



Time capsule marks Keesler's 70th year

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Housing agreement finalized

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World War II vet bowls in 3 leagues

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Mullen bids farewell to armed forces

By Adm. Mike Mullen

Editor's note: Mullen relinquished his duties as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to Army Gen. Martin Dempsey Friday and retired from military service Saturday.

To the men, women and families of the armed forces of the United States,

It has been the greatest privilege of my life to serve as your Chairman for the last four years. Everywhere Deborah and I went to see you and your families we walked away humbled by the magnitude of the responsibility you have volunteered to carry and strengthened by the willingness and dignity with which you carry it.

From my first day on the job, I pledged to ensure you had the right strategy, leadership and resources to accomplish your missions. I believe we worked hard to

get that right. But you are the ones who turned back the tide of violence in Iraq, made huge strides towards a more secure Afghanistan and defended our Nation's interests around the globe. Even with all the demands we've placed on you, you still look for ways to do even more to help those in need.

Not a day goes by that I don't think about the burdens placed on you and your families. Your sacrifices will be forever fixed in my heart, and I am eternally grateful for your service.

Following the Battle of Britain, Winston Churchill said, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." Today, I could use those very words to describe our thoughts of you. We are deeply honored to have served for and with you. May God bless you and your families always.

There's help to exercise your right to vote

By Lt. Col. Karen Castillo

81st Training Wing voting advocacy director

Keesler's installation voter assistance office is here to help you exercise the very right you protect — your right to vote! We can help you register to vote, request an absentee ballot and notify your local election officials back home of a change of address. These services can be very helpful, especially if you're making a permanent change of station, deploying, separating or retiring.

Federal post card application — The FPCA can be used to register to vote while simultaneously requesting an absentee ballot. It can also be used to submit a change of address to your local election officials. You can now go online to

<https://www.fvap.gov/r3/fpca/home> and use the FPCA Wizard that will help you register, request your absentee ballot and/or change your address while providing you with all state-specific information and requirements to vote.

Federal write-in absentee ballot

— The FWAB can be used as a backup in case you have already registered to vote or sent in an FPCA to both register and request your absentee ballot, but you haven't received your absentee ballot from your state yet. Like the FPCA, you can go online to fill in the FWAB at <https://www.fvap.gov/r3/fwab/home> and use the FWAB Wizard that will help you to vote in federal elections, even filling in



your candidate choices based on your state of residence.

Both the FPCA and FWAB Wizards will provide you with a filled-in form. All you have to do is print, sign and date it and return it to your election official via the directions provided. Some states allow you to fax, and/or e-mail your signed form if you make a PDF and scan it to your computer.

National mail voter registration form — If you're separating or retiring, you'll need to advise your local election official that you'll no longer be considered a military voter. The NVRF can then be used to notify your local election officer of your address change.

For more information or assistance, visit the base vote assistance office, Room 113D, Sablich Center; email 81trss.tsq2@us.af.mil; call 376-5836 or log on to www.keesler.af.mil/VotingInformation.

Group representatives are also available to assist you:

81st Training Wing Staff Agencies — 376-8129.

81st Medical Group — 228-365-4965.

81st Mission Support Group — 376-6370.

81st TRW and 81st Training Group — 377-3774.

There are also unit voting assistance officers in your squadron ready to help.

ACTION LINE 377-4357

By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

You're encouraged to work concerns through your chain of command or contact an appropriate helping agent. For unresolved issues, call the commander's action line for assistance.

Suggestions to help make this a more valuable and useful tool are welcome. Call the commander's action line at 377-4357, write to Commander's Action Line, 81st TRW/PA, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2603, email 81st TRW Commander's Action Line (on-base) or commanders.line@us.af.mil (off-base). For personal responses, include your name, address and phone number.

COMMENT — I'm an emergency medicine doctor at Ocean Springs Hospital, and I'm writing to bring attention to Lt. Col. (Dr.) Joseph Pocreva's recent heroic actions.

I treated a pedestrian who was a victim of a hit-and-run collision who never would have made it to the emergency room if Dr. Pocreva hadn't been involved. Dr. Pocreva reportedly stopped to help the wounded pedestrian before the ambulance even arrived. The victim was bleeding to death from a severed leg and Dr. Pocreva applied a tourniquet to stop the bleeding.

I later discovered that the military medicine of tourniquet application has advanced much faster than our civilian practices. To my surprise, there are no protocols for local emergency medical services teams to follow for applying tourniquets, something we're now working to correct.

Incidentally, the victim in this accident was a World War II veteran who had survived Iwo Jima, and I found it very poetic that a fellow service member helped save his life so many years later. I thank Dr. Pocreva for his service to both our country and our community.

RESPONSE — Thank you for your note about Dr. Joe Pocreva, an awesome physician who leads Keesler Hospital's emergency department. He's had a stellar career and learned from combat experiences about how to help save lives. The use of tourniquets is something the military has proven to save lives. I hope we can get that knowledge into the national EMS literature and practices.



ON THE COVER

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, shows Biloxi Mayor A.J. Holloway some of the items to be included in a time capsule that was buried after the 81st Training Group student parade, Sept. 29. Holloway represented other honorary commanders in reviewing the parade with Mueller. The time capsule, in commemoration of Keesler's 70th birthday earlier this year, was buried exactly 70 years after Keesler's airplane and engine mechanics school began operations. More photos, Page 7.

Photo by Adam Bond



DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

What's your favorite thing about fall?



"Football."
Staff Sgt. Vincent Brasher, 81st Security Forces Squadron



"The smell of the fireplace burning for the first time."
Brynn Santalla, spouse of Petty Officer 3rd Class Adam Santalla, Coast Guard Station, Gulfport



"Ankle boots and jackets."
Staff Sgt. Monique Guerín, 338th Training Squadron

81st Training Wing commander
Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller
Public affairs director
Jerry Taranto
Deputy director
1st Lt. Victoria Porto
Editor
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Senior Airman Eric Summers Jr.
Joel Van Nice
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Use your smart phone QR code application to view this issue and the online Keesler News archives.

Unique path brings Patrick to 2nd Air Force

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Thirty years ago when Maj. Gen. Len Patrick graduated from the Air Force Academy, it would have been hard for him to imagine the twists and turns his career path would take before he arrived at Keesler in July as 2nd Air Force commander.

Patrick is the first civil engineer to lead a numbered Air Force. He assumed his new command July 21 and pinned on his second star Sept. 2.

"I never expected my career to take this direction," the southern California native said. "I was a stovepipe civil engineer for the first 20 years. But I've had some great experiences along the way that have prepared me well for this assignment. I'm not new to the command, I'm not new to the process, but this is an exciting new opportunity to do something at a level that few CE officers have the chance to do."

Patrick has commanded two wings and held director positions at both Air Education and Training Command and Air Mobility Command.

Now he's responsible for the development, oversight and direction of all operational aspects of basic military training, initial skills training and advanced technical training for the Air Force's enlisted force and support officers. This encompasses more than 320 Air Force specialties covered by 2,700 courses.

About 192,000 Airmen, Soldiers, Marines and international students are trained annually in diverse areas including aircraft maintenance, civil engineer, medical specialties, cyber, avionics, security forces, space and missile operations and main-

tenance and multiple intelligence disciplines.

The command includes training wings at Keesler; Sheppard, Lackland and Goodfellow Air Force Bases, Texas; a training group at Vandenberg AFB, California; an expeditionary training group at Keesler; and 92 field training units around the world.

As AETC's deputy director of technical training operations and later as the commander of the 37th Training Wing at Lackland, Patrick gained great respect for 2nd Air Force.

