social and leadership skills. Guest speakers and mentors influence the young men's lives through classroom sessions, lectures, and informal discussions at camps right here at Keesler. Campers are educated on manners, appropriate dress, telephone etiquette, how to be a better student and how to interview for a job. They learn the meaning of teamwork through role playing, sports and other activities.

Importantly, Team Focus programs are made available at no cost to participating youths and families.

Keesler's Team Focus director, Tony Javens, is a Team Focus graduate who now leads the Mississippi Chapter. He'll earn his undergraduate degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2012. Tony believes that Team Focus helps open the door for young men to become effective in their community and become great leaders.

Gerry Cross, Keesler's school liaison officer, has worked with me to bring Team Focus to Keesler. When we met with Coach Gottfried, we knew we were on to something special and

his passion for expanding the program to include young men of deployed fathers was fantastic. Keesler gave the program a trial run last July with a four-day camp that Coach Gottfried said was the program's most successful camp ever.

Come visit with Team Focus at this weekend's open house and air show, where we'll share more information and have applications on hand for young men interested in this program. Go to www.teamfocususa.org to find out more. We'll have information soon about our next camp at Keesler this summer; we will get that information out soon!

For more information on how your young man can become part of Team Focus at Keesler, call 377-5836 or 1-251-229-6591 or e-mail Tony@TeamFocusUSA.org.

Nutrition — little changes bring big results

By 1st Lt. Justin Hyde

81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron

Well folks, March is here — that month somewhere between New Year's resolutions, Super Bowl parties, Valentine's Day chocolates, Mardi Gras goodies and fun in the sun.

March is also National Nutrition Month, an annual campaign created by the American Dietetic Association in 1973 to focus attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. This year's theme is "Eat Right with Color."

You may be thinking to yourself, "I hate dieting and it's too much work, but I want to be healthier." Here are this year's National Nutrition Month key messages, four common sense, yet intuitive pointers:

Balancing calories to manage weight — Take five minutes a day to plan ahead for meals. If you don't, studies show you're more likely to be distracted and make unhealthy decisions based on convenience. In fact, portion size accounts for more than half of the weight loss equation — the rest is what you eat and exercise. The little changes you make

throughout the day make a big impact at the end of the week.

Foods and nutrients to increase — Research has shown the most satisfying nutrients are fiber and fluid, especially water. That means two fresh fruits and two non-starchy vegetables a day are No. 1 as they are high in both fluid and fiber. Also, non-fried seafood is a much better choice than beef and pork alternatives; aim to substitute fish for beef and pork twice a week.

Foods and food components to reduce — More than a third of all calories consumed by Americans are solid fats and added sugars. New dietary guidelines released last year include eating less added sugar, satisfying your sugar craving with fruits and choosing candies and baked goods less often; eating less solid and trans fats, using canola or margarine instead; eating more fiber and less refined or processed grains; and eating less sodium, substituting with a salt substitute or spices.

Increase physical activity — get your body moving for about an hour a day.

Keesler's nutritional medicine flight wants to help promote this healthy mindset. For encouragement and educational resources, visit the health and wellness center.

Here's what's happening at Keesler

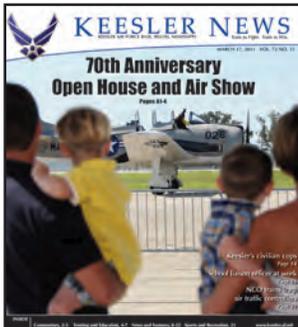
Today — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside the hospital's "Hungry Dragon" dining hall, "atypical foods" taste-testing and informational session.

March 24 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside the "Hungry Dragon," "Spin the Wheel, Answer a Question."

Each week — an example of a healthy meal option for foods from the Hungry Dragon with nutrition information included.

Throughout March — "Guess the Beans" contained within a large plastic jar. Prizes awarded at the end of the month for entries closest in total number, protein, fiber, iron, and potassium content of the beans within the jar.





ON THE COVER

The Jinright family from Enterprise, Ala., views a vintage P-51 Mustang, one of the static displays at Keesler's Thunder on the Bay Air Show, April 4, 2009. The P-51 returns to Keesler Saturday and Sunday for this year's open house and air show with the theme, "Angels Over the Bay — Keesler Celebrates 70 Years." The Navy Blue Angels flight demonstration squadron and the Army Golden Knights parachute team are among the featured performers. For more air show information, see Pages A1-4.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

What is your
least favorite
food?



"Corned beef hash"

Master Sgt. Lynnita
Bartee, 81st Training Wing



"Anchovies"

Senior Airman Robert
Vogel, 81st Security Forces
Squadron



"Green beans"

Staff Sgt. Crystal Hollars-
Connelly, 81st Force Sup-
port Squadron

Keesler celebrates 70 years of service to America, 1941-2011

KEESLER NEWS

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The Keesler News office is in Room 201A, Wall Studio, Building 0902. The mailing address: 81TRW/PAIN, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2120. Phone: 377-4130, 3837, 3163 or 9966. Published Thursday. News deadline: noon Monday. Editorial content edited, prepared and provided by the 81st TRW Public Affairs Office is in compliance with Air Force journalistic standards. Photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Two 335th TRS officers win AETC weather training awards

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

Two members of the 335th Training Squadron received recognition in the Air Education and Training Command weather awards for 2010.

Winners are:

Field grade officer — Maj. Matthew Stratton, weather training flight commander. Major Stratton led the largest flight in Air Force weather, including 85 Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, civilian instructors and staff that provided training to 480 Department of Defense students daily. He oversaw the flight's preparation for the 2010 Unit Compliance Inspection in which all 5 flights received an "Excellent" rating by readying 24,000 checklist items. He also guided the first special operations weather class to graduate, increasing



Major Stratton

mannings in the career field and enhancing Air Force combat capabilities.

Company grade officer — Capt. Brian Miller, instructor supervisor. Captain Miller taught 528 hours and scored an "Outstanding" on five eval-



Captain Miller

uations. He kept courses current by updating lesson plans, textbooks, 930 slides and six exams. He also saved \$45,000 in temporary duty costs by managing a 120-hour distance learning course that graduated 28 students worldwide.



338th TRS instructor is AETC's 2010 cyber transport systems NCO



Sergeant Ramos

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Staff Sgt. Joseph L. Ramos, an instructor in the 338th Training Squadron, is Air Education and Training Command's cyber transport systems noncommissioned officer of the year in the command's information dominance award competition.

Sergeant Ramos led 550 hours of instruction, providing 83 trained network technicians.

Sergeant Ramos volun-

teered for a 191-day joint expeditionary tasking as an administrator for the third largest network in the area of responsibility for the Army in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

He implemented 775 system updates and eradicated 35,000 vulnerabilities. He executed 53 time compliance network orders and information assurance vulnerability alerts, eliminating 521 network threats.

OPSEC is a mindset.

Don't drink and drive.

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

Airman Leadership School prepares joint service members for future

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler's Airman Leadership School is now a reflection of the joint force realities of military service, since Reserve, Air National Guard and Coast Guard members are part of the student mix.

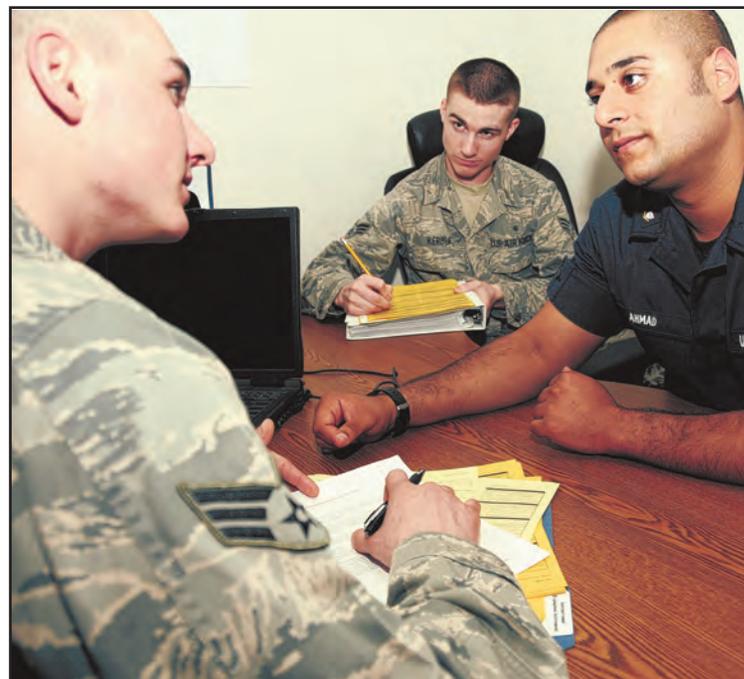
The number of students from the other services is small, just a few per class, but their presence gives both Airmen and the representatives from other branches of the service an introduction to the diversity awaiting them in their future military service, according to Senior Master Sgt. Vanessa Polk, outgoing ALS commandant and incoming director of education at Keesler's Mathies NCO Academy.

Keesler has one of 70 ALS programs at stateside and overseas locations, and about 220 students graduate from Keesler's seven ALS classes annually.

Last August at a conference, Sergeant Polk talked with an Air National Guard liaison who discussed the complexities of giving his members the opportunity to pursue professional military education. Unlike active-duty Airmen and Reservists, traditional Reservists and members of the Air National Guard and Coast Guard have other jobs and have to juggle training around their full time job responsibilities.

