

KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

Vol. 66, No. 27
Thursday, July 20, 2006

Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

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Keesler News on Web:

<http://www.keesler.af.mil>



Dragons deployed —
56

Which end up?



Photo by Kemberly Groue

NCO Academy classmates Tech. Sgts. Steven Baldinger, left, and Tammy Down prepare a wire shelf for a closet at 813 Elder St. in Biloxi Friday. The class adopted the Hurricane Katrina-damaged home as a community service project. Sergeant Baldinger is from Barksdale Air Force Base, La., and Sergeant Down is assigned to the 81st Medical Support Squadron.

Coming soon: New personnel system for civilian employees — Keesler preparing

Air Force Print News
and Keesler Public Affairs

Preparations are under way to convert 450 general schedule civilian positions at Keesler to the National Security Personnel System.

The conversion is scheduled for Jan. 21, which coincides with the Defense Department's recent announcement to transfer more than 66,000 civilian employees to NSPS beginning in October.

The DOD plan is the second phase in implementing the new pay-for-performance personnel system.

Legusta Hathorn, Keesler's civilian personnel officer, said this week the training phase for implementation is already under way.

"High on the priority list is training," he said. "Prior to conversion, supervisors and employees are required to undergo both 'soft skills' and

technical training. Just last month, (more than 200) of Keesler's military and civilian supervisors attended an interactive supervisory course in managing change.

"The remaining supervisors will receive identical training in early (fiscal year 2007). The civilian personnel flight began providing training on the technical aspects of NSPS July 18."

Mr. Hathorn said Keesler currently has 1,390 GS civilians.

"That number, as well as the number who'll be converted to NSPS in January, changes slightly as employees come and go," he added.

The first 11,000 DOD civilian employees were converted to the new system under "Spiral 1.1" of the

Please see **Civilians**, Page 9

This week in the Triangle

Manpower personnel officer, 10 a.m. today, Wolfe Hall.
Air traffic control tower, 10:30 a.m. today, Cody Hall.
Deliberate crisis action planning extension segment planner, 11 a.m. today, Stennis Hall.
Air traffic control radar, 9:30 a.m. Friday, Cody Hall.
Communications-computer systems planning, implementation management, 10 a.m. Friday, Thomson Hall.
Emission security manager, 11 a.m. Friday, Stennis Hall.
Communications officer deployed and tactical communications, 11 a.m. Friday, Stennis Hall.
Airborne mission systems specialist, 9 a.m. Tuesday, Dolan Hall.
Financial management and comptroller apprentice, 9 a.m. Wednesday, Wolfe Hall.



June Honor Flight

Student numbers

Total students — 3,253

Non-prior service — 2,134

Temporary duty — 1,093

Combat controllers — 26

Non-prior service arrivals — 118

Guard, Reserve — 792

International — 22

Fiscal 2006 graduates — 19,689

Total since 1942 — 2,227,750

Our Air Force at forefront of total force integration

Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO — In the latest “Letter to Airmen,” Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne recognizes the total force.

“As a leader in the total force integration, the Air Force continues to benefit from one powerful, cohesive team formed by our active-duty Airmen, Air National Guardsmen and reservists. In my travels around the Air Force, I see this synergy firsthand and realize our training and operations make it impossible to differentiate between the three components.

“We simply could not accomplish today’s dynamic mission without the total force inte-

gration of our Guard, Reserve and active-duty force. Our active duty, Guard and Reserve members stand side by side in the fight in the global war on terrorism. Nowhere was this more apparent than in the recent airstrikes that killed the leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Al Zarfawi.

“The collective efforts of active duty, Guard and Reserve forces continue to yield tremendous successes for the joint team and our nation. Total force has moved from a future concept to today’s reality — one team, one fight, with a shared, disciplined combat focus.”

Hat off to Keesler trainers

By Lt. Col. Monica Kopf

336th Training Squadron commander

As I now head to my next assignment, I want to share some of what I’ve learned about the people who make the training mission happen.

Keesler’s mission is unique — teaching Airmen everything from command and control, medical skills and communications to weather, finance, personnel and electronic principles. Support personnel, instructors, military training leaders and career development course writers form a synergistic team to ensure the mission happens.

Until you’ve actually been here, there’s no way to understand the impact training has on our Air Force. Frankly, Hurricane Katrina showed all of us how critical a cog we are in the wheel of keeping our Airmen ready for the field, because when one aspect of training gets clogged, there’s a direct and long-term impact across every major command.

Instructors have one mission — give Airmen a technical or vocational skill so they can contribute upon arrival at their base. They’re in the classroom teaching nine hours a day and have another hour for one-on-one training. They also spend untold off-duty hours ensuring course materials are up-to-speed, not to mention the paperwork requirements of the Community College of the Air Force and Air Education and Training Command. All the while, they’re qualifying to be instructors and getting their CCAF degrees in the first year of assignment.

Military training leaders are the other half of the team involved directly with non-prior service Airmen. These noncommissioned officers walk an extremely fine line as they mentor, supervise and continue the military training of our newest Airmen. They

spend an average of 10 hours a day and a lot of after-duty hours ensuring the mission occurs. The average MTL-to-student ratio is about 1-to-55 — more Airmen to supervise than many officers and senior NCOs have.

Career development course writers are all senior NCOs focused on 5-level development. They have the unique opportunity to influence the future of their career fields by attending utilization and training workshops and writing the CDCs for their Air Force Specialty Codes.

Then there are our civilians — the backbone of every training squadron. As training specialists, training managers and instructors, they teach the military personnel the rules of AETC. Their expertise and experience are critical to a squadron’s ability to remain on the cutting edge, and their willingness to teach, not only the students, but each rotation of military folks, is incredible.

All this said, I still haven’t covered everything out Airmen do. They also run Keesler’s shelters during hurricanes and instructors, and MTLs remain on base as mission-essential personnel, serving two purposes:

First, to get the training mission up and running as soon as possible after the storm passes. Instructors and MTLs actually conducted training in the shelters in order to keep the pipeline going and allow students in their last couple of blocks to go home with their certificates.

Second, to perform unit control center and shelter management duties. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of the Airmen assigned to our training squadrons, the shelters kept us relatively comfortable.

My hat is off to everyone in the training squadrons. I’m in awe of the job you do every day.

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 service. 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.

Give handicapped a hand

Comment — The handicapped stalls in the women’s restroom at Airman Leadership School and 81st Training Wing headquarters are ill-suited for handicapped users.

At ALS, the stool sits too low. Also, the uneven threshold at the parking lot could cause a wheelchair to turn over.

At wing headquarters, there are no handrails and the stall doesn’t accommodate a wheelchair with the door closed.

Response — Thanks for calling these problems to our attention.

The stool at ALS will be replaced and the entrance on Chappie James Avenue, which has been closed and is handicapped accessible, is now open.

At wing headquarters, handrails will be installed and the swing of the door reversed to accommodate wheelchairs.

Peeved over Pecan closing

Comment — Since the closure of Pecan Dining Facility, it seems everyone is now going to Live Oak for lunch.

The lines are even longer than I imagined they would be, and if we want another serving, we have to get back in line again.

Although I’m not entitled to basic allowance for subsistence, I’ve started stocking food in my dorm room.

I’m not the only one doing this. It doesn’t seem right.

Response — Closing Pecan was in response to budget cuts. It has been an inconvenience. However, Live Oak isn’t the only alternative — there’s also Azalea and Magnolia.

The lines are longest between 10:30 a.m. and noon. Those who eat lunch between noon and 1 p.m. don’t usually find the lines nearly so long.

Seat belts:

1) save lives,

2) are the law.

What’s your excuse?

KEESLER NEWS

No. 1 in Air Force,
2004, 1997.

No. 1 in AETC,
2004, 1998, 1996;
No. 2, 2003, 2001,
1999, 1997, 1991;

No. 3, 2005, 2002,
1995.

