



MARCH 31, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 13



## March Madness — youth center style

Page 23

DBIDS deadline looms  
Page 14

Cruise, don't crash  
Page 19

Hurricane of '47 at Keesler Field  
Page 20

## Air Force Assistance Fund – Airmen helping Airmen

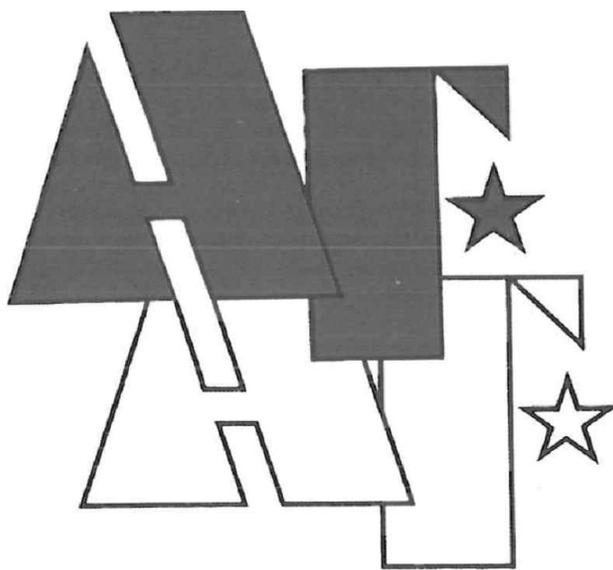
By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

Each year, between February and May, Airmen across our entire Air Force embark on a fundraising campaign in support of the Air Force Assistance Fund. This fund exists to provide financial support to four charitable organizations that support the entire range of our Air Force families. The AFAF campaign is unique in that it is the full spectrum of Airmen—active duty, reserve, air national guard and retired Airmen—reaching out to help fellow Airmen in need.

From first term Airmen through Air Force retirees, all can benefit from the four organizations supported by the AFAF — the Air Force Villages, Inc., the Air Force Aid Society, Inc., the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation and the Air Force Enlisted Village, Inc. These organizations help Airmen and their families with aid to help overcome an emergency situation, with educational need or enable a secure retirement home for widows or widowers of Air Force members who are in need of financial assistance.

In 2010, AFAF statistics show that Keesler



Airmen and their families received more than \$180,000 in loans and grants using the financial aid programs enabled by donations to the AFAF. In addition, base organizations received more than \$40,000 to support family-oriented programs such as Bundles for Babies, Give Parents a Break and

several other programs which help our Team Keesler community. Across the Air Force, direct assistance to Air Force members and families totaled \$18.3 million and helped 39,000 airmen!

Over the next few days, take a minute or two to learn more about the AFAF by seeking out your unit's key worker, visiting the AFAF website at [www.afassistancefund.org](http://www.afassistancefund.org) or contacting 2nd Lt. Joshua Anson, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, the base's AFAF project officer. Anyone can contribute to the AFAF, but only active-duty and retired military members can do so via payroll deductions.

Early this year, I wrote about remaining faithful to the 70 year heritage of training, caring and innovating here at Keesler. A 69-year partner in this legacy of caring has been the Air Force Aid Society — providing worldwide emergency assistance, sponsoring education assistance programs and offering an array of base community enhancement programs that have improved quality of life for Airmen and their families — a legacy which you can support today through a contribution to the Air Force Assistance Fund.

## Personal connections vital for good wingmen

By Maj. Jason Whittle

65th Contracting Squadron

LAJES FIELD, Azores — I have three small kids and I still haven't been issued a parenting manual. I've changed a lot of diapers and still struggle.

You'll frequently see my children in mismatched clothes. That's because it was daddy's turn to dress them. When I cook dinner, it looks more like a college kid's menu — a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a banana, a cheese stick and some gummy bears. When I'm tasked to clean the peanut butter and jelly from my kids' hands, face, ears and hair, you can bet I'll miss most of it (incidentally, PB&J makes great hair gel.)

Momma spends a lot of time fixing what I've goofed up. But all I have to do is lay on the floor and the kids come swarming, excited to jump on daddy. Fortunately, their love isn't based on my skill — whew! They just love to be with me. Sometimes I'm the punching bag, or trampoline, or



even the tackling dummy. Sometimes I get to be their pillow too. My kids just want to be with me.

We're social creatures, hard-wired to spend time with one another, help each other, talk, listen and enjoy the company of our friends and family.

Social networking sites help us stay in touch with friends, no matter the distance between us. Our cities and towns are full of people and we spend our days surrounded by others.

Yet many people still feel alone, unconnected and dissatisfied. We send e-mails to our family members, who may be in the same house.

Even phone calls have been replaced by easier and less personal communication methods. Instead of visiting our friends, we text them. We exchange conversation and company for a few typed words sent from phone to phone.

There are countless books on leader-

ship, parenthood and even friendship. We're taught to be good wingmen.

I'm going to save you some time. There is a foundational truth that runs through all of these books and classes: "with." A good leader is "with" his people, talking, listening, observing and simply being there — management by walking around. Good parents are "with" their children, playing, running, wrestling, and simply being there (even if I often fail to completely clean the peanut butter out of my kids' hair).

During dark times in my life, through the pain of loss or rejection, my friends have comforted me by being "with" me. I don't remember anything they said, but I remember their presence when I needed them. And your wingmen, they're by your side; they've got your back no matter the situation.

Put down the laptop, turn off the TV, and go be with people. Talk, listen and care.

"Half the battle is showing up."

Sometimes it's the whole battle.



## ON THE COVER

Messiah Washington is pursued by Jason Hutchinson, left, and Tristan Fisher during one of Saturday's basketball games at the youth center. Messiah, 5, is the son of Tech. Sgts. Jason and Tomeika Washington, 333rd Training Squadron. Jason, 6, is the son of Capt. Krista Hutchinson, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Dean Hutchinson, VR 54 Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans, La. Five-year-old Tristan's parents are Master Sgt. Anthony and Holly Fisher, 81st Training Group. Story, more photos, Page 5.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

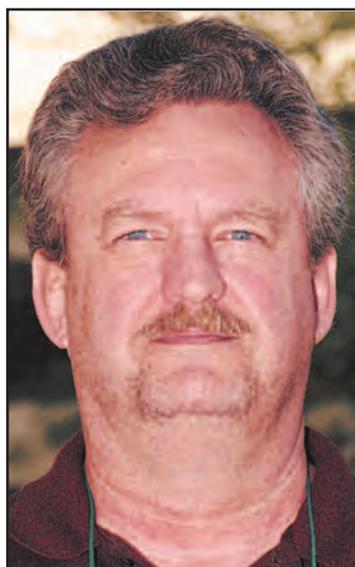


## DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

What's your favorite thing about spring?



"The NCAA March Madness basketball tournament."

Tom Hamilton, 332nd Training Squadron



"The flowers blooming."

Senior Airman Patsy Chandler, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron



"Knowing that summer is approaching."

Kirsten Bonds, CSC

Defense Department telecommunications systems are subject to monitoring.

## KEESLER NEWS

81st Training Wing commander

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

Public affairs director

Jerry Taranto

Deputy director

1st Lt. Joost Verduyn

Editor

Susan Griggs

Photojournalist

Kemberly Groue

Writer/graphic designer

Steve Hoffmann

Public affairs staff

Billy Bell

Tim Coleman

Airman 1st Class

Heather Heiney

Staff Sgt.

Kimberly Moore

Senior Airman

Eric Summers Jr.

Joel Van Nice

YoLanda Wallace

Tech. Sgt.

Greg Washburn

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.

The Keesler News is published by Gulf Publishing Co., a private firm in no way connected with the Air Force, under an exclusive written contract with the 81st TRW as an authorized publication for U.S. military service members. Contents aren't necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or Air Force. Advertising doesn't constitute endorsement by the U.S. government, DOD, Air Force or Gulf Publishing of products or services advertised. Everything advertised shall be available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor.

# TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Off we go into the wild blue yonder



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Wesley Bonin

Master Sgt. Jake Chandler, back to camera; Staff Sgts. Matthew Pich and Christopher Vroman, front row from left; and Tech. Sgt. Robert Parra, Staff Sgt. Michael McCormick and Tech. Sgt. Daniel Nestor, back row from left, perform a military free fall from a 403rd Wing C-130J Hercules March 18 in preparation for Keesler's Angels Over the Bay Air Show and Open House March 19-20. Sergeant Chandler is a combat control instructor supervisor and Sergeants Pich, Vroman and McCormick are combat control instructors in the 334th Training Squadron. Sergeant Parra is a combat control instructor and Sergeant

Nestor is a tactical control party instructor with the 342nd TRS, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. A military free fall is a precision airborne insertion technique used by special operations teams. Forces can be accurately inserted miles from the intended landing area while carrying more than 100 pounds of equipment. Sergeant Chandler said the group was able to conduct nine training jumps, up to a combat equipment jump with 50-pound ruck sacks attached to their parachutes before leaving the plane at 10,000 feet. The instructors make quarterly jumps to remain proficient in their skills.

