



KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

Volume 69, No. 1
Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008



Deliver the nation's best trained, highly motivated expeditionary Airmen

INSIDE

COMMENTARY

Safety and mission, **2**

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Santa's helpers, **5**

NEWS AND FEATURES

2 earn Bronze Stars, **8**

Bicycle safety, **11**

Dragon of Week, **12**

Housing update, **13**

A-76 buyouts, **14**

Golden Girl Scout, **16**

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Dragons done, **19**

SECTIONS

Commentary.....**2-4**

Training, education....**5-7**

News, features.....**8-18**

Sports, recreation.....**19-20**

Digest.....**21-23**

Classifieds.....**24-25**

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



Dragons deployed
— 209

Keesler targets wasteful practices



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Colonel Touhill is confident that every Keesler unit can make more effective use of its resources.

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

As a youngster growing up in Franklin Park, Pa., Keesler's commander developed a great admiration for Benjamin Franklin.

That "penny saved is a penny earned" philosophy is coming in handy for Col. Greg Touhill, 81st Training Wing commander, as he spearheads the base's Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century crusade.

"The lessons of Ben Franklin and our other founding fathers resonate true with me," said the colonel, Keesler's commander since Oct. 1. "Our citizens want to be sure that their money is being spent in a responsible, fair fashion for the right things. Every time I sign a check, I realize that it's the people's money, and I'm going to treat it with the same vigilance as if it were coming out of my own pocket. I hope every Keesler Airman feels the same way."

The primary goal of AFSO21 is to eliminate wasted time, manpower and money so necessary resources are available to carry out the mission. AFSO21 borrows some of the best principles from the corporate world and applies them to Air Force organization, processes and structure.

"AFSO21 should be important not only to the men and women of

Keesler, but to all Americans," Colonel Touhill said. "We have to be smarter about how we spend our money."

Americans pay a healthy chunk of their hard-earned money in taxes, according to the colonel. Military expenses continue to rise while revenues are fairly flat, resulting in a budget gap between what the Air Force has and what it needs.

"No one wants to see taxes raised, but we're a nation at war and war is expensive," he stressed. "The math doesn't add up if we continue to do business the same way in a wartime requirement without raising additional revenue."

Increased energy consumption coupled with spiraling fuel prices is just one of the cost drivers facing the Air Force, the largest fuel consumer in the federal government.

Colonel Touhill cited Air Mobility Command sources that said the amount of fuel the Air Force has passed to its forces since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks is about the equivalent of the water that passes over Niagara Falls in 23 minutes.

"With fuel prices rising, that costs the Air Force, and our nation, a huge amount of money," Colonel Touhill said. "As such, we have to look for

Please see **Waste**, Page 9

AFSO21
Air Force Smart Ops For The 21st Century

Watch
this space
for AFSO21
metrics
at Keesler.

COMMENTARY

Safety one of key ingredients to mission accomplishment

By Col. Greg Touhill

81st Training Wing commander

Whew! 2007 is behind us and a new year has begun! The men and women of Keesler can look back on 2007 as a year full of great accomplishments — what a great year it was! However, we can't rest on our laurels; we have to look forward to the future and the promise of a better tomorrow.

While we begin each new year with resolutions and goals about what affects us personally — diet, exercise, savings, etc. — all of us in service to our country must keep in mind the importance of accomplishing our mission. One of the keys of getting the job done is keeping everyone safe and injury-free.

Emphasis on workplace safety should be first and foremost in our minds. It's easy to forget about the inherent dangers where you work, but just going through the motions leads to carelessness and, sad to say, workplace injuries. Be deliberate at all times, because being mindful of what you are doing can be the difference between getting home to supper or taking a trip to the hospital. Be aware of your fellow workers as well, and do your best to keep them out of harm's way, wingman-style.

Another part of our mission is to keep our bodies in the best possible physical condition; however, we have to remember while getting into shape, we also have to stay injury-free. I like to go to the gym on a regular basis and every year I see all the new folks in the gym during January. Maybe you are one who has resolved to get to the gym more often in this new year. If so, welcome! Before you try to get those six-pack abs or run the four minute mile, do the smart things first. Start with a visit with our great HAWC and Gym staffs to find the best exercise program to meet your goals and body type. Set a schedule to keep

you coming back even after the temptation to quit appears and get a workout wingman to go with you; people "hang in there" when they have a wingman. When you do get out, make sure you do a good warm-up routine as loosening and stretching before hitting the gym or the track will keep you from pulling muscles and being laid up for days. If you want to "pump it up" with weights, always have a spotter, because if you're pushing yourself, you just might need some help with that last rep. Finally, when running, save the headphones for authorized areas and be aware of others around you — getting your legs tangled up with a fellow jogger can lead to scrapes, bruises and worse.

Getting home from work doesn't mean we stop thinking of safety. Your home can be just as dangerous as the workplace.

In our high-tech world we must avoid "octopus plugs" which allow many cords to be plugged into a single receptacle. A short circuit can easily lead to a house fire. To the amateur gourmets out there, never leave cooking unattended — nearly 50 percent of deaths in home cooking fires occur because the cook took a break. Getting home safely is one of our goals — staying healthy at home so you can get back to work is another.

These are just a few things that come to mind when we think of safety. I'm depending on every one of you to be aware of these and other safety issues. I want to underscore the fact that protecting people on and off the job is in everyone's best interest. Our families, our fellow workers and our nation depend on us to be on the job and in our best form all the time.

We have a lot to accomplish this year, and your attendance is required. With that in mind, let me wish the men and women of Keesler the very best — and safest — 2008 possible.

ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

By Col. Greg Touhill

81st Training Wing commander

You're encouraged to work concerns through your chain of command or contact an appropriate helping agent. For unresolved issues, call the commander's action line for assistance.

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

Items of general interest

A-76 hotline — 376-8176
Airmen and family readiness center — 377-2179
Base locator — 377-2890
Base operator — 377-1110
Base taxi (official use) — 377-2430
Career assistance adviser — 377-3697
Central medical appointments — 1-800-700-8603
Child development center — 377-2211
Civil engineering — 377-5561
Civilian personnel — 377-2268
Military personnel flight — 377-2276
Keesler Federal Credit Union — 385-5500
Emergencies — 911
Family campground — 594-0543
Finance — 377-4212
81st Communications Squadron help desk — 377-0066
Housing — 377-9741
Identification cards — 377-3203
Inspector general — 377-3010
Legal assistance — 377-3510
Library — 377-2181
Lodging (reservations) — 377-



Colonel Touhill

may appear in this column.

For your convenience, here are Some key customer service phone numbers at Keesler:

9986
Medical center information — 377-6550
Military equal opportunity — 377-2759
Military pay — 377-7272
Pass and registration — 377-3844
Pharmacy (refill call-in) — 376-1000
Satellite pharmacy — 377-9791
Public affairs — 377-2783
Red Cross — 377-0732
Sexual assault prevention and response team — 377-8635
Law enforcement desk — 377-3040
SARC 24-hour hotline (to report sexual assaults) — 477-7278
Shoppette, Class Six — 432-2367
Telephone trouble — 377-2130
Traffic management (outbound) — 377-2446
Traffic management (inbound) — 377-7813
Visitor center — 377-2595
Youth center — 377-4116

Drinking + driving = deadly duo.

No. 1 in Air Force,
2004, 1997.

No. 1 in AETC,
2004, 1998, 1996;
No. 2, 2006, 2003,
2001, 1999, 1997,
1991, 1989, 1986;

No. 3, 2005, 2002,
1995;

honorable mention,
1992.

81st Training Wing commander

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

The Keesler News office is in Room 201A, Wall Studio, Building 0902. The mailing address: 81TRW/ PAIN, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2120. Phone: 377-4130, 3837, 7340, 9966. Published Thursday. News deadline: noon Monday. Editorial content edited, prepared and provided by the 81st TRW Public Affairs Office in compliance with Air Force journalistic standards. Photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

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Fitness critical to warfighting mission

By Col. (Dr.) Kathleen Elmer

81st Medical Operations Squadron commander

The fitness requirement outlined in Air Force Instruction 10-248 attempts to assist Air Force members in maintaining a level of fitness critical to our warfighting mission.

As deployments increase in frequency and length, physical fitness is mandatory. The general measures of aerobic and non-aerobic fitness, including the run, bike, walk test and push-ups and crunches, abdominal circumference tests, respectively, not only have health implications but also are deployment prognostic factors. Unfit members are likely to be unable to move quickly under fire and a liability to themselves and others.

Although many of us have sedentary

jobs during peace time, the exigencies of war must enforce a level of activity which exceeds our homefront routine. The pride of uniform wear also mandates we take care of our bodies and exhibit ourselves in an appropriate military image.

The benefits of routine aerobic and non-aerobic activity on blood pressure, stress, mental health, bone mass and general cardiovascular health can't be overemphasized. Proper nutrition, in addition to exercise, is also critical to the development of fit individuals.

With our busy schedules, the ease of purchasing relatively inexpensive "fast food," makes it tempting to eat quick, cheap and easily-prepared calorie-filled items. However, the calories packed into a can of pasta, doughnut or plate of fries can be a negative influence on our

ability to get fit and maintain a fit lifestyle. Losing excess weight is critical to feeling better physically and mentally.

Keesler offers many ways to become fit with our wonderful running tracks, incomparable fitness centers and personal counseling services available in nutritional medicine and the health and wellness center. Essentially, we have our very own personal trainers and health clubs, which should be used and valued.

It's our patriotic duty and fulfillment of our core value of excellence in all we do to ensure we take personal responsibility for our fitness training and performance. Just passing meets standards, but may not be of sufficient merit when the true test of fitness is taken — on the battlefield.

Efficient or effective — which one are you?

By Lt. Col. Mark Mesenbrink

335th Training Squadron commander

When you have a person who lacks good judgment and carries through with poor actions, what is the first reaction for a commander or supervisor?