81st Training Wing commander

Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

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Lt. Col. Claudia Foss

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The Keesler News office is in Room 113, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002. The mailing address: 81TRW/PAIN, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2120. Phone: 377-4130, 3163, 3837, 7340. Publication date: Thursday. News deadline: noon Monday. Classified advertising deadline: see Classified section. Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 81st TRW Public Affairs Office in compliance with Air Force journalistic standards. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The Keesler News is published by Gulf Publishing Co., a private firm in no way connected with the Air Force, under an exclusive written contract with the 81st TRW and as an authorized publication for U.S. military service members. Contents aren't necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense or Air Force. The appearance of advertising does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. government, DOD, Air Force or Gulf Publishing of products or services advertised. Everything advertised shall be made available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor.



Phone numbers and Web sites
for information and accountability

for Keesler members:

Keesler Accountability Team

1-800-673-9356

Air Force Personnel Center

1-800-435-9941

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ndw>

81st Civil Engineer Squadron readiness

377-3811 or DSN 597-3811

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency

<http://www.msema.org>

National Weather Service

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov>

Keesler Public Web site

<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

Keesler's 2006 safety goals

Make safety ...
a core value,
a best business practice,
a competitive and asymmetric
advantage.

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



If you've had too much to drink,
call Airmen Against Drunk Driving,
377-7283,

10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Thursdays

before down Fridays,
working Fridays and Saturdays.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Ground radio instructor hones skills on deployment

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

While deployed to Southwest Asia, Tech. Sgt. Timothy McGowan is honing valuable skills to share with students in the 338th Training Squadron's ground radio communications repair apprentice course.

Sergeant McGowan, who's been an instructor at Keesler for 2 1/2 years, arrived in Qatar May 12 to work as a theater radio systems engineer with a communications traveling team that's responsible for equipment installation and maintenance at various undisclosed locations.

He volunteered for his third deployment, after serving in Kuwait in 2000 and Afghanistan in 2003.

"We start work at 7 a.m. and usually work 12-hour days," said the 18-year Air Force member from Martinsburg, W.Va. "While I'm at my original deployment base, I share a room with one other person. When I'm on the road, I usually stay in a tent or share a room with up to four people.

"For recreation, I usually play basketball when I have the time, which isn't very often," he continued. "I usually shop at local base or post exchanges. The food, provided by a private contractor, is outstanding."

From Sergeant McGowan's vantage point, morale remains high for the mission.

"Everywhere I go, we rely on the teamwork concept to get the job done," he commented. "If we didn't, the mission would never get accomplished."

Dealing with the fierce heat and having to rely on others to get what is needed to get the job done are two of the biggest challenges he's dealing with on this deployment.

His most memorable experience so far was a Blackhawk helicopter ride over Baghdad, Iraq.



Photo by Capt. Brian Aschenbrenner

Sergeant McGowan connects PRC-117 radios to prepare for an operations check at an undisclosed deployed location.

He's been able to stay in touch with his girlfriend, Jenecia Brown, and family, friends and co-workers through e-mail and two 15-minute telephone calls each week.

"It's rewarding to know that what I'm out here doing is really making a difference for

future deployed Soldiers and Airmen," he remarked. "I plan on taking my deployment experience back to the classroom at Keesler. It will serve as a valuable tool for teaching Airmen new to the Air Force about deployments and what to expect."

Workers on the move

Military spouses can use Internet for portable career opportunities

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Starting this fall, the airman and family readiness center is offering workshops to assist military spouses in using the Internet to begin "portable" careers as "virtual assistants."

The free training program is open to active-duty military spouses from any military branch assigned to a Keesler unit.

"Military spouses may face unique career challenges resulting from a lifestyle that often involves frequent relocations," said Lana Smith, community readiness consultant. "Sometimes these moves are to isolated posts, high-cost locations and areas where employment prospects are less than ideal. Although these moves may be necessary, they still may impact the spouses' employment prospects, career progression and family income."

Thanks to the growth of the Internet and the emergence of the virtual assistance industry, military spouses with expertise in administrative support and related areas are finding it easier to develop viable, portable careers.

Ms. Smith explained that self-employed virtual assis-

"Military spouses may face unique career challenges resulting from a lifestyle that often involves frequent relocations."

— Ms. Smith

tants provide off-site business support services to their clients. Services vary based on the individual's experience and expertise.

Services may include administrative tasks, competitive research, Web site design, resume writing, accounting, bookkeeping, marketing support, translation and graphic design.

Work assignments are communicated through e-mail, telephone, fax, mail,

diskette transfer, and real-time online messaging.

"The virtual nature of these relationships lend themselves easily to the transient or 'nomadic' lifestyle that's so much a part of military family life," Ms. Smith pointed out.

Ms. Smith has been certified to train military spouses as virtual assistants, using a curriculum employed by other Department of Defense and federal agencies to show spouses the tools to gain income, regardless of where they're stationed.

The training program is delivered through a series of workshops to be offered this fall. Twenty participants are selected based on information given in an online application at http://www.msvas.com/application_keesler.htm.

Applicants should have a minimum of two years of administrative support experience, Internet access, a good working knowledge of basic software, a computer with a Windows 95 or newer operating system, and a strong desire for employment or employment change.

For more information, call Ms. Smith, 377-2179 or 8593, or stop by Room 117, old Cody Hall.

Apply for nursing assistant class by Aug. 8

Airman and family readiness center

Applications are available for a certified nursing assistant course funded by the Air Force Aid Society.

Forms have been e-mailed to commanders and first sergeants, and are also be available at the airman and family readiness center, Room 117, old Cody Hall.

The application deadline is Aug. 8. Applicants must bring the completed form and their family member identification card to the center as verification.

The AFAS grant pays the \$350 course fee for 15 non-military spouses of active-duty Air Force members assigned to Keesler.

Spouses of technical training students may apply, but their Air Force member spouse must

not graduate until Nov. 10 or later.

"The intent of this program is to retain military personnel by assisting their spouses to find employment as they move during their career," explained Lana Smith, the center's community readiness consultant. "Priority for selection is given to spouses who are unemployed, need transferable job skills or have financial needs."

Basic criteria are the ability to read, write, speak and understand English, be comfortable working with sick people and a customer-service attitude.

Due to the nature of the course, alternates can't fill in if a spouse drops out, so dropouts must repay AFAS for the missed sessions.

For more information, call 377-2179.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Post office hours

New hours at the Triangle Post Office in the Levitow Training Support Facility are 11:40 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 3:30-6:10 p.m. weekdays.

Tuition aid change

Air Force tuition assistance now pays only for reimbursable class fees.

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 more information, call 377-2323 or 2171.

Medical training

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force is taking applications from active-

New leader for Red Wolves

Lt. Col. Monica Kopf turns over command of the 336th Training Squadron to Lt. Col. Kimberley Ramos, 3 p.m. Wednesday at Welch Auditorium.

Colonel Kopf, who's commanded the Red Wolves for two years, is headed to Robins Air Force Base, Ga., to be the deputy commander of the 78th Mission Support Group.

Colonel Ramos graduated from Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Ala., this month and formerly commanded the 65th Communications Squadron at Lajes Field in the Azores, Portugal. She was stationed at Keesler in three different positions from March 1993-June 1996.

duty enlisted Airmen for physician assistant Phase I training classes beginning in January, April and August 2008.

The selection board convenes at the Air Force Personnel Center on March 27. Completed applications must arrive at HQ AFPC/DPAMW, 550 C Street

West, Suite 27, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4729 by Jan. 26. Incomplete applications or those received after the cutoff date are returned and won't meet the selection board, according to AFPC officials.

For more information, contact local military personnel

flights, education offices or the AFPC Web site.

Supply classes

To schedule a general supply class, call 377-2270.