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

# Run brings teddy bears, smiles to children at pediatric clinic

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

More than 200 81st Training Group students participated in the fifth quarterly Teddy Bear Run Saturday on the Biloxi-Ocean Springs Bridge. The event resulted in more than 300 teddy bears being donated to the 81st Medical Group Hospital's pediatric clinic.

Runners staged at the base of the bridge on the Ocean Springs side, ran across the bridge, picked up a stuffed animal on the Biloxi side and returned to deposit it at a collection spot. Following the run, members of the 81st Medical Operations Squadron pediatric flight transported the teddy bears to the clinic to brighten a child's day.

Col. Lynn Connett, 81st

---

“Our purpose was to make some children happy by giving them a bear when they are scared or frightened about going to the doctor.”

— Sergeant Hammond

---

TRG commander, joined other training group staff to cheer the runners on. Maj. (Dr.) Shannan McCann from the pediatric clinic thanked the participants at the run's conclusion, stating how much the bears mean to the children, especially those who have to spend time in the hospital.

Master Sgt. Anthony Fisher, 81st Training Support Squadron military training superintendent, originated the

Teddy Bear Run concept. The first run 13 months ago collected 130 bears.

Tech. Sgt. Julie Hammond, 81st TRSS military training leader and one of the run's organizers, said, “Our purpose was to make some children happy by giving them a bear when they are scared or frightened about going to the doctor. Another purpose was to get our Airmen volunteering for a good cause.”



Photo by Steve Pivnick  
Sergeant Fisher, his wife Holly and their 5-year-old son Tristan head across the Biloxi-Ocean Springs Bridge with teddy bears during Saturday's run.

# New Security+ course available

## 81st Training Group

A new course to provide Security+ certification to 3D personnel prior to air expeditionary force deployments stood up March 21 at Keesler.

The course is currently programmed to train 1,297 students annually in Keesler's 336th Training Squadron.

Last December during a training advisory meeting with chief master sergeants from across the Air Force, Secretary of the Air Force officials asked the 336th TRS to implement the new course. The course supports Department of Defense Directive 8570 that specifies that anyone touching the network must be certified.

Within two months of the short-notice request, the 336th TRS, under the leadership of Lt. Col. Brian Worth, commander, launched the new 8570 just-in-time certification course, E2AZR3DXXX00AA.

This unclassified course, taught in Thomson Hall, lasts for seven academic days. It provides Security+ certification training to DOD personnel in knowledge and skills needed to perform the duties of an information assurance technician when managing and operating the Air Force network. Course attendance is open to officers, enlisted and civilian personnel.

Those requiring training for an AEF deployment or as part of a 6K communications and electronics unit task code have priority. Remaining seats are open to all personnel who require 8570 as part of their job.

The scope of training includes systems security, network infrastructure, access controls, assessments and audits, cryptography and organizational security.

A commercial certification exam, CompTIA Security+, is

administered at the end of the course.

For personnel who attend as part of pre-deployment, the home unit covers funding and then requests reimbursement from overseas contingency operations funding. For non-pre-deployment personnel, the course is unit funded or mission readiness training funding can be transferred from other classes.

The course covers both Information Assurance Technician II and Information Assurance Manager I requirements and satisfies the requirement for Information Assurance Technician I certification, since higher level certifications qualify for lower level requirements.

For more information, go to the Education and Training Course Announcements website, <https://www.my.af.mil/etc/default1.asp>.

# 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

## The Airman's Creed

*I am an American Airman.  
I am a Warrior:  
I have answered my nation's call.*

*I am an American Airman.  
My mission is to fly, fight and win.  
I am faithful to a proud heritage,  
A tradition of honor,  
And a legacy of valor.*

*I am an American Airman,  
guardian of freedom and justice,  
My nation's sword and shield,  
Its sentry and avenger.  
I defend my country with my life.*

*I am an American Airman:  
Wingman, leader, warrior.  
I will never leave an Airman behind,  
I will never falter  
and I will not fail.*

# Graduation is milestone for surgical apprentice course

## 81st Medical Group

The 81st Medical Group's Surgery Services Apprentice Phase II course presented a graduation certificate to Airman Zachary Meadows March 11.

Airman Meadows, who received an assignment to Travis Air Force Base, Calif., is the first Keesler SSA graduate to complete the eight weeks of Phase I training at the Fort Sam Houston Medical Education and Training Campus in San Antonio in the new consolidated Air Force and Navy surgical technician course.

The class selected Airman 1st Class Trishia Fitchett, an 81st MSGS surgical technician, for the Preceptor Award. Staff Sgt. Derrick Meeks, assistant course supervisor, administered the "Surgical Technologist Pledge." Colonel Brown addressed the student and guests.

His graduation marked the successful completion of the intense six-week course.

Tech. Sgt. Brandon Williams, supervisor of the intensive six-week Phase II of the course, said the 14-week program gives experience in all facets of surgery, including sterile processing, patient transportation, circulating duties in the operating room and assisting the surgeons during surgery.

Airman Meadows was awarded his three skill level as a surgical service apprentice and eight semester hours earned towards a Community College of the Air Force degree.

## Academic aces



**Airman Basic Nicolas Ferich, left, and Airman 1st Class Justin Hahn graduated Tuesday from the electronic principles course in the 332nd Training Squadron with perfect scores. Airman Ferich is from Lancaster, Pa., and Airman Hahn is from Honolulu. Both graduates are headed to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, for electronic warfare systems apprentice school.**

# TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

## KSC scholarships

Friday 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](http://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](http://www.hurricanehunters.com).

## CCAF graduation

The Community College of the Air Force spring commencement ceremony is 3:30 April 26 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

The commencement speaker is Chief Master Sgt James Pepin, CCAF vice commandant.

Scholarships are presented by the Keesler Chiefs Group, Air Force Association, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, University of Southern Mississippi, William Carey University and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

A reception follows the ceremony.

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

## Drill downs, parades

The 81st Training Group's drill downs are 8 a.m. April 15, June 24, Aug. 19 and Oct. 28 on the parade grounds.

For more information, call 377-2103.

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

For more information, call 377-2789.



## FIT TO FIGHT !

It's time for a change. We're getting back to basics.

Together through exercise, nutrition and coping strategies, we're staying fit for freedom!

For our team, our families, ourselves.

# NEWS AND FEATURES

## 10 AETC awards for Keesler News

### Keesler Public Affairs

The Keesler News claimed 10 awards in Air Education and Training Command's 2010 media contest.

It's the most awards the Keesler News has ever won in a single year in at least 25 years, according to former editor Perry Jenifer.

**Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney**, who arrived at Keesler last August for her first Air Force assignment, was recognized as the command's outstanding new writer.

Her submission package included a commentary about quitting smoking, a feature about the 366th Training Squadron Detachment 6 at the Naval Construction Battalion in Gulfport, a story about Keesler's "excellent" rating in its Unit Compliance Inspection, a feature about three breast cancer survivors and an overview of the Keesler First Term Airman Center.

Her commentary about quitting smoking won second place in the commentary category and her photo and story package about the 366th TRS was the third place entry in the photojournalism category.

**Steve Hoffmann**, an employee of The Sun Herald who joined the Keesler News staff last May, is AETC's contract writer of the year.

His winning feature covered October's memorial march from Texas to Florida that honored fallen combat controllers.

**Kemberly Groue**, Keesler News photojournalist, won second place in the contract photography competition for the photo that accompanied Mr. Hoffmann's story. She's been a member of the Keesler News staff since 1998 and previously won seven AETC awards and one Air Force award.



**Airman Heiney**



**Mr. Hoffmann**



**Ms. Griggs**



**Mr. Pivnick**

**Susan Griggs**, Keesler News editor, earned five awards. She won the news category with a story about the 81st Training Wing's change of command last August. She also won second place for a feature article about the struggles of a Keesler wounded warrior and second place for a sports story about Keesler members who helped launch youth wrestling in south Mississippi. She also placed second in the print journalist of the year category, which she won last year.

Ms. Griggs became the Keesler News editor nearly two years ago after 12½ years as a contract writer for the

paper. She previously won 11 AETC awards and two Air Force awards for her writing and one AETC, one Air Force and one Defense Department Thomas Jefferson Award for contract photography.

**Steve Pivnick** and Ms. Griggs shared a first place award in the series category for a four-part series on Keesler's wounded warrior program.

Mr. Pivnick, the 81st Medical Group public affairs chief since 1999, came to Keesler 15 years ago. He joined the 81st Training Wing's public affairs staff after he retired as a senior master sergeant with 26 years of active duty in public affairs.

## IN THE NEWS

### AFAF campaign kicks off

Keesler's Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicked off Monday and runs until May 6, according to 2nd Lt. Joshua Anson, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, project officer.

The annual AFAF campaign is an "airmen helping airmen" on-the-job fundraising appeal that benefits the Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Villages, Air Force Enlisted Villages and Gen. and Mrs. Curtis E. Lemay Foundation.

For more information, contact your unit representative.

### Sunday is survey deadline

#### Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO – Sunday is the deadline to participate in the 2011 Air Force Community Assessment.

The anonymous survey covers topics including personal and family adjustment, individual and family adaptation, community well-being, deployment, resiliency, post-traumatic stress and help-seeking stigma.

