



# KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base  
Biloxi, Mississippi

Volume 71, No. 10  
Thursday, March 11, 2010



## Train to Fight — Train to Win

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**32 weeks until  
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## Base's economic impact tops \$1.1 billion

Keesler Public Affairs

Keesler's total economic impact for Fiscal Year 2009 has been calculated at more than \$1.10 billion. The figure was finalized as base officials completed the annual process of data assimilation and validation.

"We're proud that Keesler continues to have a significant positive impact on the Mississippi Gulf Coast's economy," said Brig. Gen. Ian Dickinson, commander, 81st Training Wing. "The partnership

between the base and the local community is very strong."

In addition to employee payroll figures and construction and purchases (\$650 million), the total economic impact includes military retiree pay and the value of volunteer services as well as jobs indirectly created on the Gulf Coast.

Over the last year, many construction projects have been completed or are nearing completion, which is reflected in employee payroll and purchases.

Keesler currently employs 14,629 people, including nearly 7,300 military positions. In addition, the base's presence created more than 3,700 local and contract jobs.

As one of the Air Force's major training centers, on any given day more than 3,000 students train at Keesler in more than 460 courses in technical subjects

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## Keesler makes CWS changes

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Keesler's compressed work schedule is changing to meet the needs of Keesler's Air Force and community customers.

Following appropriate consultation with base union officials, a mandatory change to CWS has been directed by Brig. Gen. Ian Dickinson, 81st Training Wing commander.

"CWS isn't being abolished, but it's being modified to enhance our ability to provide service to local customers, as well as to respond to the many off-base calls and e-mails received for action on Keesler down days," General Dickinson explained. "Under the modified schedule, all

Please see **CWS**, Page 9

Artist Marlin Miller, who was stationed at Keesler in 1982, created an eagle carving last weekend in front of the new base exchange. He returns around lunch time today to put the finishing touches on his work. He's created more than 20 of the carvings from trees battered by Hurricane Katrina. Photos show a tree toppled at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum being transported to the site, workers anchoring the trunk and the carving.



Photos by Bill Buell and Paula Strawn



## On eagle's wings



Photo by Kemberly Groue



## No such thing as ‘just a staff sergeant’

By Chief Master Sgt. Rob Tappana

Command Chief, Air Education and Training Command

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Words are powerful. They take just moments to speak, but they can echo for lifetimes. How many times have you heard someone say, “What does he know, he’s just a staff sergeant” or “what can I do — I am only an Airman?” I am here to tell you there is no such thing as “just” a staff sergeant or “only” an Airman.

While speaking to an Airman Leadership School class, I was asked to name the most influential leader in my career. I know many generals, even more chiefs, and all the living chief master sergeants of the Air Force. Despite this, I chose Staff Sgt. Mark Davila.

I was a master sergeant, working in a special duty unit. My career was on the fast track and I was riding high. One afternoon, Sergeant Davila knocked on my door and asked if we could speak privately. I assumed he had a problem and was happy that he trusted me enough to ask for help.

Stepping in, he said, “Sergeant Tappana, you have high standards and I enforce them with our

people. I can’t do that anymore unless you start living by them again. Are you okay?”

My heart stopped and I asked him what he meant. Gently, he pointed at the mirror on the back of the door and asked me if I’d be happy if one of our Airmen came in looking like me.

An honest look brought an honest answer, “no.” My hair was too long, my uniform and shoes looked bad, and I looked worse. What only a few people knew was that my daughter had been brutally attacked and was in the middle of a six-month hospitalization. I thought I was handling it well, but in reality, I was fraying badly around the edges. Determined to make a change, I went home, cleaned up, made a mental health appointment and started to get myself back together.

I might not have thought about it again, but six months later my chief asked me for bullets for my enlisted performance report. When I dropped them off, he said, “These are great. This will be easy to write. I was worried for a while.”

When I asked what he meant, he outlined all of the same shortcomings Sergeant Davila previously pointed out. He was aware but had taken no action.

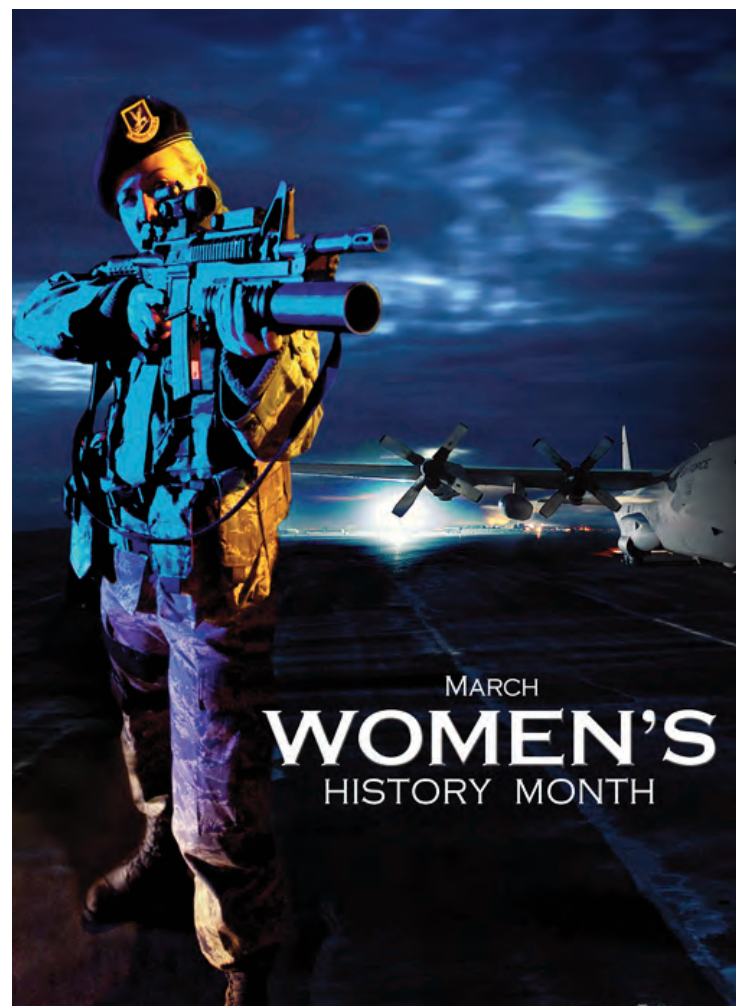
Neither had any of the other people senior to me in the unit. They were watching and judging, but only Sergeant Davila was leading.

Every good thing that happened in my career since then has roots in Sergeant Davila’s actions. My promotions to senior master sergeant and chief would not have happened if he hadn’t taken the lead.

Every Airman that I have led or helped since then is part of his legacy. Let’s not forget the most powerful part of his critique, his last sentence, “Are you okay?” He did not assume I failed because I’d suddenly become a bad person or was fatally flawed — he knew there had to be a reason. What a beautiful leadership move. He taught me volumes about how to be a wingman and how to lead up the chain.

There is no such thing as “just” or “only” when it comes to our Air Force team. Don’t discount or devalue the people around you with words that limit them to less than their full potential. More importantly, don’t discount or devalue yourself. There is no one more powerful than the person who is doing the right thing at the right time.

## Women’s History Month: Celebrate culture of equality



By Brig. Gen. Mark Dillon

86th Airlift Wing commander

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — As we enter March and begin to recognize Women’s History Month, I’d like to take a moment to talk about an Air Force pioneer who passed away a few weeks ago.

Retired Maj. Gen. Jeanne Holm, credited as the single driving force in achieving equality for today’s military women, died Feb. 15 at 88 years old.

She started her military career by enlisting in the Army in 1942. She entered the Women’s Army Air Corps the following year, receiving a commission as the WAAC’s equivalent of a second lieutenant. She commanded a basic training company, then a training regiment, and after the war took command of the 106th Women’s Army Corps Hospital in West Virginia before leaving active duty in 1946.

Two years later during the

Berlin Crisis, she was recalled by the Army to be a company commander and then transferred to the two-year-old Air Force in 1949, when a new law fully integrated women into the regular armed forces.

She then served for 26 more years in a variety of personnel positions overseas and in Washington, then becoming the longest-serving director of Women in the Air Force, or WAF, from 1965 until 1971. In that position, she truly found her stride. Maneuvering among senior leaders, she increased opportunities for women across the Air Force and in all branches of service. She got rid of outdated uniforms, opened “choice” overseas assignments to women that had long been for “men only,” and greatly expanded the career fields open to women.

In 1971 she became the first woman to achieve the rank of brigadier general, and two years later she became the first female two-star general in U.S. military history.

She retired in 1975, but many of the ideas she championed came to pass long after her time in uniform. Women were later admitted to service academies, allowed full participation in campus ROTC programs, allowed to serve as pilots and given greater roles in combat. Many believe that without her, there would be no women in the Air Force at all.

Today, women in the Air Force still face significant challenges. But thanks to the sense of determination and the culture of equality women like General Holm infused into our branch of service, we know we are headed in the right direction. She’s shown us that by standing together, we can achieve greater success by embracing our uniqueness versus dividing it.

During this month, please take the time to participate in some of the many events we have planned to recognize our heritage, and the proud part women have played in the past, present and future success of our armed services.



## DRAGON ON THE STREET

By Kemberly Groue

Keesler News photojournalist

Who is a famous person you'd like to meet? Why?



"Bono from U-2 — I love music and that's my favorite group."

**Master Sgt. D.G. Graham Jr., 81st Training Support Squadron**



"Chicago Bears defensive lineman Tommy Harris, because he played for the University of Oklahoma Sooners."

**Mike Hurst, contractor for AMEC**



"Michelle Obama — I think she is a strong woman and a great mentor."

**Tech. Sgt. Crystal Mays, deployed to the 602nd Training Group (Provisional) from Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.**

More news, videos and photos on the Web at <http://www.keesler.af.mil>

## KEESLER NEWS

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



## Training and equipment review board Caring for Airmen with joint expeditionary taskings

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, 2nd Air Force commander, is convinced that consistently bringing the right teams together at the right time will bring the focus needed to take good care of Airmen who receive joint expeditionary taskings to deploy with the Army.

A way to do that is with 2nd Air Force's training and equipment review board — TERB for short — which brings together leaders from various organizations and agencies charged with training, equipping and executing deployments for JET Airmen.

The TERB met for the fifth time Feb. 22-25 at Keesler with about 70 to 80 Air Force and Army leaders representing personnel, civil engineering, medical, intelligence, security forces, communications and other support fields.

One of 2nd Air Force's key missions is to provide centralized management and the overarching command and control structure to oversee, prepare and equip Airmen for JET expeditionary training in a sister service environment.

General Hertog noted that many people across the Air Force are unaware of the training differences between JET Airmen and air expeditionary force deployers who undergo combat airman skills training with Air Force instructors.

"JET Airmen are going to work for the Army, deploying on behalf of a combatant commander, so they train at Army power projection platforms," the general explained. "Training is generally longer than what the Air Force does because most of these people will be working 'outside the wire' — outside the base perimeter.



**Staff Sgt. Jason Ahlman tracks JET Airmen Monday in the 602nd TRG (P) operations center. He's deployed from the 313th Recruiting Squadron, North Syracuse, N.Y. The blue screen at top left shows the "digital dashboard," a program that tracks JET Airmen from the start of training until arrival at their deployed location. The center is usually open at least 16 hours a day, but moves to 24/7 operation on weekends while most movement takes place.**

"Our Airmen are doing an amazing job working for the Army, and we have many people working very hard on their behalf to make sure they're trained and equipped properly and ready to take on their combat mission," she continued. "The process isn't perfect, but we're striving for perfection and every day we're getting a little better at it."

Last year, about 7,000 JET Airmen were trained at Army locations across the country called power projection platforms. The number of PPPs providing training to our Airmen changes, but currently there are four PPPs activated — Fort Bliss, Texas; Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst N.J.; Fort Polk, La.; and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

"If you're going to be part of a provincial reconstruction team or a police transition team or a combat training adviser, you're going to go to

combat skills training at one of these PPPs," General Hertog stated.

"Right now we have 1,029 JET Airmen in training," said the general. "Our numbers really bumped up with the arrival of 563 RED HORSE Airmen at Fort Bliss last weekend." RED HORSE refers to Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, a highly-mobile Air Force engineering response force to support contingency and special operations around the world.

General Hertog acknowledged that Army training differs from Air Force training in content, culture and delivery, so the TERB tries to bridge the gaps by addressing, identifying, discussing and resolving any deficiencies.

In 2004, increased mission requirements strained the Army's manpower to meet combatant commander needs,

so the Army asked for combat support and combat service support personnel from the Air Force and Navy.

In the general's estimation, the most important people in the TERB are the group commanders who attended from the theater, including air expeditionary group commanders from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"They bring something special to the table," General Hertog commented. "It's their venue to tell all of the people who support them what they need and where they can use some help."

