



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

APRIL 28, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 17



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www.keesler.af.mil

'Pinwheels for Prevention' Display heightens awareness of child abuse

By Paula Tracy

Family advocacy outreach manager

Child abuse, in all forms, has been determined to be a consistent factor in predicting a child's future potential for poor academic performance, the abuse of alcohol or drugs, engaging in high-risk behavior or illegal activity and repeating the same cycle of abuse with their own children.

As concerned adults, we want to leave today's kids a legacy of nurturing homes and schools, safe neighborhoods and myriad opportunities for success. To do this everyone must play a part in community awareness and prevention. Only by working together can we begin to make a lasting impact in the lives of our children.

"Pinwheels for Prevention" is a national cam-

paigned by Prevent Child Abuse America. Through this campaign, the campaign hopes to change the public's beliefs and behaviors regarding the prevention of child abuse and neglect. This goes beyond just making Americans aware of the issue — it extends to motivating them to take an active role in prevention and in their community.

Every April since 2007, Keesler's family advocacy program has used "Pinwheels for Prevention" as a reminder that child abuse and neglect is everyone's business and problem. Keesler was the first community in the state of Mississippi to use this colorful display for this purpose.

This year, the "Pinwheels for Prevention" display is again set up in front of the 81st Medical Group Hospital during April. It's a bright, colorful "garden" of approximately 980 twirling pinwheels.

Annually, 1,000 to 1,200 cases of "shaken baby syndrome" are substantiated in the United States. Many more cases are suspected, but remain unreported. These pinwheels recognize the lives of those babies permanently impacted by "just a few seconds" of being shaken.

Come out and visit the pinwheel garden, and when you do, make a pledge to yourself, your children, your grandchildren, your neighbors and your community. You can make a difference in someone's life, so do it. Be a mentor to that brand-new dad. Support your neighbor with the deployed spouse. Take a friend's kids for the afternoon so she can have a much-needed break. Have some parenting or relationship wisdom? Share it! Every time you reach out, you are adding one more thread to the blanket of protection that our little ones deserve.

Remembering the past; protecting the future

By Master Sgt. Jimmy Ivey

81st Training Wing equal opportunity office

In 1979, the United States issued a Congressional mandate to establish "Days of Remembrance" in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. Today, it is a moment when we, as a nation, should take to reflect and learn. While this is a time to memorialize those that lost their lives during such a horrible time in human history, it also gives us an opportunity to grow. It reminds us of the ever-present threats to democracy and why we as individuals must be forever watchful and willing to confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.

It is very difficult for most of us to understand how such atrocities can occur. Yet in pre-World War II Germany, a young democracy made up of ordinary citizens stood by and watched hate grow as a tyrant rose to power. Unchallenged prejudice and hatred grew until it resulted in the mass murder of millions of men, women, and children. It became what we know today as the Holocaust. The vast majority of those murdered were Jews. Millions of others were persecuted and killed simply because the Nazi regime considered them to be

politically, racially, or socially unfit.

In a video interview for the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Holocaust survivor Margit Meissner said, "... at the end of the war, I would have thought that there would never be another Holocaust, that the world was so shocked by what happened, that the world would not permit (it), and yet you see what happened in Bosnia, what happened in Rwanda, what happened in Darfur. So, there's still millions of people being persecuted for their ethnicity." The world continues to witness how hatred and prejudice can grow to become a violent attempt to eradicate certain groups and weaken democracy.

During the 2010 Days of Remembrance ceremony in the Rotunda, President Obama said, "We gather today to mourn the loss of so many lives, celebrate those who saved them, honor those who survived, and contemplate the obligations of the living." As part of the human race, each of us has an obligation that we must take seriously. We cannot be quiet bystanders and do nothing when we witness prejudice and hatred, no matter how small the incident may seem. To ignore the face of hatred is to risk our own future.

For more information, visit www.ushmm.org.



Holocaust
Days of Remembrance
May 1-8

Don't drink and drive.

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

ON THE COVER

Lt. Col. Brian Worth, center, 336th Training Squadron commander, talks to nonprior service students about motorcycle safety while Staff Sgt. Edward Lotz, 336th TRS military training leader, shows the appropriate apparel for riders during the Red Wolves' motorcycle safety awareness ride April 22 in front of Holbrook Manor. The purpose of the event was two-fold — to promote safety ethics and techniques among students and to stress awareness of motorcyclists who share the road with other vehicles. Eleven of the squadron's other motorcyclists joined Colonel Worth and Sergeant Lotz in the ride. The event is a prelude to the 81st Training Wing Motorcycle Safety Week, May 16-20.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

KEESLER NEWS

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

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.



DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

What personal motto do you try to live by?



"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Arleen Stewart, 81st Communications Squadron



"Work hard, play hard."

Airman 1st Class Mackenzie Jackson, 81st Training Group



"Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today."

Staff Sgt. Tobias McCurry, 2nd Air Force



Airman leaves his mark on Jones Hall walls

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

Airman 1st Class Terry Lee Jr., 338th Training Squadron, has been accepted to the Air Force Academy and will be leaving for Colorado Springs in July. But Staff Sgt. Geoffrey Gagnon has one last job for him to do before he goes — paint the walls at Jones Hall. And not just any color, something with a little style.

“If you started chipping away at these walls, they would read like an archeological dig,” Sergeant Gagnon mused. “Layer of beige, mural, beige, another layer of beige, mural, beige, beige and more beige. With all the paint on these walls, they’re probably a quarter inch thicker than they were when they were first built.”

Right now the walls are beige, but underneath are murals and works of art from ages past. Airman Lee has begun to freehand the words of the Code of Conduct on the 2nd floor of Jones Hall. Around the corner, he has been instructed to paint the old Hap Arnold Wings while juxtaposing the new Air Force emblem with brief descriptions underneath explaining the symbolism behind each. Motivational phrases will be scattered throughout. When complete, the walls at Jones Hall will have entered the Age of Airman Lee.

“He’s a talented artist and these walls are kinda lifeless,” explained Sergeant Gagnon, his instructor. “We have him until July so we thought we’d put him to work.”

To say Airman Lee is a talented artist is an understatement. Were it not for a lack of available arms, he’d be a walking orchestra.

“I play the piano, guitar, violin, cello, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone,

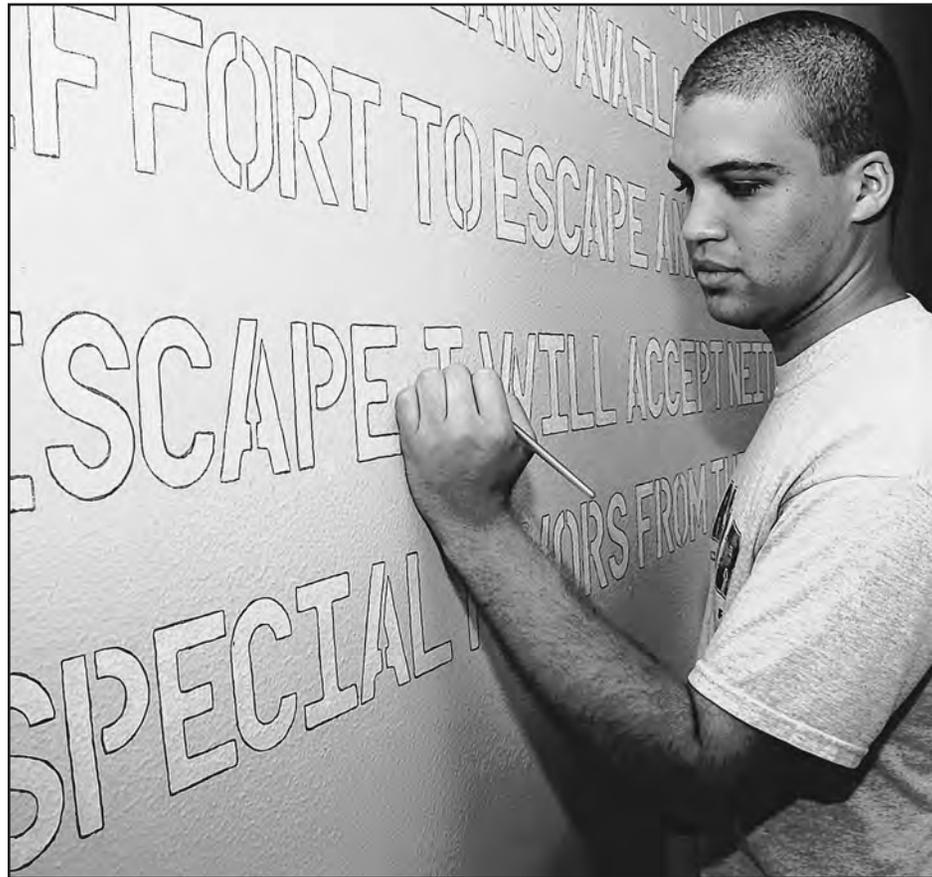


Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airman Lee freehands the words to the military code of conduct on the second floor wall of Jones Hall. Until he leaves for the Air Force Academy in July, he’s keeping busy by doing odd jobs around the building and breathing some artistic life and color into its beige walls.

trumpet and ukulele,” Airman Lee rattled off the top of his head. “And, uh, there are a few others.”

Airman Lee is largely self-taught. Music, painting and drawing are just talents he’s always had.

“I like the classic stuff — abstract and Van Gogh. I like color,” he said.

Airman Lee’s passion isn’t confined to a blank wall or a sheet of music either. He’s a second degree black belt

and instructor in tae kwon do and will be joining the academy’s team. He enjoys tennis and played on his high school soccer team.