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.

Perfect scores



Brendan Vaughan, wage grade-12 civilian from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, earned a perfect score in the electronic principles course in the 332nd Training Squadron. He'll study avionics at Sheppard AFB, Texas.

NEWS AND FEATURES

All eyes on new commander



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Col. (Dr.) Michael Johnson, left, new commander of the 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, meets with Maj. (Dr.) Clinton Anderson, optometry flight commander, July 12 in the optometry clinic. Colonel Johnson assumed command of the squadron from Col. (Dr.) David Rhodes July 6. He comes to Keesler from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, where he commanded the optometry flight and was deputy commander of the 88th AMDS. Colonel Rhodes now commands the 16th Medical Group at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Missed medical appointments up

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Concerned about increases in missed appointments, 81st Medical Group officials issue “no show” letters to active-duty members, Tricare Prime enrollees and retired sponsors.

The “no-show” rate standard for the Air Force is 5 percent, according to Col. (Dr.) Leon Kundrotas, 81st Medical Operations Squadron commander.

“The 81st MDG average is approaching 9 percent,” he said. “Some individual clinics report rates as high as 11, 18 and even 22 percent.”

If a patient misses an appointment, the “no show” letter is sent to the active-duty member or retired sponsor to alert them of the situation.

“While the 81st MDG strives to provide patients with timely access to world-class health care, patients who miss appointments have a negative



impact on care because of reduced appointment availability for others who need them,” said Brig. Gen. (Dr.) James Dougherty, 81st MDG commander. “This wastes government assets and delays health care treatment for all beneficiaries.”

Colonel Kundrotas, whose squadron is responsible for a large number of medical clinics, observed, “We realize there may be times when it is unavoidable, and the clinic

will work with the patient to find a reasonable solution.”

A computerized system contacts patients the day before to remind them about their appointment.

Officials stress that to maximize access to care and minimize costs of lost appointments, it’s essential that dependents keep their appointments or cancel by calling the clinic no later than three hours before the appointed time so another patient can be booked.

IN THE NEWS

Fewest travel card delinquencies

Keesler had the lowest delinquent government travel card account rate in Air Education and Training Command during June, according to Lt. Col. Robert Gurner, 81st Comptroller Squadron commander.

Keesler had no accounts delinquent more than 60 days. Keesler also exceeded Air Force and AETC standards for interest penalties and discounts, saving the base nearly \$4,000.

For more information, agency program coordinators call Marcella LeBlanc, 377-4703, or Dennis Villers, 377-4657.

Uniform changes coming soon

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — An update to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Air Force Uniform Dress and Appearance, is about to be released.

A key feature is the return of heritage to the enlisted corps — chevrons on the sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia. This includes the removal of senior non-commissioned officer shoulder boards from the blue uniform and from all upper garments, except the optional wool sweaters.

Implementation dates are reflected in the revised AFI.

Civilian career management

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — A symbolic ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Air Force Personnel Center marked the Directorate of Civilian Force Integration’s initial operating capability.

The directorate, headed by Col. James Sturch, has four career field management divisions and a program management and support division. It offers a single “cradle to grave” career management operation for developing the Air Force civilian workforce.

Off-limits establishments

Off-limits establishments for military members named by the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board are:

Biloxi — Blue Note Lounge, Boulevard Nightclub and Henry Beck Park. The park is off-limits except during daylight hours or officially organized or sponsored fraternal, charitable, religious, educational, civic or federal events.

Pascagoula — Carver Village, Bunksmall Apartments and H&H Hideaway.

Moss Point — Toni’s Lounge.

“Off-limits” is defined as any vehicle, conveyance, place, structure, building or area prohibited to military personnel to use, ride, visit or enter. Change in ownership, management or name of an establishment doesn’t remove the off-limits sanction.

The restriction doesn’t apply to armed forces police on duty or others on official business.

Civilian shopping at commissary

An extension has been approved for Keesler civilian employees to shop at the base commissary through Aug. 31, according to Lee Hathorn, civilian personnel officer.

Purple Heart presentation



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso, 81st Training Wing commander, presents Phyllis Smith her deceased husband's Purple Heart during a parade July 13 at the base parade field. Army Pfc. Floyd Smith earned the medal while serving in the Korean War in 1951-53. The Smiths are from Pearlington.

Civilians,

from Page 1

phase-in April 30. Defense officials are taking cues from this group to help smooth the way for the "Spiral 1.2" transition.

The Spiral 1.2 roll-in takes place over a four-month period (October-January) and includes civilian employees from organizations throughout DOD, including some overseas. Ultimately, the system applies to more than 650,000 DOD civilian employees.

Mr. Hathorn said the conversion includes major changes to the current system.

"There will be changes in the way reductions in force are administered, to include the order in which employees are separated or placed in other jobs," he said. "The general schedule ranking system will be eliminated, and employees will be placed in pay bands.

"Current job descriptions will be drastically reduced in (wording) and numbers, the way employees are promoted will change, and the manner in which employee performance is rated and its direct tie to the employees' pay will change."

Officials emphasized no employee loses pay during the conversion to NSPS. Most receive an initial pay bump to account for time already earned toward their next within-grade increase.

The performance appraisal

cycle for Spiral 1.2 employees begins on the actual day of their conversion to NSPS and continues through Sept. 30, 2007. These employees receive their first performance pay increase in January 2008.

The ongoing NSPS conversion includes only the human resources parts of the system, such as job classification, compensation, performance management, staffing and workforce-shaping elements.

It doesn't include elements of the new system involving labor relations, collective bargaining, independent third-party review, adverse actions and the National Security Labor Relations Board.

DOD and the Office of Personnel Management have appealed a late February court decision blocking implementation of these provisions.

U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan ruled they'd fail to protect civilian employees' ability to bargain collectively. The decision was based on a lawsuit filed by the American Federation of Government Employees and 12 other labor unions.

Defense officials hope for a decision on the appeal by the year's end as they continue implementing parts of the new personnel system not caught up in litigation.

For more information, call 377-2268, or go to <http://www.af.mil/library/nsps-af/nspsbasics.asp> or <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/>.

Master Sgt. Roger Drinnon, Keesler Public Affairs, contributed to this report.

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.

Sexual harassment reporting

The Air Force Personnel Center operates a hotline to receive sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination inquiries at 1-800-558-1404, DSN 665-2949, or commercial 1-210-565-2949.

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

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

At Keesler, several offices can provide assistance. For harassment involving civilian personnel, call the equal employment opportunity office, 377-2975. For similar issues involving military members, call the military equal opportunity office, 377-2759. Liz Waters, the sexual assault response coordinator, can be reached at 377-8635, 8637 or 8638.

Force shaping preparations

In preparation for the next officer force shaping board in the spring, officers are encouraged check their education levels in the virtual military personnel flight.

To correct errors, e-mail Air Force Institute of Technology's Academic Coding Branch, afit.coding@afit.edu, or send an official transcript from the college or university to AFIT Academic Coding Branch, 2950 Hobson Way, Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-7765.

Additional voluntary retirements

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force offers additional voluntary retirements to a select group of officers, officials announced recently.

As a result of the Fiscal 2006 National Defense Authorization Act, the Force Shaping Program Phase II additional measures offer voluntary retirements to officers with at least eight years total active federal commissioned service and 20 years total active federal military service.

The Air Force waives active-duty service commitments (except aviation continuation pay, judge advocate continuation pay and critical skills retention bonus) and allows officers meeting these criteria to apply for voluntary retirement on Sept. 1 or earlier.

Lieutenant colonels and colonels who are retirement eligible are encouraged to apply for retirement between now and Sept. 1, 2007.

Some force-shaping initiatives are still offered such as the "Blue to Green" option for officers and the waiver for lieutenant colonels and colonels to retire with two years time in grade through 2007. The Air Force also authorizes a temporary program to allow officers to establish a voluntary retirement date up to 15 months in advance.