The emphasis at the TERB shifts as the deployed mission changes.

"At February's TERB, we closed out seven old action items, but we picked up 16 more since the last TERB meeting nine months ago," General Hertog pointed out. "Nine months ago, we

weren't in Afghanistan in the numbers we are now. The focus has shifted — we're drawing down in Iraq and surging up in Afghanistan, so we're shifting our attention."

"Deployment isn't a pickup game for us — we've been doing this for a long time," she added. "It's all about our Airmen — our goal is to correct any deficiencies that could keep them from being 100 percent ready to train and deploy."

"I want to see us making consistent progress," the general stressed.

One area of General Hertog's focus is making sure JET Airmen have the right equipment to take to training and into theater. Another is making sure that Airmen who've never fired anything but an M-4, M-9 or M-16 are given adequate training if they're going to be required to operate crew-served heavy weapons.

Another challenge is ensuring that Airmen are ready to train when they arrive at the PPPs.

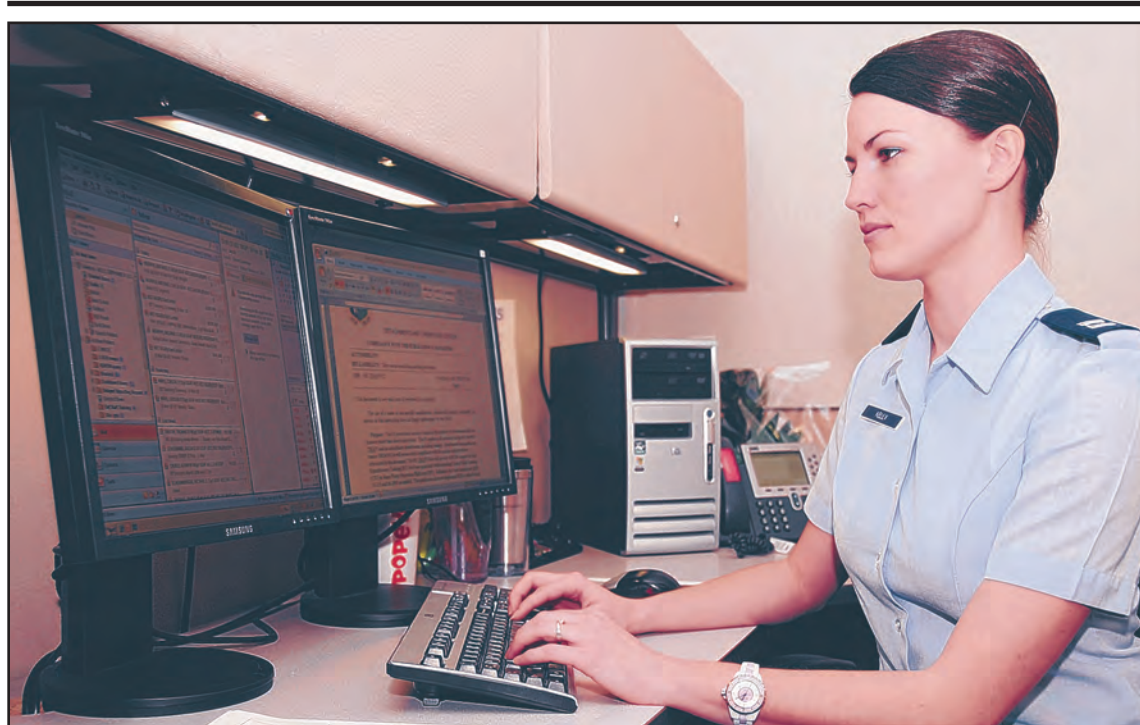
"Some may not be mentally prepared, and we've had a few instances where we sent Airmen home who couldn't qualify with weapons, and others arrive with the wrong weapons from their home station. That should never happen," the general said.

When these discrepancies turn up, General Hertog has asked wing commanders for their help in ensuring that actions are taken to prevent those scenarios from reoccurring. She said the feedback she's gotten from those commanders has been overwhelmingly positive.

Another challenge the TERB is addressing is the lack of experienced unit deployment managers and installation deployment officers.

Photo by Kemberly Groue





**Capt. Stephanie Kelly, deployed to the 602nd TRG (P) from Langley AFB, Va., validates discrepancy reports Monday.**

## **TERB,** from Page 4

“It’s a skill set we need to develop more, instead of making it an additional duty for these folks,” General Hertog emphasized. “We have people deploying every day, whether it’s JET or AEF — if we’re going to do it right, someone needs to focus full time on the taskings, line remarks, weapons and equipment requirements our deployers need.”

General Hertog said the TERB has never had a written charter to outline roles and responsibilities, but a draft document is in the works to specify membership and duties. “In my mind, the TERB will outlast any specific theater — we’ll always be training and equipping our Airmen to go somewhere,” she said. “There’s always going to be a Haiti, a Chile, whatever happens in AFRICOM as that command becomes more robust. We’re going to be an expeditionary Air Force for a long time to come.”

The general emphasized the importance of 2nd Air Force’s 602nd Training Group (Provisional). In addition to its operations center at Keesler, the 602nd TRG (P) is responsible for detachments at each PPP that function as Air Force liaisons and provide location command and control.

“We have folks from everywhere working in our operations center — active-duty, Guard, Reserve, comm specialists and loggies, you name it,” General Hertog noted.

Col. Kevin McGlaughlin, the 602nd TRG (P) commander, spends most of his time on the road traveling to its detachments at the PPPs to make sure everything involved with training is going well and General Hertog and Chief Master Sgt. Linus Jordan, 2nd Air Force’s command chief, make periodic visits



**Photos by Kemberly Groue**  
**Second Lt. Jason Schoerner, left, and Lt. Col. Mike Murphy, 602nd TRG (P) director of operations, discuss the requirement for JET Airmen to arrive at training with verification of their security clearances. Lieutenant Schoerner is deployed from the 186th Air Refueling Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard, Meridian.**

to the detachment commanders.

“We always meet with our Army counterparts to thank them for what they are doing and to give them an opportunity to vet any issues,” she stated.

“Our moral obligation is to provide our Airmen with the best training and equipment possible to make them combat ready — the right training at the right place and time,” said General Hertog. “We can’t fail them. The number of JET Airmen isn’t going to go down any time soon, and we need everyone’s support to give them the same attention and care that we give our AEF Airmen.”

## ASE exams

Wednesday is the deadline for active-duty and reserve to register for the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence exams to be administered on May 6, 11 and 13.

For more information, visit the education office or call 376-8708 or 8710.

## Hap Arnold grants

Friday is the deadline to apply online for the Air Force Aid Society's Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program at <http://www.afas.org/Education/ArnoldEdGrant.cfm>.

The \$2,000 grants are given for undergraduate studies to selected sons and daughters of active duty, Title 10 Active Guard/Reserve, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired reserve and deceased Air Force members; spouses (stateside) of active duty members and Title 10 AGR/ Reservists; and surviving spouses of deceased members.

For more information, call 376-8517.

## UBU house party

A UBU house party for nonprior service students is 7 p.m. March 19 in Vandenberg Community Center.

Students may pick up a free UBU card at the event or show their current card and become eligible for prizes and giveaways.

The party is sponsored by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Keesler Federal Credit Union.

## Academy cadets visit

Two cadets from the Air Force Academy Prior Enlisted Cadet Assembly visit Keesler March 22-25.

Briefings are 10-11 a.m.

## Academic ace



**Senior Airman Brian Reusser graduated March 2 from the personnel apprentice course in the 335th Training Squadron with a perfect score. He's assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.**

March 22 in Welch Auditorium and 2-3 p.m. March 23 in the Sablich Center Auditorium.

"Many of the academy's slots funded by Congress for active-duty Airmen aren't being utilized, and these prior enlisted cadets hope to increase awareness and number of applicants by spreading the word at major bases," said Master Sgt. Steve Mullens, career assistance adviser for the 81st Training Wing.

For more information, call Sergeant Mullens, 377-3697.

## KSC scholarships

The Keesler Spouses Club scholarship competition is open to members of the Keesler family, including

dependents and spouses of active duty, active Guard and/or Reserve, retired or deceased members and Department of Defense civilians.

Scholarships are awarded to eligible high school and home-schooled seniors who plan to enter a college, university or vocational school this fall and spouses pursuing a degree or vocational studies.

For applications or more information, e-mail JLMPatiquin@aol.com; log on to [www.keeslerspousesclub.com](http://www.keeslerspousesclub.com) or visit area school guidance counselors or the Keesler Thrift Shop.

Applications must be post-marked on or before April 1. Mail applications to JerriLynn Patriquin, KSC Scholarship Committee Chairman, P.O. Box 5218, Keesler AFB, MS 39534.

## Swan 38 scholarship

Deadline to apply for the Hurricane Hunters Swan 38 \$1,000 scholarship is May 31.

The competition is open to active-duty and retired 403rd Wing members and their dependents.

For applications, log on to [www.hurricanehunters.com](http://www.hurricanehunters.com)

## OTS briefings

Officer Training School briefings are 10 a.m. Tuesdays in Room 224, Sablich Center.

## Drill downs, parades

**Parades** — 6 p.m. March 18, July 22 and Sept. 16.

**Drill downs** — 8 a.m. April 16 and Oct. 15; 7 a.m. June 11 and Aug. 20.

For more information on drill downs, call Staff Sgt. Julie Hammond, 377-2737. For more information on parades, call Staff Sgt. Gregory Washington, 377-9527.

Base shuttle schedules are found at

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

[library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=15371](http://www.keesler.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=15371)



## Second Air Force honors four

By Angela Cutrer

Keesler News staff

Some familiar Keesler names showed up on the 2nd Air Force list of annual award winners announced Feb. 24. That's because the Feb. 18 81st Training Wing's 2009 awards banquet had just honored three of those listed.

**Tech. Sgt. Noah Vaughan**, 335th Training Squadron weather instructor supervisor, is 2nd Air Force's noncommissioned officer of the year. Sergeant Vaughan had 839 hours of podium credit for the year, exceeding AETC requirements by 625 percent. He achieved master instructor certification, authored 140 curriculum hours, upgraded eight weather system servers and integrated realism into 3-level training by creating 40 forecast scenarios and 180 special weather notices. He completed his bachelor's degree, headed the nerve center for the wing's air show, chaired a 50-member Habitat for Humanity team that built two houses, recruited 78 new members for the Air Force Sergeants Association and was military member of the year for the Orange Grove/Lyman Chamber of Commerce. Sergeant Vaughan was also noncommissioned officer of the year for the 81st TRW.

**Florence Clay**, 334th TRS budget assistant, was the winner in the civilian category. She executed \$2.3 million for six flights and 14 financial programs, including \$1.4 million in acquisitions for the squadron's new dorm. She's completed 18 credits toward her doctorate in business and is using newly-acquired skills on the job as she works on her dissertation. She coordinated the base chapel's 38th anniversary of its gospel program and has raised funds for cancer research. Named by the 81st TRW as civilian category I winner, she is AETC's nominee for the Air Force Blacks in Government Meritorious Service Award.



Sergeant Vaughan



Ms. Clay



Mr. Brock



Sergeant McCowan

**Richard Brock**, the 81st TRW's civil law chief, is 2nd Air Force's civilian supervisor category II winner. Mr. Brock authored more than 400 legal opinions and served more than 1,000 legal assistance clients, producing 775 documents with savings of \$200,000. He mentored five attorneys and four paralegals on complex civil law issues and led the top Volunteer Income Tax Program in the state, preparing more than 2,020 federal and 1,590 state returns with client savings of more than \$390,000. A member of the U.S. Tennis Association and the Gulf Coast Rifle and Pistol Club, he is active in his church and serves

as adjunct professor for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

**Master Sgt. Monita McCowan**, 81st Force Support Squadron, was named base honor guard program manager for the year. Sergeant McCowan's accomplishments include managing four flights of 32 honor guardsmen as the primary liaison among 140 funeral directors in a 48,000-square mile radius; supervising 143 color guard ceremonies; performing 469 military funeral honors in 68 counties and parishes, traveling 106,000 miles; and recognition as the Keesler's senior noncommissioned officer for the fourth quarter of 2009.

## IN THE NEWS

### Warrior training changes

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Today's monthly 81st Medical Group warrior training has been cancelled because of The Joint Commission and Health Services Inspection being conducted this week.

To compensate, two warrior training days will be held in April — noon to 5 p.m. April 8 for the regular training day and April 22 as a makeup for the March date.

Family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics and general surgery clinics each have one doctor available for urgent appointments. For urgent situations, call central appointments at 1-800-700-8603 or report to the emergency room.

Although pharmacy, radiology and laboratory services are open, they'll have reduced staffing, so patients are asked to delay visits during warrior training.

For emergency 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.

### 'Spring forward' on Sunday

Daylight saving time goes into effect at 2 a.m. Sunday. Set clocks ahead one hour.

