

KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

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Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

INSIDE

COMMENTARY

Are you ready?, 2

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Gators fittest, 4

Trauma training, 6

NEWS AND FEATURES

Good will rewarded, 8

Birthday events, 11

Helping hands, 13

She's "tops," 16

Extravaganza, 18

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Civil engineers rule, 22

Swimming, anyone? 23

SECTIONS

Commentary.....2

Training and education.4-7

News and features.....8-21

Sports and recreation...22-23

Digest.....24-25

Classifieds.....27

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



Dragons deployed –
94



Pushups for points

Staff Sgt. Brent Eggleston, left, 81st Training Support Squadron, counts pushups by 1st Lt. Jeff Dolezal, 334th Training Squadron, during the 81st Training Group's fitness challenge May 16. Results, Page 4.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Optimistic hurricane forecast for Mississippi Gulf Coast Take nothing for granted – Capasso

By Perry Jenifer

Keesler News editor

If forecasters have it right, this hurricane season may allow the Mississippi Gulf Coast to breathe a deep sigh of relief.

The season begins June 1 and continues through Nov. 30.

Noting the optimistic forecast for this area, Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso, 81st Training Wing commander, cautioned, "We must not take anything for granted. We must make preparations early, review them frequently and be ready to activate our plan at the first sign of a storm in our neighborhood."

Effective June 1, Keesler goes into

Hurricane Condition 5, where checklist items are reviewed, updated or executed as needed, the general said.

"This doesn't mean a storm threatens us, but that we need to heighten our awareness and preparedness," he explained.

Please see **Forecast**, Page 9

This week in the Triangle

Communications-computer systems programming apprentice, 10 a.m. today, 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Friday, Thomson Hall.

Communications-computer systems planning and implementation management apprentice, 10 a.m. today, Thomson Hall.

Weather forecaster apprentice, 10:30 a.m. today, weather training complex.

Information management apprentice, 9 a.m. Friday and Wednesday, Thomson Hall.

Aviation resource management, 10 a.m. Friday, Cody Hall.

Basic instructor, 10 a.m. Friday, Hewes Hall.

Expeditionary communications officer, 11 a.m. Friday, Stennis Hall.

Communications security manager, 11 a.m. Friday, Stennis Hall.

Ground radio, 10 a.m. Monday, Jones Hall.

Theater deployable communications-data network, 11 a.m. Tuesday, Stennis Hall.

Theater deployable communications-transmission network, 11 a.m. Tuesday, Stennis Hall.

Computer networking cryptographic systems, 10 a.m. Wednesday, Bryan Hall.

Radio communications system apprentice, 11 a.m. Wednesday, Thomson Hall.

Network management services, 11 a.m. Wednesday, Stennis Hall.



April Honor Flight

Student numbers

Total students — 3,497

Non-prior service — 2,191

Temporary duty — 1,306

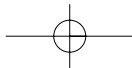
Combat controllers — 27

Non-prior service arrivals — 157

Guard, Reserve — 815

International — 20

Fiscal 2006 graduates — 14,792



COMMENTARY

As hurricane season nears, don't wait to plan, prepare

By Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

81st Training Wing commander

The first of June marks the beginning of hurricane season.

Because no one knows what this year's hurricane season will bring to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, we must do everything in our power to ensure we're as ready as possible to meet the hazards associated with this weather phenomenon.

This week has been designated Hurricane Preparedness Week. The goal of the observance is to provide you with the knowledge to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. By understanding your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane.

Hurricane hazards come in many forms: storm surge, high winds, tornadoes and flooding.

This means it's important for your family to have a plan that includes all of these hazards. That means having effective emergency and evacuation plans in place. It also means planning and preparing ahead of the storm, not improvising a response after it occurs.

If you haven't already done so, complete a Form 21, Hurricane Sheltering Intentions. Update it as often as you change your intentions.

Create a hurricane kit. The hurricane supplement on Pages A1-8 includes guidance on building a kit.

When you evacuate, make sure you have both a primary and an alternate route in mind. Again, the hurricane supplement contains a wealth of information on evacuation routes, including a map of the three coastal counties, and a preparation checklist.

Pay particular attention to the news for weather information. Other useful resources include The Weather Channel, Weather Underground (<http://www.weatherunderground.com>), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (<http://www.nhc.coaa.gov>) and Air Force One Source (<http://www.airforceonesource.com>).

Keesler doesn't have approved shelter space to protect the entire base population. Mission-essential personnel and students shelter on base.

Mission-essential personnel dependents, and non-essential personnel and their dependents are encouraged to evacuate. Exceptions to our current sheltering policy are handled on a case-by-case basis. Your commander needs to know now if you believe you should be an exception.

If an official military evacuation order is issued, pay close attention to the language of the order because the minimum/maximum travel distances may vary with each hurricane.

Guidance on procedures for reporting back to the base once you've reached your safe haven is also provided in the hurricane supplement. It's important that we account for everyone.

Whatever this hurricane season blows our way, know this — the safety of our people is foremost in our minds and actions. Early evaluation of storms as they develop ensures timely decisions are made to provide the greatest margin of safety possible.

Time after time, Team Keesler has been able to take everything these storms have thrown at it, because our people have been prepared. This hurricane season is no different. Make preparedness your top priority.

Thank you, 2nd Air Force, for your support of AFAF

By Maj. Gen. Mike Gould

Second Air Force commander

As commander of 2nd Air Force I'd like to send out a personal thank you to each member of 2nd Air Force who took part in this year's Air Force Assistance Fund campaign.

The AFAF provides our Airmen an opportunity to be wingmen to those who truly need help. From the top down, at Keesler, Lackland, Sheppard, Goodfellow and Vandenberg Air Force bases, the men and women of 2nd Air Force have shown their great generosity by giving a total of more than \$600,000 to this worthy cause.

The success of this year's campaign comes from a combination of different factors that, if one were missing, would've made achieving that goal much harder. First, the commanders at all of our bases gave their wholehearted support to the AFAF campaign, willing to do whatever was needed to make it happen. With the knowledge they had leadership's full support for their efforts, the AFAF staff dedicated themselves to communicating the fund's needs, as well as providing blanket coverage in their fundraising at each organizational level.

All of this would have been for naught if the generosity of the individual contributors hadn't been there, and that's where the members of 2nd Air Force came shining through.

At the end of this year's AFAF campaign, all 2nd Air Force units exceeded their contribution goal by 150 percent. This success is above and beyond the call of duty. Even in the midst of a global war and a terrible natural disaster, 2nd Air Force members still managed to take responsibility for their wingmen. The results of this year's AFAF campaign speak for themselves — not only is

2nd Air Force one of the hardest working units in the Air Force, it's also one of the most generous.

The AFAF's Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund, Air Force Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependents Home Foundation, and Gen. and Mrs. Curtis E. Lemay Foundation provide assistance to members of our Air Force family in dire need.

I'm proud to know troops under my command put out their time, effort, and most of all, money, to make a significant difference in the well-being of the Air Force's own.

Be safe this summer

By Maj. Gen. Mike Gould

Second Air Force commander

The Memorial Day holiday weekend provides some well-deserved time off and an opportunity for social gatherings with family and friends.

It also signals the onset of the "101 critical days of summer" safety campaign that runs through Labor Day. Whether spending a day at the beach, barbecuing in your backyard or swimming in your home pool, your chance of having a safe and enjoyable time are increased by being safety-minded.

Historically, the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day has proven to be the most dangerous time of the year for our Air Force family. Since fiscal 2000, 165 Air Force, 22 Air Education and Training Command and seven 2nd Air Force personnel have lost their lives.

The No. 1 killer, with 128 deaths, is motor vehicle mishaps. That constitutes nearly 78 percent of all fatalities. Human error was the biggest factor in those mishaps.

While risk is inherent in everything we do, it behooves all of us to strive to minimize risk. Although we can't watch our people 24 hours a day, we can work to instill in them an awareness of their safety responsibilities. We must be totally dedicated and ever vigilant to protect our most valuable resource — our people.

Enjoy your holidays and the summer months ahead with family and friends, and be safety conscious in all you do.

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.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Maj. Don Alexander, white shirt, 338th Training Squadron; Capt. Damen Freedman, 334th TRS; Senior Master Sgt. Nick Slater, 81st Training Support Squadron; Capt. Max Lemons, 335th TRS; Staff Sgt. Jeremy Hobbs, 332nd TRS; Capt. Chris Ford, 333rd TRS, and Marine Staff Sgt. Jimmy Shields, Marine Corps Detachment, begin their 5-mile run at the Triangle Track May 16 as part of the 81st Training Group physical training competition. Captain Freedman won the race and helped the Gators earn the most points.

Gators shine in physical training competition

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

The 334th Training Squadron is the fittest training squadron on base.

At least they were on May 16.

Earning 44 total points, the Gators blew away their nearest competitor by more than 10 points in the May competition involving squadrons in the 81st Training Group and Keesler's Marine Corps Detachment.

According to Master Sgt. Donald Biddle, 335th TRS, the training group has a competition for each quarter of the year.

"The first competition for 2006 was a bowl-off won by the Marines in March," he said. "We also did the confidence course near the base soccer fields."

The fitness competition included a relay race in which the first runner had to run three laps; the second runner had one, the third four laps and the fourth had two laps.

For the baton, a flashlight similar to the ones carried by airmen during basic training

at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, was used.

MARDET took the four-person relay competition with a time of 13 minutes, 58 seconds.

The 332nd TRS earned first in the push-up competition with 109.

The 335th TRS did the most triple-set sit-ups with 41, and the 81st Training Support Squadron won the jump rope competition with 203.

The 338th TRS did the most flutter kicks at 194 and Capt. Damen Freedman, 334th TRS, took first place in the 5-mile run with a time of 26 minutes, 49 seconds.

The 335th TRS was the runner-up in the overall competition with 33 points.

MARDET finished third with 32 points; the 81st TRSS was next with 31; the 333rd TRS, 27 points; the 338th TRS, 24; the 332nd TRS, 20 points, and the 336th TRS, 0 points.

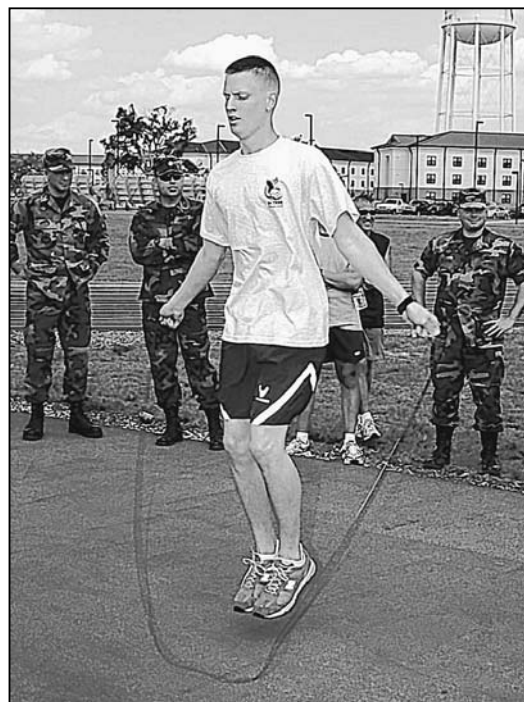
The push-up and sit-up competitions were modified from how Air Force members would perform each activity for their annual physical train-

ing test, Sergeant Biddle said.

"For the push ups, a block was placed under the individual's chest," he said. The performer of the exercise had to come down to the block for it to count. Each person representing a squadron had two minutes to do as many as he or she could."

"The sit up competition was actually three different sit-up repetitions," he said. "The first repetition was a normal sit-up. For the second rep the person had to come up and rotate to the right or left before coming back down, and for the third rep the individual rotated opposite side of second. As in the push-up competition, the individuals had two minutes to do as many as they can."

For the jump rope competition, individuals did as many one-count repetitions as they could in two minutes without stopping. The flutter kick competition had the individuals do as many kicks as possible in two minutes with their hands placed under their buttocks.



Senior Airman Nathan Peterson, 81st Training Support Squadron, jump ropes during the competition. He earned first place in the event with 203 repetitions in two minutes.

Trauma training for medics returns to Wilford Hall

By Master Sgt. Kimberly Spencer

59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND Air Force Base, Texas — Trauma training designed to prepare physicians for war has returned to the 59th Medical Wing at Wilford Hall Medical Center for the first time since 2001.

The advanced trauma life support course, held May 4-5, is the standard on which all immediate trauma care is based, according to course officials.

“As an American College of Surgeons verified Level I Trauma Center, it is incumbent upon us to have critical personnel such as emergency medical physicians and surgeons ATLS certified and to be an ATLS teaching center,” said Lt. Col. Don Jenkins, 59th General Surgery Flight commander and the new 59th MDW ATLS course director.

The course provides readiness skills verification training for deploying medical personnel as well as continuing medical training required for all physicians.

“Our ATLS program got ‘interrupted’ in 2001 by Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom,” Colonel Jenkins said. “We no longer had enough certified individuals in (the continental United States) at one time to oversee and teach the course. It was very difficult for physicians and surgeons to have to find an ATLS course prior to deploying.”

The training teaches immediate life-saving care for trauma victims in a standardized fashion based on “tried and true” methods from the American College of Surgeons, Colonel Jenkins said.

Along with classroom instruction, students take part in discussions, demonstrations and hands-on skill stations. Training blocks include initial assessment, airway and ventilation management, triage scenarios, spine and spinal cord traumas, shock and abdominal trauma.

A variety of medical personnel attended the course, including participants from the Netherlands and Chile. Several members of the wing participated as part of their ATLS

Keesler medics received training here last year

81st Medical Group

For the first time last year, the 81st Medical Group conducted two advanced trauma life support course classes.