"I've always held the folks who worked at the numbered Air Force in the highest regard, and now I get to walk among them, see the way they operate and the care they take in carrying out the mission," he observed. "They're solid professionals who do a fantastic job. I want the men and women of 2nd Air Force to be excited about coming to work every day and to know how valued they are in making us the best and most powerful Air Force in the world."

Patrick has challenged the 2nd Air Force team to "understand what our role is and what our niche is. We want to be a 'value added' in whatever training environment we're in. We have to be relevant in what we do and make a difference. We must continually ask ourselves why we're here. If we're not relevant, they don't need us."

The general noted that 2nd Air Force's area of operations is in the current year of execution, receiving guidance from Air Staff on the types and numbers of Airmen that need to be trained in particular career fields and what the outcome is as far as production.

"If you think of it from a strategic, operational and tacti-



Patrick

cal perspective, the wings are at the tactical level — instructors working with students," Patrick explained. "The major commands and Air Staff give us the long-range plans and then we work the current year of execution."

"Then our professionals put together the schedules and seat assignments, manage young people that have gotten into trouble academically by washing them back and giving them a chance to graduate and overseeing the discharge process," he continued. "We work heavily on curriculum and scheduling, ensuring that our instructors are trained to the level they need to be trained so they can be effective in the classroom."

The general's diverse assignments have given him valuable insights as 2nd Air Force's leader.

"Having been a wing commander twice and director at two different MAJCOMs, I've seen policies instituted, priorities determined and advocated for resources," he pointed out. "At the same time, I've done the 'people things,' whether it's recognizing top performers that are ready for the next level by promoting them, or correcting

behavior through nonjudicial punishment or court martial, so I've had experience along the whole gamut."

When Patrick was the 37th Training Wing commander at Lackland, he was responsible for four training groups, along with installation support duties. He functioned more as a regional base support commander for 211 mission partners during his last assignment as the 502d Air Base Wing at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

"Coming to 2nd Air Force is completely different, and I'm learning something new every day," he remarked. "I'm responsible for four major wings, two groups and countless detachments, but it's all from an operational perspective of training."

The general said, "I've learned that command by influence is just as effective as command by presence. I've asked my wing commanders to use me strategically with my presence when they need me. The wing commanders run their installations, but I'm here to help, support, provide resources and advocate, but also to standardize how we do things throughout the command."

Patrick said 2nd Air Force's mission is to create "mission-ready Airmen," but he uses that term to encompass a broad team that also includes sister services, officers, enlisted and civilian members.

"And we're doing this amid challenging financial circumstances," he stressed. "We're in multiple wars and we're trying to determine what our role is as a world leader to rebuild nations. We're looking at weapon systems that may be too costly, so we're starting to squeeze the purchases down a bit."

The nation's economic

challenges are mandating significant changes across the Air Force and Department of Defense, according to Patrick.

"We're trying to figure out what the right force size is," he stated. "We're looking at our civilian end strength and how many people we need. In the next month or so, we can expect an announcement about how the wings, the MAJCOMs and the Air Staff are going to be reorganized."

"We can't lose sight of the fact that our role is to make sure our folks are ready to do their jobs," Patrick emphasized. "Our biggest challenge is to communicate to the work force what we know and tell them what to expect, and at the same time we're not going to have all the information — it's still unfolding."

Second Air Force also oversees all Airmen throughout the joint expeditionary tasking/individual augmentee training pipeline at several Army training sites across the country. The general expects this responsibility to continue for the foreseeable future.

"Combat operations are winding down, but we still have Airmen going to Iraq to help assist the nation in building itself back," he said. "I see the same thing happening in Afghanistan."

Now that he's living at Keesler, the general is quick to point out the progress he's seen on the base since Hurricane Katrina struck the area six years ago. He was AETC's civil engineer at the time and arrived shortly after the storm to survey the destruction firsthand.

"Before Katrina hit, Air Force leaders put a team on standby ready to move in after the storm passed," he recalled. "Our RED HORSE

Patrick,

from Page 4

teams had to chop their way through trees on I-10 to get through with generators and fuel. We received many

offers for help, but billeting and food were a challenge.”

“Senior leaders were concerned that there might be an extended training disruption, but Keesler was up and running very quickly,” the general said. “I came the follow-

ing spring to review the rebuilding effort and look at the new housing layout. The contract was awarded just before I left AETC. The homes are beautiful and now I get to live in one of them.”

An avid runner, Patrick missed his 30-year-reunion at the Air Force Academy to run in the Air Force Marathon’s half marathon race Sept. 17 at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. He ran four half marathons and a 10-mile race last year, but had to cut back on training for several months to allow a hamstring injury to heal. He finished the half marathon in 2:04, placing him in the top 30 percent of the 4,668 runners that completed the race.

“Training has been harder here in Mississippi — the humidity is intense!” he admitted. “Five or six miles and I’m done.”

The general’s trip to Ohio was followed by a visit to Washington, D.C., where he met with Air Force and congressional leaders.

Combat controller receives Air Force Cross

By Capt. Kristen Duncan

Air Force Special Operations
Command and Public Affairs

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — As the only qualified joint terminal attack controller in an operation Oct. 5, 2009, an Air Force Special Operations Command combat controller knew the ground situation would be dire if he died. As an armor-piercing round entered his left shoulder and wreaked havoc throughout his chest, he said his focus wasn't on his young family in North Carolina. It was on his team.

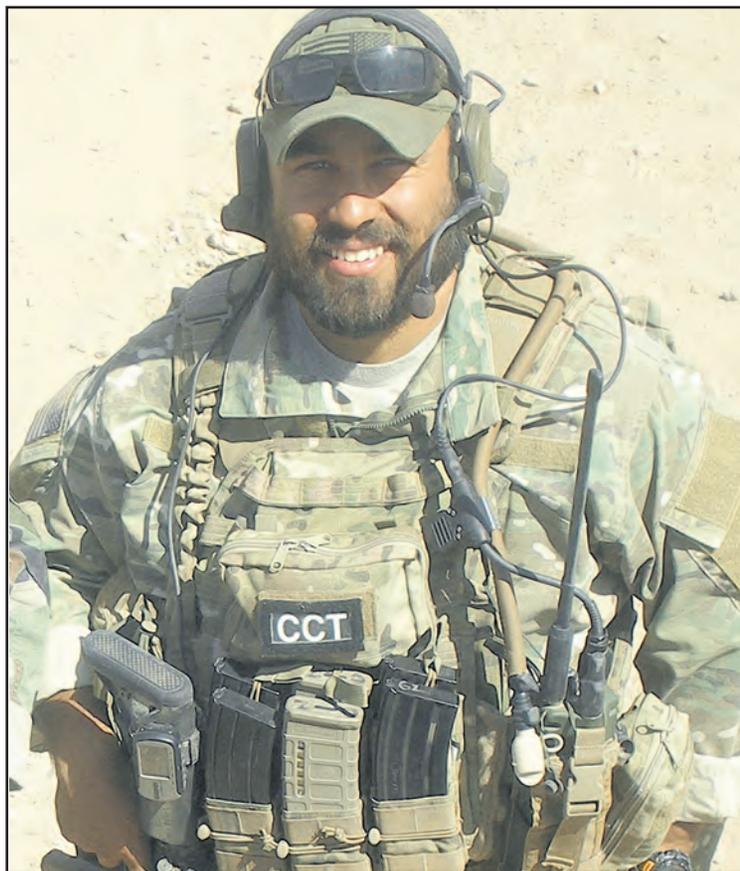
"I've seen those types of injuries before and time isn't your friend," said the Air Force Cross recipient Staff Sgt. Robert Gutierrez Jr. "I thought — I have three minutes before I'm going to die. I've got to do something big. Based on that time frame, I'm going to change the world in three minutes."

