



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

APRIL 12, 2012 VOL. 73 NO. 15

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ON THE COVER

Six-month-old Alyssa Schleiger sits on a picnic table at the Keesler Marina Park with her Easter basket and egg in hand following an Easter egg hunt and parade Saturday. The base's outdoor recreation team hosted the event with more than 5,000 candy-filled eggs hidden throughout the park for kids in three separate age divisions. There was 30 prize eggs and one grand prize egg in each division. Alyssa's parents are Senior Airman Victoria Schleiger, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, and Mike Fellows.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



DRAGONS THAT I MEET

Sexual assault prevention and response office



Photo by Kemberly Groue

By Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller

81st Training Wing commander

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month so I thought it was the perfect opportunity to introduce you all to Sandy Brown and her teammates, Chris McGill and Barry Newman, far left, who make up the sexual assault prevention and response office.

The four stand in front of a flag display set up by the team on Larcher Blvd. across from the Keesler Exchange Monday. Each flag represents one Air Force member who reported being sexually assaulted in 2010. This team provides prevention and response programs addressing sexual assault and other acts of interpersonal violence, and I want to thank them for their year-round dedication and hard work.

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, tonight there will be a nine-hole glow golf tournament at 7 p.m. and Friday is Texas Hold 'Em Poker night at 5 p.m. Both events will take place at the Bay Breeze Event Center.



TRAIN, CARE, INNOVATE — DEVELOPING COMBAT POWER FOR AIR, SPACE AND CYBERSPACE

Wingmanship is most important in Air Force

By Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Voitalla

403rd Wing command chief master sergeant

I recently came across a story and it caused me to pause and take account of what a wingman really is and why we promote wingmanship. The actions of four Airmen transformed them to wingmen in the truest sense of the word.

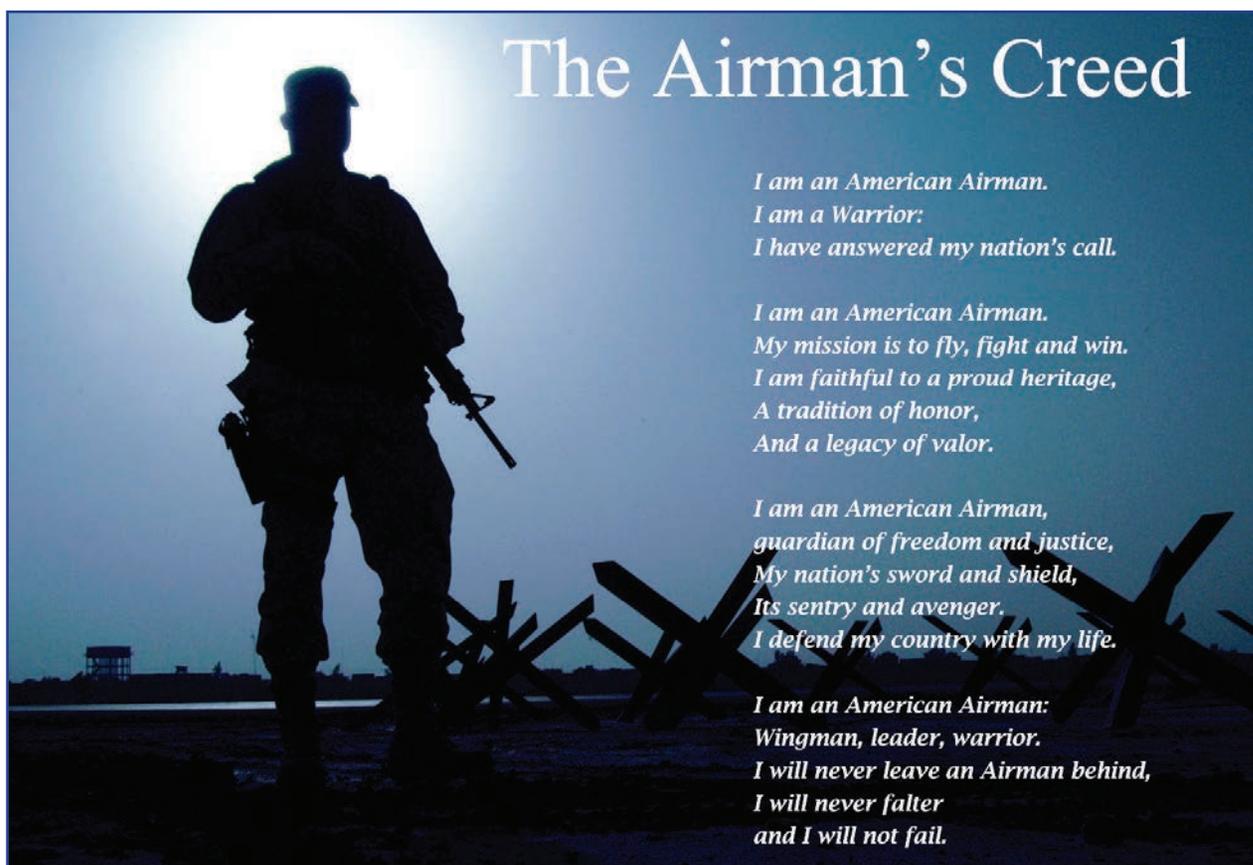
When one Airman was going through a very difficult time, his four wingmen planned a series of events designed to keep an eye on the physical and mental wellbeing of their classmate. When the weekend was nearly over, the Airmen all went their separate ways but later the four received a suicidal text message. They called emergency medical technicians and then went to the Airman's home. The door was locked and there were a number of barking dogs inside. So, his four wingmen kicked in the door, subdued the animals and located the suicidal Airman unconscious on the bathroom floor. After these actions, the EMTs entered the property and administered emergency first aid and transported the Airman to a local hospital where he was revived.

These bold actions saved the life of an Airman going through a difficult time, exemplify our Airmen's Creed and show why being a wingman is more important than leadership or being a warrior.

Yes, when I first heard this, my thoughts went to the Airman's Creed. We are Airmen, we are warriors, we fly, we fight and we win. But being a wingman is more important than that. Being a wingman is what allows us to fly, fight and win. Each of us, military, civilian or contractor has a vital role in our efforts across the globe as we work to sustain and employ our Air Force.

The creed continues discussing a proud heritage our tradition of honor and a legacy of valor. Assuredly, we have heritage, we have traditions and we have a legacy of valor. What is tradition? When I hear how changing the uniform breaks down Air Force traditions, I think people don't really get what traditions are. A tradition is a custom, ritual or belief. A tradition is not embodied in what we wear, but by what we believe and do. I believe we need to embrace our heritage and add to our traditions. We need a tradition of wingmen. Why? A wingman is the embodiment of valor. It takes a boldness, courage and fearlessness to be a wingman. It takes people willing to knock down doors to save a fellow Airman. I want to be a member of a service where this type of Airman is prevalent.

