

KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

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Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow



Dragons deployed
— 140

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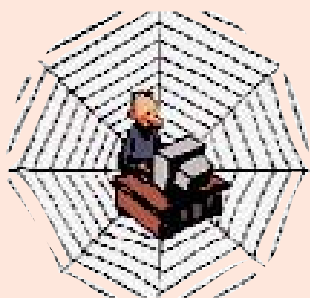
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Keesler News on Web:
<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

Pay, bonuses, special pays, benefits: Military members gain across board

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — An across-the-board 3.1 percent military pay raise became effective Jan. 1.

It includes a variety of new or enhanced benefits for service members and their families.

In addition to a pay raise that's one-half percent higher than the average private-sector increase, the new budget provides about 20 new or increased bonuses or special pays or benefits. This reflects a trend Defense Department officials

emphasize is becoming increasingly rare in the private sector.

The new law provides a variety of benefits designed to better compensate service members, improve their quality of life, bring reserve-component benefits more on par with those for the active force and promote recruiting and retention, said Chuck Witschonke, DOD's deputy director for compensation.

"Not only does it contain the routine annual pay raise, which is one-half percent higher than the raise measured in the private sector, but it also includes a number of increases in ceilings on some very

important pays," he said.

Among the law's most significant features are:

An increase in the maximum reenlistment bonus offered, from \$60,000 to \$90,000.

A higher maximum enlistment bonus, up from \$20,000 to \$40,000.

A new ceiling on hardship-duty pay, from \$300 to \$750 a month.

A doubling of the maximum assignment incentive pay for hard-to-fill billets

Please see **Military**, Page 9

Base recovery gives new life to A-76 plan

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Keesler's rapid rebound from Hurricane Katrina is giving new life to the A-76 competitive sourcing process.

Aug. 18, years of research, planning, proposals and postponements culminated in a split decision for Keesler's future operating support services.

The government's "most efficient organization" tentatively won a \$54 million bid to handle the base's communications functions for 10 years. DynCorp's \$280 million bid was tentatively chosen to cover Keesler's civil engineering, supply, services, weather station and certain mission support functions for the same time period.

Please see **A-76**, Page 9

Clearing the way



Airman 1st Class Derek Sizer, left, and Airman Basic Brian Toney, 338th Training Squadron, carry a wooden case toward a trash collection area on Main Street in Biloxi Friday. Four teams of permanent party personnel and non-prior service students volunteered to clean up the route for the city's annual Martin Luther King Jr. parade. More humanitarian photos, Page 17.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos Diaz

Secretary Wynne describes shift in recapitalization

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — With the combination of aging and heavily used equipment, the Air Force needs recapitalization across the board, Secretary Michael Wynne said.

In past discussions about Air Force recapitalization, aircraft usually took center stage. Although aircraft still need to be recapitalized, there has been a shift.

“The Air Force recapitalization program is not focused simply on aircraft,” Secretary Wynne said. “Where we know we have advanced technologies, we want to introduce them; where we know we have

emerging missions, we want to satisfy them.”

One emerging mission is an increase in intelligence gathering using unmanned aerial vehicles and space assets.

“We need more UAVs and we need (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) platforms in space because this is really where the decision making starts,” he said.

All Air Force recapitalization efforts must be data driven. The secretary wants Airmen and acquisition entities enabled to take aggressive action and be accountable for those actions.

“We need to have data to make our investment decisions,” he said. “I need to provide them the kind of information that they can make credible decisions on.”

The F-22A Raptor, C-17 Globemaster III and C-130J Hercules have brought more reliability to the fight and probably a future decline in maintenance activities, Secretary Wynne said.

“I’m finding out that the C-17 requires far fewer maintenance hours, and the F-22A is probably 40 percent more reliable,” he said. “So (these better reliability rates) are leading us to a re-evaluation of how we do operations throughout the process.

“All this is about continuing to introduce innovation,” Secretary Wynne said. “It will change the Air Force character without a doubt. But that’s what we do. We as Airmen like to push technology and change our mission over time.”

A-76,

from Page 1

Eleven days after the decision was announced, Hurricane Katrina changed the complexion of the base with damages in excess of \$900 million. Soon after, in response to Keesler’s request, Gen. William Looney, Air Education and Training Command commander, asked Air Staff to cancel Keesler’s A-76 study. Instead, it was put on indefinite hold.

By early November, though, Keesler leaders acknowledged the base’s situation had changed significantly from those first dark days after the storm.

“The support to consider canceling A-76 was key and critical during the post-Katrina crisis,” said Col. Douglas Hayner, 81st Training Wing vice commander. “However, considering how far we’ve come toward reconstituting Keesler and our prospects for full recovery, we think it more beneficial to Keesler and the Air Force that we resume the A-76 decision and the public review process.

“Although we did lose some facilities and equipment to Katrina, those losses don’t

justify canceling the A-76 decision,” the colonel said. “For example, some of the government-furnished facilities aren’t available right now, but they will be 12-18 months from now, and equipment washed out to sea can be replaced with year-end funding.”

“Before AETC can decide on a course of action, more data is needed about Keesler’s recovery efforts and training mission to determine if the scope of the requirements has changed,” said Linda Clower, competitive sourcing chief. “We’re in the process of gathering that data and will submit it to the contracting officer.

“Once the data has been analyzed, a decision on a course of action will be made,” she added. “At this time, we don’t have enough information to speculate when the study will be resumed or what the milestone date for the final cost comparison will be. The reduction-in-force process can’t begin until the final decision is announced.”

Colonel Hayner noted that Keesler leadership “realizes this has been a seven-year struggle. Our people deserve an answer, and we’re working hard and aggressively to get them the right answer as quickly as possible.”

Military,

from Page 1

or assignments, from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a month, now payable either in a lump sum or installments.

A new allowance to cover the first \$150,000 in Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance premiums for troops serving in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

A new bonus of up to \$2,500 for service members who agree to transfer from one service to another and serve for at least three years.

An incentive pay of up to \$1,000 for service members who refer someone who enlists in the Army and successfully completes basic training.

An average 5.9 percent increase in housing allowances, with authority to increase set levels temporarily by as much as 20 percent in areas affected by natural disasters or troop surges resulting from force realignments.

An increase of 2,000 pounds in the household goods weight allowance for senior noncommissioned officers master sergeant and above;

Enhanced death benefits, resulting in a total of \$238,000 for all deaths not previously qualified for enhanced benefits, and the permanent institution of a policy that continues the basic allowance for housing or government quarters for one year for families of deceased service members.

Authority to pay the appli-

... the new law doesn’t guarantee all service members will qualify for these pays and benefits, or that those who do receive the highest amounts authorized.

cable overseas cost-of-living allowance to dependents who remain at their location outside the continental United States when a service member deploys from that location.

Expanded eligibility or increased ceilings for special pays for designated medical and dental officers, and officers with nuclear qualifications.

A bonus of up to \$12,000 per year for both active and reserve members with certified language proficiency.

Payment of travel and lodging for families of hospitalized service members wounded in combat zones or other designated areas.

The law also provides a variety of benefits specifically targeting members of the reserve components. These include:

Full housing allowance payments for reservists called to active duty for more than 30 days, vs. the previous 140-day requirement.

Income replacement benefits to help offset the pay loss some reservists and guardsmen experience when called to active duty, based on specific guidelines provided in the law.

Increases in the maximum

payment for accession and affiliation bonuses, from \$10,000 and \$15,000, respectively, to a consolidated \$20,000 for enlistment in the Selected Reserve.

Boosts in the maximum affiliation bonus for officers in the Selected Reserve, from \$6,000 to \$10,000.

A bonus that could total up to \$100,000 over a career for members with a designated critical skill or who volunteer to serve in a designated high-priority unit.

Extension of eligibility for a prior-service enlistment bonus to include Selected Reserve members who previously received one.

Mr. Witschonke emphasized the new law doesn’t guarantee all service members will qualify for these pays and benefits, or that those who do receive the highest amounts authorized. Rather, the law gives defense and service leaders the flexibility they need to tailor the force to meet operational, recruiting and retention goals.

For more information about pay, bonuses, special pays and benefits, go to DOD’s military compensation Web site, <http://www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/>.

Post-Katrina traffic presents new challenges for all of us

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

My head is pounding and my hands ache from clenching the steering wheel by the time I get home from work these days.

I'm one of many Keesler employees whose commute has been complicated since Hurricane Katrina knocked out the bridge linking Biloxi and Ocean Springs. There's no simple, uncomplicated way to get to the base anymore. It doesn't seem to matter if you leave earlier or stay at work later — the delays are still there.

I used to complain about the traffic on "Casino Row" as I traveled Highway 90 along the beach to Ocean Springs. I often griped about being stopped 10 or 15 minutes by the drawbridge as shrimp boats passed below.

Now that there's no bridge, I take the not-so-scenic route home from I-110 through D'Iberville and St. Martin to the Fort Bayou Bridge into Ocean Springs. The traffic has eased somewhat since Highway 90 and the Popp's Ferry Bridge in Biloxi reopened, but it may worsen again as business picks up at the three casinos that are now open. My little car is still wedged between debris-hauling trucks, 18-wheelers, school buses and other weary commuters on the overcrowded roads.

Immediately after Katrina, drivers seemed more polite, understanding and willing to let you merge into their traffic lane — after all, we're all in this mess together. Almost five long months have passed, and that initial tolerance seems to have given way to impatience and downright nastiness. Frustration with road conditions, along with perceived inconsiderate actions by other drivers, results in emotional responses.

Example: As I merged onto I-110, waiting until I thought it was my turn, a driver in a huge pickup truck laid on his horn and made an obscene gesture at me. Every time I glanced into my rear-view mirror, he continued making the same gesture. He rode my back bumper so closely that I couldn't see the grill on his truck. I was afraid he'd plow into me if I slowed down. Then, when he had the opportunity to pass me when the road opened

up to four lanes, he continued to tailgate me, giving me one more angry honk and single-finger salute as he finally made his turn.

We're all tired. We're all frustrated with our aggravating routes back and forth to work, shopping and our other everyday routines. But things aren't going to improve much any time soon, so we need strategies to protect ourselves and other drivers. Aggressive driving can escalate into "road rage" with deadly results.