### Gate closings March 19-21

Testing of the new barriers at the Pass Road, Meadows Drive and White Avenue takes place March 19-21.

**Pass Road Gate** — closed 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. March 19. Meadows Drive Gate, White Avenue Gate, and Rodenberg Gate will be open.

**Meadows Drive Gate** — closed 8 p.m. March 19 until 8 a.m. March 21. Pass Road Gate and White Avenue Gate will be open.

**White Avenue Gate** — closed 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 21. Pass Road Gate and Meadows Drive Gate will be open.

### Off-limits establishments

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

### Wing calendar event-planning must

The 81st Training Wing events calendar at <http://www.keesler.af.mil/events/index.asp> is designed to help organizers avoid conflicts with other events.

Once an official date is set, event planners should send details to the public affairs organizational box, 81trw.pa@keesler.af.mil. Most items are posted within one business day.

Items that must be included are the name of event, date, time, location and a point of contact.

Events should be coordinated and approved through respective chains of command and be mission-relevant to a wide audience. All inputs are subject to review and editing by the 81st Training Wing Public Affairs office.



employees will continue to get their down day, but it will be transparent to the customer, as offices and shops will be continually manned.”

Beginning with the pay period starting Sunday, all 81st TRW facilities, except the 81st Training Group, will begin expanding working hours to ensure five-day coverage Monday through Friday, according to the civilian personnel office. The training group is exempted at this time

## Economic impact,

from Page 1

such as medical, personnel, airfield management, weather forecasting, air traffic control and cyber training.

“Keesler’s job is to deliver the nation’s best trained, highly motivated, expeditionary Airmen by preparing them to take on their specialties within the Air Force” said General Dickinson. “Last year we graduated over 18,000 Airmen, International and sister service personnel to meet our customer’s needs.”

In addition, 41,550 hours were volunteered by Keesler members in fiscal year 2009 to coast community projects and organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity and the American Red Cross. Each year, Keesler also hosts the Mississippi State Special Olympics Summer Games, accommodating more than 800 athletes and coaches from across the state. Thousands of Keesler volunteers serve the games in every capacity from team partners to timekeepers.

“We understand the importance of building strong community relationships in achieving our mission,” said General Dickinson. “The Mississippi Gulf Coast is a great place to be and the men and women of Keesler Air Force Base are proud to be part of this community.”

due to its complicated training structure. All other organizations are required to change their CWS schedule unless already working under a schedule that provides five-day coverage each week.

In order to preserve the CWS and have five-day coverage, supervisors are authorized to change the employee “down day,” which is currently the first Friday of each civilian pay period. CWS employees must continue to be scheduled to work eight nine-hour days and one eight-hour day, for a total of 80 hours per pay period.

While considering the needs

of the mission, the supervisor may allow some employees to keep their down day “as is,” first Friday of the pay period, but switch the down day of other employees to the following Friday. The supervisor may also approve other days when requested by the employee as long as sufficient daily coverage is provided and the mission is not jeopardized.

Except for mission requirements, when the supervisor is required to decide among employees requesting the same day off, the decision is made by applying highest seniority, using each employee’s

service computation date.

The requirement to open shops and offices five days a week has already begun for those areas with military members. All supervisors in affected organizations must immediately develop a civilian CWS that complies with the new five-day coverage requirement.

Supervisors were directed to inform civilian employees of the schedule change at least a week in advance of Sunday’s effective date.

Offices and shops that were unable to meet the employee notification requirements or for other valid reasons, the last date

for full implementation is March 28 for appropriated fund employees and April 4 for non-appropriated fund employees, the beginning of the respective civilian pay periods.

Supervisors must ensure their respective timekeepers access the Defense Civilian Pay System’s multi-host Internet access portal to change the work schedules of affected employees. For specific questions about work schedule changes in the payroll system, timekeepers call Pamela Bateaste, 376-8237.

For other questions about CWS changes, call the civilian personnel office, 376-8644.

# Social media policy balances Web 2.0 with security

By Ian Graham

## Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — The new policy allowing access to social media from computers connected to the Defense Department’s unclassified network balances the mission value of Web 2.0 tools and the need for security, a top defense official said.

Since being hired as principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs in June, Price Floyd has made waves as the Pentagon’s “social media czar,” promoting the use of Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other social networking tools to spread the department’s message.

Mr. Floyd explained the new policy announced recently to participants in a “DoDLive” bloggers roundtable March 1.

“This means all (Defense Department) components have been told ... that the default switch on access is to be open,” Mr. Floyd said. “It’s balanced with the need to be security-conscious and tells the combatant commands to continue to deny access to sites when people try to access them inappropriately.”

The policy upholds longstanding regulations denying access to Web sites with inappropriate content, such as gambling, hate crimes or pornography, he said.

The new policy also keeps in the mind the importance of operational security, which he said becomes more important because of social media’s reach.

“Don’t say or do anything on these sites you wouldn’t say or do in any other form of communication,” he said. “The people here in public affairs have started an education campaign to push out both the fact that we have this new policy, and the need to use it appropriately.”

He cautioned that certain caveats apply to the policy. In many areas where service



“Don’t say or do anything on these sites you wouldn’t say or do in any other form of communication.”

— Mr. Floyd

members are stationed around the world, the infrastructure simply doesn’t exist to support high-bandwidth applications such as video streaming, he explained.

“In a place like Afghanistan, bandwidth is going to be a problem. Just because we have a new policy, doesn’t mean everything’s open,” he said. “If we don’t have the bandwidth, we don’t have the bandwidth.”

The new policy comes largely as a result of a culture shift outside the Defense Department, Mr. Floyd said. That shift needs to be carried over into the department’s culture, he added, as young people, many of whom have grown up using sites such as MySpace and Facebook, join the military.

“I think we have work here to do at the Defense Department,” Mr. Floyd said. “People who are coming into the military take all of this for granted. They can’t imagine a world where one didn’t have access to these sorts of sites. For those of us who are

a little longer in the tooth, it’s only been in the past few years that we’ve seen these developments and discovered how useful they can be. So we have some education and cultural shifting to do.”

Along with educating service members on how to use social media tools appropriately, Mr. Floyd said, some trial and error also must be part of the process. Because these technologies are constantly emerging and evolving, he explained, leaders should be less concerned about being given step-by-step guidance on how to use each application and more about finding what works best for their unit in their location.

Mr. Floyd said he’s been amazed by his own ability to engage with audiences worldwide using social media to talk to people he likely will never meet in person. The promise and outcome of Web 2.0 technology is the potential for outreach to an immense audience with relatively little effort, he noted.

“For me, this is not so much about official messaging,” he said. “This is about the men and the women of the armed forces having access to these ways of communicating. Even on my own Twitter, which I would say is official, I don’t communicate ‘official messages.’”

The early months of the new policy will be a learning period for everyone, Mr. Floyd said. In six months, he added, a review will lead to further guidance. For now, though, he encouraged exploration of social media.

“We shouldn’t be so dogmatic about this stuff,” he said. “Try new things, see what works. What works for me here in Washington might not work on a base somewhere else. I would encourage people to open a Twitter account, create a Facebook page, and see what works for them and their audience.”



# PERSONNEL NOTES

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## Finance office click, call, walk

**Click** for online information on nearly every finance topic through the Air Force Portal.

**Call** the finance customer service help desk call center, 376-8225, or by e-mail at 81CPTS/Travel@us.af.mil. The call center is manned during office hours, and all missed calls are returned within 24 hours.

**Walk** to the finance customer service center on the first floor of Sablich Center, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

## Deciphering an LES

If you need help deciphering information on your leave and earning statement, log on to <http://www.dfas.mil/airforce2/militarypay/yourleaveearningsstatementles.html>

## 2010 selection boards

**June 7, Sept. 27** — special selection boards.

**June 21** — senior noncommissioned officer supplemental.

**July 12** — colonel LAF-judge advocate/chaplain/ biomedical services corps; lieutenant colonel and major LAF-judge advocate and chaplain.

**Aug. 16** — command screening board.

**Sept. 13** — colonel MSC/medical corps/dental corps; lieutenant colonel and major MC/DC.

**Oct. 18** — chief master sergeant evaluation.

**Nov. 8** — colonel LAF; lieutenant colonel and major BSC.

**Dec. 6** — colonel and lieutenant colonel nurse corps; major LAF/nurse corps.

## Military personnel contacts

Military personnel section phone numbers:

**Customer support** — 376-8738.

**Career development** — 376-8739.

**Force management** — 376-8740.

**Student personnel center** — 377-4111.

**Testing** — 376-4111.

## Identification card requirements

To obtain identification cards, military personnel in uniform have priority in customer service, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Customer service is also open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on compressed work schedule Fridays.

To be issued an identification card, two forms of legal identification are necessary. Dependents are required to be accompanied by their sponsor unless they have power of attorney or a Defense Department Form 1172.

For more information, call 376-8339.

## Discrimination hotline

### Air Force Personnel Center

The Air Force Discrimination Hotline, 1-888-231-4058, serves all active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilians.

The 24/7 hotline number ensures all discrimination and sexual harassment concerns are quickly identified and addressed. It streamlines the process by which individuals can speak with an equal opportunity professional at the Air Force Personnel Center to advise and assist with their concerns and issues. Callers can remain anonymous.

Personnel are highly encouraged to use their chain of command or local EO office as a first means to address concerns, but the 24/7 hotline is available to those who don't have immediate access to their local EO office.

# 22nd Air Force commander visits Keesler's 403rd Wing

## Balancing act

By Senior Airman Kimberly Erickson

### 403rd Wing Public Affairs

"Thank you for what you do," Maj. Gen. James Rubeor, 22nd Air Force commander, said in a March 6 wing call addressing more than 1,400 reservists assigned to the 403rd Wing at Keesler.

"There are a lot of Americans rolling out of bed right now to have breakfast with their families and relax while you folks are out here, honing your combat skills and preparing to serve your nation," he said.

General Rubeor and his wife, Michele, toured the 403rd Wing's units Friday through Sunday to assess the needs of reservists and the support they receive from the wing, said Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Woitalla, 403rd Wing command chief.

By identifying the policies, manpower and resources the 403rd Wing needs to better perform its mission, General Rubeor said he can work the processes needed to make those changes at the 22nd Air Force level.

"I hope to get 22nd Air Force focused on the things that the 403rd Wing needs," he said.

"A lot of leaders fix what was broken 20 years ago," General Rubeor said. Instead, he said he believes a better approach is to talk to those doing the job today and focus on addressing current challenges.

It's that mentality that brought him to the 403rd Wing, he said.

General Rubeor highlighted full operational capability and total force integration as key concepts to the 403rd Wing's mission success, as well as lauding reservists for their continued contributions to contingency operations.

"The active duty can no longer accomplish any major theater campaign without mobilizing its guard and reserve components," General Rubeor said. He said reservists are indistinguishable from their active duty counterparts in a deployed environment, a testament to their operational capability.

"We're constantly working to keep deployments as short and infrequent as possible," General Rubeor said, ascertaining longer deployments as detrimental to reserve retainability.

Balancing the reserve triad of family, employer and reserve extends to all aspects of family readiness, starting with educating spouses on benefits, said Mrs. Rubeor.

"In the military you have a responsibility to yourself and your employer to take care of your family," she said. "By taking advantage of programs like Tricare Reserve Select, unless you're covered by something else, you're accepting that responsibility."

General Rubeor stressed the importance of communicating those benefits to junior enlisted Reserve members.

"When our young Airmen show up, they need someone to take them under their wing and not just teach



Photos by Senior Airman Kimberly Erickson

Above from left, General Rubeor discusses pilot training with 403rd Wing reservists Staff Sgts. Laking Holt, and James Selig while touring the 403rd Mission Support Group Friday.

Right, more than 50 reservists joined General Rubeor on Crotwell Track Saturday as part of the 403rd Wing Fit to Fight program.

them about how to do the job, but also to teach them about medical and life insurance," he said. "It really gets at the heart of mentorship."

"This was a hard fought program to get, so we need to educate our reservists of its availability," Mrs. Rubeor said.

In his time as a wing commander, General Rubeor said he saw a lot of prior service Airmen who had been separated for some time come through the reserve newcomer's briefings.