"We deliberately develop our Airmen for Air Force environments where they'll team with joint force operations," Sergeant Polk said. "Having members of other services in our program enhances the experience for everyone. Our students will be better prepared for deployment and the operational realities of today's Air Force.

"Training with us also gives them definite advantages — not just the profes-



Photos by Kemberly Groue

From left, Senior Airmen Nicholas Babian, left, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, and Mike Kerber, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, participate in an interpersonal counseling exercise with Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Shoja Ahmad during an Airman Leadership School class Friday. Airman Babian portrays a supervisor counseling a troubled student, portrayed by Petty Officer Ahmad, while Airman Kerber is an observer. Petty Officer Ahmad is assigned to USCGC Shamal which is homeported in Pascagoula, Miss.



Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Castelloe stand in formation with fellow ALS classmates during Friday's retreat. He's assigned to USCGC Shamal which is homeported in Pascagoula, Miss.

sional training in leadership, communications and profession of arms, but they also earn 10 semester hours of

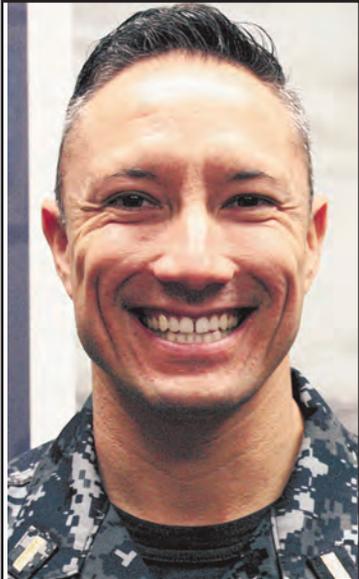
credit from the Community College of the Air Force for their 24 academic days at the school," she pointed out.



General Brundidge speaks to communication leaders

Brig. Gen. Gregory Brundidge spoke at the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association luncheon March 9 at the Triangle Chapel annex. General Brundidge is director of command, control, communications and warfighting integration at Headquarters U.S. European Command, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany. The general was at Keesler to participate in last week's Scope Eagle hosted by the 333rd Training Squadron. Scope Eagle is the capstone professional development course for senior cyberspace officers. It provides an opportunity for the Air Force's senior leaders to discuss current policies, issues and trends affecting the many diverse disciplines within the cyberspace profession. Twenty-two officers attend each of the five classes held at Keesler each year in January, March, May, July and September.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Ensign Kiger

CNATTU chief joins Naval officer ranks

By Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Raymond Lee

Keesler Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit

Aerographer's Mate Chief Petty Officer Denie Kiger was commissioned to the rank of ensign at the USS Alabama Memorial Park Feb. 25.

The presiding officer was Cmdr. Angie Walker, Keesler Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit com-

mander, and the guest speaker was Lt. Tim Uncapher, Naval Oceanography Mine Warfare Center, Stennis Space Center.

Ensign Kiser was selected for commission via the Limited Duty Officer program after 14 years of enlisted service as an aerographer's mate. He'll now serve as an ensign in the oceanography career field, with his first assignment to the Fleet Weather Center, Norfolk, Va.

Visit www.jetairmen.af.mil for information about joint expeditionary tasking and individual augmentee programs.

Academic aces



Airman 1st Class Eric Pietkiewicz, left, and Senior Airman Benjamin Boulanger graduated March 10 with perfect scores from the electronic principles course in the 332nd Training Squadron. Airman Pietkiewicz, from Chicago, continues his training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, in the avionic systems apprentice course. Airman Boulanger, from Voluntown, Conn., is also headed to Sheppard for the instruments and flight control systems apprentice course.

TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

Embry-Riddle term

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is now registering for the 11/S3-Spring II term that begins Monday.

The university offers degrees in aviation/aerospace, management and business administration with multiple course formats. Graduate courses are also available to complete Civil Service 1750 qualification requirements. Discounted tuition rates are available for active-duty military.

For more information, call 376-8478 or visit Room 217, 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.

KSC scholarships

April 1 is the deadline to apply for 2011 Keesler Spouses Club scholarships.

Eligible applicants include high school seniors entering a

college, university or vocational studies and spouses pursuing a degree or vocational studies.

For more information, log on to 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 376-8708 or 8710.

Tax volunteers assist residents of Armed Forces Retirement Home

Sharon Floyd, left, an income tax preparation volunteer from the 338th Training Squadron, assists retired Sailor Albert Cotta with his tax return Saturday at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport. Keesler tax office manager Richard Ess said Keesler volunteers have made several visits to the AFRH during this tax season to assist residents with their tax returns.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



RIF eligibility criteria explained

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Force officials will convene a quality-based reduction-in-force board Sept. 19 for mid-grade officers as part of their measures to reduce the number of Airmen to meet the service's congressionally authorized military end-strength levels.

Officials said retaining the highest quality Airmen is vital to appropriately sizing and shaping the force and will be a key consideration when officers across the seven eligible year groups meet the September board.

Board members will consider officers in the grades of major and captain in the following year groups and competitive categories:

Line of the Air Force: 2000 and 2003 through 2005.

Judge advocate general: 1999 through 2003.

Chaplain: 2002 through 2005.

Biomedical sciences corps: 2000 and 2001.

Medical service corps: 2001, 2004 and 2005.

Due primarily to a 16-year high in retention, the Air Force ended fiscal 2010 approximately 2,300 officers above authorized end strength.

"We changed our approach to the RIF this year to one that will entail a 'quality cut' across an entire year group and competitive category, rather than focusing only on overage Air Force specialties as in the past," said Col. Julie Boit, chief of military force policy. "Up to 10 percent of officers in each eligible year group and competitive category will be separated to meet congressionally mandated Air Force end strength by the end of fiscal 2012."

While voluntary programs from fiscal 2010 remain in place to make more separations and retirements possible, officials announced Feb. 2 that the Air Force will need involuntary separation actions to supplement the voluntary

measures. Officers eligible for the RIF may apply for voluntary separation pay.

Officers have until March 31 to apply for VSP at 1.25 times the involuntary separation pay rate.

Applications will be processed through the virtual military personnel flight, or vMPF. Each application will be considered on its own merit.

To ensure VSP applications in the best interest of the Air Force are approved, approval or disapproval decisions will be made once the VSP window has closed, officials said. Officers approved for VSP must separate on Oct. 1, 2011, and will not be considered by the RIF board.

Officers not selected for retention by the RIF board will be required to separate by Feb. 1, 2012, at the involuntary separation pay rate.

Airmen ineligible for the RIF include officers who have an established or mandatory date of separation of Feb. 1, 2012, or earlier; 15 or more years of total active federal military service by the board date of Sept. 19, 2011; or those who have been selected for promotion or have less than one year of time in grade, the colonel said.

"We encourage any officer who is leaving active duty to consider the many opportunities in our Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard," Colonel Boit said. "We want to keep as many Airmen as possible in our Air Force family."

Airmen are also uniquely qualified for federal civilian positions, and many will receive veteran's preference when applying.

Colonel Boit highly encouraged transitioning Airmen to take advantage of the transition assistance programs available at airman and family readiness centers around the world.

For more information, visit the Air Force personnel services website or call the Total Force Service Center, 1-800-565-0102. For information on transition assistance programs, call the airman and family readiness center, 376-8728.

IN THE NEWS

Death notification

The 81st Training Wing commander regrets to announce the death of Tech. Sgt. Kevin Anthony Martin, 403rd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Any person having claims for or against the estate of Sergeant Martin, call Lt. Col. Allyson Chauvin, summary court officer, 377-4160.

2 picked for promotion to colonel

Lt. Cols. Sean Gallagher, 81st Mission Support Group, and Michael Ceranowski, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, have been selected for promotion to colonel. The promotion list was released Tuesday.

Air show closes road, facilities

Ploesti Drive will be closed from just north of the Pass Road Gate to the intersection of Ploesti and First Street, noon to 5 p.m. today and Friday for air show practice.

Ploesti Drive and the same facilities are closed 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday during the air show.

Bay Breeze Golf Course, Bay Breeze Event Center, marina park and any other building on the closed section of road are closed during these periods.

The Rodenberg Gate is open during these closures to allow access to Bayridge housing residents.

Clinics close for warrior training

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group conducts warrior training noon to 5 p.m. today.

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.

Team Impact energizes prayer breakfast



Photo by Adam Bond

Team Impact member Marc Minter rolls up a metal pan in a show of strength during Keesler's National Prayer Breakfast March 8 at the Bay Breeze Event Center. Team Impact's unique method of ministry uses the physical talents of elite athletes to demonstrate a message of Christian faith.

Raff chosen for Jewish honor society

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Ariel Raff, an eighth grader at Biloxi Junior High School, has been selected for induction into the American Hebrew Academy Honor Society.

The distinction is reserved nationwide for only 100 students who exhibit both strength in academics and a committed interest in Judaism.

She'll attend the induction ceremony March 25-27 at the academy in Greensboro, N.C. She'll also have the opportunity to compete for five renewable \$20,000 annual merit-based scholarships to attend the academy, nation's only Jewish college preparatory boarding school.

Her father is Master Sgt. Michael Raff, 81st Training Wing.



Photo by Adam Bond
Miss Raff presented a Hebrew reading during Keesler's National Prayer Breakfast March 8.

Guiding Angels on their way



Photo by Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney
Monday, Keesler Airmen work on a show line in marina park for this weekend's "Angels Over the Bay" open house and air show. The show line provides visual reference for the Navy's Blue Angels as they perform aerial stunts.