“My ultimate goal is to become a doctor in neurology in the Air Force,” said Airman Lee. Before that happens, Airman Lee will be obtaining what he describes as one of the best educations in the world with a four-year degree from the Air Force Academy.

“This will allow me to put my training, talents and abilities as a leader to better use as an officer,” he said.

“This is the kind of guy we want other Airmen to emulate,” said Sergeant Gagnon, who recently gave Airman Lee the opportunity to speak to a class of new students about how he got accepted into the Academy. “I was amazed at how he changed from soft-spoken Airman Lee to a mentor and leader for these students.”

Airman Lee will actually be starting over in his pursuit of a four-year degree when he enters the academy in July. Due to financial constraints, he was forced to abandon an earlier attempt at a college degree at another institution.

But having a father, three uncles and an aunt in the Air Force, joining the Air Force seemed like a natural choice for Airman Lee. Knowing the challenges of an enlisted member becoming an officer, Airman Lee was undeterred and began his application last September. Prior to that though, Airman Lee had developed some important and influential relationships with his commanders which helped Airman Lee and his application stand out from the crowd.

For now, rather than move to another base only to move again in July, Airman Lee has been ordered to stay at Keesler and stay busy. Along with expressing his artistic nature on the walls of Jones Hall, Airman Lee has been a general handyman, fixing things, patching holes and applying a little beige paint where needed. Still, he keeps his sights set on July. When asked how he got accepted into the Air Force Academy, Airman Lee replied, “I guess I just got lucky.”

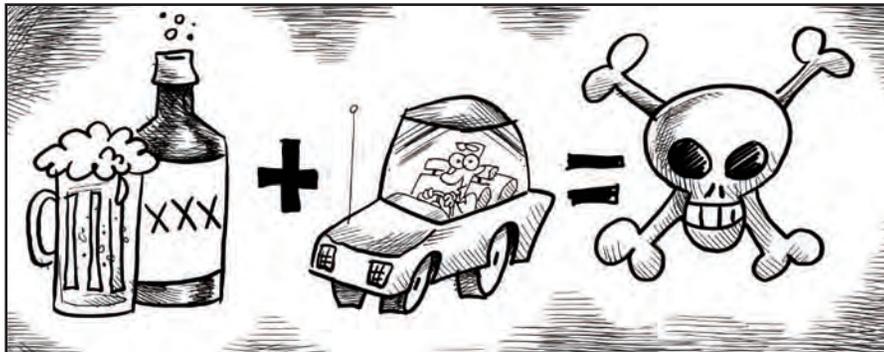


Plaque presentation for Medal of Honor Memorial

Ray Blanchard Sr., vice commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2706 of Wiggins, Miss., chats with Chief Master Sgt. Billy Abbott, 81st Training Group superintendent, April 21. Mr. Blanchard, a retired Army first sergeant, and Nancilee Bodine from Bodine Pottery were at Keesler to present certificates and a tile plaque of the Medal of Honor Memorial in Wiggins to Chief Abbott and Col. Lynn Connett, 81st TRG commander, for their participation in the dedication of the memorial on Veterans Day.

Photo by Kemberly Groue





Perfect student



Tech. Sgt. Sherveta Wright, a member of the Tennessee Air National Guard from Memphis, graduated from the personnel apprentice course in the 335th Training Squadron with a perfect score, April 18.

TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

Swan scholarship

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

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

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

Manager certification

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

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

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

NEWS AND FEATURES

2011 Iraq withdrawal agreement still stands, Admiral Mullen says

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

BAGHDAD — All American troops will be out of Iraq at the end of the year in accordance with the security agreement signed in 2008.

“There are no plans — nor has there been any request from the Iraqi government — for any residual U.S. force presence here after December,” Navy Adm. Mike Mullen said during a news conference Friday.

Roughly 47,000 American service members are in Iraq now. Since signing the agreement, the U.S. has already withdrawn more than 100,000 personnel — at the height of the surge, the U.S. military had about 170,000 personnel in Iraq.

Army Gen. Lloyd Austin III, commander of U.S. Forces Iraq, has a plan in place to complete the withdrawal on time, Mullen said.

“There are no official discussions with respect to any extended presence of United States forces,” the chairman added.

Though Iraqi security forces have the capability to defend their country, Admiral Mullen said, they still have

vulnerabilities that will not be closed by the end of the year. The Iraqi air force, which has no fighter jets, will not be up to the task of defending its airspace, he noted. Intelligence capabilities and command and control capabilities need to be filled out, he added, and sustainment, maintenance and logistics capabilities need to be much more robust.

“For our part, the United States military will remain committed to helping Iraqi security forces improve their readiness in these areas,” Admiral Mullen said. “We will continue to help our State Department, as they now assume the mantle of leadership in this relationship.”

Moving troops, their equipment and other military materiel out of Iraq will be difficult. U.S. Forces Iraq personnel said that more than 2 million separate items need to be packaged and shipped in the next few months. This does not include items the U.S. military will turn over to the Iraqis.

“I think later this summer, we will see the pace and scope of the drawdown reach its most aggressive level,” Admiral Mullen said.

In his meeting with Iraqi

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, Admiral Mullen reaffirmed the U.S. desire for a long-term strategic partnership with Iraq.

“That partnership won’t end with our departure, but it certainly must begin with keeping our promises,” the admiral said. “Leaders of both the United States and Iraq are committed to the partnership, and it is up to the political leaders of both sides to determine what that means.

“If Iraq wants to keep some American forces in the country to shore up its military vulnerabilities, the U.S. government would welcome the discussion, the chairman said.

“It is up to the government of Iraq to reach out, to initiate a dialogue to look at the future agreement possibilities and to work out the specifics of what that might be,” he said. “But it needs to start soon — very soon — should there be any chance of avoiding irrevocable logistics and operational decisions we must make in coming weeks. Time is running short for any negotiations to occur.”

Some decisions, Admiral Mullen added, would have to be made in the next few weeks.

19 officers selected for promotion

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Nineteen Keesler officers are on the promotion list released April 21.

To lieutenant colonel

81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron — Paul Langevin.

81st Inpatient Operations Squadron — Heidi Stewart.

81st Medical Group — Carla Leeseberg.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — Michael Wascher and Debra Zinsmeyer.

To major

2nd Air Force — William Lambert, Anthony Pickett and Darius Taylor.

81st Surgical Operations Squadron — Cointon Hartman, Corey Lalonde, Bret Waters and Wendy Wilkins.

333rd Training Squadron — Gregory Haney and Michael Helgeson.

334th TRS — Michael Balzotti and William Sanford.

335th TRS — Michael Hickam.

345th Airlift Wing — Brian Jacobsen.

345th Airlift Squadron — Bradley Braddock.

IN THE NEWS

Seminar seeks to end violence

The sexual assault prevention and response office sponsors a Commitment to End Violence seminar May 12 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Participants may register for either or both sessions.

8 a.m. to noon — domestic violence and sexual assault training presented by Heather Wagner, Special Assistant in the Mississippi Attorney General’s office and director of the domestic violence division.

Topics include victim dynamics, state and federal laws, effective investigation and prosecution techniques and special considerations for military personnel and dependents.

1-5 p.m. — emergency department care for victims of sexual assault presented by Shalotta Sharp, a registered nurse with the Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault. The session reviews the initial care of the adult or adolescent sexual assault victim from a military perspective. Topics include victimology, offender typology, nursing assessment, documentation, evidence collection, medical management and military procedures.

Application for continuing education units and social work units has been submitted.

For more information or to register, call 377-8635.

Hurricane town hall briefings

Town hall briefings emphasizing preparations for hurricane season are 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. May 23 and 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. May 25 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Hurricane season starts June 1 and ends Nov. 30.

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.

Ocean Springs — Pugs, 6213 Washington Avenue.

D’Iberville — Guitars and Cadillacs, 4031 Popps Ferry Road.

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

Wing calendar event planning

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

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

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

Events should be coordinated and approved through respective chains of command and be mission-relevant to a wide audience. All inputs are subject to review and editing by the 81st Training Wing Public Affairs office.

Dragons deployed — 213

Volunteer — get connected.

Observing Earth-Arbor Day



Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, plants a tree with help from children at the child development center during Keesler's Earth-Arbor Day observance, April 19. The base was recognized with the Tree City USA award from the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 18th consecutive year.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



From left, Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Joshua Branscum and Aerographer's Mate Chief Jason Enterline from the Keesler Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit receive energy literature and handouts from Adrian Barcomb, CSC resource efficiency manager, and Phi Dang, CSC environmental office, April 19 outside the base exchange. The energy conservation booth was part of the base's Earth-Arbor Day observance.

Classes for job hunters

81st Force Support Squadron

The airman and family readiness center plans classes for instructors or other personnel with inflexible work schedules in Room 108B, Sablich Center.

Each class is 3:15 to 4 p.m. each day for three days. Participants are expected to attend all three class days.

Resume writing for federal jobs — Tuesday through May 5.

Resume writing for private sector jobs — May 10, 11 and 12.

Interview skills — May 17, 18 and 19.

To preregister for classes and to receiving training materials, call 376-8728.

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. 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. 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. 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.

Finance office closes

The 81st Comptroller Squadron's customer service office closes at noon May 12 and 11:30 a.m. June 22.

Medal for Pakistan relief efforts

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

Department of Defense officials have approved the Humanitarian Service Medal for service members who participated in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in Pakistan following the flooding in Swat Valley July 31.

Military members must have provided at least one day of humanitarian assistance between July 31 and Dec. 15 in the immediate area of operation. Aircrews landing in the areas of operation during this period are also eligible.

Members must provide source documents confirming HSM entitlement to their unit commander or designated representative. Source documents include temporary duty orders, travel vouchers, decoration citations, performance reports, etc. Documents must show the operation being supported, along with the location and duration of service in the qualifying area.