If not enough volunteers elect to retire under this force-shaping initiative, a selective early retirement board could convene in 2007.

Data theft protection resources

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — For information on data theft protection resources and how to protect against identity theft, visit First Gov, the federal government's official Web portal, or call Veterans Affairs, 1-800-333-4636.

KEESLER NEWS
Monday, November 1, 2005
Volume 10, Number 10
Monday, Nov. 1, 2005

ONE STAR

Base improves safety record in fiscal 2005

By [Name] [Title]

The 4th Flying Wing annual safety summary and analysis for fiscal 2005 shows marked improvement, especially during the critical summer months.

Their first look at Keesler

By [Name] [Title]

Members of the 81st Mission Support Squadron (MSS) and the 4th Flying Wing (4FW) arrived at Keesler Air Force Base (AFB) for their first look at the new base.

Congress reviews new civilian personnel system

By [Name] [Title]

The House of Representatives is reviewing a new civilian personnel system that will be implemented in fiscal 2006.

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

Demolition determination

Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso, 81st Training Wing commander, takes charge of an excavator to level the second of two munitions storage buildings on Ploesti Drive, Monday. The two buildings, a golf course restroom and an asphalt road have to be removed to make way for a new \$1.3 million munitions inspection and storage facility.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



'Business as usual' at credit union's Larcher branch

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Keesler Federal Credit Union's Larcher Boulevard office reopened June 26 with full loan, teller and drive-through services, almost 10 months after Hurricane Katrina battered the 32-year-old structure.

Minor items are still being completed, but officials said the main objective was to reopen the base office, especially the drive-through facility. Since mid-October, basic services had been provided in a trailer in the branch's parking lot.

Limited trailer space and staff shortages after the storm required some Larcher employees to be temporarily reassigned to assist in maintaining services at other offices.

Ceilings, walls, flooring and interior lighting had to be replaced because of water that came through the damaged roof and door openings.

Although the facility has been renovated several times since it was built in 1974, KFCU used the hurricane repair project to upgrade the facility again.

Decorative vinyl tile has replaced damaged carpeting, restrooms and the employee break room are being remodeled, and a sunscreen has been added on the west side of the drive-up facility to block the glare of the afternoon sun.

To welcome members back to the Larcher branch, entry blanks can be filled out for three door prizes to be given away Aug. 31 — a TV/VCR/DVD combination, \$75 and \$50. Credit union employees, officials and immediate family members aren't eligible to win.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, with drive-up services for an additional 30 minutes.

Phone numbers for the Larcher branch are changing, but members can call the credit union's main number, 385-5500, for assistance.

Repairs to 600 homes near completion

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The end is in sight for repairs to 600 base housing units impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

As an economic measure, Air Education and Training Command is limiting repairs to 600 units to accommodate families during construction of 1,067 new homes which begins this fall.

Aug. 31, two days past the one-year anniversary of the hurricane's assault on the base, is the scheduled completion date for home repairs related to the storm, but a one-month extension has been requested.

"At times it seemed like slow progress, but as the repair and recovery of our military family housing winds down, the project has been a big success," said Lt. Col. Eddie Richards, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron program management office's housing project manager.

"Since the storm, we've repaired many roofs, made exterior repairs to quite a few housing units, repaired or serviced air conditioning units in 416 houses, remediated mold in 264 houses, cleaned furniture out of 190 units, abated asbestos in 173 units and made interior repairs to 143 houses," the colonel pointed out. "The only work left is interior repairs for 110 more homes."

The PMO coordinated the work of two Air Force agencies that have been instrumental in the housing reconstruction process — the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence and the Air Force Civil Engineering Support Agency.

AFCEA completed the heating and air conditioning repairs, unit clean-outs, and asbestos abatement. AFCEE is in charge of the interior repairs for 253



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Earth Tech project superintendent Shane Carl, left, looks on as Colonel Richards signs a certificate of occupancy for a home in South Pinehaven for quality control inspector Carl Pampel, who works for URS, a San Francisco-based contractor.

homes. The agency also completed the roofing and exterior repairs. As of July 12, 143 units were finished and 110 were still in progress.

"Because of highly professional work crews from each of these agencies, we were able to deploy contractors to the housing areas when we needed them the most in a most expedient manner to complete the work," Colonel Richards stated.

Phased removal of other housing units to make way for new construction continues at a steady pace.

Precautions are taken during removal of asbestos-containing materials to ensure the safety of nearby residents.

Salvage and demolition are under way this week in the north part of South

Pinehaven. Asbestos abatement was completed before houses began to come down in Northwest Falcon Park last week.

This week, the last 16 of 68 units in the Maltby Hall housing area should be leveled. Asbestos abatement began Monday in North Thrower Park in preparation for demolition work.

"Asbestos abatement has already begun in Bay Ridge, and by Aug. 3, we should start knocking down homes in the northwest corner of that housing area," Colonel Richards pointed out. "In about three weeks, demolition of the waterside houses will start."

Harrison Court housing area has already been leveled, and 17 homes in Oak Park were demolished in May.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Chief Seaton, left, and Arleen Stewart, 81st Communications Squadron, prepare to evaluate speech by 2nd Lt. Aaron Chen, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron.

Toastmasters Keesler club's recovery from Katrina includes more members, major award

By Master Sgt. Roger Drinnon

Keesler Public Affairs

The At Eze Toastmasters Club came back from Hurricane Katrina with more members and the parent organization's highest award.

The club, part of an international organization designed to promote communication and leadership skills among its members, now has 25 members, compared to 20 pre-Katrina.

By meeting nine out of 10 goals established as criteria, the club received the President's Distinguished Club recognition for this year.

"Out of 85 clubs in the district, only 11 were able to meet nine goals or more," said Chief Master Sgt. Don Seaton, vice president of education for Keesler's club. "Most of them had the entire year, and (other clubs in the district) still came up shy; we did it in seven months."

The organization's goals for the award included criteria for speeches given, leadership training, club administration and club rank advancement among members, as well as an increase in club membership.

"Our club not only met nine out of 10 goals this year, but we also recruited more new members than any club in our district, which covers southern Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida panhandle," said the chief. "We added 22 new members to our club in seven months."

Chief Seaton, the 81st Mission Support Group superintendent, said he's been involved with At Eze since his arrival at Keesler one year ago, and a member of Toastmasters since December 2001.

"Our club was affected by the hurricane

last year," he said. "Pre-storm, we had 20 members, but on average, only five showed up to each meeting. We (now) have 25 members in the club and the room is packed at nearly every meeting.

"I have the joy of having too many people wanting to speak and advance (in club rank), so we have set up a second 'informal' meeting each week for members who want to give speeches quicker than we can get them to the lectern."

Chief Seaton said Toastmasters members develop leadership skills as well as public speaking skills.

"Toastmasters is a learning laboratory," said the chief. "Many people hear of Toastmasters for its public speaking side, but it has a two-pillar system for both communication and leadership.

"By conducting mock business meetings, giving impromptu speeches on assigned topics, researching and presenting substantive speeches, and providing constructive evaluations of your peers, you're building interpersonal and leadership skills — skills that are critical in the modern workplace."

"I look at Toastmasters and the direct benefits you get as 'mission essential' to any leader's tool kit," said Chief Seaton. "I think it's not a matter of why should people join; it's a matter of, 'Why haven't they joined yet?'"

The club meets 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, except federal holidays and Air Education and Training Command family days, in the 81st Communication Squadron (Building 1101) conference room.

For more information, call 377-5203, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

Long-term care plans available to employees of federal government

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program offers federal employees an option when purchasing long-term-care insurance.

The insurance policy helps defray the cost of in-home, nursing home or assisted living facility care for people who cannot care for themselves due to chronic health conditions.

