



KEESLER NEWS



Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

Volume 67, No. 1
Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007

Developing America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

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



Dragons deployed
— 87

NSPS

Town hall meeting covers new system for civilian employees

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

A town hall meeting, 3:30 p.m. today at Welch Auditorium, fills any blanks for civilian employees and their supervisors about the upcoming transition to the National Security Personnel System.

"We hope the meeting answers any lingering questions or concerns employees may have and squelches any rumors still out there," said Gary Schafer, NSPS specialist in the civilian personnel flight.

Jan. 21, 540 of Keesler's general schedule non-union civilian positions are transferred to the new system as part of Spiral 1.2, which includes 26,000 Air Force positions at 70 locations around the world.

"It's important to realize that we're talking about 540

Keesler positions, not people," Mr. Schafer pointed out. "Not every position is currently filled."

Keesler currently has about 1,856 civilian authorizations.

NSPS represents the most significant change to civil service in three decades and eventually covers more than 650,000 Department of Defense civilians.

Air Force officials see NSPS as a key part of the service's transformation from a Cold War force to a more agile, technology-based force. The system changes how employees are recruited and retained and builds on management philosophies that value performance, reward competition and reward excellence. It's also intended to allow the Air Force to be a

Please see **Meeting**, Page 9

Glancing back at 2006



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Pharmacy technician Adrian Robinson stocks an automated dispensing machine in the temporary satellite pharmacy that opened July 31. For photos of more Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, as well as other Keesler accomplishments during 2006, see Pages 14-15.

This week in the Triangle

Ground radio communications, 10 a.m., today, Jones Hall.

Communications-computer systems control, 10 a.m., Tuesday, Thomson Hall.

Airfield management, 9 a.m., Wednesday, Cody Hall.

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

Command Post, 10 a.m., Wednesday, Bryan Hall.

Personnel, 10:15 a.m., Wednesday, Wolfe Hall.

Precision measurement equipment laboratory, 2 p.m., Wednesday, Wolfe Hall.



December honor flight

Student numbers

Total students — 2,442

Non-prior service — 1,883

Temporary duty — 452

Joint service — 72

Combat controllers — 23

Medical — 12

Non-prior service arrivals — 0

Guard, Reserve — 476

International — 15

Fiscal 2007 graduates — 6,255

Total since 1942 — 2,240,627

Building on our successes of 2006 in this new year

By Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

81st Training Wing commander

Happy New Year!

The past year was a time of record achievement, progress and renewed hope for the Mississippi Gulf Coast and Keesler. It was a story of heroes, men and women of Team Keesler and hundreds of contractors and volunteers coming together to mark a pivotal moment of transition and new beginnings.

I'm moved and amazed by your enthusiasm, spirit and courage, and salute your outstanding efforts to rebuild and transform Keesler and our coast communities.

Recovery in full swing

Although we've completed only Year 1 of a four-year rebuilding process, your magnificent accomplishments can be seen throughout the base community. Our training mission has surpassed all expectations. The Air Force's second largest medical facility has brought patient care back to new heights. Recovery efforts are in full swing and transforming how we live, work and play.

Not only have you brought Keesler back to life, you've given back to the coast community by donating more than 65,000 hours of volunteer work and set new standards in the Air Force Assistance Fund and Combined Federal Campaign drives. Every day you've made a difference and it's easy to see positive, value added change at every turn.

Charting our future course

The results of your efforts haven't gone unnoticed, as the 81st Training Wing garnered more than 42 higher headquarters and Air Force awards in 2006.

Just as each new year provides us an opportunity to reflect on our past accomplishments, more importantly, it also allows us to look forward and chart our future course.

In 2007, we'll build upon our successes from the past year, embracing the opportunities which lie ahead. Together, we'll work to meet our Air Force's priorities — to win the war on terror, to develop and take care of our

Airmen, and to recapitalize and modernize our force.

On the home front, we'll continue our efforts to ensure the needs of our people are met — in exceeding mission requirements, in making positive, lasting change in the rebuilding of Keesler and providing community outreach to those in need. In the very near-term, you'll see the opening of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service mini-mall and the marina.

Demolition will take place on several large facilities. We'll start work on Bay Breeze Golf Course to bring it up to U.S. Golf Association standards. By mid-year, we should see the opening of the new service station and shoppette, and the return of the 81st Mission Support Group to Sablich Center.

No suggestion too bold

As we go through the rebuilding and recovery process, other opportunities will present themselves. Air Force Smart Operations 21 will become an integral part of our lives as we reshape and transform our processes to do things more effectively, efficiently and smarter. No suggestion will be too bold, as embracing change will be key to our success.

Nothing can keep us down

This new year will also allow us the opportunity to show the Air Force that nothing can keep us down as we prepare for the re-accreditation of Keesler Medical Center and set our plan in motion to receive an "outstanding" rating on our Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled for December.

Together, there's nothing we can't accomplish. If we face 2007 with the same resilience, hard work and energy as we did last year, our aspirations for a better Mississippi Gulf Coast and Keesler community will be assured. We have an unlimited horizon of opportunity to shape our future.

As we embrace the new year, thank you for what you've done and for what you will do in the days ahead. Laura and I wish you and yours a prosperous and Happy New Year.

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.

For your convenience, below is a list of key customer service phone numbers at Keesler:

| | |
|---|--|
| Base locator — 377-2890 | Library — 377-2181 |
| Base operator — 377-1110 | Lodging (reservations) — 377-9986 |
| Base taxi (official use) — 377-2430 | Medical center information — 377-6550 |
| Career assistance adviser — 377-3697 | Military equal opportunity — 377-2759 |
| Central medical appointments — 1-800-700-8603 | Military pay — 377-7272 |
| Child development center — 377-2211 | Pass and registration — 377-3893 |
| Civil engineering — 377-5561 | Pharmacy (refill call-in) — 377-6360 |
| Civilian personnel — 377-2268 | Satellite pharmacy — 377-9791 |
| Military personnel flight — 377-2276 | Public affairs — 377-2783 |
| Keesler Federal Credit Union — 385-5500 | Red Cross — 377-3030 |
| Emergencies — 911 | Sexual assault prevention and response team — 377-8635 |
| Family campground — 594-0543 | Law enforcement desk — 377-3040 |
| Airmen and family readiness center — 377-2179 | Shoppette, Class Six — 432-2367 |
| Finance — 377-4212 | Telephone trouble — 377-2130 |
| 81st Communications Squadron help desk — 377-0066 | Traffic management (outbound) — 377-2446 |
| Housing — 377-9741 | Traffic management (inbound) — 377-7813 |
| Identification cards — 377-3203 | Visitor center — 377-2595 |
| Inspector general — 377-3010 | Youth center — 377-4116 |
| Legal assistance — 377-3510 | |



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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.

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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.



If you've had too much to drink,
call Airmen Against Drunk Driving,
377-7283,
10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Thursdays
before dawn Fridays,
working Fridays and Saturdays.

Keesler's 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.

To report sexual assaults, call
Keesler's sexual assault response
coordinator hotline, 377-7278.



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To start, stop,
increase or decrease
Keesler News delivery,
or for display racks,
facility managers call
377-4130.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Airman Basic Clifton Bain, 332th Training Squadron, helps relocate a computer as one activity for students during the holiday season.

Photo by Adam Bond

Students work, play during base holiday

By 2nd Lt. Nick Plante

Keesler News staff

During the holiday season, the number of military trainees on base dwindled, but those that remained kept busy.

Students performed details and took part in other activities set up to have fun, relax and relieve stress.

During duty hours, the trainees reported for details such as painting, clean-up

projects and charge of quarters.

During their down time, trainees participated in various activities such as ping-pong, pool and basketball tournaments.

Those who preferred to compete in a more relaxed way played cards and board games. Others watched football or movies with free food.

