

KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

Vol. 66, No. 9
Thursday, March 9, 2006

Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

INSIDE

COMMENTARY

Next big challenge, **2**
Pumped up over gas, **2**

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Home sweet home, **4**
MARDET recovers, **6**

NEWS AND FEATURES

Top supporter retires, **8**
4 STEP up in rank, **9**
ADAPT, **11**
7 new majors, **12**
Some entitlements stop, **15**
Stay vigilant, **19**

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Wanted: sports reps, **22**

SECTIONS

Commentary.....**2**
Training and education..**4-7**
News and features.....**8-21**
Sports and recreation...**22-23**
Digest.....**24-25**
Classifieds.....**26**

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



Dragons deployed —
126



Photo by Kemberly Groue

General Peterson, left, speaks with Sergeant Smith during an interview Feb. 27.

Former wing commander visits coast, speaks to officers

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

A familiar face visited Keesler Feb. 27.

Lt. Gen. Michael Peterson, former 81st Training Wing commander, was here to speak to the company grade officers professional development Seminar.

General Peterson, 81st TRW commander from May 2002

through June 2004, is now chief of warfighting integration and chief information officer, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force at the Pentagon.

He grew up in the Biloxi area and survived Hurricane Camille in 1969. Six months after the base was hit by Hurricane Katrina, he said it doesn't look like it.

"If I didn't know the storm passed through here and didn't drive by a couple of the facilities that were damaged, there's no way I could have known the storm went through here," General Peterson said. "That is based on the work that the men and women of this base have

Please see **Peterson**, Page 9

New vision embraces warfighters, heritage

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Heritage, future innovations and focus on the joint warfighter are three key points in the newly released Air Force Vision document, "Lasting Heritage... Limitless Horizons: A Warfighter's Vision."

The document, released to Airmen worldwide Feb. 28, replaces the older "Vision 2020" version, which was released in 1997 and focused on preparation for the then-upcoming turn of the century.

"Many of the same themes appear in both documents, such as innovation and Airmen as warfighters" said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne. "(Yet) the overall theme (of the recent document) stresses that Airmen will continue to live up to their rich heritage, and push the Air Force to an even better horizon."

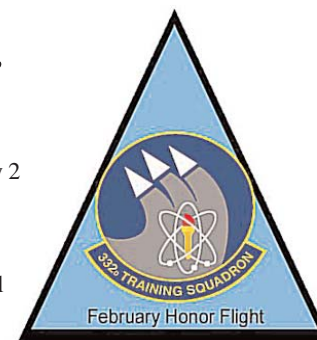
"Heritage to horizon" is a strong message in the document, exemplified by timelines, quotes from past senior

Please see **Vision**, Page 9

This week in the Triangle

Keesler's newest technical training graduates

Air traffic control radar apprentice course — 8 a.m. Monday, Technical Training Facility 2
Education, training apprentice course — 10 a.m. Tuesday, Allee Hall
Information management apprentice course — 9 a.m. Wednesday, Thomson Hall
Meteorological, navigation systems apprentice course — 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jones Hall



Student numbers

Non-prior service — 2,250
Non-prior service arrivals — 174
Temporary duty — 978
Guard, Reserve — 698
International — 2
Total — 4,102

Housing project

Next big challenge for Keesler families

By Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso
81st Training Wing commander

Since I came to Keesler in November, we've overcome one challenge after another through a lot of hard work and sacrifice.

One of the most amazing things about the last four months is knowing members of Team Keesler have exceeded all expectations in the midst of a housing crunch.

Damage from Hurricane Katrina left our military family housing in extremely bad shape. Out of our previous 1,820 housing units, only 865 remain safe and habitable, and while those units are fit as interim shelters, we need to build new units to take their place.

Many of us — my family included — have had to live in temporary quarters for months. Living out of sorts without a definite idea of what the future holds hasn't been easy, but we've managed to make due, and now I'm pleased to be able to say that good news is on the horizon.

It's been said that change most often comes bearing gifts, and I can tell you that the changes coming to Keesler in the upcoming months bear great rewards.

We're about to embark on the largest military housing project in Air Force history, using more than \$300 million earmarked by Congress

for Keesler's rebuilding.

The Air Force is dedicated to providing the very best quality of life for its service members, and this ambitious project calls for 1,067 new military housing units to be built over the next two years. The goal is to start construction in June, with an anticipated completion date of May 2008.

I've seen the plans, and these units will provide Keesler with the kind of safe neighborhoods and comfortable housing our military families deserve far into the future.

To make way for these new housing units, more than 700 of the present military family housing units will be vacated and demolished over the next few months. Those living in North Thrower Park, Northwest Falcon Park, Maltby Hall and the northwest corner of Bay Ridge are relocating this month to make way for this project.

During this ongoing process, nearly every military family housing resident will be asked to relocate. Some will be required to move more than once, depending on their length of tour, until each and every family occupies a newly-built home. Residents will have several possible options, depending on their situation, to help ease their move.

One can choose to do a do-it-yourself move to relocate to other on-base housing or to suitable off-base housing at government expense. If you don't want to move your belongings by yourself, you can arrange a government contractor to move your household goods for you — also at government expense.

As this project progresses, I'd like to ask for your patience and understanding as we rebuild our damaged infrastructure. Nothing worthwhile is ever easy.

Be assured that this project is best for Keesler, and the results of these efforts achieve the ultimate goal — giving our Air Force families the finest quality of life possible.

Over the next few months, we're going to do our best to keep you updated on the progress of this construction.

In the meantime, I want to thank each and every member of Team Keesler for your hard work in getting our training mission up and running in record time.

The high-tech warriors we train here are essential to the safety and freedom our nation enjoys, and when your extra effort was needed to reconstitute that mission, you were there.

I'd now like to ask for you help in this new endeavor, building a better and brighter future for our Keesler families.

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.

Just whose gas is it?

Comment — While I was getting gas at the base service station, I noticed Yates Construction Company was refueling their trucks there.

I thought there was a regulation against the use of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service service stations by commercial vehicles.

Response — AAFES service stations are for the use of authorized patrons. Signs are posted to indicate this.

Because gas is available 24 hours a day, anyone with a credit card is able to get it. However, when we're aware of unauthorized persons purchasing gas or other services, we inform them of the policy and ask them not to do it again.

tops in blue
SAF SERVICES

**Tops in Blue,
world-renowned
Air Force expeditionary
entertainers,**

perform a free concert

6-8 p.m. Monday

at the parade field behind

the Levitow Training

Support Facility.

More information, Page 13.

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OUR MILITARY MEN & WOMEN

AMERICASUPPORTSYOU.MIL



KEESLER NEWS

No. 1 in Air Force,
2004, 1997.

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2004, 1998, 1996;
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1995.

81st Training Wing commander

Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

Public affairs director

Lt. Col. Claudia Foss

Editor

Perry Jenifer

Staff writers

Susan Griggs

Staff Sgt.

Lee Smith

Senior Airman

Sarah Stegman

Staff photographer

Kemberly Groue

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Keesler's 2006 safety goals

Make safety ...

a core value,

a best business practice,
a competitive and asymmetric
advantage.

**Make every employee ...
feel safe at work and home.**

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Garrard Hall is once again Keesler's training hub

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Once again, Garrard Hall is "home sweet home" for the 81st Training Group and 81st Training Support Squadron's commander's support staffs and several other flights.

Garrard Hall, a two-story facility built in 1977, received major damage from Hurricane Katrina Aug. 29, according to John Hansen, the group's facilities manager. Repairs will total about \$1 million, including \$500,000 for a new roof.

Water, water everywhere

When the storm peeled back the building's roof, rain poured in between the interior and exterior walls, soaking the sheetrock walls, ceiling tiles and floors. It drenched many fabric office partitions, cloth upholstery and draperies and damaged electrical wiring and server connections.

By mid-February, however, repairs had progressed to a point where many of the building's former residents have been able to return from temporary quarters.

Teamwork eases arduous task

Walt Hack, 81st TRSS resource flight chief, credited the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, the Navy's resident officer in charge of construction, Whitesell Green Yates and Son Joint Venture, and Keesler employees and students with making the arduous process a success.

"We just had our moving-in pizza party today," Col. Deborah Van De Ven, 81st Training Wing commander, said Feb. 14. "We're doing a sub sandwich staff meeting tomorrow, all in celebration of our moving back in — dust, painting and stringing wires, all at the same time."

Soon after the storm passed, the 332nd Training Squadron relocated its enlisted aircrew training simulators and classroom equipment from Garrard Hall's second floor to Dolan Hall. That prompt action prevented most equipment damage and training disruption.

Later, Col. Jessie Canaday, former 81st TRG commander, and Lt. Col. Dale King, 81st TRSS commander, and their support staffs moved to Vosler Center, the one training facility spared from hurricane damage. Other Garrard Hall occupants took up residence across the parking lot at Hewes



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Labor leader Molly Eckhoff, left, and carpenter Roger Hall from Whitesell Green Yates and Sons install ventilation units on the second floor of Garrard Hall Feb. 23.

Hall, where they shared phones, desks and work spaces with other trainers.

"By the time we were able to reenter other parts of the building a week or so after the storm, mold had taken hold and the building smelled terrible," Mr. Hack recalled. "It was dark and damp and the heat was stifling."

Colonel Canaday declared the structure uninhabitable. Teams began staging salvageable furnishings and equipment, cleaning what they could and moving the contents of most offices, meeting spaces and foyers

across the parking lot to Hewes Hall.

Many years of student records had to be moved out of the registrar's office into a secure location in Hewes Hall, and plasma screens, computers and other valuable items were locked up in a vault.

Roof repairs had to be completed before other work could be done. A contractor was hired to gut the building, tear out the soggy walls and ceilings and dry the structure out with industrial dehumidifiers before restoration could begin.

"Mold had taken hold and the building smelled terrible. It was dark and damp and the heat was stifling."

— Mr. Hack

Unfortunately, the dehumidifiers burned up the building's transformer, so a 500-pound "dinosaur" was borrowed from the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport. One problem — the elevator was inoperable, so the civil engineers made emergency repairs so the transformer could be put in place on the second floor.

The 81st CES was also able to get some funding for asbestos abatement when damaged floor tiles were removed.

"It took a little longer, but it made sense to go ahead and take care of it then," Mr. Hack pointed out.

New hallway carpet installed just a month before the hurricane was soaked and had to be replaced. The custom tiles in the facility's foyer are virtually the only flooring that didn't require replacement or refinishing.

Gray in, beige out

"We have pristine walls again," said Mr. Hack as he admired the fresh sheetrock. "And now they're two-tone gray instead of dover cliff beige."

During relocation of offices and personnel, some equipment, office items and personal possessions sometimes became separated from their owners. The registrar's office became a lost-and-found center where occupants could retrieve missing items. That's where Mr. Hack found his collection of family photos.

Some communication network work continues and final repairs in a few parts of the building are nearing completion. Roof debris scraped against the exterior of the structure, so recaulking and repainting are planned at a later date.

