



KEESLER NEWS

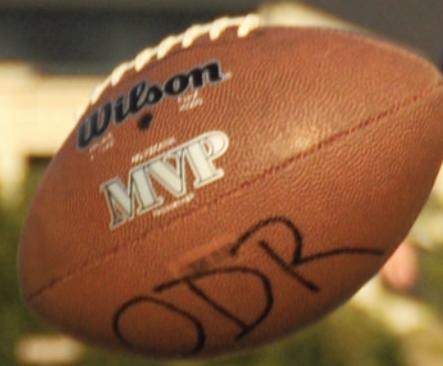
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

SEPT. 22, 2011 VOL. 72 NO. 36

Happy 64th Birthday, Air Force!

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New training leader is familiar face

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Celebrating cultural diversity

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Suicides present lingering challenge for military

By Capt. Katie Ragan

81st Medical Operations Squadron

The Air Force places high importance on suicide prevention at all times. The Department of Defense has identified September as Suicide Prevention Month.

The Air Force currently uses one of the most prestigious suicide prevention programs nationwide that's a model for several suicide prevention programs for other branches of service and private organizations. Although we have such an influential program, the Air Force is not immune to loss by means of suicide.

In 2010, Air Force officials reported the highest suicide rate in 17 years with 54 active-duty deaths by suicide. The other military service branches are reporting decreases in the number of suicide deaths in recent years.

The National Institute of Mental Health reported a national suicide rate of 11.3 suicides per 100,000 people in 2007, lower than the 2009 Defense Centers of Excellence's reported suicide rate of 16 per 100,000 military service members. The NIMH report estimated 11 suicide attempts per every completed suicide. According to the Centers for Disease Control's preliminary report for 2009, suicide was the 10th leading cause of death, an increase from 11th leading cause of death in 2008. These statistics indicate that suicide continues to be a problem nationally and within our military.

Suicidal thinking is typically a symptom of a larger problem most closely associated with depression. Air Force officials cite relationship problems as the most common reason active duty members commit suicide. Relationship problems can often seem devastating and irreconcilable with symptoms of depression or feelings of hopelessness.

Some signs or symptoms that you, a friend, or a loved one may be depressed include a combination of the following:

- increased sadness or feelings of hopelessness.
- not finding pleasure in previously enjoyed activities.
- sleeping too much or not enough.
- decreased or increased appetite.
- increased guilt.
- decreased energy level.
- decreased concentration and/or memory problems.

These problems listed above are normal for the daily stresses of life. People tend to be resilient and can overcome them without the assistance of medication or a medical professional. In a small number of people, however, they can become overwhelming when they occur in combination (more than five symptoms) and can be long-lasting (more than two weeks.) Mental health professionals encourage individuals to seek educational assistance early before the small problems develop into a more serious condition.

If you or someone you know is suffering from symptoms of depression or has increased stress in their life, there are several services offered on base and off base. Recognizing that you or someone you know needs help and asking for help are signs of resilience. The large majority of service members seen in DOD mental health clinics maintain confidentiality and their concerns aren't discussed with their chain of command.

Never worry alone and always talk about suicide. Don't keep it a secret. Remember ACE: **A**sk your wingman, **C**are for your wingman and **E**scort your wingman to the nearest helping agency. Suicide can be a difficult topic to talk about, but asking the tough questions can sometimes save your best friend or co-worker's life. For most people who are considering suicide, a friend, co-worker or complete stranger can be the hero that cared enough to ask. Wouldn't you rather ask the question and be told "I'm fine," then not ask and have to face the funeral you never should have had to attend?



U.S. AIR FORCE

ASK YOUR WINGMAN

• Have the courage to ask the question, but stay calm • Ask the question directly: Are you thinking of killing yourself?

CCARE FOR YOUR WINGMAN

• Calmly control the situation; do not use force; be safe • Actively listen to show understanding and produce relief • Remove any means that could be used for self-injury

ESCORT YOUR WINGMAN

• Never leave your buddy alone • Escort to chain of command, Chaplain, behavioral health professional, or primary care provider • Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

For more information and support::
National Suicide Hotline — 800-273-TALK (8255), 24-hour confidential crisis counseling.

Veterans Live Chat — 800-273-TALK (8255), press 1; www.veteranscrisisline.net; Veterans Affairs professionals standing by for 24-hour confidential crisis counseling.

Mental health — 376-0385; individual counseling and sleep hygiene class.

Triangle mental health for students — 377-7016; individual counseling, test anxiety, sleep enhancement and stress management.

TRICARE mental health — 800-700-8646; www.humanamilitary.com;

eight sessions without primary care manager authorization.

Chaplain — 377-4859; confidential individual spiritual counseling.

Airman and family readiness center — 376-8728; counseling, classes and educational references.

Military and family life consultants — 228-224-3719 or 239-0348; individual counseling.

Military OneSource — 800-342-9647; www.militaryonesource.com; phone counseling, web counseling and referrals.

Military Pathways — 877-877-3647; www.militarymentalhealth.org; screenings and educational materials.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

ON THE COVER

Second Lt. Alan Geason, 333rd Training Squadron, plays a game of football bowling on the parade field at Friday's Air Force 64th birthday party. The event featured live music, food, beverages, games, contests and prizes. Lt. Col. Jeffrey McLemore, 334th TRS commander, spoke at Friday's Armed Forces Retirement Home observance in Gulfport. The Keesler Honor Guard and student volunteers from the 366th TRS Detachment 6 at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport also participated. Saturday's Air Force Ball, sponsored by the Air Force Association John C. Stennis Chapter 132 at the Bay Breeze Event Center, featured a prisoner of war as guest speaker, Biloxi High School jazz band, cake cutting, dancing and prizes. For photos of these events, see Page 14.

KEESLER NEWS

**81st Training Wing
commander**

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

Public affairs director

Jerry Taranto

Deputy director

1st Lt. Victoria Porto

Editor

Susan Griggs

Photojournalist

Kemberly Groue

Writer/graphic designer

Steve Hoffmann

Public affairs staff

Billy Bell

Tim Coleman

Airman 1st Class

Heather Heiney

Staff Sgt.

Kimberly Moore

Senior Airman

Eric Summers Jr.

Joel Van Nice

YoLanda Wallace

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DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

Who is your
favorite
male vocalist?



"Bobby Valentino."

Senior Airman Mar-
quita Moore, 81st Aerospace
Medicine Squadron



"Jason Aldean."

Petty Officer 2nd Class
Quinn Challinor, Keesler
Center for Naval Aviation
Technical Training Unit



"Brian McKnight."