Activities were available from from Dec. 24-31.

New Year's resolution — pursue higher education

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The pursuit of higher education is a great New Year's resolution for military members.

"Educating and training our Airmen makes for an overall better force," said Becky Green, Keesler's education services flight chief.

Tuition assistance

"Although Keesler doesn't have every degree available on the coast, there are many degrees available through distance learning," she continued. "We issued tuition assistance to 89 colleges and universities last year. Almost half of our tuition assistance budget went to distance learning schools, partly due to more students taking distance learning classes after Hurricane Katrina."

Tuition assistance is equivalent to a college scholarship for military members, according to Ms. Green.

"Most Airmen can obtain a degree with their only out-of-pocket expenses being books and some fees," she pointed out.

Research options

Ms. Green said it's important for Airmen to do research, particularly in the case of online colleges.

"Many online colleges have large marketing budgets and target military personnel," she explained. "Some may not be accredited. I encourage Airmen to use base resources and counselors to make the wisest decision.

"Don't just take courses or attend a college because a friend is — match up your career goals with personal interests," she stressed.

"With the plethora of opportunities and widespread availability of college courses, getting a degree while on active duty is attainable," Ms. Green said. "Many colleges are 'military-friendly' and work with deployed members to ensure success. Some deployed locations have opportunities for completing degree requirements, and we have many students that continue their education while deployed."

The education office partners with four on-base institutions — William Carey



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Airman 1st Class Juan Romo, 81st Medical Support Squadron, receives information from CCAF adviser Lynn Geiken on general education courses he needs to take to earn a CCAF degree in nuclear medicine technology. He can also apply the courses toward a bachelor's degree in mathematics.

University, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, University of Southern Mississippi and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Certification, associate, bachelor and master degrees are available.

"We also offer testing opportunities through CLEP/DANTES here on base that give you credit for college courses," she added.

For enlisted Airmen, an accredited associate degree is offered through the Community College of the Air Force. Many Airmen are closer than they may think to earning a CCAF diploma.

"With credits obtained from basic training, technical school, skill levels and professional military education, Airmen may need only the 15 credits of general electives to

complete the 64 credits required for a CCAF degree," Ms. Green commented.

The earning potential of college graduates continues to outweigh that of non-graduates, according to a 2004 report cited by Ms. Green which said individuals with a two-year degree earn \$6,800 more and those with four-year degrees earn about \$19,100 more than workers with no college.

"On the military side, statistics from the Air Force Personnel Center show that 68 percent of today's senior non-commissioned officers possess a two-year or higher degree, a 17-percent increase from the mid-1990s," Ms. Green noted.

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

Career advancement may hinge on degrees

By Tech. Sgt. Steven Wilson

28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

ELLSWORTH Air Force Base, S.D. — Today's air expeditionary Airman is deploying longer and more often than ever before in a world of shrinking budgets and manpower.

However, educational opportunities offered by the Air Force are becoming more important for anyone considering the profession of arms as a career.

"The decision to make academic degree information available to officer promotion boards is an obvious signal of the value of education," said Col. Bruce Emig, 28th Bomb Wing vice commander. "Given two officers with otherwise comparable records, advanced education becomes a key discriminator in determining promotion opportunities."

A higher education for career-minded Airmen isn't stopping at the officer ranks. Enlisted Airmen with the ambition to advance should get in school, too.

"Education is what broadens our perspective and enhances our abilities to perform our mission," said Chief Master Sgt. John Gillette, Ellsworth AFB's command chief.

"Our enlisted force has taken on increasingly demanding roles in the Air Force," the chief said. "I believe most of our Airmen today recognize the importance of education to help them advance their career in the Air Force and the value it has if they choose to separate after their enlistment."

One concern of Airmen in today's high operations-tempo environment is starting class and not having time to finish it before heading out for a deployment or temporary duty.

But most institutions are aware of this issue and can work with deploying Airmen to find a solution that makes sense, according to Paula Howard, Ellsworth's training and education services flight chief.

"If you start school and find out you're deploying, the local schools are very willing to work with you to complete (the courses) successfully, either by e-mail or some other distance learning program," she said. "If this isn't possible and you're progressing as expected in the class, an instructor can give you an incomplete until you return and then you would have to complete (the course) the first term available after returning."

Another option is online degree programs.

"There are hundreds of accredited institutions now that are offering online courses and degrees," said Ms. Howard. "There are dubious academic institutions that say they have certain (degree granting) credentials and don't," she added. "Before ever committing to a school, the Air Force member should always take the time to talk with a counselor to get a better picture of the school they're attending."

For more information about accredited distance learning programs, visit <http://www.petersons.com/distancelearning/code/search.asp>.

One concern the Air Force can nearly eliminate for Airmen is the cost associated with attending a university.

"The military member receives \$4,500 per fiscal year toward his tuition," Ms. Howard said. "Normally an active-duty student can only take part-time classes, but for the most part, with 100-percent tuition assistance, the member doesn't have any college debts except to purchase books."

Book costs shouldn't deter the military student either.

"Many times our active-duty members are eligible for Pell Grants based on their income by applying for federal financial aid," said Ms. Howard.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Free course for spouses

Jan. 25 is the deadline to apply online for a free virtual assistants course for spouses of active-duty members of any branch of service.

The course is Feb. 14 and 16, with a two-hour evening "Spouse with a Mouse" session for the spouse and military member Feb. 15. The class size is from eight to 20 students per session.

Virtual assistants are self-employed people who provide off-site business support services, including administrative tasks, competitive research, Web site design, resume writing, accounting, bookkeeping services, marketing support, translation and graphic design.

Assignments are communicated through e-mail, phone, fax, mail, diskette transfer and real-time online messaging.

The certified instructor is Lana Smith from the airman and family readiness center.

To apply, complete and submit the application at http://www.msvas.com/application_keesler.htm. For more information, call Lana Smith, 377-2179 or 8593.

Senior leader course

The non-resident Air War College Senior Leader Course is open to active-duty, National Guard, and Reserve members selected for lieutenant colonel and above of any component of the armed forces and Defense Department general schedule 13 and above civilian employees.

The distance learning program may be completed on your own or with a group seminar.

To enroll, go to <http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awchome.htm>

For more information or to set up a seminar group, call Joyce James, 377-7159.

Hap Arnold grants

March 9 is the deadline to apply for the Air Force Aid Society's Gen. Henry H. "Hap" Arnold grant program for undergraduate studies.

The \$2,000 grants are provided to selected children of active duty, Title 10 Air National Guard members and reservists on extended active duty, Title 32 guard members performing full-time active duty, retired, retired Reservists with at least 20 qualifying years of service, and

deceased Air Force members.

Spouses of active-duty members and Title 10 Guard and Reserve members on extended active duty; and survivors of deceased members are eligible.

For more information, visit the airman and family readiness flight in old Cody Hall, visit the AFAS Web site at <http://www.afas.org> or call 377-2179.

Medical training

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force is taking applications from active-duty enlisted Airmen for physical 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.

For more information, contact local military personnel flights, education offices or the AFPC Web site.

Troops to Teachers

For information on Mississippi Troops to Teachers, call 1-800-MISS-TEACH.

Weapons training

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

The range is for government weapons only and is not for recreational use.

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

Supply classes

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

JROTC openings

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

Call 1-866-235-7682, ext. 35275 or 35300, or DSN 493-5275 or 5300.

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.

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>.

Bypass testing

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

For more information, call 377-0090.

Tuition aid online

Air Force members can request tuition assistance online.

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

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

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

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

CCAF online

Visit the Air Force Virtual Education Center, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod>, to create MyAFVEC accounts to access online customer service tools.

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

Officer records

For officers to update their academic records, the Air Force Institute of Technology requires an official transcript sent to this address:

AFIT/RRE, 2950 P St., Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-7765.