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

By Erin Tindell

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz approved rescinding a temporary policy established in 2003 that allowed Airmen to receive short-tour credit for overseas temporary duty of at least 181 consecutive days. The effective date of the new policy will be announced at a later date.

Although the policy change primarily affects Airmen who deploy to a hostile fire or imminent danger pay area, it also affects a few Airmen serving TDY in certain remote areas.

Officials announced in September a change in the air and space expeditionary force rotational baseline from 120 to 179 days for most active component Airmen in various career fields. Longer AEF tours have become the norm, and that's part of the reason for the policy change.

Former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper in June 2003 approved a temporary exception to policy that awarded short-tour credit to Airmen who deployed to hostile environments for at least 181 consecutive days after Sept. 1, 2001. A similar exception was made for Airmen deploying in support of Desert Storm in the early 1990s.

Officials decided to eliminate the temporary exception to short-tour credit policy in fairness to those deploying for longer periods of time. Transportation delays and mandatory overlap time with successors often cause Airmen deployed for 179 days to remain in the area of responsibility long enough to trigger the 181-day threshold.

"With Airmen deploying for longer periods of time, particularly for 365 days, it is no

longer equitable to grant short-tour credit based on a 181-day minimum," said Col. David Slade, director of assignments at the Air Force Personnel Center. "Additionally, service in hostile environments and longer periods of family separation are inevitable since the standard deployment is now 179 days."

Under the new policy, the following guidelines apply and will be effective the date the guidance memorandum is signed at Headquarters Air Force Manpower, Personnel and Services.

- Airmen previously awarded short-tour credit under the temporary 181-day policy will keep their short-tour credit

- Airmen who arrive in the area of responsibility TDY prior to guidance implementation and serve at least 181 days consecutively in a hostile fire or imminent danger pay area will receive short-tour credit under the previous criteria

- Airmen who arrive in the AOR TDY on or after the date of guidance implementation will only receive short-tour credit based on TDY service stipulated in Air Force Instruction 36-2110, Assignments:

- 300-plus days overseas in a consecutive 18-month period

- 548-plus days overseas in a consecutive 3 year period

Since 2003, 16,795 Airmen have deployed more than once on 179-day taskings. More than 52,000 Airmen have deployed for 181 to 200 days since Sept. 11, 2001. The number of 179-day taskings has grown since January 2006, from about 6,500 taskings to about 16,600 taskings.

For more information, go to <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>, or call the Total Force Service Center, 800-525-0102 or DSN 665-5000.

Training course for spouses rescheduled

Airman and family readiness center

June 3 is the deadline to register for the rescheduled spouse education course in Microsoft Excel and QuickBooks through Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

The course, funded by the Air Force Aid Society, is 8 a.m. to noon July 18, 20, 25, 27 and Aug. 1-5 at the Applied Manufacturing and Technology Center, Seaway Road, Gulfport.

"This combination of courses is not normally taught together," said Lana Smith, community readiness consultant at the airman and family readiness center. "The reason this program was chosen and 'created' by the college is because many employment announcements or employers from the recent area job fair state training in payroll applications is a plus or even required. With the tight local

job market, our spouses need all the advantages possible."

Application is open to spouses of Air Force members who aren't nonprior service technical training students in pay grades E-3 to E-8 and officers in pay grades O-3 to O-5. Applicants must be the non-military spouse of an active-duty Air Force member. Spouses of Guard or Reserve members called to active duty for the duration of the course assigned to a Keesler unit may also apply. Spouses of Air Force members assigned to the 366th Training Squadron at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport are also eligible.

Successful applicants must be able to use a computer; read, write, speak and understand English; and have a high school or General Educational Development diploma.

Applicants with an out-

standing debt with MGCCC must pay the debt before their applications are considered.

Priority for selection is given to spouses whose military sponsor is not retirement-eligible and who are unemployed, need transferable job skills or have financial needs. Those selected must plan to attend all class sessions or repay the cost of tuition if they drop out before course completion.

To apply, interested spouses turn in a completed application form to the airman and family readiness center, Room 110, Sablich Center, during duty hours with their spouse identification card and verification of status and identity. Spouses of Reserve or Guard members must submit a copy of the activation orders for duty through Aug. 6.

For more information, call 376-8728.



Surgical squadron adds big check toward AFAF fundraising goal

Airman 1st Class Ashley Beaty, left, and Tech. Sgt. Katherine Hartley, Air Force Assistance Fund representatives from the 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, hold a check symbolizing the \$710 they collected during an AFAF bake sale they organized and conducted in the hospital's outpatient clinic lobby April 19. Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Michael Anderson, 81st MDG superintendent, joined the pair in the lobby to congratulate them for their initiative in raising funds for the worthwhile cause that benefits all Airmen and their families. After raising \$8,806 more last week, Keesler has raised \$42,281, nearly 52 percent of the base's goal of \$83,109 for this year's campaign which runs through May 6.

Photo by Steve Pivnick

Bunnies preside over annual Easter egg hunt



Nadia Coleman, 4, executes her strategy to maximize her Easter egg intake. Nadia is the daughter of Navy Senior Chief William and Cynthia Coleman, 333rd Training Squadron.



Not one but two Easter bunnies sit atop a bright yellow fire truck waving to onlookers. A parade welcomed visitors to marina park to kick off Saturday's Easter egg hunt.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



When catering to a toddler's needs, there's not much hunting involved in finding Easter eggs — a "smash-and-grab" would be more descriptive. Separate egg hunts were held in different areas of marina park for children in various age groups.

'Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win'

Airman Basic Andrew Zoppi, a student in the 338th Training Squadron, expresses his opinion about the new Air Force motto, "Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win" during one of two focus groups at the Bay Breeze Event Center, April 18. The two focus groups were conducted by Lt. Col. Clark Groves, chief of research and assessment for Air Force Public Affairs, to assess awareness and adoption of the new motto. The first group was comprised of 12 military training leaders from the 81st Training Group. Airman Zoppi was one of 12 nonprior service students in the second group.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Base tax office remains open until May 26

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

Chances are if you're reading this article you have a nagging fear that you missed something on your tax returns. You've been asking yourself, "Did I hit the right button when I e-filed? Did the envelope with the check I wrote to the IRS actually make it into the bin? Why don't they make those mail slots see-through anyway? And why is that man in a dark suit and sunglasses following me around with his calculator?"

If you have these symptoms, you may have seasonal post tax-day stress anxiety disorder, or SPTDSAD. However, tax office manager Rich Ess has just what you need.

"We want people to know that our office is still open and can help you with all your tax needs," said Mr. Ess.

One visit to the tax office in Room 229, Sablich Center, might be the cure for SPTDSAD.

According to Mr. Ess, the tax office had a very successful year with more than 2,100 returns filed, up from 1,934 last year. This resulted in \$3.38 million in tax refunds from the Internal Revenue Service.

Through the Keesler volunteer income tax assistance program, Mr. Ess helped train over 50 IRS-certified tax preparers. These were a mix of active duty, civilians and retirees scattered throughout the base units who together helped prepare tax returns for the base populace.



Their services extend beyond the base populace as well. Mr. Ess and his team serve all branches of the military and saw clients coming from Camp Shelby, the Navy Seabee Base and the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport.

"We had 19 volunteers visit the Armed Forces Retirement Home on the weekends for seven weeks and prepared close to 100 returns," Mr. Ess pointed out. "That's a significant portion of the home's entire population."

But with all the returns that have been filed and all the clients Mr. Ess and his team have helped, he knows

there are others still out there.

"For one reason or another, maybe they have been deployed, forgot, don't know how or just haven't gotten around to it, there are people out there who still need to send in their income tax returns," Mr. Ess said. "We can help them. Our office is open until May 26."

Typically, active duty personnel have fairly easy federal returns but when it comes to filing out-of-state returns, things can get complicated.

"A husband lives in one state, the wife lives in another, they both moved in the middle of the year and worked in another state," Mr. Ess described.

"It's very common. We see it all the time and we're very good at handling multiple state returns.

"We can help with the current year, last year's returns, foreclosures, amended returns or they may have received a letter from the IRS," Mr. Ess continued. "This is the season when the IRS sends out letters."

That letter from the IRS will be a letter notifying you that they have found an error in either your current year return or past year's return and will instruct you to send them more money.

"Before you write that check, come see me," Mr. Ess cautions, "Don't assume the IRS is correct. More often than not, it's the IRS that made the mistake. But so many people just write the check to make the problem go away because everyone's afraid of the IRS."

If this is you, if you have come to a place where you are ready to accept your condition and face your tax fears head-on, then give Mr. Ess a call. His process is simple. It begins with a one-on-one interview where the client will fill out a questionnaire designed to figure out what you can claim, deduct, ignore and need to report. It's recommended that an appointment be made, but walk-ins are welcome too.

Mr. Ess, retired from the 333rd Training Squadron, has two years of tax school and more than 300 hours of specialized tax courses.

For more information or to set up an appointment, call 376-8141.

'Ultimate Caduceus' disaster drill preparations



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Team leaders Tech. Sgt. Stephen Thackery, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, right foreground, and Master Sgt. Mauricio DeFreitas, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, right background, assist litter-bearers Airmen 1st Class Brent Weber, 81st MDOS, left foreground, and Ana Elena Aguilar, 81st Dental Squadron, secure "patients" during the 81st Medical Group's April 14 warrior training. Almost 80 medics from a variety of specialties trained to load and unload litter patients on a 403rd Wing C-130J Hercules used by the 815th and 345th Airlift Squadrons. The session also included moving patients on and off an ambulance and a bus. Both Sergeants DeFreitas and Thackery are former aeromedical evacuation trainers. The practice was conducted to prepare for the national-level "Ultimate Caduceus 2011" disaster exercise to be conducted May 16-20. Keesler and area hospitals will be heavily involved May 18.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Colonel Downing stands at attention during the 81st TRW change of command ceremony Aug. 2.