About 30 physicians underwent the training spearheaded by the 81st Medical Support Squadron’s Education and Training Flight. Instruction was provided by a cadre of 81st MDG personnel, as well as some people from other bases.

Medics earmarked to deploy in the upcoming bucket were given first priority for the class, according to Lt. Col. Kelly Coleman, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron’s Readiness Flight commander.

“It is a requirement for some physicians before they deploy,” Colonel Coleman explained. “Most are current if they attended C4 (combat care casualty course) or recently came out of a residency.”

“I am sure retired Air Force Col. (Dr.) Alvin Cotlar, director of medical education, will try to bring the course back when the graduate medical education program returns (in the summer of 2007).”

instructor re-certification and will teach future courses held here.

Students from San Antonio’s Madison High School health promotions class served as the moulaged “patients,” enacting scenarios ranging from car and motorcycle accidents to a stabbing and gunshot wound victim.

“The completion of the course allows the medical wing to once again become self-sufficient to provide ATLS courses in the future,” Colonel Jenkins said.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Summer school

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Keesler Center's summer term is Tuesday through Aug. 11.

Web registration for enrolled students is under way. New active-duty students register by appointment in Room 214, old Cody Hall.

The schedule is available at <http://www.mgccc.edu>.

Students taking English composition I, oral communication or mathematics classes for the first time are required to have an assessment of skills. A computer version of the assessment is available.

For appointments or more information, call 377-2287.

Summer term

William Carey College's summer term begins Monday.

Special tuition rates are available to active-duty personnel, their family members, retirees and Defense Department civilians.

For more information, visit Room 208, old Cody Hall, or call 377-0090.

USM program

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

The next term starts Tuesday.

An academic adviser is at Keesler Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in Room 208, old Cody Hall.

For more information, call 377-2309.

Parking lot closed

The parking lot on the southeast side of the Keesler NCO Academy is closed Wednesday for drill evaluations.

In the event of inclement weather, the lot will be open.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Cliff Nicholson, 377-2780.

Tuition aid change

Effective July 1, Air Force tuition assistance pays only for reimbursable fees associated with a class.

Place the fee amount in the appropriate box of the course

information screen at the Air Force Virtual Education Center's site when applying for tuition assistance.

For further information on tuition assistance, fees and other education issues, call the education office, 377-2323 or 2171.

Supply classes

General supply indoctrination, bench stock management, repair cycle management and equipment management classes are available monthly in Room 109, Taylor Logistics Center.

To schedule a class, call 377-2270.

Special duty jobs

An Air Education and Training Command recruiting team holds a special duty assignment briefing, 8:45-11:30 a.m. June 22 in Welch Auditorium.

Positions to be discussed are recruiters, military training leaders, technical training instructors, professional military education instructors and career enlisted aviators.

Positions are open to senior

airmen with at least 36 months time in service through master sergeants with less than 17 years total active military service from all Air Force specialty codes.

For applications, call Master Sgt. Kelle Turner, 377-3697.

Scholarship program

Homefront America, Inc., a nonprofit organization, has partnered with the W. Daniel Tate Family and Sara's Hope Foundation to fund a scholarship program for military children.

The American Patriot Freedom Scholarship Award essay contest provides 20 individual \$1,000 scholarships.

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

Testing dates

The education office offers ACT, SAT and PRAXIS tests.

Deadlines are:

ACT — June 8 for July 11 test.

PRAXIS I — June 26 for Aug. 7 test.

PRAXIS II — June 26 for Aug. 8 test.

To schedule, call 377-2323.

Weapons training

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

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

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.

Drill downs, parades

Drill down competitions are held every other month on the drill pad, and student parades in alternate months on the parade grounds.

Drill downs — 8 a.m. June 16; 7 a.m. Aug. 11 and Oct. 20.

Parades — 7 p.m. July 13 and Sept. 21; 6 p.m. Nov. 16.

For more information, call Staff Sgts. Kwame Felton, 377-9527, for drill downs and Deanna Attaway, 377-2103, for parades.

NEWS AND FEATURES

Base switchboard operator is Goodwill's top employee

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Edna Lyons is one of Keesler's hidden heroes ... people who worked behind the scenes to keep the base operational during the nation's worst natural disaster.

Mrs. Lyons, a switchboard operator who remained at her post during Hurricane Katrina, was recognized May 11 as Goodwill Industries Employee of the Year for 2005.

She reported to work at 4 p.m. Aug. 28, the day before the storm struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and remained on the job until Sept. 7.

Panicked voices

Mrs. Lyons was one of four people who manned the office in the telephone maintenance building, answering calls from family members and friends of students, permanent party members and patients at Keesler Medical Center. Other callers were just curious about how the hurricane was affecting south Mississippi.

"Most were DSN calls, because people couldn't get through on land lines and cell phones," Mrs. Lyons recalled. "You could here the panic in people's voices as they tried to get some kind of word on their loved ones."

Military training helped

Her former duties as a technical sergeant in a combat support squadron prepared her well for the emergency situation.

"We're trained to get the task done," she pointed out. "We tried to give callers what little information we could, console them, encourage them to be patient and keep doing what had to be done."

The hardest part for Mrs. Lyons was being separated from her husband, Eddie Lyons Jr., and four of the six children in their blended family who stayed in her son's



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Mrs. Lyons has worked at Keesler for 3 1/2 years.

Orange Grove home.

"I was on the phone with them about two in the morning when the house started shaking and the roof was coming off — then we lost the connection," she remembered. "I was really upset, but working kept me focused and kept my mind busy. I never thought they were killed, but I did worry that they were hurt."

"We're a very close family," she explained. "It's the first time we've ever been separated in a situation like that."

While the hurricane raged, "it was a little like camping out," supervisor Carol Collie commented. "We pooled our food and slept when we could. We thought we'd just be there for a couple of days."

When Mrs. Lyons was unable to contact her family after the storm, she used a DSN line to call her ex-husband, Maj. Archer Braxton, who's stationed at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Major Braxton headed for Mississippi and found the family uninjured, but the two daughters had lost their homes and the two sons had significant damage.

Several days after the storm, Mrs. Lyons and Ms. Collie were

allowed to leave their workplace together long enough to check on their homes. The Lyons' third-floor apartment in North Biloxi had shifted on its foundation, windows were blown out and mold was flourishing. Her car parked at home was destroyed.

Firefighters come to aid

Nearly 10 days after the storm, members of the Memphis Fire Department brought humanitarian supplies to the area. One of the firefighters had a brother who worked with Mrs. Lyons. In addition to bringing her insulin for her diabetes, they offered to take her to Batesville, Miss., to reunite with her family.

"They said as long as I didn't mind riding in a big diesel fire truck, I was welcome to go with them," she said.

The Goodwill award was a total surprise to Mrs. Lyons, who admitted, "For the first time in my life, I was absolutely speechless."

133 employed on base

Goodwill Industries, with about 250 employees in south Mississippi, provides jobs, training and career counseling for people with disabilities, low-wage workers, welfare recipients and other job seekers. Goodwill collects and resells donated items to fund its programs.

Mrs. Lyons broke her neck and tore her rotator cuff while working in a manufacturing plant. She spent more than two years in vocational rehabilitation before coming to Keesler more than three years ago.

According to community relations representative Jim Collins, Keesler is Goodwill Industries' largest customer on the Mississippi coast. Currently, 133 people work on the switchboard team, custodial staff, commissary stocking, and pickup and delivery of mail and BITS, the base information transfer system.

IN THE NEWS

Memorial Day observance

Maj. Gen. Michael Gould, 2nd Air Force commander, is the keynote speaker for the Memorial Day observance at Biloxi National Cemetery, 9:15 a.m. Monday.

Commander's call

An 81st Training Wing commander's call is 9 a.m. Wednesday and 3:30 p.m. June 1 in Welch Auditorium.

Pecan Dining Hall closes June 1

The Pecan Dining Facility closes June 1, so the Live Oak Dining Facility is expanding its hours to accommodate former Pecan patrons.

As of June 1, Live Oak is open 5:15-7:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. On weekends, holidays and down Fridays, hours are 7:30-9 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m.

For 403rd Wing training weekends, breakfast is also served 6-7:30 a.m.

Permanent party officers are no longer authorized use of the dining facilities. Permanent party enlisted members are authorized to dine from 12:15-1 p.m. only. Officers, enlisted and civilians on official temporary duty orders for training can use the Live Oak, Azalea and Magnolia.

Pride Week June 12-16

Units and organizations undertake base beautification projects during Keesler Pride Week, June 12-16.

For more information, call 377-5805.

Vietnam POW exhibit opens

Air Force Print News

DAYTON, Ohio — Visitors get a glimpse into the lives of Vietnam War prisoners through photographs, videos, dioramas and artifacts in a new exhibit at the National Museum of the United States Air Force near Dayton, Ohio.

For more information, call (937) 255-3286, extension 302.

Milestone for VA home loans

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — One of the most widely-used veterans benefits reached a major milestone May 13 when an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran from Texas received the 18 millionth home loan guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

VA-guaranteed home loans are made by banks and mortgage companies to veterans, service members and eligible reservists. VA backs a portion of the loan so veterans can receive a competitive interest rate without a down payment, making it easier to buy a home. In January, the VA loan guaranty limit for no-down-payment loans was increased to \$417,000 from \$359,650.

For more information, visit <http://www.homeloans.va.gov> or call 1-800-827-1000.

Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for submissions to the June 1 issue of the Keesler News is noon today due to the Memorial Day federal holiday Monday.

The newspaper office is closed Monday in observance of the holiday.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

The construction area west of the gas pumps still in use is fenced off.

Fewer gas pumps available while construction under way

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The first phase of construction of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's new gas station, shoppette and fast food complex is under way, according to Daniel Schmidt, general manager.

"This phase required closing of several gas pumps and limiting the selling to regular unleaded gasoline only for the remaining pumps," Mr. Schmidt said. "This phase is expected to last several weeks before we proceed with Phase 2 sometime in July."

"During the second phase, customers can expect a shutdown of all gas pumps for several days while a conversion is made from the old pumps to some of the newer pumps," he continued. "In Phase 2, AAFES will also close

down the entire service station operation and only sell gas with limited new gas pumps available during the duration of this project."

Mr. Schmidt expects the project to be completed sometime in summer 2007.

"AAFES encourages our customers to plan ahead during this upcoming hurricane season and not get caught in the last-minute gas buying we experienced this past season," he emphasized. "The limited number of fuel pumps greatly reduces our capacity, but AAFES recognizes this limited service is a huge benefit to our customers.

"The sacrifice made today for the future store is well worth it," he added. "We appreciate our loyal customers and apologize for any inconveniences during this building process."

Forecast,

from Page 1

The Atlantic coast, Texas and south Florida are at the highest risk of being on the business end of hurricanes in 2006, according to the AccuWeather.com Hurricane Center in Pennsylvania.

Southeastern Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, central Florida, southeastern South Carolina and eastern Georgia are described as at "moderate risk." At "low risk" is northern Florida, including the panhandle.

Without predicting landfalls, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration expects 13-16 tropical storms, 8-10 hurricanes and 4-6 Category 3 or stronger hurricanes.

In conjunction with the observance of National Hurricane Preparedness Week through Saturday, the Keesler

News' annual hurricane supplement is published with this issue (see Pages A1-8).

"The supplement is a good place for our people to start in making their preparations," General Capasso said. "It's eight pages of valuable information and maps, conveniently packaged so it can be removed from the rest of the paper and kept handy throughout the hurricane season."

Another resource is a pocket-sized guide to hurricane preparations by the readiness flight of the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron. Distribution is through units and newcomers briefings.

AccuWeather predicts five hurricanes and one tropical storm will make landfall on the U.S. coast this season, with three of the hurricanes Category 3 or stronger.

A Category 3 storm features sustained winds of 11-130 mph and a storm surge of 9-12 feet above normal. Although Hurricane Katrina

was a Category 3 in wind speed, the storm surge was up to 35 feet in some areas.

As witnessed in Katrina, the effects of a Category 3 hurricane include "large trees blown down, most signs destroyed, major roof damage, window and door damage, some structural damage to homes, many mobile homes destroyed."

Overall, forecasters don't expect this season to approach the record 28 named storms of 2005. Eight storms made landfall in the U.S. last year, including Katrina's double-header — south Florida, then the central Gulf Coast. Four — Dennis, Katrina, Rita and Wilma — were Category 3 or stronger when they came ashore.

However, as Ken Reeves of AccuWeather pointed out, "It's not the number of storms that is significant — it's where they make landfall ..."

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.

Virtual outprocessing requirement

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — All Airmen undergoing permanent change-of-station moves, retirements or separations are now required to use the virtual outprocessing application available through the virtual military personnel flight.

For more information, contact the military personnel flight.

MyPay processes pay items

81st Comptroller Squadron

For information on processing pay items through myPay, call the 81st Comptroller Squadron's customer contact center, 377-7272 or 4212. A personal identification number for myPay can be issued or reset by e-mailing TRAVEL@keesler.af.mil from a government computer.

Airline ticket credit process

If an airline ticket was purchased with a government travel card, apply for the airline credit by contacting your travel agent or the airline.

If credit isn't received within 30-45 days, call the Government Card Service Unit to file a dispute. The phone number is on the back of the card.

The bank requires a copy of the credit voucher for the unused ticket or refund. The credit voucher must include the name of the airline, date the ticket was purchased and ticket number.

For more information, go to https://www.mil.keesler.af.mil/81cpts/FMF/GTCC/GTCC_main.htm or <http://www.saffm.hq.mil/affsc/>.

Temporary duty travel tips

81st Transportation Squadron

People planning to travel on temporary duty don't need orders to make reservations.