NEWS AND FEATURES

Officer reduction-in-force board planned for June if goals not met

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force convenes an officer reduction-in-force board in June if it fails to meet its force-shaping goal.

“While the goal has been to reduce active-duty end strength through voluntary programs where possible, if at the end of the extended voluntary separation pay application window the (fiscal year) 2007 goal has not been reached, the remaining losses will be achieved through an officer RIF board in June 2007,” said Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel.

The window for officers to voluntarily separate from the Air Force with the VSP option has been extended to March 31. As of Dec. 28, the service had approved just over 1,800 applicants for the program. Officers seeking more information about VSP can call the Air Force Personnel Center contact center 1-800-616-3775, or visit its Web site.

General Brady said the RIF board would consider Air Force officers with six to 12 years of active commissioned service in overage career fields from six year groups: 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000 and 2001.

The RIF board process is expected to achieve approximately 1,000 officer reductions. Officers not selected for retention are separated by Jan. 29, 2008.

However, force shaping is not simply about reducing numbers. The Air Force also ensures that it has the right number of officers and enlisted, with the right rank, in the right career fields.

“The Air Force is in transition and we must focus on optimizing our force structure,” General Brady said.



“The Air Force is in transition and we must focus on optimizing our force structure. Through voluntary separations, attrition, adjustments to accessions, retraining and a RIF board, we can ensure we have the number of officers we need, in the right career fields and with the right level of expertise.”

— General Brady

“Through voluntary separations, attrition, adjustments to accessions, retraining and a RIF board, we can ensure we have the number of officers we need, in the right career fields and with the right level of expertise. I encourage all commanders to conduct frank discussions with their officers concerning their vulnerability for the RIF board.”

In 2004, the Air Force had 372,000 active-duty Airmen. Today, the service has about

347,300. Through force shaping, the goal is to reduce that number by another 31,000 to about 316,000 by fiscal 2009. In fiscal 2007 alone, the Air Force has over 5,500 projected officer losses, about 70 percent of the goal, and 16,500 projected enlisted losses, almost 50 percent of the goal. These losses reflect the combination of targeted force shaping and normal attrition, which total more than 30,000 each year.

IN THE NEWS

Martin Luther King event

A worship service in observance of the Martin Luther King federal holiday is noon Sunday at Triangle Chapel.

Guest speaker is Tommy Moffett, Biloxi's first African-American police chief, who now serves as police chief in Vicksburg, Miss.

The event, hosted by the Protestant parish advisory council, is followed by dinner in the chapel annex.

For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) Winston Jones, 377-2520.

Commander's calls

Brig. Gen Paul Capasso, 81st Training Wing commander, is holding commander's calls, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Jan. 18 and 9-10 a.m. Jan. 19 at Welch Auditorium.

Medical center entrance closes

81st Medical Group

Keesler Medical Center's A-Tower entrance closes Jan. 20 until late March for renovation.

The outpatient clinic entrance remains available for patient and staff use.

C-21A retirements approved

Air Force Public Affairs and Keesler News staff

Last month, the Air Force approved the retirement of 38 C-21A aircraft from the active-duty inventory that affects force structure at Keesler and six other bases.

The fleet reduction won't affect Keesler until fiscal 2008, according to Lt. Col. Christopher Miceli, commander of the 45th Airlift Squadron.

“Our C-21 aircraft will be reduced from five to three and there'll be a proportional decrease of instructor pilots,” Colonel Miceli said. “New training requirements were added for FY 07 due to the stand-up of two new Air National Guard C-21 units at Fargo, N.D., and Bradley, Conn. Bradley will loan two C-21s to the 45th AS to accomplish the additional training, and the aircraft will return to Bradley in FY08.”

Early Keesler News deadline

Due to the Martin Luther King birthday federal holiday Monday, the deadline for the Jan. 18 Keesler News is noon today, four days earlier than usual.

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

Off-limits establishments

Off-limits establishments for military members are the Blue Note Lounge, Boulevard Nightclub and Henry Beck Park (except during daylight hours or official events) in Biloxi; Carver Village, Bunksmall Apartments and H&H Hideaway in Pascagoula, and Toni's Lounge in Moss Point.



Meeting,

from Page 1

more competitive and progressive employer.

The first 11,000 DOD civilians were phased in to the new system last April. DOD officials took cues from this group to help smooth the way for the ongoing transition.

"All GS supervisors are under NSPS," explained June Clemenens, the civilian personnel flight's NSPS implementation team leader. "All 'professional employees,' such as psychiatrists, engineers and social workers, are under NSPS, along with 'confidential' employees, such as

On the Web

More NSPS information is available at the Keesler secure Web site, <https://wwwmil.keesler.af.mil>. The NSPS link is at the bottom on the right side under "sites of interest."

those in civilian personnel."

Wage grade jobs comprise a large portion of the unaffected positions.

"For example, most civil engineering trades positions, such as plumbers, carpenters and electricians, clerical support positions and technical positions, such as supply, accounting and budget techni-

cians, aren't affected and remain under the current system," Mrs. Clemenens said.

Since July, some Keesler employees and supervisors have been trained in a variety of subjects, including change management, human resource elements, interactive supervisory skills, performance management and other topics.

Keesler's covered civilian employees and their supervisors completed NSPS 101, an online training course, to prepare for the transition.

The NSPS office is in Room 111 of the Airman Leadership School.

For more information, call Mrs. Clemenens, 377-9356, or Mr. Schafer, 377-4787.

13 selected for promotion to captain

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Thirteen Keesler first lieutenants have been selected for promotion to captain.

They are:

81st Communications Squadron — Carmen Andrews.

81st Comptroller Squadron — Mishawn Johnson and Jeffery Rich.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — John Harrell, Cynthia Romero and Lavon Williams.

81st Operations Support Flight — Mark Sheldon.

81st Security Forces Squadron — Aaron Williams.

81st Training Wing — Michael Chandler.

333rd Training Squadron — Michelle Salgado.

335th TRS — Pedro Gonzalez and Marcy Monroe.

336th TRS — Naomi Henigin.

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.

Bonus for South Dakota veterans

Air Force Print News

PIERRE, S.D. — South Dakota is paying a veterans' bonus of up to \$500 to certain service members who:

Were legal residents of the state for at least six months immediately preceding entry into the armed forces.

Are currently on active duty or were honorably discharged from the armed forces.

Served on active duty during certain periods.

For service between Jan. 1, 1993, and Sept. 10, 2001, payment will be made to those who served overseas and were awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal or any other United States campaign or service medal awarded for participation in combat operations against hostile forces.

All active-duty service between Sept. 11, 2001, and a date to be determined qualifies for a bonus payment.

The program also allows payment for active duty during the Desert Storm dates of Aug. 2, 1990, to Dec. 31, 1992, for people who didn't already receive payment for service during this period.

For application forms, write to SD Veterans Bonus, 500 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501; call 1-605-773-7251 or e-mail john.fette@state.sd.us. All requests should include a complete mailing address.

Transforming travel processing

81st Comptroller Squadron

The Defense Travel System is an electronic travel order and settlement voucher producing system that's transforming the Defense Department's current processes into a single, streamlined, paperless system.

With DTS, travelers can input travel authorizations, review and pick available flights, make hotel and rental car reservations, electronically fill out travel vouchers, pay Government Travel Card accounts and receive direct deposit reimbursements in about a week.

For more information or training needs, call your unit DTS representative or visit <http://www.dtstravelcenter.dod.mil/>.

OneSource for information

Military OneSource provides information and resources on a variety of issues ranging from everyday concerns to deployment and reintegration.

The service is funded by the Department of Defense and is available to active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen and their family members around the clock and 365 days a year.

To access Military OneSource, visit <http://www.militaryonesource.com> or call 1-800-707-5784.