The team of 30 U.S. Army Special Forces and Afghan National Army commandos was surrounded in a "Taliban-sympathetic village" in the Herat province of Afghanistan. According to officials' reports, enemy fighters were positioned on rooftops just 10-feet from the team's position inside a neighboring building. Gutierrez was shot during the 4-hour firefight that included sniper and small-arms fire as well as rocket propelled grenades.

As the combat controller, Gutierrez was the only qualified radio operator communicating with Airmen overhead to provide close-air support and real-time battlefield surveillance that was critical for the team mission and to be able to evacuate their wounded.

"Combat controllers are the air-to-ground interface, bringing the firepower and communications links to the ground force commander," Gutierrez said. "We bring an extraordinary amount of firepower in a small package (that is) able to shoot, move and communicate at the same time."

Believing he was about to



Courtesy photo

In 2003, Gutierrez trained for 12 weeks in the combat control operator course in the 334th Training Squadron

die, the San Diego native refused to remove his body armor, which held his radio, despite two medics repeatedly ordering him to take it off so his wounds could be treated. Gutierrez only relented momentarily, allowing the medic to insert a needle decompression tube just below his collar bone.

A sucking chest wound, which is common in gunshot victims, fills the chest cavity with blood, collapsing the lungs. The medic's procedure released the growing pressure on his collapsed lung, allowing Gutierrez to breathe and speak — so he got back on the radio. He continued to advise the ground force commander and request close air support of F-16 Fight Falcons and A-10 Thunderbolt IIs overhead.

The A-10 pilot said Gutierrez's voice was calm the entire time, and he only knew of his injuries when the team was moving to the medical evacuation landing zone.

"I realized he was shot after

the third (and final) strafe pass," said Capt. Ethan Sabin, then assigned to the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron. "He said he would be off of the 'mic' for a few to handle his gunshot wounds. Until that point he was calm, cool and collected."

Gutierrez was awarded the Air Force Cross for extraordinary heroism, superb Airmanship and aggressiveness in the face of the enemy, according to the medal citation. Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Norton Schwartz announced the award Sept. 20 during the Air Force Association convention in National Harbor, Md.

"There is no doubt his heroic action under extremely dangerous circumstances and despite being wounded, saved the lives of his teammates," said Lt. Gen. Eric Fiel, the AFSOC commander. "His courage and character is unsurpassed. While I know he is a humble person that does not seek the spotlight, he is so deserving of the Air Force Cross. His actions are just a

Combat controller path goes through Keesler

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Back in 2003, Staff Sgt. Robert Gutierrez was a student in the combat control operator course in the 334th Training Squadron.

Master Sgt. Jacob Chandler, instructor supervisor for the course, provided a quick overview of the training path for combat controllers.

"All combat controllers start the pipeline at the two-week combat control selection course at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas," Chandler explained. "Next, in no specific order, they complete three weeks in the basic airborne parachutist training at Ft. Benning, Ga., two weeks of survival and evasion training at Fairchild AFB, Wash., and 12 weeks in our course here at Keesler.

"The final stop is the 12-week combat control course at Pope AFB, N.C., where they are awarded their berets and 3-level," he said.

Following the 18-month 3-level pipeline, combat controllers receive an additional 18 months of upgraded training at the Special Tactics Training Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

"During this period, 3-levels attend advanced infiltration school, combat diver qualification and military free fall," Chandler stated. "These newly learned skills are tied together with advanced tactics to produce a combat ready 5-level for the operational units."

snapshot of what AFSOC Airmen are doing everyday in our current theater of operations."

In all, Gutierrez incurred a gunshot wound to the upper shoulder and triceps muscle, left chest and lateral muscle that resulted in two broken ribs, a broken scapula, softball-sized hole in his back, collapsed lung and multiple blood infections, which required three chest tubes, three blood transfusions and seven surgeries. To top it off, the "danger-close" 30 mm strafing runs ruptured both of his ear drums.

Despite losing five pints of blood and walking 1.5 kilometers, Gutierrez stayed on the radio calling for his own medical evacuation and ensuring surveillance coverage for the safe return of the ground force team.

Gutierrez credits the U.S. Army Special Forces medic and Air Force A-10 pilot with saving their lives. During an interview in early 2010, Gutierrez said, "I don't care if I get an

award or not. The team was outstanding. I'm just a product of what I've been taught and a product of AFSOC."

Since Sept. 11, there have been four Air Force Cross medals awarded, all to AFSOC Airmen. Gutierrez is the second living-recipient to receive the medal. Staff Sgt. Zachary Rhyner was awarded the Air Force Cross while assigned to the 21st Special Tactics Squadron, Pope Field, N.C., as a combat controller for combat operations April 6, 2008, in Nuristan province of Afghanistan. Gutierrez was also a teammate during that operation and received the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart.

Gutierrez was assigned to the 21st STS during the 2009 operation and is currently assigned to the Air Force Special Operations Training Center at Hurlburt Field, Fla., instructing future special tactics Airmen so that they may be "First There...That Others May Live."

Time marches on



Photos by Adam Bond
Biloxi Mayor A.J. Holloway, left, and Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, are the reviewing officials for the student parade, Sept. 29. Mueller salutes as the 50 state flags pass in review.



Mueller, left, and Chief Master Sgt. Angelica Johnson, 81st TRW command chief, shovel dirt over the time capsule buried on the parade field to commemorate Keesler's 70th birthday earlier this year.

Local educator wins AFA award

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Dr. Anja Comerford from Magnolia Park Elementary School in Ocean Springs is the Teacher of the Year for Air Force Association John C. Stennis Chapter 132.

"The award recognizes classroom teachers for accomplishments in involving students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and preparing to use and contributed to future technologies," said Lt. Col. Scott Solomon, AFA president and deputy commander of the 81st Training Group.

Comerford, an educator for 15 years, has been a teacher for intellectually gifted second, third and fourth graders at Magnolia Park for four years. She chairs the school's annual science fair and last year



Comerford

nearly half of the school's first through third graders competing at the regional science fair received awards.

To increase emphasis on math, Comerford secured funding to start an after-school Math Olympiads program for fourth graders and

top-performing third graders.

She obtained multiple grants to start a robotics program and a free summer robotics camp. She implemented and trained a competitive quiz bowl team and hosts an annual quiz bowl tournament at the school.

"Her compassion and high expectations combine to have a positive impact on the academic growth of the students she works with," said Jeanne Lewis, Magnolia Park principal. "Her creative approach to her subject matter helps to build an atmosphere in which all of her students can feel success."

Comerford was Magnolia Park's teacher of the year for 2010-11 and is a past winner of the Alan R. Barton Award for excellence in education and the Leo W. Seal award for innovation in education.

TRAINING, EDUCATION NOTES

CCAF graduation

The Community College of the Air Force fall commencement ceremony is 3:30 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

A reception follows the ceremony.

For more information, call 376-8708 or 8710.

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.

CALT program

The Civilian Acculturation and Leadership Program is a two-week in-residence course patterned after the Officer Training School curriculum.

CALT is open to Air Force civilians in permanent General Service 7-13 with a bachelor's degree and two to five years experience.

Applications are open on a continuing basis.

Nominees can apply by completing the Air Force Civilian Competitive Development Nomination Form.