It's recommended that travelers contact the passenger service office as soon as they know about official travel requirements.

Travelers must have airline tickets to board flights. Passenger standby services are for emergency situations only, not for customers who neglected to pick up their tickets. It's the customer's responsibility to pick up tickets before leaving on official travel.

Use of the Government Travel Card is mandatory for purchase of airline tickets.

Civilian employment information

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Civilian appropriated fund employees and prospective applicants can get answers to questions about employment opportunities, benefits and entitlements online at the Air Force's Customer Service Center.

A database at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst> includes hundreds of questions and answers. For online inquiries, users who don't find an answer to their specific question can submit a query through the "Ask-A-Question" tab at the top of the page.

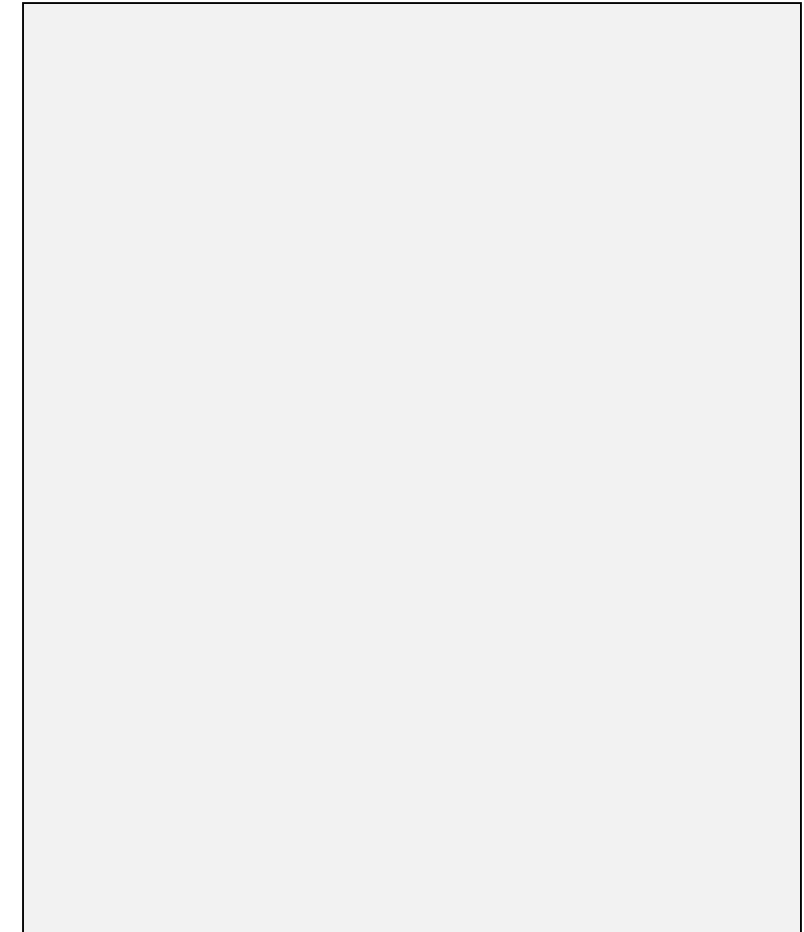
One-stop pay, personnel service

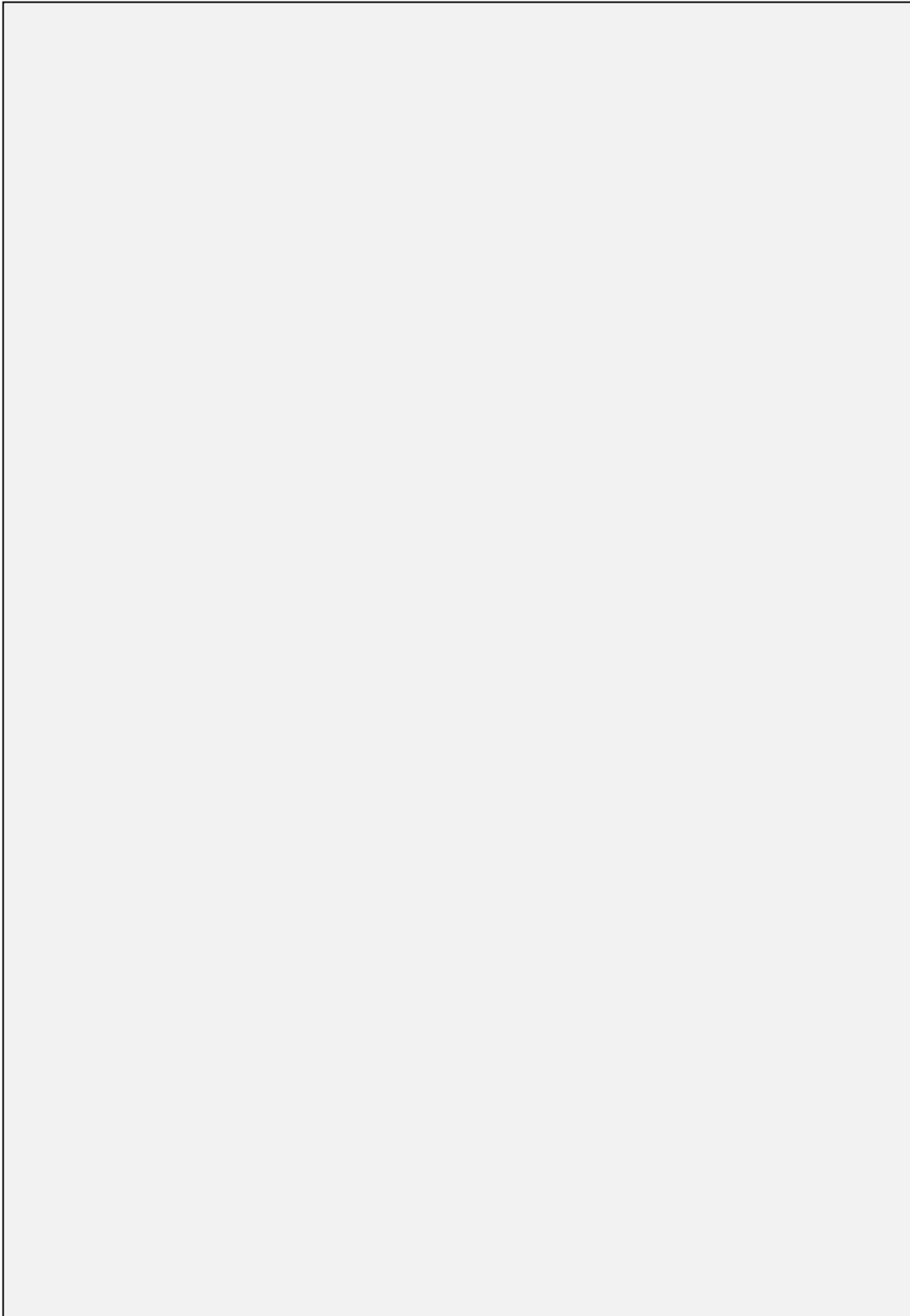
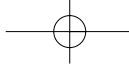
One-stop customer service for pay and personnel information is available all day, every day by calling toll-free 1-800-616-3775 or online at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst/>.

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.

For Keesler News delivery or display racks, facility managers call 377-3163.





Keesler Idol, card contests base birthday lead events

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Two activities lead the way to Keesler's 65th birthday celebration, June 12-15.

Keesler Idol preliminary rounds are 5:30 p.m. today and June 1 at Vandenberg Community Center.

Participation is free and open to all Keesler personnel. Contestants register at the customer service window in advance or on the night of the performance.

Contestants perform to karaoke and are randomly assigned to a category — pop, country, rhythm and blues, or jazz.

A final competition, 5:30 p.m. June 8 at the community center, includes first, second and third place from the preliminaries.

The top three finalists compete June 15 at Keesler's birthday bash in marina park.

For more information, call Dave Bowers, 377-3308.

A unit birthday card competition is also planned, with a \$500 prize for first place, \$250 for second and \$125 for third.

Cards are made of 4-foot by 8-foot plywood sheets with 4-foot poles on both sides for support.

Plywood can be picked up at Dock 4, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002.

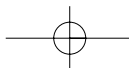
The card can be either vertical or horizontal. All exposed wood must be painted with non-toxic, water-based paint, including the back of the board.

Each squadron or unit can enter only one card, with a contact person's name, squadron and duty phone on the back in the lower left corner.

E-mail michael.newson@keesler.af.mil by June 1 to enter.

Entries are brought to the parade grounds by noon June 12. After the opening ceremony at 4 p.m., cards are moved to marina park for display.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. Michael Newson, 377-7626.



Marina maintenance area repaired



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Above, the lower level maintenance area of the marina operations building was damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Below, repairs included new cedar louvers, exterior finish insulation and coating. Roll-up doors were replaced, steel was painted and new lights and wiring were installed. The interior walls of the maintenance area were painted and new ceiling grid and tile installed. Stairwell walls, steps and rails were also restored. The approximate cost of the work is \$210,000.



Hurricane absences for civilians end

Wednesday is the final 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 more than the original 30 days, but can continue taking leave to handle storm-related issues. Time is tracked on time cards in hourly increments.

For more information, call 377-3142.

Air Force Aid Society

Assistance requests are taken at the family

support center, Room 117, old Cody Hall.

For more information, call 377-2179.

Coins, patches

Operation Dragon Comeback coins and patches are still available.

The \$7 coins and \$5 patches benefit the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

Contact unit representatives or e-mail eric.alvarez@keesler.af.mil, or anthony.bellocc@keesler.af.mil.

Katrina assistance is blessing for secretary

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Rather than bitterness over hurricane losses, Willa Talton feels blessed for the generosity of caring people.

Mrs. Talton, who's worked at Keesler for 14 years, is the 81st Training Group commander's secretary.

She's one of the Keesler people who benefited from the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. She used the \$300 check to buy supplies for rebuilding her North Biloxi home. The house was gutted, her husband's truck was destroyed and most of their belongings were ruined.

The Thursday before Katrina hit, Mrs. Talton worked on invitations for the retirement ceremony for Col. Jessie Canaday, former 81st TRG commander. She wanted to mail them Aug. 28, the day the storm struck Keesler.

"When we left work that afternoon, Katrina was forecasted to go across south Florida, then back to the Florida panhandle," Mrs. Talton remembered. "Of course, none of my plans materialized."

That Sunday, the Taltons evacuated to Panama City, Fla.

"I had second thoughts about evacuating because we stayed during Hurricane Georges and were fine," she pointed out. "I'm thankful we decided to leave. We only took a few outfits because we thought the storm would blow over in a couple of days. Little did we realize our lives would be changed forever."

The Taltons' daughter and son-in-law, Renate and John Hathorn, returned to Biloxi before they did and called to tell them only the shell of their home was left.

"The people in Panama City brought us clothes, gas, cleaning supplies, money — anything to help us when we returned," Mrs. Talton said.

"We're still living with my daughter and son-in-law," she continued. "We were so blessed that we never had to live in a FEMA trailer."



Mrs. Talton

The Taltons' oldest son, Russell, helped them salvage a few items that are now stored in Russell's garage in Dallas. His church sent a trailer full of clothes, personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies for Katrina victims.

"My husband, Roy, is doing all the house repairs himself," Mrs. Talton noted. "The sheetrock is almost finished. My uncle built us new kitchen cabinets."

"My mother was seriously ill since last July and passed away in April, so he missed a lot of time when we had to go to Florida to help take care of her," she added.

Mrs. Talton is grateful for the support she received from co-workers, particularly the training group's squadron secretaries who filled in for her.

"We have so much to be thankful for," she remarked. "There were so many strangers who showered us with love through monetary gifts, clothes and other items. The family support center, the Salvation Army and the Red Cross were great. The Salvation Army and Red Cross came by with hot meals and cleaning supplies every day."

"I have seen so much good in people," Mrs. Talton concluded. "I pray God blesses every one of them a thousand times more than they blessed us. My faith has really sustained me throughout the last nine months. I couldn't have made it without God."

Keesler students help rebuild Biloxi

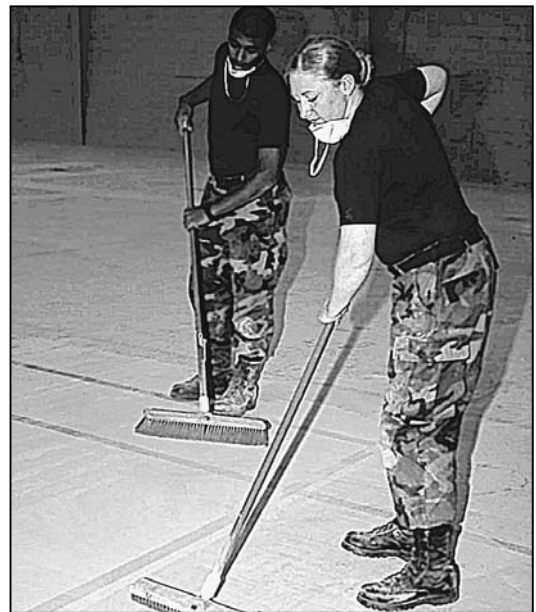


Airman Basic Allison Freeman, left, 334th Training Squadron student, holds a board for Richard Hartman, a volunteer from Indiana, during a humanitarian mission in Biloxi, May 17. The house, at 813 Elder Street, received damage from Hurricane Katrina in August. The group of volunteers installed insulation and built the framework for the house.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Airmen Basic Brenton Hobson and Kristian Hawkins, both students from the 334th TRS, scrape old paint off the floor of the Dukate Gymnasium in Biloxi, May 17. The volunteers helped prepare and clean the floor for a new paint job.



