



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

JUNE 16, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 24



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Positive impressions leave lasting impact

By Col. Glen Downing

81st Training Wing vice commander

Twenty-one years later, I still remember my very first day of active duty on an Air Force base. It was June 14, 1990, and my wife and I had just driven halfway across the country from Iowa to Mather Air Force Base in Sacramento, Calif. Neither one of us had ever been to Sacramento before, let alone Mather. It was our first permanent change of station, so there was a little bit of unease as we pulled up to the gate late in the afternoon.

That uneasy feeling got a little worse when I noticed an authoritative looking technical sergeant talking to some of the Airmen at the gate. Even a naïve lieutenant could tell this man must be in charge of something. The gate was busy so when I stopped, it was the tech sergeant, assisting his Airmen, who came to my window. I rolled my window down, because that's what we did back then, and before I could even say anything, the sergeant smiled and politely asked, "Can I help you, Sir?"

I nervously reached for my orders and my prized red second lieutenant ID card. That card was red for a rea-

son ... it screamed inactive reserve and meant I was as "green" as they come. The sergeant looked things over and then asked, "Sir, are you here for navigator training?" I proudly said yes and immediately he explained how to get to the lodging office, reminded me my first day of class was Monday and explained where and how I needed to report. He then took a step back, snapped the sharpest salute I've ever seen and said, "Welcome to the Air Force, Sir, Ma'am."

Driving away from that gate, I commented to my wife about how great the Air Force was going to be. I also thought about how courteous and professional the NCO was and how he anticipated all of my needs and fulfilled them. What immediately formed in my mind was the most lasting impression of my career. That noncommissioned officer convinced me the Air Force has the most incredible people anywhere. Our daily business is really people taking care of people, and that sense of community is what I have enjoyed most about my career.

Over the years, I've thought a lot about those few minutes at that gate. I've drawn other impressions over time. It taught me about the pride and

professionalism of the NCO corps. It also taught me about the quality of our security forces personnel. I began to realize the NCO doesn't even know the impression he made on me as a newly-minted lieutenant. I'll never have the opportunity to thank him — all I can do is pay it forward. I'm also pretty sure he never thought a few minutes could leave an impression that continues to impact a career 21 years later.

How often do you think about the impressions you make? Often, we talk about first impressions and I agree that those are important. We're also making impressions every day, usually without even knowing we have an impact on others. I'm continually surprised and grateful when someone comes up to me and tells me how I made some sort of impression or impact on them. Usually, it's a small comment or just an observation from a distance. Truly, we are always on parade. Airmen are always watching and listening. Are you making positive impressions or negative ones?

There are a few things you can do to ensure you leave positive impressions on others.

First, be yourself. Phoniness makes you look, well, phony. Let your personality shine.

Second, never give up what I call the free stuff. Personal appearance, customs and courtesy go a long way in communicating who you are as an Airman and a person. The free stuff won't normally move you up in the world, but giving it up will certainly move you down.

Third, work on self-awareness. The more you realize you are making impressions, the more control you'll have over them. You'll learn to choose the best words, keep the best attitude and pause that extra second to provide a piece of advice or mentorship that otherwise you may have passed by.

Last, and most important, treat everyone with respect. That security forces NCO so many years ago could have easily laughed at my little red ID card and challenged the wet-behind-the-ears-LT to fend for himself. Instead, he chose to throw his arms open and embrace my wife and me as part of the Air Force family. In two minutes or less, one person affected our view of the Air Force forever. Remember, impressions really do count!

Air Force still suffers preventable tragedies

By Maj. Anthony Mims

627th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — If you had the chance to make a decision that would save your family and friends untold heartache and pain, would you? I think the answer is a resounding, "Yes!"

Yet, with all too-common frequency, Airmen make choices and decisions that can cost them pain and suffering, their careers, or even their lives.

I don't think that anyone wakes up in the morning and says, "Hey, I'm going to go have an accident! Yay!" But as we know all too well, our Air Force and military still suffer preventable tragedies. As I read various safety reports and briefings, many common factors surface.

They are sometimes referred to as the "Dirty Dozen," and I won't list them here because I suspect most of you are familiar with them. Although they have been identified as causal factors in many



mishaps, Airmen continue to make poor decisions with tragic consequences.

I had an Airman almost lose the fingers on one hand because he attempted to operate a piece of heavy equipment without any training. He had great intentions of trying to make the mission happen on time, but made a bad choice by not stop-

ping and getting help from a qualified source.

It only took him a second to place his hand where it didn't belong, but it took more than an hour for the fire department to free him, and months to recover. He did make a good decision to wear his personal protective equipment that day, which the doctors said saved him from being maimed. However, his bad decision that day almost cost him dearly.

We are into the "Critical Days of Summer," the Air Force's annual summer safety campaign. You'll hear a lot about boating, driving while fatigued and motorcycles. Why? Because we continue to lose Airmen and family members every summer in preventable off-duty mishaps, often involving those activities.

Please don't tune out these briefings just because you don't ride a motorcycle or jet ski, or operate heavy equipment. I ask that we all continue to learn from every event that you come across, and please continue to strive to make the right choice, the right decision, every time.

Your family will thank you.



ON THE COVER

Airman Basic John Perkins works on his soldering skills Monday in the connector/wiring maintenance block of the electronic principles course in the 332nd Training Squadron. The unit is “standing down” Friday in preparation for deactivation once approval is given from Air Staff. In this management realignment, current 332nd TRS courses are divided between the 333rd TRS and 335th TRS. Story and photo, Page 4.

Photo by Adam Bond



DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

What is the theme song for your life right now?



“Eye of the Tiger.”

John Loper of Biloxi, retired chief master sergeant



“I Remember Me.”

Shelondrea Williams, spouse of Maj. Daniel Williams, 334th Training Squadron



“It’s 5 O’Clock Somewhere.”

Rebecca Stryker, CSC, spouse of Staff Sgt. Brian Stryker, 334th TRS

KEESLER NEWS

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION

332nd TRS to stand down; training continues

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

Friday, the legend that has come to be known as the 332nd Training Squadron will come to an end. The order has been given to stand down and the squadron will be deactivated once final approval is received from Air Staff. A ceremony will be held outside Dolan Hall at 8 a.m. to mark this historic Keesler event.

The squadron logo, guidon and other symbols that represent the 332nd TRS will be packaged and sent to the history office at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., where it will lie in a dormant state indefinitely.