Colonel's medical challenge fosters resiliency, activism

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

Wires without insulation are unpredictable threads of electricity; they can short out, cross signals or spark a fire. Col. Glen Downing, 81st Training Wing vice commander, uses the analogy of uninsulated wires to describe multiple sclerosis because the nerves in the body are like those wires — if the fatty insulation is gone, then the nerves can't function properly.

According to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Web site, "Multiple sclerosis is a chronic, often disabling disease that attacks the central nervous system, which is made up of the brain, spinal cord and optic nerves. Symptoms may be mild, such as numbness in the limbs, or severe, such as paralysis or loss of vision. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS are unpredictable and vary from one person to another."

"It's a very individualized disease. It can go from not a big deal to very debilitating," Colonel Downing said.

The colonel was diagnosed with MS in 2003, but it has far from defeated him.

For Colonel Downing, the first sign of MS disguised itself as too much time playing video games. He said it was Christmas break in 2002 and he was playing with his two boys when he noticed a blurry spot on the television.

"Of course I ignored it after that, but it never really went away," Colonel Downing said.

He said the next indication that something wasn't right came when he was on temporary duty in Florida and decided to go for a run. He discovered that the further he ran, the more difficult it became to read the street signs. The colonel knew for sure that he needed to see someone about the problem when he swiped his finger across what looked like dirty hotel wallpaper and nothing came off. He covered his "bad eye" with one hand and saw that the wallpaper was vibrantly colored.

"Over the next six months, I experienced clumsiness, numbness, and at times, minimal control over one of my

arms. My balance worsened slightly. Eventually, I received the shocking news that I had MS," Colonel Downing said.

The colonel said that because of the quality of health care he continues to receive from the Air Force, he was able to nearly stop the MS in its tracks and is able to keep it in check today.

"They took me from zero, all the way to diagnoses then to medication in 12 months," he said. "People I met in Kansas who were civilians and who had nothing to do with the military were going through similar experiences and it was taking two to five years."

Because of his diagnosis, Colonel Downing faced a medical evaluation board to determine his future in the Air Force. If an MEB determines that service members have less than 30 percent occupational disability, they are separated from the Air Force. If they have greater than 30 percent disability, they are given a medical retirement.

Please see **Downing**, Page 15

Downing,

from Page 14

“There’s a lot of fear and uncertainty involved with that process,” Colonel Downing said, “Part of that fear and uncertainty is wondering how to provide for my family, and then what the quality of life for my family is going to be like over time.”

Colonel Downing said that the MEB allowed him to remain in the Air Force, but decided that he would be removed from flight status as a navigator and barred from most types of deployments. He said that he had to re-evaluate his life, but after doing that, he continued to push forward and be resilient.

“It’s your ability to bounce back ... I almost don’t like ‘bounce back’ because sometimes you don’t bounce back. I didn’t bounce back — I changed.” Colonel Downing said, “It forced me to adapt, it forced me to bend, and that doesn’t mean cave in — it just moved me off course a little bit and gave me a new course.”

“There are a lot of times I feel like I’m not able to contribute in the ways others are, but don’t think that I don’t want to be in the fight,” Colonel Downing said.

After his diagnosis, Colonel Downing decided to complete two years of professional military education not only to further his knowledge, but to give him a chance to come to terms with his MS. By the time he completed that schooling, he decided that a leadership role was where he needed to be. He said that a leadership role was important to him because it allowed him the opportunity to share his knowledge and experiences, as well as to teach and inspire other people.

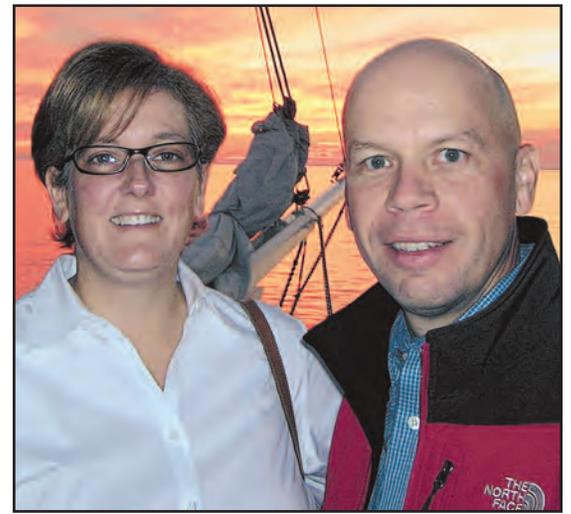
“To me the true legacy is ideas. Changing ideas and getting people to think differently, is a much more difficult task,” Colonel Downing said.

His personal goals fit into Keesler’s mission, because tech school students learn more than just the skills required by their specific career fields. He said that his goal is to continue to challenge Keesler and provide the resources, support and vision necessary for the people of Keesler to shine.

“I think it’s easy to get comfortable with things when you know they work. So I want to challenge people to become engaged and to want to continue to grow and continue to make it better,” Colonel Downing said.

As vice commander, Downing’s leadership philosophy delves into the three Air Force core values — integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do.

To Colonel Downing, “integrity first” means doing what is right even when no one is looking. “Service before self” means that professional duties take precedence over personal desires. “Excellence in all we do” is a sustained passion for continuous improvement. He also urges people to have respect for everyone, celebrate diversity, be a wing-



Courtesy photo

Colonel Downing and his wife, Vicki, enjoy a sunset sail on a Biloxi schooner hosted by the Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce. Twelve other Keesler commanders participated in the Veterans Day event.

man, be involved, realize that time is precious, maintain balance and have fun.

When Colonel Downing first started teaching and leading others, he was frustrated because he couldn’t see the results of his effort right away like when he was on flying status. That changed over time because he began to run into people he had taught and who let him know that he had made a difference.

Colonel Downing also wanted to make a difference at home and in his local community so he began by signing up to learn Tae Kwon Do with his family. This practice became a priority in his life, even if he had to go to a meeting in his Tae Kwon Do uniform, because it gave him time with his family, it was a physical activity and it gave him interaction with people in the local community.

“I reprioritized my family with my work,” Colonel Downing said, “I realized that I spent a lot of my time as an adult focused on my work and not enough focused on my family. So I worked a lot harder to balance the two.”

The colonel said that his favorite way to give back to the local community is by working with Boy Scouts because it’s something he can do with his family. He was involved in Scouting when he was young and has carried that tradition from base to base for several years.

His role as vice commander also gives him an automatic role in the local area through numerous community relations events.

“Colonel Downing is an avid supporter of the chambers of commerce along the Gulf Coast,” said YoLanda Wallace, 81st TRW public affairs chief of community relations. “It’s important for him to participate in chamber activities because it fosters good relations between Keesler and the Gulf Coast

Colonel Downing has taken a diagnosis that would have many people curling up in submission and turned it into an inspiration. He has not only pushed his own life forward, but teaches those around him that resiliency is all it takes to do so.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Airman 1st Class Jackie Bonkoski and daughter Arya, 2, enjoy a book in the 81st Medical Operations Squadron pediatric clinic April 18. The clinic boasts the first and longest-running “Reach Out and Read” program in the DOD. Airman Bonkoski is a 334th Training Squadron student.

Children’s reading program lauded in new ‘Joining Forces’ initiative

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

An 81st Medical Group pediatrician was quoted in an April 12 “Reach Out and Read” program news release announcing First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden unveiling the “Joining Forces” initiative to support military families at the White House.

According to the release, “Joining Forces aims to educate, challenge and spark action from all sectors of our society — citizens, communities, businesses, non-profits, faith-based institutions, philanthropic organizations, and government — to ensure military families have the support they have earned. Earl Martin Phalen, chief executive officer of Reach Out and Read, attended the White House

press conference, where the organization was announced as an official partner of the initiative.”

In the release, Maj. (Dr.) Eric Flake, 81st Medical Operations Squadron pediatric flight and a specialist in developmental-behavioral pediatrics, commented, “Reading to children improves family relationships, reduces stress and promotes resiliency. In fact, parents reading daily to their children may be one of the greatest protective factors for families during deployment.”

In an e-mail to 81st MDG Hospital staff, Dr. Flake said, “I would hope that we take great pride here at Keesler Pediatrics in being the first and longest running Reach Out and Read program in the Department of Defense.

“In 2001, when Keesler first approached Reach Out

and Read to participate in their literacy clinic promotion program, we were told that it couldn’t be done,” Dr. Flake added. “Look how far we have travelled in less than a decade to support literacy in our pediatric clinics across the military.”

Dr. Flake noted, “Currently, 47 U.S. military bases participate in the Reach Out and Read program, serving 90,000 military children and families. As part of the Joining Forces initiative, we plan to expand the Reach Out and Read school readiness program to 100 U.S. bases worldwide, serving 200,000 children by 2013.”

He concluded, “I am very excited to be part of this initiative and look forward to the work ahead to expand the program to serve more military families.”

DLA Document Services handles print jobs

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

Over the past 60 years, the Defense Logistics Agency Document Services has evolved into much more than the guys in the back making copies for the Department of Defense. While its thumb is still poised on the copier's start button, there are a whole range of document services available both online and off, hard copies or soft.

Indeed, they are not your grandparent's Document Automation and Production Service, literally. Formally known as DAPS, DLA Document Services just recently underwent a name change. Defense Logistics Agency is the DOD's largest logistics support agency providing the services and supplies they need to operate. DLA Document Services supports the warfighter and DOD community with all things related to document reproduction and distribution.