What would you do?

Take a scenario of an individual deployed forward to a location where alcohol is served —and rationed. Everyone is allotted two beers a day, and to track the beer burn rate, everyone gets a punch card.

Then, take a junior lieu-

tenant. He feels he should be able to drink as much as he can hold. Through a breach in integrity of not only himself but two of his buddies he gets smashed on six beers. All would be normal except he feels he can climb on a tent and enjoy the stars, breaking the tent in the process.

What's a commander to do? Shut down the bar? Limit everyone to one beer? Take away everyone's drinking privileges for a month? Think it through — what would you do?

One of the most difficult things for a commander is singling someone out ... having to look that individual in the eye and tell them they're wanting in core values, intelligence and common sense. The easy path is to avoid the one-on-one confrontation and send out a mass policy, reducing everyone's liberties in hopes their peers will do what you should've done — engage the cause of the problem.

Blanket policies for your subordinates are good things to ensure general rules of

engagement are established. When those rules are broken, the time for more direct fire is required. Remember the effect: The general masses are following the established rules; the "special" small crowd feels obligated to make their own.

The next time you're faced with such a situation. stop and think about the effect you want —focused or wide spread. Do you wish to establish baseline policy or to engage random transgressions? Do you wish to be efficient or effective?

**Whose
wingman
are you,
and who's
your
wingman?**



TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Santa's helpers

From left, Airmen Basic Clayton Legare, 335th Training Squadron, and Nate Williams, 334th TRS, and Bob McFall and Constance Fero, 81st Services Division, pack "Elf Vandy" bags at Vandenberg Community Center for distribution to students who remained on base and people who had to work on Dec. 25. The bags contained fruit, crackers, mints, stuffed animals and other treats.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

OTS instructors build program for Iraq's air force

By Ashley Wright

Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL Air Force Base, Ala. — Four Officer Training School instructors returned here recently after spending the past several months in Iraq building the country's air force officer training program from the ground up.

Maj. Scott Bergren and Capt. Michael Powell worked at Taji Air Base, Iraq, to establish a stand-alone officer training program modeled after Air University's OTS, and Capt. John Blackman carved an air force course into the curriculum at the Iraq military academy in Rustamiyah, Iraq.

American Airmen are currently working to establish an "accession pipeline" in Iraq to help that country establish a credible air force, said Lt. Col. Kim Hawthorne, who returned to Maxwell Air Force Base Dec. 19 after serving as commander of the 370th Expeditionary Training Squadron at Taji AB.

"At Taji, there was nothing," Major Bergren said, the OTS director of operations for the 24th Training Squadron. "We were going to be doing this from scratch."

During their 193 days at Taji AB, coalition forces ran half the base, and Iraqi forces ran the other side.

"It was in that war-torn infrastructure that we attempted to build this officer training program," the major said.

Major Bergren and Captain Powell

realized an adequate teaching facility wouldn't be available for months. After finalizing the contract to refurbish the main buildings for future classes, the officers searched for a location for the first incoming class. When the group of 13 Iraqi officer trainees arrived to the facility in April, the students found a small warehouse and converted it into a schoolhouse nicknamed the "Alamo."

"(The building) was three rooms that were used as offices and a lavatory," Captain Powell said, the OTS student squadron commander for basic officer training. "There was no (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system at all. The electrical infrastructure was not enough to support what we needed for video projectors. Getting these rooms cleaned up and habitable was an awful lot of work."

Despite the conditions, Major Bergren and Captain Powell pulled together resources to create a training facility for a fledgling Iraqi air force with only 1,000 members at the time.

"We went over there with curriculum developed by the Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools," Major Bergren said. "I think we added our own flavor to make it more appropriate to the audience we were teaching."

Several traditions and tools from OTS found their way into the six-month course, including maintaining dorm room standards and a leadership reaction course. Military training

instructors from Lackland AFB, Texas, deployed with the OTS team and drilled the Iraqi students in Arabic.

"We insisted on the same things that we do here," Major Bergren said.

Dorm room standards, demerits and memorization of operating instructions and standard training practices are all practices that instructors use at Maxwell AFB and now in Iraq "to instill discipline and attention to detail."

But during their time as students, the Iraqis lived in dorm rooms with no power or water. Temperatures at night only dropped to about 85 degrees in the dorms, the major said. "Mosquitoes ate them up all night long. In most instances, they slept on top of the roofs of the dormitory to escape the poor conditions inside," he noted.

This didn't deter the officers from holding their students to a standard comparable to the Air Force, and witnessing the Iraqi students meet those standards despite the conditions and cultural barriers was "awe inspiring," both officers said.

"I think the students we graduated are the greatest success story out of all this," Major Bergren said.

Meanwhile, at the Iraq military academy in Rustamiyah, Captain Blackman, the OTS deputy chief of standardization and evaluation, said he was also amazed at the level of commitment his students exhibited.

"We got real familiar with what a rocket sounds like," he said. "We had

a little bit more of a challenge due to enemy activity, meaning rockets, mortars, snipers, kidnappings, you name it."

Terrorists kidnapped and held one of his students for ransom during his six-month deployment. Upon the student's release, the Iraqi returned to the academy.

"To still be that committed to the direction that country is going, creating this air force (and) to put yourself and your family at this risk to get this education and training, it motivated me to make sure I did right by these guys," Captain Blackman said.

The academy at Rustamiyah possesses a rich history. It opened in 1924 and rejected admission to former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. NATO currently oversees the academy designed to produce officers for the Iraqi army.

"Our job was to integrate an Air Force course into that academy," Captain Blackman said.

His students, unlike those at Taji AB, hadn't attended college and possessed no training in English. The academy models itself after the British Royal Military Academy and divides students into three levels based on time in attendance. Originally, students nearing the end of the year-long program took the course.

In mid-July, Captain Blackman and his team graduated their first Iraqi air force class. Since mid-April, 39 second lieutenants have graduated.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Quarterly awards

The 81st Training Group quarterly awards ceremony is 3:30 p.m. today at the Triangle parade grounds.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony moves to Welch Auditorium.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Len Kedrow, 377-0737.

Parking lot closed

The parking lot adjacent on the southeast side of the Keesler NCO Academy is closed until 9 a.m. Jan. 23 and all day on Feb. 14 for drill practice and evaluations.

In case of inclement weath-

er, the lot is open.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Lisa Arnold, 377-2740.

Physician assistants

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force is taking applications from active-duty enlisted Airmen for physician assistant Phase I training classes beginning January, April and August 2009.

Completed applications must arrive at HQ AFPC/DPAMW, 550 C Street West, Suite 27, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4729 no later than Jan. 25. The selection board

is scheduled to convene here March 19.

For more information, contact local military personnel flights or education offices or go to the AFPC Web site and enter physician assistant training in the search function.

Awards banquet

The 81st Training Group's annual awards banquet is Feb. 8 at the Imperial Palace, beginning with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m.

For reservations, contact unit representatives.

Tuition aid online

Air Force members can

request tuition assistance online from the workplace through the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

Access AFVEC at <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod>.

OTS counseling

Officer Training School applicants may schedule appointments with a counselor by calling 377-2323 or visit the education office, second floor, Hangar 2.

For more information, visit the Air Force Recruiting home page, <http://afrecruiting.com/rsoc/> and the OTS home page, <http://www.afaots.af.mil/OTS/BOT/botapply.asp>.

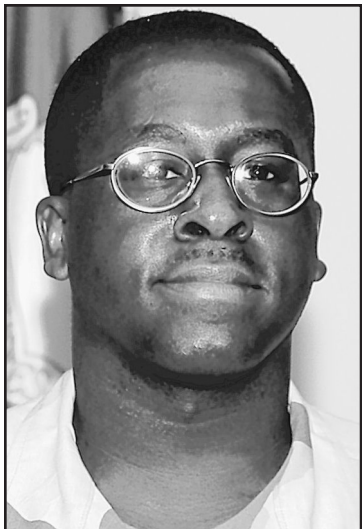
Senior leader course

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.

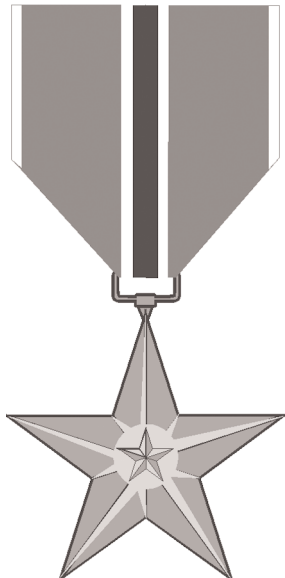
The distance learning program may be completed on your own or with a group seminar.

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.



Sergeant Key



Sergeant Smith

2 transportation leaders earn Bronze Star during deployment

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Two members of the 81st Transportation Squadron received the Bronze Star Medal during an 81st Training Wing commander's call Dec. 18.

Tech. Sgts. Patrick Key and John Smith were presented the medals for meritorious service by Col. Greg Touhill, wing commander.

Sergeant Key served as a convoy commander and squad leader for the 70th Medium Truck Detachment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Nov. 19, 2006 to June 15, 2007.

During 11 missions, he led 143 military and 208 foreign contracted drivers through 13,000 miles of hostile fire environment. His focus on training, attention to detail and meticulous maintenance of vehicles was critical to the completion of 132 Iraq and 92 Kuwait missions accruing more than 4.5 million combat miles.

Sergeant Key's leadership was credited with delivery of more than 5,610 tons of critical supplies, weapons equipment and ammunition to 10 forward operating bases in the heart of insurgent fighting zones.

When President George W. Bush directed a surge plan to

suppress sectarian violence in Iraq, Sergeant Key's detachment was instrumental to the buildup of more than 21,500 Soldiers, 4,000 Marines and 16 million pounds of cargo. He was also responsible for the rapid delivery of logistics to seven forward operating bases in the area of responsibility.