Seven classes are offered between October and September 2012. Classes are open until all seats are filled.

For more information, call 376-8161 or log on to Air Force Personnel Services.

Forest City, Air Force ink agreement for Keesler housing privatization

Forest City Military Communities and Keesler News staff

Forest City Military Communities and the Air Force, through the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment, signed the housing privatization agreement for Keesler and three other bases Sunday.

FCCM Southern Group, LLC, was formed as a housing privatization venture for the development and management of family housing at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., and Arnold AFB, Tenn.

The agreement and its related financial closing provides for a specified initial development period for the construction of new family housing and community amenities as well as a 50-year property management responsibility. In total, the Southern Group project involves an end state of 2,185 Air Force family homes.

"This is a great day for Keesler's military community," said Brett Long, 81st Infrastructure Division housing flight chief. "The benefits and amenities our partner, Forest City, can provide outweigh what traditional government housing could provide. One immediate benefit Forest City provides will be lawn care for the residents.

"While it's hard to let go of something I have watched develop over the last few years, I know our residents are in good hands," Long added. "We are very fortunate to have a terrific partner like Forest City."

"Forest City is very excited and proud to take the leadership role in the new construction and management of the Southern Group communities," said Thomas Henneberry, FCCM president. "We firmly believe the high quality, redeveloped neighborhoods that have been specifically designed for this project will significantly enhance the daily quality of life for the families of the Southern Group bases for many, many years to come."

A wholly-owned subsidiary of Forest City Enterprises, Inc., FCCM is now responsible for the development and management of more than

14,100 military family homes in eight states.

FCCM has developed and manages similar military family housing projects at the Air Force Academy, Colo., as well as at several regional naval installations in Hawaii, the Puget Sound region of Washington, Illinois, Indiana and Tennessee.

Development plans for Keesler include several amenities enhancements including a new, well-equipped maintenance facility and clubhouse for residents. Construction of the facility is scheduled to begin next month and be completed in August.

Because of the relatively recent construction of new family housing at Keesler, the Southern Group's family housing project doesn't include any demolition or new construction of homes as it does at the other three Southern Group bases.

Hensel Phelps Construction Co. serves as the general contractor at all four of the Southern Group housing projects involved in the FCCM agreement. The company has extensive experience in building military family homes across the country. Many local and regional subcontractors will also participate in the Southern Group projects.

Forest City Residential Management has assumed all day-to-day property management duties by establishing an on-site management team including a highly qualified corps of service and maintenance technicians. The Forest City management team is also responsible for community-building resident activities and programs.

Forest City Enterprises, Inc. is listed on the New York Stock Exchange as a national real estate company with \$10.7 billion in total assets. The company is principally engaged in the ownership, development, management and acquisition of commercial and residential real estate and land throughout the U.S.

For more information, call 374-5336 or visit www.forestcity.net.

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' changes announced

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department issued guidance saying decisions for use of DOD property should be made on a "sexual-orientation neutral" basis, and that military chaplains don't have to officiate at ceremonies that go against their religious tenets.

The memos — signed by Jeh Johnson, general counsel, and Clifford Stanley, defense under-

secretary for personnel and readiness — are part of the revamp of policies, regulations and guidance after repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy Sept. 20.

The Johnson memo says "determinations regarding the use of DOD real property and facilities for private functions, including religious and other ceremonies, should be made on a sexual-orientation neutral

basis, provided such use is not prohibited by applicable state and local laws."

The Stanley memo says chaplains may participate in or officiate any private ceremony, on or off a military installation, provided the ceremony is not prohibited by applicable state and local law. Chaplains aren't required to officiate at ceremonies that are in variance with the tenets of their beliefs.

IN THE NEWS

Gate closures next week

81st Security Forces Squadron

Monday and Tuesday, the inbound lanes at the Pass Road Gate are closed 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Inbound and outbound traffic is limited to one lane on the north side of the gate shack.

Wednesday and Oct. 13, the inbound lanes at the White Avenue Gate are closed 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Inbound and outbound traffic are limited on the west side of the gate shack.

CFC update

As of Tuesday, the 81st Training Wing has pledged \$136,897, or 79 percent, toward this year's Combined Federal Campaign goal of \$136,897, 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.southernmscfc.org.



Salute to the Military Oct. 25

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce 33rd annual Salute to the Military is 6 p.m. Oct. 25 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum Convention Center in Biloxi.

The guest speaker is Adm. Jonathan Greenert, chief of naval operations.

For ticket information, call public affairs, 377-1179; or the chamber, 604-0014; or log on to <http://www.mscoastchamber.com/documents/SalutetotheMilitary2011.pdf>

Clinics close for warrior training

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The 81st Medical Group conducts warrior training, 1-5 p.m. today.

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

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

Early Keesler News deadline

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

Dragons deployed — 288

PERSONNEL NOTES

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 — 9 a.m. Tuesdays for those separating with honorable discharges and 1 p.m. for retirees, Room 110.. Bring one copy of separation or retirement orders. This appointment is required by law, and must be accomplished 90 calendar days before the separation or retirement date. For short-notice separations or retirements, the briefing should be done as soon as possible. Medical separation must receive a one-on-one briefing.

Transition assistance program workshops — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 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.

Military personnel contacts

Military personnel section phone numbers:

Customer support — 376-8738.

Career development — 376-8739.

Force management — 376-8368.

Student personnel center — 377-4332.

Testing — 376-4111.

Online job fairs

Airman and family readiness center

Veterans and military spouses looking for work can participate in online job fairs if they have an Internet connection.

The free service has more than 15,000 jobs available from more than 80 industry leading employers. Quarterly large events and regional fairs. Veterans can register and visit the environment at any time day or night, regardless of location..

For more information, log on to www.veteranscareerfair.com or call 202-558-2899, extension 101.

TRICARE Prime new enrollees pay adjusted annual fees

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — Military retirees enrolling in the TRICARE Prime health plan after Oct. 1 will pay slightly higher annual fees.

The fee change for fiscal 2012 means the plan will cost \$260 per year for members and \$520 per year for members and family. The increase amounts to an additional \$2.50 per month for individual members and \$5 per month for members and family, officials said. Active-duty service members receive health care with no out-of-pocket costs.

Annual fees for retirees enrolled in TRICARE Prime before Oct. 1 remain at \$230 and \$460 until Oct. 1, 2012. Retirees in Tricare PRIME have a catastrophic cap of \$3,000, and TRICARE Prime copays aren't changing.

"We are committed to offering the best possible health care system for our entire military family," said Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "This modest annual fee increase allows us to responsibly manage our costs in line with other secretary of defense initiatives announced earlier this year."

Survivors of active duty deceased sponsors and medically retired services members and their dependents will be exempt from an annual increase, effective from the time they renew their enrollment or first enroll in TRICARE Prime, officials said, noting that the TRICARE benefit is among the nation's most affordable health care plans. All service members, military retirees and their eligible family members have TRICARE benefits regardless of prior health conditions.

Battling sexual assaults is this office's mission

By Joel Van Nice

Keesler Public Affairs

Keesler's sexual assault prevention and response office is responsible for ensuring the integration and coordination of sexual assault victim care services, collaboration with community agencies and prevention education.

The new program manager, Sandra Browne, is a licensed professional counselor with a master's degree in psychology and has 16 years civil service experience in prevention, counseling and management.

The office, located in Locker House, provides many services. According to Browne, a primary focus of the office is to inform and educate Keesler members about risk reduction and prevention through base orientation briefings, leadership training and bystander intervention training.