"The cooperation has been great," Mr. Hack commented. "No one ever said, 'I don't want to do this — I'm sick of it.' I'm proud of what we've accomplished."

MARDET thriving despite hurricane damage

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

The effects of Hurricane Katrina are still being felt by Keesler, including the Marine Corps Detachment.

According to Maj. Byron King, MARDET commander, the facilities used as classrooms by Marines sustained considerable damage from the Aug. 29 storm.

"We train Marines to calibrate and repair test equipment, observe and forecast the weather," he said. "We use Wolfe, Allee and Hewes halls on base. Hewes was hit the worst — we lost between \$3,000-\$5,000 worth of equipment, including our fax machine, a couple of computers and a desk."

Despite the damages, some of which are still undergoing repairs, the Marine students are pressing on, he said.

"Our students look forward to learning," Major King said. "As long as we have power and the main equipment, we can teach."

"Our guys maintained their focus because it could have been worse," he added. "Once the storm was over, everyone was anxious to get out and help clean up the base. It helped their morale, and gave them the motivation to move on with their learning."

He noted the storm did set the Marines back in their training.

"I would say we lost between 2,000-2,400 hours of training," he said. "It delayed some students as much as three to four months. But with our great attitude, all of our schools are back up at 100 percent."

He also said some of the Marine students here after the storm were sent on to their next assignments before they would have graduated.

"Most of them needed minimal class work to complete their training and were on the edge of graduating, so what we did was graduate them early and then did a permanent change of station them," Major King said. "We wanted them to be with their new



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Marine Staff Sgt. Michael Jordan, a test management and diagnostic equipment instructor, shows Marine Corps students a circuit board from the inside of a frequency counter during a recent class.

units as soon as possible, so we sent their shortfall of instruction with them."

He added the number of Marines here has grown in the six months since Katrina.

"We had about 143 Marine personnel here before the storm, including students and staff," he said. "Now we have 184 Marines assigned here."

MARDET providing training to Marines at Keesler since 1992

The Marine Corps Detachment has been at Keesler since 1992, providing technical training to Marine students who've just completed basic training.

The unit falls under the operational control of the Training and Education Division, Marine Corps Combat Development Center at Quantico, Va.

The primary mission is to provide entry and intermediate level instruction in meteorology, metrology, calibration and test measurement and diagnostics equipment repair.

Marines attend the following schools at Keesler:

Weather observer — an entry-level course designed to instruct Marines in basic skills of meteorological observations.

This course is under the operational control of the Air Force.

Meteorological and oceanographic analyst/forecaster — an intermediate level course designed to train experienced weather observers in the science of meteorology, analysis of weather effects on flight and weapons systems and flight briefings.

Marine instructors teach both consolidated and Marine unique portions of this course.

Common electronics training program — an entry-level course designed to teach students basic electronic theory.

This course is also operated by the Air Force and is a prerequisite for the meteorological equipment maintenance course.

Meteorological equipment maintenance course — an entry-level course designed to provide instruction in the basic repair of

meteorological equipment.

This joint course falls under the operational control of the Center for Naval Aviation and Technical Training Unit and commander, Naval Education and Training, Pensacola, Fla.

Test, measurement and diagnostic equipment school — an entry-level program designed to provide Marines instruction in the repair of test equipment used by ground combat and support elements.

General calibration and maintenance school — an entry-level course designed to provide Marines in the repair and calibration of test equipment used in avionics.

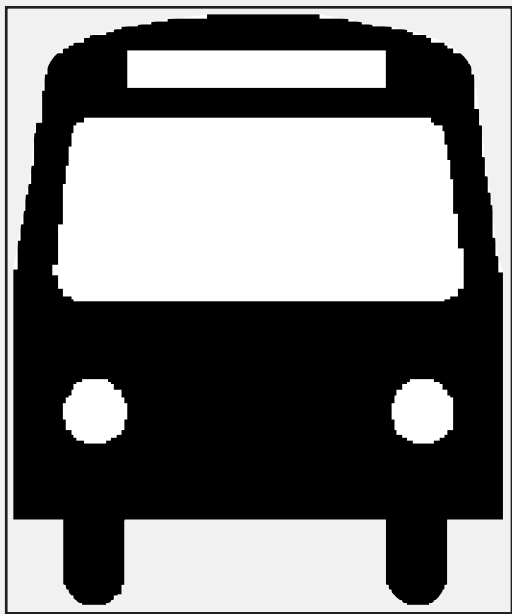
The course is sponsored by the CNATTU with both Marine and Navy instructors.

Advanced calibration technician school — a follow-on course that provides experienced TMDE and aviation precision measurement equipment technicians with instruction in advanced techniques used in test equipment repair and calibration.

Assignment classification and travel system is also sponsored by CNATTU, with Marine instructors teaching consolidated portions of the school.

This is a career progression course for TMDE Marines pursuing a metrology technician military occupational speciality.

Physical/dimensional calibration — a follow-on course for experienced TMDE and aviation PME technicians that provides instruction in calibration techniques of physical and optical measurement equipment.



Coast Transit Authority launches Keesler express bus service

Coast Transit Authority has established a new Keesler express bus line between the base and Edgewater Mall.

Bus service begins from the base, 5:50-8:30 p.m. work days, 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. down Fridays and Saturdays, and 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sundays.

The route is limited to specific pickup and dropoff points:

Minutes after hour, bus stop

- :30** Hercules Street bus stop
- :32** Welch Auditorium
- :45** Pass Road WalMart
- :54** Arrive Edgewater Mall
- :00** Depart Edgewater Mall
- :09** Pass Road WalMart
- :22** Welch Auditorium
- :24** Hercules Street bus stop

The regular adult fare is \$1. An unlimited one-day pass is \$5 and one-month pass is \$45.

For more information, call 896-8080.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Testing dates

The education office offers ACT, SAT and PRAXIS tests.

Deadlines are:

ACT — today for April 11 test, June 8 for July 11 test.

SAT — April 13 for May 16 test.

PRAXIS I — March 20 for May 1 test, June 26 for Aug. 7 test.

PRAXIS II — March 20 for May 2 test, June 26 for Aug. 8 test.

To schedule, call 377-2323.

Grants increase

Friday is the deadline to apply for \$2,000 General Henry H. Arnold Education Grants from the Air Force Aid Society.

Applications are available at the family support center, Room 117, old Cody Hall.

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 may apply.

KOSC scholarships

March 17 is the deadline to apply for the Keesler Officers Spouses Club's annual scholarship program.

The four \$1,000 and four \$500 scholarships are given to 2006 high school and home school graduates and spouses of military members.

Eligibility requirements and application packages are available from area high school guidance counselors, the base education office, family support center, the Fishbowl Stu-

dent Center, McBride Library and Keesler Thrift Shop.

The thrift shop is one of the organization's fund-raising efforts that make the scholarships possible.

For more information, call Shannon Sanders, scholarship chair, 374-2368.

Technology expo

The 11th Annual Information Technology Expo sponsored by the 81st Training Support Squadron is 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 23 at the Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino, Royal Ballroom A.

In addition to three 81st TRSS exhibits, at least 36 vendors are included in the show.

The free expo is open to Department of Defense, government and contractor personnel. Refreshments are served.

For more information, call 1-877-332-3976.

Pitsenbarger Award

Members of the Community College of the Air Force Fall 2005 and spring 2006 Community College of the Air Force graduates are eligible for the Pitsenbarger Award.

April 3 is the deadline to apply for the \$500 awards sponsored by the Aerospace Education Foundation. They're presented to selected top enlisted CCAF graduates pursuing bachelor's degrees.

Prior winners aren't eligible.

For applications, visit education office, Room 212, old Cody Hall, or <http://www.aef.org/aid/pit.asp>.

For more information, call the education office, 377-2323 or 2171.

USM program

The University of Southern Mississippi offers a technical and occupational educational bachelor's degree program on Keesler.

The next term starts May 30.

An academic adviser is at Keesler Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons.

For more information, call 377-2309 or Room 208, old Cody Hall.

Spouse scholarships

These scholarship programs are available to spouses:

National Military Family Association — eligible are uniformed service spouses — active duty, retired, National

Guard, Reserve or survivor — studying toward professional certification or attending post-secondary or graduate school. The deadline to apply for the \$1,000 scholarships is midnight April 15. To apply, visit <http://www.nmfaf.org/scholarships2006>.

Aerospace Education Foundation — for civilian spouses of active-duty Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Reserve members. For more information or to apply, visit the education office, Room 212, old Cody Hall, or go to <http://www.aef.org/aid/scholarships.asp>.

\$1,000 scholarships

Military Officers Association of America scholarships are available to military children.

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

Civilian tuition aid

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

Courses must be related to the Air Force mission.

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

Weapons training

Weapons training is conducted by the 81st Security Forces Squadron at Camp Keller in Woolmarket.

Entry and firing privately-owned weapons for unofficial use is prohibited.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Barry Hardy, 377-3354.

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.afoats.af.mil/AFJROTC/instructors.asp>.

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

Colonel Bush retires today



Colonel Bush

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

Col. Bruce Bush, commander of the 81st Mission Support Group since June 2004, retires today with 25 years of service.

Colonel Bush received his commission after graduation from Troy State University, Troy, Ala., in 1981.

As 81st MSG commander, Colonel Bush managed and directed base support logistics and services activities of 78,000 military and civilian personnel and retirees.

The colonel's previous assignments include Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, where he was Air Education and Training Command's director of services. He was also the director of programs at the Air Force Services Agency, the deputy commander of the 375th Mission Support Group, Scott AFB, Ill., and commander of the 325th Services Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Fla.

His replacement, Col. Rodney Croslen, is expected to assume command in late April. Colonel Croslen currently serves as deputy for readiness and sustainability in the office of the deputy assistant secretary for installations, environment and logistics at the Pentagon.

2nd Air Force honors Keesler NCO

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

Tech. Sgt. William Byrd, 81st Communications Squadron, is 2nd Air Force's non-commissioned officer of the year for 2005.

The award was presented March 2 at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. He now competes for Air Education and Training Command honors.

Sergeant Byrd, NCO in charge of airfield systems maintenance, has also served as maintenance support tech-

nician and base land mobile radio frequency manager.

He was a key communications player in the Department of Homeland Security's Life-saver 2005 exercise.

During Hurricane Katrina, Sergeant Byrd led a three-man team that stabilized communications at Keesler Medical Center and made numerous trips to rescue personnel sheltered there.

He was Keesler's Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez maintenance technician-supervisor of the year for 2005.