Catholic, Protestant Lenten services set

Protestant

Lenten services — 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays through April 20, hospital chapel; 11:15 a.m. April 22, Good Friday service; 11:15 a.m. April 24, Easter Service

Easter sunrise service — 6 a.m. April 24, Bay Breeze Event Center, followed by breakfast.

Traditional service, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Larcher Chapel.

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

Gospel service, noon Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

Roman Catholic

Lenten services — 5 p.m. Friday, March 25 and April 1, 8 and 15, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Stations of the Cross and bread and soup supper, Triangle Chapel; April 6, confession, Triangle Chapel; 7 p.m. April 21, Holy Thursday Mass, adoration and confession, Triangle Chapel; 7 p.m. April 22, Good Friday service; 7 p.m. April 23, Easter Vigil

Mass and reception, Triangle Chapel.

Daily Mass, 11:15 a.m. Monday through Thursday, Triangle Chapel; Friday, hospital chapel.

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

Jewish

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

Saturday services are scheduled at 10 a.m. Friday 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.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Job fair is April 12

The Southern Region Military and Civilian Job Fair on April 12 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, Biloxi.

A resume writing and job fair preparation class is 2-4:30 p.m. March 29, Room 108 B, or 9-11:30 a.m. March 31, Room 108A, both in Sablich Center.

Some pointers for the event:

Dress appropriately — military uniform is acceptable. On-the-spot interviews may happen.

Bring a resume or information to complete an application, including at least three references to include phone numbers.

Don't bring children.

For a list of registered employers, log on to <http://www.jobfairs.ms.gov/>

Transition assistance classes

81st Force Support Squadron

The airman and family readiness center plans the following classes for 2011 at the Sablich Center.

For more information or to preregister for classes, call 376-8728.

Mandatory pre-separation briefings — 1 p.m. Tuesdays for those separating with honorable discharges and 2:30 for retirees, Room 110. 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. Medical separation must receive a one-on-one briefing.

Transition assistance program workshops — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 11-13, May 9-11, June 13-15, July 18-20, Aug. 8-10, Sept. 12-14, Oct. 17-19, Nov. 14-16 and Dec. 12-14, Room 108A. Dress is business casual; no jeans, T-shirts or uniforms.

Veterans benefits briefing — 8-11 a.m. today, April 14, May 12, June 16, July 21, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A.

Retirement briefings — 1-3:30 p.m. today, April 14, May 12, June 16, July 21, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A; for members with less than a year until retirement.

Executive transition assistance workshop — Dec. 6-9 for colonels and chief master sergeants with the necessary knowledge and skills to organize their search for a second career in the private, nonprofit and government sector. Air Education and Training Command headquarters facilitates this workshop. For more information, call Robert Bertels, DSN 487-2669 or 6106 or e-mail robert.bertels@randolph.af.mil.

Classes for job hunters

81st Force Support Squadron

The airman and family readiness center plans the following classes for 2011 at the Sablich Center.

For more information or to preregister for classes, call 376-8728.

Resumes for non-government jobs — 9-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, 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. March 30, Room 108B. Pre-registration is required no later than the day prior to the class.

Interviewing and salary negotiation class — 9-11 a.m. March 24, 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.

After attending a class, call 376-8728 for a resume review.

Employment skills training available for Airmen's non-military spouses

Airman and family readiness center

The Air Force Aid Society has approved grant funds for the airman and family readiness center to once again offer a course leading to transportable employment skills for 10 non-military spouses of active duty Air Force members.

This year's training this year focuses on Microsoft Excel to the intermediate level and Quickbooks which will prepare spouses to work with payroll applications, a skill that's frequently requested in job announcements.

This class has been created especially for the airman and family readiness center by Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

Applicants must be ineligible for My CAA Military Spouse Career Advancement

Accounts (spouse of a member in grades E6-E9 or O3-O6.) Priority for selection is given to spouses who are unemployed, need transferable job skills or have financial needs and whose military sponsor is not retirement-eligible.

Applicants must be the non-military spouse of an active-duty Air Force member; if Air National Guard or Reserve, the spouse must be called to active duty for the duration of the course.

The active-duty member must assigned to a Keesler unit or the 366th Training Squadron Detachment 6 at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport.

Classes are held at the MGCCC Jeff Davis Campus on Switzer Road in Gulfport. The Excel course is held 8 a.m. to noon April 18, 20, 25

and 27, followed by the Quickbooks course from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. May 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Applicants must be available to participate in all classes. Child care isn't provided.

Spouses should bring a completed application with their ID card to the airman and family readiness center, Room 110, Sablich Center, before 3 p.m. April 8. Spouses of Guard and Reserve members must provide a copy of activation orders.

Applications will be reviewed and prioritized to select the 10 students for the program.

For more information and application forms, call the airman and family readiness center, 376-8728.

Fellowships available for spouses seeking financial counseling career

Air Force Personnel Center

ALEXANDRIA, VA — Applications are being accepted for a program that provides fellowships for up to 200 military spouses to obtain the education necessary to enter the financial counseling career field.

The FINRA Investor Education Foundation is joining with the National Military Family Association and The Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education to sponsor the program.

This is a distance learning program. Participants receive all course materials by mail and are able to study at their own pace.

The FINRA Foundation Military Spouse Accredited Financial Counselor Fellowship is

program covers the costs associated with completing Accredited Financial Counselor training and tests. Upon successful completion of the program and required practicum, the participant are awarded AFCPER's accredited financial counselor designation.

Current or surviving spouses of any service member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, or retirees) are eligible for this program. Military spouses with interest or experience in financial education are encouraged to apply, but at the

present time, spouses who are current federal employees, employed by government contractors, are in the military or who currently hold active securities licenses aren't eligible for the program.

Many employers such as credit unions, financial aid offices, and community housing agencies need well-trained, ethical and caring financial counselors to meet the increasing demand for financial counseling services. Military spouses can fill this need while building a rewarding career that's flexible to the demands of the military family lifestyle.

Applications must be received by April 15 online at www.militaryfamily.org/fellowship.

Information dominance wins wars — protect it!

Volunteer — get connected.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

From left, three Keesler nurses, 1st Lts. Carol Walker and Bethany Casper and Capt. Elberta Carter join Dr. Juanita Mullins in a “timeout” huddle in the 81st Surgical Operations Squadron peri-anesthesia care unit.

Hospital honors 66 professionals on Saturday’s Certified Nurses Day

By Maj. Amber Barker

81st Inpatient Operations Squadron

The 81st Medical Group Hospital celebrates Certified Nurses Day Saturday by honoring its 66 board-certified nurses.

“Board certification of nurses plays an increasingly important role in the assurance of high standards of care for patients and their loved ones,” according to Col. Allison Plunk, 81st MDG chief nurse. “Nursing, like health care in general, has become increasingly complex. While a registered nurse license provides entry to general nursing practice, the knowledge-intensive requirements of modern nursing require extensive education, as well as a strong personal commitment to excellence by the nurse.

“The 81st MDG Hospital encourages

national board certification for all its nurses,” she continued. “Patients are encouraged to inquire whether there are certified nurses on staff when they visit a hospital or their primary-care provider.”

There are many nursing certification specialties such as medical-surgical, pediatric, pain management, cardiovascular, oncology, hospice, case management, emergency nursing and critical care.

“Many nursing certification bodies exist to serve the full range of specialized nursing care offered in the contemporary health-care system,” Colonel Plunk noted. “National nurse-certifying bodies should be accredited by either the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification or the National Organization for Competence Assurance or both.”



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'Team Focus' launched to support young boys

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The journey to manhood is a tough road, even for boys from secure homes with two supportive parents. But what about kids without a father figure in their lives? That's where Team Focus gives young men affirmation, guidance and encouragement toward adulthood.

Keesler has the funding for the program — what's needed now are boys and volunteers.

Lt. Col. Rich Cole and Gerry Cross are spearheading the effort that brought Team Focus to Keesler. Colonel Cole is 81st Force Support Squadron commander and Mr. Cross is the unit's former first sergeant now serving as Keesler's school liaison officer.

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance is providing financial support to Keesler's Team Focus program for young men who don't have a father or stepfather living in the home and who have minimal or no contact with their dads.

The Christian-based year-round program falls under the auspices of the chapel, but is open to young men 10-18 years old regardless of religion. The program is not intended for "at-risk" boys, but for young men with positive leadership potential.

During the summer, Team Focus conducts leadership camps around the country. Activities develop leadership skills and bolsters positive values and teamwork. The program includes motivational speakers, recognition for academic achievement, public speaking, job interview training, manners and etiquette instruction, singing, playing, prayer, sports, fishing, field trips, prizes and gifts.

Last year, Mississippi Sen. Thad Cochran approached Keesler's former commander, Brig. Gen. Ian Dickinson, about the program and Colonel Cole was tasked to follow up. He and Mr. Cross went to Mobile, Ala., where Team Focus headquarters is located.

The Keesler representatives met with Mike Gottfried, an ESPN sportscaster and former college coach who founded Team Focus in 2000 with his wife, Mickey. Mr. Gottfried felt drawn to start the program because he lost his father at age 11 and understood the difficulty and hardships young men without fathers feel.

"Growing up without a father around and knowing what that feels like, I have a desire to provide a place for young men to come and be encouraged, motivated and challenged," Mr. Gottfried explained.