"One of our mottos is 'we exist for the convenience of our customers,'" said Patrick Jacobs, supervisory document automation specialist. "We are here to help the various squadrons and base agencies obtain the necessary documents they need to perform their mission."

All of the booklets, manuals, testing material, study guides and visuals needed to perform the training mission at Keesler are printed in the relatively small brick structure at 708 Fisher Street, Building 901. However, since a large percentage of DLA's customer base is military, often the knowledge of its presence and services leaves when the service member leaves without being transferred on to a replacement. So periodically, DLA Document Services needs to remind base customers that the agency is open for business.

In one form or another, copying and printing has been available on base throughout Keesler's history. The Air Force used to employ a large



From left, electronic duplication specialist Barry Eubanks assists Tech. Sgt. Christopher Ré, 2nd Air Force, and Yeoman 2nd Class Rosann Hoffmann from Special Boat Team 22 at the Stennis Space Center with their printing needs.

staff to operate large printing presses which printed documents in bulk and then stockpiled in warehouses. In the printing industry, that way has become a thing of the past. Today, DLA Document Services employs a much smaller, more efficient team using much smaller, faster printers that can print orders on demand without the need to warehouse them.

"On average we process 250 to 260 orders per month which translates into roughly up to 3 million copies per month and we do it all with five employees," said Mr. Jacobs. In addition to copies, DLA Document Services provides printing, collating, binding, scanning, imaging, document conversion, CD-ROM, web and design services.

The Keesler facility not only supports the base community, but other area military installations as well. The Seabee Base in Gulfport, Miss., Camp Shelby near Hattiesburg and Stennis Space Center in Hancock County all benefit from the services DLA Document Services can provide. The Keesler facility is

one of 15 regional centers with headquarters at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. and one of 180 worldwide located primarily on U.S. military bases in seven countries. Mr. Jacobs manages five offices, including the one at Keesler.

"Being in this network results in better service for the customer," Mr. Jacobs pointed out. "If one office doesn't have the capability to meet a customer's needs, there's an office that does and we can get the job done."

"Also, our office is structured such that if only one person showed up to work on any given day, that person would be able to do whatever job needed to be done," he added.

DLA Document Services has developed a robust online ordering system that allows their facilities to process orders received from customers via the Internet. For the past three years, the Keesler facility has participated in and was one of the pilot facilities for the Air Force's new technical order distribution program. Updates on anything from equipment

maintenance manuals to weapons manuals, flight manuals and procedural operations can be made to the original document and ordered online. When new discoveries are made in the field or on the job, these changes can be implemented and new manuals ordered and distributed more quickly than before.

"In the past, these products were warehoused in four locations across the U.S. and shipped everywhere," Mr. Jacobs explained. "Now they can be produced more locally as needed, which reduces costs."

Gradually, DLA Document Services has been working with customers to build digital libraries of documents with the ability to access them online as well as the conversion of paper documents to a digital format that can be edited.

But where the rubber hits the road for Mr. Jacobs and his team is producing a product that is visually accurate, high quality with high resolution and delivered in a timely manner. The U.S. Army's Handbook of Ammunitions



Photos by Kemberly Groue
Electronic duplication specialist Deborah Johnson uses a hole drilling machine to prepare a packet of papers.

Used in Afghanistan is an example of a product that requires a certain level of expertise. Produced in support of the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala., this manual shows pictures and gives descriptions of the different types of ordinance, makeshift bombs and improvised explosive devices that the enemy uses in Afghanistan.

"One of the requirements for this manual was that it be durable and waterproof so we printed it on a polyester stock," Mr. Jacobs explained. "This particular stock is actually not paper at all — it's plastic. It's durable and holds the color very well. So you can imagine if you were fighting in Afghanistan and came across something, you'd want the images and colors in this manual to be accurate so that you would know what you were looking at."

"That's what I like most about this business," said Mr. Jacobs. "No two jobs are alike. There's always something new every day."

Whatever your document needs, Mr. Jacobs recommends coming in and setting up an account.

For more information, call 377-2782.

Woman regains control of her life after assault

By Senior Airman Jarad Denton

28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

ELLSWORTH Air Force Base, S.D. — *This 23-year-old female presents to the emergency room today because of an alleged rape.*

She states she was at a party last evening and had been drinking heavily, and a male person at the party was bothering her.

She had so much to drink that she passed out. She did not recall any sexual intercourse, but seemed to presume that she had been raped.

This was taken from an emergency room note written April 18, 1993, when Michele Rogers, then Michele Tackett, walked into the Community Hospital in Springfield, Ohio, hours after she was sexually violated by someone in her own home.

"I was in my own house, with my own friends," Michele said. "I thought I was safe. I made some very bad decisions that night."

That day in 1993, Michele, who is now a 28th Bomb Wing protocol assistant and retired first sergeant, was a senior airman who just graduated from Airman Leadership School. She decided to host a party at her house for her classmates. Everyone was drinking and having a great time — or so she thought.

"I allowed someone who I thought was my friend to mix a drink for me," she said. "It was so strong, but he kept pressuring me to drink it, so I gave in and chugged, not knowing he put a date rape drug in it. That's the last thing I remember before waking up on my bed. My shirt and bra were still on, but my pants were on the floor."

Shannon Holstein, the 28th Bomb Wing sexual assault response coordinator, said that in Michele's case, it is obvious that the perpetrator intended to render Michele incapacitated by putting something in her drink so she could not say or show consent.

"In my opinion, this is no different

Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

Keesler's 24/7 sexual assault hotline

377-7278

Keesler's sexual assault prevention and response office

377-8635

from a person facilitating another person to drink excessive amounts of alcohol in the hopes it will render the person unable to consent," Mrs. Holstein said. "Alcohol is the most-used date rape drug in this country."

Michele said that after she took account of herself and her surroundings, her mind started taking her in several different directions at once and she started to panic. And then she did the worst thing any victim of sexual assault could do — take a shower.

"I truly felt disgusting," she said. "I had to wash what he did off of me."

Several hours after the Airman had forced himself on her, Michele found herself at the community hospital waiting on her test results. The doctors told her the tests proved she had intercourse, but there was no way for them to determine if consent was given.

"Often, consent is the central issue in a sexual assault case, not whether a sex act occurred," Mrs. Holstein said. "The initiator of sexual contact is required to get consent from the other party. Consent is a verbal 'yes' or overt acts that indicate a 'yes.'"

If the person being initiated for sexual contact is intoxicated, they might not be able to provide legal consent, even if their actions show otherwise, Mrs. Holstein added.

"The problem with this concept is there is no statute that informs the

public about when a person is too intoxicated to give consent, as there is for driving while intoxicated," she said. "Single Airmen out there in the dating scene should presume someone who is under the influence of alcohol, especially someone they don't know, lacks the ability to consent, regardless of how the person is acting."

Michele said she was left asking herself whether or not she deserved what was happening to her. She recalled every detail she could remember: how she dressed, the way she behaved and with whom she interacted. She kept replaying the night over and over again in her mind.

"Not only did he make me a victim," she said, "I made myself a victim."

By the following Monday morning, Michele found herself in Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, at the Office of Special Investigations section giving her statement to special agents.

"I was so scared I felt sick," she said. "It was a very long process that ate away at me."

Michele said one of the hardest things to deal with was learning her attacker had bragged to other Airmen about what he had done.

"He laughed about how out of it I was when he forced himself on me," she said. "He didn't show any remorse at all. It was funny to him."

Michele said her attacker's attitude

did not change throughout the investigation and hearings. However, she said the Air Force provided tremendous support with the best supervisors, doctors and lawyers. They gave her power over her attacker's career in the Air Force, and she opted to end it. He was discharged with more than \$10,000 in personal legal fees he had accrued. But, despite the help she was given and the resolution she received, there were always constant reminders of her attack.

"It wasn't just one night; it became two years of my life," she said. "I used to walk down the street and see his face in a crowd. I would think about it every day."

Michele said initially, she couldn't even say the word "rape." She'd talk to her psychiatrist and refer to it as "the night he forced himself on me." It took a long time for her to be able to say it.

"My psychiatrist kept telling me I needed to say it, I needed to use the word 'rape,'" she said. "Slowly, I started using it, and from there I began writing college papers on acquaintance rape and speaking openly about it."

Mrs. Holstein said there are far-reaching effects of sexual assault that impact a wide variety of people.

"Regardless of how a victim is sexually assaulted — by a stranger in the alley while the victim was sober or by a fellow Airman at a party when the victim was too drunk to consent — the fallout is the same," she said. "The victim suffers and the ripple effect reaches all of us who know the victim, and it always affects the Air Force mission."

It took several years, but Michele said she was finally able to move on. Her desire to help others through her experience led her to become a victim advocate in 2004, and she later served as a first sergeant. Now, she only remembers the assault on the date it happened. She has put her rape and her rapist out of her mind.

"He doesn't control me anymore," she said. "I'm not his victim. I'm in control of my life now. I took back what he stole from me."

An American is sexually assaulted every 2 1/2 minutes.

One in five American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape.

About 10 percent of sexual assault victims are men.

At least 2/3 of sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows.

44 percent of rape victims are under age 18 and 80 percent are under age 30.

Day care in base housing requires training, licensing

81st Force Support Squadron

People living in base housing who care for children in their homes could be breaking the rules.

Air Force Instruction 34-276, which governs day care in on-base quarters, states "any individuals caring for children more than 10 hours a week on a regular basis must get approval."

It states that the "installation commander may revoke the housing privileges of individuals who provide child care but refuse to become licensed or who continue to provide care after their license has been suspended or revoked."

The rule applies whether or not caregivers are compensated for their services.