Friday evening, when the lights in the classrooms and offices are turned out and the doors are locked, the 332nd TRS will be no more. If an Air Force base had the cognitive ability to dream, this might sound like a nightmare for Keesler. But on Monday morning, Keesler will yawn and rub its sleepy eyes, birds will be chirping and the lights will come back on. The instructors will unlock the doors to their classrooms and they will once again be filled with students. Everything will be as it should — almost.

There's more to the dream. In it, Keesler saw a strange half man, half beast mascot creature with a ravenous dog riding its back. Here's the interpretation. The man was actually a Spartan representing the 333rd TRS and the beast is the Bull representing the 335th TRS. The dog was the Mad Dog representing the spirit of the 332nd TRS which will live on in the 333rd TRS and 335th TRS.

"I would describe it as a management realignment," said Lt. Col. Trevor Wall, 332nd TRS commander.

After the 332nd TRS stands down, everything it has been doing, all the training, all the courses will continue to be

taught at Keesler. It's just being absorbed by the 333rd TRS and the 335th TRS. The information technology fundamentals course will go to the 333rd TRS and occupy the bottom floor of Dolan Hall. The electronic principles and precision measurement equipment laboratory apprentice courses will go to the 335th TRS which will occupy Dolan Hall's top floor.

For the most part, all the classes will be taught in the same rooms, by the same instructors teaching the same thing to the same number of students. The only visible difference will be a squadron designation that ends with a 3 or a 5 instead of a 2.

According to Colonel Wall, the rationale behind the standing down and eventual deactivation of the 332nd TRS goes back four years to the force shaping Program Budget Decision 720 which gave the Air Force the authority to reduce manpower to save money.

"That's when we started seeing some of the commander support staff going away and we lost a lot of officer billets," said Colonel Wall. "Flight commanders became double billeted with multiple flights being operated by the same commander."

So to relieve some of the resulting strain, the 332nd TRS and all of its military and civilian overhead is being repositioned in the other squadrons on base so that they'll be properly manned.

The 332nd TRS is uniquely suited to stand down and be broken apart because it feeds some of the other squadrons with students who have just learned the principles and fundamentals of Air Force technology and are ready to move on to receive more advanced training.

According to Colonel Wall, it makes sense that the 333rd TRS is getting the IT fundamentals course because it fits



Photo by Adam Bond

Airman Basic Jeremy Rex watches Airman Basic Jessica Davis solder a wire in the connector/wiring maintenance course. Both are students in the 332nd TRS which will "stand down" on Friday. On Monday, all the training the 332nd TRS does will be absorbed by the 333rd TRS and the 335th TRS.

"It's going to be sad. It's a good thing for the base as a whole, but the 332nd TRS is an ingrained part of the 81st Training Group. It's going to be a loss to the 81st TRG and to the 81st Training Wing. We have a proud heritage with good people and that camaraderie will be missed."

— Colonel Wall

with the type of training it already does. It also has the expertise and the curriculum to make sure the course is properly aligned with the 338th TRS, where a lot of the IT fundamentals students go upon graduation. And the 335th TRS getting the electronic principles and precision measurement equipment laboratory apprentice courses makes sense due to its already diverse mission set.

The 332nd TRS trains

roughly 7,000 students a year, and although the technology is different, it teaches some of the same principles to its students as it did in the 1940s and 50s during the days of the Cold War. The good news for Keesler is that those students will continue to be trained right here. The bad news is that it won't be done by the 332nd TRS.

"It's going to be sad," said Colonel Wall. "It's a good thing for the base as a whole,

but the 332nd TRS is an ingrained part of the 81st Training Group. It's going to be a loss to the 81st TRG and to the 81st Training Wing. We have a proud heritage with good people and that camaraderie will be missed."

Colonel Wall remains at Keesler, taking command of the 338th TRS June 29 when Lt. Col. Dan Gottrich, current commander of the Dark Knights, moves on to a new assignment.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

In the background, Senior Airman Chamira May, left, and Airman 1st Class Jason Strasser, 81st Force Support Squadron, assist Airman 1st Class Amanda Mitchell, left, 338th Training Squadron student, and Airman 1st Class Aleander Edwards, 334th TRS student, with their outprocessing papers at the student personnel center.

Personnel center relieves stress for nonprior service students

By Senior Airman Eric Summers Jr.

Keesler Public Affairs

As a new member of the military, nonprior service students may deal with a lot of stress caused by training, adapting to their new military lifestyle and many other factors. One organization on base helps these students relieve some of that stress by taking care of tasks that most military members are charged with completing themselves.

The 81st Force Support Squadron's student personnel center on the second floor of the Levitow Training Support Facility in the Triangle helps NPS students by taking care of personnel issues ranging from in-processing to updating marriage status.

The SPC functions as a one-stop shop where students can go for training reclassification, records management and swapping of assignments with other members.

The center serves from 400 to 500 students a week.

"When students fly in from basic training on Mondays, their records are sent to our office," said Airman 1st Class Jason Strasser, a customer service representative. "From there we send the records to the medical office and the dental office.

"That following Tuesday, we give them a briefing and correct any discrepancies that they

may have in their records, such as a person getting married after basic training," Airman Strasser said. "We input them into the military personnel data system as being here at Keesler. We also fix rank problems, update information if students get married or have children and update their (Servicemembers Group Life Insurance.)"

The SPC also has a student assignments section with counselors that are sorted by the Air Force Specialty Codes of the students. The assignments section coordinates with military training leaders to get students assigned and outprocessed.

"We have our own security manager to handle students that need security clearances and we schedule students for weapons firing and polygraphs," said Senior Airman Sadie Barcroft, a student assignments counselor. "We also schedule them for any additional training en route to their base and make sure that family members are cleared to follow them."

The SPC even has a passport office for students and their families.

"There's almost nothing that we can't do here to outprocess our Airmen on time," said Airman 1st Class Christopher Hill, another student assignments counselor. "We are the mission — it is about getting them in and trained. Keesler is an Air Education and Training Command base and that's what we help do."

Gators get new leader Friday

Lt. Col. Michael Callender turns over command of the 334th Training Squadron to Lt. Col. Jeffrey McLemore, 3 p.m. Friday at Welch Auditorium.

Colonel McLemore comes to Keesler from Oklahoma City, where he served as deputy director of air traffic control and airfield management operations for the Air Force Flight Standards Agency.

Colonel Callender, who's commanded the Gators for two years, is headed to England to become the deputy commander of the 422nd Air Base Group, Royal Air Force Creighton.