MyPay item processing

For information on processing pay items through myPay, call the 81st Comptroller Squadron, 377-7272 or 4212.

For a personal identification number for myPay, e-mail TRAVEL@keesler.af.mil from a government computer.

Force shaping preparations

In preparation for the next officer force shaping board this spring, officers are encouraged to 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.

Keesler claims 15 AETC medical awards

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Three 81st Medical Group units, 11 members and a former commander of the 81st Mission Support Group's airman and family readiness flight won 2006 Air Education and Training Command Medical Service awards.

Winners now compete for Air Force recognition.

Performance in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath was a contributing factor for each winner.

Unit winners are:

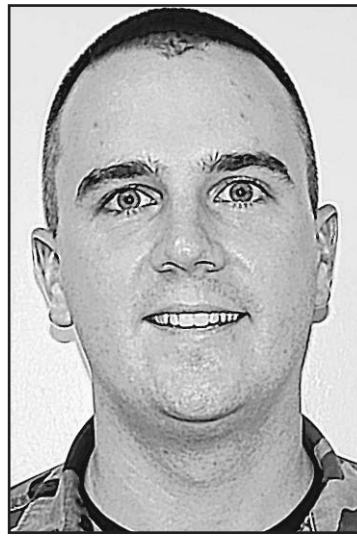
81st Dental Squadron — large dental clinic. The clinic's rebound from Hurricane Katrina was cited as the largest recovery and comeback in Air Force Dental Corps history. In partnership with the 81st MDG, the clinic provided 40 medical rooms and supported 10 critical and diverse medical specialties in the storm's aftermath, and 10 months later, all equipment and supplies were restored. In August, the squadron stood up the first of the medical group's residency programs. The clinic is the only one in AETC to do comprehensive exams on students during their first week on base.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — behavioral health outstanding team award. The staff reconstituted all of its services within six weeks after Katrina. The team's massive post-disaster outreach resulted in severe psychiatric illness rates under 1 percent compared to 11 percent off base. A two-person team screened and arranged permanent changes of station for more than 250 special needs identification families in less than two months, 200 percent above average. In spite of a 55 percent decrease in staff, the alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment staff doubled its cases and briefed 6,758 students.

81st Medical Support Squadron — medical logistics large activity. All medical warehouse assets were destroyed by Katrina's storm surge waters. Field hospital tents were erected shortly after the storm because of major flood damage at the medical center. The unit's storage



Captain Van Orden



Captain Hoisington



Sergeant Driggers



Sergeant Greenstreet



Colonel Henning



Airman Clement

buildings became a work refuge for several other MDSS functions due to loss of medical center work areas in the medical center. Unit personnel salvaged approximately \$300,000 worth of equipment from the medical center's ground floor. Capital equipment packages of \$8.1 million worth of lost or irreparably damaged equipment were completed in 14 days.

Individual winners are:

Capt. Stacey Van Orden, 81st MDSS nutritional medicine flight, company grade dietician. Captain Van Orden co-authored the \$2.4 million post-Katrina design plans for the medical center's dining facility, including \$67,000 for equipment replacement and kitchen rebuild. She ensured accountability and work for 15 civilians and 47 enlisted members during the post-Katrina recovery period. She

developed action plans for feeding capabilities during the kitchen renovation to provide patient feeding without operational facilities.

Capt. Ryan Hoisington, 81st MDSS pharmacy flight, Fred Coleman company grade officer pharmacist. Following Katrina, the captain directed a 500-prescriptions-a-day contingency pharmacy from a 100-square-foot office, then relocated to and built an efficient, high-volume pharmacy using basic hardware store supplies which produced 1,300 prescriptions daily. He was credited with restoring service for civilian prescriptions five months ahead of schedule and redesigned the temporary pharmacy layout, increasing storage and range of medications stocked by 25 percent and production capacity by 30 percent. He led the setup and start of service in the rebuilt main

pharmacy through \$1.5 million in medications and equipment serving more than 1,000 patients a day.

Tech. Sgt. Ellen Driggers, 81st MDSS medical logistics flight, medical materiel non-commissioned officer. When the 50,000-square-foot warehouse was lost after Katrina, Sergeant Driggers spearheaded a \$2 million supply and equipment purchase and supported more than 40 providers and 22,000 patients. She researched and procured \$50,000 in replacement equipment resulting in being 100 percent equipped to re-occupy the warehouse. She also coordinated removal of 15 tons of shelving with base recycling for a \$2,000 savings.

Master Sgt. Mark Greenstreet, 81st MDSS information management flight, medical information services senior NCO. Sergeant Greenstreet was cited for saving critical patient data

during Hurricane Katrina. He also facilitated installation and transition of the 6,500-line voice over internet protocol initiative, the largest in the Air Force. In addition, he successfully operated a 24/7 help desk which resolved 18,000 work orders, 88 percent of them completed in one day. Sergeant Greenstreet also facilitated a cellular contract change to resolve billing and equipment issues for improved service.

Lt. Col Barbara Henning, 81st Medical Group associate administrator, Commitment to Service Award. Colonel Henning spearheaded the 81st MDG's post-Katrina recovery efforts during which 948 staff members were relocated, 211 civilian employees were placed and 20 clinics stood up. She developed safety protocols that allowed re-occupancy of the medical center. She ensured the reconstitution of \$16 million worth of lost and damaged medical equipment and supplies. She synchronized activities between 81st MDG staff, base civil engineers and the contractor for the \$139 million rebuilding of the flooded 280,000-square-foot basement. She worked with the Air Force Health Facilities Office to move high-dollar, high-risk items out of the basement and designed plans to move 134 medical staff, equipment and furniture from four floors to allow for construction. She also worked the flood mitigation plan which installed flood doors and pumps in the basement.

Senior Airman Nicole Clement, 81st MDSS Tricare operations patient administration flight, health plan management airman. Airman Clement was part of the team that relocated and safeguarded more than 100,000 medical records from Katrina's storm surge. She was involved in the medical center's first records retirement in three years which retired 156 boxes with no discrepancies. She directed the transfer and labeling of 500 records, completing the one-week suspense in two days. She was also recognized for pulling

Please see **Awards**, Page 12

Awards,

from Page 11

60,000 patient records for six clinics, exceeding Air Force goals by having 96 percent of the records available.

Master Sgt. Angelo Plaza, 81st MDSS radiology flight, Chief Master Sgt. Anton Zembrod diagnostic imaging senior NCO. Sergeant Plaza was credited with rebuilding the diagnostic imaging flight following the loss of 75 percent of its equipment and a 50 percent personnel turnover because of Katrina. He jump-started ultrasound services with only 25 percent manning after mass permanent change of station moves, with no loss of patient care service. He installed three new ultrasound units for cardiac and obstetrical imaging. He negotiated a \$100,000 ultrasound civilian contract resulting in seamless ultrasound services despite 50 percent base and Air Force-wide manning shortages. He also converted an ultrasound suite for mammography so service was available two months sooner than post-Katrina projections.

Tech. Sgt. David Boggs, 81st MDSS radiology flight, Chief Master Sgt. Anton Zembrod diagnostic imaging NCO. Sergeant Boggs coordinated radiation safety officer activities and training for five units, critical to restarting the medical center's training programs. He was credited with rebuilding nuclear medicine to its pre-Katrina state with 25 percent of previous manning. He coordinated a \$38,000 upgrade



Sergeant Plaza



Sergeant Boggs



Ms. Biglane



Sergeant Koehler



Airman Casas



Major Roberts

to a digital-ready, bone densitometry unit which increased efficiency and versatility by 50 percent and was instrumental in bridging a new \$1.8 million nuclear medicine contract, performing a market survey and obtaining bids.