“Although many people may believe this insurance to be needed primarily by the elderly, anyone may require potentially expensive long-term care,” said Janet Thomas, human resources specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center here. “Any eligible individual may apply at any time, and once enrolled, coverage can’t be canceled due to age or a change in health.”

Those eligible for the insurance program include federal employees and annuitants, separated federal employees with title to a deferred annuity, active and retired military members, active members of the selected Reserve, retired “gray” reservists even if they aren’t receiving retirement pay, those people receiving compensation from the Department of Labor, the current spouse of an eligible person, adult children, parents, parents-in-law and stepparents of living eligible people, and surviving spouses receiving a survivor annuity.

The FLTCIP is sponsored by the Office of Personnel Management and offers group premiums and comprehensive benefits. There are two types

of plans available, and enrollees may select from pre-packaged options or customize a plan to meet their needs:

The facilities-only plan that covers all levels of nursing home, assisted-living facility and in-patient hospice care.

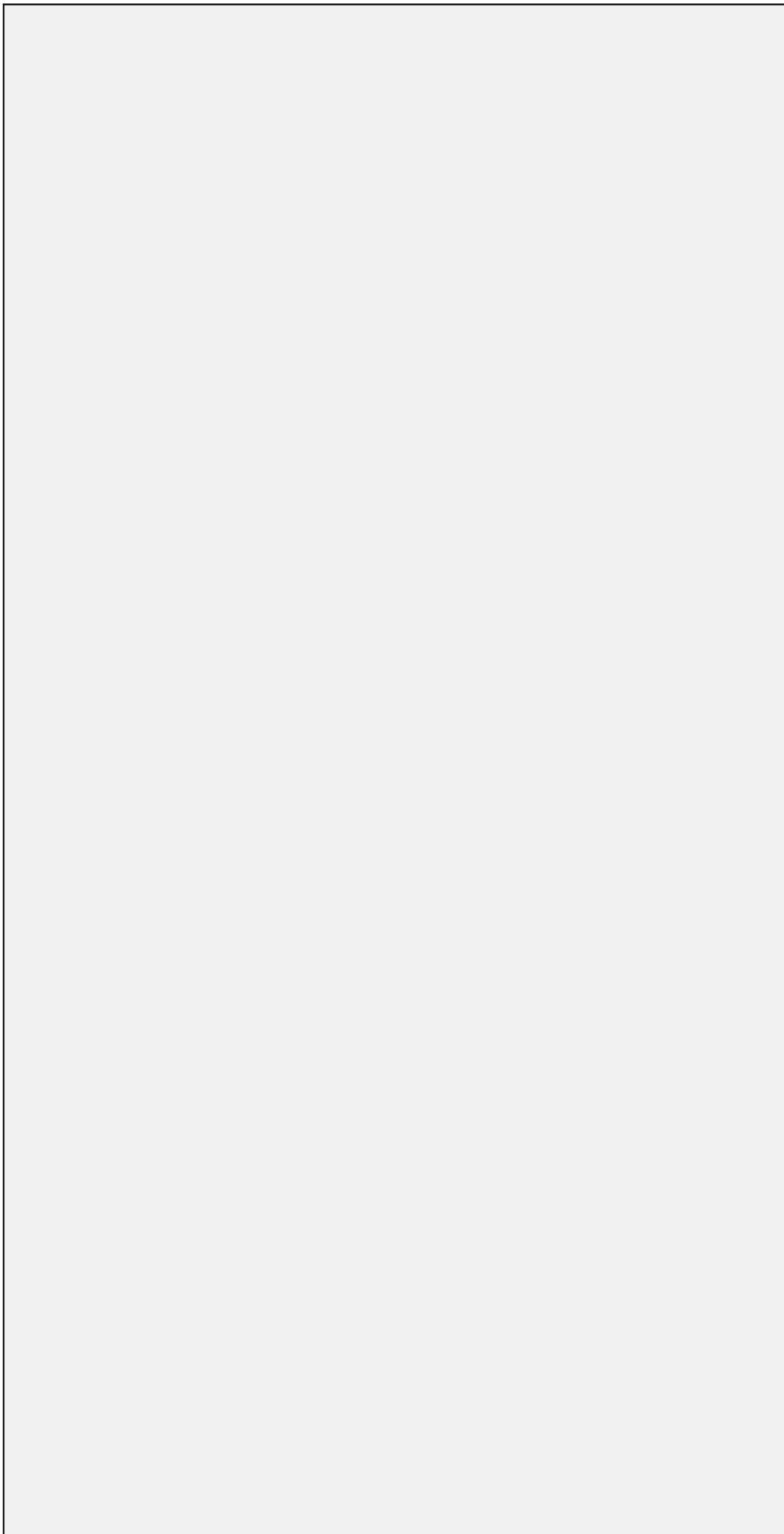
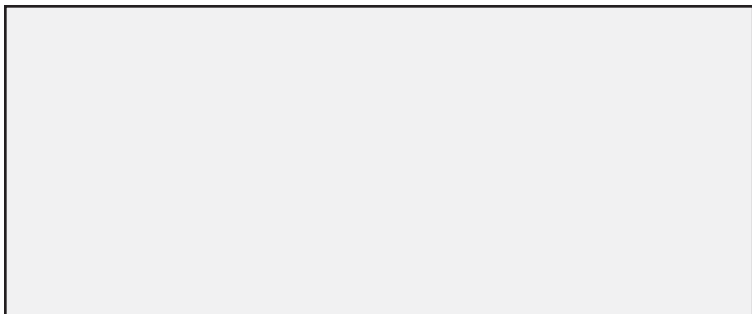
The comprehensive plan that covers everything the facilities-only plan covers, plus care provided at home by a nurse, home health aide, therapist, informal caregiver or other authorized provider. Costs of adult day care centers and home hospices are covered as well.

“The best thing to do at any age is to gather and assess available information. Doing so will help you make the appropriate decision concerning your insurance needs,” Ms. Thomas said.

Employees can use a benefits and features worksheet to compare the federal program with other long term care insurance policies on the financial strength of companies, plan options, services covered, premium costs, exclusions and limitations, and more.

The form is available on the FLTCIP Web site. The Web site also has two premium calculators, one for choosing a pre-packaged plan and one to customize a plan to individual needs.

For more information, call 1-800-582-3337, TTY 1-800-843-3557, or visit the Web site, <http://www.opm.gov/insure/ltc/>. Certified long-term care representatives are available weekdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CDT.



Day is done



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Air Force Academy Cadet 3rd Class Michael Labrie, left, and Senior Airmen Asa Oliver IV and Julia Barnes lower the flag during the monthly formal retreat ceremony, July 13 in front of 81st Training Wing headquarters. Cadet Labrie is here with honor guard Airmen from the Operation Air Force program. Airman Oliver is from the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron and Airman Barnes is from the 335th Training Squadron.

Back-to-school time just around corner

Students living in Keesler's military family housing areas attend Biloxi public schools.

Parents who didn't pre-register students in May can enroll students at Biloxi schools, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday and Tuesday.

For questions about school zones, call 374-1810, extension 134.

School starts Aug. 4, but students not registered by July 31 can't start classes until Aug. 7. Late registration packets are picked up Aug. 1-3 and returned Aug. 4 for processing.

Registration times and dates, school start dates, phone numbers and Web addresses for other school districts:

Gulfport — elementary and middle schools, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday; for school zone assignments, call 865-4613. High school regis-

Clinic offers shots required by schools

The immunization clinic gives back-to-school shots on a walk-in basis, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. working Fridays.

The clinic is closed on down Fridays and the second Thursday afternoon of the month.

Shot records aren't required unless the child hasn't previously received inoculations at Keesler.

For more information, call 377-6543.

tration, 8:30-11:30 and 1:230 p.m. Tuesday through July 27. 865-4600; <http://www.gulfportschools.k12.ms.us>.