Some helpful hints from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and other experts:

Leave early, plan ahead and allow time for delays.

Give driving your undivided attention.

Try not to drive when you're angry, upset or overly tired.

Don't take out your frustration on other drivers.

Driving isn't a contest about winning, so don't compete or retaliate. If someone's driving annoys you, don't try to educate them. Leave traffic enforcement to the police.

Don't take another driver's mistakes personally.

Avoid honking your horn unless it's absolutely necessary.

Realize you can't control other drivers; you can only control the way you react to them.

Time spent in a car isn't wasted time — let it be personal time in a personal space. Listen to music or think about something pleasant. Make the inside of your vehicle comfortable.

The more courtesy a driver exhibits, the more he's likely to get it in return.

Say "I'm sorry" if you make a mistake. An apology reduces the risk of conflict.

If you're physically threatened by another driver, stay in your car and lock the doors. Use your cell phone to call the police. Use your horn and lights to attract attention.

If you think you're being followed, go to a police station or a busy public place.

Personalize other drivers — every driver is someone's family member or friend.

ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

By Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

81st Training Wing commander

First, try to work concerns through the proper chain of command. When you've exhausted this recourse, turn to the commander's action line for assistance.

We welcome any suggestions to help make this a more valuable and useful tool. You may call the commander's action line at 377-4357, write to Commander's Action Line, 81 TRW/PA, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2603, e-mail 81 TRW Commander's Action Line (on-base) or commanders.line@keesler.af.mil (off-base). For a personal response, include your name, address and phone number.

Items of general interest may appear in this column.

Last straw

Comment — I'm the wife of an air traffic control student.

My husband is almost 24 years old, has done work on a master's degree, and we've been married for 1 1/2 years. I say all this in the hope that it will help us to be taken seriously.

We're both beyond fed up with how Air Force "policies" affect our marriage. He left for basic training July 13 and we haven't spent a single night together since then.

I've been living with friends who are retired from the Air Force in Ocean Springs since October. My husband has been denied permission to live off-base with me for reasons I feel are arbitrary and don't justify the separation of spouses.

We decided to wait until my husband entered Phase 4 when he could at least spend the weekends with me. Because he didn't score 100 percent on the phase-up exam for Phase 4 — he was darn close — we still can't be together.

This was the last straw for both of us. We're totally frustrated. We would never have signed on the dotted line if we'd been told the Air Force would have so little regard for our marriage.

Response — Limited housing and services since Hurricane Katrina have forced us to keep many families separated.

With this in mind, 81st Training Wing leadership decided allowing married students to live off-base would encourage them to bring their families into the area and further stress the environment. We understand your housing arrangements won't impact the market and you may not need medical or child care, but we're all in this together and our policies must be fair and consistent for all our people.

You may have been misinformed about the minimum passing score for the phase-up exam — it's 90 percent. Students are told in advance of the date of the exam so they have adequate time to prepare.

We encourage your husband to continue to work hard to achieve both academic and military success and you to continue to support him.

The Air Force places great emphasis on family and works very hard to keep them together as much as possible.

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Photo by Staff Sgt. Luis Curro

Sweaty but smiling, 7-level communications-electronics graduates pause after five days in a dank, dark, and very hot shelter," said Tech. Sgt. William Catts, one of the course instructors from the 338th TRS.

Instructors keep mission on track in shelters

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

While Hurricane Katrina confined more than 6,000 Keesler people in base shelters for six days last summer, something was going on besides sleeping and sweating and snacking and worrying.

Training — Keesler's primary mission — continued in spite of the lack of electricity and regular resources and the personal impact of the monster storm on members of the 81st Training Group.

According to Col. Deborah Van De Ven, 81st TRG commander, all six training squadrons conducted some types of training in the shelters. She stressed that even though many of the instructors lost their homes and personal belongings during the disaster, they put the training mission before their personal concerns.

The six instructors from the 335th Training Squadron who taught, tested and graduated 55 students while in the shelter "epitomized service before self — they were able to focus themselves and the students so that the mission could go on," said their commander, Lt. Col. Elia Sanjume.

"The most difficult time for me while teaching was having my wife (who was six months pregnant) go to our house to assess the damage," recalled Staff Sgt. Brad Jones, a 335th TRS weather forecasting apprentice instructor. "My commander gave me permission to go, but the class was close to completion so I opted to stay to get the work done.

"Surprisingly, the students really wanted to learn," he added. "They were only a week from graduating and didn't want to stay longer than necessary, so when they had the chance to finish on time, they took it."

Another trainer who personified "service before self" was Tech. Sgt. Erik Swann, an instructor for the 334th TRS military airfield manager course.

"As we came to grips with the realization of Katrina's devastation, our squadron commander, Lt. Col. Rick Miller, asked if we had the ability to train any courses within the shelter," said Capt. Steve

"Even though we'd just lived through the worst natural disaster in our country's history, we had to complete their training. The extreme heat didn't help matters either. Warm students want to sleep."

— Sergeant Exline

Mullins, air traffic control training flight commander. "Sergeant Swann gathered up all the necessary training materials and garnered a spare room within our shelter to set up a productive training environment, graduating the seven students on time.

"Sergeant Swann's efforts saved the Air Force more than \$5,000 in temporary duty costs and produced seven chief airfield management specialists for a career field severely crippled by diminishing manning numbers," Captain Mullins pointed out.

"The amazing thing is that Sergeant Swann is a single parent whose 12-year-old son sheltered with us," he added. "Even after learning that they lost their home and all their personal belongings in the storm, Sergeant Swann still had the composure and professionalism to put the Air Force's training needs ahead of his personal losses."

The 338th TRS completed five classes and graduated 58 students while sheltered.

The absence of all but a tiny amount of generator power made training very difficult, said Tech. Sgt.

William Catts, one of the instructors for the squadron's two communications-electronics 7-level classes.

"It was well over 90 degrees and we had 36 students crammed into one classroom because it was the only one with lights," Sergeant Catts noted. "We used a white board and markers instead of our 'smart boards' and PowerPoint because there was no outlet power. The students took notes on loose-leaf paper instead of the notebook computers signed out to each of them for the class.

"Despite all of the inconvenience, discomfort and frustration, our students were highly motivated and attentive, and all 36 graduated," he stated.

In the 336th TRS, instructors anticipated Katrina's training disruption and accelerated four classes to graduate and evacuate 49 students ahead of the storm. While sheltered in Thomson Hall, the squadron completed training for another 126 students, including 108 information management apprentices.

"We saved a lot of resources by allowing these students to PCS or return to their Guard or Reserve bases without having to return to Keesler to complete the training," emphasized Tech. Sgt. Franklin Koehler, one of information management instructors.

Staff Sgt. Tamika Walker graduated seven students from the 336th TRS radio communications system course while sheltered. She recalled the excruciating heat in her third-floor classroom in Thomson Hall.

"Space was limited because most first floor rooms were being used by other courses or reserved for family rooms and staff members," she determined. "I found a cool spot in the common area at a picnic table. There were noise and constant distractions, but I was able to conduct class there every morning."

The lack of electricity not only affected the comfort level in the building, but required modification of training techniques.

"In the Block IV class, we use scope trainers, but without power, we were unable to use them,"

Please see **Instructors**, Page 5



Photo by Kemberly Groue

First Lt. Renata Turner, left, Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., and Capt. Sonja Marsh, right, Hill AFB, Utah, review course materials with Lieutenant Fludd, their instructor.

New officer course blends manpower/personnel fields

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The 335th Training Squadron kicked off a new course Jan. 5 in response to the merger of the manpower and personnel officer career fields.

The 33-day course trains officers for the new Air Force Specialty Code 37F, according to Capt. Darryl Lee, manpower/personnel officer course chief.

“The two career fields were intertwined,” Captain Lee pointed out. “Historically, manpower has dealt with determining the positions needed and personnel has supplied the folks to fill the slots. It makes sense to combine the duties.”

The captain explained that the new course is intended to produce technical advisers for commanders to help them navigate the array of complex personnel and manpower programs. Students learn not only how personnel authori-

zations are determined and filled, but how the Air Force manages a member’s career.

The 44 students in the first course include active duty, Air National Guard and Reserve members ranging from second lieutenants to lieutenant colonels.

Instructors are Captain Lee, 1st Lt. Schavonne Fludd and civilians Mike Deaton and Dale Harrison.

An Air Staff utilization and training workshop directed implementation of the new training and determined what parts of each course should be included in the new one. Combining the two courses adds about two weeks to the training schedule.

Hurricane Katrina disrupted the first class and the one scheduled to begin in October was postponed, too. Now the training team is working hard to accommodate the increased student load.

Instructors,

from Page 4

Sergeant Walker commented. “I had to read the traffic out loud instead of talking to them through their headsets.”

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Exline, a 336th TRS computer operations instructor, said that the hardest part about training in the shelters “was the overwhelming awe that followed the storm and the unknown aspects of everyone’s lives. It was hard to focus the students

— even though we’d just lived through the worst natural disaster in our country’s history, we had to complete their training.

“The extreme heat didn’t help matters, either,” he continued. “Warm students want to sleep.”

Sergeant Exline said some students, especially prior-service ones, didn’t take well to the sheltering experience.

“It was hard to get across to them that we needed to complete their training before they could leave,” he commented. “We finished their training

and gave them hand-printed certificates — it was the best we could do.”

The intense focus on training delayed Sergeant Exline’s realization of Katrina’s effect on his home and family, who’d evacuated.

“After leaving the shelter, I realized that my family wouldn’t be coming home anytime soon, because there was no home to come home to,” he said. “The feelings inside me started to turn loose, and I needed my fellow squadron members to get through those few days of depression.”

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

JROTC openings

Air Force Junior ROTC positions are available to retired or soon-to-be retired officers and noncommissioned officers.

For more information, call 1-866-235-7682, ext. 35275 or 35300, or DSN 493-5275 or 5300.

For a list of current openings go to <http://www.afboats.af.mil/AFJROTC/instructors.asp>.

MGCCC classes

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Keesler Center's spring term is March 6 through May 18.