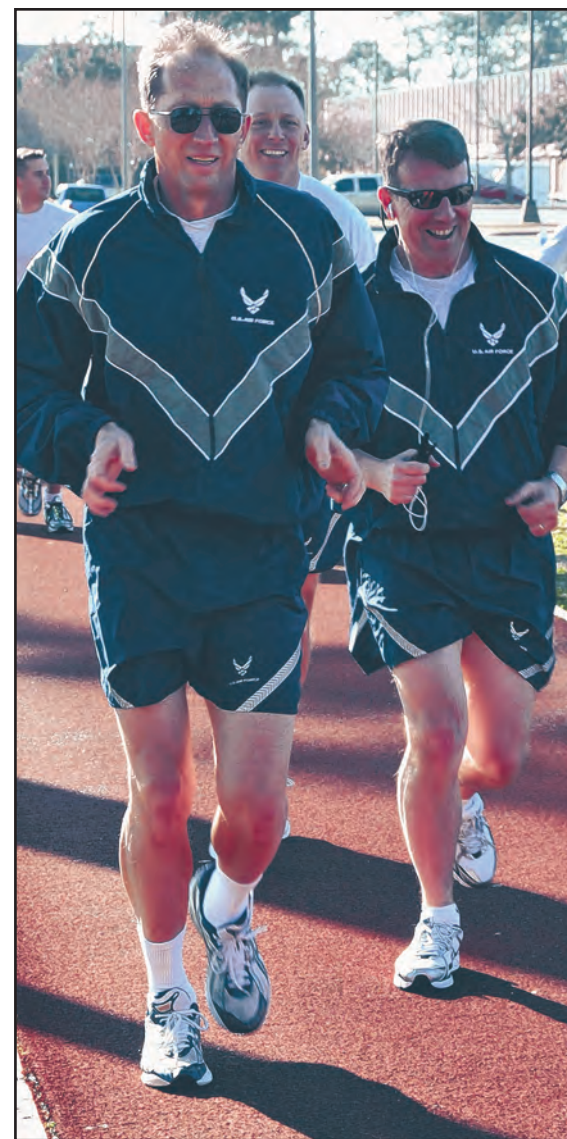
"Some people find that satisfaction in their civilian jobs, but a lot of people don't," General Rubeor said. "They find that the Reserve offered them the benefits, camaraderie and sense of satisfaction they were missing."

He said he attributed their return to military service to a sense of purpose they might be missing in their civilian lives.

"As I get older, I start to appreciate, know and understand the importance of a sense of purpose," General Rubeor said. "You have to be doing something that's important, something that you believe in."

For General Rubeor, he said his role as 22nd Air Force commander is a daily reminder of that dogma.

"Every day I get up and work with all of these great folks," he said. "It reinvigorates me and reemphasizes to me the importance of what I do and how fortunate I am to work with such great young Americans."







## 8 selected for promotion to senior master sergeant

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Eight Keesler master sergeants have been selected for promotion to senior master sergeant.

The results announced March 4 listed 1,269 selections out of the 13,741 eligible for promotion this year.

Keesler master sergeants selected for promotion are:

**81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron** — Heather Bowman.

**81st Force Support Squadron** — Steven Mullens (previously with the 85th Engineering Installation Squadron).

**81st Logistics Readiness Squadron** — Patrick Key.

**81st Medical Support Squadron** — Rogers Trahan.

**81st Training Support Squadron** — Rolland Southern.

**85th EIS** — Derick Wilson.

**335th Training Squadron** — Carl Greene and Scott Passman.

**Volunteer —  
get  
connected.**

# Fundraising begins AFAF aids fellow Airmen, families

By Angela Cutrer

Keesler News

When spring is in the air, you might encounter the sweet smell of .... doughnuts and coffee.

That's because it's that time a year when the Air Force reminds you that it has you covered when it comes to taking care of its own. Free snacks and drinks are a way to thank donors and interested parties to find out more about the Air Force Assistance Fund, which stands ready to provide four different charities to help when Airmen are in need.

"The Air Force Assistance Fund is an annual fundraiser to raise funds for the Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund, Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widows' Fund and the LeMay Foundation," said point of contact Capt. Michael Hickam, base project officer and chief of the 335th Training Squadron's financial management staff office course.

"All contributions are used only for Air Force members, retirees and dependents. The Air Force Aid Society provided 45,000 Airmen and their families with more than \$24.3 million in assistance in 2008," the most current numbers available.

Keesler's 2010 AFAF collection goal is \$77,528, along with 100 percent contact and 50 percent of members participating.

The arms of the AFAF are the Air Force Aid Society, the Air Force Enlisted Village, the Air Force Village (for retired officers) and the LeMay Foundation.

The AFAS is the official charity of the Air Force. The AFAS Web site reports that the organization was incor-

porated in 1942 as a private, nonprofit organization. Its mission is to help relieve the financial distress of Air Force members and their families and to assist them in financing their higher education goals.

"It exists only to help Air Force people and the deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel acts as the society's principal liaison with the Air Force, publishing a directive authorizing support for AFAS activities at base level," the site noted.

Most AFAS interest-free loans and grants are for short term or one-time emergencies such as food, rent, and utilities. It also helps with car repair and emergency travel requirements. Each case, regardless of the request, is treated individually, and the society reviews all requests for assistance and attempts to help if the assistance falls within the general thrust of the AFAS charter.

The Web site also said AFAS currently offers several education programs that help offset some expenses of higher education: The Education Grant Program provides \$2,000 grants to dependent children and spouses. These grants may be used toward payment of tuition, books and fees, or other direct education expenses. The program is competitive in nature and students must apply every year to demonstrate financial need to be eligible. Secondly, the Spouse Tuition Assistance Program provides tuition supplements to dependent spouses of active duty airmen and officers at all overseas locations. This program emphasizes the completion of degree and certificate programs that reasonably enhance occupational opportunities.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Col. Christopher Valle, 81st Training Wing vice commander, offers Senior Master Sgt. Thomas O'Connell, 81st Diagnostic and Therapeutics Squadron first sergeant, a complimentary box of doughnuts after Sergeant O'Connell donated to AFAF Monday.**

According to the Web site, the AFAS relies on the Air Force community for donations, though an early initiative funds earned income that is used to supplement annual contributions so that all emergency assistance needs can be met, education programs can be strengthened and community enhancement initiatives can thrive. All donations are applied to emergency assistance disbursements.

In addition to donations, AFAS relies on paybacks of existing loans and investment fund income to satisfy emergency needs.

"Every dollar donated supports programs. In 2009, the society provided more than \$21.6 million in support to Airmen and their families and donations for the year topped \$6.3 million, making the ratio of support to contributions 346 percent.

The Combined Federal Campaign supports all types of beneficiaries, whereas the AFAS provides services exclusively to the military, the Web said stated. The CFC was created in 1957 to provide a single fundraising campaign where federal and military employees could combine all fundraising for the civilian community into a single annual campaign.

The site said that AFAS sections are located at bases throughout the world, mainly in Airman and family readiness centers and through a cross-servicing agreement with emergency relief organizations of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

Local Red Cross offices also provide assistance when there is no military base or post nearby and then will be reimbursed by AFAS.



# Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!



Photos by Kemberly Groue

From left, Anna Christian and her 4-year-old daughter, Madison, and Ainsley Gottrich and her children, Ryan, 4, and Erin, 2, work on cards to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss at McBride Library March 3, a day after his actual birthday. Dr. Seuss was the pen name of Theodor Seuss Geisel, an American writer and cartoonist who published more than 60 children's books. He died in 1991 at the age of 87. The children's dads are Tech. Sgt. Allen Christian, 338th Training Squadron, and Lt. Col. Daniel Gottrich, 338th TRS commander.



Bobbie Martin from the McBride Library staff reads one of Dr. Seuss' books, "Oh the Things You Can Think," to Keesler children at the Dr. Seuss birthday celebration.

# National Nutrition Month

## Here's how to develop healthier eating habits

### American Dietetic Association and 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron

The American Dietetic Association notes that, although a healthful diet is an important part of a healthful lifestyle, most people have trouble figuring out what to do when planning a complete diet overhaul. During National Nutrition Month the ADA reminds everyone that an easy way to focus on eating better is to start with the basics: build nutritional health from the ground up.

“By starting slowly and giving yourself a good foundation, you can work towards a healthier life,” says ADA spokesperson Toby Smithson. “Change doesn’t have to be dramatic to make a difference.”

Mr. Smithson suggests ways to improve your nutrition from the ground up:

**Focus on fruits and veggies** — “Take a good look at your current diet you’ll probably realize you’re not eating enough fruits or vegetables. Add a serving each day to one meal and increase it every few weeks. Adding more of these foods into your diet is important whether you buy frozen, fresh or organic.”

**Look locally** — From farmer’s markets to community-supported agriculture, there are many options to find new, fresh foods in your area. This can be a great way to eat well and support your community at the same time.

**Make calories count** — Too often, people think of foods as good or bad and that only those on the “good foods” list are OK to eat. When you’re choosing between options, focus instead on the one with more of the vitamins and nutrients that you need. Sometimes, foods with fewer calories aren’t always the healthiest options. To figure out how many calories you need to achieve a healthy weight, visit [www.mypyramid.gov](http://www.mypyramid.gov).

### At Keesler

In observance of National Nutrition Month, the 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron’s nutritional medicine flight plans programs at area schools Tuesday, story time at McBride Library at 4 p.m. March 25 and visits to the child development center March 25-26.

**Test your taste buds** — A healthy eating plan emphasizes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat or fat-free dairy and includes lean meats, poultry, fish, beans and nuts. Those are the basics, but within this wide range there are always opportunities to try new things and find new favorites. Expand your horizons. Try a fish you’ve never eaten before or find a new vegetable recipe. By testing yourself, you might find new healthy favorites to add to your regular grocery list.

**Trick yourself with treats** — A healthful diet doesn’t mean deprivation. If you have a sweet tooth, have fruit and yogurt for dessert. If you want a snack in the afternoon, have some trail mix or nuts. There is no reason to go hungry just because you’re making healthful changes.”

Maj. Stacey Van Orden, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron nutritional medicine flight operations officer, added, “There are more reduced sugar and fat alternatives on the market than ever before. It has even become easier to fit eating out and fast food into healthy meal planning.”

For more tips on building your healthful diet from the ground up, during National Nutrition Month and all year long, visit [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org) and click on “For the Public” or call the nutritional medicine clinic, 376-5065.





Photo by Steve Pivnick

Members of the 81st Medical Group board a cargo aircraft plane Sunday. The “Dragon Medics” have been tasked to establish a mobile hospital in Chile for earthquake victims.

# Medics head to Chile

By Steve Pivnick

## 81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Almost 60 “Dragon Medics” departed Keesler Sunday en route to Chile to provide medical support in the aftermath of the massive earthquake that struck the South American nation Feb. 27.

The 81st Medical Group team flew to San Antonio aboard a C-17 Globemaster II cargo aircraft from the 437th Airlift Wing at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. They joined members from the 59th Medical Wing and 57th MDG, Lackland AFB, Texas. The combined group was scheduled to fly to Santiago, where they boarded buses for an estimated nine-hour ride south to their deployment location at Angol, Chile.

They’ll establish a mobile hospital on a Chilean army post. Angol, a town of about 60,000 residents, didn’t suffer the same degree of devastation as other towns and cities in the region. Equipment for the mission is coming from Port San

Antonio and Charleston AFB. The hospital was expected to be fully operational within 48 hours of the team’s arrival. The Air Force medics could be deployed from two weeks to a month.

Col. David Garrison, 81st MDG deputy commander, is the deployed contingent’s medical commander. Lt. Col. Christopher Morgan, 81st Medical Support Squadron readiness flight commander, is serving as the team’s health services administrator.

Colonel Morgan commented while still in San Antonio, “We’re on schedule. We will have 83 total personnel with us. We take off at 3:01 p.m. today (Monday) and fly to Costa Rica, stop for fuel and then go to Santiago.”

The 81st MDG was alerted March 4 to prepare a team for possible deployment. The movement order was received Sunday. The 81st Training Wing sent their deployment processing team to the 81st MDG Hospital’s Don Wylie auditorium, where the deploy-

ers received pertinent briefings and went through the processing line starting at around 10 a.m. The sequestered medics then boarded buses to a base dining facility before being taken to base operations to await the C-17’s arrival.

After the aircraft landed at approximately 2 p.m., buses took the team to its parking location at the south end of the flight line, where they waited for it to be refueled.

Second Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, 81st TRW Vice Commander Col. Christopher Valle, 81st TRW Command Chief Master Sgt. Lonnie Slater, 81st MDG Commander Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Dan Wyman and 81st MDG Superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Michael Anderson were on hand to personally wish each team member a safe and successful mission.

The aircraft departed shortly after 3 p.m. The same C-17 was expected to transport the combined team to Chile.

# Year of the Air Force Family



## Open house in Bayridge Monday **Keesler has abundant family housing options**

By Angela Cutrer

Keesler News staff

Permanent change of station moves usually occur about the time school gets out. Check your calendar and you'll see that time is ticking away to get packing.

For military families headed to Keesler, they won't have far to look. Keesler has on site the largest military family housing project in Air Force history.

To get a glimpse at Keesler's family housing, there's an open house at 9 a.m. Monday at 208 Patrick Drive in the Bayridge housing area. It's being held in conjunction with delivery of keys for the last house completed and a Year of the Air Force Family celebration, according to Brian Drake, 81st Infrastructure Support Division director.