The survey assists helping professionals working in chaplains' offices, airman and family readiness centers, family advocacy programs, health and wellness centers, mental health clinics and child and youth programs to better meet the needs of service members and their families.

Those selected to take the survey received e-mail invitations to participate. Spouses were mailed a postcard. The official secure notice is being sent from the consulting firm ICF International and is addressed from AFCASurvey@icfi.com.

The survey takes 30 to 45 minutes to complete.

For more information, call 1-800-506-0098 or e-mail afcasurvey@icfi.com.

### Item unique ID process complete

From Jan. 2 through March 18, more than 11,000 base equipment assets were properly identified and labeled, according to Paulette Powell from CSC's equipment accountability element.

"We'd like to thank all equipment custodians and commanders for their support and appreciation during this process," Ms. Powell said. "It's important to remember that upon receipt of any new equipment items, regardless of source, equipment custodians must contact the equipment accountability element to have the assets labeled and scanned."

### Off-limits list

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

**Biloxi** — Ya-ya's, 2623 Pass Road.

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

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

**D'Iberville** — Guitars and Cadillacs, 4031 Popp's Ferry Road.

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

**Dragons deployed — 223**

## Healthcare providers receive flight lesson



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander, in flight suit, describes the U.S. Navy Blue Angels F/A-18 Hornet aircraft to guests attending the fifth annual 81st MDG- Humana Military Healthcare Services Provider Collaboration event held March 18 at the 403rd Wing aircraft wash rack. More than 100 area civilian medical providers and administrators were invited. The program offered attendees the opportunity to see the Blue Angels practice for their March 19-20 Keesler Air Show performances as well as see several aircraft on static display along the flight line. Guests had an opportunity to meet their Keesler counterparts during the evening.

## Keesler medic receives flight surgeon award

By Steve Pivnick

### 81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Maj. (Dr.) Kirk Hinkley, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, has been selected the Air Education and Training Command Flight Surgeon of the Year. He now competes for the Air Force-level honor.

In his letter recommending the major for the Malcolm Grow Flight Surgeon of the Year recognition, Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander, said, "While assigned to the 81st MDOS, Kirk excelled as a can-do flight surgeon and superb clinician...a trusted go-to officer for both deployed operations and home-station care.

"Kirk led our first CCATT (critical care air transport team) into Haiti after the earthquake. During 'Operation Unified Response,' he developed a field expedient triage and validation system, ensuring fluidity of the aeromedical evacuation system in extremely trying conditions. He then led his team on seven



Major Hinkley

missions to CONUS, moving over 300 patients safely."

The general continued, "Following this rapid response, Dr. Hinkley was selected by (Brig.) Gen. (Dr.) (Dan) Wyman to attend the spring AMP (Aerospace Medicine Primary course) where he was a distinguished graduate. Upon return from the course, he immediately took over the base flight surgeon's responsibilities.

"As our sole full-time base flight surgeon for three months, Kirk kept the aeromedical programs moving forward, provided expert guidance to line commanders and built partnerships between our medical squadrons that continue to this day.

"His hard work in UCI prep showed when his field response team had several by-name star performers, contributing to our overall 'Excellent' wing score. Kirk returned briefly to the ER and is now deployed again (to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, until June) in the CCATT role, where again he is doing great things, this time bringing wounded warriors back from the AOR (area of responsibility)."

Dr. Hinkley entered active duty in 2004 after receiving a medical degree from the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. He completed a residency in emergency medicine at Wright State University and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

# PERSONNEL NOTES

## Job fair is April 12

The Southern Region Military and Civilian Job Fair is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 12 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, Biloxi.

A resume writing and job fair preparation class is 2-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, 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/>

## Finance office closures

The 81st Comptroller Squadron's customer service office closes from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 12.

The office also closes at noon May 12 and at 11:30 a.m. June 22.

## Special duty team visit

Air Education and Training Command's special duty team visits Keesler July 12.

For more information, call 377-3697.

## 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. 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. 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](mailto:robert.bertels@randolph.af.mil).

## Class for job hunters

### 81st Force Support Squadron

In May, the airman and family readiness center plans a 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.

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

# Making a move Online tool improves process

## Department of Defense

### Personal Property Activity Headquarters

In an effort to make moving a little easier, customers now have the ability to utilize the Defense Personal Property System, a full-service tool that provides an improved move process for all eligible members of the Department of Defense personal property community. People planning to make a move can create and submit an application for the move with online personal property counseling, monitor the progress of the shipment, file a claim directly with the transportation service provider and complete a customer satisfaction survey.

However, people planning a move must first register for a DPS account. The DPS system can be accessed from any computer with Internet access. You don't need permanent change of station orders to establish an account, but they are required in order to complete counseling and secure a pickup date for your move.

Your first step will be to visit the DPS portal website, <http://www.move.mil>. It's recommended to watch the DOD service members and civilians video on the home page, which provides an thorough overview of the process. You can register a DPS account by clicking the "DPS registration" tab at the top of the page and answering a series of questions. Once submitted, you'll receive an e-mail within six hours with a link — click the link and answer two of the security questions you previously set up and your password will be displayed.

Now that you've established a password, you're on your way to using the full spectrum of tools like:

- The ability to self-counsel and submit your application online, instead of traveling to a transportation office. Some DOD customers

should not self-counsel in DPS at this time and should visit their local transportation office to coordinate their move. A list of those who should not self-counsel is found on the [move.mil](http://move.mil) site.

- Tracking your shipment through DPS or interactive voice response 24/7.

- Update your contact information at any time; current contact information is vital to expediting service request and meeting customer move expectations.

- The option to file a claim online and settle directly with your transportation service provider.

- The opportunity to make sure only quality, reputable companies handle and ship your personal belongings, and those of your fellow service members and DoD civilians, by completing the customer satisfaction survey seven days following delivery of your property.

Regardless if you plan on completing an online application or visit a personal property office for a one-on-one counseling, all eligible customers must establish a DPS user account. Establishing your account prior to your visit to a personal property processing office will avoid delays in preparing your shipment application.

If you self-counsel, remember that once you've submitted your application, you'll need to forward copies of your orders and a signed application to the appropriate transportation office. Once your shipment has been created by the counselor at the transportation Office, you can track your shipment in DPS, update vital contact information and establish property delivery dates.

For more information, visit the transportation office, Room 114, Sablich Center, or call 376-8530, 8532, 8533 or 8534.



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

# Consolidation continues for personnel actions

By Tech. Sgt. Steve Grever

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas – Air Force personnel officials here are assuming some personnel actions from Air Education and Training Command bases over the next four months to help reduce workloads on base military personnel sections.

Master Sgt. Joseph Smith, the Air Force Personnel Center's sustainment superintendent, said AFPC has started processing limited duty status, change of reporting official updates and decorations requests for three AETC bases that were originally managed by base MPSs.

"Lackland, Randolph and Keesler (Air Force bases) were the first to use the new process, which resulted in

reduced personnel processing times from the Air Force average of seven days to less than a day," said Sergeant Smith.

"Keesler started testing the new process Nov. 8," said Gary Schafer, chief of the 81st Force Support Squadron military personnel section. "We assisted AFPC's Total Force Service Center in working out minor glitches with these processes."

"Today's airman are very tech savvy, and by centralizing more and more processes, our personnel system becomes more efficient and responsive to Air Force members by being available 24/7," he remarked. "As always, there are growing pains, but the overall efficiencies we gain benefit everyone in the long run."

Mr. Schafer said Keesler units now submit certain, but not all, duty status updates

directly to the TFSC.

"All requests for change in reporting official and decorations are now processed directly through the TFSC," Mr. Schafer explained. "The military personnel section and CSC staffs still provide management advisory services to commanders and supervisor concerning these processes, but the actual processing of these requests are handled by the TFSC."

To help standardize these processes, Staff Sgt. Marvetta Graham Harper and other personnel technicians from the TFSC revamped training aides their office and other personnelists will use to manage how these personnel actions flow from AETC bases to AFPC.

"We revised a training aide for the unit commander or their designated representative and our technicians here to ensure

training is standardized," said Sergeant Graham Harper.

Capt. Michael Meek, the TFSC's sustainment lifecycle chief, said AFPC has been conducting Base Level Service Delivery Module transactions at Keesler, Lackland and Randolph to evaluate what benefits the Air Force would gain from transferring this work from the MPSs and standardizing training.

"Each base does it a little bit differently, and we have our personnel technicians teaching Airmen how to do it one way," Captain Meek said. "Standardizing our processes helps us gain more efficiencies in how we do business."

The TFSC represents a fundamental shift in the way the Air Force delivers personnel services to Airmen and commanders, according to Lt. Col. Steven Zubowicz, the center's

operations chief.

"By centralizing specific Base Level Service Delivery Module transactions within the TFSC, we are attempting to alleviate some of the workload from base-level military personnel sections while increasing the accuracy and speed of service to commanders and Airmen," Colonel Zubowicz said.

"Thus far, the concept has proven viable at three AETC bases. By expanding to all of AETC, we will be testing our internal ability to handle a much higher case volume," he added.

AFPC officials anticipate these personnel actions will be transferred from the remaining AETC bases by the end of June.

Susan Griggs, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report.