The creed then addresses how we are entrusted as a guardian of freedom and justice, how we are our nation's sword, shield and avenger. We are all patriotic, willing to do what most others in our nation will never do. However, patriotism is more than waving a flag or paying respect to it during our ceremonies. Our patriotism is far deeper because we act as an instrument of war, defending our homeland



The Airman's Creed

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

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

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

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

“When we all understand wingmanship the way these four individuals do, the Air Force will have a new and stronger tradition based on the courageous actions of nothing more than truly caring for and looking after one another.”

— Voitalla

and culture with our lives. There is no greater sacrifice than to lay down a life for a complete stranger, but our beliefs and way of life are worth protecting. No matter how noble this is, it pales in comparison to being a wingman. Beyond all doubt, our senior leaders place more emphasis on being a wingman than leadership or being a warrior.

How do I make the leap in saying being a wingman is more important? The last stanza of our creed places the order as, “Wingman, leader, warrior.” It goes on to say, “I will never leave an Airman behind, I will never falter, and I will not fail.” Think about that; wingman, leader, warrior. I can guarantee that the order of those words was debated by the authors of our creed and they had to justify that precedence before the most senior leaders of our profession. I also know they got it right.

Wingman, leader, warrior ... I think everyone gets the role of a leader or a warrior. We have Airman Leadership School, multi-levels of NCO academies and professional development of our of-

ficer corps such as the Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College. All of these great professional development courses deal in leadership, teamwork, and combat skills to conduct war on tactical, operational and strategic levels. Think about it though — not a single course on how to be wingman.

Leadership was embodied in the wingmanship of those four Airmen. Decisive actions saved a life, not looking away or waiting for someone else to take the lead. The question for each of us is — are we wingmen? Do we get it? Is it worth it? To answer that, ponder what a life is worth. The Airman these four wingmen saved is now highly productive and has rejoined the patriotic fight to preserve our country. When we all understand wingmanship the way these four individuals do, the Air Force will have a new and stronger tradition based on the courageous actions of nothing more than truly caring for and looking after one another.

Lost & Found

For lost and
found items, call
81st Security
Forces Squadron
investigations
office,
377-4500,
7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
weekdays.



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Officer selected for new cyber weapons course

By 2nd Lt. Michael Najar
333rd Training Squadron

Capt. Jeremy Sparks, an undergraduate cyber training instructor in the 333rd Training Squadron, has been chosen to be in the first batch of cyber students to attend the Air Force's newly-formed Air Force Cyber Weapons School at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Sparks will be part of Class 12B of the cyber warfare operations course at Nellis. Class 12A, which began in January and will graduate this June, contained the cyber weapons instructor course cadre who will teach the incoming 12B class.

Born in Dayton, Ohio, Sparks received his commission through ROTC at Miami University. He's a distinguished graduate of undergraduate network warfare training at Hurlburt Field, Fla., and basic communication officer training at Keesler.

Sparks was nominated by the 81st Training Wing to apply for the coveted slot within

the new school, part of the existing Air Force Weapons Instructor School at Nellis. Despite tough competition, Sparks was selected after a rigorous application process. After Sparks completes the course, he will join a new unit as a fully qualified weapons instructor and is expected to lead a weapons and tactics flight.

"This represents a combination of great mentorship, encouragement and leadership from previous squadron commanders, group commanders and colleagues. I am proud to represent the Spartans and our UCT Cadre here at Keesler," Sparks said. "I'm especially grateful to Brian MacDougald of the 67th Network Warfare Wing at Lackland AFB, Texas, for encouraging me to apply and Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller and Lt. Col. Douglas Short for their support and recommendation." Mueller commands the 81st TRW and Short commands the 333rd TRS.

Lasting almost six months, the cyber warfare operations

weapons instructor course is an intense, graduate-level, in-resident course that develops weapons and tactics officers, also known as "whiskies" or "patch wearers." All whiskies become qualified to apply joint kinetic and non-kinetic weapon capabilities in wartime.

WIC is only offered to the Air Force Specialty Codes with weapons systems and the intelligence community.

In a recent interview, Col. Robert "Shark" Garland, Air Force Weapons School commandant, said that weapons school "is a seasoning, taking the combat, mobility and strategic Air Force's very best instructors and putting them through a significantly challenging PhD-level course. There is no course beyond this one. That's why the Air Force Weapons School is considered the premier tactical training institution on the planet — not just in the Air Force, but all of (the Department of Defense) and, clearly, throughout the world."



Photo by Kemberly Groue

The Air Force took a significant step forward in its cyberspace training transformation December 7, 2010, as 15 officers graduated from the first undergraduate cyberspace training course at Keesler. A coin was presented to those in attendance commemorating the significant event. One instructor of the undergraduate cyberspace training course, Capt. Jeremy Sparks, was recently selected to attend the final level of cyber training, the cyber warfare operations course at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Air Force to continue long legacy of innovation

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — More than any other military service, people have viewed the U.S. Air Force as an innovative and "leap ahead" organization, the service's top civilian leader said here today.

The pieces are in place to continue that legacy, Air Force Secretary Michael B. Donley told the Defense Writers Group.

Even before the Air Force became a separate service, strategists looked on aviation as a game changer, Donley said. Often the reach exceeded the grasp, but in the long run most of the strategies have proven correct, he added.

In World War I, the use of aviation underwent hothouse growth as a way to leap over the morass of the trenches. In World War II, bombing offensives and control of the air were prerequisites for successful military operations. That war

also saw the agility that air transport provided ground and sea forces.

In 1947, the Air Force became a separate service, but took with it the legacy of innovation, Donley said. Intercontinental missiles, globe-spanning bombers, air-to-air refueling, heavy airlift, early warning radars, computers, space operations and drones are just a few of the leap-ahead technologies that airmen adapted and developed.

Now, with fifth-generation fighters, unmanned aerial vehicles, B-2 bombers and more, the service is well-prepared for the future, Donley said. "We're planning for and building those capabilities," he said. "Clearly, we will be fielding a modern tanker (and) a fifth-generation joint strike fighter in numbers."

With the F-22, the United States is the only nation that has fielded a fifth-generation fighter, the Air Force secretary said. "We'll be delivering the F-35 (Lightning II joint strike fighter) in

numbers by the end of the teens," he said.