"If you reside on base or reside off base and would like to see what Keesler has to offer to eligible personnel, please come out to help celebrate this milestone and tour the home. We have plenty of new homes available for those desiring to reside in family housing."

"We currently have more than 150 vacant homes available," said Brett Long, housing flight chief. "In addition, we have vacant Sandhill homes 23 miles from the base in Gautier at Exit 57 off I-10. Amenities include three- and four-bedroom homes with carpet, ceiling fans, a garage,

### Making a move? Need a home?

The Automated Housing Referral Network, sponsored by the Department of Defense, is a free service designed to improve the process of securing available housing for relocating military members and their families.



The Web site, [www.ahrn.com](http://www.ahrn.com), was created exclusively for military to post homes for rent and sale to the Internet.

In 2009, total registrations numbered 187,352, so the site is active. As of February, AHRN is available at 440 military installations throughout the United States and 17 installations in Europe.

fenced yards, stove, refrigerator, garbage disposal, dishwasher and hookups for a washer and dryer."

The main reason for the acceleration of inventory came from the 2005 Hurricane Katrina disaster.

"Keesler military family housing was heavily damaged or destroyed during Hurricane Katrina," said Mr. Drake. "A \$287 million project was awarded to Hunt-Yates to build 1,028 new homes. In addition, it's also the largest Leadership in Engineering and Environmental Design project in the nation."

To gain LEED certification, homes must meet a minimum level of performance in categories of sustainable sites, locations and linkages, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, awareness and education, materials and resources and indoor

environmental quality.

The level of performance is indicated by four performance tiers — certified, silver, gold and platinum. Keesler now has more than 700 units with a silver certification, making it the largest LEED for Homes certified project in the country.

"LEED encourages sustainable green building and development," said the LEED Web site. "LEED buildings cost less to operate and maintain, are energy and water efficient, and will reduce dependence on foreign oil. A green home incorporates smart design, technology, construction and maintenance elements to significantly lessen the negative impact of the home on the environment and improve the health of the people who live inside."

For more information, visit the housing office, Room 118, Sablich Center, or call 376-8611.



# 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

## Review seeks broadest input

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department's review on the potential impact of repealing the ban on gays serving openly in the military will solicit input from troops of every service and rank — as well as their families — through surveys, focus groups and social media tools, the team heading up the review told Congress March 3.

Jeh Johnson, the Pentagon's general counsel; Army Gen. Carter Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe, and Clifford Stanley, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, told members of the House Armed Services Committee they seek to get the widest range of viewpoints from both within and outside the Defense Department as they conduct the review concerning potential repeal of the law commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Defense Secretary Robert Gates ordered the 10-month review in February to solicit views about a repeal, as well as the potential impact if Congress directs it. He issued guidelines and parameters for the review March 2, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that any change in the law is implemented in a way that minimizes disruptions in military operations.

Toward that end, the working group will focus its work on assessing any impact a repeal would have on readiness, recruiting, retention, family readiness and unit cohesion, Johnson said.

The working group conducting the review is a cross-section of the military, General Ham told the House panel. Its members represent a wide variety of ages, ranks and military specialties, come from every service, including the Coast Guard, and serve in both the active and reserve components.

Navy Fleet Master Chief Petty Officer Scott Benning serves as the group's senior enlisted leader, with access to all group activities and a reporting chain that goes directly to Mr. Johnson and General Ham, the general noted.

Both have asked every member of the working group to set aside their own views so they can conduct an objective, comprehensive review, Mr. Johnson told the House panel, "because frankly, that is, in my experience, the best way in which members of the U.S. military go about their work, if we are all asked to set aside our personal opinions and do the best we can at an objective and thorough analysis."

As the group's members engage in their review, they are expected to use a survey to get the views from military members and their families. However, acknowledging the importance of personal interaction, General Ham said focus groups will be conducted as well, some targeting specific groups within the military.



Air Force photo

**Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz serves as a witness before the House Armed Services Committee Feb. 23 on Capitol Hill. Both General Schwartz and Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley answered questions that included the service's position on the review of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.**

And with the department's new emphasis on social media, the working group will take advantage of these tools to ensure the broadest range of individuals, both within and outside the Defense Department, get their voices heard, General Ham said.

Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said during a Pentagon briefing March 3 that the working group's study will help to better prepare the department to act if Congress repeals or changes the law.

"Right now, we're not in the position to be able to offer any advice to the Congress on a legislative remedy to 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' if they wanted to pursue one," he said. "We just don't know enough about the impact," he said.

Secretary Gates wanted to undertake the review, he added, "for our forces, for their families, for readiness, for recruiting, for retention, for all the potential consequences of a change in the law."

"We are ... preparing ourselves for that possibility," he said, "and educating ourselves so that, if the Congress does choose to pursue a legislative remedy, we are able to inform that process in a more helpful way."

# DOD board reassessing service disability ratings

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — Recommendations from a congressionally directed Department of Defense Physical Disability Board of Review resulted in 61 percent of applicants having their status

changed from a medical separation to retirement on the permanent disability list, said Michael LoGrande, PDBR president.

PDBR members reassessed the accuracy and fairness of

the combined disability rating assigned to service members who were separated as unfit for duty due to a medical condition with a disability rating of 20 percent or less and weren't eligible for retirement. The review only considered service members separated from the Armed Forces between Sept. 11, 2001 and

Dec. 31, 2009.

The PDBR came about as part of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act which standardized the Disability Evaluation System among the services by mandating the use of the Veterans Administration's Schedule of Rating Disability.

"The Department of

Defense has identified approximately 77,000 veterans who meet the eligibility criteria to apply to the PDBR," Mr. LoGrande said.

This review is open to eligible veterans of the DOD, Guard and Reserve and Coast Guard, according to Mr. LoGrande. The request for review may come from the veteran, surviving spouse, next of kin or legal guardian.

Once the PDBR members review a case and make a recommendation, each service secretary, or designee, will decide whether or not to accept the board's recommendation. Veterans cannot appeal a decision made as a result of the PDBR process.

Eligible veterans can request a PDBR by submitting a Department of Defense Form 294, Application for Review of Physical Disability Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States. People can find the DD Form 294 at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd0294.pdf>

Veterans requesting a PDBR must mail their completed and signed DD Form 294 to SAF/MRBR, 550 C St. W., Suite 41, Randolph Air

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Please see **Disability**, Page 20



## Disability,

from Page 19

Force Base, TX 78150-4743. Applicants may submit statements, briefs, medical records or affidavits supporting their application, Mr. LoGrande said.

In addressing their involuntary separation, veterans need to consider whether to go with the PDBR or opt to apply to their respective Board of Correction for Military Records, according to Mr. LoGrande.

“This is a very important

point, and PDBR-eligible veterans should understand there are several differences between the scope and the consequences of the two reviews,” Mr. LoGrande said. The DD Form 294 contains a table outlining the differences and outcomes of the two review processes.

“The choice is important and highly dependent upon the facts and circumstances of a veteran’s case,” Mr. LoGrande said. “The applicant should weigh all of the factors and make a choice only after careful consideration.”



**DON'T FORGET** Set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour **at 2 a.m. Sunday**

Air Force graphic by Will Daniel

## Keesler Spouses Club hosts Treasure Island Extravaganza

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

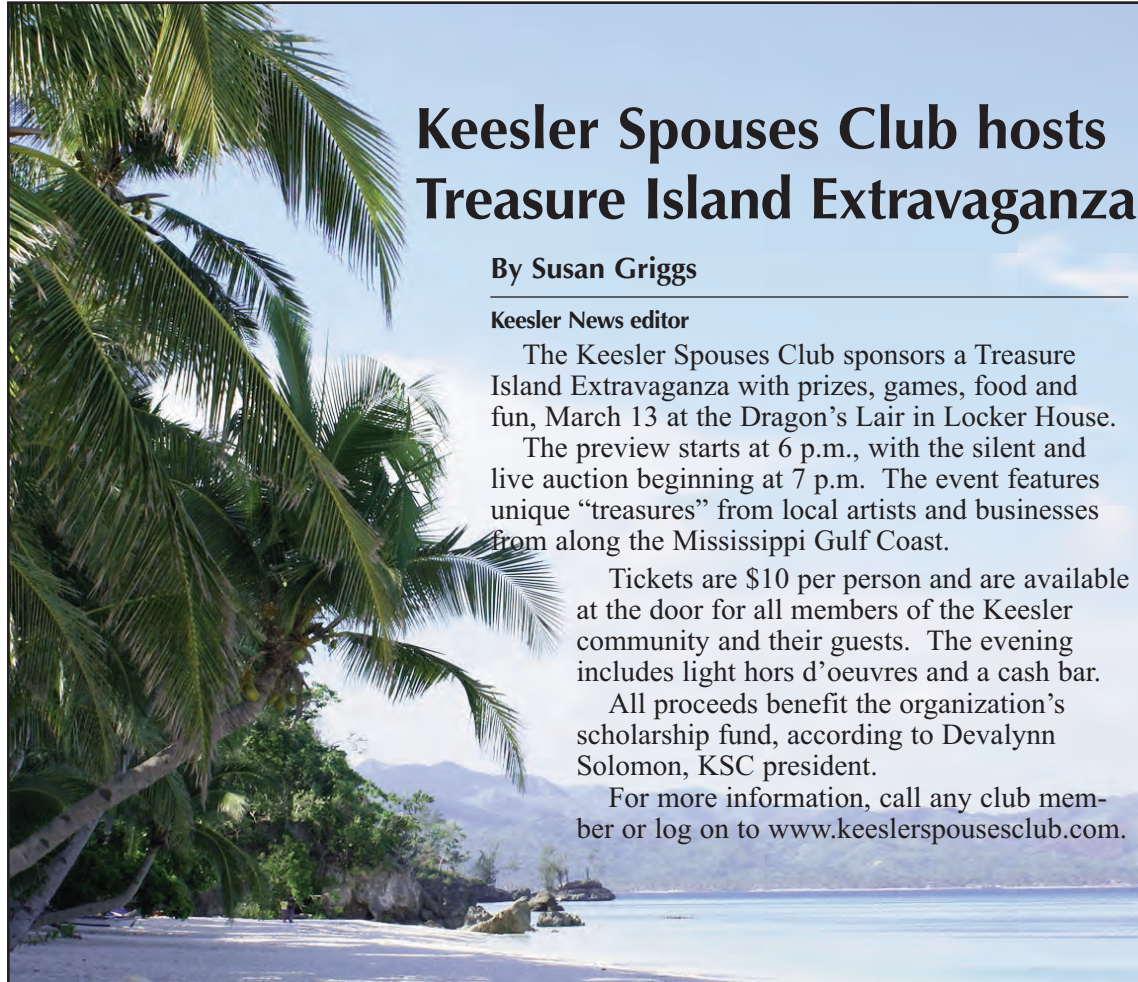
The Keesler Spouses Club sponsors a Treasure Island Extravaganza with prizes, games, food and fun, March 13 at the Dragon’s Lair in Locker House.

The preview starts at 6 p.m., with the silent and live auction beginning at 7 p.m. The event features unique “treasures” from local artists and businesses from along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Tickets are \$10 per person and are available at the door for all members of the Keesler community and their guests. The evening includes light hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar.

All proceeds benefit the organization’s scholarship fund, according to Devalynn Solomon, KSC president.

For more information, call any club member or log on to [www.keeslerspousesclub.com](http://www.keeslerspousesclub.com).



# KEESLER NOTES

## Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross takes place 5 p.m. Fridays during Lent at Triangle Chapel.

## Summer jobs

People interested in summer jobs as lifeguards and educa-

tional aides can apply online when vacancies are announced at [www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com).

For jobs as clerks, laborers and other categories, apply directly to the civilian personnel office, Room 214, Sablich Center. Applications are

accepted until June 30.

For more information, call 376-8644.

## Lodging reservations

Space-available lodging reservations can be made one to three days in advance,

depending on availability:

**Visiting airmen's quarters**, \$34.75 (one queen size bed, refrigerator, microwave and a shared bathroom with an adjoining guest room).

**Visiting quarters**, \$39 (one queen size bed, refrigera-

tor, microwave and private bathroom).

**Temporary lodging facility**, \$41.50 (one and two bedroom family units with full kitchen).

**Pet TLFs** are available for an additional charge of \$10 per night. No pets are allowed in any other rooms.

All rooms are nonsmoking.

For reservations, call 374-0088 or DSN 597-4900.

## Thrift shop hours

The Keesler Thrift Shop is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

Donations are accepted during regular hours. Consignments are accepted 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays.

For more information, call 377-3217.

## Visitor center hours

The Keesler Visitor Center is open 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and closed on weekends.

## Missing pets

For missing pets, contact the pest management unit in Building 3907, the civil engineering compound, or call 377-3317 or 348-6370, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays.