Sergeant Byrd

403rd Wing wins awards in Reserve's media contest

403rd Wing Public Affairs

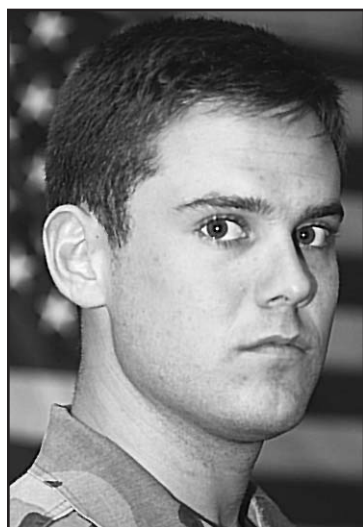
The 403rd Wing Public Affairs Office claimed several awards in the 2005 Air Force Reserve Command Media Contest.

The Gulf Wing, edited by Tech. Sgt. Jim Pritchett, was named the top magazine format publication and best AFRC publication.

Staff Sgt. Justin Pearce took first place in the photojournalism category.

Col. Michael Underkofler, now stationed at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., was first in the contract writer/stringer category.

The Gulf Wing, Sergeant Pearce and Colonel Underkofler now represent AFRC in the Air Force Media Contest.



Sergeant Pearce

IN THE NEWS

Formal retreat today

The monthly formal retreat ceremony is 5 p.m. today at the flagpole in front of wing headquarters on Chappie James Avenue.

In case of rain, ceremonies move to the next duty day.

Community survey starts Monday

The Keesler community survey begins Monday and runs through March 31.

The anonymous Web-based survey takes less than five minutes to complete. It's intended to assess the needs of the base community, availability of resources, effectiveness of information flow and ways to improve morale.

It's for permanent-party active-duty members and their spouses, retirees and their spouses and civilian employees.

Access the survey at <http://www.keesler.af.mil>. For people who don't have a computer, survey sites are available at the military personnel flight and retiree office in old Cody Hall, the Keesler Thrift Shop, McBride Library and the Triangle Shoppette.

For more information, call Capt. Kristi DiVirgilis, 377-2308, or Maj. Teresa Roberts, 377-2179.

Prayer breakfast Tuesday

The 2006 National Prayer Breakfast is 7 a.m. Tuesday in the 403rd Wing hangar, Building 4247, 123 Phantom Street.

For more information, permanent party members call Chap. (Capt.) Winston Jones, 377-2520, and students call Chap. (Capt.) Michael Howard, 377-2331.

AFAF drive kicks off Wednesday

Keesler's annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign is Wednesday through April 26.

Last year, Keesler raised more than \$46,000. In return, the AFAF gave \$2.1 million to aid Hurricane Katrina victims. This year, the base goal is more than \$60,000.

For more information, contact your unit representative or call Maj. Gregory Kendrick, 377-1766.

7-digit phone numbers coming

April 1, Keesler begins a seven-digit intrabase calling plan.

Customers dial 377-XXXX instead of 7-XXXX for base extensions. Units with modem services with on-base dial-up capability and phones with call-forwarding features must be reprogrammed to accommodate the new system.

Off-base, FTS and DSN dialing aren't affected.

For more information, call 377-2130.

Sidewalk closed

The sidewalk along Ploesti Drive leading to the turnstile entrance to Jeff Davis Elementary School remains closed until further notice for fence replacement, but the turnstile remains open and accessible.

Top enlisted leader retiring

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The 14th chief master sergeant of the Air Force, Gerald Murray, retires this summer with more than 28 years of service.

He's served as the chief master sergeant of the Air Force since July 1, 2002. His official retirement date is Oct. 1, but a formal ceremony and appointment for the 15th chief master sergeant of the Air Force is planned for June 30.



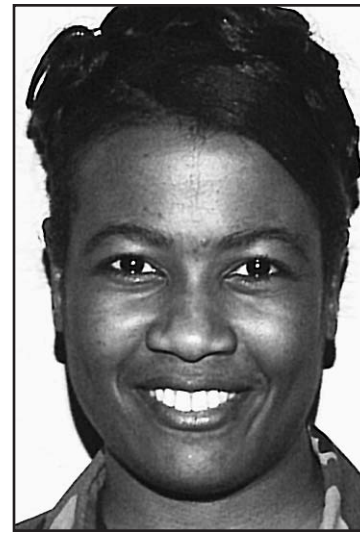
Sergeant Gulsby



Sergeant Jones



Sergeant Jones-Johnson



Sergeant McElroy

STEPping up

Tech. Sgts. Heather Gulsby, 81st Medical Operations Squadron; Richard Jones, 81st Training Wing command post; and Melissa Jones-Johnson, 81st Security Forces Squadron, and Master Sgt. Tammy McElroy, 81st Medical Support Squadron, were recently promoted to their current ranks through the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program.

Peterson,

from Page 1

put in to clean the base up, straighten things out and return it to the function that it was designed for, a premier training facility in the Air Force.”

General Peterson said his position, as well as his upbringing on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, sharpened his interest in how Keesler and the coast were rebounding from Katrina.

“It was amazing how quickly the base went from being completely down to up and starting the training mission all over again,” he said. “We have to have a steady flow of personnel from the weather business, the personnel and finance business and the air traffic control business. None of our career fields could survive without those Airmen and officers from Keesler.”

The general acknowledged that even with all of the cleanup efforts, the impact of Katrina will be felt for some

time, but that people should persevere because the progress is noticeable.

“This is such an enormous task to clean up and restore the base and the community — I presume that 10 years from now, people will still be able to see some evidence of what happened here,” he said. “I was on the coast two weeks after the storm, and I can see the steady, steady important progress that is being made. Just having the beach highway here so there’s a flow of traffic, having the schools start back up as quickly as they did, getting the housing back on line — it’s all very important progress.”

The general relishes opportunities to return to the coast.

“I miss the leisurely drives to work instead of the 90-minute races on the Beltway to Washington D.C., every day,” he said. “I miss the seafood, and I miss warm weather in January and February.

“But what I miss the most is that this base is fortunate enough to have such close ties with the community,” he con-

tinued. “In D.C., you have literally no ties to the community. The relationship there is different; mostly, it’s based on your business and the defense industry. It’s not like here where people can be a part of a club or a local church.

“When you have to spend three hours a day in your car, it’s hard to get to know your neighbors,” he added.

General Peterson said Keesler is on the cusp of training, and he’s one of the people who look to the base for new ideas and innovations in that arena.

“The people here are the experts,” he said. “This is where the good ideas come from. The people here and at the Air Education and Training Command will come up with the new advances in training.

“I think it’s best to leave training to the experts,” he added. We (Air Force headquarters) will continue to do our best to support the next generation in training”

Vision,

from Page 1

leaders and brief reviews on past Air Force missions.

“From the days of Chenault and aviation, from Schriever, from LeMay, from Stuart Symington who was the first Secretary of the Air Force, it has always been about innovation,” Secretary Wynne said. “It has always been about pursuit of excellence. It’s always been about using and pushing the boundaries of technology into a future that was relatively unknown.”

While the document is heavy in Air Force history, its outline for the Air Force’s future is made clear with references to new technology, total force concepts, and fighting the global war on terrorism.

“To realize the vision, we have three priorities: maintain a razor-sharp focus on fighting this global war on terrorism, continue developing our Airmen, and recapitalize and modernize our inventory,” said Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff. “Meeting these challenges will require

bold new initiatives. Our Airmen understand this intuitively. They build on a distinguished and lasting heritage. They will push the Air Force beyond the horizon.”

“We updated the vision to show how the Air Force is and will remain engaged in the global war on terror, (and how it) continues to embrace dramatic business practices and strives to achieve our bold future,” Secretary Wynne said. “The chief of staff and I are committed to developing the best Airmen and providing them with the best equipment and weapons to do their job.”

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray wrote in the document that “the enemy is erratic and ruthless, but no match for the skillful and dedicated Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen serving today.

“Our unity and integration is better than ever, and we will improve our interoperability even more in the future. Together, we will fight hard and win decisively,” he wrote.

Secretary Wynne said he believes the new vision document is an important information tool for Airmen because it provides a clear explanation of the Air Force’s mission, history and plans for the future.

“I would like Airmen to take away from this vision document that there are limitless horizons,” he said. “Airmen are allowed to innovate ... and as they’ve always been, be free-thinking, risk-taking warfighters.”

Air Force Assistance Fund

— have you done your fair share?

Cyberspace
isn't a
secure
environment.

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.

New service for reservists

Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

DENVER — Air Reserve component members are now able to speak to an Air Reserve Personnel Center customer service representative the first weekend of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Standard Time.

This enhanced customer service step gives drilling reservists the flexibility to speak with a customer service representative to help resolve personnel issues during their primary unit training assembly, which typically occurs the first weekend of every month.

Reservists who still aren't able to call ARPC are encouraged to log on to the virtual Personnel Center Guard and Reserve, a 24/7 customer service Web portal operated by ARPC at <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/support/default.asp>.

Airmen have to answer a few questions to establish an account.

ARPC and the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, are working to centralize and automate many personnel functions and processes throughout the Air Force.

Hurricane relief medals

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.

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

Commander selection meetings

81st Mission Support Squadron

During May and June, Air Force Personnel Center hosts calendar year 2007 medical squadron commander candidate selection development team meetings.

Candidates are selected to fill C-prefix squadron commander positions scheduled to rotate in 2007. Many units are reorganizing to the new Air Force Medical Service flight path, and the goal of the meetings is to provide wing commanders enough qualified candidates to choose medical squadron commanders based on the new organizational structure.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Shirley Bailey, 377-2244.

Force shaping

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

Sexual harassment reporting

The Air Force wants military and civilian employees to remain aware of the service's sexual harassment hotline.

AFPC operates the hotline to receive sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination inquiries. The numbers are 1-800-558-1404, DSN 665-2949, or commercial 1-210-565-2949.

An AFPC call center representative answers each call to the hotline. Callers with a sexual harassment or discrimination concern are forwarded to a qualified military equal opportunity counselor.

Counselors ensure callers understand the avenues available to them and complaints are channeled to the proper authority. Counselors take calls during normal duty hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CDT. After normal duty hours, voice mail is available to leave messages for emergencies.

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Base improves safety record in fiscal 2005
By David Long
The 10th Training Wing's annual medical readiness report shows a significant improvement in safety during the fiscal 2005 period. The report, released by the 10th Training Wing's Medical Group, shows a 15 percent decrease in medical readiness incidents compared to the previous year. The report also highlights the wing's commitment to safety and the role of its medical personnel in ensuring the health and well-being of its personnel.

Their first look at Keesler
A group of 100 new recruits arrived at Keesler Air Force Base for their first look at the base. The recruits, who are part of the 10th Training Wing's Medical Group, are being trained to provide medical support to the wing's personnel. The recruits will be assigned to various medical units throughout the base.

Congress reviews new civilian personnel system
The House of Representatives is reviewing a new civilian personnel system that was implemented at Keesler Air Force Base. The system, which was developed by the Air Force Personnel Center, is designed to improve the recruitment and retention of civilian personnel. The system includes a new hiring process, a new pay scale, and a new performance evaluation system.

INSIDE COMMENTARY
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For
Keesler News
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or display
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facility
managers
call 377-3163.