Staff Sgt. Marcus Jones,
338th Training Squadron

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Smith gives encore performance with 81st TRG

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

Col. Maureen Smith, the new commander of the 81st Training Group, is no stranger to Keesler and its training mission. From August 1995 to June 1998, Smith was an instructor and supervisor for manpower management courses with the 335th Training Squadron.

Smith assumed command of the 81st TRG July 28.

She recently received a master of science degree in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. Her husband is Lt. Col. Nic Bernardi, also a student at ICAF.

For most of the last 10 years, Smith has been stationed in and around Washington D.C. She was at the Pentagon during the attacks of the World Trade Center and Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I was actually at the 'welcome to the Pentagon' briefing that morning," recalled Smith. "At some point during the briefing, they came in and told us that the twin towers in New York had been hit and right after that we felt the impact from the plane hitting the Pentagon. My office was on the side that got hit. It was very surreal."

What are you most excited about with this new position as commander of the 81st TRG?

What excites me the most is the opportunity to have an influence on the future of the Air Force through the development of our Airmen. Probably the most motivating part of my week is going to the new student briefings, listening to the students and what they hope to get out of the Air Force. It's really important that we give them a strong foundation in technical training and military bearing. It



Smith stands at attention during the 9/11 retreat ceremony in front of the 81st Training Wing headquarters, Sept. 9.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

"This really is a one team, one fight base. I'm honored to be a part of it and have a hand in maintaining the enthusiasm Keesler has for its training mission."

— Smith

makes a huge difference in these Airmen's lives.

How have things changed since you were stationed at Keesler in the '90s?

My first observation was all upgrades that have been done to the buildings. They really are world-class learning facilities. The one thing that I'm pleased to see that hasn't changed is the quality of the instruction that we provide our students.

We have a lot of continuity with our civilians, instructors and training managers and they have done just a remarkable job in continuing the tradition of quality instruction

and maintaining our core processes of learning.

What are your goals as the 81st TRG commander?

I want to continue the legacy of excellent training that 81st TRG provides. Given our current budget environment and as we start looking at drawing down resources and personnel, the challenge will be to ensure that we still have that strong training program for the students. We must continue to provide the Air Force with the most capable Airmen that we can when they go to their first duty assignment.

As with any training envi-

ronment, the challenge is to remain relevant and we do that by continuing to review our training material to make sure we have what the Air Force needs in our curriculum. A great example of this would be in the area of cyber security. All our Airmen leave here with cyber security certifications. That's a big benefit to the field. When they get to their duty station, they're ready to go.

How has your previous experience prepared you for this job?

I think I come in with an advantage because I've been an instructor and supervisor

here at Keesler and my husband at the time was a military training leader flight chief. So I understand the different facets of training and the mechanics and processes that go behind teaching on a podium. I understand the pressures that the MTLs have. I don't have to come up to speed on all that. It's more like a refresher course for me.

Also my time as a programmer at the Pentagon has given me an understanding of all the resource and manpower drills and this will be important as we start looking at drawing down our resources.

What do you like most about the Gulf Coast?

The people — they're very friendly. You sometimes forget that when you go away. But when you come back, you realize this is a very friendly community and they really are willing to help you.

What is your impression of the 81st TRG and its staff?

My impression of the 81st TRG as I've gone through the orientations is that it has a phenomenal group of people who are dedicated to producing the best Airmen. I have been so impressed with the faculty, support staff and MTLs. They are top notch.

Another reason why I'm so impressed is that the attitude of the Airmen here is just so positive. Not only is that a result of the quality of recruits we get, but the excellent support and motivation they get from the permanent party we have here. They're excited about the mission.

This really is a one team, one fight base. I'm honored to be a part of it and have a hand in maintaining the enthusiasm Keesler has for its training mission.

81st TRG announces award winners for August

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The 81st Training Group has announced its Airman of the Month, military training flight and military training leader Dragon Award winner for August.

Airman 1st Class Joshua Hergenreder, a yellow rope leader in the 338th Training Squadron, has maintained a 95 percent average in the radio frequency transmission course. Hergenreder, who hails from Stillwater, Okla., graduated Aug. 26 and will be assigned to the 603rd Air Control Squadron, Aviano Air Base, Italy.



Hergenreder

The four squadrons that train nonprior service students select one Airman to compete at a monthly group board.



Hoover

Airmen are graded on personal appearance, communication skills and military bearing. They also respond to

questions about customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, selected entries in the Airman's Manual and current events from that week's issue of the Keesler News.

The MTF of the month is the 336th TRS. The Red Wolves scored the highest overall in marching, physical training, room inspections, open ranks, Airman's Manual, charge of quarters and retreat.

The flight received a roving sign to put in front of its squadron to recognize the monthly recognition.

Tech. Sgt. James Hoover, 335th TRS, is the first Dragon Award winner, a new monthly recognition for mili-

tary training leaders. He's been an MTL at Keesler for more than 3½ years, first in the 332nd TRS and now in the 335th TRS.

For this award, one MTL is nominated from the four squadrons that train nonprior service students. Nominees take a knowledge test of the Air Force Instruction that governs the job and performs control of flight marching and open ranks.

The award was initiated to raise the level of adherence to military training standards and military excellence set for technical training students.

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

Simulation fosters safety, better medical care

81st Medical Group Education and Training Flight

The 81st Medical Group Medical, Touchstone Medical Simulation and Clinical Skills Center provides state-of-the-art education and training, promotes teamwork communication and improved war-time skills through simulation.

Medical simulation coordinator Randy Bernhardt, 81st MDG education and training flight, said, "We promote excellence in clinical care, advanced patient safety initiatives and improved multidisciplinary team performance through the use of high-fidelity human simulation training platforms to improve staff and student communication, clinical skills and critical thinking.

"We recognize that simulation technology is an important tool and believe it is the new standard in medical training," Bernhardt continued. "A competent practitioner requires knowledge, technical and communication skills and the ability to work in an inter-professional environment. To achieve this, we simulate possible critical events in an environment where knowledge growth is the focus."

The Keesler simulation lab consists of two customizable rooms which can emulate medical environments along with a combined skills lab and debriefing room. The rooms contain two-way mirrors so the learners aren't distracted by operators. All simulations can be recorded, allowing for guided reflection. There are five adult, one child and two infant high-fidelity simulators.

"New equipment acquisitions include a cardiac ultrasound simulator with trauma applications; an endoscopic simulation trainer; and a laparoscopic surgical simulator," Bernhardt pointed out. "We've made numerous additions to our static medical trainers that providers can use to gain the skills needed to perform many medical procedures including ultrasound-guided central or peripheral intravenous line placement, chest tube placement or prac-

ting advanced airway management techniques.

The lab is staffed by a coordinator and two full-time operators, along with a multidisciplinary team trained in simulation techniques.