Web registration for currently enrolled students begins Feb. 6. Registration by appointment in Room 214, old Cody Hall, begins Feb. 22 for active duty.

Students who take English composition I, oral communication or mathematics for the first time must have an assessment of skills.

The schedule, including new classes in physics, calculus and study skills, is available at <http://www.mgccc.edu>.

For more information, call 377-2287.

\$1,000 scholarships

Military Officers Association of America scholarships worth \$1,000 are available to 25 children of military personnel.

For more information and to apply online, go to <http://moaa.org>.

Questions may be e-mailed to edassist@moaa.org.

Grants increase

General Henry H. Arnold Education Grants have been increased to \$2,000 by the Air Force Aid Society.

Children of active duty, retirees, Title 10 reservists on extended active duty, Title 32 performing full-time active duty and deceased Air Force members are eligible to apply. Spouses of active duty, Title 10 reservists residing and attending school in the continental United States and widows and widowers of active duty and retirees.

Applications are available at the family support center,

Trainers honor top performers Feb. 3

The 81st Training Group honors its top performers of 2005 at its annual awards banquet, Feb. 3 in Building 4247, the 403rd Wing ISO Hangar.

The 6 p.m. social hour is followed by dinner at 7. Military wear battle dress uniforms.

Tickets are \$15 and must be purchased by Jan. 30.

Points of contact are:

81st Training Group — Tech. Sgt. Heather Watson, 377-2682.

332nd Training Squadron — Master Sgt. Robert Harrell, 377-0286.

333rd TRS — 1st Lt. Naomi Henigin, 377-9343.

334th TRS — Maj. Douglas Leamon, 377-2895; Capt. Scott Lamont, 377-2038, Bridgette Kennedy, 377-4311, or Steve Mullins, 377-9385; and Helen Lazzarini, 377-4238.

335th TRS — Tech. Sgt. Krista Landreneau, 377-0203.

336th TRS — Master Sgt. Roderick McKinley, 377-5315.

338th TRS — Maj. Jim Quiros, 377-9514.

81st Training Support Squadron — Airman 1st Class Nathan Olsen, 377-7899.

Room 118, old Cody Hall. The application deadline is March 10.

Physician assistants

Phase I physician assistant training classes begin in January, April and August 2007.

Completed applications must be sent by military personnel flights and arrive by Jan. 27 at HQ AFPC/DPAMW, 550 C Street West, Suite 27, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4729.

For more information, call the military personnel flight or education office or visit <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/medical/BSC/Education/PAapplication.htm>.

Testing

To make appointments for tests administered by the education office, visit Room 212, old Cody Hall or call 377-2323 or 2171.

Testing is in Room 118, Airman Leadership School, 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

Civilian tuition aid

College tuition assistance is available for permanent civil service employees at Keesler.

Courses must be mission (job) related and through accredited schools.

For more information, call or visit the education office, 377-2323, Room 212, old Cody Hall.

CCAF online

Visit the Air Force Virtual Education Center, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod>,

to create My-AFVEC accounts to access online customer service tools.

With the tools, people can request Community College of the Air Force transcripts, track receipt of civilian transcripts, view degree progress reports and check if a course counts toward a CCAF degree.

Tuition aid online

Air Force members can request tuition assistance online.

Members can accomplish this request from their workstation through the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

AFVEC may be accessed through the Web site, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod>, or through the Air Force Portal using the portal's reduced sign-on technology. New My AFVEC users are required to create an account.

Upon registration, select the "Request TA" option. A PowerPoint tutorial in this section to provides instructions on processing online applications.

It's important to know and enter basic course registration information in the request.

Bypass testing

Up to 30 hours of college bypass testing credit can be used to complete a 64-hour Community College of the Air Force degree.

For more information, call 377-0090.

NEWS AND FEATURES

New year brings formal retreats



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Staff Sgt. Carlos Diaz, Tech. Sgt. Diane Bone, Capt. Louis Eldredge and Staff Sgts. Shane Monterosso and Jenalyn Owens fold the flag during the 81st Training Wing's first formal retreat of the year, Jan. 12 in front of wing headquarters. Sergeant Diaz is from public affairs, Sergeants Bone and Monterosso are from protocol and Captain Eldredge and Sergeant Owens are from the legal office. Wing staff agencies perform the next two monthly ceremonies, 5 p.m. Feb. 9 and March 9. The 81st Training Group handles retreats April-June, 81st Mission Support Group July-September, and 81st Medical Group, October-December.

Tax office opens Monday Katrina losses impact itemized returns

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Keesler's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Office opens for business Monday on the second floor of Vandenberg Community Center.

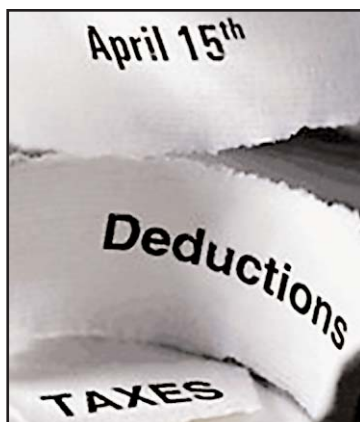
The office provides free tax advice and preparation services, 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. workdays.

Last year, the office served more than 2,800 active-duty members and retirees, according to manager Ruthie Bell.

"For 2005, the IRS has changed many rules on income taxes, deductions and credits, so it's imperative that taxpayers understand the changes before filing their returns," Ms. Bell explained.

Additionally, a number of tax questions have arisen following Hurricane Katrina.

"Grants from state programs, charitable organizations and employers covering medical expenses, transportation and temporary housing are general-



ly not taxable," Ms. Bell said. "Federal Emergency Management Agency grants also aren't taxable, unless the taxpayer received double reimbursement from FEMA and private insurance."

Many Gulf Coast residents have suffered "casualty loss" from Katrina, which the Internal Revenue Service defines as underinsured or uninsured loss.

"A Gulf Coast taxpayer may deduct 100 percent of casualty loss caused by Hurricane Katrina if an itemized return is

filed," Ms. Bell pointed out. "Taxpayers may amend their 2004 returns or apply the casualty loss deduction on their 2005 tax return. Our office maintains 2004 tax returns electronically, so amending 2004 returns through VITA can be expedited."

Individuals not using VITA should write "Hurricane Katrina" in red on the amended return to expedite the refund of 2004 taxes.

Each squadron has at least one VITA representative who prepares income tax returns at his or her duty location.

For filing, bring an identification card, the Social Security cards of everyone on the return or a copy of last year's tax return if it was prepared elsewhere, as well as all relevant W-2 forms, 1099 forms, documentation for itemized deductions and supporting evidence for casualty loss.

For more information, call 377-4454.

IN THE NEWS

Commander's call today

Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso, 81st Training Wing commander, holds the second of two commander's calls, 3:30 p.m. today at Welch Auditorium.

Topics include wing goals, returning dependents, A-76, force shaping, assignments, priority technical training, humanitarian missions, entitlements, medical center status and housing issues.

AETC offers civilian goal days

Gen. William Looney, Air Education and Training Command commander, has established an AETC Goal Day program to reward civilians with up to eight hours time off per quarter for exemplary performance and teamwork in meeting mission goals and objectives.

Criteria is at the base commander's discretion based on local circumstances and wing mission requirements.

Travel card billing changes

AETC News Service

In March, the billing cycle for the government travel card changes from the 3rd to the 22nd of each month.

Cardholders can also now self-register online for electronic account government ledger system user identifications and passwords using information found on GTC statement. EAGLS allows cardholders to view current transactions and previous statement activity and maintain account information online.

To register, visit http://www.gcsuthd.bankofamerica.com/eagls_selfregistration/selfreg.aspx. EAGLS user IDs and passwords are mailed to the address associated with your GTC.

For more information, call Dennis Villers, 377-4657, or the EAGLS technical help desk, 800-472-1424.

Free theme park admission

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Anheuser-Busch officials have extended free theme park admission for active-duty service members and up to three family members through 2006.

The offer is for the company's eight theme parks in five states, including SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place.

Any active-duty service member, reservist or guardsman is entitled to free admission under the program. Families of troops serving overseas also are eligible to visit the parks in the military personnel's absence. Department of Defense civilians aren't eligible.

For registration and park schedules, visit <http://www.herosalute.com>.

Early Keesler News deadlines

The deadline for submissions to these upcoming issues of the Keesler News is four days earlier than usual:

Feb. 23 — deadline is noon Feb. 16 due to the Presidents Day federal holiday Feb. 20.

March 2 — deadline is noon Feb. 23 due to the Mardi Gras regional holiday Feb. 28. The holiday is observed by Gulf Publishing Co., contract publisher of the base newspaper.

The newspaper office is closed Feb. 20 in observance of the Presidents Day holiday and open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 28.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Editor's note: This column is a service of the Keesler News. Contributors include the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and the 81st Mission Support Squadron's military and civilian personnel flights.

Hurricane relief medals approved

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Service members and civilians who took part in Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita relief efforts may be eligible for a medal.

The director of the Joint Staff has approved awarding the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Armed Forces Service Medal for military personnel. Department of Defense civilians may receive the Armed Forces Civilian Service Medal.

To qualify for the HSM, service members must have provided direct support to immediate relief operations for at least one day in the area of eligibility — east of and including Houston, Alabama, Louisiana or Mississippi — from Aug. 29 to Oct. 13.

Service members eligible to receive the AFSM must have provided direct support to relief operations for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days in the continental United States from Aug. 27, 2005, to Feb. 27 — minus the specific area and time-period used to qualify for the HSM.

Members who receive an HSM for Katrina relief operations can't receive a second HSM for Rita. The same applies for the AFSM. However, people who receive the HSM may later qualify for the AFSM if their direct support doesn't include the dates and actions used in their qualifications for the HSM.

To qualify for the AFCSM, civilians must have provided direct support to relief operations for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days in the same area of eligibility and period as the AFSM.

Eligible Air Force personnel must provide proof of entitlement to their servicing military personnel flight or civilian personnel office. Supporting documentation may consist of assignment orders, temporary duty orders or travel vouchers, a decoration citation, an enlisted or officer performance report reflecting participation or other official documentation that verifies participation.