## Root canal treatment

The Keesler Dental Clinic is seeking patients who require root canal treatment.

All authorized beneficiaries, including military retirees and dependents of active duty and retired, are eligible for care.

Patients accepted for treatment are treated by either the endodontic specialty program residents or the residents in the general dentistry program.

Referral from a dentist for root canal treatment is required.

For more information, call the endodontics department, 376-5227.

## Zero overpricing

Submit zero overpricing items on Air Force Form 1046 to CSC supply customerservice, Room 126, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002.

For overpricing issues or concerns, call Michael Cashion, 377-8891, or e-mail [michael.cashion.2.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:michael.cashion.2.ctr@us.af.mil).



## Airman named to USA Netball Squad

By Tech. Sgt. DaKita Bailey

81st Medical Operations Squadron

The 81st Medical Group has a rising sports star in its midst.

Alisa Taka, an Airman 1st Class assigned to the 81st Medical Support Squadron logistics flight as a medical material technician, has been named to the USA Senior Netball Squad.

What is netball? Think basketball with no backboards, no dribbling and just three seconds to catch and pass the ball.

Taka was first introduced to the game in her native country of Fiji. Growing up, she earned several awards and accolades playing the sport. She has even been sought after to play for numerous teams.

"I represented my high school for the under 15, 17 and 19 age group," she explained. "I was nominated as the team captain for the under 15 and under 17 age group."

"When I was 15, I was invited to join the Tailevu Netball Club, similar to a league, which is played for eight months. At this level I played netball with experienced players, which was tough at times.



**Airman Taka**

Being the youngest player on the team and playing against national reps and experienced players was one of the challenges I had to face.

"I've learned that if you want to be the best in what you do, learning from your mistakes is a basic element. My dream has always been to succeed in my education and play international netball."

"Well, my dreams came true when I learned Jan. 30 I had been selected to play for the USA Senior Netball Squad. I'll find out if I will be a member of the team in April.

If selected, I will compete in the World Netball Championship Qualifying Tournament being held on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia.

"Being selected for the USA Senior Netball Squad for the World Championships next year in Singapore is an achievement and I'm proud and honored to represent this country in a sport that I love."

She added, "I hope someday I will be able to teach people how to play. I'd also love to put the United States on the international netball scene and remind people netball was originally born in the United States. It has never being an easy journey to where I am today but with God anything is possible. I believe we should always do our best and leave the rest to God."

"I would like to thank my family for supporting me and also my 'LOGDOG' family for always supporting and encouraging me."

Taka has been a member of the Air Force for 10 months and at Keesler for six months.

Wanting more information about the sport? Visit [www.usanetball.com](http://www.usanetball.com).



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# SEMAC basketball

## Dragons lose championship to Hurlburt Field

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

The Keesler Dragons ran out of steam in the Southeastern Military Athletic Conference's postseason basketball tournament, losing by 30 points to the home-standing Hurlburt Field (Fla.) Commandos in the championship game Feb. 28.

The Dragons and the Commandos were tied for the lead in the conference standings at 8-3 when the regular season ended Feb. 22.

Other squads in the eight-team league included the Naval Station Mayport (Fla.) Hurricanes and five other Air Force contenders — the Eglin (Fla.) Eagles, Tyndall (Fla.) Tigers, Maxwell (Ala.) Warriors, Robins (Ga.) Hawks and Moody (Ga.) Flying Tigers.

Moody forfeited to Keesler in the opening round

of the playoffs Feb. 27. The Dragons went on to defeat Eglin, 68-60, before being dropped to the losers' bracket by Hurlburt Field, 75-63 Feb. 28. The Dragons slipped past Mayport, 68-65, to earn another chance at the Commandos in the final round of the double-elimination tournament.

The Commandos also posted decisive wins over Robbins, 87-66, and Mayport, 99-69.

Hurlburt Field's Jamar Major was the tournament's most valuable player.

In addition to Kenny Dukes and James Matthews from Keesler, others named to the all-tournament team were Wendell Thibeaux, Eglin; Dwight Gooding and James Milt, Mayport; and DeAngelo Gilliam and Levante Greenwood, Hurlburt Field.

Individual high scorers were Maxwell's Ollie Bradley, 34; Tyndall's Tysen Pina, 33 and 27; Eglin's

Stanton Simmons, 28; and Hurlburt's Greenwood and Keesler's Alvin Holmes, 26.

Named to the all-SEMAC team for the season were Keesler's Danny Nwaelele, Sherrod Brown and Holmes; Moody's Terrius Smith, Elvis Shaw and Clint Williams; Robins' Miguel Steward, Juan Vasquez and Khenz Jacinthe; Tyndall's Melvin Smith, Jared Austin and Marcelle Mosley; Eglin's Drevell Herron, Simmons and Andrew Mims; Maxwell's Larry Haynes, Bradley and Brian Cooper; Mayport's Gooding, Milt and Leo Barnwell; Hurlburt's Jason Brown, Donnell Howard and Willie Lee.

Dukes from Keesler and Major from Hurlburt shared MVP honors for the season.

Jesse Harris from Keesler and Mario Webb from Hurlburt shared coach of the year recognition.

## Intramural volleyball tips off

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Most of the 16 teams competing in this season's intramural volleyball league got a chance to hit the courts in the first week of play last week.

**In the East Division**, the 81st Training Support Squadron and the 336th Training Squadron's A-team each claimed two wins to land atop the standings. The 81st TRSS defeated the 338th TRS-A, 2-1, and the 334th TRS, 2-0, while the 336th TRS-A took wins over the 333rd TRS, 2-1, and the 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron, 2-1.

**In the West Division**, the 332nd TRS-A took an early season lead with 2-0 victories over the 336th TRS-B and 81st Logistics Readiness Squadron.

The East Division plays Mondays and Wednesdays and the West Division plays on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All games take place at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. at Blake Fitness Center

For schedules and scores, see Page 24. For more information, call Sam Miller, 377-2444.



# SCORES AND MORE

## Basketball

### SEMAC varsity men (as of Monday)

Team	Won	Lost
Keesler	8	3
Hurlburt Field	8	3
Mayport	6	5
Maxwell	6	5
Eglin	5	6
Tyndall	4	7
Robins	4	7
Moody	3	8

## Bowling

**Birthdays party package** — 1:30-3 p.m. or 3:30-5 p.m. Saturdays. Basic party with bowling and food \$8.95 per child. Mid party, including table supply and T-shirt, \$11.95 per child. Premium party with games and a pin, \$15.95 per child. Reservations required.

**Bowling fundraisers** — for more information, call 377-2817.

**Club member special** — show current club card Thursdays and bowl for \$1.50 per game; free shoe rental.

**Glow bowling** — 9 p.m. Fridays and 7 p.m. Saturdays.

**Lunch and bowl special** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. Bowl for \$1 a game plus \$1 for shoes.

**Team building special** — 1-3 p.m. Mondays-Wednesdays, 1-5 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays. Bring employees bowling for \$1 a game plus shoe rental. For reservations, call 377-2817.

**Youth bowling** — for any child old enough to throw the bowling ball down the alley. League meets 9:30 a.m. Saturdays; instruction available. For more information, call 377-2817.

## Fitness centers

**African-American Heritage Committee sickle cell 5-kilometer run/walk** — April 23; 6:45 a.m. registration; 7:30 a.m. start, Blake Fitness Center, \$10-\$15. For more information, call Yolanda Jerry, 377-4632.

**Biggest loser contest** — final weigh in on or before weekend of March 19. The top two male and female contestants losing the most weight during the competition will receive a T-shirt and Subway gift card.

**Blake Fitness Center** — open 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends and holidays.

**Boxing room** — Triangle Fitness Center. Six heavy bags, three speed bags and one double-end bag. Boxing gloves available.

**Dragon Fitness Center** — Due to the basketball court's water damage, center hours extended for full-court basketball play 6 a.m.-11 p.m. Mondays-working Friday; 8 a.m.-1 p.m. nonworking Friday and Saturdays. Parent-child fitness room has workout equipment and play area for ages 6 months to 7 years.

## Help for Haiti



Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Nathan Roy, 81st Medical Support Squadron, runs during the March 4 81st Training Wing 5-kilometer fun run/walk that brought out 70 participants to raise \$1,000 for the American Red Cross Haiti relief efforts.**

For more information, call 377-4385.

**Free blood pressure machines** — available at all fitness centers.

**Free fitness classes** — boot camp, self-defense, cycling, yoga, step aerobics, Tae Kwon-do, core fitness, kick boxing and pilates at Dragon Fitness Center. For more information, call 377-2907.

**Free fitness testing, exercise prescription and personal training** — at Blake, Dragon and Triangle fitness centers. For more information, call for appointment.

**Fit to fight incentive program** — Dragon slayers, dragon readers, dragon gliders and dragon riders available free at Blake, Dragon and Triangle fitness centers. Awards presented. For more information, contact the fitness center of your choice.

**Massage appointments** — at Triangle Fitness Center. For more information, call 348-6698.

**Muscle Mania powerlifting meet** — Free. Triangle Fitness Center, March 19; weigh-in at noon, compete at 1:30 p.m. Squat, bench press and deadlift. Registration

deadline March 15. For more information, call 377-3056.

**No smoking** — on Crotwell Track across from Blake Fitness Center.

**Parent/child fitness room** — at Dragon Fitness Center. Workout equipment; play area for ages 6 months to 7 years.

**St. Patrick's Day run/walk** — Free. 7 a.m. Wednesday; 6:30 a.m. registration in front of Blake Fitness Center. First 30 to register get T-shirts; first 75 get custom shamrock bead necklace. First place male and female finishers, \$15 Subway gift card; second place, set of terry cloth shamrock wrist bands; third place, shamrock bandana.

**Triangle Fitness Center** — open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays and weekends; closed holidays. For more information, call 377-3056.

## Golf

**African-American Heritage Committee Golf Tournament** — Bay Breeze Golf Course. Sixth

annual event; noon today, \$40. Benefits AAHC scholarship program. For more information, call Kurt Higgins, 377-5250.

**Early spring two-person scramble tournament** — Bay Breeze Golf Course 1 p.m., March 20. Players must have golf handicap index number or verifiable handicap card. Fees: \$20 inclusive members; \$25 annual members; \$35 nonmembers. Fees include green fees, cart, refreshments, prizes and giveaways. Entry deadline March 16. Sign up in person or call 377-3832 or 435-5297.

**Golf two-day free clinic** — Bay Breeze Golf Course. 4:30 p.m. Wednesday and March 18, for beginners; 1 p.m. March 26-27 for nonprior service students only. Limit 10 students per class.

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

**Twilight special** — 1 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays; play unlimited golf until closing. Fees: E1-E4, \$12; E5-O3, \$20; O4-up, \$22, guests \$22.

**Nonprior service student special** — show phase or UBU card. Greens fee and cart, \$15 for 18 holes, \$10 for nine holes; add \$5 for rental clubs.

## Outdoor recreation

**Back Bay fishing trip** — \$20 per person. State fishing license required; minimum four, maximum six people. For more information, call 377-3160.

**Catamaran sailboat for rent** — \$10 per hour (minimum two hours) or \$75 per day. Trailer and take-off site \$100 per day or \$175 for a weekend. Must be sailboat certified.

**Camping packages** — available, including sleeping bags, lanterns, camp stoves and tents.

**Canoes, kayaks** — for rent.

**Deep sea fishing private charter** — rent Dolphin II, \$750 for first 10 people, \$50 each additional person. No license needed; \$100 deposit.

**Deep sea fishing trips** — Nonworking Fridays and Sundays on the Keesler Dolphin II. \$75 per person includes everything you need to fish. Payment due upon reservation. Minimum 10, maximum 22 people. For more information and to reserve, call 377-3160.

**Delacroix, La. fishing site** — Outdoor fishing/hunting camp in Delacroix, La. Rent a self-contained camper, sleeps four, \$50/night, \$125/weekend (Friday noon to Monday noon) or \$300 a week (seven days noon to noon). Bring food, beverages, cooking utensils and bedding. Louisiana license needed to fish. For more information, call 377-3160.

**Keesler and Throver Park RV storage facilities** — combinations changed every month until further notice. For new combination info, call 377-3160, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. the first duty day of the month.

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

**Nonprior service student spe-**

**cial** — 35000 Trek seven-speed bikes, \$5 day on nonworking Friday, Saturday and Sunday, or Saturday/Sunday.

**One-day fishing trips** — to Horn, Ship or Cat islands; pick date for charter trip to Delacroix and Reggio, La., with professional guide. For more information, call 377-3160.

**Paddle boats for rent** — two-person or four-person for \$5 per hour for minimum of two hours. For more information, call 377-3160.

**Pontoon boat training** — test to become certified to rent a pontoon. For more information, call 377-3160.

**Rental campers** — \$50 day. Two available; one sleeps six, one sleeps eight. For more information and towing requirements, call 377-3160.