A board-certified internal medicine, general surgery physician or general dentist serves as medical director to oversee their respective area for all training. They guide development of scenarios that best challenge graduate medical education students, staff physicians and nursing personnel.

"We hold 'Code Tuesday/Thursday' training for all medical group staff," Bernhardt said. "It incorporates staff, interns, residents and nursing personnel in the management of cardiac arrest or critical clinical situations. This training lasts approximately an hour and gives each student opportunities to open packages, administer medications and electricity or other interventions to manage their 'patient.' This familiarization has proven valuable in real situations."



Photo by Steve Pivnick

From left, 2nd Lt. Stacy Thomas, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron nurse; Capt. (Dr.) Anthony Cavalli, 81st Medical Operations Squadron; Staff Sgt. Isid Setosta, 81st IPTS aerospace medical journeyman; and Capt. (Dr.) Grant Gallimore participate in a sepsis scenario Aug. 26 at the skills center. Cavalli and Gallimore are first-year internal medicine residents. The sepsis scenario is a simulated situation that frequently presents in the clinical setting and is easily overlooked by providers who are inexperienced in diagnosing sometimes very subtle symptoms. A patient with sepsis, an overwhelming systemic infection, can rapidly deteriorate to coma or death from shock if unrecognized and untreated. The goal is to refamiliarize the students and nursing staff with the signs, symptoms and types of shock and contributing factors.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

General surgery resident Capt. (Dr.) Andrea Blake, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, second from right, demonstrates both on herself and a mannequin where to make an incision to place a breathing tube in a patient's throat during the ATLS course. Students are, from left, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Richard Liotta, a reservist assigned to the 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.; and Capts. (Drs.) Lauren Herrmann and Minh Ho, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

10 physicians complete course for advanced trauma life support

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Ten Keesler Hospital and visiting physicians and physician extenders completed the advanced trauma life support course Sept. 12. The training, which lasted 20 hours over 2½ days, is presented by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma.

According to course coordinator Randy Bernhardt, 81st Medical Group education and training flight, "It is designed to train doctors, and non-physician providers who work in trauma care areas, in the concepts, skills and techniques used in initial patient treatment. Its unique educational and interactive format includes the use of lectures, skills demonstrations, group discussions, practical lifesaving skills, simulated patient scenarios and written and practical skills tests. Interaction between the students and faculty is emphasized. The educational format affords care providers the opportunity to practice lifesaving techniques under simulated conditions."

He added, "The content presented in the course is designed to assist providers in establishing patient management priorities and providing emergency care for trauma patients. A central concept of the course is the 'Golden Hour' which emphasizes the urgency necessary for successful treatment of injured patients and

is the window of opportunity during which doctors can have a positive impact on the mortality associated with injury.

"The course provides essential information and skills for doctors to identify and treat life-threatening injuries under the extreme pressures associated with the care of these patients in the fast-paced environment and anxiety of a trauma room. The ATLS course is applicable to all providers in a variety of clinical situations and is just as relevant to care providers in a large hospital setting in North America as it is in developing nations with rudimentary facilities."

Instructors for the course were course director Maj. (Dr.) Robert Cromer, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron general surgeon; instructors Col. (Dr.) Gerald Schwartz, 81st MDG and an emergency medicine physician; Capts. (Drs.) Andrea Blake, Chad Edwards, Mark Lytle and Theresa Freeman, 81st MSGS general surgery residents; and Majs. (Drs.) Heather Bright and Craig Kolasch, 81st MSGS general surgeons; and Bradley Belford, assistant course coordinator and testing proctor.

The 81st MDG has conducted five courses since July 2010, training 112 physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners in critical battlefield and peacetime skills. Classes normally consist of between 16 and 19 students.

Perfect scores for technical training



Airman 1st Class Erin Carpenter, 335th Training Squadron, and Airman 1st Class David Canterbury, 336th TRS, have graduated from technical training with perfect scores. Carpenter, a reservist, is from Fountain, Colo., and is assigned to the 302nd Force Support Squadron, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. Canterbury continues his training in the Security + course in the 336th TRS before moving to the 608th Air Communication Squadron at Barksdale AFB, La.

TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

Student parade

A student parade is 6 p.m. Sept. 29 on the parade field.

ASE certification

The deadline to register for Automotive Service Excellence certification is Sept. 23.

About 400,000 professionals hold ASE certifications after passing one or more of ASE's 40-plus exams and providing proof of two or more years of relevant, full-time, hands-on work experience.

For more information on test dates and registration, call the education office, 376-8708 or 8475; visit the office in Room 224, Sablich Center or log on to www.dantes.doded.mil.

LEAD briefings

Air Force Academy recruiters visit Keesler for briefings on the Leaders Encouraging Air Development program Wednesday.

Student briefings are 12:30-2 p.m. for T-shift students and 4-5:30 p.m. for S-shift students in Room 152, Levitow Training Support Facility.

The program gives highly-

qualified Airmen an opportunity to attend the academy's preparatory school with the intention of an appointment or direct entry into the academy.

For more information, call DSN 333-8838 or contact HQ USAFA/RRS, 2304 Cadet Dr, Suite 2300, USAF Academy CO 80840.

OTS recruiting boards

Officer Training School recruiting service board dates:

Rated — Dec. 1 application cutoff for Jan. 23; June 21, 2012, cutoff for Aug. 13, 2012.

Non-rated — March 1 cutoff for April 16.

Manager certification

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

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

Keesler is AETC's nominee for John C. Hennessy Award

81st Force Support Squadron

Keesler is this year's Air Education and Training Command nominee for the John L. Hennessy Award as the top food service operation in the Air Force in the multiple facility category.

The Hennessy Award is based on the entire scope of the food service program. Keesler has won the award six times, most recently in 2010.

A four-member evaluation team representing the Air Force Services Agency and the food service industry visits Keesler early next year.

"Feed Them Right...Fit to Fight," focusing on building a mentally and physically strong Air Force through nutrition, is the theme for the evaluation team's site visit.

"The Keesler food service team has always been committed to meet, if not exceed, our customers' expectations in providing the best service possible," said Roy Jackson, 81st Force Support Squadron food service officer.

The dining facilities — Azalea, Live Oak, and Magnolia — serve approximately 2 million meals annually — about 5,500 a day.

The three facilities offer daily snack specials, world cuisine lunches, "grab-and-go" meals, signature sandwiches and vegetarian items.

Azalea opened in 2001 in the Triangle for nonprior students and can feed 1,500 people per meal. The facility houses the flight kitchen which prepares more than 250 meals per month and the central preparation kitchen where over 350,000 pounds of produce and 125,000 servings of various meat items are processed and prepared annually.