ADAPT aimed to prevent, treat substance abusers

By Master Sgt. Roger Drinnon

Keesler Public Affairs

Editor's note: This is the fourth in a five-part series on alternatives to the unsafe and illegal use of alcohol, and the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol, underage drinking and providing alcohol to minors.

As a microcosm of society, Air Force bases face similar alcohol and drug abuse issues as non-military communities.

Keesler is no exception, but the base alcohol, drug abuse prevention and treatment program provides a proactive means of tackling these issues.

"Each week the ADAPT staff briefs the non-prior service students straight out of basic training on substance abuse issues," said Tech. Sgt. Heather Gulsby, noncommissioned officer in charge of Keesler's ADAPT program. "This is their chance to ask questions and get clarification on their concerns."

According to the program overview, "A military installation comprises a community whose citizens are drawn from the society outside the 'chain-link fence.' These military citizens bring with them all the issues and problems that any community faces and must deal with and Keesler Air Force Base is no different."

At Keesler, incidents of alcohol abuse rose dramatically in 2005. Incidents of driving under the influence of alcohol more than doubled among Keesler military personnel in 2005 when compared to the previous year,

while incidents of underage drinking rose more than 60 percent.

ADAPT personnel assessed 224 people for potential alcohol-related problems in 2004 and 132 people in 2005 — nearly all were active-duty Air Force or Army personnel. Although the numbers appear to be on a downward trend, Keesler's military population shrank from about 10,600 in 2004 to about 4,500 in 2005. These statistics actually indicate a slight proportional rise in ADAPT assessments for 2005 when compared to the previous year.

Sergeant Gulsby said of the people referred for ADAPT both years, about 17 percent were referred for DUI and 34 percent were referred for underage drinking.

Air Force policy recognizes that alcohol abuse negatively affects public behavior, job performance and the physical and mental health of those affected. Although alcohol abuse is a major problem addressed in ADAPT, the comprehensive program treats people for other substance abuse problems as well. The program's primary objectives are to:

Promote readiness, health and wellness through the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

Minimize the negative consequences of substance abuse to the patient's family and organization/workplace.

Provide comprehensive education and treatment to individuals who experience problems attributed to substance abuse.

Return identified substance abusers

to unrestricted duty status when possible.

"Everyone referred to the ADAPT program will get a thorough evaluation," Sergeant Gulsby said. "Treatment plans are individualized and (patients) may be enrolled in one of three levels of rehabilitative care."

The ADAPT program assesses eligible beneficiaries referred by a medical authority, unit commander, or by those who self-refer for a potential problem. According to Air Force Instruction 44-121 and base directives, referred patients attend a six-hour intervention education class and a substance abuse awareness seminar.

Those referred for a DUI offense attend a three-hour course in addition to the SAAS. Individuals diagnosed with substance abuse or substance dependence problems assist in the development of a treatment plan. Treatment options vary, depending on individual needs, but rehabilitation is the goal of all treatment. Upon completion of treatment, patients are placed in follow-up care for up to a year. Follow-up care includes post-treatment counseling with the patient's assigned case manager.

"My staff is devoted to helping people conquer their substance abuse issues," said Capt. Steffanie Fischer, Keesler's program's manager and licensed clinical social worker for the base.

Sergeant Gulsby said Tricare-eligible military dependents and military retirees also may seek counseling and

treatment for potential substance abuse problems as authorized through their selected health care option. She said base civil service employees are eligible for a no-cost assessment, and those diagnosed with substance abuse problems can then seek treatment covered by their personal medical insurance.

Keesler's ADAPT staff is comprised of a licensed program manager, a certified civilian addiction counselor, an NCO in charge, and a mental health technician.

Peter Breslin, addiction counselor for the base, said in addition to the challenges people face when dealing with alcohol and substance abuse, people should not ignore the issues of personal safety as well as negative legal and career ramifications.

"The 81 Training Wing has recognized the (adverse alcohol abuse) trends, and I believe (wing leadership) intends to increasingly focus on substance misuse," said Mr. Breslin. "In the future it would not be career-enhancing for someone on Keesler to drive under the influence, enable under age consumption, drink to excess, or consume alcohol while under the legal age of 21," he continued. "One might get away with it once or twice; however, you will be gambling with your life, freedom and/or career."

Next week: Consequences.



7 Keesler captains on promotion list

By Staff Sgt. Michael Eaton

81st Training Wing Public Affairs

Seven Keesler captains have been selected for promotion to major.

There were 2,134 captains selected from the 2,759 officers eligible for the promotion Air Force-wide, for a 77 per cent promotion rate.

Those selected are:
2nd Air Force — Timothy Farr and Peter Gryzen.

333rd Training Squadron — Sean Ellars, Janis Mack and Donald Mercer.

81st Medical Group — Robert Chatham.

81st Training Group — David Robinson.

Awards honor top performers in information, communication fields

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Eleven individuals and three units were honored at Friday's 2006 Communications and Information Awards luncheon.

The winners represent Keesler in Air Education and Training Command's annual competition.

Individual awards were presented to:

Field grade officer — Maj. Gary McBride, 338th Training Squadron.

Company grade officer — Capt. Grace Beck, 333rd TRS.

Senior noncommissioned officers — Master Sgts. Edward Simpson, 338th TRS, communications-electronic systems; Laurie Jackson, 81st Training Group, information management, and Randy Schneider, 81st Communications Squadron, communications-computer systems.

NCOs — Tech. Sgts. Gregory Jackson, 338th TRS Detachment 1, communications-electronics systems; Heather Watson, 336th TRS, information management, and Kevin Gates, 81st CS, communications-computer systems.

Airmen — Senior Airmen Mark Williams, 81st TRG, information management, and Casey Huber, 81st CS, communications-computer systems.

Unit awards went to:

Lt. Gen. Harold Grant Award — 81st CS, for a unit of 300 members or less providing all facets of communications and information support.

Maj. Gen. Harold McClelland Award — 338th TRS, for a unit of more than 300 members providing all facets of communications and information support.

Gen. Edwin Rawlings Award — 81st CS Hurricane Katrina crisis response team. The award honors teams of two to 25 for a one-time special act, project or process improvement that enhances communications and information operations.

Gospel fest



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Air Force retiree Dennis Thompson, left, leads the Keesler Inspirational Choir during the gospel fest Feb. 25 in the Welch Auditorium. More than 250 people attended the last event of this year's Black Heritage Month celebration, listening to local choirs and national recording artists including the Alabama Boys, Paul Timms, Jus Praise and Mark A. Smith. During the concert, winners of the Organization Day were announced. First place went to the 81st Supply and Transportation squadrons, second to the 81st Comptroller Squadron and third to the 41st Aerial Port Squadron. Also announced was the winner of the logo design contest, Kiah Hedgeman, 16-year-old daughter of Letitia and Senior Master Sgt. Stuart Hedgeman, 81st Training Wing.

Infrastructure continues to improve on base after Hurricane Katrina

By Master Sgt. Roger Drinnon

81st Training Wing Public Affairs

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, people at Keesler don't take things like housing, offices, electricity, drinking water and plumbing for granted.

Thanks to a team effort, each day brings improvements in base infrastructure, facilities and utilities as the base braces for the next hurricane season.

"Infrastructure is the blood and guts of the base," said Maj. Jeff Szatanek, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron operations flight commander.

Alfred Watkins, base infrastructure manager, described the challenges civil engineers faced during and after Katrina struck Keesler six months ago.

"When the base loses commercial power, we have to switch to generator power," said Mr. Watkins. "This caused concern during the storm, as the water pumps weren't working then, so (civil engineer personnel) went out into the storm to manually flip the switches."

Mr. Watkins said Keesler's backup systems for electrical power and water afforded the base critical utilities during and immediately after the storm.

"We were the only ones on the coast with potable water, and we were providing it to outside agencies (after the storm)," he added.

Mr. Watkins said post-Katrina utility improvements at Keesler include automatic switching for generator power, in case commercial electrical power is lost during future storms.

"The (water) pumps now have automatic disconnects, so (switching to generator power) is done automatically," he said. "The equipment has been bought, and they have started (installing automatic disconnects) to the pumps. It will be totally done well before the next hurricane season."

Mr. Watkins said improvements are being made to Keesler's natural gas systems as well.

"The storm debris caused a lot of blockages in our natural gas ventilation systems," he said. "Now we're installing new technology with gas pressure regulator diaphragms that can prevent blockages."

Katrina also took its toll on base housing. Lt. Col. Ray Mottley, base civil engineer, said improvements and repairs in that area of infrastructure are on the way, too.

"All base housing was damaged to some extent due to the storm," he said. "We are making repairs to housing and currently have 493 residents in (base) housing today."

The colonel said the goal is to have 865 homes repaired by Aug 1. To meet

future needs, a military construction project will build 1,067 new homes. Completion is expected by late 2008.

For now, Colonel Motley advised inbound military personnel to visit Keesler in advance of their designated reporting date to plan for their housing needs.

"Take advantage of permissive temporary duties," he said. "Come here early and look for your housing needs."

Civil engineering personnel caution all personnel that damage to facilities and infrastructure can't be assessed by outward appearances alone.

"Even though the outside of the buildings look OK, there was extensive damage to the roofing systems which caused extensive internal damage," said Major Szatanek.

"In every building with flooding, the electrical systems were negatively impacted and need to be reworked," Mr. Watkins added.

Major Szatanek said the civil engineers must address all potential damage to base infrastructure, and time must be taken to consider improvements and preventive maintenance for long-term recovery from Katrina.

"It's not a sprint; it's a marathon," he added. "Bit by bit, day by day, we are getting better."

Tops in Blue takes stage Monday

81st Services Division and 81st Training Wing Public Affairs

Tops in Blue, the world-renowned Air Force expeditionary entertainers, perform in a free concert, 6-8 p.m. Monday at the parade field behind the Levitow Training Support Facility.

This year's theme is "And the Beat Goes On." Along with patriotic music, the show includes songs made popular by the Platters, Gladys Knight and The Pips, Billy Joel, Gloria Estefan, The Weather Girls.

Two Keesler Airmen perform with the team:

Capt. William Middleswart, a 334th Training Squadron air traffic control officer.

Senior Airman Brook Hoffman, an 81st Surgical Operations Squadron medical technician.

"The 2005 performers originally were scheduled to end their year of touring Friday, but they extended their tour dates just so they could perform at Keesler," said Dave Bowers, Vandenberg Community Center director and base Tops in Blue coordinator.

Mr. Bowers said the show originally was scheduled for Feb. 2 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum, but difficulties with logistics in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina left the parade field as the most feasible location.

All service members, their dependents, military retirees, and civilian employees with access to Keesler are invited.

The 35 vocalists, musicians and dancers are all active-duty Air Force members who competed in base talent competitions to earn their spots with the group.

Tour sponsors include AT&T and Coca-Cola. AT&T is providing a 550-unit calling card to be awarded during the show.

For more information, call Mr. Bowers, 377-2958.