**Rent a bicycle** — 3500 Trek, seven speed, \$3 day, \$15 week, \$35 month.

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

**RV, boat and trailer storage** — \$20 per month.

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

**Wet slip fees** — monthly, 32 feet-plus, \$3.75 per foot; under 32 feet, \$2.50 per foot; overnight, \$5 per boat.

## Volleyball

### Intramural league

#### East

Team	Won	Lost
81st TRSS	2	0
336th TRS-A	2	0
333rd TRS	1	0
334th TRS	1	0
81st IPTS	0	2
338th TRS-A	0	1
332nd TRS-B	0	0
81st DS	0	1

#### West

Team	Won	Lost
332nd TRS-A	2	0
81st MDTs	1	0
338th TRS-B	1	0
81st FSS-CPTS	1	0
336th TRS-B	1	0
335th TRS	0	2
81st SFS	0	2
81st LRS	0	1

**March 1** — 81st TRSS 2 vs. 338th TRS-A 1; 336th TRS-A 2, 333rd TRS.

**March 2** — 81st FSS-CPTS 2, 81st SFS 1; 338th TRS-B 2, 335th TRS 1; 332nd TRS-A 2, 336th TRS-B 0.

**March 3** — 333rd TRS 2, 81st DS 0; 81TRSS 2, 334TRSS 0; 336TRSS-A 2, 81IPTs 1.

**March 4** — 336th TRS-B 2, 335th TRS 0; 332nd TRS-A 2, 81st LRS 0; 81st MDTs 2, 81st SFS 0.



## HONORS

### Student honor roll

#### 332nd Training Squadron

**Electronic principles** — Airmen Basic Joseph Adams, Brianna Augustine, Ronald Bacon, Kibwe Ballah, James Bellard, Davion Billups, Daniel Boulanger, Justin Burgos, Chad Burns, Elliot Butler, Cody Cagle; Everettxavier Campbell, Cody Candra, Alexis Cavin, Alex Clark, Aaron Covey, Raymond Crites, James Daniels, Christopher Dewitt, Giani Dicesare, Jonathan Fanstill, Sofanie Harchaoui, Kenneth Harper, Joseph Harris, Cody Hill, Kodie Hinz, Andrew Hoffman, Nancy Hohman, Robert Holloway, Ryan Jarrold, Derek Jones, Richard Kalinowski, Mathew Kaminsky, Alecia Lavigne, Colbt Lehman, Dallas Malone, Justin Martin, David Mcdonald, Gary Mcqueen, Steven Mudge, Zachary Nicely, Anthony Owens, Melissa Pinkerton, Johns Poffenberger, Andres Rodriguez, Samuel Ronan, Fabian Rosario, Justine Santiago, Bryan Schoffler, Devin Seams, Paul Senkbeil, Braeden Sheets, Nicholas Stowers, Joshua Talbert, Roy Vreeland, Natasha Walker, Kyle Wall and Jacob Williams; Airmen Patrick Brown, Michael Busby, James Dixon, Jeffrey Echevarrias, Christopher Janousek, Jojo Jumanan, Patrick Lundquist, David Nolan, Thomas Riches, Adam Sanchez, Ronny Smith and Joshua Whiting; Airmen 1st Class Ross Anderson, Steven Argandona, Seren Aydemir, Daniel Berger, Kevin Brennan, Andrew Brown, Miranda Browne, Nicholas Burr, Shelia Carroll, Corey Carte, Daniel Chandler, Qiaofen Chen, Kevin Collect, Aaron Covey, Zachary Cox, Joshua Crum, Joseph Diaz, Bret Edie, Joseph Ferguson, Christopher Follante, Bryant Genuino, Brian Hadfield, Allan Hautea, Anson Haynes, Ryan Herrick, Davin Hill, Cheva Jumongart, Anthony Lizana, Anthony Marrone, Quynhanh Martin, Emily Messano, Ren Mckelvey, Jules Morgenstern, Andrew Moriarity, Rebecca Nelson, Karen Oneal, Justin Owens, Jonathan Peter, Benjamin Plumley, Shanna Rissmiller, Ryan Reynolds, Omar Roque, James Squires, Matthew Sughrue, Christine Tedesco, Jeremy Tharp, Matthew Thompson, Clarence Walker, William Weinmann, Daniel Wiggers, Adam Wray, Derrick Young and David Zabinski; Senior Airmen James Bennefield, Steven Buccat, Ryan Covert, Laurence Dolan, Timothy Domka, Richard Hrkach, Aaron Mckenzie, Terry Prewitt, Christopher Tsoi and Kathleen Welsch; Staff Sgts. Titus Billingsley, Aaron Flanigan, Cory Fonger, Walter Kulak, Romy Mauricio, Mark Stires and Alexander Tressler; Chief Master Sgts. Hassan Alghurabi and Essa Atawi.

**Metrology basic course** — Airmen 1st Class Steven La Rue and Edel Melendez-Fred.

#### 334th TRS

**Airfield management** — Airmen Basic Mario Carfango; Airman 1st Class Amanda Lynn and Ashley Rubio; Staff Sgts. Jamie Caves and Michael Cruikshank; Master Sgt. Hernan Berrioscolon.

**Air traffic control operations training flight** — Airmen Basic Austin Allen, Ryan Auld, Mandy Billingsley, Sam Bushery, Jason Butrim, Dustin Hooten, Joshua Hoover, Lance Hulley, Sarah Karam, Daniel Lamers, Christopher Loftis, David Maas, Joseph McClure, Sarah Meyer, Brennan Negrete, Emily Nichols, Ethan Palmer, Kyle Petkus, Nickloas Sanquist, Craig Schauble, Jaycob Smith, Joshua Stainbrook, Shawna Stockton, Raul Valdez and Katie Weyer; Airmen Christina Baeza, Jory Boudreaux, Guido Liberati, Ashley McGill, Matthew Perry, Kristen Pettit and Heather Starling; Airmen 1st Class Marshall Alsip, Ulysses Arango, Andrew Clesen, Philip Conklin, Bryan Coppens, Russell Crenshaw, Jacob Dounda, Cass Dedaviess, Philip Dutrisac, Philip Elisara, Matthew Greiner, Shawn Hanger, Blake Hanson, Emily Hendricks, Kevin Hill, William James, Preston Knight, Jessica Luecking, Joshua McIntosh, Shawn Menssen, Christopher Morton, Derrick Risner, Brandon Simon, Mitchell Spees, Kathryn Tarlton, Phillip Threlkeld, Kevin Tyndall, Kimberly Westenhofner, Calvin Winfield and Ryan Youngburg; Staff Sgts. Michael Henderson, Matthew Morris, Tracy Smith and William Torgerson.

**Aviation resource management apprentice** — Airmen Basic Vincent Cunningham, Joshua Irwin, Ashley Katus, Lola Ogunfowokan, Amanda Tucker and James Velardi; Airmen Porsche Brown and Roosevelt Carter; Airmen 1st Class Staci Cooper and Jessica Newton; Staff Sgt. Mark Merritt.

**Command post apprentice course** — Airmen Ronnequa

Pinkney and David Sullivan; Airmen 1st Class Victoria Acuay and Matthew Doughty; Senior Airmen Jaclyn Forbes and Jessica James; Staff Sgts. Johnny Bravo, Matthew Carrier, Brian Collins, Timothy Finch, Douglas Hayes, Ryan Maline, Joshua Myers, Debra Sherwood, Zackery Smith, Robert Starkey and Sheena Wingo; Tech. Sgts. Jonathan Allen-Rivera, Shalanda Hill, Steven Martinez, Marc Tucker and Timothy Vest.

#### 335th TRS

**Comptroller training flight** — Airmen Basic Jonathan Rodgers, Diana Schar and Nicholas Fisher; Airmen Kierra Hooker, Erinn Harper and Victor Olubiyi; Airmen 1st Class Thomas Archer, Valentina Basile, James Davis, Gerald Marshall, William Reid, Vanessa Austin, Lawrence Gilchrist, Monica West, Tyler Anderson, Brandon Couch, Khayriyyah Simmons and Antawn Knight; Senior Airmen Alexis Frazee and Craig Eid; Staff Sgt. Jessica Gordon, Crystal Mims, Roel Mora, Douglas Carlson, Jennifer Evans and Phillip Smith; Tech. Sgt. Samantha Murphy; Master Sgt. James Ekren.

#### 338th TRS

**Airfield systems** — Airman Basic Tyler Plyem; Airmen 1st Class Christopher Holden and Kirk Mendive; Staff Sgt. Justin James.

**Cyber transport systems** — Airman Ryan Ramsauer; Airmen 1st Class Joseph Cannon, Daniel Feigley, Justin Harwell and Lawrence Iuliano.

**Ground radar systems** — Airman Basic Jacob Eng; Airmen 1st Class Christopher Brown, Cassidy Cervenka and Derrick Wyatt; Senior Airmen James Bisson and Gary Martin; Staff Sgt. Troy Pierson.

**Radio frequency transmission systems** — Airmen Basic John Allen, Michael Bath, Joshua Christian, Travis Cox, Bryan Dotson, Charles Fletcher, Joseph Humi, Bryan Kral, Nicholas Millard, Taylor Urreta, Austin White, Johnathan Wright and Robert Yeakley; Airmen Damon Bitter, Carl Free, Jonathan Hess, Luis Permont and Brandon Raona; Airmen 1st Class Caleb Abbott, Philip Post and Terrance Warner.

## CHAPEL SERVICES

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

### Protestant

#### Sunday worship

Larcher Chapel traditional with children's ministry.....8:30 a.m.  
Triangle Chapel contemporary service.....10:30 a.m.  
Triangle Chapel gospel service.....Noon

### Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass, Triangle Chapel.....9 a.m.

Weekday Mass, Triangle Chapel.....11:15 a.m.

### Jewish

Jewish services are held Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the Congregation Beth Israel, 12277 Three Rivers Rd., Gulfport. Call Master Sgt. Michael Raff, 377-5235 or 207-2196.

### Islamic

Prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jumma congregational prayer, noon Friday. Building 2003, across from the Live Oak dining facility. Call 377-2520 or 0327.

### Latter-Day Saints

Sacrament, 2 p.m. Sundays; scripture and prayer, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, family home evening, 7 p.m. Fridays; all at Triangle Chapel. For more information, call 1-919-580-8679.

### Orthodox

Divine Liturgy 10 a.m. Sunday at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 255 Beauvoir Rd, Biloxi. Call 388-6138 or Father Stephen Clos, 377-4105.

## CLASSES

### Airman Leadership School

**Class 10-3** — Graduation March 30.

### Mathies NCO Academy

**Class 10-3** — Graduation April 10.

### Airman and family readiness center

**Home-buying information seminar** — 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, Sablich Center, Room 121A. Class size limited to 20. For more information and to sign up, call 376-8728.

### Arts and crafts center

**Advanced intarsia woodworking** — 10 a.m. to noon March 27; \$20 including materials. Intarsia is the art of piecing wood in a decorative pattern.

**Beginning intarsia woodworking** — 10 a.m. to noon March 20; \$15, including materials. Intarsia is the art of piecing wood in a decorative pattern.

**Beginning woodworking** — 5-7 p.m. Wednesdays; \$25, including materials to make a cutting board. This class will certify you to use the equipment in the future.

**Card making** — 10:30 a.m. to noon March 20; \$7 a person.

**Engraving shop** — squadron, office and individual orders.

**Glass painting** — 10:30 a.m. to noon March 20 and 27; \$25, including a completed painted project.

**Jewelry making** — 5-7 p.m. March 25; \$30, including materials. Learn wire wrapping and tooling.

**Pottery** — 10:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday and March 27. \$40.

**Multi-crafts center** — potter's wheels, ceramic molds, air brushing and tools available for use in the shop. Craft classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced. Craft supplies for sale.

**Open house** — 5-7 p.m. today and March 25. Demos, food and door prizes.

**Scrapbooking** — 5-7 p.m. today; \$20, including materials.

**St. Patrick's Day special** — guess the number of jelly beans in our pot-of-gold until Tuesday and win a prize.

**Wood shop** — stocked retail lumber and large assembly area adjacent to machine room available. Call for class information.

### Chapel

**All classes are held at the Triangle Chapel Annex. 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.

**Dinner and the Bible** — 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Triangle Chapel Annex.

**Grief Share support group** — meets 6:30 p.m. second Thursday of each month, Triangle Chapel Annex. One-on-one and group support available for people experiencing difficult relationships or work situations, loss of a loved one or job, divorce, health issues and grief. For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) Garrell Calton, 376-3095 or Glenda Woodard or Delphine McIntyre, 377-2531.

### 81st Medical Group

#### Mental health clinic

The mental health clinic promotes readiness, health and wellness through prevention and treatment. For more information or to make an appointment, call the mental health clinic in Arnold Annex, 376-0385 or 0386, or the Triangle Mental Health Clinic, 377-7015 or 7016.