ENERGY AWARENESS TIP

Lead by Example in the Office with Smart Energy Choices



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

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

Application process opens for several biomedical commissioning programs

Air Force Personnel Center

Several Biomedical Sciences Corps training and commissioning programs are open for applications.

Army Baylor doctor of physical therapy training program — for active-duty enlisted, officers and cadets at the health science center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, beginning in October 2012. The application deadline is Nov. 25.

For more information on applications and submissions, log on to www.usuhs.mil/mps/clinindex.html for application details and submission. Online applications are due to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences admissions office by Jan. 25.

BSC PhD Clinical Psychology Training Program — for active-duty enlisted, officers and cadets through USUHS. The program leads to a commission as a clinical psychologist. Two students are selected each year. The deadline for online applications is Jan. 25, with training beginning in August 2012. Accepted student applications are forwarded from USUHS to the Air Force Personnel Center for candidate selection.

For application details and submissions, log on to <http://www.usuhs.mil/mps/clinindex.html>.

Interservice physician assistant training program — for enlisted members only. Applications for training beginning in December 2012, April 2013 and August 2013 are accepted no earlier than Nov. 1, 2011, and no later than Jan. 25, 2012.

The 13-month training program at Fort Sam Houston is followed by a 16-month clerkship which to a first lieutenant commission as a physician assistant. Approved applicants begin training in either December 2012, April 2013 or August 2013.

Interested applicants should e-mail afpc.dpamw@randolph.af.mil or call DSN 665-2775 or 1-210-565-2775 or log on to <https://kx.afms.mil/afbsceducation>.

Direct accession — for available specialties, board dates and application details, log on to <https://kx.afms.mil/afbscutilization>, e-mail afpc.dpamw@randolph.af.mil or call DSN 665-3821 or 1-210-565-3821.

Perfect student



Airman Basic Zachariah Merced graduated from the electronic principles course in the 332nd Training Squadron Wednesday with a perfect score. Airman Merced, from Las Vegas, continues his training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, in the F-16 avionic systems apprentice course.

TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

USM admissions

University of Southern Mississippi admissions counselor Michelle Lane will be at the Keesler office, Room 219, Sablich Center, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday.

For an appointment, call 376-8479.

Registration is under way for the fall semester that begins Aug. 24.

Drill downs, parades

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

Parades are 6 p.m. July 28 and Sept 29.

For more drill down information, call 377-2103. For more parade information, call 377-2789.

NEWS AND FEATURES

Next week's active shooter exercise tests response to mass casualty event

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler is making final preparations for next week's active shooter exercise.

Tuesday and Wednesday, Keesler personnel and visitors can expect facility lockdowns and delays at the base's gates while Air Education and Training Command tests the base's ability to respond to a mass casualty event.

The urgency of correct actions with a gunman on the loose was underscored during the 2009 mass shooting at Fort Hood, Texas. Exercises are held to monitor how the base reacts to reports of such an attack.

AETC describes the exercise scenario as "a dynamic situation that evolves rapidly and demands immediate response from law enforcement to terminate the life-threatening situation. The immediate response of the first patrolmen on scene is to take aggressive action to find and stop the shooter(s). Rescue efforts will be delayed until the danger can either be mitigated or eliminated."

"Team Keesler is playing this for real," said Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander. "We realize that this may be inconvenient, but we have to ensure that our people know how to respond and recover from a mass casualty event.

"We're trying to alert our members and the public to the anticipated delays during the exercise," the general continued. "The lockdown phase should only be a few hours, but this is going to cause delays at our gates that could affect impact people in the surrounding community."

When a lockdown occurs, position yourself in a place clear of direct fire with a view of entrance and exit routes.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

In Keesler's last active shooter exercise, May 20, 2010, Airman Basic Andrew Hancock, foreground, lies wounded as Staff Sgt. Gregory Anderson, left, and Senior Airman Robert Vogel, 81st Security Forces Squadron, help move Airman 1st Class Joe Spears from the shooting area. Airmen Hancock and Spears were 336th Training Squadron students.

Lock doors and windows, barricade the access, turn off lights and make your location appear unoccupied. Monitor communications by phone, computer or radio. Use available means to contact your unit control center or chain of command with your location, status and personnel present. Don't move unless instructed to do so by authorities or you have been released.

If you're in immediate danger during a shooting incident at your work center, escape from the scene or hide out. During escape, plan your route, leave belongings behind and exit with your hands visible so you won't be mistaken for the shooter. If you hide out, call 911 as soon as possible.

As a last resort, take action. If you're in imminent danger,

try to incapacitate or act with physical aggression, throwing items at the shooter.

"It's important for people to understand that the exercise will affect all facilities on base," said Tim Coleman from public affairs, a member of Keesler's exercise evaluation team. He was an observer when Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., conducted its active shooter exercise in May to see how emergency response teams, installation agencies and individuals answered the threat.

"Whether you're in a classroom, the gym, the commissary or the barber shop, when the call comes, the doors will be secured and you'll be directed to a safe location until the 'all clear' is sounded," Mr. Coleman emphasized.

IN THE NEWS

5 selected for promotion

Five Keesler members have been selected for promotion:
To lieutenant colonel — Matthew Atkinson, 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, and Siu Fai Joh Chan, 45th Airlift Squadron.

To major — Todd Hoggatt, 81st Medical Group.

To master sergeant — Jay Kuns, 81st Training Support Squadron, and Christopher Yarbrough, 81st LRS.

New commander for 81st CPTS

Maj. Phelmon Williams takes command of the 81st Comptroller Squadron from Lt. Col. Randolph Toris, 1 p.m. June 22 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

Major Williams comes to Keesler from Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where he's been assigned to the Army and Command General Staff College.

Colonel Toris has led the 81st CPTS for the past two years. He's headed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, where he'll serve as director of financial management and comptroller.

81st FSS gets new leader

Maj. John Ponton assumes command of the 81st Force Support Squadron from Lt. Col. Richard Cole, 11 a.m. June 23 at Bay Breeze Event Center.

Major Ponton comes to Keesler from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, where he served as special action officer for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander's action group, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Colonel Cole, who's commanded the 81st FSS for two years, will be the deputy commander of the 52nd Mission Support Group, Spangdahlem AB, Germany.

Clinics close for warrior training

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group June warrior training has been moved to noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday to support the base's active shooter exercise.

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

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

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.