Arts, crafts center has giveaways all month

By Staff Sgt. Michael Eaton

81st Training Wing Public Affairs

March is National Craft Month, and the arts and craft center is bringing it in with lots of activities and prize giveaways.

"Every week throughout the month, there will be a giveaway," said Teresa Lis, a recreational assistant who teaches kids classes and scrapbooking.

The engraving, frame, wood and multi-craft shops are all giving away prizes.

Ms. Lis said the wood shop would be giving away a brand new router, and the auto shop is giving away an 80-piece socket set.

"The family support center has given us six bicycles to give away as prizes," said Ms. Lis.

Because of damages from Hurricane Katrina, Ms. Lis said the arts and crafts center has a lot of new equipment.

Ms. Lis, who has been doing arts and crafts all her life, was very excited about new classes the center is offering in the near future, including cooking classes in the fall.

Hours and locations are:

Arts and crafts, frame and engraving shops — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. A mini arts and crafts center is located in the Vandenberg Community Center. Hours are 5-9 p.m. Thursday, noon to 5 p.m. non-working Fridays, and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays following down Fridays.

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

For more information, call 377-2821.

Open base facilities are:

81st Services Division

11th Frame Café — located in Gaudé Lanes. Open 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-9:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday; 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-9:30 p.m. Thursday; 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, and 1-7 p.m. Sunday.

Vandenberg Community Center — open 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to midnight working Fridays and Saturdays and 10 a.m. to midnight non-working Fridays and noon to 6 p.m. Sundays.

Half Time Café — 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-working Fridays, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. non-working Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The cafe offers breakfast 6-9 a.m. Monday-working Fridays.

Katrina Kantina — a lounge, located in the main marina building, is open for all ranks over 21 years old. It opens at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, with snacks and beverages available.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Ceramics painted by Mary Martin were on display during the arts and crafts center's open house Friday. Ms. Martin is an instructor at the center.

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 — 5:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. For more information, call 377-2211.

Information, ticket and travel — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays-working Fridays in Vandenberg Community Center.

McBride Library — open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; noon to 5 p.m. Friday and Sunday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

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.

Youth center — 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. workdays and 2-10 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.

AAFES

Car care center — 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. 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.

Concessionaires — Backyard Burger and Cat's Catering, from Hattiesburg, have trailers set up in front of the Class

Six/Shoppette on Meadows Drive.

Hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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

Mini-mall — 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Subway — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Gates

Oak Park Gate is open 5:30-7:30 a.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Pass Road, White Avenue and Meadows Drive gates are open around the clock. Judge Sekul Gate is closed.

Housing

The housing office in former 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.

Moves

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 — 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 from attorneys, 8-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. workdays; notaries and powers of attorney, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. workdays, Room 246, Levitow Training Support Facility. For appointments, call 377-3510. For Katrina claims, call 377-3630. The fax number is 377-5949.

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

Tax assistance — Keesler's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Office relocated to Room 234, old Cody Hall.

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

For more information, call 377-4454.

Traffic management office — 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.

PODS

Portable on demand storage units must be returned to the contractor by Monday and April 7, depending on the location of the unit.

PODS located next to the gas station, Bay Breeze Golf Course or on Hercules Drive need to be cleared out no later than Sunday.

PODS located behind the tennis court or in the Sablich Center parking lot need to be cleared by April 6.

If a POD unit is still required, the individual can continue using it at his own expense. Monthly cost is \$129, and the unit must be moved to their property, which costs \$75 to \$150 depending on where the unit is moved.

If items aren't removed prior to the deadline, the remaining items are treated as abandoned property and disposed of accordingly.

For more information, call Ray Turner, 377-7201.

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.

Thrift shop

The Keesler Thrift Shop, located in the former Chapel One next to the dental clinic, is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

For more information, call 377-3217.

Certain Katrina entitlements won't be extended

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Certain Hurricane Katrina entitlements won't be extended past the 180-day limit.

"Despite efforts by Air Staff and the Department of the Navy, the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Office of Personnel Management have tabled action regarding extending entitlements for civilian personnel and their dependents beyond 180 days," said Maj. Richard Fogg, 81st Comptroller Squadron commander.

"All entitlements to include in-place per diem and safe haven allowances for civilian personnel and their dependents terminated on Feb. 23, which is 180 days after the evacuation date of Aug. 28," he continued.

Basic allowance for housing ended Feb. 23 for members receiving single rate BAH living in government quarters. Air Staff didn't extend the entitlement beyond 180 days.

Final approval is still pending for nonconcurrent travel entitlements.

Other assistance sources:

Air Force Aid Society

Assistance requests are taken at the family support center, Room 117, old Cody Hall.

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

Civilian assistance

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund Emergency Assistance Program may provide assistance to federal civilian employees affected by Hurricane Katrina.

For more information, call Sheila Noel, 377-7973, or visit <http://www.feea.org/emergency/shtml>.

Civilian employees may donate unused annual leave to other employees adversely affected by the hurricane.

Up to 104 hours of leave can be donated, but it can't be given to a specific person. Submit an Office of Person-

Civil engineering troop proud of base's recovery, thankful for relief fund support

By Susan Griggs

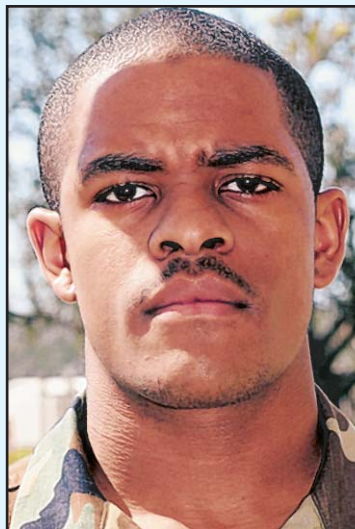
Keesler News staff

Keesler's Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund gave Senior Airman David Fields comfort in a time of crisis.

Airman Fields, a heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician in the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, received \$350 from the fund which helped defray travel expenses for his wife and sons to evacuate to Alabama.

Airman Fields sheltered at Keesler Medical Center, where he works, during Katrina.

"Like everyone else, it was uncomfortable not knowing whether or not you had a place to stay, but thanks be to God, he gave me a passover," Airman



Airman Fields

Fields said. "My apartment in Ocean Springs was fine, and the others in the complex should be fixed by the end of March."

Airman Fields, who's been at Keesler for four years, is proud of the way the base has

bounced back from the storm.

"As far as making shifts to different locations and getting things done, I think we've done a great job," he remarked. "Getting the rebuilding done will take some time. In general, I think our morale and spirit seem to be up — I know mine is."

Airman Fields explained that his outlook about life has changed considerably since the storm because of his religious faith.

"God has always affected my outlook on things, and now I take my life more seriously than ever and encourage others to do the same," he said. "I enjoy being a part of the Air Force, and during this time of crisis, it made me truly appreciate the 'wingman' concept.

nel Management Form 1638 through the civilian personnel flight.

Civilian absences

May 31 is the last day for civilians to use up to 30 days of excused absence to attend to personal issues caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Employees don't get extra time added to the original 30 days approved, but can continue to take the leave to handle storm-related issues. Time is tracked on time cards in hourly increments.

For more information, call 377-3142.

Coins, patches

Operation Dragon Come-back coins and patches are still available.

The \$7 coins and \$5 patches benefit the base's

Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

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

Government travel card

People who used government travel cards 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 and use your own words to reference Hurricane Katrina. To fax the

form, call 1-888-678-6046.

IRS publication

Internal Revenue Service Publication 4492, Information for Taxpayers Affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, is available at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4492.pdf>.

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.

Safe haven extensions

The safe haven per diem entitlement for dependents of Keesler's uniformed members displaced by Hurricane Ka-

trina has been extended through March 31.

The office of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness approved additional authorization for evacuation allowances until Aug. 1.

The per diem travel and transportation allowance committee approved 100 per cent entitlements for military dependents through March 31.

That extension provides authority until the military advisory panel can work changes to the joint federal travel regulation.

Those changes are expected to be approved by April 1 to give the services the authority and responsibility to make determinations on a case-by-case basis on payment of safe haven allowances.

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.

To keep the \$400,000 coverage with the same beneficiary designations, don't take any action.

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

3 more medical services come back on line

81st Medical Group

These services are available through the 81st Medical Group:

Genetics is located in the medical center. The office provides case-by-case genetic counseling and cystic fibrosis testing for Tricare Prime beneficiaries only who are referred through their primary care managers.

Nutritional medicine is in the health and wellness center. The flight provides nutritional consultations through consults from clinic PCMs.

Chiropractic clinic, in the medical center's surgery clinic, sees active-duty military only. Active-duty members need to see their primary care provider for a referral and then can call 377-6608 to schedule an appointment. Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. working Fridays.

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.

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.

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.

First aid station — in the area once housing the emergency room is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The last appointment for checkin is 5 p.m. The first aid station staff is able to treat only new, acute health care problems. They don't have the capability to treat urgent and emergency problems. Patients with urgent and emergent problems — difficulty breathing, chest pain, abdominal pain, etc. — go to the nearest off-base urgent care facility or emergency room. Ambulance coverage for Keesler is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the base 911 line. Patients are taken directly to off-base medical facilities by the contracted ambulance service. Active-duty sick call at the first aid station is scheduled through the central appointment line, 1-800-700-8603.

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

Mental health flight is in 1D in the medical center. Services include life skills (377-6216), family advocacy and exceptional family member program (377-7006) and alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment (377-8960). Signs to the applicable check-in areas are posted at the entrance. 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. The off-base civil-

ian prescription pharmacy currently occupies Room 1D-103, the first office on the right where life skills customers previously were checked in.

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.

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.

Coumadin clinic in Room 1F-158 in the family practice clinic area is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays. Coumadin is an anticoagulation medication requiring close monitoring of certain blood levels. The staff monitors and manages the dosage for patients. Patients are seen by referral only, requiring a physician at Keesler to submit a consult for the patient to be enrolled. For more information, call 377-6104.

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.

Radiology is back in its previous location. Provided are routine radiographs, computerized tomography and ultrasounds for Tricare Prime patients seen at the medical center.

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

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.

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.

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).

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. Other patients are seen on a space-available basis. 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 can initiate 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.

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. 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, ultrasound and electrical stimulation modalities. modalities. Once patients receive referrals from their primary care managers, the referral management center calls them to schedule the appointment.

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

Eight-year-old Courtney Depoe, left, and her 5-year-old sister, Hannah, look at some of the items that Sergeant West and her classmates bought for their family.

Photos by
Kemberly Groue



Students adopt Katrina family

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Two classes in the 335th Training Squadron are challenging other Keesler units to “adopt a family” to help Hurricane Katrina’s victims.

“When my class arrived Jan. 9, they expressed a need to do more than the regular humanitarian volunteer requests,” said Master Sgt. Donald Biddle, instructor supervisor for the education and training manager apprentice course. The sister course, instructed by Staff Sgt. Henry Sines, got involved.