Any colonel in a command billet or civilian equivalent can approve the awarding of these medals if supporting documentation isn't available.

Once verified, the servicing military or civilian personnel flight updates individual records.

For more information, contact the local military personnel flight or civilian personnel office.

Force shaping

For information on force shaping, visit the Air Force Personnel Center Force shaping Web site, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape.htm>, or call the AFPC contact center, 1-800-616-3775.

Verifying deployment credit

For information on verifying deployment credit, call the Air Force Personnel Center's field activities office, DSN 665-2671 or commercial 1-210-565-2671.

Mailing care packages

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service and Military Postal Service Agency process mail for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. A letter takes seven to 14 days and a package 14-24 days.

For more information, call 1-800-275-8777 or visit <http://www.usps.com>.

Airmen to deploy with lighter mobility bag

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy

386th Air Expeditionary
Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — A new mobility-bag process will now “lighten” the load of deployed members and save the Air Force money, too.

The 386th Air Expeditionary Wing and two other locations are test sites for a new process to preposition mobility bags and chemical warfare defense equipment in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

An Air Force message stated the effort is in line with the Air Force’s vision to improve agile combat support as people deploy and help reduce the excess-baggage charges and the number of aircraft seats lost due to weight restrictions.

The process is expected to eliminate the need for most

“It’s going to be hard work at first getting everything moved in place and into the system. But once that’s completed, it will become much easier.”

— Airman Haskin

deployed personnel to carry individual protective equipment.

Master Sgt. Micki Larson-Olson, noncommissioned officer in charge of the expeditionary theater distribution center here, said the concept has been in the works for a few deployment rotations.

The next Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation is the first to take part in the mass issue process.

“When we arrived, we only had 18 C-bags built,” Sergeant Larson-Olson said. “So our first major task was to check

through the inventory and replace all the expired assets we had on hand and begin building new bags. We currently have more than 1,300 C-bags ready and in the system.”

That number is going to grow as many deployed troops are required to turn in their C-bags before leaving to be readied for the next rotation.

“We are expecting about 1,000 more bags to come in,” she said. “We sent out a list of those needing to turn their C-bags in and those who are exempt. We’ve had a constant flow of bags daily.”

In addition to the C-bags, people will no longer be required to bring the mobility bags, or A-bags, with them beginning with the next rotation.

“We currently have 1,200 A-bags on hand. That’s our authorization to have here at the center,” she said. “These bags will be used for the people coming in on the next rotation. Once their deployment is done, they will turn them back in.”

To store all this excess baggage, a new expeditionary theater distribution center is under

construction and is expected to open by Feb. 1.

Sergeant Larson-Olson said the new center will also be the home of the wing processing line and storage area for individual body armor.

“It’s going to be hard work at first getting everything moved in place and into the system,” said mobility technician Airman 1st Class Christopher Haskin. “But once that’s completed, it will become much easier.”

People getting ready to go back home seem to like the new initiative.

“I heard about it while at Ramstein Air Base, Germany,” said Chaplain Michael Tinnon of the wing chaplain’s office. “It’s nice not having to haul so many bags back and forth. I think it’s wonderful.”

Keesler Catholic chaplain serves in Kyrgyzstan

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

A chaplain from Keesler had the “ultimate experience” during his deployment to Kyrgystan from May to September.

Catholic Chap. (Capt.) Onyema Okorie was deployed to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan Republic. He served as one of two chaplains for the deployed location which is a hub for troops traveling to forward locations.

Chaplain Okorie called his deployment the ultimate military experience.

“I really saw the military in action over there,” he said. “Seeing people who would go on to Iraq, Afghanistan and other places to fight the war on terrorism is an important priority for us right now. Being able to help in any way makes me feel as if I am contributing to the fight. It was an unbelievable experience.

“There were Air Force, Army and Marine troops that would go to the base, waiting for orders to go somewhere else,” said Chaplain Okorie. “They would be there for a day, sometimes longer, before they went to their deployment location.”

He saw military members from many different forces and countries and had the opportunity to talk to them during their stopover at the base.

“The base served coalition forces, including Spaniards, French, Korean and Polish forces,” he said. “I got the opportunity to speak to many of them. I could tell that they were excited to be there.”

The deployment was the chaplain’s first since entering the military two years ago. He was excited and nervous.

“I was excited when I flew into the country,” he said. “I was also anxious because I didn’t know much about what the place was like, who I would be working with, etc. It took me a



Courtesy photo

Chaplain Okorie celebrates Mass while deployed to Kyrgyzstan last year.

few weeks, but once I knew what I was doing, I settled in.”

Chaplain Okorie, who was commissioned in April 2004, said the staff was small, especially for the job they had to do.

“I was one of two chaplains,” he said. “Military bases have a minimum of two chaplains: a Protestant and a Catholic. We had me, the Protestant chaplain and a chaplain’s assistant. It was interesting that I was the only active-duty Air Force person of the three — the other two both belonged to the Air National Guard.

“There was also an Army post nearby and I would sometimes go there to do chaplain services as well. I even e-mailed my weekly sermons to troops if they were unable to attend. I tried to do whatever I could to provide spiritual support to as many troops as possible.”

When Chaplain Okorie, who’s been stationed here since July 2004, returned to

Keesler shortly after Hurricane Katrina, he was relieved to find he’d had little damage from the storm.

“I lost my car, which was in storage off-base,” he said. “I also lost a couple of shingles from my house; otherwise, everything I had was OK.”

He wasn’t the only Keesler member deployed to Manas when the hurricane hit the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Aware of this, base leadership gathered them together for a meeting.

“A lot of the Keesler folks there had some information, but we still wanted to have a town hall meeting with them to try and let everyone know what was going on,” Chaplain Okorie said. “I had direct contact with Father (Maj.) Timothy Butler, 81st TRW chaplain, who provided me information that I passed on.”

He said his job changed after the storm.

“We wanted to provide spiritual and emotional sup-

port for people,” he said. “We also wanted to make sure everyone got to a safe haven as soon as possible. I decided to stay there until everyone else left.”

A native of Nigeria, the chaplain came to the United States in 1993. Ten years later, he became an American citizen.

The chaplain is fluent in six languages, which he thinks helped him during his deployment.

“I was able to do a memorial service for a troop who was killed in action in English and in Spanish,” Chaplain Okorie said. “They really appreciated that because afterwards, many of the troops came up to thank me for doing the service in their native language. I just wanted to do what I could to make it special.”

The chaplain said he’d love to repeat his deployment experience.

“If someone asked me to go tomorrow, I wouldn’t hesitate in saying yes,” he said.

Serving with purpose

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

A desire to turn a negative into a positive brought Chaplain (Capt.) Onyema Okorie, 81st Training Wing chaplain, into the Air Force.

“My uncle joined the military during the Nigerian-Biafra civil war,” he explained. “He was declared missing in action in 1970, and that is all the information we know. We don’t know if he is alive today or not.”

The Nigerian-Biafra civil war took place from 1967-70. Nigeria is a federal republic in Africa and Biafra is a city in Nigeria.

Biafrans wanted their independence. Nigeria was having none of that, so Biafra seceded, igniting the conflict.

The civil war lasted until the Biafrans’ food and supplies ran out and their leader fled the country.

It’s estimated that one million people died during this conflict, not to mention those who, like the chaplain’s uncle, simply disappeared.

“I love to turn something sad and negative in life into something positive,” Chaplain Okorie said of being inspired to join the Air Force by the fate of his uncle. “I could choose to be angry and bitter over the fact that my uncle is still missing. Instead, I use that energy to help other people with my ministry.”

Quilts keep coming for hurricane victims

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The quilts keep coming for Keesler families who lost their personal possessions in Hurricane Katrina.

Earlier this month, a shipment of 350 quilts from all over the world was forwarded by the American Quilters Society, in addition to those sent earlier by quilters in Montana and Texas.

Teresa Ess, system administrator for 81st Training Wing staff agencies, is distributing the quilts, 3-5 p.m. each day at Room 140, Wolfe Hall until they're gone.

There's a limit of one bed-size quilt per family, or one lap or child-size quilt per family member.

"These quilts are available for military, civilians or contractors," said Ms. Ess, an avid quilter herself. "We sent word out through the first sergeants, but there are still many quilts available for those who lost everything to Katrina."

Here's a list of other assistance sources.

Air Force Aid Society

Hurricane Katrina assistance requests are accepted at the family support center, Room 118, old Cody Hall.

Air Force active-duty members, retirees, widows of Air Force retirees, and Army retirees and their widows must complete the entire application and provide supporting documentation.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cartier, 377-2593.

BAH

Base housing residents who received basic assistance for housing after Hurricane Katrina and have returned to a habitable unit need to stop by the base housing office in Chapel One east of the dental clinic to stop their BAH.

Residents should check their leave and earnings statements to verify they aren't receiving BAH anymore.

Coins, patches

The sale of Operation Dragon Comeback coins and patches benefits the base's

Captain benefits from relief fund

By Master Sgt. Roger Drinnon

Keesler Public Affairs

Team Keesler recently came to the aid of one of its officers who thought her residence was undamaged by Hurricane Katrina until she opened the front door.

Capt. Lisa Brake, plans officer for the 81st Training Wing Plans and Programs office, received \$500 from the Katrina Relief Fund established by base officials to help compensate Keesler personnel for home damage and personal property loss in Katrina's aftermath.

"I was so grateful," said Capt. Brake. "The relief fund is a wonderful idea. It took some of the load off, as far as paying for unexpected expenses."

Captain Brake was a member of the base's crisis action team during the hurricane. When it was safe enough to return to her home in Ocean Springs, what she found surprised her.

"The house looked perfect from the outside," the captain said. "Then, when I put the key in the door, the lock didn't want to turn, and it was then that I saw the (broken) water line on my house."

"I went inside and my



Captain Brake

house was trashed, since it had been flooded by 4 feet of water, and mold was already starting to grow," she continued. "I tried to walk around and check out all the rooms, but the furniture was pushed against the doors and I couldn't open them. So, I left and went back to work in the CAT."

The captain said despite the internal damage to her house, she was surprised that her home was still intact, given the reports and photos she was given in the CAT immediately after the storm.