"We feel people living in base housing, who regularly care for children without being licensed, may be unaware of the regulation," said Mary Pleasant, family child care program coordinator. "We want not only to bring the information to their attention, but to educate them on the alternative — to become a licensed family childcare provider."

Licenses are granted by the 81st Mission Support Group commander, usually within 30 days upon completion of the initial FCC provider training, background screenings and home inspections.

The training includes child guidance, play environments, nutrition, ages and stages of development, child abuse and

neglect, recordkeeping, business management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid.

"FCC providers are professionals trained to give the best possible care to the children left in their charge," said Ms. Pleasant.

Once licensed, providers may care for children from 2 weeks through 12 years old assistance from the FCC staff in setting up their home and have access to an extensive library for toys, equipment and materials which help keep costs down. They may set up their own hours of operation and fee structure.

For more information, call 377-3189, 5934 or 5935, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.



Not by bread alone

From left, Stanley Hall, Barry Davis, Richard Cheek and Duane Naddy enjoy lunch and conversation during the men's fellowship lunch April 19 at the Triangle Chapel Annex. Mr. Hall, Mr. Davis and Mr. Naddy work in the 81st Training Support Squadron and Mr. Cheek is a retired master sergeant. The weekly nondenominational group meets at 11 p.m. Tuesdays for Bible study and discussion shared over a meal. A video series, "Facing the Giants in Your Life," is currently being used. The group provides encouragement and motivation for men to become better husbands, fathers, workers and leaders. For more information, call 377-1510.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

KEESLER NOTES

Chapel position

The chapel is looking for a part-time account manager to maintain, administer and account for all assets of the chapel tithes and offerings fund.

The account manager leads daily finance operations, including functional responsibility over the CTOF budget and all transactions.

The person chosen must be positive, self-motivated, able to interface well with parishioners and be a strong oral and written communicator fluent in English.

Familiarity with Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint and Word) is necessary. An associate degree in business or accounting is preferred but not required. A demonstration of skills may be required.

If selected, a criminal history background check is done.

Friday is the deadline for bid submissions. The bid is selected based on best value.

More information and bidding instructions are available at Larcher Chapel. For more information, call 377-4859.

Caring for People

The Caring for People focus group meets 1-3 p.m. Saturday at the youth center.

The event is open to all military families with a special needs member.

Services provided by the exceptional family member program, school liaison officer, 81st Medical Group and the University of Southern Mississippi First Stop Family Support Center are discussed.

Child care is provided.

To register or for more information, call the airman and family readiness center, 376-8728 or 8703.

Lifeguards needed

Thirty summer lifeguard positions are available.

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

Pamper Me Day

Pamper Me Day for spouses of current or retired military members is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 6 at the Roberts Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Facility next to the fire station.

Movies at Welch Auditorium

Friday — 6:30 p.m., Battle: Los Angeles (PG-13).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Rango (PG-13); 6:30 p.m., Paul (R).

Sunday — 1 p.m., Red Riding Hood (PG-13).

Refreshments, door prizes, displays and services such as manicures, massages, facials and spray-on tans are offered, but appointments are required for some activities.

The event is hosted by the airman and family readiness center.

For spouses to register or for participants to reserve a space, call 376-8727 by May 2.

NFL standout visits

Louis Lipps, a standout for the Pittsburgh Steelers and the University of Southern Mississippi, visits Gulf Coast Cards and Sport Memorabilia across from Starbucks at the base exchange, 4:30-5:30 p.m. May 7.

He was a first-round draft pick for the Steelers, a two-time Pro Bowl pick and an all pro selection. In 1984, he was the National Football League's offensive rookie of the year.

For more information, visit www.gccsm.com

Test proctors needed

The school liaison office has received requests for test proctors from various school districts.

Biloxi Junior High School has requested about 50 test proctors from 7:30 a.m. to noon May 10-12.

To volunteer, call 376-8505.

DBIDS registration

Registration continues for Defense Biometric Identification System cards.

As of Friday, active-duty members and DOD civilians are being 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 the visitor center, 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.

Terminals will set up at the 403rd MXS during the 403rd Wing's unit training assembly, May 13-15 for reservists.

Parenting class

The "1-2-3 Magic" parenting class is 9-11 a.m. May 16, 18 and 19 in the Arnold Annex conference room.

The course is for parents of children ages 2-12 and is open to anyone with base privileges.

For more information or to sign up, call 376-3457 or 3459.

Office closes early

The military personnel section's customer support ID card section closes at 10 a.m. May 18 for an official function.

Legal office closes

The legal office is closed 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 16 for an official function.

In case of an emergency, call 697-5621.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

81st MDTs dominates postseason volleyball

By Sam Miller

Intramural sports director

The 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron won the 2011 intramural volleyball crown April 19 over the 81st Dental Squadron in two sets, 22-20 and 21-11.

The 81st MDTs, losing only one set during the entire postseason tournament, finished the regular season with an 8-2 record and second place in the Eastern Conference behind the 333rd Training Squadron at 9-1.



Shelby Tessendorf bumps the ball for the 81st DS during championship play.

The 81st DS ended regular season play with a 6-4 record and third place in the Western Conference behind the 81st Medical Operations Squadron, 8-2, and 334th TRS, 7-3.

The championship was especially sweet for the 81st MDTs after a disappointing finish in last season's tournament, in which the team claimed first place in the Western Division during the regular season at 9-1, only to lose the title to the 336th TRS in postseason play.

The 81st MDTs came into this year's tournament on a five-game victory run and breezed through their conference playoffs, only losing one set to the 333rd TRS in the second round.

The 81st DS came into postseason play with just as much momentum, riding a three-game regular season winning streak and defeating all three of their conference playoff opponents in straight sets.

As the championship got underway, the 81st MDTs held first serve and also put the first points on the board. The game was close early on, but the 81st MDTs rallied to take a 13-8 lead, forcing the 81st DS to take its first timeout.



Geoffrey Sasaki led the 81st MDTs attack with four kills, seven digs and one block in the championship round.

The 81st DS came out of the timeout with a six-point rally leading to the first timeout for the 81st MDTs with the score at 15-14. The lead went back and forth throughout the rest of the set, with the 81st MDTs pulling out a narrow 22-20 victory.

The second set came with



Photos by Kemberly Groue
Dar-Rell Edwards, left, and Ronnie Iglesias, 81st MDTs, celebrate after winning the first match of the championship game.

much anticipation, but little excitement. A plethora of mistakes by the 81st DS put them behind early, 14-5. They were able to put a few more points on the board, but were unable

to narrow the gap, going down 21-11 in a two-set defeat.

The bright spot for the 81st DS was the play of Jamal Young who led all players with seven kills, four digs and one block.

Intramural tennis returns

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Intramural tennis is back on the courts after a three-decade hiatus.

Six squadrons are fielding teams for the spring league — the 81st Training Support Squadron, 45th Airlift Squadron, 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, 81st Force Support Squadron and the 335th and 336th Training Squadrons. A fall league is also planned.

Longtime tennis enthusiast Dick Brock from the legal office remembered, "I think that the last time we had any tennis program here was back in the late '70s or early '80s. We had a

challenge ladder that I recall, and we even had a tennis shed that was manned to schedule court time."

The base's tennis program expects a boost later this year with renovations including court resurfacing and new fencing after Air Education and Training Command received \$3.6 million in Defense Department funding to execute 20 fitness program projects.

In addition to intramural tennis, youth and adult tennis lessons are offered through the youth center Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings with tennis pro Ted Pattison.

For more information on lessons, call 377-4116.

Jason Eddy, 45th AS, returns the ball in the first singles match of the season against Dustin Douberly, 81st TRSS. Eddy won both sets, 6-0 and 6-1.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



24 teams compete in intramural softball

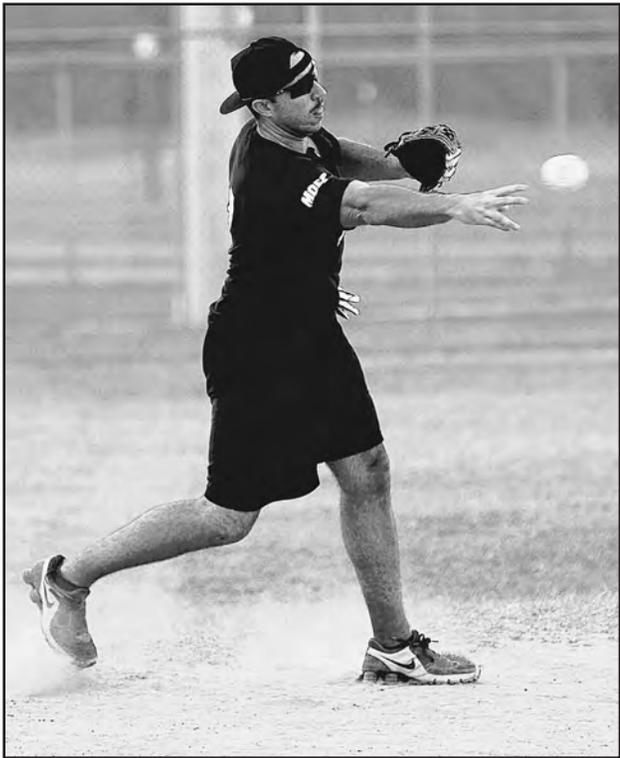


Photo by Kemberly Groue
Shortstop Joseph Regan, 335th TRS, throws the ball to first base for an out during Monday's game against the MARDET-B team. The Red Wolves won, 19-12.

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Twenty-four teams are battling it out in two leagues for this year's intramural softball championship.

Games in the American and National Leagues began this week.