Airman Basic Toddree Scott, left, and Airman Hawkins sweep the Dukate gymnasium floor.



Photo by Adam Bond

Oscar Caldron, senior network engineer for INX, Inc., of Texas, installs a VoIP system at Keesler Medical Center.

Keesler units work together to establish new phone system

81st Communications Squadron and 81st Medical Group

As Keesler rebuilds, the medical center serves as the base's pioneer for Voice Over Internet Protocol, an entirely new phone system that will eventually serve a large portion of the 81st Training Wing.

Members of the 81st Communications Squadron and 81st Medical Group collaborated with Air Education and Training Command, Air Force Communications Agency and private industry to usher in this technology.

The projected completion date for the medical center installation is Aug. 31.

Along with this new technology, new medical center phone numbers become effective June 15.

The facility receives a new commercial prefix (376) and DSN (591).

Once finalized, the new numbers are published in the Keesler News and updated in the base phone directory.

The primary advantage of VoIP is that it merges voice communications with the base data network, according to

Maj. Alan Estes, 81st CS commander.

"Using the existing network infrastructure, installation and implementation of VoIP will be smooth and transparent to the users," he said. "This is because the phone uses an Internet address to communicate with the network, much like a computer. A server routes the phone to the appropriate address, which is then translated into a phone number.

"Despite this technological difference, the system will outwardly appear to work the same as the old phone system," Major Estes added. "Users will still have access to features such as voice mail, call forwarding, three-way and teleconferencing."

Because of the fluidity of medical center space, many clinics are going to be relocating in the coming months. VoIP allows them to do so without changing their phone numbers.

"Patients will never need to worry about having the wrong number to a clinic or to their

doctor," Major Estes said. "Patients will have a prompt, accurate means of getting their medical needs met."

Moving to this new technology also allows Keesler to rectify engineering oversights of the past. All phone equipment has been moved from the basement of the medical center to the first floor.

Several redundant systems have been installed, so patients have a means of communicating with medical personnel under all circumstances. This enables the medical center uninterrupted phone service to all patients.

"Embracing VoIP has permitted the medical community to achieve what many customer service organizations strive to obtain: an unbreakable link between technology and service," Major Estes said.

"Ushering in this new technology has spawned a new age of technology for Keesler to better serve its customers and allows Keesler to remain at the forefront of the latest technological advances," he added.

Medic makes musical magic with Tops in Blue

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

If Senior Airman Brook Hoffman hoped to see the world when she enlisted in the Air Force, she definitely has achieved her goal.

Airman Hoffman recently returned to Keesler after completing a year with Tops in Blue, the Air Force's premier entertainment ensemble.

The 22-year-old medic, assigned to the 81st Medical Operations Squadron, left Keesler April 11, 2005, to begin her Tops in Blue tour. She resumed her Keesler duties last month.

"We officially went on tour in June," Airman Hoffman said. "However, we spent almost two months before 'staging' to learn the show. We'd rehearse vocals for nine hours and choreography another nine hours. In between we were coached on 'ambassadorship' and etiquette."

Early mornings, late nights

"They often would wake us up at 2:30 in the morning to begin rehearsals or work until late at night. This was done to prepare us for the overseas tours to help us avoid jet lag," she explained.

"During rehearsals, we'd be given a sheet of music so we could learn all aspects of the song," she continued. "This would allow all of us (vocalists) to fill in for anyone else in case someone was unable to perform."

There were 29 people in the group, both officers and enlisted members. In addition to the on-stage talent, several people handled the electrical components, lighting and stagehand duties.

"There were no 'roadies,'" she noted. "Everyone set up and tore down the stages."

High-energy entertainment

Airman Hoffman described Tops in Blue as a high-energy Las Vegas-type show.

Before starting the formal 2005 tour in July, the group sang the National Anthem for the sixth game of the National Basketball Association championships in San Antonio, then performed at a California Army post. Then it was off to the "desert."

The first leg of the tour took them to the Azores, Spain, and Turkey.

"We used a simple stage for these performances; a very basic patriotic backdrop," she said.

From there, they performed in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo and Uzbekistan in less than 30 days during July and August.

"We'd be in a different country



Airman Hoffman photo

Airman Hoffman performs with the 2005 Tops in Blue tour.

almost each day," Airman Hoffman recalled. "Our flight to Uzbekistan arrived late at night, but we had to prepare for an 8 a.m. performance. When the show was over, we broke down the set and went on to the next stop in another country where we performed that night."

"When we performed at Baghdad International Airport, our flight had been delayed," she said. "We spent two hours setting up and performed for a huge crowd on the flight line at 11:30 p.m. What was unusual is that our C-130 had to make a combat landing, without lights, but then we performed with all the stage lighting."

"Also, as we were landing, there was a huge explosion to our left," she went on. "We later learned a convoy had struck a land mine and soldiers were killed. The next morning, we sang an Irish tune as a casket was carried to a cargo plane."

Following the "desert" trip, the team flew back to San Antonio for

two more weeks of staging.

"It was grueling," Airman Hoffman remarked. "We added songs and put together a show that Tom Edwards (Air Force entertainment chief and Tops in Blue's producer) had envisioned. The first part had a big-band '50s theme, including numbers by Frank Sinatra and the Platters."

"At the halfway point, we broke down the '50s-themed set and set up more contemporary staging for 'divas' such as Barbra Streisand and Donna Summer. This was followed by a patriotic setting. In the finale, we all came out in our mess dress and sang patriotic songs."

Initially, staging setups took almost 10 hours, but over the year, the team reduced the time to five hours.

While traveling around the continental United States, they were usually on a tour bus, with 55,000 pounds of equipment carried in two semi-trailers. The equipment included a portable stage for sites that lacked a stage,

which was used during the team's March performance at Keesler.

After revising their show, the entertainers hit the road again.

"Our first show was at the Air Force Academy," Airman Hoffman commented. "We then traveled through the Northwest up through Montana to Washington and down through California. We did as many as five days of shows at different locations. Our last show on this leg was at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev."

Back to Europe

In late September, Tops in Blue was headed to Europe again.

"We started the tour in Germany," Airman Hoffman recounted. "One of our first performances was at the European Command ball."

The team was also invited to the home of Air Force Gen. Charles Wald, EUCOM deputy commander.

"We did a mini-performance and had dinner with the general, his wife and several friends," Airman Hoffman said. "It was a beautiful, huge house with a lot of history."

For most of October, Tops in Blue performed at bases in Belgium, Italy, the United Kingdom, Iceland and Greenland. The team had a few days off and spent three days in Paris and two days in Amsterdam.

From late October to early December, Tops in Blue was stateside again to entertain at Air Force bases along the east coast from Hanscom AFB, Mass., to Hurlburt AFB, Fla. They took a break to return to San Antonio and Lackland AFB for selection of the 2006 Tops in Blue team in the Air Force Worldwide Talent Contest, Nov. 6-10.

Commitment puts life on hold

"We performed twice and had one-on-one conversations with contestants to let them know what to expect on the tour — that it's a huge commitment and you really have to put your life on hold," Airman Hoffman pointed out.

Tops in Blue celebrated Thanksgiving at Charleston AFB, S.C. After their East Coast shows, they headed for the heartland, where they put on shows at Grand Forks and Minot AFBs, N.D. Then the group was off to Hawaii and the Pacific leg of their tour.

"We started in Hawaii and then flew to Korea, Japan, Diego Garcia, back to Japan and Guam," Airman Hoffman continued. "We celebrated Christmas at Kunsan (Air Base, Korea), a Tops in Blue tradition, and New Year's at Misawa (AB, Japan)."

Please see **Tops**, Page 17

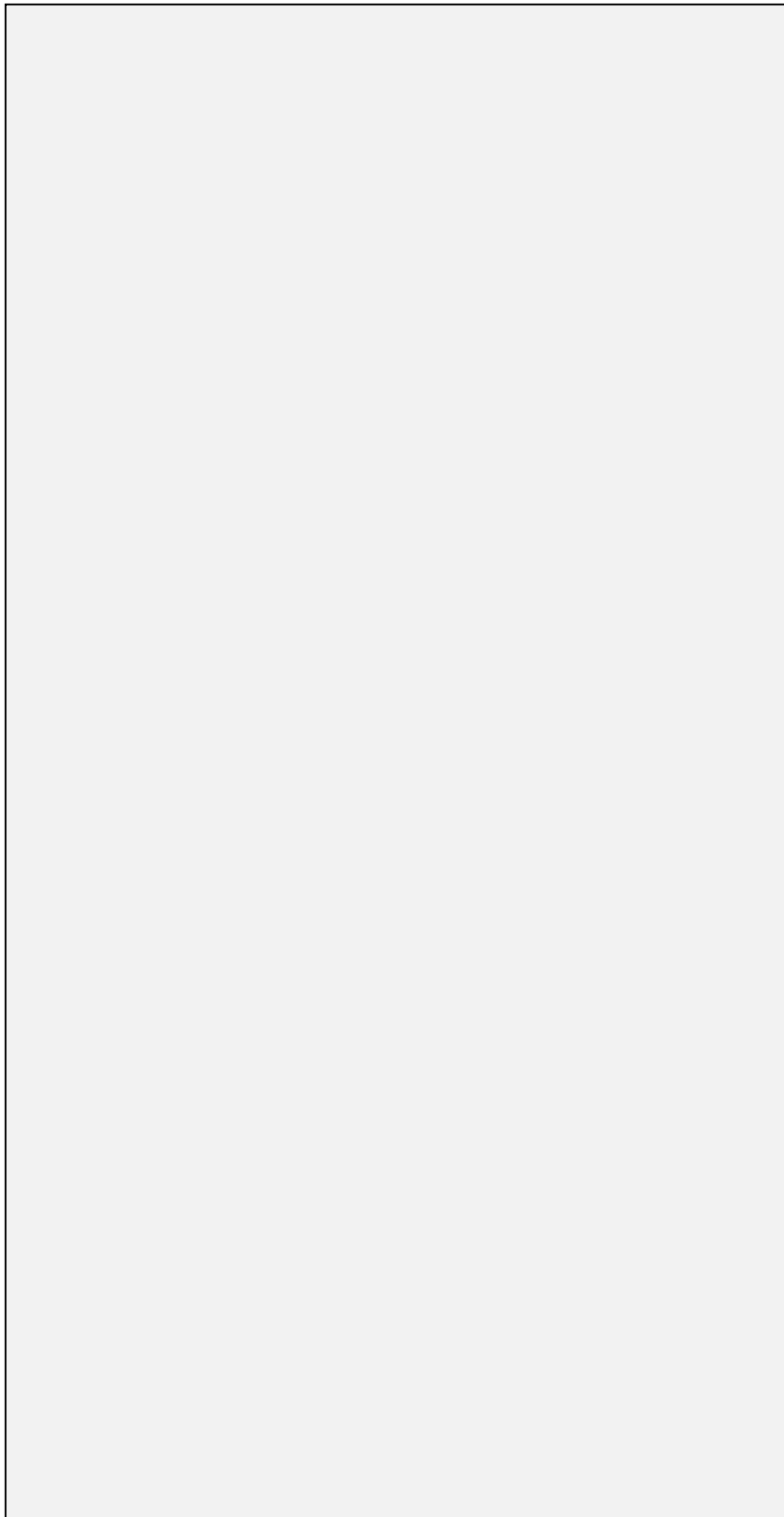
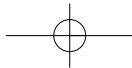


Photo by Steve Pivnick
Airman Basic Genna-Marie Barzey's vital signs are taken by Airman Hoffman at the Triangle Clinic. Airman Barzey is a student assigned to the 334th Training Squadron.

Tops,

from Page 16

The troupe capped off the Pacific tour in mid-January in Alaska.

"We performed at Clear Air Station, Eielson and Elmendorf AFBs. We traveled to Clear by bus and carried our equipment in a small truck. The heat on the bus didn't work very well and it was freezing."

They also experienced the Alaskan winter as they palletized their equipment outside of the theater at one base.

"The wind started blowing and the temperature must have been 40 below. But we worked through it knowing we had 28 other people all working together to get the job done. We all uplifted each other," Airman Hoffman observed.

The season wound down with shows at central and southwestern bases in the continental United States. The group's final performance before returning to San Antonio was March 13 at Keesler. Their last four shows were at Lackland, their home base.

Members of Airman Hoffman's family had the opportunity to see her perform.

"When we were in South Dakota, we performed at Mount Rushmore," she recalled. "My dad came up from Minnesota and actually helped us set up. He also

flew down to Las Vegas. Then when we were in North Dakota, dad brought my grandmother, brother and his girlfriend to watch us perform. Dad and my grandfather later drove down to see us perform at Offutt (AFB, Neb.) They thought it was awesome — they loved it.

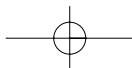
"Overall, it was very rewarding," said Airman Hoffman of her Tops in Blue experience. "We know we brought joy and quality entertainment to the troops and their families, as well as members of the civilian community. We could see we improved morale. Commanders told us how much they appreciated our performances.

"It definitely was a learning experience," she commented. "Tops in Blue isn't for everyone. If asked, I think I'd do it again, but only after a year's break. I enjoyed sharing my talent and the music.

"Right now I'm enjoying the structured environment back at Keesler," she admitted.

Airman Hoffman plans to separate from the Air Force in February to return to school.

"I was in college before entering the Air Force. After working here in labor and delivery, I now want to be either a midwife or physician's assistant. I originally planned to become a physician, but I want to have a family. PAs and midwives have more time to do that."





Carmelita Grant of Biloxi performs a Polynesian dance at Keesler's Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month cultural extravaganza, May 17 at the youth center.