For related commentary, see Page 2.

Keesler gave the program a trial run last July with a four-day camp with the theme "Move with a Sense of Purpose" for Keesler kids and about 20 youth and staff from Mobile.

Campers stayed in base lodging, four to each room with an adult counselor, ate in the dining halls and took advantage of the base's fitness and recreational facilities. Activities kept the campers moving from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

"We were supported by Keesler volunteers with outstanding results, and Team Focus was happy to partner with us on an ongoing basis," Mr. Cross said.

For a lot of the young men, attending the camp was their first glimpse of the Air Force.

"The kids were stoked with this introduction to a military environment," Colonel Cole

pointed out. "It wasn't our intention, but it turned out to be a great recruiting tool for the Air Force."

The Mississippi Chapter of Team Focus is based at Keesler and directed by Tony Javens, who spent eight years in the program and is completing a degree at the University of Southern Mississippi.

"He's a walking testament to Team Focus," Colonel Cole remarked. "It's a 24/7 job for him, going to the schools and into the surrounding communities, creating interest in the program."

The program is open to Keesler kids and boys in surrounding communities.

"Kids have to be able to get to our gate, and we'll take it from there," Mr. Cross said.

An application and interview process ensures that the program reaches committed young men with leadership potential. Colonel Cole explained that the youngsters chosen for Team Focus should be "open-minded with great attitudes and a willingness to be molded into outstanding young men."

"Moms or guardians have to be committed to Team Focus, too," Mr. Cross stressed. "They are major players in the program and are vital to its success."

In addition to the three camps planned each year, Team Focus also includes

individual tutoring and mentoring sessions, Saturday and after-school activities, monthly social and sports gatherings, phone calls, e-mails and onsite school visits to maintain a bond between program leaders and participants.

"You know, many times kids will put up a front and try to hide the hurt from not having been taught how to do certain things and that can be painful," Mr. Gottfried pointed out.

That's why the program includes what Colonel Cole describes as "skills of manhood," with lessons on things that might be overlooked without a dad in the house — shaving, tying a tie and how to go on an interview.

"Participants are expected to tuck in their shirts and pull up their pants," Colonel Cole observed, "all of the things involved in becoming a man."

Mr. Cross emphasized, "Our resources — our facilities, infrastructure and volunteer base — will be huge assets to the program." He added that the program comes at no cost to Keesler because of the three-year grant. Organizers hope that the program will become self-sustaining with continued community support.

For more information, call 377-5836 or 1-251-229-6591 or e-mail Tony@TeamFocusUSA.org.

For more news, photos, videos and information, log on to www.keesler.af.mil



Air Force calls on civilian cops to join security forces team

81st Security Forces Squadron

Since Oct. 1, a new strategy has been in place to defend the Keesler community.

The 81st Security Forces Squadron now has 37 civilian police officers as part of an Air Force-wide transition to replace contract security personnel.

The civilian police officers provide stability and offset deployment taskings, according to Master Sgt. Michael Freeck, 81st SFS operations superintendent.

“The arrival of these police officers adds the flexibility of being able to use their skills and experience in all facets of defending Keesler, rather than restricting them to providing entry control to the base,” Sergeant Freeck explained.

Every new officer requires a minimum of 12 months of

law enforcement experience either in the private sector or in the military. Most of the officers are veterans who served as security forces, master of arms or military police, and several are veterans of Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

“Several of them are still active in the guard and reserve and serve as NCOs, senior NCOs and even commissioned officers while on military status,” Sergeant Freeck pointed out. “Many are certified peace officers who previously served as police officers in the civilian sector. Additionally, each officer is required to attend the Federal Law Enforcement Academy in Little Rock, Ark., prior to working unsupervised at Keesler.

“Since their arrival, we’ve continued to build on their experience as they transition from entry level positions such as installation entry controllers into the most demanding positions, including security response teams, installation patrols, base defense operations center controllers and alarm monitors.

Sergeant Freeck is quick to note that these police officers aren’t contract gate guards, but Air Force employees.

“They’re highly trained, experienced, professional police officers and we use them in that capacity,” he emphasized. “With each passing week, more and more of our civilian police officers are completing their transition and assuming more responsibilities for defending the base in various capacities.”



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Frank Lewis, Tech. Sgt. Phillip Belle and Staff Sgt. Teddy Poole, 81st Security Forces Squadron, log wreckage personnel accountability during a major accident response exercise Feb. 17.

Striking right balance key to personal wellness

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

Editor's note: This is the last in a series of articles about personal wellness.

Like a stained glass window, a person is built of individual fragments. Since the beginning of the year, this series has taken a closer look at some of those fragments including financial, physical, intellectual, occupational, medical, spiritual, social, environmental and emotional wellness. But how does one balance all those aspects? Setting aside just a few minutes to care for each aspect can make a real difference in quality of life.

Financial — if the option is available, take a few minutes each day to review finances on line and balance your transaction register. This can save a lot of time trying to catch up at the end of the month and it can protect you from accidentally

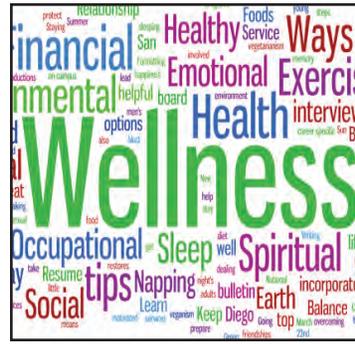
over-drafting your account.

Physical — choosing healthy food takes no more time than choosing unhealthy food, but it makes a huge difference in overall wellbeing. Also, doing some form of physical activity daily, whether it's walking, going to the gym or simply getting up and moving around throughout the day, is necessary to stay healthy and it doesn't take much time at all.

Intellectual — playing a short mind game, reading a news article and having a thoughtful conversation are all ways to keep a sharp intellect with a busy schedule.

Occupational — doing your best at work every day, developing innovative ways to complete tasks and building relationships with co-workers can all help maintain interest throughout your career.

Medical — washing your hands on a regular basis is the easiest way to protect from the



spread of illness and disease.

Spiritual — rituals, praying or quiet reflection can help renew spiritual wellness.

Social — find time to spend interacting with friends and family on a regular basis like setting up a game night, craft group or watching and discussing a movie.

Environmental — do your best to reuse, reduce and recycle. For example there are reusable grocery bags available at nearly every retailer, or you can reuse grocery bags as trash bags or lunch sacks or request no bag if you're only buying a

few items or easy to carry items. Some grocery stores have bins for recycling used grocery bags.

Emotional — if something is bothering you, talk to someone about it. Even if they can't fix the problem, you'll at least feel a little better about the situation.

Balancing work and family life can be difficult enough, but throw in college classes, volunteer work or a social life and a to-do list can seem to stretch miles.

However, there are a few ways to reduce the strain on your time and start enjoying it more.

Use a planner or make lists — for many people, it can be beneficial to make a to-do list or a schedule for the day because they can physically check each item off as it is completed and not spend time trying to remember everything that needs to be done.

Do one thing at a time —

it's better to do one task with full concentration and effort than to bounce between tasks and not really focus on any of them.

Prioritize — everything can't be done immediately so think about what absolutely has to get done now and what can wait until later or the next day.

Take a break — trouble concentrating can really act as a concrete wall in getting things done. Taking breaks periodically to step away from a task can help renew focus and productivity.

Dissect large tasks — sometimes a task such as deep cleaning a house or writing a report can be overwhelming, but if you focus on one room at a time or paragraph at a time, you'll steadily finish the task.

There are only 1,440 minutes in a day, so be realistic about what you can fit into that time without sacrificing the things that matter to you.

School liaison officer helps parents, children coordinate education

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

For a military child, the path to graduation often traverses numerous school districts from across the country as they follow their parents from base to base. This can lead to frustration on the part of parent and child as they try to stitch together a frayed patchwork of classes and credits to form a coherent education. The job of the school liaison officer is to help the parent and child take their frayed blanket and turn it into a beautiful quilt.

The position of school liaison officer is new to Keesler and is part of a fiscal 2011 Air Force initiative to have a school liaison officer at every base.

Air Force guidance defines a school liaison officer as “advocating for the educational needs of military children and assisting Airmen and families with information, referral, resources and advocacy regarding local school districts and other education options including home schooling, private schools, charter schools and virtual schools.”

“My job is to be a neutral liaison between installation leadership, school districts and military parents and students,” explained Gerry Cross, Keesler’s school liaison officer with the airman and family readiness center. “I’m available to assist parents and students with their questions about area schools and to make the child’s educational transition as seamless as possible.”

“With the rise in deployments and frequent moves, we want to be sure that the military child isn’t left behind in their education,” said Mr. Cross.

According to Air Force statistics, military children between the ages of 5 and 18 move on average between six and nine times during these years. Academic standards, graduation requirements,



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Mr. Cross is filling his schedule to meet with parents, school officials and base leadership on the services he can provide to help facilitate a smooth transition for Keesler’s military children and their education.

special needs services and sports and extracurricular eligibility all vary greatly from state to state.

As parents, children and school officials try to make sense of these varying requirements, having a school liaison officer to help answer their questions can alleviate a lot of the stress in the process.

“I want to be as visible as I can be. I want people to know I’m available,” said Mr. Cross. Currently, Mr. Cross is in the process of getting the word out. Since he began his job at the end of January, Mr. Cross has visited with six of the nine school superintendents that represent the nine school districts his area will cover. He attends all school board meetings and meets regularly with 81st Training Wing leadership.