Innovation is an important theme for the Air Force as budgets become tighter, Donley told the defense writers. "Modernization is an overhanging requirement," he said, "and we have to be in a position to fund when those programs mature and they are ready for production."

All budget decisions keep in mind the F-35, the new tanker aircraft, the next-generation bomber and space-based capabilities to ensure the Air Force can get more capable over time, he said. Also growing are capabilities in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets, space-based opportunities and cyber capabilities, Donley told the group.

The Air Force is looking at other "leap ahead" technologies, Donley said, but he declined to discuss them, noting that the Air Force developed the U-2 spy plane and F-117 stealth fighter in secret.

Modernization of bombers, fighters and mobility forces is one side of the coin, but the Air Force may make its greatest contribution in information management, Donley said.

"A lot of our capabilities are involved with moving information and maintaining advantages in our ability to collect it, to move it and to exploit it for operational purposes," he said. "We've all lived this communications revolution of the past 25 years, and that's where those new innovations and capabilities are finding themselves. It's not just on the platforms of the tanker or bomber or fighter."

The Air Force is on a good path for mobility, bomber and fighter forces, Donley said. The capabilities are built around the communications revolution, he added, and "those are very important capabilities for the joint force moving forward."

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listing
of movies
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338th TRS takes Dragon, Airman of Month

Airman 1st Class Daniel Wyman, 338th Training Squadron green rope student leader, is the 81st Training Group's Airman of the Month for March. His award was presented during a ceremony April 5 on the drill pad. Wyman, from Griswold, Iowa, is here for cyber transport training. The four squadrons that train nonprior service students each select one Airman to compete at a monthly group board. Airmen are graded on personal appearance, communication skills and military bearing. They also respond to questions about customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, dormitory common areas and current events from that week's issue of the Keesler News.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Staff Sgt. Anthony Powell, far right, 338th Training Squadron, won the Dragon Award for outstanding military training leader for March. One MTL is nominated from each of the four squadrons that train nonprior service students. Nominees take a knowledge test of the Air Force Instruction that governs the job and perform control of flight marching and open ranks. The award is intended to raise the level of adherence to military training standards and military excellence set for technical training students.

Academic ace



Photo by Kemberly Groue

First Lt. Christopher Von Almen graduated from the weather flight/detachment operations course in the 335th Training Squadron with a perfect score Tuesday. Von Almen, a native of Warner Robins, Ga., is assigned to the 432nd Operations Support Squadron, Creech Air Force Base, Nev.

NCO Academy graduates 15 technical sergeants

By Airman 1st Class Heather Heiney

Keesler Public Affairs

Fifteen Keesler technical sergeants graduated the Mathies NCO Academy April 5.

Kristy Smart, 2nd Air Force, was named the distinguished graduate.

Other graduates include:

Bobby Bass, 81st Training Wing.

Kyle Grantham, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron.

Tina Hall, 81st TRW.

Kojo Maissah, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron.

Iris McClean-Trotte, 81st Force Support Squadron.

Felicia Muniz, 81st Medical Support Squadron.

Stacey Najar, 81st MDSS.

Jennifer Naranjo, 333rd Training Squadron.

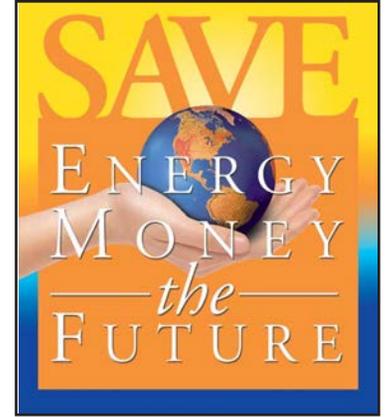
Charles Read, 333rd TRS.

Ternae Riley, 81st Communications Squadron.

Nathan Roy, 81st MDSS.

Billye Townsend, 81st Security Forces Squadron.

Alexi Westphal, 336th TRS.



Target



**for elimination,
call Keesler's hotline 377-7053**



Photo by Joel Martinez

Air Education and Training Command Commander's Group member Frank Genzer, Keesler's representative and a Biloxi architect and community leader, walks with a student attending class at the Medical Education and Training Campus on Fort Sam Houston, Texas during the AETC Commander's Group conference March 20.

Civic leaders are immersed in Air Force technical training

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr., commander of Air Education and Training Command, hosted civic leaders from across the command to observe air, space and cyberspace training here March 19-21.

Frank Genzer, representative for Keesler, along with 22 other members of the AETC Commander's Group, participated in command briefings on force structure and the budget reduction impact on the command. They also visited training squadrons to see pilot and remotely piloted aircraft training.

At Joint Base San Antonio - Fort Sam Houston, they visited the Medical and Education Training Campus and learned how the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment process produced positive results for enlisted medical training. Instead of multiple locations, all services come to METC and train in the joint environment before entering the fight. For the Air Force component, the group visited one of the newest dormitories with high security measures. Of the daily average 7,000 METC students, more than 1,650 are Airmen.

The group then went to 24th Air Force and the Air Force Cyberspace Information Center at JBSA-Lackland to

learn how Airmen train and fight against cyber threats. These Airmen use specialized capabilities to defend the Air Force communications network and the Global Information Grid.

The AETC Commander's Group is composed of one or two civilian leaders from each community surrounding a major AETC wing or group across the nation. Genzer is a newly appointed member. Members engage with senior AETC leaders and Airmen throughout their term to help them better understand the missions of Air Force men and women serving in their communities.

Team forges telepathology guidelines at Keesler

By Col. (Dr.) Daniel Smith

81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron

A 20-person telepathology high-performance Team convened at Keesler's hospital March 20-23 to develop the requirements for the telepathology capability in the Air Force Medical Service. Telepathology uses imagery and video and allows pathologists to study diseases without being physically present. The session was directed by the Surgeon General's Requirements for Operational Capabilities Council.

Representatives from the Air Force Medical Support Agency in Washington, D.C., acquisitions; medical information; research, development and innovation; Air Force Medical Operations Agency Medical Logistics at Fort Detrick, Md.; and pathology subject matter experts from the 59th Medical Wing, Lackland AFB, Texas; 60th Medical Group, Travis AFB, Calif.; 81st Medical Group, Keesler; 96th MDG, Eglin AFB, Fla.; and 10th

MDG, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo., successfully established requirements to develop telepathology as a part of personalized medicine and the interactive electronic health record.

Telepathology systems involve advanced software capabilities, hardware options, scanning speeds, maintenance plans, repair support and unique benefits that require a strategic evaluation using expert pathologists, highly skilled information technologists, histotechnologists and other expertise to implement telepathology in support of the vision of personalized health care in the AFMS.