"A major goal of the program is to promote a cultural shift in the military — that taking care of your wingmen includes helping them avoid a possible sexual assault by an acquaintance, since seven out of 10 sexual assaults occur between people who know one another," Browne pointed out. "Offenders make up less than 5 percent of the population, so it's up to the other 95 percent to be ready to assist when risky situations occur.

"In operational risk management terms, if a wingman drinking alcohol doesn't appear to be making smart decisions, the risk of being assaulted is significantly increased," she continued. "Manage the risk by helping that wingman to recognize that being alone with another person is a decision best made when sober."

Another important component of the office's mission is the training and management of victim advocates who respond when a sexual assault occurs. The role of these volunteers is to provide ongoing non-clinical support to the victim.

Victim advocates receive initial and ongoing training to assist victims with all aspects of sexual assault and are one of the



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Browne, left, conducts refresher training on on-call procedures for victim advocate Liah Wadleigh, 81st Training Wing.

categories of personnel who can take a restricted report. If the victim desires to make an unrestricted report of sexual assault, the victim advocate assists the individual throughout the process, even going to court proceedings if requested.

"Anyone who is touched inappropriately should not be afraid to call for help," Browne stressed. "An assault is not the victim's fault and a victim is not the guilty party, despite possible feelings to the contrary," said Browne.

Keesler currently has 50 victim advocates, but there's always a need for more volunteers due to the mobile nature of the military force. For more information about volunteering as a victim advocate, call 377-8635 or e-mail keesler.sarc@us.af.mil.

"We are working to bring nationally recognized experts in this field to Keesler," said Browne.

One of these specialists is Anne Munch, who visits Keesler Oct. 20 to speak to commanders, first sergeants, legal professionals, Air Force Office of Special Investigation, security forces and other first responders. Munch is an attorney with more than 23 years of experience as a career prosecutor and advocate for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. She's worked extensively on the development of the military's sexual assault prevention and response programs.

The office also provides a 24/7 hotline for sexual assault victims, 377-7278.

Sexual assault reporting options

For military sexual assault victims, there are two reporting options.

Restricted reporting is a confidential reporting option that lifts some of the barriers that can deter military personnel from reporting sexual assault. It allows the assaulted person to receive medical, mental health and all other services without reporting the crime to command or law enforcement officials or initiating the military criminal justice process. Restricted reports can only be taken by health care providers (including counselors), victim advocates and sexual assault response coordinators.

Unrestricted reporting initiates a full investigation by security forces and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and the assaulted person is reported to the command by name.

Air Force Instruction 33-119
expressly forbids sending chain letter emails.

Models needed for fashion show

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Calling all aspiring models — women, men and children.

It's fall fashion show time at the main exchange and volunteers are being recruited to strut their stuff on the runway.

The program is planned for 1 p.m. Oct. 15.

"We're hosting the show to highlight some of our newest arrivals," said Bill Buell, general manager of the main exchange.

Today's the final day to select an outfit to wear in the show. Models must attend one of two dress rehearsals — 5:30 p.m. today or Oct. 13. If they choose, participants can purchase the outfits at 25 percent off the purchase price.

To volunteer, call 435-2524, extensions 204 or 221.

This week's movies at Welch Theater

Friday — 6:30 p.m.,
The Rise of the Planet of the
Apes (PG-13).

Saturday — 2 p.m., 30
Minutes or Less; 6:30 p.m.,
Fright Night (R).

Sunday — 1 p.m., The
Smurfs (PG).



CLICK IT
— OR —
TICKET

Fire department ready to 'protect your family'

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

"Protect Your Family from Fire" is the theme for National Fire Prevention Week, Tuesday through Oct. 15.

Keesler's fire department plans a variety of activities and no-notice fire drills across the base during the week.

Tuesday

7:30 a.m. — 81st Training Wing headquarters; visit with Smokey the Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog.

9:30 a.m. — Keesler Hospital; visit with 81st Medical Group commander and pediatric patients by Smokey the Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog with literature, fire hats and handouts.

1:30 p.m. — main exchange; stove and fire extinguisher demonstrations, fire drill, firefighter bunker equipment demonstrations, fire truck display, Smokey and Sparky visit, literature, fire hats and handouts.

3 p.m. — Bay Ridge housing area; stove and fire extinguisher demonstrations, Sparky and Smokey visit, fire truck display, bunker and equipment demonstration, fire hats, literature and handouts.

Wednesday

8 a.m. — child development center; fire drill, Smokey and Sparky photo session, fire truck display, fire hats, literature and handouts.



10 a.m. — walk-through visit to various base facilities with Smokey and Sparky, literature and handouts.

3 p.m. — Throver Park housing area; stove and extinguisher demonstrations, bunker and equipment demonstrations, fire truck display, Smokey and Sparky, litera-

ture, fire hats and handouts.

5 p.m. — Youth center; fire truck display, bunker and equipment demonstrations, fire drill, fire hats, literature and handouts.

Oct. 13

9 a.m. — Family day care center; Smokey and Sparky visit, stove, fire extinguisher

demonstrations, fire truck display, literature, fire hats and handouts.

1 p.m. — Commissary; fire drill, stove and fire extinguisher demonstrations, Smokey and Sparky, literature and handouts.

3 p.m. — East Falcon housing area; Smokey and Sparky visit, stove and fire extin-

guisher demonstrations, fire truck display, handouts, literature and fire hats.

Oct. 14

11 a.m. — fire muster on parade field.

Oct. 15

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — fire department open house; free hot dogs, popcorn and sodas, fire truck rescue, structural fire demonstrations, fire truck rides, fire truck static displays, fire-safe house tour, fire prevention literature, fire hats, games, door prizes, giveaways and Sparky and Smokey visit.

For more information, call 377-3330.



403rd Wing recruiters pitch for winning team

By Master Sgt. Michael Duhe

403rd Wing Public Affairs

The way Senior Master Sgt. Neil Sherman sees it, he didn't choose recruiting - recruiting chose him.

Sherman, originally from Jones County, Miss., took the reins as senior recruiter for 403rd Recruiting Region in August. He explained that in 2004, after spending time both on active duty and as a reservist, he was about to accept an air reserve technician position unrelated to recruiting.

"I was using the local active duty recruiting office near my hometown (to conduct official business)," said Sherman. "Eventually the recruiter began deferring to me when he had applicants in the chair and I would answer questions the young person would have. (Due to this) he thought I should be a recruiter."



Photo illustration by Capt. Justin Pearce

Sherman, the 403rd Wing's new senior recruiter, began his recruiting career at Keesler in 2005.

The recruiter put him in touch with the senior recruiter for the 403rd Wing at Keesler. Sherman and his wife, Shannon, met with the senior recruiter at the wing's recruiting office in Hatties-

burg. After hearing what Air Force recruiting had to offer, Sherman and his wife "thought it was too good to be true," he said.

"I weighed my options and thought it would be a great opportunity," said Sherman, who has 23 years of combined service in the Air Force. "And I could utilize my experience from active duty and as a Reservist to help people be a part of our team."

Sherman has served in a number of roles during his career as a recruiter, including assistant senior recruiter, line recruiter, lead recruiter, eastern squadron trainer and in-service recruiter.

"I truly feel that what I've

done over the past eight years is my legacy to the Air Force," he said.

With nationwide unemployment at levels not seen in decades, the current recruiting environment for the Air Force Reserve is "great," according to Sherman.

"We have lot of folks who want to be a part of our team, which is no surprise because everybody wants to be on the winning team," Sherman said. "We have no shortage of qualified people who want to be a part of the 403rd Wing."