His frequent battle drills to prepare his team for combat accelerated the process of shaping troops into battle-ready Airmen to perform "in lieu of" taskings for convoy duties.

Sergeant Key, from Magnolia, Miss., has been in the Air Force 13 years and arrived at Keesler in February 2006.

Sergeant Smith was the convoy commander and squad leader for the 297th National Support Element truck platoon in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Dec. 13, 2006 to July 1, 2007.

Sergeant Smith was a key player in the Air Force's first rotation of gun truck support in Afghanistan and completed 31 convoy missions, delivering 2.4 tons of mission-essential shipments in 253 vehicles.

In his first convoy mission, the command vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device, seriously wounding two occupants. He positioned

his vehicle to expedite the casualty evacuation process so the wounded could be transported to a medical facility in minimal time.

On another convoy, vehicle struck an IED, and Sergeant Smith directed recovery actions and dispatched a medic to care for wounded soldiers until a medevac helicopter arrived. In another incident, he directed a gunner to fire on a man suspected of being a suicide bomber who ignored warnings and ran toward one of the tanks.

When another convoy came under fire from at least three positions, Sergeant Smith directed setup of a landing zone for the medevac helicopter and transport of the injured gunner.

His extensive after-action reports made other convoy commanders aware of the latest tactics, techniques and procedures. By emphasizing operator care and increasing preventive maintenance, vehicle maintainers achieved a 96 percent operational readiness rate, surpassing Army goals.

Sergeant Smith, from Hemp Hill, Texas, has been in the Air Force 14 years and came to Keesler in April 2003.

View video and actual award citations at <http://www.keesler.af.mil>.

IN THE NEWS

Death notification

Master Sgt. Raynell Rubit-Babineaux, 403rd Civil Engineer Squadron, died Dec. 14.

Any person or persons having claims for or against his estate, call 2nd Lt. Elvis Ta, summary court officer, 377-2742.

AFSO21 contest

An Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century contest runs until Tuesday to generate innovative ways to use Keesler's resources and people more efficiently.

Submit ideas to AFSO21@keesler.af.mil. Be as specific about the process or procedures with as much detail as possible so your suggestion can be evaluated.

The top three ideas win prizes from the 81st Services Division and a one-day pass for use with supervisor's permission.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Debra Wright, 377-0123.

Martin Luther King luncheon

The Martin Luther King memorial luncheon is 11 a.m. Jan. 17 at Vandenberg Community Center.

Tickets are \$12 and seating is limited.

For tickets and more information, call Laverne Larry, 376-4351; Carol Grigsby, 377-2301, or Faith Lee, 376-4350.

Reduced manning for reenlistments

The reenlistment office is operating with reduced staff until June 1 because of deployment.

Appointments only are accepted on work days from 8 a.m. to noon. Walk-in customers are accepted in the afternoons.

Clinics closed for warrior training

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Keesler Medical Center clinics are closed 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. the second Thursday of each month for warrior training.

Family practice and pediatric clinics have limited access. Acute care appointments are available in the morning, but clinics close at 11 a.m. and reopen the next day at 7 a.m.

Pharmacy, radiology and laboratory services are available with reduced staffing, so be prepared for longer waits.

The emergency room remains open around the clock. For emergencies situations such as shortness of breath, chest or abdominal pain or bleeding with pregnancy, go to the nearest emergency room or call 911 for an ambulance.

Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for submissions to the Jan. 24 Keesler News is noon Jan. 17, four days earlier than usual, due to the Martin Luther King birthday federal holiday Jan. 21.

The newspaper office is closed Jan. 21 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.

Civilian personnel targets speed, self-service

By Steve VanWert

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Civilian personnel services are transforming at Air Force Personnel Center to ensure speed of personnel actions and enhanced self-service capabilities.

“Overall the transformation is designed to improve the efficiency of delivering personnel services,” said Charles Huerta, personnel services directorate deputy at AFPC.

PSD transformation has four major accomplishments:

Redesigns personnel service processes to eliminate unnecessary steps and approvals to speed up work and reduce workload.

Enhances contact center and self-

service capabilities, which expand online and contact center options to make personnel inquiries and self-service transactions available worldwide, 24/7.

Recasts field organizations and shifts personnel employees from routine transactions to even more valuable key advisory services for commanders and leaders.

Modernizes personnel architecture and technology, putting the right system in place to support and integrate Web-based applications and enhanced contact center capabilities.

Under PSD, most personnel servicing is centralized to one location to gain maximum efficiencies, instead of one portion of a transaction residing at AFPC and the other at the installation.

“Have you ever done your banking online?” asked Mr. Huerta. “Primarily, it’s the same concept. You would only speak to a representative on the phone when there are issues you can’t resolve on your personal computer through a Web-based transaction.”

“This may seem easy to accomplish,” said Cindy Waechter, civilian future operations branch chief at AFPC. “But there is a lot of planning and reengineering to be done to make all this happen.”

In order to arrive at the civilian PSD goals set by leadership, AFPC’s role must be expanded.

“All processes are being reviewed for streamlining or elimination,” said Mr. Huerta. “Is there any duplication, is the process necessary, or has tech-

nology made the process obsolete?”

Implementation plans and timelines are being developed to layout how and when the workload moves to AFPC, as well as training.

“There are many new and exciting opportunities for civilian personnel professionals as we move down this road of significant transformation,” said Ms. Waechter. “Opportunities for leadership and growth are being reviewed and career paths and training opportunities are being developed to prepare people for upward mobility.”

“The course is charted, the plans are being made, and the future looks bright for providing excellent customer service to commanders in the field as well as to our civilian employees,” said Mr. Huerta.

Waste,

from Page 1

smart ways to do business to offset these increases.

“When we take a look at the budget, the Air Force is several billion dollars short of what we’d like to have to support our mission requirements and what we can afford to do at the current tempo,” Keesler’s commander emphasized. “We have to live within our means while still serv-

ing our nation properly.”

Colonel Touhill challenges every Airman, civilian and contractor on the Keesler team to join him in the quest to do things smarter and better.

“We need to look for wasteful activities and get rid of them,” he remarked. “We need to look for wasteful processes and eliminate them. We need to streamline things to be more efficient in terms of time, effort and dollars.

“Everything is on the table,” the colonel continued. “The only rules we can’t

change are the ones Moses brought off the mountain.”

Colonel Touhill is convinced operations within every unit at Keesler and throughout the Air Force can be improved by the AFSO21 approach.

“I won’t tolerate wasteful spending and I need the help of everyone at Keesler to identify it,” he stated. “We’re going to take those savings and reinvest them at Keesler in the right things — it’s the responsible thing to do.”

“The key to success is taking a critical look at what we do,” he explained. “If we say we want to keep the same process we had before, we’ll never find any savings.”

This may require starting from scratch to get a realistic view of what a process entails.

“When most folks take a look, they’ll see that we spend a lot of time and effort on bureaucratic things that might not be adding value to the process,” the colonel said.

Performance reports are an Air Force-wide example of something that needs to change as far as Colonel Touhill is concerned.

“Performance reports are critical — that’s how we promote, recognize and grow our talent,” he pointed out. “Yet, when I take a look at how many people touch a performance report before it gets to me — the amount of man-hours that have

been expended — it’s staggering. What’s even more incredible is looking at how many touches there are to that paper after I sign it until it finally goes to record. I know we can do better, and a lot of benefits have already been achieved through the use of technology.”

When Colonel Touhill first came to Keesler in 1983 as a second lieutenant, there were almost 700,000 active-duty Airmen. Today, that number is just over 318,000.

“Right now we’re engaged in a global war on terrorism and our ops tempo is easily five times what it was when I came into the Air Force,” the colonel stated. “The Air Force of today could whip the Air Force of 1983 with one hand tied behind its back. Why? It’s because we’ve been very smart in how we’ve leveraged information technology and weapons system technology and in the way we’ve organized ourselves.”

Colonel Touhill said the Air Force is still reaping the benefits from emphasis in the 1990s on improved processes, but “there are still opportunities out there to update a lot of those procedures that have their roots back when the Air Force was formed in 1947. Heritage is essential — we must never forget the past — but we must always look forward and strive to do better.”

For Airmen with an improvement idea, Colonel Touhill said the first step is to bring it up to their supervisor and fix it within the shop. However, if the idea has a broader application, elevate it up the chain of command.

“If there’s no response, the buck stops with me — bring it to me and I’ll investigate it with vigor,” the colonel pledged. “We can’t be satisfied with the status quo — we can’t afford it in responsible government.”

Squadron commanders and other senior leaders are tasked to report any ideas and successes generated by the AFSO21 philosophy to Master Sgt. Debra Wright, the wing’s AFSO21 leader, so she can get the word out to the rest of the Air Force.

“We need to learn from other people’s successes and failures — there’s nothing wrong with copying good ideas,” Colonel Touhill observed. “There’s a community of practices on the Air Force Portal and other Web sites and resources are available that Airmen can review to see how someone else may have tackled the same problem.

“I don’t want AFSO21 to become just another bureaucratic paper drill — it’s all about results,” he added. “If it takes more time to fill out the paperwork than what you’re saving, it’s not a value-added process, and our people are smart enough to know that.”

PERSONNEL NOTES

Incentive pay for Korean tours

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Airmen selected for assignment to South Korea who apply for the Korea Assignment Incentive Pay Program can earn \$300 a month and apply for advanced assignment consideration.

The incentive program authorizes the monthly payments to Airmen who sign a written agreement to serve the prescribed tour length in South Korea plus an additional 12 months.

Korea Assignment Incentive Pay tours are established as 24 months for unaccompanied Airmen or 36 months for accompanied Airmen, when authorized.

For more information on this program, call the Air Force Contact Center, 1-800-616-3775.

Retirement annuity information

Personnel affected by A-76 can get estimates of their retirement annuities at the Air Force Personnel Center secure Web site, <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/AFPCSecure/MainMenu.asp>.