Service members are ordered not to enter or patronize these off-limits establishments or their locations. This restriction doesn't apply to armed forces police on duty or others on official business. Violations of this order are punishable under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Help keep classified business classified.
Don't discuss information off base.

Legal office warns of pay day loan scams

By Capt. Craig Dunham

Legal office

Mississippi residents are the targets of a pay day loan collection scam that has swept across the country.

In the scam, an individual calls the home claiming to be an attorney with a fake law firm or government agency. The caller then explains they are in the process of suing the victim for not paying a pay day loan the victim, or one of their family members like a son or daughter, has taken out. If money is not immediately sent, the caller threatens the victim saying he will be arrested and sent to jail.

“This isn’t a new scam,” said Capt. David Cromwell, an assistant staff judge advocate with the base legal office. “It started back in 2009 with phony bill collectors calling, but the scam artists are trying a new angle and they are very persistent.”

People are duped by the caller because the scammers use official sounding law firm names and they know a lot of personal information about the victims, like their social security numbers, driver’s license numbers and old bank account numbers. They sometimes even refer to the victim’s employer or personal friends.

“People get nervous when someone claiming to be a lawyer calls, so they’re more likely to stay on the phone to get more information,” said Captain Cromwell. “That’s exactly what the scam artist wants.”

If the victim won’t or doesn’t send the money, the phone calls keep coming. Even if the family wants to pay, the caller will insist they can only accept credit card or bank account information. Once given that information, the scam artist then begins to access the victim’s account and take their money.

“One individual I recently

helped wanted to pay because they were unsure if their son owed money and they would rather send the money than face jail time,” said Captain Cromwell. “The person only came in to see me for legal assistance after the caller said they wouldn’t accept a money order or check. Then they began to call every hour harassing the family.”

Captain Cromwell warned, however, that no law allows you to be arrested for failing to pay a loan, even a pay day loan. In fact, there’s a law making it unlawful for bill collectors to threaten you with arrest.

The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act prohibits bill collectors from threatening to have you arrested if you don’t pay your debt, repeatedly calling to harass or annoy you, threatening you with violence or harm, falsely claiming to be an attorney, or falsely claiming you committed a crime.

The law also requires creditors to send you a written “validation notice” telling you how much money you owe within five days after they first contact you. This notice also must include the name of the creditor to whom you owe the money, and how to proceed if you don’t think you owe the money.

“If you feel you are the target of a scam, ask for the loan information in writing, refuse to verify any bank account, credit card, or other personal information over the phone, and contact the Attorney General’s Office of Consumer Protection for Mississippi,” said Captain Cromwell. “You can also check your credit report for free each year at <https://www.annualcreditreport.com> to ensure you do not owe any money and are not the victim of identity theft.”

For more information, visit the base legal office or call 376-8601.

Special duty briefings July 12

Air Education and Training Command

Air Education and Training Command's special duty briefing team visits Keesler July 12 to provide information on careers as a military training instructor, military training leader or professional military education instructor.

Briefings are:

8:30-10:30 a.m. — Sablich Center auditorium.

11:30 to noon — Mathies NCO Academy auditorium, for NCO Academy and Airman Leadership School students.

12:30-2 p.m. — Room GC612, Keesler Hospital.

2:30-3:30 p.m. — Sablich Center auditorium, senior enlisted members.

4-5:30 p.m. — Welch Auditorium.

Senior airmen with at least 35 months time in service through master sergeants with less than 16 years total active federal military service may be eligible to apply and are encouraged to attend the briefing. Spouses are welcome to attend.

For more information, call Keesler's career assistance adviser, 377-3697.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Tricare transfers by phone

Tricare Management Activity

WASHINGTON — Active duty military members and their families who are moving to a new location can now transfer their Tricare Prime military health plan enrollment by phone.

The enrollment transfer includes a new primary care manager best suited to the location of the service member's work, home and anticipated medical needs.

Moving service members should call their current regional health care contractor to transfer their family's enrollment and include a cell phone number and e-mail address. The new regional contractor contacts them within five business days after the relocation date to finalize the transfer.

Active-duty service members and their families don't have to worry about coverage during the transfer process, because they are continuously covered under Tricare. Once settled, they can confirm coverage on the beneficiary web enrollment Web site.

Active-duty service members or family members who forget to notify their current regional contractor of their upcoming move still have the option to contact the new regional contractor to transfer enrollment over the phone.

Other options include transferring during military base in-processing, using the beneficiary web enrollment site, visiting a local Tricare service center or downloading and completing an enrollment application, Defense Department Form 2876, to mail.

German driver's license online test

The German driver's license test is available for online testing to all common access cardholders using military computer systems who are making a permanent change of station to Ramstein Air Base, Spangdahlem AB or any supported geographically separated unit.

Air Force members, Defense Department civilians and other personnel with a CAC processing through an Air Force installation must register at <https://wwwmil.usafe.af.mil/DLT> and start testing at their leisure.

For more information, call 376-8708 or 8475.

Finance office closes

The 81st Comptroller Squadron's customer service office closes at 11:30 a.m. today and 8-10 a.m. June 23 for official functions.

Military personnel contacts

Military personnel section phone numbers:

Customer support — 376-8738.

Career development — 376-8739.

Force management — 376-8740.

Student personnel center — 377-4111.

Testing — 376-4111.



'Pass' encourages deployed families to play

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

Deployments are an inevitable part of the Air Force lifestyle and they can often leave loved ones feeling lost or alone. And while the Air Force can't bring the loved ones back before their missions are complete, it has begun a new PLAY pass program to help bring a little fun and excitement in the meantime.

Master Sgt. Jessica

Woodruff, family readiness noncommissioned officer in charge at the airman and family readiness center, said, "The PLAY pass is important to families of a deployed member to allow them to 'get out and play' and be involved with the base."

PLAY passes are essentially a \$500 to \$600 gift card to the base. They can be used for free bowling, golf, activities at the arts and crafts center and marina, swim passes, youth center classes and nearly every other activity

Keesler has to offer.

The PLAY pass is available to any active duty Airman or family member who is deployed or has recently returned from deployment, regardless of whether they're single, married or have children. To be eligible, the service member must either be currently deployed or have returned on or after Dec. 1. Single Airmen may use the card to help pay for a friend as well.

The program is underway and continues until funding runs out or through Dec. 31.

"By using your PLAY pass, you not only have something to pass the time while you wait for your loved one to return, but you once again connect to the Air Force



family and all it has to offer," Sergeant Woodruff said.