Anatomic pathology across the world is currently undergoing the digital revolution that occurred earlier in the field of radiology. It has become a standard of practice for radiologists to use digital technology to view radiographic images and other scans performed on patients. As computer speeds have dramatically increased and computer stor-

age capability has expanded, the more complicated images from microscopic slides can be stored and sent to servers for immediate viewing and consultation. Many hardware and software companies have been investing considerable efforts to improve the practice of telepathology with clearly defined images and accelerated availability of their digital pathology products. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is beginning to license the equipment as medical devices as increasing advances are made in the field.

The advantages of telepathology are far reaching. Microscopic slides can be scanned and stored as whole-slide digital images. Pathologists can view the digitized tissue images from a high-definition computer screen and move around the digital image just as they would using a microscope, zooming in and out of areas of interest with the click of a mouse. Using the internet, the pathologist can securely



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Maj. Mona Dionisio-Nelson and John Marsh, Air Force Medical Support Agency Acquisitions Requirements Development, foreground, act as facilitators for a meeting March 21 at the 81st Medical Group. Telehealth subject matter experts Master Sgt. Larry Boyce, AFMSA Medical Information and Russell Henderson AFMSA Telehealth, look on.

consult another pathologist or an expert at a university setting who can instantly view the digital images and render an opinion. Digital images can be available and be viewed any place in the world where a secure computer and internet access exist. This would

allow immediate viewing by many trained eyes to consult on infectious disease cases or other medical problems in the deployed environment that can be diagnosed using light microscopy and result in immediate treatment.

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, Trian-
gle Chapel.

Gospel service, noon
Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

Jewish

Services take place at 8
p.m. Fridays at Congre-
gation Beth Israel, 12277
Three Rivers Road, Gulf-
port.

Saturday services are
scheduled at 10 a.m. Feb.
12, March 19 and April
9. Information, call 377-
4050, 207-2196, 539-1655
or 1-405-740-9077.

Greek Orthodox

Sunday Divine Liturgy
takes place at 10 a.m. at
Holy Trinity Greek Ortho-
dox Church, 255 Beauvoir
Road, Biloxi. For more in-
formation, call 388-6138:

Islamic

Prayer is five times daily;
Salaat ul-Jummah congre-
gational prayer, noon on
Friday, Building 2003. In-
formation, call 377-2520.

Latter-Day Saints

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

DOD makes changes to sexual assault response

By Army Sgt. 1st Class
Tyrone Marshall Jr.

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has refined new methods to aid sexual assault victims whether reporting a crime or seeking assistance as they transition from service, the director of the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office said here March 30.

“We have several new options for victims of sexual assault,” said Air Force Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog. “First, if you’ve been a victim of sexual assault in the military, you now have the option of requesting an expedited transfer. We signed that into effect in December.

“If you find it untenable or unbearable in the organization that you’re at ... you can request to be transferred,” she added.

Hertog said a service member’s local commander has 72 hours to respond to the request for transfer, and, if denied, there is an option to take it to the first flag or general officer in the chain of command who also has 72 hours to respond.

“We also have a new document retention initiative,” she said. “We heard loud and clear from our veterans who present themselves at the (Department of Veterans Affairs) years later that there was no documentation that they had ever been sexually assaulted (during) their military service.”

The issue arose, Hertog said, because varying standards of retention had existed among all of the services. It has since been resolved.

“We now have one standard of retention so those individuals that file unrestricted reports will have their documents retained for 50 years,” she said.

“And those that file restricted reports will have their documents retained for five years,” Hertog said. “And of course our victims of sexual assault who file restricted reports have

that option to convert over to unrestricted reports at any time and then we will retain their documents for that 50-year period.”

The director also discussed other innovations such as expanding legal assistance to encourage victims to participate in the military justice system “in order to hold that perpetrator accountable.”

And as of January, DOD civilians and contractors deployed abroad as well as military dependents over 18 years old are now eligible to access sexual assault response services, Hertog said.

Hertog noted other changes implemented include new training for investigators of sexual assault crimes within the services.

“Some of our new training initiatives concern our investigators such as our (Naval Criminal Investigative Service) agents, Air Force (Office of Special Investigations) and Army (Criminal Investigation Division),” she said. “We think we have found the gold-standard course ... to send many of the agents to (in order to) build a sexual assault subject expertise cadre of our agents to get them very familiar with these cases.”

Hertog said training frequency will increase, more seats will be offered and the training has expanded to include judge advocate generals “because these are some of the toughest cases to investigate as well as prosecute.”

Perhaps the most useful option has been established for about a year, Hertog noted.

“You have the option of contacting our DOD Safe Helpline,” she said. “We stood up a 24/7 crisis hotline. It’s operated by RAINN — the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network — who have been trained by us, so they’re very familiar with military terminology.

“If you don’t want to go through your chain of com-

2012 Joint Proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month and Alcohol Awareness Month

Whereas, child abuse and neglect, alcohol abuse and misuse and sexual abuse and assault are ongoing psychosocial problems in our society greatly affecting our community and

Whereas, every military service member and family member is entitled to a culture of safety, security and support; and

Whereas, it is our individual chance to make responsible choices that impact our community beginning with respect for our children, ourselves and one another; and

Whereas, the wellness and welfare of every member regardless of age, gender, rank or other demographic identifier, is a community obligation requiring healthy individual choices every day; and

Whereas, the Keesler Family Advocacy

Program, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, Airman and Family Readiness Center, and other Integrated Delivery System agencies will work collaboratively as the action arm of our community to implement and promote prevention and support programs to curb incidents of, and risk for, child maltreatment, alcohol abuse and sexual assault;

Therefore, I, Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, Commander, Keesler Air Force Base, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2012 to be Child Abuse Prevention, Alcohol Awareness, and Sexual Assault Awareness month on Keesler Air Force Base, and urge the appropriate recognition thereof.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month events 2012

Today

Nine hole glow golf tournament — 7 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Golf Course. Cost is \$25 per person. To register, call (228) 377-3832.

Friday

Texas Hold ‘Em Poker Night — 5 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Events Center.

Tuesday

“Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” — 9 a.m. at the Biloxi Town Green.

“Vagina Monologues” presented by Biloxi Little Theatre — 7 p.m. at the Vandenberg Community Center.

April 19

Sexual Assault Conference for Law Enforcement — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Harrison County Jail. Visit www.gcwcfn.org to register.