Capt. Brake said she, her husband and her 6-year-old son continue to reside in temporary lodging on base as they strive to get their

lives back to normal.

"Luckily we had insurance, but we had to completely gut our house and throw out most of our belongings, and the contractors who were working to fix our house quit and didn't tell us, so we're still trying to get the house finished so we can sell it," she explained. "We still live in Tyer House, and we feel very fortunate to have a place to live when so many people don't."

Capt. Brake expressed her gratitude for what Keesler has done to help her recover from such a disaster.

"Everyone has been very supportive of me and my family," she said. "For example, when I needed some time to gut my house and to throw out our belongings, I was given some time without any hassle. Also, the fact that no Keesler member has to go without a place to live has been great."

The captain said her experiences from Katrina left her with a new perspective for dealing with such stressful challenges.

"Take life one day at a time and it will all work out," she said. "Also, ask for help when you need it."

Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

Coins are \$7 and patches are \$5.

Contact unit representatives to purchase or e-mail Tech. Sgts. Eric Alvarez, eric.alvarez@keesler.af.mil, or Anthony Bellocq, anthony.bellocq@keesler.af.mil.

Diploma replacement

To replace Community College of the Air Force or professional military education diplomas lost or damaged due to the hurricane, call the education office, 377-2171.

Extended child care

Military and civilians who

are eligible for on-base day care and work more than 50 hours a week are eligible for free or subsidized child care under the Air Force's extended duty child care program.

For more information, call 377-3189 or 5935.

Government travel card

People who used GTCs for prepaid transactions that weren't used as a result of Hurricane Katrina can dispute the charge for credit.

Before filing a dispute, try to contact the merchant to see if charges can be credited to the account. If that isn't possible, submit the dispute form

found at <https://www.gcsuthd.bankofamerica.com/forms/maintenance.asp>. Use reason code 10 for "other" and use your own words to reference Hurricane Katrina. To fax the form, call 1-888-678-6046.

Income tax relief

For information about the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005, call the Internal Revenue Service, 1-866-562-5227, or visit the agency's Web site, <http://www.irs.gov>.

Katrina relief fund

The Keesler Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund a central location for money donated by

other bases and sources.

For more information, call Maj. Teresa Roberts or Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cartier, 377-2179.

Retirees, annuitants

Military retirees and annuitants who've relocated or changed banking information, call 1-800-321-1080, 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekdays. They can also use myPay to update information; call 1-800-390-2348.

Changes to mailing and banking information can be sent by fax to 1-800-469-6559, with "Hurricane Katrina" at the top of the page and a contact phone number listed.

Safe haven per diem

Another 30-day extension to the safe haven per diem rates payable to dependents of uniformed members brings coverage for Keesler families to 150 days, or through Tuesday.

Reimbursement rates are 100 percent for dependents 12 and older and 50 percent for those under 12.

Lodging reimbursement is limited to the actual cost not to exceed the authorized amount; receipts are required.

Receipts aren't required for the meals and incidentals expense that's reimbursed as a flat amount.

SGLI

The Defense Department extended the deadline for reducing or declining increased Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage for service members affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Sept. 1, eligible members were automatically insured for the maximum coverage of \$400,000.

These changes don't affect coverage under Family SGLI, which continues under previously existing elections.

Those who wish to keep the \$400,000 coverage with the same beneficiary designations don't need to take any action.

To decline or reduce coverage, members must complete a new SGLV 8286 at <http://www.insurance.va.gov>, indicating the amount of coverage desired.

Facilities update

Gaudé Lanes grill — newest eatery on base

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

The Gaudé Lanes grill reopened Jan. 10.

The grill offers items such as subs, hot dogs, chicken wings, salads and specialty sandwiches, including the 11th Frame Burger loaded with Swiss cheese, bacon, mushrooms, lettuce, tomatoes and pickles.

Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-10 p.m. Friday, and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday.

Open base facilities are:

81st Services Division

Arts and crafts, frame and engraving shops — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Auto skills center — 1-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and non-working Fridays. The car wash is open 24 hours a day.

Child development center — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 377-2211.

Family child care — providers are accepting children in their homes. Children are also being accepted at the mildly-ill family child care home.

For more information, call 377-3189.

People interested in becoming licensed family child care providers, call the family child care office, 377-5935, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Inns of Keesler — open 24 hours.

Half Time Café — 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Information, ticket and travel office — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays-working Fridays in the customer service area of Vandenberg Community Center.

Vandenberg Community Center — open for senior airmen and below 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday.

Wood shop — 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and non-working Fridays.

Youth center — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. workdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Before- and after-school program is 6-8:30 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. for children in kindergarten through grade 6.

Triangle Fitness Center, the marina, Keesler Club, Warrior Lounge and Keesler Community Center are closed.

AAFES

Car care center — 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Katie Parker, left, prepares a burger at the Gaudé Lanes grill, while Melodi DeBorge cooks a Philly cheese steak sandwich. The grill is the newest place to get a bite to eat on base.

Service bays close at 3:30 p.m.

For more information, call 432-2404.

Class Six/Shoppette — open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays.

The main exchange, dorm shoppette and medical center exchange are closed indefinitely.

Home furnishings store — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at 220 Ploesti Drive with an entrance on Hercules Street.

Welch Auditorium — movies shown 7 p.m. Friday; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday. For more information, see Digest, Page 21.

Banking

BancorpSouth — bank lobby is now open during normal business hours, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday. Automatic teller machines are operational.

Keesler Federal Credit Union — open during regular banking hours, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, in the trailer located in the credit union's parking lot. ATMs on base are now operational 24 hours a day.

Gates

Oak Park Gate is open 5:30-7:30 a.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday to help alleviate traffic due to road closures caused by Hurricane Katrina. Pass Road, White Avenue and Meadows Drive gates

are open around the clock. Judge Sekul Gate is closed.

Housing

The housing office in Chapel One is reassigning homes to families whose base housing is uninhabitable. For a list of available off-base housing, call Mary Krystosek, 377-9741.

The office is the focal point for military housing residents to request portable storage units or labor assistance.

Mini-mall

Alteration shop — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

At Ease embroidery/unit apparel — noon to 7 p.m. daily.

Barber shop — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Beauty shop — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

CZee Zone Internet Café — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Dawg Daze hot dog cart — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Laundry and dry cleaners — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Military clothing sales — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Seattle's Best Coffee — 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. daily in the mini-mall.

Subway — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Moves

Area Defense Counsel —

Keesler's office is now in Room 5703, Locker House. The office, an independent office of the Air Force Legal Services Agency, provides representation for investigations, administrative actions and discharges, nonjudicial punishment, courts-martial and other adverse actions. For appointments, call 377-2429.

Contracting — now located in Room 101, old Cody Hall.

Education office — now located in Room 212, old Cody Hall. For assistance, call 377-2323 or 2171.

Family support center — now located on the first floor, old Cody Hall. A student office remains open in the Fishbowl.

Finance — now located on the second floor, Vosler Center. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays.

For military and travel pay questions, call 377-7272 or 4212.

Legal office — aid is available 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. workdays in Room 246, Levitow Training Support Facility. For appointments, call 377-3510. For Katrina claims, call 377-3630. The fax number is 377-3630.

Personal finances — now located in Room 119, old Cody Hall. For more information, call 377-8601 or 2179.

Personnel offices — now located in Room 218, old Cody Hall. The civilian personnel office has relocated to the Airman Leadership School building.

Retirees, annuitants — the retiree activities center has moved from Thrower Park to Room 104, old Cody Hall.

Traffic management office — TMO for technical training students in Room 211, Levitow Training Support Facility, is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call 377-0174, 1263, 7448 or 3147.

The main TMO is located in old Cody Hall, Room 166, and is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Phone numbers are inbound issues, 377-7291 and outbound counselors, 377-5471.

Pets

Veterinary clinic — open 8 a.m. to noon Mondays-Fridays for sales.

For appointments to have pets vaccinated or for sick pets, call 377-6883.

Self-help store

The self-help store is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday for facility managers, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for housing residents and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays. For more information, call 377-5397.

Medical services: What's available, when, where

81st Medical Group

Services available through the 81st Medical Group:

The appointment line is open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to noon Sunday. Active-duty personnel may begin calling at 5 a.m. Monday-Friday.

To access care on the first floor of Keesler Medical Center, enter through the "A Tower" at the top of the steps leading from Fisher Street. Signs directing patients to the respective clinics are posted along the route from the entrance to the clinic areas. The security staff is also available to provide directions.

Clinic hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. working Fridays. The family practice, internal medicine and pediatric clinics see patients 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays.

Mental health flight — returns to 1D in the medical center Monday. Services include life skills, family advocacy/exceptional family member program and alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment. Patients may use the entrance at the west end of the building. Call 377-7006 or 6216 to confirm appointments or the information desk, 377-6550.

Tricare office is in Room 1A-200. For patient registration or eligibility, call 377-6149 or 6276. For Tricare enrollments or MEB, call 377-9962. For the referral management office, Room 1A-201, call 377-6177. For health benefits advisors, visit Room 1F-306 or call 377-6580. Tricare Prime beneficiaries, call 1-800-700-8603 for appointments, leaving phone consults for their primary care managers or requesting authorizations for any non-emergency services. Hours are: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. working Fridays.

The family practice staff, in the former medical specialties clinic, sees acute uncomplicated illnesses, handles personal health assessments and provides medication refills. Urgicare and walk-in services aren't available. A case management and social worker are available.

The clinical laboratory is in its medical center location. The lab's phlebotomy station is open in the main lab and routine blood testing is provided for Tricare Prime patients seen at the medical center.

The blood donor center is open. To arrange to donate blood, call 377-9324.

Radiology is back in its previous location.

Provided are routine radiographs, computerized tomography and ultrasounds for Tricare Prime patients seen at the medical center.

The immunization clinic in the former urology clinic provides all inoculations to active duty, retirees and dependents. Flu shots and limited allergy services are available.

The temporary pharmacy is in the medical photo/oral surgery area. Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. For remaining refills from on-base prescriptions, call 377-6360. Pick up refills at least four duty days later at the temporary pharmacy distribution area in Building 5 of the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Veterans Boulevard, just off Pass Road. To renew prescriptions, see your primary care manager or another Tricare network provider. The pharmacy is unable to fill prescriptions from off-base providers.