#### McBride Library

**Available** — two large meeting rooms, audio room, typing room and children's library.

Please see **Digest**, Page 26



# Digest,

from Page 25

**Chief of Staff professional military reading list** — titles available for checkout from the special book collection.

**Fairy tale scavenger hunt** — 5:30-6 p.m. March 22, ages 5-12.

**Free computer classes** — Wednesday, March 24, 31 and April 7. Ultra beginners 9-11 a.m.; not-so-ultra beginners 1-3 p.m.; basic Microsoft Word 3:30-4:45 p.m. Preregistration required. For information, call 377-2181.

**Free wireless Internet** — check at circulation desk.

**Paperback book swap** — swap for one of same genre.

**Playaway** — self-playing digital audio books available with content preloaded; select from large assortment of titles. Pop in a battery, plug in almost any type of headset and enjoy.

**Online catalog** — to search inventory, log on to <http://www.keesler-services.us>, click McBride Library, then online catalog.

**Overdrive audio online book program** — individual or family accounts allow download/playing of full-length audio books on a personal computer. Check with staff for details.

**Research databases** — comprehensive research capabilities. Many specialty areas.

**Rosetta Stone online language learning center** — 30 foreign languages, including Spanish. For more information, check with the library staff.

**St. Patrick's Day story time** — 10 a.m. Wednesday. Stories read aloud and told in sign language. Pick a surprise out of the pot-of-goodies.

**Story time** — 10 a.m. Tuesdays for ages 3-5. Stories will be read aloud and told in sign language.

**Tours/orientations** — for more information, call 377-2604.

**Volunteers needed** — to shelve books, assist with children's story time and create displays. For more information, call 377-2181.

## CLUBS AND CENTERS

### Vandenberg Community Center

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

**Dances** — 7:30 p.m. to midnight Thursdays before compressed work schedule Fridays, and Fridays and Saturdays. \$3.

**Legends Café** — buffet specials 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Pool tournaments** — 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

### Katrina Kantina

**All ranks invited** — open 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays. Snacks, beverages and music; \$5.25, chips and salsa, DJ Wayne and his karaoke machine.

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

**Chili special** — 5-7 p.m. Tuesdays; \$1 a bowl for members, \$1.50 for nonmembers.

**Lunch** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays; \$6 for club members, \$8 for nonmembers.

**St. Patrick's Day special** — 5-7 p.m. Wednesday. Wings and things, \$1 green beer and door prizes. Keesler club members get in free; nonmembers pay \$3 at the door.

**Wings and things** — 5-7 p.m. March 31. Free for Keesler club members; nonmembers pay \$3 at the door. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and \$1 domestic draft beer.

### Youth center

**Editor's note: All children registered in a youth center program receive free membership.**

**Classes** — Guitar, piano and gymnastic classes available. For more information, call 377-4116.

**Congressional Award program** — ages 14-21; self-directed merit program promoting personal development, physical fitness and community involvement.

**Friday night fun** — 6:30-9:30 p.m. for ages 6-12. Skating, music, games and more; \$5 admission.

**Imagine makers photo contest** — through March. For more information, call 377-4116.

**Open recreation** — 3-5:45 p.m. Mondays-Fridays for ages 9-12; teens 3-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 3-6 p.m. Fridays. Computer media center, homework assistance "Power Hour" program and triple-play sports and recreation activities. Students sign themselves in at front desk.

**Soccer registration** — Through April 16 for ages 4-14; \$50

first child, \$25 each additional child, including uniform and participation award. Scrimmage games April 17; first official game April 24. Season runs through June 5. Coming June 7-11, British soccer challenger sports camp. For more information, call 377-4116.

**Spring camps** — March 29-April 2. School age camp for ages 6-12; tween/teen camp for youth in middle, junior high and high school.

**Tae Kwon Do class** — 5:30-6:15 p.m. Wednesdays and 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call 377-4116.

**TRAIL** — 6-8 p.m. Mondays.

**Youth employment service** — earn money for college tuition. For more information, call 377-4116.

**Volunteers needed** — for sports, open recreation, crafts, cooking, computers, arts, reading, sewing and general cleaning and decorations. Must be 18 or older. For more information, call 377-4116.

## TICKETS AND TRIPS

**Discounted tickets** — for more information, log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us> and click on the ITT link.

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

**Tour bus** — available for group rental, seats 23.

## TRANSITIONS

### Workshops, briefings

**Air Force Reserve opportunities** — for members separating within 180 days, call Master Sgt. Charlene Morse, 377-7116; e-mail [charlene.morse@keesler.af.mil](mailto:charlene.morse@keesler.af.mil) or visit Room 125-F, Sablich Center.

**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 1 p.m. Tuesdays in Room 111, Sablich Center, for those separating and 2:30 p.m. for those retiring. If separating or retiring under special circumstances, call 376-8728 for appointment.

**Palace Chase** — for information about how to apply for a program to attend college full time and work part time, call Master Sgt. Charlene Morse, 377-7116; visit Room 125-F, Sablich Center, or e-mail [charlene.morse@keesler.af.mil](mailto:charlene.morse@keesler.af.mil).

**Transition assistance program** — The Department of Labor's program is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. the first three days; the fourth day is the Veterans Affairs benefits brief from 8-11 a.m. and the retirement benefits briefs from 1-4 p.m. The schedule is today; April 12-15; May 10-13; June 14-17; July 19-20; Aug. 9-12; Sept. 13-16; Oct. 18-21; Nov. 15-18; Dec. 13-16. To register, call 376-8728.

## MEETINGS

**African-American Heritage Committee** — 3:30 p.m. second Tuesday of the month, Room 109, Taylor Logistics Building. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Yolanda Jerry, 377-2157, or Kurt Higgins, 377-5250.

**Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 652** — 7 a.m. third Tuesday of the month, Live Oak Dining Facility. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Rich Striggow, 377-4800, or visit <http://chapter.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](mailto:auxiliary.president@afsa652.org).

**Airman's Council** — meets every first and third Tuesday at 4 p.m., Sablich Auditorium. For more information, call Senior Airman Alonda West, 377-2994.

**Airmen Against Drunk Driving** — For more information, call Airman 1st Class Mackenzie Jackson, 377-5511; Senior Airman Rose Mabe, 377-2331, or 377-SAVE.

**Asian Pacific-American Heritage Committee** — 11:30 a.m. first Wednesday of month, Room 111, Sablich Center. For more information, call Lucy Belles, 376-8500, or Master Sgt. Ernesto Alvendia, 376-8501.

**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](mailto:dewi.clark2@keesler.af.mil); Arleen Stewart, 377-2440, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

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## DINING HALL MENUS

### Today

**Lunch** — herbed baked chicken, beef and noodles, fried catfish, blackeyed peas, rice, cornbread, mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, peas, fruit salad, potato salad, chili, broccoli soup, bean ham soup, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

**Dinner** — roast pork loin, jaegerschnitzel veal, chicken cordon bleu, potato halves, orange rice, gravy, carrots, pinto beans, corn combo, fruit salad, potato salad, chili, broccoli soup, bean ham soup, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich-roast pork loin, jaegerschnitzel veal, chicken cordon bleu, potato halves, orange rice, gravy, carrots, pinto beans, corn combo, fruit salad, potato salad, chili, broccoli soup, bean ham soup, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

### Friday

**Lunch** — Mexican baked chicken, country-style steak, stuffed peppers, baked macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn on the cob, Spanish beans, peas and carrots, pasta salad, three-bean salad, chile con queso, Tuscan vegetables, chicken noodle, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

**Dinner** — lasagna, spaghetti with meat sauce, chicken cacciatore, rice, gravy, broccoli, cauliflower parmesan, beans, corn O'Brien, pasta salad, three-bean salad, chile con queso, Tuscan vegetables, chicken noodle soup, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

### Saturday

**Lunch** — crispy baked chicken, beef yakisba, baked ham, baked potatoes, spicy brown rice pilaf, gravy, broccoli, french-style peas, carrots, fruit medley salad, bean salad, raisin sauce, chicken chili, minestrone soup, baja chicken enchilada and buffalo wings.

**Dinner** — fish almondine, stir-fry chicken with broccoli, pork chops, rissole potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, calico corn, club spinach, okra, fruit medley, bean salad, chicken chili, minestrone soup, baja chicken enchilada and buffalo wings.

### Sunday

**Lunch** — baked fish, sauerbraten, chicken breast parmesan, au gratin potatoes, egg noodles, gravy, cauliflower, vegetables, cabbage, tomato salad, German coleslaw, chili, broccoli soup, chicken with rice and cheese pizza.

**Dinner** — barbecue chicken, fried shrimp, seafood cocktail sauce, beef manicotti/cannelloni, potato wedges, mashed potatoes, gravy, blackeyed peas, collard greens, corn O'Brien, tomato salad, German coleslaw, chili, broccoli soup, chicken with rice and cheese pizza.

### Monday

**Lunch** — Swiss steak, baked chicken, sausage, peppers and onions, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, carrots, cucumber onion salad, macaroni salad, chile con queso, Tuscan vegetable, chicken noodle, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

**Dinner** — roast turkey, ribeye steak, tempura fried fish, mashed potatoes, cornbread dressing, gravy, succotash, tempura vegetables, green beans, cucumber onion salad, macaroni salad, chili con queso, Tuscan vegetables, cheeseburger chowder, cannonball sandwich and fried chicken nuggets.

### Tuesday

**Lunch** — lemon-garlic fish, pork schnitzel steak, yakisoba, ginger rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, pinto beans, spinach, summer squash, spinach salad, Waldorf salad, timberline chili, minestrone, baja chicken enchilada, steak and cheese sub and tacos.

**Dinner** — roast pork loin, barbecue beef cubes, chicken fajitas, O'Brien potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower, corn on the cob, lima beans, Waldorf salad, spinach salad, timberline chili, minestrone soup, baja chicken enchilada, steak and cheese subs and tacos.

### Wednesday

**Lunch** — Chinese five-spice chicken, beef broccoli stir fry, Cantonese spareribs, vegetable egg rolls, shrimp fried rice, steamed rice, stir-fry vegetables, fried cabbage, gravy, lemon sesame green beans, coleslaw, tomato salad, chicken chili, clam chowder, chicken gumbo, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

**Dinner** — spaghetti with meat sauce, Swiss steak, garlic toast, fried chicken, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, fried cauliflower, asparagus, cabbage, coleslaw, frijole salad, chicken chili, clam chowder, chicken gumbo, cheese fishwich and pizza.



Base construction sites  
are off-limits  
without authorization.

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**Blacks in Government** — 5:15 p.m. second Thursday of the month, Taylor Logistics Building conference room. For more information, call Florence Clay, 377-8681, or Paulette Powell, 377-2270.

**Civil Air Patrol Col. Berta A. Edge Composite Squadron** — 7 p.m. Tuesdays upstairs in Hangar 3 for youth and adults. For more information, call (601) 528-4337 or visit <http://www.keeslercap.org>.

**Company grade officers council** — 4:30 p.m. every second Wednesday at the Katrina Kantina at the marina. For more information, call Capt. Jermaine Jordan, 377-1704.

**Keesler 5.6** — 3:15 p.m. third Wednesday of the month; location varies. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Sturdivant, 377-1813.

**Keesler Amateur Radio Club** — Net with news-line and echo-link is held Wednesdays on 146.79, minus offset, no PL tone. Monthly meeting is 7 p.m. second Mondays at Locker House. Enter courtyard near Second Street. Enter door marked "T flight" and go straight ahead to sign saying "K5TYP."

**Keesler Spouses Club** — second Tuesdays. For more information, e-mail Devalynn Solomon, [deesolomon@cablone.net](mailto:deesolomon@cablone.net), or visit <http://www.KeeslerSpousesClub.com>.

**Retired Enlisted Association Magnolia Chapter 81** — 5:30 p.m. second Thursdays, Sablich Center, Room 108-B. For more information, call Charles Partin, 313-3267.

**Top III** — second Tuesday of the month. Meetings are 7 a.m. at Live Oak Dining Facility in January, March, May, July, September and November; 3:30 p.m. remaining months at Katrina Kantina. For more information, call Master Sgt. Tammy McElroy, 376-3164.

**Tuskegee Airmen Inc., Col. Lawrence E. Roberts Chapter** — 5 p.m. first Thursdays, McBride Library. For more information, call Glenda Mosby, 243-1992, [gmosby1@bellsouth.net](mailto:gmosby1@bellsouth.net), or Charles Bowers, 860-3665.

## MISCELLANEOUS

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### Movies

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**Editor's note: Movies shown in Welch Auditorium; \$3 adults, \$1.50 children for regular features; \$2.50 adults and \$1 children for matinees. For upcoming features, call 377-6627.**