**NO DUIS NO EXCUSES  
DRINK RESPONSIBLY**

## Lifeguard positions available for summer

81st Force Support Squadron

Thirty lifeguard positions are available at Keesler this summer.

To qualify, applicants must be at least 16 years old and have adult, child and infant CPR certification; basic first aid certification and lifeguard certification covering lifesaving and water rescue. In addition to proof of these certifications, a complete application consists of an OF-612, OF-306, current transcript and letter of enrollment from school.

GS-04 positions pay \$13.41 an hour, GS-03 positions pay \$11.95 an hour and GS-2 pay \$10.95 an hour.

To apply, visit the civilian personnel office, Room 214, Sablich Center or call 376-8644.

Don't drink and drive.

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

## Sharing Keesler's cyber story with local leaders



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Lt. Col. Douglas Short, 333rd Training Squadron commander, spoke to members of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce about Keesler's cyber training mission at a March 23 luncheon in Gulfport.

## Public Notice

The following standard public notice is required to be published by the Mississippi Department of Health by April 12, 2011. The notice is concerning the incident in February 2011 when we alerted all customers about the need to boil water as a precautionary measure.

The problem was resolved and you do NOT need to do anything. We want to thank all our customers for their cooperation and patience during that time.

### Important information about your drinking water

February 2011 tests showed total coliform bacteria in the Keesler water system.

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this was NOT an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we have done to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We took 12 samples for coliform bacteria during February 2011. Four of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month of our samples may do so.

#### What should I do?

- You do **not** need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may have been at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791.

#### What does this mean?

This was **not** an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could

be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.

#### What happened? What was done to correct the violation?

The following specifies corrective actions this water supply has taken in response to this violation:

- We distributed and publicized boil water notices to our customers.
- We reviewed and verified that all treatment levels were correct.
- We reviewed sampling procedures and locations for possible problems.
- We isolated the area with the first positive results and took the water well out of service as a precaution.
- We took additional samples until negative sampling results were received.

For more information, please contact Anthony W. Curran Jr., operator, 377-0909, or Alfred A. Watkins, legally responsible official, 376-8417.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses.) You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Keesler Air Force Base PWS ID# 0240049.

March 31, 2011



## Today is deadline for active-duty, civilians to register for DBIDS cards

Airman 1st Class Zachary Grant, 81st Security Forces Squadron, scans a Defense Biometric Identification System card at the Meadows Drive Gate. Today's the deadline for active-duty members and Department of Defense employees to register for DBIDS. Starting Friday, officers at Keesler's gates will divert active-duty members and DOD employees to the visitor center at the White Avenue Gate to register in the DBIDS system. In addition to the visitor center, DBIDS cards are available at the military personnel section in Sablich Center, exchange pharmacy, 81st Medical Group Hospital's information desk and A tower lobby, Hewes Hall, 403rd Maintenance Squadron and the Levittow Training Support Facility. Reservists, retirees, dependants and contractors may continue to register through June 30 at any of these sites. Terminals will be set up May 13-15 at the 403rd Maintenance Squadron to register reservists during the 403 Wing's unit training assembly.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



## What goes up, comes down

Workers from Phoenix Rigging and Erecting, Atlanta, dismantle the 81st Medical Group Hospital Inpatient Tower construction crane March 22. The almost 150-foot tall structure had loomed over the site since February 2010. With work proceeding on the tower's interior, the crane has served its purpose. To get construction materials to the tower's four floors, "We will use the internal elevators starting in a couple of weeks," said Yates Construction site supervisor John Horton. "In the meantime, we'll use the stairs." The disassembly began with removal of the eight counterweights at the end of the boom. Then the workers took the boom apart section-by-section, with the operator's capsule saved for last, before they dismantled the vertical portion. Mr. Horton said the specially-made concrete base, which is below ground level, will simply be covered over.

Photo by Steve Pivnick

# Engineering squadron keeps Air Force talking

By Airman 1st Class  
Heather Heiney

## Keesler Public Affairs

A network infrastructure is like a nervous system — without a nervous system a body cannot receive the messages it needs to breathe, move or pump blood, and without a network infrastructure the Air Force could not receive the messages it needs to carry out its various missions.

“When you log onto your computer each morning you’re under a lot of assumptions,” said Lt. Col. James Newberry, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron deputy commander.

Those assumptions include the fact that the computer will have the ability to access email, the internet and network drives which are necessary to send and receive information crucial to mission completion.

“Everything hinges around data,” said Colonel Newberry.

The 85th EIS, which is part of the 38th Cyberspace Engineering Group, is the only active duty command, control, communication-computer engineering and installation squadron in the Air Force. In fact, they even wired their own squadron, an old concrete missile communications squadron, with modern network infrastructure.

While there are 16 Air

National Guard EI units, they are only available when funds are allocated for unit activation. This means that the 85th EIS is the only squadron consistently available for the C4 installation, engineering and maintenance that is required by the Air Force on an almost daily basis across the globe.

While the 85th EIS is based just outside of Keesler, its work is primarily done on the road at temporary duty stations and deployed locations. Therefore there is no true home station mission, so when they’re home they spend duty hours training, completing additional duties and preparing equipment for the next TDY or deployment.

Colonel Newberry said that peacetime TDYs are important, not only to reduce EI costs for the Air Force, but to sharpen squadron members’ skills so they are prepared for deployments where there’s less room for mistakes.

Master Sgt. James Snell, noncommissioned officer in charge of project management, said that on average members of the 85th EIS are each tasked for two months of training and one six-month long deployment every two years.

“The more we get them out the door, the more we do for the Air Force,” said Colonel Newberry, “Our job is not to be here.”

Sergeant Snell also said that on average, a person can spend 150-160 days per year away from their home base. Last year, the unit as a whole spent about 18,000 man days on the road, compared to about 19,000 spread across all 16 of the ANG units.

With combat extending for several years in many places, there’s more of a need for permanent infrastructure and facilities.

Colonel Newberry explained that there is a distinct difference between combat communications and EI. Combat communications members take tactical gear and prepackaged infrastructure that are temporary and mobile and set them up at forward operating bases. Then, when the mission is complete, they pack up all the gear and take it with them.

“We take bits and pieces and customize infrastructure to match the customer’s requests and the infrastructure is permanent to the life of the facility,” Colonel Newberry said, “Once it’s permanent, it can be maintained and will be good for years.”

The 85th EIS can be broken down into four major functions — engineering and installing cable and antenna systems, engineering and installing electronic systems, specialized engineering and project management. The squadron is in charge of everything from installing copper wiring to supporting shuttle and rocket launches for NASA.

While each function is very important to mission completion, Colonel Newberry said that project management and team chiefs are what keep the entire squadron running smoothly. The project management team is essentially responsible for making sure the right people, equipment and supplies are at the right place at the right time. Team chiefs take care of disciplinary actions, physical training, making sure everyone is on time, monitoring safety and much more.



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Senior Airman Jeremy Thatcher, left, releases the tag line while Senior Airman Rathanak Ear coordinates with the ground crew as members of the 85th EIS team work on disassembling a GPN-20(V) tower for the 81st Training Group, Feb. 15.

Sergeant Snell said that the benefits of being a member of the 85th EIS is that he’s not stuck in one place because of the frequent travel, he has opportunities to work outside the box, he gets a broad base experience, there is extra pay during TDYs and he feels a high level of job satisfaction, camaraderie and teamwork.

He said that the challenges include difficulty with married life because of members being gone frequently. Also, manning is often strained because training of new personnel is a long process. To make it within the field, people need

a high mechanical aptitude and the ability to adapt quickly to different tasks.

Even after members of the 85th EIS make it through basic training and tech school, their training isn’t complete. They must attend the 85th EIS’s Community College of the Air Force accredited schoolhouse in addition to career development courses and on the job training.

While the 85th EIS is hidden nearly as well as the network wires they thread throughout a building, its services are essential to the Air Force mission.



Staff Sgt. Aaron Bryars puts the finishing touches on the radar dismantling as he pounds out a retaining pin in the antenna pedestal, Feb. 15.

# Strategies help kids cope when parents deploy

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

What do a pre-deployment briefing and Sesame Street have in common? Answer: Elmo — well, not exactly Elmo, but the message he has for children of parents who are deploying. OK, so maybe it's not the only message in a pre-deployment briefing, but it's an important one — how will your children be cared for in your absence and how will you help them cope with your absence when you are gone?

The Sesame Street video is just one tool in a big box that parents who are deploying can use to help prepare their children for their absence and coping strategies that can help sustain them while they are gone.

Master Sgt. Jessica Woodruff, noncommissioned officer in charge of family readiness at the airman and family readiness center, deals with children, spouses and family members who've been left behind due to deployment. When dealing with children, she wants to make sure they know that they're a part of the mission, too, and that other children are going through the same thing they are. She also wants parents and caregivers to know there are a number of tactics and coping strategies that can be employed to help their children deal with their absence.

"It all depends on the age of the child," explained Sergeant Woodruff. "For younger children, sometimes out of sight means out of mind. But sometimes they know something is wrong, but don't have the words to express their feelings, so they'll express them in their actions."

Children who are a little older who understand what deployment means often have difficulty reconciling that with what they see in the news media.