To pick up your PLAY pass, stop by the Sablich Center, Rooms 127 or 110, with a

copy of you or your family member's deployment orders.

For more information, call the airman and family readiness center, 376-8500.

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

Keep your data safe — back it up!

Forty years of gospel celebration, June 23-26

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

June 23-26, the Keesler gospel service celebrates its 40th anniversary as the oldest continuously running gospel service in the Air Force.

“The service has seen many military and civilians since its inception in 1971,” said Chaplain (Capt.) Ralph Elliott Jr. “The service is also well known for cultivating a community where ‘everybody is somebody.’”

The theme for this year’s celebration is “Pressing Towards The Mark” from Philippians 3:14, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Scheduled events are:

June 23 — 4:30-6:30 p.m., fellowship reunion for past and present members, Triangle Annex; 7 p.m., praise service, Triangle Chapel, followed by fellowship and refreshments, Triangle Annex.

June 24 — 7-8:30 a.m., physical conditioning, Crotwell Track; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., throw back 70s picnic, marina park; 6-10 p.m. fellowship choir rehearsal, Triangle Chapel.

June 25 — 7-10 a.m., prayer walk from Larcher Chapel to the beach, continental breakfast; 6-11 a.m., gala at the Bay Breeze Event Center, black tie or mess dress with worship service, dinner and dancing.

June 26 — 9 a.m., congregational picture in front of Triangle Chapel; 10 a.m. to noon, gospel service, Triangle Chapel, followed by fellowship brunch at Bay Breeze Event Center.

For more information, call 377-0327 or 424-8331.

Ruck march to honor America's fallen heroes

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Eighteen members of the 81st Security Forces Squadron will march 148 miles in July's searing heat to honor some of America's fallen heroes.

"Security forces units from around the country are conducting a ruck march to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and also to pay tribute to fellow 'defenders' who have fallen by enemy hands since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom," according to Master Sgt. Daniel Fuentes Sr., Keesler's team leader.

Sergeant Fuentes said personnel from the 4th SFS at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., came up with the idea and extended an invitation for the Keesler team to participate.

The ruck march starts at the Security Forces Center at Lackland AFB, Texas, and proceeds through Shanksville, Pa., before terminating in New York City at "Ground Zero" in time for the 10th anniversary ceremony on Sept. 11.

"The march is about 2,181 miles broken into 15 legs," Sergeant Fuentes explained. "Our team will march 148 miles in four days along U.S. Highway 190, starting at noon on July 20 in Livingston, Texas, and ending at noon July 24 in Alexandria, La."

The Keesler defenders pick up the march from the 4th

SFS, Barksdale AFB, La., and hand off to the 14th SFS, Columbus AFB, Miss.

All 18 Keesler team members have been deployed to Southwest Asia at least once since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom. They range in rank from airmen first class to a major and chief master sergeant.

Sergeant Fuentes plans to break down the team into small teams, with each team ruck marching about 9 miles in three hours daily, keeping at least a 20-minute-per-mile pace.

"As a whole we must complete at least 18 1/2 miles on July 20 and 24 and complete at least 37 miles a day July 21-23," he pointed out.

"Each team member is expected to march a total of about 36 miles," Sergeant Fuentes continued. "Some of the younger guys said they want to do all 148, but we will see how that goes."

Each team member carries a 40-pound ruck with consist of equipment and essentials such as food, extra uniforms, socks and boots.

Team members are conducting ruck marches around the base, increasing the distance as the July 20 start date approaches.

The team is raising funds through car washes and donations for transportation costs and accommodations.

For more information or to make a donation, call 376-6606 or 6625.



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Members of the 81st SFS begin their 5-mile training march around the base to prepare for their 148-mile ruck march to honor fallen heroes. The march will begin at Lackland AFB, Texas, proceed through Shanksville, Pa., and end in New York City in time for the 10th anniversary ceremony Sept. 11.

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Movies playing at Welch Auditorium

Friday — 6:30 p.m.,
Madea's Big Happy Family
(PG-13).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Water
for Elephants (PG-13); 6:30
p.m., Fast Five (PG-13).

Sunday — 1 p.m., Some-
thing Borrowed (PG-13).

June 24 — 6:30 p.m.,
Priest (PG-13).

June 25 — 2 p.m., Some-
thing Borrowed (PG-13); 6:30
p.m., Jumping the Broom
(PG-13).

June 26 — 1 p.m., 6:30
p.m., Fast Five (PG-13).

**Volunteer —
get connected.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Liliana Moreno

Master Sgt. Shannon Ray, left, a surgical technician deployed from Keesler, prepares medical equipment while Maj. John Mansuy, operating room nurse, prepares the patient for an inguinal hernia repair surgery at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, May 31.

Keesler medics deployed with speedy, mobile surgical team

By Master Sgt. Mike Hammond

379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — The team moved quickly to fix the broken part — each person anticipating the moves of others and efficiently using tools to get the job done.

It might have been a pit crew using mechanical skills to keep a car running its best in a weekend NASCAR race, but the prize for members of the 379th Expeditionary Medical Group's surgical team is way different from the fame and fortune of a winning race car taking the checkered flag.

The mobile forward surgical team is deployed here to rapidly forward deploy in case circumstances downrange require additional surgical personnel. However, the benefit of the team's presence here extends throughout the area of responsibility daily.

Maj. (Dr.) Gustavo Lopes, a general surgeon, said the majority of procedures the team performs on this base are relatively routine surgeries like repairing hernias, but that by being available in theater the team saves time and provides a healing environment for troops downrange.

"We provide a great service to these guys. If we weren't here, the procedures we perform would have to be done in forward areas, where the focus should be on urgent care," said Major Lopes, deployed from the 96th Medical Group, Eglin AFB, Fla. "Here, it is a safer environment and they can recover in less hostile surroundings."

According to the team's operating room nurse, another big benefit of the team's work

is reducing time out of the fight for injured military members.

"Since the members can come here to have a surgical procedure, it saves potentially a trip either to Germany or even back home to the U.S., which carries with it additional travel time," said Maj. John Mansuy, deployed from the 99th Medical Group at Nellis AFB, Nev. "Since we're right here, they can fly in, be treated, recover, and get back to the fight more quickly."

This was the case for a U.S. Army Soldier who suffered a hernia while serving at a forward operating base in Afghanistan. Local medical personnel diagnosed the injury and consulted with Dr. Lopes, who accepted the patient. The Soldier flew in to this location, was examined by the surgeon and scheduled quickly for a hernia repair.