Ms. Lynette Biglane, 81st MDSS radiology flight, Chief Master Sgt. Anton Zembrod diagnostic imaging civilian.

Ms. Biglane, regarded as the Air Force's top Phase II instructor, filled many non-traditional roles after 55 post-hurricane personnel departed. She authored 160 quizzes for Air Force-wide implementation at 13 sites. She taught 30 diagnostic imaging quality control classes and authored a detailed newcomer's orientation book which streamlined in-process-

ing procedures that now serves as the industry standard. Her review of radiology's master training plan found and corrected 47 errors.

Tech. Sgt. George Koehler, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron surgical services flight, surgical services NCO. Sergeant Koehler set up central sterile supply after Hurricane Katrina, resulting in uninter-

rupted service to four critical patient care areas. He helped relocate expeditionary medical support tents when Hurricane Rita threatened, protecting \$500,000 in assets and reestablishing capabilities in 90 minutes. As the sole operating room technician deployed to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, he established full operations within 24 hours of arrival and provided 24/7 surgical support to frontline troops with 300 coalition forces treated.

Senior Airman Vanessa Casas, 81st MSGS surgical services flight, surgical services airman. Airman Casas ensured continuity of care by relocating \$2 million in equipment to an alternate facility after Katrina. She was instrumental in removing EMEDS equipment and supplies in 90 minutes when Hurricane Rita was a threat, saving the medical group \$500,000 in medical assets. In addition, she recycled \$2.5 million in operating room supplies damaged by Katrina, increasing critical equipment and supply storage by 40 percent. She performed 80 operating room procedures for seven specialties. She was also deployed to Balad AB, Iraq.

Maj. Teresa Roberts, former 81st MSS airman and family readiness flight commander, field grade social worker of the year. Major Roberts now attends Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. Under her leadership, the family support center was named the best in AETC and the Air Force for its actions to assist military members, their families, retirees and the surrounding communities in Hurricane Katrina's wake.

Keesler Airman supports Ford's state funeral

**Air Force Print News
and Keesler News staff**

Almost 4,000 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard members geared up to support the national farewell to former President Gerald Ford.

Keesler supported the effort by sending Tech. Sgt. Daniel Neely, 81st Training Wing Public Affairs noncommissioned officer in charge.

Sergeant Neely arrived in Palm Desert, Calif., Dec. 28 in response to a short-notice tasking.

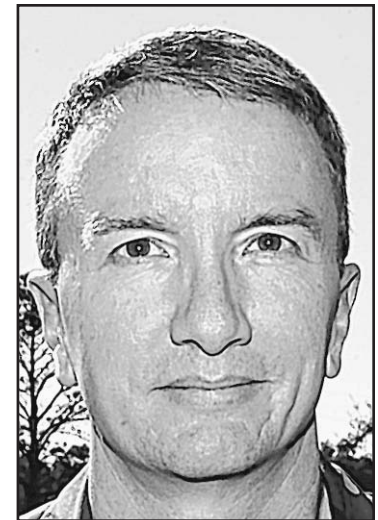
While at Palm Desert, Sergeant Neely helped plan and execute the media program in support of the former president's state funeral within the joint information bureau.

"My roles ranged from working behind the scenes printing up hundreds of press kits, to responding to media queries, to the visible role of escorting national media," said Sergeant Neely. "It was definitely encouraging to hear from our JIB leadership that the Ford family was very pleased with how smoothly the overall media operation unfolded."

"This is DOD's way of showing respect and honor to a former commander in chief and president, so it's very important to us," said Army Col. Jim Yonts, public affairs officer for the Military District of Washington.

The military's experience in planning, attention to detail and execution makes it ideally suited to conducting state funerals honoring former presidents, Colonel Yonts said.

"It ensures the synchronization of many, many moving parts, with ground assets, air assets, intelligence assets and all kinds of other assets coming together to ensure a safe



Sergeant Neely

and secure state funeral that properly honors a former commander in chief and president," he said.

The MDW, operating as the Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region, served as the Defense Department's command and control headquarters for the funeral activities. Military support ranged from color guards and honorary pallbearers to airlift and other transportation to logistics, Colonel Yonts said.

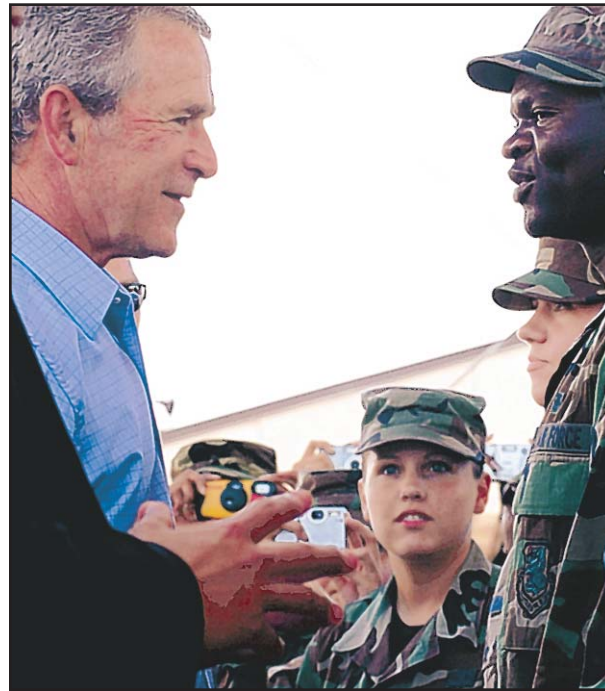
About 100 members of a joint-service honor guard from throughout the National Capital Region supported the state funeral.

Sergeant Neely said the experience was a great opportunity.

"I think it was awe inspiring to see the level of teamwork required to bring about a successful state funeral," he said. "While it was obviously a very somber time, at the same time I thought it was a unique privilege to both witness and be a part of history."

Second Lt. Nick Plante, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.

Looking through the lens — Keesler marks memorable 2006



Left, President George Bush talks to Senior Airman Ngwa Ntumgia, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, Aug. 29 on the flight line. The president visited the base before reviewing Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in surrounding areas.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo Jr. Right, Barry Newman, 81st Training Wing, makes a donation to the first sergeants' penny wars fundraiser for the Air Force Assistance Fund. In 2006, Keesler collected \$61,711, or 197 percent of its goal, for the AFAF drive, and \$254,867, or 211 percent of its goal, for the Combined Federal Campaign.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Photo by Mike Jones

The 332nd TRS color guard and state flag team march in the North Bay Carnival Association's Mardi Gras parade in D'Iberville Feb. 26. The students were among the 27,116 graduates in the 81st Training Group during fiscal 2006.

Denise Nichols of Biloxi, wife of Navy retiree Thomas Nichols, receives medication from Maj. Beth Dion Aug. 31 at Keesler Medical Center. Major Dion, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., provided manning assistance in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath. Storm repairs and equipment replacement totaled \$138 million. Limited inpatient services resumed Aug. 15, and four surgical suites opened in November.