D'Iberville and other Harrison County schools — registration 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. weekdays until school starts Aug. 4; 539-6500 or <http://www.harrison.k12.ms.us>.

Jackson County — registration 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday; school starts Aug. 4; 826-1757; <http://www.jcsd.k12.ms.us>.

Long Beach — registration 9-11 a.m. and 12:30-3 p.m. and 1-3 p.m. Monday through Aug. 1; school starts Aug. 4; 864-1146; <http://www.lbsd.k12.ms.us>.

Ocean Springs — registration 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. until school starts Aug. 4; 539-6500; <http://www.ossd.k12.ms.us>.

Kindergarten students must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1. First-graders must be 6 years old on or before Sept. 1.

CORRECTION

Jim Mayer, a copier operator at Keesler's Document Automation and Production Facility, was misidentified in a photo caption in the July 13 issue of the Keesler News.

Skin cancer

Simple precautions during summer help lower risk from exposure to sun

By Senior Airman Ticia Hopkins

347th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

MOODY Air Force Base, Ga. — Air Force health officials are reminding Airmen that simple precautions during the summer can help lower the risk of skin cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, more than 1 million cases of non-melanoma skin cancers diagnosed yearly are considered to be sun-related.

While short-term overexposure can lead to sunburns, long-term effects can develop into wrinkles, freckles, age or liver spots, dilated blood vessels, leathery skin and possibly skin cancer, said Capt. Wendi Wohltmann, 38th Rescue Squadron aerospace flight surgeon here.

“No one is immune to skin cancer,” she said, “(and) sunburns increase your risk of it.”

In 2006, ACS officials said it’s projecting more than 60,000 people to be diagnosed with melanoma skin cancers, with more than 7,000 of them resulting in death.

Most skin cancers develop on the face, ears, neck, lips and even the back of the hands due to their exposure to the sun.

Melanoma skin cancer begins in the cells that produce coloring or pigment. These cells are actually used to protect the skin’s deeper layers from the sun’s harmful effects. While melanoma is curable if caught early and is only a small percentage of annual skin cancers, it causes the most deaths.

When it comes to skin cancer, several risk factors come into play:

Family history.

Fair complexion.

Multiple atypical moles.

Unprotected or excessive exposure to ultra-violet radiation.

Occupational exposures to coal, tar, pitch, creosote or arsenic compounds.

Severe sunburns as a child.

“There are two different factors (relating to skin cancer),” the captain said. “One is the genetic component, and then there’s sun exposure. So, (even) if it doesn’t run in your family, you can still get it from sun exposure.

“The most damaging sun exposure leading to skin cancer happens before the age of 18,” Captain Wohltmann said. “It’s because children are not protected (with sunscreen) and they are not taught proper sun-protection methods.”

The captain recommends children wear hats, sun-protective clothing and sunscreen, and the same things for anyone who must be exposed to the sun for long periods, whether it’s work-related or recreational.

“If you’re already (sun) damaged, then it’ll help you from getting further damaged,” Captain Wohltmann said. “You can never start too late.”

KEESLER NOTES

AFCEA luncheon

The Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association luncheon is noon Aug. 2 at the Katrina Kantina.

The buffet is \$10.

For reservations, call Capt. Grace Beck, 377-3340, by July 27.

Top III brisket sale

The Top III's annual brisket sale is Aug. 4, with an Aug. 1 deadline for orders.

A \$5 purchase covers two barbecue sandwiches, chips, pickle and a soft drink. Meals are served at the unit level.

For more information or names of ticket representatives, call Master Sgt. Michael Krejci, 81st SUPS, 377-9522.

Senior NCO events

A senior noncommissioned officer induction seminar and ceremony is Aug. 7-10.

The seminar is 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., daily in the McClelland Hall auditorium. The induction ceremony for recently selected senior master sergeants and their guests is 6 p.m. Aug. 10 at the Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino.

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

Heart Link

Heart Link, an orientation program for Air Force spouses with five years or less Air Force affiliation is 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 24 in Room 151, old Cody Hall.

Limited child care is available.

New leader for mission supporters

Lt. Col. Douglas Mullins turns over command of the 81st Mission Support Squadron to Lt. Col. Paul Valenzuela, 9 a.m. Monday at the Fishbowl Student Center auditorium in the Levitow Training Support Facility.

Colonel Mullins, the squadron's commander for the past two years, becomes the commander of the ROTC detachment at the University of South Alabama in Mobile.

Colonel Valenzuela comes to Keesler from Norfolk, Va., where he's been the chief of the senior officer matters and command staff assignments branch for U.S. Joint Forces Command since July 2004.

To register or for more information, call Jackie Pope, 377-5346, or Lana Smith, 377-2179.

Thrift shop

The thrift shop is located in the former Chapel One building adjacent to Sablich Center.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, with consignments accepted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays. Donations are accepted during regular hours.

For more information, call 377-3217.

Hurricane guides

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.

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.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

American League champs bitten in playoffs opener

81st Medical Support Squadron-A drives Mad Dogs into losers' bracket

By Staff Sgt. Carlos Diaz

Keesler Public Affairs

Keesler's intramural softball playoffs are under way.

The championship game is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday on Triangle Field 1, according to Derek Rose, 81st Services Division interim sports program director.

Because the Keesler News deadline occurred before the playoff games scheduled for Monday through Wednesday, those results aren't available.

However, in the opening round of the double-elimination event last week, the 81st Medical Support Squadron-A stunned the 332nd Training Squadron, the American League regular-season pennant winner, 20-1.

The 81st Civil Engineer Squadron nearly doubled the score on the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit-A, 25-13.

The engineers and Sailors shared second place in the American League final standings with the 81st MDSS.

In National League first-round action, the 403rd Wing, beat the Marine Corps Detachment-A, 15-11.

The reservists won the league's regular-season title with the best record on base,

Round one results:

81st MDSS-A 20,
332nd TRS 1;
81st CES 25,
CNATTU-A 13;
403rd Wing 15,
MARDET-A 11;
85th EIS 20,
Coast Guard 19.

11-1. The Marines shared second place with the 85th Engineering Installation Squadron.

The engineering installers won the closest game of the opening round, 20-19, over the Coast Guard Pirates. The Coast Guard was fifth in the final National League standings.

Entering the playoffs, the 332nd TRS and 403rd Wing were considered the favorites, based on their first-place fin-

ishes in the regular season.

However, after being routed by the 891st MDSS-A, the 332nd TRS' work was cut out for it entering this week. One more loss and the Mad Dogs are out of the hunt for the championship.

No doubt, the 403rd Wing was pleased to see the Coast Guard beaten by the 85th EIS. The Pirates are responsible for the reservists' only loss in the regular season, 11-1. Now, like the 332nd TRS, the 403rd Wing's nemesis is one loss away from elimination.

Twelve teams entered the playoffs. Those that didn't play last week are the 333rd TRS and 81st Communications Squadron of the American League and the 81st Security Forces Squadron and USS Mesa Verde of the National League.

Rules that govern the tournament include a 12-run rule in effect after five innings and 20-run rule after four innings, according to Rose. Otherwise, games are seven innings in regulation. Home runs are no longer counted after a team hits five.

For more information, visit the intramural sports Web site at <http://eteamz.active.com/keeslerafb/>.

Golf equipment goes to highest bidders

81st Services Division

Non-appropriated funds is conducting a sealed bid sale for golf course equipment.

The condition of the equipment includes water damaged, good for parts and operates under its own power.

Coordinate viewing of the equipment in the small recreational vehicle parking lot adjacent

to the Bay Breeze Golf Course maintenance area with marina officials.

Submit individual or lot bids, including name, phone number and amount, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays in Room 5426, Locker House. Closing date for bids is 3 p.m. Aug. 10. Winners are notified by phone after bids are opened Aug. 14.