Magnolia opened in 1985 and hosts the monthly birthday celebrations for junior enlisted members and serves a midnight



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Rose Thomas grills chicken breasts for dinner at the Azalea Dining Facility in the Triangle.

meal Monday–Friday. This facility can serve 1,500 customers per meal.

Live Oak opened in 1986 and has a rated capacity of 750 customers per meal. It supports permanent party personnel, temporary duty personnel and prior service personnel attending classes on base. The facility also serves personnel of the 403rd Wing and is the training facility for the wing during unit training assembly weekends.

Jackson said that all of Keesler's dining facilities play a vital role within the Keesler community providing outstanding mission support on a daily basis as well as special community events.

In 2010, Keesler was honored to host the Mississippi Special Olympics, serving

more than 1,500 athletes, coaches and volunteers. The food service team provided more than 600 flight and ground support meals in support of the Keesler's Angels Over the Bay Air Show.

Food service has an active recognition program offering monthly dining facility, customer service and employee awards.

Upcoming menus are available on a daily hotline, 377-3463, and can be accessed by logging on to the Services website, www.keeslerservices.us.

Customers can rate the dining facilities by completing comment cards and dropping them in a box at the cashier's station, or by going to www.keeslerservices.us and clicking on the interactive customer evaluation icon, ICE.

IN THE NEWS

CFC update

As of Monday, the 81st Training Wing has pledged \$40,063, or more than 29 percent, toward this year's Combined Federal Campaign goal of \$136,897 as of Monday, according to 2nd Lt. Semira Moore, 81st Comptroller Squadron, CFC installation project officer.

The drive began Sept. 1 and runs through Oct. 14.

Pledges may be made through your unit representative or online at www.southernmcsfc.org.

Permanent party dorm meetings

Permanent party dormitory residents are required to attend one of two meetings with Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Angie Johnson, command chief:

Tuesday — 3 p.m., Roberts Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Facility Auditorium, Building 4221, Hangar Road.

Sept. 29 — 10:30 a.m., Keesler Hospital's Don Wylie Auditorium.

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.

Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for the Oct. 13 issue of the Keesler News is noon Oct. 6 because of the Columbus Day federal holiday, Oct. 10.

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.

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.

Dragons deployed — 283

Selective early retirement board for colonels set

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — As previously announced May 27, the Air Force will convene a selective early retirement board for colonels to further size and balance the force within the congressionally authorized 332,800 end-strength level.

The CY12A Colonel SERB is scheduled to convene Jan. 9, 2012, to consider eligible officers for early retirement. Colonels selected for early retirement by the SERB must retire by June 1, 2012. Deployed colonels selected for early retirement will return to their home stations by Apr. 1, 2012, to allow time to make final arrangements.

The colonel SERB affects active-duty colonels in the line of the Air Force, chaplain corps and medical service corps competitive categories who have at least four years of active-duty service in that grade as of Jan. 9, 2012, and whose names are not on a list of officers recommended for promotion.

Officers meeting the initial criteria who will be excluded from the SERB are officers who are recommended for promotion (on a promotion list); have been approved for voluntary retirement; are not to be involuntarily retired under any provision of law during fiscal 2012 or 2013; or were previously considered in the 2007 or 2010 SERBs.

SERB-eligible colonels may request voluntary retirement through Dec. 16, 2011, with an effective date no later than Sept. 1, 2012. Officers approved for retirement will not meet the SERB. Selective Early Retirement Board-eligible colonels may continue to apply for voluntary retirement after Dec. 16, 2011; however they will still meet the SERB.

Approval of applications that require Active-Duty Service Commitment waivers is not guaranteed. Approval or disapproval determinations will be based on the best interests of the Air Force.

In addition, if a member is allowed to voluntarily retire with a waiver, recoupment of the unearned por-

tions of bonuses, special pays and educational costs may be required. There are also specific requirements for eligibility and reimbursement related to the Montgomery GI Bill, Post-9/11 GI Bill and transfer of benefits.

Since the retirement application and review timeline normally takes four to six weeks, officers requesting voluntary retirement should allow sufficient time.

The Air Force has transition assistance programs available to all Airmen who are separating or retiring. For more information on transition assistance programs, Airmen may contact their Airman and Family Readiness Centers.

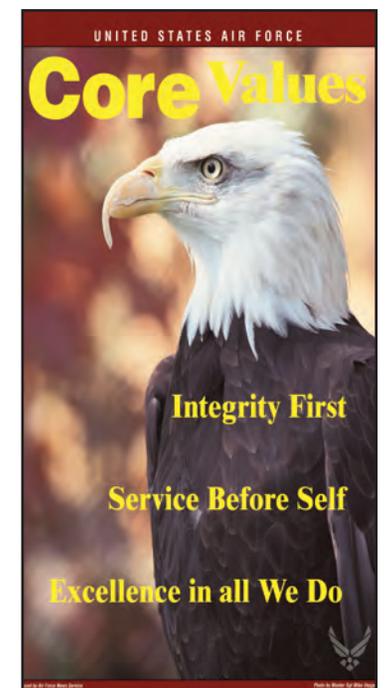
For detailed information on the colonel SERB, go to the Air Force Personnel Services website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil> and do a keyword search for SERB, or go to the FY11/12 Force Management Programs section. First time users will need to create an account with a username and password.

This week's movies at Welch Theater

Friday — 6:30 p.m.,
Final Destination 5 (R).

Saturday — 2 p.m., The
Change-Up; 6:30 p.m., stu-
dio appreciation screening;
rated PG-13. Free tickets
available at exchange food
court. Seating open to non-
ticket holders 30 minutes
prior to showtime.

Sunday — 1 p.m.,
Cowboys and Aliens (PG-
13).



PERSONNEL NOTES

Raise your voice — honor your country.
If you're interested in singing the National Anthem
at base or community ceremonies, call 377-1179.

LEAD briefings

Wednesday, Air Force Academy recruiters give briefings on the Leaders Encouraging Air Development program:

10:30-11:30 a.m. — Keesler Hospital's Wylie Auditorium.

12:30-2 p.m. — Room 152, Levitow Training Support Facility for T-shift students.

2:30-3:30 p.m. — Room 108B, Sablich Center.

4-5:30 p.m. — Room 152, Levitow Training Support Facility for S-shift students.

The program gives highly-qualified Airmen an opportunity to attend the academy's preparatory school with the intention of an appointment or direct entry into the academy.

For more information, call DSN 333-8838 or contact HQ USAFA/RRS, 2304 Cadet Dr, Suite 2300, USAF Academy CO 80840.

Classes for job-hunters

The airman and family readiness center presents two employment workshops next week in Room 108B, Sablich Center.