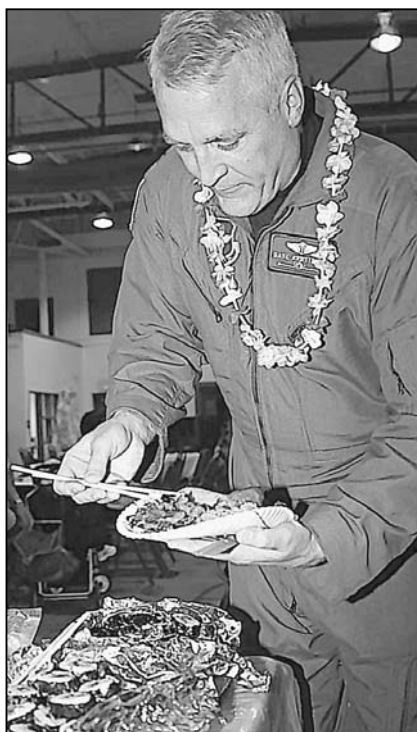


Lt. Col. Charles Dunn, left, and Col. Rodney Croslen put their best feet forward during the Filipino tinikling dance. Colonel Croslen is the 81st Mission Support Group commander and Colonel Dunn is the deputy commander.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



Bobby Williams of Biloxi, left, demonstrates tae-kwondo techniques on Staff Sgt. Eugene Parrotta, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.



Col. Dave Armstrong, 81st Medical Group deputy commander, samples the sushi.



Lydia Fanugao, 81st MDG, does the Filipino candle dance, "Pandango Sa Ilaw."

Photos by Kemberly Groue

Surgeon general sings praises of medical services Keesler medics major players in war, storms

Air Force Print News and 81st Medical Group

The Air Force's medical Airmen are performing "magnificently," said the Air Force surgeon general during testimony before the Senate Committee on Appropriations subcommittee on defense here recently.

"We take care of the nation's heroes, past and present," said Lt. Gen. (Dr.) George Peach Taylor Jr., "and it takes the finest of medical staffs to care for this country's finest."

His testimony focused on the direct involvement of Air Force medical services, such as the 81st Medical Group at Keesler, have had in both the ongoing war on terrorism and the emergency response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

"We continue to provide world-class health care and health service support anywhere in the world at any time," he said.

He pointed out that during Katrina and Rita, total force Airmen provided health care for more than 7,600 people while more than 3,000 were evacuated from the region.

On the other side of the planet, expeditionary medical support has been a valuable and lifesaving asset in the war on terrorism.

"Partnering with our critical care air transport teams, our aeromedical evac-

uation system has made it possible to move seriously injured patients in an astonishingly quick time, as short as 72 hours from battleground to state-side medical care," he said. "(That was) unheard of even a decade ago."

According to Capt. Pamala Brown-Grayson, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron Readiness Flight, the 81st MDG's current involvement includes a critical care air transport team, consisting of a nurse, cardiopulmonary technician and critical care physician, deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

"We have 19 medics deployed to Balad supporting the Air Force Theater Hospital," said Captain Brown-Grayson. "We have 55 in Southwest Asia supporting CENTAF and 27 at Kirkuk, Iraq, supporting an expeditionary medical support facility."

About 60 personnel were deployed to Germany, backfilling for Landstuhl Regional Medical Center personnel who were sent to Pakistan for humanitarian support, according to the captain. All of those medics have returned to Keesler.

An X-ray technician is also deployed to Honduras, Captain Brown-Grayson noted.

Many on the subcommittee ex-

pressed concern for the mental health of deploying service members, asking if enough was being done to prepare for and treat mental illnesses, such as post-traumatic stress syndrome. General Taylor assured them the Air Force has professionals in place to care for such cases.

"The Air Force deployed two types of mental health teams: a rapid response team and an augmentation team," he said. "Today, the Air Force has 49 mental health personnel deployed for current operations, 36 of whom are supporting joint service requirements."

Lt. Col. Kevin Blakley, 81st Medical Operations Squadron Mental Health Flight commander, said his flight has four staff members deployed in support of joint service operations.

He said only about 1 percent of deployed Airmen were referred for mental health care following a post-deployment health assessment.

"Due to Katrina, we are a few hundred surveys behind and are in the process of catching up on those," Colonel Blakeley said. "Consequently, I don't have accurate numbers regarding those being referred for mental health care. However, the mental health staff has been planning

enhanced pre- and post-deployment interventions for our deploying and redeploying personnel.

"While Katrina delayed development," he added, "we have resumed the planning and will have several initiatives ready to be implemented within the next few months."

"The lower incidences of mental health problems for our Airmen are most likely attributable to both the type and length of Air Force missions," General Taylor testified. "However, the Air Force is increasingly recognizing that Airmen may be impacted in ways other than post traumatic stress disorder."

General Taylor summed up his testimony by praising the men and women who serve in the Air Force, especially those in the medical fields.

"Almost half of the people currently serving in the United States Air Force joined after Sept. 11, 2001," he said. "They knew what they were getting into, and there's no question that the military's medical personnel are a critical component of the global war on terrorism."

Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein, AFPN, and Steve Pivnick, 81st MDG Public Affairs, contributed to this report.

Bone marrow donor gets good report about recipient

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Sometimes what seems to be the end of a story is actually a new beginning.

Feb. 28, Cindy Milford donated bone marrow at the University of Maryland's Greenebaum Cancer Center to help a 62-year-old leukemia patient.

May 17, she got the word — the marrow recipient is on the road to recovery.

"My contact with the Department of Defense's bone marrow donor program reported that my recipient is recovering well," said Mrs. Milford, graphics illustrator for the 81st Services Division. "The stem cells did engraft, so his body did accept them, which is great. He's out of the hospital, too."

Although Mrs. Milford was well prepared for the donor process, she had some emotional surprises along the way.

"I cried so hard when I completed the donation," she recalled. "I had finally made it to the end — or so I thought. But I cried tears of joy when I learned that the donation had actually worked. I guess I was more emotionally invested than I had realized."

Rather than drawing marrow from the pelvic bones, Mrs. Milford donated by the peripheral blood stem cell collection process. She received injections of a growth hormone called filgrastim which boosted circulating stem cell production 500 percent.

Her marrow was retrieved by apheresis, a process in which blood is removed from one arm and passed through a machine that filters out the stem cells, while the remaining blood is returned through the other arm.

"I experienced a little discomfort during the week of shots and the actual donation, but that was expected and the symptoms were never severe or debilitating," she explained. "Afterwards, I had flu-like



"It's a small thing to do, with the incredible outcome of potentially adding a chapter or two to someone's life."

— Mrs. Milford

symptoms for about 10 days. It took me very little time to recuperate completely."

Mrs. Milford said she and the recipient remain anonymous for a year. After that, they can exchange names and addresses and can meet if they choose to do so.

"Everyone involved in the donation process was helpful, professional, understanding, caring and supportive — they made the process easy," she added.

"I hope by sharing this experience, more people are encouraged to get on the bone marrow registry," Mrs. Milford continued. "In retrospect, it's a small thing to do, with the incredible outcome of potentially adding a chapter or two to someone's life." That's big!"

Donors in demand

Since the creation of the National Marrow Donor Program in 1986, more than nine million Americans, including more than 350,000 service members, have registered as potential marrow donors.

Keesler's April 6 bone marrow donor registration event, held in conjunction with a base-wide blood drive, added 149 potential donors to the national registry, according to Staff Sgt. Samantha Moore, 81st Communications Squadron, who coordinated the drive.

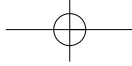
Donors are screened by an oral swab or a small blood sample.

The C.W. Bill Young Department of Defense bone marrow program provides support for military personnel who volunteer as marrow donors.

The program's Web site indicates an urgent need for minority donors, but anyone in good health between the ages of 18 and 60 can be added to the registry.

For more information, visit <http://www.dodmarrow.com>.

**Cyberspace
isn't a
secure
environment.**



KEESLER NOTES

Hurricane guides

A limited number of copies of the Keesler News' 2006 hurricane guide are available in the base newspaper office.

To reserve copies, call 377-4130, 3837, 3163, 7340 or 9966. Pick copies up 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. work days in Room 113, Taylor Logistics Center, L Street.

Housing survey

Surveys are being mailed to housing area residents.

For residents' convenience, pre-addressed, stamped envelope addressed to CEL and Associates is enclosed with the survey.

Housing officials ask that completed surveys be returned within two weeks of receipt.

For more information, call Brent Long, 377-0668.

Comptroller closes

The 81st Comptroller Squadron closes 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. today for an official function.

For emergencies, call 365-8922.

Self-help store moves

The self-help store has relocated temporarily to Dock 4 on the east side of the Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002, while hurricane repairs and upgrades are made.

Repairs began in mid-May and are expected to take six to eight weeks.

New hours

New hours for the customer service section of the 81st Mission Support Squadron:

Five-day weeks — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Compressed work schedule weeks — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Troy Taillac, 377-6281.

Yard program

The yard of the month program sponsored by the housing office kicks off in June.

For more information, call Lisa Kallio, 377-7202.

Tax office

The Keesler Tax Office, Room 234, old Cody Hall, remains open through Sept. 15 because of filing extensions due to Hurricane Katrina.

Extensions apply to federal and state tax returns.

Office hours are 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. work days.

For more information, call 377-4454.

For Katrina-related questions, call the Internal Revenue Service, 1-866-562-5227.

Gate hours

The Meadows Drive Gate is open 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. work-days.

The Judge Sekul Avenue Gate is open 3:30-5:30 p.m. work days for outbound traffic.

Both gates are closed weekends, federal holidays and compressed work schedule Fridays.

The White Avenue and Pass Road gates operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Honor guard

The Keesler Honor Guard has openings for officers and senior non-commissioned officers to serve on the Brass Team.

Brass Team members supplement the rotational honor guard and perform details throughout the Mississippi and Louisiana Gulf Coast.

Members receive a ceremonial uniform, free dry cleaning for ceremonial dress and honor guard battle dress uniform, and the opportunity to honor fellow Airmen and their families.

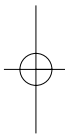
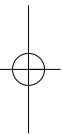
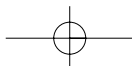
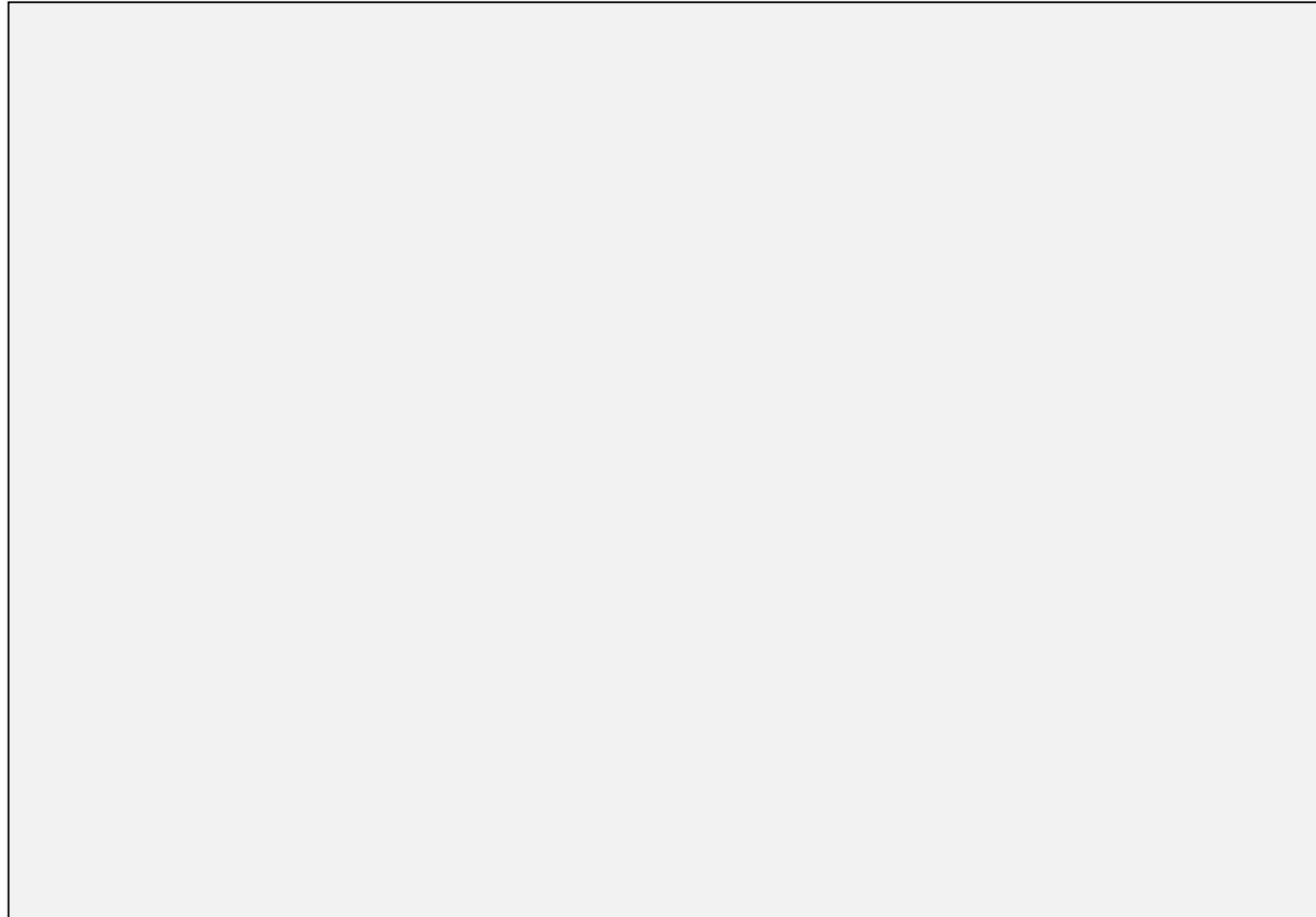
For more information, call 377-1986 or visit <https://www.mil.keesler.af.mil/honor/index.htm>.