A parent of four children, including one cared for through the Exceptional Family Member Program, Mr. Cross is familiar with the questions and concerns parents have for their children’s educational needs. Mr. Cross is also a recently retired Air Force first sergeant stationed

at Keesler for the past four years. Prior to that, he spent 12 years in Air Force recruiting high school students, working with Junior ROTC groups and setting up recruiting events with high school officials, principals and guidance counselors.

“I moved eight times during my Air Force career placing my children in different school districts from state to state. One move was during my oldest son’s senior year in high school,” Mr. Cross pointed out. “Moving, meeting graduation requirements and matching up credits are all issues I frequently deal with.”

Mr. Cross will draw on his own Air Force experience as he continues his task of making himself known to those who could use his services.

“I’m looking forward to the challenge of getting out and making sure principles, guidance counselors and parents know who I am,” said Mr. Cross. “My goal is to build good relationships and get the required results for parents and their children.”

For more information, call 376-8505.

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Use constitutes consent to monitoring.



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depends on you.

Red Cross website links Japan-based troops to home

By Elaine Wilson

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — In the wake of Japan's massive earthquake and tsunami, Red Cross officials are encouraging U.S. service members and families stationed there to register with an online resource intended to keep family and friends back home informed of their welfare.

Military members and their

families can relay their status and pass on messages to loved ones through the American Red Cross-sponsored "Safe and Well" website at www.redcross.org.

"It's a great online tool," said Deanna Swanier, the senior director of service delivery for the American Red Cross' Service to the Armed Forces. "Family members back here can visit the website and look up loved ones to see if they're safe."

Hours after the earthquake and tsunami struck March 11, officials confirmed U.S. military personnel and their families were accounted for. Still, family and friends back home were seeking information.

One woman turned to Misawa Air Base, Japan's Facebook page for information that day. Misawa AB is about 400 miles north of Tokyo.

"Not sure if anyone can find out anything," she wrote, "but my brother is on base and we're trying to figure out if everything is OK over there. Does anyone know?"

To register for Safe and Well, people enter their name, contact information and then choose from a list of standard messages — "I am safe and well," "Family and I are safe and well," or "Currently at shelter" — or they can type a customized message.

While many service members may turn to e-mail or, if available, a phone call to contact immediate family mem-

bers after a disaster, Ms. Swanier encouraged them to also register on Safe and Well, so extended family members and friends can find out about their well-being.

"It offers another avenue of communication," she noted.

Family and friends back home can access the messages by entering the service member's pre-disaster phone number or complete home address. They can't, however, register themselves on the site. The site is intended to facilitate communication from inside the disaster-affected areas to families outside.

While the site offers a way to pass on a person's current status, not everyone chooses to register. In this case, officials encourage people to try calling, texting or checking online to see if their loved one is updating their social media page, such as Facebook or Twitter. People who have a loved one with a serious health or mental health condi-

tion can initiate an emergency information request by calling their local American Red Cross chapter, or calling 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Along with Safe and Well, Red Cross officials have launched a special "Family Links" website to help people seeking to re-establish contact with family members and friends. People in Japan and other countries in the Pacific can register at www.icrc.org/familylinks to inform their family and friends that they are safe and provide their current contact information.

People in the United States looking for loved ones can check the list for information. They also can register the names of family members and friends, encouraging them to get in touch.

People can contact or locate U.S. citizens living or traveling in Japan by calling the State Department's office of overseas citizens' services at 1-888-407-4747 or 202-647-5225.

Misawa Air Base recovering from quake

By Tech. Sgt. Phillip Butterfield

35th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

MISAWA Air Base, Japan — Misawa Air Base was shaken Friday by the 8.9 mag-

nitude earthquake that struck Japan, but sustained only minor damage with no injuries or loss of life.

"Our focus is on the recovery of the base and assisting

our Japanese allies," said Col. Michael Rothstein, 35th Fighter Wing commander.

Further aiding in base recovery were the Misawa Airmen supporting and establishing command and control operations, said Lt. Col. Dwayne Robison, the 35th Civil Engineer Squadron commander.

"Our Airmen and family members aided in recovery efforts almost immediately after the earthquake," he said. "The earthquake struck the region when the base was in the middle of an operational readiness exercise. So we already had our emergency operations center and our unit control centers (up and running). This enabled people to call in immediately with reports of damages, and we had no delay with responding to their needs."

Now Airmen here are concentrating on two missions. The first is to recover operations here and the second is to act as a logistical hub for humanitarian relief and rescue workers.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Sergeant Carter, left, reviews Senior Airman Cody Baker's deployment folder March 9. Airman Baker, 81st OSF, is deploying to Al-Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

Unit deployment managers calm preparation process

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

While preparing for a deployment can be a chaotic task, unit deployment managers are there to help the process run smoothly.

UDMs schedule required pre-deployment training, distribute required equipment, assign personnel to an AEF tempo band, update and maintain the AEF Reporting Tool within 24 hours of any change in status, maintain and safeguard deployment folders and much more.

This is all as an additional duty on top of the daily tasks required by their primary mission. Master Sgt. Stephen Carter's official job title is air traffic control tower chief controller in the 81st Operations Support Flight, but he doubles as the UDM for the 81st Training Wing staff agencies.

Each person preparing to deploy is assigned a unit type code which essentially contains all the information about the individual and their deployment including where

they are going and how long they'll be gone, what training and equipment they need before they leave and all pertinent dates.

Sergeant Carter said an average day as a UDM consists of answering commander, supervisor and member questions concerning training, tasks and deployment locations, scheduling training, reviewing updated requirements daily and tracking each member's progress and ensuring they are ready to out-process from the base, all while maintaining a balance between UDM tasks and their primary job.

"I've gotten a lot of members ready for their first deployment who were very nervous about the whole system of out-processing and deploying," Sergeant Carter said, "It really made me feel like I was making a difference when they told me that I answered all their questions, explained things to them to their satisfaction and made the process from the start of their out-processing to returning to their home station

seamless and stress free."

Any job, whether primary or additional duty, has its rewards and challenges especially when there's a delicate balance between the two.

"The thing I like most about the job is that the 81st Training Wing leadership has complete confidence in me that I'm sending out a Keesler representative to the area of responsibility who is well trained, properly equipped, on time and ready to continue the mission," Sergeant Carter said, "The challenges are keeping up with the changes in Air Force instruction, training and equipment requirements for specific UTCs and AOR locations and also obtaining the most current information on personnel in order to maintain their current status in ART."

Once checklists are completed, folders are closed and bags are dragged, the UDM's job is complete and all that's left is for Airmen to say goodbye to their families and friends and board planes on their way to contribute to the Air Force mission.

Staying Tricare eligible requires current DEERS

By Sharon Foster

Tricare Management Activity

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Beneficiaries who have recently experienced a life-changing event, such as the birth or adoption of a child, or recent divorce or marriage should immediately record these changes in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS. If they wait, their Tricare benefit coverage could be affected.

“Life comes at you fast and beneficiaries should not wait to update DEERS when they experience any life event that changes their Tricare status,”

said John Arendale, chief of the Purchased Care Systems Integration Branch at the Tricare Management Activity. “What beneficiaries don’t want to experience is a lapse in Tricare coverage because their DEERS eligibility information is incorrect.”

Incorrect information can potentially impact a beneficiary’s ability to get a prescription filled, get a medical claim paid or make an appointment to see a doctor. Beneficiaries can easily avoid these types of problems by making sure their DEERS record is accurate.

DEERS is the worldwide,

computerized database designed to maintain timely and accurate information on service members and dependents who are eligible for military benefits and entitlements, including Tricare. It also is used to detect and prevent fraud and abuse. All sponsors are automatically registered in DEERS. The sponsor must register all eligible family members.

Once the registration process is complete, family members can update their personal information, such as addresses and phone numbers. Events that change a beneficiary’s Tricare status include: relocation, retirement, change of address, change in marital

status, birth, death, adoption or Medicare entitlement.

A beneficiary can register eligible new family members in DEERS at the nearest military personnel office or uniformed services identification card issuing office. To find an office, they can go to the Rapids Site Locator website, www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home. Beneficiaries can call to update contact information only at 1-800-538-9552.

To register a child, bring the following forms:

An original or certified-copy of the birth certificate or certificate of live birth (signed by the attending

physician or other responsible person from a U.S. hospital or military treatment facility) or consular report of birth (FS-240) for children overseas;

A record of adoption or a letter of placement of the child into the home by a recognized placement/adoption agency or the court before the final adoption; and

A Defense Department Form 1172 signed by the sponsor and verifying official from a uniformed services ID card-issuing facility.

For more information on DEERS eligibility, log on to www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm.

Heart Attack Symptoms

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



- Nausea/vomiting
- Jaw pain
- Back pain



- Chest discomfort
- Arm pain
- Shortness of breath

Officials stream developmental team outbriefs online via DCO

By Tech. Sgt. Steve Grever

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Active-duty officers are now able to watch and participate in their career field's developmental team outbriefs online through the Defense Connect Online website.

This initiative allows Airmen to view and ask questions to their career field's senior representatives on each DT panel.

“Streaming live developmental team outbriefs online helps inform the field of senior leader observations and provides mentorship to the officer corps,” said Col. David Slade, AFPC's director of assignments. “It also helps officers gain a better understanding of the DT process.”