Tuesday — 2-4 p.m., interview skills. How to market your talents and how to respond to questions about pay are covered.

Wednesday — 9-11 a.m., civilian resume writing. Learn training and education requirements for jobs in the community and how your background can match those needs.

To register, 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, call 376-8728.

Mandatory pre-separation briefings — 1 p.m. Tuesdays for those separating with honorable discharges and 2:30 for retirees, Room 110. Starting Oct. 1, briefings are 9 a.m. Tuesdays for those separating with honorable discharges and 1 p.m. for retirees. 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. 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. Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, Room 108A.

Retirement briefings — 1-3:30 p.m. 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.

Preparing for second career

"Marketing Yourself for a Second Career," a free professional lecture for officers and senior enlisted who plan to leave the service in the next one to five years, is 8:30-11 a.m. Oct. 4 in the Sablich Center auditorium, Room 222. Spouses are invited.

Competition for jobs, employer perceptions about military personnel, job search plans, resumes, cover letters, broadcast letters, networking and penetrating the hidden job market, interview skills, salary negotiations and benefit packages are covered.

For more information, call 376-8506.

Waivers to be an MTL

Effective immediately, time-on-station waivers are available for members to make a permanent change of station move after two years to serve as a military training instructor.

For more information, call DSN 473-1016 or 1018 or send an email to 737trg.mtir@us.af.mil.

Unit citation

The Presidential Unit Citation has been awarded to Joint Task Force Neptune, March 17-May 2.

If you were assigned to Joint Task Force Neptune during this time, call 376-8155 or visit Room 224, Sablich Center, Room 224, to see if you are eligible.

Enlisted promotion test guide

Air Education and Training Command

The Air Force has begun its 42nd year of enlisted promotion test development and production.

Air Force Pamphlet 36-2241, Professional Development Guide is now available online at Air Force e-Publishing, <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil>. Shipment of paper copies is scheduled to begin in late December. Master sergeants testing this December are the first Airmen to use the 2011 PDG to prepare for promotion testing. Senior master sergeants testing this month use the 2009 version.

To assist Airmen with studying for promotion testing, e-Reader files, Mp3 audio file, and interactive exercises for each of the 18 testable PDG chapters are available at www.pdg.af.edu. The e-Reader and Mp3 audio files are available for download for use on personal electronic devices. There are also interactive exercises available for download. New exercises will be posted every month on the Web site to ensure comprehensive coverage of PDG information.

Documents and frequently asked questions can be viewed at: <https://www.omsq.af.mil>.

New leader for 81st AMDS

Lt. Col. William Hurtle, right, new 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander, talks with Staff Sgt. Lakedrian Guy, left, and Airman 1st Class Ashley Figueroa during a recent visit to the squadron's flight medicine flight. The unit's other six flights are bioenvironmental engineering, optometry, public health, audiology, health promotions and trainee health. Hurtle came to Keesler from Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom, where he commanded the 48th AMDS bioenvironmental engineering flight. He assumed command Aug. 30 from Lt. Col. Brian Casleton, who now commands the 455th Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Photo by Steve Pivnick





Photo by Adam Bond

Ophthalmologist Col. (Dr.) Joseph Giovannini, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron commander, performs a PRK procedure on Airman 1st Class Kurstie Shaffer, 81st MSGS, Sept. 7. Ophthalmology technician Jeramy Whatley assists.

Refractive surgery center enables warriors to shed glasses, contacts

81st Medical Group

The Keesler Hospital's warfighter refractive surgery center offers PRK or all-laser LASIK for active-duty military members who want to get out of their glasses or contact lenses.

The Keesler facility is one of the largest refractive surgery centers in the Air Force, performing almost 2,000 procedures last year.

"Our outcomes are incredible," said Capt. (Dr.) Marcus Neuffer, chief of refractive surgery. "Ninety-six percent of our patients achieve vision of 20/20 or better after surgery, and almost 100 percent see well enough to pass a driver's test without glasses."

Maj. (Dr.) Roger Thomas, another of the 81st Surgical Operations Squadron's refractive surgeons, added, "Refractive surgery is one of the benefits the Air Force offers its members. Outside the military, refractive surgery can cost up to \$5,000, but in the military, it's free.

"Mission readiness is the reason for offering such a procedure to military members," he continued. "Anyone who has deployed or participated in field training recognizes how debilitating glasses are in rain, sand, mud, fog and especially when wearing a gas mask. Refractive surgery permits members to be independent of glasses and contact lenses, allowing them to function better in austere environments."

Neuffer said, "A common question we're asked is, 'What's better, LASIK or PRK?' My answer is that it depends on the individual. The visual outcome is the same for both procedures, but recovery time is different.

PRK (photorefractive keratectomy) has a longer recovery time than LASIK (laser-assisted in-situ meratomileusis). However, many patients prefer PRK because they feel it's less invasive. To determine which treatment to use, physicians perform a thorough exam on each patient and afterwards discuss with the patient what procedure would be best for his or her eyes.

Since reopening in 2006, the center has performed close to 6,000 treatments. Staffed with four surgeons, five technicians, an optometrist and two administrative personnel, the center has no waiting list and is able to meet the surgical demands of members stationed locally and throughout the Southeast.

"This is an incredible program for our active duty members," noted clinic manager Desiree Landry. "Not only is it critical for readiness, but it's also such a life-changing event for so many."

More information and forms are available on the Air Force's refractive surgery website, <http://airforcemedicine.afms.mil/USAF-RS>.

For more information, call 376-5735 or 0567.



Right, Murphy Neal Jones, a retired Air Force colonel who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam, was the featured speaker at Saturday's Air Force Ball at the Bay Breeze Event Center. Jones was a pilot who spent more than 6½ years in captivity. The ball, hosted by the Air Force Association, also featured music by the Biloxi High School Jazz Band, cake cutting, dancing and prizes.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Airmen Basic David Polojac, left, and Orion Whitters, 338th Training Squadron students, race through an inflatable obstacle course at Friday's Air Force birthday party on the parade grounds. The event offered live music, food, beverages, games, contests and prizes.



Airman 1st Class Chaz Floyd dances with resident Helen Bieda at the Armed Forces Retirement Home's Air Force birthday party Friday. Floyd is a student in the 366th TRS Detachment 6 at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport. Lt. Col. Jeffrey McLemore, 334th TRS commander, was the guest speaker for the occasion.



Retired Chief Master Sgt. Chris Moore, the oldest guest at the Air Force Ball, passed a slice of cake to the youngest guest, Airman David Lepin, to symbolize the Air Force's enduring heritage. Lepin, 19, is an aerospace medical apprentice student in the 81st Medical Group.