Military rental moves

Force One Rental has moved to 211 Larcher Blvd., Building 4818.

Services include truck and trailer rentals, package shipping and name tag engraving.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays.



SPORTS AND RECREATION

Civil engineers take 2006 fire muster challenge



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Ryan Robinson, left, and Richard Miller, 334th Training Squadron, fire water at a target during the Keesler fire muster, May 17 at the marina. Each team had to knock out a specific number of targets, in order, with one hose stream

and then shut off their water valve as quickly as possible. The competition was won by the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron as they were able to do each of the events in the shortest amount of time, 5 minutes and 8 seconds.

Brad Ledford, left, and Mike Fuller, 81st CES, dump water from one bucket to another during the bucket brigade event. The object of the event was to get ping pong balls out of the bucket using only water.



Curtis Gilliam, left, and Mark Williams, 81st Supply Squadron, try to get on a flame-retardant fire suit during the fire muster competition.



Matthew Hopkins, 334th Training Squadron, rolls up a fire hose during competition. For this event, each team had to competely roll up a fire hose.

Just right ...



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Charles Ingram, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, checks the chlorine level at the main pool May 18. The main pool on Meadows Drive and the Triangle pool open Saturday. The main pool is open noon to 5 p.m. daily except Mondays and the Triangle pool is open noon to 7 p.m. daily except Wednesdays. Water aerobics classes are 1:15-2:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the main pool.

SCORES AND MORE

Bowling

Gaude Lanes — closes 4 p.m. Friday through Aug. 1 to accomplish post-Katrina restoration projects.

Fitness centers

Memorial Day 5-kilometer fun run/walk — 3 p.m. Friday, marina park.

May fitness challenge — pick up activities list at Blake or Dragon fitness centers.

Air Force fitness tests — official or unofficial, administered by certified Air Force physical training leader. For more information, call 377-2907.

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

Dragon Fitness Center — open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. workdays.

Free aerobic and yoga classes — for more information, call 377-2907.

Triangle Fitness Center — closed until further notice.

Golf

Bay Breeze Golf Course — open 7 a.m. to dusk daily. Free for walkers only. Driving range opens at 7 a.m. daily for free use. Retrieve your own balls due to loss of ball picker.

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.

Motorcycle

KRA rally — Keesler Riders Association meets at 3:15 p.m. June 6 at The Joys of Coffee outside the Pass Road Gate.

The meeting is to make preparations for a rally beginning 11 a.m. June 29 in marina park. The KRA organization provides camaraderie and group rides while teaching and mentoring inexperienced cyclists.

For more information, call Lynda Richmond, 377-0749.

Outdoor recreation

Fishing trip to oil rigs — Saturdays. \$100 per person. For reservations, call 377-3160.

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

For sale — hunting and fishing licenses, snacks and beverages.

Youth center

Three-on-three soccer registration — through May, ages 5-12. 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 Christopher Balltzglier, Joshua Baurd, Travis Cagney, Corey Clines, Aaron Collins, Ryan Davis, James Dobson, Joshua English, John Ferrier, Carl Flint, Michael Gaydos, Jason Kovtun, Neil Kozak, Jonathan Kucyj, Zachary Madren, Alfred Masiello, Craig McGuire, Ronald Mink, Ford Moore, Justin Moore, David Morris, Matthew Nelson, Bryan Newton, Don Nguyen, Mario Orellana, Christopher Ortiz, Jose Pena, Michael Peyton, Rocky Phelps, Christopher Primmer, Patrick Ridlon, Stephen Russell, Mark Schermann, Benjamin Smith, Daniel Smith, Jeremy Underwood, Daniel VanEaton, Jon Volden, Brent Wallace, Ricky Willard and Eric Wilt; Airmen Patrick Butler, Thomas Campbell, Nathaniel Elman, Brandy Ford, Joseph Richard, Benjamin Schaffer and Aaron Thomas; Airmen 1st Class Jason Bishop, Jason Collison, Mark Connatser, Andrew Cooper, David Crosby, Michael Depew, Justin Gross, Jason Hulgen, Justin Kolb, Andrew Lavoy, Shane Miller, Daniel Mottishaw, James Pearce, Kevin Robinson, Eric Sarno, James Spevack, Elliott Stokes, Ryan Underwood, Jesse Wagner, Craig Wellmerling, Daniel White, John Wilcox and Kou Xiong; Senior Airmen Ashly Barber, Garron Dahle, Paul Dykstra, Carlton Fike, Kale Hall, Christopher Manley and Dion Rives; Staff Sgts. Lyza Beadirealt, Michael Cassidy, Nelson Copeland, Jorge Familia, William Gonzalez, Andy Guerra, Marie Hays, John Lewis, Richard Loudbear, Hugo Murillo, Timothy Pastore, Jose Peraza, Donald Pittman, Vu Pham, Lionel Suber, Thomas Thompson and Jonathan Willist; Tech. Sgt. William Beddard and Michael Pafford; Master Sgts. Monte Cook and Richard Weber; Maj. Ghazi Al Sawabken; Lt. Col. Tawfik Khattab.

334th TRS

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Thomas Comstock, John Henry, Sarah Kramarius, George Madrid, Kristin Ormsbee and Michael Sims; Airmen 1st Class Christopher Fujishin and Audra Justice; Senior Airman Emmanuel Lwando; Staff Sgts. Jeremy Crowe, Barry George, Scott Hupp and Jonathon Reid.

335th TRS

Personnel apprentice course — Airmen Basic Stanley Bouadi, Sara Hurley, Ethan Minery, and Christopher Packer; Senior Airman Jason Marrazzo; Staff Sgts. Jeanne Garretson,

James Little, Leo Morales, Russell Moss and Donald Singleton; Tech. Sgts. Benjamin Hulsey, Brian Rowley and Ryan Wentz; Master Sgt. Rosalie Cuellar.

Weather training flight — Airman Basic Joshua Lee; Airmen Jaime DeWitt, Houston Green and Shawn Morris; Airmen 1st Class Sean Ayres, Ustem Nu and Brandon Wallis; Navy Airmen Phillip Brody, Jared Thornton and Anthony Valence; Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Karen Aquino.

336th TRS

Communications-computer systems training flight — Airmen Basic Joshua Miller, Jared VanOrman, Jason Pedicord, Neal Phoeteama and Benjamin Symanowicz; Airman Lance Weston; Airmen 1st Class David Aiken, Andrew Burton, Daniel Routier, Mark Withers and Brandon Zahn; Senior Airmen Gene Pabst, Christopher Petro and Amber Stanley; Staff Sgts. Robert Beuparland, Mark Heikell, David Morgan, Lucio Reza and Jeffrey Wills; Tech. Sgts. Rodney Thompson and William Wilcox; Tracy Mangino.

Communications and information management training flight — Airmen Basic Jackie Chapman, Negus Collis, Shonte Cotton, James Hinson, Rodney Johnson, Sharon Lee, Whitney Solano and Anwiya Youkhanna; Airman Aaron Gould; Airman 1st Class Laviora Hicks; Staff Sgts. Tierra Cope, Roger Corpuz, Brent Myles, Sonya Rogers, Christopher Tussing and Desirae Wiseman; Tech. Sgt. Eleanor Weaver; Master Sgt. Angela Johnson.

338th TRS

Computer, network, cryptographic systems course — Airmen Basic Shawn Cotter, Benjamin Ortiz and William Simmons; Airmen Michael Brifnek and Troy Wagner; Airmen 1st Class Andrew Amiri, Brandon Cousins, Andrew Debordeleben and David Hubbard.

Ground radio — Airmen Basic James Fleming and Lee Striebich; Airmen Cody Frey and Brandon Robinson; Airmen 1st Class Jose Charlesworth, Daniel Ferriss, John Gaines, William Huber, Christopher Lynch, Robert McClister and Trent Wilson; Staff Sgt. Keith Tyska; Master Sgt. James Schlehuber.

Radar systems flight — Airmen 1st Class Brian Housholder.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

- Class 06-D — graduation June 15.
- Class 06-E — July 12-Aug. 12.
- Class 06-F — Aug. 24-Sept. 29.

Keesler NCO Academy

- Class 06-4 — graduates June 1.
- Class 06-5 — June 12-July 20.
- Class 06-6 — Aug. 7- Sept. 14.
- Class 06-7 — Sept. 18-Oct. 26.
- Class 07-1 — Nov. 2-Dec. 14.

Arts and crafts center

Mold pouring — 10 a.m. Saturday. \$25 including first firing. Ages 13 and older welcome.

Macrame — Learn this old craft that's been made new again. For more information, call 377-2821.

Beginning intarsia woodworking — 5 p.m. Friday. \$15. Intarsia is art form of inlaying pieces of wood in decorative pattern.

Advanced intarsia — 10 a.m. Saturday. New project each month.

Beginners woodworking — 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday. \$25. Earn safety certification and operator's card.

Frame shop — 10 percent off framing of graduation certificates. Now open Saturdays.

Youth summer craft camp — 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays for 8 weeks beginning June 6. Ages 8 and older. For more information, call 377-2821.

McBride Library

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

Storytime — 10 a.m. Wednesdays, ages 2-5.

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

Please see **Digest**, Page 25

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

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

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	332nd TRS, Building 6955
:01	338th TRS, Building 6965
:02	Welch Auditorium
:05	AAFES Furniture Store
:08	Jones/Bryan/Hewes Hall
:10	Thomson Hall
:11	New Cody Hall
:13	Supply, civil engineering
:14	Shoppette
:16	Shaw House
:17	Muse Manor
:19	McBride Library
:21	Medical center, Tyer House
:22	Sablich Center
:23	Dental clinic
:24	Allee and Wolfe Halls
:25	Base operations
:27	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
:22	332nd TRS
:23	Welch Auditorium
:25	Thomson/Dolan/Cody Halls
:28	McClellan Hall
:30	Allee/Wolfe Halls
:32	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.

COAST AREA TRANSIT

Keesler Express — runs between the Triangle 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 Wal-Mart
:54	Arrive Edgewater Mall
:00	Depart Edgewater Mall
:09	Pass Road Wal-Mart
: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.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Editor's note: Time and location changes effective Sunday.

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass
Triangle Chapel9 a.m.
Daily Mass
Triangle Chapel.....11:15 a.m.

Protestant

Sunday worship
Larcher Chapel traditional service.....8:30 a.m.
Fishbowl student contemporary service.....10 a.m.
Triangle Chapel contemporary worship service...10:30 a.m.
Triangle Chapel gospel service.....Noon

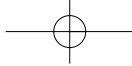
Islamic

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, 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Triangle Chapel. Family home evenings, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Fishbowl Student Center. For more information, call 396-5274 or 1-661-747-4738.



Digest,

from Page 24

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Vandenberg Community Center

X-Box tournament — 9 a.m. Saturday and June 10; free. For more information, call 377-4355.

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 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, taekwon do; Tuesdays, dance. For more information, call 377-4116.

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

Summer camp registration — through May for school-age program, cheerleading, basketball, theater and teen camp. 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.

Classes — Mondays, gymnastics; Mondays and Wednesdays, taekwon 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.

Pediatrics playgroup — 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays, ages 2-5.

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 — 5 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.

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

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

Three-on-three soccer registration — through May, ages 5-12.

TRANSITIONS

Workshops, briefings

Veterans benefits briefing — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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. 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.

Computer use

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

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

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.tgray.com>.

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

Civilian job certification and licensing requirements for mili-

tary personnel and veterans — <http://www.dol.gov/dol/vets>.

Department of Veterans Affairs — <http://www.vba.va.gov/eff/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.

Military Connection — online resources database for military family members seeking civilian employment at <http://www.militaryconnection.com>

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

TICKETS AND TOURS

Editor's note: Located inside Vandenberg Community Center.

Discounted tickets — for many attractions, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays. For more information, call 377-3818.

VOLUNTEERS

Biloxi National Cemetery — needs assistance placing flags on graves, 9 a.m. Saturday, in preparation for Memorial Day.

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 — 11:30 a.m. third Tuesday of the month, Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call Master Sgt. Scott Sippel, 377-2337.

Air Force Sergeants Association Auxiliary — 6 p.m. third Thursday of the month, youth center, J Street. For more information, call Desarae Chereskin, 341-0988.

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 Spouses Club — meets the second Tuesday of each month. For time and location, call Tammie Searfass, president, 273-4324, or visit <http://www.geocities.com/keeslersc/KSC.html>.

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

Retired Enlisted Association Magnolia Chapter 81 — 6:30 p.m. second Thursday of each month, Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call Larry McKean, president, 377-3252 or 374-5922.

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

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., Phat Girlz (PG-13).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Ice Age 2: The Meltdown (PG); 7 p.m., Benchwarmers (PG-13).

Sunday — 2 p.m., Take the Lead (PG-13).

Reunions

Torrejon Air Base, Spain — Sept. 1-3, Oklahoma City, for all years. For more information, call William Hardin, 1-405-672-8939, or e-mail torrejonspainreunion@yahoo.com.

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

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

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

Friday

Lunch — lasagna, spaghetti with meat sauce, Italian sausage, garlic toast, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli polonaise, cauliflower, Italian baked beans, corn O'Brien, pasta salad, three-bean salad, clam chowder, garden vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue port sandwiches and burritos.

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

Saturday

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

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

Sunday

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

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

Monday

Memorial Day cookout — barbecue ribs and chicken, grilled sirloin strip steaks, coleslaw, baked potatoes, baked beans, corn, pastries, fruit and canned drinks.