Developmental teams periodically evaluate officers to vector their career paths for command positions and intermediate developmental education and senior developmental education opportunities.

“These DTs help us develop the best future Air Force senior leaders we can by providing them with mentoring from a senior leader's perspective as well as outlining multiple vectors for their career paths,” Colonel Slade said.

Assignment officers from each career field will notify their members via e-mail of upcoming DT outbriefs, officials said.

The Air Force personnel services website also has detailed assignment information on job vacancies, indeterminate temporary-duty assignments, DTs and other resources.

For more information on officer assignments and the DT process, call the Total Force Service Center, 1-800-525-0102.



Become a Keesler fan on Facebook — 81 TRW Keesler AFB, MS

Keesler controller part of training team in Iraq

By Tech. Sgt. Jason Lake

321st Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — As U.S. forces continue to draw down to meet the Dec. 31 deadline, Air Force air traffic control advisors have their eyes fixed on the skies over Iraq.

Maj. Rudolf Kuehne and Capt. Maureen Trujillo, senior ATC advisors for Iraq Training and Advisory Mission - Air, are tasked with ensuring their Iraqi Air Force partners are trained and equipped to gradually take over the ATC towers at key bases throughout the country in the coming months.

“Our goal is to certify and license 24 controllers to conduct tower operations at five locations by the time we leave,” explained Captain Trujillo, deployed here from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas.

The ATC training program, which first started in 2006, mirrors the U.S. Air Force ATC training program developed by Air Education and Training Command at Randolph AFB, Texas. The Iraqi Air Force program currently has 55 officers in the training pipeline at Kirkuk, Ali and Taji airfields. Of those officers, 15 have been certified and six have been licensed by the Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority — the equivalent to the Federal Aviation Administration in the United States.

“The licensing of military controllers is the first ever in the country,” explained Major Kuehne, who recently returned from a site visit to Kirkuk and Ali airfields Feb. 11. “Under Saddam, civilian air traffic controllers were the only licensed controllers, but now we’re trying to get everyone on the same level so they all know and follow the same rules.”

On the front lines of the training effort are four veteran U.S. Air Force air traffic controllers who serve as training program managers, as well as advisors to local Iraqi Air Force leaders at the three airfields.



Sergeant McBride

Master Sgt. Jerry McBride Jr. from Keesler is an ATC advisor at Taji, one of the program’s busiest towers. He said his students get plenty of training with a monthly average of 25,000 operations that includes arrivals, departures, over flights and training flights. Sergeant McBride said his Iraqi Air Force students also get a sample of joint operations working with U.S. Army Soldiers and Iraqi Army Aviation Command officials.

The senior ATC advisors also expanded the pool of contracted instructors who provided English tutoring as well as on-the-job training throughout the program.

“We more than doubled the number of contractors - from six to 15 - since last October,” explained Maj. Kuehne, who is deployed from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

For trainees, the long journey to become an air traffic control officer starts at the Defense Language Institutes at Taji or Tikrit, where they study basic English for up to a year - depending on personal learning curves. The trainees advance to Aviation English, which is the international aviation language, after scoring higher than 60 on their basic English aptitude test.

After more than 150 hours of Aviation English instruction, Iraqis move on to the nine-week long, 180-hour “Ab Initio,” or air traffic con-

trol fundamentals, class where they learn about principles of flight, airfield markings, basic meteorology and air traffic communication skills.

The Iraqi trainees then put their skills to the test with simulated airfield operations during a five-week long, 120-hour Aerodrome course. The students at Kirkuk took it upon themselves to build a model airfield to add a third dimension of realism while learning about departure clearances, aircraft separation distances and more in-depth air traffic control instructions during aerodrome training.

Trainees then take an English proficiency test before starting on-the-job training inside the tower. After another 90 hours or more of OJT, trainees take their certification exam and prepare to get their license through the ICAA.

The training process is by no means easy - especially considering language differences and cultural considerations, as well as personal security risks and the occasional mortar attack on an airfield.

“The trainee’s duty sched-

ule and learning English are the most significant challenges we face,” said Tech. Sgt. David Lusher, ATC advisor at Ali Air Base.

The 14-year air traffic control veteran deployed from Dyess explained how the Iraqi Air Force work schedule revolves around “mu-jas,” or paid leave, which typically ranges from one to two weeks depending on the local Iraqi Air Force commander’s policy. Sergeant Lusher and other advisors said the long break between technical training prolongs the learning curve for most students and, in limited cases, impacts their career progression.

“Just like in the ATC program in the United States, this job is not for everyone,” Major Kuehne explained. “There are people out here who are motivated to do the job, and there are some who are not. The ones who make it through can be proud because they did a lot of work, and they did it by themselves.”

Around bases like Kirkuk, ATC students are held in high regard by the Iraqi pilots who are learning to fly various

fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft.

“With the success we’ve had here, Iraqi pilots like to hear our Iraqi students in the tower,” explained Master Sgt. Jenny Tibi, who is deployed from Cannon AFB, N.M., and serves as the ATC advisor for more than a dozen students at Kirkuk.

At Ali Air Base, U.S. Airmen and contractors, along with Iraqi air traffic controllers, handle 2,500 operations, 400 cargo tons and 2,500 passengers per month on a single runway. The base also recently reopened its second runway after a \$5M reconstruction project to fix cracks and spalls created from mortar and rocket attacks.

“The operations here run very smooth because of the teamwork between ITAM-Air, contractors and the Iraqi Air Force trainees,” said Master Sgt. Bryan Herrington, Ali’s chief air traffic controller deployed from Kadena AB, Japan. As a collective team, we all strive for the same goal of ensuring Iraqi sovereignty while providing quality air traffic control services to our customers.”

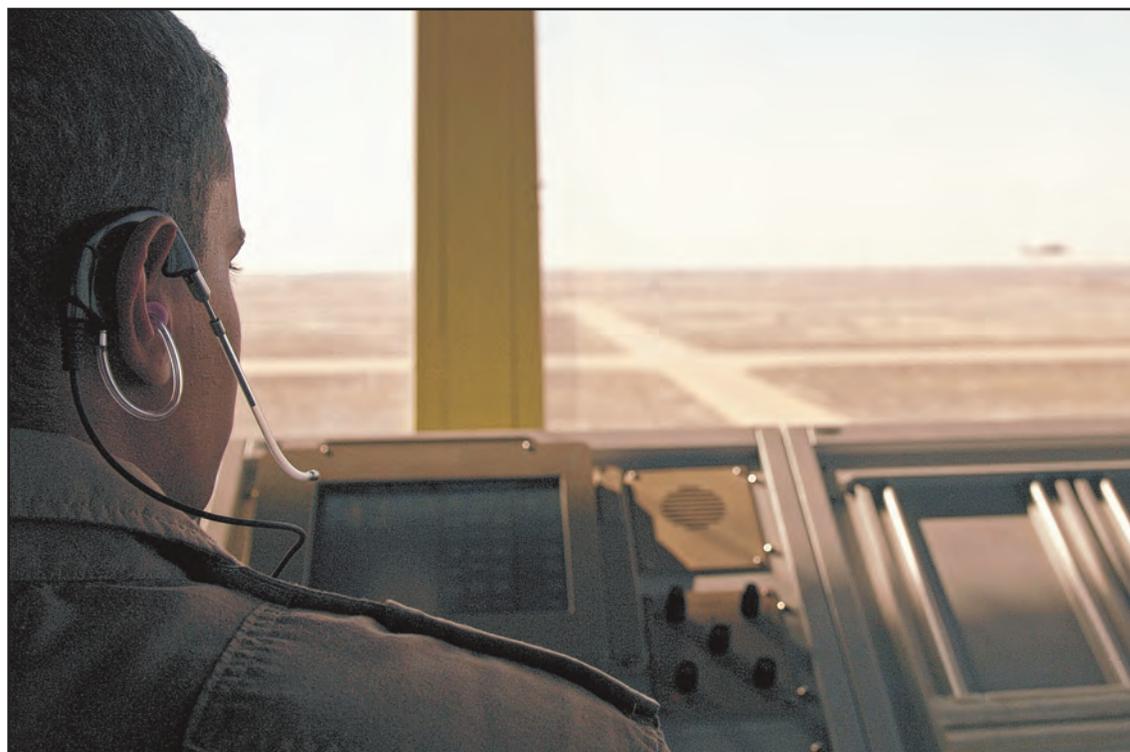


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Lake

An Iraqi Air Force air traffic control trainee directs a pair of UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters as they prepare to land on the airfield Feb. 3. U.S. and Iraqi student controllers handle 2,500 operations that deliver more than 400 cargo tons and 2,500 passengers each month.

Smallpox shots

The immunization clinic is open at 8 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays to accommodate smallpox vaccination that will be given between 7-8 a.m.

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.

DBIDS registration

Registration continues for Defense Biometric Identification System cards.

Active-duty members and Defense Department employees register through March 31 at the pass and registration office in the visitor center across from the White Avenue Gate, the military personnel section in Sablich Center, exchange pharmacy, 81st Medical Group Hospital's information desk and A tower lobby, Hewes Hall, 403rd Main-

tenance Squadron, and the Levittow Training Support Facility.

Starting April 1, active-duty members and DOD civilians will be directed to the visitor center if they try to enter the base without a DBIDS card.

Reservists, retirees, dependants and contractors may continue to register through June 30 at any of the listed sites. Terminals will set up at the 403rd MXS building during the 403 Wing's unit training assembly, May 13-15 for reservists. Reg-

istration continues at the visitor center through June 31.