Col. (Dr.) Paul Nelson, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, dances with his 17-year-old daughter, Lacy, at Saturday's Air Force ball. Lacy's mom is Betsy Nelson.



2nd Air Force commander welcomed by civic leaders

Biloxi Mayor A.J. Holloway and Maj. Gen. Len Patrick listen to Stephen Witt, director of the Innovation Center, during the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce "Breakfast with the Mayor" Sept. 14. The event is held at various Biloxi locations and gives the mayor an opportunity to give updates on city issues and projects to community leaders. A special welcome was given to Patrick, who assumed command of 2nd Air Force July 21 and pinned on his new rank Sept. 2.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Waterspouts spring from warm coastal waters



By Roseanne Peterson

CSC emergency management office

Monday, Harrison County issued a warning about a waterspout in the Mississippi Sound just south of Gulfport.

Although Keesler doesn't get warnings for waterspouts often, they can occur here due to warmer water temperatures.

A waterspout is a non-supercell tornado that forms over water. It's usually much weaker than a land tornado. It has an intense columnar vortex which appears as a funnel-shaped cloud. Often the waterspout appears to suck up water, which isn't the case. The funnel is

actually water droplets formed by condensation.

The waterspout that formed near Keesler is called a non-tornadic spout. It formed over the water and wasn't from a land tornado that moved over a water body. They develop rapidly and usually dissipate in less than 20 minutes. These non-tornadic spouts are the most common spouts and are known for forming near coastal areas. The Florida Keys observe more than 400 spouts a year. If the spouts move at all, they're very slow.

Water spouts are a serious marine hazard. They pose dangers to ships, planes, helicopters and swimmers. It's impor-

tant to avoid these phenomena. Stay alert to weather reports and inform family members to stay away from water spouts. If you're in the

water, get out and seek shelter. If you have a cell phone, report the sighting to authorities. Your actions could help others in danger.

Nearly 1/2 of Keesler's refuse diverted from landfills in August

By Rajan Mutialu

Zero Waste Solutions

Zero Waste Solutions and Mark Dunning Industries, an integrated solid waste partnership that manages the base recycling center, successfully diverted 49.7 percent of Keesler's refuse destined for landfills in August.

This means a return of about \$13,000 in recycling proceeds to Keesler, not to mention a savings in landfill disposal fees.

Doug Smith, project manager, has spearheaded the effort to educate the base population through presentations that emphasize the 3Rs — reduce, reuse and recycle.

To divert materials, the partnership has initiated a compost program, donated used furniture to local charities and arranged for the recycling of concrete, electronic devices, printer toner cartridges, cardboard, glass, aluminum, plastic bottles and office and mixed paper.

The goal of the program is to recycle more, bring money back to the Keesler community and help the earth all at the same time.

For more information or to schedule a presentation at any Keesler facility, call 348-6409.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Douglas Houle dumps bags of shredded paper into a baler for packaging at the recycling center.

USAJOBS

Federal employment portal changes set for mid-October

By Debbie Gildea

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Air Force job seekers will notice changes to the USAJOBS website in mid-October, including stronger security procedures, elimination of unnecessary applicant profile questions, and improved search filters, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

The improved federal employment search portal is slated to launch at noon Oct. 12. In order to implement the upgrades, USAJOBS will be off line Oct. 6-12. As a result, all current Air Force announcements will close no later than Oct. 1, with new announcements opening Oct. 12, said Nancy Tackett, AFPC supervisory human resources specialist.

The USAJOBS downtime won't impact the AFPC Secure internal vacancy announcements posted for positions at Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn.; Edwards AFB, Calif.; Eglin AFB, Fla.; Hill AFB, Utah; Hurlburt Field, Fla.; Kirtland AFB, N.M.; Luke AFB, Ariz.; Robins AFB, Ga.; Tinker AFB, Okla.; and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

According to Office of Personnel Management officials, an applicant will not have to create a new USAJOBS account, but will need to

create a new password when logging in after the upgrade. To simplify that process, Tackett advises applicants to log in no later than Oct. 1 to establish three security questions. In addition, anyone who has a USAJOBS account will not need to resubmit their resumes and supporting documents after the transition.

"In addition to stronger security measures, users will find the job search function is more intuitive," said Tackett. "That means that job searches will allow applicants to focus on specific search terms, saving applicants time by quickly targeting relevant job openings."

During the USAJOBS upgrade, Air Force job postings also will not appear on the Air Force Civilian Service site, www.afciviliancareers.com. When new announcements are posted, job seekers will be able to apply using either USAJOBS or the civilian careers site.

For more information about the USAJOBS transition, go to www.USAJobs.gov or www.opm.gov. For more information about Air Force civilian career opportunities, go to www.afciviliancareers.com. For information about other Air Force personnel issues, visit the Air Force Personnel Services website, <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>.

Dining menus get 'refreshing' update; first new selection premieres Sept. 29

By Rebecca Stryker

CSC marketing specialist

Airmen will soon have more variety and availability of nutritious meals thanks to a new initiative to 'refresh' Air Force dining facility menus.

The first new menu item, pork chops with warm pineapple Asian glaze sauce, will be available for lunch at the dining facilities Sept. 29.

Jerry White, Keesler's food services superintendent, is pleased to see such a colorful change to the menu and is looking forward to new flavorful selections.

Air Force Service Agency officials teamed up with industry chefs to implement a new program called Operation Refresh.

The program infuses new contemporary items into dining facility menus on a monthly basis, uses additional fresh ingredients and improves the method of preparation of existing entrees.

According to Kenneth Wilcher, Keesler's food service quality assurance evaluator, Operation Refresh is a good initiative that will challenge Keesler cooks and offer customers a new spin on old menu items.

Airmen at Keesler are exposed to a variety of appealing buffet and restaurant menus when dining off base and expressed a desire to have similar options offered at their dining facilities. After a recent review with a food evaluation

team and previous quality of life surveys, it was determined that the current menus were outdated and needed to be revitalized, said Bill Spencer, Air Force Services Agency appropriated fund food operations branch chief.

Food services officials see Operation Refresh as a step in the right direction to better serve Airmen by adding fresh, healthy and nutritionally balanced menu items that will ensure they're "refueled" and remain "fit to fight."

For more information about Operation Refresh, call 377-DINE. To learn about Air Force food service operations and other quality-of-life programs, visit www.usafservices.com or www.myairforcelife.com.

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

Regular services are 8 p.m. Fridays, Congregation Beth Israel, 12277 Three Rivers Road, Gulfport.

High holidays:

Wednesday — 8 p.m., Erev Rosh Hashanah.