April 27

“Drunk Sex or Date Rape” — 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at the Welch Theater. For more information, call (228) 377-8635.

mand, you can contact them and they will tell you where your nearest rape crisis center is in your community outside your installation gates,” Hertog said.

Hertog said the hotline has been “extremely successful,” with about 30,000 unique vis-

its to the site and about 2,500 referrals for counseling services.

She emphasized the Defense Department’s commitment to “eradicating” sexual assault in the military “from the secretary (of defense) on down.

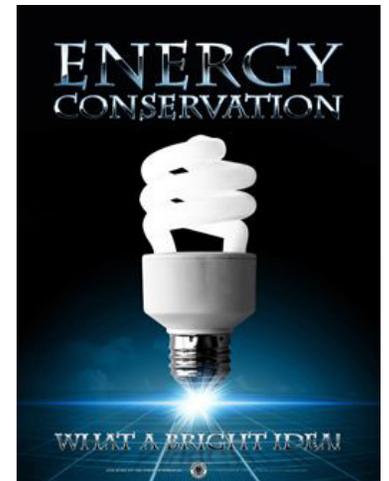
“We have to eliminate this

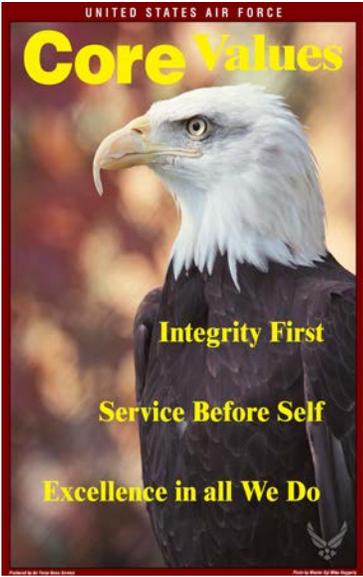
problem from our ranks,” Hertog added. “The American public gives us what’s most dear to them and that’s their sons and daughters. And they trust us that we’re going to take care of them, (which) is a commander’s job.”

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 num-
bers and names of
family members.

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





Get up. Get out. Get Fit.
Together.



KEESLER NOTES

Meadows Gate closure

Due to anticipated severe spring break traffic on U.S. Highway 90, 81st Security Forces Squadron will be opening the Meadows Avenue Gate from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on April 14 and 15. Although the White Avenue Gate will remain open, it is strongly recommended that all personnel use the Meadows Avenue Gate for access to I-110 and Ocean Springs during this timeframe.

Questions can be directed

to 81st SFS operations, (228) 376-6649.

MarriageCare Retreat

The MarriageCare retreat will be held April 20-22 at the Riverview Plaza Renaissance Hotel in Mobile, Ala. MarriageCare provides couples an opportunity to take time out for their relationship. It is not designed to fix marriages, but to encourage couples to build a healthy marriage. The retreat is open to any couple, but priority will be given to ac-

tive duty spouses and redeployers. There are slots for 15 couples. The retreat is free with rooms and meals provided.

To sign up, call the chapel at (228) 377-4859. The chapel will provide transportation if needed.

Magic show

The 81st Training Wing Chapel and Airman and Family Readiness are sponsoring a magic show for deployed families, 6 p.m. April 27 at the Bay Breeze Event Center ballroom.

This event is open those whose military members are currently deployed, those who have just returned or getting ready for upcoming deployments.

Due to limited space, the first 200 individuals who pick up tickets from Tech. Sgt. Marcus Hogsten, family readiness specialist in Room 127 at the Sablich Center will be able to enjoy this free event.

A continental dinner is served from 6-6:45 p.m. At 7 p.m., humorist and entertainer Matt Fore will perform.

Awards luncheon

The 81st Training Wing quarterly awards luncheon is at 11 a.m. April 26 at the Bay Breeze event center.

Tickets are \$13 for Air Force club members and \$15 for non-members. Ticket pur-

chases are due to group award representatives by April 19.

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. Visit www.keeslerspousesclub.com for more information and a list of preferred donations. Pickup is available for bulk donations. For more information, call 228-377-3217.

Keesler Events Calendar

Today

8 a.m. — Veterans benefit briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108A. Call (228) 376-8728 to register.

9 a.m. — Federal jobs resume writing class at the airman and family readiness center conference room in the Sablich Center. Call (228) 376-8728 to register.

10:30 a.m. — Money Talks "lunch and learn" at the McBride Library. To register call (228) 377-2181.

1 p.m. — Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

— Retirement benefits brief at the Sablich Center Room 108A.

7 p.m. — Glow golf tournament at the Bay Breeze Golf Course in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness month.

Friday

10:30 a.m. — Ceramic mold pouring class at the arts and crafts center. Cost is \$25 per person.

11:30 a.m. — National alcohol awareness 5K run/walk at the Dragon Fitness Center.

5 p.m. — Texas Hold 'Em tournament at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

6p.m. — Cocktails and canvas at the arts and crafts center.

Saturday

9 a.m. — Wood shop class at the arts and crafts center.

Monday

9 a.m. — Interview skills and salary negotiation class at the airman and family readiness center conference room in the Sablich Center.

Tuesday

9 a.m. — Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

— Separatees preseparation counseling at the Sablich Center in Room 110. Call (228) 376-8728 to register.

Noon — Truths and myths of supplements class at the health and wellness center.

1 p.m. — Retiree preseparation counseling every Tuesday at the airman and family readiness center conference room. Call (228) 376-8728 to register.

3 p.m. — Keesler volunteer recognition reception at the Sablich Center in Rooms 108A and 108B.

Wednesday

7 a.m. — Newcomer's orientation at the Sablich Center in Room 108B.

9 a.m. — Survivor benefit plan briefing at the Sablich Center in Room 108A.

10 a.m. — Children's story time at the McBride library.

1 p.m. — Smooth move class at the Sablich Center in Room 108B.

4 p.m. — Free recycled materials bird feeder class at the arts and crafts center.

April 19

1 p.m. — Tear vase class at the arts and crafts center. Cost is \$20 per person.

— Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

3:30 p.m. — Community College of the Air Force graduation at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

April 21

6 p.m. — Kids night out at the arts and crafts center. Cost is \$25 per person. Registration required by April 19.

April 24

9 a.m. — Airman and family readiness center post deployment briefing at the Sablich Center Room 108.

— Separatees preseparation counseling at the Sablich Center in Room 110. Call (228) 376-8728 to register.

1 p.m. — Retiree preseparation counseling every Tuesday at the airman and family readiness center conference room. Call (228) 376-8728 to register.