The first aid station is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. Ambulance coverage for Keesler is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the on-base 911 line. Patients are taken directly to off-base medical facilities. For emergencies, go to the nearest coast emergency room. Active-duty sick call at the first aid station is scheduled through the central appointment line. The first aid station treats only new acute health care problems.

Internal medicine on the first floor sees active-duty, dependents and Tricare Prime enrollees. Services are acute medical care, limited evaluation and treatment of chronic medical illnesses, medical consultation and referral for select subspecialty services.

The optometry clinic is on the first floor within the internal medicine clinic area. The staff sees active duty patients only. All exams are by appointment only through the Tricare appointment line, 1-800-700-8603. The clinic can order spectacles and gas mask inserts for active duty and eligible retirees provided they have a current prescription (within two years).

The pediatric clinic in the former oncology/hematology clinic area provides scheduled acute medical care for children, well baby/child visits, routine appointments, Q Code exams, and exceptional family member program and special needs family paperwork. For appointments, use the Tricare appointment line. A child psychologist and social worker are available. Appointments are by PCM referral.

Women's health in the former general surgery clinic, next to the new flight medicine clinic, provides routine women's health care to active duty, dependents and Tricare Prime enrollees. Services are general gynecological problems, annual Pap smear exams, birth control and follow-up of abnormal Paps (dysplasia). No obstetrical services are available. The clinic initiates profiles for pregnant active-duty patients. Eligible patients with questions, call 377-6920. For appointments, call 1-800-700-8603.

Flight medicine in the surgical specialties clinic furnishes walk-in acute care, duties-not-involved-in-flying paperwork, profiles and physical health assessments.

General surgery and orthopedics share the former orthopedic clinic. Surgery is available by primary care manager consult only.

Medical records are in the Wylie Auditorium. Original records are maintained by the medical center. For copies, complete a request form at the outpatient record's customer service desk. Allow five to seven days for copies.

Endocrine services are available by appointment only in the internal medicine clinic. Call the Tricare appointment line.

New dermatology patients are seen by referral only. Established patients may be seen by calling 377-1673 or the appointment line.

The Triangle clinic, Levitow Training Support Facility, sees only non-prior service students.

Services at the dental clinic include routine care, cleanings and routine outpatient oral surgery for active-duty members only. Dental emergencies for all patients are seen through dental sick call. Call 377-4510 for appointments.

Physical and occupational therapy see patients at the health and wellness center. Physical therapy sees active duty only; occupational therapy sees active duty, retirees and adult dependents. Services include assessment and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders such as upper and lower extremity dysfunction and neck and back pain. Treatment is limited to gym and home exercise programs, heat, ice and ultrasound modalities.

For the director of customer relations, call 377-9498.

KEESLER NOTES

Vehicle decals

Vehicle decals are available in the trailer on the south side of the visitors center at the White Avenue Gate.

Due to Hurricane Katrina, military, civilian and contractor identification cards may be used to gain access to the base.

For more information, call pass and registration, 377-2143 or 2595.

Child care

The family child care program is available to all active-duty military, Defense Department civilians including non-appropriated fund, and Army and Air Force Exchange Service employees and others who support the base mission.

To assist with finding a FCC provider, the staff prepares monthly listings of all current licensed providers.

For updated listings and more information, call 377-3189 or 5935.

DRMO withdrawals

Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office withdrawals for organizational requirements must be for assets normally authorized for requesting organizations and specific customer requirements.

For audit purposes, base activities other than nonappropriated fund activities must

request all property in DRMO through the retail supply activity. This ensures the requester is an authorized representative of the requesting organizational activity.

Speed limit up

The speed limit on Bayview Avenue behind Keesler Medical Center has been increased from 15 to 25 mph, according to safety officials.

Children's art

The Military Child Education Coalition is looking for artwork, poems and essays from Keesler children for On The Move magazine.

Entries must be postmarked by Feb. 17.

For more information, call Lana Smith, 377-3532.

Zero overpricing

Submit zero overpricing items on Air Force Form 1046 to 81SUPS/LGSPQ, Attn: Terry Brandenburg, 377-4252, or e-mail to terry.brandenburg@keesler.af.mil.

Supply visits

Supply customer liaison is available to visit organizations for feedback on support.

To schedule a visit, call Terry Brandenburg, 377-4252 or e-mail terry.brandenburg@keesler.af.mil.



Thanks from disabled vets

Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso, left, 81st Training Wing commander, admires a plaque presented to Keesler by Leo Windham, Disabled American Veterans state commander, in recognition of the base's humanitarian missions in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath. Keesler continues community assistance projects across south Mississippi with volunteers like Airmen Basic Matthew Eresman (below left) and James Reed, 334th Training Squadron students, who were part of a team that organized relief supplies at a distribution warehouse in Woolmarket Jan. 11. As of that date, Keesler volunteers had undertaken more than 341 hurricane relief missions involving more than 26,000 manhours.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



ARTWORK DESIGN CONTEST

Keesler African-American Heritage Committee (AAHC)

WHAT: Black & White Artwork encompassing the 2006 Black History month theme

"Celebrating Community: A Tribute To Black Fraternal, Social And Civic Institutions"

WHEN: NOW

WHO: *Anyone who can draw is eligible to participate*

DETAILS: *MUST be Black & White, drawn on single 8 1/2" by 11" paper*

DEADLINE: *Jan. 26*

Prizes

(1) Prize \$100 (No Entry Fee)

(2) Their design displayed at all AAHC events for the rest of the year

(3) Presentation Date: Feb. 3



For more information contact:

Minnie Gray 377-7001

Pamelia Tunstall 377-4212

Sharon Floyd 377-2220

SPORTS AND RECREATION

NCO uses yoga class for self-improvement

By Staff Sgt. Kevin Nichols
U.S. Central Command
Air Forces News Team

BALAD Air Base, Iraq — If a picture can say a thousand words, Bonnie McKinley's picture of herself would tell you of a time when she, at 5-foot-4-inches tall and 25 years old, weighed 215 pounds, putting her at risk of a heart attack or stroke.

Not to mention, her Air Force career was in jeopardy.

She did something about it. She signed up for yoga.

When the Air Force mandated that she increase her exercise routine, she decided to try yoga because it had always interested her.

"I fell in love with it from the beginning," said McKinley, a respiratory therapist at the Air Force theater hospital here.

Now 75 pounds lighter, she helps patients in the intensive care unit breathe a little easier. She loved yoga so much that she stuck with it and received a teaching license.

Now, in a little room outside the hospital, she teaches medics and others here willing to give yoga a try.

"(Before the room was here) we'd get together and talk about exercising — how difficult it was to get to sometimes after work," said McKinley, who is deployed from Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

McKinley decided to multipurpose a tent used for watching movies. She sent out an e-mail to see if anyone was interested in learning yoga and got a great response.

Her "fat picture," as she calls it, has become a centerpiece of her life now. It is a constant reminder of what she has lost and what she has gained.

"Have you seen my fat picture?" she asks co-workers. "I never want to be that unhealthy again."

Not only has she lost the weight, but she can now run 6 miles and teach an hour of yoga afterward.

Being still



Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Martha Hainey, 81st Medical Support Squadron; Sandra Labiche, 332nd Training Squadron; Beth Schneider, 332nd TRS; and Tayanara Navarro, friend of instructor Karen Kelly, perform a yoga position during class at the Dragon Fitness Center Jan. 12. The yoga class is one of the free fitness classes that recently resumed at the center. Among the other classes are step aerobics, kickboxing aerobics, salsa dancing aerobics and spin cycling. For more information, call 377-2907. Kelly is the spouse of Thomas Kelly, 81st Dental Squadron.

Air Force lab researcher travels to Korea for Taekwondo black belt

By J. Rich Garcia

Air Force Research Laboratory Directed Energy
Directorate Public Affairs

KIRTLAND Air Force Base, N.M. — To get her 4th degree black belt rank, Jolee AlVillar had to travel to South Korea and pass a test by a grandmaster in the Korean martial art of Taekwondo.

During the Air Force Research Laboratory employee's 10-day visit, she earned Sa Dan certification and registered at the Kukiwon World Taekwondo Headquarters in Seoul.

This wasn't AlVillar's first visit to the "Land of the Morning Calm." From the mid-1990s to 2001 she worked for U.S. Forces Korea as a housing manager at a military installation in Seoul. During that period, she studied Taekwondo under 9th degree black belt grandmaster Kim Kyoung Yeon.

AlVillar said Kim, who has been training U.S. troops in Taekwondo for more than 30 years, was tested her.

Speaking with obvious respect and admiration,

"It took two days of bed rest to recover from the demands the test put on my heart, lungs and every part of my body."

— Al Villar

she said, "Mr. Kim is a very humble man who does not like being called 'master,' although the 63-year-old is a grandmaster, instructor and judge at the Kukiwon World Taekwondo Headquarters."

She also said she'd forgotten how grueling and punishing Korean martial arts instruction can be.

"I was quickly reminded of what I had forgotten,"

she said. "It took two days of bed rest to recover from the demands the test put on my heart, lungs and every muscle and joint in my body. I took hot baths to relax the pain."

The facility engineering technician with the laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate found the trip extra rewarding.

At the airport she was met by Army Sgt. Jon Johnston and his wife, Jade, a professor of physical education at Tongwon College. Johnston, a master aerobics trainer, had been AlVillar's aerobics instructor when she lived in Korea.

A certified aerobics instructor, Johnson allowed Al Villar to attend a locally-televised aerobics competition she organized and her master trainer seminars for instructors.

"I had a great time in South Korea," AlVillar said. "But it's good to be back in Albuquerque and the research lab."

Transportation troop wins awards, honors during bodybuilding, powerlifting career

By Senior Airman Kerry Solan-Johnson

435th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

RAMSTEIN Air Base, Germany — When 5-year-old Troy Saunders saw Tom Platz — the man known most for his sculpted legs in the bodybuilding world — his mind was made up.