During the procedure, Capt. (Dr.) Brian Bane, an anesthesiologist deployed from Keesler's 81st Medical Group, administered general anesthesia and monitored the Soldier's vital signs and airway throughout the surgery. Major Lopes, assisted by Major Mansuy, Master Sgt. Shannon Ray and Staff Sgt. John Kerutlis as surgical technicians, repaired the hernia and completed the procedure in less than one hour from the time the patient walked into the room until he was taken to a recovery room.

"It will generally take between two weeks and a month of recovery time here before the patient is ready to go back to their unit downrange," Captain Bane said. "It's good to know we are here to help fix injured service members and get them back into the fight quickly and safely."



Oh, my aching back!

Proper lifting can reduce injuries

81st Medical Group

Most backaches come from strained muscles in the lower back. Other causes include slipped or herniated discs, arthritis, osteoporosis and urinary tract infections.

The goals of treatment are to treat the cause of the backache, relieve the pain, promote healing and avoid re-injury.

Improper lifting causes many backaches. Here are some lifting tips to help you avoid back strain:

- Wear good shoes with low heels, not sandals or high heels.
- Stand close to the object you want to lift.
- Plant your feet squarely, shoulder width apart.
- Bend at the knees, not at the waist. Keep your knees bent as you lift.
- Pull in your stomach and rear end. Keep your back as straight as you can.
- Hold the object close to your body.



body from head to toe.

- Don't lift something heavy with one hand and something light with the other — balance the load.
- Don't try to lift one thing while you hold something else. For example, don't try to pick up a child while you're holding a grocery bag. Put the bag down, or lift the bag and the child at the same time.

- Lift slowly, letting your legs carry the weight.
- Get help or use a dolly to move something that's too big or very heavy.
- Don't lift if your back already hurts, or if you have a history of back trouble.
- Don't lift heavy things over your head.
- Don't arch your back when you lift or carry.
- Don't lift too fast or with a jerk.
- Don't twist your back when you're holding something — turn your whole

DOD personnel policy changes consider troops, families first

By Lisa Daniel

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon office for personnel and readiness and the programs it oversees will not be immune from Defense Department efficiency initiatives, but will keep troops and their families at the forefront in the consideration of changes, the office's top civilian leader said.

"I joined with an efficiency mindset," Clifford Stanley, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said of his recent return to the Pentagon.

Stanley is a retired Marine Corps major general who was appointed undersecretary in February 2010. Although he has worked in other senior civilian positions in the department, he said, his 33 years in uniform guide his decision-making today.

"Not a day goes by that we don't ask how we can help our troops," he said of his staff. "Accountability — that's critical to what we're doing, and making sure we're relevant."

The personnel and readiness office, which oversees recruitment, career development, and pay and benefits for more than 2 million service members, is in the midst of a five-year strategic plan. Stanley said his goals for the plan, in order, are:

- To provide the right policies, practices, and tools to attract, train, educate, shape, sustain and retain diverse talent to anticipate and meet future requirements;

- Strengthen individual and mission readiness and family support;

- Deliver quality health care at an affordable cost while improving military readiness;

- Strengthen the internal workings of the personnel and readiness office; and

- Communicate with "one voice."

To stay connected, Stanley and his staff travel to military

installations around the country, as well as some overseas, including Iraq and Afghanistan. "He wants to know the honest truth," said Marine Corps Master Gunnery Sgt. William Mahoney Sr., Stanley's senior enlisted advisor. "At the end of the day, our work is about 'What have we done to support the total force?'"

"He's not just reading it or publishing a plan," Master Gunnery Sgt. Mahoney added. "He's reinforcing it every day."

It's important to have a flexible, working document that doesn't just sit on a shelf, Stanley said. "Our actions speak louder than our words," he said. "We're already executing our portfolio of initiatives."

One area Stanley and his staff are working on is reforming the department's "talent management," or personnel system. "It's about having the right people in the right places at the right time for the right kinds of missions," he said. "We don't have that right now."

The system needs some improvement, Stanley acknowledged.

"Our bureaucracy sometimes works against us in terms of getting the best here," he said.

Stanley said he goes beyond common goals of hiring reform, focusing on "employment reform," including recruiting new hires, developing staff, and properly transitioning people out of the military into civilian employment.

"At the same time, we have to be able to move those folks who aren't performing out of the system," he said. "The government is loath to that — in many cases, for the right reasons that are there to protect the system — but I think we've gone too far in that. So, when a person is here, they're here for a long time."

The military system works better than on the civilian side because "if you don't make the next cut in promotion,

you're out after a couple of looks," he said. "On the civilian side, we don't have the same. You can find yourself at a level and just be comfortable and retire there after 20 or 30 years. That's not right, so we have to fix that."

Stanley's plan also includes an assessment of military and family support programs. He couldn't say yet what the outcome will be, except that some programs need more resources, while others will be cut altogether, either because of duplication of efforts or because they are ineffective.

The strategic initiatives also focus on military health care, with which Stanley is personally familiar. "I am a Tricare Prime user," he said. "I understand what the system is and isn't. I understood it when I was on active duty, so I'm not removed from that."

With booming health care costs and no fee increases since the mid-1990s, the department in its fiscal 2012 budget proposed raising Tricare user fees on a gradual, sliding scale for working-age retirees. Stanley said other concerns to be addressed include too few military hospitals, serving National Guardsmen and reservists who live far from military or Veterans Affairs hospitals and outpatient centers, and improving the disability evaluation system.

"When we look at the disability evaluation system, we're looking at how we take care of people who have been wounded, that they're not being held up in some morass of bureaucracy," General Stanley said. "How do we ensure they're taken care of immediately, and how do we do that with compassion?"

That also means extending compassion to those separating from the military. "We're not trying to kick anybody out the door," he said.

While no one knows yet what changes will transpire with health care, change itself is certain, Stanley said.

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Photo by Kemberly Groue

Tech. Sgt. Jaqueline Haro, left, 334th Training Squadron, comforts Kamran, a Persian cat, as Jeanne Levesque, veterinary clinic animal health technician, examines Kamran's ears at the veterinary treatment facility.

Veterinary treatment services available to active-duty, retired

By Joel Van Nice

Keesler Public Affairs

Do you need care for your pet?

Keesler's veterinary treatment facility is available for active-duty members and retired military for minor sick calls, health certificates, parasite control, vaccinations, heartworm testing and prevention for dogs, as well as feline leukemia virus testing for cats.