"They're afraid mommy or daddy is going to die," explained Sergeant Woodruff. "All the news shows is combat

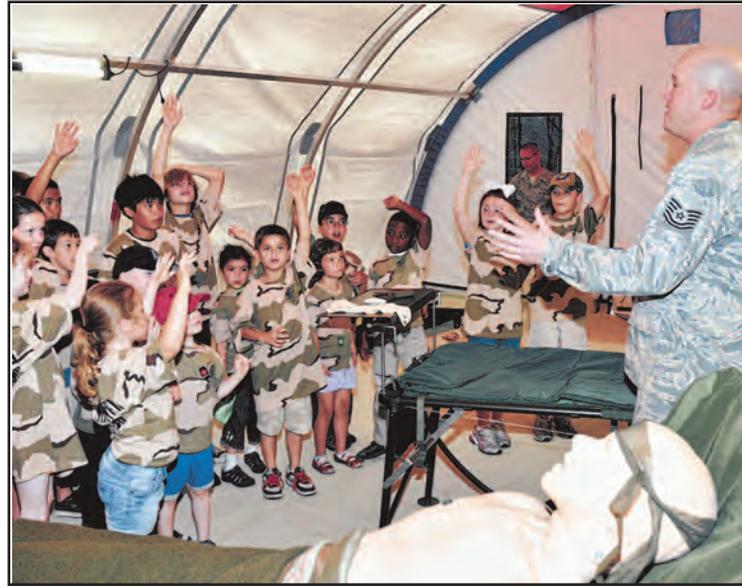


Photo by Adam Bond

**Tech. Sgt. Tommy Mattox, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, asks a group of 'deployed' children if they would like to volunteer for medical training during Operation Hero, May 22, 2010.**

related and people getting injured or killed. That's certainly part of the equation, but it doesn't show the other working side of the house and non-combat related deployments."

So to help children better understand what deployment means for their mommy or daddy, coping strategies and tactics have been developed that can be very effective when used in a proactive way.

"One of the things we recommend for parents who are deploying is to take a picture of where they sleep, where they work and where they live and send it to their kids back home," said Sergeant Woodruff. "That way, the children have a visual and can know that their mommy or daddy is safe."

Licensed military family life counselors are also available to meet with spouses and children on a one-to-one basis to help them process their concerns and fears. They are trained to deal with a range of issues related to deployment including children who are missing their parents. Available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., they will meet with a spouse or child where they are — a playground, at home, a café, to see how the children are behaving and interacting.

learn about and experience some of the things mommy and daddy might do when they get deployed. Afterwards, they are welcomed home with a big party.

"We have some kids who come back every year. Some of them are in high school," said Sergeant Woodruff. "Operation Hero is a lot of fun for the kids and it shows them that they have a whole community of their peers who are going through the same thing and that we're all in this together."

Military OneSource is another excellent resource for deployed families. This online resource has pamphlets, booklets and videos that deal with all different types of family change. There's a hotline where family members can call and talk to a counselor or set up personal appointments. There are tools that can help military members and their family deal with every aspect of military life. For more information, visit <http://www.militaryonesource.com>.

Online technology and communication have made it easier for families to stay in touch over thousands of miles. Skype is being used more and more as a way to maintain face to face communication. If users have a webcam, it allows them to stream live video of themselves while they are talking to their family members through their computer.

"Make it routine," recommends Sergeant Woodruff. "If you normally have dinner around 6 p.m. while at home, Skype at 6 p.m. every night. Routine is important because it keeps you part of the domestic routine and lets the child know you are still part of what's happening back home." According to Sergeant Woodruff, around 80 percent of deployed locations have the technological capability to support online forms of communication such as Skype.

There are even ways to be present with your child while they're sleeping. The airman

and family readiness center has a pillow case program in which parents can make a personal pillow case with pictures of themselves imprinted on their child's pillow. Sergeant Woodruff also recommends using recordable books so that parents can still read favorite bedtime stories to their children.

Keesler now has a school liaison officer, Gerry Cross, who can let teachers and school officials know about a child who has a parent who is deployed. This allows teachers to be on the lookout for behavioral changes or grades that might be slipping.

But just when children get used to a parent being gone, they come home. According to Sergeant Woodruff, reintegration is often as hard as leaving. Aside from the parent's own struggles with reintegration, the child has already adjusted to and formulated a new routine while the parent was deployed. But now, routines will have to change and new adjustments will need to be made. Sergeant Woodruff reminds returning parents to be flexible.

"Your children have had to change in order to deal with your absence," explained Sergeant Woodruff. "You must also be willing to change in order for them to deal with your being back home."

With the United States engaged in two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, deployments will remain a part of life for military service members and their children. But Sergeant Woodruff offers some encouragement.

"We've been at war a long time and I don't see that stopping anytime soon," she said. "But new programs and techniques are being developed all the time in helping children deal with their parents deploying. We're getting better all the time."

For more information on tools and techniques available to help your children cope with deployment, call the airman and family readiness center 376-8728.

# Worship services scheduled

For more news, photos, videos and information,  
log on to [keesler.af.mil](http://keesler.af.mil)

## 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 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. 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.

# Base motorcycling courses prepare riders for unexpected

By Tech. Sgt. Greg Washburn

## Keesler Public Affairs

In the blink of an eye, a motorcyclist can go from cruise to crash. That's how much time you might have to react to a situation while riding a motorcycle.

Fortunately, both the basic rider and experienced rider courses offered at Keesler will help motorcyclists prepare for any unexpected circumstances while riding.

According to Bryan Bailey, 81st Training Wing traffic safety manager, motorcyclists are required to take the basic rider course before riding their motorcycle on any Department of Defense installation. Currently, there are approximately 250 identified riders at Keesler.

Recently there were two Air Force members killed in motorcycle accidents. It was determined that they were traveling at "speeds in excess of 100 mph," Mr. Bailey said. He believes it wasn't a training issue since both victims were experienced riders.

Mr. Bailey notes that there have been very few local motorcycle mishaps. He believes this is due to the safety conscious riding culture at Keesler. Additionally, supervisory involvement helps to contribute to the safety cul-



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Greg Washburn

**Motorcycle safety instructor Don Eberlin, 338th Training Squadron, evaluates students during an "adjusting speed and turning" exercise at a basic rider course, March 24.**

ture. To that end, the traffic safety office sends out a safety message every week to motorcycle riders on base.

Tourist traffic, sand on the road and steel grating on the drawbridges are some of the unique hazards that motorcycle riders experience locally, according to Mr. Bailey.

Mr. Bailey tries to schedule at least two motorcycle safety courses per month. Transient students make up the bulk of the trainees attending these

courses, so he facilitates a schedule that makes it convenient for the nonprior service students to attend the course. For the basic rider course, motorcycle ownership isn't even required. The course has five trainer bikes for individuals who don't own a motorcycle yet.

Mr. Bailey recently requested a range expansion. If that occurs, he'll be able to add the military sport bike course. This course will be available to riders that have prior experience and will cover such topics as apex cornering and braking in corners.

Mr. Bailey also encourages any experienced, responsible riders to become motorcycle safety instructors.

"Responsible riding is the biggest part of riding," he pointed out. "There's a consequence for every action on the motorcycle. Ride within your skill set."

For more information, call 376-2007. Additionally, Air Force Instruction 90-207 and Air Education and Training Command Supplement 91-207 cover the motorcycle safety program.



**Basic rider course students practice motorcycle skills during the "adjusting speed and turning" exercise March 24.**

# 1947 base newspaper tells hurricane tale

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

A special piece of Keesler history — the Sept. 26, 1947 issue of The Keesler Field News — made its way back to the base Friday.

The newspaper was donated to the base history office by Cathy Verberkmoes, who received it from Sally Henden, the manager of the base bowling alley back in 1947.

“She knew I liked old stuff and gave it to me,” Mrs. Verberkmoes said. “I’ve probably had it for the last 25 years.”

The eight-page newspaper was supposed to document the sixth anniversary of Keesler Field, but instead, it was headlined “Hurricane Issue” after a fierce storm swept the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Back in those days, hurricanes weren’t given names, so this one was referred to as the “Hurricane of ’47.”

The front page story of the

weekly “official camp paper” chronicled the storm’s 100 mph winds, 20 deaths and property damage that ran “into millions of dollars.” However, “Keesler Field suffered slight damage and no deaths or injuries due to the fact that the field is situated 8/10 of a mile from the beach, thus protecting it from the 13-foot tidal wave which wiped out the central beach area and the Point Cadet section of Biloxi.”

The narrative described all aircraft on flying status that couldn’t be stored in the hangars being moved to safety at Barksdale Field, La. The home of Keesler Field’s commander, Army Brig. Gen. Edward Anderson, was flooded by almost 2 feet of water. As the waters receded, “a large fish was found floundering in the general’s kitchen not far from Mrs. Anderson’s deep-freeze unit.” Families living on base were evacuated to theaters, service clubs and the officers club.

One of the writers for The Keesler Field News, Pfc. Andy Patton, called the hurricane “nature’s own version of our atomic bomb, built in her own backyard, the deep-blue sea. It ravaged crops, knocked down homes, did untold damage to buildings and ships, then brought in an accomplice and battered the waterfront of every town in its wake.”