Click the link for the entitlements and benefits section. First-time users are required to register.

Personal retirement computations are also available by calling 1-800-616-3775.

For more information related to A-76, call 376-8176.

WAPS test schedules

Weighted airman promotion system test schedules:

Master and technical sergeant — Feb. 1 to March 31.

Staff sergeant — May 1 to June 15.

Members should be prepared to test on the first day of the cycle.

For more information, contact unit WAPS monitors.

Pre-separation counseling

Members of all branches of military service are required to receive congressionally-mandated pre-separation counseling from the airman and family readiness center no less than 90 calendar days before separating, retiring or outprocessing to go on terminal leave.

Briefings are 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 122, Hangar 2, for routine separations and 2:30 p.m. for routine retirements.

Members receiving medical retirements, less than full honorable discharges or force-shaping transition benefits, call 377-8645 or 8593 to schedule individual briefings.

Retirement applications online

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Active-duty retirement applications are processed at the Air Force Contact Center.

Members requesting an action related to retirement can log onto the personal services delivery transformation Web site and click on “retirement package” at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/psd>.

Personally procured moves

The personally procured moves program is an alternate means of moving personal property. Whether a privately-owned vehicle, trailer or rental truck is used the reimbursement is 95 percent of the governments constructed cost.

Counseling by the personal property office is required prior to approval for a PPM move.

For more information or to schedule counseling, call 81st Transportation Squadron customer service, 377-9439 or 3436.

Personnel officials continue to pursue refined products

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Immediate access and ease of use form the foundation of the Air Force Personnel Center’s ongoing efforts here to refine its personnel products available for Air Force customers.

In the wake of significant cutbacks to the personnel career field, the center has leveraged technology to improve customer service via 24/7 access to Web-based personnel information. With information technology solutions, commanders have instant access to management products allowing them to determine the health of their squadron from their desktop.

One product new to the commander’s portfolio is a Base Level Service Delivery Model Dashboard. The dashboard enables commanders to access information like their unit personnel management or duty status rosters right from their own computers. They can also request actions like decoration rips or a change in rater.

“We’re working towards more automation in the personnel business, because that’s what commanders need in today’s Air Force,” said Col. Bill Foote, AFPC director of personnel services. “Commanders are our primary customers since they are tasked with executing the mission. As the BLSDM Dashboard matures and improves, it promises to provide that personnel information they need to accomplish the mission.”

AFPC targeted squadron commanders with

dashboard access initially and is reviewing wing, group and major command requirements for later implementation.

Lt. Col. Jody Ogea, commander of the 5th Force Support Squadron at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., said the dashboard provides a variety of data required for day-to-day operation.

“Because of this tool the days I waited for a RIP, report or roster have passed,” said Colonel Ogea. “Although computer systems will never replace having your own personnelists at the squadron level, the Base Level Service Delivery, Dashboard and centralized support at AFPC will allow squadron commanders to maximize resources to meet our customer’s basic personnel needs.”

Base-level BLSDM administrators can grant commanders access to the new tool. They, in turn, may delegate access to as many unit military and civilian members as necessary. Commanders or designated representatives may suggest enhancements to AFPC.

In addition to hands-on products, AFPC is also refining the processes and products within the center to enhance services provided, referred to as personnel service delivery. One improvement is in the how information is transmitted to the field. The military personnel flight memorandum becomes the personnel services delivery memorandums this month. The name change is in line with the addition of an executive summary and a briefing slide on all messages to the personnel community.

Responsibility rides along with bicyclists

Safety office

Keesler bicycle riders are granted all rights and are subject to all responsibilities of drivers of motor vehicles.

Cyclists are required to ride in single file as close to the right side of the road as possible. While the safest place to ride is on Interstate 81, which follows the contours of the flight line, that isn't always possible or preferable.

Cyclists should ensure their bikes have the necessary equipment. When ridden in the dark or inclement weather, bikes must be equipped with white lights in front and red lights or reflectors in back. The lights must be visible from at least 500 feet to the front.

Bicycles also must be equipped with brakes that enable a rider to stop within 25 feet from a speed of 10 mph on dry, level and clear pavement.

Bikes also should have bells or other devices capable of being heard from at least 100 feet away. Sirens or whistles are prohibited on



bicycles except for official government business.

Approved protective helmets are required at all times when riding a bicycle, roller blades and skate boards. Skate boarders, roller bladers and roller skaters are encouraged to wear protective arm and knee pads.

Highly-reflective clothing is recommended during fall and winter, when most early-morning and evening cyclists travel in fog and darkness. When in uniform, especially in the battle dress uniform, use reflective vests and belts.

DRAGON OF THE WEEK

Name — Staff Sgt. David Blankenship

Unit — 335th Training Squadron

Position — initial skills weather instructor

Time in Air Force — 16 years

Time at Keesler — three years

Noteworthy — former special operations weather troop for 10 years with more than 200 parachute jumps around the world.

Hometown — Cincinnati, Ohio

Why did you join the Air Force? to travel and meet new people.

What are your short- and long-term goals? to provide a Merry Christmas to needy families during the holiday season and to finish my bachelor's degree in business administration.

What's your favorite



Photo by Kemberly Groue

quote? “The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it.”

— Norman Schwarzkopf

What are your hobbies? anything high tech, boating, fishing, hunting.

DIAMOND NOTES

Discipline isn't the enemy
of enthusiasm.

Remember, you represent
the Air Force 24/7,
whether on or off duty,
in or out of uniform.

— Master Sgt. David Brown, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron first sergeant



Sergeant Brown



Photos by Adam Bond

Colonels Pierce, left, and Touhill check out the double-sink vanity area in the bathroom of one of the Thrower Park homes that's nearing completion.

Base leaders visit new homes

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Col. Greg Touhill, 81st Training Wing commander, and Col. Richard Pierce, vice commander, toured new homes under construction in Thrower Park Dec. 27.

The area, which begins housing 198 junior enlisted families later this year, is part of the largest military family housing project in Air Force history.

Craig Merkerson, base housing program manager, said that before Christmas, the following milestones had been reached:

First floor walls are up on homes numbered 1 to 94.

Second floor trusses and walls are up for homes 1-74.

Roof decking is complete for homes 1-45.

Wallboard is installed for homes 1-39.

Siding is in place on homes 1-24.

Termite treatment is complete for homes 1-32.

Electrical panels are installed and wired for homes 1-24.

Insulation is done for homes 1-19.



Larry Trafton, left, explains the yard layout for one of the new Thrower Park homes to Colonel Touhill. Mr. Trafton is the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence's onsite project manager.

The curb and gutter system is finished for the first street, which is being prepared for a 2 1/2-inch primary binder coat of asphalt, according to Mr. Merkerson. The first area of construction will have a fully-paved street prior to turnover.

Landscaping, sodding and

fencing layout has begun and all underground utility work is complete except work which is continuing on the lift station.

Mr. Merkerson said the government's final inspection of the first 36 units is planned for next month.

Separation buyouts — A-76 options spelled out

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Keesler expects to make Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay offers to eligible employees in the near future, according to Deatrice Jimerson, human resources specialist in the civilian personnel flight's position and personnel management element.

The separation buyouts are being proposed in connection with the A-76 base operating support contracts.

"Big BOS," awarded to Computer Sciences Corp. who takes over Oct. 1, affects about 586 civilian and military positions in civil engineering, supply, weather station and certain functions in services and mission support.

"Little BOS," a second contract to continue communication support by government employees, remains in litigation with the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. It would affect about 175 positions

"To stay within our timelines, employees have already been informed that they'll only be given two or three days to make a decision," Ms. Jimerson said. "It's imperative that employees start seriously thinking now about accepting or declining the VERA/VSIP offers. It's also important for employees considering retirement to contact the Air Force Personnel Center Benefits and Entitlements Service Team."

The civilian personnel flight is identifying employees who submitted an interest survey in October. Offers are made initially to A-76 employees. The only offers made to employees unaffected by A-76 are ones that prevent another employee from being separated involuntarily.

When employees are contacted, they're given the opportunity to accept or decline the VERA/VSIP. Employees who accept the VERA/VSIP are removed from the upcoming reduction in force, and AFPC runs the reduction in force and provide the civilian personnel flight with an updated retention register.

To help employees make the right personal decision, here are answers to some frequently asked questions about VERA/VSIP.

What is VERA?

VERA is a management tool used for downsizing or to restructure the workforce to meet mission objectives. VERA allows an employee to voluntarily retire earlier than normal without having to meet the normal age/service requirements. Reasons for VERA approval include substantial de-layering, which is the process of simplifying the structure of an organization to make it more efficient; RIF, reorganization or transfer of function.

What are the basic age and service requirements for VERA?

An employee must be either age 50 with at least 20 years of creditable service or have 25 years of total creditable service at any age. If an employee covered by the Civil Service Retirement System takes a VERA, he faces a 2 percent reduction in annuity per each year he's under age 55. There's no reduction for employees covered by the Federal Employee Retirement System.

"To stay within our timelines, employees have already been informed that they'll only be given two or three days to make a decision. It's imperative that employees start seriously thinking now about accepting or declining the VERA/VSIP offers.

— Ms. Jimerson

If I meet age and service requirements, are there other restrictions to prevent me from retiring under VERA?

Yes. Employees on time-limited appointments, such as temporary or term appointments, and those who haven't been continuously employed by the Department of Defense for more than 30 days before the date on which the determination to conduct a work force reduction or restructuring action has been approved, are ineligible to receive a VERA. In addition, employees being involuntarily separated for misconduct or unsatisfactory performance aren't eligible.

Can VERA be offered to employees who have received RIF notices?

No. Once an employee is issued a RIF separation notice, he's no longer eligible for VERA. VERA is a voluntary action; receipt of a separation notice makes any following action involuntary.

What is VSIP?