The adoption project was the brainchild of Master Sgt. Rachelle West, a student from the Minnesota Air National Guard. She was overwhelmed at the scenes of destruction on television that she saw after the hurricane and called the Red Cross and Salvation Army chapters in Duluth, Minn., to see how she could help.

“Many people told me, ‘You can’t send anything because there’s nowhere to store anything — everything is under water,’” Sergeant West recalled. “They kept saying, ‘Send money,’ but I was nervous about sending a donation. I wanted the children to have clothes — that’s all I kept thinking about. Children need to be warm — they need dry clothes.”

As students brainstormed to come up with a class legacy project, Sergeant West remembered her command post adopted a family during the holidays.

The Salvation Army put her



David Depoe, 12, left, receives a new shirt from Senior Airman David Garrett, a student from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

in touch with Stacy Depoe and Steven Walraven, who lost everything they owned during Katrina. Mr. Walraven has a medical condition, and they live in a three-bedroom trailer supplied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency with their six children, ages 5-17.

“The mother came to the Salvation Army in tears — not like falling down and scraping your knee tears, but uncontrollable sobbing,” Sergeant West said. “I have a 7-year-old daughter myself, just like one of the little girls in this family.”

The two classes collected nearly \$700 to buy items for the family.

“Students pitched in any way they could,” Sergeant West pointed out. “They donated money, drove people who didn’t have cars to shop, and helped deliver a freezer that came from an anonymous donation, along with other household necessities.”

“This service project gave

me an opportunity to learn about Hurricane Katrina and this area,” said Tech. Sgt. Kathy Baumgarten, a student from the Vermont Air National Guard. “It gave me something meaningful to do with my time and resources. It took my mind off my own issues and gave me an opportunity to work with other class members in a positive way. I was also able to go off base to visit the family and to do the shopping.”

The class also developed a continuity book to guide future classes, in their own squadron and across the base, who’d like to adopt their own family.

“This experience will keep my memory of Mississippi close to my heart,” Sergeant West commented. “I hope future education and training classes continue this challenge — the need is certainly there.”

For more information about the adopt-a-family program, call Sergeant Biddle, 377-7351.

Sand men



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Second Lt. Aaron Chen, left, and Capt. Jeff Baker, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, pull a light pole from the sand on the beach near Edgewater Mall. They were among 400 volunteers participating in the national kickoff of the Great American Cleanup, March 2 in Biloxi.

Eagle Eyes: Program acts as neighborhood watch focusing on potential criminal threats

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

The Air Force's Eagle Eyes initiative began after the Sept. 11 attacks, but there's renewed emphasis at Keesler in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"As more and more people are allowed to access our base during cleanup and rebuilding, it's important to become even more vigilant of our surroundings," said a special agent from Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 407.

"Eagle Eyes is a neighborhood watch of sorts. It focuses on potential criminal threats to our base and our community. Security forces can't be everywhere, so it's important for us all to be the eyes and ears of the base.

"If something or someone seems out of the ordinary, report it. It may be

a small piece to a much larger puzzle," the agent said.

"The Eagle Eyes program isn't specifically for military members to use. Civilians both on and off base may also report suspicious activities they notice around Keesler and in the community," he pointed out. "Our community partners are just as important to base security as our military members.

"In the past, security forces members have gone out and knocked on doors of houses on Keesler's perimeter fence to inform them about the Eagle Eyes program," said Master Sgt. Steven Jones-Johnson, installation security manager for the 81st Security Forces Squadron.

"We haven't been able to go out since Hurricane Katrina, but we are taking proper measures to secure our base," he said. "We check the perime-

ter weekly, report on its condition and make proper adjustments."

The following red flags should be reported to help keep Keesler and assets protected.

Surveillance — someone recording or monitoring activities, including the use of video cameras, taking photos, note taking, drawing diagrams, writing on maps or using binoculars or any other vision-enhancing device. Whether witnessed or not, surveillance activities historically have preceded overt acts.

Elicitation — anyone or any organization attempting to gain information by mail, fax, telephone or in person about military people or operations.

Test of security — any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches, to penetrate physical security barriers or identify vulnerabilities.

Acquiring supplies — purchasing

or stealing uniforms, decals, passes, badges, flight manuals, explosives, weapons, ammunition, or any other controlled items.

Suspicious persons out of place — people who don't seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment or anywhere else.

Dry run — putting people into position, moving them about, mapping out routes and honing final plans.

Deploying assets — positioning people and supplies to commit the act. This is the last opportunity to alert authorities before an overt act occurs.

To report suspicious activities, call the 81st SFS law enforcement desk 24 hours a day at 377-3040.

AFOSI provides free Eagle Eyes briefings and information to military and civilian groups within the community.

To schedule an Eagle Eyes briefing, call OSI, 377-3420.



U.S. AIR FORCE
EagleEyes
WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.
TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES
CALL 377-3040

Bird flu — next pandemic or just fowl play?

By Staff Sgt. Melissa Koskovich
Central Command Air Forces
Forward Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — A global outbreak of disease — that is what many people think when they hear the words “bird flu.” But is it really the next pandemic or just fowl play?

Properly named avian influenza, this virus has spurred global awareness and growing concerns about the possibility of the virus mutating into a more lethal form.

“(Bird flu) is caused by a specific strain of flu virus (H5N1) that usually infects birds,” said Senior Master Sgt. Mark Mellinger, Central Command Air Forces public health noncommissioned offi-

cer. “The strain of flu has been around since 1967, but it recently mutated into a highly lethal strain associated with migratory birds.”

Through these birds, the disease spreads quickly to other bird populations, and to humans exposed to infected birds or poultry. Currently, the bird flu virus doesn’t have the ability to spread effectively from one human to another.

The bird flu is contracted orally or through the respiratory system and is primarily spread by contact through saliva, nasal secretions and feces of infected birds. Deceivably, the initial symptoms of the illness are similar to that of the normal flu.

“We don’t know for sure

whether the current strains of bird flu will evolve into a pandemic strain,” Sergeant Mellinger said. “However, it has shown the ability to mutate, so it is a concern.”

There’s currently no effective or approved vaccine to prevent the bird flu in humans.

Antiviral drugs like Tamiflu or Relenza can be used to ease symptoms of the virus, if given within 48 hours of initial symptoms.

“We haven’t had any human cases of the bird flu in America. For those who have gotten sick with the virus, the mortality rate is about 50 percent,” Sergeant Mellinger said. “Because of this and other concerns, the bird flu is being monitored closely by

numerous health organizations across the world.”

Outbreaks of bird flu have occurred recently among poultry in a number of countries in Asia, as well as Germany, France, Romania, Italy, Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece. Human infections of the virus have been reported in Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia and Iraq.

Individuals traveling in those areas are advised to avoid contact with sick birds or poultry and their excretions and observe food hygiene, eating only poultry and eggs that have been thoroughly cooked from approved sources, which include all American military dining facilities.

Building good body resist-

ance also goes a long way in preventing any type of influenza. This can be achieved through a balanced diet, adequate rest, regular exercise, good personal hygiene and not smoking.

According to Department of Defense officials, if a human pandemic of the bird flu were to occur, it would take about six to nine months to produce an effective vaccine.

“Each strain of flu is unique,” Sergeant Mellinger said. “If it starts passing from human to human, it will take time to identify the strain and create an effective vaccine to counter it.”

For more information on avian influenza go to <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>.

KEESLER NOTES

Marriage workshop

The chapel sponsors a two-day faith-based military marriage workshop March 17-18.

The first session is 6 to 9:30 p.m. and the second is 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The seminar is in the Fishbowl Student Ministries Center in the Levitow Training Support Facility.

For more information, call Chaps. (Capt.) John VanderKaay or Robert Schobert, 377-2520.

Hypertension briefing

The medical center sponsors a hypertension educational offering, 8-9 a.m. March 17 in the medical specialties classroom, Room 1F-121, family practice clinic.

Tax office

The tax office is now in Room 234, old Cody Hall.

The office provides free tax information and preparation to base personnel, 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. workdays.

For more information, call 377-4454.

Playgroup

The family advocacy staff sponsors a playgroup 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesdays at the youth center.

The program provides support for anyone with military privileges and is directed mainly at preschoolers.

For more information, call 377-8612.

Preschool openings

The part-day preschool program has openings for 3-5 year olds in the 12:30-3:30 p.m. afternoon session

Classes are Mondays through working Fridays at the youth center, and suspended on feder-

al holidays and Christmas holidays for area schools.

Enrollment is at the child development center. The fee is based on family income.

Learning experiences are balanced between active and quiet, indoors and outdoors, child-initiated and teacher-directed, individual and group oriented, and spontaneous and planned.

For more information, call 377-2211.

Preschool playgroup

A preschool pals playgroup is offered 9:30-10:30 a.m. Thursdays in Room 100-B of the former Chapel One.

The group is a joint venture of the chapel and the family support center. The hour offers toys, games, music and a chance for parents to visit.

For more information, call Chap. (Capt.) John VanderKaay, 377-2520, or the family

support center, 377-2179.

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.

Lithographs

Air Force lithographs on these subjects are available for unit display on a first-come, first served basis through the public affairs office:

Air Force core values.

Safety/operational risk management.

Air Force History and Art Program series, including 60th anniversary of World War II.

Publicity posters from past Keesler open houses, including the canceled 2005 event.

Lithographs may be picked up by first sergeants in Room

113, Taylor Logistics Center (Building 4002).

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.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Intramurals

Base looks to restart athletic program; officials, unit representatives needed

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

Keesler is looking to resume its pre-Katrina athletic schedule and restart the intramural sports program.

According to James Grubb, Keesler sport director, one of the things holding back the intramural program was not having officials to call the game, but that is changing.

“Our last contract for sports officials expired in October; we were bidding for another when Hurricane Katrina came in August,” he said. “That not only wiped out our chances of getting another contract, it lessened the chances of getting another contract due to the fact that the demand for sports officials became higher in the local area and many

people had to relocate due to the hurricane.

“We have another sports officials contract at the 81st Contracting Squadron waiting for bids,” he said. “We also managed to have a couple of week-long intramural tournaments, such as the Turkey Bowl, the pre-Super Bowl flag football tournaments and February’s Keesler Soccer Classic, which were well received.”

Grubb also said even when the sports contract is finalized, there is something else that is needed for the intramural program to start back up.

“The hurricane forced a lot of movement of Keesler personnel; as a result, there are many squadrons that no longer have a primary or alternate sports representative,” he

said. “It is important that each squadron have a representative to go to the meetings (intramural, quarterly sports advisory council, etc.) so they can go back to their squadrons to report what was discussed during the meetings, and so we know who to contact in each unit for questions we may have.”

Grubb said it is up to each unit commander to assign a primary and alternate representative.

“Once they are assigned, all the unit has to do is write up an official letter stating who is their primary and alternate, have their unit commander sign the letter and send it to us for filing,” he said.