“It made me want to have muscles like that,” said Saunders, now a transportation specialist with the 435th Materiel Maintenance Squadron. “From then on, I ran, jumped and did pushups — pretty much anything to get in shape.”

More than 30 years after seeing Mr. Platz, Saunders has lifted and sculpted his way to countless titles in bodybuilding and the 220-pound class in powerlifting.

“During the last eight weeks I have participated in seven bodybuilding championships in Germany and Switzerland,” Saunders said. “The highlight was winning my class and the overall title at the 2005 German bodybuilding championships.”

Saunders’ success lies in his supreme dedication to his sport.

He does heavy lifting — squats, bench presses and dead lifts — 90 minutes a day, three times a week to maintain body mass.

He does cardio workouts six hours a week. His exercises and times vary according to the competition for which he is preparing.

“There are distinctly different goals when I’m competing for bodybuilding as opposed to powerlifting,” he said.

Bodybuilding judges look at the appearance of overall muscle mass, for a minimal amount of body fat — the less fat, the more muscularity, the more “ripped look,” Saunders said.

Powerlifting’s merit is solely in the amount of weight lifted.

Saunders’ muscles mass earned him the German title, despite giving up 40 pounds to the majority of his competitors.

“I was the most conditioned athlete,” the master sergeant from Kingsley, Iowa, said. “That was really my strong point going into the competition.”

The German win qualified Saunders to compete for the Mr. Universe title, but he passed that up to compete in the world championships.

“The world championships and Mr. Universe fell on the same weekend. I opted for the world championships because I knew it would be a challenge,” Saunders said.

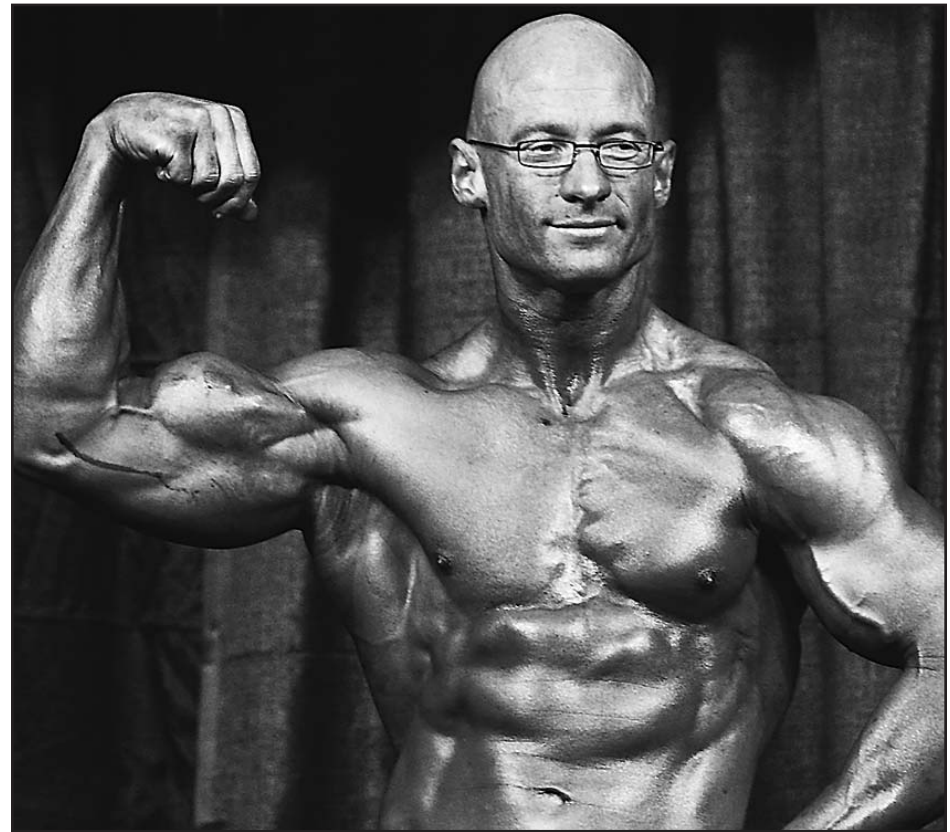


Photo by Christine June
Saunders does a front-bicep pose during the 60-second pose-off at a bodybuilding competition. He took home the overall title at the 2005 German bodybuilding championships.

SCORES AND MORE

Fitness centers

Blake Fitness Center — 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays-through working Fridays; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. non-working Fridays; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Dragon Fitness Center — open Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; closed non-working Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The basketball court area isn’t available.

Triangle Fitness Center — closed until further notice.

Football

Pre-Super Bowl flag football tournament — 5-9 p.m. Jan. 30-Feb. 2 at the football/soccer field. Single-elimination for the first 10 teams to register. For more information, call 377-4409.

Golf

The front nine holes of the Bay Breeze Golf Course open at 7 a.m., and free for walkers only, pull carts and golf clubs available. Driving range opens at 7 a.m. daily, for free use.

Outdoor recreation

Katrina Kantina — a lounge for adults age 21 and over is in the main marina building. Opens at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. For more information, call 377-3160.

Fam camp — available for mission-essential active-duty, civilian and contractors, and non-mission essential active-duty who’ve been displaced. For more information, call 594-0543.

Back bay pontoon boat tours — 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 28. \$5 per person. Minimum four, maximum eight people.

Children’s wildlife poster contest — for all ages. Enter by Jan. 31. First prize \$100 savings bond, second prize \$50 bond.

January special — 10 percent off all rental equipment.

January fishing tournament — weigh in the largest catfish for the month and win a \$100 savings bond.

Youth center

Open recreation — Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., ages 6 and older.

DIGEST

HONORS

Quarterly awards, October-December

81st Training Group

Airman — Senior Airman Jared Narlock, 336th Training Squadron.

Noncommissioned officer — Tech. Sgt. Marion Fletcher, 334th TRS.

Senior NCO — Master Sgt. Dean Ross, 332th TRS.

Company grade officer — Capt. Charles Murchie, 332th TRS.

Entry level civilian — Amy Dye, 335th TRS.

Intermediate level civilian — Patrick Myers, 334th TRS.

Senior level civilian — Franklin Hogue, 81 Training Support Squadron.

Airman instructor — Senior Airman Stephen Ebel, 334th TRS.

NCO instructor — Staff Sgt. Kristina Smith, 332nd TRS.

Senior NCO instructor — Master Sgt. Valencia Parker, 333rd TRS.

Officer instructor — Capt. David Moody, 333rd TRS.

Civilian instructor — Mark Kolath, 338th TRS.

Military training leader — Staff Sgt. Henry Sims Jr., 338th TRS.

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Dante Adams, Joey Anderson, Cory Benson, Justin Bishop, John Castro, Nicholas Conklin, Isaac Cunningham, Christopher Dipietro, Jeremy Driscoll, Timothy Ely, Daniel Fernandez, Jacob, Gentry, Scott Gray, Luke Greiner, Robert Higham, Andrea Hunzeker, Daniel Johnson, Eric Johnson, Benjamin Leavey, Andrew Miller, Timothy Ogburn, Lavern Pettit, Jeremy Plumb, Daniel Scheiner, Jonica Scott, Jason Shortell, Sean Slay, Daniel Urness and Enrich Ziegler; Airmen Cory Elenbaas, Cory Fillis, Daniel Gray, Jaron Haines, Michael Keany, Stephen Liska, Steven Pelliccione, Guillermo Salcedo and Edward Sayers; Airmen 1st Class Kyle Amburn, Samuel Blunck, Derek Butler, Brandon Cousin, Emre Dogru, Christopher Flesner, Joe Garcia, Iran Handley, Nathan Hines, Randall Hodkin, Tom Kwiczor, Scott Long, Arron Mitchell, Zane Nelson, Andrew Sauer, Jonathan Seamen, Arthur Serfes, Ayrton Solomakos, Steven Soto-Mejias, Luke Titre, Christopher Williams and Kevin Wolff; Staff Sgts. Kenneth Gardner and Michael Kuhl.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass

Larcher Chapel10 a.m.

Daily Mass

Larcher Chapel.....11:15 a.m.

Protestant

Sunday worship

Larcher Chapel traditional service.....8:30 a.m.

Fishbowl student contemporary service.....10 a.m.

Larcher Chapel praise and worship service11:30 a.m.

Larcher Chapel gospel service.....1 p.m.

Islamic

Building 2003 — for international students, temporary duty and permanent party; prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jumma congregational prayer, noon Friday.

For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

Latter-Day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — student group service, 3 p.m. Sundays, Fishbowl. Family home evenings, 7 p.m. Mondays, Fishbowl Student Center.

334th TRS

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Amy Gardner and Jarrell Rhea; Airman Timothy Tomayko; Airmen 1st Class Katherine Ernst, Jason Sperry, Alan Stettler and Travis Stockberger; Staff Sgt. Candi Morgan.

335th TRS

Comptroller training flight — Airmen Basic John Bridges, Alexander Cueva, Kaylyn Crane, Jawann Hazzard, Jodi Nicholson, Kasim Playfair and Douglas Wolf; Airmen 1st Class Angela Bolo, Maria Proano and Ryan Yung; Senior Airmen Mark De Vega and Melissa Menck; Staff Sgts. Bruce Comer, Wanda Deemer and Kimberly Spencer; Tech. Sgt. Matthew Law.

Weather training flight — Airmen Basic Houston Green and Charles Henderson; Navy Airmen Recruit Elizabeth Brockman, Sarah Hebbeln, William Herron, Jewelryana Rose, Nicole Tzystuck and Jessica Wasserman; Marine Pvt. Robert Logan; Navy Airmen Apprentice Melissa Springer and Stella Swartz; Navy Airmen Nicholas Pendelton and Benjamin Wells; Navy Seaman Lindsay Moore; Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jesus Suarez; Marine Sgt. Joseph Long.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 06-B — Monday-March 1.

Class 06-C — April 3-May 9.

Class 06-D — May 22-June 27.

Class 06-E — Aug. 1-Sept. 6.

Class 06-F — Sept. 18-Oct. 25.

Class 06-G — Nov. 1-Dec. 12.

First Term Airmen Center

Current class graduates Thursday.

Keesler NCO Academy

Upcoming schedule has not been announced.