Academic All-American

Four-year track, cross country standout for Falcons adds to career achievements

Air Force Print News

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — A recent Air Force Academy graduate has been selected to the 2006 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Track and Field/Cross Country University Division third team.

This year's team was chosen by the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America.

A two-time conference champion, Nick Wilson graduated with a 3.45 grade point average in mechanical engineering.

He's a four-time member of the Mountain West Conference Academic All-Conference team for both cross

Mechanical
engineering
graduate
2-time champ.

country and track and field.

He's the first Academic All-America selection for the track and field program since 1996 and first for cross country since 1991.

During the outdoor track campaign, Wilson won the MWC 10,000-meter run and scored in the 5,000-meter run. He also finished within

the top five of the 3,000- and 5,000-meter events during the indoor season.

The Jacksonville, Fla., native is a three-time all-conference selection in cross country and a two-time all-conference choice in track and field.

To be eligible for Academic All-America, a student athlete must be a starter or key reserve for their respective varsity team, maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.20 or better on a scale of 4.00, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standings at his current institution and be nominated by his sports information director.

SCORES AND MORE

Air Force Marathon

Participation — Air Education and Training Command headquarters fields a men's and women's teams and four individual runners — two men and two women — for the Air Force Marathon, Sept. 16 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Keesler active duty personnel who wish to be nominated for the event are required to complete an Air Force Form 303, Specialized Sports Training, and submit it to Matthew Ochoa at the Blake Fitness Center by today.

For more information on the marathon, go to <http://www.afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil>.

Fitness centers

Blake Fitness Center — open 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays-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.

Towel service — towel service at the Blake and Dragon fitness centers has been discontinued. Customers are required to use their own towels.

For more information, call 377-8380 or 377-7858.

Triangle Fitness Center — closed until further notice.

Golf

Bay Breeze Golf Course and driving range — open 7 a.m. to dusk daily. Free for walkers only. Carts available for rental, \$10 per person.

Keesler/Home Depot scramble golf tournament — 1 p.m. July 21, Gulf Hills Country Club. Two-person select shot, \$40 per person. Fee includes green fee, cart, lunch and prizes. Limited to 50 teams.

For more information and to register, call 348-7589 or 990-3708.

Local course support — St. Andrews, Gulf Hills and Southern Courses offer reciprocal playing privileges to current members of Bay Breeze.

Bay Breeze members are required to show identification to verify their names are on the membership roster. Once their membership is verified, members pay only the golf cart fee for a round of golf.

For more information, call 348-7569.

Two-for-one golf lessons — schedule a half-hour lesson for \$25 and receive a second half-hour lesson free.

For an appointment, call 377-3832 or 348-7589.

Outdoor recreation

Deep seas fishing trips — non-working Fridays, \$100 per person payable at time of registration. Minimum of five, maximum of six people.

Private charter deep sea fishing trips — \$600 boat rental includes the captain and all tackle needed to fish. Deposit of \$100 required at time of reservation, with balance due day of the trip. Minimum of one person, maximum of six people.

For more information, call 377-3160.

July fishing tournament — weigh in the heaviest flounder for the month and win \$100 savings bond

Disk golf — fairway, multi-purpose, putt and approach disks for rent or sale.

Camping package available — includes sleeping bags, lanterns, camp stove and tent.

Fishing trip to oil rigs — Saturdays. Cost: \$100 per person.

For reservations, call 377-3160.

Pontoon boat training — required before renting a boat.

For more information, call 377-3160.

Pools

Main pool — open noon to 5 p.m. daily except Mondays. Water aerobic classes are held 1:15-2:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lap swimming is available at any time.

Triangle pool — open noon to 7 p.m. daily except Wednesdays. Lap swimming is available from 11 a.m. to noon.

Free water aerobic classes — 1:15-2:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Triangle pool.

DIGEST

HONORS

Quarterly awards, April-June

81st Training Group

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

NCO — Tech. Sgt. Samuel Parms, 81st TRSS.

Senior NCO — Master Sgt. Eric Alvarez, 81st TRSS.

Company grade officer — 1st Lt Naomi Henigin, 333rd Training Squadron.

Field grade officer — Maj Steven Barker, 333rd TRS.

Entry level civilian — Leah Buhr, 336th TRS.

Intermediate level civilian — Stacy Radford, 336th TRS.

Senior level civilian — Peter MacNaughton, 334th TRS.

Airman instructor — Senior Airman Jesse Campbell, 338th TRS.

NCO instructor — Tech. Sgt. John Gasa, 335th TRS.

Senior NCO instructor — Master Sgt. Darrell Evans, 333rd TRS.

Officer instructor — Capt. Stephen Song, 333rd TRS.

Civilian instructor — Paul Harder, 335th TRS.

Military training leader — Staff Sgt. Deanna Attaway, 81st TRSS.

81st Training Wing staff agencies

Airman — Senior Airman Courtney Carroll, legal office.

NCO — Staff Sgt. Angel Montalvo, 81st Comptroller Squadron.

Senior NCO — Master Sgt. Robert Kearns, command post.

Company grade officer — Capt. Bridgette Kennedy, plans office.

Field grade officer — Maj. Bradley Olsson, plans office.

Entry level civilian — Jennifer Exline, 81st CPTS.

Intermediate level civilian — Douglas Lee, plans office.

Senior level civilian — Kristin Vollbrecht, 81st CPTS.

Student honor roll

334th Training Squadron

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Travis Beeh, Derin Ercin, Devin Hennessy, Jim Hulett, Autumn Knight, Alexander Royal, Jessica Stull, Andrew Thompson, Bryan Wagner and Jessica Witzke; Airmen 1st Class Bradley Cline, David Dunn, Ivan Fazekas, Douglas Prawitt, Christopher Sanguinetti, Kevin Wade and Christopher Wilson; Senior Airmen Nathanael Crawford, James Deaton, Neil Isder, Tyler Parsons, Nicholas Raya, Steven Rice and Laree Williams; Staff Sgts. Jason Geyer, Nathan Breitenbach and Jeremiah Ordway.

335th TRS

Comptroller training flight — Airmen Basic Kimber Anson,

Kimberly Peck and Micha Vickers, Airmen 1st Class David Graham, Andrea Murcia and Joshua Lawrence; Senior Airman Sandra Memmel; Staff Sgts. Andrew Beeman, Benjamin Burris, Matthew Dehart, Michael Heninger, Gasper Persio and Bryan Thomas; Tech. Sgts. Ursula Howard, Monica Self and Larhonda Wells.

Weather training flight — Navy Airman Chad McLaren; Senior Airman Michael Konarski; Tech. Sgts. Christopher Canarina, Kelly Conley and David Paul.

336th TRS

Communications-computer systems training flight — Airmen Basic Kobe Cole, Evan Franklin, James Harris, Michael Roper, Bradley Self, Matthew Theerman and Jared Van Orman; Airmen Michael Flanigen, Brian Muir and Mark Withers; Airmen 1st Class Jack Dervin, James Egan, Richard Pilcher and Anthony Warfield; Senior Airmen Michael Doria and Todd York; Staff Sgts. Robert Baker, Jessie Beinhower, William Blake, Brad Brophil, Steven Maestas, Jason Oliver, Sara Rought, Delone Rush and Jeffrey Withers; Tech. Sgt. Melroy Simmonds; Maj. Sameer Al Thodan.