Mrs. Verberkmoes, the person who donated the paper, is also a part of Keesler’s history.

She was the base’s recreation center director from 1979 through much of the ‘80s. She organized pool tournaments, ping pong contests and talent shows and remarked that one year Keesler had 12 Airmen selected for Tops in Blue, the Air Force’s premier expeditionary entertainment team.

After Mrs. Verberkmoes left the job for health reasons, she came back to the base



Sun Herald graphic by Rudy Nowak

often as the director for many talent shows and the Keesler Little Theater.

Her husband Casey, a retired chief master sergeant who served in the Air Force for 28 years, came to Keesler for technical school back in 1951. He hails from Michigan and trained in electronic fundamentals and ground control approach radar maintenance before embarking on an Air Force career that took him around the world.

The couple, who’ve been married for 56 years, met while he was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

“I was prepared to hate this place,” Mrs. Verberkmoes remembered about coming to Keesler. “I got bit by a spider my second day in Biloxi, and our first apartment had those

big roaches that lived in the oak trees nearby. But I fell in love with the people and the way of life here.”

They bought a home just north of Jeff Davis Elementary School in Biloxi, where they raised their three children. The family moved several times during the chief’s career, but when he retired while stationed in California, they returned to Biloxi.

Mr. Verberkmoes, who earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg through the Bootstrap program, went on to earn two master’s degrees and teach computer science at USM-Gulf Coast for 16 years.

“Everyone in this community has a tentacle that ties them to Keesler,” he remarked.

Mr. and Mrs. Verberkmoes display a copy of The Keesler Field News published on Sept. 26, 1947. The newspaper had been intended to commemorate the sixth anniversary of Keesler Field, but instead gave an account of the “Hurricane of ‘47” that struck the Biloxi area. The newspaper has been given to the base history office. To view a copy of the eight-page paper, log on to <http://www.keesler.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123248974>.

Photo by Kemberly Groue





Oklahoma State University photo

## Although rare, Gulf Coast tornados still require proper preparation

By Airman 1st Class  
Heather Heiney

### Keesler Public Affairs

Although Keesler is not part of the infamous tornado alley that stretches across the belly of the United States, it's not immune from twisters.

In fact, there was a confirmed tornado that touched down just 2½ miles northwest of Keesler March 9.

James Tart, lead forecaster for the base weather station, and Virgil Mitchell, the 81st Training Wing's safety chief, said that while there haven't been any tornados officially observed at Keesler, there have been numerous reports of funnel clouds and waterspouts in the area.

Tornado season along the Mississippi Gulf Coast lasts from late winter to late spring, but if the conditions are right, they can appear any

time of year. Twisters are the result of a violently rotating column of air that is pulled toward the ground when a thunderstorm begins to collapse. Mr. Tart and Mr. Mitchell said that the subtropical Gulf Coast climate isn't conducive for super-cell storms, but tornados can accompany tropical storms and hurricanes as they move over land. They also said that these funnels are generally seen on the right side of the storm's path.

To prepare for tornado season, Mr. Tart and Mr. Mitchell suggest running tornado drills because it lessens the confusion during an actual storm. They also suggest assigning an interior room or hallway away from windows as the designated shelter; making a supply box that includes a battery operated radio, candles, flash-

lights, blankets, water, and batteries; and designating a meeting place in case people get separated.

More suggested precautions include avoiding windows; going to the lowest floor in a building, sheltering in a small room, hallway or stairwell; and covering with thick padding such as a mattress or blanket.

People outdoors during a tornado should seek shelter in the nearest sturdy building if possible. If not, get as far away from vehicles and trees as possible and lie face down flat on the ground, protecting the back of the head and neck with the arms.

On base, personnel are notified of an impending tornado through sirens and an announcement on the giant voice system and are advised to take cover immediately until the "all clear" is given.

## 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 Maintenance 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. Registration 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.

## Spouses club event

The Keesler Spouses Club tours the new Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport, 11 a.m. April 12.

A cafeteria lunch with the residents is \$7. Carpooling is available from the Bay Breeze Event Center.

The visit is hosted by the 81st Mission Support Group spouses.

To arrange entry to the home, call 377-0611 or 207-1523 by April 8.

## 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.

## Enlisted bash is Friday at Bay Breeze Event Center

The airman's council sponsors an enlisted bash, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday in the Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom.

Admission is \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door. Women are admitted free before 10 p.m. and receive two free beers or one mixed drink. Food and soft drinks are free.

Prizes include a 42-inch flat screen TV, iPod shuffle, a laptop computer, gift cards and gas cards, according to Senior Airman Allen Savedra, airman's council president.

For more information, call 1-214-938-9520.

to 2 p.m. on training Fridays.

For more information and appointments, call 376-8141.

## Supply issues

For supply issues, contact the CSC supply customer service element, Room 126, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002; call 377-2005

## Airman's Attic

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

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

Airman's Attic is open on a trial basis, 5-7 p.m. Tuesdays.

## Thrift shop

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

Profits benefit base and area charities and provide scholarships.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Consignments are accepted 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays.

Donations are needed such as kitchen items, small appliances, furniture, rugs, household items and infant and children's items. Pickup is available.

For more information, call 377-3217.

## Supply classes

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

**Block I** basic supply class is 9-10 a.m. June 16, Sept. 22 and Dec. 15. All newly-assigned supply custodians and resource managers are required to attend.

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

**Block III supplemental training** is 1-2 p.m. June 16, Sept. 22 and Dec. 15. All newly-assigned supply equipment custodians are required to attend, as well as all other custodians annually.

For more information, call 377-4480.

## Phone requirements

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

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

For more information, call 376-8127.

## Singers sought

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

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

## Visitor center hours

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

## Military golf fans invited to watch Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic Friday

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 Friday 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 Champi-

ons 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](http://www.MississippiGulfResortClassic.com).



Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Bulls teammates Ajani Washington, left, and Gabriel Bautista both hustle to recover a ball during Saturday's youth center basketball game against the Celtics while other players move forward around them — from left, Ryan Gottrich, Tristan Fisher, Gabrielle Kamarakafego, Joshua Bowman and Messiah Washington. Ajani, 4, and Messiah, 5, are the sons of Tech. Sgts. Jason and Tomeika Washington, 333rd Training Squadron. Ryan, 5, is the son of Lt. Col. Daniel and Ainsley Gottrich, 338th TRS commander. Tristan, 5, is the son of Master Sgt. Anthony and Holly Fisher, 81st Training Group. Gabrielle, 5, is the daughter of Master Sgt. Jakelyne Kamarakafego, 335th TRS. Gabriel, 4, is the son of Staff Sgts. Rose Bautista, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, and Mark Bautista, 81st Medical Operations Squadron. Joshua, 6, is the son of Capt. Ronny and Ramona Bowman, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron.**

## Battle at the net



Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Robert Rakes, left, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, goes up for the block after Jeffrey Willoughby spikes the ball for the 338th Training Squadron during an Eastern Conference volleyball game March 21. The 338th TRS won, 2-0, moving into second place in the conference with a 4-2 record behind the undefeated 333rd TRS A-team, 7-0. The 81st LRS dropped to 1-6. The 81st Medical Operations Squadron leads the Western Conference with a 6-1 record.**

## Youth basketball ends Saturday

By Diana Egger

### CSC marketing

The 2011 youth basketball season comes to a close Saturday with its final games being played in the youth center gym.

The season, which began in January, has been a huge success with 110 players coming together in three age divisions. Along with regular practices and games, each player is awarded a trophy for his or her division and is invited to attend the end-of-the-year banquet.

This year, the youth center implemented the Start Smart basketball division, which involves 3-year-olds learning basic fundamentals like shooting, passing, defending and general rules.

According to Ryan Rice, youth sports director, both programs focus on helping children develop team, motor and self-esteem skills. Parents were also encouraged to get in on the fun by helping out in practices and conducting drills with the children.

For more information on youth center sports activities, call 377-4116 or visit [www.keeslerservices.us](http://www.keeslerservices.us).

## It's time to register for youth soccer

Registration for youth soccer continues through April 16 for ages 3-14. Practices start in April and the season ends in June.

The cost for soccer is \$50 for the first child and \$25 for each additional child which covers a uniform, participation award and end-of-season gathering.

"We're looking for volunteer soccer coaches now," said youth sports director Ryan Rice.

To volunteer as a coach or for more information, call 377-4116.

# April is Month of the Military Child

By Lisa Campbell  
CSC marketing director

According to the Department of Defense, there are 1.7 million children under the age of 18 with one or both parents serving in the military. Of these children, about 900,000 have experienced a parent deploying. There's a great amount of sacrifice, character, courage and resilience that our military children encompass in being a part of a military family.

During April, Month of the Military Child, we celebrate the valuable role these children play in the Armed Forces community through a variety of special events and programs designed specifically for them.

We begin this year's celebration on April 9 with Child Pride Day, Keesler's largest annual event held solely for the

purpose of giving back to our military children. This spectacular event has something for kids of all ages and is completely free for our military children and their families. For details, see the ad below.