VSIP, commonly referred to as a "buyout," is a payment of up to \$25,000 before taxes to encourage eligible employees to separate from service voluntarily, either by retirement or resignation, to avoid or minimize the need for involuntary separations due to RIF, base closure, reorganization, transfer of function or work force restructuring. Buyouts aren't an employee entitlement and are used at management's discretion.

How is the VSIP payment calculated?

VSIP is calculated using the severance pay formula in Title 5, U.S. Code Section 5595(c). Using this formula, any severance pay previously received must be deducted from the employee's lifetime entitlement. The final VSIP amount is equal to \$25,000 or the amount of severance pay the employee would be entitled to using this formula, whichever is less.

Since the VSIP payment is computed using the severance pay formula, are employees eligible for buyouts if they're otherwise ineligible for severance pay?

Yes, provided they meet basic eligibility requirements. The payment is determined using the amount of severance pay the employee would've received if he had been entitled to severance pay.

What are basic eligibility requirements for VSIP?

An employee must be a U.S. citizen, employed in an appointment without time limitation and must have been employed by the Department of Defense for a continuous period of at least 12 months.

An employee is ineligible for a buyout if he's:

A reemployed annuitant.

Is or would be eligible for disability retirement under any federal employee retirement system.

On a Schedule C excepted appointment.

A non-compensated employee.

Accepted a position with another federal agency.

Received a specific notice of RIF separation.

Declined to relocate with his position or declined a transfer of function.

Received a decision notice of involuntary separation for misconduct or unacceptable performance.

Previously received a buyout.

If an employee meets the basic eligibility requirements, are there any other restrictions that would prevent offering VSIP?

Yes. Without a waiver, an employee is ineligible for a buyout if he's:

Covered by a written service agreement resulting from permanent change of station or training, or is in receipt of a recruitment or relocation bonus.

Receiving a retention allowance.

Occupying a position defined as "hard to fill" or for which special salary rates are approved.

Waivers may be granted on a case-by-case basis by the commander or activity head (in the case of special salary rates, the appropriate DOD component assistant secretary or equivalent, when that official determines the buyout offer is in the best interest of the offering installation.

Are there any restrictions on employees returning to work for the federal government after they separate with VSIP?

Yes, these restrictions on reemployment within the federal government apply:

Any individual receiving a buyout who accepts employment with the U.S. government (including employment in nonappropriated fund instrumentalities or with a U.S. agency through a personal services contract) within five years after the date of separation on which payment of the buyout is based must repay the entire amount of the buyout before taxes to DOD.

A DOD employee who receives a buyout may not be reemployed by the department (including NAF employment or a personal services contact) for 12 months beginning on the effective date separation.

A DOD employee approved for payment of a buyout can't register in DOD's priority placement program.

Are there any waiver provisions for the buyout repayment requirement and one-year bar on DOD employment?

Yes. The secretary of defense may approve exceptions on a case-by-case basis to the one-year bar on DOD employment. When reemployment is within the department, the secretary of defense may

Buyouts,

from Page 14

approve waivers to the repayment provision if the person for whom the waiver is sought is the only qualified applicant for the position.

Why is an employee who has received a specific RIF separation notice ineligible for a buyout?

The keyword is voluntary versus involuntary. Work force downsizing buyouts are offered to employees who voluntarily separate from their positions through retirement or resignation. If an employee receives a separa-

A-76 hotline
376-8176

tion notice through the RIF process, he can't receive a buyout because it isn't a voluntary separation.

Is VSIP paid in a lump sum or do employees have other payment options?

In addition to lump sum payment, two installment options are available:

Bi-weekly payments in equal amounts. The employee selects the amount, but the payments must be completed within one year of the separation date.

Half of the amount is paid six months after separation, and the rest is paid six months later.

When an activity is undergoing a RIF, is it required to offer VSIP?

No. Downsizing activities may offer VSIP to reduce the number of involuntary separations, but there's no requirement to do so.

When can I retire or resign if I accept the VERA/VSIP?

Management officials, usually your squadron or group commander, determines when employees may be released based on the mission and other factors.

Golden Girl Scout



Photo by Adam Bond

Senior Cadette Girl Scout Syhann Shoemake, left, folds a shirt as Master Sergeant Ernesto Alvendia, superintendent of the airman and family readiness center, puts other items in a layette gift bag Dec. 27. Syhann, a 17-year-old senior at Biloxi High School, made baby blankets and collected other items for Keesler infants as part of the requirements for the Gold Award, the highest recognition in Girl Scouts. She's been involved in scouting since sixth grade and is a member of Biloxi Troop 455, which met on base before Hurricane Katrina. Her parents are Tech. Sgt. Charles and Syhann Shoemake, 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

Volunteers, donations sought for 'Hearts from Home' project

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

There are hearts at home determined to provide a happy Valentine's Day for Keesler's deployed members.

"Hearts from Home" is a project spearheaded by the airman and family readiness center to create care packages for every deployed Airman from Keesler. Families of deployed members and volunteers prepare and assemble the packages, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Jan. 24 at the youth center.

"It's a unique opportunity, because normally our deployed troops get things during the Christmas season, but are forgotten the rest of the year," Tech. Sgt. Jessica Woodruff, family readiness program coordinator and project leader, pointed out. "It will be a surprise for them to receive a care package on Valentine's Day which is usually a 'couples' holiday. We didn't want our single Airmen to go unloved."

Sergeant Woodruff's original idea was to host an intimate little party with spouses of deployed members preparing packages for their loved ones, but suggestions from Col. Greg Touhill, 81st Training Wing commander, expanded the scope of the undertaking.

"Colonel Touhill heard what we were doing and wanted to make sure that every person deployed from Keesler receives a care package," Sergeant Woodruff said. "He wanted the base community involved by helping us with the

packages for our single members, either with donations or volunteering to put them together."

Money is needed to ship the packages and to buy Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift cards so members can purchase necessary items at their deployed locations. The Keesler Spouses Club and the chapel are collecting new and slightly used DVDs. The USO Gulf Coast is supplying T-shirts and other comfort items.

Contributions are also sought to provide candy, hand-held games, trail mix, snacks, water-flavoring packets, pillow cases and crossword puzzle books.

When the packages are assembled, there'll be various stations set up at the youth center.

"We'll have a picture station where spouses can have their picture taken in front of a Valentines backdrop, then they move to the next station where the photo is used to create a custom T-shirt or pillow case," Sergeant Woodruff explained. "At the next station, they'll make custom cards to put in the package. Area school children are making Valentines to include in the packages for our single members. Another station will enable spouses and children to videotape a message for their loved ones.

"In the gym area, our volunteers will have an assembly line to prepare the packages," she continued. "We'll have free food, drinks, games and a movie for the children that attend the event."

To volunteer or to make a donation, call the family support center, 377-2179.

KEESLER NOTES

New Year's coffee

The Keesler Spouses Club celebrates the new year with coffee, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at Paula Gould's home, 802 Vandenberg Drive in Bay Ridge.

Those planning to attend should e-mail membership@keeslerspousesclub by Friday.

The club is collecting new and gently used DVDs to include in care packages for deployed Keesler members at the gathering.

Excess property sale

A nonappropriated fund excess property sale is Jan 15-17 in the Keesler Club on Larcher Boulevard.

Hours Tuesday — 9-11 a.m. for pay grades E-4 and GS-3 and below, NA-1s and 2s, and NF-1s only; and noon to 3 p.m. for all other identification card holders.

Hours Wednesday and Jan. 17 — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for all authorized buyers.

Transactions are first-come, first-served cash and carry, and all items must be removed immediately.

For more information, call 377-0002.

Artwork contest

The African-American Heritage Committee sponsors an artwork design contest for the 2008 Black Heritage Month observance.

The entry deadline is Jan. 31. Submit entries to any committee member.

The winner receives \$50 and the runner-up a ticket to the Black Heritage Month luncheon Feb. 20.

For more information, call Paulette Powell, 377-2270, or contact any AAHC member.

Tax representatives

Volunteers are sought to serve as individual tax assistance representatives in for the income tax filing season.

The legal office tries to have at least one VITA representative in each unit and several in large units. VITA representatives have the tax program loaded on the computer

at his duty location and prepares returns during the duty day.

A tax office opens in 2008 in Room 229, Sablich Center, which is manned by a manager and volunteers.

For more information, call Dick Brock, 377-3510.

Patients sought

The pediatric dentistry clinic is looking for patients for the advanced education in general dentistry residency.

Orthodontic treatment and use and oral sedation aren't available.

Eligible are children ages 4-12. Patients must be available for treatment Thursday mornings.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 376-5144.

Heart Link

The next Heart Link session is 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 15 in the Triangle Chapel.

To register, call 377-2179.

Cycle courses

For information on motorcycle safety courses, call the safety office, 377-2910.

Supply visits

Supply customer liaison visits units for feedback on support.

To schedule visits, call Kevin Lane, 377-8891, or e-mail kevin.lane@keesler.af.mil.

Deployments, PCS move, training deflate Dragons

Keesler News staff

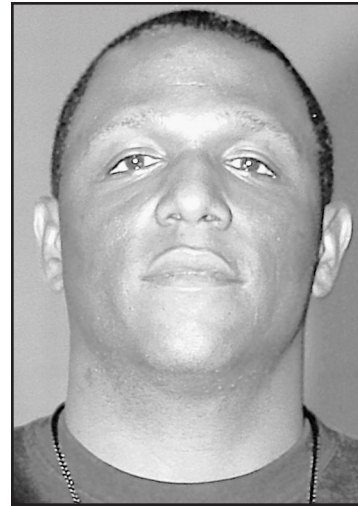
The Keesler men's varsity basketball season ended early due to deployments, a permanent change of station and a training requirement.

"The rest of the games will be forfeited," said Coach Jesse Harris.