Air Force launches new environmental impact campaign on Facebook



The Air Force recently launched a new enterprise-wide Facebook event giving all Airmen and their families the chance to link their every-day actions at work and at home to environmental impacts. Tell us what you're committed to do this week and throughout the year by visiting us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/blueactsofgreen.

Clinics closed for warrior training

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Keesler Medical Center clinics are closed today for warrior training from 1-5 p.m.

Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and General Surgery Clinics each will have one doctor available for urgent appointments. For urgent situations, contact Central Appointments at 1-800-700-8603 or report to the emergency room.

Although Pharmacy, Radiology and Laboratory services are open, they will have reduced staffing. Patients are asked to

delay visits to these services during warrior training.

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

The 81st Medical Group staff is committed to maintaining the highest level of war and peacetime readiness. It does this through monthly training sessions. They apologize for any inconvenience.

Chapel reaches out to Biloxi underprivileged youth



Photo by

Keesler's Protestant Men of the Chapel hosted an outreach event Saturday in Biloxi for underprivileged children who live near the base. There were nearly 120 people at the fourth annual cookout that brought games and face painting to the children and presented a message of hope to those who attended.

Housing privatization experiences early success

By Brett Long

81st Infrastructure Division
housing flight

It has been six months since Keesler's traditional government family housing was privatized and the homes conveyed over to our partner, Forest City Military Communities. As we expected, there have been many successes.

Routine maintenance response times have decreased from 30 days under a typical maintenance contract to 48 hours.

On the management side, office hours have been extended to better serve residents and

even include Saturdays.

Construction of various amenities is progressing as planned. The security arm gates at Thrower Park and the Falcon Park will be operational around the beginning of May. Residents will have an opportunity to learn about the gates and get access cards during a neighborhood rally at the Bay Breeze Event Center scheduled for April 27. The times for the rally are broken out by neighborhood — East Falcon is 8-11 a.m., West Falcon is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thrower Park is 1-3 p.m. If unable to attend your

scheduled neighborhood time, please feel free to attend one of the other sessions, Forest City will be at the Bay Breeze from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The community facility and pool area should be open in August, along with the other amenities, such as dog parks in West Falcon and Thrower Park. Also, mowing is getting into high gear and the “weed and feed” program will be kicking off soon.

For the most up-to-date information on these and other topics, log onto the Forest City website at www.fckeeslerafb.com.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Off limits establishments

The following establishments are off limits to Armed Forces personnel with duty at Keesler:

- Ya-ya's – 2751 Pass Rd., Biloxi.
- Guitars & Cadillac's 4031 Popp's Ferry Rd., D'Iberville.
- Pugs, 6213 Washington Ave., Ocean Springs.
- Herbal Alternatives, 1909 E. Pass Road and 11530 U.S. Highway 49, Gulfport.
- Bunksmall Apartments, 708 S. Pascagoula St., Pascagoula.

Virtual wingman makes smart choices easy

By Maj. Rosaire Bushey

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Air Education and Training Command unveiled a new mobile phone application that is designed to provide resiliency and safety information to Airmen. The app was shown at the Air Force Community Action Information Board meeting March 29.

Among the highlights of the app are features such as a local taxi finder and information on high-risk activities, according to Mr. Robbie Bogard, AETC ground safety manager.

“For people who live in the continental United States, the app will allow people to use GPS tracking to determine where you are and show phone numbers for local taxis,” he said. This makes it easier for people to make a smart decision when they find themselves without a designated driver in a strange place.

Other features include Airman-to-Airman videos, information on risk management, hazard reporting, motorcycle safety, crisis/distress support, sexual assault prevention/response, and more.

“The app is not meant to be a primary resiliency tool or replace face-to-face interaction with other Airmen,” Bogard said. “But, it does supplement this



interaction when another Airman isn't available. Our goal in developing the “Virtual Wingman” was to provide information to all our Airmen through a readily available tool most Airmen have - a mobile phone. We hope that we provide all Airmen access to the wide variety of great safety and resiliency information available from various Air Force sources. Often, this information is difficult to find, so we sought out pertinent information and consolidated it in one place for our Airmen. We are hoping this will prove

to be a valuable tool for everyone.”

“While Air Education and Training Command is having a very good year as far as safety is concerned, we want to continue to innovate in how we reach our Airmen so we can drive our mishap rates down to historical lows,” said Master Sgt. Kyle Baum, AETC Ground Safety Division.

“Our Airmen will now have a series of tools they can access when they have concerns with risk management and safety. And we didn't limit it just to safety-related topics; we also included information on both suicide prevention and sexual assault prevention, areas of concern across our Air Force.”

The application, which is not platform specific, will work on any mobile device with access to the internet, although some functionality may be lost on older devices, according to Carol Wall, the Air Force Virtual Wingman project manager.

“Any mobile user who has a mobile device capable of web browsing, can download the application for free and the app will work on a personal computer as well,” Wall said.

To view a video overview of the Virtual Wingman application, go to: <http://youtube.com/18Lzy6J7z2M>.

All Airmen can download the mobile app by visiting: www.airforcevirtualwingman.com.

Cry of the Raven

Death is always close, even beautiful
Expected, demanded and commanded
Death of the Viets, the Popa Limas,
The Meos, the Lao, the innocent, the guilty
Whoever, wherever, whenever
It's all followed by a “nevermore”
The cry of the Raven

The burning earth, trees and karst
Have a certain smell of death, almost beautiful
A death sometimes brought by the four horsemen
The Zorro, the Hobo, the Firefly, and Sandy
Unlikely men and machines one war late, one prophesy early
Often, explosively, expectantly dying themselves
Joining the death in a cry of “nevermore”

Strange birds circling overhead, too high and graceful for battle
A Mallard, a Crow, a Vampire, and a Hornet
From such places as Oakland, Detroit, Denver, and Newark
Waiting for direction from the Raven, unaware, untouched, and unbelieving
Likely men and machines, one war early, one prophesy late
Obediently following the cry of the Raven
Hit my smoke if you can or return “nevermore”

The Raven flying always when and where others cannot
Never fast, never high, but always watching, always knowing
Death is waiting for the Raven but would be executioners fear death themselves
As if Edgar knew the cry of the Raven would continue “nevermore”

Written by Mike Cavanaugh, Raven 48,
in 1970 in dedication to Hoss McBride



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Retired Col. Mike Cavanaugh shows the audience a book, *The Ravens*, during a visit to the McBride Library, April 9, 2012, at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. Cavanaugh, who currently lives in Thailand, pays a visit to the base to share memories from his time during the Vietnam War as a Raven and also of Maj. Edward “Hoss” McBride, for whom the library is named. Ravens were the classified and prestigious pilots who accomplished missions all over South-east Asia in the Vietnam era.