Chapel

Journey to financial freedom — 6-9 p.m. Feb. 24, continuing 8:30-noon Feb. 25, Fishbowl Student Ministry Center. For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) John VanderKaay, 377-2331.

Family support center

Editor's note: All briefings in Room 122, old Cody Hall, unless otherwise stated. To register or for more information, call 377-2179.

Thrift savings plan for the uniformed services briefing — 1 p.m. Jan. 31.

Smooth move/traveling overseas — 9-11 a.m. today.

Pre-separation counseling — today or Jan. 26; 1 p.m. for those separating; 2:30 p.m. for retirees. Bring a copy of orders.

Sponsor training — 9-10 a.m. Friday.

Career assessment class — 9-11 a.m. Monday.

Resume writing — 9-11:30 a.m. Jan. 24.

USAA Foundation financial management class — 1 p.m. Tuesday. Call 377-2179 to reserve seat.

Successful job interviews — 9-11 a.m. Wednesday.

Federal job applications — 9-11:30 a.m. Jan. 26.

Own your own business — 9-10:30 a.m. Jan. 31.

Students on the move — 3:30 p.m. Jan. 31, Briefing Room 3, Levitow Training Support Facility.

McBride Library

Orientations — 6:30 p.m. Thursdays for commanders, first sergeants and instructors.

Teddy bear tea party — 10 a.m. Wednesday, ages 2-5.

International creativity month — arts and crafts center and book displays throughout the month.

Orientations and tours — for more information, call 377-2181.

Arts and crafts center

Mini-scrapbook making — 6:30 p.m. today. \$10.

Beginning intarsia woodworking — 5 p.m. Friday. \$15.

Advanced intarsia — 10 a.m. Saturday. \$20.

Advanced matting class — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 27. \$25.

Beginning cake decorating — 1 p.m. Jan. 28. \$10.

SHUTTLE BUS SCHEDULE

6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	:30
:01	:31
:02	:32
:04	:34
:07	:37
:08	:38
:09	:39
:10	:40
:11	:41
:12	:42
:13	:43
:14	:44
:15	:45
:16	:46
:17	:47
:18	:48

Technical training route 5:10-5:37 a.m. weekdays

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:10	Building 5025
:12	Building 5022
:14	Shaw House
:16	Muse Manor
:18	Tyer House
:20	TLQ east side 2000 block
:21	TLQ east side of Locker House
:25	332nd TRS
:28	Welch Auditorium
:33	Thomson/Dolan/Cody Halls
:34	McClellan Hall
:36	Allee/Wolfe Halls
:37	Stennis Hall/Weather

Prior-service students lodged off-base

Call 377-2432 for transportation needs. Traffic in the local area impacts base taxi times.

Editor's note: Duty passengers have priority over "space available" riders. Schedule may be impacted by increased official operations or severe weather. Those who are physically challenged or have excess baggage, call 377-2432 for the base taxi. For more information, call 377-2430.

Health and wellness center

Sensible weigh — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today and Jan. 26. For more information or to register, call 377-5305.

Tobacco cessation — noon and 5 p.m. Wednesday. For more information or to register, call 377-5305.

Stress management class — 4 p.m. Tuesday. For more information or to register, call 377-5305.

TRANSITIONS

Workshops, briefings

Veterans benefits briefing — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 16, March 16, April 6, May 11, June 15, July 13, Aug. 17, Sept. 14, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 14, Room 122, old Cody Hall. To pre-register, call Ron Bublik, 377-8592 or e-mail ronald.bublik@keesler.af.mil.

Transition assistance program workshop — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 13-15, March 13-15, April 3-5, May 8-10, June 12-14, July 10-12, Aug. 14-16, Sept. 11-13, Oct. 16-18, Nov. 13-15 and Dec. 11-13, Room 122, old Cody Hall. To pre-register, call Ron Bublik, 377-8592, or e-mail ronald.bublik@keesler.af.mil.

Web sites

Defense Manpower Data Center — <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dors> or <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/tbb>.

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from Page 20

Air Force Blue to Corporate Gray — <http://www.blue.togray.com>.

Air Force Federal Employment Resume and Information — <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/resweb>.

Civilian job certification and licensing requirements for military personnel and veterans — <http://www.dol.gov/dol/vets>.

Department of Veterans Affairs — <http://www.vba.va.gov/efif/index.htm>; for members returning from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Southern Region Military and Civilian Job Fair — <http://www.mesc.state.ms.us/jobfair>.

New military spouse career center — <http://www.military.com/spouse>. Extensive job board including jobs from public and private sectors. For more information, call Vince Patton, 703-269-0154, or e-mail at vince@militaryadvantage.com.

America's Job Bank — <http://www.ajb.dni.us>.

Computer use

Government computers — commanders may authorize their use for preparation of personal resumes by people separating or retiring from the service on an "as available" basis as long as use doesn't adversely affect the mission.

Transition employment opportunities public folder — go to e-mail "public folders" and click on "transition employment opportunities" for job opportunities for active duty and family members. For more information, call 377-8592 or 8593.

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Vandenberg Community Center

Eight-ball pool tournament — 6-9:30 p.m. Mondays.

Nine-ball pool tournament — 6-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

Game night — 6 p.m. Wednesdays. Board games, ping pong tournament and more.

Karaoke — 6 p.m. Thursdays before nonworking Fridays.

Late night dance and DJ — 6 p.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays. \$3.

Youth center

Annual membership — \$25 for ages 6 and older. Membership allows for discounted prices for programs, classes and sports.

Self-directed activities — 3-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays for ages 9-18. Free for members, 50 cents daily guest fee.

Movies and snacks — 5 p.m. Mondays, ages 9 and older.

Smart girls — 5 p.m. Tuesdays, ages 9-16. Girls-only topics.

Training responsible adolescents in leadership/Keystone Club — 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays, ages 13-17.

Game room tournaments — 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

Torch Club — 5 p.m. Thursdays, ages 9-12.

FitFactor fitness club — 5 p.m. Fridays, ages 9-18.

Friday dances — 6:30-10 p.m., ages 9-15. \$4 members, \$5 nonmembers.

Super Saturdays — 2-5 p.m., ages 6-12; 6-10 p.m., ages 13-18.

Read by mail program — 4:30 p.m. today.

Free home alone safety workshop — 6 p.m. today, ages 10 and older. Parent must accompany child.

TICKETS AND TOURS

New Orleans Iris and Tucks Mardi Gras parades — 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 25. \$15. Sign up and prepay no later than Feb. 16.

MEETINGS

Editor's note: To list time, place and point of contact for organization meetings, call 377-3837 or e-mail KN@keesler.af.mil.

At Eze Toastmasters Club — noon Tuesdays, Building 1101 conference room. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Don Seaton, 377-5958, or Fred Blache, 377-1048, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

Keesler Christian Home Educators Association — 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of each month, September-May, Larcher Chapel. Open to all military home educators. For more information, call Michelle Durkin, 872-9393, or e-mail chelle1rn@yahoo.com.

Native American Heritage Committee — for more information, call R.I. Whiteside, 863-0479, or Capt. Elizabeth Taillon, 377-6242.

MISCELLANEOUS

Movies

Editor's note: Movie listings weren't provided by this week's publication deadline. Movies are shown at Welch Auditorium. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children for regular features, and \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children for matinees. For a recorded message about current features, call 377-6627.

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

Lunch — herbed baked chicken, cornbread, stuffed cabbage rolls, fried catfish, blackeyed peas with rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, baked sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, peas, fruit salad, potato salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

Dinner — roast pork loin, cornbread, jaegerschnitzel, veal, glazed cornish hen, potato halves, orange rice, gravy, carrots, pinto beans, corn combo, fruit salad, potato salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

Friday

Lunch — Mexican baked chicken, Swiss steak, stuffed peppers, macaroni and cheese, rice, gravy, corn on the cob, beans, peas and carrots, pasta salad, three-bean salad, clam chowder, garden vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork sandwiches and burritos.

Dinner — Mexican baked chicken, Swiss steak, stuffed peppers, macaroni and cheese, rice, gravy, corn on the cob, beans, peas and carrots, pasta salad, three-bean salad, clam chowder, garden vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork sandwiches and burritos.

Saturday

Lunch — crispy baked chicken, cajun meatloaf, ribeye steak, baked and mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, French peas, glazed carrots, fruit medley, kidney bean salad, bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and buffalo wings.

Dinner — fish almondine, stir-fry chicken with broccoli, pork chops, rissole potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, calico corn, club spinach, fried okra, fruit medley, kidney bean salad, bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and buffalo wings.

Sunday

Lunch — tuna and noodles, sauerbraten, chicken breast filet parmesan, au gratin potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, peas, fried cabbage, tomato salad, jellied spring salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Dinner — ginger barbecue chicken, fried shrimp, spinach lasagna, orange rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, black-eyed peas, lima beans, corn O'Brien, tomato salad, jellied spring salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Monday

Lunch — baked chicken, Swiss steak, baked Italian sausage, peppers and onions, mashed potatoes, rice, gravy, broccoli polonaise, carrots, cornbread, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

Dinner — turkey, cornbread, ham, raisin sauce, fish and fries, mashed potatoes, cornbread dressing, gravy, succotash, tempura vegetables, green beans, garden cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone, chili with beans, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

Tuesday

Dinner — onion lemon baked fish, pork schnitzel steak, beef and spaghetti, garlic toast, baked and mashed potatoes, gravy, pinto beans, spinach, stewed tomatoes, spinach salad, waldorf salad, white chicken chili, seven-bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup and steak and cheese subs.

Lunch — paprika beef, barbecue beef cubes, chicken fajitas, garlic toast, O'Brien potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower, corn on the cob, lima beans, waldorf salad, spinach salad, white chicken chili, seven-bean with ham soup, steak and cheese subs and tacos.

Wednesday

Lunch — Mexican baked chicken and pork chops, beef fajitas, jalapeno cornbread, refried beans, corn, gravy, pinto beans, peas and carrots, cole slaw, garden cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

Dinner — pita pizzas, country-style steak, fried chicken, potatoes, gravy, fried cauliflower, bean combo, cabbage, coleslaw, cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.