The 332nd Training Squadron Mad Dogs won the title last year. They'll compete in the American League on Mondays and Wednesdays with the 335th TRS, 336th TRS-A, 338th TRS, 81st Training Support Squadron, Marine Corps Detachment B and C teams, Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit, 81st Medical Support Squadron, 81st Contracting Squadron, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron and 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron.

The 12 teams competing in the National League on Tuesdays and Thursdays are the 333rd TRS, 334th TRS, 336th TRS-B, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, fire department, 81st Dental Squadron, 81st Communications Squadron, 2nd Air Force, MARDET-A, 403rd Wing, 81st Training Wing staff agencies and 81st Security Forces Squadron.

For more information and schedules, call 377-2444.

May 5 is Sports Day

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler Sports Day is May 5.

Events planned are:

7:15 a.m. — 5-kilometer run.

8 a.m. — softball.

9 a.m. — 3-on-3 basketball and 3-on-3 soccer.

10 a.m. — beach volleyball.

11 a.m. — frisbee golf and golf long range drive.

12:30 p.m. — bowling.

1 p.m. — kayak race, weightlifting and tennis.

4:30 p.m. — closing ceremonies at Crowell Track.

Squadrons earn points toward the Commander's Trophy, and the top three large and small squadrons win trophies.

For more information, contact your squadron sports day leader or call the health and wellness center, 376-3170.

Midnight softball



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Nickolas Holbrook, a student in the 336th Training Squadron, takes a swing during Saturday's midnight softball tournament. The Red Wolves beat the first sergeants team in this game, but two teams from the 338th TRS met in the final game, with the 338th TRS Bananas coming out on top. The event was intended to offer students an alternative to alcohol, and no students were cited for alcohol-related offenses over the weekend.

Vacations, staycations — lots of choices

May 2011

By Diana Egglar

CSC marketing specialist

The 81st Force Support Squadron can help you enjoy your summer, whether you're taking a trip or having a staycation here at home.

The information, tickets and travel office in the Bay Breeze Event Center offers information on some of the hottest vacation spots around the southeastern United States. Brochures abound on local and out-of-town destinations. A variety of discounted tickets are available year round to major attractions including the Audubon Experience in New Orleans, La.; Six Flags® in Atlanta, Ga.; Sea World®, Universal Studios® and Walt Disney World® in Orlando, Fla.

Through the ITT office, Disney® offers a "Salute to the Military" special with four-day park hopper passes as low as \$138 per person. Active-duty, reserve and retired military members are eligible for this special. Other ticket offerings included in the "salute" are a four-day base ticket with water park option for \$138 or a four-day park hopper with water park option for \$165. Tickets must be purchased by Sept. 28 and used by Oct. 1.

Want to take a trip to the Magic Kingdom, but don't want to pay the gas

prices? Hop aboard Keesler's red-eye, a weekend bus trip to visit Disney World. The trip runs May 26-29. \$375 per person, includes transportation, hotel accommodations and Disney tickets.

Let ITT's leisure travel office serve as your travel agency when you want to get out of town or even out of the country. Our travel specialist has over 23 years in the travel industry and can assist with booking vacation packages to Las Vegas, the Caribbean, Orlando and more. Airline tickets and hotel accommodations are also available.

If a cruise sounds like the perfect getaway, try one of these offered through the leisure travel office:

- Five-day Caribbean cruise, Oct. 31-Nov. 5, departs New Orleans for Progresso, Cozumel and back to New Orleans. Prices range from \$372.19 to \$417.19.

- Seven-day Valentine's Caribbean cruise, Feb. 11-18, departs New Orleans for Falmouth, Grand Cayman, Cozumel and back to New Orleans. Prices range from \$617.76 to \$949.16.

The Armed Forces Vacation Club® also offers great deals on vacation destinations worldwide for as little as \$369 per week on space available inventory in resort condominiums. No dues, no gimmicks

and no membership fees; just affordable accommodations for service members and Department of Defense and nonappropriated fund employees. When making your reservation, designate Installation 121 as your base. It's a great way to save money on your next vacation and support your base at the same time.

With gas prices rising, many families decide to forgo the traditional vacation for a more affordable staycation at home. The 81st FSS offers an abundance of opportunities to help you discover the area and enjoy your time to the fullest.

Purchase tickets to local attractions through the ITT office and you're on your way to exploring Beauvoir, Ship Island, Gulf Islands Waterpark and more.

Outdoor recreation has everything you need to get out on the water. Boat rentals include pontoon boats, fishing skiffs, canoes, kayaks, paddle boats and more. Reserve our ski boat for a day or take one of our sailing classes. Our sailing course, listed on page A3, provides basic instruction and certifies you to rent our sailboats.

If you prefer a bigger adventure, deep sea fishing trips are a popular choice. Charter the Dolphin II, Keesler's 50-foot Coast Guard-certified vessel, for a group trip or sign up for one of our walk-on fishing trips to the barrier islands. Biloxi Back Bay fishing trips aboard one of our pontoon boats are also available. Trips include all the fishing equipment you need for catching that big one, but you'll need to pack a lunch, your favorite beverage and some sunscreen.

If camping is your staycation style, we've got you covered. Spend a night under the stars at a local campground by renting one of our towable campers. Two are available. If you're more of a tent camper, we have several camping packages available that come complete with everything you need.

These are just a few ways the 81st FSS can assist you with planning your summer vacation. For those who plan to stay in the local area we'll leave you with a few more ideas . . . beat the heat bowling, hit the links golfing, cool off in one of two base swimming pools, shoot some hoops, create a work of art doing ceramics or pottery, get a massage, learn to ballroom dance, play darts or some free video games and enjoy a cool beverage while overlooking the bay at the Bay Breeze Event Center . . . you get the picture.

For more information on all the ways we're here to help you enjoy your much-deserved time off, visit our Web site at <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.



H A P P E N I N G S



On-the-water fun with outdoor recreation

Boating trips

Barrier island fishing* — \$75 per person. Trips are nontraining Fridays and Sundays. No license required. Minimum 12 people, 14 for a trip to the rigs; maximum 22.

Charter the Dolphin II* — Customize your trip for up to 22 passengers. We offer tournament fishing trips, rig fishing trips, Cat Island kayaking trips, and two-day trips up to 100 miles offshore.

Back Bay fishing* — \$30 per person. Learn how to catch fish and what kind there are in the Biloxi Back Bay. Mississippi state fishing license is required. Trips run 7 a.m. to noon. Minimum four people, maximum six.

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

Boat rentals

Pontoon boat** — for a relaxing time on the water, rent for a half day or a full day.

17-foot Palm Beach or 14-foot skiff with trailer** — whether you're looking for private fishing or just fun on the water, rent one of these boats for your next leisure experience.

Paddle boats — 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.

Water skiing — \$50 per hour for up to six skiers, minimum two hour rental. Price includes boat, driver and skis.

Catamaran sailboats — \$10 per hour, minimum two hour rental, or \$75 for the day. Must be sailboat certified or take one of our sailing classes.

****Mississippi boaters safety course required to rent these boats.**

*Weather permitting. Trips include everything you need to fish. Bring food, beverages, sunscreen and personal items. Advanced payment is required at time of reservation. For reservations or more information, call 377-3160.

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

AIRMAN AND FAMILY READINESS

Editor's note: All briefings are held in Room 108, Sablich Center, 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 those separating, 2:30 p.m. for retirees. Mandatory suspense for completion is 90 days prior to separation or retirement.

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

Federal resume writing/job search — 3:15-4 p.m. May 3-5. Learn how to prepare a resume for federal employment. Print a federal job announcement and bring to class.

Sponsor training — one-on-one training consultations.

Pamper Me Day for military spouses — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 6, Roberts Consolidated Maintenance Facility. Light refreshments served.

Transition assistance workshop — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 9-11, to assist with transitioning to the civilian work force. Open to those 12 months or less from separation or 24 months from retirement. Spouses are invited to attend.

Civilian jobs resume writing course — 3:15-4 May 10-12, learn formatting options and how to concisely present your accomplishments. If possible, bring a resume.

Veterans Administration benefits brief — 8-11 a.m. May 12.

Retirement benefits briefing — 1-4 p.m. May 12.

Interview skills and salary negotiation — 3:15-4 p.m. May 17-18. Learn how to "talk money" first when discussing salary.

Newcomers orientation — 7 a.m. to noon May 18.

Survivor's benefit briefing — 9-11 a.m. May 18 for single and married members and their spouses.

Smooth move — 1-2:30 p.m. May 19.

Bundles for babies — 9 a.m. to noon May 26. Open to all expecting active-duty members stationed at Keesler. Participants receive a \$75 gift certificate upon completion of the class.

Airmen on the move — 3-5 p.m. May 26.

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. May 13 and 27. Club members pay 95-cents per ounce, nonmembers \$1.10 per ounce.

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

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

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 — whatever your catering needs, our friendly staff is here to help. Club membership is not required. For more information, call our caterer, 377-2219.

Collocated lounge

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

Cinco de Mayo — 4 p.m. May 5. \$1.50 Dos Equis® and Corona®, \$2.50 margaritas and taco bar featuring 75-cent tacos.

Member appreciation night — 4 p.m. May 18. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, music by DJ Dynamite and prizes.

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

DJ Dynamite dance night — 8 p.m. May 14.

Hump day at the "Breezy" — 5 p.m. Wednesdays. Specials include \$5 domestic draft pitchers, \$6 premium draft pitchers and heavy hors d'oeuvres while they last. Free for members, nonmembers pay \$5 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 \$1,000 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.

Ballroom variety dance lessons — 6-7 p.m. Thursdays for ages 18 and older. \$50 per month. Learn the cha-cha, swing, fox-trot and waltz. Must have 10 couples for class to begin.