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Officer

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and home schools to

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children overcome is-

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gations.

Contact Mr. Cross

(228) 376-8505

Child abuse prevention month

'Pinwheels for Prevention' targets child abuse

Commentary By
Paula Spooner

81st Medical Operations Squadron

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

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

"Pinwheels for Prevention" is a national campaign begun by Prevent Child Abuse America. Through this campaign, they hope to change the public's beliefs and behaviors regarding the prevention of child abuse and neglect. This goes beyond just making Americans aware of the issue — it extends to motivating them to take an active role in prevention and in their community.

Since 2007, Keesler Family Advocacy has used "Pinwheels for Prevention" every April to remind the base population that child abuse and neglect is everyone's business and problem. Keesler was the first in the state to use this colorful display for this purpose.

This year, the "Pinwheels for Prevention" display is again set up in front of Keesler Hospital during the first two weeks of April. It is a bright, colorful "garden" of 1,000 twirling pinwheels. Each pinwheel represents one of the more than 1,000 allegations of child abuse that was substantiated in Harrison and Jackson counties alone.

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



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Volunteers place 1,000 pinwheels in front of the 81st Medical Group April 3 as they have been every year since 2007. "Pinwheels for Prevention" is an annual program that uses the shining, colorful display to raise awareness of the more than 1,000 allegations of child abuse in Harrison and Jackson counties alone.

Child safety expert to teach 'Child Lures' course

Commentary by Paula Spooner

Family advocacy outreach manager

Ken Wooden, an educator, published author and developer of several child safety programs will present two child safety courses entitled "Child Lures" 8:30-10 a.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. April 20 at the Sablich Center in room 108. The first is for anyone who works with or for children in a professional capacity and the second presentation is reserved for parents and children.

I know I will be there.

When my oldest daughter, now 25, was 14, she was abducted. It was one of those horrific life experiences that are "supposed" to happen in other cities, to other people — to faceless strangers we might read about and think, "What would I ever do....?"

But happen it did, to a beautiful young lady who did nothing more to "ask for it" than to have the belief that the world was hers for the taking, that no one could possibly have malevolent intentions, that opportunity is by its very nature a positive thing. Hers was truly a crime of opportunity — she was, as they say, in the wrong place at the wrong time. Her one grave mistake was sharing that trademark outgoing, talkative personality with dangerous people. Thankfully she escaped alive, but not all children are so lucky.

The truth is none of us is completely immune to these senseless acts of terror. Nonetheless, some parents, in their difficulty imagining the unimaginable, call upon denial to cushion their perception of reality. They persist in telling themselves it can't happen to them,

not in their neighborhood, not in their town, not among friends. As a clinician charged with educating Keesler about the prevention of community violence, I am alarmed by this. You see, it is an attitude that neatly places the highest-risk population in the gravest danger: Their very own kids.

There is so much we — as parents, community leaders, educators, medical professionals, caring adults — can do to keep the children of our communities safer. Educating our kids — from toddler to young adult — to identify high-risk situations is a start. Reassuring them their gut feelings matter — a lot — and to respond to them. Arming them with readily-usable skills they can call upon at any time, in any situation.

Thankfully, the folks of Keesler will

have an unprecedented opportunity to learn from a master; this man has dedicated his life to making a safer world for children a reality, instead of a dream.

You will recognize some of these lures and some of them will be new to you. You will be encouraged to step back and look at our community's kids through the perception of offenders and then be educated on outsmarting them. Your eyes will be opened and you will be very, very glad you took two hours of your life to learn how to protect your kids. So, if you are a parent, a grandparent, a sister or brother, a neighbor, a wingman, join us. Bring your kids. Bring your neighbors. Bring your co-workers.

To reserve your space or for more information, call (228) 376-3457 or (228) 376-3459.

Tax, savings tips offered for service members

By Lisa Daniel

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — As service members begin preparing for the annual tax season, they may want to consider a new savings plan designed for young people, a Defense Department tax official said today.

Service members and their dependents who earn less income today than they expect to earn in the future, such as those in junior ranks who look forward to getting promoted to higher grades, should consider investing in the Thrift Savings Plan's new Roth option, said Army Lt. Col. Evan

Stone, director of the Armed Forces Tax Council.

"The Roth TSP is a good option for service members who are paying less tax now than they expect to pay later," Stone said during an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

The traditional Thrift Savings Plan defers taxes on earned income until the money is withdrawn, Stone explained. The Roth option allows a member to contribute after-tax dollars that grow tax free and are not taxed upon withdrawal, he said.

Both plans allow a maximum annual contribution

of \$17,000, he said, up from \$16,500 last year.

There are few other changes that apply to service members and their dependents this tax season, Stone said. A new calculation for Imminent Danger Pay does not change service members' eligibility for income tax exclusions. The pay was changed from a flat \$225 per month, to an amount prorated per day.

Stone said there has been no change to federal income tax brackets in the past two years. They remain at 10, 15, 25, 28, 33 and 35 percent of taxable income, he said.

Still, Stone said, many peo-

ple don't realize that income is taxed on a progressive scale, so as a person's income increases and they move into a higher tax bracket, only the new proportion of pay is taxed at the higher rate, not all of their income.

While few people enjoy writing a check to Uncle Sam, Stone also noted that the military is a good employer come tax time because military allowances, such as those for housing and meals, are not taxable.