The facility is also responsible for the care and treatment of government-owned animals, including military working dogs.

All pets in base housing must be registered with the clinic within 10 days of arrival.

For \$25, you can have microchip identification injected under the skin of your pet where it stays for the life of your animal. If your pet is lost or stolen, local humane societies and veterinarians have a device to read the microchip to verify ownership.

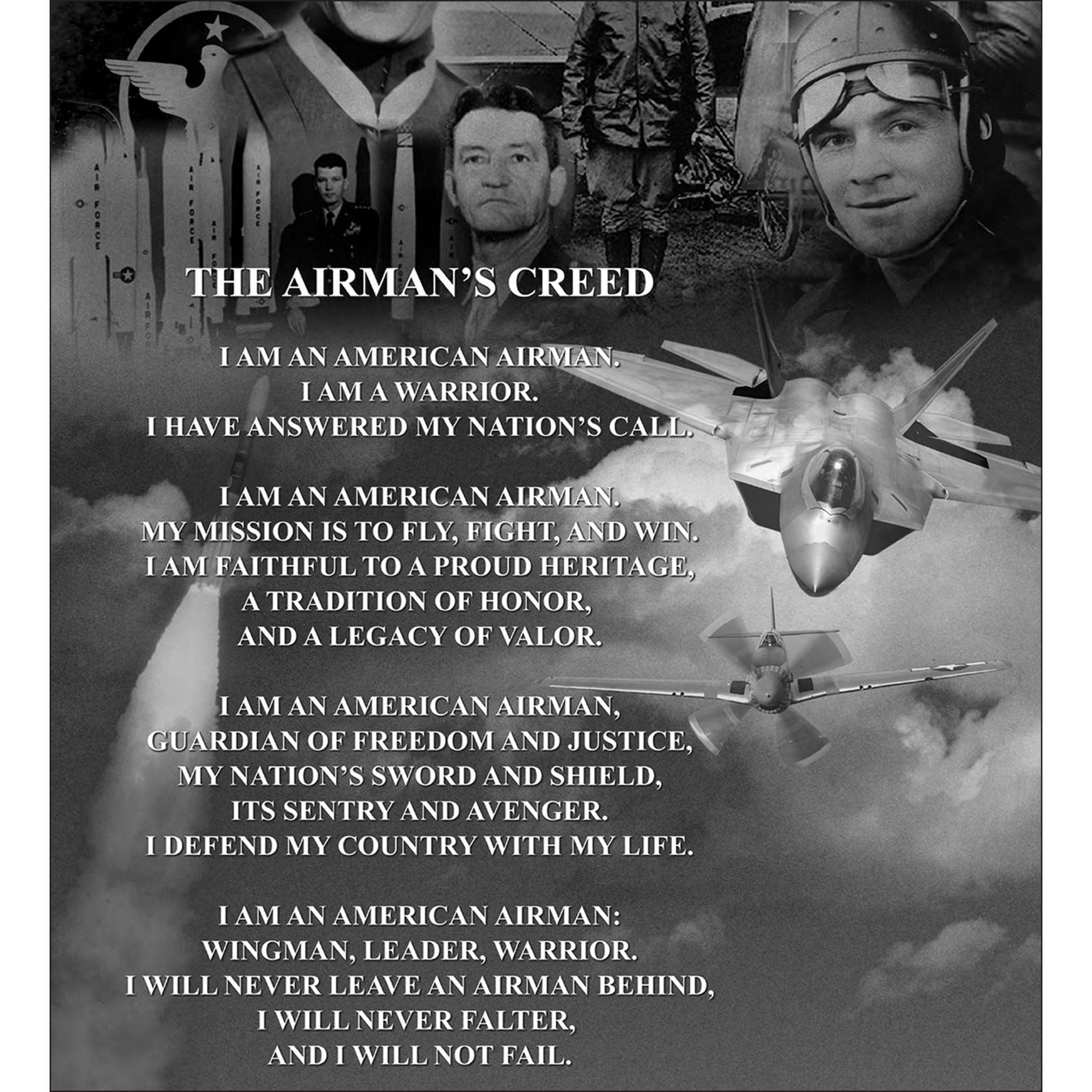
Army Veterinary Corps personnel, one Soldier and four civilians, staff the facility.

The facility is located behind Tyer House off Fisher Street. Hours are 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and non-training Fridays. It's closed on training Fridays, weekends and holidays.

For more information, call 376-7495.



For hurricane preparation information, log on to www.keesler.af.mil



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I WILL NEVER FALTER,
AND I WILL NOT FAIL.**

When you gamble with safety,
you bet your life.

eight
days a week

Airman and family readiness center

Editor's note: Registration is required. All briefings take place in Room 108, Sablich Center, unless otherwise noted.

Today — 8-11 a.m., Veterans Administration benefits briefing.

Tuesday — 2-4:30 p.m., career beginnings and assessments.

Wednesday — 9-11 a.m., survivors benefit briefing. For single and married members and their spouses. 2-4:30 p.m., interview skills and salary negotiation.

June 23 — 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Heart Link. Air Force spouse orientation. Lunch, prizes, tote bags and more. Limited child care available.

Arts and crafts center

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

Saturday — 10 a.m., beginners creative wood-working class. Learn intarsia, a technique that uses varied shapes, sizes and types of wood inlaid together. \$20 includes materials. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., pottery class. Learn potters' wheel and sculpting techniques. \$40 includes materials.

Tuesday-June 23 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., summer arts camp, ages 9 and older. Creativity through clay creations. Preregister for one week or all summer camps. \$30 per week includes materials.

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

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

Sunday — 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Father's Day brunch in the ballroom. Entertainment by jazz saxophonist Jimmy T. \$20.95 for Air Force Club members, \$25.95 for nonmembers. Door prizes awarded to dads in attendance. Reservations recommended. Sponsored by Keesler Federal Credit Union and Budweiser-Responsibility Matters.*

Weekdays — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., free buffet a day giveaway, enter to win in the casual dining area. No purchase necessary. Ask cashier for more information.

Bay Breeze Community Center

Saturday — noon to 5 p.m., gamer day. Match-up against local gamers on Playstation3, Xbox and Wii. Free to play.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

Sunday — Father's Day special. Free greens fees for fathers playing with their son or daughter; mandatory cart fee applies.