Some of the challenges 403rd recruiters deal with include increased Air Force Reserve in-strength numbers.

"AFRC has had some

growing pains, and the 403rd Wing is no exception to that," said Sherman. "Right now, our biggest hurdle is getting positions from the wing because the wing is quite full and we're going to continue to grow through 2014.

My team and I are here to help continue to establish the wing as a jewel of the Air Force Reserve Command."

Sherman said the best reason to be on the Gulf Coast is just what all the local area has to offer, but the wing itself.

"This is what I like to call my home wing," he said. "The 403rd is home to me, the area is home to me, and I'm excited and ecstatic to be a part of it again."

In-service recruiter helps transition

403rd Wing Public Affairs

Master Sgt. James Scapperotti's role as an in-service recruiter at Keesler is very different from his line recruiter counterparts - the potential Reservists he meets with are already in the active duty Air Force, with separation on the horizon.

His job is to counsel separating active-duty Airmen on the benefits of continuing to serve through the Air Force Reserve.

"We're in a climate now where the (active duty) Air Force is decreasing in manning and the Air Force Reserve is increasing in manning," Scapperotti explained. "So there are opportunities for separating members to continue their serv-

ice, especially with the most recent force shaping the Air Force is going through.

"We make sure they're aware that can still pursue whatever civilian goals they have in mind, while maintaining many of the benefits they enjoyed on active duty with the Reserve."

Some separating members have misconceptions of the Air Force Reserve, or are unaware they can remain in their career field and retain their rank as a reservist in most cases, according to Scapperotti. Many are surprised to find they can use the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill while in Reserve status.

For more information, call 377-7116 four to six months prior to separating.

Deployed medic coordinates first aid kit checks

By Senior Airman Eric Summers Jr.

379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Editor's note: Summers is deployed from the 81st Training Wing Public Affairs office.

SOUTHWEST ASIA — While the motto “So others may live” may be used by highly-trained rescue professionals across the military, it’s not far off the mark either for a group of volunteers at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.

Although the volunteers are a motley crew gathered from units around the base, they all must maintain an attention to detail that could eventually save a life on the battlefield.

Twice a week on average, the group gets together to check — and restock if necessary — individual first aid kits used throughout the area of responsibility. The base supplies the entire U.S. Central Command AOR with IFAKs, according to Col. William Tyra, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group commander.

“We brief the volunteers that their attention to detail is essential to make sure there are four components in each IFAK,” said Tyra. “The IFAKs

will go downrange and with folks out on convoys who are in harm’s way and could potentially save a life.”

Senior Airman Joseph Rossilli, deployed from the 81st Medical Support Squadron at Keesler, is 379th EMDG IFAK coordinator.

The IFAKs contain a tourniquet, combat gauze, dressings, bandages, gloves and tape, among other items which help provide the first-tier of care on the battlefield. Because these items have shelf-lives between two and four years, each kit must be inspected to ensure its serviceability.

Volunteers at an IFAK “party,” as they’re known, can repack anywhere from 1,200 to 1,600 kits in a two-hour period.

“Basically we’re using the manning from this base to repack large quantities of IFAKs,” Rossilli explained. “Each base could repack their own, but they can only do so many. We’re sending them out to the other bases to save them man-hours,” he added.

It may be called a “party,” but the seriousness is not lost on the volunteers, according to Airman 1st Class Cheyenne Anguita, 379th Expeditionary

Security Forces Squadron defender.

“I’m doing it just in case the troops downrange get hurt or injured, you don’t want them to have faulty materials,” said Anquita, deployed from Hill Air Force Base, Utah. “If [something] happened to me and I was stuck in a bad situation, I would want the materials to be good.”

“Volunteering is what we do as a force,” Tyra said. “People like to get out and see a different aspect of the mission, and they understand the importance of what it is they’re doing and the significance behind it — this is really life-saving work.”

The repacking “parties” are demand-driven by the end-user and produced 5,000 IFAKs in August alone.

“The ability to walk in, sign your name and be handed an IFAK that you know was certified by hand and that someone actually went through every item to make sure it was good — I think that’s almost priceless,” Rossilli said. “If it was your IFAK, you would go through it because you never know when you could be using it for yourself or your best friend next to you — I think that means a lot.”



Photo by Senior Airman Eric Summers Jr. Rossilli describes the items that should be in every individual first aid kit during a recent mass IFAK rebuild at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.

Orange Grove Chamber of Commerce honors Airman with quarterly award

By Staff Sgt. Kimberly Moore

Keesler Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Jermeka Howard was named as Outstanding Military member of the quarter by the Orange Grove Chamber of Commerce Sept. 30.

Howard is the 81st Medical Group’s noncommissioned officer in charge of the life support program. She joined the Air Force in January 2003, 16 months after the Sept. 11 attacks and has deployed three times during more than eight years of military service.

She serves as the 81st Training Wing’s self aid and buddy care adviser, coordinates training for more than 200 emergency medical technicians, manages the life support programs for more than 1,200 members of the medical

group and manages a training and equipment budget of \$1 million.

“I wanted to make a difference not only in my life but in the lives of others,” she said of her decision to join the Air Force. “When asked why I do what I do for the community, my response is a quote from my grandmother, ‘With the life God has given me, who am I not to give back?’”

Howard explained that her involvement with the Orange Grove Chamber of Commerce was only through volunteer work. She serves as a youth basketball coach, coordinates groups of co-workers to serve meals to the homeless through Project Safespace, volunteers at the USO at the Gulfport/Biloxi Regional Airport and serves meals to guests at Fisher House.



Howard



Keep your data safe — back it up!

Volunteer — get connected.

Chiefs present award

By Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Jennings

81st Mission Support Group superintendent

A dozen chief master sergeants dropped in to visit Staff Sgt. Keondra Harris, 81st Medical Support Squadron, Sept. 26 to present her with a special award.

Harris, who works in the TRICARE operations and patient administration office, joins a select group of outstanding performers by earning the Warrior Award presented by the Keesler Chiefs Group.

The award is presented to outstanding Airmen nominated by a chief outside of the person's area of expertise and operations.

Chief Master Sgt. Eli Santos, 81st Training Support Squadron superintendent, nominated Harris based on personal observations and the impeccable service he received when he arrived at Keesler several months ago. He said he was impressed with her willingness and initiative to serve multiple customers simultaneously.

Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Putt, 81st Dental Squadron superintendent and chiefs group president, presented a certificate to Howard.



Harris



Dream machine

Shane Wynn from Enterprise Car Rental at the main exchange uses the "Dream Machine" in the main store's mall area in front of the optical shop. The exchange, Pepsico and Greenopolis have partnered to launch an innovative way to recycle aluminum cans and plastic bottles. Customers scan the bar code on the item, deposit it in the corresponding chute and receive recycling points printed on a receipt or loaded onto a card that can be redeemed for entertainment, dining, travel, personal services and other items. More information is available at www.greenopolis.com.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Hospital acquires leading physical therapist

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The Keesler Hospital has gained a leading physical therapy researcher with the assignment of Lt. Col. John Childs to the 81st Surgical Operations Squadron's physical therapy department as director of musculoskeletal research. He is the first to hold this position at the Keesler Hospital. He also continues to serve as an associate professor in the U.S. Army-Baylor University doctoral program in physical therapy at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

Childs, who came to Keesler in July from "Fort Sam's" Army Medical Department Center and School, was a 1994 distinguished graduate of the Air Force Academy where he received a bachelor's degree in biology. He also earned a master of physical therapy degree from U.S. Army-Baylor University in 1996, a master of business administration degree from the University of Arizona in 2000 and master's degree in musculoskeletal physical therapy from the University of Pittsburgh in 2002. In 2003, Colonel Childs received a doctorate in rehabilitation science degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

The colonel said that at Keesler, he'll "continue to lead, grow and manage a portfolio of military relevant-research projects designed to improve the musculoskeletal health of our Airmen and military health system beneficiary population across the Department of Defense."