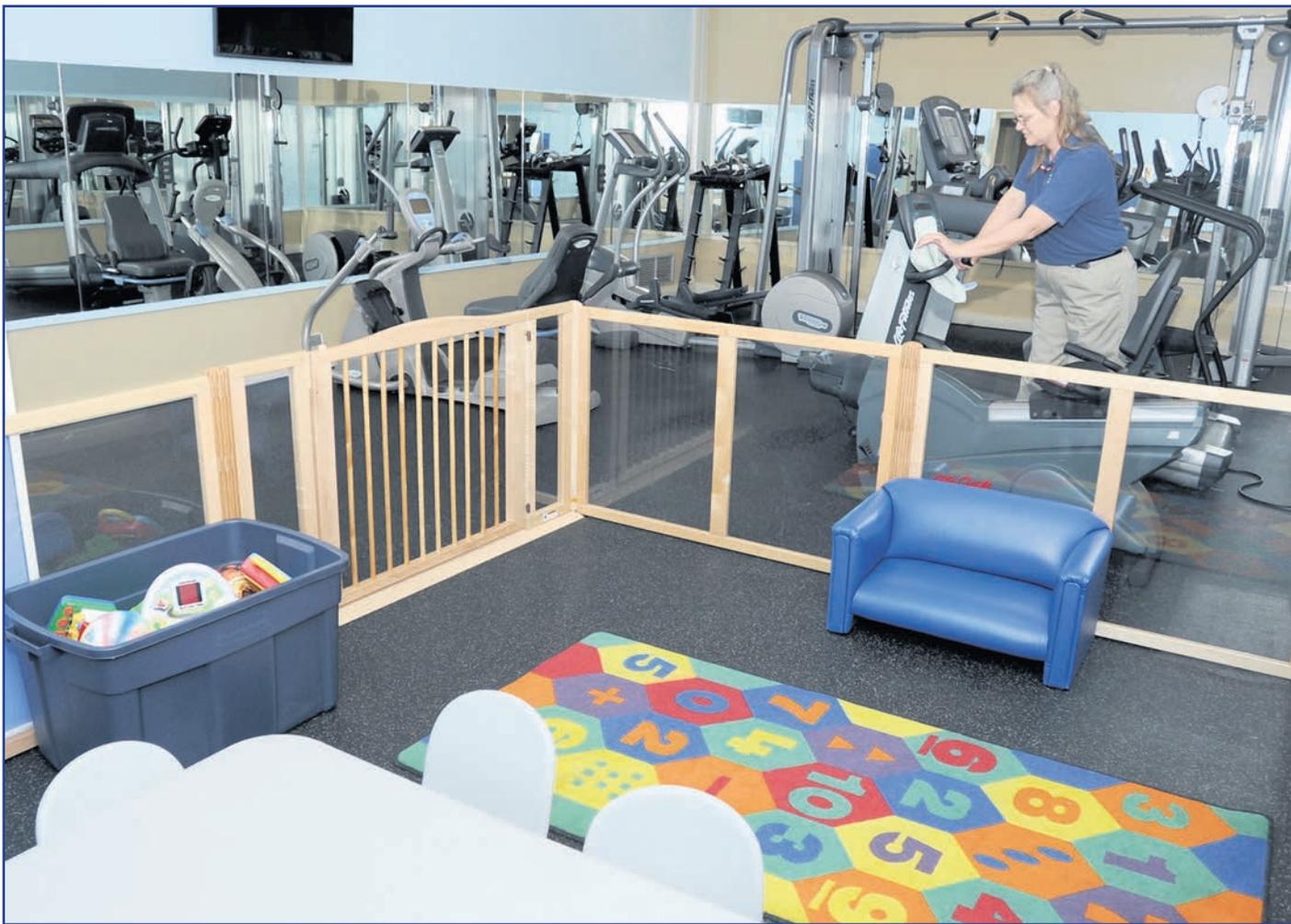
"Military members have a tax advantage by having a chunk of their regular pay as tax-exempt income," he said.

Stone said he wants to remind service members that

they and their dependents can get free tax preparation by IRS-trained volunteers at almost every military installation in the world.

"The military has an excellent program for tax preparation worldwide," he said. Deployed service members, he added, do not have to sign the tax forms if their spouse has power of attorney privileges.

Military OneSource offers free tax-related phone consultations seven days-a-week, from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., at 1-800-730-3802.



Parent/child room opens at Blake Gym

Jennifer Favre, Blake Fitness Center custodian, wipes down equipment inside the facility's new parent and child fitness room. The room opened up to visitors Friday. There is a gated corner inside the room where children can be entertained while parents conduct physical training. Blake Fitness Center is open seven days a week from 4:30 a.m. until 10:30 p.m.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Sailing Lessons

at Outdoor Recreation

April 19-22
May 10-13

Learn the basics so you can get out on the water in our catamaran sailboats.

Classroom and on-the-water instruction included.

Classroom instruction at McBride Library.

On-the-water instruction at the Marina.

\$45 per person.
Call to reserve your spot.

FSS
377-3160
www.keesler81fss.us

Sports Day team registration deadline is April 20

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News co-editor

The deadline to sign up for a Sports Day team event is close of business April 20. Single person event sign-ups are May 4, the day of the event. Events include:

6:30 a.m. — Kickoff at the Levitow Training Support Facility parade grounds

7 a.m. — 5K run at the Levitow parade grounds

8 a.m. — Push-up/sit-up/pull-up challenge at the Triangle pad

8 a.m. — Softball at the Triangle; 14 teams maximum (begins Thursday night at 6 p.m.)

8 a.m. — Three-on-three basketball at Blake Fitness Center

8 a.m. — Sand volleyball near water tower

8 a.m. — Ultimate frisbee near water tower

8 a.m. — Three-on-three soccer on Meadows Drive

8 a.m. — Bowling at Gaude' Lanes

8 a.m. — Frisbee golf near Pass Road Gate

8 a.m. — Longest drive at the Bay Breeze Golf Course



8 a.m. — Putting competition at the golf course

8 a.m. — Bike trek at the marina

9:30 a.m. — Tug-of-war at the Triangle

10:30 a.m. — Commanders vs. Chiefs volleyball at the Triangle

11:30 a.m. — All ranks relay at Crotwell Track

12:00 p.m. — Trophy presentation at Crotwell track

Thursday intramural bowling

Week 28 of 34

Team	Won	Lost
335 TRS-A	140.0	84.0
81st FSS	136.0	88.0
403rd AMXS	127.0	97.0
338th TRS	126.0	98.0
81st TRSS-PMEL	125.0	99.0
81st CS	123.0	101.0
81st LRS-A	123.0	101.0
334th TRS	118.0	106.0
81st WSA	116.0	108.0
ECS Strikers	112.0	112.0
81st LRS-B	107.0	117.0
336th TRS	104.0	120.0
335th TRS-B	101.0	123.0
2nd Air Force	100.0	124.0
81st TRSS-A	84.0	140.0
Seabees	40.0	72.0

Season high scores

Team game — 335th TRS-A, 1043.

Team series — 335th TRS-A, 2990.

High handicap game (team) — 335th TRS-A, 1144.

High handicap series (team) — 81st CS, 3,300.

Game/men — Garo Watson, 267.

Series/men — Jeff Miracle, 734.

High handicap game/men — Taras Butrej, 300.

High handicap series/men — Joseph Weaver, 749.

Game/women — Sabra Miracle, 212.

Series/women — Sabra Miracle, 567

High handicap game/women — Marie Leeks, 264

High handicap series/women — Sabra Miracle, 678

Average/men — Jeff Miracle, 202.57

Average/women — Vicki Dickinson, 156.13

Most improved — Mark Smith, 14.37;
Carol Wetzler, 3.80