Photo by Steve Pivnick



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airman Jamie Gott, 335th TRS, wheels Veronica Nickelson of Natchez across the finish line in the 25-meter race during the Special Olympics Mississippi State Summer Games hosted by Keesler in May. Athletes stayed in the dorms with Keesler students, and the base's military and civilian members volunteered during the weekend events.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Ten-year-old Autumn Bright, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Larry and Paula Bright, 336th Training Squadron, paints a ceramic heart at the arts and crafts center during Keesler's 65th birthday celebration June 14. The base also kicked off its year-long observance of the Air Force's 60th anniversary with activities Sept. 18.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airman 1st Class Justin Mayfield, left, and Airman Basic Andrew Redd, students in the airborne mission systems specialist course in the 332nd TRS, train in Dolan Hall with Tech. Sgt. Brian Sommers, their instructor. The last Keesler class graduated Dec. 19. The course moves to the Career Enlisted Aviator Center, Lackland AFB, Texas.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Excavator operator Rick Lacla levels a home in South Pinehaven that was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina's storm surge. Dec. 14, the last home was leveled before construction of 1,067 new homes begins early in 2007. It's the largest military housing construction project in Air Force history at a cost of \$287.8 million.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airman Basic Alex Hight, 334th TRS, stocks housewares at the Biloxi Salvation Army Center last February. Since Hurricane Katrina devastated south Mississippi nearly 17 months ago, Keesler has donated more than 62,000 volunteer hours to humanitarian projects in surrounding communities.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Senior Airmen Meagan and Patrick Costello, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, fix their plates at a Nov. 8 luncheon honoring personnel who recently returned from deployments and their families. Meagan was deployed to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. More than 80 Keesler members were deployed in an average week during 2006.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Cody Hall, a \$23.5 million training facility dedicated March 28, houses 239 rooms, including 179 classrooms for courses conducted by the 334th and 338th TRS. Old Cody Hall, which was slated for demolition, serves as a temporary location for offices displaced by Hurricane Katrina.



Patrick Drouilhet, left, reviews a homeowner grant application from Senior Master Sgt. Tina Shaw, 81st Training Wing competitive sourcing office, and Louie Shaw, 81st CES. The Keesler Service Center processed \$73,620,000 in applications from homeowners who sustained flood damage from Hurricane Katrina in homes outside designated flood zones.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

Program aids transition to private sector

By 2nd Lt. Nick Plante

Keesler News staff

Counselors at Keesler's Airman and Family Readiness Center feel all retiring or separating military members, federal employees and their spouses should attend the transition assistance program.

The center offers transition assistance to a majority of qualified Airmen.

"As people get ready for transitioning out, people have to get away from military jargon, and start using civilian terminology," according to Steve McDaniel, the center's transition assistance specialist.

"The goal of TAP is to equip separating and retiring Department of Defense civilian, military personnel and their families with skills and knowledge to re-enter the private sector," said Lana Smith, the center's community readiness consultant.

Mr. McDaniel used the program before retiring from the military after 22 years of service. He credited it for giving him and his family a plan, in turn reducing the stress that comes along with change.

As the Air Force shapes the force and reduces its size by about 40,000 Airmen, Mr. McDaniel said it's time to plan ahead.

The center offers counseling individually for a more specific perspective or in group settings for people experiencing the same challenges.

"We offer members the things they can do based on their knowledge, their training and their skills," said Mr. McDaniel. "Don't be shy of the fact that you have a resistance to change factor built in. You're going to experience some stress, but take that stress and turn it into a positive motivator."

Most people, along with their families, experience some kind of stress during life changes like career moves. Questions pertaining to their futures arise and the center can help answer those questions.

The center offers a three-day briefing committed just to transition assistance, a one-day Veterans Affairs briefing and a one-day retirement briefing. Military spouses are also encouraged to attend the briefings.

The three-day briefing offers tips and suggests how to deal with stress, research a career, actively search for a job, prepare for interviews, review job offers and negotiate the terms of prospective job offers.

The seminar also allows participants an opportunity to network among themselves.

"One other great thing about this workshop is they get to network in the work-

shop," said Mr. McDaniel.

The people in the class discuss job opportunities among themselves and teach each other what they have experienced or learned outside the seminar.

Attending the seminar at least twice is recommended in order to have enough time to absorb all the information.

"We encourage every military member on this base to attend two workshops 18-22 months prior to retirement or separation," said Mr. McDaniel.

"For people with many years of service, for whom this life change is more drastic, they are encouraged to attend 18-24 months in advance and if possible again six to 12 months prior to separation," said Ms. Smith.

The Air Force requires separating and retiring members to complete the Defense Department Form 2648, pre-separation counseling checklist, 90 days prior to separa-

tion or as soon as possible for short-notice separations.

The counseling received from the form provides limited information and includes Web addresses for more information.

The center staff thinks the counseling from DD Form 2648 is better for short-notice separations than for people who know they will be retiring several years down the road.

The three-day TAP seminar requires the attendee's full commitment. Units must release members from their jobs so they can and be fully obligated to the seminar. Attendees are required to wear casual business attire.

Retiring or separating military or federal civilian members interested in the briefings, call 377-2179 or 8593.

"When they leave us, they leave us with a wealth of knowledge," Mr. McDaniel said.

Part-time jobs

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is accepting applicants for part-time positions at the temporary mini-mart scheduled to open March 1.

Apply online for positions at <http://www.aafes.com>.

Food handler training

Before units or individuals may operate a temporary food service or unit fundraiser, the booth manager must have food-handling training.

The booth manager is responsible for all operations and ensures that the unit complies with U.S. Public Health Services Food Code, 2005. Failure to comply may result in reduced operation or booth closure if the product could put the base population at risk

Who's who

Juanita Mullins, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, has been selected for inclusion in the 2006-07 edition of the Cambridge Who's Who registry of executives and professionals. She's been a clinical nurse at Keesler Medical Center in the post-anesthesia care unit since 1994. She came to Keesler in 1992 as a clinical nurse in the surgery department.



of a food-borne illness.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Ronald Miller or Airman 1st Class Daniel Sims at public health, 376-3161 or 3155.

TeamKid

TeamKid, a chapel program for children, meets 4-5:30 p.m. Sundays in the Triangle Chapel Annex.

For more information, call 377-2520.

Blood drives

To schedule mobile blood drives, call Jill Peterson, 377-9324.

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 in Mississippi and Louisiana.

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

Mail delivery

Office mail must be picked up and mailed at Room C8, Building 0901, 708 Fisher

Street between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and working Fridays.

The deadline for same-day mail and Federal Express is 1:30 p.m.

For more information call 377-4060 or 3292.

Thrift shop

The thrift shop in the former Chapel One building is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, with consignments accepted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays.

For more information, call 377-3217.

Child care cutbacks

Due to budget constraints and cutbacks, the family child care mildly-ill program is discontinued until further notice.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Air Force Academy football has former Falcon at helm

Air Force Print News

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Air Force head football coach Troy Calhoun met local and regional media Jan. 4 for the first time since becoming the sixth coach in school history Dec. 22.

Calhoun, a 1989 graduate of the academy, is the first graduate to hold the position.

“What we have to do, first and foremost, is to let our current players know that the priority is here (with them),” Calhoun said. “We’re going to have to go out and recruit very hard the rest of January and there on out.

Setting priorities

“We want to be very competitive and winning the Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy is a high priority,” Calhoun commented. “Is it ‘the’ priority? I think it’s more than one (priority). But that’s definitely one of them. We want to repeatedly play in bowl games. We want to be very competitive from a championship standpoint in the Mountain West Conference.”

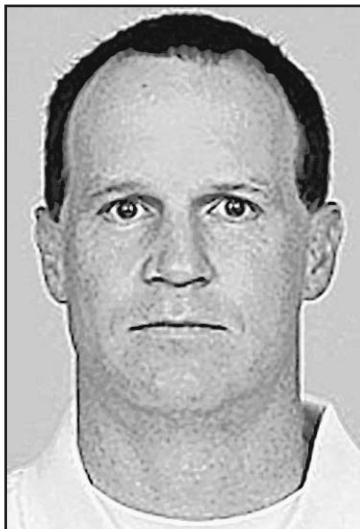
NFL experience

Calhoun has become a well-rounded coach in the National Football League.

Prior to his return to the academy, Calhoun was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach for the Houston Texans in 2006.

Before that, he began his NFL coaching career in 2003 as an assistant with the Denver Broncos, working as a defensive assistant, special teams assistant and offensive assistant. He was a part of the NFL’s fourth-ranked defense. The Broncos defense ranked seventh against the run and sixth against the pass. Denver’s defense yielded a mere 17.6 points per game as the team made the playoffs for the first time since 2000.