For more information on the intramural sports program, call 377-4409.

Dragon revived

Darwin Robertson, from Browning Brothers Flooring in Mobile, Ala., repaints the top of the key on the Dragon Fitness Center basketball court during renovation work Friday. Dragon Fitness Center, one of Keesler’s three fitness centers, sustained damage to the basketball court area during Hurricane Katrina in August. The court area reopened Monday.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Taekwondo cop trains with grand master

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith
Keesler News staff

A youth taekwondo instructor recently got the chance to train under the grandson of the founder of the martial art.

Michael Munyon, 81st Security Forces Squadron non-commissioned officer in charge of informational and industrial security and Armed Forces director of the Taekwondo Federation, trained under master instructor Robert Wheatley and taekwondo grand master Choi Jung Hwa in California Feb. 17-18.

Munyon is a youth center taekwondo instructor who is nationally and internationally certified.

He is also a fifth-degree black belt in the Korean martial art.

Hwa is the grandson of General Choi Hong Hi, the founder of taekwondo. Hi was a general in the Republic of Korea Army, when in 1960, he visited the U.S. to see Jhoon Rhee, who at the time was teaching Korean karate.

After Hi's visit, Rhee changed the name of Korean karate to taekwondo.

Munyon said the taekwondo seminar in California had different aspects.

"A few topics were covered, including how to gener-

ate more power, taekwondo patterns, and kicking and dodging techniques," he said. "Grand Master Hwa also gave lectures and speeches about being better human beings through a speech called moral culturing."

Munyon said the most interesting part of the seminar actually took place during a group dinner.

"The participants of the seminar were all sitting at a table, and Grand Master Hwa poured everyone tea," he said. "I gained even more respect for him. This is something you don't normally see; in most cases, people will try to serve him to gain some type of favoritism."

In Korean, *tae* means to kick or destroy with the foot, *kwon* means to punch with the fist, and *do* means way or art. Taekwondo is loosely translated as "the art of kicking and punching" or "the way of the foot and the fist."

Early origins of the martial art can be traced back as far as 669 A.D.

Taekwondo is one of two Asian martial arts — judo is the other — in which athletes compete during the Olympics.

It became an official Olympic sport at the 1992 Summer Olympics.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Darryl White, left, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, and Munyon demonstrate a technique during the 2005 Asian-Pacific Heritage Month celebration.

SCORES AND MORE

Boxing

Operation Slugfest 2 — 7 p.m., March 17, Hangar 4. General admission \$15, table reservation \$20. Tickets on sale at Gaude Lanes and Vandenberg Community Center. Presented by Bomber Promotions.

Bowling

Youth special — ages 17 and younger bowl for \$1 per game.

Number of lanes available for open bowling — evenings, 10 Monday, 12 Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 Thursday and 14 Friday. Twenty-four lanes are open 1:30-10 p.m. Saturdays and 1-7 p.m. Sundays.

Reserve a lane for your child's birthday — for more information, call 377-2817.

Play and save cards — bowl 21 games for \$29.95.

Fitness centers

Free wearin' o' the green 5-kilometer run/walk — 3 p.m. March 17, marina park. Sign up day of the race. Wear green

and get four-leaf clover. T-shirts to top finishers.

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 — basketball court is now ready for use. All cardio equipment have an LCD TV/DVD players; users must supply their own headphones.

Triangle Fitness Center — closed until further notice.

Golf

Bay Breeze Golf Course — all 18 holes of the Bay Breeze Golf Course are available. The golf course is open 7 a.m. to dusk daily. Free for walkers only. Retrieve your own balls due to loss of ball picker. Driving range opens at 7 a.m. daily for free use.

Two-for-one golf lessons — schedule a half-hour lesson for \$25 and receive a second half-hour lesson free. For an appointment, call 377-3832 or 348-7589.

Outdoor recreation

St. Patrick's Day special — March 17. Wear green and get

a 10 percent discount on all rental equipment.

March fishing tournament — weigh in the largest croaker during the month and win a \$100 savings bond.

Bicycle rental — new 3500 Trek, 7-speed, \$3 a day or \$15 a week.

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

Items for sale — hunting and fishing licenses, snacks and a variety of beverages.

Youth center

Free Junior Olympic tennis skills competition — 2 p.m. March 25, ages 8-13. Sign up through March 23.

Baseball/T-ball — accepting registrations for ages 5-12.

Operation Night Hoops — for ages 13-18. For more information, call 377-4116.

Classes — gymnastics, taekwondo and dance. For more information, call 377-4116.

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

DIGEST

HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Joey Anderson, Megan Boren, Stephaine Brown, Isaac Davis, Kenneth Dawson, Robert Degrasse, Samantha Dews, Kevin Gibson, Paul Hanks, Jason Hart, Aaron Hetman, Charles Howard, Robert Kepner, Jacqueline Krawczyk, Jesse Leslie, Christopher Madsen, Dustin Matchinski, Christopher McClanahan, Eric McCord, Michael McDaniel, Marques Moore, Justin Mongoso, Alejandro Mora, Brenton Pistek, Robert Rhoads, Jeffrey Simmons, Matthew Turner, David Vanderloop, Arthur Villanueva, Travis Ware, David Williams, Daniel Sleeter, Ronald Williams, Trent Wilson, Demond Woods, Christopher Youmans and Erich Ziegler; Marine Pvt. John Schaffer; Pfc. Richard Oglesby and Scott Suess; Airmen Joseph Murray, Nick Salsman, and Colin Sanders; Airmen 1st Class Shawn Beck, Peter Bernheim, Bryan Branham, Daniel Ferriss, Joseph Fields, Tristan Fioretti, Gabriel Flynn, Thomas Grimes, Joseph Hill, Oscar Hernandez, Randall Hodkin, Brian Housholder, Freddie Hudson, Christopher Konze, Jason Kosalka, David Leverington, Benjamin Long, David Manning, William Mullins, Christopher Paxton, James Randolph, Cameron Rau, Vernon Reed, Jacob Rosalez, Nicholas Rudder, Jeremy Sampson, Jonathan Short, Jason Simmons, Philip Spradley, Nathaniel Steele, John Tiger, Joshua Travis, Brian Westgate, Patrick White, Taylor Williams, Nathan Vincent and Botija Zephir; Senior Airmen Jeremy Baca, Michael Christensen, Joshua Elder, Stephaine Foreman, Jonathan Grigg, Jason Hofstetter, Luke Martens, Michael Neuterma and Roger Rouse; Army Sgt. Michael Morris; Staff Sgts. Dionte Anderson, Steven Bolli, Donald Burnette, Leonard Crego, Aaron Daigle, Chad Gibson, David Hart, Leslie Hubbard, Rafael Lara, Aaron Mabray, Jason Morris, Juan Najera, Christopher Pygott, Robert Rattler, Michael Rausch, Anthony Soto, Robert Stielow, Keith Tyska and David Whanger; Master Sgts. Gary Critchfield and Willie Kinsey; Senior Master Sgt. Ronald Mendoza.

334th TRS

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Christopher Bahlman, Matthew Calhoun, Salvador Canales, Jacob Clinesmith, Anthony Cross, Brandon Dick, Noah Jenkins,

Phoeteama Neal, Shane Ooten, Joseph Sievert, Joshua Stinar, Ryan Towns, Benjamin Turnipseede and Bohn Ward; Airman Noel Foley; Airmen 1st Class Aaron Adock, Royce Bockleman, Brian Chisham, Sara Fitzpatrick, Roger Henthorn, Leon Montroy, Felix Nazario, Casiano Rivera, Robert Rohlfing, Isaac Shreves, John Weisensee and Isaac Yi; Senior Airmen Laura Andrews, Justin Barger, Christopher Dyer, Michael Hutchins, Steven Sorensen and Christopher Spencer; Staff Sgts. Tony Araiza, Alexander Callazo, Mark Darrigo, Jessie Jackson, Elizabeth Jones, Chris Martinez, Richard Taylor, Eric Wagner and Justin Wutzke.

Command post apprentice course — Airmen Basic Alan Alexander and Kayelynn Perkins; Airmen 1st Class Douglas Baldwin, Austin Farrow, Jennifer Krutka, Aubrey Muncy and Stefanie Walker; Senior Airman Christopher Marrazzo; Staff Sgt. Richard Lurk; Tech. Sgts. Ruth Agnew-Gilmore, Travis Englund, Peter Hawk, Michelle McCormick and Michael Vasser.

335th TRS

Comptroller training flight — Airmen Basic Fawn Lawrence, Winnie Otieno, Aaron Rabold, Joshua Rotondo and Thomas Starling; Airmen Lourditha Quintina and Aaron Yoder; Airmen 1st Class Jessica Camacho and Kurt Saine; Senior Airmen Charlie Belton, Sonia Jones and Kurt Pereira; Staff Sgts. Lisa Krejci, Stephen Libertini, Marshall Lorenzo, Charles Moore, Lance Terrell and Holly Tompkins; Tech. Sgt. Caroline Cousineau; Rachell Wood.

Personnel apprentice course — Airmen Basic Whitney Blount, Scott Buske, Natazha Feliciano, Marquita Humphrey, Cassandra Montgomery, Christian Mullins, Ericka Powell, Rhyna Ramirez, Samantha Rogers, Andrea Villa-Lobos and Janice Walker; Airman Jessica Figueroa, Alan Kenoyer and Tayaunna Short; Airmen 1st Class Esmeraldo Berruete, Shareka Davis, Raphael Williams and Ricardo Wood; Senior Airmen Chassity Murray, Billy Nicks and Victor Salinas; Staff Sgts. Derrick Caldwell, Charles Dixon, Sean Kennard, Keven Fickes, Craig Harris, Melissa Goble and Peri Robinett; Tech. Sgts. Natalia Dasilva, Jason Johnson and Tony Mathews; Master Sgt. Traci Mays.

Weather training flight — Airmen Basic David Ford, Jonathon Lash and Kimberly Savitz; Navy Airmen Recruit Dustin Covault, Joseph Green and Glenn Zubler; Airman Irati Victoria; Navy Airman Apprentice Nicholas Burt; Airmen 1st Class Philip Carnathan, Matthew Marlow and Cody Weakland; Navy Airmen Dustin Brewer and Eric Wajnarowski; Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Stephen Padgett; Tech. Sgt. Steve Strick.

336th TRS

Communications-computer systems training flight — Airmen Basic Jason Fowler, Matthew Jensen, Timothy Joseph, Steven Lybbert, Christopher Miller, Damian Reyes, Matthew Saum and George Tibbits; Airmen Christopher Parker, Mathew Saum and Jeremy Stokes; Airmen 1st Class Adam Allen, Richard Brown, Gabriel Deeds, Stephen Hillman, Charles Maguire, Edwin Nieves, Christopher Nordhogen and Daniel Ogburn; Senior Airmen Sang Lee, Jake Monroe, Carlos Sober and Yolanda Yu; Staff Sgts. Johnny Baker, Scott Blair, Keith Browning, Nicholas Cichon, Jonathan Eastwood, Jeremy Flint, William Fugar, Phillip Ramil, Thomas Sheffer, Brian Smith and Christopher Stewart; Tech. Sgts. Julie Clark and Orenzy Turner.