Child Pride Day is made possible by the 81st Force Support Squadron, Keesler Integrated Resource Team, hundreds of volunteers and many sponsors: such as the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, BancorpSouth, Beau Rivage® Resort and Casino, Gulf Islands Waterpark, The Home Depot®, Keesler Federal Credit Union, Mississippi Coast Sports Pavilion and The Next Level.

After the Child Pride Day festivities, kids are invited to hop on over to the arts and crafts center from 2-4 p.m., for a children's Easter Bunny decorating class.

This is a great Easter project for kids. Class is \$5 per child and includes a finished bunny to take home and enjoy throughout the Easter season.

During National Library Week, April 11-15, McBride Library is offering events designed especially for children. Crayola Night for Kids is 4-6 p.m. April 12. Crayons, stickers, colored pencils and other craft supplies are provided free of charge. Children and their families are invited to come together with other military families to create colorful masterpieces that they can share with each other and display in their homes. A children's story hour will be held from 10-11 a.m. April 13 for ages 3-5.

When it comes to elaborate celebrations for kids, outdoor recreation's Easter Egg Hunt is April 23 in the marina park. An Easter parade around the park kicks off the celebration at 9 a.m. and is followed by the extensive egg hunt. This is a great opportunity to take photos of the kids with the Easter Bunny, so be sure to bring your camera. This event is sponsored by Hertz®.

Easter Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 24, the Bay Breeze Collocated Club hosts an Easter Brunch in the ballroom. Enjoy a wonderful meal while listening to the smooth jazz sounds of Red Velvet. Families can participate in festive activities and dye some Easter eggs. This event is sponsored by the Keesler Federal Credit Union. For more information, see the ad on page A2.

Finally, outdoor recreation holds its extremely popular kids' fishing rodeo, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 30. Boys and girls ages 2-16 are welcome to participate and compete with other kids in their respective age divisions. Prizes are awarded to the top finishers in each age group. It's free to participate and fishing poles and bait are provided. The kids' fishing rodeo is sponsored by the Keesler Federal Credit Union. For more information, call 377-3160.

Throughout the year, the 81st Force Support Squadron provides various events, services and programs that are designed specifically for our military children. From sports programs and craft projects to ice cream socials and talent contests, we strive to provide a variety of activities for the young members of our military family.

So mark your calendars for all of these kid-friendly events and help us show the children in your military family how much they are appreciated.

For more information about these programs, visit <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

April 2011



H  
A  
P  
P  
E  
N  
I  
N  
G  
S



**ANNUAL CHILD PRIDE DAY**  
**9 A.M. TO 2 P.M. APRIL 9**  
**FREE IN THE MARINA PARK**

*To honor military and DoD children for all the sacrifices they make as part of a military family.  
AND to celebrate Month of the Military Child!*

**PARADE STARTS AT 9 A.M. AND RUNS FROM THE YOUTH CENTER TO THE MARINA PARK!**

- GAMES • TEEN ZONE • FOOD
- ENTERTAINMENT • BOAT RIDES
- INFLATABLES • GIVEAWAYS
- EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS
- PRIZES AND SURPRISES!

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED.**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO VOLUNTEER, CALL 377-4116.**

Keesler Integrated Resource Team  
**KIRT**  
Keesler Air Force Base, MS

FSS

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

## 11<sup>TH</sup> FRAME CAFÉ

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

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

**Kingpin daily specials \$6.95** — 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. For menu log onto <http://www.keeslerservies.us> and click on the link for 11<sup>th</sup> Frame Café. Call-in orders accepted 10-11 a.m.

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

## AIRMAN AND FAMILY READINESS CENTER

**Editor's note:** All briefings are held in Sablich Center, room 108, unless otherwise noted. Space is limited. Registration is required, call 376-8728.

**Financial counseling** — one-on-one counseling for first term airmen and nonprior service students with more than 20 weeks. Complete your appointment and get a free car-care voucher.

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

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

**Newcomer's orientation** — 7 a.m. to noon April 6 and 20.

**Transition assistance workshop** — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 11-13, to help with transitioning to the civilian work force.

**Civilian jobs resume writing course** — 2-4:30 p.m. April 12. If possible, bring a copy of your resume.

**Federal resume writing/job search** — 2-4:30 p.m. April 13. Print a federal job announcement and bring to class.

**Veterans Administration benefits brief** — 8-11 a.m. April 14. Informative briefing on benefits and the process of filing claims.

**Retirement benefits briefing** — 1-4 p.m. April 14.

**Survivor's benefit briefing** — 9-11 a.m. April 20.

**Volunteer recognition ceremony** — 1 p.m. April 14. Ceremony includes an ice cream social.

## BAY BREEZE COLLOCATED CLUB

**Editor's note:** All ranks and contractors welcome. Must show club card to receive discounts. Free Wi-Fi. For more information, call 377-2334.

**Mongolian barbecue** — 5-8 p.m. April 14 and 28. Club members pay 95-cents per ounce, nonmembers \$1.10 per ounce.

**Seafood extravaganza dinner** — 5-8 p.m. April 22. Menu includes gumbo, fried catfish, fried oysters, stuffed crab and more. \$24.95 for two for club members, \$26.95 for two for nonmembers. Ages 4-10 eat half-price or may choose a five piece chicken tender basket for \$6.25; ages 3 and younger eat free.

**All-you-can-eat buffet** — served 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. For menu, visit <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

**Potato bar** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays. \$7.95 members, \$9.95 nonmembers; includes soup, salad bar and beverage.

**Pasta station** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays. \$7.95 members, \$9.95 nonmembers; includes soup, salad bar and beverage.

**Catering** — professional services for your special occasions.

## Collocated Lounge

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

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

**Jazz night** — 5-8 p.m. Friday.

**DJ Dynamite** — 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday.

**Hump day at the "Breezy"** — 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays. \$5 domestic draft pitchers. Heavy hors d'oeuvres. Free for members, nonmembers pay \$4 at the door.

**Darts** — bring your buddies for a game of darts.

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

## BAY BREEZE COMMUNITY CENTER

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

**Free pool** — enjoy a game of billiards on the house.

**Free cybersports gaming** — Xbox, PlayStation 3, Nintendo Wii and computer stations dedicated solely to Internet gaming.

**Tae kwon do classes** — 5-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays at the "V" for ages 18 and older. \$75 per month.

**Ballroom variety dance lessons** — 7-8 p.m. Tuesdays for ages 18 and older. \$10 per class, per person. Learn the cha-cha, swing, foxtrot and waltz. Must have 10 couples for class to begin.

**Piano lessons** — \$100/month; Mon.-Sat., 30-minute sessions.

**Voice lessons** — \$100/month; Mon.-Sat., 30-minute sessions.

**Drum lessons** — \$25 per lesson for a 30-minute session.

**Guitar lessons** — \$50/month; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, 30-minute sessions.

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

## BAY BREEZE GOLF COURSE

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

**Master's Pro-Am golf tournament** — 8:30 a.m. April 9. Individual stroke play with a Professional Golfers' Association Master's player. Players choose a professional in the finals. Player's score and professional's second day score will be combined to determine final score. Winner will be notified. \$20 inclusive members, \$30 greens members, \$45 nonmembers. Fees include greens, cart, food, drinks and prizes.

**Easter special** — April 18-24 receive 5-15 percent off selected merchandise in the pro shop.

**Free golf clinics** — 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays in April, call to sign up. **New club member special** — show your Bay Breeze club card and get \$2 off cart rentals, Mondays-Fridays.

**Driving range** — a bucket of 40 range balls is just \$2.

**Twilight special** — 2 p.m. until closing Mondays-Thursdays, play unlimited golf. E1-E4, \$12; E5-O3, \$20; O4 and up, \$22; and guests \$22. Fees include cart rental.

**Professional golf lessons** — \$30 for a half-hour lesson for any level golfer, from those learning the basic fundamentals to fine tuning the most advanced golfers' skills. Call to schedule.

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

## DINING FACILITIES

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

**Daily menu** — call 377-DINE (3463).

**Monthly birthday celebration** — 5:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month for all nonprior service students, permanent party enlisted, and Essential Station Messing members. Reservations must be made in advance by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the previous month; call 377-4368. Those collecting basic allowance for subsistence must pay cash and surcharge.

## GAUDÉ LANES BOWLING CENTER

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

**Gulf coast shoot-out handicap bowling tournament** — this singles, doubles and five-person team, four-week tournament begins Saturday. \$20 per person, per event. Shifts are noon and 4 p.m. Saturday and April 9, 16 and 23; and 2 p.m. Sunday and April 10, 17 and 24.

**Casino night** — 7 p.m. the first and third Saturday of each month. \$15 per person for three games, shoes included. Win cash.

**New club member special** — show your Bay Breeze club card on Friday nights and receive 25 percent off your bowling.

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

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

**Slow bowling** — 9 p.m. Fridays and 7 p.m. Saturdays.

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

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

## INNS OF KEESLER

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

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

**Rooms** — space-available reservations are available three days in advance. Rooms offered are visiting airmen's quarters \$34.75; visitor's quarters \$39; and temporary lodging facility \$41.50 for one- and two-bedroom units with full kitchen. Pet TLFs are available for an additional \$10 per night.