Prior to the NFL, Calhoun



Calhoun

was an offensive coordinator for six seasons on the collegiate level.

He began his coaching career at Air Force where he worked as a graduate assistant from 1989-90. He started at quarterback for the Air Force Academy in 1986 and was a four-year letter winner. He was one of only two freshmen to letter for the 1985 team that finished fifth in the final polls with a 12-1 record.

Calhoun served from 1989-95 as an active duty officer in the Air Force. He was the Falcons’ recruiting coordinator and the junior varsity offensive coordinator in 1993-94.

He moved to Ohio University in 1995 where he served as quarterbacks coach for two seasons and was promoted to offensive coordinator in 1997. Calhoun guided the play of quarterback Kareem Wilson, the Mid-American Conference Player of the Year in 1996. Wilson set a pair of Ohio records with 282 rushing yards and four rushing touchdowns against Bowling Green, and an Ohio record with 14 rushing touchdowns in 1996.

Calhoun moved to Wake Forest in 2001, where the Demon Deacons were one of only seven teams to score more

than 30 points in each of the final four games. During his second season, Wake Forest led the Atlantic Coast Conference in total offense with 408.1 yards per game. His offense had a league-best 990 plays. The offense was efficient with the ball with only 16 turnovers, least in the ACC.

4 assistants remain

At the news conference, Calhoun also announced five members of his staff.

Brian Knorr, Blane Morgan, Jemal Singleton and Charlton Warren, all Falcon coaches from Fisher DeBerry’s staff and academy graduates, remain.

Knorr enters his third consecutive season at Air Force and sixth overall as a coach. A 1986 graduate of the academy and a three-year letter winner as a quarterback, Knorr was the head coach at Ohio University from 2000-2004.

Morgan enters his sixth season as an assistant coach. A 1999 graduate of the academy, Morgan was 20-3 as a starting quarterback for Air Force, guiding the team to a 12-1 record in 1998.

Singleton enters his fifth season on the Falcon coaching staff. Also a 1999 graduate, Singleton helped lead the Falcons to 10 or more wins in back-to-back seasons for the first time in school history as a halfback.

Warren enters his third season as a Falcon assistant coach. A third member of the class of 1999, Warren was a three-year letter winner for Air Force as a defensive back.

New staffer hired

Calhoun also announced the addition of Brian Schneider, former assistant coach for tight ends and special teams at Iowa State, to the staff. Schneider is a 1994 Colorado State graduate and also has coached at CSU and UCLA.

SCORES AND MORE

Basketball

Women's varsity schedule

Today — at Faulkner State (Mobile).

Saturday-Sunday — at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

Jan. 20-21 — Eglin AFB, Fla.

Feb. 10-11 — at Mayport.

Feb. 23-25 — Southeastern Military Athletic Conference tournament at Ft. Benning.

Home games: 2 p.m. Saturdays, 10 a.m. Sundays at Blake Fitness Center. If Blake is unavailable due to floor replacement project, games move to Dragon Fitness Center. In the event of scheduling conflicts at Dragon, some games may be moved off-base.

For more information, call Richard Vincent, head coach, 343-9951, or Teddy Johnson, assistant coach, 376-3057.

Holiday tournament

81st Training Group — 332nd Training Squadron-A, first place; 332nd TRS-B, second; 338th TRS-A, third.

Bowling

Winter leagues — sign up for 6:30 p.m. Monday competitive "Bud" league; 6 p.m. Tuesdays, intramural; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday and/or Friday, adult family mixed; 9 a.m. Thursdays, women and seniors; 11 a.m. Saturdays, youth.

Tuesdays — Gulfport Seabee Base personnel bowl for half price.

Thursdays — teenagers bowl for \$5.

Saturdays — bowling birthday parties, \$7 per child includes two hours bowling, shoes and food package. Birthday child bowls free. Reservations required.

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

Bowl-a-rama — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, two hours for \$9.95 including shoes (\$16 value); 4 p.m. to closing Monday-Saturday, two hours for \$10.95 including shoes (\$17.25 value).

Nonprior service students open bowling special — show your UBU club card to bowl for \$1.50 per game until 4 p.m. Saturdays, \$2 game Monday-Saturday after \$4. Shoe rental, \$1. Not applicable with other discounts or specials.

Limited bowling — Jan. 20 and 27 during tournament.

Fitness centers

Aerobics — openings for certified instructors.

For more information, call 377-8380.

Massage therapist — available by appointment only at Triangle Fitness Center. For more information or to schedule appointment, call 263-5515.

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. The basketball court is closed for repairs and renovations.

Dragon Fitness Center — open 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. workdays. Basketball court is open. Parent-child fitness room open 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays. Parental supervision required.

For more information, call 377-2907.

Triangle Fitness Center — open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays and weekends; closed holidays.

For more information, call 377-3056.

Golf

Bay Breeze — course closed until October. Golfers encouraged to play at the Seabee Base's Pine Bayou Course in Gulfport. For more information, call 871-2494. St. Andrews, Gulf Hills, Bay Vista and Great Southern Club courses offer military discounts.

Bay Breeze driving range — driving range open 7 a.m. to dusk daily. Bucket of 30 balls costs \$2.

Golf lessons — \$25 for 30 minutes. For an appointment, call 377-3832 or 348-7589.

Outdoor recreation

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

Back Bay fishing trips — Jan. 13 and 27; \$15 per person, maximum eight people. Call for reservations.

Children's wildlife poster contest — win \$100 or \$50 savings bond. For more information, call 377-3160.

January special — 10 percent off rental equipment.

Pontoon boat training — required before rental.

For more information, call 377-3160.

Marina park pavilions — to reserve, call 377-3160.

Soccer

Base team — coaches and players interested in forming a Keesler team for tournament at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, call Laurence Wilson, 377-2444.

Tennis

Women's clinics and league — beginner/intermediate (2.5-3.0) clinics, 9 a.m. Mondays, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Jefferson Davis campus, Debuys Road, Gulfport. League play begins in February.

For more information, call Shannon Howard, 239-5827.

Youth center

Basketball — registration through Jan. 19, ages 6 and older.

Taekwondo — 5 p.m. ages 3-5 and 6 p.m. ages 6 and older, Mondays and Wednesdays; \$35 per month members; \$40 non-members. For more information, call 377-4116.

DIGEST

HONORS

Quarterly awards, October-December

81st Training Group

Airman — Senior Airman Nancy Rahmaan, 334th Training Squadron.

Noncommissioned officer — Tech. Sgt. Brian Yelton, 81st Training Support Squadron.

Senior NCO — Master Sgt. Gabriel Lacayo, 335th TRS.

Company grade officer — Capt. Michael Wrey, 81st TRSS.

Entry level civilian — Jasper Davis, 333rd TRS.

Field grade officer — Maj. James O'Donnell, 332nd TRS.

Intermediate level civilian — Robin Gardner, 335th TRS.

Senior level civilian — Debbie Davis, 335th TRS.

Airman instructor — Senior Airman Richard Fasnacht, 334th TRS.

NCO instructor — Staff Sgt. Michael Bangora, 334th TRS.

Senior NCO instructor — Master Sgt. Sidney Hataway, 333rd TRS.

Officer instructor — Capt. Pamela DeFazio, 335th TRS.

Civilian instructor — Pahl Moore, 335th TRS.

Military training leader — Tech. Sgt. Steven Joyce, 81st TRSS.