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

Tuesday

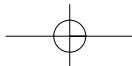
Lunch — paprika beef, barbecue beef cubes, chicken fajitas, garlic toast, O'Brien potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower, corn on the cob, lima beans, waldorf salad, spinach salad, white chicken chili, seven-bean with ham soup, steak and cheese subs and tacos.

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

Wednesday

Lunch — fried chicken, cajun baked fish, jalapeno cornbread, barbecue ribs, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn on the cob, okra and tomato gumbo, fried cabbage, cole slaw, garden cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

Dinner — Caribbean jerk chicken, beef porcupines, jalapeno cornbread, chicken enchiladas, scalloped potatoes, rice, gravy, Mexican corn, peas, baked beans, coleslaw, cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.



HURRICANE HURRI

'Tis that season, Keesler

Katrina's message: Be ready

By Perry Jenifer

Keesler News editor

Camille? Ha! Folks on the Mississippi Gulf Coast who survived that 1969 hurricane thought they'd seen nature's full fury.

Not even close. Hurricane Katrina relegated Camille to a distant second place among storms that have made landfall on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Katrina barreled ashore Aug. 29, spreading death and destruction from New Orleans to Mobile. Sustained winds exceeded 130 mph, driving a storm surge of up to 35 feet into communities across the Mississippi coast.

Keesler received a double blow. The first came from the south as Katrina came ashore from the Gulf of Mexico. The second struck from the north as the hurricane moved inland, whipping the Back Bay of Biloxi into a frenzy that inundated Bayview Avenue and everything for blocks inland.

The base exchange and commissary were under water. The medical center basement was flooded, knocking out all power to the facility and forcing the evacuation of patients to military medical facilities elsewhere. More



Photo by Stanley Morgan

Hurricane Katrina's rising storm surge rolls through a parking lot, flooding vehicles and buffeting Dolan Hall.

than 1,000 family housing units were damaged beyond repair.

Basewide, Katrina hammered Keesler to the tune of nearly \$1 billion in recovery costs.

For the first time anyone could remember, the base also recorded a hurricane-related fatality. William Gibson, an 81st Services Division civilian employee, died of complications from exposure to flood waters.

Katrina brought to a devastating close a period of relative calm for the coast dating to Georges, Sept. 28, 1998.

Georges was Keesler's first hurricane in 13 years. He

packed 105-mph winds — gusting to 125 mph — 9.51 inches of rain and a surge of water from the Back Bay of Biloxi that flooded Bay Breeze Golf Course. The damage: \$26 million.

In the immediate aftermath of Georges, some facilities were unable to operate, families were forced out of base housing and three civil engineers were injured, one seriously.

It took more than three years to complete all the necessary repairs.

Georges marked the fourth consecutive decade in which Keesler felt the wrath of a major hurricane. In 1969,

there was Camille, the mother of all storms to hit the Mississippi Gulf Coast until Katrina; in 1979, it was Frederic, and in 1985, Elena. Katrina extended that unenviable string to five decades.

None of storms of the 1960s, 70s, 80s and 90s was a glancing blow that knocked you off balance temporarily, then passed on ... out of sight and out of mind. They were head-on, death and destruction-dealing collisions.

"Katrina and others have shaken Keesler over the years, yes," said Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso, 81st Training Wing commander, of the recent history of hurricanes on

the coast. "When one of these storms hits, there's no escaping that.

"While regrettable, one death and only three injuries is an outstanding record when compared to some neighboring communities. The reason our record is so good is clear — we were prepared.

"Keesler has a plan and it's a good one. It has served served the base and our people well, not only in Camille, but in Frederic, Elena, Georges and Katrina.

"Become familiar with our hurricane plan, and if the need arises, use it," the general said. "You can't go wrong."

Keesler's hurricane plan – how it works

A Category 2 (sustained winds of at least 96 miles per hour) or stronger hurricane has struck Keesler in each of the last five decades — Camille (1969), Fred-eric (1979), Elena (1985), Georges (1998), Ivan (2004) and Katrina (2005).

Perhaps the single greatest contributing factor to the base's record of one death and three injuries from all those storms is its five-step hurricane preparation plan. HURCON, an acronym for hurricane conditions, is the name given to the base plan. June 1, the base goes into HURCON 5, the first level of the plan.

After a "hurricane watch" is issued by the National Weather Service, the crisis action team convenes in the command post. From there, bulletins are distributed to units across the base declaring specific hurricane conditions and directing actions to be taken at each HURCON level.

Hurricane advisories, updates and other related information are available only through advisories and bulletins issued from the crisis action team.

The National Weather Service issues a "hurricane watch" at HURCON 4 or 3 and a "hurricane warning" at HURCON 2 or 1.

There are five levels of preparation for hurricanes: **HURCON 5** (also referred to as Hurricane/Tropical Storm Advisory and Preparation, or TSA). Review, update and execute checklists.

HURCON 4 — 72 hours prior to the forecast arrival of winds of at least 50 knots (58 mph).

HURCON 3 — 48 hours prior to the forecast arrival of winds of at least 50 knots.

HURCON 2 — 24 hours prior to the forecast arrival of winds of at least 50 knots.

HURCON 1 — 12 hours prior to forecast arrival of winds of at least 50 knots.

Preparation

Complete and return to your unit disaster preparedness officer or noncommissioned officer Keesler Form 21, Shelter Intention. Update the form frequently throughout the hurricane season. The form is available on the Keesler home page.

Families are advised to develop disaster plans. For an example, go to <http://www.fema.gov/rrr/displan.shtm>.

At HURCON 5, as of June 1, crisis action team implements TSA and directs commanders and/or first sergeants to review TSA checklists and take appropriate actions.

At HURCON 4, listen to latest weather bulletins and follow instructions from unit commanders.

Off-base and base housing residents should: Brief family members on their responsibilities. Review actions to take if sheltering is necessary.

Keep radio and television on for information on status of the storm.

Check supply of food that can be eaten without cooking. Stock flashlights, extra batteries, camp lantern, transistor radio, special prescribed medicines and food, baby food, first aid kit, insecticides, water purification tablets, fire extinguisher, tool kit and hardware, boards for windows and plastic bags to cover any broken windows.

Tie down mobile homes and disconnect propane tanks.

Secure objects in open areas.

Fill car tanks with gasoline.

Store small boats in enclosed shelters or tie them down.

At HURCON 3, dorm residents should:

Store personal items in lockers and drawers.

Move furniture to walls opposite windows.

Unplug electrical equipment and turn off lights.

Close all doors.

Secure equipment, motorcycles, trash cans, signs, etc.

Stand by for briefings by unit commanders.

Plan to brace doors securely.

Stack furniture and rugs.

Have flashlights within easy reach.

Stay away from windows.

Keep in contact with duty section or squadron.

Minimize phone calls to base.

Pay particular attention to bulletins and advisories issued by base officials, and to radio and television for information and instructions.

At HURCON 2, make final preparations — fill jugs, bottles, etc., with drinking water. Put important personal papers or valuables in waterproof strong boxes. Everyone except mission-essential personnel and students is encouraged to evacuate.

At HURCON 1, mission-essential personnel and students report to their designated shelters.

Sheltering

Mission-essential personnel and students shelter on base. All others are encouraged to evacuate.

Only one entrance to each shelter is open.

People on basic allowance for subsistence provide their own food. Although those on meal cards receive meals-ready-to-eat, they should bring extra food.

Take non-perishable food, baby supplies, clothes and prescription medicine for three days. Take flashlights with extra batteries, first aid kit, as much water as you can carry, books, magazines, games, cards, blankets or sleeping bags, pillows, manual can opener and portable radio with batteries. Take base and coast maps, as familiar landmarks may be gone and familiar roads closed when you leave shelters or return from evacuation. Take important documents and cash.

Alcohol, electrical appliances, weapons, pets and smoking aren't allowed in shelters.

To shelter pets off-base, call the Humane Society of South Mississippi, 863-4394, Extension 101. For information on sheltering cats and dogs on base, visit <http://www.mil.keesler.af.mil/81trw/xpo/pets.htm>. Shelter pets with three-day supply of water, food and medicine.

Recovery

After a hurricane passes, Keesler people who evacuated contact their units for instructions. If communication with the base isn't possible, call the Air Force Personnel Center, 1-800-435-9941.

Those who shelter on base:

Remain in shelter until officials say you may leave.

Military report to duty sections. Control centers delegate recovery operations to all units.

Don't enter damaged buildings.

Don't check for gas leaks with matches.

Don't turn utilities on until they've been checked.

Don't eat or drink anything without first checking it for damage or contamination.

Assess and record all damage.

Report building damage to 81st Civil Engineer Squadron if you're in base housing, or to your insurance company if you live off-base.

Report damaged personal property to your insurance company.

Make plans for temporary lodging until repairs are made.

Stay away from stray animals.

Emergency phone numbers — fire department, 911; chaplain, 377-2111 (after hours, 377-4330); command post, 377-4330; medical center, 377-6555 or 6556; security forces, 377-3040.

Civil Defense phone numbers — Hancock County, 467-9226. Harrison County, 865-4002 (Gulfport), 384-7800 (Biloxi), 452-2448 (Pass Christian), 863-7292 (Long Beach), Jackson County: 769-3101 or 3111 (Pascagoula), 475-7887 (Moss Point), 875-0114 (Ocean Springs).

Coast radio stations — stay tuned for information and instructions on Keesler's recovery, medical care and emergency assistance for housing, clothing, food, etc.:

AM stations — 570, WVMI, Biloxi; 1130, WQFX, Biloxi-Gulfport; 1190, WBSL, Bay St. Louis; 1240, WGCM, Gulfport, 1390, WROA, Gulfport-Biloxi; 1490, WXBD, Biloxi; 1580, WZZJ, Pascagoula.

FM stations — 90.3, PRM, Biloxi; 92.5, WXOR, Ocean Springs-Biloxi-Gulfport; 93.7, WMJY, Biloxi; 94.5, WJZD, Gulfport; 96.7, WUJM, Gulfport; 97.9, WCPR, Gulfport; 99.1, WKNN, Pascagoula-Biloxi-Gulfport; 102.3, WGCM, Gulfport; 103.1, WOSM, Ocean Springs; 105.9, WXRG, Pascagoula-Biloxi-Gulfport; 107.1, WXYK, Gulfport-Biloxi; 107.9, WZKX, Gulfport-Biloxi.

Family assistance center — in the aftermath of a hurricane, information on programs and services for Keesler people may be consolidated in a one-stop family assistance center.

Now's time to review personal insurance

The time to act is now. Insurance companies won't write policies if your property is in an area under a hurricane threat.

To guarantee complete coverage, inventory household goods. Photograph expensive, hard-to-replace items and antiques. Have receipts and appraisals for expensive items. Keep this in a lock box or take it along when you evacuate or shelter.

Water damage is usually covered only if wind removes part of the roof or debris breaks windows, letting water into the house. Damage caused by flooding or rising water is covered for base housing residents.

Flood, structural, wind damage

Off-base, flood insurance is available through the National Flood Insurance program. Rates vary depending upon where you live, and the type and date of construction of your house. People who live off-base should also view their policies for structural and wind damage coverage.

Off-base residents can also obtain insurance to cover debris removal, which applies only to roofing material or other debris, not trees or bushes.

Temporary repairs coverage reimburses the policy owner for necessary and reasonable repairs made to prevent further storm damage. Living expense insurance provides motel, food and transportation if you're forced from your home.

Consider replacement cost insurance, too. For your house, make certain the amount of insurance is adequate to pay the cost of building a new house.

You may submit claims for personal property lost, destroyed or damaged on base. However, you must contact your insurance company first. The government makes up the difference between your insurance and the depreciated value of the property, up to the maximum allowable for that particular category.

Military and civilians who live off base can't submit damage claims to the government. Base housing occupants can receive up to \$100,000 in claims payments. However, to ensure adequate coverage for replacement costs, base housing occupants are wise to invest in extra personal property or special coverage insurance. For about \$25 a month, you can buy \$30,000 worth of contents and liability coverage.

Comprehensive car insurance is also worth looking into. Most claims for damage processed by the base legal office after Hurricane Elena in 1985 were for automobiles hit by wind-blown roofing materials.

Boats, campers, mobile homes

Only active-duty people can make claims against the government for such damage. The maximum payable for uninsured damage or loss to a vehicle on base is \$3,000. In most cases, glass and paint damage alone are going to be above that figure.

People who store boats at the base marina sign a document waiving the base's responsibility for any losses. Boats and campers in base storage areas are covered up to \$2,500 each.

The government pays mobile home owners who live in the base trailer park fair market value or the cost of repairs, whichever is less.

For more information, call the legal office, 377-3510, or the claims office, 377-3630.



'Disaster stress' — what it is, how to cope with it

A hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico is on a collision course with the Mississippi Gulf Coast. A scenario for stress? You bet.

"Disaster stress," as mental health experts call it, may manifest itself in a variety of ways — before and after the disaster occurs:

Physical — fatigue, tension, nausea.

Emotional — anxiety, anger, helplessness, depression.

Mental — forgetfulness, easily distracted, intrusive thoughts, nightmares.

Behavioral — increased drinking, irritability, restlessness, trouble sleeping.

Social — dropping out of usual activities, and after the disaster hits, avoiding the site.

These are the faces of disaster stress. Here are some ways to deal with them:

Ask for social and emotional support from loved ones.

Give social support to others.

Don't abandon your usual social networks, i.e., church neighborhood groups, co-workers.

Become part of a disaster survivor group.

Control drinking and pill-

Children, pets feel stress, too

Children and even pets are also vulnerable to stress.

For children, it's important to take along favorite toys, blankets or something else they really love when the family evacuates or shelters. Familiar objects ease the stress of sudden moves and strange places.