Sept. 29 — 9:30 a.m., first day Rosh Hashanah/Shacharit; 6:30 p.m., Minchah/Ma-ariv.

Sept. 30 — 9:30 a.m., second day Rosh Hashanah; 8 p.m., Shabbat Shuvah/Ma-ariv.

Oct. 1 — 10 a.m., Shabbat Shuvah/Torah study.

Oct. 7 — 6 p.m., Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre.

Oct. 8 — 9:30 a.m., Yom Kippur/Shacharit; 5 p.m., Yom Kippur/Minchah/Ne-ilah.

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

Greek Orthodox

Sunday Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m., 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.

DIVERSITY DAY

From left, Senior Airman Mark Lagman, Airman 1st Class Rocas Randolph, Senior Airman Reney Samson and Staff Sgt. Monik Oubina perform a Filipino dance called tinikling at Diversity Day, Sept. 13 at the Bay Breeze Event Center. The cultural celebration also included music, literature, poetry, face painting, games and food for children and adults. Lagman, Randolph and Samson are from the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron and Oubina is from the 81st Force Support Squadron.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Top, Francis Ward plays "Amazing Grace" on his bagpipes. The 85-year-old retired Sailor lives at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport. He's played the bagpipes for 49 years.



Top, Staff Sgt. Chanda Randall, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, shares Egyptian artifacts with Senior Airman Teresa Adams, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

Right, Peyton Kennedy, 2, wears a green cap to proclaim his heritage in front of the Ireland booth. His parents are Amber and Capt. Stephen Kennedy, 81st MDOS.



Bottom, Alexis Hurtle, 9, learns a traditional dance from Zimbabwe from Beverly Mhlanga of Gulfport, who sings "Tichanoimba Hosannah." Alexis is the daughter of Alisa and Lt. Col. William Hurtle, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

End of the road for 'Heroes Highway'

Senior Master Sgt. Scott Strickland, center, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group first sergeant, participates in the folding of the U.S. flag during a Sept. 1 ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, that retired the canopy and flag that marked "Heroes Highway." The event was another sign the base's mission is coming to an end. Strickland, deployed from the 81st Medical Support Squadron, said, "More than 35,000 wounded warriors have passed under the flag as they were brought to the trauma bays on litters from the 'helos.'" The flag was the last of several that were in place over the years. Each served as a greeting for Wounded Warriors and a reminder that they were in the care of American medics.

Photo by Senior Airman Jeffrey Schultze



Make your CFC pledge today.

Identity theft
is a
personal nightmare
and security risk.

Shred bills,
statements, letters,
old journals, records,
outdated
application forms
and any documents
that contain
your full name,
Social Security number,
duty title and
job information,
credit card,
bank account numbers
and names of
family members.

If you see documents
being removed from
trash cans, call the
81st Security Forces
Squadron
law enforcement desk,
377-3040.

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 — 1-2:30 p.m., Smooth Move; advice on how to make relocation easier for you and your family. Open to anyone with access to Keesler. 3:30-5 p.m., Airmen on the Move; Room 222, Levitow Training Support Facility, advice on legal, finance and transportation management. To register, call 377-0155.

Saturday — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Exceptional Family Member Program and Child Find family fun day at Lynn Meadows Discovery Center. Free event for active duty and retired military families with special needs. Bring a picnic lunch; beverages provided. Preregistration recommended, call 376-8728.

Tuesday — 2-4 p.m., interview skills and salary negotiation.

Wednesday — 9-11 a.m., civilian resume writing. Bring a resume for review.

Arts and crafts center

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

Friday — 6:30-9 p.m., cocktails and canvas. Paint a flower motif on canvas using acrylics. Bring your favorite beverage. \$15 includes materials. Space limited.

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

Editor's note: For more information or reservations, call 377-2334. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

Weekdays — food and drink specials in the collocated lounge. Monday madness with domestic draft specials, taco Tuesdays, wings and things Wednesdays and ladies night on Thursdays before nontraining Fridays.

Saturdays and Sundays — 11 a.m., lounge opens; noon, grill opens. ESPN College Game-Plan Saturdays; NFL Sunday Ticket Sundays.

Bay Breeze Golf Course

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-3832. Federal endorsement of sponsor not intended.

Saturdays — noon to 1:30 p.m., free non-prior service student golf clinic. Space limited.

Wednesdays — 4:30-6 p.m., free beginners' golf clinic. Space limited.

Sept. 30 — 4 p.m., co-ed nine-hole scramble and dinner. Two-person teams. Prices vary. Fee includes greens, cart, food, beverage, prizes and giveaways. Sponsored by Allen Toyota and Forest City.

Family child care

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-3189.

Tuesday-Sept. 15 — 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., new provider orientation at Locker House. Recruiting military spouses on and off base to care for children in their homes. Preregistration required.

Gaudé Lanes

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2817. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

Saturday — 1 p.m., base team championship finals. Top eight teams compete in single elimination for the base championship. Prizes awarded. Sponsored by Budweiser-Responsibility Matters.

Weekdays — 6:30-9 a.m., breakfast served at 11th Frame Café.

McBride Library

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

Tuesdays — 4-5:30 p.m., free resiliency skill building groups, ages 5 and older.

Outdoor recreation

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

Friday — first day of autumn special; 10 percent off all boat rentals.

Saturday — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Cruisin' Keesler at marina park. Free for spectators. \$20 vehicle entry fee; registration closes at noon. Vendors, music, prizes and awards.

Saturday-Sunday — overnight deep sea fishing trip. \$375 per person; includes license and tackle. Bring sleeping bag and beverages. Eight people required. Preregistration and advanced payment required.

Swimming pool

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3948 or 3568. Identification and entry fee required for admission; \$1.50 daily.

Daily except Monday — 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., main base pool. Adult lap swim 11 a.m. to noon. Wednesday, pool closes for the season.

Vandenberg Community Center

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3308 or 5576.

Friday and Saturday — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., late night dances. \$3 admission; nonprior service students only.

Wednesday — 5 p.m., free movie night; popcorn provided. Personal movies must be screened by staff.

Youth center

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

Friday — 6:30-9:30 p.m., Friday night fun, ages 6-12. Games, skating, movies and more. \$10 for first child, \$5 each additional. Air Force Club members get 10 percent off first child's fee.

Saturday — 10 a.m. to noon, World Wide Day of Play, ages 5-18. Free games, contests and challenges.

Dragon Wagon

Friday-Sunday — catch a ride to base "hot spots." Air Force Club members ride free; nominal fee for nonmembers. For route and schedule, visit <http://www.keesler81fss.us>.

New service hours

New customer service hours for the 81st Communications Squadron for routine support and services are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays except Wednesdays, when the hours are 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. to allow time for training.