Tuesday-June 23 — youth golf camp, 8-10 a.m., ages 6-9; 10 a.m. to noon, ages 10-14. \$40 per child. Call 377-3832 to register.

Fitness centers

Saturday — 9 a.m., summer family 5K fun run at Blake Fitness Center. Free to participate. Prizes awarded. Registration 8:30 a.m. Co-hosted by the youth center.

Gaudé Lanes

Saturday — 6 p.m., casino bowling. Bowl three games, \$15 per person. Limit five people

per lane. Strike with color pin combination and win money.

Saturday-Sunday — anytime between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday, nine-pin no-tap tournament. Three game no-tap set with shoes, \$15 per person. Chance of winning up to \$800, multiple entries allowed.

McBride Library

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

Tuesdays and Thursdays — 10-11 a.m., "A Midsummer Knight's Read" summer reading program, ages 3-12. Visit www.keesler81fss.us and click on the library link for daily reading list.

Outdoor recreation

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

Sunday — Father's Day special. Free rod and reel rental for fathers.

Swimming pools

Editor's note: For more information call 377-3948 or 3568.

Daily except Monday — noon to 5:30 p.m., main base pool. Adult lap swim noon to 1 p.m. until further notice.

Daily except Wednesday — noon to 7 p.m., Triangle Pool. Adult lap swim 11 a.m. to noon.

Open to anyone authorized to use 81st Force Support Squadron facilities. Identification and entry fee required for admission; \$1.50 daily or purchase a \$20 single season pass or \$60 family season pass, available at either pool or outdoor recreation.

Vandenberg Community Center

Editor's note: Friday and Saturday night activities are part of the late night dances, \$3 admission; non-prior students only.

Saturday — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., ladies night. First 25 ladies free with two male guests that pay \$3 admission. Drink specials for the ladies.

Youth center

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-4116. Drop-ins accepted on space available basis.

Through June 30 — youth baseball and t-ball registration, ages 3-14. Ages 3-4 participate in the Smart Start T-ball program. Ages 5-14 participate in youth baseball. \$50 for the first child, \$25 each additional. Season begins in July. Air Force Club members receive 10 percent off first child's fee.

Monday-June 24 — youth summer camp, under the sea week, ages 6-12, explore the various types of sea life and sea creatures. Fee based on family income. Teen camp, go green week, ages 13-18, participate in a variety of environmental activities and team building games. \$5 per day.

Dragon Wagon

Each week, Thursday-Sunday — catch a ride to your favorite base "hot spots." 50 cents per ride or \$10 unlimited monthly pass available at Gaudé Lanes and Legends Café. Air Force Club members ride free. For more information, transportation route and schedule, visit <http://www.keesler81fss.us>.

SAPR office closed

The sexual assault prevention and response office is closed Friday, July 1 and July 8.

The office also closes at 11:30 a.m. today for an official function.

The office hotline, 377-7278, is available for emergencies.

Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters begins its fly tying and fly casting program, 1:30-3:30 p.m. June 24 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

The classes for wounded veterans and active-duty military members has been established in more than 100 locations around the country.

The program helps beginners to experienced fly fishers to overcome obstacles from their disabilities, relearn fine motor skills and enable participants regain the use of their recovering bodies.

For more information, log on to www.projecthealingwaters.com or call 818-5586.

Vacation Bible School

Panda Mania, an ecumenical Vacation Bible School, ecumenical program for children 4-12 years old, kicks off with a fellowship cookout, 4 p.m. July 31. Families must arrive by 3 p.m.

Registration is held through June 27 at Larcher and Triangle Chapels. Volunteers may also sign up at these locations.

Classes are 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 1-3.

To register or to volunteer, call 377-0834 or 2520.

School physicals

The 81st Medical Operations Squadron's pediatric clinic conducts a school and sports physical day 8 a.m. to noon June 25.

Parents call the hospital appointment line, 1-800-700-8603, to schedule the physicals. Children 5-18 years of age are seen for school, camp or sports physicals only. Other matters require a separate appointment.

Parents should bring immunization records and any school physical forms to the appointment. Generic physical forms may be picked up from the pediatric clinic front desk, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. before June 25.

Job opportunities

Forest City Residential Management, responsible for the privatized family housing initiative at Keesler, has property management, operations and maintenance positions available.

To apply and review job postings, log on to www.forestcity.apply2jobs.com.

DBIDS registration

June 30 is the deadline to register Defense Biometric Identification System cards.

Active-duty members and Defense Department 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 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 Levitow Training Support Facility.

Hemodialysis care

The Keesler Hospital offers chronic hemodialysis to patients requiring the care.

Hemodialysis removes waste products such as creatinine and urea as well as free water from the blood when the kidneys are in renal failure.

The staff currently cares for Department of Defense beneficiaries only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The eight dialysis machines, located in three treatment rooms, allow them to care for up to 12 patients a week.

For more information, call the nephrology clinic, 376-5537.

Supply classes

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

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

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

Block III supplemental

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

For more information, call 377-4480.

Airman's Attic

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

Donations are needed such as furniture, area rugs, cutlery,

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

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

Health benefits

Health benefit advisers for the 81st Medical Group are available at 376-4737 or 4010.

The Tricare contract liaison's number is 376-4752.

Thrift shop closed

The Keesler Thrift Shop reopens Aug. 1.

For donations and pickups, call 377-3217.

Worship schedule

Roman Catholic

Daily Mass, 11:15 a.m., Monday through Friday, Triangle Chapel.

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

Protestant

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

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

Gospel service, noon Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

Jewish

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

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

Greek Orthodox

Sunday Divine Liturgy takes place at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 255 Beauvoir Road, Biloxi. For more information, call 388-6138.

Islamic

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

Latter-Day Saints

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

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Staying cool at the pool

Four-year-old Braden Sigler leaps to his mom, Johanna, as his brother Brody, 3, climbs up for his turn at the main base pool on Meadows Drive, Tuesday. The boys' dad is Master Sgt. Joshua Sigler, 81st Medical Support Squadron. The main base pool is open noon to 5:30 p.m. daily except Mondays, with adult lap swimming noon to 1 p.m. The Triangle Pool on Ploesti Drive west of the Triangle Chapel is open noon to 7 p.m. daily except Wednesdays, with adult lap swimming 11 a.m. to noon. The pools are open to anyone authorized to use 81st Force Support Squadron facilities. Identification and entry fee are required for admission — \$1.50 daily or purchase a \$20 single season pass or \$60 family pass at either pool or outdoor recreation.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