Sickle cell run

The African-American Heritage Committee sponsors a sickle cell 5-kilometer run/walk April 8 at Blake Fitness Center. Registration is at 6:45 a.m., with 7:30 race time.

The cost is \$10-\$15.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Yolanda Jerry, 377-1201, or Tech. Sgt. Tyrone Deckard, 376-6603.

Supply issues

For supply issues, contact the CSC supply customer service element, Room 126, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002; call 377-8891

Singers sought

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

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



Arts and crafts center

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

Friday — Noon, framing class, bring a photograph or piece of art no larger than 5x7 inches for framing, \$30.

Saturday — 10 a.m., beginning woodworking, \$25; 10:30 a.m. to noon, glass painting, \$25. 10 a.m. to noon, beginning intarsia woodworking, \$25.

Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center

Saturday — 6 p.m., casino bowling, bowl three games and knock down color-pin combinations to win money, "Guaranteed" progressive jackpots. Check-in begins at 5:30 p.m. \$15 per person.

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.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

Monday-March 10 — 2 p.m. until closing, twilight special, play unlimited golf. Fees include cart rental: E1-E4, \$12; E5-O3, \$20; O4-up, \$22; guests, \$22.

Tuesday — 5 p.m., free golf clinic for company grade officers. Call pro shop to sign up.

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

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

Mondays-nontraining Fridays — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. all-you-can-eat buffet and salad bar in casual dining.

Wednesday — 5-8 p.m., family night out, enjoy an evening of fun, food and games. \$12.95 for nonmembers, members receive \$2 discount. Ages 4-10 eat for half-price; 3 and younger eat free.

March 25 — 7 p.m., dinner theater "Death by Bananas", in the ballroom. Dinner with dessert,

show and cash bar. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. \$25 per person for club members, \$30 per person nonmembers. Call 377-3160 for ticket information. Sponsored by Alloy Marketing, Budweiser-Responsibility Matters and Courtyard Marriott. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

Fitness centers

Today — Noon, 5-kilometer St. Patrick's Day run/walk at the Blake Fitness Center. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. Free to participate. First 100 participants receive green water bottles. Safe St. Patrick's Day running attire encouraged. Sponsored by Keesler Federal Credit Union and Beau Rivage. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

Vandenberg Community Center

Editor's note: * indicates activities that are part of the late night dances, \$3 admission; nonprior students only.

Saturday — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., country blowout.

***March 25** — 9 p.m., "V" fashion show. *

Airman and family readiness center

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

Today — 8-11 a.m., Veterans Affairs benefits brief for active duty members and their spouses; 1-4 p.m., retirement brief.

Monday — 10-11 a.m., sponsor training.

Tuesday — 9 a.m., post-deployment briefing; 9-11 a.m., civilian jobs resume writing; 1 p.m., pre-separation counseling, for separatees; 2:30 p.m., pre-separation counseling, for retirees.

Wednesday — 7 a.m. to noon, newcomer's orientation; 9-11 a.m., survivor's benefit briefing.

March 24 — 9-11:30 a.m., interview skills and salary negotiation; 1-2:30 p.m., smooth move.

Youth center

Saturday — 9 a.m., kids zone at the air show. Enjoy slides, obstacle courses inflatables and more! \$5 entry fee. Teen volunteers are needed. For more information, call 377-4116.

Process in place for moving phones

81st Communications Squadron

Thinking of moving your office telephone?

Only voice systems maintenance personnel assigned to the 81st Communications Squadron are authorized to install, relocate, modify, or remove voice instruments and services.

Customers are prohibited from taking such actions according to 18 U.S.C., Section 1362, Communication Lines, Stations or Systems.

To change your voice services or instruments, submit a request through your unit telephone control officer.

For more information, call 376-8127.

Golf tournament raises scholarship funds



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Richie Frias, 81st Medical Support Squadron, and James Cook, 81st Training Support Squadron, watch Levi Brown, 334th Training Squadron, putt on Hole 9 during Friday's African-American Heritage Committee Golf Tournament at Bay Breeze Golf Course. The winning team, which included Kenneth Powell, Matthew Blish and Robert Fried from the 338th TRS and Ronald Dupree from the 332nd TRS, shot a 65 in the four-person scramble format. The tournament raised \$928 for the AAHC's Col. Lawrence E. Roberts Scholarship Fund.

Military golf fans invited to watch Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic

Military golf fans and their families are once again invited to watch some of the legends of the game during opening day of the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic, April 1 at Fallen Oak Golf Club.

As part of Military Appreciation Day at the tournament, anyone with a valid military ID card is admitted free. Accompanying family members are also admitted free of charge.

The Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic, now in its second year, is a PGA Champions Tour event.

Bernhard Langer, Tom Lehman, Mark Calcavecchia, Fred Couples, Ben Crenshaw, Paul Azinger and Tom Kite are among the past PGA tour champions who are expected to compete at Fallen Oak, located on Highway 15 North in Saucier.

The tournament will be televised nationwide on the Golf Channel.

For more information, follow the coverage in the Sun Herald or log on to www.MississippiGulfResortClassic.com.

Dragon Madness Shootout is March 25

The Dragon Madness 3-on-3 Shootout is 9 a.m. March 25 at Dragon Fitness Center.

Organizers Jason Washington and Matthew Zilisch, 333rd Training Squadron, said the format calls for three- to five-per-

son teams for men and women in two age divisions — 15-18 years old and adults. A three-point contest and half-court shot competition are planned.

The \$40 entry fee per team includes T-shirts and a two-

game minimum of play. Prizes are awarded.

Proceeds benefit the Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence.

For more information, call 377-1650 or 1261.

'I Lost It at Keesler' competition Losing weight takes winning, workable lifestyle modification

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

Winners of the "I Lost it at Keesler" weight loss competition were recognized at an awards reception March 10 at the Dragon Fitness Center.

Winners are:

First place female — Denise Blankschen, 81st Comptroller Squadron.

First place male — Michael Gelsinger, fitness center recreational aide.

Second place female — Jacqueline Mack, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron.

Second place male — Ron Mack, husband of Jacqueline Mack.

The competition began on Jan. 17 and ran through Feb. 28. Personal trainers and a registered dietician from the health and wellness center were on hand to help contestants formulate winning exercise and eating habits.

Following an initial weigh-in, contestants monitored their progress with weekly weigh-ins. Winners were determined by percentage of weight lost rather than total weight.

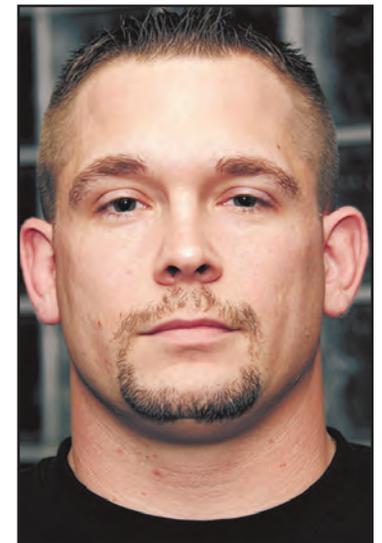
The winners offered advice on how to lose weight and develop a healthy lifestyle.

"I have lost and gained and lost many times over the years but I think the big thing is to stick with it," Blankschen said. "This is a lifestyle. Pray for guidance and strength, drink lots of water, control your portions and move, no matter how little. Then, live these things forever."

Gelsinger recommended, "Consult a trainer if you have very little fitness experience or knowledge. Stick to your diet



Blankschen



Gelsinger

and exercise program and do not ever look for instant gratification. It takes time and effort to lose weight."

"Tell everyone at work that you are dieting," Jacqueline Mack suggested. "This way you are more accountable to yourself and less likely to cheat."

"The key to losing weight is finding a partner and motivating each other to stick to it," Ron Mack observed.

"Angel Over the Bay Keesler Celebrates 70th"

KEESLER A.F.B.

AIR SHOW



2011
70th

March 19th & 20th

Dustin McLeod
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Angels Over the Bay Keesler Celebrates 70 Years

March 19-20 ~ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

10 a.m. Convoy Security Team Demonstration ~ 10:30 a.m. Drill Team Demonstration
11:15 a.m. Opening Ceremonies

Aerial performances (both days)