The information technology asset management shop is also closed all day Tuesdays and Fridays.

Emergency service is still provided at any time when warranted by the mission needs of the customer.

For more information, call 377-2440.

Cancer screenings

Prostate cancer screening — 8-11 a.m. Friday in the urology clinic. Any male eligible for military health care ages 40 and older, may walk in for a quick prostate cancer screening. The process includes a short questionnaire, a blood test at the lab and a digital rectal exam. Patient education materials are also available.

Skin cancer screening — 8-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Wednesday in the dermatology clinic. Patients need a referral and no other dermatology issues will be addressed.

For more information, call 376-3501.

Supply classes

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

Block I supply indoctrination class is 9-10 a.m. today and Dec. 15. All newly-assigned supply custodians and resource managers are required to attend. For more information or to sign up, call 377-5998.

Block II A bench stock training is 9-10 a.m. Tuesday and Dec. 20. For more information or to sign up, call 377-4180.

Block II B repair cycle training is held 10-11 a.m. Tuesday and Dec. 20. For more information or to sign up, call 377-4192.

Block III equipment custodian refresher training is 1-2 p.m. today and Dec. 15.

All newly-assigned supply equipment custodians are required to attend, as well as all other custodians annually. For more information or to sign up, call 377-2270.

For information on all supply classes, call 377-4480.

Operation Hero

Operation Hero, a program to help children ages 5 and older understand deployment operations, is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 15.

To participate or apply, call 376-8501.

Periodontal patients

The 81st Dental Squadron periodontics department is seeking people with gum problems for the general dental residency teaching program.

Limited numbers of patients, including retirees and eligible military dependents, accepted as teaching cases receive free periodontal care at Keesler.

Patients will be treated by Air Force general dentistry residents under specialty supervision. Patients must be readily available for lengthy recurring appointments, generally Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings.

For more information, call 376-5225.

Keesler Thrift Shop

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

Profits benefit base and area charities and provide scholarships.

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

Log on to www.keesler spousesclub.com for a list of preferred donations. Pickup is available for bulk donations.

For more information, call 377-3217 or log on to www.keesler.af.mil.

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.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and non-training Fridays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the last Saturday of the month.

For more information, call 209-1390 or 377-3814.

Air Force Aid

Air Force active duty members and spouses, retirees and surviving spouses of deceased active duty members can apply for Air Force Aid Society assistance online.

Log on to <https://my.afas.org/memberportal/Login/Login.aspx>. The client completes and submits the application to the airman and family readiness center at the selected base. The applicant receives an e-mail and is instructed to call the center, 376-8728, to schedule an appointment.

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 376-5537.

Air Force Aid assistance

Air Force Aid Society assistance, including Falcon Loans, is provided by appointment only. Emergency travel aid are still provided on a walk-in basis.

For an appointment, call 376-8728.

Speakers bureau

The public affairs office is looking for people who enjoy public speaking to tell the Air Force story.

The Keesler Speakers Bureau is a community relations program developed as a public service and information vehicle. It's comprised of military and civilian Air Force employees who volunteer their time and

information to speak to community groups.

Speakers come from a variety of experiences and backgrounds. Topics include aircraft maintenance, computer operations, communication skills, health, military life, military law, combat experience, financial management, Air Force history, aviation and more.

For more information, call 377-1179.

Visitor center hours

The Keesler Visitor Center is open 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and is closed on weekends.

Be Well class

The health and wellness center offers a "Be Well Class," 8-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, for Keesler military, retired, their families and civilian employees.

The three-part class focuses on exercise, nutrition and behavior modifications. It's recommended for people who aren't sure how to start an exercise program or make improvements in overall health, fitness and diet. It's taught by an exercise physiologist, the HAWC dietician and a mental health technician.

Specific modules are offered each month that members can attend, such as running, strength training and healthy weight.

For more information, call the HAWC, 376-3170.

Repair parts

For maintenance activities wanting to order bit/piece repair parts, call the wing awaiting parts monitors, 377-4180 or 5590.

Healthy living classes

The mental health flight offers a series of classes encompassing healthy living from a therapeutic point of view.

Classes are 3 p.m. Wednesdays in the Arnold Medical Annex conference room.

They last 60-90 minutes and are open to military members and retirees, along with their family members, as well as federal civilian employees.

For more information on topics, call 376-0385.

SPORTS AND RECREATION



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Elliott Battle, left, 333rd TRS, snags the flag of Robert Yaus, 85th EIS, during an American Conference game Monday. The 85th EIS won its first game of the season, 19-13. Tuesday's games were canceled because of wet fields.

8 flag football teams remain undefeated as season's third week starts

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The third week of the intramural flag football season began Monday.

At the close of last week, there were five undefeated teams in the American Conference. The 81st Medical Group, the 338th Training Squadron's A team, the 81st Medical Support Squadron's A team each had two wins. The 334th TRS and the Marine Corps Detachment weather squadron both had single victories to their credit. Other conference teams are the 81st Security Forces (1-2), 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron (0-1) and the 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, 333rd TRS-A and the combined team from the 345th Airlift Squadron and 81st Dental Squadron (0-2).

As of Friday, the 336th TRS leads the National Conference at 3-0, followed by the 338th TRS-B (2-0) and the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron (1-0). The other seven teams in the conference are the 403rd Wing (2-1); MARDET and the 81st TRSS/81st Communications Squadron (1-1); 335th TRS (1-2); 333rd TRS-B (1-3); 81st MDSS-B (0-1) and 338th TRS-C (0-3). The American Conference plays at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. National Conference games are 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For schedules and more information, call 377-2444.

Bowling

Thursday Intramural

Week 2 of 34

Team	Won	Lost
81st FSS	12.0	4.0
335th TRS-B	12.0	4.0
336th TRS	12.0	4.0
Seabees	12.0	4.0
334th TRS	10.0	6.0
2nd Air Force	10.0	6.0
81st WSA	8.0	8.0
ECS Strikers	8.0	8.0
81st TRSS-PMEL	8.0	8.0
81st LRS-B	8.0	8.0
335th TRS-A	6.0	10.0
81st CS	6.0	10.0
81st LRS-A	6.0	10.0
403rd AMXS	4.0	12.0
81st TRSS-A	4.0	12.0
338th TRS	2.0	14.0

Season high scores

Team game — 338th TRS, 953.

Team series — 81st FSS, 2,623.

Game/men — Garo Watson, 267.

Series/men — Garo Watson, 692.

Game/women — Lynetta Jackson, 191.

Series/women — Sabra Miracle, 529.

Average/men — Garo Watson, 208.50.

Average/women — Sabra Miracle, 164.33.

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and drive.**

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