Piano lessons — \$100/month; Saturdays, 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.

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.

Mother's Day specials — May 1-8. Ladies apparel 15 percent off plus mom tees for half-price.

Free golf clinic for mothers — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 7. Must preregister.

Wingman stroke play golf tournament — 8 a.m. May 21. Two-person team-flights (handicapped stroke play) with shotgun

start. \$25 inclusive members, \$30 annual members and \$40 non-members. Fee includes greens, cart, food, beverages and prizes.

New club member special — show your Air Force club card and get \$2 off cart rentals, Mondays-Fridays.

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 25th of the previous month by calling 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.

Summer bowling leagues are back — Sign up now.

NASCAR/Marvel league — 1 p.m. Sundays. Runs for 18 weeks. \$12 per adult/week, \$10 per child/week, includes free ball of your choice from listed selection once league ends.

Senior summer league — 9 a.m. Thursdays beginning May 12. Runs for 16 weeks. \$10 per person/week.

Mixer league — 6:30 p.m. Fridays beginning May 13. Runs for 16 weeks. \$13 per person/week.

Parent/child league — 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays beginning May 18. Runs for 16 weeks. \$15 per two person team/week, includes free performance ball once league ends.

Intramural league — 6 p.m. Thursdays beginning June 9. Runs for 12 weeks. \$10 per person/week.

Summer bowling — kids bowl for \$1 per game and \$1 shoe rentals Mondays-Thursdays until close and Fridays until 6 p.m.

Family day — Sundays. Bring in the family and get two hours of bowling, shoes, a large pizza and a pitcher of soda or tea for \$35.

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

Club member special — show your Air Force 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.

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

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

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

11TH FRAME CAFÉ

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

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

Kingpin daily specials \$6.95 — 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. For menu log onto <http://www.keeslerservices.us> and click on the link for 11th 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.

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.

Oversized parking — for your convenience an oversized parking lot for large vehicles is available at no charge. Please request a permit upon check-in.

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 an Air Force 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.

Book signing, "From Jeep Driver to General" — 6-8 p.m. May 12 at the Bay Breeze Event Center. Author Jesse M. Allen, retired Air Force major general, details his early childhood, World War II experiences and his 30-year military career.

Military spouses afternoon tea and plant exchange — 1-3 p.m. May 21. Support a greener and more beautiful environment by bringing a plant or flower to exchange in celebration of Military Spouse Appreciation month. Refreshments served.

Free summer reading program — "A Midsummer Knight's Read" program begins June 7. Preregister 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 1-2 for ages 3-12.

McNaughton books — the popular young adult books have hit the shelves. Stop by and explore the children's library.

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND MARINA

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

Mother's Day special — May 8. Treat mom to a relaxing day out on the water and enjoy 10 percent off any boat rental.

Sailing classes — classroom instruction May 12; on-the-water instruction May 13-14. \$45 per person. Class certifies you to rent sailboats from the marina.

Beach trips to Horn Island — \$30 per person 12 person minimum, 22 person maximum. Call to schedule.

Indoor and open air pavilions — conveniently located next to playground equipment, fishing, boating, volleyball and more. Rent a pavilion for your next gathering. Open air pavilions have grill and picnic tables. \$10 for the first four hours and \$2 for each additional hour. The indoor pavilion comes complete with a kitchen, coolers, hot box and can be set-up with round tables and chairs. \$40 for the first four hours and \$6 for each additional hour. Payment and a \$50 refundable cleaning deposit is required at time of reservation.

Marina slips — all slips equipped with water and electricity. \$3.75 per foot, per month. \$5 for overnight.

Nine-hole disc golf course — free to play. Distance, fairway, multi-purpose, putt and approach discs are available for rent/sale at outdoor recreation's retail store.

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.

Free Cybex® challenge — 1-6 p.m. May 18 at the Triangle Fitness Center. Circuit competition using isotonic exercise machines. Weight classes are light weight, middle weight, light heavy weight, heavy weight and super heavy weight. Register up to the day of the event. Participants receive a T-shirt.

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 — two therapists to serve you. Hour and half-hour appointments are now available at Dragon and Triangle Fitness Centers. Swedish, deep tissue, aromatherapy, reflexology and hot stone original body therapy massages are offered by both certified therapists. Pregnancy massages are also offered by Dragon's therapist. To schedule an appointment at Triangle Fitness Center call (228) 348-6698; at Dragon call (228) 282-4734.

SWIMMING POOLS

For more information, call 377-3948 or 377-3568.

Learn to swim — parent/child aquatics classes for 6 months to age 5 and swimming lessons for ages 5 and older are offered. Register 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 10-12 at outdoor recreation.

Pools open May 28 — open to anyone authorized to use 81st Force Support Squadron facilities. Identification and \$1.50 entry fee or season pass required for admission. Seasonal passes available at outdoor recreation and both pools; \$20 single season, \$60 family season (three or more). Only Coast Guard-certified life vests and floating devices are allowed.

Age requirement — ages 10 and younger must be accompanied in the pool by an adult. Ages 11-13 may use the pool unattended if they can swim at least 12 meters. Infants and small children are required to wear rubber pants or swim diapers.

Parties — available 6-8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at the main base pool. Reservations are required at least two weeks prior to the desired date. Cost is \$50 for the first two hours and \$25 for each additional hour. No alcoholic beverages allowed.

treat mom to
Mother's Day
Brunch ~ May 8
in the Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom
\$20⁹⁵ for members
\$25⁹⁵ for nonmembers
Seating times are 10:30 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m.
Reservations appreciated, call 377-2334.
Walk-ins welcome. A rose will be given to each mother.
featuring entertainment
by soft jazz band
"Red Velvet."
RED VELVET

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.

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

Mommy and me finger-painting class — 10:30 a.m. May 5. \$5, create a Mother's Day masterpiece using your fingers.

Pottery class — May 14.

Cocktails and canvas — 6 p.m. May 21 at the Bay Breeze Event Center. \$10 per person, includes materials. Paint your very own masterpiece. Drink specials. Hosted by the arts and crafts center.

Free ice cream social — 2-4 p.m. May 27.

Frame shop

Framing class — 12:30 p.m. May 13 and 27. Bring a piece of art or photograph no larger than 5x7-inches to frame.

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.

DRAGON WAGON

Anyone on Keesler is welcome to ride.

50 cents per ride.

Air Force club members ride free.

Thursdays before nontraining Fridays — 5 p.m. to midnight

Nontraining Fridays — noon to midnight

Training Fridays — 5 p.m. to midnight

Saturdays — noon to midnight

Sundays — noon to 6 p.m.

..... minutes of
..... each hour

Route :00

• Vandenberg Community Center, Legends Café, Triangle pool

Shaw House/5000 Block :06

• White Avenue Gate

Base exchange bus stop :08

• McBride Library, arts and crafts center, auto hobby shop, tennis courts, post office, main pool

Live Oak Dining Facility/2000 Block :17

Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center :19

• Blake Fitness Center and Shoppette

Tyer House :25

• Sablich Center

Youth center (Saturdays only) :28

Outdoor recreation :33

• Marina park and playground

Bay Breeze Event Center :44

• Golf course; collocated club; community center; leisure travel office; information, tickets and travel

Pass Road Gate :50

Return to Welch Theater :55

NOTE: Route and times are subject to change.

Auto hobby shop

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

Air conditioning recharging — With the summer heat starting to bear down, auto air conditioners are becoming a must. Make sure yours is recharged and ready to go.

Ladies vehicle maintenance training — May 13 and 27. Learn how to care for your vehicle. Our certified mechanics will train you on basic vehicle maintenance including tire changing, oil changing and fluid check training for \$7.

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 — 9 a.m. Saturdays. Learn basic techniques and how to use shop equipment. \$25 includes materials. Class certifies you to use shop for future 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. May 7 and 21 for beginners; May 14 and 28 for advanced.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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

Give parents a break — 4-10 p.m. May 14. This Air Force Aid Society 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 — visit our Web site and look at our hot jobs at <https://nafjobs.afsv.net>.

VANDENBERG COMMUNITY CENTER

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

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

Chess tournament — 6-9 p.m. May 3, winner gets chance to compete in the Air Force tournament May 8-13 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

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

Free ping-pong tournament — 6-8 p.m. May 5.

Free skate contest — 4-6 p.m. May 8, bring your skates and boards to compete. Prizes awarded for the best techniques. Call or stop by to sign up. Proper safety gear required.

Free dart tournament — 6-8 p.m. May 12. Prizes awarded.

Free last player standing pool tournament — 6-9 p.m. May 19.

Black light party* — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. May 20, the lights will be out all night long.

Mutharoux band* — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. May 27.

Memorial Day dance* — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. May 29.

Late night dances* — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursdays before nontraining Fridays and every Friday and Saturday. Karaoke 9 p.m. Saturdays.

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 baseball and T-ball — registration begins Monday. \$50 for the first child, \$25 each additional child. Fee includes uniform, trophy and end-of-the-season gathering. Practice starts June 3. Parents show your Air Force club card and get 10 percent off first child's fee.

Youth career fair — 1-3 p.m. May 7 for ages 12-18 featuring professionals from various career paths. Games and giveaways. Refreshments served. Preregistration is encouraged.

America's Kids Run on I-81 — 9 a.m. May 21 to celebrate Armed Forces Day. Free for ages 5 and older. Check in at the youth center at 8 a.m. Sign up online at <http://www.americaskidsrun.org> or stop by.

School age and teen summer camps — sign up today. Camps begin May 23. Drop-ins are accepted on space available basis; hourly rates apply.

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

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

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 Schloegel, commercial sponsorship coordinator.

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