Communications and information management training flight — Airmen Basic Christina Bowden, Bryan Colburn, Jessica Dauz, Russell Dickey, Mosley Dominic, Daniel Flores, Valencia Henderson, John Howe, Darcy Mixon, Christopher Reed, Stephen Swircek, Steven Szymanski and Napoleon Tavale; Airmen Jacob Maywald, David Miguel, Scott Ricardo and Richard Zegers; Airmen 1st Class Anete Adams, Rosie Dao, Joshua Kramer, Jordan Johns, Thomas Madden, Karl McGarvey, Kimberly Sansolis, Amanda Tyler and Julie Underwood; Senior Airmen Lashonda Bell, Brett Dietz, Dorrin Bunkley, Stacey Cook, Cedric Green, Ryan King, Mark Ludwick and Jamica Riddick; Staff Sgts. Trent Anderson, Ifejika Animalu, Timothy Arcega, Jerry Brech, Ted Cleverly, Carl McMillin, Bradley Tatum, John Upshaw, Lee Weyers and Tim Whitfield; Tech. Sgts. Bruce Collins, Thomas Glenn, David Hogue, Jeffrey Howard, Levi Ingram, Keith Vannoy and Jeffrey Westerholm; Master Sgts. Danny Cooper and Guy Menefee; Senior Master Sgt. Brigit Pena; Susan Stewart.

338th TRS

Computer, network, cryptographic systems course — Airmen Basic Joshua Baird, Douglas Bein, Jermaine Brown, Adam Glogovac, Kyle Hopfensperger, Jerome Ibanez, Kevin Leshner, Breon Levins, Nathon Miguel, Zachary Payne, Richard Poorman, Jason Rodriguez, Steven Ruiz, Austin Taylor and Corey Wagner; Airmen Nicholas Delio, Joshua Donati, Michael McJohn, Marques Moore and August Richards; Airmen 1st Class Luchezer Abbott, Clyde Beaudion, Joshua Brown, Michael Clemans, Emanuel Cordero, Ian Covington, Kathryn Faistk, Gabriel Flynn, Kenneth Fray, Jason Hart, Oscar Hernandez, Joseph Hill, Jason Hultgren, James Konas, Joshua Nelly, Kevin Porter, Jerry Priddy, Christopher Primmer, Thomas Robertson, Thomas Russo, Christopher Sorrano, Ryan Souvignier, Corry Schwartz, Joshua Senn, Derek Sizer, James Spevack, Ivan Trejo, Stephen Trotter, Malosi Toilolo, Ryan Underwood and Jeremy Wood; Senior Airmen Sean Abene, Steven Bik, Malcolm Boston, Mathew Hagadone, Stephen Hahn, Donald Hess, Michael Schmidt and Ronald Scott; Staff Sgts. Lyza Beaudreault, Oliver Bugarin, Marino Chesmore, James Davis, John Lewis, Alejandro Ramirez and James Whipkey; Tech. Sgts. Kenneth Carter and Emmanuel Lumbres; Master Sgt Richard Brewton.

Radar systems flight — Airmen 1st Class Sarah Dorris, Josue Laboy and Joseph Rutledge.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 06-E — Aug. 1-Sept. 7.

Class 06-F — Sept. 19-Oct. 27.

Class 07-1 — Nov. 2-Dec. 14.

Keesler NCO Academy

Class 06-5 — graduation today.

Class 06-6 — Aug. 7-Sept. 14.

Class 06-7 — Sept. 18-Oct. 26.

Class 07-1 — Nov. 2-Dec. 14.

Health and wellness center

Smoking cessation — six-week class begins Aug. 2. Sessions offered Wednesdays, noon or 5 p.m. To register, call 376-3170.

Please see **Digest**, Page 21

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

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

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	:30 332nd TRS, Building 6957
:01	:31 338th TRS, Building 6965
:02	:32 Welch Auditorium
:04	:34 AAFES Furniture Store
:06	:36 Jones/Bryan/Hewes Hall at gazebo
:08	:38 Thomson Hall
:09	:39 New Cody Hall
:11	:41 Supply, civil engineering
:12	:42 Rental store
:13	:43 Shaw House
:14	:44 Old base exchange
:15	:45 McBride Library
:16	:46 Credit union, Blake Fitness Center
:17	:47 Medical center, Tyer House
:18	:48 Sablich Center
:19	:49 Dental clinic
:20	:50 Allee and Wolfe Halls
:21	:51 Base operations
:22	:52 Hangar 4

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

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

Prior-service students lodged off-base

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

Editor's note: Duty passengers have priority over "space available" riders. Schedule may be impacted by increased official operations or severe weather. Those who are physically challenged, have excess baggage, medical appointments at off-base hospitals or clinics or unable to ride the base shuttle, call 377-2432 for the base taxi. For more information, call 377-2430. Until further notice, weekend shuttle service isn't available. Taxi service is available on an "as needed" basis.

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: For more information, call 377-2520.

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.

Triangle Chapel contemporary worship service...10:30 a.m.

Triangle Chapel gospel service.....Noon

Islamic

Building 2003 — 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 p.m. Sundays, Triangle Chapel. For more information, call 396-5274 or 1-661-747-4738.

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Arts and crafts center

Youth craft camp — 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays. \$25 per week.

Ceramic painting — 10 a.m. July 22. For more information, call 377-2821.

Pottery workshop — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. \$15. Introduction to pottery and use of pottery wheel.

End of summer camp jamboree — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 29. Games, projects, refreshments.

Beginning Intarsia woodworking — 5 p.m. Friday. \$15. Intarsia involves inlaying pieces of wood in a decorative pattern.

Advanced Intarsia — 10 a.m. Saturday; new project each month.

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

Framing — one class, four sessions, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays. \$60.

Advanced matting — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 28. \$25.

Engraving shop — custom items for gifts, mementos and squadron awards.

McBride Library

Orientations — 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Story time — 10 a.m. Wednesday and Aug. 2 and 9, ages 2-5.

Read club — 2 p.m. Wednesday and Aug. 2 and 9, ages 6-12.

We are America — display throughout the month.

Tours — for more information, call 377-2181.

Auto skills center

Beginners auto care — \$5 per class. Change oil, brakes, tune ups, tire changing and more. For dates and times, call 377-3872.

Auto air conditioners — serviced at a reasonable price.

24-hour coin-operated car wash — features foamy brush wash, high pressure rinse, wax system, towelettes and Armorall and vacuum station.

Vehicle resale lot — corner of M and T Streets, adjacent to former Pecan Dining Facility. Buy, sell or trade privately-owned vehicles. For more information, call 377-2821.

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Vandenberg Community Center

Strut your mutt day — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday. Veterinary check-ups, contests, parade, prizes and refreshments.

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.

Katrina Kantina

Taco Tuesdays — two tacos for \$1.

Random cash giveaway — \$50 cash to a club member, once a week between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.; must be present and have club card to win.

Youth center

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

Taekwondo — 6-7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, ages 6 and older. For more information, call 377-4116.

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

Creative corner — 4:30 p.m. July 27.

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

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 — 3 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.

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

Summer camp/clinics registration — track and field, basketball, and cheerleading. Members \$25, nonmembers \$35. For more information, call 377-4116.

Teen extreme camps registrations — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., ages 13-15. Understanding Me/Understanding You, Weird Science, Backyard Mississippi and Teen Warrior camp. Members \$55 per week, nonmembers \$65.

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

TRANSITIONS

Workshops, briefings

Veterans benefits briefing — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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. 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.togray.com>.

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

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

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

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

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

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 including Gulf Islands Water Park in Gulfport, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays. For more information, call 377-3818.

Tour to New Orleans Saints football game — Sept. 25 vs. Atlanta Falcons. \$60. Sign up by Sept. 19.

MISCELLANEOUS

Movies

Editor's note: Movies are shown at Welch Auditorium. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children for regular features, and \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children for matinees. For a recorded message about current features, call 377-6627.

Friday — 7 p.m., The Omen (R).

Saturday — 2 p.m., The Break-Up (PG-13); 7 p.m., The Fast and Furious: Toyko Drift (PG-13).

Sunday — 2 p.m., Cars (G).

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

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

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.