Four players and the assistant coach are being deployed this month, and another player is making a PCS move and another player is fulfilling a training requirement. That leaves only five players and Harris, who is on permissive temporary duty and unavailable to coach.

Prior to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, Harris said he hoped to recruit enough replacements to finish the season. It didn't happen.

The Dragons were 3-3 overall and in the hunt for a



Harris hoped to recruit enough replacements to finish the season. It didn't happen.

berth in the Southeastern Military Athletic Conference playoffs.

The women's varsity team is intact. Coach Richard Vincent's Lady Dragons play Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.,

noon Feb. 9 at Blake Fitness Center in their next home game.

Airman 1st Class David Salanitri, Keesler News staff, and Perry Jenifer, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report.

Dollar dilemma Intramural basketball season on hold

The intramural basketball season is on hold, according to Laurence Wilson, sports director for the 81st Services Division.

At issue is funding for a contract to pay officials for working the games, he explained.

"We're still trying to work this out so Keesler can have an intramural basketball season this year," Wilson added.

For more information, call Wilson, 377-5789.

SCORES AND MORE

Basketball

Women's varsity games

Editor's note: Home games played at Blake Fitness Center. For more information, call Richard Vincent, women's coach, 228-343-9951.

Feb. 9 — Eglin Air Force Base., women only, noon.

Bowling

League standings

Monday Budweiser (as of Dec. 17)

Team	Won	Lost
Perry's Refrigeration	67	24
Gannon's Cannons	56.5	34.5
3 Steps Forward	56	35
Old Skool	53	38
Our Gang	53	38
Hoops Gang	52	39
Man On	50	41
Pin Heads	50	41
Wayne's World	49	42
Slater's Shooters	48	43
Endangered Species	42.5	48.5
Team 2	42	49
Why Not	39	52
Ghost Riders	36	55
The Corner Pins	36	55
Unpredictables	34	57
B-Busters	27	64
Martini's	26	65

Tuesday Hospital Mixed (as of Dec. 18)

Team	Won	Lost
Radiology Renegades	76	28
Bed Buddies	68	36
Pediattack	66	38
Pill Pushers	64	40
Drug Dealers	62	42
Team 6	30	74
Team 8	12	92
Team 7	8	96

Wednesday Mixed (as of Dec. 19)

Team	Won	Lost
Jokers Wild	69	36
Hang Chucky	94	36
Oceans Eleven	68	37
Clyde's Team	62	43
Ichiban	56	49
3DR	56	49
70s Plus	53	52
MUDD	51	54
2 Old 2 Bowl	51	54
Neighbors + 1	50	55
Misfits	47	58
Lucky Strikes	41	64
Team 13	22	69
Team 14	0	0

Thursday Retired Seniors Mixed (as of Jan. 3)

Team	Won	Lost
6-Pack	73.5	31.5
Team 16	63	42
Delema	60.5	44.5
Three is Company	59.5	45.5
Dummys Dummies	59	46
Team 1	58.5	46.5
Team 12	57	48
Freda's Kids	57	48
2 Bees & a D	53	52
The Very Best	52	53
Team 2	50.5	54.5
Barb's Boys	49.5	55.5

Amy's Bunch	47	58
T-N-T	47	58
Guys and Dolls	43	62
Full Speed	43	62
Team 15	39	66
Friends	33	72

Thursday Federal Intramural (as of Dec. 20)

Team	Won	Lost
85th EIS	74	38
332nd TRS	74	38
Team 3	70	42
Team 4	70	42
Team 14	64	48
Team 5	63	41
338th TRS	58	54
81st CPTS	56	56
81st MSS	56	56
403rd MXS	52	60
403rd Rolling Thunder	52	52
GCCS Squad	51	61
81st TRSS	50	62
Misfits	50	62
Team 10	46	66
Ghosts	8	104

Friday Mixed (as of Jan. 4)

Team	Won	Lost
Lady and the Tramps	77	35
Team 10	71	41
Team 3	70	42
Pin Busters	62	50
Harry's Team	53	59
Pin Pals	52	60
Sandbaggers	50	62
Jax Hax	48	64
3 Guys and A Babe	47	65
Dreamers	30	82

Other

Limited open play — Saturday and Sunday due to special event.

Super Bowl party — 4 p.m. Feb. 3. Watch the game on a 60-inch screen. \$7.95 per person includes finger foods, games, and prizes. Draft beer \$5 per pitcher or \$1 per cup.

Birthday party package —

available 1:30-3 p.m. or 3:30-5 p.m. Saturdays; \$8.95 per child includes food package and 1 1/2 hours of bowling including shoes. Birthday child is free and receives a Gaude Lanes T-shirt. Reservations required.

January — open 1-7 p.m. Sundays. Registrations accepted starting Jan. 4 for Family Have-a-Ball League, 2 p.m. Sundays for 12 weeks starting Jan. 27. For more information, call 377-2817.

Logo apparel — wear your college logo clothing on Saturdays and get \$1 off shoe rental. Wear Mississippi Sea Wolves apparel anytime and get \$1 off shoe rental.

Open play on league nights — first come, first served. For lane availability, call 377-2817.

Open bowling — for days and times, call 377-2817.

Nonprior service students special — 5-9:30 p.m. Thursdays, all nonprior service students bowl for \$1.50 game including shoe rental.

Glow bowling — 9 p.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays.

Hurricane alley, fundraisers — for more information, call 377-2817.

Fitness centers

Walk your way through the holidays — medal ceremony and 1-mile walk, 11 a.m. today, Crotwell Track.

Free fitness classes — step aerobics, turbo-core, spin/cycle, slo-robics, boxing workout and fencing at Dragon Fitness Center. For more information, call 377-2907.

Massage appointments — at Triangle Fitness Center, call 263-5515.

Golf

Course and pro shop open — 7 a.m. to dusk daily. For tee times, call 377-3832.

Driving range — 40 balls, \$2.

Golf lessons — \$25 for 30 minutes. For appointment, call 424-0479.

Martial arts

Editor's note: Classes at Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call 377-3308.

Shaolin pentjak silat — 7-8 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, all ages. \$65 month. Striking, kicking, grappling, weapons and internal energy; sash ranking system.

Pukulan pencak silat tempur — 6-7 p.m. Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays. \$65 month. Closequarters combat class; used for personal protection.

Mixed martial arts — 8-9 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays. \$65 month; muay thai, western boxing, kung fu, wrestling, judo and jujitsu.

Women's self defense — 6-7 p.m. Wednesdays. \$25 month. Mental, physical and tactical training.

Outdoor recreation

Back Bay fishing trip — 7 a.m. to noon Saturday and Jan. 26. \$15 per person. Maximum eight people. For more information, call 377-3160.

Children's wildlife poster contest — entry deadline Jan. 30. Prizes for first and second place winners. For more information, call 377-0002.

January fish of the month — weigh in the largest catfish and take home \$100 savings bond.

Wet slip fees — monthly, boats more than 32 feet, \$3.75 per foot; less than 32 feet, \$2.50 per foot. Overnight, \$5 per boat.

Deep sea fishing trips — non-working Fridays and Sundays aboard the Keesler Dolphin II. \$60 per person includes everything you need to fish. Payment due upon reservation. Minimum 10, maximum 22 people. For reservation, call 377-3160.

Deep sea fishing private charter — rent Dolphin II, \$700 for first six people, \$35 each additional person Mondays-Thursdays, \$40 weekends and holidays. \$350 deposit required.

January special — 10 percent discount on rental equipment.

Back Bay cruiser — 17-foot vessel for rent. Mississippi boater registration card required. For prices, call 377-3160.

Canoe trips — for more information, call 377-3160.

Pontoon boat training — to rent a pontoon you must take a test and be certified. Call for information.

Resale area — snacks, beverages, fishing and rental equipment, Mississippi hunting and fishing licenses.

Recreational vehicle, boat and trailer storage — \$15 per month. For more information, call 377-3160.

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

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

Paintball

Paintball course — open by reservation only; for reservations or more information, call 377-3160.

Wrestling

Mardi Gras Brawl — international championship wrestling, 7 p.m. Feb. 1, Blake Fitness Center. Tickets sold at Gaude Lanes and Vandenberg Community Center; \$10 adults, \$5 ages 4-12, free ages 3 and younger. Sponsored by Rex Distributing, USAA and Keesler Federal Credit Union. For more information, call 377-4385.

HONORS

Communications, information awards

81st Training Wing

Civilian specialist — Julie Noakley, 81st Communications Squadron.

Civilian assistant — Ruthie Atchley, 81st CS.

Civilian manager — Kenneth Powell, 338th Training Squadron.

Civilian technician — Jack Dupree, 81st CS.

Electromagnetic spectrum manager — Master Sgt. Tom Banger, 336th TRS.

2E airman — Senior Airman Joy Baker, 81st Training Support Squadron.

2E noncommissioned officer — Tech. Sgt. Christopher Kurt, 338th TRS.

2E senior NCO — Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Marotte, 338th TRS.

3A airman — Senior Airman Sara Johnson, 81st Training Wing.

3A NCO — Tech. Sgt. Arius Preston, 336th TRS.

3A senior NCO — Master Sgt. Heather Watson, 81st Training Group.

3C airman — Senior Airman Dallas Ebanez, 81st TRSS.

3C NCO — Tech. Sgt. George Thompson, 333rd TRS.

3C senior NCO — Master Sgt. Sidney Hataway, 333rd TRS.

Company grade officer — Capt. Andre Johnson, 81st CS.

Field grade officer — Maj. Leo Lawson, 333rd TRS.

Information assurance unit — 333rd TRS.

Gen. Edward Rawlings Award — 338th TRS specialized training package delivery team.

Lt. Gen. Harold Grant Award (small squadron) — 81st CS.

Lt. Gen. Harold McClelland Award (large squadron) — 338th TRS.