Parents' state of mind and ability to handle difficult situations are also important to children. Work on yourself first, then reassure your children. Prepare them for losses and let them know that's part of life.

As you start over, assure your children it's OK to grieve at the same time you're getting on with life.

Disaster can be as traumatic for pets as for people. They're going to need comfort and reassurance when the disaster has passed. Walk pets on leashes until they become reoriented.

taking carefully. Avoid over-indulgence.

Understand you'll experience stress, but also believe it becomes less intense over time.

Try for some non-work exercise about three times a week, like a brisk walk.

Eat nutritious food and avoid excessive caffeine, alcohol, tobacco and sugar.

Talk to someone you trust about your personal feelings. Survivors often learn to talk to and listen to each other, which helps.

Think of yourself as a survivor, not a victim. A survivor

is tough, experienced, active. A victim is passive, helpless.

Use these strategies to help yourself: positive self talk, a new perspective on a negative experience, thought stopping, humor, divide the big problem into small problems and plan how to deal with each one.

Be patient. Recovery from disaster stress takes time. If you feel you're not healing, ask for professional help.

For more information or assistance in dealing with disaster stress, call the 81st Medical Group's life skills enhancement center, 377-6216.



Map by Gulf Publishing Company

As this map shows, although the Bay St. Louis and Biloxi-Ocean Springs bridges are out, several roads lead from the coastal counties — Hancock, Harrison and Jackson — toward shelter. Officials advise against sheltering in out-of-state coastal cities; travel inland to the north. They suggest the longer people wait to evacuate, the farther they'll have to travel to find accommodations. The yellow areas are Louisiana, left, and Alabama.

Evacuating? Here are routes to safe harbors

Evacuation routes on the Mississippi Gulf Coast lead from the three coastal counties — Hancock, Harrison and Jackson — toward shelter.

Make hotel reservations before an evacuation order is issued. Be prepared to travel from 150 miles to the evacuation order mileage limit north and away from the storm track. On arrival, call your unit control center, emergency management representative, the Keesler Accountability Team (phone number to be determined) or the Air Force Personnel Center, 1-800-435-9941.

At Keesler, mission-essential personnel and students shelter on base. All others are encouraged to evacuate. An evacuation order may be issued as early as HURCON 3 or as late as HURCON 1, depending on the specific hurricane threat.

Evacuation routes:

Hancock County

Mississippi 607 — goes through the NASA preserve and could be taken to Interstate 59.

Mississippi 43 — begins in Waveland and from which Mississippi 603 branches north of Kiln. Mississippi 603, which links up with Mississippi 53, could also be taken to I-59.

To reach Keesler's Emergency Intranet from your government computer, go to <https://wwwmil.keesler.af.mil>, click on the image to enter, then click on KENET (on the left side of the page).

Interstate 10 — could be taken west to I-59 north at Slidell, La., or to I-12 west to Baton Rouge, La. Officials advise against going to New Orleans to ride out a storm because that city is below sea level and highly susceptible to flooding.

Harrison County

U.S. 49 — major evacuation route to the north.

Mississippi 67 — meets U.S. 49 at Saucier. Can help evacuees avoid traffic congestion on southern end of U.S. 49.

Mississippi 15 — heads north from the intersection of I-10 and I-110. Meets Mississippi 26, which runs east and west. Going east, Mississippi 26 crosses Mississippi 57, which intersects U.S. 98 north to Hattiesburg, and runs on into Lucedale. There, Mississippi 63 and 613 connect and continue north. U.S. 98 could also be taken north. Mississippi 26 west goes to Wiggins and such northbound routes as U.S. 49, Mississippi 29, and still farther west, I-59.

Jackson County

Mississippi 57 — runs north from U.S. Highway 90 about halfway between Ocean Springs and Gautier. Crosses Mississippi 26 and intersects U.S. 98, which goes north to Hattiesburg.

Mississippi 63 — runs north from Moss Point to Lucedale in George County. Four lanes all the way to U.S. 98 in Lucedale.

Interstate 10 — runs out of the county to the east toward Mobile. Disaster preparedness officials advise against seeking shelter in Mobile and other coastal cities. However, highways in Alabama going north toward Montgomery, Tuscaloosa and Birmingham, such as I-65, can be reached by going to the outskirts of Mobile.



Storm names

The National Weather Service near Miami gives names to tropical disturbances with rotating winds of more than 39 mph.

Giving women's names to tropical storms was a common practice in the late 1800s. When the National Weather Service began naming these storms in 1953, it continued the tradition of using female names.

Beginning in 1978 (for Pacific storms) and 1979 (for Atlantic storms), male and female names were alternated by the National Weather Service.

Six lists of names are rotated every six years.

Noteworthy storms have their names retired from the list. These 39 names have been retired: Agnes, Alicia, Allen, Andrew, Anita, Audrey, Betsy, Beulah, Bob, Camille, Carla, Carmen, Carol, Celia, Charley, Cleo, Connie, David, Diane, Donna, Dora, Elena, Eloise, Flora, Frances, Frederic, Gilbert, Gloria, Gracie, Hazel, Hilda, Hugo, Ione, Ivan, Janet, Jeanne, Joan, Katrina and Mitch.

These are the names for tropical storms in the Atlantic in 2006:

- Alberto
- Beryl
- Chris
- Debby
- Ernesto
- Florence
- Gordon
- Helene
- Isaac
- Joyce
- Kirk
- Leslie
- Michael
- Nadine
- Oscar
- Patty
- Rafael
- Sandy
- Tony
- Valerie
- William



Categories of storms

Category 1 — wind speed 74-95 mph. Damage primarily to shrubbery, trees, foliage, and unanchored mobile homes. Storm surge of 4-5 feet above normal.

Category 2 — wind speed 96-110 mph. Considerable damage to shrubbery and trees, some trees down, glass broken by flying debris, major damage to exposed mobile homes, roof damage to structures. Storm surge of 6-8 feet above normal.

Category 3 — wind speed 111-130 mph. Large trees blown down, most signs destroyed, major roof damage, window and door damage, some structural damage to homes, many mobile homes destroyed. Storm surge of 9-12 feet above normal.

Category 4 — wind speed 131-155 mph. Many trees blown down, all signs damaged or destroyed, extensive window and door damage, complete destruction of many mobile homes. Storm surge of 13-18 feet above normal.

Category 5 — wind speed greater than 155 mph. Very severe and extensive window and door damage. Complete failure of roof structure on most residences, small structures overturned or destroyed, and complete destruction of mobile homes. Storm surge of 18 or more feet above normal.

Wind speed conversion chart

Mph	Knots
5.....	4.3
20.....	17.4
25.....	21.7
30.....	26.1
35.....	30.4
40.....	34.7
45.....	39.1
50.....	43.2
55.....	47.8
60.....	52.1
65.....	56.4
70.....	60.8
75.....	65.1
80.....	69.5
90.....	78.0
100.....	86.0
120.....	104.0
140.....	122.0
160.....	139.0

Coming to terms with language of hurricanes

Hurricanes are tropical cyclones in which winds reach constant speeds of 74 miles per hour or more and blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center called the eye.

A band of high-velocity winds extends outward 20 or 30 miles from the rim of the eye, and winds may gust to more than 200 miles per hour as they approach it.

Hurricane winds do their share of harm, but they cause the greatest damage when dumping water on the areas over which they move. As storms move across the coastline, they create huge waves and storm tides which may reach 25 feet or more above normal. As winds diminish, the torrential rainfall normally accompanying the hurricane strikes. Drownings are the most common fatalities associated with hurricanes.

The following terms are associated with hurricane activity:

Tropical cyclone: The general term for all rotating storms originating over tropical waters.

Tropical disturbance: A moving area of thunderstorms in the tropics that maintains its identity for 24 hours or more.

Tropical depression: Rotary circulation at surface, highest constant wind speed 38 miles per hour (33 knots).

Tropical storm: Distinct rotary circulation, constant wind speed ratings from 39 to 73 miles per hour (34 to 63 knots).

Gale warnings: Issued when winds of 39 to 54 miles an hour (34 to 47 knots) are expected.

Storm warnings: Issued when winds of 55 to 73 miles an hour (48 to 63 knots) are expected. If a hurricane is expected to strike a coastal area, gale or storm warnings will not usually precede hurricane warnings.

Hurricane watch: Issued for a coastal area when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24 to 36 hours.

Hurricane warning: Issued when hurricane conditions are expected in a specified coastal area in 24 hours or less. Hurricane conditions include winds of 74 miles an hour (64 knots) or more and dangerously high tides and waves. Actions for protection of life and property should begin immediately when the warning is issued.

Flash flood watch: A flash flood is possible in the area. Stay alert.

Flash flood warning: A flash flood is imminent. Take immediate action.

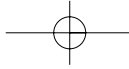
Tornados: Sometimes spawned by hurricanes, these violently rotating columns of air may produce severe damage and casualties. The typical path of a tornado is 50 feet wide and a few miles long, but some have cut a path much larger. If a tornado is reported in your area, a warning will be issued.

Waterspout: A tornado over water.

Typhoon: The name given to hurricanes that develop west of the international dateline.

When a tropical disturbance gets into high gear, with rotary motion and wind speeds of more than 39 miles per hour, it's considered a tropical storm and receives a name. If wind speeds reach 74 miles per hour or more, it's called a hurricane, but keeps the same name.

This supplement was prepared by Perry Jenifer, Keesler News editor. Contributors: 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, 81st Medical Group, legal and disaster preparedness offices, family support center, Gulf Publishing Co., Harrison County Civil Defense, American Forces Press Service and National Weather Service.



HURRICANE

Crisis checklist – don't face storms without it

A checklist can help people collect items to keep on hand to meet their immediate needs in emergency situations — such as hurricanes.

This sample checklist can be especially helpful in making preparations to evacuate out of the path of an approaching hurricane.



Food

Dried and canned products, such as fruit, vegetables, milk, juice, bouillon and soup.

Grains, nuts, jerky, snacks, trail mix and granola and high-energy bars.

Condiments, herbs and spices.

Instant coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

Manual can opener.

Paper plates, cups, napkins and paper towels.

Fondue pots fueled by candles or Sterno fuel can be used indoors; propane and fuel stoves or grills can only be used outdoors.



Safety

Flashlights.

Two radios — solar or wind-up and battery powered.

Extra batteries.

Fire extinguisher.

Hand tools.

Plastic sheeting, duct tape and towels to seal air gaps.

Blankets.

Survival manual

Area map with highlighted evacuation routes.

Waterproof matches and lighter.

Candles.

Battery-operated lanterns.



Health

First aid kit.

Family or pet medications.

Vitamins and minerals.

Feminine hygiene supplies.

Waterless hand cleaner, pre-moistened towelettes, towels, washcloths and soap.

Household chlorine bleach.

Online resources

- <http://www.redcross.org>
- <http://www.iprep.com>
- <http://www.ready.gov>
- <http://www.areasprepared.com>
- <http://www.preparedness.com>
- <http://www.fema.gov>
- <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>
- <http://www.keesler.af.mil>
- <http://www.mdot.state.ms.us>

Supplies for babies and the elderly.

Extra medications and prescription glasses.



Water

Store one gallon per person per day — two quarts for drinking and two quarts for cooking and cleaning.

Use clean, sterilized plastic soda bottles or water containers. Date and store in cool, dark place; rotate often.

Emergency indoor water sources include ice cubes, reservoir tank of toilet and hot water heater (with gas or electricity off, open drain at bottom of tank, turn off water intake valve and turn on a hot water faucet. Refill tank before turning gas or electricity back on.)

To disinfect water, add two or three drops of household bleach per gallon. Shake well and let it set for 30 minutes before using.



Car

Gas tank should be at least 3/4 full. Place five-gallon can of gas in trunk.

Road maps.

Flashlights and batteries.

First aid kit.

Cell phone or walkie-talkies.

Flares.

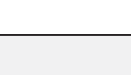
Jumper cables.

Blanket.

Compact tent.

Light jacket or rain gear, clothing, socks, shoes and hat.

Freezer bags, quart and gallon size.



Cash, change and credit cards.

Pocket-size survival manual.

Portable radio with extra batteries.

Personal hygiene supplies — toilet paper, feminine supplies, soap, tissues, paper towels, moist wipes, brush, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, razor and shampoo.

Health supplies — multivitamins, energy bars, dried fruit, nuts, jerky, trail mix, water and bleach.

Safety supplies — candle lantern, whistle, waterproof matches, lighter, large piece of aluminum foil for cooking if necessary, string, compass, clothespins and pocket knife.

Miscellaneous supplies — pen or pencil, paper, extra batteries, glasses, scissors, sunglasses, deck of cards, needle and thread, book, metal cooking pot.



Home

Sanitation items such as a portable toilet or 5-gallon trash can with lid and plastic liners, odorless sanitation liquid or tablets and toilet paper.

Eating and cooking utensils and containers.

Needle, thread and safety pins.

Forty-gallon garbage can with lid and plastic liners.

Cash and credit card.

Entertainment items, such as books, toys, games, crayons, paper, compact disks and deck of cards.

Change of clothing and shoes.

Extra set of car and house keys.

Documents in fireproof safe or airtight plastic container, such as birth and marriage certificates, passports, insurance policies, deeds, recent tax returns, Social Security cards, driver's license, bank accounts, credit card information, stocks, bonds, immunization records and other family information.



Pets

To shelter at home, store low-protein food to reduce stool volume, water, bowls, puppy training pads, garbage bags for refuse, bed, blanket, familiar toys and crate.

In case of evacuation, obtain a pet carrier or crate, and collect identification and vaccination records, registration papers, food, water, medications, muzzle and leash.