For example, Childs leads a number of comparative effectiveness studies for conditions such as knee osteoarthritis and low back pain, two of the most common conditions experienced by MHS beneficiaries. Treating these conditions costs the MHS and VA billions of dollars annually in direct and indirect health-care costs and associated disability.

He's also enhancing the graduate medical education



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Childs demonstrates spinal manipulation for acute lower back pain on simulated patient Kevin Wait, a physical therapy clinic staff physical therapist.

program in the Keesler Hospital's physical therapy clinic. This will provide cutting-edge clinical training to physical therapy students around the country who are attracted to Keesler to complete their internships because of the opportunity to be mentored by Childs and the highly-qualified clinical faculty he has recruited to join him.

He explained, "As a result, they'll be able to leverage the economies of scale that come with running a vibrant GME program, providing best-in-class clinical training and mentorship to their students

while substantially reducing the dollars spent in physical therapy care that would otherwise have to be sent to the TRICARE network of civilian providers."

Childs has made many scientific presentations at national and international meetings. His research agenda is focused on injury prevention, the identification of subgroups of patients with musculoskeletal disorders, the development of clinical prediction rules to better inform diagnostic and treatment decision-making and comparative effectiveness research. He's

received numerous research grants from federal and professional funding agencies and has published more than 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts in leading scientific journals.

A recent research award nomination noted Childs "has received more than \$6 million from federal and professional funding agencies, clearly placing him as a leader within the military health system for securing highly competitive medical research funding. Most importantly, (his) research portfolio targets the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of high-volume

musculoskeletal conditions that significantly interfere with military readiness and represent an enormous source of unnecessary costs and disability within the MHS."

He's also a member of a University of South Florida School of Physical Therapy research team recently awarded a more than \$1.5 million from the Department of Defense for two musculoskeletal research projects intended to help wounded warriors and veterans lead full, productive lives.

A USF news release said, "The award will fund two major studies — one investigating whether a specific exercise training regimen may protect against low back injury in combat soldiers and the second evaluating the best prosthetic foot to accommodate soldiers and veterans with below-the-knee amputations who wish to return to active duty.

Both two-year studies, about \$715,000 each, are randomized controlled trials, considered the most reliable and impartial method of determining which rehabilitative treatments and adaptive devices work best. The research will test in military populations an exercise therapy and technologies that have already shown promise in civilians."

In addition, the colonel currently serves as an associate editor for both the Physical Therapy and Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy journals.

Childs and his wife, Amy, are both Air Force Academy graduates and are the parents of five children.

KEESLER NOTES

Panamanian dancers

In observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, the main exchange hosts "Grupo Folklórico Panama Sin Fronteras," noon Saturday at the store's mall entrance.

Photo opportunities are offered with the dancers in their native dress, along with audience participation dancing in a carnival-style atmosphere, according to Armando Moncayo-Pallares, the store's operations manager.

For more information, call 435-2524.

Offices closes

The airman and family readiness center is closed 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today for a unit function.

For emergency Air Force Aid Society travel assistance during that time, call the command post, 377-4330.

The finance customer service office is closed Oct. 13 for a squadron function.

Customer service

The military personnel section is minimally manned Oct. 14-17 to support a real-world deployment of 403rd Wing reservists.

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 volunteer, call 376-8501.

Coastal cleanup

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is 8-11 a.m. Oct. 15.

Keesler traditionally cleans the Hiller Park and Forrest Avenue Pier locations, said Terry James, who's coordinating Keesler participation.

A free lunch is provided.

For more information and forms, call 377-1262.

Marriage retreat

The chapel hosts a free "invisible marriage retreat," 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 28 at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

The event includes a light breakfast and lunch.

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.

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.

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.

Oct. 13 — 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Heartlink. Air Force spouse orientation. Lunch, prizes, tote bags and more. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Limited child care spaces available..

Arts and crafts center

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

Saturdays — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., pottery class. Learn the potter's wheel and sculpting techniques. \$30 includes materials.

Bay Breeze Collocated Club

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

Friday — 7 p.m., Jesse Hill performs in the ballroom. \$8 for Air Force Club members, \$10 nonmembers. Purchase tickets in advance at the collocated club management office.

Oct. 13 — 5 p.m., Texas hold 'em tournament. First 100 people guaranteed a seat. Prizes awarded. Free for Air Force Club members, \$5 nonmembers. Sponsored by Budweiser-Responsibility Matters and Forest City.

Weekdays — food and drink specials in the collocated lounge. Taco Tuesdays, wings and things Wednesdays and ladies night Thursdays.

Saturdays and Sundays — 11 a.m., lounge opens; noon, grill opens. ESPN College GamePlan 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.

Wednesday — 4:30-6 p.m., free ladies golf clinic. Space limited.

Daily — 6-11 a.m., breakfast platters less than \$4 at snack bar.

Fitness centers

Editor's note: For more information or to register, call 377-4385 or 3056.

Wednesday — noon, 5-kilometer breast cancer awareness run/walk, Blake Fitness Center. Awards presented. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. Wear pink to honor those affected by breast cancer.

Gaudé Lanes

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2817.

Sundays — noon to 6 p.m., ages 12 and younger bowl free, including shoes. Must be accompanied by an adult.

Weekdays — 6:30-9 a.m., fast \$5 breakfast served at 11th Frame Café.

Information, tickets and travel

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

Wednesday — last day to sign up for one-hour trail horseback riding trip at TrailsnBits, ages 10 and older. Trip is Oct. 15; \$35 per person.

Outdoor recreation

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

Through Oct. 14 — registration for Cat/Horn Island overnight excursion, Oct. 15-16, weather permitting. Camping and island fishing, \$150 per person, camping gear provided; 14-22 people. Mississippi fishing license required.

Sunday — Gulf barrier island fishing trips aboard the Dolphin II. \$100 per person, fishing gear included; 14-22 people. No fishing license required.

Vandenberg Community Center

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

Today — 6-9 p.m., theater night. Write, produce and perform your own short play. Free to participate.

Saturday — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., "V" dance squad competition. Compete for the title of dance squad kings and queens.

Wednesday — 5 p.m., free movie night; popcorn provided.

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 — 6-10 p.m., teen open recreation. Rap sessions on teen issues, skating, basketball, music and games. \$5 admission.

Dragon Wagon

Friday-Sunday — all new route and schedule. Air Force Club members ride free; \$1 for nonmembers. For new route and schedule, visit <http://www.keesler81fss.us>.

**NO DUIS NO EXCUSES
DRINK RESPONSIBLY**

World War II veteran bowls a mean game

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

A young person might imagine that an 89-year-old would spend his birthday sitting in a rocking chair, wearing a paper hat secured to his head with elastic and gumming a piece of chocolate cake. Bernard Moyer, however, spent his 89th birthday at Gaudé Lanes hurling a 12-pound bowling ball and maintaining his 150 average.

Moyer served in the Army during World War II and went on to work more than 30

years of civil service for the Air Force. During that time he guarded concentration camps, was stranded in Germany for nearly a month when the Battle of the Bulge broke out to the south and visited more than 25 different countries on civil service temporary duty.