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Branden Albert, Robert Allen, Kenneth Ashworth, Cory Baker, Alexander Bascom, Daniel Battisto, Bryan Bean, Eric Bergman, Eric Blakestad, Michael Brady, Anthony Criado, Adams Edmunds, Matthew Edwards, Bradley Erickson, George Fagan, Nicholas Fitzgerald, Philip French, Nikola Gerstenschlager, Frederick Gordon, Jacob Gornbein, James Hawley,

Eric Hildebrandt, Christopher Holloway, Thomas Johns, Alexander Johnson, Joshua Johnston, Ezra Kiihn, Seth Kubli, Saben Leinbaugh, Terry Long, Virginia Lopez, Nicholas Lowery, Kyle Lynn, Bobby Mahome, Samuel Martin, Joshua Mathes, Kyle Nelson, Shaun Oakley, Alexander Pruitt, Angel Quintana-Castillo, Jonathon Rea, Matthew Roemer, Christoher Rohach, Brian Rosessler, Gerald Royster, Jonathan Samolinski, Josiah Schmidt, Andrew Shepherd, Alex Smith, Zachary Walker, Kenneth Welch, Jeffrey Wilson and Clayton Wing; Airmen Landry Campbell, Justin Goodell, Joshua Houston, Robert Kolencik, Randy Martinez, Cody McMahan, Erin Miller, Hieu Nguyen, Josean Orengo, Ryan Rutherford, Brian Smith, Luke Thomas, Ralph Vick and Kyle Walker; Airmen 1st Class Charly Bennamon, Arron Bigler, Joshua Boshears, Steven Briski, Tara Cluka, Adam Cochran, Nicholas Curcuru, Philip Cyr, Michael Davis, Joseph Fears, Sylvia Flores, Adam Francis, Matthew Glover, Ruben Gonzalez, Michael Hayes, Patric Hilker, Jabari Hines, Allen Lambert, Darren Looze, Omar Marrero, Anthony Mollison, Douglas Nachbaur, Jose Napky, George Oliver, Justin Parsons, Adam Rivera, Brandon Shupe, Nicholas St. Marie, Benjamin Stoel, Drew Strandness, Bradley Strenn, Nicholas Vogel, Ian Wagner, John Wilson and Amy Wright; Senior Airmen Maajo Cooper-Henry, Jerome Danan, Nathan Fultz, Buell Richardson, Callie Rios and Derek Wilson; Staff Sgts. Donald Adkins, David Centofanti, Rickie Roque, Robert Schwingel, William Simmons and Christopher VanFosson; Tech. Sgts. Brian Achen, Matthew Artis, Lawrence Asuncion and Matthew Sly; Master Sgt. Kevin Bengs.

Metrology flight — Airmen 1st Class Christopher Peters and Peter Sittinger.

335th TRS

Comptroller training flight — Airmen Basic Joshua Cline, Gregory Hriczo, Valeria Luna, Chadwick McIntosh, Ashlyn Ross, Jennifer Shoptaugh and Whitney Swinson; Airmen Eric Bath, Ymir Eboras, Alison Eredita and Simon Lee; Airmen 1st Class Casey Brockway, Sharon Cross, Wesley Cure, Adam Fuchs and Jeffrey Seiwel; Senior Airman Brian Gardiner; Staff Sgts. Megan Mork and Kenneth Smiddie; Tech. Sgt. Tamra O'Neal.

Weather training flight — Airmen 1st Class Zachary Hilton, Tara Pedroley, Megan Warren, Nathan Wesley and Sarah Woehl; Marine Sgt. Darryl Matulevich; Staff Sgts. Yvonne Hartshorn and Michael Relyea

336th TRS

Communications and information flight — Airmen Basic Brittany Atkins-Alvarez, Timothy Clinton, Kevin Gleason, Brandie Johnson, Scott Mattan, Danielle Pearce, Joshua Story, Ethan Tomey, Bryan Tremblay and Joshua Zimmermann; Airmen Lukas Bedsaul, Vanessa Mims, Sylvia Navarro and Saunder Simmonds; Airmen 1st Class Gideon Allday, Mathieu Bargas, Steele Cary, Catherine Chambers, Jacob Corrigan, Geoffrey Estes, Eugene Evans, Michael Fowler, Bernice Glover, Kevin Glynn, Brandon Hamilton, Aaron Lovely, Gregory Lystra, Jason McIntosh, Jacob Palmer, Joshua Robertson, Michael Sampson, Luke Sanders, James Walker and Ian White; Senior Airmen Joshua Bartholomew, Yashira Franqui, Loretta Jackson, Bryant Marzan and George Potzgo IV; Staff Sgts. Tamara Fochs and Benjamin Willock; Tech. Sgt. Sandra Leonwicz; Capt Ahmed Youssef.

338th TRS

Ground radar flight — Master Sgt. Troy Mitchell.

Ground radio flight — Airman Basic Skyler Hart, Airmen Leland Cook, Damon Daniels, Antonio Guyton, Jason Jewell, Ronald Roper, Marcus Wheeler, Christopher White, Airmen First Class Jeffrey Belin, Bradley Childers, Evan Gossell, Jason Hubbart, Robert Klebes, Norman Lewis, William Littledale, Joshua Miles, Pablo Nunez, Nathan Orwig, Alexander Petit, Nicky Polo, Brett Raynes, Michael Shea, William Spadlin, Christopher Wzest, Senior Airmen Brandon Hill and Greggor Ilagan, Technical Sgt. Michael Lyons, and Master Sgt. Willie Kinsey.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 08-2 — graduates Feb. 13.

Please see **Digest**, Page 22

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

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

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	:30
:01	:31
:02	:32
:04	:34
:06	:36
:08	:38
:09	:39
:11	:41
:12	:42
:13	:43
:14	:44
:15	:45
:16	:46
:17	:47
:18	:48
:19	:49
:20	:50
:21	:51
:22	:52

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

Morning pickup from hotels north of Keesler — 5 a.m., Red Carpet Inn; 5:10, Travel Inn; 5:15, Beaujolais Villas; 5:20, Suburban Inn and Super 8.

Afternoon pickup to return to hotels north of Keesler — 3:30 and 5:30 p.m., street side of Hewes Hall for Bryan, Jones, Hewes and Garrard Halls; 3:33 and 5:33, Cody Hall bus stop for Hangar 3, Thomson, Cody and Dolan Halls; 3:36 and 5:36, E Street side of McClelland Hall; 3:38 and 5:38, back side of Allee Hall for 7-level building, weather training center and Allee, Wolfe, and Stennis Halls; 3:41 and 5:41, front of Muse Manor.

Wait at the main entrance of hotels for pickup. Allow a five to 10 minute window on arrival time. Traffic in the local area impacts base taxi times.

Call 377-2432 for transportation needs for classes starting after 6:30 a.m. or for service to hotels not listed.

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.

CHAPEL SERVICES

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

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

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass

Triangle Chapel.....9 a.m.

Weekday Mass

Medical Center chapel.....11:15 a.m.

Jewish

For worship opportunities, call Tech. Sgt. Michael Raff, 377-5235.

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 1-801-694-8900.

Digest,

from Page 21

Keesler NCO Academy

Class 08-2 — graduates Feb. 15.

Arts and crafts center

Multi-craft shop

Editor's note: open until 8 p.m. Thursdays

Thursday night specials — 5 p.m. today, welcome back toast in the kitchen; 5:30-7 p.m. Jan. 17, family night crafts fun; 5:30-7 p.m. Jan. 31 masks, king cake and bingo parade. Minimal fee for all projects.

Ceramic mold pouring — 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday or Feb. 2. \$25 including mold use, supplies and first firing. Discount for student airmen.

Ceramics technique — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday with certified Duncan instructor. No prior ceramic experience needed. Cost depends on project selected.

Youth center teen workshop — 4:30-7 p.m. Jan. 17, 24 and 31. Crafts and food project. Pre-registration required.

Pottery wheel thrown clay workshop — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 19. \$40 including five pounds of clay and firing.

One stroke painting with acrylics — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 19. Painting strokes for all decorative materials. Class doesn't require pre-painting experience. \$32 including project and paint.

Wood shop

Wood project — one class, three sessions, 5-8 p.m. Wednesday and Jan. 23 and 30. Make a fold-up work bench. \$105.50 including materials, shop use and instruction.

Beginning intarsia — 10 a.m. Jan. 19 or Feb. 2. \$15 including project and tool use.

Advanced intarsia — 10 a.m. Saturday or Jan. 26. \$20 including materials and tool use. A new project each month. Call to register.

Frame shop

Framing and matting — one class, four sessions, 5:30-7:30 p.m. today and Jan. 17, 24 and 31.

Auto hobby shop

Editor's note: open shop use, preregister for classes.

Free auto care briefing — 4:30-6 p.m. Jan. 17.

Qualified mechanics — can assist with vehicle maintenance.

Oil collection site — for personal vehicles.

24-hour coin-operated car wash — wash, rinse, wax system, towellettes, Armorall and vacuum station.

Vehicle resale lot — one block west of Larcher Boulevard on Tingle Street north of the 81st Security Forces Squadron building. Register at multi-craft shop. Registration, license and proof of insurance required. To place a car on the lot, call 377-2821.

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. compressed work schedule 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

All classes are held at the Triangle Chapel Annex through May. For more information, call 377-2520.

Catholic religious education — after 9 a.m. Sunday Mass.

Protestant Sunday School — 10:30-11:30 a.m. for preschool, elementary, teens and adults.

Men's prayer breakfast — 9 a.m. to noon second Saturday of the month.

Women's prayer breakfast — 10 a.m. to noon first Saturday of the month.

Tuesday Bible study — 6-7:30 p.m. at the Haven.

McBride Library

Story time — 10 a.m. Feb. 6, ages 3-5.

Fax special — faxes 50 cents a page this month.

Free wireless Internet available — check at circulation desk.

National tie month — tie display.

Gale data base reference orientations — 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Tours/orientations — call 377-2827.