## INFORMATION, TICKETS AND TRAVEL

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

**Discounted tickets** — available for major attractions from New Orleans, La. to Orlando, Fla.

**Chartered day trips** — reserve our bus for groups of 14-22.

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

## Leisure travel office

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

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

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

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

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

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

## LEGENDS CAFÉ

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

**New menu** — stop by and check it out. Open evenings Thursdays-Saturdays.

**Become a Bay Breeze club member** — nonprior service students pay no dues for the first year. Submit your application to the cashier and receive an \$8 coupon for your next meal at Legends.

## MCBRIDE LIBRARY

**Editor's note:** Free Wi-Fi. For more information, call 377-2181.

**National library week** — April 11-15.

**John L. Johnson book signing** — 6-8 p.m. April 11, Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom. The author of "Every Night and Every Morn: Portraits of Asian, Hispanic, Jewish, African-American and Native-American Recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor" gives a book presentation and sign autographs.

**Children's book display** — April 12. Check-out our collection of books written entirely by children.

**Crayola night for kids** — 4-6 p.m. April 12. Crayons, stickers, colored pencils and more will be provided.

**Children's story hour** — 10-11 a.m. April 13 for ages 3-5.

**D.E.A.R.** — April 13, drop everything and read day.

**Digital bookmark competition** — 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 14. Design original digital bookmarks. Participants compete in one of two categories: ages 6-12 and ages 13 and older. Prizes awarded.

**Tax party** — 4-6 p.m. April 15. Free refreshments and games.

## OUTDOOR RECREATION AND MARINA

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

**Sailing classes** — April 28-30, learn to sail in our first classes of the season. Classroom instruction April 28; on-the-water instruction April 29-30. \$45 per person. Class certifies you to rent sailboats from the marina.

**Gulf barrier island fishing trips** — \$75 per person, no license required. Trips run nontraining Fridays and Sundays. Minimum 12, maximum 22 people. At least 14 people are required for a trip to the rigs.

**Back bay fishing trips** — \$30 per person, Mississippi state fishing license required. Trips run 7 a.m. to noon. Minimum four, maximum six people.

**Eight-hour chartered fishing trips** — \$600 per day for up to four people in state waters; no license required. Trips run 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Island trips/surf fishing** — \$600 per day for up to six people. Mississippi state fishing license is required. Surf fish, picnic on the beach, snorkel and swim at one of the barrier islands. Camping overnight can be arranged.

**Paddle boats for rent** — come join in the fun, see the Biloxi Back Bay and get some exercise at the same time. Two-person and four-person boats are available. \$5 per hour, minimum two-hour rental.

**Go water skiing** — \$50 per hour for up to six skiers, minimum two-hour rental; includes boat, driver and skis. Call to schedule.

**Rent a catamaran sailboat** — \$10/hour, two-hour minimum.

**April special** — 10 percent off camping package #1, includes tent, four sleeping bags, lantern, stove, ice chest and bow saw.

## RESALE LOT

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

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

## SPORTS AND FITNESS

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

**Muscle mania** — free squat, bench press and dead lift competition April 16 at Triangle Fitness Center. Weigh-in at 8 a.m., compete at 10 a.m. Open to all authorized to use Keesler facilities.

**Singles co-ed racquetball tournament** — sign up April 18-22 at Blake Fitness Center. Tournament begins April 25. Divisions include beginners, intermediate and advanced; provided there are enough sign ups. Awards presented in each division.

**Free pounding the pavement fitness seminar** — 11 a.m. to noon April 26 in the Dragon Fitness Center aerobics room. Topic is "Your athletic footwear can make a difference." A representative from a local sporting goods store will be on hand to answer questions and provide insight. Prizes. Sponsored by AAFES.

**Free fitness classes** — at the Dragon Fitness Center. For class descriptions and schedule, log onto <http://www.keeslerservices.us> and click on the fitness center link.

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

## ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER

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

### Multi-crafts shop

**Editor's note:** Potter's wheels, ceramic molds, air brush and tools are available for use.

A variety of classes begin at 11 a.m. on the weekends unless otherwise noted. Call the Wednesday before to schedule. Prices vary.

**Beginners ceramics** — 4-6 p.m. April 7 and 21. Learn the skills you'll need to create your own ceramic work of art. \$35 includes materials.

**Children's Easter Bunny decorating class** — 2-4 p.m. April 9. \$5 per child, supplies included.

**Ladies' night** — 6 p.m. April 15. A fun-filled night with the girls that includes games, snacks, non-alcoholic drinks, massage therapy sessions and buy one, get one half-off ceramics special. \$5 admission.

**Acrylic painting** — April 16.

### Frame shop

**Framing class** — 12:30 p.m. Friday and April 15 and 29. Bring a piece of art or photograph no larger than 5x7-inches to frame.

### Auto hobby shop

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

**Certified mechanics** — on hand to help with car care needs.

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

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

### Wood shop

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

**Woodworking class** — 10 a.m. Saturdays, make a cutting board. This class certifies you for future shop use for do-it-yourself projects.

**Creative and advanced woodworking** — learn the art of intarsia, the piecing together of wood into a decorative pattern to create artwork.

## New Keesler Shuttle

Open to anyone on Keesler.

**Cost:** 50 cents per ride; exact change required.

### Hours:

5 p.m. to midnight Thursdays before nontraining Fridays and training Fridays

Noon to midnight nontraining Fridays and Saturdays

**Route:** once an hour, every hour.

- Welch Theater
- Bay Breeze Event Center/Golf Course
- Outdoor Recreation/Marina Park
- Youth Center (Saturday only)
- Live Oak Dining Facility
- Bowling Center/Blake Fitness Center
- Tyer House
- Arts and Crafts Center
- McBride Library/base exchange
- Shaw House

### Engraving shop

**Custom items** — engraved mugs, pens, shadow boxes and more. We also etch glass items. Purchase new from our selection or bring an item of your own.

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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

**Give parents a break** — 4-10 p.m. April 9. This Air Force Aid program offers free child care at the center for Air Force families who are referred by base agencies such as the airman and family readiness center and family advocacy, first sergeants, commanders and chaplains. Certificates must be coordinated through the airman and family readiness center. School-age children go to the youth center.

## FAMILY CHILD CARE

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

**Child care slots** — call for availability.

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

## HELP WANTED

**Editor's note:** The 81st Force Support Squadron human resource office is in Room 213, Sablich Center.

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

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

## VANDENBERG COMMUNITY CENTER

**Editor's note:** Events listed are for nonprior services students only. For more information, call 377-3308.

\*Part of the late night dances; \$3 cover charge applies.

**Speed dating** — 9 p.m. Friday.\*

**Ol' school dance contest** — 9 p.m. April 8.\*

**Classic rock fest** — 10 p.m. April 9, air guitar contest, rock music and drink specials. The best dressed rocker wins a prize.\*

**Last player standing pool tournament** — 8 p.m. April 14, free to participate.

**Comedy knock-off show** — 9 p.m. April 15. Free to participate.\*

**Air Force chess tournament** — May 3. Sign up by April 15. All Air Force rated players are encouraged to compete.

**Skate contest** — 4-6 p.m. April 16, bring your skates and boards to the skate park, behind the "V" and show off your tricks. Prizes awarded to the skater with the best technique. Safety gear required.

**Latin night** — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. April 22.\*

**Debate night** — 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays in April. Come out for a night of great debating. Choose from a list of topics to discuss. Free to participate.

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

**Karaoke** — 9 p.m. every Saturday.\*

## VETERINARY TREATMENT FACILITY

**Editor's note:** All animals in base housing must be registered with the veterinary office. For appointment, call 376-7495.

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

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

## YOUTH CENTER

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

**Youth soccer** — ages 3-14 register through April 16. \$50 for the first child, \$25 for each additional child. Participants will receive a uniform, participation award and free admission to the end-of-season gathering. Season runs April-June. Volunteer coaches are needed. Parents show your Bay Breeze club card and receive 10 percent off first child's fee.

**British soccer camp** — June 6-10 for ages 4-18. Sign up now at <http://www.challengersports.com>.

**Spring break camp** — sign up now. April 21, 22 and 25 for school age children and teens. Youth will tour a local museum, go bowling, participate in an Easter egg hunt, arts and craft projects and more. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are provided.

**Summer camps** — register now for school age and teen summer camps. Camps begin in May.

**Image makers photo show** — exhibit of artwork by youth ages 6-18 will be displayed at the youth center and other base facilities through April 9.

**Instructional classes** — guitar, dance, tae kwon do and tennis are offered. Call to schedule.

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

**Friday night fun** — 6:30-9:30 p.m. for ages 6-12. \$10 for the first child, \$5 for each additional child. Games, snack bar, skating, movies, holiday parties, video games and more. Parents, show your Bay Breeze club card and get 10 percent off first child's admission.

**TRAIL and teen open recreation** — 4-8 p.m. Saturdays. Recreational and sports activities, video games and tournaments, team building and more.

**Keystone Club (teen leadership)** — 6-8 p.m. every other Monday.

**Home schoolers** — meet 1-3 p.m. Thursdays.

**Shuttle van** — limited after school transportation is provided from Biloxi Junior High School to the youth center for open recreation.

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

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

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