"I traveled halfway across the world one way and halfway across the world the other way," Moyer said.

He recently moved to Biloxi to be closer to his son, Master Sgt. Bernard Moyer Jr., 335th Training Squadron instructor supervisor.

Although his father taught him how to bowl, this is the first time they've ever had the opportunity to be on a league together.

"I know growing up my sister got the bowling genes, but she listened to what he taught her," Moyer Jr. said. "It took me a while, probably after I joined the military, to figure out that he was right."

Moyer has survived two bouts of cancer, a heart attack and a stroke and is now legally blind. Despite the fact that he can only see a white glow at the end of the lanes, Moyer will not give up his more than 50-year hobby and continues to bowl two to three times per week in three separate leagues. He even made his own ball carrier out of PVC pipes.

Patricia English, operations clerk at Gaudé Lanes, said that she sees Moyer every week.

"We have a lot of regulars, so it's like a family," she said. "What makes it special is seeing everyone enjoying themselves."

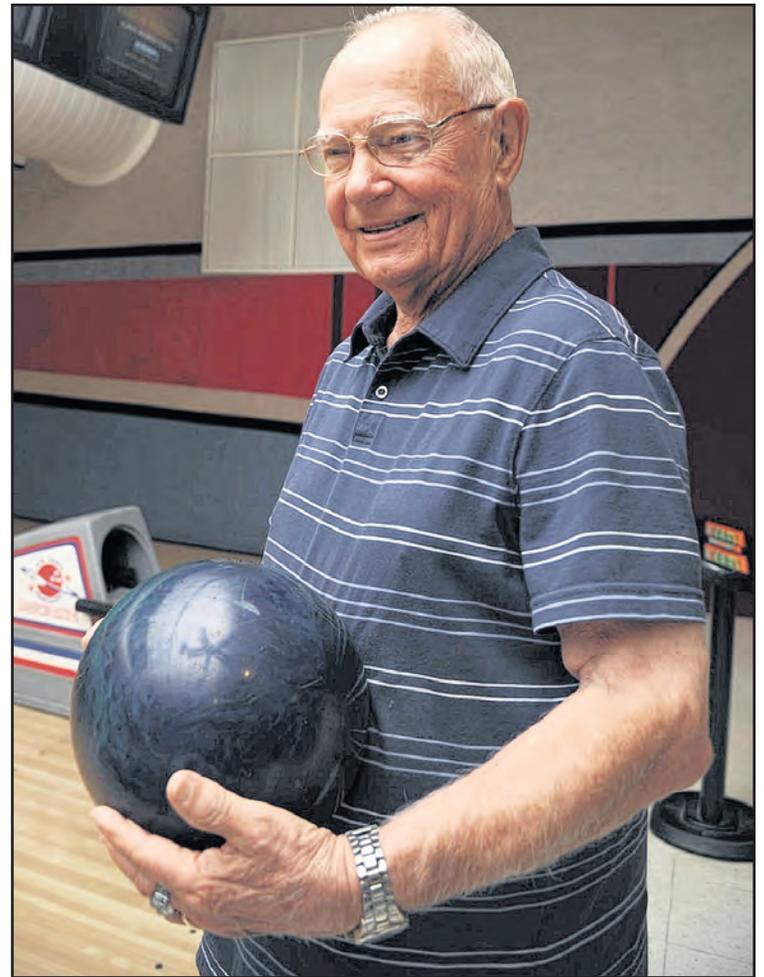
At the tender age of 74, Moyer bowled a perfect 300 game.

"I felt very good," he said. "I was getting kisses and hugs from all the lady bowlers."

"I like the challenge to do as good as I did once before," Moyer said. "If I can bowl over 100 at my age, I'm very happy."

When Moyer began bowling, the balls were made out of rubber and score was kept with pencil and paper. Now at Gaudé Lanes, there are large screen televisions where the score is kept electronically and the brightly-colored balls become iridescent in the black light every Friday and Saturday night during Hurricane Alley glow bowling.

"I suppose as long as I can stand on my own two feet and throw a ball, I'll be bowling,"



Moyer picks up his 12-pound ball just before scoring his second spare in a row during practice for his Tuesday night league.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney
Sitting next to his custom-designed ball carrier made out of PVC pipe, Moyer changes into his bowling shoes at Gaudé Lanes.



Moyer earned the ring on his middle finger when he bowled a perfect 300 game 15 years ago at age 74.

Flag football — 5 unbeaten teams remain

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

In the fifth week of the base's intramural flag football season, five undefeated teams remain in the two conferences.

The 81st Medical Group beat the 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron, 21-0, Sept. 26 to maintain its undefeated record in the American Con-

ference at 4-0 as of Friday. The Marine Corps Detachment weather team remains at 2-0 without playing last week.

Three games were rained out Sept. 28 and will be rescheduled.

As of Friday, other American Conference teams are 81st Medical Support Squadron-A (4-1), 338th Training Squadron-A and 334th TRS (both 2-1), 81st Security Forces Squadron (2-2), 85th Engineering Installation Squadron (1-3), 333rd TRS-A (1-4), 81st LRS (0-2) and the combined 345th Airlift Squadron and 81st Dental Squadron team (0-4).

Three National Conference teams remained undefeated as of Friday.

The 336th TRS upped its record to 5-0 in the National Conference by trouncing the combined team from the 81st

Training Support and Communications Squadrons, 57-0, Sept. 27. The 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron sits at 4-0 after defeating MARDET, 12-7, the same evening and coming back to defeat 81st TRSS-CS, 21-6, Sept. 29. The 338th TRS-B stands at 3-0 after running over the 81st MDSS-B, 27-0, Sept. 27.

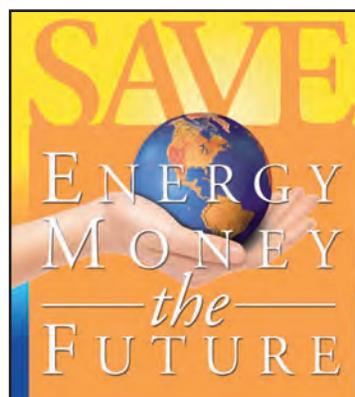
The standings of the conference's other teams are 335th TRS (3-2), 403RD Wing (2-2), MARDET (1-2), 333rd TRS-B and 81st TRSS-CS (both 1-4), and 338th TRS-C and 81st MDSS-B (both 0-3).

American Conference games are 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. National Conference teams play 6, 7 and 8 p.m.

For more information, call 377-2444.



U.S. AIR FORCE
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Bowling

Thursday Intramural Week 3 of 34

Team	Won	Lost
336th TRS	26.0	6.0
335th TRS-A	24.0	8.0
81st FSS	22.0	10.0
81st CS	20.0	12.0
403rd AMXS	20.0	12.0
Seabees	20.0	12.0
334th TRS	18.0	14.0
81st LRS-B	16.0	16.0
81st TRSS-PMEL	14.0	18.0
335th TRS-B	14.0	18.0
81st LRS-A	14.0	18.0
ECS Strikers	12.0	20.0
81st WSA	10.0	14.0
2nd Air Force	10.0	14.0
338th TRS	8.0	24.0
81st TRSS-A	5.0	24.0

Season high scores

Team game — 338th TRS, 953.

Team series — 81st FSS, 2,733.

Game/men — Garo Watson, 267.

Series/men — Garo Watson, 692.

Game/women — Lynetta Jackson, 191.

Series/women — Sabra Miracle, 529.

Average/men — Garo Watson, 202.92.

Average/women — Sabra Miracle, 158.75.