International creativity month — arts and crafts display.

Professional development

Flight commander seminar — 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 23-24, Room 203, Garrard Hall. To register or for more information, officers or civilians can visit <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=OO-DP-AE-19> or call Master Sgt. Kelle Turner, 377-3697.

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Vandenberg Community Center

Editor's note: All events, except dances, are open to all Keesler personnel.

Hunt for happiness week scavenger hunt — pick up list from customer service counter Monday-Wednesday. Return completed list by 7 p.m. Jan. 19. Prizes awarded.

Martin Luther King holiday dance — 6 p.m. Jan. 20.

Puzzle day — 7 p.m. Jan. 29. Complete a large multi-piece puzzle individually or with friends.

Bubble wrap popping party — 6 p.m. Jan. 31.

Mardi Gras celebration — 6 p.m. Feb. 5. Music, free beads and king cake.

Football on the big screen — noon Sundays, 6:30 p.m. Mondays. Free popcorn.

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

Pool tournaments — 6 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays.

Movie night — 6 p.m. Wednesdays. New releases, popcorn.

Dances — 6 p.m. to midnight Thursdays before compressed work schedule Fridays, and Fridays and Saturdays. \$3.

Katrina Kantina

Editor's note: In the marina building overlooking Biloxi's Back Bay.

All ranks invited — open 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays. Snacks, beverages and music.

Luncheon specials — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 14 and 28. \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

Thirsty Thursday — 5 p.m. Jan. 31. Southern cuisine, DJ. \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

Karaoke night — 5 p.m. Thursdays before compressed work schedule Fridays.

Taco Tuesdays — members get two tacos for \$1, nonmembers pay \$2.

Catering — experts can assist with planning weddings, holidays, birthdays, official functions and other special occasions.

Youth center

Annual membership — \$25, ages 9 and older. Discounts on programs, classes and sports.

Cooking club — Feb. 12, 19 and 26, ages 9 and older. Call for times. Free for members; space limited. Preregistration required.

Art, Fit Factor and sewing clubs — 4-7 p.m. Mondays, ages 9 and older. Learn about arts and complete a project; maximum eight people.

Please see **Digest**, Page 23

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

Lunch — pork chops with mushroom gravy, braised liver with onions, fried fish, hush puppies, rissole potatoes, rice, gravy, broccoli, peas and carrots, corn, fruit salad, potato salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken chili, cheeseburger soup, buffalo wings and roast beef subs.

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

Friday

Lunch — shrimp scampi, beef stew, turkey, egg noodles, rice, gravy, corn on the cob, cauliflower, collard greens, three-bean salad, chicken and wild rice soup, French onion soup, chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

Dinner — chili macaroni, barbecue chicken, fried catfish, potato wedges, Spanish rice, gravy, fried cabbage, carrots, broccoli, pasta salad, three-bean salad, chicken and wild rice soup, French onion soup, chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

Saturday

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

Dinner — baked fish, knockwurst, Chinese five-spice chicken, potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, stir-fry vegetables, baked beans, spinach, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, clam chowder, chili and chicken nuggets.

Sunday

Lunch — oven fried fish, spareribs, chicken breast parmesan, macaroni and cheese, O'Brien potatoes, gravy, peas, sweet potatoes, broccoli combo, German coleslaw, tomato salad, chicken tortilla soup, baked potato chowder, chili and cheese pizza.

Dinner — stir-fry beef with broccoli, turkey nuggets, pork chop suey, sauteed mushrooms and onions, baked potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, corn on the cob, green beans, German coleslaw, tomato salad, chicken tortilla soup, baked potato chowder, chili and cheese pizza.

Monday

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

Dinner — spaghetti with meat sauce, loin strip steak, turkey, baked potatoes, pea and pepper rice, gravy, squash, carrots, broccoli, sauteed mushrooms and onions, macaroni salad, cucumber/onion salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone, chili with beans, grilled sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Tuesday

Lunch — teriyaki chicken, veal parmesan, baked fish, rice, parsley buttered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, succotash, steamed carrots, macaroni salad, cottage cheese salad, beef pot roast soup, vegetable soup, chicken chili, sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Dinner — country captain chicken, meatloaf, turkey a la king, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, tempura vegetables, mustard greens, okra tomato gumbo, macaroni salad, cottage cheese salad, beef pot roast soup, vegetable soup, chicken chili, sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Wednesday

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

Dinner — lemon-herb chicken, sweet and sour pork, jambalaya, scalloped potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, Mexican corn, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, chicken noodle soup, cream of potato soup, chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.

Digest,

from Page 22

TRAIL FitFactor Jazz-a-cise — 5-8 p.m. Mondays-Wednesdays through Jan. 23, ages 6-17. \$12 members, \$15 nonmembers. Preregistration required.

Aviation and space camp registration — throughout the month, ages 12-18.

Mardi Gras ball — 1-5 p.m. Feb. 2, ages 6-12; 7-11 p.m. ages 13-17. \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers. Preregistration required.

Give parents a break/parents night out — 4-10 p.m. Feb. 2 for youth through grade 6.

Mardi Gras camp — Feb. 4-8, ages 6-12. Preregistration required. Call 377-4116.

Open recreation — 4-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, ages 9 and older.

Friday night frenzy — 6:30-11 p.m. ages 13-17. Games, skating, music, snacks. \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers.

Super Saturdays — 1-5 p.m. Saturday, ages 6-12. Assorted activities.

Classes — 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. Gymnastics \$45 and \$50, ages 3-12. Dance \$45 and \$50, ages 3-12. Piano \$65 and \$70, ages 6-12. Karate for ages 6-12 meets twice weekly; \$65 and \$70; call for dates and times.

TICKETS AND TRIPS

Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans — Jan. 26, Ponchartrain/Shangri-La, sign up by Jan. 24. Jan. 27, Carrollton/King Arthur and Merlin, sign up by Jan. 24. Feb. 2, Iris/Tucks, sign up by Jan. 30. All trips \$20.

Tour to World War II D-Day Museum in New Orleans — Feb. 9. \$10 military in uniform, \$24 active duty/retired/spouse with identification card, \$30 adults, \$26 seniors, \$25 ages 6-12, \$20 ages 5 and under, including admission and transportation. Sign up and prepay by Feb. 6.

Discounted tickets — for many attractions including Busch Gardens, Sea World, Universal Studios and Disney World in Florida. For price list, log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

Information on area and out-of-state attractions — free brochures for Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

TRANSITIONS

Workshops, briefings

Congressionally-mandated pre-separation briefings — counseling by airman and family readiness center for active-duty military members of any branch of service who'll receive honorable discharges and no extra transition benefits. Briefings are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 p.m. for personnel who are separating and 2:30 p.m. for those who are retiring. Individuals with less than honorable discharges, receiving extra benefits such as second enrollment opportunity in Montgomery GI Bill, Reserve or Guard personnel coming off 180-day deployments or entering the disability system must call 377-2179 for individual counseling appointment. Until the center moves back to Sablich Center, briefings held in Room 151, Hangar 2.

Transition assistance program — planned dates, which are subject to change, are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; Feb. 11-14, March 10-13, April 14-17, May 19-22, June 16-19, July 14-17, Aug. 11-14, Sept. 15-18, Oct. 20-23, Nov. 17-20 and Dec. 8-11. For military personnel who are 12 months or less from separation or 24 months or less from retirement, and Department of Defense civilians; spouses welcome. Military members should complete congressionally-mandated pre-separation counseling in advance. Attire is business casual — no uniforms, jeans, shorts or T-shirts. Until the airman and family readiness center moves back to Sablich Center, programs held in Room 151, Hangar 2, room 151. To sign up, call 377-2179.

Military retirement benefit seminars — planned dates, subject to change, are 8-10:30 a.m. today, Feb. 7,

March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 10, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4. Tricare, Survivor Benefit Plan, movement and storage of household goods, military and retired pay issues and other topics covered. Spouses encouraged to attend. To sign up, call 377-2179. Until the airman and family readiness center moves back to Sablich Center, briefings held in Room 151, Hangar 2.

Transition assistance program workshop — to pre-register or for more information, call 377-2179.

MEETINGS

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

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

Air Force Sergeants Association — 7 a.m. third Tuesday of the month, Live Oak Dining Hall. For more information, call Master Sgt. Kat Hataway, 377-5566, or visit the group's Web site, <http://www.afsa652.org>.

Air Force Sergeants Association Auxiliary — 6 p.m. third Tuesday of the month. For more information, call Michelle Foster, 273-4591 or e-mail auxiliary.president@afsa652.org.

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 Dewi Clark, 377-2714 or e-mail dewi.clark2@keesler.af.mil; Fred Blache, 377-1048, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

Company grade officers council — meets first Wednesday of the month. For time and location, call Chaplain (Capt.) Michael Howard, 377-4859.

Keesler Amateur Radio Club — 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Hangar 3, Room 215. 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 — 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month, September-May, Larcher Chapel. For more information, call Heather Melancon, 831-8895.

Keesler Spouses Club — second Tuesday of the month. For time and place, call Gretchen Gorline, 374-8024, 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; location varies. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Toyshaline Young, 377-0591, or Tech. Sgt. Jodi Evans, 377-2835.

Top III — meeting times and locations vary. For more information, call Master Sgt. Nicole Pearson, 377-6510.

Tuskegee Airmen Inc., Col. Lawrence E. Roberts Chapter — 5 p.m. first Thursday of the month, McBride Library. For more information, call Glenda Mosby, 243-1992, gmosby1@bellsouth.net, or Charles Bowers, 860-3665.

MISCELLANEOUS

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., Hitman (R, 93 minutes).
Saturday — 2 p.m., August Rush, (PG-13, 113 minutes); 6:30 p.m., The Mist (R, 125 minutes).

Sunday — 12:30 p.m., Enchanted (PG-13, 108 minutes).