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic John Avera, Justin Deatherage, Amanda Eckert, Matthew Foster, Garrett Clark, Ryan Garcia, Robert Hardison, David Hoffert, Johan Holtz, Erika Lateer, Christopher Livingston, Gregory Luedtke, Patrick Merwin, Michelle Messimer, Eric Miles, Billy Patrick, Alisha Pochmara, Joshua Sacasa, Nicholaus Schwall and David Whitehead; Airmen Robert Austin, Benjamin Eckman, Jordan Gunter, Nathaniel Maidel, Darcey Saurey, Stephen Trevizo, Richard VanHynning; Airmen 1st Class Mark Alexander, Nicholas Bobzien, James Bullock, James Caulder, Micahel Garner, Matthew Habart, Richard Hansen, Logan Hatcher, Nicholas Lafollette, Dekovan Lewis, Daniel Melancon, Shawn Meyer, Sean Mondello, Ulysses Parks, Aaron Pederson, Anthony Prince, Gabriel Sanchez, Shane Sellers, Shawn Shaw, Terry Turner, Johnatan Wermann and Paul Wert; Staff Sgt. William Adams; Tech. Sgt. Kenyon DeGreene.

334th TRS

Command post apprentice course — Airmen Basic Alissa Laughton, Andrew Menard and Joshua Recla; Airmen 1st Class Amanda Avila and David Noonan; Staff Sgts Michael Castleberry and Jonilynn Reyes; Tech. Sgts. Jon Colon, Paul Czechowicz and Nancy Huber.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2520.

Roman Catholic

Saturday Mass

Triangle Chapel.....5 p.m.

Sunday Mass

Triangle Chapel.....9 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-Jummah 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.

335th TRS

Comptroller training flight — Airmen Basic Jennifer Meshaw, Aymee Rodriguez, Joshua Sanford and Zachary Sickler; Airmen Richard Haas and Matthew Long; Airmen 1st Class Teresa Davis, Jesse Shiner, Nathan Smith and Jessica Stull; Staff Sgts. Sherry Holmes, Zaka McCoy, Tiffany Tatum and Jeffrey Tengonciang; Tech. Sgts. Paul Butts and Michael Johnson.

Personnel apprentice course — Airmen Basic Amberlyn Brown and Raphael Jean; Airmen 1st Class MaryKathryn Dyer, Judea Paul, Matthew Steele and Alicia Williams; Senior Airmen Nicole Arena and Anna Wiesman; Staff Sgts. Christopher Washington and Jason Derry.

Weather training flight — Airman 1st Class William Cammarn; Navy Airman Pauline VanCamp-Loy; Tech. Sgts. Steven Bass and Jason Neugebauer.

338th TRS

Radar systems flight — Airmen Charles Boyd and Daniel O'Brien; Airmen 1st Class Ian Fitchpatrick and James Lewis.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday

Editor's note: Hours reflect changes in observance of the Martin Luther King Birthday federal holiday, Monday. Any exchange facilities not listed are closed.

Keesler News — closed.

Commissary — 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mini-mall — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Furniture store — closed.

Class Six — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Service station — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Military clothing sales — closed.

Katrina Hot Dogs and Pizza — closed.

Seattle's Best Coffee — closed.

Mobile units — closed.

Subway — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

General Nutrition Center — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Beauty shop — closed.

Barber shop — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Laundry and dry cleaning — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CZee CyberZone — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

At Ease Apparel — closed Sunday, Monday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Force One Rental — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Enterprise Car Rental — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Inns of Keesler — open 24 hours.

Arts and crafts center — closed.

Auto hobby shop — closed.

Bay Breeze Golf Course — closed.

Child development center — closed.

Family child care office — closed.

Live Oak Dining Facility — 7:30-9 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Magnolia Dining Facility — 7:30-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Azalea Dining Facility — closed.

Blake Fitness Center — 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Dragon and Triangle fitness centers — closed.

Gaudé Lanes — closed.

Information, ticket and trip office — closed.

Katrina Kantina — closed.

Mini-mart — open 24 hours.

McBride Library — closed.

Outdoor recreation — 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Vandenberg Community Center — noon to 6 p.m.

Halftime Café — closed.

Veterinary clinic — closed.

Youth center — closed.

Car wash — open 24 hours.

Fam camp — open 24 hours.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 07-2 — graduation Feb. 15.

Class 07-3 — Feb. 21-March 29.

Class 07-4 — April 16-May 23.

Class 07-5 — June 5-July 12.

Class 07-6 — Aug. 3-Sept. 12.

Class 07-7 — Sept. 18-Oct. 26.

Please see **Digest**, Page 22

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.

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year until retirement, 8-11 a.m. today, Feb. 8, March 8, April 12, May 3, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1 and Dec. 6, in Room 151, old Cody Hall. To pre-register, call Lana Smith, 377-8593 or 2179 or e-mail lana.smith@keesler.af.mil.

Palace Chase briefings — 10 a.m. first two working Fridays of the month, Room 203, Garrard Hall. For more information, call Master Sgt. Joseph Walker, 377-2116.

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.bluetogray.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 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>.

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 opportuni-

ties" for job opportunities for active duty and family members. For more information, call 377-8592 or 8593.

Employment opportunities

Executive transition assistance program — <https://www-r.aetc.af.mil/dp/etap>. Online registration dates are March 5-15 for May 8-11 program at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; June 5-14 for Aug. 21-24 at Little Rock AFB, Ark.; and Sept. 12-21 for Nov. 27-30, 2007 program at Randolph.

Junior ROTC — immediate employment opportunities for retired or retiring Air Force officers and noncommissioned officers. Those who retired within the past 10 years or are six months from retirement may qualify to be an instructor. To apply or for more information, go to <http://www.afoats.af.mil> and select "AFJROTC" or call Jo Alice Talley, toll free 1-866-235-7682, extension 7742; DSN 493-7742, or commercial (334) 953-7742.

Opportunities for medics — for members separating from active duty interested in the Air Force Reserve or the Palace Chase programs, call Master Sgt. Joseph Walker, 377-7116, for an appointment. His office is in Room 229, old Cody Hall.

Opportunities for medics — the Air Force Reserve needs flight surgeons, doctors, dentists and nurses. Some opportunities are available with the 403rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Keesler. Eligible members enjoy many military benefits of being in the military and earn retirement credit, while serving two days per month of inactive training and two weeks of active duty training each year. Some members may be eligible for signing bonus or loan repayment. For more information call Tech. Sgt. George Adams, health professions recruiter, 377-7655 or e-mail george.adams@keesler.af.mil.

MEETINGS

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

Recurring

African-American Heritage Committee — 3:30 p.m. second Tuesday of the month, Room 109, Taylor Logistics Building. For more informa-

tion, 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.

Airmen Against Drunk Driving — 3:15 p.m. first Tuesday of the month, Vandenberg Community Center second floor conference room. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Brian Yelton, 377-0167, or e-mail keesler.aadd.officers@keesler.af.mil.

At Eze Toastmasters Club — 11 a.m. 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 Amateur Radio Club — 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Hangar 3, Room 215. Check out the club repeater on 146.79 negative offset. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Justin Meyer, 377-4149 or 324-5806, or e-mail justin.meyer2@keesler.af.mil.

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

Keesler Spouses Club — meets the second Tuesday of the month. For time and location, call Tammie Searfass, 273-4324, or visit <http://www.KeeslerSpousesClub.com>.

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 the month, Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call Larry McKean, 377-3252 or 374-5922.

Rising VI Association — 3:15 p.m. third Wednesday of the month in Room 121, Thompson Hall. For more information, call Staff Sgts. Patrick McKimmie, 377-1513, or James Pope, 377-1305.

MOVIES

Editor's note: Movies are 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.

Friday — 6:30 p.m., Turistas (R, 92 minutes).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Unaccompanied Minors (PG, 89 minutes); 6:30 p.m., Casino Royale (PG-13, 144 minutes).

Sunday — 2 p.m., The Holiday (PG-13, 132 minutes).