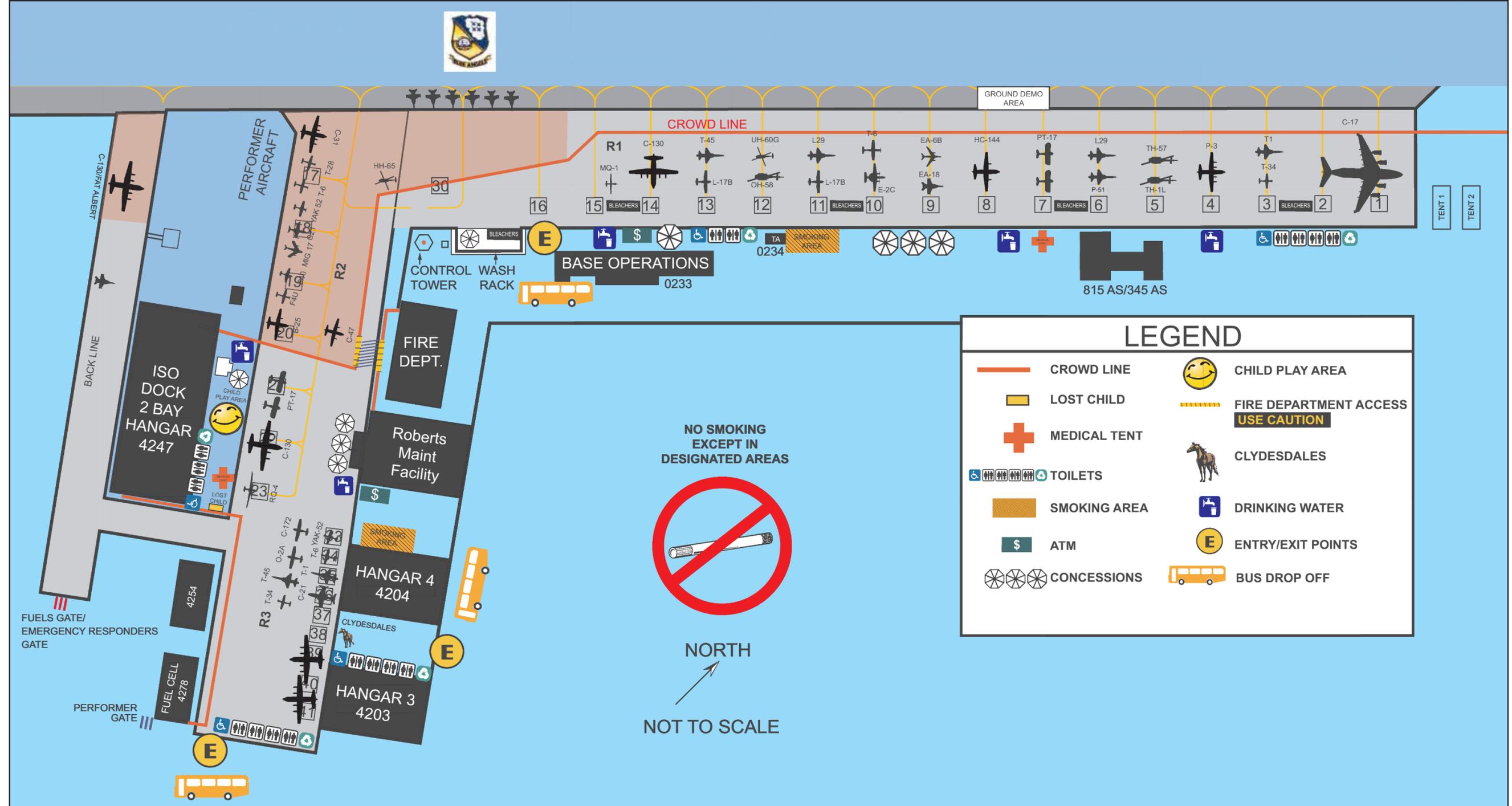
Army Golden Knights Parachute Team with National Anthem
Army Golden Knights Mass Exit Show
John Bostick AT-6D Texan Aerobatic Demonstration
Warbird Flight (B-25, C-47, P-40, F4U)
Ray Kinney P-40N Warhawk Demonstration
DAV B-25J Mitchell Flybys and Demonstration
Air Force C-21A Learjet Flyby (one pass)
Air Force AT-38C Talon Flyby (one pass)
Air Force JTACS Parachute Drop
Coast Guard MH-65C Search and Rescue Demonstration
Air Force Reserve Command 403rd Wing Hercules Demonstration
Jimmy Fordham YAK 52 Aerobatics
Randy Ball MiG-17 Demonstration
Military Working Dog Demonstration
Herb & Ditto T-28 Demonstration
Army Golden Knights Full Show
Air Force F-16 Viper East Demonstration
Chris Avery FG-1D Corsair Demonstration
Marine Corps Blue Angels C-130T Hercules Demonstration
Navy Blue Angels

Aircraft displays (both days)

C-17 Globemaster	T-6G Texan
C-130J Hercules	P-51 Mustang
C-21	L-29 Delfin
C-172	HC-144 Ocean Sentry
B-26J Mitchell Bomber	P-3C Orion,
Beech T-34A Mentor	T-45C Goshawk
MQ-1 Predator remotely piloted aircraft	L-178 Navion
UH-1 Huey	E-2C Hawkeye
PT-17 Stearman	EA-6B Prowler
T-1 Jayhawk	EA-18G Growler
T-6A Texan II	H-65 Dolphin
Yak-52	OH-58 Kiowa
T-33 Shooting Star	RQ-4 Global Hawk full scale model

Ground exhibits (both days)

Keesler History Booth	Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command
Air Force Honor Guard	Department of Veterans Affairs
Military Working Dogs	81st Training Group drill teams
Air Force Reserve, Army, Navy and Marine Corps recruiters	81st Security Forces Squadron
Mississippi State University	Civil Air Patrol
Team Focus	American Red Cross
Seabee Base	Vintage military vehicle display
Stennis Space Center	Retiree Activities Office
Experimental Aircraft Association	Veterans of Foreign Wars
Air Force Association	Fleet Survey Team
Organ Donations	Family Advocacy
Blackhawk Foundation	Get the Word Out (anti-driving while texting)
Koast Air Modeling Society	Disease Management Clinic
Air Force Weather	Brown Condor
81st Force Support Squadron	Child Abuse Prevention Center
25K Loader Aerial Delivery	



Shuttle stops

Shuttles are planned starting at 9 a.m. from several base housing locations during the air show and open house:
Bayridge housing area — Patrick Drive at Cabell Drive. and Vandenberg Drive, Shady Lawn at Vandenberg Drive.
East Falcon Park — corner of Stone Drive and McDonnell Avenue.
West Falcon Park — Hiller Drive Gate.
Thrower Park — gate at Jim Money Road at Annex Road.



Thank you to our air show sponsors

Budweiser
Harrison County Board of Supervisors
Domino's Pizza

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Keesler Federal Credit Union
IP Casino Resort Spa

Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau
USAA
American Lube Fast

Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended

Welcome to 'Angels Over the Bay'

By Brig Gen. Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

Welcome to the 2011 Keesler Air Force Base "Angels Over the Bay" Open House and Air Show!

This year, Team Keesler is proud to celebrate 70 years of service on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The base you are visiting today was originally built in 1941 when the City of Biloxi donated this land to build a technical training center for the Army Air Corps. Since 1947, the base has been a mainstay for technical training for airmen in your United States Air Force.

To recognize our heritage, we've put together an outstanding lineup of aerial performers, aircraft static displays and an impressive number of demonstrations involving a wide range of military capabilities. In addition, we are proud to be a part of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Navy Week by hosting the Navy's Blue Angels aerial demonstration team.

2011 air show tips

Protect yourself from the sun with hats, sunscreen, comfortable shoes, sunglasses, appropriate attire and hearing protection.

Prohibited items

→ Ice chests or coolers (unless required for medication)
→ Large bags, duffle bags and briefcases
→ All weapons, regardless of permit, including firearms, knives, pocket knives and multi-tools

→ UHF/VHF radio transceivers.

→ Walking sticks (unless required for handicap use)

→ Pepper spray, tasers and any item security deems to be dangerous

→ Alcoholic beverages (alcohol will be available at the show)

→ Pets (other than service animals). Pets shall not be left unattended in vehicles.

→ Glass containers

→ Bicycles, roller skates, roller blades or skateboards

→ Pop-up tents/canopies and patio umbrellas

Note: All prohibited items will be confiscated and won't be returned to the owner. If the item is illegal, such as narcotics, appropriate actions will be taken by law enforcement.

Permitted items

→ Cell phones and pagers (may be asked to turn off/on)

→ Small fanny packs and purses

→ Cameras and camcorders (owners shouldn't load film prior to entering the show area as they may be required to open all compartments at security checkpoints)

→ Folding chairs or lawn chairs

→ Hand-held umbrellas

→ Wheelchairs

→ Small baby bags and strollers (if attending with an infant or small child)

More information

→ All attendees and vendors are subject to search prior to entry.

→ Smoking is permitted only in designated smoking areas. Smoking in the vicinity of aircraft will subject you to immediate removal from the premises.

→ Vehicles on base are subject to search and require all documents (proof of insurance, registration and license).

→ Unattended bags and packages will be removed from the premises.

→ Strollers and wheelchairs are **not** available for rent at the air show.

→ Admission and parking are free. Food and beverages are available at concessionaire pricing

→ The same schedule of events is planned for both Saturday and Sunday (weather permitting).

→ Booths that showcase military opportunities and the local community will be present.

No doubt, these will be impressive displays, but I also encourage you to take this opportunity to visit with our most valued asset — our Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines. Our nation remains engaged in operations around the world and the men and women serving in our armed forces are something special. I'm confident that when you speak with these outstanding men and women, you'll recognize the truly impressive capability which resides within those serving our nation in uniform.

For the past 70 years Team Keesler has enjoyed a tremendous partnership with the citizens of Biloxi and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. I want to personally thank you for your unwavering support that remains a vital part of our ability to accomplish the mission today. Thank you!

Finally, please take a moment to read the "Air Show Tips" below in order that we all might have a safe and memorable day. Enjoy the show!



General Mueller



Courtesy photo
Top, the Blue Angels, the U. S. Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron from Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., headline this year's Keesler Air Show.

Left, The Army Golden Knights, featured performers at Keesler's 2009 air show, return for this year's air show. For 50 years the Golden Knights have been wowing audiences at air shows, competitions.

Photo by Kemberly Groue