Communications and information flight — Airmen Basic Nne-Nna Asagwara, George Blackwell, Jaymes Calvert, Sequoia Carter, Heather Day, Brittany Dubray, Travis Foster, Angela Henry, Nicole Hopper, Justin James, Brittany Kirschenbauer, Matthew Langley, Brandon Laughlin, Jessica Lord, Phan Minerva, Joshua Muse, Brandon Nelson, Chad Paul, Jeremiah Platt, Salvin Ram, Amanda Travers, Nicole Welsh, Rolonda Wesley and Jamie Wilkinson; Airman Joseph Thornburg; Airmen 1st Class Kaycee Ash, Kevin Boyd, Jennifer Britt, Sunny Chance, Carlo Clave, Christopher Chesnek, John Darnall, Edgar Del Rio, Chaison Griffin, Daniel Melendez, Eric Phillips, Benjamin Schweikhardt, Bailey Sutherland and Yohanna Vasquez; Senior Airmen Ryan Begley, Penny Chard, Luis Enriquez, Jason Geoo, Christopher Johnson, Daniel List, Juan Matias, Angel Ramirez, Shawna Romero, Toshona Smith, Patrick Steele and Michael Wright; Staff Sgts. Michael Bennett, Adam Branch, Bernsdo Brooks, Jessie Carpenter, Carl Clegg, Anthony Delph, David Erickson, Orasa Glenn, Joshua Kaylor, Anna Kelly, Brian Langford, Ramil Lovelynn, Matthew Manning, Seumas McDermott, Shannon Patrick, Patricia Perez, Steven Reynolds, Gary Scholl, Wilson Sherlyn, Benjamin Stephenson, Rance Streeter Timothy Switzer, Ryan Talbot and Brad Weekley; Tech. Sgts. Cesar Alvarez, Bonnie Atkinson, Michael Brooks, Leslie Coffman, Christopher Dowding, Michelle Egger, Bernard Green, John Hahn, Christopher Kolness, Michael Resler, Michael Riley and Deborah Walker; Master Sgts. Kevin McDonough and Michael Mullin; Cornell Billingsley and Doris Nash.

SHUTTLE BUS SCHEDULE

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

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	:30 332nd TRS, Building 6955
:01	:31 338th TRS, Building 6965
:02	:32 Welch Auditorium
:05	:35 AAFES Furniture Store
:08	:38 Jones/Bryan/Hewes Hall
:10	:40 Thomson Hall
:11	:41 New Cody Hall
:13	:43 Supply, civil engineering
:14	:44 Shoppette
:16	:46 Shaw House
:17	:47 Muse Manor
:19	:49 McBride Library
:21	:51 Medical center, Tyer House
:22	:52 Sablich Center
:23	:53 Dental clinic
:24	:54 Allee and Wolfe Halls
:25	:55 Base operations
:27	:57 Hangar 4

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, have excess baggage, medical appointments at off-base hospitals or clinics or unable to ride the base shuttle, call 377-2432 for the base taxi. For more information, call 377-2430. Until further notice, weekend shuttle service isn't available. Taxi service is available on an "as needed" basis.

338th TRS

Computer, network, cryptographic systems course — Airmen Basic Billy Austin, David Henderson, Andrei Mills, Laverne Pettit, Joseph Quitano and Matthew Smither; Airmen Nicholas Bishop, Michael Gray, Michael Hutchins, Christopher Stroup and Jason Unovitch; Airmen 1st Class Dane Collins, Joseph Devera, Scott Gray, Matthew Hixson, Thomas Kimmel, Nicholas Kynett, James Little, Christopher Mahoney, Ferdinand Nacin, Eric Plunkett, James Schultz, Jeremy Simmons, Joseph Skopic, Nathan Swift, Oni Ung and William Walker; Senior Airmen Kelly Finn and Kacy Whalen; Staff Sgts. Peter Chevalier, Ismael Lopez, Arquelio Martinez-Perez and John Park; Master Sgt. Clay Hardy.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

- 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.

Please see **Digest**, Page 25

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.

Jewish

Editor's note: Since Hurricane Katrina, the Jewish community has been meeting at an alternate location and time because of damage to Beth Israel Synagogue. For more information, call Bonnie Kidd, 818-5959.

Passover Seder — 6:30 p.m. April 12, Beauvoir United Methodist Church, 2113 Pass Road, Biloxi. Congregation Beth Israel invites all Jewish students and military personnel; no charge.

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.

Digest,

from Page 24

Arts and crafts center

National Craft Month — drawings, special demos, promotions and giveaways in each shop throughout the month.

Beginning intarsia woodworking — 10 a.m. March 18. \$25.

Craft shop demonstrations — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Kids crafting class — 1 p.m. Saturday. \$10 including supplies. St. Patrick's Day project.

Advanced intarsia woodworking — 10 a.m. Saturday or March 25. \$20.

Frame shop demonstrations — 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. March 18.

Advanced matting — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 24. \$25.

Mold pouring — 10 a.m. March 25. \$25, two-for-one special; ages 13 and older.

Wood shop demonstrations — 2:30 and 3:20 p.m. March 25.

Beginning woodworking — 5-7:30 p.m. March 29. \$15. Receive safety certification and operator's card.

Mini crafts center

Editor's note: Located at Vandenberg Community Center.

New hours — 5-9 p.m. Thursdays, noon to 5 p.m. Fridays and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays after working Fridays.

Ceramic painting — every Thursday. Complete kit \$10.

St. Patrick's Day T-shirts — 6-8 p.m. March 16. \$10 including supplies. Sign up by March 10.

Pottery wheel class — 4-8 p.m. Thursdays. \$10 for one hour; pick convenient time. Maximum four students.

Air Force photography contest — photos accepted now for the student base-level competition in April.

McBride Library

Electronic reference orientations — 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

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

Umbrella month — stop by and see our umbrella display.

Health and wellness center

Tobacco cessation — for more information, call 377-5305.

TRANSITIONS

Workshops, briefings

Veterans benefits briefing — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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. Monday-Wednesday, 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>.

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>.

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.

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

Half Time Café — open for breakfast 6-9 a.m. workdays. Open for lunch and dinner. Buffet specials 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Wednesdays, Italian, \$5.95; working Fridays, catfish, \$6.50.

Youth center

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

Classes — Mondays, gymnastics; Mondays and Wednesdays, tae kwon do; Tuesday, dance. For more information, call 377-4116.

Self-directed activities — 3-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, ages 9-18.

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.

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

Creative corner club — 4:30 p.m. March 16.

Read-by-mail program — 4:30 p.m. March 16.

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

Congressional award program — 6 p.m. Monday, ages 14-21.

Teen aviation camp — applications accepted through March 20 from current sophomores and juniors. For more information, call 377-4116.

Free Junior Olympic tennis skills competition — 2 p.m. March 25, ages 8-13. Sign up by March 23.

Baseball/T-ball registration — throughout March, ages 5-12.

Operation Night Hoops registration — throughout March; late night basketball league, ages 13-18.

Youth of the year — quarterly nominations for January-March accepted now. For more information, call 377-4116.

Instructors needed — for programs including those for ages 3-5 and special classes. For more information, call 377-4116.

MEETINGS

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

African-American Heritage Committee — 3:30 p.m. second Tuesday of the month, Room 109, Taylor Logistics Building. For more information, call Paulette Powell, 377-2270, or Kurt Higgins, 377-1390.

Air Force Sergeants Association — 11 a.m. third Tuesday of the month, Keesler NCO Academy auditorium. For more information, call Master Sgt. Scott Sippel, 377-2337.

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.

Keesler Officers Spouses Club — for more information, call Jeanette Jackson, 872-0626.

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

Rising VI Association — 3 p.m. third Wednesday of the month, Keesler NCO Academy auditorium. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Shanda Yarborough, 377-3653, or Tech. Sgt. Kevin Benjamin, 377-7924.

MISCELLANEOUS

Movies

Editor's note: 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.

Friday — 7 p.m., The Matador (R).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Underworld: Evolution (R); 7 p.m., Annapolis (PG-13).

Sunday — 2 p.m., Nanny McPhee (PG).

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

Lunch — orange-spiced pork chops, braised liver with onions, fried fish, rissole potatoes, rice, gravy, broccoli, peas and carrots, wax beans, fruit salad, potato salad, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, buffalo wings and cream of broccoli soup.

Dinner — baked chicken, pepper steak, pasta primavera, mashed potatoes, rice, gravy, mixed vegetables, fried okra, green beans, potato salad, fruit salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, buffalo wings and roast beef subs.

Friday

Lunch — seafood newburg, bean and corn pie, roast turkey, cornbread, franconia potatoes, pea and pepper rice, gravy, corn on the cob, stewed tomatoes, mustard greens, pasta salad, three-bean salad, clam chowder, vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork and burritos.

Dinner — corned beef, cornbread, pineapple chicken, Yankee pot roast, potato wedges, simmered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, carrots, blackeyed peas, three-bean salad, clam chowder, garden vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

Saturday

Lunch — baked chicken, Swedish meatballs, creole shrimp, baked potatoes, rice, gravy, creamed corn, asparagus, steamed squash, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

Dinner — baked fish, Hungarian goulash, barbecue chicken, potatoes, rice, gravy, stir-fry vegetables, baked beans, creamed corn, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

Sunday

Lunch — oven fried fish, spareribs, grilled mustard chicken breast, macaroni and cheese, egg noodles, gravy, peas, sweet potatoes, broccoli combo, jellied spring salad, tomato salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Dinner — stir-fry beef with broccoli, turkey nuggets, loin strip steak, mushroom and onion sauce, baked potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, corn on the cob, green beans, jellied spring salad, tomato salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Monday

Lunch — beef pot roast, baked stuffed fish, cornbread, pork loin, potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, succotash, green beans, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone soup, chili with beans, grilled sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Dinner — chili macaroni, cornbread, beef canelloni, fried chicken, cottage fries, mashed potatoes, gravy, steamed squash, glazed carrots, peas, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone soup, chili with beans, grilled sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Tuesday

Lunch — teriyaki chicken, veal parmesan, salmon cakes, garlic toast, filipino rice, parsley buttered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, succotash, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbecue beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Dinner — country captain chicken, meatloaf, turkey a la king, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, garlic toast, harvard beets, mustard greens, okra tomato gumbo, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbeque beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Wednesday

Lunch — lasagna, garlic toast, spaghetti with meat sauce, chicken cacciatore, noodles, baked potatoes, baked beans, green beans, simmered squash, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.

Dinner — lemon-herb chicken, barbecue ribs, jalapeno cornbread, stuffed pork chops, scalloped potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, Mexican corn, tempura vegetables, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.